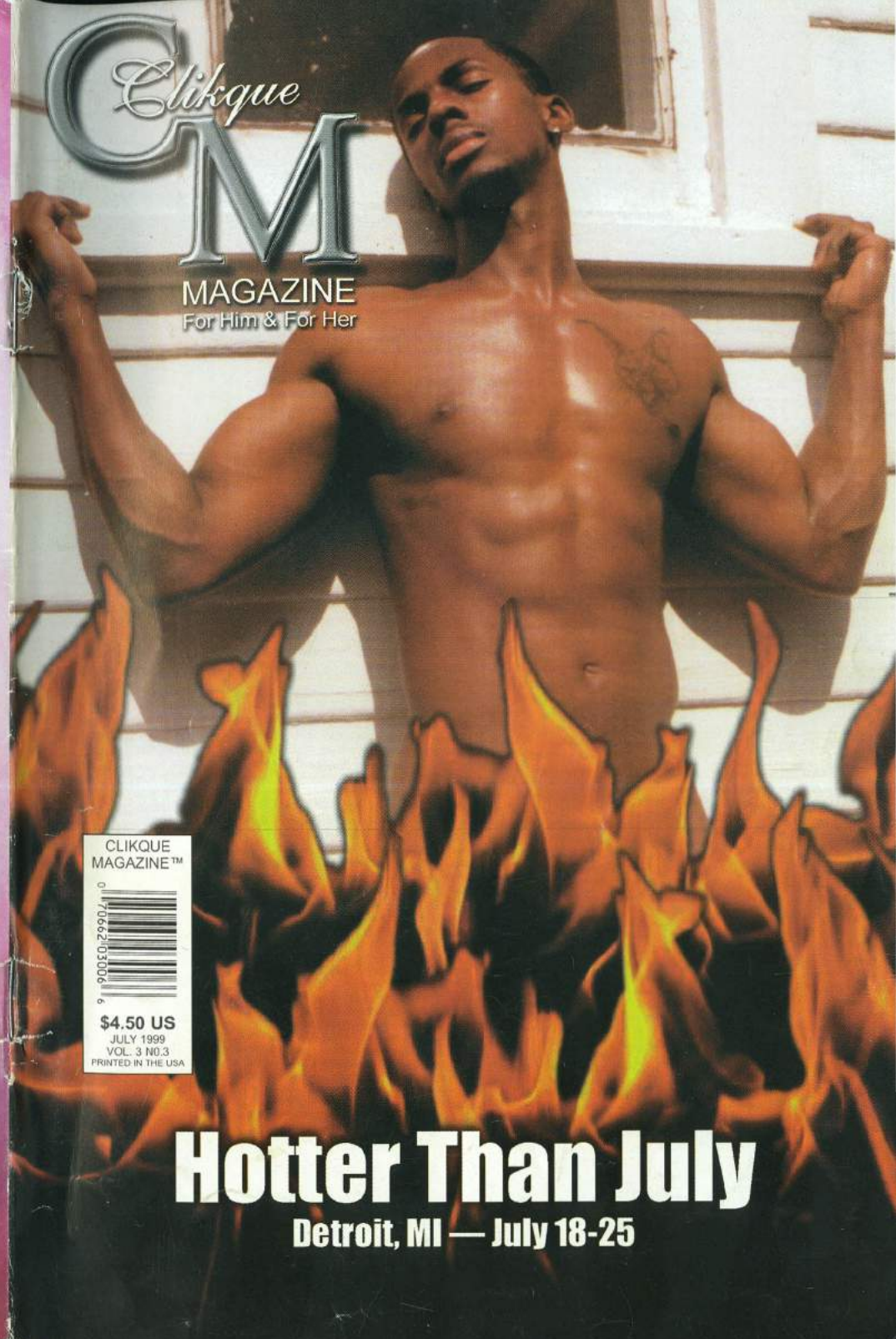


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VOL. 3 NO.3

PRINTED IN THE USA

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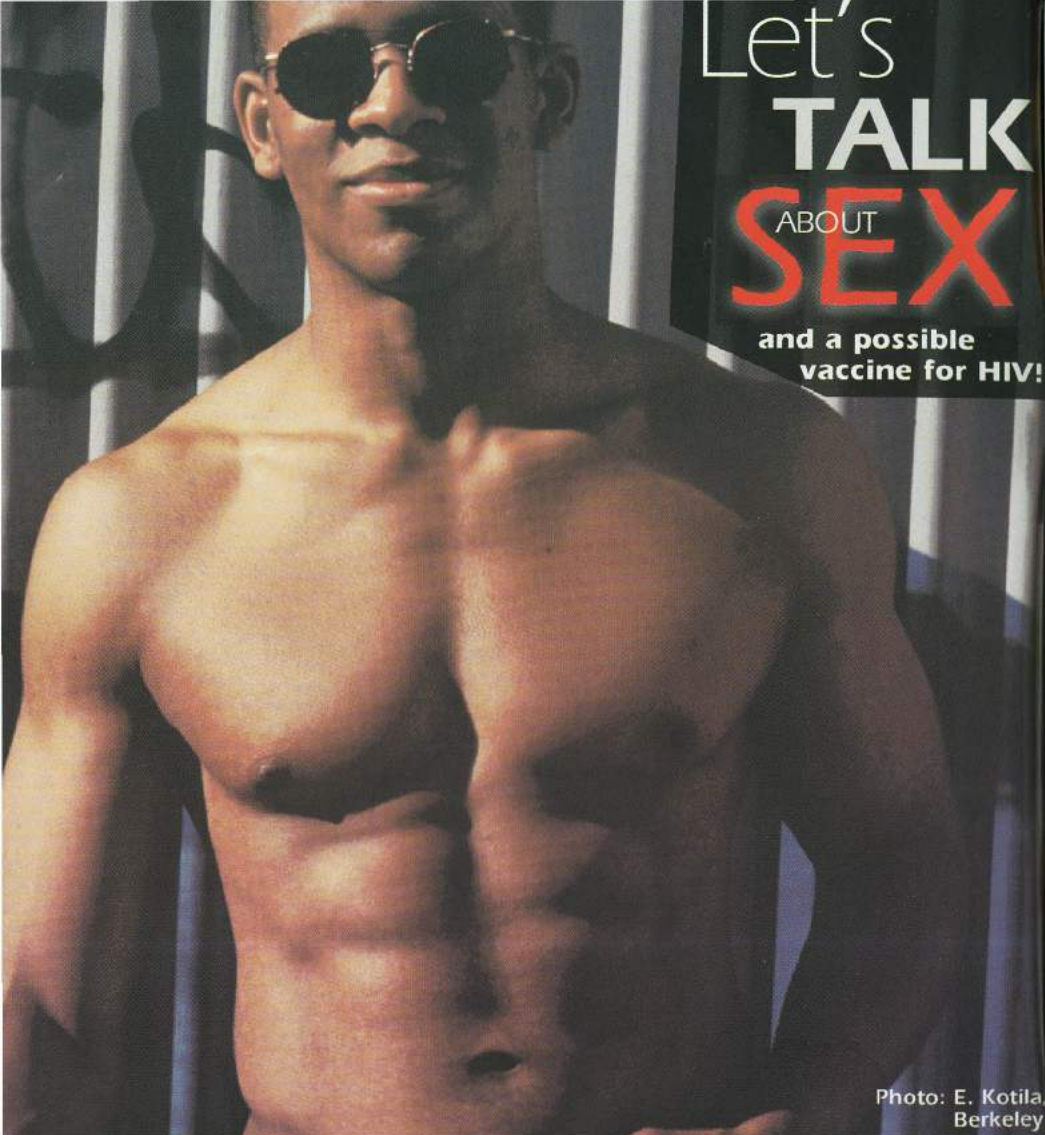
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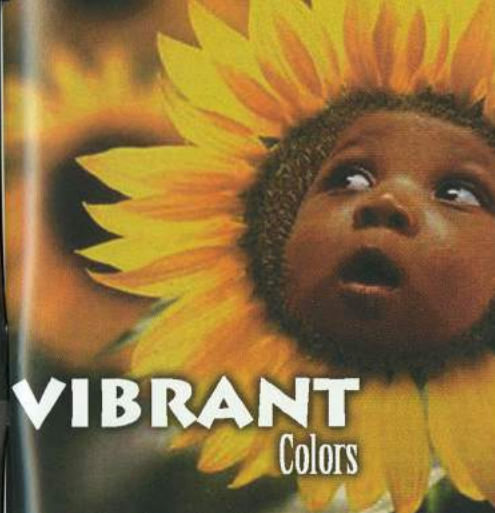
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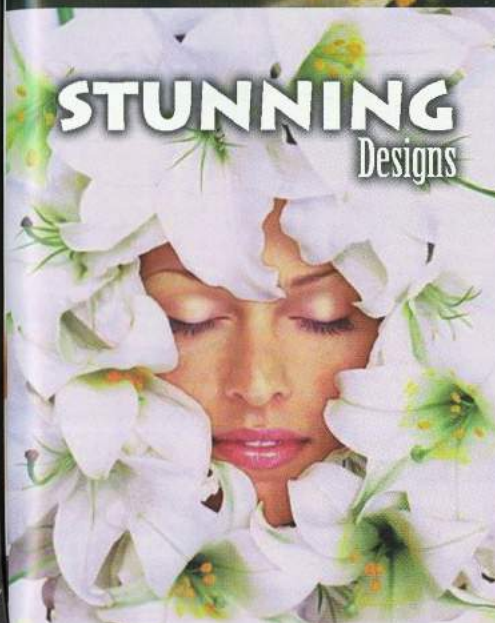
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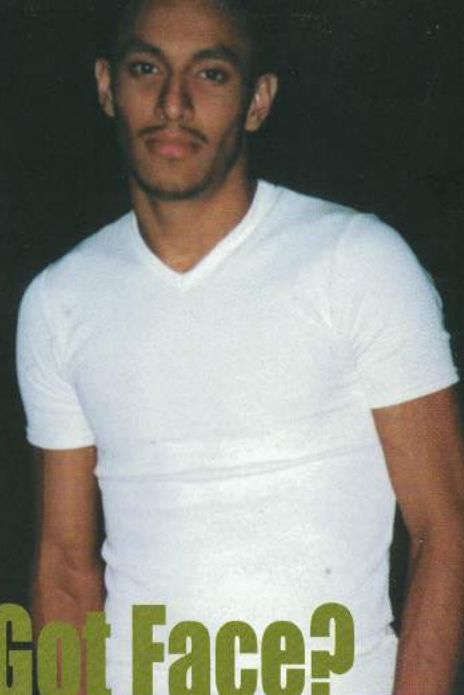
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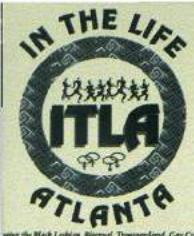


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Itinerary

THURSDAY, September 2 — Candlelight Vigil & Remembrance Ceremony

FRIDAY, September 3 — Welcome Reception-
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SATURDAY, September 4 —

Health And Wellness Symposium

- Health - Mind, Body & Spirit
- Black Market Gender Reassignment
- Healing Internalized Homophobia
- Homosexuality, The Bible and Spirituality
- Woyym's Health Initiative
- Circle of Systas - For Systas Only
- Deeper Love - For Brothas Only
- Talking Youth - 24 and under

Innergy - A Family Gathering •

Cultural Arts Festival

- Literary Confab
- Video & Film Festival
- Speakfire - open mic poetry and performance art

SUNDAY, September 5 — Verspers • Interfaith

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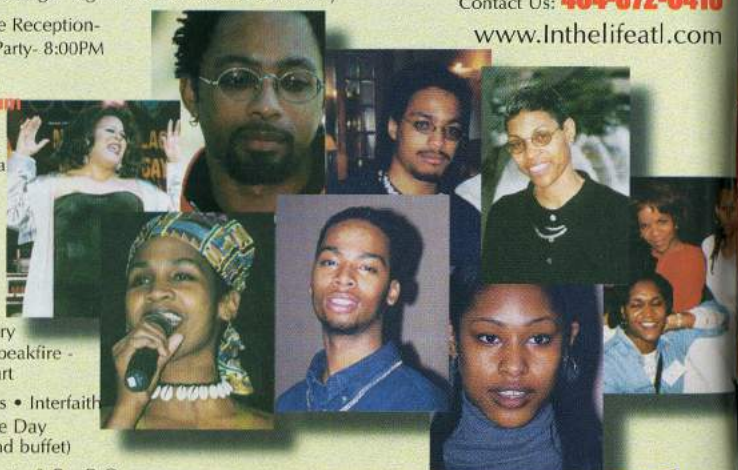
MONDAY, September 6 — Pool Party & Bar-B-Q

ALL Weekend — Poolside Events- Renaissance Atlanta Hotel (Host Hotel)

- Youth Programming
- Art Gallery
- Marketplace
- Travel Pavillion
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MAGAZINE

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Photo taken in Washington, D.C.
Memorial Day Weekend

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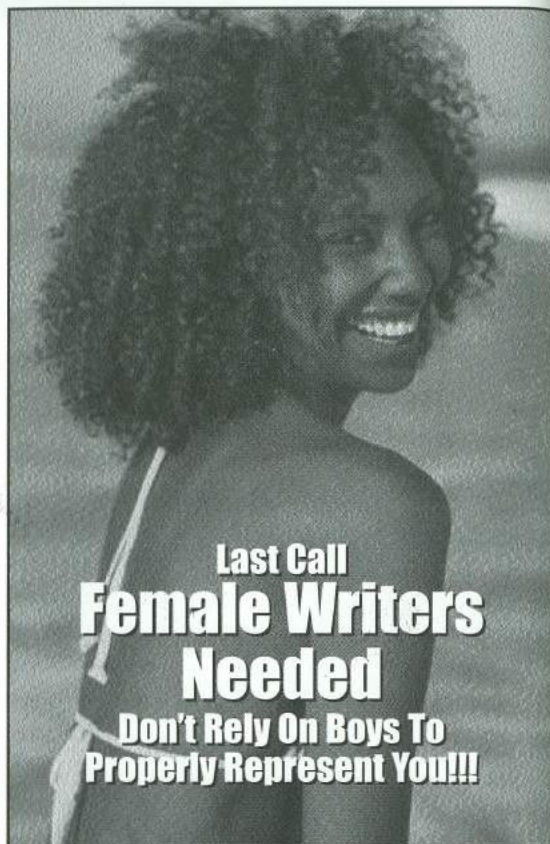
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Publisher's Address Dwight Powell



Some of your comments suggests that the covers are too suggestive, and only sells sex. Further, you also suggested that we shun the beautiful bodies and faces, and replace them with people that truly represents our community.... even if it's a big fat queen! **(not my words)**

I would be the first to acknowledge that our covers are often somewhat suggestive and provocative. They however, are always presented in a tasteful manner. With that said, please keep in mind that this is a business, and we here at Clikque Magazine are in the business of staying in business. This magazine survives on the advertisements placed by business and individuals in our community. These folks that advertise often like to know that what they are advertising will be seen by a great deal of potential customers. If the magazine isn't being picked-up, our advertisers won't get any business. As you can imagine, if my advertisers aren't getting any business, Clikque won't get their business. And if Clikque doesn't get their business, who will pay our huge printing and distribution bills? Certainly not I, those days are gone.

Please excuse me if I am coming across a little too defensive. I am just tired of having to deal with this issue. Other issues that I am tired of addressing are: why aren't there any lesbians on the cover, and why aren't there any lesbian articles? Well those are issues that I will address next month. Remember, boys should not address lesbian issues; lesbians should!

Thanks for your continued support. See you next month.

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Minorities, drug users less likely to get crucial AIDS treatments

WASHINGTON (AP) — Revolutionary AIDS drugs that have prolonged life for thousands of people are less likely to reach an entire class of victims — those who contracted the virus through drug use, the first national study of AIDS treatment found.

Blacks, Latinos, people with Medicaid and those without health insurance were all less likely to get the new drugs and other important health care — particularly in early 1996, when the study began.

Two years later, the gap had narrowed for some groups — notably Latinos and blacks. But it persisted for many others, including women, who are most likely to get HIV through sex with a drug user and were also less likely to be in treatment.

"It's very clear there is a great divide in HIV care between the haves and the have-nots," said Dr.

Martin F. Shapiro of the University of California Los Angeles, lead author of the study being published Wednesday in the Journal of the

American Medical Association.

Disparities in access to health care exist throughout the health system, not just in AIDS treatment. But unlike other diseases, most people with the AIDS virus can trace their infection to one of two sources: homosexual men or intravenous drug users.

Part of the explanation is simple economics. People infected through intravenous drug use, or sex with a drug user, generally have less money, less education and more life problems — all of which keep them from getting effective care. Someone who can't pay the rent or buy groceries or who is addicted to drugs may find getting medical care a low priority.

"That tends to be much more of a down-and-out population in every way," said Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint, who studies racial disparities in health at Harvard Medical School.

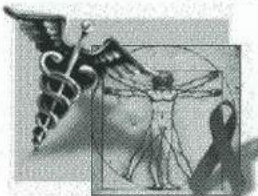
At the same time, the gay community has mobilized around the disease, educating its members about treatment options and the importance of getting care.

But while the AIDS epidemic hit homosexual men first, blacks are the fastest growing group of victims, now accounting for nearly half of all new infections, making the disparities in care even more alarming to public health officials.

There are many AIDS clinics in the gay community but few that are targeted to drug users, said Peter Lurie of Public Citizen's Health Research Group.

"The injection drug users are a relatively forgotten part of this epidemic," he said.

The new research comes from the HIV Cost and Utilization Study, the first national data on care for people with HIV and



HEALTH & HIV/AIDS ASSISTANCE

CALIFORNIA

African-American Men's Health Project. 74 New Montgomery St., #600, San Francisco 94105, 415-597-9137.

African-American AIDS Support Services and Survival Institute. 351 - 15th St., Oakland 94612-3203, 510-435-9577.

AIDS Project of the East Bay. 651 - 20th St., Oakland 94612, 510-834-8181.

AIDS Prevention Team. 1219 S. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles 90019, 213-964-7820, 213-964-7830 (fax).

HIV Survival Group for People of Color (KURU) Program. 220 N. Euclid Ave., #130, San Diego 92114, 619-527-2177.

Minority AIDS Project. 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles 90016, 213-936-4949, 213-936-4973 (fax).

National Task Force on AIDS Prevention. 973 Market St., #600, San Francisco 94103, 415-356-8100, 415-356-8103 (fax), 415-356-8138 (fax), nrtap@aol.com.

People of Color AIDS Survival Effort. 3177 Ocean View Blvd., San Diego 92131, 619-231-9300.

Positive Connection. 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles 90016, 213-936-4949.

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Whitman-Walker Clinic. HIV Support Group for African American Men and Women, 1407 G St., N.W., Washington 20007, 202-797-3591.

Intergroup Minority Project. AIDS Consortium and Trust (IMPACT), 300 I St., N.E., #301, Washington 20002, 202-6-IMPACT.

National Minority AIDS Council. 1901 - 13th St., N.W., Washington 20009, 202-483-6622, 202-483-1135 (fax), nrmac2@aol.com.

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Minority Outreach Intervention Project. 1255 S. Wabash #2S, Chicago 60605, 312-986-0661, 312-986-0626 (fax).

Men of Color Against AIDS. 95 Berkeley St., 3rd Fl., Boston 02116, 617-423-6622.

Multicultural AIDS Coalition. 801 Tremont St., #3, Boston 02118-1065, 617-442-1622, 716-442-6622 (fax), multia@aol.com.

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Caribbean Women's Health Assoc. 244 Utica Ave., Brooklyn 11213, 718-826-2542.

Haitian Coalition on AIDS. 50 Court St., #605, Brooklyn 11201, 718-855-7278.

Majority Action Committee. ACT-UP, Box 7932, New York 10115.

Men of Color AIDS Prevention. Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Issues, Dept. of Health, 125 Worth St., #1100, Box 67, New York 10013, 212-788-4310, 212-788-9661 (fax).

Minority Task Force on AIDS. 475 Riverside Dr., #1374, New York 10115.

212-870-2691, 212-870-2607 (fax).

People of Color in Crisis. 462 Bergen St., Brooklyn 11217, 718-230-0770, 718-230-7582 (fax).

VOCAL. c/o Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Issues, Dept. of Health, 125 Worth St., #601, Box 67, New York 10013, 212-566-4995.

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AIDS. Researchers identified about 231,400 American adults with HIV who were receiving at least some medical care outside the military or prison, in all states except Alaska and Hawaii.

From this group, a random sample of more than 2,000 patients was chosen for interviews beginning in early 1996 and again in early 1998. Researchers measured six components of care — three relating to use of medication and three related to use of doctors and hospitals.

Overall, care improved from 1996 to 1998. At first, just 29 percent of all patients were receiving care that met all six standards. That jumped to 47 percent two years later.

But the care differed widely among groups.

For instance, in 1998, 88 percent of whites were receiving powerful protease inhibitors, but just 80 percent of blacks were.

Similarly, 87 percent of men infected through sex with other men were taking these drugs in 1998, compared with 81 percent of those infected through drug use.

Some of the gap had narrowed, but researchers found that trend had slowed, meaning further improvements were not likely.

Future research will focus on the cause of the disparities: Are certain patients failing to seek care? Or are the attitudes and practices of doctors and hospitals making it harder for these patients to get it?

"At least on an unconscious level, some providers may have more aggressively tried to provide these treatments to certain patients," Shapiro said.

He also noted that the differences in care based on insurance type and race persisted, even when researchers took into account other factors, including how the person contracted the virus.

This, he and others explain, reflects larger disparities in the health system that go well beyond AIDS.

"The voices of the poor are not heard well in this country," Shapiro said. "In the case of HIV, the consequences of that can be quite profound."



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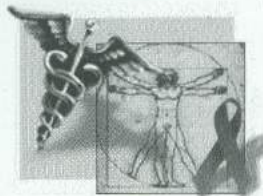
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HIV/AIDS EDITORIAL

By: **DON SNEED**, HIV/AIDS & Health Editor



Dateline: June 28, 1999, Dallas, Texas. On June 18th - 20th an Emergency Regional Summit was held in Atlanta, Georgia to address the HIV (Technical Assistance) Prevention Needs of African American Gay Men in the Southern States. This meeting was sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control which is headquartered in Atlanta. I was the Coordinator for the Southwest Region and Rudolph Carn of AESM, Inc., in Atlanta, was the Coordinator for the Southeast Region. Raymond Dumas, the former National Organizer for the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention was serving as the National Coordinator for the effort.

The Summit, in my opinion, had a three fold purpose. 1.) To provide technical training to agencies and individuals who serve Black gay men; 2.) To enhance and reinforce the fledgling network of HIV prevention service providers to African American gay men in the South; 3.) To elect leadership and endorse an overall strategy for improving HIV prevention services to Black gay men in the South. These are all very noble and worthwhile purposes. For these reasons over 70 individuals, from across the Old Confederacy, came together for 2 _ days.

I had the honor of giving part of the welcoming address. When I finished my welcome you could hear a pin drop in the ballroom. I said some things that made people very uncomfortable. That was as it should be. When we look at the state of Black men in America, particularly Black men who are gay, one should feel uncomfortable. Being a Black man and gay in America is a very uncomfortable situation.

There should never be a need to disguise or deny this reality. When my brothers are suffering and dying I will not adhere to social niceties and protocols. I accused the Centers for Disease Control of practicing **Institutionalized Racism** when it comes to addressing the HIV prevention needs of African Americans, especially Black men who are gay. They did not deny that such was the case. How could they? Their own epidemiological data proves that to be the case. Their response to HIV in Black America over the last 18 years is enough to have them indicted, tried and convicted of the practice of **Institutionalized Racism**. I must caution my readers, I do not play the Race Card. It is only when I find incontrovertible evidence of racism, then and only then, do I lodge the accusation. I went on to point out that some of the "brothers," who were, ostensibly, our leaders, were selling our asses out for nickels and dimes and the promise of a "fist full of dollars." People acted as if that was something unusual. I had to remind them that Blacks starting selling other Blacks out over 400 years ago in Africa. How do people think Black people got to America in the first place? Other Blacks sold our asses out!

I told the brothers gathered, what the CDC has known for quite some time: when it comes to preventing the spread of this virus amongst Black men - they are clueless - in Atlanta. So you see my brothers, we have been the victims of a double edged sword: ignorance and racism. Be mindful. Ignorance is the mother of racism.

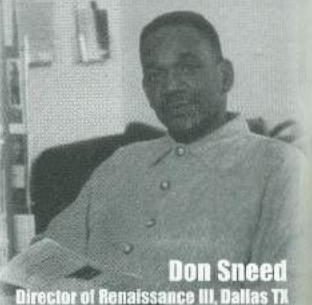
The children were aghast and in awe that I would stand before a potential funding source and accuse the institution of being racist and ignorant. Well it was very easy: BECAUSE THEY ARE! Finally, I told my colleagues that it was not and will never be the primary responsibility of the Centers for Disease Control to save our Black asses from this virus. That is our job. Only we can do all the hard work that is involved in preventing the spread of this virus amongst ourselves. It is the job of the CDC to disburse **our tax dollars** to facilitate that process. They are there to use **our tax dollars** to help us save ourselves. I shared with my brothers that it was not wise to approach the CDC with hat in hand, brown nosing and paying undeserved homage to the agency's leadership. When white gay men were fighting **Institutionalized Homophobia** at the CDC they acted up, out, in and all over the place to get the agency to do it's job. But some of my colleagues had urged me to "seek audiences with" and "gain the favor of" certain CDC staff and be careful not to offend "the powers that be." Well, I hope "the powers that be" heard my welcoming address. I refuse to be a "kneegroe"!

I also asked my brothers to stop referring to themselves as "African American gay men." That is truly out of order. Please do not put your "gayhood" before your "manhood." I am an African American Man who is gay. How one labels oneself is very important and not to be underestimated. Manhood entitles an individual to certain inalienable and universal rights and privileges. What does gayhood entitle one to?

I told the representatives from the CDC and my colleagues that if I had to be a "Kneegroe" and approach them "seeking audiences" and "gaining favors" I would rather not have any of my tax dol-

Dateline Continues On Page 21

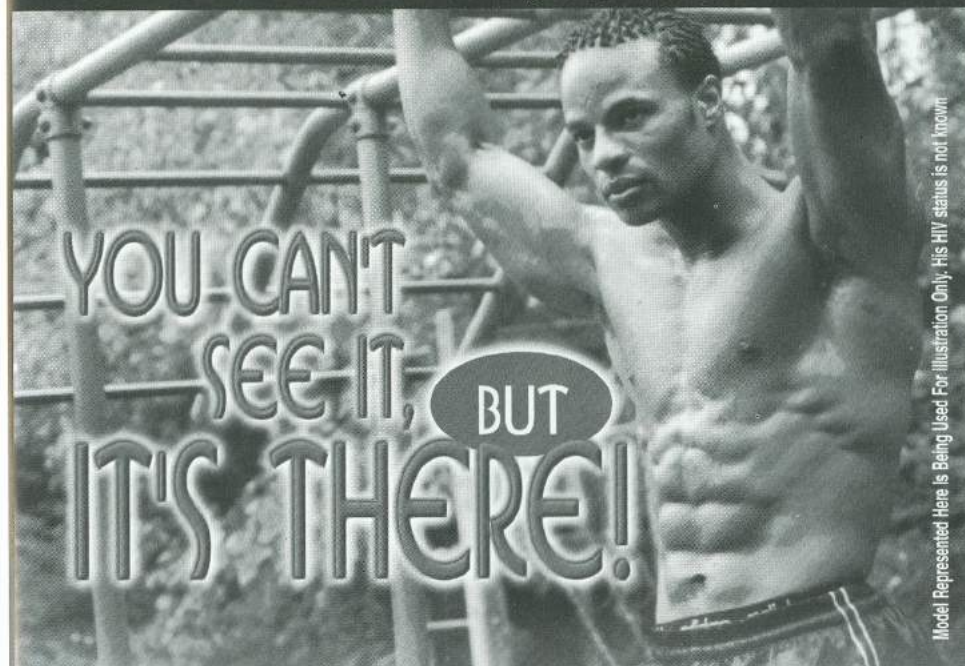
Renaissance III Is An Organization Serving African American In the Fight Against HIV/AIDS



Don Sneed

Director of Renaissance III, Dallas TX

Renaissance III is a Dallas based organization serving African Americans in the fight against HIV/AIDS.



Model Represented Here is Being Used For Illustration Only. His HIV status is not known

DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY IT'S COVER

HIV Comes in various packages. There are white ones, black ones, big ones, small ones, short ones, tall ones, sexy ones, and not so sexy ones. You can't identify an HIV infected person by just looking at them. Therefore, always use a Latex Condom and a waterbased lubricant when intimate with that special person. When used properly, latex condoms are effective against HIV, STDs and Pregnancies

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FINDING YOUR HAPPY PLACE

By: LEWIS NICHOLSON, Co-Editor

"If I am not what I want to be today, then I am my compromise. From this day, I refuse to be the compromise of myself. I may be imitated but not duplicated. I am going to be the person God intended me to be.—
Rev John Hollman

This is a very powerful quotation, and if given greater consideration, represents a philosophy that we should all strive to live by. In so doing we will be able to maximize our fullest potential, hence benefiting the common good.

So many of us spend our lives waiting for one thing or another to happen before we start being happy. I will be happy when I find a girlfriend. I will be happy



when my boyfriend stops cheating on me. I will really be happy when I graduate college. I will truly be happy when I get a promotion. None of these things will make you happy. As soon as you accomplish the first goal, a new one is added, and then you spend the rest of your life searching for things that will make you happy. Happiness must be found in the quest and not in the end result. Competing in the pageant should make you happy, as much as being crowned the winner makes you euphoric. Studying in college with your peers should make you happy, not just graduating

later on. Writing an article for this magazine should bring as much joy as seeing it in print. All this to say that happiness is the journey, not the destination.

We must find happiness within and in so doing we will reach self actualization and full productivity. We cannot allow our happiness to be dependent on our boss' approval. If my boyfriends love me today I will be happy, but if they choose to give that same love to some other boy tomorrow, I will be just as happy.

I have reached a point in my life that I hope most people are already at, or are not far from. I no longer need anyone's permission to be happy, nor do I need anyone's approval to know that I am a good and wonderful person. Even with my many flaws, I am still confident that I have a purpose in life and that the world is mine to conquer. With the right attitude and my newly found spiritual self, I can do all things.

If you find yourself depressed and down trodden, think about what it is that makes you feel this way. Make a list of all your ailments and the people who contribute to your misery. If you can find one person on that list whose opinion of you really matters, I say you are in deep trouble. My boss should appreciate my work but if she doesn't, I could not care less. Maybe it is time for a career change. My boyfriend should like me just a little, but it is more important for him to respect me, and if he doesn't, maybe it is time for a new man. The woman who sits next to you at work who does not like your sense of style is more than likely from the country or pays too much money for her clothes anyway. Her comments are not worth didly squat.

We all spend way too much time thinking about what others think of us and it is high time we stop it. What others think about us is not important in the least bit when we consider the big picture.

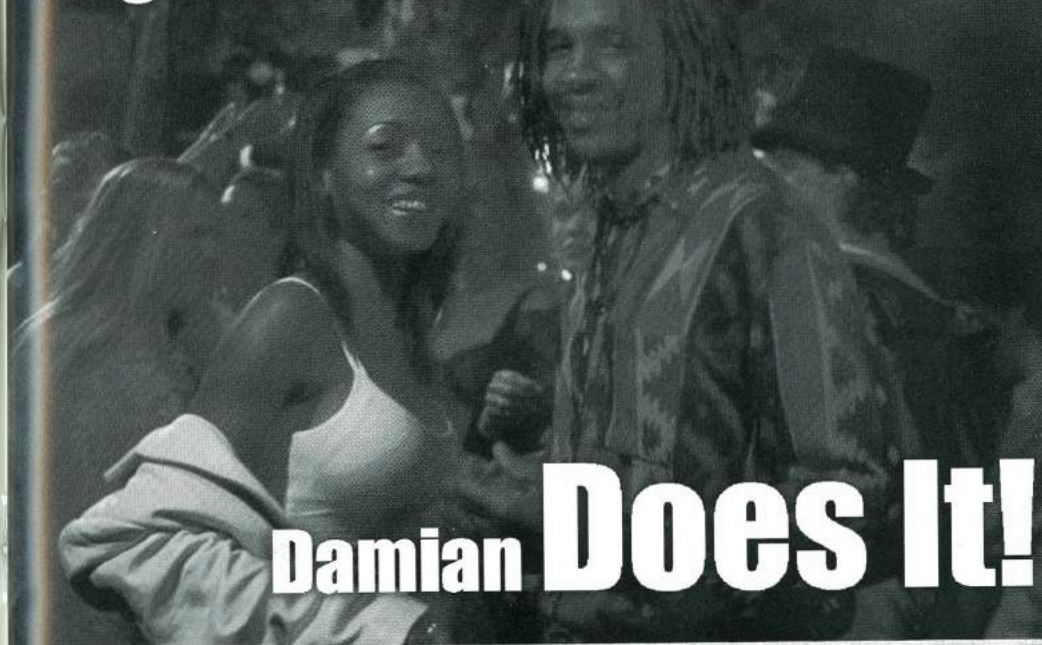
"....happiness is the journey, not the destination."

Look at it from this stand point: If you love yourself and accept you for who you are, that is good. If you are aware that you are one of a kind and very special, you get an extra brownie point. If you know that you are a great and talented person, why does it matter what other people think? If you do good for your self, as long as you do not hurt or defame anyone in the process, the world will be a better place. Sounds selfish, but in doing what is best for me, I will be doing what's best for my friends and co-workers, and the net effect is a plus for the society as a whole.

This is not as selfish as we once thought. It is a very reasonable reality which a lot of people already practice. You must do what is best for you and no longer compromise your whole being in order to benefit others. In the long run, self abnegation hurts you and those you are trying to please or protect. Until next month, be good, be safe, be yourself and most important be happy.

"Work like you don't need the money, love like you have never been hurt, and dance like no one is watching."—(author unknown)

Angela Does It!



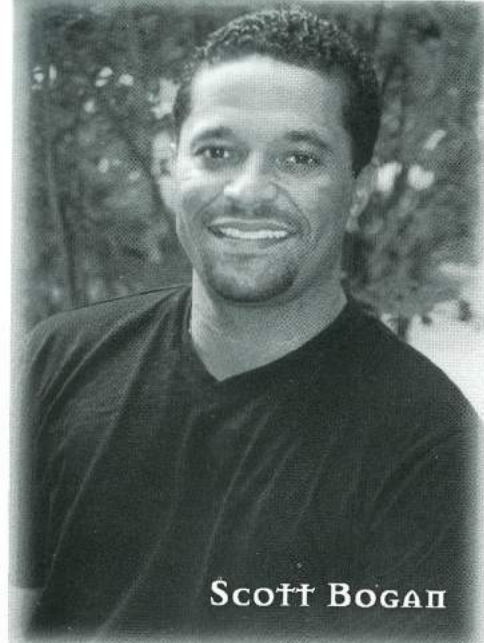
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Message Brought To You By:
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SCOTT BOGAN

- they sure don't have a problem accepting our help-bound money, do they?
- Have you ever wondered why people have a problem with a group of lighter complected guys hanging and no one says anything about a group of darker brothers hanging? Let it go! It is 1999 and who cares?!!
 - Have you ever wondered why kids today know the words to every Master P song but cannot form a simple grammatically correct sentence? If you have the time, volunteer. Kids need us too.
 - Have you ever wondered why people don't say excuse me anymore? Do manners not apply to clubs?
 - Have you ever wondered why people spend so much time at the gym or working on their careers but won't spend 2 minutes on their spirit?
 - Have you ever wondered why people that lead fraudulent lives don't take this energy and find a job? They probably would sleep better, right?
 - Have you ever wondered why people talk about others? Maybe it is because the thing that they are talking about is the very thing that they do not like about themselves. Think about it- it has been true for me.
 - Have you ever wondered why people are so secretive about who they are dating? What is the big deal?
 - Have you ever wondered why people stay in relationships where both people are cheating? Can someone PLEASE explain this to me? What is the point?
 - Have you ever wondered why people are still having unprotected sex?
 - Have you ever wondered why people judge others based solely on what they look like? Come on, get to know me first!

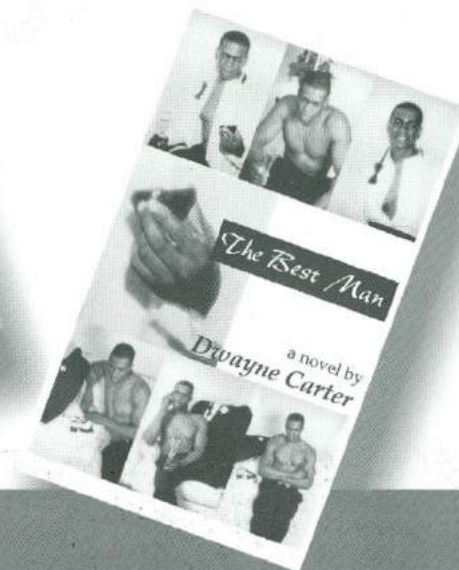
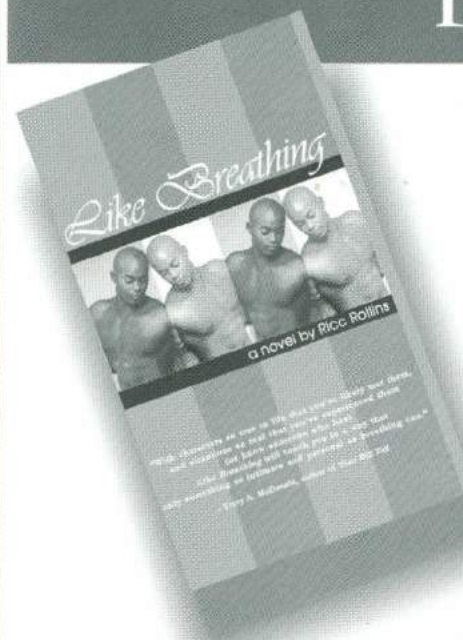
HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?

I've been wondering about a lot of things lately. So I have compiled a list. Here goes:

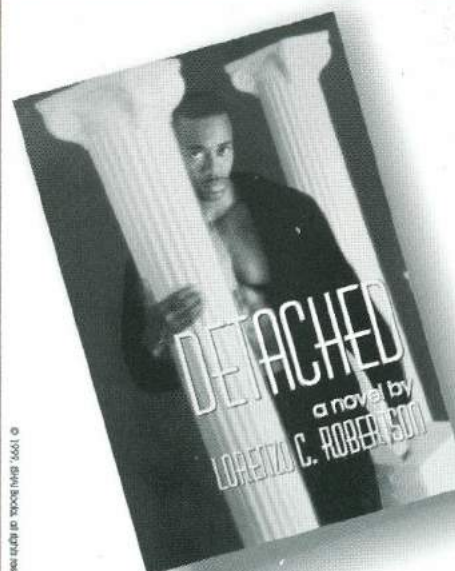
- Have you ever wondered why supposedly straight men stare so much? Yeah, I am so what?
- Have you ever wondered why so many people have a closet full of Prada and Gucci but don't have a house or car? Priorities maybe? (I am guilty of this one)
- Have you ever wondered why people take your phone number when they know that they have no intention of calling? Let's be honest with each other!
- Have you ever wondered why people go to parties that they were not invited to or don't even know the host? If you or someone in your group is not invited (and has cleared it with the host) then don't go! One word-TACKY!
- Have you ever wondered why people who were invited to your party show up empty handed? It takes 5 minutes to pick up a bottle or a bag of ice.
- Have you ever wondered why with all of the talent and resources in our community we are not running a major Fortune 500 company of our own? Hmm?
- Have you ever wondered why so many people attend churches that say that our lifestyle is wrong and our souls are going to hell?

- Have you ever wondered why people use the word "friend" so loosely? A friend is someone that is there for you through good and bad times. Someone you can trust with your most intimate feelings or secrets. Not someone that you share a ride to the club with and spreads your business at every given chance.
- Have you ever wondered why people use the word "date" so casually? Sleeping together a few times does not a "date" make.
- Have you ever wondered when you can have the "exclusively dating" talk? 1 month, 2 months, 3 months-who knows? And what do you do with the others that you have been dating?
- Have you ever wondered why people buy big "mansionesque" furniture for tiny one bedroom apartments? Less really is more!
- Have you ever wondered why people see you and tell you how great you look? So does this mean that the next time they see you and just say hi that you are looking "toe-up"?
- Have you ever wondered why people will stare at you all night in a club and not say anything? And how come we won't say anything either? Ego?
- Have you ever wondered why men have long fingernails? If someone can explain this I am open to learning. But for now- I don't get it!
- This list could go on forever. I constantly wonder about all of these things. Some of them I seriously contemplate others are not so serious. But what I have learned from them is acceptance. I try to accept everyone for each of their unique qualities that differ from mine. After all diversity is what makes the world go 'round.

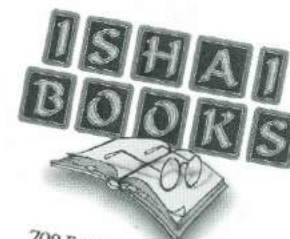
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I Love My Gay Son! Always Have, Always Will

by Rodney McCoy

"You'll never amount to anything!" These are the words that were supposedly told to Lawrence Hubbard of Viggiano Interior Designs by his mother, when he "came out" to her at the age of 19. Sergeant Sylvia Hubbard, a twenty-year veteran with the Detroit Police Department, tells a different story...

Born Sylvia Shepherd in Elizabeth, New Jersey, Hubbard moved with her family and was raised in Pittsburgh from age 2. She met and married a Mr. Lawrence Gordon at age 18. She worked in several nursing homes and hospitals as a medication technician for five years, until she separated, then later divorced Gordon in 1975. By this time a single parent of two children, Hubbard moved to Detroit to be with her father, a retired police officer. Once arriving in Detroit, Hubbard soon joined the police force as a patrol officer, initially for the better pay. She later became a police academy self defense instructor, and for the past four years Sgt. Hubbard has been working in the force's Community Relations Department.

"I'm very proud of my son." This is what Hubbard will say these days about her overall viewpoint of her gay son but she admits it wasn't always that way. She recalls seeing different movies and seeing the different phases people went through when learning that the character was gay. She says she went through those same phases. "I went through denial-'No this is not happening'; I went through a phase of refusal to accept; I went through the guilt-'what did I do wrong in raising him', and finally acceptance."

How was Hubbard able to move through these phases? "I guess it was my faith in God. I prayed to God about him. As a child I was always taught that God never puts anything more on us than we can bear. So my faith in Him brought me through each of these phases. There was a reason, but the bottom line is, I'm still Mama. That's where I came with my acceptance. I am his mama, and he's always gonna be my son, regardless of whether anyone accepts him or not. I was Mama when he came into this, and I'm gonna be Mama when he leaves, and I'm gonna love him just as much!"

Which brings us to the quote above. "No, I did not say those things," she asserts. "When I first heard these comments I was a little angry because I couldn't understand how could you quote something I said, but you never talked with me to ask me how I felt." When I explain that this quote was attributed to Lawrence, she explains: "Not to my knowledge he said those things." Quote aside, I wanted to know was there ever a time that Hubbard was not open or even hostile to Lawrence concerning his homosexuality. "I don't remember ever being hostile. I may have even gotten a little angry, but the anger would never last. It was anger at myself because I was not able to deal with the situation more readily. And still feeling some of the guilt that I did something wrong in raising him." Hubbard goes on to explain: "I have always said to both of my children that they can be anything they want to be. In denial and refusal I did not talk about it, I wouldn't let him talk about it; I just went about my daily activities as if nothing had ever changed. After he moved away from home, then we started dealing with it." Why after the move? "I don't think there was any other particular reason, but I just came to that point of my life when it was time to deal with it."

I ask Hubbard are there any topics that are easier or more of a challenge to discuss with her son. "I don't think any of them are a challenge to me." Really? I explain my skepticism to her statement comes from my relationship with my own mother. I also came out to my mother, Anna, at age 19. Needless to say, she was not thrilled to learn that her oldest son is gay. It has taken us twelve years for us to begin to understand each other and grow from the journeys both she and I have gone through in understanding my sexuality. (I can appreciate Hubbard's statement about the phases; I watched my mother move through them as well) Even with the growth, however, I find some areas are still not easy to discuss with Mom, mainly sex. She and I have just begun to openly discuss my relationships, and address concerns around HIV and AIDS. Hubbard explains, "Those topics are easy [for me] because I deal with them at work (she works in Community Relations, which run two programs Mentors and Explorers that deal with youth)." I'm not convinced, so I ask more about her attitudes about discussing sex and HIV and AIDS with her son. "My thing with Lawrence is that I encourage him to be careful in regards to AIDS, to practice safe sex. I don't worry about Lawrence because he keeps in good shape; he's in excellent shape. I believe he works out every day!"

Hubbard was in the police force when Lawrence came out to her. Did being on the police force, and coming from a law enforcement family (her father and grandfather were police officers in Pittsburgh) play a part in your denial and refusal of Lawrence's sexuality? "No, not at all." When I challenge her that the police force in America tends to be macho and homophobic, she responds: "I think if you say that, you're stereotyping the police department. I don't think it's so much the police department but individuals. I think a lot of it is a lack of knowledge and ignorance. Because I work with a lot of male officers who make comments like, 'what a person does, that's their business.' They either kind of accept or they know how a person lives, and they accept them as a person, and not because of their sexuality." And, yes, she is open about her gay son to her colleagues!

Hubbard is in the space of totally accepting Lawrence's sexuality. "I think the best way to sum it up for me as a mother: God gives us kids as a gift, we don't get to pick and choose. And Larry is who I got. He's my gift from God, whether he's gay, straight or whatever, he's my gift, and I accept it."

Does she have any other advice for struggling parents? "I have never heard a parent say, I want a gay son, or a lesbian daughter. [But] I think they need to pray on it, and sit and take a good look at their child and remember, that's their child, their flesh and blood. No one has been able to tell me whether a child is born that way or they pick something up in life, or they just choose to be that way. It's still your child. And they have feelings just like we do. And they need to know that they are loved and someone cares about them. Particularly, their parents."

Does she have any advice for gays and lesbians struggling with their parents? "Be patient, because if that parent really loves you, they will come around. I may be wrong but that's the way I feel."

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Continued From Page 14

lars which they hold in trust. But upon further review. I will access some of our people's tax dollars to help ourselves and I am not going to them on bending knees. I am a **Black Man** who is gay.

I resigned as your Coordinator for the Southwest Region. Steven Walker of Houston, Texas and Dwayne Jenkins of Nashville, Tennessee are now the Coordinator and Regional Assistant. Rudolph Carn was voted out as the Southeast Regional Coordinator and replaced by Earl Flowkes of Washington, D.C. Should you need additional information on how to contact your representatives please e-mail me at Vaquinn@compuserve.com.

I want to give a special thanks to Craig Washington of AID Atlanta. Craig exemplified what being part of a network of African American Men who are gay, helping one another in the fight against HIV/AIDS, is all about. During the Summit we had a brother become ill and required hospitalization. He was not able to return to his home state when the others left. I stayed an extra day and with Craig's help we were able to make it possible for the brother to stay in the hospital without worrying about someone being there to assist him. Craig was a champion. He visited the brother, contacted people on his behalf and got the brother to the airport when he was released 4 days later. Craig I salute you.

Let me close and go listen to my Dallas homeboy - Willie Hutch - no not the Mack but: "Brothers Gonna Work It Out."

Men Of Color Motivational Group Inc.
1150 Griswold, Ste. 2900A • Detroit, MI 48226 • 313-496-0159

Information Education Insight Knowledge

MOC

MEN OF COLOR MOTIVATIONAL GROUP INC., strives to empower African-American gay/bisexual/transgender men by providing information, education, insight, and knowledge on day to day issues in the African-American community. MOC advocates positive health strategies and non-biased information dissemination and education. Education and motivation of African-American men is our primary concern in order to bridge gaps of understanding and knowledge. We encourage openness, trust, and most of all mutual respect for one another.

Although the need of the African-American male is our primary focus, Men of Color welcome the participation of all community minded individuals. Our organization is equally aware of and sensitive to the needs of the community as a whole.

Components of our program include safer sex workshops, providing speakers for organizations and community outreach efforts, primary and secondary prevention case management and housing assistance programs, bars, and club outreach, material distribution and HIV/AIDS Peer Training, and HIV/AIDS Anonymous/Confidential Counseling and Testing.



Hotter Than July

Detroit, MI — July 18-25

PURPOSE

The purpose of Hotter Than July!, Detroit's gay pride for people of African descent, is to provide the community with an extensive community building pride celebration.

MISSION

Hotter Than July! nurtures the seven principals of Kwanza (unity, self determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, creativity, purpose and faith) as key community building elements that will enhance the quality of life for gay men and women of African descent.

Accommodations

Hotel Pontchartrain
Two Washington Boulevard, Detroit
For Reservations please call 313.965.0200
or Toll Free: 877.965.0200
Fax: 313.965.9464

Location / Attractions

Located in Downtown Detroit. Adjacent to Cobo Convention Center and Joe Louis Arena. 25 miles from Detroit Metropolitan Airport. Minutes from Renaissance Center, Financial District, Greektown, Tiger Stadium, Hart Plaza, Theater District and Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Adjacent to the People Mover, Detroit's Downtown monorail system.

Services / Amenities

The 25-story hotel has 412 deluxe guest-rooms with 23 suites, Hotel Pontchartrain Club executive level floor with lounge, complimentary breakfast, nightly hors d'oeuvres. Evening turnaround service (upon request). Valet parking. Gift shop.

Dining/Entertainment

Coyote Cantina Restaurant featuring steaks, chops and fresh seafood, located in the lobby of the hotel.

GOAL

Hotter Than July! is designed to be the Midwest's premiere community development forum in which homo-affectionate people of Africa descent focus on community economics, education, culture, spirituality, health and social environments.

OBJECTIVE

Maintain Hotter Than July! as a forum in which the community's best aspects are showcased through an organized coalition of African-American community groups, businesses, institutions and individuals. The growth and success of Hotter Than July will rely heavily on developing partnerships and building bridges that encourage collaboration and cooperation.



**out.
proud.
sober.**

No one's going to tell you what to do. Some people want you to stay in the closet, or be ashamed of who you are. Others want you to drink or do drugs. But you're smarter than that. You think for yourself, and know you don't have to get high to fit in.

Hey, it's your life. Live it—sober.

Questions? Call the Midwest AIDS Prevention Project. • (888) A-CONDOM



Sunday, July 18th



Pride Candlelight Memorial Service by DBGPride, Inc., / Full Truth Unity Fellowship Church Faith Love & Peace Church

Admission: Free
Location: Palmer Park — Time: 7:00 pm to 9 pm
Memorial candlelight ceremony in remembrance of our community's continued battle with HIV/AIDS & Breast Cancer.
Contact: Joseph at jsj003@webtv.net

Parents Sunday Brunch by DBGPride, Inc.,

Admission: \$25.00
Location: Hotel Pontchartrain — Time: 11:00am to 2pm
Appreciation, buffet brunch. Short program coordinated with Parents for Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG).
Contact: kahless_1@msn.com

Hawaiian Opening Party Celebration by Zippers Nightclub

Admission: \$5.00 - \$10.00
Location: Zippers Nightclub 6221 E. Davison
Time: 10:00pm to 2am
Community wide opening celebration. Food, dancing, networking and socializing.
Contact: 313.892.8120

Monday, July 19th



The Hush Party by LuLu Productions

Admission: \$5.00
Location: Alvin's Nightclub, 5756 Cass Avenue
Time: 10:00pm to 2am Social Event

Tuesday, July 20th



Community Exposition by Men Of Color

Admission: Free
Location: 1150 Griswold, #2020
Time: 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Open house event to provide info about agency's work with HIV prevention / management.
Contact: Joseph at jsj003@webtv.net

Social @ The Continentale by Club Continentale

Admission: Call
Location: Downtown Detroit — Time: 10:00 - to 2:00 am
Cocktail, networking event.

Wednesday, July 21st



Project Survival's Open House by Project Survival

Admission: Free
Location: 1150 Griswold, #2020
Time: 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Open house event to provide info about agency's work with HIV prevention/management.
Contact: Joseph at jsj003@webtv.net

"In The Life Poetry" IV by NoirAmerica, Inc.

Admission: \$7.00
Location: 1515 Broadway Theater, 1515 Broadway
Time: 8:00 pm to Midnight
Featuring Detroit Native S'retsel Dnal
Open Mic poetry & culture, and other local artist.
Contact: jjenkins@walbridge.com

The Generator by MOC's New Generations & House of Bulgari

Admission: \$5.00
Location: Better Days Nightclub 3919 Woodward @ Alexandrine, Downtown Detroit
Time: 10:00 pm to 2:00 am
Social / Benefit party.
Contact: Frank at fbvlgari@hotmail.com

Boys To Men by Off Broadway East II

Admission: \$5.00
Location: Off Broadway East II 12215 Harper
Time: 10:00 pm to 2:00 am
Social event and entertainment.
Contact: Tony Miller, #313.521.0920

Thursday, July 22nd



The Ruth Ellis Project by DBGPride, Inc. & The RuthEllis Project & Wayne State University Anthropology Department

Admission: \$15.00
Location: Wayne State University Community Arts Theater Center, Cultural District
Time: 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm
Celebration of Detroit matriarch's 100th
Activities: birthday. Premiere of documentary "Ruth Ellis @ 100" by Director, Yvonne Welbon.
Contact: kahless_1@msn.com

The Ruth Ellis Afterglow by Men of Color

Admission: \$15 per person or \$25 for two MOC Paid Events
Location: Off Broadway East II 12215 Harper
Time: 10:00pm to 2:00am
Celebration of Detroit matriarch's 100th birthday. Live entertainment by Detroit's own Straight Ahead.
Contact: Men of Color office: 313-496-0158

Friday, July 23rd



GrassRoots Conference III by DBGPride, Inc.

Admission: Free
Workshops, Buffet Luncheon \$25.00
Location: Hotel Pontchartrain 2 Washington Avenue
Time: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Workshops, speakers, panels, continental breakfast & buffet lunch. Mayor Dennis
Archer to provide luncheon's keynote speech.
Reserved group tables for luncheon are \$250.00
Contact: Joseph at jsj003@webtv.net or call 313.393.0730

Gay Media Reception by Kick Magazine

Admission: Free
Location: Hotel Pontchartrain, Ontario Room 2 Washington Avenue
Time: 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm
Media & Writer's reception and awards ceremony.
Contact: Curtis at lipscomb@kick-online.com and www.kick-online.com

11th Annual BBC Anniversary Kick-Off Party by Billionaires Boys Club

Admission: \$5.00 (\$50.00 BBC Weekend Package)
Location: Backstreet Nightclub 15606 Joy Road
Time: 10:00 pm to 2:00 am
Social Party
Contact: Greg at 313-871-6905

Saturday, July 24th



4th Annual Pride Picnic by DBGPride, Inc.

Admission: Free
Location: Merrill Plaisance Street at Woodward Avenue (near McNichols Road) Palmer Park
Time: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Vendors, volleyball, entertainment, music, poetry slam, auction & much more. Bring your own basket.

Kid's Fair by Karibu House & Ujamaa Investment Club

Admission: Free
Location: Palmer Park
Time: 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm
Finger Painting, Face Painting, Crafts & Storytelling, Singing, dancing, and fun competitions.
Contact: Pam at silverfox-69@rocketmail.com

Panels of My Life by Liberals Art Gallery

Admission: Free
Location: Liberals Arts Gallery Belin, Duane 3361 Gratiot Avenue
Time: 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Cocktail reception with multi-media artist Laura Irene Wayne.
Contact: ThatArtGuy@hotmail.com

Detroit's Pride Poetry Slam I by NoirAmerica, Inc. & Kick Magazine

Admission: \$5.00 Entry Fee
Location: Merrill Plaisance Street at Woodward Avenue (near McNichols Road) Palmer Park
Time: 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm
Poetry competition. Prizes awarded to winner.
Contact: jjenkins@walbridge.com or kick@kick-online.com

Bobby & Flex Deon Blake Charity Auction by DBGPride, Inc.

Admission: Free
Location: Merrill Plaisance Street at Woodward Avenue (near McNichols Road) Palmer Park
Time: 4:00pm to 5:30pm
Bobby & Flex Deon Blake host our first auction during the pride picnic to benefit charitable HIV/AIDS organiza-

tions in Southeast Michigan.
Contact: kick@kick-online.com

11th Annual BBC Anniversary Dinner by Billionaires Boys Club

Admission: \$20.00 (\$50.00 BBC Weekend Package)
Location: The Rhinoceros 265 Riopelle, Rivertown
Time: 9pm to Midnight
A Celebration of 11th anniversary weekend.
Food, live entertainment, dancing.
Contact: Greg at 313-871-6905

The White Party by Ken Collier Memorial Foundation

Admission: \$10.00
Location: Charles Johanson Galleries 1345 Division, Eastern Market Time: — 10:00pm to 4:00am
Social Benefit Party. Proceeds to benefit charitable institutions.
Contact: For ticket information please call 313.394.0189.

Sunday, July 25th



Community Spiritual Services by Full Truth Unity Fellowship Church

Admission: Free
Location: 4458 Joy Road — Time: 10:00am
Spiritual services.
Contact: Pastor Smith-EI, #313.896.0233

11th Annual BBC Anniversary Brunch by Billionaires Boys Club

Admission: \$35.00 (\$50.00 BBC Weekend Package)
Location: Omni River Place 1000 River Place, Rivertown — Time: Noon - 4:00pm
Brunch celebrating the 11th anniversary of one of Detroit's formidable social organizations. A casual affair over-looking the Detroit River and Canada.
Contact: Greg at 313-871-6905

Jazz Bash by Men of Color

Admission: \$15 per person or \$25 for two MOC Paid Events
Location: Omni River Place 1000 River Place, Rivertown — Time: 5:00pm to 9:00pm
Activities: Live Entertainment & food. A casual affair over-looking the Detroit River and Canada.
Contact: Men of Color office: 313-496-0158

The Bar Federation's Closing Party by Detroit's Bar Federation

Admission: TBD
Location: The Roostertail — Time: 10:00pm to 2:00am
Activities: Community-wide closing party hosted by Detroit's Bar Federation. The federation includes Off Broadway East II, Zipper's Nightclub, Club Continentale and LuLu Productions.
Contact: Tony Miller, #313.521.0920

You May Contact Detroit Black Gay Pride @

DBGPride, Inc.
P.O. Box 3025, Detroit, MI 48231 — Phone: 313.438.2613

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In The Life In The Spirit

"This Little Light of Mine"

This is the conclusion of a two part composition on beating the dark areas of life and coming into God's marvelous Light!

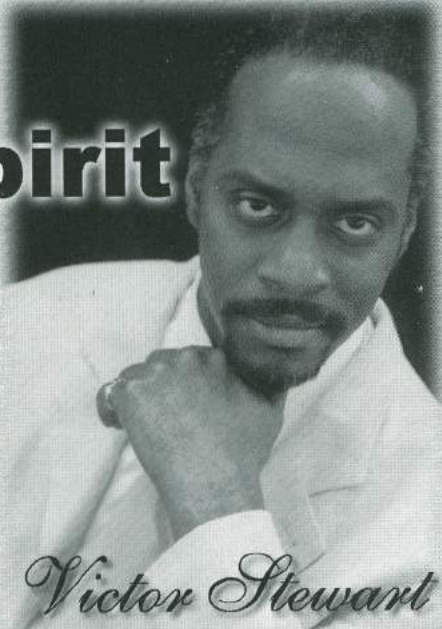
1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous Light:

As I began to prepare part two of this composition, I sat in my room quiet and began to pray. Because I believe in a higher power (God), I knew he would speak to my heart and clearly give me a word to pen that I will share with the readers of this publication. When God speaks to me sometimes it's like a light bulb that ignites up above my head which details the moral of this story—God is Light, God is Purpose. God is a light to my path way (my life's journey), and a lamp onto my feet which guides me to my purpose.

As I continue, I'd like to thank my family and friends for the support and recognition of the work I've been called to do. In the last several months as I have traveled to places I sometimes frequent and attend, I've been received with an overwhelming vote of confident to continue writing. So, with much love this song is for you!

To come into light and purpose we must know that it evolves out of darkness. In my last article I established the title and thought that, "There Will Be Dark Days." As I developed my thoughts I identified some of the negative perceptions of darkness. Darkness can be hurt, pain, rejection, isolation, disappointments, lies, anger, secrets, embarrassment, fear, or anything to keep you suppressed or down and out! Darkness also can be identified as a state of being. Before there was knowledge of life, there was darkness. Then spiritual references project that there became **Light!** Parallel to the concept of darkness and light is the process of birth. When we are conceived in our mother's womb we are surrounded by darkness. As time ticks forward we develop and grow in a state of darkness. No matter what the conditions are around the pregnancy we are held in the belly of the whale, metaphorically speaking. (smile, I'm not playing the dozens!) Then as we all know and have experienced we are berthed out of that darkness and into the light of the world! The marvelous light!

As I began to look at the process of birth it brought forward a great deal of revelation. All things must come to the light!!! No matter how long or short the time light will prevail! In the birth process, darkness is a place of development of the human mind, body, and soul. Light



Victor Stewart

and darkness are inevitable. Another example; night is darkness and day is light. How simple could it be!

Think about it, how many times has it seem that you were in a situation that looked hopeless and no way to overcome your circumstances but for some reason you overcame the ills that befall you! Darkness did not succeed, you conquered the enemy of night, fear, hopelessness, Thank God!! Sometimes our journeys involve blood, sweat, and tears which gives each one of us our own personal testimonies of overcoming life's obstacles. I've learn to embrace most situations no matter how bleak because in the end **Victor** will win. Because God has a greater plan and that plan is my birth, my living, my life, my Purpose. I invoke the spirits of Martin Luther King Jr., Jesse Jackson, Andrew Young, Malcolm X or any other national leader. I invite the energies of people like Craig Washington, Duncan Tighe, Wallace Henry, Rev. Antonio Jones, Darryl Moch, Tony Daniels or any local leaders. I give thanks for the guidance of my mother, father, uncles, aunts or other family members, knowing I'm not trying to be popular, important, high profile, or in demand! I just want to be me, free, with a peace to enjoy God's plan and design for my life which leads to fulfilling my **PURPOSE**.

My mistakes, short comings, hurts, pains, disappointments, loneliness, fears and the like can and will not stop me from reaching the Goals for my life. They have only helped to

In the Life Continues On Page 32

Friends

How Many Of Us Have Them?

By Lee Jones

I have always loosely bantered about the word friend. One of my all-time favorite songs is the mushy comrade anthem "That's What Friends Are For". Although I usually swayed and sang along with the chorus I can't say that I really listened to the lyrics. You see, I used to have minimal requirements for someone to be called my friend. Anyone that was not my mortal enemy I would consider a friend, that is until an incident happened to me this past Palm Sunday weekend while I was in Chicago.

I decided to take a weekend break and drive to Chicago. It normally takes me about 4 hours and 20 minutes. During that I time I pop in a number of tapes to keep me awake and alert. I also have stretches where I just drive with no music at all. I just let my thoughts take over. I think about what I'm going to do while I'm in Chicago. I plan my schedule in advance so that I can cram in as much activities as I can in 2 or 3 days. Not once while I was driving through Indiana in route to Chi-town did I think about my college friend that lived on the south side - that is until I made my way off the Skyway at the Stony Island exit. It suddenly occurred to me that every time that I come to Chicago I would call David but never stop by his apartment to see him. It was around 8:30 central time and I had just made my way onto Lake Shore Drive to head to the north side where I stay with my friends. I was still on the south side. As I got close to the exit that would lead me to my friend's south side pad I thought about passing up this opportunity because I was not in the proper lane to turn off. Cars filled the roadway and it there is always a vehicular adventure waiting every curve on Lake Shore Drive, so I just decided to not try to get over. Suddenly I glanced over and noticed that the left lane was open. I had a clear path to the turning lane. I found myself easing over and turning. I drove a bit till I saw my friend's apartment building.

I was thinking that this was finally the time to do it. I had never told David that I was gay. We met when we were both undergrads in college. He was a star football player and I was known as a campus activist. I can't quite remember how we met, but we quickly became fast friends. We were very conscious brothers who thought that we could change the world - or at least the city of Louisville - together. He wore dreadlocks and I wore my kente cloth.

David is a special friend. When we first stuck up our friendship I had a habit of introducing him to others as David, the football player. He called me on that faster than a vicious Internet rumor circulates. I never did that again. He was not the stereotypical jock. He was very serious about college. If it weren't for brothers like him encouraging me I might not have ever finished college. He made me a better person just by knowing him. David and I took many weekend road trips together and made our yearly pilgrimage to the hedonism that is Freaknik in Atlanta. We laughed together, got angry together, got angry with each other, supported each other and shared almost every passion - be it music, reading or ideas - with each other. He even spent Thanksgiving at my house one year when he couldn't go home for the holiday. We were close friends. But yet I kept my secret from him. Maybe one of the reasons that I never told him was because at that period in

my life I was in denial about my sexuality.

Oh, how I wanted to tell him! On the day that David graduated from college and he got ready to go back to Chicago I thought about coming out to him. But I let him and the moment slip away. Over the next several years he made many trips back to Louisville and each time I would promise myself that I am going to tell him. Even when I had moved 3,000 miles further away for graduate school I thought about calling him up and telling him that I was gay. But I thought better of it. I rationalized that I should tell him in person rather than on the phone, although that didn't prevent me from telling another friend over the phone. There were several other times that I could have told him but I just let those moments pass without even trying. Once about two years ago during my now annual Thanksgiving trips to Chicago I called David up from my friend's house and told him that before I go back home to Louisville that I wanted to stop by his place and to tell him something really important. He said okay. I never went by.

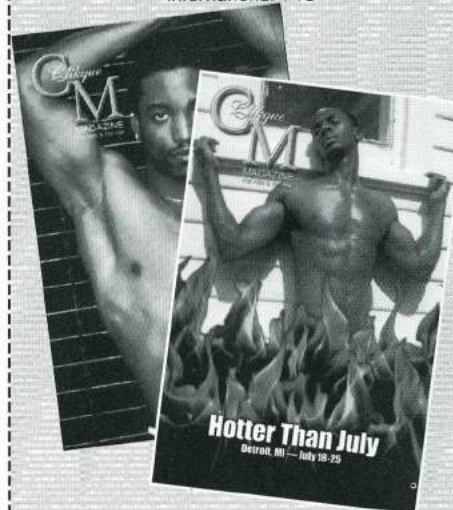
Last September David came to Louisville for one of his annual visits. I had made up in my mind that this time I was going to tell him the truth once and for all. I set up a Sunday afternoon dinner with him at one of my favorite restaurants. I felt cowardly about setting up the meal. I thought that if I told him in a public place that he would be less likely to make a scene and go off on me. I really wasn't hungry, I just needed a safe place to open up to David and tell him what I have been carrying around with me for a few years. As I sat outside waiting for him to arrive I rehearsed how I was going to tell him. I tried at least a dozen ways of breaking the news. From coughing and saying I'm gay in mid back to telling a gay joke and revealing at the end that I was the character in the joke. None of them felt right. As I saw him wheel into the parking lot I figured that I would just forget the gimmicks and just tell him when there is an appropriate break in the conversation. We hugged, sat, chatted, drank, ate, talked and departed. I let another opportunity slip through my fingers. I headed home from the restaurant that night feeling like a bigger coward than before. I prepared myself to tell him and lost my courage at the very time that I need it most. I vowed that the next time that I am face to face with him that I am going to tell him.

This was my chance to redeem myself. This was my chance to silence those voices of doubt about being comfortable with who I am. I didn't plan to tell David on this visit to Chicago. But something made me stop by his place. The spirit just guided me to stop and tell him before I do anything else on this trip. I drove around the neighborhood looking for a decent parking place. Each block that I drove through had no parking spaces. I even drove far enough away from his place to roll past Louis Farrakhan's mansion a couple of times. But finally, just as I was ready to give up the effort and get back on Lake Shore I spotted a good space that was close to the apartment. After I turned off the car, I immediately began to feel warm. I was sweating at the thought of finally coming clean with David. As well as I knew him, I didn't know how he would react. I had seen both sides of him and I was not sure which side I would see. He has quite a temper but he could also exhibit great humanitarianism. I remember him telling me about a friend he had in high school who later became a drag queen and subsequently dying of AIDS. He spoke matter-of-factly about it, not giving an opinion one way or the other.

I got out of the car and decided to throw a coat on despite my bout of perspiration. I called and he buzzed me up.

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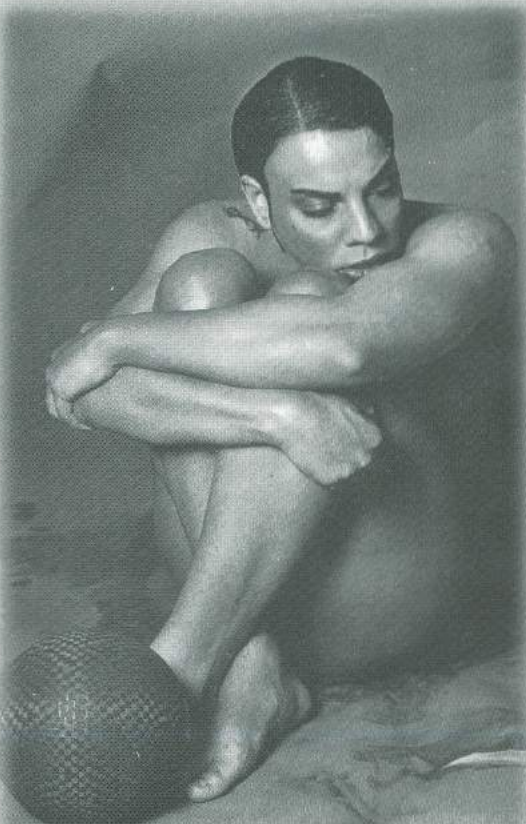
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Friends Continues On Page 57

Inner Thoughts

Poetry by Miami's RAJ



Poetry by Rajindra Narinesingh- RAJ

WALNUTS

Like the shells of walnuts;
Our bodies incase our souls.
Crack the shell and the realities unfold.

A flower blooms; a bird sings.
Whether it's a person, place or thing.
Energy lives in everything.

The preachers preach and the teachers teach.
It is the truth that we all seek.
Jesus, Mohammed and Buddha speak.

Like the shells of walnuts;
Our bodies incase our souls.
Crack the shell and the realities unfold.

The Clock ticks.
The baby kicks.
Drug addict looking for another hit.

Just as the ocean meets the shore.
The song of life. / Another score.
Death will knock on everyone's door.

Like the shells of walnuts;
Our bodies incase our souls.
Crack the shell and the realities unfold.

DAY BY DAY!!!

Today I awakened feeling sad and gloomy.
I feel I don't get the understanding and conditions due me.
But I keep on going with hope and faith.
And pray that all of this is for divine sake.

Taking it day by day.
Oh dear Lord; how I pray.
That you will lead the way.

There are many things that annoy me.
But I focus on the things that bring joy to me.
Determined not to let myself sink.
I know that myself worth is the link.

I will shake this depressive state.
Claiming that my life experiences are truly great.
Discussion in prayer with the spirit above.
I'm always guided with God's true love.

Taking it day by day.
Oh dear Lord; how I pray.
That you will lead the way.

Living my life in a positive manner.
I preferably strive to climb the spiritual ladder.
Taking charge of my life.
I spread my wings and I take flight.

A CHILD PASSES !

(In Celebration of the Life of Blair Mosha Wright)

On July 24th, 1997.
A little boy
Not quite seven
Left the earth
And went to heaven

His name was Blair
A Spirit with so much Flair
And when you looked into his eyes
(the windows to our soul)
The light that illuminated
Shined like Gold

Although his stay was short
He touched many lives
People of all sorts
He is his mother's pride

He knew his stay in this world was done
Telling his uncle
"I'm going to die but I'll be okay"
Heavens going to be fun

We Celebrate the Life of Blair
He's now an angel
Have no fear
So let us not weep
This dear child
GOD WILL KEEP!

AND WE THANK THEM !

KING, EVERS, AND X -
Were men that fought for human respect.
They gave their lives in the plight.
For each and everyone's human rights.

And we thank them !

When I think of it I sometimes get perplexed.
I even find myself getting vexed.
To know that they had to fight;
For something that should be every-one's right.

Men who were truly grand.
They really took a brave stand.
For our civil rights, throughout this great land.

And we thank them !

KING, EVERS, AND X -
We celebrate their lives with much respect.
In the journey to freedom;
There was a pace that they set.
With faith and focus they strived -
To ensure that it was our freedom we would find.

MAKING LOVE !

The vehicles of two spirit meet.
The feeling consumes them from

head to feet.
Touching each other; lusting for love.
In that moment those two, become like hand and glove.

Making Love !
Suspended in time.
The bodies twist.
The bodies whine.
They wish the moment would last a lifetime.

Forget about the how and the why.
These two souls are about to fly.
Letting down their social guard.
They both were dealt the love card.

Making Love !
Suspended in time.
The bodies twist.
The bodies whine.
They wish the moment would last a lifetime.

Entwined in each others space.
It feels so good; this loving place.
Overwhelming orgasmic feeling.
It's time for some sexual healing.

DIVINE MIRACLES OF GOD !

As Spirits of the Universe
Under the sun.
This human experience
Makes us one.

WE ALL ARE DIVINE MIRACLES OF GOD !

Rejoices for all of us
Are Gods daughters and sons.
And we each have our work
Here on earth to done.

WE ALL ARE DIVINE MIRACLES OF GOD !

So let's embrace one another.
Let us not shun.
And show that the battle
Has already been won.

WE ALL ARE DIVINE MIRACLES OF GOD !

THE MOUNTAIN TOP

I'll meet you at the mountain top.
Through strife and struggle I just can't stop.
Faith and focus I know is the way.
To accomplish my goals each and everyday.

Only one dollar left.
The hunger / the hunger kept.
My spirit continues to seek.
The body's feeling weak.

Are my goals just a dream.
Sometimes that's how it seems.
The reality is that I can achieve.
For my success I have already perceived.

I'll meet you at the mountain top.
Through strife and struggle I just can't stop.
Faith and focus I know is the way.
To accomplish my goals each and everyday.

Need a roof over my head.
I can barely keep myself fed.
Trying to keep up with the way.
To accomplish my goals each and everyday.

I know I have what it takes.
Who I am makes me great.
So I climb; I won't stop.
I'll meet you at the mountain top.

DEATH OF A LOVE ONE !!!

Goodbye for now; until we meet again.....

The time has come to say goodbye
My eyes fill-up; I want to cry.
It's like their sleep; their spirit flies.
As I watch their body lie.

Goodbye for now; until we meet again.....

Their existence here seem to go so fast.
I thought forever it would last.
Wanting to hold on to moments of the past.
They've gone to be with the eternal cast.

The memories no one can ever take.
The life they lived- I celebrate.
This farewell I tried not to anticipate.
I pray that it is GOD's divine fate.

Goodbye for now; until we meet again.....

The time we spent I will truly treasure.
I know someday we will be together.
A bond in time forever and ever.
The connection we have can never be severed.



Poetry by Miami's RAJ

Clikque Magazine is extremely pleased to offer you Rajindra Narinesingh (Raj), a very talented writer and recording artist residing in Miami, Florida.

Raj, originally from Philadelphia moved to Miami in 1991 to pursue his creativity and music passions. Just recently, Raj released a debut single (Stumble) which did very well in the South. When he was asked how he felt about the release of his single, here is what he had to say, "it is really exciting when you are living your true essence. When you are fulfilling your mission. We all have a mission to fulfill while we are here on earth living the human experience".

A spiritual and gifted poet, Raj was excited at the opportunity of having his works published in our magazine. His poetry is fresh, meaningful and often moving. This month we are pleased to offer you a small sample of Raj's work.

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Continued From Page 27

shape the future that I am approaching everyday. A part of coming into the Light for me is knowing where I come from (mentally, spiritually, physically, sexually), and where I'm going in my life. Also recognizing who I am right now; For I know I am from the lineage of I AM, (God) ! I AM is God and he is ALL. He is earth, sky, land and sea. He is Almighty, All knowing, In All Places, in every moment of time, and most important he is in ME! Therefore Gods plan is to perfect me in his light through the experiences of my life bad or good to fulfill his will. So with this I'm coming to know purpose.

I AM Gods creation, a man, (a Victor, a Stewart), a father, a son, a minister, a writer, an artist, a promoter.

I AM creative, committed, passionate, loving, powerful, real, supportive.
I know that all I am and ever will be is because I am, I AM's.
This is walking in light, this is walking in Purpose!

As you read about my revelations and coming to know my realities I now pose the question, Who are you? Are you walking in Darkness or the Marvelous Light? Like the line in the famous soundtrack from Mahogany, "Do you know where you're going to, Do you like the things that life is showing you, Where are you going to, Do you know?" Do you

understand that there is a plan and a purpose for you too! Allow the alarm clock of time and maturity to wake you and shape you to live in truth, in power, in peace, in love, and in Purpose.

Break out of the chains of darkness, fear, hurt, shame, and pity! Sing a new song that says I know who I am, I love the life I've been given and it's getting better everyday! What ever you want, go after it. Put your heart to the challenge. If you are a banker, writer, dancer, teacher, preacher, be what you are purposed to be! Take control of your life with everything you have within you! Love- You! Know that your gifts and talents are precious to All that you encounter.

In closing know that your life has purpose and allow it to shine for all the world to see!

Amen and Ashay

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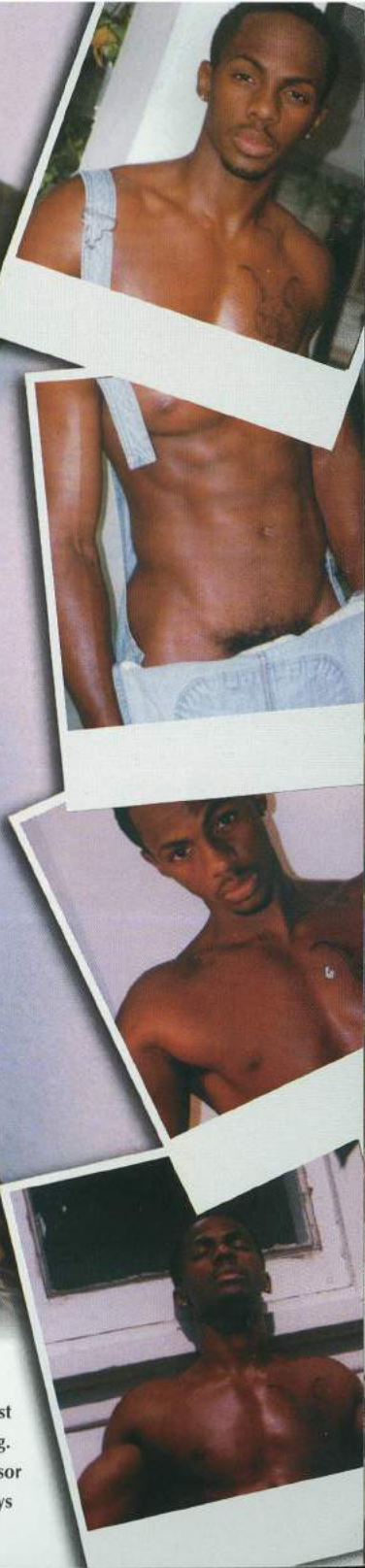
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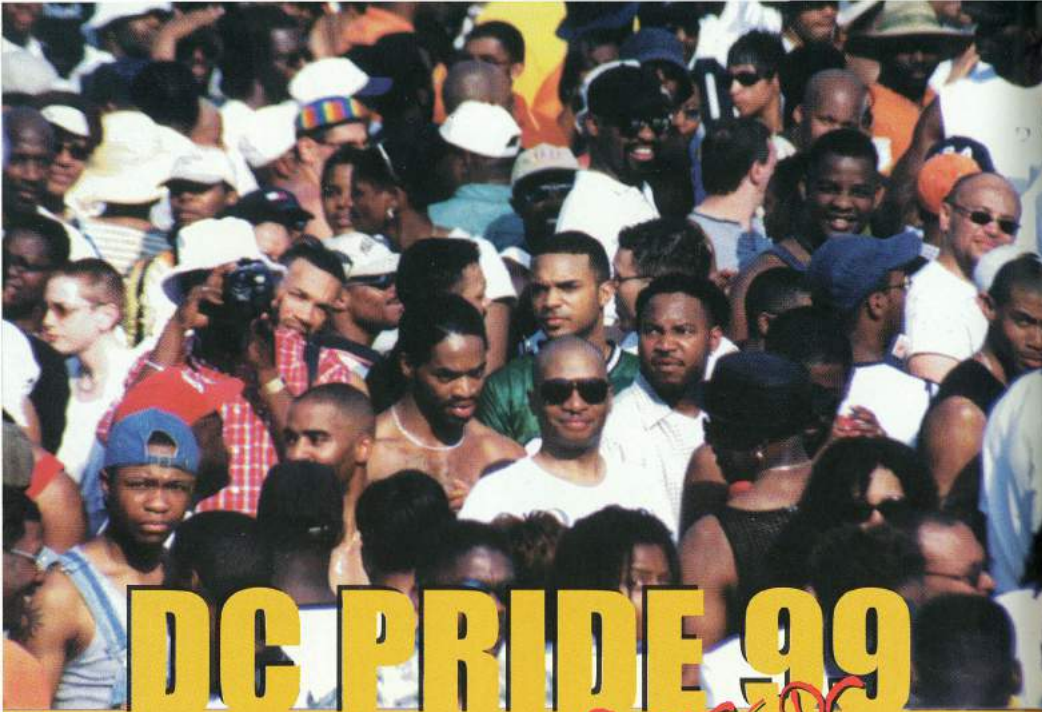
DUGUE

Our model this month comes to us all the way from the "Sunshine State". Originally from Newark, NJ; this sexy Taurus shows us why he likes it better in the South and why he's Hotter Than July!!!

A full-time student at University of South Florida (USF) and the youngest of four, he considers himself to be understanding, mannerable, and easy going.

While Carl's not attending classes, he is working hard as a shift supervisor for one of the nation's leading carrier companies. This educated brotha enjoys cooking, baking, poetry, sports, and working out.





DC PRIDE 99

Clikque Does DC

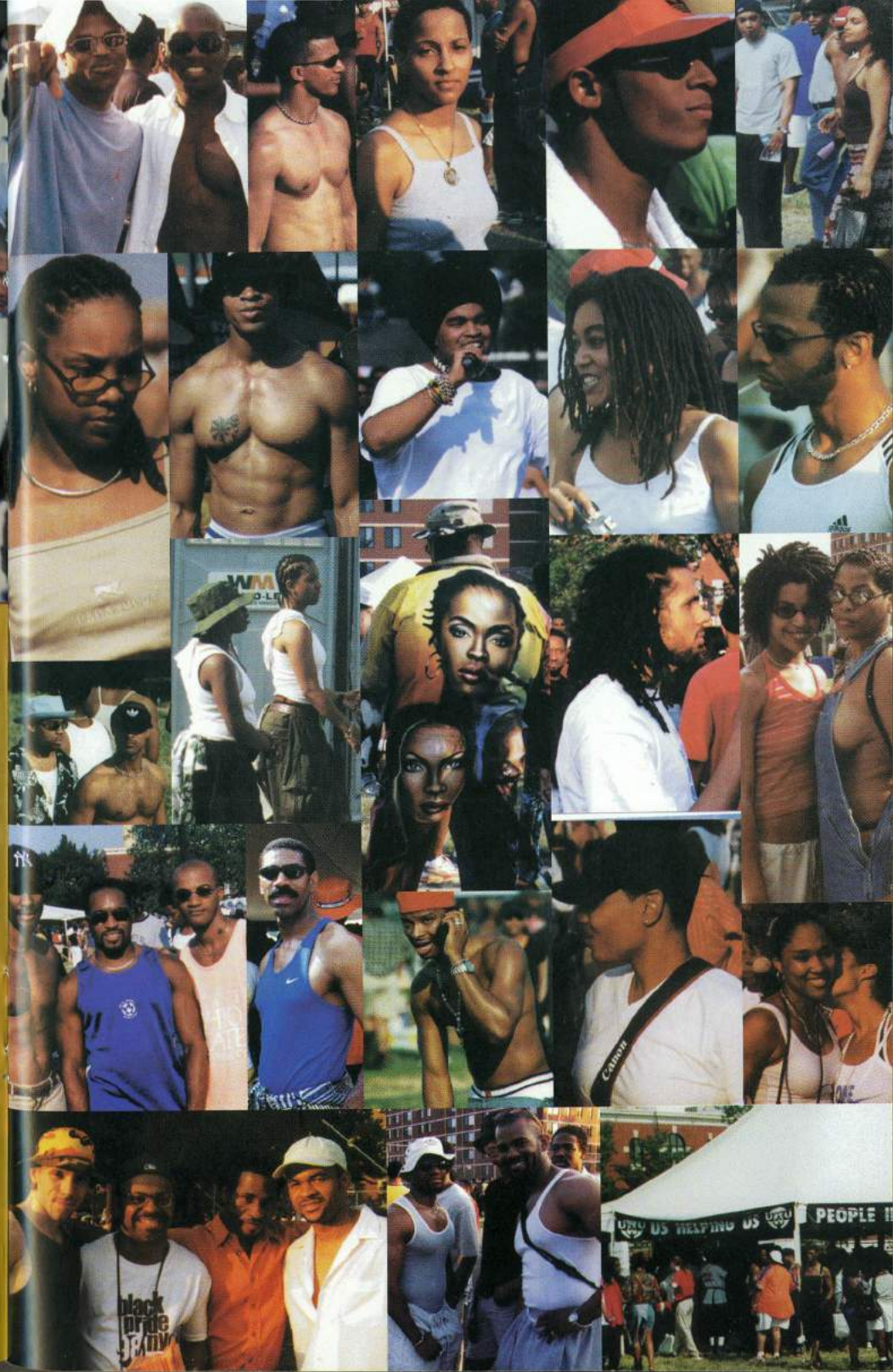
by Dwight Powell



Words alone cannot express the events at the 9th Annual Black Lesbian & Gay Pride held this past Memorial Day Weekend. It was considered by most in attendance (approx. 25,000), to be the best pride ever. Hats off to Earl Fowlkes (Pride President) and his committee of organizers for putting together such a great weekend of events. The Highlight for most was the festival at Banneker Field which drew approximately 10,000 people. It was hot, and it was wonderful. Temperatures reached the mid 90's, and for the first time in the past four years, it did not rain. There was non-stop entertainment and speeches on the mainstage which culminated with a fierce performance by recording artist CeCe Penniston; she was HOTTTT.

Aside from the regular nightclub happenings, there were numerous events that drew great crowds. Us Helping Us, an AIDS prevention organization in DC, sponsored a pool party/Bar-B-Que, which ranked among the top of events for the weekend. The atmosphere and participants were awesome. Also, women from across the nation came together and talked about their lives at a conference sponsored by CLOAVE, a group for lesbians of African descent. Other events throughout the weekend included a Health Expo, boat cruise along the Potomac, discussion groups, private parties, a picnic at Rock Creek and a black gay media reception Hosted by The Male Box, a publication out of DC.

According to Mr. Fowlkes, "We are gonna shock people with our plans for next year. We want to have a major headliner, something that will be worthy of the new millennium."



black pride nyc, inc.

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HOT MONDAYS IN JULY

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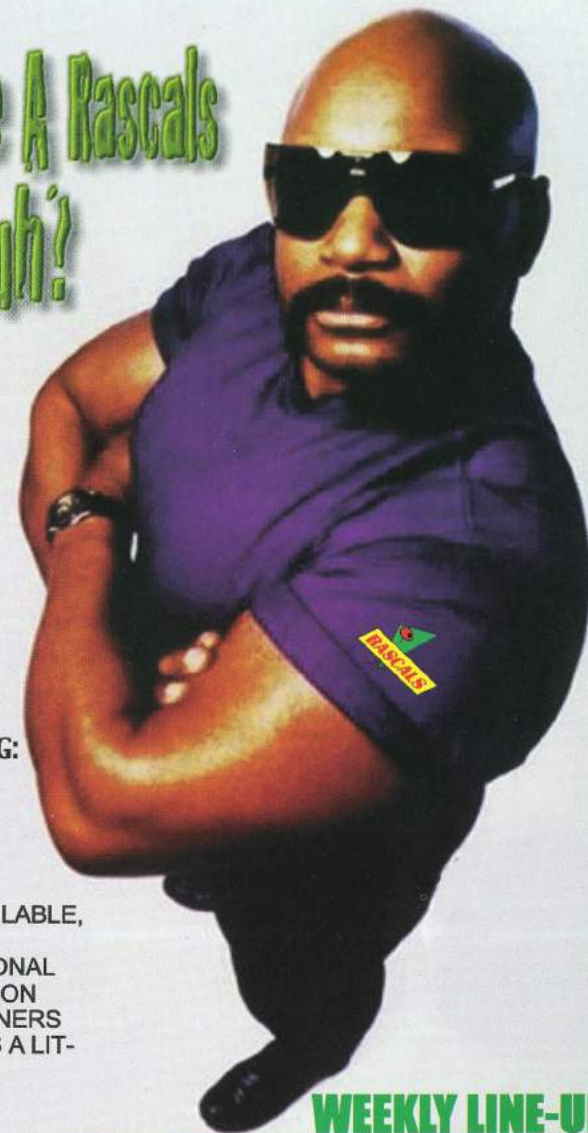
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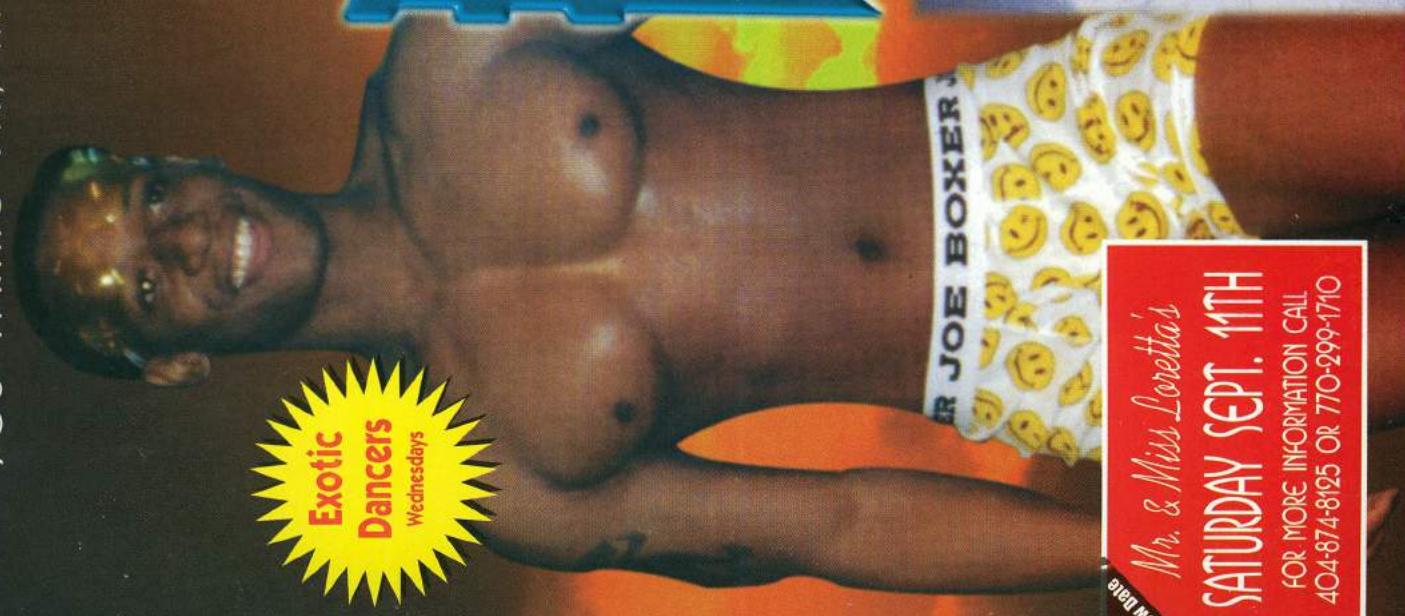
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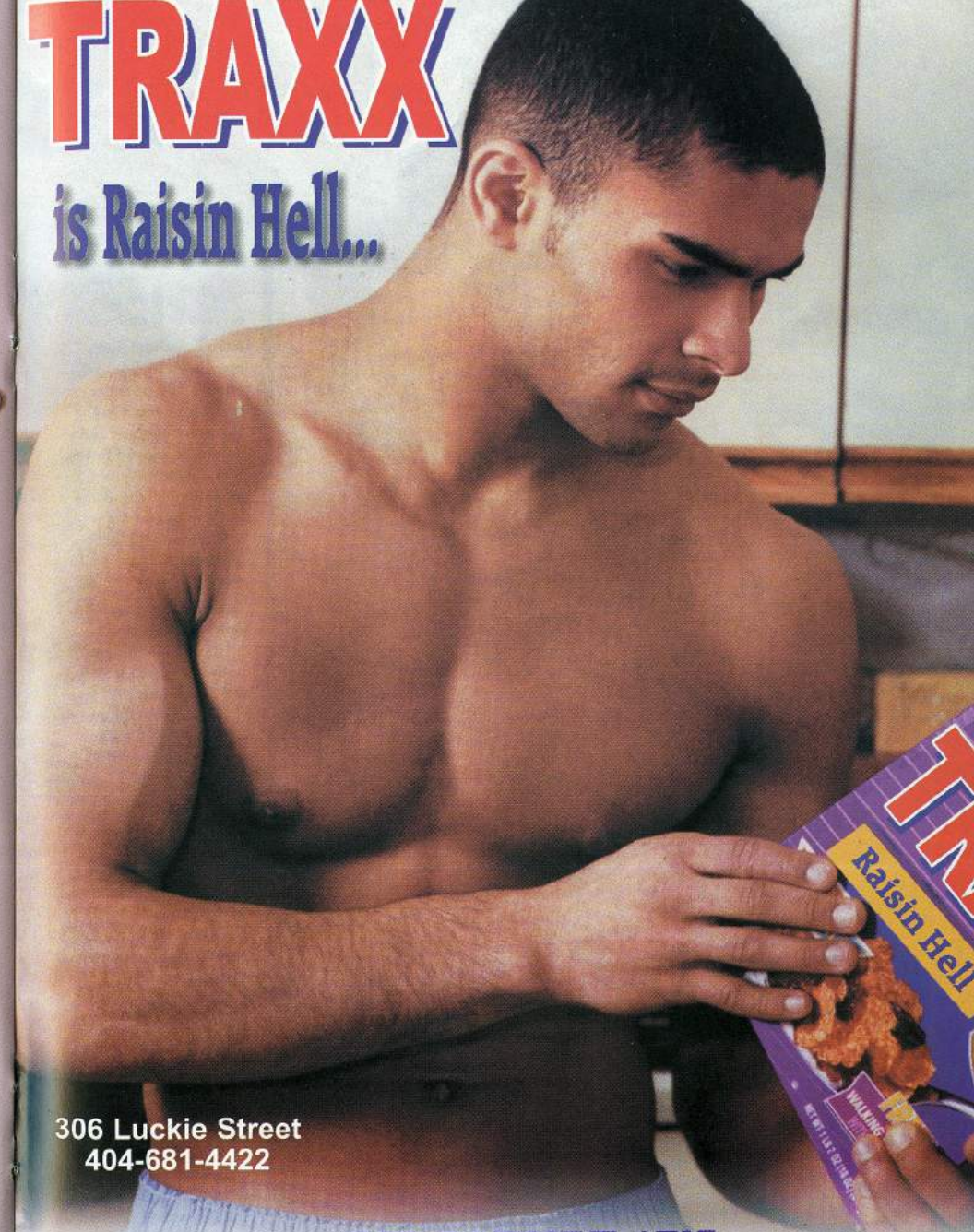
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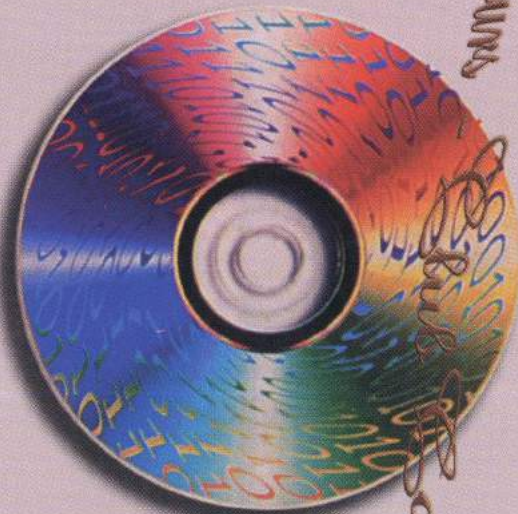
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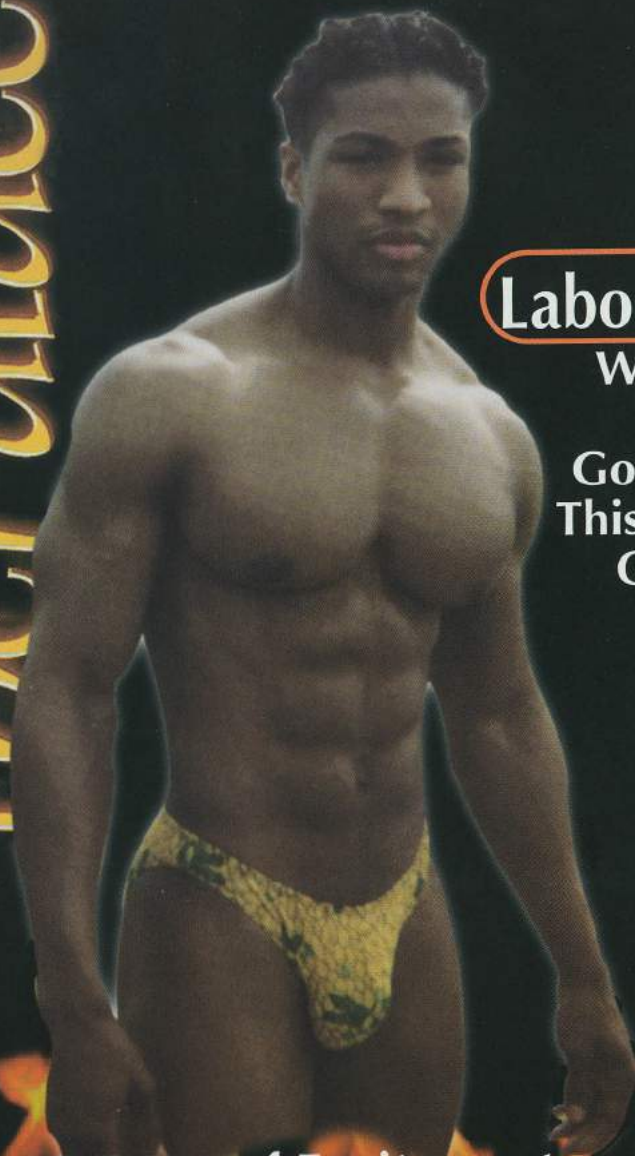
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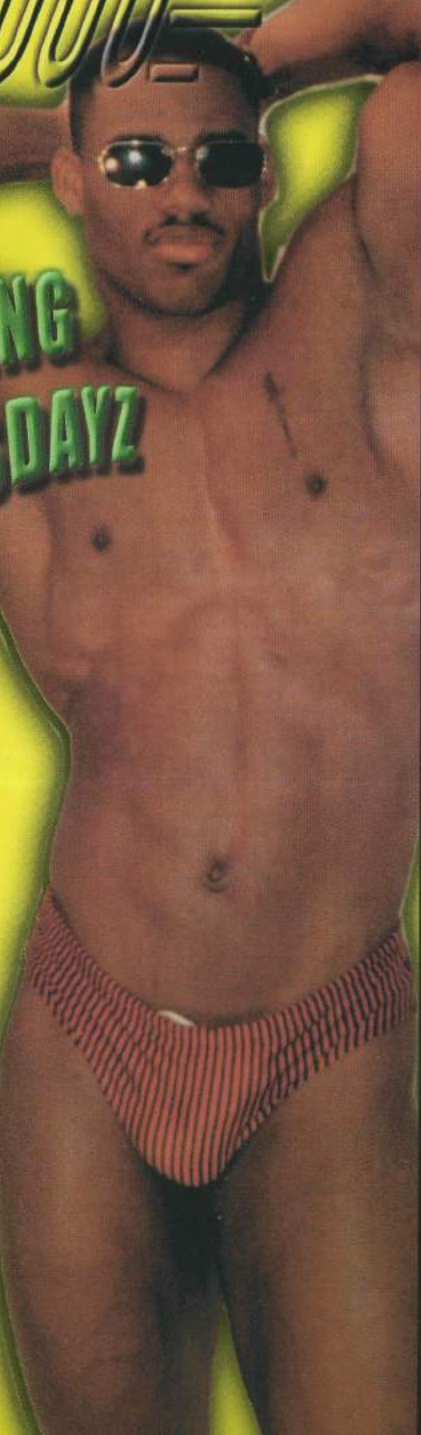
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SEDRIC

Upclose With The District House Mother

Sedric Drayton, born July 16, 1963 in Washington, D.C. During the years of his residency in Washington, D.C. he attended the D.C. Public Schools and graduated in 1981 from Anacostia High School. Upon his graduating, Sedric went on to pursue a political career with the House of Representatives until he realized that his calling was to be a disc jockey and pillar of the gay community.

After establishing his calling and the like thereof, Sedric started as a voice jockey for Tracks of D.C. with DJ Mike Malapit, in which he did for 4 years. In the course of his tenure at Tracks, Sedric along with DJ Mike Malapit traveled from coast-to-coast bringing about the sounds of Washington, D.C. to other cities, which made D.C. the place to be in the late 80's and early 90's.

Upon realizing that he was not fully satisfied with being a voice jockey, Sedric started to spin and history was started, and the name the Legendary District House Mother was given by adoring fans in Washington, D.C.

In the beginning, it was very rough for Sedric because his style and flavor that he offered was new and unique because it "catered to what the people wanted" and that alone disturbed many club owners and promoters, but as stated, it was the beginning of history for Sedric. At such time, he still persevered and struggled to get his point across and that alone establishes Sedric as an icon for the house music and black gay communities from city-to-city and coast-to-coast.

For numerous years Sedric played outside of Washington, D.C. in cities such as Norfolk Richmond, Chicago, Los Angeles, Oakland, Phoenix, Alabama and Baltimore. Given the title of Legendary District House Mother, it strained Sedric because his one major goal was to play in his own city and that was an accomplishment to be met. But not until 1995 that the Legendary District House Mother finally conquered his one goal and

this writer might add that he "tore the house down."

Via Raymond Carter and Associates, Sedric began to play on Monday nights at the now defunct EDGE in which he played on the smallest dance floor there was in the club and as time went on, Sedric's dance floor dominated the overall format of the variety show. You could say that at this time, Sedric was now beginning to get his just dues. Everyone began to take notice that he was given the opportunity to play on a Friday night in which the EDGE was known for its Friday nights; Sedric went through the EDGE that Friday like Grant went through Richmond.

As we move forward, the dream was becoming much clearer that Sedric was given the residency at the slow moving Tracks of DC to help re-jumpstart its Sunday nights and this alone was to be a uphill battle for Sedric. The challenge alone was enough for him.

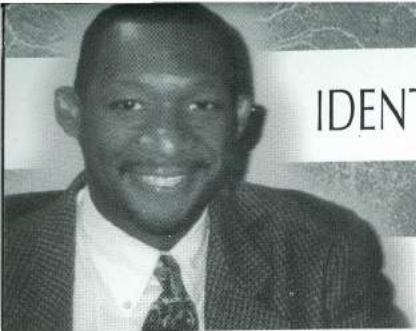
For two years, Sedric dominated the East Coast nightclub scene traveling from city-to-city playing some of the best house music to be found. The cities include North Carolina, Texas, Detroit, Atlanta, Philadelphia, and the infamous New York City where he took these cities by storm and encouraged the communities to support in greater numbers.

To many Sedric is a living legend that many misunderstood his format, his style, and his personality. But to know Sedric is to know and love him for him and his music. His ideas are for the people and strictly the people and not the bar tabs or the like. His format includes music for everyone, the young, the old the black, the white, the straight and primarily the gay. We are talking about classics, old school, mainstream, commercial, high energy, and underground. This alone makes Sedric one of the most diverse disc jockeys around today.

Being a diverse disc jockey, the Legendary District House Mother has acquired his talents and format from some of the best disc jockeys around. He has patterned himself in part of DJ Mandrill and Sam "The Man" Burns from the legendary Clubhouse in Washington, D.C., the infamous DJ Teddy Douglas of the Basement Boys and the Paradox in Baltimore, MD., DJ Fred Pierce of the Octagon-NY, DJ Keith Stevens of TRAXX-Atlanta, DJ Andre Collins of The Warehouse-NY. Sedric has also worked with recording artists Barbara Tucker, laShay, Kenny Bobien, Cajmere, Daijae, Ultra Nate, Tonya Blount, CeCe Peniston, Crystal Waters, Dorothy Mann, Martha Wash, Colonel Abrams and the Funky Green Dogs.

Sedric can currently be heard in the following cities:

1st and 3rd Fridays at Club Fusion in Atlanta, Georgia
2nd and 4th Fridays at Babylon in Greensboro, North Carolina
1st and 3rd Saturdays at Babylon in Greensboro, North Carolina
2nd and 4th Saturdays at the Paradox in Baltimore, MD.
Coming Soon! August 1st and every Sunday thereafter, Club Secrets at 2K9 in Washington, D.C.



IDENTIFYING THE NON-IDENTIFIERS

Parker Bridges: Health & AIDS Education,
AIDS Education Services For Minorities (AESM)

Identify the non-identifiers! Talk about your oxy-morons. Within our community there lies all types of men who have sex with men or MSM for those who familiar with the lingo. Actually, what is a MSM?

Or more importantly what men can be considered a MSM. The most common misconception is that all men who have sex with men are gay. NOT TRUE!!!!!! All same gender-loving men are not gay. Actually there are several categories in which MSM can fall under. Allow me to Share a few below:

1. **Gay-** men who sleep only with other men.
2. **Bi-Sexual-** men who sleep with men and women.
3. **Incarcerated-** men who have sex with men while in jail.
4. **Sex-Workers-** men who have sex with men for money
5. **Drug-Addicts-** men who have sex with men for drugs

And last but certainly not least is this new brother in town. He is called the non-identifier. This MSM can be a tricky, maybe even a sneaky brother. This MSM will commonly uses terms such as "On the D.L..." or on the down low for those not familiar with the lingo. This guy usually considers himself a staunch practicing Heterosexual. He is the brother that we may know and see as married (to an anatomically from birth female) or possibly as what some refer to as **TRADE**. Now trade itself is a topic, which has many cat-

egories. Allow me once again to try to break down just a few:

1. **Rough Trade-** Men who are hip-hop, B-Boy looking and Definitely acting, i.e....hard
2. **Street Trade-** Men who hang in the streets at any given time of day trying to "get into something", i.e. Possibly a trick, john, etc.
3. **Park Trade-** Men who get off into having public sex, i.e. the park, bookstores, rest stops, bathrooms, etc.
4. **D.D.T. or Dirty Dick Trade-** This brother can be found amongst all trade. This is the brother who requires a bath with a full cup of bleach in the bath water prior to any acts of intimacy.

So the non-identifying brother falls everywhere. He is a brother who doesn't engage in activity all the time. He may hang out once a day, once a week or maybe just once in a while. His only identifying commonality is that he doesn't want to admit or be associated with any of the aforementioned categories. These non-identifiers are just as capable of transmitting and receiving HIV/AIDS and other STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases). As you often heard, HIV/AIDS is a non-discriminating girl. She's like the hoe virus of the world. She doesn't care if you are black, white, Jew, gentile, straight, gay, identified or non-identified. She will receive you with open arms, legs and any other body part available. Just when you thought you were becoming comfortable in our same gender loving community, along comes this non-identifying brother up in the mix. Trust me, he's out there in the form of our brother, cousin, father, grandfather and even husband. He can be and usually is a good guy. But good guys can be responsible for some not so good things. The non-identifiers often catch us off guard and literally sweep us off our feet. As educators, we teach people to assume that everyone is HIV+ and to take precautions. All I'm saying is to beware of all msm categories and protect yourself. Make a stand for your own health if not that of your partner. I'll end by sharing one of my favorite sayings. "He who does not stand for something, will fall for anything".

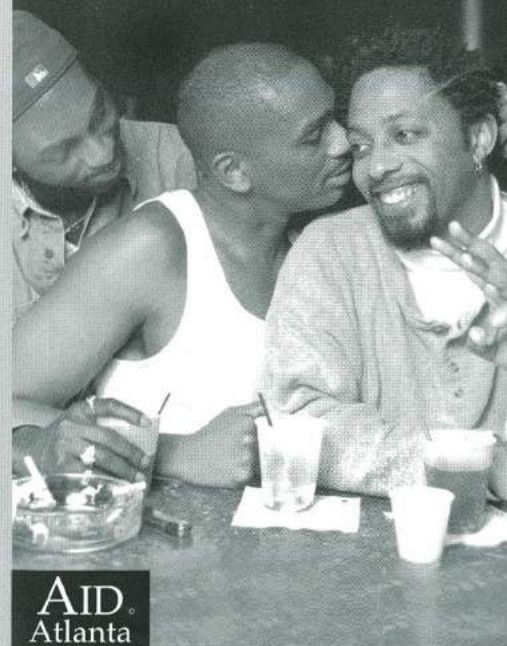
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DOOR "655"

by Queshan Hayes

Craig went downstairs. Both nervous and excited. He approached the blue door with the number 655 written in tarnished brass numbers. "655," he thought. He had taken a long bath with fragrant oils, soaps, and shower jells. His skin was soft and fragrant. His freshly trimmed mustache and goatee were perfectly edged. He was a young, independent, gorgeous, real brother. He took a deep breath before he knocked. His heart was beating uncontrollably as he heard the music coming from behind door 655. No indication that anyone was coming. Heart still racing, Craig knocked again. Nothing. "I knew it, I knew it," Craig thought as he turned to walk away. Before he reached the stairwell, door 655 creaked as it finally swung open. There in the doorway stood William. Donned only in a towel and some bath sandals. Out of breath, he stopped Craig.

"Where ya goin' man?" he said with sincere concern. "I thought I heard you knockin." Stopped in his tracks, Craig's heart almost stopped. Gasping for words, "Oh, I...I thought you had stepped out or something."

"Whatever, man. I told you to come over and chill tonight, didn't I? I'm a man of my word."

A man he surely was. William was about 6'2". He stood between the threshold of the outside world and Craig's desire. From head to toe, this man was beautiful. Not the practical beauty, but sexual beauty. His muscular calves flexed on their own accord. His muscular thighs could not be hidden under the skimpy towel that he wore. His pubes, still wet and speckled with soap suds, made Craig ache. Williams' muscular upper body made Craig jealous with a touch of desire. Then, there was that smile. Lips. Those lips. They weren't huge, yet they weren't thin. They were simply sexy. Simply sexy.

"So ya comin' in?" William asked, breaking Craig's inner thoughts. "Hell, come on in," he said as he grabbed Craig and gave him a big bear hug, forgetting that he was still wet. Craig had to control himself from getting an erection, despite feeling Williams' member pressed against his upper thigh as they embraced.

"It's only water," he said with a grin. "Make yourself at home. I'll be out in a minute," he said as he disappeared deeper into the apartment. Craig sat on the couch taking in all of his surroundings. Then he thought. He thought of all of the lonely nights when he listened. He was ashamed, but he listened many times.....

Coming home from work, Craig always passed door 655. Today as he passed the door he glanced at the numbers and wondered what went on behind those numbers. He knew that his young, dark, sexy neighbor entertained a lot of females. On this particular afternoon, Craig's curiosity was sufficed. He made his way to his apartment and routinely turned the lock on his door. He was welcomed by the flashing light of his telephone, indicating that he had messages. Dropping his bags and briefcase, he pressed the button to dial his voicemail. Calls

from his mother. A call from his buddy Chris and a couple of appointment reminders. As he came to the end of his messages, he heard what first seemed to be someone knocking. As he turned to go to the door, he realized the source of the sound was not up front, but much closer. It was coming from the wall. No, it wasn't knocking. The rhythm was too steady. Getting closer to the wall, he heard voices and heavy breathing. Then, he heard what he thought was moaning. Soon the steady beat changed into a non-steady beat with pauses and began to get louder and more forceful. The voices also increased in volume. It was clear that it was two people involved in wild passionate sex. Then, it became clear that it was Craig's neighbor, William. He was fucking the hell out of whoever was moaning. Then, it happened. As Craig stopped his messages from playing, he got closer to the wall. It was very hard to hear because his racing heart was beating too loud. But when it got very passionate, Craig could feel the vibrations of what he gathered was the headboard banging against the wall. Then he heard it. He distinctly heard William's voice, moaning with desire.

"Yeah, oh yeah. Baby yeah. Shit! Yeah!" William said full of breath. Craig's imagination began to take over. He knew what William looked like with clothes on, but he created his own image of what was under those clothes. And as he did this, his right hand slowly made its way into his loose fitting jeans. He closed his eyes tightly as he strained to listen. Once again the banging got louder. The moans escalated. His hand became more intense. He could see it. He could see William's muscular ass jerking back and forth as he fucked whoever "she" was. He could see their fingers interlocked as the intensity of their love-making grew and grew. He saw the sweat on William's face. He saw Williams' muscular feet digging into the sheets as he tried to go harder and deeper. His own dick grew longer and harder. William's cries got louder. He was about to blow. So was Craig and.....

"So what's been going on man?" asked William as he unknowingly interrupted Craig's secret moment. He was dressed in some loose, gray jogging pants and a Charlotte Hornets jersey. His skin was vibrant and glistening. He came over and sat down on the couch just inches from Craig. He switched the radio off and the television on.

"Oh nothing. Just working and trying to get bills paid."

"I know what you mean man. I don't see you that much anymore. I know I've been busy too with work and city league basketball and working out and all." William flipped thru the channels and finally

stopped on some violent movie.

"Oh shit! I love this movie!" he said as he reached out and grabbed Craig's leg. William's touch sent a shock through Craig's body. He felt his dick beginning to rise.

"This movie is crazy! There is this faggot that goes around killing all these people that used to dog him out in high-school."

Craig's erection immediately began to die down. His face began to heat up with embarrassment and fear. How could he use that word? What am I doing here? Craig's mind began to race. William was really getting into the movie. He turned to see if Craig was enjoying it as much as he was. Craig looked as if he was about to be sick.

"Hey man, are you alright?"

"Oh...um...Yeah..Um..I'm fine, just a little tired."

"Hey, we can chill another time if...."

"Oh no! I just need a little something to drink and I'll be fine."

"Oh, I'm sorry man," William said as he got up to fix Craig a drink. Craig watched him as he got up. It was obvious that he wasn't wearing any underwear, but how could Craig be thinking of that after what he just heard? Hell, he was a man, that's how he could be thinking about dick at a time like this. William returned with a glass of orange juice. Craig eyed his dick as he sat down, William totally oblivious to it all.

"Here man, I hope this is alright." As Craig began to sip, he realized that his juice was more than just juice. The harsh flavor hit him as it always did.

"Um...thanks man. This is just what I needed," Craig lied.

"I thought you would like it. I had a cup or two before my shower, so I'm feeling cool." Craig sipped his vodka and orange juice wondering if this was going to be one of those nights that he just sat and "chilled" with his old buddy all the while wanting him to grab him in his arms and tongue him down. Oh the many nights in his hometown when his friends, beautiful brothers, had invited him over to just "chill" and drink. The many fantasies that went through his head that he never had enough nerve to pursue out of fear. Fuck! He wasn't going to hold back tonight. He was going to have William. Why had he invited him over? Why did he hug him in his towel, making sure he saw him half naked. Making sure he felt his half naked body. All he needed was just enough to drink and it would all fall into place. You see, when Craig drank, he became quite bold. But would it make him bold enough to make his move?

"Time for another drink. Shit I might just have to get fucked up tonight. You gotta work tomorrow, Craig?" William asked as he rose to fix another drink.

"Um.. yeah. Gotta be in at 11. So I can hang for a little while," Craig said as he gulped the remainder of his cup. "Hey can you mix me another one, man?"

"Sure," William yelled from the kitchen. "It might be a little strong, though." Perfect, Craig thought. "That's cool, I need a strong one."

"What was that?" yelled William.

"Oh nothing, just talking to the T.V."

William finally returned with two tall cups of vodka and maybe

Living^{the}Life



Hank



Andre



Kurtis

a comic about three young men,
trying to live, trying to love...

by Michael-Christopher

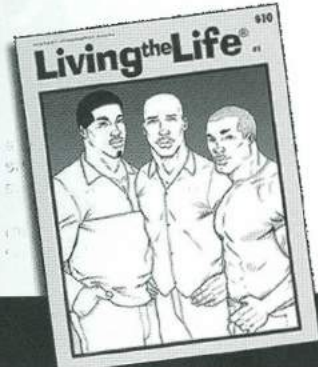
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two drops of OJ. He stumbled a bit as he flopped on the couch. The cups trembled in his hand as he tried not to spill a drop.

"Here man, this one is yours," he said as he passed Craig a glass of cloudy orange-like liquid.

"You trying to kill me, William?"

"Just making you a man. Just making you a man." He then took a sip.

"Damn, this is some strong shit." William leaned further back into the couch to relax. He stretched out his muscular legs. Craig caught a glimpse of each of his muscular calves. His eyes began to hurt because he tried to look while simultaneously trying to look as if he was watching the television screen. Soon William threw his head back and let out a long, loud, manly growl of both comfort and intoxication. Perfect. This gave Craig the opportunity to scan Williams entire body without him noticing. Craig started at his chin. He nervously stared at Williams perfectly square chin. His facial hair was black, coarse, and beautiful. It wasn't beaded up or nappy, but it was straight. Craig's eyes rolled across Williams adams apple that trembled as he swallowed every now and then. Then, to the chest hairs that were peeking out of the Hornets jersey that he wore. William had his right hand on his stomach with his shirt slightly lifted. Craig's dick began to stiffen as he imagined his own hand in the place of William's. Lower his eyes trailed. What? Wait! What was this? Craig could not believe his eyes. Was that what he thought he saw? Craig's eyes locked in on what he thought he saw. There was a raised area

between William's leg. Right there, against his left thigh was something that resembled an enlarged cucumber hidden behind those mesh basketball shorts. Craig hadn't noticed this before. Of course he had seen it, but not firm and so apparent. His mouth began to get dry as his own dick began to harden once more. He just wanted to reach out and just brush his fingers across it. But, he wasn't trying to get killed anytime soon. So his eyes stood there frozen on Williams slightly aroused dick. Craig didn't notice, but William had leaned his head back up.

"Sorry about that man. I just get horny when I drink," he said as he reached down and grabbed that-growing bulge in a way that almost made Craig explode. He had caught him staring. Craig was awakened from his daze, both embarrassed and uncomfortable. But his own erection lingered. William saw it, too.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH.....

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— September Issue Feature Story —

WHO'S ON FIRST?

.....HOMOSEXUALITY AND BLACK AMERICA

Am I Black or Am I Gay

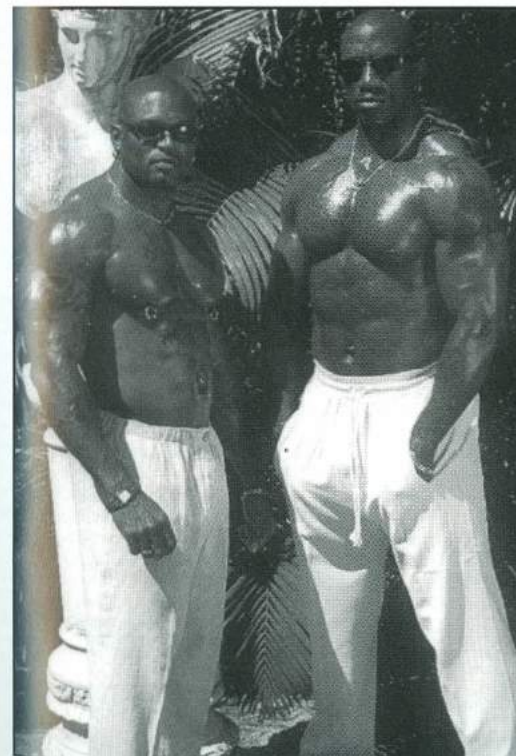
We welcome your comments on the above topic. A selected number of entries will be published in the magazine. Please try to limit your entries to 500 words; we would like to publish as many entries as possible. Photo Optional.

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1159-until/ donation: 20 bones

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Towne Spa/615 South Kohler St. Los Angeles, Ca./time
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Saturday, July 10, 1999/ Nassau, Bahamas/ Club
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Friends From Page 29

When he opened the door and let me in we hugged. He was surprised to see me. I told him that I was surprised too because I really hadn't planned on stopping by to see him. But I just had to come by before I got caught up in the city. It felt as if there was an unseen hand

that made me come to see David. David introduced me to one of his other friends who happened to be visiting as well. He was slumped on the couch relaxing and listening to a mix tape that David had made. I thought to myself that this was great - I came up here psyched to come out to David and he has a guest. There was no way that I was going to come out in front of his guest. It was hard enough for me to come out to him let alone to someone I don't even know. David took a seat in a chair and I took one in another chair. We did some catching up and made some small talk. After a few minutes of chatter there was a knock on the door. Another one of David's friend's popped in. Well I thought that I was interrupting David's plans for the even as they began to talk about what they were going to do tonight. I decided that my time was up and I rose from chair and bid them all a farewell. David and I hugged again and he said that he would walk me to the door. The music was still playing and the two guests had begun to talk amongst themselves.

When we got to the other room I gave David a final goodbye and I opened the door. David stopped me. "Lee, man, I got something that I need to ask you. Its real serious".

I shut the door and turned back to him and asked him what's up.

He leaned against the wall and put his head down and looked up at me and asked me. He seemed like he was anguishing over something. Then he said, "Are you gay?"

The first thing I did was laugh. I don't know what I found so funny, but I just had a hearty chuckle. It had to have been a nervous laugh. I asked him why he asked me that. He said that he always wondered and he just decided to ask. Immediately the laughter stopped. I told him yes, I was gay. I was afraid that he might say something that I was not prepared to hear. Something like don't ever call me again, or that we are no longer friends, or that he thought I was disgusting, or he would trot out a Bible verse or two, or that he would call me a faggot and throw me out of his apartment - and his life - for good.

Instead he said. "I thought you were. I have been waiting for a while for you to tell me". I know it is an overused phrase but a burden was lifted off my shoulders when he said that. None of my worst fears are coming to fruition. "I thought that you were going to tell me last year at the restaurant. I just knew that was when you were going to finally tell me," he said. "After that day, I just decided that the next time I see you I was going to just come out and ask you. I'm glad I got this off my chest because I have been carrying this around with me for a while".

"What did he say?" I thought to myself. He was carrying this around? I am the one who was carrying this around - or so I thought. He sounded like he was coming out to me. He did most of the talking and I did the listening. He said that he first got the idea that I was gay when his now deceased mother and grandmother came to Louisville for his college graduation. David said that after his mother met me she later told him that she thought that I was gay. I started laughing again and said to him that it was amazing that she figured that out because at that time I was in serious denial about my sexuality. I suddenly remembered what author James Earl Hardy said a few weeks ago at the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum Conference in Atlanta, that most of us walk around thinking that no one knows about our sexuality when in reality everybody knows - accept maybe you. He went on to apologize and told me that he was hurt. He apologized to me if he ever said or did anything that made me feel uncomfortable around him. I told him that I couldn't recall anything he had said to offend me. Then he said that he was hurt

that it took me so long to tell him that I was gay. He was hurt that I didn't feel close enough to him to tell him sooner. I really felt bad. This was

his way of telling me that I was not being a good friend. I should have been more honest with long ago. I explained to him that there were many times that I wanted to tell him but I just couldn't bring myself to do so because I didn't want to jeopardize our friendship. All the time not knowing that something like this could actually bring us closer. Then David said something that really made me fight back the tears.

"I have lost everybody that is close to me. I don't want to lose you. Life is too short and I don't want you to carry that weight. Maybe in the past I would have tripped out but I am not that person anymore. I am getting older. I'm sure that you are secure in who you are and you struggled to come to grips with your sexuality. I've struggled with some things, too. I don't care if you are gay. I just want you to be happy. Ain't nothing changed between us. You still my boy".

All I could say is "Thank you". I told him that I loved him and we hugged. After we hugged he said that he's glad he got that off of his chest. I said me too, and we both chuckle and I left.

After this powerful awakening I realized that on my drive back home I needed to take inventory of my so called friendships. Who are my real friends? Who are the fakes? Which ones could I count on to be there for me when I face my zero hour? I have lost some so-called friends who have deserted me because they have an idea that I might be gay. But I still considered them friends. Not anymore. I can't cheapen what David said to me that Friday evening by calling those acquaintances friends.

I see why I had to stop by David's this time. It had to have been divine intervention to make me see him before I delved into other Chicago adventures. Like the credit card commercials on television that tags a price on some items but at the end they label a situation or event as priceless, friends like David are precious. I'm blessed to have someone like him in my life. I now know that I need to trust those people that I consider a friend. If they can't handle who I am then they aren't my friends. By being honest with your friends it will free you - and in some cases, them - from living a life of deception. You won't have to deceive them into thinking that you are straight and they won't deceive you by acting as your friend. Both of you will come clean and you will find out who your real friends are.

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CALIFORNIA

JUST ASK If you want a submissive, feminine M, who will do anything your heart desires, call me. (Victorville) ☎10798

LOOKING FOR A TOP WM 38, looking for H/BM who just want to get together for some discreet fun. ☎10515

LET'S SEE WHAT COMES UP Well-built BWM, 38, 5'8", 170 lbs, brown/blue, mustache, looking for a long-term relationship with an attractive Guy, who wants to be friends first. (Dublin) ☎14950

MR SANDMAN 47-year-old BM, loves walks on the beach, cuddling, parties and staying home. Looking for someone who can love me and treat me the way I need to be treated. (San Diego) ☎15437

I LOVE LATINOS Young, nice-looking GBM, new to the area, seeking Latino/HM, 18-24, with a respectable attitude. No games. (Torrance) ☎15504

FUN PERSONALITY Good-looking, masculine WM, 34, 6'4", 215 lbs, brown/brown, loves the outdoors and making people laugh. Looking for someone, 18-20, with similar features and qualities. (Huntington Beach) ☎11012

FLORIDA

THIS IS NOT A SEX AD 35-year-old Italian/Castilian M, 5'9", 170 lbs, brown/brown, HIV-, enjoys long walks, fireplaces, holding hands, ice cream for two and passionate love making. Looking for a top SWM, 6+, HWP, who's interested in friendship, dating and a monogamous relationship. (Miami) ☎11391

GEORGIA

MUST BE DISCREET Muscular, shaved WM, 5'10", 170 lbs, brown/blue, looking for a masculine, good-looking, dominant BM who knows what he

wants out of life. (Atlanta) ☎12068

OUTGOING NICE GUY Dark-skinned BM, 6', 200 lbs, low fade, goatee, very intelligent, down-to-earth and outgoing. Looking for a similar BM, who's a top and interested in friendship and possible long-term relationship. (Marietta) ☎11576

IT'S ALL GOOD African-American M, 5'11", 185 lbs, dark-skinned, looking for a down-to-earth Latino/BM, 5'11"-6', medium build, to chill and kick it with. No fats, femmes or clubbies. If it's all good, leave me a message. (Atlanta) ☎11215

ARE YOU A DECENT GUY? Honest, decent BM, looking for someone who likes movies, plays, dining out and having a good time. If you have a good sense of humor and you know what you want out of life, give me a call. (Atlanta) ☎10563

I NEED IT REAL BAD Bi-curious BM, looking for someone to teach what this is like. Can to teach me? (Savannah) ☎20427

SHOW ME AROUND Ex-military Guy, 5'11", blonde/green, looking to have some fun and possibly something long-term. (Marietta) ☎16070

SKIN TO SKIN CONTACT Straight-acting Married M, 6'1", 200 lbs, long brown/blue, seeking slender, well-endowed BM, who likes giving and receiving, oral and anal. Discretion expected and assured. Race unimportant. (Atlanta) ☎19150

ILLINOIS

COME TO DADDY Good-looking Daddy, 5'10", hairy, HIV+, looking for versatile grown-ups, of all ages, who love sex, for some hot play. Race unimportant. Smooth a plus. ☎11551

FRIENDSHIP AND MORE 31-year-old WM, 5'11",

190 lbs, brown/hazel, looking for a WM, 20s-early 30s, for companionship and fun. (Chicago) ☎21217

YOU CAN TRUST ME Martial artist WM, 38, looking for Straight/BM, for discreet fun. Bring it on over. The bigger the better. (Chicago) ☎21154

QUESTION FROM THE SOUTH SIDE Is there just one good GBM besides myself that is looking for a committed relationship. I'm 5'6", 135 lbs, independent and only looking for someone who's Gay, Black, independent, nonsmoking, 35-45, not fat and not femme. Leave me a message and maybe we can hook up. (Chicago) ☎19641

MICHIGAN

CHECK ME OUT! Masculine, attractive, dominant BM, seeking other M, who into a variety of things. (Detroit) ☎11101

MAN TO MAN FUN My name is Steve and I'd like to meet a versatile B/WM, 25-30, who likes giving and receiving oral. (Detroit) ☎21072

OUT TO HAVE A GOOD TIME 23-year-old GWM, brown/blue, looking for someone, 18-26, who enjoys the outdoors and having a good time. (Detroit) ☎20621

TENNESSEE

HIT ME UP! Attractive M, 33, 5'6", 158 lbs, curly, wavy/brown, caramel-complected, looking to meet another nice, attractive Man, to hook up with. (Memphis) ☎11657

ARE YOU GENUINE? Mature GBM, 26, 5'9", 285 lbs, stocky, very discreet, responsible and seeking the same. Hit me up Guys! (Memphis) ☎15818

SERIOUSLY INTO SPORTS SGWM, looking for

friendship. I enjoy swimming, tennis and all other sports. ☎15763

LET ME KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON Young, intelligent BM, looking for someone for casual conversation and possibly more. (Memphis) ☎14216

TEXAS

I NEED NEW FRIENDS BM, 5'9", 170 lbs, brown-skinned, bald with a mustache. Looking for new friends in the area to hook up with. (Dallas) ☎12026

LET'S SEE WHAT DEVELOPS African-American M, 20, 5'11", 170 lbs, caramel complected, looking for a masculine B/HM, for friendship and relationship. (Houston) ☎11244

FRIENDSHIP AND FUN Hazel-eyed, versatile WM, 6', swimmer's build, smoker, loves dancing, clubbing and hanging out with friends. 23-30, similar build, for friendship and possible relationship. I have six tattoos and three piercings. If you want to know where, leave me a message. (Plano) ☎11019

REALLY COOL GUY Attractive SM, 22, 5'8", 150 lbs, light-skinned, looking for a similar Guy who doesn't smoke. If you want to get to know me a little better, get back to me. (Houston) ☎21279

QUALITY TIMES 35-year-old WM, 5'11", brown/blue, stocky, well-built, looking for a muscular B/GWM, 25-45. I'm new to the scene and I'd like to find someone to experiment with. (Carrollton)

Clikque Connection Women Seeking Women

CALIFORNIA

ISO A MATURE WOMAN 46-year-old Black Lesbian, looking for a mature, feminine W/HF, 35-45, who's likes the beach and movies, for a serious relationship. (Los Angeles) ☎10379

ARE YOU THE FEMME FOR ME? 33-year-old BF, soft butch, looking for a nice, petite, feminine Woman, 20-25, who likes to party and have fun. Kids ok. (Los Angeles) ☎20748

A LITTLE OF EVERYTHING Looking to make some new friends and meet some people in the area. I enjoy music, the ocean, animals, poetry, metaphysics and a little bit of everything. (Las Vegas) ☎20577

YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO Femme BF, 5'7", 120 lbs, brown-skinned, looking for a femme. If you're interested... (Los Angeles) ☎20632

FLORIDA

HOPEFULLY WE CAN MEET Spiritual Lesbian, seeking friendship, companionship and possibly a relationship with an honest Woman. My interests include spiritual/healthy activities, yoga, massage and conversation. (Miami Beach) ☎11882

GEORGIA

CALL ME SBF, enjoys movies, the beach, outings and watching tv. Looking for someone who's friendly, fun, open-minded and into travel. If you're looking for friendship and fun times, then call me. ☎11588

☎21129

I NEED MORE FRIENDS 23-year-old WM, 6', swimmers build, short brown/hazel, smoker, loves dancing, drinking, animals and having a good time. Looking for someone for friendship and possibly more. No games. (Plano) ☎20873

LEAVE ME A MESSAGE Very attractive, light-skinned BM, 5'8", 140 lbs, mustache/goatee, looking for another BM, for conversation, dating and maybe more. (Dallas) ☎20108

AMONG OTHER THINGS 22-year-old versatile GM, 6'1", brown/brown, looking for someone who likes to go out and have fun. (Greenspoint) ☎16404

IT'S ALL GOOD Versatile BM, 6'3", 200 lbs, caramel complexion, well-built, goatee, sideburns, hairy, very attractive and sexy. Likes playing cards and going to the movies. Let me know if you're interested. (Dallas) ☎16283

VIRGINIA

I'LL GIVE YOU A WORK OUT Tanned, blue-eyed WM, 5'11", 160 lbs, muscular build, looking for a hot, hairy Man to hook up with. (Davenport) ☎15761

I JUST CAN'T WAIT Moderately hairy, blue-eyed GWM 5'11", 165 lbs, tanned, works out five days a week. Looking for hairy Guys, to hook up with. ☎14587

FEMALE BONDING 37-year-old Lesbian, looking for a proud, sincere, fit, feminine Lady who loves life, travel and spending time with someone special. I look forward to hearing from you. (Atlanta) ☎15429

ILLINOIS

ARE YOU INTERESTED? 18-year-old BF, 5'5", brown-skinned, looking for a friend to hang out and kick it with. (Chicago) ☎20836

TENNESSEE

MY FAVORITE THINGS 27-year-old, feminine GBF, looking for GF for long walks, midnight talks and romantic evenings under the sunset. (Memphis) ☎21155

TEXAS

LICKABLE B1BF, 5'6", 140 lbs, looking for a F to talk to and have a relationship with. (Houston) ☎20150

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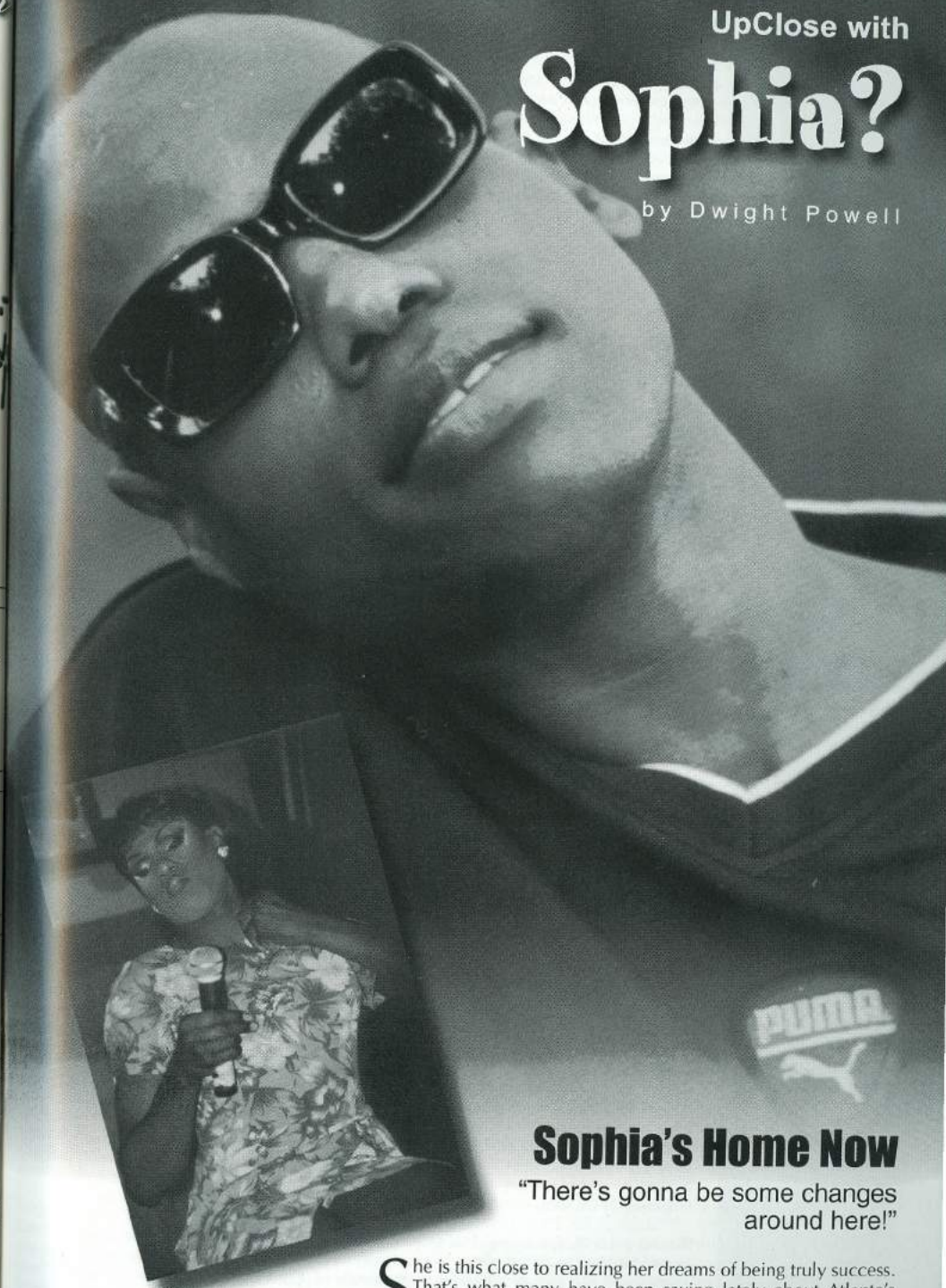
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UpClose with
Sophia?
 by Dwight Powell



Sophia's Home Now

"There's gonna be some changes
 around here!"

She is this close to realizing her dreams of being truly success. That's what many have been saying lately about Atlanta's news transplant, comedian Joe Edward Taylor (Known as Sophia McIntosh). Undeniably, Sophia is one of the most entertaining personalities to come from our community in some time.

article continues on the next page...

Born in Calvert, Texas Joe lived a very sheltered and secluded childhood with his parents, brother and two sisters. At a very young age (prenatal), Joe said that he has always known that he was different, that he was gay. "However, I had a 'normal' upbringing just like the rest of my siblings and cousins. I dated girls (and boys), I played sports, I did a lot of the boys things growing up", Joe recalls. Looking at the Joe of today, it is rather difficult to imagine him escorting a girl to his senior prom, but he did just that, and yes, just that. He recalls being a complete gentleman.

Joe matriculated from Lamar High School in 1982, and left the compounds of his mother's loving care as he headed to Houston, Texas, where he was accepted as a Theatre major at Texas Southern University (TSU). Most of you whom have had the pleasure of being entertained by Joe (Sophia), probably didn't know that he went to college. A very smart and articulate person, Joe was a member of TSU's debate team. Now you know why he is soo good at "reading" the "kids". It was at TSU where he began to find himself and the person inside. At a young age, Joe loved to perform, but he wasn't exposed to venues that allowed him to let that inner person out. At TSU,

Joe assumed roles in Nevis Mountain Drew, Next Time For Real, Broken Dolls and many other stage credits. Some of you football fans, might remember Joe doing those summersaults, tosses and high kicks while an active member to TSU's cheer-leading team in 1983-85.

At age 19, he and a few friends began to frequent some of the gay nightclubs in town. It was at these establishments that he was first exposed to female impersonators. Joe was in very intrigued and just had to be apart of it. This is when Vanessa Williams was born. Named after the former Miss America, Joe

(Vanessa) began to grace the stage. But after Vanessa Williams was dethrown, Joe changed his stage name to Sophia McIntosh. Sophia was borrowed from Sophia Lauren and McIntosh from the computer, because Joe said, "I was smart". Alright-e-then! Inspired by his drag mother, Christy Coleman (now deceased), At the age of 21, Joe began entering pageants and finally won his sole title, Miss Studio 13 Pageant in 1990. Back then, Joe (Sophia) shared the stage with many talented entertainers such as Tommie Ross, Socca Simone, Cookie LaCook, Poison Alexander, Porche Paris, Chevelle Brooks, Elbony Halston, Jennifer St. John, Bianca (not Clikque's Bianca), Rande Rochelle, Chanel Necole and many others.

Joe left college and went in search of his calling. His initial interlude was at the Ensemble Theatre, in Houston where he became an active Touring Troupe member. Two years after being employed with the Ensemble, Joe was promoted to Production manager while still a touring member of the troupe. It would be another 5 years before Joe would leave the Ensemble in 1991 in preparation of taking his career to a higher level. He was last seen in the touring presentation of Do Lord Remember Me. Some of his other stage credits at the Ensemble includes East Texas Hot Links, The Trials and Tribulations of Staggelee Booker T. Brown, Christmas Is Comin' Uptown, Out of Bound, Brer Rabbit and Before Time Runs Out just to name a few.

Burnt-out after years with the Troupe, Joe went on a sabbatical and began exploring avenues which would eventually render him to the shores of success - in New York City. But, New York would have to wait. Joe began taking odd jobs as emcee and show director at various gay nightclubs in Houston. Unfortunately, Houston already had a Diva in the name of Cookie LaCook and trying to compete for the few available gigs was eventually taking it's toll on Joe. It would have to take him relocating to Dallas, Texas for him to gain the respect that he truly deserved. He and Cookie are still good friends, but there were just too many big fishes in a very small pond. Joe worked at most of the gay establishments in Dallas until he landed at The Metro where he was employed as the show director and emcee of most of the events at the club.

Turning to family, Joe is very close to his mother, whom he has yet to this day sit down and discussed his lifestyle. "Most of my relative found out about my lifestyle after they would visit my apartment. I had pictures of almost every female impersonation plastered on my walls. There were just too many photos to take down just to put back up again", says Joe. "My two sister loves me and have attended many of my shows. On the other had, my brother whom I am very close to, still isn't very comfortable with me lifestyle", he adds.

In Dallas, Joe was making a name for himself that rivaled all of the Southern Divas, yes, including

the infamous Cookie LaCook. Very quickly the word got around about this tired looking drag queen, who was making "the kids" laugh uncontrollably. Calls began coming in from everywhere, and everyone wanted Joe (or should I say Sophia) to emcee their event. A few months ago Joe (Sophia from this point) began making pit-stops in Atlanta at Traxx Nightclub on Thursday as the shows emcee brought in by "Q" from Red Kat Productions. Instantaneously, she became a big hit in the "Drag Capital of the Country". The management at Traxx began to take notice when "kids" began frequenting the establishment in great numbers. I can recall Philip, the clubs owner saying to me, "I think that we've got something here".

Rather quickly, wheels began turning, and various groups and entities began putting their hands in to land this trump card in the name of Sophia McIntosh. After it was all said and done, Niesha Dupree and her supporting team from the Mr. & Miss Universe Pageantry System got the better end of the stick landing a sweet Monday night deal with Traxx that came along with the now "Super Entertainer", Sophia.

The Theatre of Stars, the name of the Monday night revue, is probably the nation's premier entertainment showcase of it's kind. The very professional cast includes Niesha Dupree, Raquell Lord, Stasha Sanchez, Necole Luv Dupree, Jasmine Bonet, Dominique Rashad, R'darius Black and Monté St. James. While all of these entertainers and indeed superb, without a doubt, Sophia, the hostess of the show, plays a major role in what has now developed into the most happening Monday night event in the city and probably the country for that matter.

Until about a month ago, Sophia was working out of two cities, Dallas and Atlanta. Making the decision to relocate from Dallas to Atlanta, was a very long and painful decision that had to be made by the comedian. Sophia simply adored the staff and customers at the Metro and more importantly, had an extremely difficult time dealing with the fact that she was no longer going to be close to her family in Calvert.

The reception received by Sophia from

Atlanta, was none that she had ever experienced before. The "kids" just loves and flocks to see her "act a fool". Right away, Sophia realized the impressionable mark that she was leaving on her audiences. Well, she could not help but notice, this female impersonator/comedian, have yet to perform a number on stage, but still rakes in a ton of money each week. The type of tips that she wasn't accustomed to while working in any other city. Sophia is only one of a few comedians that works without a script. Her horrendous singing, impromptu rendition of scenes from movies such as The Color Purple and Mommy Dearest, sends the "kids" into a frenzy. Ironically, her audience along with Dominique Rashad unwillingly plays a great part in

her show. Most of her jokes, gags, and harmless gestures are mostly direct towards them. So, if you are the low key or shy type, be forewarned, don't sit within her reach or her eyes; She will get you and make you a star, if only for a few seconds. I've never seen a female impersonator that has managed to grab the attention of soo many different types of individuals within our community. Even the straight folks have gotten on board to witness for themselves what the fuss is all about. A few weeks ago, ETC Magazine, another gay publication in Atlanta got wind of the hype and had to cover the event for themselves.

Sophia realizes that what she is doing is only an illusion (at best). "I realized that all of this is just a form of acting. Similar to what I was doing while at TSU and the Ensemble in Houston. The only difference is that I am making a lot more money." I am not a woman and don't want to be a woman, all of this is just a part of my act that completes Sophia, the comedian," she adds.

With out a doubt, Sophia is going places. She still has aspirations of hitting it big in the Big Apple, and with the attention that she had been getting of late, New York City appears to be only a few steps away. And why not, Sophia is a very honest and religious person. Unlike a lot of the "crafty kids" within her profession, Sophia says proudly, "I've never been a part of all that mess (mopping or stealing). I believe that if it is for you and ment for you, that you will have it." Real strong words from someone who is determined to leave a honest and indelible mark on all whom she comes into contact with within her profession.

When asked what was her highest point; the point when she felt really great about herself as a professional, she replied, "Well, I am now living that high point. I am here in Atlanta where I am accepted by many people that have made me feel so loved and appreciated".

Well Sophia, you are indeed loved and appreciated, especially by the folks here at this magazine. It is always refreshing to see individuals with goals and aspirations of being successful. It is even more refreshing to see individuals working very hard in an attempt to realize their dreams. Good luck to you!

On a side note, Sophia would like to thank the following individuals and entities that have played an instrumental part in her success thus far. Please refer to the panel to the right.

God, My parents - Joe & Norma Taylor, My sisters- Mary Taylor & Sharon Bledsoe, My brother- Shannon Taylor, My niece- Kynarra Banks, My nephews- Sheldon & William Bledsoe, "747", My extended families in Calvert, Houston, Crockett, Dallas, and the whole state of Texas, Atlanta, Washington DC, Chicago, Mississippi, Florida, Tennessee, Louisiana, California, Oklahoma, Kansas, New York, Virginia, Arkansas, My Black Universe Family, Miss US of A Pageantry Family, & The Dupree Family.

Special Friends to thank My Drag Mother: Christy Coleman

Rande Rochelle
Cookie LaCook
Tommie Ross
Anthony & John Bivens
Alice Gatlin
Felicia Lewis
Taylor & Lucky
Karen Gibson
Ron "Big Cheryl" Lewis
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Chanel Nicole
Amazing Grace
Krystal St. James
Latina McIntyre
Lady P.T.
Kenneth Kellum
Don Sneed
Sally Duvall
Artesia Waters
Cedric Collins
Traci Collins
Obsession
Vanessa St. Clair
(Who introduced me to the BUF)
Lewis Taylor
Stanly
Ray & Ken
Glen & Rickey
Juan Carlos
Vega Marie St. James
Junebug & Spider
Ruby Scott
Sinead Rockerell
M.J.D.
The Metro Staff
Betty Neal
Nikki Foster
Ashley Mechone Black
Jammer
Joseph Dino & E.J.
Sasha Valentino
Tim Bohart
Niesha Dupree
Necole Luv Dupree
Stasha Sanchez
R'darius Black
Al Dupree
Kay, Vanessa, and the rest of the gang
Gerald Stevens
Kirk Wimbley
Jason
Jennifer St. John
Terrance DeAndre
Phillip & Homer from TRAXX Atlanta
My new home Atlanta
And to my #1 Fan S.D.-
"How You Gon Win When You're Not Right With-in" Love Ya

Standing at a petite five foot-five and one half inches, Stasha Sanchez Miyake-Mugler is a little dynamo, full of energy and enthusiasm. Her hi-energy performances have won her praise and a following throughout the city. She is a well-rounded individual who is not only an outstanding ball performer, but also a star on the pageant circuit with many titles to her credit and a statement in the ballroom circuit, as well.

Stasha, a Florida native began her performing career in Jacksonville in 1995 under the guidance of Alexis Sherington and Marissa. On her first time out, she won the title of Miss Jacksonville Newcomer. This was only supposed to be a one time thing, but shortly thereafter she joined the Sanchez family and moved to Orlando two years later and became a regular performer at Club Quest. She conquered many titles before moving to Atlanta, including; Miss Orange County, Miss Level 2, Miss Tropics, Miss Southern Florida, Miss Ebony America, Miss Florida Universe and Miss Duval.

Upon moving to Atlanta a year and half ago, life began to open up for Stasha. Within months, she was asked to join the House of Miyake-Mugler. Stasha had other offers to be in different houses, but she chose Miyake-Mugler, because she felt she really fit in there. Immediately she began competing in a variety of categories and quickly made a name for herself as a force to be reckoned with. She was walked and won Fem Queen (FQ) Foot and Eyewear, FQ Performance, FQ Face, FQ Sex Kitten and is most known as Atlanta's reigning FQ Model's Body, a category she has also won in New York City. When she joined the House of Miyake-Mugler she had already been crowned Miss Atlanta

Universe, a preliminary title to the very prestigious Miss Black Universe.

In October of 1997 she captured that much coveted title of Miss Black Universe and reigned side by side with Mr. R'Darius Black for a whole year, which she says was a great learning experience. "I learned a lot about the art of entertaining and how to communicate with different types of people". She says her reign was exciting and she loved all the travelling and meeting and hanging out with her other Black Universe brothers and sisters. Stasha is also the current reigning Miss Pyramid City and Miss Atlantic Coast.

As with many people who are part of the ball and pageant circuit, comparisons usually come into play. When asked about the differences, Stasha says, "I thought the balls were foolish at first, but then I observed them and saw that they were like a fun activity. Pageants are more like business. Balls are extracurricular. A lot of people get upset at balls, but it's not worth it."

Both, however, have elements that she wishes she could change; politics and favoritism.

Pageants and balls do not take up all of Stasha's time. She is a featured per-

On The Ball Scene

Photos by Nestor

CANCER- You are a sympathetic and understanding queen when it comes to other peoples problems. They think you are a sucker. However, as we are now in your birth sign I am pleased to report that you are the star of this drama and you have winner is written all over your face. This is a great time for job interviews and contests or perfect time to ask for a raise. Just ask and you will receive.

LEO- You consider yourself a born leader but other people think you are pushy. Continue to bully them around because some people will let you have all that is theirs if you act like you really need it. That boy will give you everything so milk him for all that he is worth.

VIRGO- You are the logical type and hate disorder. This nitpicking is sickening to your friends. Though you feel tempted to fall asleep during sex it is best you stay awake this month. The man of your dreams has arrived but you may find yourself too boring and hence he may just be driven away.

LIBRA- You are the artistic type and have a difficult time with reality. You are most certainly gay but you were born that way. Redecorate the entire house this summer as you will have lots of gentleman callers. Always look your best as you never really know who will be dropping by for tea.

SCORPIO- You are shrewd in business and cannot be trusted. Because of your total lack of ethics you will achieve the pinnacle of success. There is nothing wrong with that some people enjoy being abused. You are destined to be rich, so cheer up and be happy.

SAGITTARIUS- You are optimistic and enthusiastic. You have a reckless tendency to rely on your looks since you have no talent. That is alright as beautiful people usually marry rich. In the end you will be pretty and rich, what more could you ask for. Mr. Right is around the corner with wallet in pocket.

CAPRICORN- You are conservative and afraid of taking risks. You are basically chicken scratch but everything you touch this summer will turn to gold. Play the lottery as you are inclined to be lucky in the month of July. Live and let live.

PISCES- You have a wild imagination and always think you are being chased by the FBI or CIA. You have very littler influence over others but you think it is a lot. People treat you kindly but can sometimes be an ingrate. The love of your life has blossomed into the best he can be so don't think you will get away with your old tricks. If you love him be careful how you treat him.

ARIES- You are the pioneer type and hold most people in contempt. Your feelings of superiority mask your your total mediocrity. You are often in love with the concept of love rather than the person. Try loving the man for a change and see how things all pan out in your favor.

AQUARIUS- You are a perfectionist but only you think you are perfect. Everyone can see through the facade. You are enjoying tremendous success now, so enjoy it while it lasts. Prepare for the future as you may just become rich. Take some lessons in etiquette, as you are on everybodys guest list this month.

TAURUS- You are practical and persistent. Most people think you are a stubborn asshole. However that new cancer man you recently met thinks to world of you. Win him over before he finds out the whole truth. This could be the one for you. Go for it.

GEMINI- You are a quick and intelligent thinker. You are also inclined to expect too much for too little. This month pay the price that the product is worth and not what you wish it was. That boy may seem to have a high price tag but he is worth all the fuss. Take the risk honey. You ship has come in.

former with Fusion's Sunday night cast as well as Traxx's Monday night cast. Stasha loves to perform. While she enjoys the attention that she gets from her audiences, more importantly, she loves to see everyone enjoying themselves. She prefers to emulate SWV, Brandy, Monica, Deborah Cox or Anita Baker, but everything isn't easy at it seems. There is the hard part; preparation "It can get tiring." Well, all the preparation is paying off as she pursues her dream of being the best female impersonator and she is focused on that dream. She would like everyone to know some things about her art and herself, as well, "We are people, too, and need respect like anyone else. Also, I am not shady or conceited, I love to talk to people and have fun." Another thing she loves is shopping, which is evident from her excellent fashion sense and body conscious outfits.

One does not come as far as Stasha has alone. There were many people who inspired her. In acknowledgement, she cites Jasmine Bonet, Niesha Dupree and Sasha Valentino as major influences in her life. However, her list of people

who have supported her over the years is quite long and include her family, Gino, Alphonso Dupree, Natalia Dupree, Ron Lewis, Marissa, Al Hill, Archie Bonet, Craig, Revlon, Randy Matthews, R'Darius Black, the Black Universe Family, the Atlantic Coast Family, the Duval Family, her Orlando family and all her kids.

What does the future hold for this 25-year-old who has accomplished so much already, "I really wanted to win Miss National, but I am looking forward to competing for Miss Continental soon", we are informed. In conclusion, Stasha wants to gracefully thank all of Atlanta for the acceptance, respect and support that she has received in the year and half that she has been there.

Good luck to you with all of your future plans Stasha. You are truly a queen in our eyes. Even though, the host did not call your name as the new Miss National, you should feel vindicated hearing almost the entire audience in attendance calling your name.



Friday, June 25th 1999, an amazing spectacle took place at the **Rialto Playhouse** in downtown Atlanta; the **Miss National Pageant 1999-2000**. The whole evening was filled with excitement, suspense, excellent performances and a bevy of beautiful entertainers. The Miss National 1998-1999, **Ashley Kruiuz**, gave a spectacular opening performance complete with dancers, and fireworks. This hi-energy performance had the crowd ready for most of the night's events.

After Ashley's performance, previous Miss National titleholders were introduced. They included the beautiful and talented **Tasha Long** as well as the Legendary **Tommie Ross** who also served as one of the judges. Throughout the night, we were entertained with performances by Miss Long as well as Atlanta's Mother herself, none other than **Niesha Dupree**. After the previous winners were presented, the time had come to present the final ten; the survivors of the past two days of rigorous competition. The ten finalists were an electrifying group of performers representing various parts of the country.

Lauren Taylor, Anjila Richards, Loreal Chilane,

Miss National 1999/2000
Shawnna Brooks

National, herself, presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to her long time friend and pioneer of female impersonation in Atlanta, **Miss Lisa King**. The audience shared the emotion displayed by Miss Devore as Miss King accepted her award and made her speech. Tina also kept the show moving and expertly filled in those expected 'lulls' in the show with humor and professionalism. Her rapport with the audience kept the crowd seated, interested and excited.

The next category was the Evening Gown competition. All of the young ladies were tastefully done and very graceful with their presentations. The three definite stand-outs in this category were: Xviara, who was done in all black with a low-cut back with the back and sleeves only covered with a sheer material; Stasha in a baby blue sexy sequin number with blue satin towards the bottom and Shawnna in a silver ballroom style gown with ice-like rhinestones covering the breast area and circling around the neck with the back out. Topping off Shawnna's look was a matching facemask with feathers.

By the time the Evening Gown competition was over it was time for Ashley Kruiuz to do her farewell performance. For this emotional moment she chose Shania Twain's "You're Still the One" and "From This Moment". Then it was time to award the winners of each category. Xena, Miss Tennessee National was voted Most Beautiful and Anastasia Monet was voted Miss Atlanta Gay Pride, however, neither of them placed amongst the final ten. Anjila Richards won Most Talented and Xviara Cuffey-Colby Snow won Evening Gown.

At this point what seemed to be a fun and fair event seemed to go in a different direction. For most of the evening, Stasha Sanchez had the support of most of the audience and deservedly so as she turned out each category. Shawnna Brooks and Lauren Taylor also did extremely well, **but the general consensus was that this night belonged to Stasha**. However, the beautiful and talented **Shawnna Brooks was selected as Miss National 1999-2000 and Lauren Taylor was her first runner-up**. Even more disappointing and confusing was that Stasha did not even place in the top five (the Queen's Court) **nor did Anjila or Xviara who had won specific categories and were already part of the final ten**.

Upon questioning one of the judges afterwards, it was explained which category points are carried over to the final night and that if someone does very well on the final night; they may still not win if they did not do very well in the other nights. This leaves one to ask oneself, **"If a contestant is good enough to make the top ten, then dominates the final night, how in the world could that contestant not make the top 5?"**

Whether it was politics or just shortsightedness on behalf of the audience, this would be considered the only low spot of an otherwise exciting, well-paced event. The Miss National Pageant has a relatively short, but extremely rich history and **we wish Shawnna Brooks the best of luck in her new role as Miss National 1999-2000**, the final Miss National of this millennium.

by **DANNY C.**

Theatre of The Stars

at **TRAXX**

306 Luckie Street • 404-681-4422



Monday Night With The Stars of the Century.

Starring from left to right: **Nicole Luv Dupree, R'Darius Black, Stasha Sanchez, Sophia McIntosh, Niesha Dupree, Jasmine Bonet, Dominique Rashad, Monté St. James and Racquel Lord**

Professional Elevated Stage, Two-way Screen Monitor, Intelligent Stage & Club Lighting, Quality Sound System, Creative Set Design, and Theatre Style Seating. • Main Show at Midnight • Mini Show at 10PM • Drink Specials • \$5 Cover

TransForum

Monthly Column For Our Transgendered Community

Finally a column strictly for the girls. I think it's time, and long overdue. I chose to premier in this magazine because I felt that it is the best source of print media on the market and would cater to our vast and changing needs. I'm beginning to think that certain publications feel as though we don't read, can't read or "are not really part of the larger gay community." Well I am here to dispel some of those myths once and for all.

I believe I can safely speak for a large segment of the trans community in saying that for a long time, and still today there is a definite void that needs to be filled. From publications to fundraisers, books, movies and music, our story has still not been told. And believe me there is a story out there. It is quite possible that people do not write about

what they don't understand. I must say that this magazine's interviews with Atlanta's own Niesha Dupree, Necole Luv Dupree, and Houston's Cookie LaCook are truly the first of their kind in our community. I was delighted to witness this truly momentous event. When you read, watch or listen to something that you identify with, it helps validate who you are as a person. The trans community is not very often looked at as a community of persons or human beings for that matter. They are often referred to as freaks of nature or just plain freaks. Literally seen as creatures of the night. Beautiful forbidden fruit. A sight to be seen, but not a subject to be discussed. Society, even our own community needs to look past the gowns, lipstick and lashes and see the true good in the community. We do more than sleep all day, and creep all night. There is more to life for many of us than a pageant, cabaret show or worse a street corner. There are plenty of trans girls that you don't see, read or hear about that are doing very noble things in the community and deserve an ample "shout out". Staying true to yourself, in this community, takes an extreme amount of courage.

There is a great amount of courage involved in living your life on your own terms. Take for example the altering of your body, chemically and physically. There is courage in telling your family and loved ones what you have decided to do with your life. Let's take it a step further and say that there also lies courage in leaving the comfort and safety of home on a daily basis only to be potentially persecuted and ridiculed by the rest of society if you are not one of the fortunate girls who can "pass" for the real thing. Even if being able to "pass" is not high on your list of priorities, being able to live in peace in our society must be. That is one of our basic human rights that some of us are not even aware. Awareness of your right to simply be as you are is extremely important and should not be taken lightly. You don't have to accept negativity and disrespect on any level.

It is time for the transgendered community to take a stand, a strong stand, against all genderbased discrimination simply because some people are different and do not "fit" into current social norms of gender roles. The trans community needs to be perceived and taken seriously as members of the gender class in which they feel most comfortable. I don't think that is asking too much, do you? Until next time.



Dorian Kelley-Jahman

Ask Bianca

Hey Kids, It is me, Miss Pretty and I am in the best of moods. I am sitting here on my old block with my less beautiful girlfriends, drinking margaritas and listening to them talk about the way things used to be. They are talking about how pretty they were, back in the days and how magnificent I am as we speak. Thank you for all the fan mail and for that I love you. You kids from Chicago,

None of us were able to enjoy ourselves or the phoine shirtless chulos crowding the streets because of the scandalous stories Josephina told us. We found out how just shady you have been to her. And you claimed to be her good good girlfriend! When you first moved to wherever you now live and tried getting into the clubs and they wouldn't even let your ass in because you were and still are so ugly, my cousin Josephina still befriend-ed you out of the kindness of her God-fearing soul, despite the fact that the other queens called you a two-bit no-teeth crackwhore with ashy knees and elbows. Remember, Josephina was the only one who would

Bianca is interested in helping you solve some of the greater mysteries of life. Write her at Clikque Magazine,931 Monroe Dr., Ste 102-279, Atlanta, Ga 30308 Or email her c/o Clikquem@aol.com • www.clikque.com

Atlanta and Houston who can't take my beauty, to you I say suffa! This is my column and not yours so I am not going to change it to suit any of you. If I am too sassy for you read the damn editorial twenty times and find happiness in yourself. Don't allow my beauty to frustrate you. The editor of this magazine is sweet and that is why he is my ex. Leave me and my column alone if you don't like us but don't write me, telling me you hate me. I don't give a shit what you think. As you continue to hate me I remain, beautiful. To my loyal fans, nuff love and much respect. Now on to your letters. The star who loves you most, Bianca

Bitch Binaka, My cousin, Josephina, was up in Nueva York this weekend, visiting her famalia for the Puerto Rican Day Parade.

cash your welfare checks and let you buy your Cover Girl and Country Club at the WalMart with your food stamps. Well, Miss Binaka Pendeja, we are gonna pile up in my Suzuki Sidekick ten deep and drive down to West bubba-fuck to let your pathetic ass have it. Come July 18th, we hear you are making your first public appearance in H-Town and we are gonna be all up in she, cutting you up at the Miss Clikque Clakque Cuntest. Never forget who has helped you get where you are today, you broke pigeon-toed freak. You have nothing but vanity pumping out of your reckless plastic heart. I can't believe you are still writing for Clikque. And we aren't afraid of you, even if you are listed as Senior Staff Writer in the "Mask Head." You can't even give good head; just ask all of our ex-boyfriends. So don't show your face, cuz you gonna get maced, zorra! — Bo Degas

Whatever!!! Bo- Degas, you must be an imbecile to admit that you know and are related to Josephina. Who are you anyway. Obviously your pathetic little lives seem to surround my whole existence and without me you all have nothing to talk about. I am glad to provide you silly hoes a forum and topic for discussion. I will be in Houston for the Miss Clikque America Contest on July 18th at which time we will settle this score. You will be in such awe of my beauty and your man, if you have one, will be eating out of my ass. The clikque people need your patronage so bring all your friends to come see what real women look like and how makeup should be applied. Until then, please be quiet and like your cousin Josephina, don't write to me ever again. I will be having my assistant block your mail from my box down at the post office first thing in the morning. Also learn to spell my name Beitch!!!

Dear Bianca,
I was told that the Miss clikque Pageant is rigged for Tyra Brooks and Trillions Devereaux. Is this true? A prospective contestant.

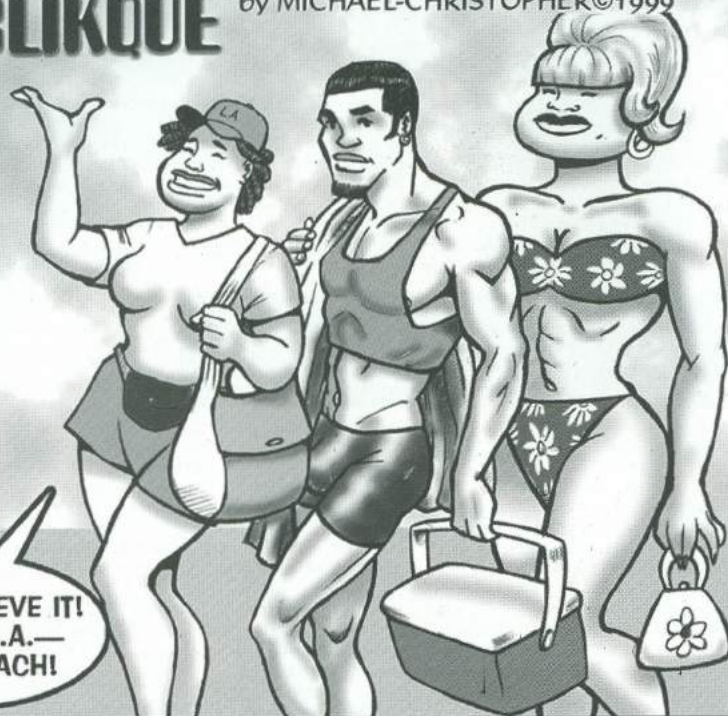
Dear Prospective contestant,
I am not on the Miss Clikque Board. I was asked to crown the winner because I am pretty and talented. However I have a word of advice to you. Don't enter that pageant, I think they want a smart girl and you are obviously an idiot. How can a pageant be rigged for two queens when there is only one tiara? If you do decide to enter, take your brain with you to interview. Besides I was told by the Pageant Director that Tyra Brooks is a special guest performer and not a contestant. As for Trillions Devereaux, why would anyone want to rig a pageant for huh? The best girl that night is going to win and I hope it is not you, you stupid bitch. — Always, Bianca

Dear Bianca,
I moved to Atlanta for a man and now he does not want t be with me. He says we should be friends who fuck. I am not about to accept those terms but the sex is good and I don't want to move back to New york City. Help me please. I am in pain. — Lancelot

Dear Lancelot, Wake up and get real. I like the fact that you felt strong enough about this man to pack your duffle bags and haul ass to Atlanta. However, using the same strength, I would like for you to accept that that relationship is dead unless you accept the part-time gig. To leave the beauty that is New York City for a place as dull and gray as Atlanta you must be a strong person. On my last visit to Atlanta, I met quite a few gorgeous men so you should not have too much difficulty finding other men to date. Good luck sir and I will pray for you on Sunday. — Bianca



THE CLIKQUE by MICHAEL-CHRISTOPHER©1999



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
WE'RE IN L.A.—
AT THE BEACH!

I'VE GOT THE
SUNBLOCK,
MOISTURIZER,
AND TANNING
OIL...

I'VE GOT FOOD,
DRINKS, AND
PLENTY OF ICE!

...I'VE GOT SOME
WATERPROOF
MASCARA...!

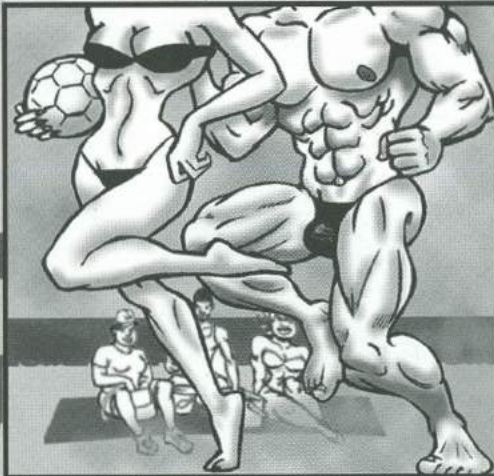


WHERE'S MY
DATABANK??!

UM...DID ANYONE
BRING A PEN??!



I GOT THE
CAMCORDER, GIRL!

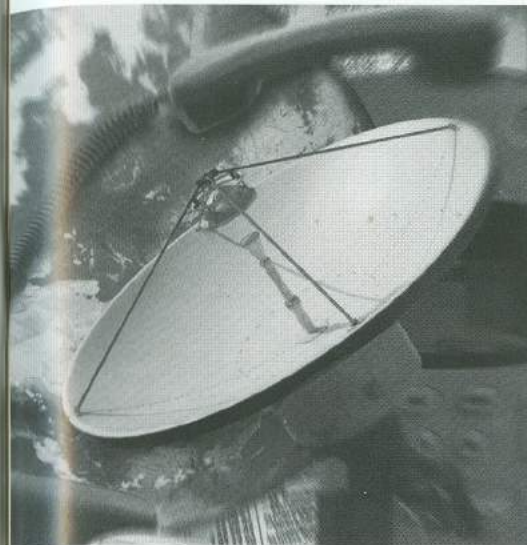


WLJN-2929 Not Necessarily The News

Reporters:

Nikki-Ann Spence - Houston

Candie Coopa - Atlanta - On Vacation



Welcome to WLJN2929 Not necessarily the news. The news this month, is the first preliminary to the **Miss Clikque America** title to be held in Houston at Toyz disco on Sunday July 18 and Rascals the Night Club on Friday July 16th.

The entire city is wrapped up in this particular pageant. Never before has there been such a stellar line up of prospective contestants and heresay involved in a pageant. The gossip keeps turning and every day a new girl is rumored to be the likely winner. So far, we have gotten word that the pageant is rigged for four different girls, one of whom is the special guest at the final night. **Tyra Brooks will not win**, as she is not competing. No matter what a Ross child told you, Tyra Brooks just won't win. The Pageant is not rigged for **Trillions Devereaux** as she cannot afford to pay for a crown which is not for sale. It is a contest they are having over at Clikque not a title sale. As we know of today, no girl from Atlanta is coming to do Houston Clikque, so we should be having a true **Texas Drag War**. Speaking of war. The audience can expect the best pageant ever as some of the greatest performers today are rumored to be in Miss Clikque Pageant.

First, there is the seemingly verifiable story that the **Brooks Power** house will be up against each other for the first time in pageant history, competing for a single title. Tijuana has had her eyes on this title for a year, even before plans were finalized to start the Clikque pageantry system. Tiffany Brooks, one of Houston's best, likes the idea of being the first Miss Clikque hence setting the trend. We hear she is pulling all stops and coming to punish in order to snatch the title. Then there is the founder of the house, our gossip source, Chevelle Brooks, who if she decides to pull out that piece of talent and one of those gowns in her closet, could possibly shatter the dreams of a few of the other girls.

But the line up does not stop with the Brooks family. From what we hear, Trillions Devereaux wants the title so bad that she may not even run from fear of having a cardiac should she not win. That however, is a rumor as we were told she says, she is ready for the entire Brooks clan, in the name of love. **Ashley and Alicia Houston** have shown an interest and given their emment skills could pull off the upset of the night. There is new comer **Rochelle Means**, who plans on dancing her way into the judges hearts and then baffle them with her brilliance at platform discussion time. We wish her the best. We also received word that the reigning Miss Black Entertainer and sister to the pageant director, **Chanel Nichole**, says she is not afraid of the competition and will be in it to win it. There is also word that the talented **Dominique Devereaux**, the lovely **Alexis Vanderhurst**, the intelligent **Christian Armani**, the ultimately talented **Raven St James**, and hot new comer **Destiny Carrington**, all plan on making a bid for the title. Now, that is a pageant if we ever heard of one. This, no one should want to miss. If that is not enough, then catch this. **Lawanda Jackson** has sent word that she likes being the first queen to wear a title and sees no reason why she should not be the first Miss Clikque. Now with a line up such as that, why would any pageant co-ordinator want to fix his pageant. To assure fairness all the judges will be from the east coast. New York to Washington DC. The highest and lowest scores in each category will be dropped and pageant Director Lewis Nicholson, says the winner will win.

To make the pageant even more enticing the winners will get \$200 for talent. \$100 for interview, \$75 for evening gown, \$75 presentation and \$75 plus a 3ft trophy for prettiest face which will be given in memory of face goddess **Danielle Revlon**. \$50 will also be given to the most congenial contestant.

With all the hype and rumors you have heard don't you want to bear witness to the ultimate battle of the southern divas to be settled by a group of unbiased judges with no prejudices. With so much pageant talk there was no need to report on any other happenings since that is what everyone is talking about. However we must mention that **Cookie La Cook's Birthday Bash** was the best party we have been to this year and the food was divinely delicious. See you at the pageant and next month we will be sure to let you know which girl created history by becoming the first to ever wear the title of the nation's top gay publication for People of Color. Miss Clikque Houston- Who will she be?? Come to Toyz July 18 to find out. We will be there and so should you. For the news I am Nikki-Ann Spence in Houston, Texas saying good night and be safe.

Stepping Out

YOUR PREMIER GUIDE TO CLUBS ACROSS AMERICA

Be advised that clubs go out of business and clientele sometime changes. Therefore, it may be in your best interest to call before you visit any of the clubs listed below.

ATLANTA

CLUB FUSION, 550-C Amsterdam Ave., Midtown, 404-874-6411 Black and gay on Fridays and Sundays.

CLUB JAGUAR, W. Peachtree & 15th St., Midtown Atlanta, 404-874-5673. Fridays- For women that love women; 10pm-4am

LORETTA'S, 708 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, 404-874-8125. Doors open 7 days

THE OTHERSIDE, 1924 Piedmont Rd., 404-875-5238. Blackest on Wednesday.

THE PALACE, 91 Broad Street, Atlanta, GA 404-522-3000. Doors open at 5PM seven days a week.

WAREHOUSE/TRAXX, 306 Luckie St., N.W., 404-681-4422 Black and gay on Thursdays & Saturdays.

BALTIMORE

THE PARADOX 1310 Russel St. 410-837-9110. Saturdays

BIRMINGHAM

LATROYS, LAMASTIC 316 20th Street South, 205-322-8338.

CHARLOTTE

SCORPIO LOUNGE 2301 Freedom Dr., 704-373-9124

CLEVELAND

DOMINOS, 612 Prospect Ave., 216-771-9020.

OHIO CITY CLUB OASIS 2909 Detroit Av., 216-574-2203. Black on Saturdays

CHICAGO

GENERATOR, 306 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60661, 312-243-8889.

GENTRY ON HALSTED, 3320 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60657, 773-348-1053. Blackest on Saturday.

JEFFREY PUB, 7041 S. Jeffrey Blvd., Chicago 60649, 773-363-8555.

RAILS, 1675 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, IL 708-802-1705. Black Friday Nights

THE CONVENT, 1529 W. Armitage

DALLAS

METRO, 2204 Elm St., Dallas 75201, 214-742-2101.

CLUB ENVY, 216 N. Crowds, Dallas, 214-987-4059.

DETROIT

CONTINENTAL 156 Monroe

OFF BROADWAY EAST NIGHT CLUB, 12215 Harper Ave., 313-521-0920

REGINES'S OFF THE PARK, 711 East McNichols, 313-865-4747

ZIPPER, 6221 E. Davison, 313-892-8120

DURHAM, NC

J&L's, 2627 Hillsboro Road, 919-286-5032

GREENVILLE, SC

NEW ATTITUDE, 706 W. Washington St., 864-233-1387

HOUSTON

INCOGNITO, 2524 McKinney St., Houston 77003, 713-237-9431. Fri, Sat & Mon. Black

RASCALS, 1318 Westheimer, 77006. 713-942-CLUB. Open Thursday - Sunday from 10PM.

JACKSON, MS

CLUB CITY LIGHTS, 200 N. Mills St., Downtown Jackson, Ms. 601-353-0059. Where the stars come out to party.

JACKSONVILLE

THIRD DIMENSION, 711 Edison Ave., 904-353-6316. Mixed Crowd.

LOS ANGELES

BOYTRADE-EL REY, 5525 Wilshire Blvd.

CATCH ONE, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., 323-737-1159. Blackest on Saturdays

MEMPHIS

N-COGNITO, 338 S. Front St., 901-523-0599.

MIAMI/FT. LAUD.

CLUB OBSESSIONS 7900 NE First Ave.,

COPA NIGHTCLUB, 2800 S. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale

954-463-1507. Blackest on Sunday.

SUGAR'S, 17060 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami, 305-940-9887. Blackest on Friday and Saturday.

NASHVILLE

THE CONNECTION, 901 Cowan St., 615-742-1166 Blackest on Thursdays

THE CHUTE COMPLEX, 2535 Franklin Road, 615-297-4571 Blackest on Wednesdays

THE GASLITE, 167 1/2 8th Ave., 615-254-1278

THE JUNGLE, 306 4th Ave. South, 615-256-9411

NEW YORK

CLIT CLUB, 432 W. 14th St., New York 10014, 212-406-1114. Fridays only Women.

CLUB HOUSE, 215 W. 28th St. House, Hip-Hop. Black on Wednesdays

ESQUALITA, 301 West 39th St., NY, NY Black & Latin on Thursdays & Fridays

KELLERS, 384 West St., New York 10014, 212-243-1907.

MANHATTAN MONSTER, 80 Grove St., New York 10014, 212-924-3558.

NO. 1 HOT SPOT, 1 Front St., Brooklyn 11201, 718-852-0139.

THE OCTAGON, 555 W. 33rd St., New York 10001, 212-947-0400.

THE WAREHOUSE, 141 E. 140th St., Bronx, NY 718-992-5974. Blackest on Saturdays

NEWARK, NJ

MURPHY'S, 59 Edison St., 201-622-9176

OAKLAND, CA

RIM SHOT, 120 11th St., 510-444-2266. Black on Sat., Sun., & Wednesdays.

ORLANDO / TAMPA

PARLIAMENT HOUSE, 410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando 32805, 407-425-7571. Blackest any night after 1 a.m. and on Friday and Saturday.

CLUB QUEST, 745 Bennett Road, Orlando, FL

407-228-8226. Blackest on Thursday, Friday and Saturday

SOUTHERN NIGHTS, 375 S. Bumby Ave., Orlando, 407-898-0424. Blackest on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

TRACKS, 1430 E. 7th Ave., Tampa 33605, 813-247-2711. Blackest on Friday and Saturday.

RICHMOND, VA

CLUB COLOURS, 536 N. Harrison St., 804-599-9143 Richmonds African-American Club of True Diversity.

RUMOURS II, 1008 North Blvd., 804-358-3838

SAN FRANCISCO

THE ENDUP 401 6th St. 415-357-0827. Vlackest Sunday afternoon.

TALLAHASSEE

CLUB PARK AVENUE, 115 E. Park Ave., 850-599-9143

WASHINGTON DC

BACHELOR'S MILL, 1104 8th St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-544-1931.

CLUB DIVERSITE, 1526 14th St. N.W., Washington, DC 202-387-2338.

DELTA ELITE, 3734 10th St., N.E., Washington 20017, 202-529-0626. Gay on Friday and Saturday.

EDGE, 56 L St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-488-1200. Blackest Monday, Thursday and Friday.

MR. P'S, 2147 P St., N.W., Washington 20037, 202-293-9009.

SATURDAY
AUGUST 21, 1999

Please inform us of any additions, deletions or modifications to this list

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Mr. & Miss Liberty International 1999

Saturday July 24, 1999
Registration 12 Noon
Interview 5PM
Center Stage Theater

Welcome Party 10PM
Featuring A Liberty Review
Loretta's Nightclub
708 Spring Street,

Sunday July 25, 1999
Center Stage Theater
Atlanta, GA.
Rehearsal: 12 Noon
Pageant Begins at 8PM

Featuring

Majesty • Terry-Lynn Foxx
Niesha Dupree • Jerwon Bonet
Tresia Iman • Jasmine Bonet
Sebastian Summers
Necole Luv Dupree
John Scott • Tommie Ross
Johnny Thomas
Alphonso Dupree
Alee Monroe • Talyanna
Latron Black



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Fiercest Fridays
with L.C. Simpson, Jr.

Saturdays

Great Entertainment by
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Kianna Vanessa
Van-Micheals

Sundays

Sunday Night Madness
with Contessa DeMoria as
"Auntee Messy Maggie"

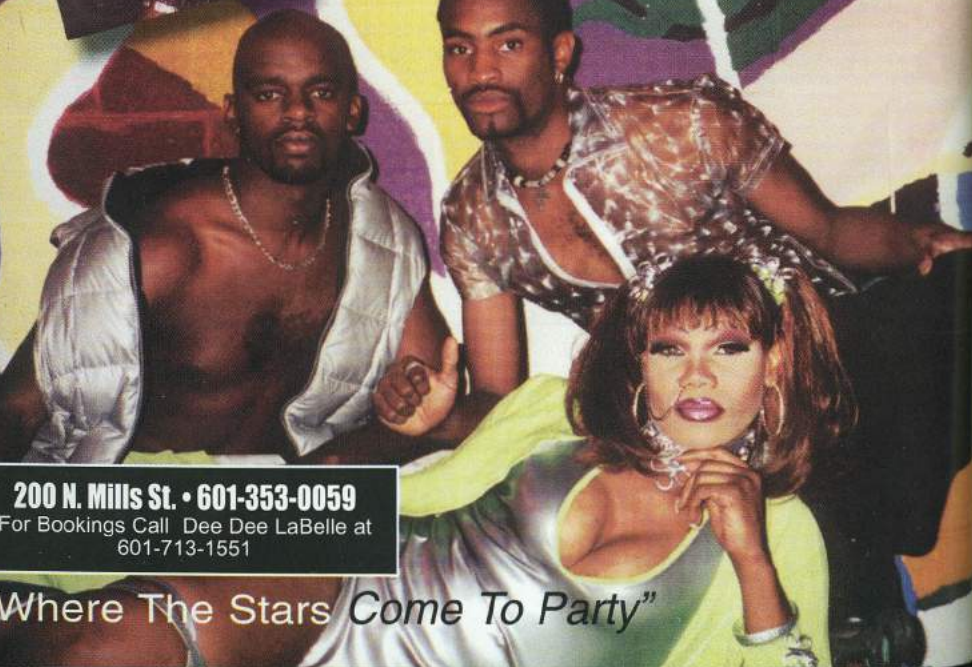
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dee LaBelle 601-713-1551 or
601-353-0059 - Club

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3 Day Tommie Wear Weekend

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Thursday 15th
Tommie Ware Exotic Dancers
Special guest dancers from America's
hottest cities
Friday 16th
Tommie Wear Party
Contestant with the best looking Tommy
Hilfiger gear wins cash prize of \$100
Saturday 17th
Tommie Ross Super Show
Come out and be entertained by one of the
nations most talented entertainers

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338 S. Front Street • Memphis TN

Portions of proceeds to benefit Tommie Ross in her journey to
Miss Continental USA in Chicago, IL. Labor Day Weekend • Sept. 4-6

Mr & Miss Black Tennessee Universe

N - Cognito The Club • Memphis

\$500* Cash Prize To The Winner

\$200 Cash Prize To 2nd Runner up

\$100 Cash Prize To 3rd Runner up

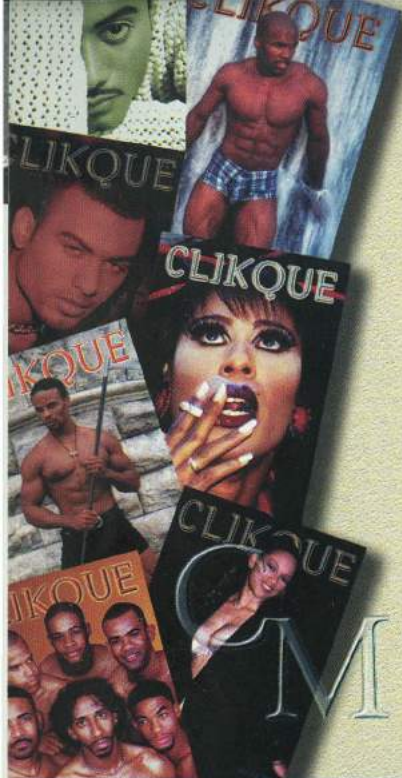
Presentation: All White, Formal and Evening wear
Talent and top 5 Q&A

Special Guest: Mr. & Miss Black Universe
Racquell Lorde & Monté St. James

July 18th, 1999



*\$300 Night of crowning, \$100 at Nationals and \$100 and the end of the reign



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