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THE FASHION ISSUE

EXPLORE THE LIGHTER SIDE OF FASHION

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MUSIC /// Celebrating the Music of Earth, Wind, & Fire

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**MARCH
2007**

CLiK

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Darrel wears white tshirt by Faith Connection, black t-shirt by NINE LIVES, jeans by ANTIK DENIM, scarf by JOHN VARVATOS, hat by H&M, sneakers by MARC JACOBS FOR VANS

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Jason, Darrel & Omar

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Letter from the EDITOR

If only I was able to find the word to express how excited I am about this issue of Clik Magazine. After you've had an opportunity to thumb through our pages, you'll agree, that this is our best to date.

From our humble beginning in 1998, Clik[que] has evolved from a free clubish "magazine" to this slick, glossy bonafide magazine. Each month, we offer refreshing articles on relationships and dating, celebrity interviews, national news, travel, fashion, sports, grooming & health, fitness, music, movies, books and so much more.

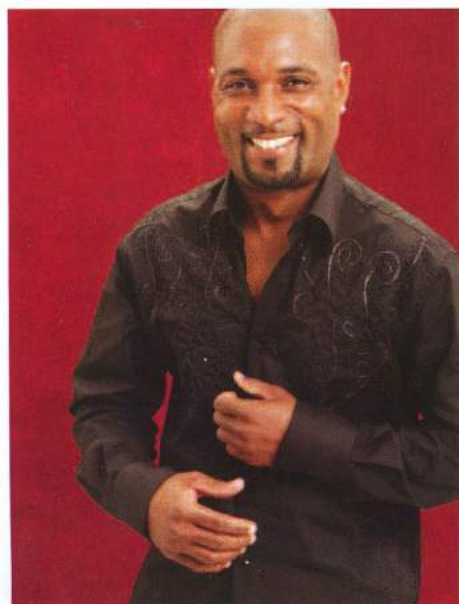
Like fine wine, we just keep getting better with time. While, I would be the first to acknowledge that we're not perfect... yet that is, we've come a long way over the past year as we strive to offer our community, the best magazine possible.

On a different note, over the next few months, we will be conducting another major subscription drive to turn even more readers on to us... America's #1 magazine for and about SGL men of color. See page 67 and find-out how you can get involved, win fabulous gifts, and a change to hang-out in Miami for five days on us.

Finally, please keep those letters coming and let us know how we're doing. Good or bad, we'd like to hear from you.

Cheers

Dwight Powell
Editor-In-Chief



CLIK

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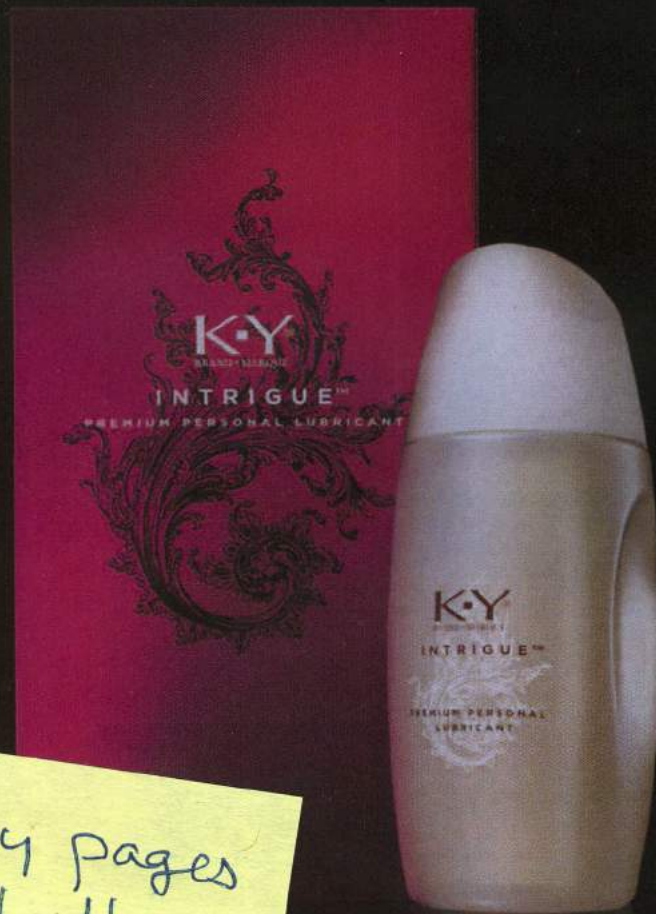
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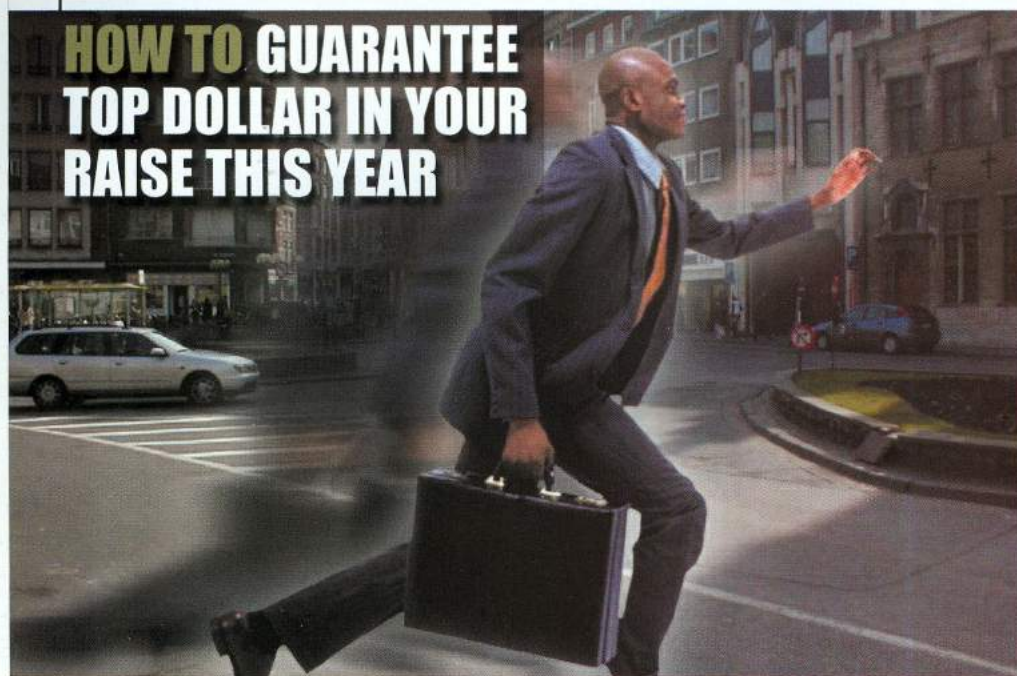
AFTER whining to my mentor few years ago of how I deserve more money from my boss, my mentor said to me I have a story to tell you and he started with...

"My Co-Workers Laughed when I told them I was going to ask the Big Boss for a raise, But when I drove by in my brand new Mercedes CLS"...

Immediately, I listened to exactly what he did. He shared the secret with me and soon after, I applied the tools and strategies and started to make more money at every job and every position that I ever applied for. Now I will reveal to you the inside scoop to release every penny you deserve into your hands.

ARTICLE BY: JIRARD VON WASHINGTON

HOW TO GUARANTEE TOP DOLLAR IN YOUR RAISE THIS YEAR



Every day you go into work and you feel that you could use more money. You look at your costly expenses and you are reminded of the money that you don't have. You rob Peter to pay Paul because you can't make ends meet. How can you make ends meet if you don't have enough money?

You spend time hours making sure that things are done at work. You work over 50 hours a week. You work damn hard. You realize that you deserve more. More than what you're worth...

Do you think you should be compensated for it? ... I say, emphatically yes!

Look no further. My mission is to give you the exact tools and tips that were given to me to make you more money and get you to get paid for what you are worth. You will become more confident.

I believe its nice to get the standard annual 2% raise from your employer that every employer hands over even to the ones that don't do much all year. Here is where you will learn how to position yourself for the highest bracket available to you...

LEARN HOW TO READ YOUR BOSS

One of the first things to consider is that you have to be able to communicate the thought of your raise to your employer BEFORE you consider asking for it. It's much more than just asking for the raise. You have to be savvy enough to transfer that thought of money to your employer in such a way that they can agree that you deserve a good raise.

Get into the mind of your boss. Your strategy is to think how they would think. Consider what they value. See the prob-

lem is that your boss is rewarded for controlling costs and not in the business of approving better than average wages. Therefore, it's your job to make them see how priceless you really are.

Plant the ideas in the mind of you employer over time. Don't be "pushy" because you will lose the battle in the long run.

If you forget anything, always remember you are the PRODUCT. So think like one, and you will be steps ahead of your employer. Your boss is thinking "The goal is to award the best PRODUCT that will bring value to me and my company.

KNOW YOUR EMPLOYERS POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Secondly, arm yourself with your company's compensation policy and procedure. Understand your battle ground. Find out everything that you can about it. Find out what and when is the maximum raise given? How does the company evaluate your performance? How do you advance in your position? What do you have to do to qualify to get to the next level?

Thirdly, know your industry. You need to know where you stand in your industry to determine the more you know the better equip you will be to make this happen. Visit JOBSTAR.com to determine what you should be getting paid according to your state and city. Are you under paid or are you paid at your standard?

Call your professional organizations for the national survey on salaries to see if you fall into the right range of pay!

RECORD EVERYTHING!

Lastly, keep a good record of your progress. The more specific and detailed that you are the better chance you will get to receive the highest raise possible. For every idea and tip that you have contributed to make the company more money should be noted and recognized.

You need to be organized and create a strategic operation. If you know raises are in January, start planning in June. Make weekly and monthly progress sheets of the things that you made happen.

Never write off anything that you think is insignificant. For example, if you discovered a new way to faster, cheaper to increase profits for your company. If you can't expose anything, ask someone else to help you to brainstorm. They may have more insight to the bigger picture.

This will be a major part of your ammunition to create a solid foundation to get the raise you deserve. Remember, employers look for results. Therefore, package yourself with all of the bells and whistles that would set you above the rest.

IF YOU NEVER ASK, YOU MAY NEVER GET

Now you are equipped to ask for the raise. Be confident. At times, you discount yourself and think that you never want to rock the boat by asking your employer for more money. But now you are more than ready.

Never say that you need a raise, demonstrate to them why you deserve a raise ... with facts, charts, etc. Think like lawyer and prove your case.

Never threaten to quit but keep good notes because if you decide to these will be some strong accomplishments to place in your resume to push you way above the other candidates.

After you asked for the raise ... If they cannot give it to you now, always ask when you can expect it. Most budgets are approved after the New Year begins. Now you have the secret of getting your raise. Be confident, powerful and successful.

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO TAP YOUR EMPLOYER POCKETBOOK

As a bonus, here are some additional ways make your salary skyrocket to the next level...

Firstly, increase your education to enhance your credentials. The more education that you have, your value will increase. Consider taking advanced courses. If your employer offers tuition reimbursement, go for it! Remember, that you are not paying out of your pocket ...

Make a lateral move to another company. Learn to network with professional organizations or business groups in your field of study. You will find a gold mine of people willing to help you get exactly what you want.

At the end of the day, the more that you can convince your manager of your worth, the more money will increase in your life.

Thank you for your support!

-Click Magazine Staff

CLiK

MAGAZINE

For And About Black SGL Men

PICTURED:

Lorenzo Turner, Dwight Powell, Cordell McClary, Luis Medrano

THE 8th Annual

African American Outreach Initiative

[REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 28, 2007]

INITIATIVE BEGINS:

Saturday, March 17, 2007

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

INITIATIVE CONTINUES:

Sunday, March 18, 2007

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

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For Registration/Information Contact: Linda Felix: LindaFelix511@hotmail.com or Charles Shackelford: CSHACK1964@yahoo.com

This event is sponsored by the Metropolitan Atlanta HIV Services Planning Council
Models appearing are volunteers. Their identity or HIV status cannot be assumed by their participation.



What's COOKING

[Treat him to a great hearty thats delicious and simple. He'll find some way to thank you!]

Marinade:

3 - 12oz bottles Guinness Stout
16oz Water
Zest of 1 lime
Zest of 1lemon
Zest of 1Orange
1 tbsp Fennel seed
2 tbsp Black Peppercorns
1 cup Granulated sugar
1/2 cup Kosher Salt

GRILLED 24HR MARINATED PORK CHOPS

Mix all ingredients in heavy bottom sauce pan. Bring to a boil to dissolve salt and sugar. Turn off heat and let steep for 20 minutes. Cool down marinade and pour over pork chops. Let chops soak for at least 24 hours. Remove chops from marinade, and pat dry. Grill chops, and brush with marinade till done. Brine can hold up to 10 medium size chops.



LOW COUNTRY INSPIRED CRAB CAKES

Crab Cakes Mix

2 lbs Crab Meat
1/2 cup Diced mix peppers
1/2 cup Diced Red Onions
1 1/2 cup Mayo
1 Tbsp Worceshire Sauce
2 Whole Eggs
1 tsp Salt
1 tsp Pepper
Juice of 1 Lemon
1/4 cup Old Bay Seasoning
2 cups Plain Bread Crumbs



Gently fold together the first 3 ingredients. In separate bowl, mix together the next 7 ingredients. Fold together the mayo mixture into the crab mixture. Add bread crumbs in 1/2 cup at a time till all is folded together. Be careful not to break up crab meat to much.

Crab Cakes

2 Tbsp Vegetable Oil
1 Tbsp Butter
(4 cakes at a time)

Melt butter and oil in sauté pan over med high heat. Form cakes into 2-3 oz balls (just about half the size of a tennis ball). Gently press the cakes down into the pan. Sauté cakes about 2-3 minutes per side.

Born and raised in Washington DC / Northern Virginia, Chef Cary Snow at the age of 33, holds a B.S. Degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management, a Masters Degree in Vocational Education from Virginia State University. He also received his Culinary Degree from Johnson and Wales University. Chef Snow has been an executive chef for hotel chains such as Hyatt and Hilton. He has help to start and establish several independent restaurants during his career. Chef Snow calls his style of cooking "New American Cuisine" a melting pot of cultures and flavors. An active member in organizations such as National Society of Minorities in Hospitality, the National Restaurant Association, and The American Culinary Foundation, Chef Snow now is a college instructor teaching up and coming African-Americans hospitality professionals his passion for his craft. Imparting his philosophy, "Love the food, care about the people you serve, and everything else will work itself out"



Kiss the Cook

This cook has aspirations

Through my years the black gay male voice has been missing in the culinary field. Like most children I dreamed of being a pilot or doctor. As time passed I was motivated and inspired by my family and friends to pursue a career in culinary arts. I attended college and got my degree in Hospitality Management, then a degree in Vocational Education, and finally a degree in Culinary Arts. I had aspirations in owning and operating my own restaurant while also looking to give back and teach culinary arts at a predominantly black college, a place where culinary education was sorely lacking. My father and mother always taught me that I had to be strong, and be a model citizen. People are going to stereotype you because you are black, and make it hard for you to succeed. What they did not prepare me for was being black and gay.

The culinary world is a testosterone driven business. Like in the world of actors and actresses, a chef could be in one day and out the next. Restaurants rise and fall, food fads come and go, and if you are not always pushing yourself, changing and adapting to the trends, you will be left in the wake of change. Kitchens are run like military boot camps. The chef is the commander, leading and inspiring his "troops". Within these ranks there are people who want to be you, and even want your actual job. They look for the chink in the armor, to expose your flaw so they may step in and prove themselves.

I have worked in several mid and high end hotels and restaurants, I have experienced first hand the prejudice that comes from being black in this business. I have witnessed the prejudice of being gay in this business as well. Being black and gay is a double edge, sword, you first face the stereotypes of what has befallen the black male. Ideas ranging from being lazy to being uneducated, only qualified to work grunt work positions like the grill, garde manger (salads, desserts), or a breakfast cook. Not defined or polished enough to work the more skilled positions. Not able to lead and will always be a follower or second best. Being "DL" for many years, I watched and heard people discredit fellow employees and chefs that were openly gay, worried about that those being gay "defined" the kitchen. Men arguing and worried about working in close quarters of the kitchen, working on the hot line with a gay chef. "He is gay, probably has AIDS and does not need to be around food" became common place phrases heard echoing through the kitchen. How could an up and coming chef ever feel comfortable to accept who they are with this chaos?

Through my 14 years I have never met in person, an African - American executive chef, gay or straight. I fought for identity, I looked for inspiration that could help me bring my two halves to a whole. Being gay does not define who I was or am, and I knew that, but to have at least a black male who was in a high level position would be monumental. The culinary industry can be brutal but it can also be very forgiving. It is a close knit family of people who understand the passion it takes to achieve the goal. You do not hear many success stories, chronicling the rise and success of African-American chefs. My story is one of determination and hope. The determination to not let a preference deter me from my goals, and the hope that I can contribute to the success of an inspiring chefs who struggle with there own self in similar capacity in which I did. If you are true to the craft, and honest to yourself, the fight can be won and within that your aspirations can be achieved.

CLIK HONORS// ELITE 25

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- ✓ Post-Award Show Interviews



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Love NO LIMIT:

The coming out stories of four Black men

Words by Anaré V. Holmes

Paralyzed by fear of rejection and abandonment from the families they love, many men choose not to reveal their sexual orientation to parents, siblings and other close relatives.

In a world where many view homosexuality as both an unnatural choice and a religious sin, many young and adult same-gender-loving men are left to discover the nuances of their sexuality isolated and alone, according to researchers and social scientists familiar with the impact sexual orientation has on family relationships.

While coming out to family may be one of the most challenging experiences a man will endure, doing so can also be one of the most liberating acts of displayed courage.

We rarely read or publicly hear from Black men about their coming out stories or from the families who continue to support and stand by their children.

In this issue of *Clik*, we talk to four men about their coming out process and the unconditional love they found through the revelation.



All hell breaks loose

Jeanette Johnson Ullah of Atlanta remembers when she first started hearing other family members chatter about how unusual her effeminate nephew, Andre Livingston, behaved.



Andre Livingston will never forget how traumatized his aunt was the day she found out he was gay.

Photo courtesy of A. Livingston

not a case of an older adult taking advantage of a young teenager. He willingly had sex with his aunt's friend.

"After he left, she just cried for several hours and kept asking me why. I never wanted her to find out that way, but I didn't know how to tell her about my sexuality ... I don't think I was ever going to tell her," he says. That day marked the first time Andre and his aunt actually sat down to discuss his sexual orientation.

"It was a bitter pill to swallow, but I love my child and his sexuality was not going to make me stop loving him," says Johnson Ullah. "We actually became closer after I found out he was gay."

Since Andre was only a teenager, there were moments when Johnson Ullah thought her nephew's sexuality may just be a phase he was going through. However, she says she's made peace with the fact that he will always be gay.

"Andre was just a little boy and his uncle would say, 'I'm telling you, that child is gonna' be gay when he grows up,'" says Johnson Ullah who made the decision to raise Andre after the death of both his parents. "But I didn't believe it. When young boys are small like that you never know what life has in store for them." During Andre's teenage years, Johnson Ullah would encounter two experiences that would indeed confirm what others had said all along.

"I walked in on him having sex with his male classmate and then a couple years after that I found out he and a former personal family friend had sex," she says. "I was devastated. It really shook me up."

Andre, now a 19 year-old youth leader of AID Atlanta's Evolution Project, said he will never forget just how traumatized his aunt was the day she caught him with the male family friend.

"When she opened the door to my room all hell broke loose. She started screaming and told the man to get out of her house," says Andre while making clear the incident was

"The role a family plays in helping men come to terms with their sexuality is crucial...it makes a significant impact on the quality of life a man will have and also the quality of relationships he will have with other people."

Dr. Brian Haltiwanger

When Andre was among one of the featured youth speakers at a recent Human Rights Campaign dinner, Johnson Ullah "busted her butt" to get there.

"I'm proud of him and what he's doing with his life," says Johnson Ullah of Andre who looks forward to attending college this fall.

It's that kind of family support that can truly make the difference between personal success and personal tragedy within the lives of many same-gender-loving men, according to psychologists and researchers well versed in LGBT issues.

"The role a family plays in helping men come to terms with their sexuality is crucial," says Dr. Brian Haltiwanger, a licensed psychologist and director of Mental Health for Chase Brexton Health Services in Baltimore. "The family's support or rejection of sexual orientation has a significant impact on the quality of life a man will have and also the quality of relationships he will have with other people."



As small children, Patrick Kelly (l) and his twin sister Patricia developed a special bond that would only grow stronger as adults after Kelly told her the truth about his sexuality. "I didn't love him any less," says Patricia.

Photo courtesy P. Kelly Family Collection

Proper support may help boost a young man's self-esteem and confidence, strengthen family ties and lays the foundation for healthy interpersonal and romantic relationships. Lack of support can eat away at self-esteem, dissolve family relationships and increase the chances of a young man's willingness to participate in the kind of self-destructive behavior that leads to alcoholism, drug addiction and suicide.

Escaping destruction

It was drugs that helped 54 year-old Patrick Kelly cope with feelings he did not quite understand as a young man coming of age in New York City during the late 1950s and early 1960s—a time when homosexuality was still considered a men-

tal disorder by the American Psychiatric Association. The APA would later remove that diagnosis in 1973 when Kelly was already a young adult.

The second oldest of 10 children, on the outside Kelly possessed the kind of masculinity our culture places at a premium. He was athletic, well-built, and assertive, taking on a leadership role as man of the house in a single-parent family home reared by his mother.

Kelly said he knew he was attracted to guys, but didn't feel he could tell anybody or talk about those feelings with family because everything he'd heard about men who were gay was negative.

"I was lonely and scared, so I turned to drugs to deal with my pain," he says.

Tired of going through the pernicious cycle of addiction, at age 28, Kelly realized if he was going to kick his habit, he'd have to make peace with his sexuality and that meant telling his family the truth about his sexual orientation.

"But before I could tell my family, I had to deal with the homophobia that lived inside of me and once I worked through that I could then go to my family," says Kelly.

He ended up breaking the news to his mother and twin sister over dinner at his home with his partner who is now deceased. He wanted the discussion to take place at his home just in case any major drama went down. In the event the air became too heated, he reasoned he could maintain a level of dignity by asking his relatives to leave his home versus them telling him to leave theirs.

"I was surprised when I found out," says Patricia Rainey, Kelly's twin. "But, it didn't change the love I had for him. He was happy and doing well for himself and that's all that mattered to me."

While his mother and twin may have received the news fairly well, it was a blow to some of the other siblings. It wouldn't take long for them to come around, though. "Looking back, if I would have known it was going to

be as easy as it was to tell them, I would have come out a long time ago and I probably never would have gotten off into drugs," says Kelly who became the first person in his family to attend college and currently serves as the director of community relations for National AIDS Education & Services for Minorities, Inc. "My sexuality is just one piece of who I am and my interac-

tion with my family has very little to do with my sexual orientation, but more to do with my role in the family as a son, a brother and good provider. That is how my family views me."

"A lot of fears run through your mind, you hear about people bashing gay people and killing them... you wonder are your children really going to burn in hell for being gay?"

Gladys Stewart

Love takes time

Experts agree the process of coming out ranges and situations are different depending on family circumstances and individual needs.

"Every person has their own timetable for determining when and if it's right to tell their family about sexual orientation," says Dr. Brian Carpenter, assistant professor of psychology at Washington University in St. Louis. "People need to balance the risks of telling their family with the burden of keeping a secret from them." On the other hand, Dr. Carpenter argues that keeping secrets takes a lot of mental energy and it can fundamentally change a relationship when people cannot be honest with each other.

"Coming out is a very personal process that works out best when a person initiates it themselves and especially when a person is ready to deal with any reactions [he or she] might get," says Dr. Carpenter. After carefully examining his own life, 30 year-old Atlanta resident Craig Stewart reached a point where he was finally ready to tell the truth to his mother. Inspired by some of the events that occurred during his coming out process, Stewart wrote the play *A Day in the Life*, a story of love, life, religion and HIV as told through the perspective of same-gender-loving Black men. (www adayinthelifeplay.com)

Although his mother had asked him if he was gay back in high school, Stewart says he brushed her off because he was unsure if his attraction to other guys was a choice or if he was truly born that way.

It was only after he settled into one of his first long-

Inspired by events that occurred during his coming out process, Craig Stewart wrote the play *A Day in the Life*—a story of love, life, religion and HIV as told through the perspective of six same-gender-loving Black men.

Photo by Jerry Boles



HELP

5 POINTS YOU SHOULD CONSIDER BEFORE COMING OUT

By Dr. Brian Carpenter and Dr. David Haltiwagner

CHECK YOURSELF: Coming out is a personal process that varies depending on the individual and his or her circumstances. However, experts suggest it is best when a person initiates the process themselves. Thoughts to consider are the following: why are you coming out? What do you hope to gain in sharing your sexual orientation? Are you ready to deal with any and all the reactions and consequences of others?

CONSIDER THE TIME AND PLACE: Do you want to make a big announcement in front of people who have gathered for another event? (i.e. holiday dinner, birthday, anniversary, etc.) Do you prefer a one-on-one conversation or one mediated by a trusted confidant? Will you rather write a letter?

BE PREPARED: From providing answers to many of the questions family and friends may have about the LGBT experience to making sure you have a safe place to seek refuge should the situation get heated, be mindful of all the events that can happen once the news breaks.

BE PATIENT: It may have taken you weeks, months or years to come to terms with your sexuality, don't expect your family to just be fine with your sexuality in one day. When talking to a parent or relative about sexual orientation, try to frame the discussion around what role you play in the family and what you value in your role as a son, brother or grandchild. Reminding family of the good in your relationship, you set up a comfortable place where effective dialogue can take place.

STAY POSITIVE: An optimist, upbeat attitude will help you through the tough times. Remember, people can only be who they are.

BOOKS AND RESOURCES

Spirited: Affirming the Soul and Black Gay/Lesbian Identity edited by G. Winston James and Lisa C. Moore (Redbone Press)

The Greatest Taboo: Homosexuality in Black Communities edited by Delroy Constantine-Simms (Alyson Publications)

Their Own Receive Them Not: African American Lesbians and Gays in Black Churches by Horace L. Griffin (Pilgrim Press)

Now That You Know: A Parent's Guide to Understanding Their Gay and Lesbian Children by Betty Fairchild and Nancy Hayward (Harcourt, Brace and Company)

Transgender Rights edited by Paisley Currah, Richard M. Juang and Shannon Price Minter (University of Minnesota Press)

term relationships with another guy that he felt comfortable enough to open up.

"Love eventually compelled me to tell her," says Stewart. "She took it kind of hard when she first found out."

Gladys Stewart of Baltimore admits she did not take the news well when her son told her that not only was he gay, but that he also wanted her to meet his partner. "It was one thing to have suspicions, but then to have those suspicions confirmed that was a whole other thing," says Gladys. "I thought...how is the rest of the family going to react? Was there something wrong I did in his upbringing to make him this way?"

Gladys didn't speak to her son for about two weeks, which was rare considering the two talked sometimes two and three times daily. To cope with the news, she sought advice from her mother.

"A lot of fears run through your mind, you hear about people bashing gay people and killing them," says Gladys. "You worry about your children's safety, more importantly you worry about their soul and you wonder are your children really going to burn in hell for being gay?"

And while Gladys is informed enough to know that anybody can contract HIV/AIDS, she says she'd be lying if she didn't admit that the fear of her child contracting the disease was a major concern she worried about. Talks with her mother comforted Gladys as she was reminded how even if she did not fully understand how her son became gay nothing would change the fact he was blood.

"I realized my love for him was stronger than whatever fears I may have had," says Gladys as she started making the transition from disapproval to acceptance. She would eventually go on to meet her son's lover and started educating herself about the LGBT experience through television programs and articles found in magazines and newspapers.

"There is so much misinformation out there, but we as African-Americans need to support our children," she says. "God created us all and that fire and brimstone hate that comes from a lot of people in the church is wrong. If you have good character and if you are treating people right, that's all that should matter."

Craig Stewart says telling his mother was a weight lifted from his shoulders and that today he and his mother share the kind of strong, open and close relationship many of his gay friends admire and wish they had with their parents.

Yet, surprisingly enough, when this article was written, Stewart had yet to tell his father about his sexuality.

"I have not told him because I feel he will be disappointed," says Stewart. "It's kind of a different thing to tell your father, but I'm working on it and should be telling him real soon."

Craig's decision to tell one parent and not the other is not unusual, according to the psychologists interviewed for this story. It's all a part of the coming out process.

"Family relationships can be maintained, but it may

take some time for everyone to readjust to their new ways of thinking about things," says Dr. Carpenter.

Reaching common ground

Anye Ellis has reached an understanding with his grandfather, the man who helped raise the 19 year-old. "After he found out that I was not going to nor could I change who I am, we reached a point of mutual respect," says Ellis, a participant in *A Deeper Love*, an Atlanta-based project that focuses on reducing the HIV and STD levels in the city's American-American MSM (men who sleep with men) population.

"We simply do not discuss my sexuality," he says. "And, I'm fine with that."

Ellis says his grandfather found out he was gay during a turbulent time in his teens while he was living with his mother in Pennsylvania.

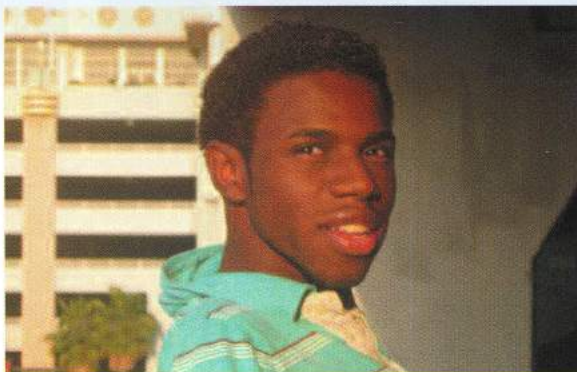
Unable to cope with life in his mother's care after she found out he was gay, Ellis reached out to his grandfather who was living in Florida at the time.

"In addition to other issues, which I'd rather not get into, my mother really tripped about my sexuality and since I had lived my grandfather as a young child before, I called him up one day and told him I wanted to come live with him."

His grandfather agreed and off to Florida Ellis went.

A fairly independent and self-assured teen, Ellis says he didn't seek others to validate his sexuality. It is what it is. So when his grandfather tried to use religion and the Bible as a way to "correct" him, he was not having any part of it.

"I know my grandfather meant well, but I just wasn't



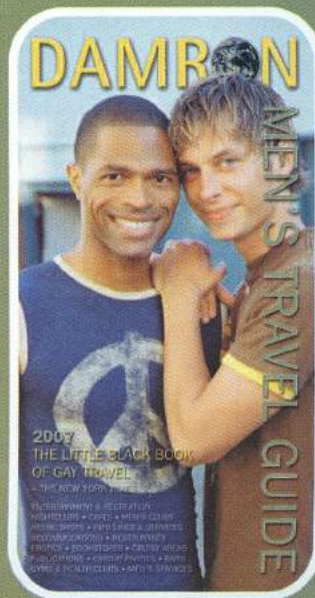
A fairly independent and self-assured young man, Anye Ellis does not look for others to validate who he is as a gay man.

Photo courtesy of A. Ellis

going for that," he says. "I like who and what I am."

Ellis' grandfather would only speak to us on the condition of anonymity, but says he was not trying to convert his grandchild, but only provide useful information that he hoped Ellis would take into consideration. "Sure I would have liked if he was [straight]....but that's not the way it is," says Ellis' grandfather. "I can't live his life for him, but I'm not gonna' turn my back on him. He's family."

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In the fall of 2006, Michael Sandy, 29, met what he assumed to be one man on Adam 4 Adam, a popular gay on-line dating site, for a prospective love or lust connection (which seems unclear) in a remote Sheephead Bay parking lot. The three young men, John Fox, 19, Ilya Shrov, 20, and Gary Timmins, 16, he actually met brutally beat him and would ultimately lead to his untimely demise when he tried to escape his attackers by running into a busy highway and was struck by a vehicle. His death is not unique, though wonder if he knew the full risks he was taking when he—a man filled with hope over the possibilities of this new man—went to meet his attackers. I'm sure that the 29 year old Brooklyn, New Yorker had heard nothing about North Carolina's Curt Blackman, one of the five men who'd met dates on Gay.com and horrifically met their maker soon thereafter. Or the 14 year old boy, Michael Williams Jr., from the Southside of Chicago whose body was found sexually assaulted and strangled dead in a park after meeting a stranger on a telephone chat line. It's extremely unlikely Sandy had heard of the German internet killer who advertised his intent to slaughter his 18 to 30 year old victims before eating his final victim from the gay websites from the Internet. Michael Sandy wouldn't have heard of them because these scantily covered murders barely receive the media attention of a missing white girl or a celebrity's childbirth. Though whispered about as half-truths throughout gay culture, none of these are urban legends or a series of *Law and Order* episodes; but a trend, a sad and increasingly common one.

MIDNIGHT CALLERS

By L. Michael Gipson

"We are seeing an increasing number of pick-up crimes and murders in which the murderer finds his victim in online chat rooms or through phone chat lines," said Clarence Patton, AVP's Director of Community Organizing and Public Advocacy in a 2003 press release. "Bars, nightclubs and other meeting spots have always been prime hunting areas for those wanting to victimize our community. However, as many have moved to meeting over the phone lines or in chat rooms, so have those who prey on us," concluded Patton.

In these early years of the new millennium, echoes of painful gay bashing scenes from Marlon Riggs classic film, *Tongues Untied*, continue to unfold in the lives of Black gay men. Fragmented pictures of black men throwing fists, kicking boots, slinging spit and trying to steal lives, if not always the joys of our soul. Classic old school gay bashing in gay areas, gay strolls and in front of gay bars appear to be happening more frequently. Basher victims span from the average gay New Yorker, like Dwan Prince to the infamous, such as entertainer Kevin Aviance. Though New York bashing makes the headlines, bashers' know no geography and seems to have a new thirst for the blood and lives of the young like the shooting death of 19 year old Donathan "Jayla" Rogers on a street in Cleveland, Ohio; 26 year old J.R. Warren in a fatal beating and vehicular homicide in West Virginia; or the near fatal shootings at a house party of primarily young, black gay men at the "Gay House", a neighborhood residence on 79th and Woodlawn in Chicago. These traditional gay bashing hate crimes have only been complemented by a more insidious rash of gay basher related crimes initiated through the internet. This newer strain or method of initiating a gay bashing is causing some in the gay community to question whether crimes like Michael Sandy's murder qualifies as a hate crime or as a coordinated mugging gone wrong. Those making these arguments ignore that traditional gay hate crimes often include larceny as part of the act, as the assailants are often poor, and that vic-

tims like Michael Sandy are targeted by criminals on gay websites because they are gay and therefore considered easier, weaker, affluent and more accessible prey by their perpetrators. Sadly, the collusion of external societal and internal gay cultural influences ensures that the perpetrators are too often right when it comes to the ease of gay male accessibility.

In these technocratic times the *Tongues Untied* images are in digital and the methods for securing gay prey are executed through fiberoptic phone and broadband cable lines. Exploiting the longing, loneliness and isolation of some gay men and the testosterone-driven, thrill-seeking behaviors of others, the criminally-minded are very aware of where the easiest and most discrete (read: least likely to report) victims are apt to reside. Criminals become familiar with the vast gay and straight internet dating scenes through prisoner dating websites like RuffnecksBehind Bars.com, a sub-site of EbonyMale.com, and through the oral education they receive from fellow incarcerated rapists, robbers and extortionists looking for innovative, new avenues to commit their crimes, reduce the likelihood of getting caught and making the fast bucks. The public knowledge of online DL or down-low brothers adds another level of discretion in these crimes, one that might not be present with an "out" gay man prepared to demand justice and legal recourse. Authentically DL victims of crime may maintain their silence after their victimization for fear of being "outed" and for fear that any legal recourse would be part of a public record that would state how the assailant was able to access the victim. Some find themselves silently suffering from blackmail by their perpetrators, even after suffering at their perps' hands. Whether DL or out, many gay men share a culture that strongly desires and values a "str8 acting, masculine, hip-hop man/thugged-out/not-clockable" black brother" and our criminal brothers know and exploit it. In too many ways we aid and abet our attackers.

The exalted, romanticized thug boy image some of us chase, that real man who nobody knows about but us,

Safety Measures

Get to know the person well through chat rooms to find any inconsistencies or strange behavior, and talk first on the phone. You can warn the date that the number may come up private before you call, but block your phone number.

Save your e-mail or IM trail in a clearly identifiable electronic folder on your computer. E-pics of your prospects with their pics ideally marked by their profile. Share your computer password with someone you trust or place in a hidden location near your computer.

Before physically meeting a prospect, call or e-mail a trusted, discrete friend or family member the meeting place info and address, profile name, the name provided by your prospect (even if it's fake) and the prospect's e-mail address.

If you have a camera phone, use it! Take and send pics of the house, license plate and if you can get away with it—the prospective date!

Don't offer any personal information that a stranger could use to take advantage of you. No mother's maiden names, date of birth or your social security number, craft kids know ID theft is real and easy.

Meet in a public place and stay longer than 15 minutes. Don't get into their car; take public transit to meet them if you don't have a vehicle.

Trust your gut, not your dick or theirs!

IF YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF A VIOLENT CRIME, CONTACT THE ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAM IN YOUR CITY OR CALL 212-714-7184. YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

that new curious brutha we can turn out, that muscular married man on the low are all stock scenarios and pedestrian desires familiar to our internet bashers. In heavy, seductive tones they coo after several hours (sometimes less) of persuasive IM and/or phone conversations for their instant "bestest friends" to come out to play grown folks games in dark places. Sometimes they offer pornographic promises of CoCo Dorm dreams; others maliciously sell something more sacred, the hopeful possibility of love and affection. As men our egos, desires, irrational sense of invincibility and sometimes the shame/thrill of secret indulgence often clouds our judgment. Consequently, we fail to call loved ones to inform them of our whereabouts; we don't e-mail our Judys the license plate numbers, screen names or email addresses of our prospective dates; we don't even save the IM correspondence for the police to have some trail to follow in the event of foul play. Despite the fact that victims like Michael Sandy met their basher in a public space, we think a fifteen minute visual, verbal and masculinity test in a pub or coffee shop will protect us when we move too quickly from the public sphere to insecure private spaces. We tell ourselves that meeting men on-line is equal to meeting a man in a bar or club, with the same level of danger. We are both right and wrong in our assumptions.

I was 16 years old the summer that gay serial murder and cannibalist Jeffery Dahmer killed my friend. His name was Donald. Donald was part of a group of project queens that I hung out with in front of the Metro station in Chicago in the blazing summers of 1991 and '92. An average looking black boy, Donald wasn't quick witted nor did he possess the awe-inspiring dancer flexibility that we coveted as poor, superficial street urchins with limited visions of value and fabulousness. Donald wasn't what we thought of as hip during those days and was consequently marginalized among the groups' most popular. I wonder if our marginalization of Donald dashed his easy willingness to accept the persuasion of Dahmer's advances. Donald met Dahmer in a now defunct gay club, Carol's Speakeasy and was soon after led to Milwaukee where Dahmer murdered and ate parts of him. I never considered nightclubs to be a safe space again after Donald's death. Still, at least in a nightclub, friends, bartenders and acquaintances can see one's prospective date, may know him and serve as witnesses if one were to become missing or worse. In competitive club spaces we inadvertently serve as look outs for one another and are more likely to make introductions of our one-nighters to others on those occasions. With a date met through the internet, no one need ever see you or the date or even know that you're harmed or missing for days, even weeks. Depending on your discretion, no one need ever know you cruise online at all, perhaps to your detriment. The first HIV prevention poster I ever read said: No One Has A Body To Die For, I think the same philosophy should also hold true here for those concerned about protecting their lives.

Don't let Michael Sandy and so many other brothers die in vein, learn from their examples. As a black gay community we often wear targets on our back, even when we don't know it. Your silence will not protect you. Neither will your closets, masculine gender expression, cosmetic muscles (unless possibly obtained through boxing, martial arts or a self-defense course) or your pristine reputation as "someone who just doesn't do type that type of thing." Taking conscious steps to protect yourself may protect you. The following are some steps you can take if you cruise or date men from the internet. These steps may protect your life or if something—God forbid—should happen to you; these may assist the police in capturing your assailant. Remember, nothing in dating is 100% risk-free, but to do nothing will 100% ensure that you remain at risk. The choice is yours.

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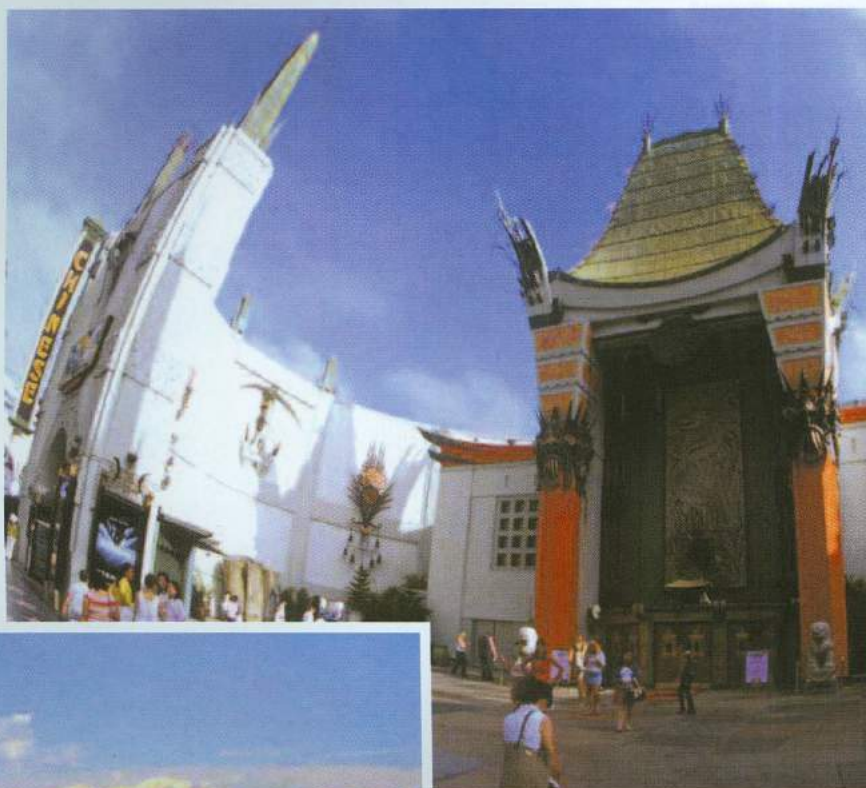
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The largest city in California, Los Angeles is one of the world's centers of culture. The city and its immediate surrounding vicinity lead the world in producing popular entertainment—such as motion pictures, television, and recorded music—which forms the base of Los Angeles' international fame and global status.

the city of Angels

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For the best that Los Angeles area has to offer, visit Los Angeles.com. From the music scene, clubs, concerts, bars, nightlife, gay nightlife, and local band directory. Los Angeles could also be termed the city that never sleeps with its incredibly active nightlife. From hot Hollywood clubs along the Strip and martini bars in West Hollywood to rooftop lounges in the Valley and sports bars in Santa Monica, there is something for everyone's taste. The city is also home to a variety of sporting, theatrical and musical events; visitors are guaranteed to have a bounty of options in this town.



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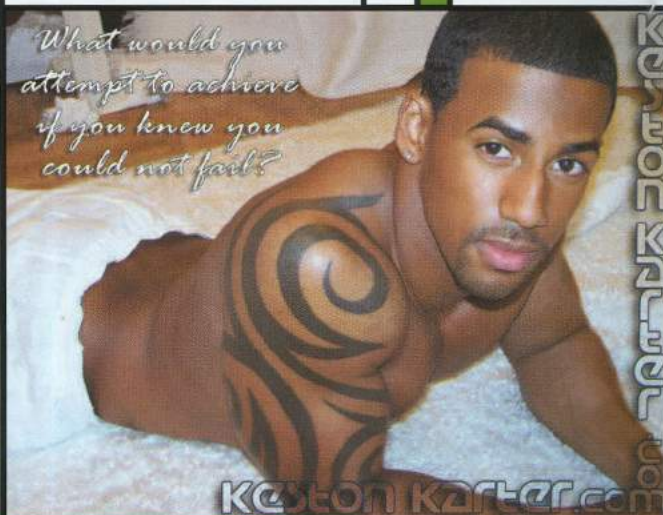
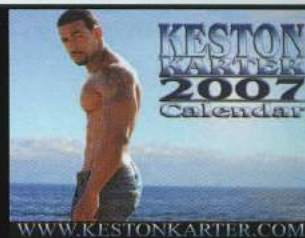
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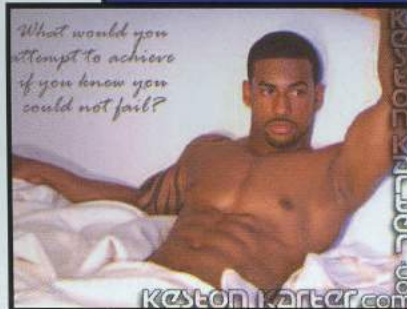


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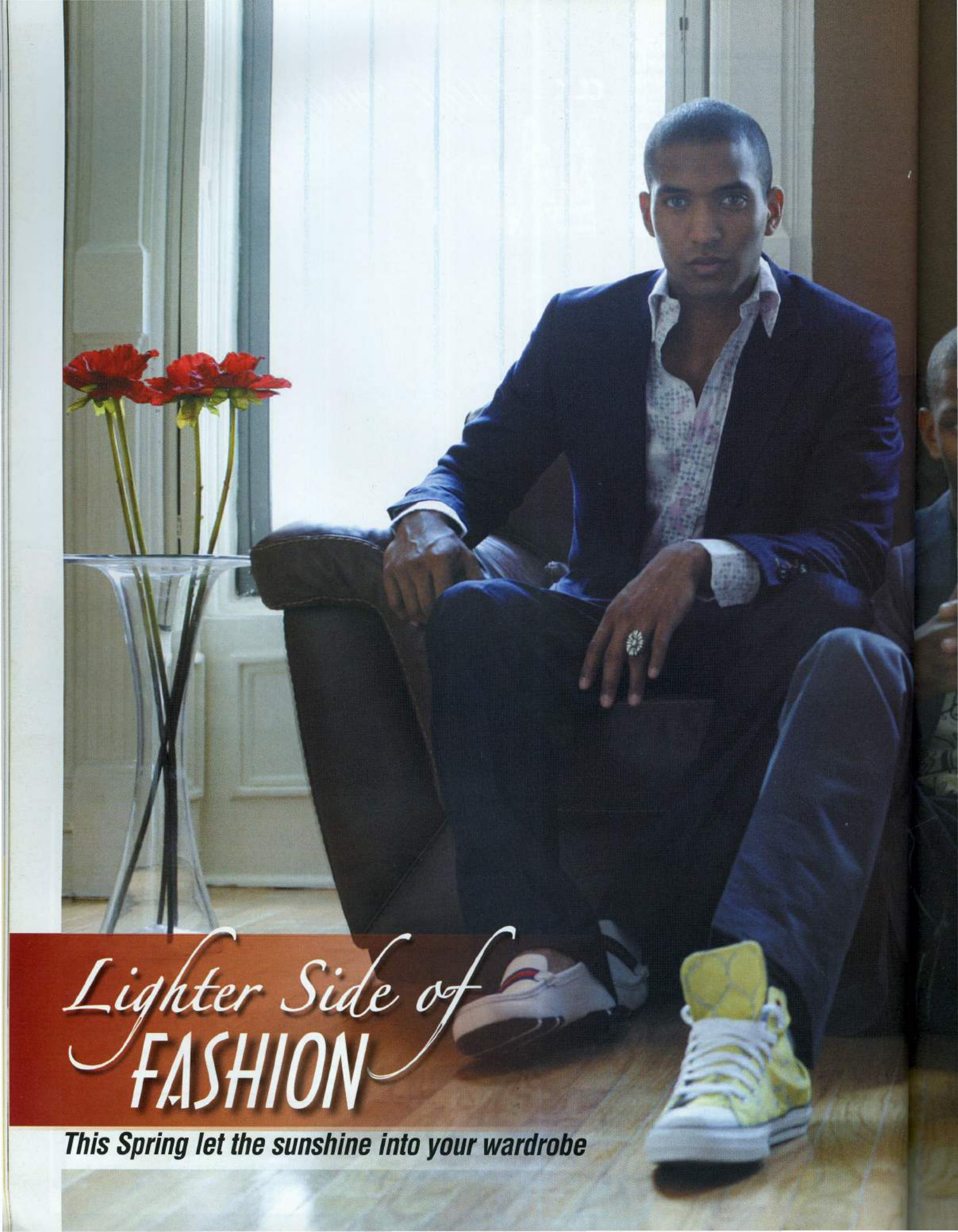
Probably the best calendar website, I ever seen, www.kestonkarter.com is a must. Trust me, you will not be disappointed. While there, be sure to buy the 2007 calendar - Get that added inspiration for the remaining months of 2007

From the age of 4, Keston has been living in New York, and taking advantage of all that the Big Apple has to offer. He enjoys acting and says that his hunger, passion and love of the craft has led him to take odd jobs and work at the age of 13 to pay for his own acting classes and workshops.

Keston has since landed parts in various productions. You might have seen him in productions such as *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Guilty by Suspicion*. His film credits include roles in *One in the Chamber* and *The Inside Man*.



By Dwight Powell



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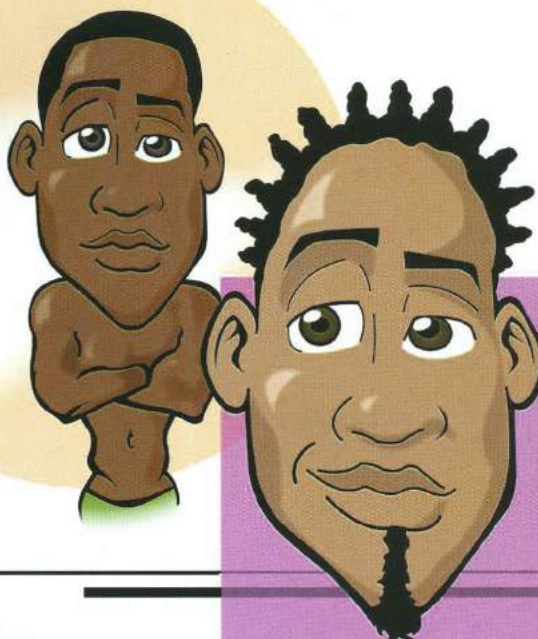
Darrel wears shirt by CASTELBEJAC, jeans by NINE LIVES, sneakers by J.LINDBERG, shoulder pouch by LOUIS VUITTON, jewelry by NAGUAL

Omar wears jacket and pants by BLANC DE CHINE, sweater by H&M, scarf by BYBLOS, watch by MICHAEL KORS, shoes by MARC JACOBS, jewelry by NAGUAL

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Models: Jason and Darrel at Vision NYC
Omar at Bella Models
Location: Brooklyn New York at the home of DJ China and
Debbie Brennan*

DIRTY@ 30 Thirty



As far as I can remember, I have always been considered the most dramatic child when compared to my siblings. An episode of my childhood would reveal a classic Jerry Springer case. I'd declare war on everyman who wanted to date my mom; while my brothers could fight the entire neighborhood, and play the next day as if nothing happened. I'd never just let the issues go and at any given time I'd initiate my vindictive plan to seek revenge. Yes, I'll admit that I once was convicted of fighting a kid during the church benediction. It's embarrassing but my mother had to slap me across the back of my head with a skillet to break up that fight. After several similar incidents, I was forced to visit the county jail and given a second chance to avoid messy drama; yet nothing could have ever scared me entirely straight. ☺

In the beginning it was hard to say no to drama but as I

matured the temptation to react ignorantly became less enticing. I still regrettably initiated a few bel-

ligerent confrontations and slapped an ex to prove a point. I've thrown cell phones, chipped a tooth and hurt spectators in the mist of many drunken fits. I've vandalized timberland boots and kept clothing for collateral to only realize that the hype of all of the drama wasn't worth the karma. I've learned a lot at 24' and in some ways I am still paying for many of my mistakes.

Like others I've decided to intentionally avoid the "messiness" that plagues a few of our loved ones. Hey, it may be time to stop running your mouth and step up your moral code with a few folks. I've been messy and you may recognize messy symptoms in your "friends," but it's never too late to leave their sickening saga of treacherous drama. At first you may have thought that

they were the funniest and charismatic people you ever met; until their quick-witted tongue lashings turned towards you. Yeah, if they'll do it with you, they'll do it to you. Their erratic yet entertaining conversations lured you into their brewing drama of shade throwin'. It's inevitable and you'll be safe to assume that they're dishing others the exclusive details of your most private affairs. We all can spot a messy man or what I call, a *Dirty Thirty* from a mile away.

A *Dirty Thirty's* deeds are prompted as a result of ignorance, perpetuated by feelings of inadequacy and personified through their depressing pessimism. Over 21 and damn near 40 years old, messy men are masters of manipulation because their lives are based on lies. Even if he is "keeping it real," he is too damn old to be entertaining such elemental behavior. Messy men rarely admit their dirty deeds due to their inconsistency and habitual perpetration throughout the community. A *Dirty Thirty* is constantly contradicting their alibis while choking on all of their conflicting lies. A man of mess has a

laundry list of broken promises, past failures and future fears. Formerly known as a "best friend," they have no loyalty because they can't trust themselves. All of their decisions are based on conditions of comfort and their relationships are founded for their own benefit. Messy people may have good intentions but their flawed methods are blurred by contagious insecurities.

Over 21 and damn near 40 years old, messy men are masters of manipulation because their lives are based on lies...

It's time that you eliminate the *Dirty Thirty* lurking around your life. Be impervious to the *Dirty Thirty's* alluring minstrel show, infectious gossip and fleeting gimmicks. Stand still, observe and awaken the empowering strength that comes from your silent energy. Listen and regain the patience you once had before you invited this messy man into your life. Keep your distance and persevere through the awkward phone calls that come from filtering out his bullshit. Be above the influence of instigation, assert respectful boundaries and maintain a small yet rich quality circle of genuine friends. As you go new places and embrace new faces, remember that friendship is all about who you are today and where you are going. Don't allow his objectives of obligation and unnecessary guilt trips to sabotage your maturity. If you owe him, pay him off and if you love him you'll let him know that he is in deed a messy bitch. Now that you've revived your internal peace it's time to tell the *Dirty Thirty* to mind his own business. No matter what the future holds, if you're feeling the urge to be messy, just ask yourself if you want to be labeled as or live like a *Dirty Thirty*?

-Juwan Watson

Jordan's Bedroom
PHILADELPHIA, PA

CLiK

UNIVERSITY

Created by: Harry James Pinkney, Jr.

"Freshmen Move-IN"

Issue No: 1 - Series Premiere - March 2007

Okay, I thought this day would never come. I'm no longer a High School Senior. Get this - in one week I will officially be a bona-fide College Man. I can hardly believe it, but it's true... this time next week we'll be leaving for Atlanta, Georgia.

We - referring to the best friends a guy could ever have: **Trey, Khalil and Thea**. I can still remember how it was when I first came OUT. Of course I was scared. Scared of the world. Scared of being different. Scared that I would never find someone to love someone like me... until I met my friends...

Meanwhile... Across town Trey was busy saying goodbye to one of his Regulars...

First there's **TREY**

I met him way back in Elementary school. He was on the football team and I was writing an article on the game. He would stick up for me when others would have a little too much fun at my expense. Sure I had a crush on him at first. But he quickly became a Big Brother to me after we discovered each others secret. We've been best friends ever since. And it's a good thing too, because Trey isn't the type of guy who does relationships...

I thought you were going to stay the night Trey.

C'mon Stan we go through this every-time. I can't! Gotta bounce.

When can I see you again?

You can see me in your Dreams!

Hello, AirTran, I'd like to book the next flight out to Atlanta, Georgia. Huh? Yeah, that's right... I'm going out to Clik-U.

The sex is great, but why don't this guy wise up and see this will never be anything more than a Booty Call.

Unfortunately for Trey some **BOOTY CALLS** play by a whole set of different rules...

No! That's all I'll need is a One-Way ticket! Yeah that's right. Well, I guess you can say that I'm not coming back until I capture my **Dream**.

STAB!

...And when you're playing with matters of the heart, some Games can be Deadly!

Then there's **KHALIL**

...who can best be described as a Thug with a heart of gold. I met Khalil in Junior High. When I first saw him in the yard I thought God himself had smiled down on me. You see Khalil has this unique charm, that certain spark in his eye, that extra something that puts him over the top. Unapologetically Gay and full of life this sexy Brotha showed me how to live right out in the open. We have a special bond. Our friendship comes closer than blood ever could.

Who's the Faggot now Punk?!

And somewhere on the North Side of town Khalil ties up a few loose ends of his own.

Closer to home Thea arrives at Jordan's House.

...And let's not forget about my Girl...

THEA

I met this self-proclaimed Fag-Hag in Junior High, the day after Khalil came into my life. We met at a local Gay Club. We all had fake ID's - about to get thrown out, but Thea wasn't having it. Cursed out the Bouncers like a drunken Sailor. By the end of the night we all had free passes. Sure my Girl's a little loud, brass, and outspoken. But that's what we love about her. She's the type of person you immediately love or hate when you first meet her. And it's definitely all Love.

Jordan, Honey, I'm here! Open up!

Hold on Thea! I'm Coming!

JORDAN

And of course... there's me - I'm Although I am an Overachiever, graduated top of my Class, and even accepted to Click-U on a full academic scholarship I can't say that I've had the same success in my love life. You see - I keep falling for the wrong kind of guy, and if you've met my Ex you'd know this to be true. But I'm through with the past. I have college to look forward to, with the hopes and aspirations of one day becoming a recording artist. Together with my friends we're setting off on a fantastic journey. And for the first time in my life I'm not afraid.

You ready to get your dance on?

What are you doing over there?

You know it. Just give me a minute.

Updating my Journal. I wanna remember this.

Okay, I'm done. Gimme a sec to get dressed then we're out.

Later that night everyone meets up at the Graduation Party held at Paradise Alley

A'right we're here! Let's get this party started right!

There's my Boi.

A'right, Trey, I get it - you're happy to see me.

Hi Mom! Wassup?

Honey, you remember Linda's daughter? I just ran into her today...

Oh, Mom, please don't start.

Khalil, I gave her your number. I think she will be perfect for you.

Mom, I'm an out-and-proud Gay Black Man!

I refuse to believe that. I'm gonna live long enough to see God deliver you from that lifestyle.

And I'm gonna live long enough for you to realize if being Gay is a choice - then God's made it! I love you and Goodbye Mom.

SLAM!

Let the Boy breathe Brotha.

Hey Thea, get over here and show us your moves!

You heard the man Jordan. Show me!

I see your Mom's still tripping Khalil.

Yo, if it's any consolation, my friend you know you'll always have US!

I know. And I love you for it. Good looking out. You guys are my family now.

I got ya Girl. C'mon and back that thing up!



Angel? What are you doing here? I thought you left for Harvard this morning.

Khalil gets an unexpected surprise.

Not 'till Wednesday. I changed my schedule in order to see you off.

You did that for me?

C'mon, did you really think I'd let my Man leave without giving him a proper send-off? You mean too much to me.



Are you psyched? I'm off to Harvard to become a brilliant lawyer. You're off to Clik-U to become an Out-and-Proud Journalist. Life couldn't be better. Just think, soon we'll be like this power couple. Taking the world by storm.

It sure sounds good on paper. And I know we agreed to have an open relationship, but after being together for over two years it's going to be hard not waking up to you every morning.

I know, I know. This long distance thing is gonna take some getting use to, but it's not like this is goodbye Baby. We'll spend every break together. We can make this work. You'll see.

Damn, Dawg I don't know what to say. I'm glad you're here.



But while I have you in my arms...

A'right now lighten up. We still have tonight. Tonight let's have fun.

Look, there's Jordan and your crew. Join your friends. Let's party!

Celebrating a New Era sometimes mean you have to let go of an Old one... At least for the moment. So enjoy what lies ahead and face the future with no regrets.



Promise me when you date, don't get serious with anyone.

My heart will always belong to you.

A'right Playas and Play-ettes, it's time to do the College-thang!

Clik-University here we come!

And just wait until they get a load of us!

One Week Later - Trey and Jordan are on their way to Clik University.



Yo, Trey, where were you all this time?

Shhh, keep it down Jordan. I was in the bathroom with that Flight Attendant joining the Mile-High Club.

Hee, hee, hee. That explains the smile on his face.

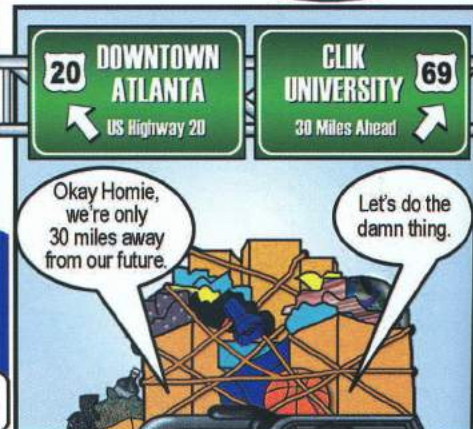
Hey look, we're here, we're coming into Atlanta, Georgia's Airport.



So Khalil should be settled in by now. Said he'd meet us in front of the Dorm.

And Thea?

You know Chicken Little's still afraid to fly. Her train will get in tomorrow morning.

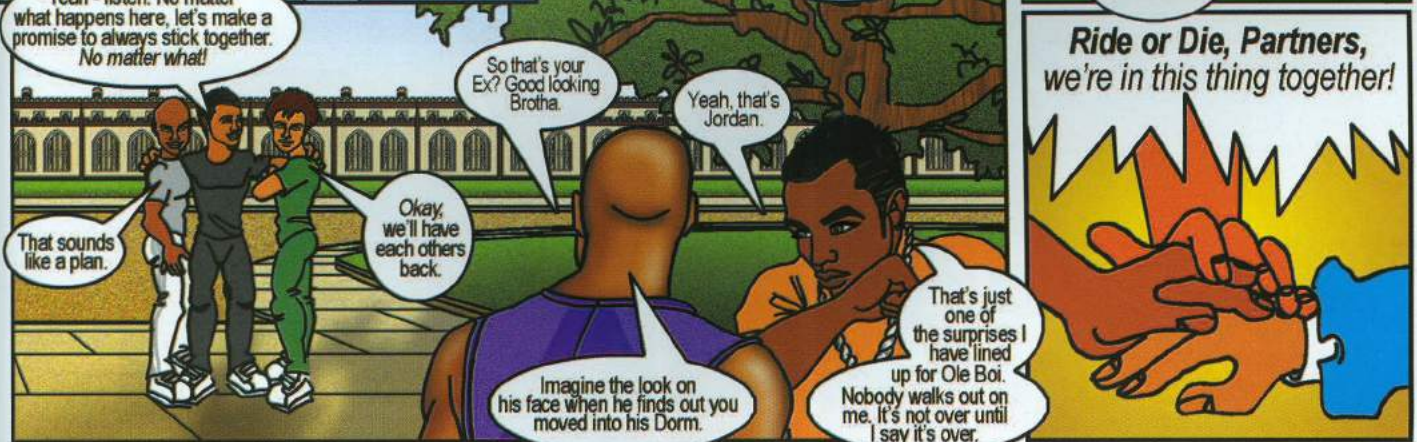


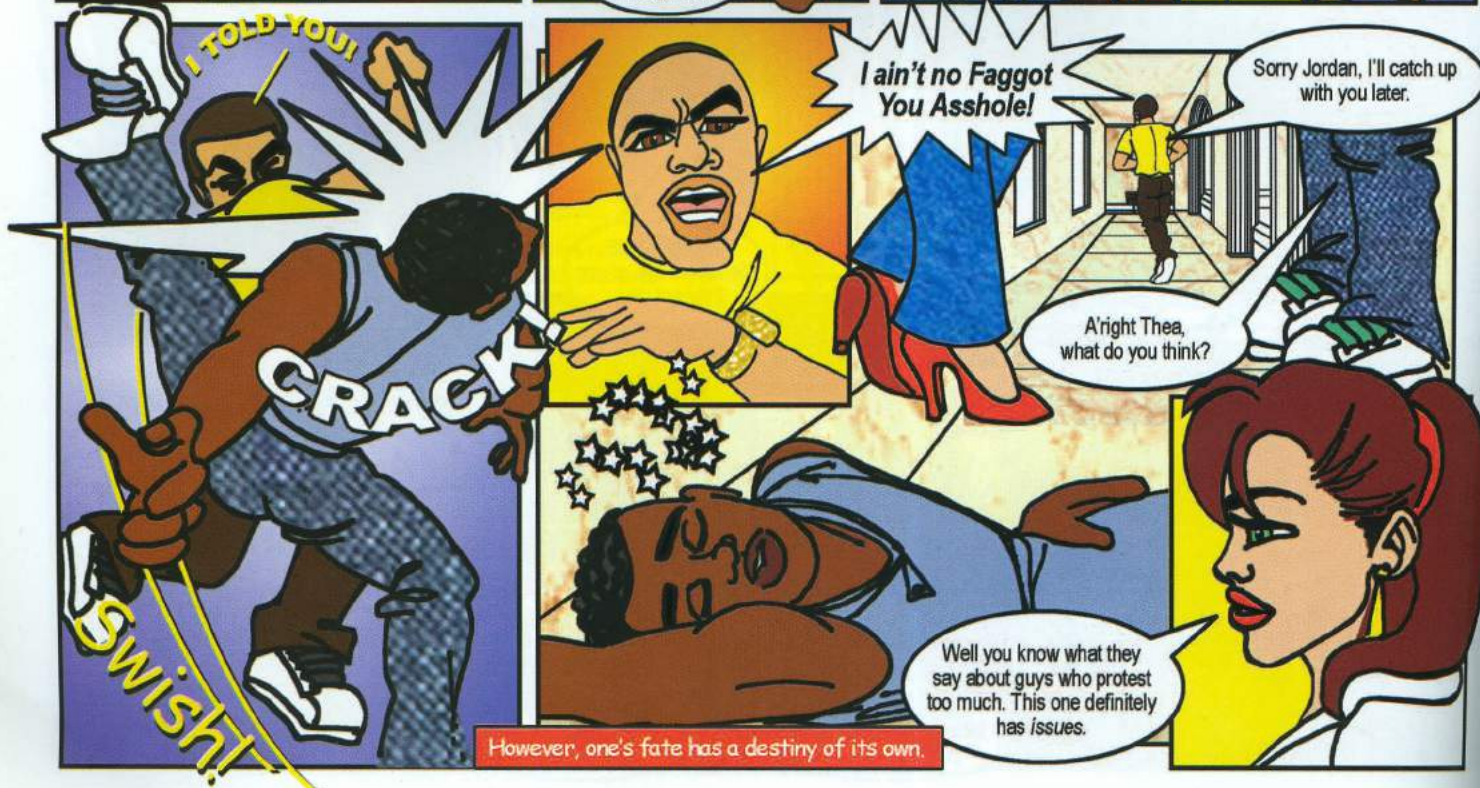
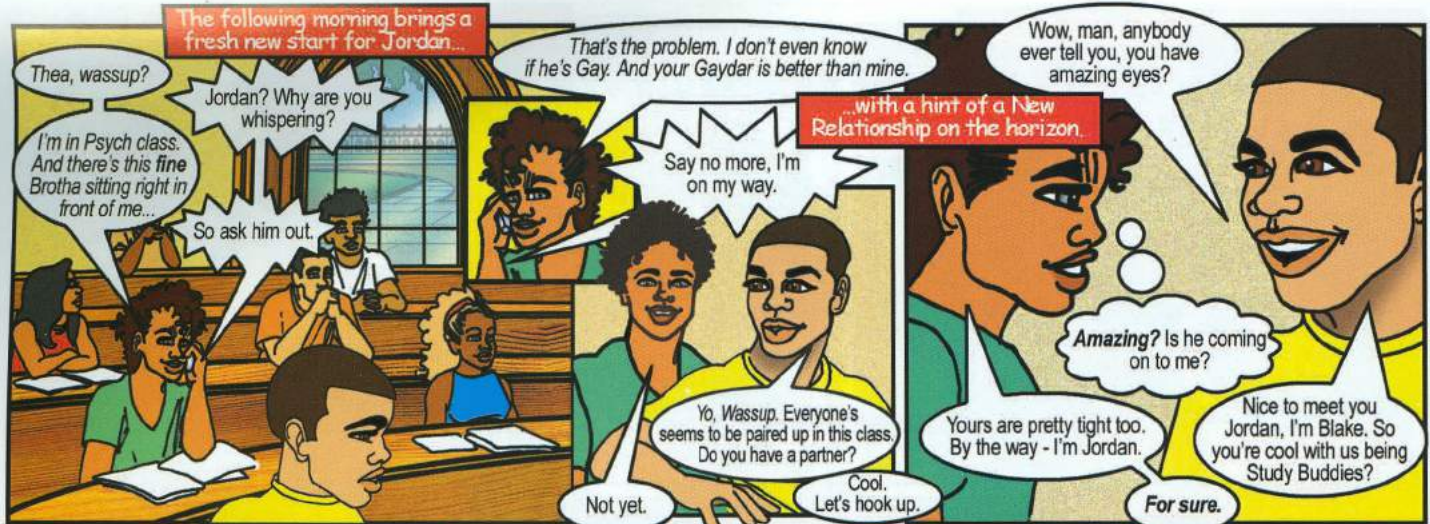
Okay Homie, we're only 30 miles away from our future.

Let's do the damn thing.



HARRIS HALL: The Boys' Dorm





And on the other side of Campus Trey has his sights set on becoming a KAPPA KAPPA ALPHA as Pledge Week begins.

Yo Trey, where you at Homie? I've been looking for you all day?

I told you - I'm keeping that promise I made my old man.

You're not serious? You're actually going to pledge to be a mindless Frat drone?

C'mon Khalil, not *everybody* feels the way you do about it. Look, my father and his father before him were all KAPPA KAPPA ALPHAS. Least I can do is pledge.

Yo, Homie, you should see all the hot guys out here. I gotta jet. We'll talk about this later.

Welcome, welcome, Brothas to Pledge Week!

As emotions run high Trey is too occupied to notice a familiar face in the crowd.

There he is. Damn, he's beautiful. Gotta be careful not to be seen. Not yet Trey, but soon.

All the young hopefuls are anxious to make a lasting impression on the Kappas.

KKK

KKK

Okay Prospective Pledges to become a KAPPA KAPPA ALPHA you'll have to past Pledge week!

Unfortunately, for some of you we're only choosing twelve New Brothas! So show us what you're made of!

Okay Trey you can do this. You were born to be a KAPPA. Time to turn on the old charm.

As night blankets the Campus somewhere off in the shadows a wicked plan is formed.

We shouldn't be meeting like this.

It's cool.

So how'd I do?

Everything's right on schedule.

You're going through an awful lot to get even with this guy. I don't know...

Yo, don't be getting a conscious on me now. We're in too deep.

So relax. He'll never see it coming. Besides, I'm paying you good money to keep up this act.

Trust me, before it's over Jordan's gonna pay.

School is in Session...

CLIK UNIVERSITY

Created by: Harry James Pinkney, Jr.

Will Trey live up to his family tradition by becoming a Kappa Kappa Alpha?

Will Chance and Stan succeed in wrecking havoc in Jordan's and Trey's lives?

With Thea's help will Jordan find a New Love in Blake?

Will Khalil and Angel make a long distance relationship work?

...For these answers and more tune into the next issue of CLIK MAGAZINE and check into CLIK-U as the drama continues.

To Be Continued in the Next Issue of CLIK

Storyline / Writers: Dwight Powell and Harry J. Pinkney, Jr.

A THIN LINE BETWEEN LOVE + HATE

BY BRAVE SOUL COLLECTIVE

MONTE

"I..."

LOVE: The growth and development I've experienced as a result of life with HIV.

Brave Soul Collective would not exist as it does if I were still HIV negative.

HATE: Uncertainty- about my health, about death, about my future

LOVE: The bonds & alliances I've formed with others involved in HIV/AIDS work.

HATE: The stigma, fear, & ignorance that still exist around living with HIV/AIDS.

LOVE: The sense of fearlessness that surviving a positive diagnosis has given me.

HATE: Going to the doctor for my check ups and being terrified about everything.

As evidenced, my life with HIV is a swirling mass of contradictions. It has truly changed everything and nothing. Everything that I've faced in the last ten years as a black gay man is compounded as a result of being HIV positive. The way I view the world & myself have changed—primarily in positive ways however I'd be lying if I said it was all positive, because it hasn't been. It happens, I just don't feed into the negative stuff.

I've had to be especially careful about taking care of myself. Avoiding stress, getting enough rest/sleep (both of which have proven the most difficult for me) as well as exercising and eating healthy are all imperative to maintaining my current level of health. Along with this come fears about what could happen if/when I ever need to begin treatment. Attached to taking medicines of course is an underlying fear that I'm one step closer to death.

Sex & dating have also become more 'complex' for various reasons. The stakes of the 'dating' game are much higher.

HIV has had the most impact on my mental & emotional wellness. It's been normal in the past two years for my self esteem, worth, & value to be under a microscope because of everything that comes along with an HIV positive diagnosis.

All of this leads to a [rhetorical] question I constantly ask myself: How do I as an artist and activist impress upon others the seriousness of an HIV positive life while simultaneously sending a message of hope? Living my life proudly, openly & truthfully is the only answer to that question. I guess it goes right back to something I mentioned above.... it changes everything and nothing all at the same time."

TIM'M

"I..."

HATE: That being open about my status means that some will see HIV above and beyond everything else I am.

LOVE: That being open about my status helps to destigmatize HIV/AIDS. Spaces like Brave Soul Collective that bring negative and positive brothas

together make being visible worth it.

LOVE: The urgency with which I approach life matters..

LOVE: That I don't take life for granted. Many things I've done may have been deferred if not for the courage HIV/AIDS gave me.

HATE: That I've struggled to have good sex since I've been HIV positive.

LOVE: That I've become more scrutinizing and picky about sexual partners.

Living with HIV has surely been a thin line between love and hate. The toll of HIV on my self-esteem created more challenges to my general wellness than the actual disease in my body. I began to lose sight of my positive attributes—despite daily evidence that HIV had not made me less desirable. In some cases, POZ brothas focus more on our bodies, eating habits, and spirituality that we had before HIV. But it can also lead to a self-degrading mentality where we question whether we are "enough" in the first place. A recent painful breakup illuminated for me the contradiction between my being a "brave soul", and a relationship where I compromised my values, aspirations, & good sense, all because I have lived terribly afraid of the prospect of dealing with HIV alone, & dying alone.

In 2007, I've had to make a list of my values, my aspirations for partnership and possibly parenting, and make the most important commitment to a man I've ever made: to love myself as passionately as I have loved others. I also want to be better able to appreciate and honor the good brothas. I've likely passed up some great opportunities for loving because deep down, I didn't believe that I was deserving. I'm returning to joy. I owe it to myself to love harder and more passionately, if given another opportunity. It's funny that you sometimes have to "go through" in order to "get to". I'm grateful for the awareness that the pain has taught me. No longer so worried about dying, I have decided to get on with living—a lesson I wished I could have learned and embraced without the drama that comes with living with HIV/AIDS."





+ POSITIVE & RAW

Reginald T. Naji-Allah

I recently met this brother online and we chatted for days. It seemed clear we both wanted much more than a sexual hook-up. The vibe and conversation was on point, so we elected to meet in person. First we had lunch, then came back to my place. Earlier that day we had made the awkward disclosures that we were both HIV Positive. Something else we were both glad we could share and support each other with.

It was not decided whether we would have sex that day or not, so it did not bother me that I had not purchased any condoms or lube. After playing around awhile, the brother started to get sexually worked up and pulled out his penis for me to suck. I must have been feeling the vibe as well because I submitted, thinking this was going to be the extent of our sexual activity for the evening. No such luck. Much to my surprise, this brother then tried to penetrate me with his raw penis. I stopped him and told him I only have safer sex and since there were no condoms available, there would be no penetration that night. Then he said something that blew my mind. "We are both already positive, so it is ok to do it raw. I only date positive men so we can do it raw."

My heart and jaw dropped. I didn't budge in my resolve to practice only safer sex. Needless to say, the brother bounced from my place and from my life. This rather painful encounter has pushed the reality of positive men seeking other positive men to have raw sex and how they are presenting this behavior as ok; even desirable and safe into my consciousness. As I went back online, I was able to see how many men are really looking for "anything goes" sex which is a code for raw and some are bold enough to say "raw" or "bareback" and some are equally bold enough to say they are HIV Positive.

This has become a real phenomenon in our community and I feel a great need to address this issue before things get worse. Should two positive men engage in raw sex? Is there any risk? Isn't it a matter of choice? Putting aside my personal views, I am going to look at this issue from the three above points of view using only the facts we know so far.

Fact One: HIV IS NOT A MONOLITH VIRUS. There is no one HIV virus. At present there are 11 documented HIV viruses. Some are "Super" viruses, some are drug resistant, some are mutations, some are so weak that 1/3 of HIV positive people never progress on to develop full blown AIDS. Others are so powerful that people quickly progress from infection to full blown AIDS to death in months or a couple of years.

Fact Two: NO TWO HIV INFECTIONS ARE THE SAME. There is no way of knowing what type of virus the other HIV Positive person has in his system. Furthermore, there is no way to know how re-infecting yourself with that other new virus will effect your health, drug regimen and life span. It is possible that one positive man participating in raw sex with other positive men can re-infect himself with 10 other HIV viruses. It is likely that the medicines he is taking for his unique virus will not work on these men added viruses. It is likely that the choices for treatment and health maintenance will become so limited until some doctors may have to stop treating this person totally for lack of any medicine to do anything for the "super"-multi-virus-infections now in his body. Death is a serious reality after that.

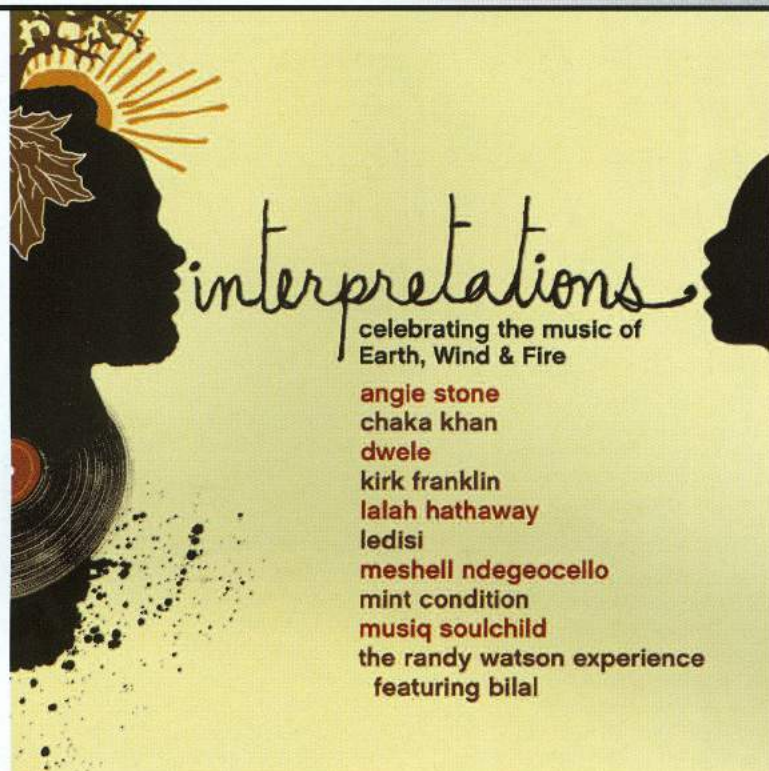
Fact Three: HIV IS NOT THE ONLY LIFE THREATENING INFECTION YOU WILL BE ADDING TO YOUR HEALTH SITUATION. The Epidemic of Tuberculosis is still very alive and spreading quickly. The Epidemic of Hepatitis is also still alive and spreading quickly. The Epidemic of Syphilis is also still alive and spreading quickly. The Epidemic of Herpes is also still alive and spreading quickly. Three of the four listed above are also fatal and usually a co-infection associated with HIV infection. Then of course, there other sexually transmitted infections that are still out there and just waiting to enter your already weakened immune system and reek havoc.

Based on the above facts, there is an enormous risk for even one positive person to have raw sex with another positive person. Should positive to positive raw sex be a choice put out in the community like "Birds of a feather should all play raw together." NO! It is very healthy for men who are HIV positive to connect with and support each other and even date and couple with each other. There is still a stigma on being HIV positive so positive men can avoid a lot of rejection and ignorance from negative men by seeking men like themselves for sexual and life partners. The benefits of being with someone who really knows what you are going through are many. There is no reason positive men should live loveless, lonely, exiled lives simply because the community has not totally accepted them yet.

That said, I strongly believe that HIV positive men have to stay committed to preserving their life and health at all costs. This MYTH, HYPE, LIE THAT POSITIVE TO POSITIVE RAW SEX IS OK IS DEADLY. Nothing can be more dangerous and detrimental to one's health than exposing yourself with 10 other HIV viruses and numerous other types of infectious diseases. Please be really "Positive" by protecting your life and the life of the men you choose to be with by always, always using a condom and other safer sex practices. Enough said.

➡➡➡➡ **BIO**

Reginald T. Naji is a black gay man and professional writer for the past twenty years. He is a founding member of OTHER COUNTRIES: Black Gay Men Writing, GAY MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT, THE MINORITY TASK FORCE ON AIDS, GLAAD, THE RAINBOW REPERTORY THEATRE (naiton's first black gay arts organization). He was the Founder and Director of the first ever Lesbian and Gay People of Color Community center THE CENTER OF THE RAINBOW. He has appeared in many books, periodicals, journals and magazines, as well as Marlon Riggs videos: TONGUES UNTIED, ANTHEM, and AFFIRMATIONS. His famous THE ABSCENCE OF FEAR open letter will appear in the historic re-print of his dear friend Essex Hemphill ground-breaking anthology BROTHER TO BROTHER.



"INTERPRETATIONS: CELEBRATING THE MUSIC OF EARTH WIND & FIRE"

FIRST RELEASE ON NEWLY REVITALIZED STAX RECORD LABEL

Earth, Wind & Fire Leader/Founder Maurice White
Collaborates with Concord for Stax Debut Release

In celebration of Stax's 50th anniversary in 2007, Concord Records will release the first new album on the revitalized Stax imprint with the all-star project *Interpretations: Celebrating the Music of Earth Wind & Fire*. This 10-song album (in-stores March 27, 2007) fits snugly into the legacy of Stax with first-rate artists including singer/songwriter Angie Stone (a 20+ years veteran of soul and hip hop who is also the New Stax label's first signee), self-contained sextet Mint Condition (among the last of the bands in contemporary Black music), Meshell Ndegeocello (a mercurial all-around singer, composer and multi-instrumentalist), Lalah Hathaway (the golden-voiced daughter of esteemed soul man Donny Hathaway) and the legendary Chaka Khan. The project is rounded out by neo soul stalwarts Ledisi, Musiq, The Randy Watson Experience Featuring Bilal and Dwele who represent the evolution of soul music at its most illustrious and positive.

"When we (Kalimba) took the concept to Concord," White shares, "they were very receptive and I felt confident that they would get behind the project and market it effectively. I am honored that this project was chosen as the one to re-launch a legendary record label for Black music."

The album's first single is an interpretation of "September" by platinum Contemporary Gospel artist Kirk Franklin, a man among the chosen few to successfully return more spiritual music to the secular airwaves. Dedicated to the people of New Orleans, Mississippi and Alabama, Franklin's rendition of "September" reinforces faith and fortitude using the seasons as a metaphor for the sunshine and rain of life. It will impact at radio on January 22, 2007.

"We believe that the artists participating on 'Interpretations' represent Stax's legacy of soul music," stated Collin Stanback, Vice President of A&R for Stax Records. "We're looking forward to continuing that legacy with our upcoming releases including our first signing, singer/songwriter/producer Angie Stone."

The relevance of a project shining the light on Earth Wind & Fire as the springboard for bringing Stax back to life lies at the feet of the band's leader/founder, Maurice White. The Memphis native went to grade school with a young Booker T. Jones who was already recording for Stax as a teenager. Inspired by his friend's achievement, White traveled to Chicago to study music. After stints as a session drummer for Chess Records and member of jazz pianist Ramsey Lewis' world-renowned trio, White started the band Earth Wind & Fire that became an international music phenomenon with its timeless fusion of uplifting lyrics wedded to music woven from the tapestry of the complete African American diaspora.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Contact Martha @ Fly Life Inc
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Or

Joey @ Fly Life Inc

E-mail: joey@flylifeinc.com

ANGIE STONE – "BE EVER WONDERFUL"

Angie Stone is a self-taught keyboardist and prolific songwriter. She has admired and collaborated with some of music's most talented singer/songwriter/producers including Prince, Raphael Saadiq, Warryn Campbell and Ali Shaheed Muhammad. When asked to perform on "Interpretations" she chose "Be Ever Wonderful" because "it conveyed a truth to me that has stayed in my spirit."

CHAKA KHAN – "SHINING STAR"

Chaka Khan, Chaka Khan – the name epitomizes soul, energy, funk and dynamic vocals. She's worked with fellow-icons including Rufus, Prince, Whitney Houston and Ray Charles. It is appropriate that she selected to interpret EWF's "Shining Star." When asked about the impact of Maurice White's music Chaka commented, "Maurice has had a profound impact on the music industry as a whole. He's an innovator. He started a trend out of Chicago that influenced the entire music industry with enlightened messages and a fresh sound."

DWELE – "THAT'S THE WAY OF THE WORLD"

His name means "God has brought me" and his music pays homage to musical traditions of years past. He chose to interpret "That's The Way of the World" because "I grew up listening to that song. When I hear it, it takes me back to thoughts of family, friends, holidays and reunions. Ultimately, I think that's what music is supposed to do, take you back or help create a new memory. I hope I can take that inspiration and the feeling that this song gives me and re-create it to make a new memory for someone else."

KIRK FRANKLIN – "SEPTEMBER"

Kirk Franklin's debut, "Kirk Franklin and the Family," spent 100 weeks on the gospel charts, crossed over to the R&B charts and became the first gospel debut album to go platinum. He was raised in a Christian home where he learned piano at an early age and respect. When asked about Maurice White's impact, he says "his music and writing was so 'feel good' that it had that motivation in it to get people together at a time where we needed good songs, good melodies and music....that was ours."

LALAH HATHAWAY – "LOVE'S HOLIDAY"

The daughter of legendary soul singer Donny Hathaway has established herself as one of the most interesting vocalists of her generation. An alumnus of the prestigious Berklee School of Music in Boston, Lalah chose to interpret "Love's Holiday" as only Lalah does using the hues and colors of her vocal palette to deepen the emotional bond that exists between her and the listener. A native of Chicago, the music of Earth, Wind & Fire reminds her of "Chicago in 1978 - couples dancing at the Rainbow Roller Rink. I believe that the sound and energy of EWF is a part of the soundtrack of a lot of our lives. Maurice White's contribution as both a musician and a producer has been immeasurable for the last 30 years."

LEDISI - "DEVOTION"

Her name means "to come here; bring forth" and that is exactly what she does with her music. She's an underground staple that has performed with Moby, The Roots, Boney James, Meshell Ndegeocello and Chaka Khan just to name a few.

When asked what Maurice White and the music of Earth, Wind & Fire means to her she smiles. "Not only did they define the elements of the human spirit and Mother Nature through music...they gave us a timeless, innovative and exquisite map to lead us to be creative and loving souls."

MINT CONDITION - "AFTER THE LOVE IS GONE"

Mint Condition can be described as the nephews of Earth, Wind & Fire. "We feel like Maurice White is our musical uncle. He has taught us, inspired us and "raised the bar" so many times with his music. We think he has made Mint, and other EWF fans, think on a more worldwide and spiritual level. The recordings and arrangements are always perfect. The live shows are always technically spectacular. Maurice has always understood the age old balance of artistry and entertainment." It was an honor and a pleasure for Mint Condition to be associated with Maurice and the body of true art he has created for the world to enjoy.

MUSIQ SOULCHILD - "REASONS"

Musiq Soulchild is a soul singer who developed a sound uniquely his own by fusing together the essence of "Soul Music" with "Funk" rules and "Hip Hop" swagger, incorporating the spirit of his hometown, Philadelphia. He chooses to interpret "Reasons" because "it's one of EWF's most historic ballads and a personal favorite of mine. It has a great story, great musical arrangements and a great vocal performance. It's just beautiful and timeless."

MESHELL NDEGECELLO - "FANTASY"

Often called the "mother of neo-soul," Meshell Ndegeocello is a multi-instrumentalist/song-writer/producer/singer who has received 9 Grammy nominations. Her live performances have electrified audiences worldwide. She always pushes musical boundaries with her own sophisticated mix of rock, jazzy funk and soul. Meshell's "interpretation" of "Fantasy" can best be described in her own words. When asked why she chose this song, Meshell replied, "What else is there? Imagination is my reality."

THE RANDY WATSON EXPERIENCE FEATURING BILAL - "CAN'T HIDE LOVE"

Classically trained in jazz, big band arrangements and operatic voice, Bilal has great respect for what his forefathers have put down before him. "Maurice White has definitely influenced the way I approach writing and producing my own music. 'Can't Hide Love' is one of my all time favorite songs. It was a blessing to actually be able to perform the record with the Randy Watson Experience."

SUSPECT

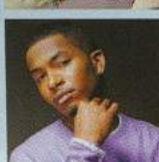
WE DIDN'T BELIEVE IT, BUT RUMOR HAS IT THAT SOME HIP-HOP FOLKS MIGHT BE ON THE DL

CLIK TOP 10 LIST OF DL SUSPECTS



50 CENT

Q-TIP



HIP-HOP TELL-ALL TO OUT GAY MCS: TRAPPED IN THE CLOSET?

Does Diddy diddle dudes? Is Jay-Z a gay G? If these are the sorts of questions that keep you up at night, good news: A book coming out next year promises to reveal exactly which homies are homos.

Hiding in Hip-Hop: Confessions of a Down Low Brother in the Entertainment Industry is a memoir of "the author's life as a closeted homosexual working in the film and music industry and his relationships with other closeted homosexuals—film stars, rap artists, and music producers," according to Publishers Marketplace, which reported the sale of the book to Atria last week.

Author Terrance Dean is a former MTV producer and the founder of something called Men's Empowerment, a New York-based non-profit directed at helping men of color. Reached by phone, Dean declined to discuss the book, but a spokeswoman for the publisher said it will identify Dean's closeted exes without naming them. "Let's put it this way: You'll know who they are," she promised. "It's a no-holds-barred look at Hollywood and hip-hop and who's living on the down-low."

And if you can't wait till next year to find out which MCs prefer pimps to hos, just tune into Wendy Williams. The New York DJ has "outed" just about every big name in rap, including Dr. Dre, Sean "Diddy" Combs, and Method Man.



NELLY

JOE BUDDENS

KANYE WEST

REDMAN

LIL WAYNE

CHINGY

CAMRON

BUSTA RHYMES

123XX Email your list to email@clikmagazine.com

DREAM COVERS



Jennifer Hudson will be on the cover of the new Vogue magazine. The photo shoot was done at Harlem's historic Apollo Theater. Not to be outdone Beyoncé is gracing the cover of Sports Illustrated legendary swim suite edition this month as well. Ten years ago, Tyra Banks was the first African American to grace the SI cover



STILL #1 IN OUR BOOK



NEWER, 'CUTER' CAMEL NO. 9 CIGS APPEAL TO THE SEX AND THE CITY GENERATION OF SMOKERS

Today's, New York Times' columnist Stuart Elliott showcases Camel cigarette's new female-friendly marketing ploy, designed to target a wider, curvier range of emphysema sufferers:

Critics decry the new Camel as yet another effort to single out women for smoking pitches, a tactic they trace back to the 1920s when American Tobacco urged, "Reach for a Lucky instead of a sweet" to promote Lucky Strike cigarettes.

Silly tobacco companies. Ultimately, female smokers are basically looking for the same things as their male counterparts, namely, a cigarette that will enable them to inhale as much tar, nicotine and lung cancer as humanly possible—in every single, intoxicating puff.



3 men branded as homosexuals were yesterday rescued by the police from an angry mob outside a pharmacy in Tropical Plaza, where they had been holed up for almost an hour.

But even after the police managed to take the young men from the Monarch Pharmacy, one of the three was hit with a stone, forcing officers to fire tear gas on the crowd which included men, women, teenagers and small children.

The approximately 2,000 people gathered outside the Kingston pharmacy hurled insults at the three men, with some calling for them to be killed.

The crowd grew larger as the minutes ticked by and the three men and staff inside the pharmacy were visibly terrified as the mob demanded that they be sent out so they could administer their brand of justice. "Send them out!" shouted one man.

The men, who all had bleached-out faces, and dressed in tight jeans pants and skimpy shirts, were saved due to quick action by police from the St Andrew Central Division.

When the officers arrived and attempted to push the crowd back from the front door of the business-place they were greeted with some resistance and when they attempted to escort the men to a police service vehicle, which was parked near to the entrance of the pharmacy, one of the alleged homosexuals was hit on the back of the head with a stone as he flashed a wry smile before attempting to hustle inside the police car.

The cops were forced to disperse the large mob by dispensing tear gas canisters and whisking the men away as the crowd scampered in all directions in an effort to escape the irritating fumes.

One man in the crowd was determined to get a chance to beat them and hurled insults at the police when they drove out of the premises.

"Unu can come save them nasty boy yah? Them boy yah fi go down," the man belted.



These three men, who were branded as homosexuals, are rescued by the police after being locked inside the Monarch Pharmacy in St Andrew for about an hour yesterday. The man at front ducks after being hit on the head by a stone thrown by a member of the angry mob which had gathered outside the pharmacy and demanded that the three be handed over to them. (Photo: Garfield Robinson)

One woman expressed surprise at the brazenness of the men who were clearly displaying effeminate behaviour.

"Jamaica has lost its way if men think they can openly flaunt being gay without any consequences. We don't want that kind of open gay life in this country," the woman said.

Homosexuality is frowned upon in Jamaica and gay rights groups have constantly branded the island as anti-gay.

Under Jamaican law a male can be slapped with a sentence of up to nine years if caught in a compromising position with another man.

NICK CANNON AS ARTHUR ASHE



After a role in Emilio Estevez's Bobby, it seems that Nick Cannon is gearing up for another true story set in the 1960's. Even if you don't recognize his name, you've probably seen his face lurking on the covers of DVDs like Drumline and Underclassman. He's sort of the next Will Smith, in the way that he had his own rap duo, Da Bomb Squad, and is stacking up a number of acting roles. Ace Showbiz has reported that Cannon has landed the starring role in a biopic on famous tennis player, Arthur Ashe -- the only African-American tennis star to win the men's singles at the Australian Open, the US Open and Wimbledon. Ashe was also a vocal civil rights activist, speaking out against South African apartheid and the treatment of Haitian refugees.

Unfortunately, his life was cut short when he succumbed to AIDS, which he contracted from a blood transfusion. It might sound like heavy stuff, but Cannon claims that the film will follow Ashe's earlier years, and how he became a legend. This is probably a good thing, when you consider this quote Scott Weinberg's upcoming Sundance review of Weapons and the actor's performance: "Nick Cannon, the biggest name in the cast, provides clear proof that his acting skills are about on par with those of an actual cannon." Perhaps Smith should scrap Ashe's younger life, take over the role himself, and give the film a better chance.

Retired Miami Heat guard Tim Hardaway, known for his candor, said on a radio show Wednesday that he would not want a gay player on his team, would ask for him to be traded, and went so far as to say: "You know, I hate gay people, so I let it be known. I don't like gay people and I don't like to be around gay people. I am homophobic. I don't like it. It shouldn't be in the world or in the United States."

Hardaway was a guest with host/Herald columnist Dan Le Batard on Sports Talk 790 The Ticket, and at the end of the interview, Le Batard asked Hardaway how he would deal with a gay player, in light of last week's disclosure by retired NBA center John Amaechi that he is gay.

"First of all, I wouldn't want him on my team," Hardaway replied. "And second of all, if he was on my team, I would really distance myself from him because, uh, I don't think that is right. I don't think he should be in the locker room while we are in the locker room. But stuff like that is going on and there's a lot of other people I hear that are like that and still in the closet and don't want to come out of the closet, but you know I just leave that alone."

Asked what he would do if he had a gay teammate, Hardaway said he would ask for the player to be traded or to be bought out of his contract.

"Something has to give," he said. "And I think the majority of players would ask for him to be traded or they would want to be traded. Or buy him out of his contract and just let him go. Something has to give. If you have 12 other ballplayers in your locker room that are upset and can't concentrate and always worried about him in the locker room or on the court it's going to be hard for your teammates to win and accept him as a teammate."

Hardaway is the first NBA player -- current or former -- to make anti-gay statements since Amaechi's news came out. In fact, most of the players and coaches quoted last week, including Heat center Shaquille O'Neal, were supportive of Amaechi and said they would not be bothered by a gay teammate.

What if the gay player were a great player, Hardaway was asked.

"If he were that great something would still have to give," he said. "People would feel uncomfortable with that. If you're not gay, nobody in that locker room would feel comfortable with that person on your team."

Amaechi probably will not be surprised when he reads Hardaway's comments. He said in a phone interview Tuesday he believes there is still a lot of homophobia in society and in professional sports locker rooms.

"We are much further behind than I'd like," Amaechi said. "People in America and England [where Amaechi grew up] would like to think racism is over, sexism is over, and homophobia is over, but it's not. My coming out will show that gay people don't all look like Jack from Will and Grace. Some of us are big, athletic men, and that should be OK."

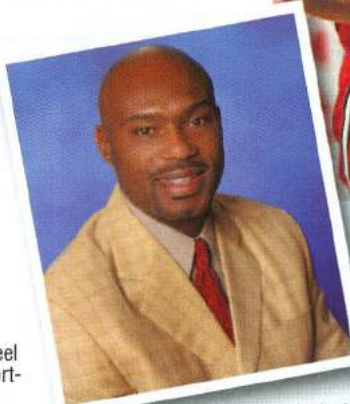
Amaechi said he had not heard from a single former teammate or NBA player, that he had only heard from former coach Doc Rivers. He challenged straight athletes "who feel able" to stand up for gay rights.

"I would like professional male athletes to be active supporters, and that doesn't mean putting a rainbow decal on their car," he said. "It means letting other guys in the locker room know that it's not OK to make gay jokes, that it's hurtful, and that it's not OK to be homophobic."

"But it's hard to get straight guys to step up. When men stood by women during the suffrage movement, they were called progressive and bold. When whites stood by blacks, they were heroes. But a straight guy standing up for a gay guy faces discrimination, and that's a big part of the battle we're fighting."

"I HATE GAYS"

BY MICHELLE KAUFMAN



FROM THE MIAMI HERALD:

During an appearance Wednesday on Dan Le Batard's show on Sports Talk 790 The Ticket, retired Heat guard Tim Hardaway was asked several questions about how he would deal with a gay teammate. Former NBA center John Amaechi revealed last week that he is gay.

Below is a transcript of Hardaway's interview:

LE BATARD: How do you deal with a gay teammate?

HARDAWAY: "First of all I wouldn't want him on my team. And second of all, if he was on my team, you know, I would really distance myself from him because, uh, I don't think that is right. I don't think that he should be in the locker room while we are in the locker room, and it's just a whole lot of other things and I wouldn't even be a part of that. But stuff like that is going on and there's a lot of other people I hear that are like that and still in the closet and don't want to come out of the closet, but you know I just leave that alone."

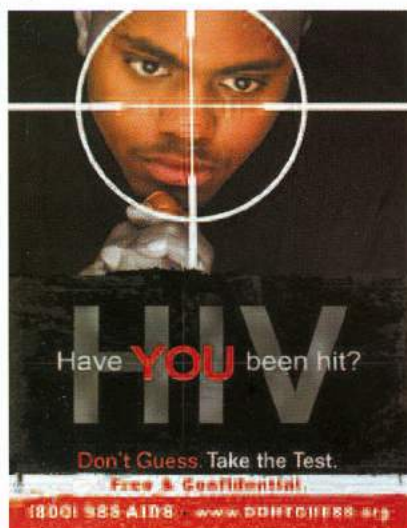
LE BATARD: What could you do? Would you ask for a trade?

HARDAWAY: "Or I ask for him to get traded. Something has to give. And I think the majority of the players would ask for him to be traded or they would want to get traded. Or buy him out of his contract and just let him go. Something has to give. If you have 12 other ballplayers in your locker room that are upset and can't concentrate and always worried about him in the locker room or on the court or whatever it's going to be hard for your teammates to win and accept him as a teammate."

LE BATARD: What if the player was that great?

HARDAWAY: "If he were that great something would still have to give. People would feel uncomfortable with that. If you're not gay, nobody in that locker room would feel comfortable with that person on your team."

LE BATARD: You know what you are saying there is flatly homophobic? It's bigotry?



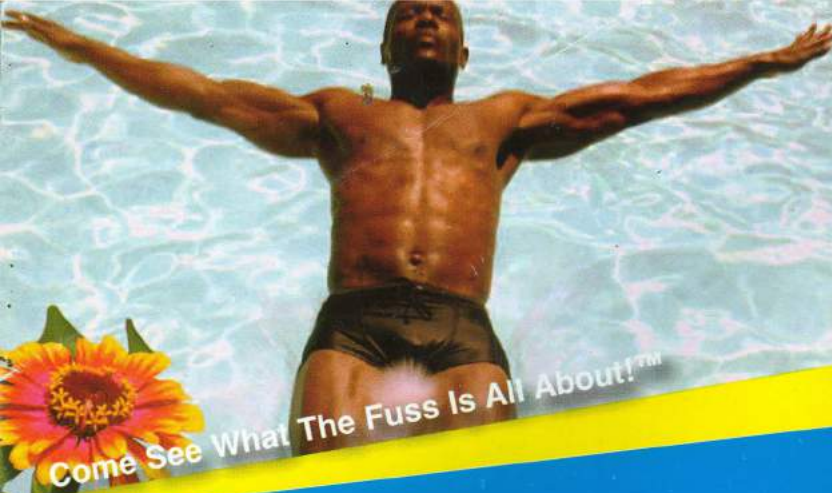
PHILLY GUN AD CREATOR GUNNED DOWN

from Keith Boykin.com

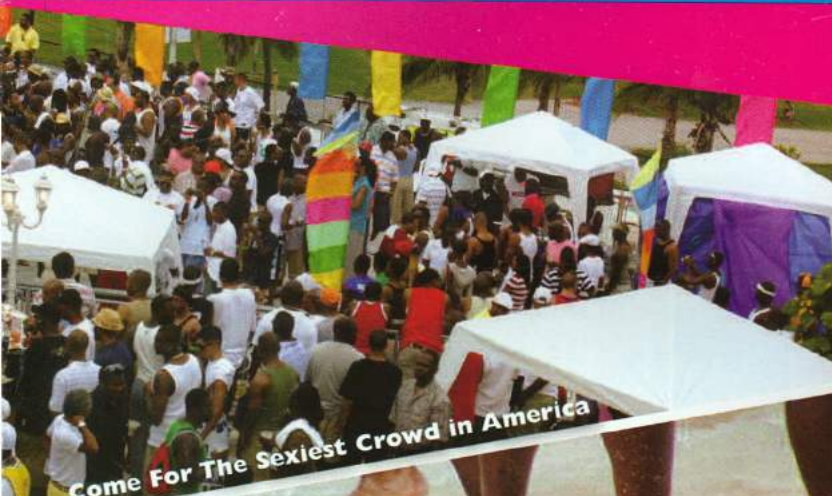
The creator of a controversial Philadelphia ad campaign that depicted a black man in the crosshairs of a gun has himself become a victim of gun violence. In a sad twist of irony, Mark David Norris, a black gay man, was killed by gunfire in Philadelphia Monday night. The Philadelphia press described it as "the worst mass shooting in Philadelphia in more than six years."

Last summer, an HIV awareness ad campaign launched by the city of Philadelphia was abruptly pulled out of concern that the ads might appear to glamorize gun violence in a city that is already plagued by crime. Philadelphia's AIDS Activities Coordinating Office had contracted with a company called Zigzag Net to create a social marketing campaign to promote HIV testing for men who have sex with men. The ads were announced in late May, but they quickly came under fire from activists.

Then Norris, the founder of Zigzag Net, met a tragic end when he was slain in a violent mass murder that took place in his own office complex.



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Memorial Day Weekend • Miami, Florida
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SIZZLE2007

Memorial Day Weekend
May 24th - 28th, 2007
Miami, Florida



Welcome to Miami, the home of Sizzle 2007. This Memorial Day Weekend, thousands of men will converge on South Florida for the largest social gathering of the year. Sizzle Miami, conceived almost 6 years ago, has grown to become America's most celebrated and anticipated gay event in South Florida. Originally a one-day occurrence, Sizzle has evolved into a 5-day smorgasbord of pulsating nightlife, sexy men in an atmosphere unparalleled to none from dusk til dawn. For five days beginning on Thursday 24th May, 2007, party seekers from around the world will convene in sunny Miami, Florida celebrating *Life, Pride & liberty!*

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