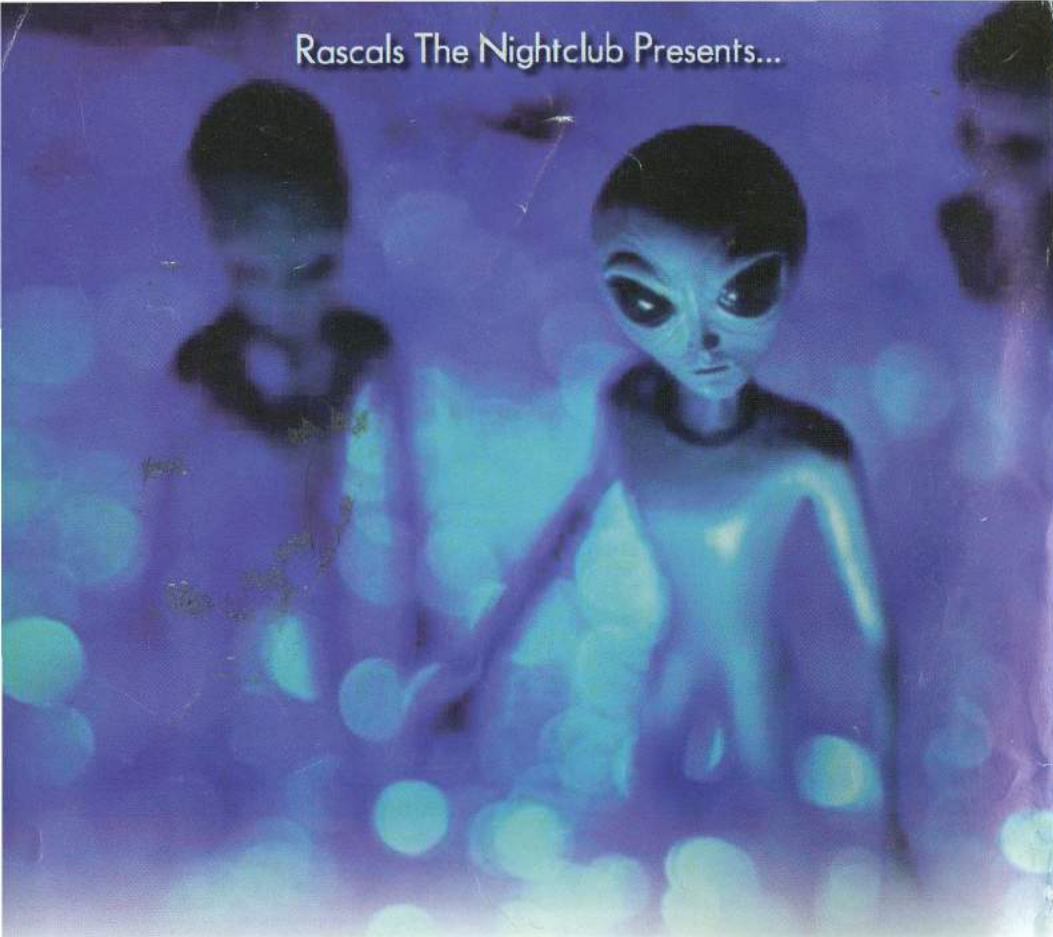


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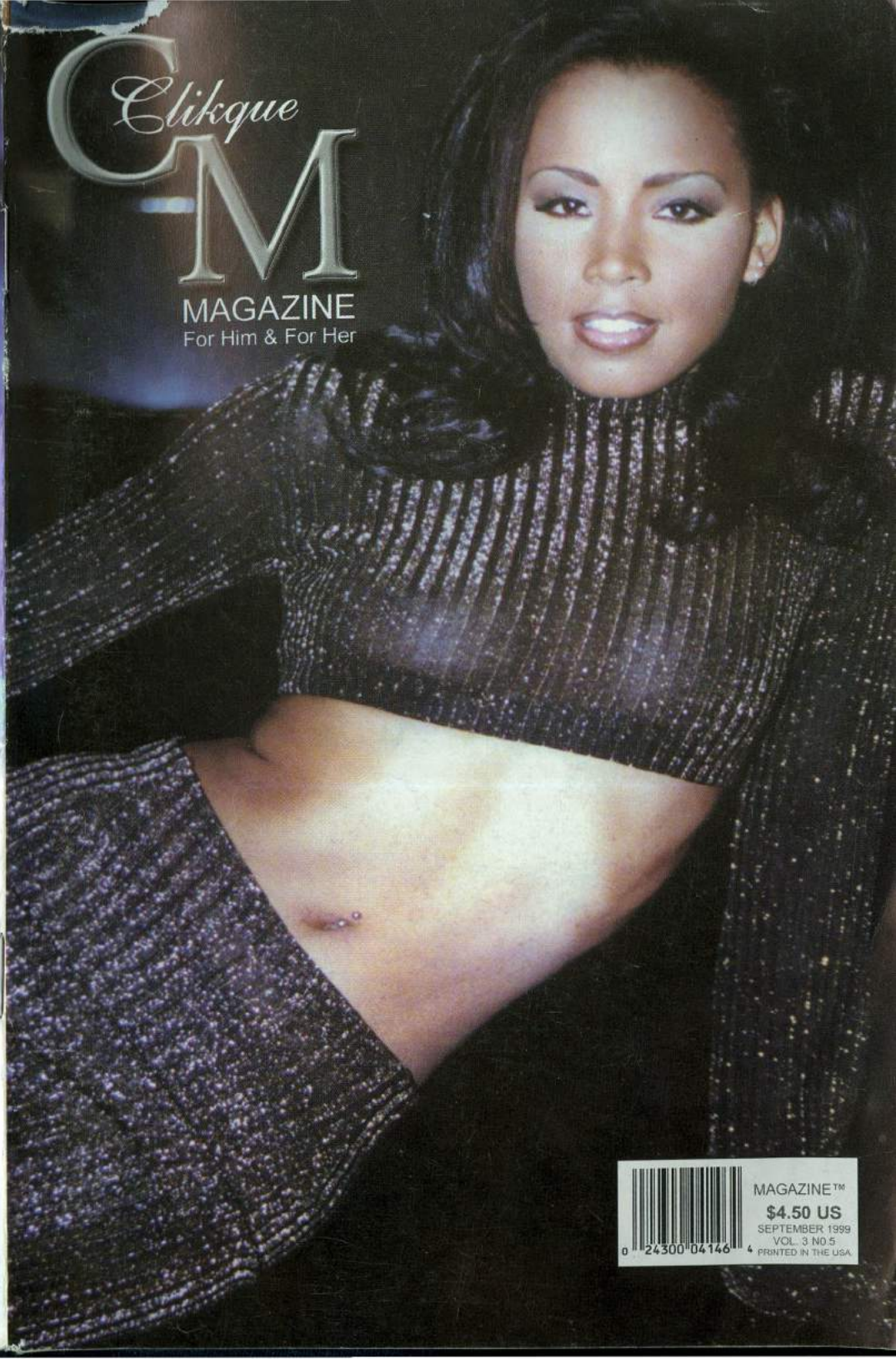
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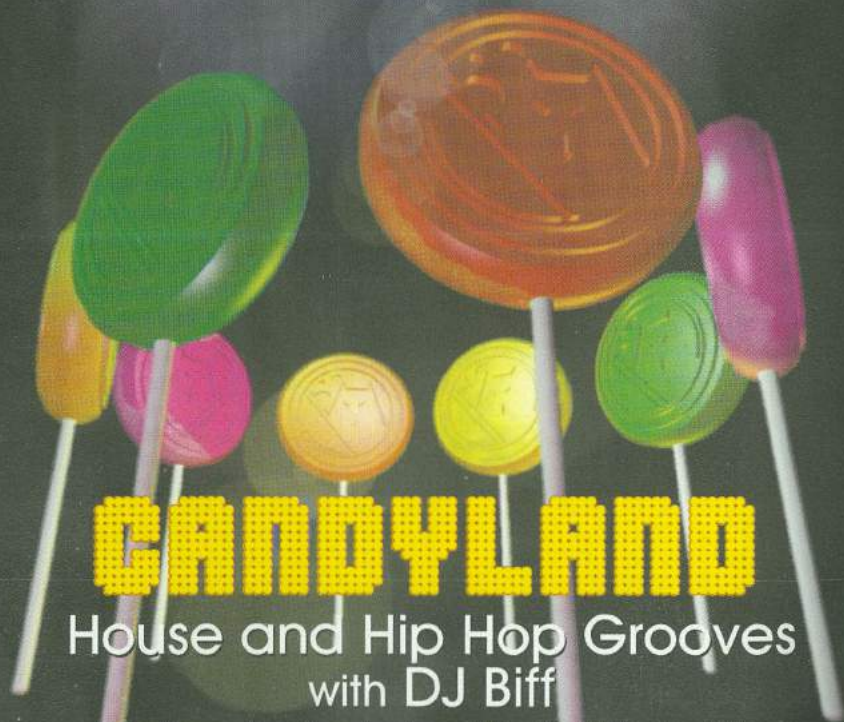
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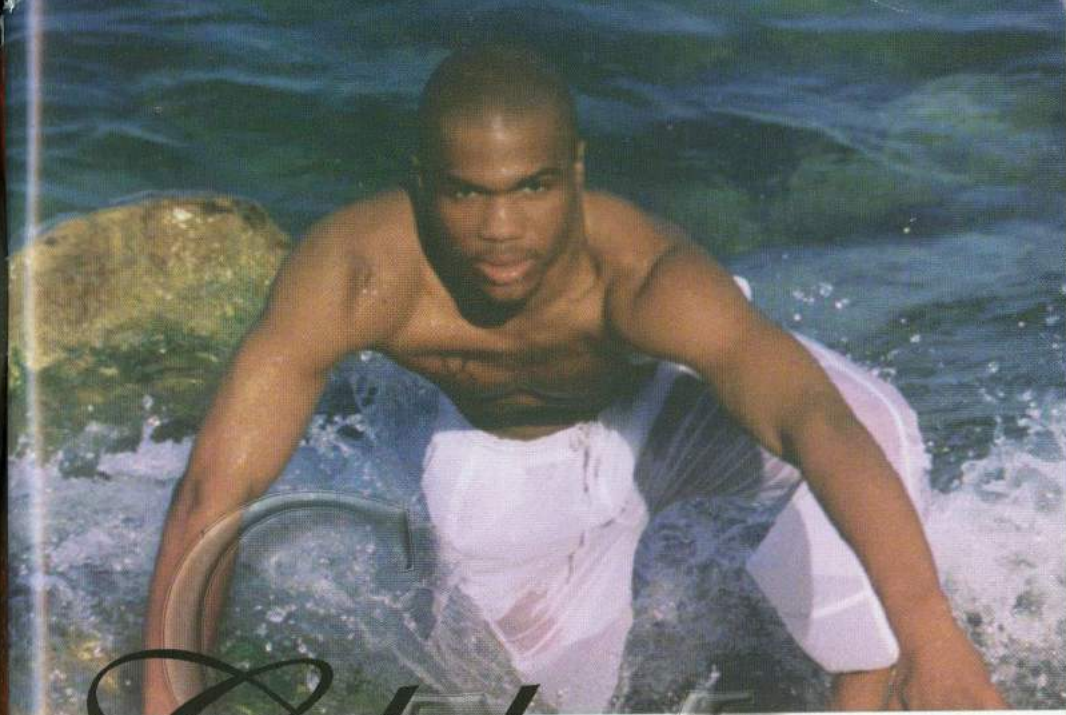
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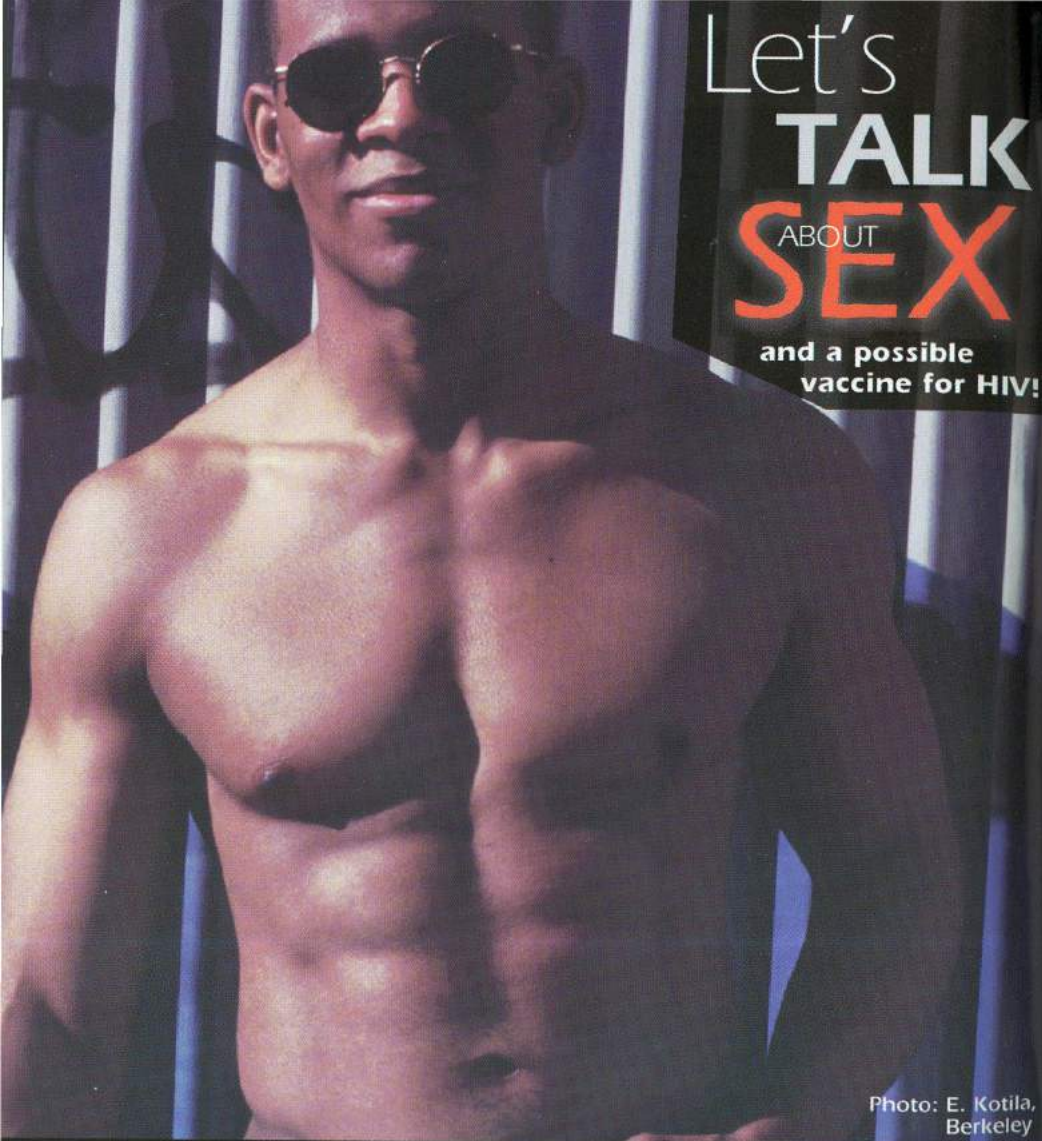
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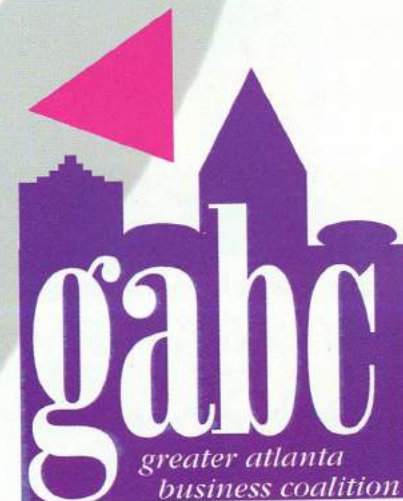
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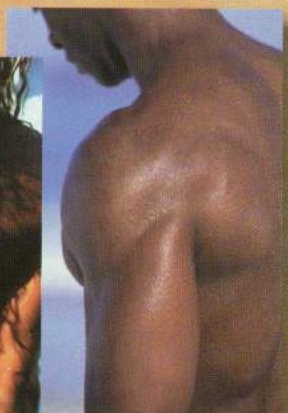
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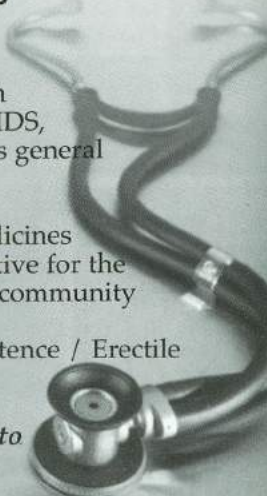
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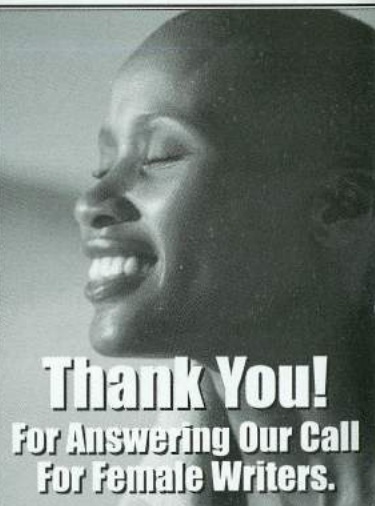
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I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of our advertisers, writers and contributors for making last months issue of Clikque, one of the best magazines to ever be published by and for our Same Gender Loving Community of Color. It is only with your support, that we will continue to render what you have now come to expect from us... a top notch, quality, informative, entertaining, and well-rounded Magazine.

On that same note, the ladies in our community need to be applauded for answering our call for female writers and contributors in such great numbers. Now, I can really say that Clikque is for HIM and for HER. From day one, it has always been our intent to utilize Clikque as a tool that reaches, all members of our SGL and transgendered communities. When you are done with this issue, you will see that we have successful managed to do just that. Thanks again, and you can now look forward to a publication that represents every segment of our community.

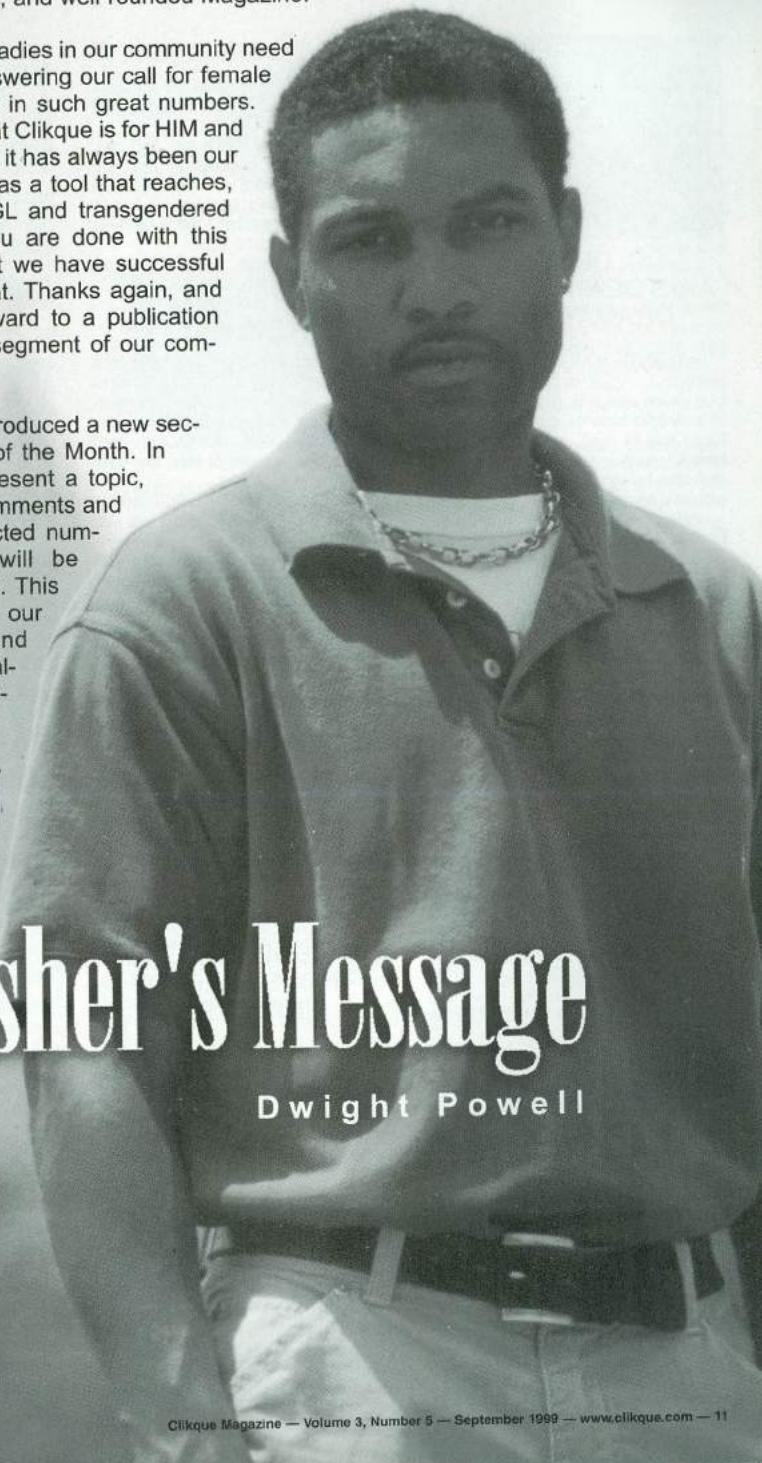
This month we have introduced a new section. It is called Topic of the Month. In this section, we will present a topic, and have you make comments and feedback on it. A selected number of submissions will be selected for publication. This is in an attempt to do our part of informing and enlightening you, our valued and loyal supporters.

Until next month, stay
real and safe.

Peace.

Publisher's Message

Dwight Powell





CDC: DECLINE IN AIDS DEATHS SLOWS DRAMATICALLY

ATLANTA (AP) -- The sharp decline in AIDS deaths that began two years ago with the development of powerful new drugs has suddenly been cut in half, raising questions about whether the medications are already losing their punch, health officials said Monday.

AIDS killed 17,047 people in the United States last year -- a decline of 20 percent from 1997. From 1996 to 1997, the drop in deaths was a much more dramatic 42 percent, which health officials attributed to the effectiveness of new drugs.

"As we anticipated, we are now seeing the first signs of a slowing in this trend," said Dr. Helene Gayle, director of HIV prevention for the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said today during the National HIV Prevention Conference.

"In a period of only two years, new combination therapies cut the annual level of death in half," she said. "But for the time being it appears that much of the benefit of these new therapies has been realized."

In 1995, 49,351 people died from AIDS in the United States. By 1996, that dropped to 36,792, and the number was down to 21,222 in 1997.

The CDC listed several possible causes for the slowdown in reductions of AIDS deaths.

Most people who know they have HIV are already being treated, Gayle said. Drug resistance among some AIDS patients causes the treatment to fail, and other patients fail to keep up with the complicated juggling of pills they have to take for the drugs to be effective.

"Our worst fears have become a tragic reality," said Steven Fisher of the advocacy group AIDS Action. "AIDS drugs don't work for everyone and aren't a cure for anyone."

New HIV infections in 1998 were estimated at roughly 40,000 -- a

number that's held steady for the past decade.

The CDC said AIDS continues to kill blacks in higher numbers than other racial groups.

Blacks, who make up about 13 percent of the population, accounted for 49 percent of AIDS deaths in 1998. Thirty-two percent of deaths were among whites and Hispanics made up 18 percent.

"In many ways, the story of how well we do in HIV and AIDS will be told by how well we do with the African-American population," Gayle said.

The three-day conference, organized by the CDC and 17 other agencies, features 2,000 scientists, doctors, researchers and advocates addressing efforts to monitor and prevent the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Sunday, Gayle and others opened the conference by warning against complacency.

"It's becoming increasingly difficult to get people to pay attention to HIV prevention and that in and of itself is a primary reason for this conference," she said.

Since the 1980s, more than 300,000 have died of AIDS. The recent success of some treatments have made some people complacent about the disease.

"Despite a growing complacency about the need for HIV prevention, HIV remains a serious disease that is still very much with us and there is a greater need for HIV prevention today more than ever," she said.

NEW HIV VACCINE CONCEPT MAY EXTEND HOPE TO THOSE ALREADY INFECTED

BALTIMORE (CNN) -- Creating a vaccine against HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, has proven to be a tricky task. But a group of researchers is expressing excitement about a new approach that may also offer help to those already infected with the virus.

Shortly after someone is infected with HIV, the virus produces a protein called TAT, which binds to healthy immune cells and uses them to reproduce HIV. Without this protein, HIV can't reproduce in the body.

Now, scientists hope to use this information to create a vaccine that could not only prevent infection but

also possibly help control HIV in those already infected.

"By vaccinating against TAT, you would block it so the immune system wouldn't be so impaired, and you would be better able to fight the virus," says Dr. Robert Gallo of the Institute of Human Virology, one of the researchers working on the study.

Other scientists say while the approach sounds promising, the research is still in the early stages.

"Theoretically, it makes sense," says Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health. "But there are a lot of things that make sense theoretically that when you practically try them, they just don't work."

Dr. Daniel Zagury, of the University Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris, has done several clinical trials with a vaccine called TAT toxoid.

"The experiments in animals showed that the TAT toxoid was fully safe, well tolerated and induced antibodies in very high levels to antagonize, to neutralize the TAT that is reduced by infected cells," he says.

Last year, the first large scale HIV vaccine trial was launched, which is still ongoing. It could be years before the TAT vaccine is tested in large numbers of people.



HIV CONFERENCE OPENS WITH WARNING AGAINST COMPLACENCY

ATLANTA -- More than 2,000 scientists, doctors, researchers and advocates have gathered in Atlanta for the National HIV Prevention Conference, organized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and 17 other sponsoring organizations.

During the four-day conference, federal officials will release the lat-

est national data on trends in HIV and AIDS deaths and infection rates for the general population. Statistics on prisoners, unrecognized factors contributing to the spread of HIV, and results from a new HIV test will also be released.

In the nearly two decades since the first cases of AIDS were reported, the deadly virus has claimed more than 300,000 lives. The good news is that the number of new HIV infections has dropped from about 100,000 a year to 40,000.

Concern over record rate of infection among blacks

But at the same time, the epidemic is taking a greater toll on women and minorities, especially blacks who are becoming infected with AIDS at record rates, federal health officials said.

In the mid 1980s, blacks represented about 25 percent of the new cases of AIDS reported, Hispanics about 14 percent and women 8 percent. U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher said. By 1997-98, blacks made up 45 percent of the cases, Hispanics 22 percent and women 23 percent.

Health officials are concerned about a growing complacency about HIV, especially among some of the people most at risk, health officials said Sunday at the first ever national conference addressing efforts to monitor and prevent the spread of the virus.

Officials want more preventive efforts

"It's becoming increasingly difficult to get people to pay attention to HIV prevention and that in and of itself is a primary reason for this conference," said Dr. Helene Gayle, director of the CDC's National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention.

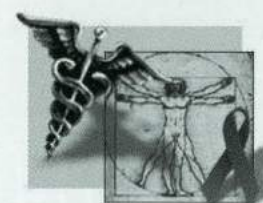
"Despite a growing complacency about the need for HIV prevention, HIV remains a serious disease that is still very much with us and there is a greater need for HIV prevention today more than ever," she said.

"One of the major concerns we have about the AIDS epidemic is that increasingly it is affecting communities that tend to be left out of the health care and public health system," Satcher said. "We know that in order to be successful we have to find a new way to reach these communities."

Much of the effort now being made to fight the epidemic is devoted to care and treatment when more needs to be directed toward prevention in order to control the epidemic, experts say.

"We have demonstrated that prevention works and deserves support," said Dr. Jeffrey Koplan, head of the CDC. "Nevertheless, as in most areas of public health, support for prevention is frequently more rhetorical than substantive."

STUDY: HIV CANNOT



BE ERADICATED FROM BODY

BALTIMORE (CNN) -- HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, cannot be eradicated from a patient's body even when it is undetectable in the blood, according to a study released Saturday by the National Institutes of Health.

Researchers had hoped that after taking anti-HIV drugs for more than a year, patients with HIV could stop treatment and the virus would not return. The study results appear to indicate that patients may need to continue drug therapy for the long term.

"It's going to be very difficult to take somebody off therapy and feel that the virus is not going to bounce back," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, who headed the research team.

The study results were made public at a virology conference in Baltimore on Saturday.

Fauci and colleagues followed 18 HIV-positive patients who had been on the drugs for more than a year and in whom HIV had been reduced to undetectable levels. The researchers then took the patients off the drugs to see if the virus came back: It did, in all 18 patients, within three weeks.

Virus lurks in body's 'reservoirs'

In some cases, a different form of the virus showed up than was originally found in the patient. Fauci said this showed researchers that there are places in the body where the virus can hide.

Scientists had calculated that the HIV virus was capable of hiding in body reservoirs unreachable by drugs for as long as 60 years.

They had hoped to be able to flush the HIV from the reservoirs, either with the help of a drug called Interleukin-2 or with the passage of time. The scientists then thought the drugs would kill the virus as it emerged from the reservoirs.

"It does tell us that, given the currently available regimens that we have of antiviral drugs, we are not going to eliminate or eradicate the virus from individuals," Fauci said.

A tough, expensive treatment

When those patients who chose to resume therapy were put back on medication, the virus was again suppressed to undetectable levels.

But not everyone chose to resume the tough and costly HIV regimen.

An HIV-positive patient may need to take as many as 30 pills a day to suppress the virus, and the side effects can be debilitating. Many patients suffer nausea, vomiting, fatigue, diarrhea, and elevated triglyceride levels.

The drugs cost an average of \$15,000 annually, putting them out of the reach of most of the world's HIV positive patients.

Fauci cautioned that patients should not try stopping the anti-HIV medication outside a clinical trial, because they may become resistant to certain drugs and not be able to go back on them.

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Clikque MAGAZINE

By Don Sneed - Staff



Director of Renaissance III, Dallas TX

Dateline: Dallas, Texas - the Southwestern Front. This is my last article before Black Gay and Lesbian Pride Weekend in Dallas - October 1st through 3rd. I hope to see some of you in Dallas during Pride Weekend. I assure you that it will be much cooler than it is now. Indian Summer (October) is one of the best times to be in Dallas. The weather is very pleasant and the citizens are in a much better mood after enduring another "summer from hell." I invite you to visit with us at the Renaissance III booths that will be strategically placed at some of the weekend's festivities.

The Centers for Disease Control will be making its announcements about who is to be funded with the Congressional Black Caucus monies soon. I wish all who applied the best and I pray that the monies are used wisely.

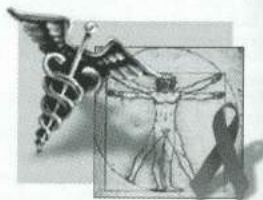
The government has done its part now let us move on to another entity that has a huge vested interest in African Americans with HIV disease: the Pharmaceutical Companies. I am sure that most of you have seen advertisements, over the last year are so, for anti-HIV medications with Black people prominently featured. I caution

you not to believe that the companies paying for these ads have developed some new found compassion and concern for African Americans. This is not how for-profit companies, in the bastion of capitalism, operate. Let me clear the air. I am all for capitalism. I don't have a problem with people and companies making money. It is the American way and after all I am an African American. I and most of my colleagues are keenly aware of why the pharmaceutical companies have turned their attention to us. We know why they are strategically investing dollars in marketing and making contributions to organizations in the Black community. The simple truth is that, for all intents in purposes, the pharmaceutical companies have reached market saturation in the white gay community with their anti-HIV medications. African Americans, the majority of which are not aware of their HIV infection, are the new frontier as consumers of billions of dollars of anti-HIV medications. Catching AIDS, testing for AIDS, vaccinating for AIDS, treating AIDS and burying people dying from AIDS is a multi-billion dollar a year business. Make no errors! Just about every White person in this country who has HIV/AIDS is on medications. Most Black people with the disease are not.

Let us do some simple math. There may be 400,000 African Americans who are HIV positive and do not know it. Depending on the stage of infection, it costs about \$8,000 to \$15,000 a year to medicate a person with HIV disease. Using a median figure of \$12,000 times 400,000 that comes to \$4,800,000,000.00 (4.8 billion dollars) in potential annual drug sales to Black people. Folks that's a lot of biscuits!!! Just the two anti-HIV drugs that I take cost out at about \$9,000 a year.

Therefore, when pharmaceutical companies come to our communities we should not only expect but demand that we be treated with the respect that a potential 4.8 billion dollar market deserves. For the most part Merck Pharmaceuticals, Bristol-Myers Squibb Immunology, Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Roche Pharmaceuticals and Dupont Pharmaceuticals have been approaching our communities with the proper respect that a suitor of a multi-billion dollar market should demonstrate. They can do more. I anticipate that they will. However, there is a behemoth out there that has come with a "pig foot and a bottle of beer" - GlaxoWellcome.

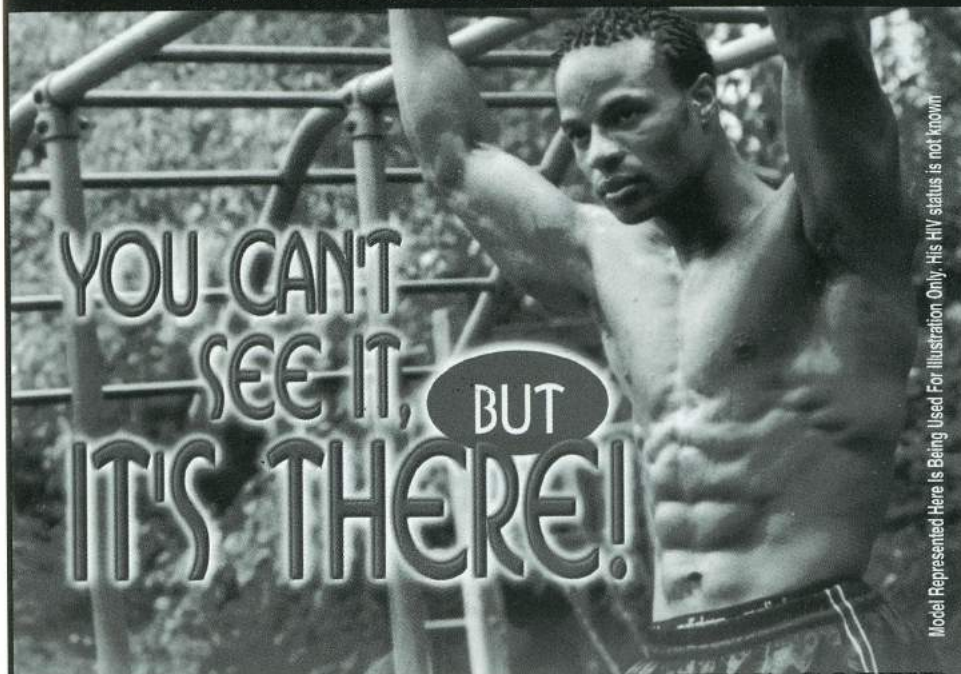
GlaxoWellcome treats most African-American agencies and our communities as if we were second class citizens still deserving of the leftovers from slaughtered hogs - pig feet, entrails



and hog tails. Fact: Last week GlaxoWellcome proudly announced in the local White gay newspaper in Dallas that they had awarded \$20,000 to a White gay agency to provide services to African Americans in Dallas. The money was supposedly for Black folks but there were only White folks in the picture. Can we talk about being high handed, arrogant and insensitive. Fact: a few weeks ago GlaxoWellcome came to Dallas and announced that they were bringing a Black gospel road show to Dallas and ten other cities to lift the awareness of African American congregations and

Continues on Page 27

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

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A Deeper Love

BY M. LIZ MARSHALL

Do you ever question your existence? So many times in life, I've dealt with family and friends pondering over the true meaning of life. For me, I think like so many other things that the answer is inevitably an individual journey. In pursuit of obtaining a better understanding of my purpose in life, I've studied myself. Through self-introspection, I have discovered my best attributes as well as my greatest weaknesses. I think that so much can be learned by looking inwardly as opposed to seeking constant reassurance and self-worth from others. The greatest accomplishment in living is learning to love yourself. Honey, if you don't love you and know who you are, there ain't too much you'll be available to offer to others. Find the deeper love before you jump in the shallow end and come up with a feeling of exuberance but nothing truly tangible. Always look up and within before you leap.

So much of life is founded on and relative to love. First, let's look at the foundations of the world, regardless of your belief I'm sure we can all agree that the creator formulated our existence through an act of love. If not, let's say your mother loved you enough to carry you nine months and have you. OK, that should be enough for you to get the point. Love is the reason for your life; you would not be here if someone hadn't loved you to begin with. Then, we get here and forget the entire concept. Too entrenched in the problems of life and other folks business to fathom the idea that without love, people perish. Love yourself before pondering the idealized relationship. He or she cannot love what you haven't bothered to cultivate within yourself. Don't allow anyone to make discoveries for you, discover yourself baby. There are so many of the "children" wandering around aimlessly these days, clad in Versace, hiding behind Donna Karan that remain clueless about their own identity. In my brief thirty-one year old life, I have learned that loving myself prolongs my relationships, assists me in attaining my goals and gives me direction. I see too much shade in our communities, fighting amongst ourselves and entirely too much promiscuity. We need to evolve. If the deeper love I speak about were more prevalent and the search for meaning in our lives was more reverent, there would be less bullshit. If you're really trying to grasp the full concept of what I am expressing, this is a black gay pride message for you kids in "the family". We are on the brink of a new millennium and it's time to get real in every facet of our lives. Going forward is imperative and we can't move ahead without self-love propagating brotherly and sisterly love. Life is too short and the actualization as to what it's all about and what each of us has to do is too vital to our growth to overlook. Seek out the best in you and you'll find it in others. Without a deeper love, the same old superficial, unimaginative stuff will plague our lives and stagnate what could be. Peace, love and strength to you all! Make it happen.

Am I Black or Am I Gay FIRST?

Welcome To The First Installation Of Clikque Magazine's Topic Of The Month. Each Month We Will Attempt To Bring You Thought-provoking Topics. We hope that you will be enlighten and informed.

detail being a black gay male at the University of Michigan. For me I believe that black comes first. I have found the most discrimination against my sexuality from black people. I find that disturbing because I feel that black people and people of color should stick together. But the very first thing that you realize about you, is your color. Some people believe that you are gay from birth but when your parents decide to have you. Their race is already there so you are predetermined before you are conceived. But for most people, you are seen as black, and then later if it is discovered that you are gay, then gay. So I say black then gay.

Juan Solomon II — Ann Arbor, MI

Black or Gay First...Why are we as African-Americans are always choosing to be this or to be that...i.e. African American or American? We as a people try to reduce ourselves to one objective or one cause, which in my opinion is limited the any form of advancement. I think the time should be right now that we limit our limits on what we can be and what we can accomplish. With that in mind lets address the topic at hand...black or gay first...neither we are all what God made us to be. We all know the difficulty of being black in America and the struggles of being outsiders WITHIN our very own community which we all live, work, play, and etc.. So why are still try to label ourselves, just for others to use the same labels to keep us against each other. What we as a community need to do is open our minds and stop limit ourselves to one or another. We must learn to fight for whatever there is injustice as human beings...not because of our color or sexual preference. Stop the insanity...avoid choosing labels.



zI'm an 18-year-old female from Alabama, and I think that it's important to connect to your Black roots first—or at least attempt to. Although it's easier to be gay and out nowadays, it's still a hard thing in many people's eyes to accept, especially if you are Black because a lot of the Black community still see being gay as 'white folk's stuff'. I, myself, have been out since I was 12, but it's been a struggle. I don't think that there really is a way to put either first because they are both integral parts of who we are. My best advice for anyone struggling with this out there is to say be who you are and don't try to put one before the other because in the end you'll end up losing an important part of yourself.

Brigitte, Birmingham, AL

I have dealt with this question in great

Erick LeBoyd — Concord, NC

We are all Black before anything. But I think your sexuality comes when you mature in life.

Mz. Sparkle, Chicago, IL

The reason that I am writing is to answer your question that was in your magazine in July. The question was are you gay or black first?

This is an age old question, the same as the chicken and the egg. If we believe in what the Bible states" That I knew you in your mothers womb".

Then the answer would have to be Gay first.

If we believe what scientist say then we are Black first, based on the fact that homosexuality is a learned process.

I have thought and pondered over the answer. I believe that we are Gay first. Many people ask me how I come to that conclusion. The reasoning for this is that God knew us in our mothers womb. He said that he makes no useless creatures.

We are black based on things that mankind has brought upon itself. We where made in Gods' image. So the color thing is not the real issue.

Now this Gay thang that people talk, when they see me they see a black man. I can remember hearing while I was growing up I heard " look at that black faggot", I have never heard that for a white man.

I guess that my letter has somewhat may be confusing. I believe that this is an answer that you will have to get from God. Respectfully,

Rev. Renaldo Epps — Claymont, DE

Before I am anything, I am a Child of God, A spirit of greatness. What is so

very bothersome about the question of, "Am I Black or Am I Gay, First? is that so often in the African-American community we are in an ongoing fight for our identity, a search for who we are, who we really are.

For me personally, my identity is in my spirit. Spirit is the true essence of our existence. Before I knew anything about my sexuality or my blackness, I realized that I am a spirit with great potential and destiny and a purpose in life. Spirit allows you to see beyond where you are at the moment, to see the greatness you will become because of the spirit that lives inside each of us. When we examine our race or creed, it identifies our culture, not who we are. When we examine our gayness, it identifies our sexual orientation. When we examine our spirit, we can truly identify who we are, whose we are and what our potential in life is. In other words, when we acknowledge the spirit that lives inside each of us, we establish a sense of self, self-worth and yes, self-respect.

Let me be very clear, there is a difference between spirit and religion. People go to church Sunday after Sunday practicing religion through some formalized doctrine or various denominational faiths. But spirit is the identifiable measure of who we are, how we treat others and ourselves. There are thousands of churchgoers who attend a church service on Sunday and will curse you out on Monday. What's up with that?

With the awesomeness of spirit, we can better understand and accept our blackness and our gayness. There are pastors and churches across this country who speak against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people. However, when we live our lives in truth and spirit, we realize that what others say negatively about us really does not matter. The primary understanding of such an attitude is based on the fact that God loves all of us. Condemnation has no place in our churches because the only judge for our lives is God. God's message is about love and He loves each and every one of us; in spite of us and our shortcomings.

If black gays and lesbians are ever to experience peace and true happiness, it starts within our spirit. Don't forget spirit is the essence of who we are. Relationships among black gays and lesbians are less likely to last because far too often we seek to get to know another when we really don't know who we are as individuals. We want to be in relationships and have partners or lovers, yet we fail to realize that until we are whole as an individual and secure within ourselves, it is impossible to meet another spirit and become one. The spirit of a divine relationship is based on the acceptance of who we are, less putting on a front of those whom we come in contact with.

For the respect of who we are as black gays and lesbians, we must get in touch with our spirit. This will manifest honest relationships and equip us to counteract the negativity of churches and those who seek to condemn and tear down our spirit. The irony of most churches that speak against gays is that they have gay parishioners, musicians, choir members, and directors. That is blatant hypocrisy. If the message is love it should not exempt anyone.

Am I Black or Am I Gay, First? I am Spirit.

Anthony Hollins- Jonesboro, GA

I consider myself to be Black first and foremost. Living in New York where Blacks in general and Black men in particular find themselves under constant attack in this city that "never sleeps". I have found that if I enter an elevator and subsequently a white woman or man enters afterwards there is a tension that fills that space until the doors open again. However, I have also seen more effeminate men ride elevators, crowded trains and be in other claustrophobic settings and such events don't occur. Behavior seems to be what sets white people up to be comfortable or ill at ease in the presence of Men of color.

This is in spite of the fact I could put a couple of katty queens I know in an elevator and those girls will clean the whole car out of wallets, jewelry and all.

My father explained that my being gay should not hamper me in this world because long before anyone could identify me as gay they would see that as I was Black and make their own assumptions based on that fact first. Therefore, I have made my sexual identity a non-issue in my public life. I have a difficult enough time monitoring my own sex life without monitoring someone else's.

Joseph Butcher — Jamaica, NY

First, I must say that it is a sad state of affairs when a self supporting, educated, emotionally stable, spiritually grounded black man with no criminal record is forced to decide which of these realities comes first. Let's say I was openly gay and I am (whatever that means) then my brothers discriminate because I am not D L. On the other hand the entire world becomes aware that I am black upon my entering any room. Question, do I play down my blackness? Can I be D L in this matter? Why bother?

I like the man I am and as my evolution continues will I be blacker or gayer or possibly more human?

My experience is different from that of many, in my career I work in an environment where it is truly okay to be gay. However experiences with blatant

racist situations are not foreign. Thus, homophobia is not an issue and me as a gay man has been promoted twice in my 2.5 year tenure. I have left work in tears a time or two, wanting to show folk how a REAL black man can work it out. I did say I don't have a police record, lets not start now. So I awaken each morning and bond my spirit with that of the ancestors. Connecting myself to the wisdom that provided the strength to endure and survive. Infusing my mind, body, and mouth with the love of my tribal mothers and fathers that only had words of wisdom and encouragement, and thank you GOD for the power of those words. My spirit is the gift of the Universe that no earthly thing can possess, offend or injure. I invoke the power that existed before time and light a deep breathe and I am on my way. My eyes focus on each person that I encounter and if they look closely the force of the Universe can be seen in them. Love is forced out of each pore of body so that my reminds all of something greater than the both of us. AND I LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST black and gay!

Borris Powell, — Chicago, IL

This question surface up in our everyday lives. Yes it might be hard for some black males to answer this questions but as for me it is so easy to answer. Why is it so easy for me to answer because I was born black before I knew my sexuality. My sexuality doesn't make up my identity. Some gay black males may say they knew their sexuality at a early age or during their adolescence years. If most of my brothers knew their sexual orientation that is wonderful but that should not be our main focus in life. Believe it or not I also think the heterosexual community tend to think of gay people as just being gay. In the years past by, we have made so much progress in society. I do not want people to see me as just being gay. I want people to look at me and say he is a strong brotha with a leveled head. Most of all, I should think that way also before people view me or criticize me. Each and every day I look in the mirror and realize I am a black male full of love and compassion for life. People may prejudice me or taught me but they can't take my pride and knowledge because I know this 23 year-old brotha will succeed in life. Again I will say I AM A PROUD BLACK MALE AND WITH NO DOUBT I AM A PROUD NUBIAN GAY BROTHA.

R.D.- Troy, AL

My immediate reaction to Clikque's September Topic was that being black and gay go hand in hand since one is as much a part of my life as the other;

Continues on Page 52

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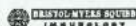
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"Sister to Sister" *'The Lover In You'*

By Stacy Jones

Sista's tell me how you feel. Okay, I'll tell you how I feel. I'm a 25 year-old stud, fairly intelligent, not bad looking basically an average person. Besides that I'm also a mother, I had my son when I was 16 years-old, I know it's a familiar story so let me be the one to tell it. When I was young I was wild. I was wild because of the lack of love I received in my home, growing up in a single parent home the youngest of four, all with different fathers. When I tell people some of the things I went thru I often get a strange look, as if there's a sense of pity but hell I thought the shit was normal so I was never ashamed to tell it. To make a long story short cause it would take forever to run it down, I'll just skip over all the little details and just say as a child you name it, I did it. My sexual encounters started when I was 5 years-old, some call it molestation but I say I knew what was going on and I wasn't forced to do anything. I just thought I was grown cause my boyfriend was 14. I grew up in California so violence and gangs were all I knew besides the verbal and physical abuse I endured at home. I used to go to bed and pray that when I woke up I would be all grown up so I could get away. As years went by the lack of love in my life and the abuse made me very bitter as a young woman, nobody loved me so I didn't know how to love myself. I latched onto the boys to try to find that love I felt I was missing and at 15 that love turned out to be a beautiful little boy. I struggled alone to raise my child with no help but I did whatever I had to do.

Finally I had someone to love me without conditions. Most of my bitterness went away, he turned into my reason for living. As the years went by my attitude changed, when I looked into his eyes I grew stronger as a woman. Soon God had given me a clearer outlook on life and I was more in touch with my own needs and now that one gap was filled, I could go on to the next. At the age of 21 when I came into the life everything happened so fast, I was excited about this new feeling that made me so happy. I think that without knowing I was still searching for that love my mother never had time to give me, so of course a man was never the answer. I became so involved in finding the right woman till it became all I knew. Between working 12 to 16 hours a day and hoe chasing thinking these females gave a shit about me, I didn't notice I was taking away from the one love I already had, my child. After 7 years of raising him alone I felt it was time for his father to take his turn. Besides I didn't want him to see all the drama I was going thru with my relationships.

So now what? Did I choose this lifestyle over my child? Am I any happier now than I was 10 years ago?

In the past 4 years, I have been involved with about 30 women. I've slept with 28 of those women and I'm single right now. You tell me if you think I'm happy. I can say that about 90% of my lesbian sisters have been thru situations somewhat similar to mine because we sit and talk about it all the time. And after so many heartaches in my relationships, I've come to a conclusion.

If I were gay by choice, I would've given it up a long time ago cause its not worth what I've been through. But since its not something I can just let go of, I have to find a way to make some kind of sense out of this whole mess. I used to pray that God would send me a lover that would love me as much as I could love them. I often wonder if my punishment for being gay is misery. As it seems, I've been praying the same prayer for 4 years and it hasn't been answered yet. Or has it? Maybe the best lover for me, is me.

These days the word love is used so freely among people, that it has seemed to have lost its meaning. Lets stop looking for the next person to love us more than we love ourselves, and lets stop loving the next person more than we love ourselves. Like they day over and over..... "Love Don't Love Nobody".

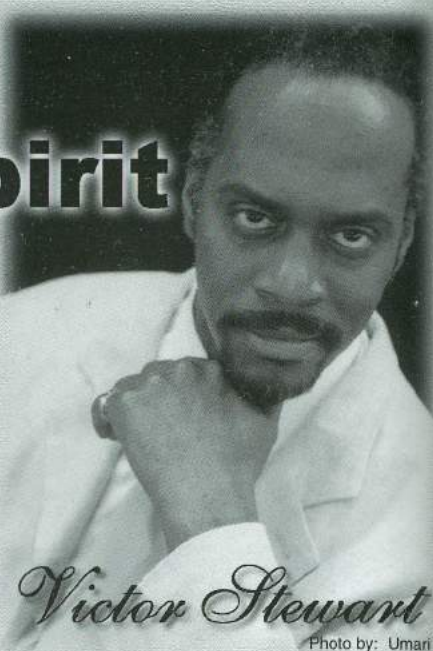
Till we meet again, let us keep praying for ourselves and each other.

In The Life In The Spirit

" HE THAT IS WITHOUT SIN AMONG YOU, LET HIM CAST A STONE."

Brothers and Sisters as I began to write this month's article of, "IN THE LIFE, IN THE SPIRIT," I thought back over the last six months and appreciated the opportunity to write, express, and minister to those of you who read my article. You cannot know how wonderful it is to have someone step to you with words of encouragement telling you to keep on keeping on! Or to have letters and emails written to the magazine saying that we as writers have inspired and aided in your liberation/self identification. For this I am very grateful! It is my prayer that GOD will use me (us) with this publication to continue to help set my brothers and sisters free! This month's article is dedicated to a few people that have made a difference in my life. My mother, Dorothy Stewart Bailey for her support and friendship even when she doesn't understand me, her "GAY" son, and for her unconditional love that binds us together mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. To my dear friends; Wallace Henry, Tracey Williams, Leon Parham, Jeffrey Fletcher, and Asha Said who believe in me. They have shown me true love, kindness, and honesty in ways that are above your normal friendship. I trust them and love them! Finally, to three brothers who recently confirmed my calling by their encouraging words of support; Kirk (from Albany, Ga.), Chris, and David Richardson. We need more brothers like you three and I'm glad our paths have crossed!!!

In preparation of this month's article, the biblical story of the women caught in the act of adultery continued to come into my thoughts. As I meditated, it confirmed for me that if GOD be for you, HE is more than the world against you! The story (St. John 8: 1-11.) tells how a woman was caught in the act of adultery and brought before JESUS to test his response to the Mosaic Law. As Jesus listened to the scribes and Pharisees (today's gossipers, nay sayers, and character accusers), he did nothing but write in the sand. The scribes and the Pharisees continued to try to pressure JESUS to respond; so he did! His words were; "he that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." Realizing that they were not sin free each scribe and Pharisees walked away one by one! The woman who had been brought forth stood alone from her accusers with JESUS as he asked, "woman where are



Victor Stewart

Photo by: Umari

those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee?" The woman said, "No man, Lord." Then JESUS said, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more!"

As I meditated on this story over and over I thought how society would and does want to stone every Gay and Lesbian person in sight. I have come to a place of knowing that being Gay is not a sin so I don't worry about our modern day scribes or Pharisees. What pains me more is the insult, slander, and backbiting that exist in our own community, the Gay community at large. Brothers and sisters in the life, sometimes it seems like we are our own worst enemy! We keep up so much drama, gossip and negative energy about each other it's a wonder sometimes that we don't kill each other off! For example, have you ever had a friend who always seem to be jealous of someone cause of their appearance, intelligence, skin color, job, friends, lover, etc. That friend of yours always finds something negative to say about someone that you are sure they don't even know! Are you ever as guilty as your friend is! Take a moment, think about it; this type of behavior will never unite our community, it will only add to the madness!!!

It's easy to say, "If you live in a glass house don't throw stones." Some how we feel like

we are advocates of others feelings when we think this way! But are we really? First of all I don't think any of us want to live in a glass house or closet! That doesn't sound stable at all. Therefore, we've come to build walls that say, "Its my house and I live here and what you do in your house is your business and what I do in my house is mine," Realistically we perpetuate a community that is separate and divided. Where will it all end! How can we take player hating and our broken relationships and make them into healthy friendships/associations. O.K. family here's the plan: JUST SAY NO!, DON'T THROW STONES!!!

- **SAY NO TO GOSSIP;** (turn a deaf ear to juicy stories and rumors)
- **SAY NO TO JEALOUSY;** (don't covet someone else success; remember what GOD has for you is for you.)
- **SAY NO TO SELFISHNESS;** (give a little, you generally get back a whole lot more.)
- **SAY NO TO LIES AND DECEIT;** (truth will always prevail.)

This by far is not the strategy in total but it's a great place to start. When I think about the story at the beginning of the article about the women caught in adultery, I realize wrong is wrong, but to campaign against her doesn't make it right! Imagine how she felt during this public trial! I'm sure she had to feel as if she was of the bottom of the barrel! Her name was literally dragged through the mud. But moving forward, was she set free from her own mistakes.

In closing, my thoughts are that we need to learn how to set each other free. Not to tear each other down and make a mockery of the shortcomings of others. We must learn to be the standard and the models for others to learn and grow by. To fear is human but to forgive is divine. Let us learn to reach out and pull each other up to the standards that we believe in, and instead of throwing stones use them to build strong foundations for us all to stand on! In order to receive love we must learn to give love. Sometimes your happiness maybe realized as a result of making someone else happy! So, I challenge every reader to take time out today and make someone happy and see what a difference it makes in your day and in your life!!!

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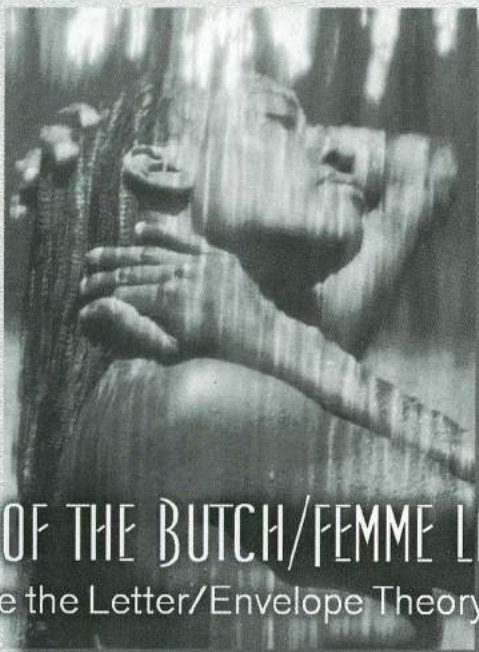
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I have been gay since I was five years old. I just didn't know what it was called at the time. It all started around the second or third day of first grade. I will absolutely never forget the image of seeing my first grade teacher's long chocolate legs dangling from her knee length skirt.

It was at that beautiful moment, I became a Lesbian.

I truly didn't understand what I was feeling, but I did know that I had a strong unexplainable desire for another female. And a much older female at that. And as the years passed I had even more strong desires for many, many other females. The condition simply wouldn't let up.



TIRED OF THE BUTCH/FEMME LABELS?

Give the Letter/Envelope Theory a try!

BY KATHERINE GANDY

Therefore that left me with only one viable choice. I had to find "Mr. Right." There was only one little problem, I kept running into "Mr.-Not-Quite-My-Type-But-Wait-A-Minute-Is-Your-Sister-Single?"

By my mid-twenties I exasperated the fine pickin's of men and had reached my max.

Now, not to take anything away from men, but quite frankly I was getting bored with this search for the perfect guy. Especially when I knew in my heart, that I would never find what I was looking for from a man. Four years ago, I finally decided to live my life and be true to myself. Finally, I was going to be proud to admit that I was indeed an African-American lesbian.

After I did decide to stop playing around and acknowledge that I was gay, I realized that I had been one of

Rather than facing reality and dealing with who I was, I remained silent and closeted for 19 years after those initial days of drooling over Miss Anderson.

When I got past puberty and into the college years I started to really weigh out my options. I was, of course, scared of what my family would think, say and do. My friends would no doubt outcast me into the ex-friend lake-of-fire. Sorority sisters would deny my existence completely. And let's not forget about the all too true proverbial societal fears and prejudices that exist in our world. We won't even mention "TheBlack Community."

the biggest homophobics around. I had talked negatively about homosexuality, made jokes, snide remarks and anything else to appear so far removed from anything remotely regarded as being gay. The truth, was that on the inside I was defly afraid of the image or representation I had grown accustomed to seeing of gay women. The thought of me being a lesbian would always raise certain questions in my mind. Would I too have to look so "butch" to be gay? Would I too be regarded as a "bull dagger" as my Aunt Gladys had so often loving referred to lesbians?

By nature I had always been a tomboy. Yet on occasion, I did like to get my nails done and I sometimes liked to wear lipstick and mascara. Some days I would get really crazy and put on a skirt. Would not these aesthetic wishes get in the way with being a lesbian?

I guess right about now I could stop and give a speech on the "labeling" that we lesbians identify ourselves. I could go into how we are all individuals in our own way and that under no circumstances should we take on "butch" or "femme" labels or roles. But that wouldn't be very realistic. You would probably say I was full of bullshit and no doubt continue perusing the other articles of this publication.

So I even won't go there. I will, however, offer up a theory that I have been working on for a brief time. Basically the theory makes it easier for me personally to swallow the labeling that goes on within our big lesbian circle. And if you, like me have a hard time deciphering a soft butch from an aggressive soft femme or a butch butch femme from a hard soft butch then follow me on this one for a minute.

I give you the letter and the envelope theory. There are two types of lesbians. There are your letter lesbians and then there are your envelope lesbians.

Letter lesbians are going to traditionally be the softer, the more gentile side of the partnership. They are going to be the ones with classic whip appeal. The long flirty eyelashes. Blouses full of cleavage. Lips full of rich color and hair that is always done. They may speak softly but you best believe they carry a big stick. The stick of power that is. They without question are the actual ones in charge. Please make no mistake about this part of the theory.

On the flipside, the envelope is the "harder" one if you will. Maybe she wears pants to church. Perhaps she will slip on a baseball cap because she missed her appointment with her stylist or her barber even. She will probably be the one who will say "I gotta get home, my baby is cooking dinner tonight." She will also be the one who proudly proclaims "I take care of my woman, she has everything she wants and needs." (Note the power of the letter.)

You now should have an idea into which category you fall, more or less. However, I am not claiming to have the perfect theory so here are a few questions that will help further determine if you are a letter or if you are an envelope.

Do you find yourself doing the dinner and a movie thing and you are consistently whipping out the Amex card or Visa? You are probably the envelope.

Do you rehearse how to present an idea to your girlfriend that you know you might get some resistance on, and decide to douse on a little extra perfume to perhaps get your point across? You would be the letter.

Constantly under the hood of the car? Envelope. Constantly in the mirror? Letter. Unscrewing difficult containers of food? Envelope. Handing difficult to open containers of food to your lover? Letter.

But, here is the most endearing determination of all.

J&W, J2K, TRE's Says
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The letter and the envelope when together literally form a perfect fit. In other words look at you and your woman. Okay, now physically look at you and your woman. Is she shorter, perhaps a smaller frame than you? Do you find yourself sleeping peacefully snuggled with your lady pulled close to your heart? Are your arms wrapped around her body holding her? Do you find that you are completely happy with the feeling and emotion of protecting and shielding her from whatever goes bump in the night? Does she feel totally protected and happy with you surrounding her? If you are predominantly doing most of the holding then you are probably the envelope. If she is the one mostly being held then she is probably the letter.

Bear in mind that with any theory there will be the critics that just don't quite grasp the given philosophy, and that's okay. To the rest of you who cringe when you hear words like "butch" or "bull dagger" or for you ladies that aren't so swift to raise your hand to "pillow princess" go ahead and embrace your new found identities.

And the next time someone asks "which one are you?" or "what is your partner?" just tell them you are the letter or the envelope. I guarantee that will probably shut them up.

Just Holding Hands?

THIS MONTH'S TOPICS IS ABOUT: WHAT ELSE; SEX. NO JUST KIDDING, THAT WAS LAST MONTH. THANKS FOR ALL THE FEEDBACK FROM THAT ONE. WHEW!!!

I'D LIKE TO BROACH A SUBJECT OR SITUATION THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE FACING. DATING AGAIN? AFTER BEING IN RELATIONSHIP FOR YEARS, HOW



QUESTION ONE: WHEN DOES ONE START TO DATE AGAIN AFTER THE RELATIONSHIP ENDS? BELOW ARE A FEW POSSIBLE SUGGESTIONS. (polled from various sources)

- 1 YEAR (no that's the mourning period if your mate dies)
- 6 MTHS (maybe, but just for coffee/drinks)
- 3 MTHS (possibly a group outing- per Martha Stewart)
- 1 MTH (a bit soon wouldn't you say9.)
- 1-2 WEEKS (child, were you ever really in a relationship?)

QUESTION TWO: ASSUMING YOU HAVE WAITED YOUR APPROPRIATE TIME FRAME- WHERE DO YOU GO ON THE DATE?

- YOUR PLACE (Hmm?, what does this really say?)
- HIS/HER PLACE (Hmm? what are you walking into?)
- BAR/CLUB (Hmm? sand to the beach theory-not recommended)
- RESTAURANT (Hmm? usually a safe bet- not much is expected)

QUESTION THREE: ONCE THE DATE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AND YOU'RE AT THE RESTAURANT- WHO PAYS?

- YOU PAY (But you're thinking, surely they will leave the tip? THEY PAY (But you're thinking, surely they will include the tip?)
- GO DUTCH (We're not in Norway love, who does this anymore?)

QUESTION FOUR: AFTER DINNER IS OVER, WHAT NEXT?

- DANCING? (Now, where can we as a couple go dancing? Refer to the sand-beach theory mentioned earlier.? (Not recommended- unless you go to a bar outside the norm)
- MOVIES? (Usually ideal, for you're not forced to create stimulating dialogue all night?)

Continues On Page 29

DOES ONE START TO "DATE AGAIN"? THERE ARE OR SHOULD BE A MULTITUDE OF QUESTIONS AND/OR CONCERNS ASKED BEFORE WADING INTO THE DATING CESSPOOL.

CESSPOOL WAS RATHER HARSH, I APOLOGIZE. I'LL SHARE WITH YOU THAT I MYSELF AM RECENTLY DIVORCED FROM A 4 1/2 YEAR RELATIONSHIP AND HAVE CONCERNS GALORE ABOUT THIS DATING MADNESS. I HAVE YET TO ENGAGE IN IT, BUT FROM LISTENING TO THE HORROR STORIES OF MY FRIENDS WHO ARE DATING, I'M REALLY NOT EAGER TO TREAD THOSE WATERS AT ALL.

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Continued From Page 14

they had the unmitigated gall to have three white gay men at the table. Apparently, they needed the white gay community's input on how to reach Black people inside of Black churches. Can somebody say Massa? I can't! Fact: GlaxoWellcome is sponsoring a HIV University targeting Black women to teach them how to teach other Black women about living with HIV. You guessed it, the University is run by White women. In 1999 GlaxoWellcome still believes that white folks know what is best for Black folks. Can you say: "how ya gonna keep 'em down on the farm?" Last year GlaxoWellcome had some small grants available to get inner city homeless people into treatment services. Do I really have to tell you who got the money? Is the picture coming into focus now?

GlaxoWellcome is apparently suffering from some age old afflictions: the ideology of White Supremacy, the "Good Old Boy" Network and Institutionalized Racism. GlaxoWellcome has developed a storied history of coming into our communities with their heavy handed, arrogant and insensitive tactics practically dictating to us what to do. At least the other companies ask us what can they do to help. GlaxoWellcome makes AZT, 3TC, Combivir, Ziagen (Abacavir) and other medications. They've been in this business long enough to know better. I guess they just don't care.

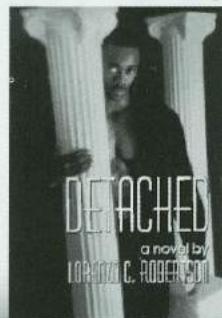
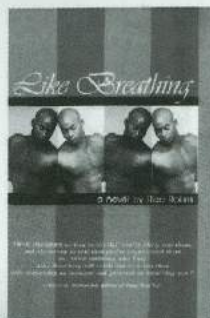
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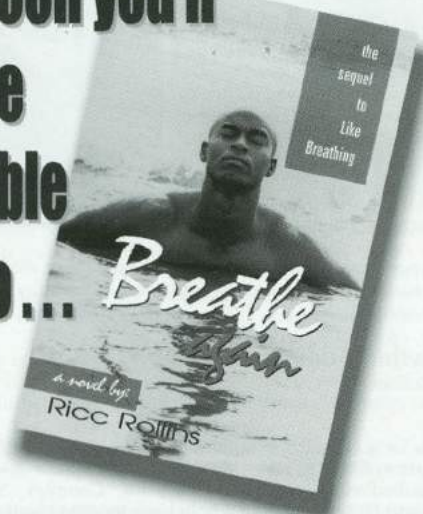
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Continued From Page 26

- **DRIVING?** Mid-town is only so big. Driving up/down Cypress wouldn't be a recommended first date activity. Just trust me on this one!
- **PARKING?** Okay, my Tennessee heritage is showing. But people still actually sit in cars and do stuff...IE talking. Not recommended, for it shows lack of creativity, imagination and more importantly -lack of funds.

QUESTION FIVE: OKAY, THE NIGHT IS ENDING, (it's rather late) WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

- **HANDSHAKE** (If you took separate cars to the event, you can only shake their hand and say call me?-hoping they will) *Note- please don't try to tickle their hand while shaking it. That is so incredibly tacky.
- **THE KISS AT THE DOOR:** Closed mouth- says "thanks for the free-meal/movie but no love connection" Open mouth/tongue- says "that was some meal and I kind of like you." Continuous Deep-Tongue-says "I think we should Go inside and continue this Tonsillectomy.
- **FOREPLAY HOW DO WE DEFINE IT?**

GRINDING? (We did this as children- you know, we called it hunching?) HIGHLY Recommended, for it is safe and no body fluids are exposed)

FRA-TAGE- (It's french- for hunching) Sometimes called Outercourse- This is similar to grinding but done naked. Somewhat risky for you may come in contact with the other person's body fluids such as blood, semen, vaginal secretions or the dreaded pre-cum. Fluids which can transmit HIV/AIDS and other STDs.

ORAL SEX OK, somebody had to mention it. **SUCKING:** Has been labeled a wonderful (the penis) vessel on which to travel. If done properly, the results can be immeasurable. Without a condom, it's ok but be aware of bleeding gums and dental hygiene. With a flavored condom, go for it. Highly Recommended.

SUCKING (the anus) You may know it as TOSS-ING SALAD, or the Clinical phrase ORAL-ANAL contact. This is where one Puts their tongue up the Other person's rectum. Once again, if done properly, the results can be phenomenal. However, Not necessarily a Recommended first date activity- however there are always exceptions

OKAY, I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH FOR NOW. ANYTHING FURTHER WOULD CONSTITUTE SEX AND I COULDN'T POSSIBLY SUGGEST INTERCOURSE FOR THE INITIAL DATING SEQUENCE. THOSE DECISIONS YOU CAN OR WILL HAVE TO MAKE ON YOUR OWN. LIKE I'M SAYING, IT'S NOT EASY BEING IN THE DATING FIELD. IN CLOSING I WILL ADD THAT WHATEVER YOU DO, CONTINUE TO DO IT SAFELY. PLAY TO WIN AND PLAY TO STAY AROUND TO PLAY AGAIN. ALWAYS USE PRECAUTIONS AND LATEX CONDOMS OR BARRIERS WHENEVER NECESSARY. AS ALWAYS, WE LOVE YOU, LOVE YOURSELF....BE SAFE.

My Beat

B. Graff Rucker - Gainesville, FL

Joe Thomas

Just What the Doctor Ordered
DiverseCity Records

Atlanta favorite Joe Thomas has been making his presence felt locally through his DiverseCity label, and after establishing an audience base with releases from techno and choral groups, he drops his debut recording. Thomas is a refreshing voice in this age of self-obsessed performers because he specializes in socially conscious lyrics that touch on racism, relationships, respect and community, particularly on the moving "I'll Be There For You" and the cover of the Staple Singers' "Respect Yourself," which is also the first single.

Unfortunately, his message is diluted by underwhelming backing tracks, especially the drum arrangements, which at times had me thinking I was listening to classic New Jack Swing instead of a late 1990s production. And in today's environment, if your beats aren't up to par you won't be heard, regardless of how heartfelt your lyrics are. With more live instrumentation or the use of better equipment, Thomas may find a warmer reception with his future efforts, but I was left wanting more from this talented man. People looking for an uplifting message in their music will be pleased with this disc. But despite the title, this is not prescribed to those looking for the latest innovations in r&b music.

Gwen Guthrie

The Ultimate Collection
Hip-O

Earlier this year, we reported on the untimely death of Gwen Guthrie from cancer. As a tribute to her life, The Ultimate Collection has just been released, and what a treat it is. More than just a celebration of her talent, the 14 tracks here confirm her legacy as one of the most distinctive stylists of the 1980s. Opening with her best known selection, "Ain't Nothing Goin' On But the Rent," the disc showcases the diversity of her talent, from the pioneering work with Sly & Robbie of the early 80s to her self-produced works from later in her career. Moods range from the playful "Padlock" and "Younger Than Me" to the sensitive

handling of ballads on "Oh Donny No," (a tribute to Donny Hathaway) and "Oh What A Life." Guthrie's ability to transform others' material with her unique voice is evidenced on her covers of Bob Marley's "Is This Love" and the pop chestnut "They Long to Be Close to You," turning the definition of saccharine pop music into something you actually want to hear.

Lovingly packaged with comments from her family, discographical information and an insightful essay, this is a worthy testament to a very special talent.

Polyrhythm Addicts

Rhyme Related
Nervous

Can there be a supergroup in the world of independent hip-hop? If so, this is as likely as we're going to get. An all-star assemblage of the skilled Apani B. Fly Emcee, Mr. Complex, Shabaam Sahdeeq and DJ Spinna, all of whom have recorded well-received solo tracks, the Addicts evoke memories of vintage 1992-era hip-hop. That is, solid rhymes that aren't about clothes, money or the thug life, supported by mellowed out beats.

MUSIC

It's becoming rare these days to find albums that rely more on skill than image or hype, and Rhyme Related is largely free of gimmicks such as skits or guest appearances by r&b singers.

Legend Pharoah Monche from Organized Konfusion does appear on the chorus of "Take Me Home," but it speaks to the group's definition of quality hip-hop that they chose him instead of, say, Jay-Z. The rhymes are packed with quality lyrics and wordplay, as each emcee, limited to one verse instead of their usual three or four, sounds determined to put that much more feeling into the mic. With Spinna's arsenal of jazzy loops guiding the narratives beautifully, it's not difficult to hear why he's one of the rising producers in the industry.

An example of the sum being greater than its part, this is one of the most satisfying rap albums I've heard all year.

Jamiroquai

Synkronized
Sony

"You know this boogie is for real!"

This line is the refrain from the single off the new Jamiroquai album and a point the band has been trying to make for years. Ever since its first release in 1992, the group has been the subject of serious player-hating by people who are basically envious of their success. But the reality is that few bands this decade have dedicated themselves to the funk like Jay Kay and his merry man, and in some ways this is their most enjoyable record yet.



Clikque
MAGAZINE

entertainment news

By B. Graff Rucker - Staff

Aimed primarily for dancing, the band's fascination with 70s black dance music has now got them incorporating stronger disco grooves than ever before, as "Canned Heat" aptly demonstrates. The dawn of a more mature and focused Jamiroquai emerges with the slamming "Supersonic," where the band showcases their signature instrument, the didgeridoo, and the smooth "Butterfly." This album also carries a more personal aura as well with two tracks seemingly aimed at former bassist Stuart Zender, "Black Capricorn Day" and the scathing "King for a Day."

Hate the man's sense of style if you must, but give him and his band props for delivering top notch albums that, I dare say, will be regarded as classics in the future.

BREAKING NEWS:

At press time, it was reported that **Tevin Campbell** had been arrested a few months ago on a charge for solicitation of lewd acts. He



allegedly propositioned an undercover Los Angeles police officer. Two responses: 1) Doesn't LAPD have anything better to do? 2) I hope Campbell finds the same kind of support by his fans and the music industry as **George Michael** when he was

in a similar situation. Ready or not, welcome to the family **Tevin**....Trouble is brewing for **Teddy Riley**. The r&b innovator had his vanity label **Lil Man** cut off by parent company Interscope. No word about the fate of label-mate **Queen Pen** or the rumors of

Blackstreet's demise, but **Riley** is working on the **Guy** reunion disc....**Prince** is again working with a major label. He recently agreed to have his new album distributed by Arista. It is said to be a return to the party-oriented **Prince** of the 1980s.... **Lenny Kravitz** is

ENTERTAINMENT

recording a track with the **Roots** for their live album, due this year. In less inspiring rap/rock fusions, you can add the execrable **Kid Rock** to the list of "artists" recording with **Run DMC** for its comeback record, along with **Sugar Ray** and **Aerosmith**. Can anyone say "crossover sales on the brain?" ...

Net based news: Fans of **Me'Shell Ndegeocello** can order a custom disc of remixes and live performances when they buy her new album online. Hurry up because the offer ends September 30... **BET** is opening an Internet portal with the help of Microsoft, USA Networks and others. I hope the site is better than the channel...In any event, they will get competition from **Globalmecca.com**, a new company dedicated to the uplift of African-Americans...

Business moves: **Jermaine Dupri** joins the list of rappers establishing ventures outside of rhyming with the launch of **So So Def** sports management. **JD** has clients already lined up and is eager to prove his guidance can work for athletes as well as singers....In a surprise move, **Dru Hill** has scored production and label deals for each member under the **Dru World Order**. **Def Jam** will be overseeing the project.

TUBE NEWS:

Eriq LaSalle set it off in a major way when he signed for \$27 million to do the next three years of **ER**. This has got to be close to a record for a TV actor. Maybe now **NBC** will make him a more prominent character....**Rahsaan Patterson**, **Chante Moore**, **K-Ci** and **JoJo** and **BB King** are among

the stars of a CBS miniseries on the origin of rock music. Titled "Shake, Rattle and Roll," it features long lost **Terence Trent D'Arby** as **Jackie Wilson**...**Busta Rhymes** has agreed to play **Samuel L. Jackson's** sidekick in the remake of **Shaft**. The man brings so much energy to

his work that he may make the movie worth watching....**Tavis Smiley** is threatening to leave **BET** if he can't tape his show from California. Am I the only one rejoicing at the thought of his tired ass not being on my screen?

BAD NEWS:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) just made a ruling that allows the same company to own several TV and radio stations in the same city. Like sweepstakes rules, certain restrictions apply, but the bottom line is access to media is becoming harder and harder for people of color. The chair of the FCC, William Kennard, is a black man, he should be ashamed...The Fraternal Order of Police is starting a boycott of all artists who voice support of **Mumia Abu-Jamal**, the Philadelphia journalist who was wrongfully convicted of murder (i.e., set up) and is on death row. The group's efforts include keeping a list of supports on its website and its president has been quoted as saying "we will not rest until **Abu-Jamal** burns in Hell..." An update on the **KPFA** crisis mentioned last month: the station's gag order was lifted and programming resumed as normal, but now the Pacifica organization has hit the station with a mandate to increase and diversify audience size in six months, a nearly impossible task, especially for a public station. This is a set up move on behalf of Pacifica to regain control of the station under the charge of being a "poor performer" in ratings. **KPFA** is the only one of Pacifica's stations to be subjected to these new demands. The battle continues....

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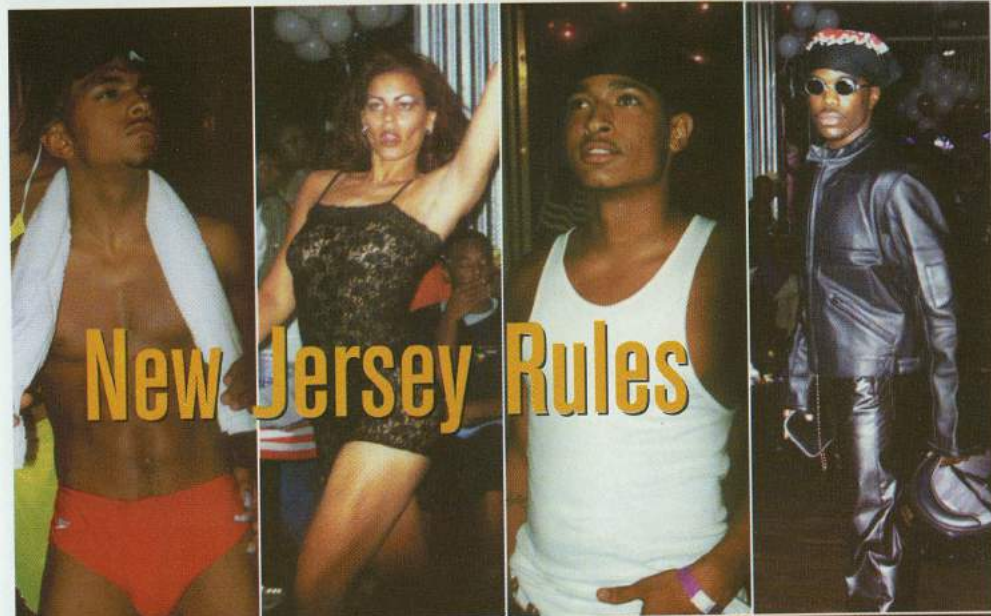
Atlanta, georgia • july, 1999



Wow, wow, wow is basically the best way to describe the most recent State Vs. State Ball hosted by Andre Mizrahi and the city of Atlanta, last years winners. Without a doubt, this was probably one of the best balls for the year. Great job Andre! The awards (pictured to the opposite page) were FIERCE. Dominating the event were House representatives from various cities such as New York, Washington DC, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Virginia, and New Jersey. Although the houses representing the city of Atlanta made a stella attempt to keep it's hands on the top award, those kids from New Jersey just wasn't havin' it! Not only did they come in great numbers, but they came with precision and was definitely on point. Atlanta was leading after the first few categories when New Jersey began to just run away with most of the remaining categories of the night. When we (CLIQUE) first got a glimpse of the Jersey kids in the opening march, we knew that we were in for an exceptional event. AWESOME JOB NEW JERSEY. Much



respect is also due to the kids from Atlanta, they made a great showing and added to a very competitive night. Props go out to André and Eric Bazaar for not allowing the ball walkers to question the judges decisions. This allowed the ball to flow along much smoother with less fuss. The next State Vs. State Ball will be held in New Jersey, who will be ready to defend their title. See you there. But until then, look for us during the MLK celebra-

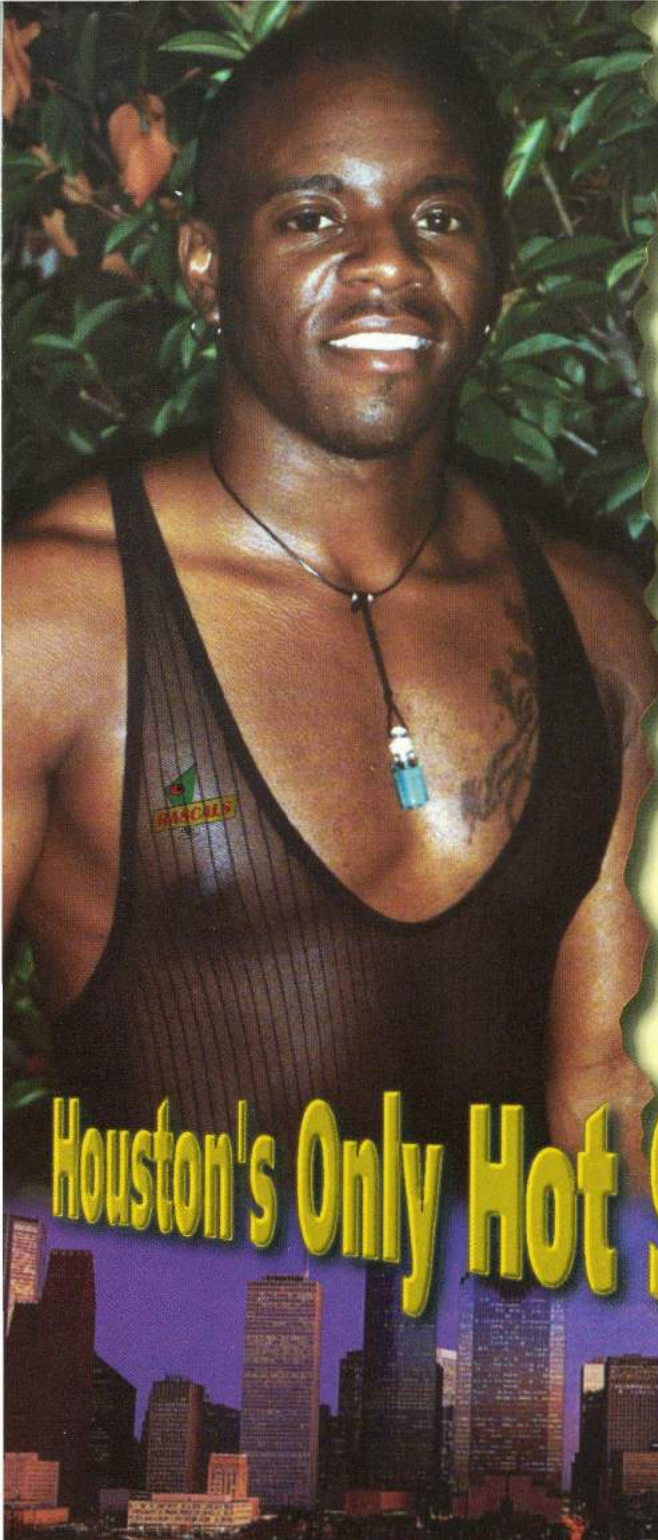


tion in Atlanta for the **Clikque Magazine Millennium Ball**. I hear that the grand prize is **\$1200.00** and that the winner of one of the face categories will be chosen for Clikque's April 2000 Cover. See next month's issue for all of the details. Or Call us at 404-486-9655 for more details.

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Atlanta, georgia • july, 1999





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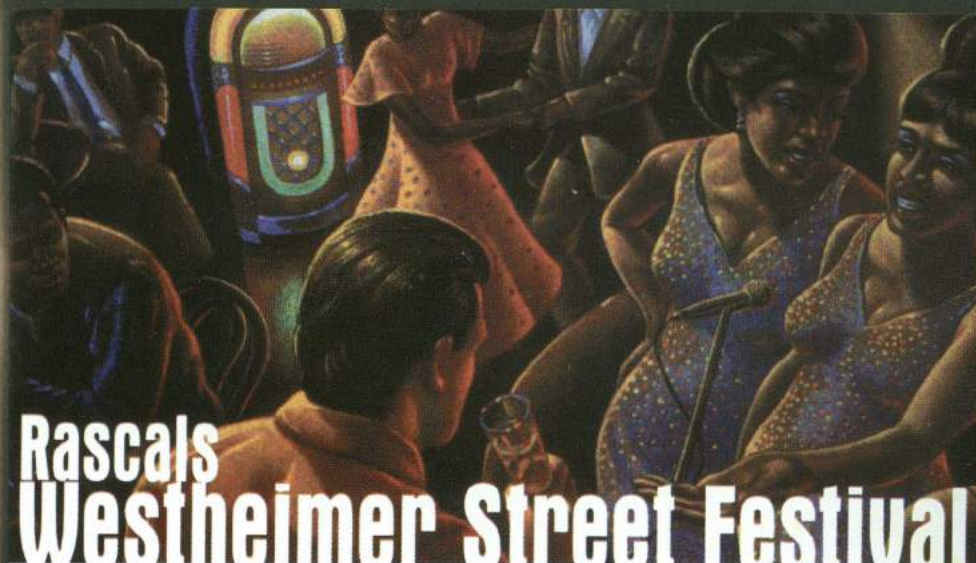
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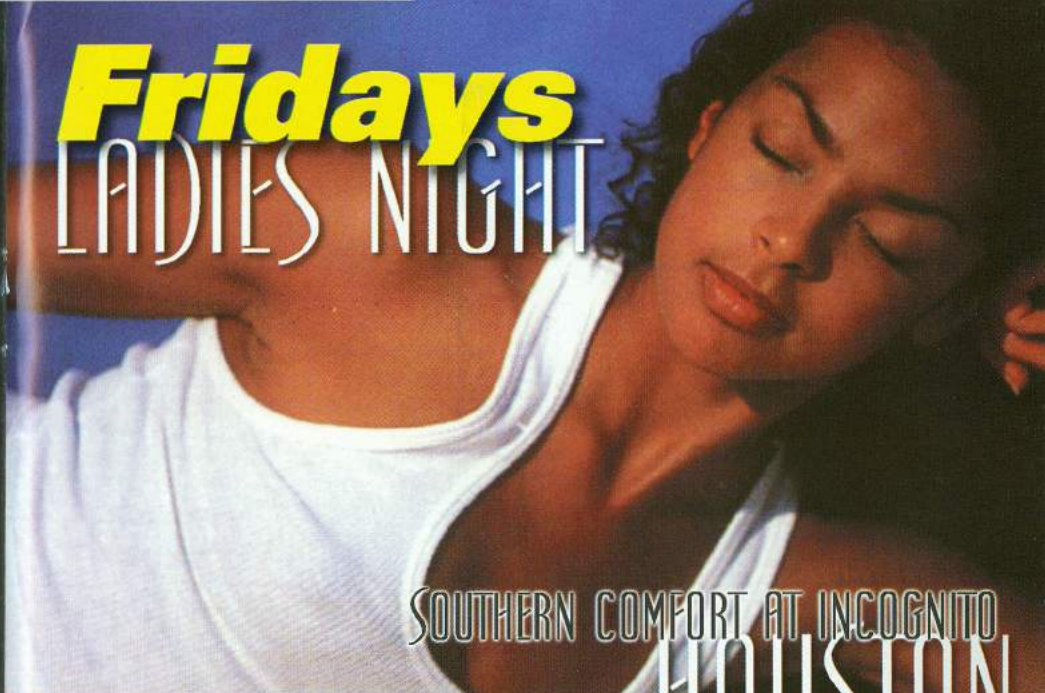
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Clikque Introduces
Taj



Look at what we've prepared for you this month. Taj is a 25 year old Capricorn standing her ground at 5' 8". Presently pursuing a degree in Business Management at Georgia Tech, Taj comes to us from New Jersey. When Taj isn't attending classes, she can be found instructing aerobic classes at a gym near you. She's also a personal trainer.

Taj enjoys modeling, acting, fitness, mountain bike riding, traveling and weightlifting. This sexy goddess is also community service minded. She enjoys lending her time and energies to various service organizations and groups.



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content?

Wish it were that I had all the answers, but I do not. Sisters and brothers, I think that Aretha Franklin said it best "R.E.S.P.E.C.T., ...find out what it means to me...", it seems that at the most basic level of our existence, in our quest for acceptance and equality, we have forgotten to respect each other and recognize that we are still a very diverse people. Somehow the idea of Africa being a single place seems to have melded with the idea that all people of African descent think, feel, vote, and expect the same things monolithically all the time. We have not embraced each other while fighting for the rights we feel that as a group have been denied us.

Nubian Spirit

By: Darryl!

Crossing the Great Divide

As we move towards the close of the main Pride season (keeping in mind that there are still prides planned for the fall months) we are left wondering if we will choose to build community throughout the year or if all this "togetherness" was just for the "pictures" and "show" for newspapers, corporate sponsors, and government entities? What does it take to keep the community of African American Transgender, Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, and Same Gender Loving persons harmonized and on one accord? How do we challenge ourselves to go beyond the simple constraints of gender, sexual orientation, age, complexion, educational level, trade or occupation, etc. etc., etc? Can we name the barrier(s) to maintaining our "family" in a healthy way? Why do we continue to perpetuate dysfunctional relationships with our partners, families, and friends? What is at the heart of our dis-

So... even if all this is true or accurate or logical what do we do now that that the Great Divide is present? Well it seems that we should consider the needs of our collective community while not forsaking individual needs. But at times personal sacrifice means doing what is better for the group while putting things in place that will benefit each person as well.

It is time for us to cross the Red Sea of confusion into the Light of Unity. Together we can..., united we will,... great are we and greatness is what we can produce. Divided we will continually be segmented, marginalized, and under-represented. Now is the time to choose to put aside petty differences and squabbles. Now is the time to cross that Great Divide that keeps us apart from each other. Sisters & brothers unite. The issues that keep us from being able to reason together, party together, or just BE together are smaller that we think but bigger in our imaginations. Take time to reach beyond your familiar comfort zone and connect or reconnect with all the members of our community. Seek to understand your sisters and brothers, rather than labeling and objectifying them. If we don't cross the "great divide" who will build the bridge to the land of freedom and prosperity we deserve and seek? The choice is ours. Harambee (let us come together). Amen/Ashe'.

Peace and Blessings.

By Lee Jones

HOW TO FIGHT THE LONELINESS BLUES

Last New Year's you resolved to find your soulmate. Your body tingled with excitement at the thought of sharing all those special moments in 1999 with your boo. Well, Valentine's Day came and you were single - but it was still early. Spring arrived but your new love didn't. Your anticipated summer of love left you out in the cold. You went to DC Pride, Houston Splash, At The Beach in LA or Chicago Pride, Hotter Than July in Detroit, New York Pride and ended the summer in Atlanta with nothing to

show for it but some erotic memories and ballooned long distance bills. Now, summer is virtually over and Fall is around the corner and you are holding out hope for a Fall fling. But what if you don't find a mate in 1999? You promised yourself that you won't be lonely in '99, but as the year draws to a close you can feel that blue sensation starting to saturate your conscious. Your Y2K meltdown is around the corner.

How can you beat the single blues? Well, I have a few suggestions. But let me first say that one does not have to be single to feeling lonely. There are many people in committed relationships who are lonely. Likewise, there are a number of people who are single but aren't lonely. Therefore, loneliness is a state of mind - or a response to situation - rather than a circumstance. At some point, even for a brief moment, all of us feel lonely. I wrote the bulk of this piece when I was beginning to feel lonely. I

was out of town sitting in a car waiting on a friend when I felt the loneliness blues creeping in. I quickly took out a pen and some paper to fight back. Here are some of the things that as a single brother I have used or heard suggested to combat loneliness.

* Friends - You probably have some single friends. Use them! Enjoy activities like going to the movies, to plays, shopping, dining out, going to sporting events, museums, to cultural activities or any social event that you enjoy. Or you can always get together and talk. Friends always find a way to make even the simplest activities seem special.

* Remain Active - While you are waiting for Mr. or Ms. Right, time moves on with or without you. Make the most of your time by stay-

ing active. Use your singlehood to do some self-improvement. Take a class at a local college or trade school, finish that degree that you have been wanting to complete, read more, learn a new skill, do some physical and spiritual self-improvement. Use your time wisely instead of sitting on your hands waiting to be rescued by your next man or woman. You have been meaning to do some things that you seem to never have time for. Now is the time. What's your excuse?

* Help Others - One never really understands how blessed they are till they discover what other people are going through. It certainly puts your bout of loneliness in its proper perspective. One might think that the world is coming to an end when they are lonely - that is till they see other people's world figuratively coming to an end. This does not mean that we should use the misfortune of others to make us feel better. But one never really begins to look at the bright side of their situation till they see what others are struggling with. Get involved and help somebody. By helping others you help yourself, too.

* Travel - Sometimes we get so caught up in our daily rut that we forget that there is a big world out there. Take quick weekend get-aways to cities that you enjoy visiting. Or go to a place that you have never been. Go and enjoy the sites and sights - if you know what I mean. Visit the hot spots where our community frequents. Meet new people wherever you visit. At worst, you will have met some new acquaintances. At best, perhaps your soul mate lives five

hundred miles away instead of five blocks away. Traveling expands your horizon and can be just the ticket to drive away your blues. Also, think about taking one of your single friends with you so that you can double your pleasure.

* Recognize the Advantages of Being Single - There are some advantages and disadvantages to living the single life. If you are constantly feeling lonely it is probably because you are only focusing on the disadvantages. Nearly all of my friends who are in committed relationships tell me that I need to cherish my "freedom". There are some things that we have the luxury of doing as singles that we would not be able to do if we were in a relationship. While we often envy those who are in a relationship, they frequently envy us as singles. And you will really treasure your singlehood when you hear of some of the conflicts that surface between couples.

* Take Inventory of What You Want - How many times have heard gay and straight people say, "I am just looking for a good man (or woman)." But when you press them to describe their idea of a good man or woman they tend to hesitate or not have an answer at all. It is important that we know what we want before we get involved with someone. One of the worst things that can happen is finding yourself in a relationship with someone that is really not compatible with you. Why waste your time being in a relationship with someone just to say that you have a man or woman in your life when they do not meet your standards? Remember that the key to life is not getting everything that you want, but wanting everything that you get. It is important to have a relationship with someone that meets your criteria. Otherwise, your time will be wasted and you'll have another emotional wound to nurse.

One of the questions that we need to ask while we are taking inventory is are we really searching for a mate or are we looking for a convenience partner? What I mean by a convenience partner is someone who we only want to be with when we go out or have sex, otherwise we have no time or place for him or her in our life. That is not the same as being in a committed relationship. Take this time to figure if you really want to be involved with someone or just conveniently occupied at your leisure.

* Take Some Time to do Self-Inventory - Take time to develop yourself as person. Sometimes we don't get our blessings immediately because we are

not ready for them. While we are letting time slip through our hands waiting on someone, God may be waiting on us to get our 'house in order' so that we can be ready for that person who will be coming our way. We might have too much emotional baggage, too many issues, or are just not mature enough to handle a relationship. Use this time to address your weakness and anchor your strengths.

Also during this period examine your patterns of behavior. Check to make sure that you are maintaining your integrity by not acting out of desperation. What I mean by this is checking to see if you are trying to find companionship by doing things that are unsafe or out of your character. Nothing can cause us to lose our dignity and self-respect faster than acting out of desperation.

While you are doing your self-inventory, recognize that only you can make you a complete person. You don't need someone in your life to make you complete. God made you complete - no one can give that to you. The sooner that you recognize that you are only one that can complete you, the wiser your choices will be. You will think twice about whom you choose to be intimate with. Perhaps for the first time in your life, you'll find yourself saying no to some offers that you used to readily accept. You can't wait for someone to come along and make you complete; you have to recognize and act like you are complete before you meet that special someone. Otherwise, when that person leaves are you back to being incomplete again. Are you going to let someone have that much control over you? June Jordan reflects in one of her most salient poems, "you are the one that you have been waiting for all your life". When you value who you are you will begin to view yourself as a treasure; a gift for that special person that will come into your life.

* Find Solace in the Word - There are many examples of persons in the Bible who felt lonely, forsaken, or alone. But yet they found strength in their faith and were able to move onward and upward. Sometimes when we think that life is kicking us we automatically assume that we are being kicked backwards when in reality we may be getting kicked forward. The Word tells us that all things work together for the good of those who love God. This includes broken relationships and bad experiences. The Word tells us that we must learn we must be content in whatever state that we find ourselves in.

There is the example of the servant Elijah who was hiding in a cave because he felt deserted and alone, among other reasons. But God had to tell him twice to come out of the cave. How many times will God have to tell you to come out of your cave?

There is nothing intrinsically wrong with feeling lonely. Human beings are social creatures by their very nature, but when we are denied that part of our existence then we feel lonely. However, there is something wrong when the loneliness grips us so tightly that we are virtually paralyzed by putting our lives on hold. With all the other difficulties that face in life it would be a crime to compound them with the loneliness blues. There are three types of problems: those that we have no control over; those that we do have control over and don't act on it; and those that we can control and we do something about. You can do something about feeling lonely. But having someone in your life is not the sole answer to your loneliness. Remember that even individuals who have a mate can feel lonely.

It is okay if you get lonely. Just be sure that loneliness doesn't get you. Feeling lonely can set you up for some harmful escapes like alcoholism, drug abuse, sex abuse, and overindulgence to the point that it threatens your health. At some point, we all get a dose of the loneliness blues. But like the great masters of blues idiom like Ralph Ellison, Duke Ellington, Romare Bearden and others, we can always handle them with style. Loneliness only wins when we don't fight back. The minute we decide that we don't want to be lonely, the blues has got to go. Go forth and conquer your loneliness.



Continued FROM page 19

they cannot be separate entities.

I began to meditate more on the topic and as I did so realized that based on my own experiences and upbringing I am black first.

In my everyday life, I am more supportive of black organizations, yet belong to no gay organizations. When there is an issue at hand concerning blacks, I get involved and become outspoken, ecstatic or outraged; however gay issues I am not nearly as passionate.

I'm always proud of being black and will go to war with anyone who is negative about my race; but that energy and prowlness are not as pronounced with gay pride.

Another reason I believe I am black first is because I was educated about my racial background from an early age but nothing about my sexual identity and how to come to terms with it until I became an adult. Society as a whole does not teach us or encourage us to be gay first; it is a quality enhanced as a person becomes more mature or has a better understanding of what being gay means.

The positive aspect of submitting my comments is that it helped me realize that the way I live my life says I am black first, but my heart says I am both equally. Now I must make adjustments that reflect what my heart says and hopefully more of us will feel we can be both equally.

Ivan Myers- Atlanta, GA

Without a doubt, I will always be black and let us not forget that black is beautiful. My epithelial shade of brown necessitates that as a black gay man I do not lose focus on the fact that America is still a racist society. Therefore, I must be very cautious of looking for an image of myself in white gay males and in their community. I should only socialize and have ties with them when it is beneficial to

building economic, social, and political power and facilities for my black gay brothers and sisters; this in my opinion, is the only time black and white men should be working together. My gayness is a beautiful gift and very important essence of my total existence. I currently define myself as a black gay male who has strong sense of pride, integrity, and consciousness of working to improve the well-being of black people and other people of color as well as directing this same sense of consciousness towards eradicating racism, black homophobia, heterosexism, and other prejudices within this dysfunctional United States of America. There are in my opinion, three challenges facing all of us who currently define ourselves as black gay men: First, we must develop an analysis of homosexuality in the black community that is affirming and constructive. Second, we must correct the bias and mis-information that has been put forth by black homophobics such as: Reggie White, Minister Louis Farrakhan, Angie and Debbie Winans, Creflo Dollar, Rev. Bishop T.D. James and a white host of others. Third, we must not allow the hurt and anger that we may feel toward these homophobic brothers and sisters, cause us to dismiss them or their ideas on other issues that we may agree on; but stay over distance from them.

In closing, Am I Black or Am I Gay? I am both, I will not choose one over the other. I must work steadily towards keeping a balance between the two.

Jerry T. Barnes- Tuscaloosa, AL

Well I truly believe that I was born gay. I know that GOD put me on this earth for the enjoyment of life. I first started out with different sexual feelings when I was about 10 years-old. I can remember walking to my local stationary store in New York where I grew up to buy the muscle man physique magazines to look at how gorgeous the men's bodies in the magazines were. I fantasized about being with one of those stacked

guys who I could lose my virginity to someday. I was sheltered from the exciting glamour and glitz of New York City.

My parents told me that Manhattan had a whole area of people who were different so then at the age of 14 my family moved down south. Well as a grown up at the age of 26 my parents meant those GAY people who lived in the city or the Greenwich Village area. After my 18th birthday, I went back to Brooklyn, NY to visit my sisters and we caught the L train all the way into the village. I couldn't believe my eyes, wow! So many gays, lesbians, and transgender people walking, talking, eating, and clubbing. I would like to have been a part of the gay lifestyle during my young years which would have helped me with my coming out issues, depression, and my first sexual experience.

My first sexual experience was at the tender age of 18. I learned as the years went by without any support from family members or a gay group because we lived in a back woods country town with only 900 people. I realized that being gay is hard. Gays are viewed as sodomites, evildoers, and freaks to society. Gays and lesbians are often plagued with discrimination in employment, housing, healthcare, and activities of daily living. I have been laughed at because people say that I'm too feminine so it's always harder to get and maintain the respect of others. At the age of 26, I've decided that regardless of who doesn't like me that I must live my life to the fullest despite the homophobic society in which we live because I fear for my life everyday when I leave home not knowing whether or not I will make it back home safely after hearing all the violence on gays, lesbians, and transgender people lately in America. So I just take living as a gay man one step at a time and enjoy every step of the way.

Jack Miller- Baltimore, MD

October's Topic Of The Month

*How Do You Feel About A Lesbian or Gay Couple Having/Raising A Child?
Society says that this can only bring harm to a child,
what do you think?*

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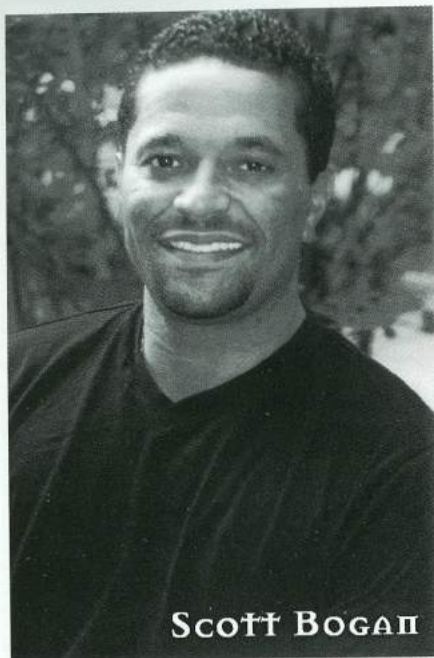
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SCOTT BOGAN

Worthy *of Greatness*

This week I had such a strange revelation. There is a guy at my gym that I like and I think that he likes me (no, I am not in the fourth grade anymore). The only way that I can tell is that he stares a lot. We do speak to one another, but it is only a casual hello. I was talking to my personal trainer about this situation (I often bounce things off him). I explained to him how the night before I was laying in bed and all of a sudden this person was on my mind. Not as a sexual thought, but in a connected sense. It was as if I felt completely connected to this person. I immediately jumped out of bed and started praying and asking God why this person was so heavy on my heart. The next day at the gym I asked my trainer (Jeff) if he had ever felt connected to someone that he had never even met and

had no clue why he was feeling this connection. He explained to me that he feels that kind of connection all of the time and he believes that we are drawn to these people for a reason. He broke it down a little further and explained that he felt that kind of connection with me when we first met. When Jeff and I first met 2 years ago, I was just at a turning point with my depression. I was seeing a counselor and I started working out again. He said that when he first saw me he knew that I was unhappy and he just wanted to come over and hug me and let me know that everything would be ok. And believe it or not he did exactly that. I told Jeff that I could never go over to a stranger and introduce myself to them. I went on to say that I am very much an introvert and when it comes to situations like that I have not a clue what to say. What Jeff said to me next, knocked me over like a ton of bricks. He said that I don't feel like I am worthy. This statement really slapped me in my face. I thought about it the rest of the night.

While I've always known that I had self-esteem problems I could never seem to get to the core of the issue. I started thinking about why I am HIV positive, why I don't go out to clubs, why I don't hang out with my friends that often, why I don't allow myself to date, why I don't allow people to get too close to me—this list could go on forever. All of these things say that I don't think that I am worthy. I am HIV positive because I did not value my own life enough to tell my partner to put on a condom. I don't go out to clubs not because I don't enjoy myself, but because I don't think that I add any value to the environment. I don't hang out with my friends that often because I think that I don't make enough money or drive a nice car (most of my friend's make 90K or more). I don't date that often because I often think why would someone want to love me. I know that this feeling of unworthiness stems from my childhood. I can remember my parents arguing and my dad saying to my mother that he could have played professional football if she had not gotten pregnant (with me) and he had to marry her. So, if my own parents did not want me why should I value my life? I cannot dwell in the past. I am here and have been here for 31 years now. So the question for me is now that I know, this how do I turn this around?

To be honest I really don't know how to turn this around. I have been praying for acceptance. I have been asking God to give me the strength to accept myself for who I am and where I am in my life right now as a child of God. I was telling Jeff the other day that I don't know how to get through this. He said that one way to get through this is to know that Jesus died on the cross for us and our sins. That in itself makes me worthy of greatness! It was almost like he gave me another hug and told me that everything was going to be ok.

Next time you get full you may lose more than your head.

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WEAPONS OF

Destruction

by Lawrence Bryant, Atlanta

Much of the viewpoint concerning the toleration of homosexuality in society is saturated with stereotypes and misinformation about the character of gays: particularly discouraging are the brazen untrue association between issues such as homosexuality and pedophilia. On the other hand religious scholars all too often use the daggers of Sodom and Gomora to force repentance, denial, and psychological warfare against our community. When the walls of Jerico come tumbling down, they are no where to be found. Just because they believe this fallacy does not make it the gospel, whites used scripture for 300 years to keep us in slavery and we all know that was not the will of God.

It is a known fact that heterosexuals commit most of the horrific acts of sexual crimes against our children yet some of this nations most noted scholars continue to perpetrate these mean spirited allegations. They are adamant in their vilification of gays and only see us as immoral delinquents whose only purpose is to sodomize children and engage in promiscuous sexual escapades. On the other hand when opportunity arises for legislation to promote monogamy through same sex marriage and cooperation through domestic partnership, it is oftentimes vociferously repelled. This type of irresponsible rhetoric promotes societal hatred and soe seeds of bigotry, violence and contention toward gays. The misinterpretation of the Sodom and Gomora myth is the most appalling offense perpetrated by religious folk in an attempt to castrate our dignity as well as our spirituality. This misinterpretation can be found in the book of Genesis, chapter 19 verses 1 to 11:

The sin of Sodom was the inhospitality, abuse, and offense to strangers when understood in its historical context. To use this text to condemn homosexuality is the real sin. The prophet Ezekiel (16:48-49 states this clearly: "This was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, surfeit of food and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy.") The sin of the Sodomites was that they refuse to take in needy travelers. Many in the Black church in the same vain have abused gays for being different and made us feel like strangers in our own culture all in the name christianity. This oppression and hatred is the very sin that haunts Sodom, yet it is the behavior that gays have been subjected to many times over.

The very people who bash us with Sodom and Gomora are themselves the real Sodomites.

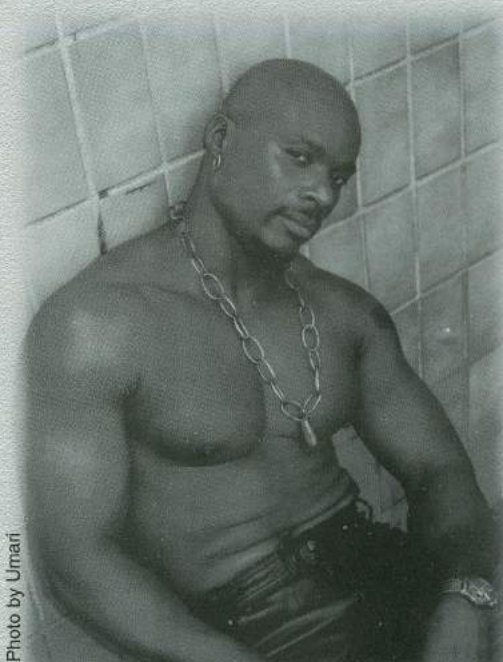


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Although the need of the African-American male is our primary focus, Men of Color welcome the participation of all community minded individuals. Our organization is equally aware of and sensitive to the needs of the community as a whole.

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.



OCTAVIA *The Ultimate Face*

by Danny Chislow

helped her get in touch with her identity and suggested she become a girl. Robbie, who for the most part can be considered Octavia's 'gay mother', named her 'Octavia' for the singer Octavia Lambertis who was Octavia's best friend in high school. Upon meeting other beautiful fem-queens, including Carmen Xtravaganza, she realized that she wanted to live her life as a woman. She began working as a showgirl and learned everything about hair, make-up and clothes on her own. Life was hard and at times depressing and for a time she turned to drugs. However, she has been clean for a year and wants everyone reading this to know they can do the same, because drugs are not the answer.

When she began walking balls she didn't start winning immediately, although she did win 'BQ in Drags' her first time walking. Then she won 'Face' at Fran and Erskine Christian's Legends Ball in 1986 and everything turned around. As the 90's rolled around her interest in balls decreased, as they became more political. As Octavia puts it, "Balls back in the day were better quality. It was about being the best."

Octavia was already a star in the New York City ballroom scene, but the Jenny Livingston documentary "Paris is Burning" made Octavia known on a national level. The "Paris is Burning" experience was a bittersweet one at best. On the other hand, she feels it was very negative. There was a lot of lying and

The name 'Octavia' is a statement in itself. The person known as Octavia is a living, breathing legend. There are few people in the ball scene that can be identified solely by their first name. There are even fewer people whose name inspire awe and respect and automatically invoke images of beauty and glamour. Octavia St. Laurent is the face by which all fem-queen faces are measured. She is THE face girl of the 80's and has continued to serve throughout the 90's. With the new millennium, Octavia, now 35, shows no signs of slowing down as she has retained all of her youth, vigor and beauty.

In the beginning, it was hard for Octavia. As a kid she was effeminate and was teased and harassed because of her small size and feminine ways, however, she knew she did not want to be a gay man. Then she met Robert (Marcomeni) St. Laurent who

exaggerating by young stupid kids who wanted to be seen and heard. However, it did make her feel important and how people finally listened to what she had to say. A major positive point that stemmed from exposure in "Paris is Burning" was that the doors to the entertainment world began to open, doors leading to Octavia's first and only real love; singing. She got to perform a showcase at Sweetwaters, a legendary nightclub in Manhattan as well as opening for entertainment veteran, Tony Bennett. She has also appeared on the 'Donahue' show and had a role in the Danny Glover-Matt Dillon movie "The Saint of Ft. Washington".

Octavia's desire is to be a pioneer; to knock down walls in the way Dorothy Dandridge did before her. She wants to take what Sylvester, Divine and RuPaul have done to the next level. The road is long and hard and knows it. And also what people expect from her when they meet her. "They see me as this beauty with no talent and no problems, just interested in being beautiful" she says.

But talent is something she has in abundance (I've heard her sing!) because it runs in her family. Her cousin's grandfather was Babe Wallace (of "Stormy Weather" fame), her uncle was Louis Armstrong and her mother was a member of 60's girl groups the Crystals, the Chantelles and the

Sweethearts and sang back up for Jackie Wilson. Octavia's mom has been a great source of support, without her she would not have made it this far.

Of course, no singer is without their influences. Octavia enjoys the lovely and powerful voices of Mariah Carey, Rachele Ferrell and Regina Belle, but her all time favorite entertainer is Barbara Streisand because of her voice, her drive for excellence and her magic, grace and charm.

Octavia, herself, possesses all of these qualities and one more; faith. "If you believe in God, yourself and the impossible, all your dreams will come true." Also, she has learned that everything in life is like a boomerang; whatever you give, you get back. With her faith, determination and enormous talent, she is bound to knock down those barriers and be the star she deserves to be.



With Supermodel Cindy Crawford

With Sis & Bro

Octavia serving Face

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MAKE IT ANOTHER STEP!

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HELLUVA SUMMER!

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MAY, WAS HOUSTON & DC...!

AND BACK TO NEW YORK IN AUGUST!
AND FINALLY, ATLANTA IN SEPTEMBER!

NUEVA YORK
IN JUNE...

L.A. IN
JULY...AND
DETROIT!

WHAT'S
WITH THIS
THING?

THAT'S ALOT OF TRAVELING!

AND ALOT OF
COINS, GIRL! I DON'T
KNOW HOW I DID IT!

ZAP!

OH...
NOW I KNOW.

The Florist

One day a Florist goes to a Barber for a haircut. After the cut, he goes to pay the Barber and the Barber replies: 'I am Sorry, I cannot accept money from you; I am doing a Community Service'. The Florist is happy and leaves the shop. The next morning when the Barber goes to open his shop, there is a Thank you card and a dozen roses waiting at his door.

A Cop goes for a haircut and he also goes to pay the Barber and the barber replies: 'I am Sorry, I cannot accept money from you; I am doing a Community Service'. The Cop is happy and leaves the shop. The next morning when the Barber goes to open his shop, there is a Thank you Card and a dozen Donuts waiting at his door.

A brother goes for a haircut and he also goes to pay the Barber and the barber replies: 'I am Sorry, I cannot accept money from you; I am doing a Community Service'. The guy is, of course, very happy and leaves the shop.

The next morning when the Barber goes to open his shop, guess what he finds there..... A dozen brothers waiting for a free haircut...

The Firm

One morning while making breakfast, a man walked up to his wife and pinched her on her butt and said, "You know if you firmed this up we could get rid of your girdle." While this was on the edge of intolerable, she thought herself better and replied with silence.

The next morning the man woke his wife with a pinch on the breast and said, "You know if you firmed these up we could get rid of your bra."

This was beyond a silence response, so she rolled over and grabbed him by his package. With a death grip in place she said, "You know if you firmed this up we could get rid of the postman, the

gardener, the butler, the pool man, and your brother."

The Friendly Skies

There was a plane flying over the Atlantic. The pilot got on the intercom and said that the plane was experiencing difficulties and that the weight would have to be lessened on the plane.

So he said that everyone had to throw their luggage off the plane. Everyone did.

He got back on the intercom, "The plane is still too heavy, so people are going to have to jump off, but we're going to do this alphabetically.

"All African-Americans please jump off the plane." No one stood up.

He got back on and said, "All blacks, please jump off the plane." Still no one stood up.

"All coloreds, please jump off the plane." Again, no one stood up.

Then the smart, well-mannered little black boy turned to his prim and proper, well-educated, affluent mother and said, "Mother, aren't we all those things?" And the mother answered, "No baby, we niggas today."

The Parrot

A guy is having marital problems. He and the wife are not communicating anymore and he's lonesome, so he goes to a pet store thinking a pet might help.

The store he walks into happens to specialize in parrots. As he wanders down the rows of parrots he notices one with no feet. Surprised, he mutters "I wonder how he hangs onto the perch?"

The parrot says, "With my penis, dummy."

The guy is startled and says, "You

certainly talk well for a parrot."

The parrot says, "Yes, thank you... I'm a very well educated parrot. I can discuss politics, sports, religion, almost any subject you wish."

The guy says, "Gee, you sound like just what I was looking for." The parrot replies, "There's not much of a market for maimed parrots, you know. If you offer the proprietor \$2 for me, I'll bet he'll sell me."

The guy buys the parrot and for three months things go great. Every day when he comes home from work the parrot tells him Clinton said this, the A's won, the Giant's lost, the Pope did this and so on.

But then one day the guy comes home from work and the parrot waves a wing at him and says, "Come in and shut the door."

The guy says, "What's up?"

The parrot says, "I don't know how to tell you this, but the mailman came today. Your wife answered the door in her negligee and he kissed her right on the lips."

The guy says, "Oh, just a momentary flight of passion."

The parrot says, "Then he fondled her breasts." The guy says, "He did?"

"Yep," says the parrot. "Then he took off her negligee and started sucking on her breasts." The guy exclaims, "My God, what happened next???"

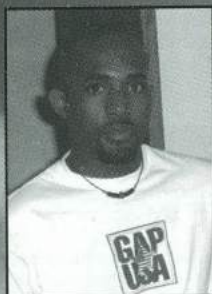
The parrot says, "I don't know. I got a hard-on and fell off my perch!"

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Door "655"

by Queshan Hayes

Part III



Before I start Part III, I just wanted to thank my loyal fans and new fans. I just wanted to let you all know that the story is completely fictitious. The characters are false and the situations are those that I have created. Of course, it has all happened in some of our lives, but I am truly writing from my creative soul. So stop asking me if I'm Craig, because I'm not! Sometimes I wish I was, but I'm not. So continue to support the magazine, enjoy the story, and send me some fan mail!!

Last month, you witnessed the scene of two men in a grinding session. One of them knowing exactly what he was doing and the other just plain confused. The door was opened to William's past. You, but not Craig, got a glimpse of where his confusion began: Uncle Wes. After finally realizing that he was rubbing dicks with another man and calling out his uncle's name, William snaps out of his trance and sends Craig on his horny little way. Now in bed and drifting off to sleep, Craig wonders why William called the name "Uncle Wes." He still however services himself and falls asleep. But before he has completely fallen to darkness, his phone rings. It's William.

Craig froze as he sat up in bed. Speechless, he couldn't utter a word. The silence was so thick that the operator wanted to jump in.

"Hey, you there, man?"

"Umhyyeah, I'm here," Craig said, finally able to speak. After the events of less than two hours ago, he couldn't believe William had actually picked up the phone and dialed his number. The alcohol slowly lost its affect on both men. And they were both thinking clearly, now. Craig in his bed wearing only boxer briefs with a semi-erect penis. William standing in his kitchen with loose fitting basketball shorts, pacing back and forth. His heart beat shook his whole body and he just knew that Craig could hear it over the phone. It took all of his inner strength to sound calm and cool as if nothing was wrong.

"It was just calling to make sure you got in O.K., man," he stammered. Hell, it was only a few feet away. What? Was he going to get shot by a drive by gunman while walking a flight of stairs from William's door to his own? Was a meteor going to come flying down and strike him unconscious? Did he get in O.K.? What in the hell? Yet, Craig decided to play along.

"Oh...yeah, I made it in okay. No deadly meteorites or drive by gunmen out to kill me tonight," he said as he rolled his eyes.

clikque
MAGAZINE

clikque on erotica

By Queshan Hayes - Staff

"Oh, you're the comedian tonight, huh?" William blurted out with a forced, nervous laugh. "That was really some strong shit, huh? I'm finally chilled out, now. I don't even remember you leaving. When did you dip?" And with those words, Craig knew His own heart stopped. His eyes closed tightly. He almost gasped, but he had learned self-control from his father.

So that was the plan: We were drunk and we don't remember shit. Craig could not believe his ears.

"Hey William, its really late, and I've got to get some sleep. Talk to you tomorrow?" Craig said as he rubbed his temples.

"Sure, man. Later." And the conversation was over. Dial tone...

Although he had seen the whole scene before, it was much harder to swallow when you became an actor in it. Alright, you get drunk, but who would forget what just happened hours ago? Craig knew the answer immediately after he thought it.

"A confused closet case," he thought "Shit, its almost four o'clock. Fuck this shit! Fuck it!" he grumbled as he rolled over and pulled up his covers. And soon he was again out like a light. Although his mind was full of questions and his heart full of anger, he was still human. He was indeed exhausted. Maybe he would sleep like a baby, or maybe not.

William hung up the phone and paced back and forth in his kitchen. He stopped to look into his refrigerator. Nothing there.

"Why the fuck you always get me in trouble," he said as he looked down and grabbed his

crotch.

"Shit!" he said as he slammed his fist on the kitchen

counter. What had he done? It was like he was in a dream, a bad dream. He had invited a neighbor over, they chilled, drank some alcohol, watched some T.V. and ended up rubbing dicks. He stopped pacing and decided it was time for bed, but he couldn't get Craig out of his head.

"What in the fuck am I supposed to do now? How am I supposed to sleep on some shit like this? Fuck you Uncle Wes! Fuck you!" he said as he slammed the door of his bedroom. He sat across his bed with his head cupped in the palms of his hands. Just then, he had a thought. The thought caused his dick to tighten ever so slightly. He stood up and walked over to his night stand. He scanned through his programmed phone list. After a lot of pressing buttons and thinking, he finally pressed the DIAL button. After a few tones, he got a ring.

"Hello?" a familiar voice said after only the second ring.

"Yeah, whassup? What you doin' up so late," William said in a sexy voice with a touch of thug flavor. After a second or two of silence, the voice responded,

"Because, I ...I knew you were going to call tonight. I felt it...I felt it deep between my legs," the voice said with a laugh so sexy that Janet Jackson would pay to include it in one of her sexy numbers. This made William's dick grow even harder. After tonight's events, he was confused, angry, mad, and still horny, all of the ingredients for wild, passionate sex.

"So when you comin' over?" He asked.

—Dial tone..

William held the receiver to his ear and smiled for a second or two. He knew what this meant. It meant he was getting some tonight. If there was any added discussion after that single, most important question, he knew it meant she was either occupied or had an early day the following morning and he would have to service himself. But neither of these were the case tonight. She had hung up. She was on her way.

Cicely was her name and doing the nasty was her game. She was a caramel colored sister with shoulder length, permed hair. And she was indeed beautiful. Her make-up was always flawless hand her wardrobe was fierce. William had met her out at a local club one night and boned her that same night and the following afternoon. Craig had heard them...She was on her way to the ride of her life.

William's dick was rock hard. He stood up and it pressed even harder against his shorts, sending a wave of ecstasy that made his toes curl.

"Shit, I'm rock hard. You'll take care of this shit, won't you Cicely," he said to himself while grabbing his bulging crotch. He began to stroke it ever so slightly, just enough to excite himself even more. Standing there beside his bed, he reached into his shorts and wrapped his fingers around his massive dick and squeezed. He closed his eyes and tilted his head back. His back arched and he tensed up his muscular ass to get the complete sensation that his hand caused in his shorts. Standing there, he slowly slid down his shorts with his free hand. The newness of the cool air brushed across his ass,

Continues on Page 65

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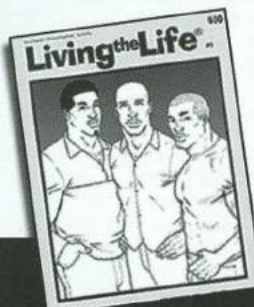
by Michael-Christopher
Creator of
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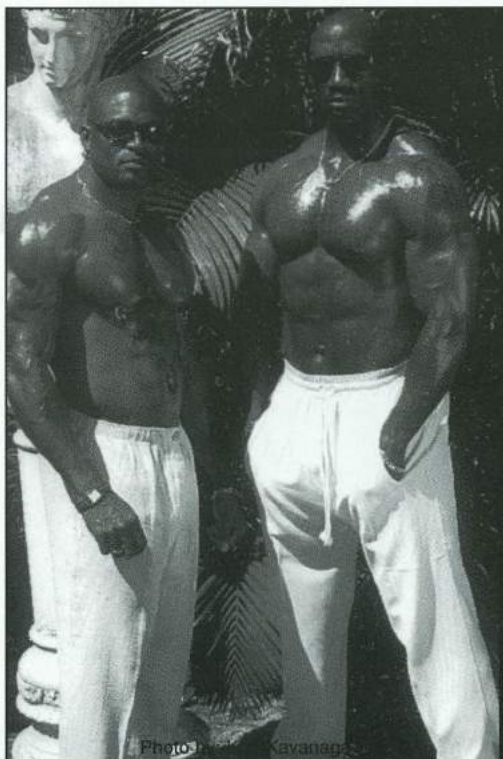


Photo by Kavanagh

Clique
MAGAZINE

clikque on erotica

By Queshan Hayes - Staff

Continued from page 63

muscular thighs, and hairy balls and heightened all sensations. It was as if he was in his own sexual paradise. He spread his feet further apart and began rolling his hips back and forth. His stomach muscles tightened with each wave of his hips. The heat that his hand created made each stroke seem orgasmic. Really getting into it, he cocked his head to one side and licked his sexy lips.

"Mmmm...shit.. yeahhh..." he moaned as he rolled his hips in an out. His knees began to buckle.

"Oh shit...oh shit.. ohhhhh..." he moaned as he shot a thick, creamy, stream of cum from where he stood to the wall across his bed. Stream after stream exploded until it became a drizzle down his hand.

"Shit! That's what I'm talking about," he said as he looked at the mess he had made. He bent

down to pick up his shorts. Now, totally naked, he walked to his bathroom to get a towel to wipe his hands and clean up. As he bent down to wipe his love juice from his carpet, he looked at his clock.

"Shit! She'll be here any minute," he mumbled as he threw the towel into his closet where his dirty clothes had piled up. He jumped into the shower and turned on the water. Soon he was foamy with soap, scrubbed with a loofa, and rinsed. He reached for his towel and wrapped it around his waist. Just as he was reaching for a Q-tip, he heard a knock at his door. Although he had just shot a major load, he was ready again. The thought of Cicely standing at his door in only a trench coat made his still sensitive dick swell again. He smiled as he caught a glimpse of himself in the mirror.

"Fuck that nigga upstairs. I'm gonna get some pussy tonight," he said as he turned off all of his

lights in his bedroom. He reached over and lit two vanilla candles. He checked his nightstand. Yep, his condoms were there. Instead of trying to dry himself off, he thought that it would add to the effect if he was still wet when he answered the door. The water made his muscular chest appear even more massive and cut. He turned to answer the door when a thought entered his mind. He dropped the towel. Just then, he again heard knocking. This time it was a quicker, impatient knock.

"I'm coming, I'm coming," he mumbled. "You're gonna love this," he said to himself. He was so excited, he didn't check the peep hole. He leaned against the wall in a 'boy-next-door Tyson' pose, hard dick and all. He turned the knob and dramatically opened the door. There stood Craig in the doorway, almost breathless.

"Hey William...ummm...was-sup?"



October's Topic Of The Month

*How Do You Feel About A Lesbian or
Gay Couple Having/Raising A Child?
Society says that this can only bring harm to a
child, what do you think?*

Ways Of Submitting Entries

- (1) e-mail: clikquem@aol.com
 - (2) web: www.clikque.com
 - (3) Mail: 931 Monroe Drive. PMB 102-279,
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
- Deadline: Submissions are due by 9-20-99



I was in shock...I lay there stunned, waiting on the wrath of God to strike me down. I couldn't move. I could barely breath. He was already in the shower, singing some hip-hop song. Every muscle in my body screamed, NO! This could not have just happened. Please God, tell me this did not happen. My body had been satiated. I was fucked by MY nubian prince. Not that I'd never been fucked...quite the contrary. I've been fucked by some of the best. But this...I never knew anything like this. I'd watched this brotha grow up, being raised by my grandparents.

He'd come down for Freak-nik and was staying with my partner and I before going on to Daytona. We'd been up all night drinking and getting re-acquainted. Talking about the past 19 years.

The couple next door, whom my partner and I often got busy with, decided to come by for one of those moments. A married couple; both bisexual. My partner wasn't feeling it, so he left the party up to the two of us and decided to spend the night at his best friends.

It was to be me fucking the husband and my prince fucking the wife. It started with the two of us performing oral sex on them, bringing them to climax. High five for our oral skills.

We aren't finished. I make the husband get on all fours on the bed. MY prince does the same to the wife. They are facing each other. We enter them from behind.



DAMNATION

— B y : K h a l i d D a w u d I d a w u —

We start a slow methodical rhythm; grinning at each other wondering what sensations the other may be feeling. The couple kiss each other moaning in delight. I sense the husband stroking his dick as the wife rubs her clit. We fuck them.

Positions change. We now have them on their backs, legs high continuing our assault. We smile and wink at each other. Positions change again and hands start exploring other bodies, mouths explore, and there is more group action going on. Hands help dicks and hands help clit and mouths perform oral things while dicks slide in ass and in pussy, from all parties.

My ass is lubed and I'm laid on my back at the edge of the bed. Wet pussy straddles my face and I start to lap. My legs are raised as I watch her perform oral sex on MY prince. Her husband begins to glide his dick into me. He does so, slowly. The sensation is wonderful. First, only the head, poking me with quick short strokes opening the sphincter, making me relax. I feel the juices from her pussy flowing all over my face, head and neck, and I continue to eat her. I close my eyes as his dick enters me fully. Damn!

He holds my ankles and fucks me; deep and long. I feel a hand on my dick, stroking me with each thrust. Loud moans from above tell me that MY prince is cumming in her mouth. Keeping my eyes closed I let the fucking take me over.

She gets off my face and lays next to me and massages my chest and nipples as I grab the ass of her husband while he pounds this ass. Damn boy. Fuck me man. I turn my head and open my eyes to kiss her. She reciprocates. Her husband raises up from behind her and starts to lick her ear. WHAT? Her husband!...Who is fucking me? OH God NO! No! Yessss! Damn! Oh God this dick is good!

Every fiber of my being is being rejuvenated. I cannot believe the absolute pleasure I am feeling. Oh shit, I want to cumm. Goddamn me! I will burn in hell...oh but shit, fuck me. Yes, that's it. Fuck this ass.aaaaaargghhhhhh shit.. baby, that dick is good. (Jesus save me)

I grab his ass as he lays on me and thrust with all his might. He sucks on my neck adding to the sensation. We are sweating like beasts. I'm pulling him in deeper, securing my home in hell. He thrusts, saying to me "Dear god, I love you!" Fucking me senseless. I rub his perfectly formed back. Feeling the solidness of his body, no longer a boys body. The body of a man. Filling me and bringing me to climax with his MANHOOD!

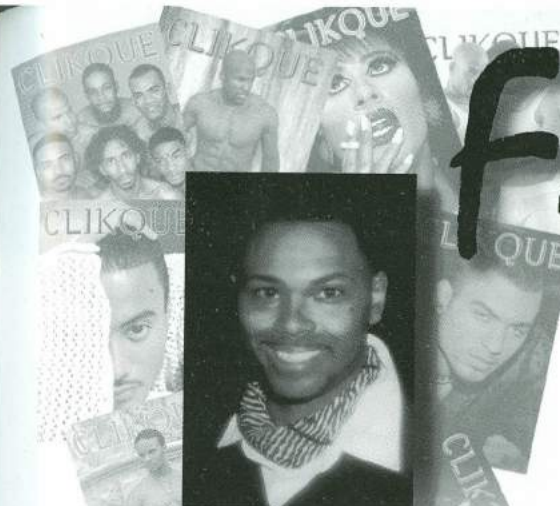
Godammit, you're making me cum. 'cum on baby, get that nut! I'm gonna bust one in you baby. yeah, I'm gonna cum in you baby. Ah shit, baby, here I cum. Hearing him scream aaahhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!!!!!!!!!!

I can't hold back. As his dick explodes in me, I shoot with him, splashing our chests, face and mouth. He collapses on me. We lay there breathing as if we'd just run the Boston marathon. The only sound is our breathing. We notice that the married couple had already departed. We were alone.

The clock on the wall...oh my god. This cannot be: it has been nearly 2 hours. No way!

The bed is soaked thru. The stench of sex fills the air. His dick pops out after more than 5 minutes. He kisses me and jumps into the shower.

I lay there, dazed and confused. Completely satisfied, like never before, but so overwhelmingly disgusted. Completely free, yet bound by damnation. DAMNED!...Completely...Damned! my brother planted the seed...that was just planted in me. Yes, I was fucked... by, my nineteen year old nephew.



Remington Ross

The Prince Of Pageantry

Greetings to all who are avid patrons, participants, sponsors and competitors in the underworld of gay pageantry. This is our first feature of **Fierce - The Column** in **Clikque Magazine**. We plan on highlighting the competitions across the country via invitations or e-mail and spotlighting participants with brief interviews. We'll explore stud, fish, newcomer, plus sized, Mr. and Miss (for female impersonators) who entertain in available exhibitions for their career or sponsorship.

First lets congratulate the winners of the first two preliminaries for the **Miss Clikque America Pageantry System**: **Paula Sinclair**, Miss Clikque Atlanta and 1st Alternate **Stasha Sanchez**, who will represent The City of Atlanta. Miss Clikque Houston, **Tiffany Brooks** and 1st Alternate **Tijuana Brooks** will represent The City of Houston. They along with future finers will meet in Atlanta on MLK Weekend for the first annual Miss Clikque America finals. Other preliminaries are in the very near future so get your package together. See Pages 78 and 79 for more information. Anyone interested in participating or obtaining a preliminary, may contact him at the Clikque office.

With all vanity, lets also commend one of the most complete and non-biased pageantry system. The **Essence Pageantry System** is striving to achieve more national recognition. They successfully held six open pageants in 1999. The system makes available to all contestants all score sheets after each competition. This enables the entertainer to build their weak points and enhance their strengths.

The Essence Pageantry System president was very helpful in sharing the results of their reigning court and newly crowned. **Tre'von Ross** - Mr. Essence, **Julia Sterling** of Miami, FL - Miss Essence Newcomer, **Tijuana Brooks** - Miss Essence, **Raven St. James** - Miss Essence Plus, **Li Lee** - Mr. Stud Essence, **Kisa Jackson** of Dallas, Tx. - Miss Lady Essence.

Congratulations goes out to **Master Chris Higgins** for his successful Liberty System contest held in July. Ashia was crowned along with Mr. Calvin St. Clare in Atlanta.

The **Black Universe System** is gearing up for their annual Mr. & Miss Black Universe contest during Halloween in Atlanta. We, the Fierce Column, will hate to see native Texan and Floridian **Raquel Lord** and **Monte St. James** depart, but the crown must live on. **Flawless Oz** of Oz Productions will present the last official preliminary in Texas, Mr. & Miss Black Houston Universe on October 17, 1999.

Fierce

The Column

Gerald Stevens and the board of the **Black America System** will hold all three of their National Pageants in November **Yosmein Campbell Starr**, **Amanda Korday**, and **Majesty** will host the Mr., Miss & Miss Plus Black America.

On August 22, 1999 **Chevelle Brooks** name was entered into the Miss Texas USofA Hall of Fame. Being crowned Miss Texas USofA (not for small girls any longer) showed that this entertainer's consistency and determination really paid off. The contest was tough, but the best won. We would like to give special mention to the talents of **Katherine York** and **Jade DeSainte**, they did not miss a beat! National Pageant divas **Erica Andrews**, Miss USofA and **Tommie Ross** Miss Texas Continental were on hand as well.

Hats off goes out to **Miss Jasmine Bonet**. She recently won the title Miss Hotlanta '99. The competition was **Fierce** with Miss Clikque Atlanta's own, **Paula Sinclair** right on her heels. Jasmine is without a doubt, one of the most well rounded entertainers in the country.

Fierce would like to extend love and luck to the Ross namesake on her journey to **Miss Continental USA** in Chicago for Labor Day Weekend. Good luck also goes out to **Silk O'Hara Monroe** of Dallas, TX, **Sasha Valentino** of Chicago, IL and **Alexis Gabrielle Sherrington** of Jacksonville, FL who will make their presence known in the windy city.

Bruce Chivers, Co-owner and pageant administrator for the Essence Pageantry System, is looking forward to the new millennium which will increase the financial rewards for upcoming winners.

Anyone who knows of any national pageants for lesbians please e-mail me or call me at 713-642-8630.

Well until next issue, same page, same overture, but different scores. BTW, don't forget about my Thirtieth Birthday Party to be held in Houston, September 18th, 1999 at Incognito the Club.

Peace and love, RR

Please Send All Inquiries, Suggestions, and Announcements to clikquem@aol.com. If your system was omitted, please inform us and we will correct the oversight.

TransForum

Monthly Column For Our Transgendered Community

Greetings everyone! Welcome to another episode. I am so pleased that many of you have been enjoying the column. I have been getting a lot of good reviews from the people in the community from both sides of the fence. It has become increasingly more important to me that the African-American Trans community's voice be made a permanent fixture in print media. We as a community need to be more vocal and visual in our pursuits for greater exposure within our own community.

Since this column's debut, several people have been asking about my personal story; and how I got started doing the things I do within the community. Well believe me, it has not been an easy road, but I managed to travel it anyway, and lived to tell the story.

For those of you who don't know, I was actually born in Würzburg, Germany in June of 1973 (to tell my age). My father was in the Army and my mother was a professional make-up artist (catch the hint). I have two

siblings, an older sister, and a younger brother, which a lot of you know by the name of Damien Kelly. Yes Damien is my real brother. (People are going to ask that question anyway.) Well throughout my family's travels around the world I began to blossom... well mentally anyway. More and more I knew that I was not going to grow up to be "trade". Or anything closely resembling trade. My family and I eventually settled in Charleston, South Carolina where I graduated from high school and went off to college. Lucky for me I grew up in a family that is very accepting of diverse lifestyles. I had older cousins, uncles and family friends who came before me who were out of the closet. That fact made growing up a whole lot easier for me. I really never hid my obvious differences. I played with Barbie dolls (that were purchased for me) and even played dress up in my mothers clothes; many times with her permission. Looking back now I could only have been two things, a transsexual or Naomi Campbell. While in college I began experimenting with wearing women's clothing in public. Sure people pointed and stared, some even laughed, but they respected me because I seemed confident and self assured. All the drama didn't bother me, I had the support of my family and my friends, so other people's opinions about what I was doing really didn't matter. I knew drastic steps had to be taken if I was to stand by my decision. By the time I completed college and moved to Atlanta I was already doing shows and experimenting heavily in the world of Drag. It was then that I knew that living as a woman (or becoming one for that matter) was what I wanted to do. Unfortunately this process would take more than a couple of years to even come close to perfect. Although I'm still on the drafting table, I now live 24/7 as a woman, the bravest decision of my life.

One of my first big hurdles was working for the Atlanta Public School System. I worked at Grady High School for two years. I applied for the position as female thinking I was "getting in". Well, needless to say, as a result of some speculation, I eventually had to tell the administration that I was close to undergoing my reassignment surgery just to be able to keep things fairly normal. After the initial issues died down, for example like what bathroom I'd be using, (female of course) or how should they address me (Damn, call me Dorian, what is so difficult about that?) I had what one would call a "normal job". I actually loved it. I taught Drama, which was my major in college. From that point on I immediately began connecting with the students. We went on field trips, watched Broadway musicals on video ("A Chorus Line" was their favorite) and put on several productions for the school during the regular school day which had never been done before. I even acted as choreographer and assistant director for the school's annual Black History Month Celebration. Can you believe I even danced a solo to "Wade in the Water"? Well believe it, I did.



Dorian Kelley-Jahman

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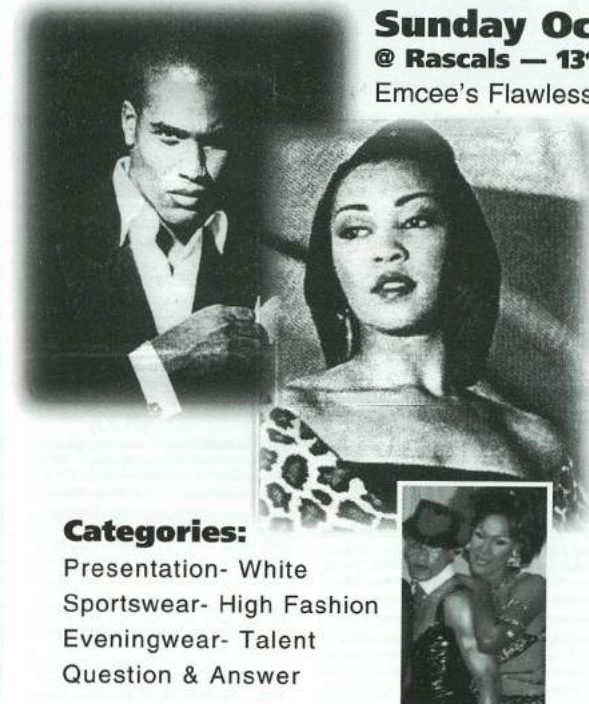
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Monte St. James & Raquel Lord

I brought excitement, not to mention fashion sense to that campus everyday. One of the only draw backs was dealing with some of the parents, who obviously studied along side Rush Limbaugh, Jimmy Swaggert, Newt Gingrich and former President of the United States, George Bush and did not want their children exposed to the real world. Well legally I knew they would have a hard time suggesting my termination. I was great at my job and the students loved me. Besides, they would have had a war on their hands, and they knew it. I eventually began doing diversity trainings and cultural sensitivity lectures at the school. I also doubled as a counselor for the "sensitive" issues the other counselors chose not to deal with. Take for instance the time we had a transsexual student on campus. Who do you think handled that case? Well, needless to say those trainings and workshops started generating attention from several different groups in the in the community, especially the black gay community. The requests for my attendance and participation in these types of

workshops also began to increase. The next thing you know I was offered a full-time job working in that particular field. That just goes to show you that when you go forward into the real world, after the lights come on and the sun comes up, you have to be ready for any opportunity.

No matter how you choose to live your life you must know how to present yourself. I believe I came out at a very fortunate time. I also believe that we chart our own course for either success or failure, and I fully intend on succeeding. Although we have a long journey ahead, the trans community is slowly making a positive impact. We must continue on this journey if a real difference is to be made. You see, life for us won't be no crystal stair, but we can learn to climb those steps just the same.

Until next time.

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SHOW ME THE ROPES Handsome SM, 37, 6'0", 200 lbs., enjoys rock climbing, sailing. Seeking SM to have adventures with. ☎20016

LET'S HOOK UP GWM, 45, 5'11", 180 lbs, 5'11", looking for other GWM to get together with. Race unimportant. (Santa Anna) ☎21469

BOTTOM LOOKING FORA TOP If you're serious and looking for a good time, leave me a message. Call me soon, I really need a hot top. (San Francisco) ☎14537

SHOW ME SOMETHING NEW Mexican-German M, looking for a friend to have fun with. I'm kind of shy and need someone to show me the ropes. If you're interested in showing some new ways to have fun, give me a call. (San Diego) ☎18549

LET'S HOOK UP SBM, 6'0", enjoys working out. Seeking someone special. (Los Angeles) ☎10037

MANIC PASSIONATE Heavy-set Mexican-American M, mid 30s, moderately hairy, beard, easygoing, laid-back, responsible, good-hearted and a romantic. Looking for muscular-stocky Latino/WM, late 20s-late 40s, with a good sense of humor. Muscular legs and hairy a plus. (Los Angeles) ☎17427

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

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

FLORIDA

FUN AND MORE Very attractive, bottom, 5'11", 170 lbs, brown/blue, goatee, swimmers build, available for fun and recreation with top and versatile tops. (Gainesville) ☎17758

COOL SOUTH AFRICAN BROTHER BM, 32, 5'6", brown-skinned, hairy chest, looking to meet a very attractive top Guys, 23+, to hook up with. (Miami) ☎17779

BE MY GIRL 27-year-old BM, looking for TV/Ts, who want to have a good time with me. Give me a call. (Jacksonville) ☎19173

ROMANCE IS IN THE AIR 50-year-old GM, college-educated, looking for young, attractive, hairy WM, for possible romance. ☎14006

GEORGIA

IS THIS YOU? Jay would like to meet an out-going, sensitive, honest SM, who wants to have alot of fun. (Atlanta) ☎21956

LOW-KEY GUY Good-looking, in shape, 38-year-old GWM, 5'9", 165 lbs., stable, n/drugs, varied interests. Seeking SM for dating, possible relationship. (Atlanta) ☎21781

SEEKING SIMILAR BM Very masculine BM, 5'7", 150 lbs, attractive, muscular and looking for a muscular, masculine BM, for friendship and possibly more. (Atlanta) ☎21586

MUST BE DISCREET Looking for a straight-acting brother for friendship and possible relationship. If you're down with that, leave me a message. Peace. (Atlanta) ☎20181

ISO A LIGHT-SKINNED BROTHER Black/Filipino/Puerto Rican M, 21, 5'4", 130 lbs. blonde/brown, looking for a light-skinned brother, 21-28, who's tall and built with a gorgeous body. ☎19400

I'M ALL THAT Very romantic BM, 5'7", medium brown, likes movies, hiking and walks in the park. Looking for a BM, 18-30, to hook up with. No fats and no femmes. (Atlanta) ☎17447

LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP Looking for a nice, fun-loving Guy who loves dining out, movies and long walks. If this is you, give me a call. (Decatur) ☎13272

GOOD TIMES 23-year-old BM, very masculine, works out and looking for good times with exciting people. (Atlanta) ☎19510

NO GAME PLAYERS Married, down-to-earth BM, 5'10", slim, D/D free. Seeking nice, out-going BM, 26-35, no games. (Atlanta) ☎19884

I'LL BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND 29-year-old, passable BCD, 5'9", 160 lbs, pecan-tanned, clean, discreet, ISO a secure Gentleman who knows what he wants and who has a sensitive side. (Savannah) ☎18756

JUST HAVING FUN 39-year-old dark-skinned BM, looking for Guys, around my age, to hang out and have fun with. (Georgia) ☎217612

LOOKING FORWARD TO IT Straight-acting, Married WM, 30s, 6'1", 210 lbs, long brown hair, hairy chest, seeking a passive BM, who likes X-rated videos and exploring. (Atlanta) ☎17748

COOL BROTHER BM, 5'7", 140 lbs, brown-skinned, fade, mustache and smooth body. Only real Guys apply. The rest of you can get back. (Atlanta) ☎16834

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

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

COOL BROTHER BM, 5'7", 140 lbs, brown-skinned, fade, mustache and smooth body. Only real Guys apply. The rest of you can get back. (Atlanta) ☎16834

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

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 you teach me? (Savannah) ☎20427

SKIN TO SKIN CONTACT Straight-acting Married M, 5'11", 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

NEED A HUG? Tall, masculine WM, seeking tall, masculine BM, with an insatiable desire to hug and be hugged. (Chicago) ☎21737

LOOKS UNIMPORTANT Smooth, well-endowed GWM, 27, 180 lbs, 5'10", black/blue, likes sports, movies, dining out, going out and having fun. Looking for a Latino/WM, 20-30, for friendship or possible long-term relationship. Nonsmoker and social drinker referred. (Chicago) ☎20105

I LOVE DRESSING UP Very hot, sexy CD in Chicago, looking for someone to play with and have fun with in the area. Leave me a message, I promise I'll call you back. (Chicago) ☎13469

TOP SEEKS BOTTOMS Dominant WM, 45, well-

endowed, attractive, looking for smooth, submissive bottoms. Race unimportant. ☎13324

MICHIGAN

SO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT? Nice-looking BM, looking for a good-looking BM, 22-42, 5'8"-6', to hang out with and possibly start a relationship. Let's get together and get to know each other. (Detroit) ☎11266

I'LL DO ANYTHING Good-looking BM looking for a hardcore Man who likes to do anything. If you're interested, call me up and we'll get together. (Detroit) ☎19650

NEW YORK

I LIKE LOTS OF THINGS 37-year-old M, really into oral and likes lots of things. Looking for an older Guy, 40-55, who would be interested in getting together with me. (New York) ☎19264

EVERYWHERE YOU WANT TO BE Very active, good-natured, retired, daddy type, who wants to enjoy the rest of his life with a couple of young Guys. Must be W/H, 20s, 6', good-looking, reliable, health conscious, into working out and have six pack abs. (New York) ☎17556

TENNESSEE

BORING GUY? 26-year-old BM, 5'11", 184 lbs., dreadlocks, brown eyes, enjoys cooking, reading, running, cleaning, enjoyed, dogs. If interested, leave a message. (Memphis) ☎21869

LET'S CHILL Sexy, brown-skinned BM, 6'1", 150 lbs. Seeking SM, for friendship, possibly more. (Memphis) ☎10531

JUST FUN 35-year-old WM, brown/blue, tanned, toned and looking to meet a BM, 21-35, in the

Memphis area, for a no strings, hot, sexual relationship. (Memphis) ☎21822

TEXAS

NOT A SEX AD! 42-year-old GBM, 5'11", average-looking big Guy with a great personality, enjoys movies, dining out, quiet times. Seeking SM sincere, genuine to form a monogamous relationship. No games (Dallas) ☎21673

IT'S ALL GOOD! Brown-skinned GBM, 5'5", 132 lbs, black/hazel, Looking for a romantic top who's not into playing games. (Houston) ☎20803

SKIN TIGHT LEVIS Professional swimmer, 5'8", 140 lbs, tanned, muscular, shaved, looking for a down-to-earth Guy, who likes swimming, working out, music, having fun and a lot of body contact. (Dallas) ☎21475

IS THAT YOU? Young BM, 5'8", heavy -set, brown/brown, looking for that special someone to share life with. (Houston) ☎19892

TRYING TO SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE BM, 21, 5'9", 160 lbs, smooth, slender build, very attractive, masculine and outgoing, looking for some cool people to hang with. Not really looking for a sexual relationship, right now, just friendship. ☎19913

BI GUY PREFERRED BM, 25, 5'5", 140 lbs, nice body, looking for a mature BM, 30-50. No fats and no femmes. (Houston) ☎12765

POSSIBILITIES Bottom GHM, 37, smoker, drinker who loves to please his partner. Looking for a top W/HM. If you would love to start a new friendship with the possibility of a long-term relationship. ☎21406

HIT ME UP! 21-year-old BM, 5'9", 145 lbs, attractive, sexy and toned. Seeking a masculine, muscular, attractive Latino/BM who want to get with me. ☎20366

Clikque Connection Women Seeking Women

CALIFORNIA

LET'S HANG OUT GBF, 36, 5'7", 155 lbs., enjoys reading, walks, outdoors. Seeking SF who can give their time, must like to have fun, friends first. (Los Angeles) ☎22011

NEW TO THE AREA African-American Female, 33, two children. Seeking SF, 40+, preferably White, no ex-cons, 12-steppers, smokers, drugs, heavy drinkers or hang ups, must be positive and like children. (Los Angeles) ☎21948

I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU 37-year-old, feminine F, 5'3", brown/brown, Looking for a very open-minded, down-to-earth H/AF who like dining out, playing pool, dancing, movies, bowling and having a good time. All calls returned. ☎20711

ELECTIVE FEMME Very sensitive, spiritual African-American Woman, 40-ish, 5'9", vegetarian, loves film, drama, jazz, visual arts, the environment, walks by the ocean and nature. Looking for a vegetarian, feminine, spiritual, artistic Woman of color, who's independent and has similar interests. ☎18670

IS THIS YOU? Then call this sexy, assertive Femme, stable, loving, compassionate, drug-free, healthy, n/s, seeking sensitive Butch Woman, to share life with me, must love animals, must be sensitive, drug-free. (San Diego) ☎21620

YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED 36-year-old PF, 5'8", 135 lbs, attractive, athletic, likes going out, walking, movies and romantic evenings at home. Seeking the same in a compatible Woman. If you're interested, give me a call. (Los Angeles) ☎19793

BE REAL 30-year-old GBF seeking a real friend 25-35, great sense of humor, out-going, honest, for friendship, possible relationship. (Jonesboro) ☎21686

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

TURN ME ON Attractive, attached BWf, 25, 5'2", 152 lbs, reddish-brown, looking for another Woman, 18-30, in the area to get together and explore new experiences. (Norcross) ☎19604

FEMALE BONDING 37-year-old Lesbian, looking for a proud, sincere, lit, feminine Lady who loves life, travel and spending time with someone special. I look forward to hearing from you. (Atlanta) ☎21429

GEORGIA

ILLINOIS

ENJOY THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE? Affectionate, feminine, SBF, 23, 5'7", shapely but full-figured. Seeking SGF who enjoys the finer things in life. (Chicago) ☎21791

TENNESSEE

FRIENDSHIP FIRST SBF, looking for another BF to explore another side of life. This is my first time, so please be gentle. (Memphis) ☎14363

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

VIRGINIA

HELLO NURSE! 27-year-old BF, with three children, looking for a nice Lady who likes dining out, reading and having a nice time, for friendship and possible relationship. ☎16652

TO RESPOND TO ADS...

...Browse Or Retrieve Messages, Call The 900 or 800 Numbers Below

1-900-884-CLIK • 1-800-290-4346

To Charge To Your Local Phone Bill

To Charge To Your Credit Cards

Only \$1.99 per minute. You Must Be 18+ • Customer Service: 612-373-9783

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, 404-872-6411 Black and gay on Thursdays, Fridays, & 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 Mondays, 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

ZIPPERS, 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

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. Blackest Sunday after-noon.

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.

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

404-486-9655

Miss Georgia National At Large

**Wednesday
Sept. 15th**

**Backstreet Atlanta
9PM Sharp
Over \$1,500 in cash
& prizes**

**Official Preliminary to
Miss national at Large
Nov. 10-12**

Featuring

Dana Jacobs
Miss Ga. Natn'l at Lg '98

Shawnna Brooks
Miss National 1999-2000

Niesha Dupee
Miss Natn'l at Lg '97/98

Ashley Kruijz
Miss National 1998-1999

Sierrah Foxx
Miss Natn'l at Lg '97

Ce'zanne
Miss National 1997-1998

Mia Landon
Miss Ga. Natn'l 1999

Tina Devore
Official Emcee

Special Guest

Clarissa Cavalier
Miss National at Large 1998/99

Categories / Fees

Personal Interview • Creative Presentation (Show us your colors) • Talent • Evening Gown • \$100 Before 9/13/99 & \$125 Day of

For Contestant Information Contact Charles Brown & Dennis Reagan 678-289-8017 or NPS @ 404-874-7714

Other Prelims

**Miss Central Florida at Large 1999 — Sunday, Sept 12 • Parliament House, Orlando • 9PM
Tennessee National at Large 1999 — Sunday, Sept 26 • Electric Ballroom, Knoxville • 10PM
Contact NPS for Contestant Information**

Elliott Productions Proudly Presents The Greatest Birthday Celebration Before The New Millennium For
B. Elliott Chivers

INCOGNITO
 THE CLUB
Saturday, October 16th
11PM Sharp

2524 McKinney @ Live Oak, Houston, Texas

Featuring:

Montel Alexander ♦ Allegra ♦ Big Yo ♦ Chavelle Brooks ♦
 Tijuana Brooks ♦ Chanel ♦ Diamond Delante Frantz ♦ Ashley Inari
 ♦ Raven St. James ♦ Tevin St. James ♦ Kisa ♦ Cookie LaCook ♦
 Li Lee ♦ Shonice Love ♦ Montego ♦ Flawless Oz ♦ Porsha Paris
 Freda Payne ♦ Victoria Prince ♦ Randé Rochelle ♦ Remington
 Ross ♦ Tommie Ross ♦ Black Velvet ♦

Buffet ♦ For Reserved Seats & Tables Call 713-434-0100

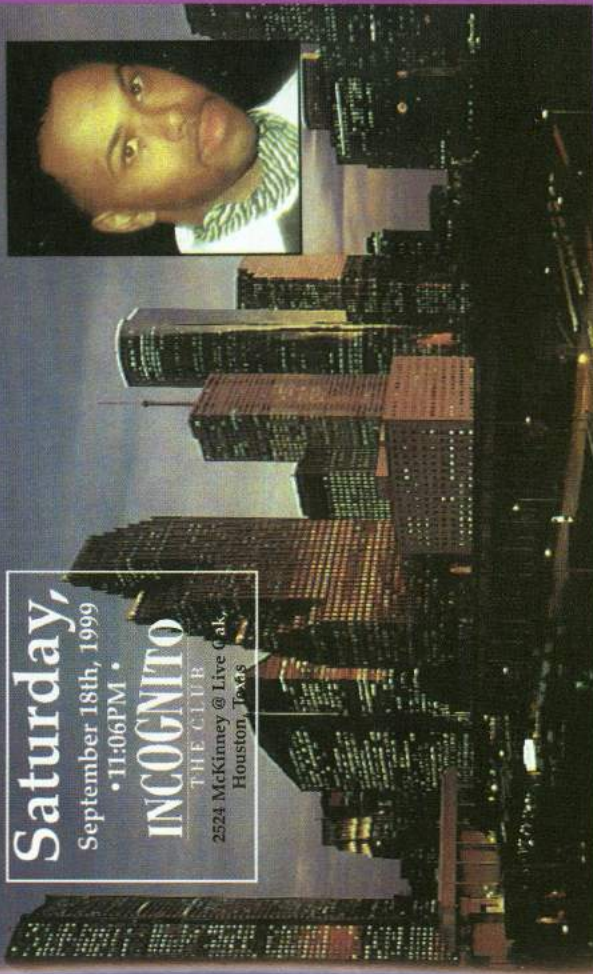
Elliott Productions **Essence Pageantry System**
 & *The Black America Pageant System*
 presents

"Diversity 30"

A Black & Gold Birthday Celebration for

Remington Ross "The Prince of Pageantry"

Saturday,
 September 18th, 1999
 • 11:06PM •
INCOGNITO
 THE CLUB
 2524 McKinney @ Live Oak,
 Houston, Texas



Tommie Ross
Miss Texas Continental

Trevon Ross
 Li Lee

Juston Brooks
Jacobie Ross
Lullanger Devine

Yosmein Cambell Starr
Miss Black America

Tijuana Brooks
 Kisa

Diamond Delante Frantz
Dynasty Escarda Ross
Allur Wellington
 (Special dedication to Lionel Brooks)

Angelica Sanchez
Miss Southern St. Continental Plus

Raven St. James
 Allegra
 Leah Halston
 Flawless Oz
 Claudia Foster

Emcee — Cookie LaCook Introducing the Legendary **Jill Sanders**
Hors d'Oeuvres will be served • Portions of proceeds to benefit "Kid Care"

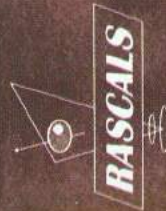
Information Line: 713-434-0100 or email: remingtonross@yahoo.com

Spend The Night With The New Little Rascals Untouchables



Monday
Sept. 20th

Ashley Iman
Tyra Brooks
Youlanda Adams
Jada Brooks



Rascals Nightclub

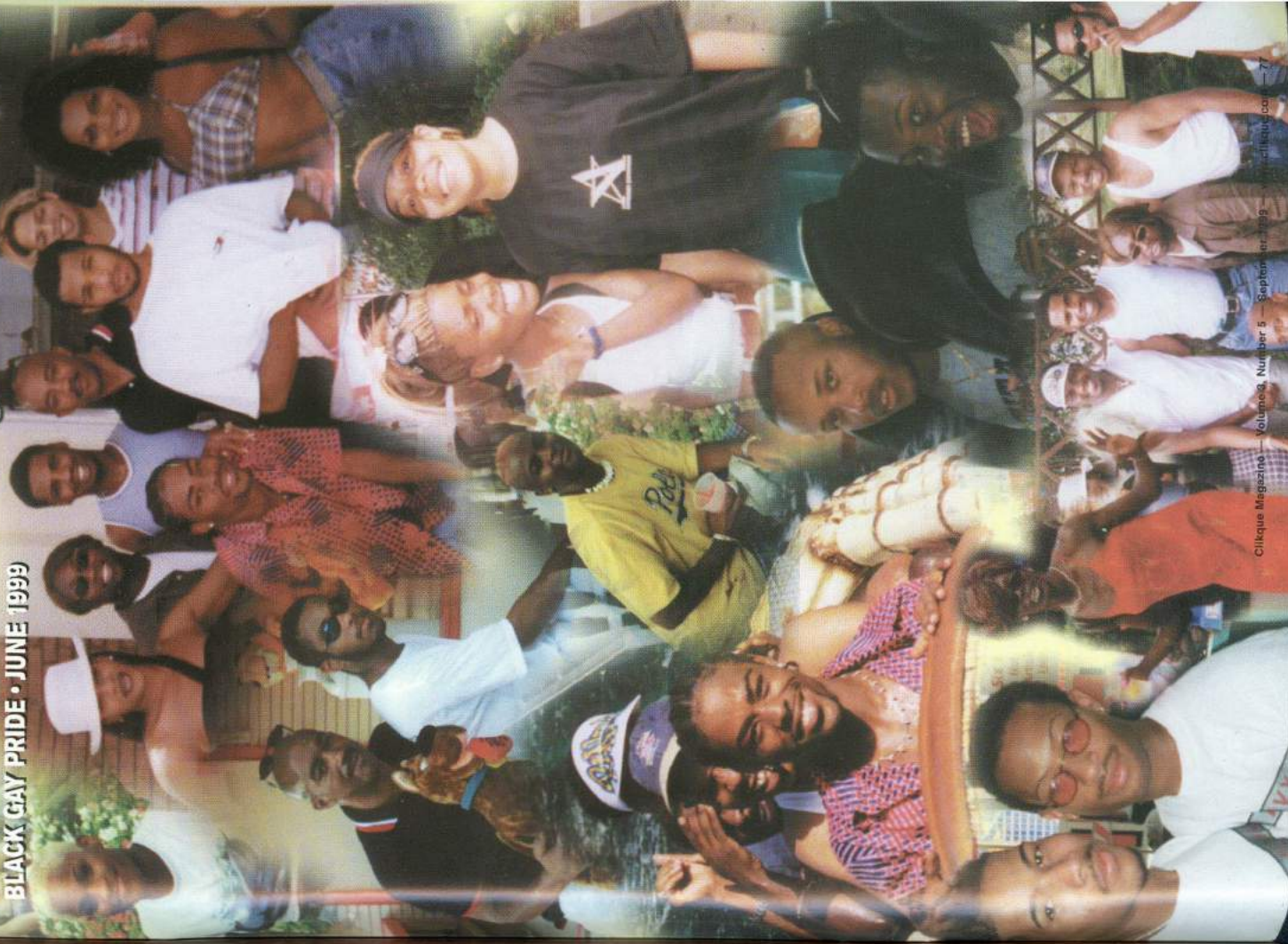
1318 Westheimer • Houston, Texas
713-942-CLUB • 877-210-CLUB

Sadarius Qua
Trevion Ross
Kendarious Oz
Tevin St. James



Houston Takes ON Six Flags

BLACK GAY PRIDE • JUNE 1999





Categories

It is with a great sense of pride and pleasure that we here at Klikque Magazine, offer you a national pageant with a difference. Miss Klikque America. This pageant promises to elevate the art of female impersonation and to serve as a benchmark with its dedication to community service, while maintaining high standards of style, grace and sophistication. Miss Klikque besides being talented and smart, will make a difference in her community. She will use her title to serve others and assist in leaving an indelible mark on the people with whom she comes in contact.

Presentation — Contestants will choose their own attire in Blue to present themselves to the judges.

Talent — Anything a contestant considers talent will be given fair consideration. We do not want anyone to think that we are looking for something specific. Painting on the stage for 7mins is as much talent as doing a number. Or live poetry or singing is very much talent as is tumbling or ballet dancing or dramatic interpretation. Just bring it with precision and be point.

Evening gown — This is a formal wear category and should show off the highest in class and sophistication.

Interview — Because we are a literary magazine we expect our title holders to be able to speak and represent Klikque. Contestants will be expected to have a platform (charity/service organization) and say what they admire most about Klikque. Or what improvements they would like to see made at Klikque. Interview should be 5 minutes and conducted OFF stage in business attire.

Miss Klikque America PAGEANTRY SYSTEM™

Miss Klikque Houston

Miss Klikque Houston — Tiffany Brooks
Tijanna Brooks 1st Atl.

Miss Klikque Atlanta

Miss Klikque Atlanta — Paula Sinclair
Stasha Sanchez 1st Atl.

Miss Klikque New Orleans

Sept. 24th, 1999
Montreal Coleman — 504-943-5577

Miss Klikque Memphis

Nov. 7th, 1999
Terry Buckner — 901-345-8031

Miss Klikque Birmingham

November 1999
Steven Daffin (Latrois) — 205-951-2163

Miss Klikque Jackson

November 1999
DeDe Labelle (CCL) — 601-713-1551

Miss Klikque Dallas

December 5th, 1999
Flawless Oz — 713-451-4433

Miss Klikque Washington, DC

Dec. 5th, 1999
Theresa Jackson — 202-543-4258

Miss Klikque Miami

Dec. 6th, 1999
Danyel Green — 954-484-7318

Miss Klikque Chicago TBA

MCA Pageantry System — 404-486-9655

Miss Klikque Detroit TBA

MCA Pageantry System — 404-486-9655

Miss Klikque Jacksonville TBA

MCA Pageantry System — 404-486-9655

Miss Klikque New York City TBA

MCA Pageantry System — 404-486-9655

Miss Klikque Philadelphia TBA

MCA Pageantry System — 404-486-9655

Miss Klikque Richmond TBA

MCA Pageantry System — 404-486-9655

AWARDS



Miss Klikque America

P a g e a n t r y S y s t e m

HEADQUARTERS:

931 Monroe Drive — Ste. 102-279,
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

404-486-9655

email: klikquem@aol.com

Web: www.klikque.com