

2020 POTOMAC VALLEY SPECIALTY JUDGES CRITIQUE

BY LISA DUBÉ FORMAN

To the Potomac Club and all the exhibitors, I want to express my gratitude for the rare opportunity to examine so many lovely Wolfhounds. I cherish judging these events and frequently reminisce about them. Though I greeted novices in the ring, I again wish to extend a hearty welcome to all our breed's newcomers. However, I strongly suggest that you obtain training on properly presenting a show dog and correctly gaiting the hound! Please seek out an experienced IW Owner/Handler or contact a local all-breed club about Show Handling Classes.

For veterans and novices alike, my following appraisal expounds on the hound's virtues and shortcomings. It provides the knowledgeable reader with an understanding of my priorities and will explain my reasoning to the newcomer. Frequently, we all find ourselves having to compromise and negotiate on our priorities. This takes place within seconds to minutes, so if you saw me deliberating, I was weighing these Sighthound priorities.

As many of you know or will read, I seek shape, balance, and emphasize well-angled forequarters. A correct forehand is becoming scarce in Sighthounds. Oblique shoulders with an equally inclined upper arm (humerus) that sets the elbows well under the body are required. Both cannot be forsaken. Keep in mind that I am not speaking about more open shoulder angulation typical of our Sighthound breeds. Everyone should understand the fundamental principle that a dog cannot step beyond the angle joint of his shoulder.

Unfortunately, there is an increasing number of hounds with upright shoulders or forward-set forequarters, which usually results in the closely associated short, stuffy neck. Accompanying these upright shoulders are straight and/or short upper arms (Humerus), limiting the hound's locomotion. However, in rare instances, I saw a longer upper arm joined with a slightly more open angled shoulder layback which still has value. While gaiting, the open angled scapula joint mechanism will lock in place sooner than a well-laid back blade, except the lengthy upper arm will provide the forward reach. In this case, the extended foot's large metacarpal footpad still hits the ground first, absorbing the shock of impact.

Movement, easy and active should not be subjective. Easy (achieving without great effort) and active (effective) is a defining component in the breed blueprint and itemized third in the List of Points in Order of Merit behind *Typical and Great Size*. It is essential that the hound maintain its shape on the move, a silhouette flowing nicely over an arched loin and down over the croup. During locomotion, the head lowers somewhat to achieve forward momentum, which aids the reach in the forequarters. The head of the IW is not to be carried erect like an Afghan Hound gaiting around the ring. Also, we do not want a vertical thrust of power but instead a fluid, forward momentum gait. An upward movement is operational but lacks sufficient progress and is not just wasteful; it is antithetical for this Gazehound. Instead of initially viewing profiles, some spectators and exhibitors may have wondered what I was looking for when I initially went up and down the line. I stood in front of each hound, studying the

forequarters to see how they stood over themselves, and ended by walking behind to view their hindquarters. Simply, one can tell a lot about the construction of the hound by viewing the forehand in this manner. I refer to these areas as Fill & Station. Head on, one can observe the breadth of chest having good Fill and developed prosternum and the depth of brisket. Or, in contrast, a hound who possesses a hollow, shallow, or poorly developed chest. The prosternum is the top of the sternum that ties the ribcage together. On a good front assembly, the prosternum aids in the maximum arc of the shoulder blades. Fill is the quantity of muscling or lack thereof around the sternum between the forelegs. The lack of a well-developed prosternum is typically seen in upright or steep shoulder angulation. The Station is the depth of chest with a well-sprung ribcage reaching the elbows.

When I stood behind the hound, I was looking forward to the head. Why? Ideally, the shape of the IW body from the forequarters extending back to the waist is an ellipse. The overall development of ribs must be well-sprung but not barrel-shaped, and the ribcage reaching well back on the body. The waist or loin area should be wide and well-muscled, with great breadth across the hips. I saw many IWs who did not have an elliptical shape but instead were elongated. In other words, their body shape from the withers, ribcage to their loin was oblong, pill-shaped. They lacked spring of rib and were slab-sided.

The length of the ribcage is vital in the Gaze hounds and will vary within these breeds. The IW should have a ratio of 2:1, meaning the hound should be well-ribbed back, accounting for two (2) parts ribcage and 1 part loin. In contrast, the Greyhound ratio is typically 3:1, three parts ribcage and one part loin. The difference is that the Greyhound is a sprinter, a racing hunting hound. The IW is an endurance hunting hound who requires both power and swiftness (but not a sprinter). As Graham wrote, "*Strength, stature, and fleetness were the points most carefully cultivated—at any rate, as regards to those breeds used in the capture of large and fierce game.*"

The one part loin is not short. It has length and united with its arch is a speed adaptation. It is of the utmost importance in the Greyhound-like breeds. It permits flexion and allows the IW's trunk to fold with the hind legs gathering up under the body during the double suspension gallop. A short body, short-coupled, flat loin is the antithesis of this Sighthound.

On a few hounds, I observed shorter second thighs. This is unusual and not often seen, mainly as the trend has been for overly long, second thighs and Tibia's that extended the rears well behind the Seat Bones. A shorter second thigh creates a hitching or skipping motion that was easily detected while gaiting.

I saw several hounds with beautiful, black gum pigmentation. Please do not lose this as I am pretty envious! Also, some hounds were very hesitant, overly excited, and challenging to examine. I sympathize completely! I know all too well that the pandemic has had a gradual, negative effect not just on the human population but on our hounds as well. The lack of socialization has exacted a toll on them too.

I will close by saying that it is regrettable that there were no class placement photos taken. Critiques are about a hound's virtues and faults and are beneficial for the Owner Handler, and Breeder. An exhibitor can visualize the commentary while reviewing the photo. They most certainly cannot do so while exhibiting the hound! So too can the Breeder observe the hound "on the day" or in a growth stage to understand what the Judge is conveying. Judges do not have the luxury of time to write lengthy summaries on each placement while judging, and this is why we need photos!

CLASSES:

6-9 PUPPY DOG:

First: #14 Noble Shenanigans of Avondale. Small in stature, dark grey brindle male with substance for a young age but not overdone. Pleasant head piece and eye with rosed ear, level planes and good length of muzzle. Balanced angulation. Shorter length of body but still ribbed back, with good width over loin, strong first and second thighs. Unfortunately both the Handler and the puppy are untrained. Though the puppy was willing and friendly, he did not even know how to stand for examination. This pup may stride out really well in the hands of an experienced Handler but glimpses of easy & active were only fleeting!

Second: #12 Riversong Ode To Soul. I apologize but I cannot find my notes on this Lad.

9-12 PUPPY DOG:

First: #20 Stormborne's Easier Said Than Done. Tall, leggy Sighthound with proud carriage. Attractive head piece with long, level planes and rosed ears. He is a proud young Lad with curves from his backskull down over a strong, shapely neck that blends over the withers. He has very good fill of forechest and a longer upper arm that permits easy, free reach. Has a roachy topline (curvature of the backline over both the thoracic and lumbar regions) with a lengthy loin and longer, angled pelvis. However, he still retains good width of first & second thighs and has good length from hip to hock. Easy, free & active in gait - used himself well.

Second: #118 Coleraine's Zenith of Taliesin. Strapping mature, handsome Lad with good curves from his backskull down his strong neck and backline. Attractive headpiece with fill and forechest. He has a shorter upper arm and is hitching in rear usually caused by a shorter length of second thigh.

Third: #22 Hops-N-Hounds Tis Glaurung. Another untrained youngster, nice expression, hindquarters are hocky.

12-15 PUPPY DOG:

First: #26 Hallowed Crazy Horse. Lovely headpiece with long planes. Smaller in stature, dark grey brindle with proud head carriage. Though he has a lovely crest of neck, his neck is short as he is more upright in the shoulder and needs greater length of upper arm to balance his powerful, well-developed hindquarters. He is overweight. Very difficult to handle and examine as he is not confident and unsure of his environment.

15-18 PUPPY DOG:

First: #32 Dreamcatcher's Wolfhouse Bluenote at Aerie. Unfortunately this Lad's photograph was not to his advantage and he appears very uncomfortable. Many hounds will stiffen and draw themselves up becoming taut and straight. Even so, he needs more layback of shoulder and his upper arm is short and straight, but he is balanced with a straighter rear. This equal distribution allows him to use himself on the move. He has a plainer head and expression.

Second: #28 Hearthound Twix. Very brief notes explaining that he was very difficult to examine. He had an upright shoulder with a short upper arm. Also over-groomed for a hound who is to be rough-coated.

NOVICE DOG:

First: #36 Lonnkyle Pinin For The Fjords. Smaller in stature, this male had substance, a very good shoulder and was well-muscled and proportioned. Strong neck with good blend into withers. Good forechest and fill and is ribbed back. His topline is slightly roachy with his rise beginning over the thoracic and lumbar regions and as a result lacks a well-rounded croup. Despite this he had a good width of first and second thighs. He had a plainer expression. Needs more leg but proportioned for his smaller size.

Second #34 O'Lugh's Gucci of Aerie. He had very good breadth across hips and well-muscled, good width of both first and second thighs. Upright shoulder with a short upper arm. He moved with a vertical motion instead of having forward striding momentum.

Third #38 Hallowed Taboo: A hound with a proud neck and head carriage but was wild and very difficult to examine. He was shorter in back and needed more bone. Lacked great size and commanding appearance.

AOH DOG:

First: #40 Mordu Cu Mor. Balanced Lad with lengthy, strong neck. Good bone. Good layback of shoulders. Good fill and station. Well-ribbed back. Good width of first and second thighs. Well-rounded croup. Plain head. He needs a more experienced handling as this male may stride out very well in the hands of an experienced Handler.

Second: #42 Hops-N-Hounds Stormageddon's Failinis. This hound has a strong, proper length of neck with good forechest and fill. Good layback and is well-ribbed back. But his plain, wedge-shaped head with short muzzle was indicative of his overall silhouette being plain. He is not houndy and lacks shape. Though he had good width across the first thigh, while gaiting he was hitching in the rear which usually is caused by a shorter, second thigh.

BRED BY EXHIBITOR DOG:

First: #46 R Noble Nasch. Substantial, heavily boned male, exuding strength. He is balanced fore and aft but he has a more open angled, almost upright shoulder which affects his length of neck. He requires a lengthier neck for his proportions. He has curves from his backskull down over his withers, onto his back with a good rise over a broad, strong loin and a rounded croup. Good underline as well. Plain head but with rosed ears. He used himself very well on the move which I would expect because of his otherwise very good length of scapula and upper arm, and his overall, excellent balance and shape.

Second#48 Taliesin Blaze's Buachail of Wideview. Smaller in stature male, well-ribbed back with good bone, good breadth over the hips, and good drive in the rear.

Third #44. Gladstone's Can't Wait to Be King. Very tall hound with an upright shoulder. Though active in gait, his carriage and gait momentum is more vertical than forward.

AMERICAN BRED DOG:

First: #52 Coleraine's Cathbhadh Incubator Jones. Strong, smaller stature, plain hound. Strong neck with balanced angulation of shoulder and femur but he is falling away in the croup. This steepness affects the insufficient width of his first and second thigh but he does have a longer tibia to compensate in his rear drive. Needs more length of body bordering on cobby.

Second: #56 Brimstone Connemara Remedy. A shapely hound with proper length but needs better shoulder layback and is unbalanced with his more angled hindquarters. He had a tendency to sink in his hindquarters also caused by his insecurity with himself and the situation. Another who was very difficult to examine. While gaiting retained shape.

Third: #54 Hallowed Helltopay. This male was very overweight. He had an upright shoulder and a short neck which spoiled his outline. Has good bone.

OPEN DOG:

First: #60 Pennybright Silas. WINNERS DOG. Lovely, old-style hound who is balanced, with strong, long neck blending well over withers and curvy topline. Lengthy hound, well-ribbed back, fitted with long, smooth muscling. Lovely coat of the old-style being crisp, short and firm. This throwback, old-style coat is rarely seen and should be appreciated. Nicely rounded croup with good width of first and second thighs. Gaited with ease and freedom having forward momentum and retains his shape on the

move. Lovely, shapely head with long level planes. Would like more bone. When revisiting his Winners Dog photograph he reminded me of Brachan Tomahawk, and Witchesbroom Whimsey.

Second #66 R Noble's Beyond the Horizon. RESERVE WINNERS DOG. Nicely shaped hound with balance. Pleasant head piece with long, level planes and nice eye. Good width of first and second thigh. I did not care for his coat condition and overall untidy appearance which masked his qualities and created optical illusions. I was undeterred though and saw that this hound has a shapely topline and moves very well with ease, fluidity and forward momentum. He out-moved his litter brother who won Bred By Dog Class. His Reserve Winners Dog photograph does not do him justice!

Third: #104 Windborne Stephen St Leger. Big, raw, large-boned, dark male. A rugged hunter who has a more open angled shoulder which naturally shortens his neck. He needs more length of neck to balance out his large proportions. Excellent leg length with deep brisket. He lacked a fluid topline linking his forehand with his hindquarters. Wanting a houndier headpiece.

Fourth:#102 Really Irish Hattrick. Minimal notes commenting on the male having an upright shoulder, with a straight upper arm. Has a flat topline and lacks shape.

WINNERS DOG #60 RESERVE WINNERS DOG #66

6-9 PUPPY BITCH

First: #11. Riversong Lit My Soul on Fire. BEST PUPPY. Well-knit, pretty, red cream bitch with good bone and shape. Many might not recognize this old-style of wolfhound. I remember it well. She has a calm demeanor. She is balanced fore and aft with lovely, strong neck that blends into and over the shoulders with a strong topline that rises correctly over a wide, strong loin. Nicely rounded croup. She is well-ribbed back. Good underline and deep brisket with fill in her forequarters. Simply, she is not overdone anywhere. Pretty head and expression with long muzzle. She will be very interesting to see when older. Reminiscent of Fitzarran Comus and his daughter Bronwyn who I had the pleasure of showing for the Deemers.

Second: #121 Carnasserie R Noble Zenyatta. Lovely grey pup with length, balance, good bone and was well-ribbed back.

Third: #13 O'Lugh's Martini. A sweet, baby pup just eligible for the class which was evident. For her age she is heavy-set in build but a good mover, well-balanced though is shorter in leg. She was calm with a confident demeanor — a very enviable temperament.

9-12 PUPPY BITCH

First: #5 Hop-N-Hounds Destroyer of Worlds. Balanced cream pup, nice size, good fill and forechest. Good length of body. Strong. Good width of first and second thighs. Wanting more houndy shape. Overweight. Moved close in the rear.

12-15 PUPPY BITCH:

First: #21 O'Lugh's Blackwater Tanguray. Big, red houndy bitch in a bit of a growth stage right now. She carries a very pretty, feminine head with long level planes but it is slightly small and out of proportion with her big body. Strong, good length of neck. Curves begin off the backskull down neck over withers. Her topline rises too soon (slightly roachy) and she is long in the loin but it has a nice arch which gives her flexibility while in gait. Her length of loin (approx. 3:1 that of a Greyhound) makes her appear too long in body but she is not, she just needs a shorter loin approximating 2:1. Falling slightly away in the croup, (this is to be expected with her body and loin length). This bitch has a huge rear! Superb width of first thigh and good width of second thigh. Very good mover.

Second:#25 Gemini Diamnds R A Girls Best Friend. An older style bitch of yet another sort but not different type. Very good gait, shapely bitch. I wish I had photos of these placements so I could elaborate.

Third: #29 Hallowed Doll Face. Dark curvy bitch who has an upright shoulder and needs more length of neck and leg under her for her body proportions. Lovely, old style headpiece.

Fourth: #27 Gemini's Big Girls Need Big Diamonds. Light grey bitch who also is in a growth stage. She has an upright shoulder but uses herself on the move so she is balanced with her rear. Again, wish I had a photo to reference.

15-18 PUPPY BITCH:

First: #31 Wolfhouse Galathea. Yet another older style throwback (resembling the late 80's), this bitch has proud carriage. She has a lovely headpiece, and is balanced with good bone. Strong nape of neck, well-ribbed back and is shapely. Good fill and forechest, elbow set under herself. I want more shapely topline with more rise over the loin. Well-rounded croup. Good width of first and second thighs and used herself well while gaing in an easy manner.

Second #105 Cranna Beatha's Arwyn of Skywalker. Tall, brindle bitch who has balanced angulation. She too is rising too soon in her topline involving the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae.

Third: #103 Dreamcatcher's Bellona to Wolfhouse. This bitch has a nicely arched neck with very good leg length. Lots of desirable daylight under her but her forequarters are set forward on her frame. As such she is short-ribbed back and her underline is somewhat steep in the thorax (rises too rapidly) and her flank needs depth/width from top to bottom.

NOVICE BITCH:

First: #125 Taliesin's Be'rin. WINNERS BITCH. BEST OF WINNERS. BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX. Gorgeous, older style hound with symmetry, balance, good bone, good size and shapely sighthound shape. Nicely arched neck flowing into a very good shoulder layback with a topline that flowed over an arched loin onto a well-rounded croup. Terrific underline and strong hindquarters with width of first and second thighs, muscled up and showing promise of speed. Moved with easy, active fluid grace. This bitch looks even better on the move than static. Loved her.

Second: #41 Hallowed Bitches Brew. Dark grey, smaller bitch. Very shapely, balanced with a gorgeous headpiece having long, level planes. Strode out with strength and ease. She is very pretty. I was very disappointed when this bitch did NOT return for Reserve Winners Competition and without permission.

NOTE: Dogs eligible for Winners and Reserve Winners must return to the ring to compete. Every dog which is present in the ring for a class in which it is properly entered must continue to compete in all competition in its breed for which it is entered or becomes eligible, unless it has been excused, dismissed, disqualified or found to be ineligible under the rules.

Third: #43 Gladstone's Faerie Kiss on Broadway. Houndy bitch with an upright shoulder. She is ribbed back. While gaing she moves with a vertical motion rather than forward momentum.

Fourth:#117 Calorien Starkeeper Darley at Aerie. Light grey, smaller bitch with a heavily built forehand with forward set shoulders resulting in a short but strong neck. Very shapely topline with curves up and over a lovely rise of loin and well-rounded croup. Very plain head. She used herself well while gaing.

BRED BY EXHIBITOR:

First: #53 New Girl in Town at R Noble. Old-style black bitch who is balanced, and has lovely symmetry. Pretty, houndy headpiece. She has great strength throughout with bone and substance. Her forequarters have great fill, her station deep. Lovely strength and powerful neck blending smoothly over her withers. Her curves flow from her backskull down over onto a well-ribbed up back. The photo does not do her justice as when she is relaxed her topline is more shapely with more rise over her strong loin. Gorgeous width of first and second thighs. Lovely bitch.

Second: #61 Gin Fizz O'Lugh of Aerie. An older style hound with balance fore and aft. Lovely action with ease. Want of a houndier headpiece.

Third.#57 Hallowed Witchcraft. Dark grey, older style hound who was balanced as well. Very pretty headpiece and expression. She used herself well while moving out.

Fourth.#63 Boondocks Season of the Witch. Grey bitch with beautiful headpiece. Lovely layback of shoulders and balanced with equally lovely hindquarters. Unfortunately, she was fearful and very unsure of herself and her surroundings . However, I could not overlook such a pretty bitch.

AMERICAN BRED BITCH:

First: #67 Dun Myrica R Noble Nuala of Eagle. Black, substantial (somewhat doggy) bitch who was balanced and had lovely symmetry. Strong neck into withers — would like more layback of shoulder but was acceptable considering her other virtues. Better shoulders would give her slightly more length of neck. Topline flows from the her backskull down over withers and her back, up over the lumbar and loin and down over the croup. Good width of first and second thighs. Not as much fill as her littermate in Bred By Bitch who has better forequarters.

Second: #115 Taliesin's Brice. Wheaten brindle with easy gait, needs more width of first thigh. Good nape and crest of neck.

Third: #123. Quid Warwick of Aerie. Big, powerful grey bitch with substance. She needs more layback and a longer upper arm but did use herself well on the move.

OPEN BITCH: Please note that this was an especially nice class with one or more who were in contention for placements, particularly #79, Padraic Black Eyed Susan.

First: #81. R Noble Nainsi. RESERVE WINNERS. Older-style black bitch, powerful, well-boned up with balance, symmetry. Strength of neck into very good forequarters with elbows well set under the body. She has length, strength and ribbing. Long arm and tibia, very nice to see.

Second: #101 R Noble Carnasserie Nevada. Beautifully balanced, old-style bitch who moved well with a lovely headpiece having long, level planes. Littermate to first place but in my mind not second in awards as she is equal to her sister though they are not phenotypically similar. I quibbled on a few differences between the two and quickly decided to stay with consistency of my class awards but both being more than worthy of the win. I will say, on the day, if this bitch were in another class not competing against a littermate, she very easily would have been a contender for Reserve Winners.

Third: #98 Dash Shancarrick at Aerie. Big, powerful bitch who did not outshine the first two placements. Sorry, but my notes were incomplete on this bitch.

Fourth: #111 Taliesin's Druid Duinn Eostar. Dark bitch with an older style who had breadth, good shoulder and type. Notes again are incomplete.

WINNERS BITCH: #125 Taliesin's Be'rin. RESERVE WINNERS BITCH: #81 R Noble Nainsi

VETERAN BITCH: Thank you so much for bringing me your wonderful Veterans. I have always said that our Veterans are integral in how we plan our future breeding. They directly affect our success. They show the way as well but most importantly, they show us where we've been.

First: #83. Inishkeens Caiomhe. AWARD OF MERIT. Lovely, dark-red brindle, old-style hound with a beautiful headpiece having long, level, planes and gorgeous expression. Substantial, powerful, with shape — she was balanced and moved out with ease. Fills the eye with curves from her lovely nape of neck over strong withers and forequarters that are well laid back. Great fill and station. Nicely rounded croup. I instantly loved her and knew she was my winner. She was in serious contention for Best of Opposite Sex.

Second: #85 GCHB LaisLinn Starkeeper Mistletoe RN. Big, powerfully boned wheaten brindle bitch who was balanced and was commanding.

Third:# 87 Cranna Beatha's Hawthorn of Skywalker. Very well-balanced grey brindle bitch who was well-ribbed back. Unfortunately she was not moving out as well as the top two.

Fourth: #127 St. Leger Battle Abbey. Sizable light grey brindle bitch with the most gorgeous headpiece. Very old-fashioned head with level, long planes with soulful eyes that we simply do not see anymore. On this day, she was lacking enthusiasm to gait and was moving slowly.

BEST OF BREED, BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX, SELECTS AND AWARD OF MERIT WINNERS:

BEST OF BREED: #70. Ch. R Noble Carnasserie Nazar

An older-style black stallion wolfhound that was immediately impressive especially for his shape and symmetry. He possesses commanding appearance having requisite power, muscularity though gracefully built for his proportionate length of body. Lovely headpiece with long, level planes. Heavily boned hound with fluid curves from his backskull over a powerful, deep neck, blending into muscled withers and back over a slightly arched loin ending at a beautifully rounded croup. Forequarters well set-on the skeleton with oblique shoulders, good upper arm, and excellent fill and depth of station. Well-ribbed back to a wide, muscled loin and flank. Thighs long and muscular with wide first and second thigh, well-let down hock, sloped pasterns. He moved with a purpose, ease and grace. This black has elegance and so did his littermates who apparently all won their classes under me. Several decades past there was a difference of opinion about applying the word "elegant" when discussing our breed. I disagree because this male is the interpretation of "elegance" leaving no observer in doubt about his strength and stature.

BEST OF WINNERS AND BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX: #125. Taliesin's Be'rin. SEE WINNERS BITCH.

SELECT DOG: #104.Ch Mythic's MacTier Axe

Powerful, heavily boned male with strength and size. Good topline from the backskull over the muscled body, slightly arched, broad loin and rounded croup. First and second thighs well-muscled with good width. Well-let down hocks. Good underline with drawn up belly to a deep muscled flank. Has a more open shoulder angle which shortens his strong neck. Moved with purpose.

SELECT BITCH: #91. Ch. Shancarrick's Darling Dubheasa

Very pretty, sweet, typey grizzled black bitch with an old-style that I recognized being a throwback to the very early 1980s Oakwoods bloodlines based on Lilliput. A style that I regret the absence of seeing any longer in our breed. She has a faraway gaze on a beautiful, houndy headpiece having level planes. Length of neck flowing over length of body with equally good underline. Powerful hindquarters.

AWARD OF MERIT: #88. #88. GCH. Barrassy Stormborn Twister.

Shapely, powerfully, well-made in profile with good bone. He is balanced fore and aft. Equally curvy underline with belly drawn up and good depth of flank. Strong, deep neck flowing down over the withers and nicely rounded croup. Could use more width of second thigh. He loses some shape on the move.

AWARD OF MERIT: #83. Inishkeens Caiomhe. SEE VETERAN BITCH