

WWDWEDNESDAY

Suzy in Wonderland • Oscar Night at the Plaza • Patti LuPone Takes Heart

SUZY

By Aileen Mehle

eye When the White Rabbit hysterically exclaimed in "Alice in Wonderland," "I'm late, I'm late — for a very important date!" I know how he felt.

I'm late, I'm late reporting some very important dates. But better late than never, don't you always say?

The person hasn't been born who can keep up with New York parties, fetes, galas, balls, dinners, lunches, even breakfasts at this time of year. So you take them as they come and try to play them as they lay.

With that in mind: **Queen Elizabeth's** second son, His Royal Highness the **Duke of York** a.k.a. Prince Andrew, lent his presence to the Royal Academy of Arts Gala Dinner Dance at the Rainbow Room — which made the president of the Royal Academy of Arts and the trustees of the American Associates of the Royal Academy Trust very happy indeed. You know how it is — royal blood, etc. Add to that the presence of the American artist **Frank Stella**, an honorary Royal Academician, **Philip King**, CBE, the newly elected president of the Royal Academy, honored guests as well, and it did make for a festive evening. Prince Andrew reported that his flat in Buckingham Palace was being redecorated — drat! — and New York was a nice place to be while all that is going on. All about him in the nice place were such worthies as the **Hon. John C. Whitehead**, co-chairmen **Anne Hearst** and **Frances Scavo**, **Sir Jeremy** and **Lady Greenstock**, **Francis Kellogg**, **Lee Thaw** and on and on and on. **Bob Harwick** and his orchestra led the dancing with a frolicsome piano solo: "Give Me the Simple Life." La!