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ON YOUR **MANHOOD**

HIP-HOP AND R&B'S MOST WANTED
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25 SUMMER FASHION
ESSENTIALS THAT ROCK

HARLEM WORLD
A DAY WITH THE BOYS IN THE HOOD

EXCLUSIVE: **REVIEW OF
SIZZLE 2007**

See Why Its the #1 Party in America!

EVENTS THAT WILL SIZZLE THIS SUMMER:

- POCC'S PRIDE IN THE CITY
- UMMAH'S WHITE ATTIRE AFFAIR
- ATLANTA BLACK PRIDE
- WHITE PARTY MOONLIGHT CRUISE NYC

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07.21.07

WASHINGTON, DC



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**JULY/AUG
2007**

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Angel / Request Models

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MARK ECHO, sneakers **NIKE DUNKS** Dino
Jr Edition, sunglasses by **HUGO BOSS**

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S M T W T F S

At The Beach Los Angeles

June 30-July 4

In the summer of 1988, Duane Bremond and a group of friends decided to come together to organize and enjoy a day "At the Beach" on the 4th of July. Every year since, At the Beach (ATB) has grown in participants and in scope. It has become the nation's largest recognized Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender pride celebration.



Nathan Scott's Flawless Engagement

July 7

The 2007 Flawless Engagement is a FRESH new concept in New York City partying. This special night will be hosted by Randall Isaac at the Johnny Gentry Loft on 5th Avenue. Patrons can expect a classy, fun and festive summer party. Come and join Nathan Seven Scott & Jared Shuler for a party with a purpose.

Hotter Than July

July 21-29

Detroit's Hotter Than July is a grass-roots social project founded in the core principles of Kwanza. It serves as a year-round effort promoting collective works to nurture a healthy community through economics, spirituality, networking, education and culture. This year's theme "Color Me Black" celebrates our contributions to black culture in America while embracing the full truth of our lives as same-gender-loving men, women, youth, families, allies, friends and supportive family.



Miami Beach Bruthaz

July 19-22

For four days, attendees from across the country gather to socialize, network, empower each other, and learn about issues facing the gay community. Miami Beach Bruthaz presents a Corjor International summer fashion show. This spectacular event will showcase both men's and women's swimwear and casual lines. Visit www.miamibeachbruthaz.com for more info.

Ummah Fund: White Attire Affair

July 21

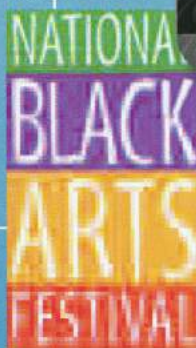
Get ready as Ummah patterns its annual White Attire Affair after Ian Fleming's world renowned international Secret Service Agent 007, "Bond, James Bond." Complete with suave and sophisticated heroes, fancy cars, exotic locations, Bond girls and boys, and plenty of action, Ummah has enlisted its own Agents 007 and a team of secret agents to head The Mission which has been unveiled in a five-part sequence derived from famous James Bond film titles.



National Black Arts Festival FIND YOUR ROOTS

July 20-29

The National Black Arts Festival, a non-profit cultural institution based in Atlanta, Georgia, celebrates the contributions of people of African descent and their impact on world cultures. EXPERIENCE music, dance, theatre, film, visual arts, literary arts, and family events of Africa and the African diaspora. Featuring...Roberta Flack, Les Nubians, Dreamgirls ft. Jennifer Holiday, Valerie Boyd, the Pan African Film Festival ft. Danny Glover, and much more!



Other Events To Look For:

- Chicago Black Pride June 28-July 4
- Charlotte NC Black Pride July 20-22
- Seattle Black Pride July 19-22
- CLIK Southern Xposure Tour (Columbus, GA) August 11
- CLIK Splish Splash Pool Party September 1

Pride In The City

August 2-5

In 2003, POCC conceptualized the idea of Pride in the City and identified black pride celebrations as a unique venue to bring culturally relevant prevention strategies to the black gay community. For the past four years, Pride in the City (PITC) has been NYC's premiere Black pride celebration. PITC will feature special performances by Grammy Award-nominated artist, Amerie and En Vogue.



Bareback MOUNTAIN

By Reginald T. Naji-Allah

First there was the movie, *Brokeback Mountain*, and now there is the new phenomenon, "Bareback Mountain." It seems that no matter what anyone says or does, no matter how many condoms are spread about the community, no matter how many commercials, billboards, or magazine ads declare the need to practice safer sex by "wrapping it up," the community has decided to take up residence on Bareback Mountain.

I call it Bareback Mountain because I think of it as this mystical and magical place created by all these black and Latino same gender loving men that clearly will protect them from contracting HIV/AIDS. Somehow they have discovered a secret place to hide from the virus—the kingdom of Bareback Mountain. The problem is it is a myth. It is hype. It is a dangerous dream that will only end up sending the infection rate for our community through the roof. The truth is though the numbers say 46 percent are infected, what the numbers do not say is that 60 percent of black and Latino men refuse to get tested, so that 46 percent is representative of only the other 40 percent that was smart enough to get tested. That still leaves the other 60 percent ignorant of their status and stolen away to Bareback Mountain.

I talked to some men who were willing to discuss the bareback movement. They were quick to admit that almost everyone is doing it in one form or another. Positives are sleeping with other positives and not using condoms because they mistakenly leave out the very real possibility of reinfection with the other ten strains of the virus. Negatives or negative hopefuls are singling out other negatives as a way of justifying bareback sex. "I'm clean and he's clean, so there is no problem." Is he really clean, or is he just one of the 60 percent of the community who refuses to know his status and just assumes he is negative because he feels fine? Also, what about herpes? Syphilis? Hepatitis? Genital warts?

One brother told me directly that he couldn't date me because I was positive and that meant if he fell in love with me and consented to a relationship, we couldn't have skin-to-skin sex; something he expected to have with his lover. It is not just all over the Internet for anonymous sex and sex parties, but men are making it a prerequisite for having a relationship. What are black and Latino same gender loving men to do? Is risking infection the price of love or at least relationship? Can a simple mantra, "Everybody is doing it," be the epitaph of our community?

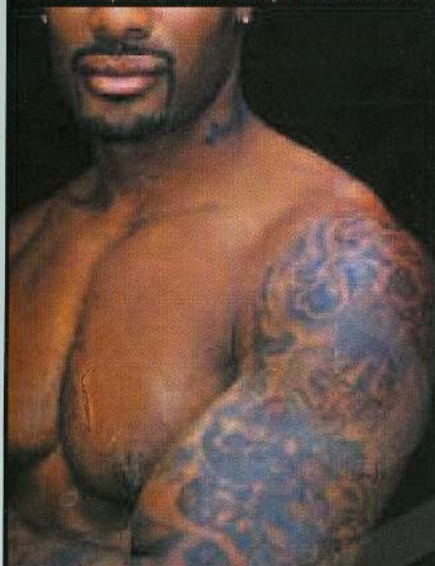
I promise you all that we are in for the second HIV/AIDS holocaust in our community. Yes, there are some great drugs and treatments, and long-term management of the typical HIV infection is possible, but there are not enough drugs or doctors or vaccines or potential cures for all the new multi- and cross-infections we are about to see in our community. The type of mutation and drug resistance and "super-viruses" that will result from all this Bareback Mountain activity will make this country turn a new corner in the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The white gay community has crystal meth bringing HIV infection back in numbers like the 1980s, and now Bareback Mountain activity is going to have black and Latino men dying in numbers not seen since the eighties and early nineties.

I do not know if you have seen the movie *Brokeback Mountain*, so I will bottom line it all for you. The lead character dies a very tragic and senseless death because of his own reckless disregard for his health and safety. That is what I predict in this situation as well. All who choose to steal away to Bareback Mountain will have to pay the price. After all, the problem with trying to live in high places is that they are very dangerous and the air is very thin making thinking and existing very difficult.

And those of us who choose to remain on level ground, our feet planted firmly in reality, will have to clean up the mess just like we had to do in the eighties and early nineties. Unless your name is Dorothy and you have ruby slippers, I do not think standing on Bareback Mountain chanting, "The virus will not get me, the virus will not get me" is going to work. The question still has yet to be answered, Why in black and Latino same gender loving men does the basic survival instinct not kick in and prevent us from risking our lives so easily? Why don't we stop at the danger sign? Why isn't the threat enough? Why is it so easy for us to shrug our shoulders fatalistically and say, "I'm gonna die anyway"?

Maybe we need to spend less on billboards and magazine ads and more on real, hard-hitting psychological research that looks at and answers these questions. Enough said.

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The FEDS HAVE THEIR EYES ON YOUR "MANHOOD"

By Reginald T. Naji-Allah

The Federal Government has their eyes on your "manhood" and wants to put it under the knife. When I say "manhood", I mean your penis. Seriously, if you are a black or latino same gender loving male who is uncircumcised, the federal government wants to cut your foreskin off to prevent your risk of being infected by the HIV virus by 60%. Scared yet?

How did this all start? you ask. Well, In three recent clinical trials in Africa, circumcision was shown to lower a man's risk of contracting the virus from heterosexual sex by about 60 percent. On March 28, the World Health Organization officially recommended that countries adopt the procedure as part of their AIDS prevention plans. While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta is just beginning to convene meetings and design studies to help it formulate a national policy, New York City is moving ahead on its own. New York City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is planning a campaign to encourage men at high risk of AIDS to get circumcised in light of the World Health Organization's endorsement of the procedure as an effective way to prevent the disease.

In the United States, "New York City remains the epicenter of the AIDS epidemic," Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, the city's health commissioner, said in an interview. Referring to H.I.V., he said, "In some subpopulations, you have 10 to 20 percent prevalence rates, just as they do in parts of Africa." His department has started asking some community groups and gay rights organizations to discuss circumcision with their members, and has asked the Health and Hospitals Corporation, which runs city hospitals and clinics, to perform the procedure at no charge for men without health insurance.

Dr. Frieden said black, Hispanic, and foreign-born men were less likely to be circumcised than white Americans, and the percentage is smaller among men with lower incomes.

[About 65 percent of all male babies in the United States are circumcised, according to the National Center for Health Statistics, compared with about 30 percent of men worldwide, by W.H.O. estimates.] Among men seeking treatment at the city's clinics for sexually transmitted diseases — another risk group for AIDS infection because of genital sores — a large proportion are uncircumcised, Dr. Frieden said.

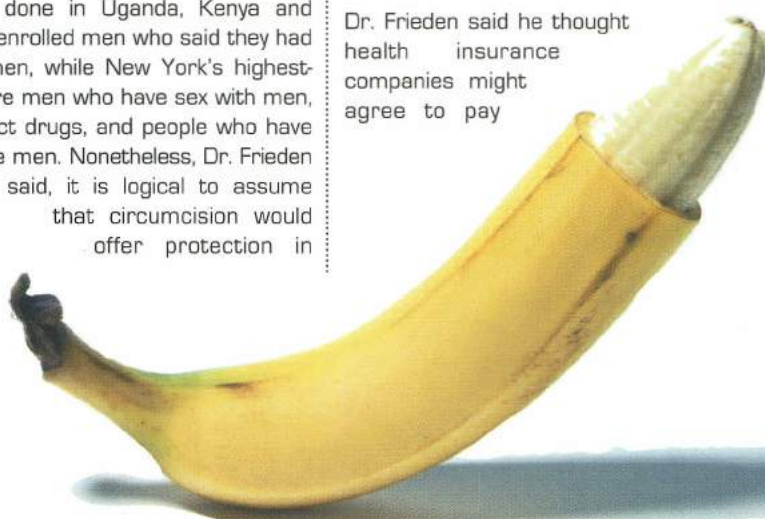
some types of gay sex. A man's risk from performing penetrative anal sex is about the same as his risk from vaginal sex, Dr. Frieden said, so circumcision would presumably confer the same protection as it did in the African trials. Also, cutting down infections among bisexual men — some of whom do not admit to female partners that they participate in gay sex — would protect women, he said.

“A MAN'S RISK FROM PERFORMING PENETRATIVE ANAL SEX IS ABOUT THE SAME AS HIS RISK FROM VAGINAL SEX...”

— DR. FRIEDEN

The studies, done in Uganda, Kenya and South Africa, enrolled men who said they had sex with women, while New York's highest-risk groups are men who have sex with men, men who inject drugs, and people who have sex with those men. Nonetheless, Dr. Frieden said, it is logical to assume that circumcision would offer protection in

Dr. Frieden said he thought health insurance companies might agree to pay



for preventive circumcisions since they already covered them for infections and urinary blockage. City hospitals also offer the operation in those cases, Ms. Marengo said.

Peter Staley, a longtime AIDS activist and co-founder of ACT-UP New York, the Treatment Action Group and AIDSmeds.com, said he was "intrigued" by the idea of offering circumcisions but worried because those in the studies supporting it bore little relation to New York's risk groups. "I'm white, Frieden's white," he said. "It's going to sound like white guys telling black and Hispanic guys to do something that would affect their manhood." But isn't that exactly what they would be doing? Worried yet?

Tokes Osubu, executive director of Gay Men of African Descent, a 21-year-old gay rights organization, agreed. He also said he thought circumcision was "not the answer to our problems" and doubted that it would lower infection rates. Many black men who have sex with men, he said, already face discrimination, stigma, and an inability to talk about their sex lives with family members and sometimes even with doctors. "No amount of circumcision is going to change that," he said. Bric Bernas, manager of information and counseling for the Asian and Pacific Islander Coalition on H.I.V./AIDS, said his organization wanted to see studies done in the United States and among gay men before taking a position on the issue. Circumcision is not common among Asian men, except those from Muslim countries and the Philippines, Mr. Bernas said, "and there might be cultural sensitivities around it."

Cultural sensitivities around it? That is the understatement of the New Century. Let's take a stroll down memory lane with the government and black men. For forty years between 1932 and 1972 the United States Public Health Service conducted experiments on 399 black men in the late stages of syphilis, mostly poor, illiterate sharecroppers in Alabama. These men were never told what disease they were suffering from or of its seriousness. They were told they were being treated for "bad blood." Data from the experiment was collected from their autopsies, so they were deliberately left to degenerate under the ravages of tertiary syphilis - tumors, heart disease, paralysis, blindness, insanity and death. Doctors involved were quoted as saying: We have no further interest in these patients until they die." This was, of course, the Tuskegee Experiment.

Now scientists and doctors are again asking men of color to participate in another experiment to collect more data about another hypothesis concerning HIV infection. Sounding familiar yet? The fact that it is very new and there are a lot of unanswered questions seems unimportant; after all it is African men. But since New York has jumped on the band wagon without even minute direction from the Centers for Disease Control, things are more disturbing. I have a friend who works at the CDC and after speaking to him, it was clear the CDC is not sure what to make of this and probably is not going to embrace this any time soon. Some say it will take three years just to sort through all of the data. So, why is New York moving forward? Is it because 46% of black same gender loving men are HIV positive and they want to reduce those

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MEN CIRCUMCISED AS ADULTS CAN EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE A FORESKIN MAKES....DIMINISHED PENILE SENSITIVITY, LESS PENILE GRATIFICATION.

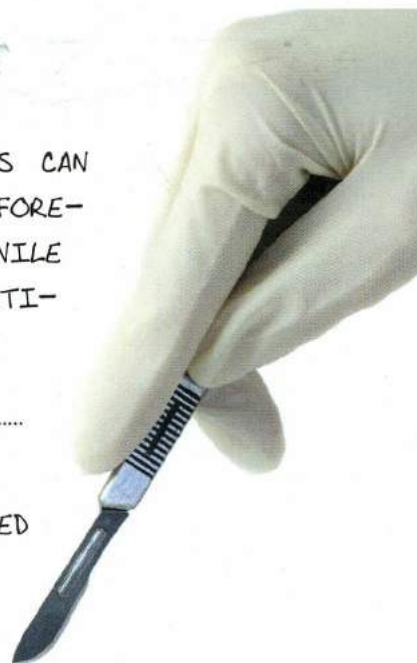
...HIV INFECTION MAY BE REDUCED BY 60% AMONG STRAIGHT MEN WHO ARE CIRCUMCISED. 00

numbers? Is it just

good public policy and public health to reduce HIV by 60% in the epicenter of the disease? Before I answer that, I want to add one other bit of information into the mix, so you can get a full picture of what we are talking about.

In the Journal of Sex Research from the Johns Hopkins University school of Medicine, it was reported: Men circumcised as adults can experience the difference a foreskin makes....diminished penile sensitivity, less penile gratification. The greatest disadvantage of circumcision is the awful loss of sensitivity when the foreskin is removed...on a scale of 1 to 10, the intact penis experiences pleasure that is at least 11 or 12, the [newly] circumcised penis is lucky to get to 3. One man was quoted: I play guitar and my fingers get callused from playing. That's similar to what happened to my penis after circumcision.

Studies show in Africa that HIV infection may be reduced by 60% among straight men who are circumcised, but is that revolutionary in terms of AIDS prevention. No. We know how to prevent the infection rate by 90% rate...latex condoms and water-based lube. No magic there. Wrap-it-up and you are safer than 60%. Is it logical to trade a loss of penile sensitivity and pleasure by as much as 70% reduction to prevent HIV infection in this way? NO. Why are health officials even accepting raw or unprotected sex as an okay activity for people to engage in and that the only prevention tools in that case is male circumcision? Give the African men condoms and reduce their risk to almost nothing and leave their penises alone. And, as for black and Latino same gender loving men in America who want to engage in raw sex? Tell them they can have it raw if they let the government cut their foreskins off and reduce their infection risk by 60%, BUT they will have to accept a 70% loss of sensitivity and pleasure in their penises; not to mention possible calluses on their penises. I think their choices will be obvious. Enough said.



inform yourself. DON'T BECOME A STATISTIC! Get tested. The best form of prevention is education. Become aware.

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A service of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

RESOURCE

Most Wanted

Men of Hip-Hop And R&B

These hot guys have been on top of the charts in 2007. Keepin' it sexy and staying on top of the game, these fellas entertain us in more ways than one. You guys logged onto clikmagazine.com and chose your favorites. Here are your TOP 10 SEXIEST GUYS IN HIP-HOP AND R&B.

9 Bobby Valentino

Most people were introduced to Bobby Valentino as a member of the group Mista, who dropped a CD in 1996, from which came the hit, "Blackberry Molasses." Bobby Valentino came back on the scene out of nowhere with the track "Slow Down." Bobby signed with Ludacris's DTP label and became the first R&B act that released a CD on DTP.

The Atlanta R&B singer Bobby Valentino is back with a second studio album release *Special Occasion* via Disturbing Tha Peace/Def Jam. Valentino finally released the much-anticipated album after several delays.

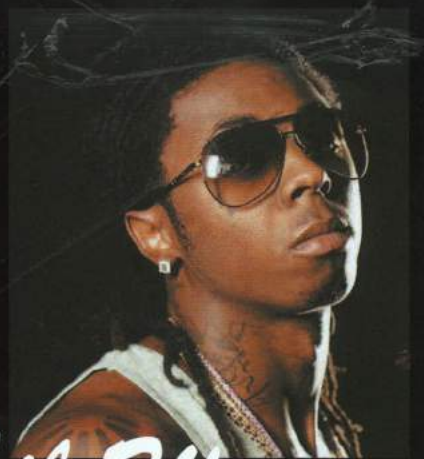
This time around, he's hitting hard with "Anonymous," the first single off of the new album. The album features appearance from fellow DTP artists Shareefa and Ludacris as well as Fabolous. The record includes production from Tim & Bob, Timbaland, Dre & Vidal, Brian Cox and Rodney Jerkins.



10 Lil Wayne

Lil Wayne is obviously a front-runner for best rapper alive, but is the New Orleans fireman going for the title of hip-hop's most unselfish MC? Wayne announced that the album, *Tha Carter, Vol. 3* would be released at the end of the year due to current work on the *I Can't Feel My Face* album [a collaboration with Juelz Santana] as well as Currency's new album, *Music to Fly to*.

He has also confirmed that producers would include Timbaland, The Runners, will.i.am, Kanye West, Scott Storch, and that collaborators would include Twista, Junior Reid and Sizzla. It has also named the "#1 most anticipated album of 2007."

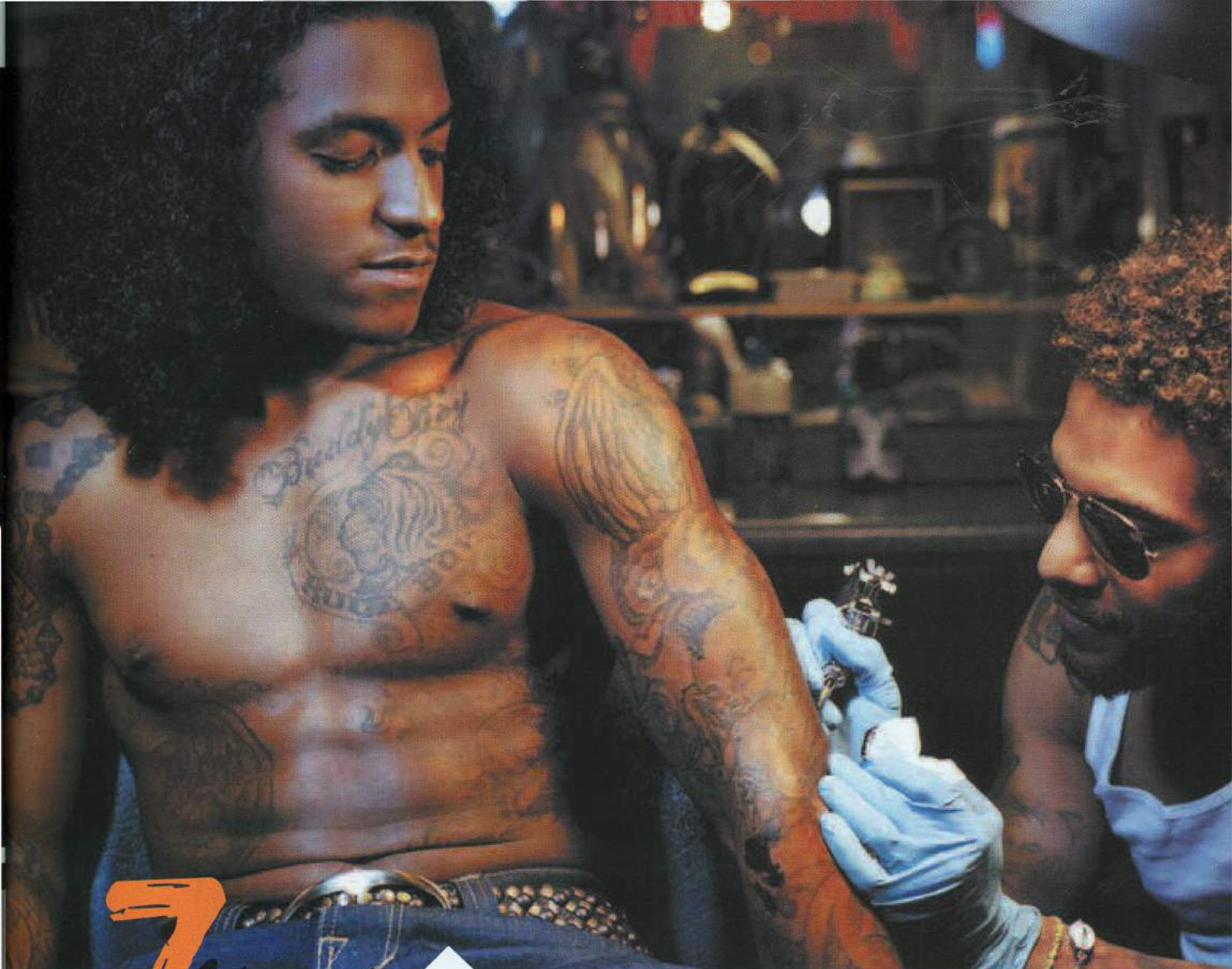


8 R. Kelly

R. Kelly's rep could be considered controversial at best. The R&B king has called upon a number of his talented pals, including T.I., Nelly, Snoop Dogg and Kid Rock, to help on his latest offering,



Double Up is R. Kelly's eighth top 5 debut and his fifth #1 album as a solo artist. It delivers a potent potion of pure signature R&B with some hip hop on top. Featuring collaborations with T.I., T-Pain, and more, the legendary R. Kelly joins forces with some of the hottest and best Hip-Hop talent and the result is fiercely sexy. From the steamy "Pull Ya Hair," to the smooth stylin' of "Freaky In The Club," fans around the globe will jump at the opportunity to Double Up with R. Kelly. This album is R. Kelly's ninth solo release since his smash solo debut *12 Play*.



7 Lloyd

For R&B singer Lloyd, the road to stardom has taken twists and turns, with high-speed chases and precise maneuvering. Today, the 20-year old singer/ songwriter and businessman is in the driver's seat. He commands the open road and is headed straight for stardom.

Singing comes naturally to this native of New Orleans who grew up in Atlanta. "I knew how to sing before I knew how to talk and I knew how to dance before I learned how to walk. It's just in my blood." After a three-year hiatus Lloyd returns with his sophomore album *Street Love* a fifteen-track release which features guest appearances from Lil' Wayne, Young Joc, Nas, and Andre 3000.

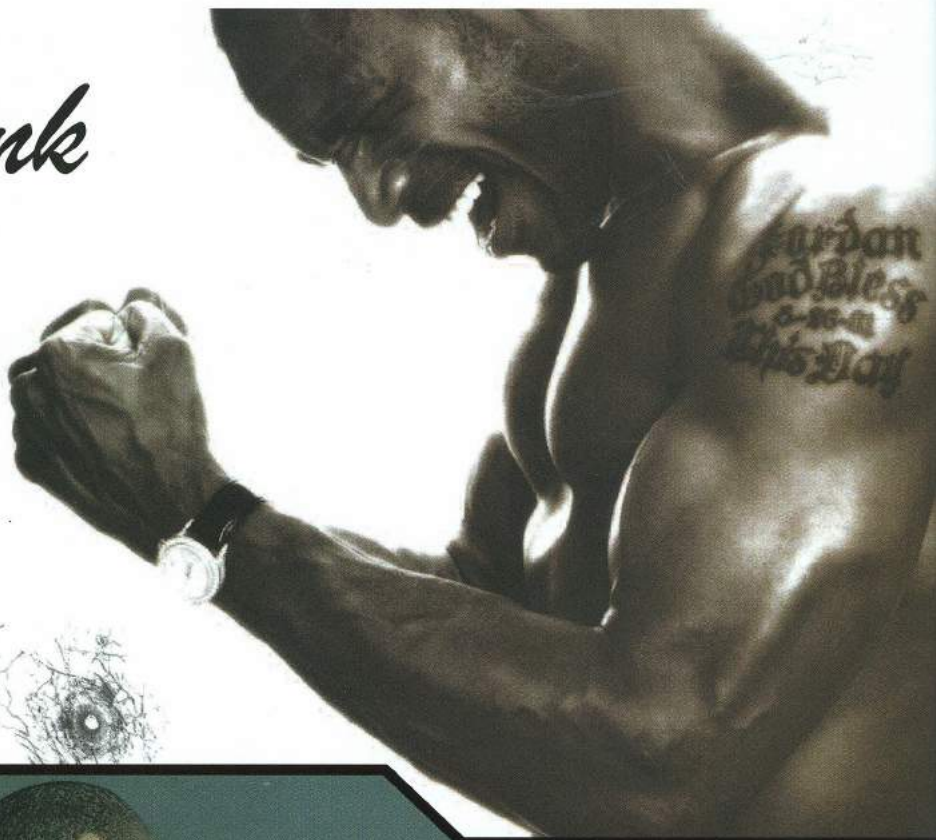
Trey loved hip hop growing up, but the only R&B he could get into was R. Kelly. But when his friends heard his perfect tenor voice, they pushed Trey Songz to drop rap and start crooning. He did, and soon after met Troy Taylor, who had worked behind the scenes with Patti LaBelle, SWV, and B2K. Once working on his debut album, collaborations shortly arose with Lil' Kim, Trina, and Snoop Dogg. He released some street-level mixtapes under his alias, the Prince of Virginia. His proper debut, *Gotta Make It*, was released by Atlantic in 2005. *Trey Day* is the second album from Trey Songz. He recently began work on his upcoming album *Trey Day*, which is a follow up to *Gotta Make It* and will be his second album under Atlantic Records. It is set to be released later this summer. The first single "Wonder Woman," was shot on April 4th and featured Angela Luv as Trey's love interest.

6 Trey Songz



5 Tank

On *Sex, Love & Pain*, his third album, extra-muscular singer Tank continues to show that a real man can be both strong and sensitive. Like fellow R&B singer Tyrese, Tank represents for all the extra-swollen bodybuilders who aren't afraid to show their feelings. The album is a drama-filled roller coaster of ballads: love, lust, hate, pain, betrayal, and more are explored on the dozen songs here. And Tank's songwriting is top-notch; he has a gift for painting such a vivid picture with words that if you close your eyes, you can practically see the scenarios that he sings about take place.

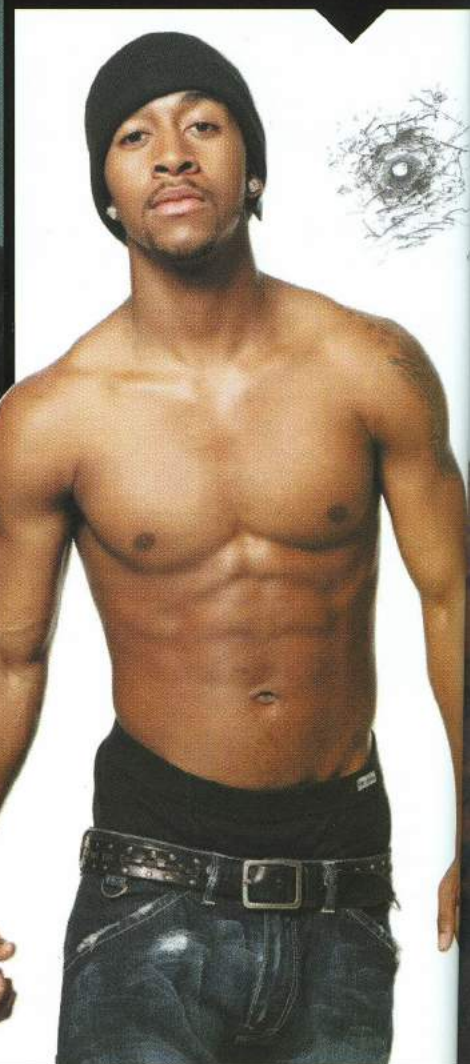
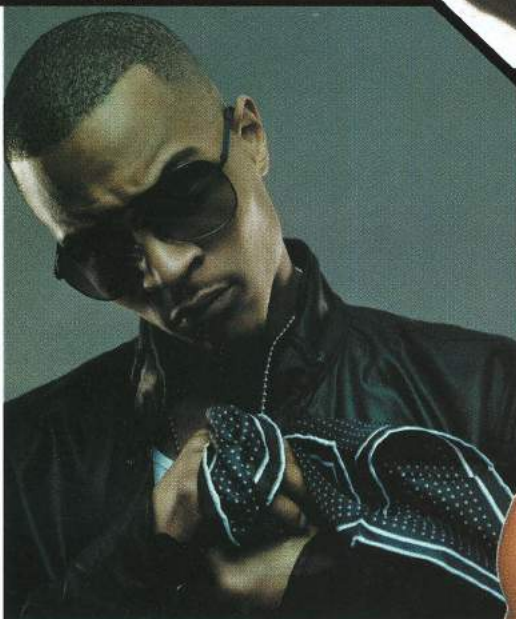


4 T.I.

Father, astute businessman, fashion icon, King of the South, future Hollywood A-Lister, and hip-hop standard bearer. With all these titles, no wonder Atlanta, GA native Clifford Harris needs two monikers to tell his whole story. And with the release of the year's most anticipated rap album, *T.I. vs. TIP*, we get both sides of one of contemporary music's most compelling characters.

"It's really a conceptual LP," T.I. explains. "Some would say I have a dual personality: calm, cool, collected one minute, and ready to take somebody who violates' head off the next. I'm just taking the time out to illustrate both my personas. T.I. is

definitely more laid back, more on the business side; he's a more suave cat. He came out on songs like 'Let's Get Away,' 'Why You Wanna,' and 'Get Loose.' Tip, that's a cat that's somewhat of a loose cannon. He's been reflected on records like 'U Don't Know Me,' 'Bring Em Out,' 'Rubber Band Man,' even 'Soldier' with Destiny's Child."



R&B superstar Omarion rang in 2007 with *21*, the year's first #1 album. The performer's second solo album (and first on Columbia Records) entered the Billboard Top 200 best-selling albums and the R&B sales charts at #1, mirroring the achievement of his debut solo album, *O*, which entered both those charts at #1 in February 2005. An important new voice in contemporary R&B and hip hop, Omarion is one of a select group of artists to have achieved back-to-back #1 debuts on both the Hot 100 and the R&B charts with two consecutive albums.

3 Omarion



Usher is looking to release a new album mid 2007. Usher is reported to have said "It's about time for me to get back in and put my 10 cents in it!"

Usher says his long layoff from making records is over: "I feel it's about time for me to come out with an album," he said via phone from Atlanta on Tuesday. "I'm not extremely enthused about where music has gone. I say that coming from listening to artists like Stevie Wonder, Prince, Michael Jackson — those are great artists and iconic musicians. I feel music is at a standstill."

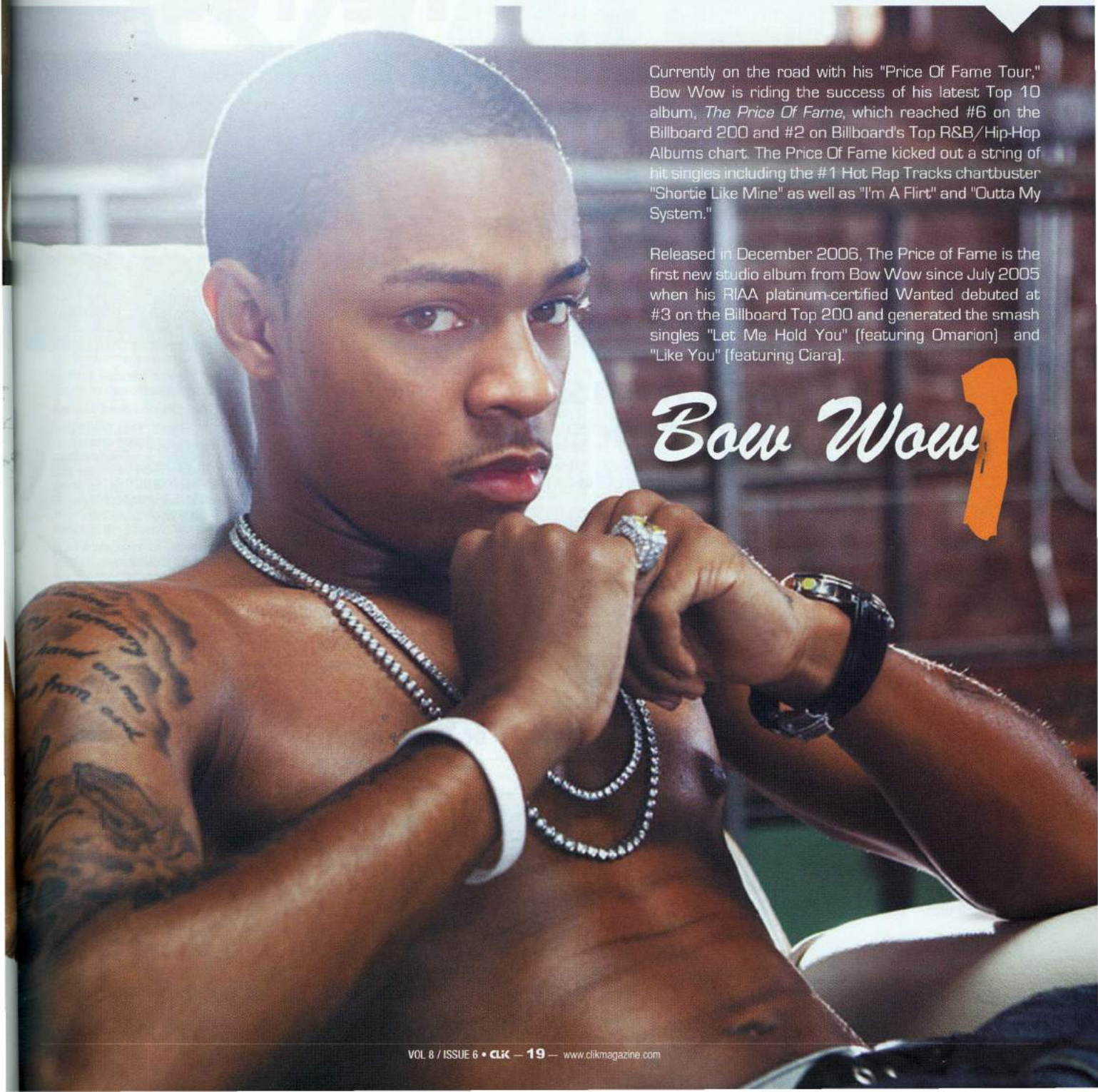
2 Usher



Currently on the road with his "Price Of Fame Tour," Bow Wow is riding the success of his latest Top 10 album, *The Price Of Fame*, which reached #6 on the Billboard 200 and #2 on Billboard's Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums chart. The Price Of Fame kicked out a string of hit singles including the #1 Hot Rap Tracks chartbuster "Shortie Like Mine" as well as "I'm A Flirt" and "Outta My System."

Released in December 2006, *The Price of Fame* is the first new studio album from Bow Wow since July 2005 when his RIAA platinum-certified *Wanted* debuted at #3 on the Billboard Top 200 and generated the smash singles "Let Me Hold You" (featuring Omarion) and "Like You" (featuring Ciara).

Bow Wow 1



BOOK REPORT

IMPOSSIBLE DREAMS

A NOVEL OF SEX, LIES AND THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAMS

By Alan Downs, PhD.



Mykle-Kane, personal trainer/model and now acclaimed author of the highly controversial novel *Impossible Dreams*, is taking the literary world by storm. He is compared to E. Lynn Harris and Zane with his descriptive details of love and life. His first novel is filled with intense emotions, action, suspense, sexual confusion, and drama coupled with a

never ending roller coaster ride of spiritual uplifting. Believe that this book will touch the depths of your soul and pull at your heart-strings.

Impossible Dreams overwhelms you with a nail-biting story of four friends and their inevitable search for love and acceptance. Nikko, Z, Malia, and Tre's lives are forever altered when one of their siblings is violently raped. Your heart will wrench with tears and compassion for the foursome as their souls are uplifted in order to believe in dreams of impossibilities. They must endure life's unexpected cycles of love and despair. *Impossible Dreams* is layered with spiritual connotations and creates an intense level of passion and confusion.

Mykle-Kane has created a masterpiece of alternative lifestyle and the search to obtain the ultimate source of companionship and love. He has depicted the perils of diverse lifestyles which are seemingly ridiculed and taken light-heartedly. *Impossible Dreams* will leave you in moments of provoked thoughts about your own life and your search for your *Impossible Dreams*.



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KELLY ROWLAND

Ms. Kelly

Columbia

July 3

Music World/Columbia Records will release *Ms. Kelly*, the avidly-awaited sophomore album from the Grammy-winning pop-urban musical superstar Kelly Rowland, on Tuesday, July 3rd.

"Like This," the first single from *Ms. Kelly*, is an infectious pulsating hip-hop groove featuring the Grammy-winning rap artist Eve. After a mere week at radio, "Like This" is already lighting up America's radio airwaves with a nationwide listening audience of over 5 million. The single is slated to impact Urban/Rhythm radio on March 27 and Top 40 on April 17. A "Like This" ringtone was made available on March 6 with a digital download and 12-inch single being offered on March 13. The CD single hit stores on April 17. "Like This" is currently being promoted on AOL Music's New Songs page while fans may hear a streaming version of the tune on Kelly's MySpace page (www.myspace.com/kellyrowland).

"Ghetto," the second single from *Ms. Kelly*, provides a showcase for the combined talents of Kelly Rowland and guest artist Snoop Dogg.

Ms. Kelly is the long-awaited successor to Rowland's best-selling 2002 gold-certified solo debut album, *Simply Deep*, which has sold more than two million copies worldwide. Peaking at #1 in the UK, #3 on the Billboard R&B/Hip-Hop Album chart, and #12 on the Billboard Top 200, *Simply Deep* included the smash hit, "Dilemma," Kelly's duet with rapper Nelly, which earned the Grammy for Best Rap/Sung Collaboration in 2003 and spent 10 weeks at #1 on the Hot 100. "I have put my heart and soul into this record," said Kelly about her decision to make this record very personal. "I am excited that everyone will hear it. I am completely exposed. It's the real me."

One of the vocal superstars in Destiny's Child, the biggest selling girl group of all time, Kelly Rowland's talents proved a major contributing force as the group racked up sales of more than 60 million records worldwide while earning two Grammy Awards in the Best R&B Performance By A Duo Or Group With Vocals category (2000: "Say My Name"; 2001: "Survivor").



T.I.

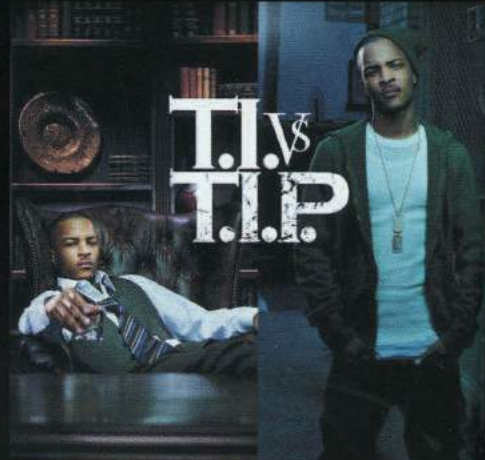
T.I. VS T.I.P.

Atlantic

July 3

According to Billboard, "throughout, T.I. raps in two personas; that of himself, and of his alter ego, T.I.P. 'It's basically a battle within myself.'" Billboard also claims that it will "feature guest turns by Eminem, Justin Timberlake, R. Kelly, Nelly, Akon and Lil' Wayne as well as production from Timbaland, Scott Storch, Mannie Fresh, Wyclef Jean and Just Blaze, among others" including Danja Handz ("Tell 'Em I Said That"). The Wyclef-produced songs sound most interesting to me: "Among the more surprising cuts are the three produced by Wyclef; the artists wrote eight songs during just three days of collaboration. 'You Know What It Is' sports a dubby thump behind the sound of a gun being cocked, with T.I. boasting, 'Had the album of the year, n***a / Grammy or not.' 'Shorty Got a Gun' has an almost Latin melody and a lot going on production wise, while 'Pass the Dutchie' nicks lines from the cho-

rus of Musical Youth's hit of the same name, with a melody not unlike Wyclef's own 'Gone Till November.'" The song "Hip-Hop" is "a Just Blaze production marked by a chopped-up rock guitar riff and loud, '80s drums." The Timbaland-produced song and the story of its creation sound the most bizarre, as described by Entertainment Weekly. About recording with Eminem, "We did three records. One we did for him." ...Their other two collaborations could end up on *T.I. vs. T.I.P.*, including a song called 'Touchdown.' 'It's out of Eminem's norm, if Eminem has a norm... basically talking about when you touch down in everybody's city, what you do. Hit the mall, buy a car or leave the club with all the girls. We have yet to finish that one.'" As far as other songs go, Lil Wayne helped on "Yeah," Nelly on "Show It 2 Me" and Andre 3000 on "Life Of The Party." Jay-Z is also said to be on the album.





TALIB KWELI

Blacksmith

Ear Drum

July 24

Hip-hop's premier MC Talib Kweli will release his eagerly awaited new album — *Ear Drum* — on July 24th. A career-defining work that showcases the Brooklyn rapper's advanced lyricism and faultless musical taste, "Ear Drum" is Kweli's first album released on his own label, Blacksmith Music and Warner Bros. Records.

Kweli says the album's title comes from "the image of the ear and of the drum, which are powerful enough by themselves, but put them together and it's an instrument in your body that helps you hear. They're also two very simple, yet powerful words. I wanted to focus on finding a sound that makes you move, and that's where the word 'eardrum' popped in my head."

With lyrics that touch on life's journeys and struggles, *Ear Drum* also showcases Talib's sonic versatility with tracks ranging from the silky-soulful "Soon The New Day," which features vocals by best-selling chanteuse Norah Jones, to the sexy first single "Hot Thing" and the hard-edged "Say Something," which features rapping by Blacksmith artist Jean Grae.

Ear Drum boasts innovative production work by such vanguard artists as Kanye West, who worked on Kweli's 2002 gold-certified *Quality* and 2004 *The Beautiful Struggle*; Black-Eyed Peas founder will.i.am; rapper-producer Madlib; and Black Star producer Hi-Tek, who also collaborated with Kweli on the gold-certified 2000 album *Reflection Eternal*. Of his desire to collaborate with a variety of producers and artists, Kweli says: "We need to challenge our audience, but we also need to challenge ourselves to know that whatever our new experiences are, we can write about them, be creative, and bring that to an audience without them feeling alienated."

Since making his debut with Mos Def as Black Star in 1988, Kweli has become known as an exceptional and socially aware artist who has rejected mainstream rap's embrace of violence and bling in favor of addressing issues of black consciousness and self-love. *Ear Drum* solidifies his status as one of rap's most talented and important voices.



THREE 6 MAFIA

Columbia

Last 2 Walk

July 3

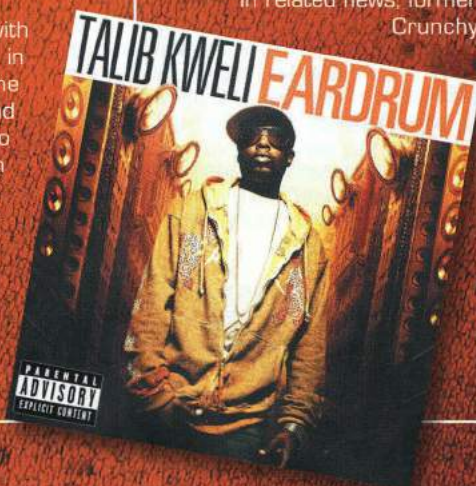
After first being penciled in for an April release and then moving to late May, Three 6 Mafia's new album, *Last 2 Walk*, is now on target to arrive July 3 via Hypnotize Minds/Columbia. The moves have come to better coordinate the album with the rap duo's new MTV reality show, *Adventures in Hollyhoo*d.

"You see us in meetings, recording, trying to come up with songs, trying to do movie deals, even trying to pick up women," group member DJ Paul recently told *Billboard.com* of the show. "Our lives are like a circus," added Juicy J. "You wouldn't believe the crap we go through everyday."

As previously reported, *Last 2 Walk* sports guest appearances by Lyfe Jennings, Paul Wall, 8Ball & MJG, Akon, the Game, Lil' Jon and Lil' Wayne. First single "Doe Boy Fresh" featuring Chamillionaire topped out last month at No. 54 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 and has since fallen off the chart.

In related news, former Three 6 Mafia member

Crunchy Black will re-emerge with his solo debut, "From Me to You," on June 12 via Hypnotize Minds/Asylum. The album includes 11 new songs and five "chopped and screwed" selections.



COMMON

Geffen

Finding Forever

July 31

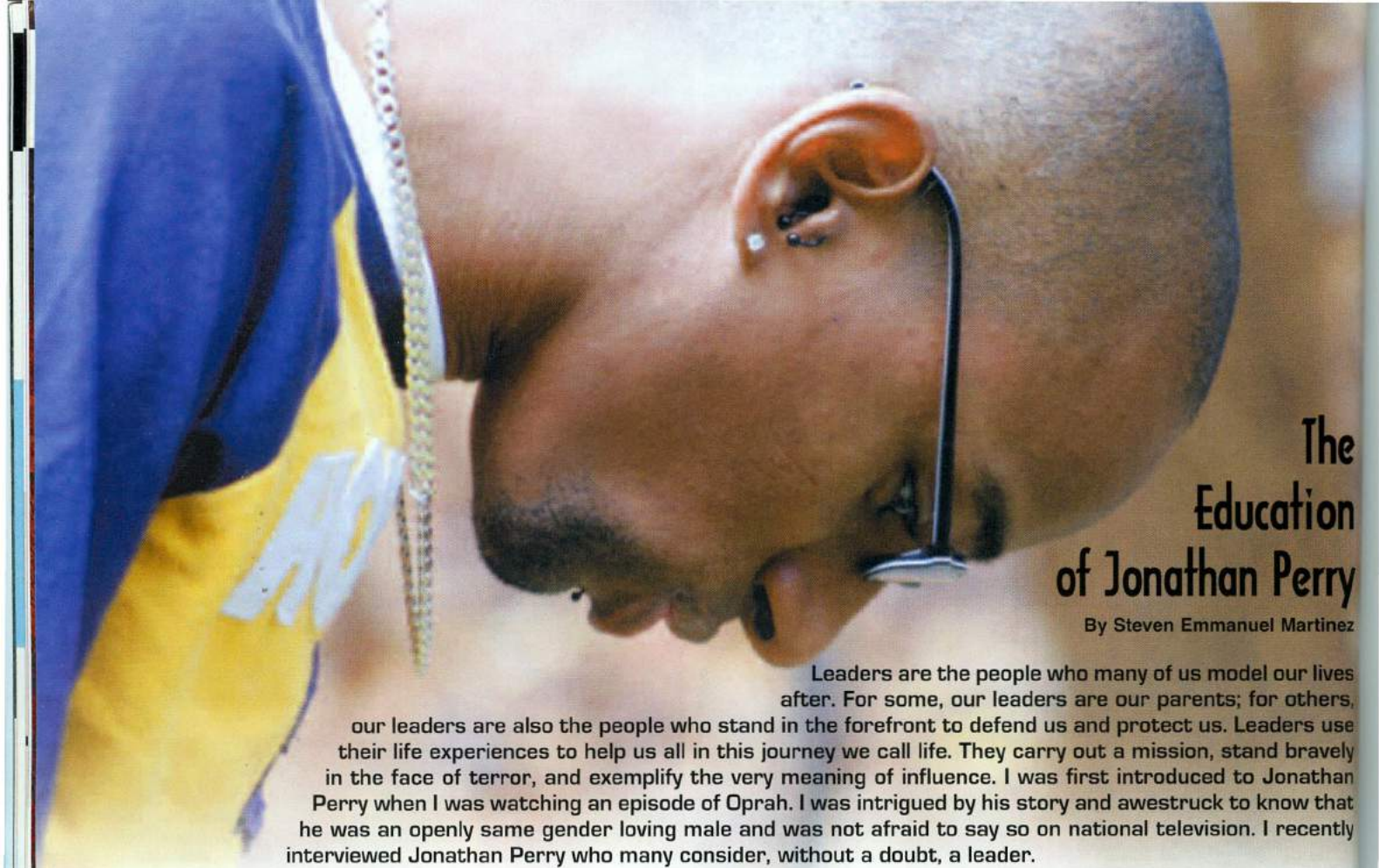
Chicago hip-hop artist Common

is getting ready to release his 7th studio album,

Finding Forever, on July 31st. This politically charged jam will feature collaborations from Kanye West, Lily Allen, D'Angelo, the late J Dilla, and John Legend among others.

Common's current release *Be* has sold around 800,000 copies in the United States alone and he has been touring to support it over the last 12-18 months, he was also recently nominated for 4 Grammy awards and for 2 NAACP Image awards.

An influential figure in today's rap world, Common stands for a more musical, sophisticated rap genre struggling to compete against the flood of commercialized gangsta figures.



The Education of Jonathan Perry

By Steven Emmanuel Martinez

Leaders are the people who many of us model our lives after. For some, our leaders are our parents; for others, our leaders are also the people who stand in the forefront to defend us and protect us. Leaders use their life experiences to help us all in this journey we call life. They carry out a mission, stand bravely in the face of terror, and exemplify the very meaning of influence. I was first introduced to Jonathan Perry when I was watching an episode of Oprah. I was intrigued by his story and awestruck to know that he was an openly same gender loving male and was not afraid to say so on national television. I recently interviewed Jonathan Perry who many consider, without a doubt, a leader.

Who is Jonathan Perry?

I am constantly reinventing who Jonathan is.

I had to hurt for a while before I realized everything was going to be alright. I looked in the mirror and saw that frightened little boy having to battle a great big monster. I wasn't mad. I was hurt and confused. I cried a lot and the only question that kept coming to mind was "why?" I never got the answer, but I took the question and used it to shape my future, which I am still shaping.

I stopped seeing HIV as punishment, but a consequence for some of my actions. Owning and acknowledging my part in my situation (where I am now), my hurt and my pain gave me strength and control; by doing that, I got my power back. I was no longer a victim.

I placed my worth in how many find me attractive or how many numbers I get. I placed my worth in how many guys are attracted to me or how much sex I can have. I placed my worth in guys who treat me like I am worthless. How the hell did I get there? More importantly, I had to figure out how the hell to get out.

I won't say the names of the guys whom I have allowed myself to love only to be told I am not enough or that I love too much or too hard or too fast. I don't know, maybe I had the wrong tools or I was looking for love in all the wrong places. I looked on A4A, BGC, MySpace, and some other sites that shall remain nameless. I had even looked around Los Angeles—what the hell was I thinking—and all I found was disappointment and hurt and feelings of inadequacy. Wow! Where did that one come from? Giving myself, only to discover what I gave was what they wanted, just not from me. Sometimes I want to keep all I have to myself so that I will not allow anyone else to abuse it ever again.

When did you come out? How did you come out? Why did you make the decision to come out?

I was a freshman at the Southeastern College of the Assemblies of God, in Lakeland, Florida when I had grown increasingly uncomfortable about hiding my sexuality. One day while in praise and worship rehearsal the presence of God was so thick that by the end of the first song there weren't many of us left standing. The praise and worship leader, Thomas Lars, began to "minister." He made reference to John 4:24 that reads, "God is a spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." Thomas went on to say that you cannot worship God with sin

in your life, and then he went on to qualify what was sin. I sat there and began to get angry because all I wanted to do was worship God. I did not care what I had to give up. I just knew that I wanted to worship. So I sat down with Thomas and told him that I was gay. With tears in my eyes I told him that I would do "anything" that I needed to get rid of my homosexuality—if it would indeed bring me closer to God. The next day I was called into the guidance counselor's office and the dean's office and questioned for three hours about my sexual behaviors and with whom, if anyone, I had had sex on the campus. To this day no one knows who he is but he and I.

December 17, 1995 I received a letter of suspension from the president of Southeastern College of the Assemblies of God notifying me that I would be welcomed back under one condition—that I seek counseling from a certified Assemblies of God psychologist. But the grounds of my suspension were that I was "immoral." The next night I went around the entire campus telling everyone that I was being suspended from school because I was gay; hence, my BOLD step "out of the closet." That night I slept on the steps of Carpenter's Home Church because I had nowhere else to go.

Now coming out to my family was a totally different story. I had no intension of telling the truth about why I got kicked out of college. But one of my professors called my Aunt Elaine (my favorite aunt) the day after my suspension and told her that I had been kicked out of school because I was gay. This brought about the frightening discussion with my aunt and grandmother about my sexuality and why I had been kicked out of college. About a week later, I was speaking with my grandmother when she revealed to me that God had shown her in a dream that someone in the family was 'funny.' He just didn't say who. From that day forward, our relationship has been stronger than those with any of her other children except my Aunt Elaine. The three of us are very close.

Were your parents accepting of your sexual orientation?

Well, considering I never placed much stock in what my mother and "real" father had to say, it didn't really matter. My mother I feel tolerated me but my father neither tolerated nor accepted me.

What is your relationship like with your mother and family now?

I don't have a relationship with my father at all. My relationship with my mother was severely, severely, severely, severely damaged when she became engaged with

her current husband of 16 years. My mother allowed him to beat us.

I recall an instance in 1990 while living in South Dakota. We were at the pool. He called me over to him and I answered "What?" to him two times. The second time he grabbed me by the throat and choked me until I had passed out. Then he threw me next to the pool and left. I came to about three minutes later to a crowd of people around me. There I was bleeding and skinned up on my left arm and leg. My brother and I walked about a mile to where my mom was working. When we got there I told her what happened and she told me that I "had probably done something to deserve it." I remember feeling hopelessly lost because not even my mother had my back in this. My enemy was her friend.

The situation was much more than two years after meeting him—he raped me. I do feel myself, however, exercising my courage to forgive her. She has only seen me in the news and on TV, but in March I will be delivering the keynote address for an event at Villa Julie College in Maryland. I have extended an invitation to her and my youngest brother Jordan who is 15.

I know this is difficult to talk about. But you were raped at 14. How was that on your family?

Talking about being raped by my mother's husband isn't as hard for me as most people believe. I have talked about it for various reasons. I have talked because I was scared, confused, angry, amazed and betrayed. I have talked about it so much that there was nothing left for me to do but forgive him and my mother for what happened that July in Rapid City, South Dakota. It was not until two years later that I actually told her what happened.

We lived in Maine and I had come home from church one Sunday evening after allowing the entire church to lay hands on me and "exercise" those homosexual "demons" from my body. "Mommy mommy," I said, "God just delivered me from homosexuality! I used to be gay, but tonight God delivered me." She looked at me like I had a knife and was about to use it! "And when I was 14, Mr. Wes raped me." What I didn't know was that she was on the phone with him when I said it. "Wes, let me call you back." She hung up the phone and asked me to repeat it. After explaining to her all the details of what happened just two years earlier, she called him back and asked him if what I was saying was true. All I could hear was "Jo, no." I felt my heart sink into my big toe because I knew she was going to take his side, like always. The last thing out of her that night was, "That's what you get for being gay." My younger brother Jamey overheard the conversation and whispered from his room, "Jonathan, I still love you!"

The two things that saddened me most about the entire experience was how I felt when my mother blamed it on me and when I decided to report it to the Office of Special Investigation. They told me that they would not press charges because he was about to retire. Keep in mind there is no statute of limitations on rape cases.

HIV/AIDS

From whom did you contract the HIV virus? A lover? A partner?

I contracted HIV from a guy I was dating who lived on the West Coast.

Was there at any time a thought in mind that you would perhaps die from the disease?

Every day for the first year and a half after I was diagnosed I felt that I could die from the disease at any moment. I became paranoid and fearful.

Two nights before I went to get my diagnosis I was sitting at my laptop and I heard a voice whispering over my shoulder, "You're gonna die, you're gonna die. You really fucked up now." When I tell you it sounded like someone was in my room, I had never been so afraid in all my life. I did not go to sleep until the sun came up because I really believed that if I had closed my eyes I would not live to see the sun rise.

Why do you think 46 percent of black gay men are HIV positive?

My good friend Dr. David Malbranche said it best: Statistics lie. Statistics can do what you want them to do. We receive so much misinformation that sometimes I truly don't know what to believe. But I do know that that statistic was obtained from samples of people at various clubs and bars. I will not speak to the accuracy of the statistic, but I will say that I don't think it is as accurate as some statisticians purport.

RELATIONSHIPS

Are you single?

I am single and have been so for the last four years. I have been so because the last relationship I was in I put my partner through pure hell. He showed me that I was not ready for the love I thought I wanted. I may never have him again, but I genuinely believe Larry was my soul mate. He loved me past all of my hurt and past all of my pain. He loved me beyond my HIV status and into a place I never thought any man would reach—and I took all of that for granted.

You attended a historically black college. Were you accepted with open arms?

It is so funny because when I arrived at Johnson C. Smith University, everyone was cool with me until they found out I was SGL; then they weren't so nice. When I came out about my HIV status, however, they embraced me like I never even told them I was attracted to men. I felt my university come together in support, and until the day I graduated I actually felt like part of my JCSU family.

Tell me about the organizations and forum you started while in college.

I started African-American Alliance for Gay & Lesbian Education. The purpose of the African-American Alliance for Gay & Lesbian Education is to educate the African-American community and the community at large on issues facing African-American gays and lesbians, including issues relating to HIV and AIDS.

Why did you decide to become an activist?

I became an activist because I have a big mouth and a lot to say. I care about what happens to black people. With my coming out I felt like I could contribute something. I am finding that something and my voice is being heard.

What's your mission?

When I leave this earth I want to leave behind a legacy that will inspire people to realize that where we are now is not where we have to remain.

There is a lot of work that needs to take place and it requires more than just education. The one thing I've

found that Black people most have in common is not an HIV status or a religious affiliation. What we have in common is not a political party. What we have in common is a need for that feeling of expectation and a desire for that one thing that will help and save us. That need extends beyond what T D Jakes says. It supersedes Creflo Dollar's and Eddie Long's desire to capitalize off a gospel that not long ago was used to plunge blacks deeper into the shame that got us here in the first place. What is that feeling of expectation, that one thing? It's hope! It is what we all need not to stay the present course, but to blaze a new one.

July 2006 I was riding the train in Los Angeles and I began to think heavily about my life and my presence therein. I considered my situation and where I was at that moment. With all of my mess in mind I asked God to send me an angel or just someone to save me. I closed my eyes and God showed me a mirror. I looked in the mirror and heard God say, "There is who I sent to save you." Upon seeing that, I sat on the train in front of all those men and women and cried. I cried until my eyes were red, my face was white, and my jeans were soaked.

The moral of the story was so simple: every person—even in our community—with power doesn't always have our best interest at heart. While we're sitting back waiting for angels and ostensible saviors to come rescue us, we will have to wake up, whether it is of our own volition or the intemperate rousing of someone else.

There is something about life that causes us to cling to it even when we know we are at its edge. No matter how hard it has been the expectation of brighter days offers hope to us. So we hold on. Hoping, praying, believing...that some day soon, things are going to get better. We say, "They have to because I've been holding on this long... it can't be for nothing." So we wait. We hold on just a little while longer... just a little while longer [in the words of the old spiritual] "to see what the end gon' be. Then comes that one thing that makes all the holding you've been doing worth it. Just enough of that can give you all the hope in the world.

We need hope to survive. You need hope to help you see past now and beyond the tomorrow that doesn't look so good either. And you know what? While you are just hanging in there looking for that better tomorrow, hope has its arms wrapped around you and has pulled you to safety and you didn't even know it until tomorrow came, and the next day, and the day after that. You saw that every thing was not going to be all right, but is alright.

We are not at the beginning of the end; we are at the end of the beginning and this is our moment to wake up! Let us call this moment hope.

What does the future hold for Jonathan Perry?

I'll let you know when I reach the end of it.

What are you working on now?

I have created a non-profit called "Our Best Hope." The ultimate goal is to provide black America with the inspiration and tools necessary to realize, actualize, and exercise their proactive responsibility. The driving forces are hope, choice, and responsibility.

FASHION

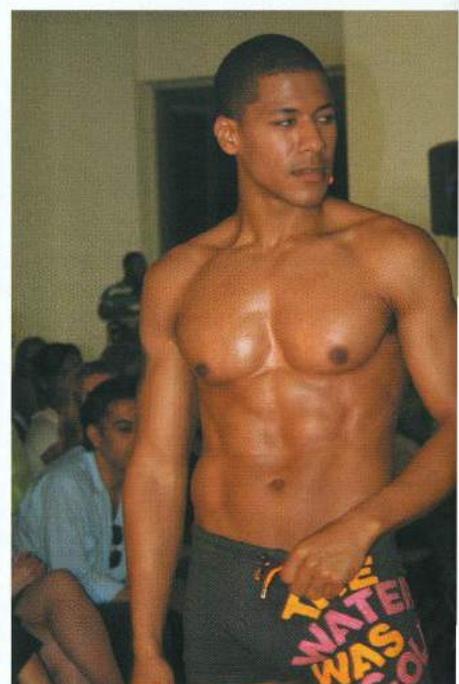
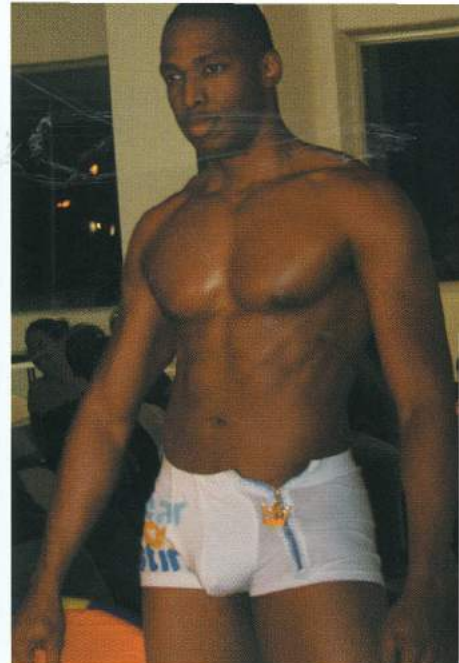


Photo by: Zaire

FASHION



FORWARD



Photos by: David Brandon, Lloyd Crawford

Briian Dargon has what it takes to make it in the world of fashion. He's intelligent, talented, passionate and, most of all, determined. CLIK Magazine's Curtis Davis sits down with the designer of the hot new BSIXTEE6 Collection to learn just what keeps this young prodigy motivated.

CLIK: How did you come up with the name of your collection?

BD: When I began thinking about what I wanted to call the line, I knew that I did not want to have my name across everybody's chest or ass. I chose "B66" because Briian is my first name and 1966 is the year I was born.

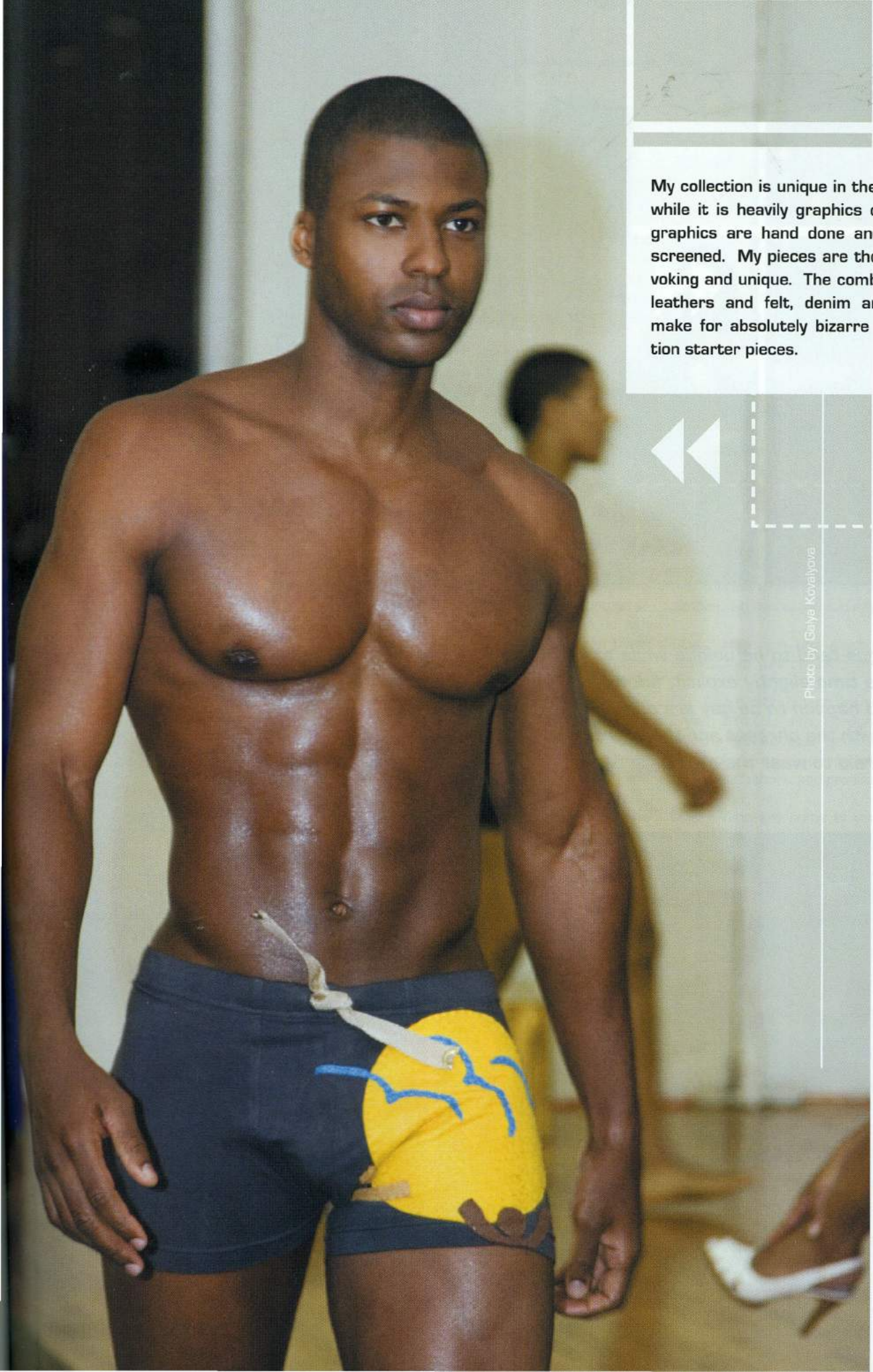
CLIK: Wait a minute, so that makes you ... WOW! You look absolutely incredible for your age.

BD: Thank you. {smiles}

CLIK: What made you become a designer?

BD: I was bored. [laughs] Becoming a clothing designer was actually a fluke. I was between jobs and had been invited to a party. Not having extra money to buy something "fly," I decided to make a t-shirt. When people kept coming up to me asking where I got it from and when I told them I made it, they offered me money if I made one for them. It was a no-brainer.

CLIK: How do you feel your collection is different than other young black designers?



My collection is unique in the fact that while it is heavily graphics driven, my graphics are hand done and not silk screened. My pieces are thought provoking and unique. The combination of leathers and felt, denim and cotton make for absolutely bizarre conversation starter pieces.

Photo by Gaiya Kovalyova



Photo by: David Brandon



“My designs tend to be unique while at the same time slightly explicit, a lot of guys who happen to be gay are able to identify with the phrases and therefore aren't afraid to wear the clothes.”





For more insight, e-mail Briian at briian@bsixtee6.com.
And check out more of the fashion line at:
<http://www.bsixtee6.com>
<http://www.myspace.com/bsixtee6>

bsixtee 6

CLIK: What was the first piece you ever designed?

BD: If you really mean "ever," I was probably about 11 years old and living in Richmond, Virginia. The Chinese collar shirts were really popular at the time and so I asked my mom to buy me some; she said, "Hell no!" [laughs] So I cut all the collars off of my shirts. Of course, when the fad was over, she still made me wear them.

CLIK: Oh wow! I guess that was your introduction into "seasons."

BD: Yeah, I guess it was.

CLIK: Do you have formal training as a designer, or is it something that you just picked up?

BD: I do not have a formal education in clothing design. It was something that I always dabbled in, even as a kid. My family is stylish and was always putting unexpected pieces together to come up with their own individual looks. Before I was born, my mom used to take my grandmother's clothing and reconstruct them to fit her. My grandmother taught me how to sew. She said in case I was a bachelor and needed to take care of myself I needed to know this, so I guess it stemmed from that.

CLIK: Do you ever feel like you've made the wrong career decision?

BD: NEVER!

CLIK: What keeps you motivated?

BD: I like to eat and I want to eat every day so my hustle has to be strong in order to make that happen. Also, it's not hard to be motivated when you're doing something you absolutely love.

CLIK: How do you feel about the current status of fashion with jeans costing \$400 or more?

BD: There is nothing really new about fashion. Although I'm a designer, I'm still content to walk around with bare feet and an old pair of jeans or sit on the floor in a suit. My value is not based on an expensive piece of clothing or trying to impress others with material things. The old adage about "What was once old is new again" is

very true. I see the kids now rockin' the 80s look when most of them were just born in the 80s. I don't think I've ever had the mindset that 'more is more.'

CLIK: That's really good. So what are your price points?

BD: \$30.00 for a t-shirt, depending on the intricacy of the design and goes up to \$300.00 for some of the other pieces like outerwear.

CLIK: Do you feel that the gay community has embraced your designs?

BD: Somewhat. Working with publications like CLIK Magazine has put me in direct contact with the GLBT community and I think that because my designs tend to be unique while at the same time slightly explicit, a lot of guys who happen to be gay are able to identify with the phrases and therefore aren't afraid to wear the clothes. So overall, I would say yes.

CLIK: Have you had a lot of celebrity requests for your pieces?

BD: As a matter of fact, I've done stuff for Erykah Badu, Lil' Flip, Gordon Chambers and the Fat Joe "Lean Back" music video. Some of my regular clients include a slew of actors, authors, and producers.

CLIK: Who are some of your designer inspirations?

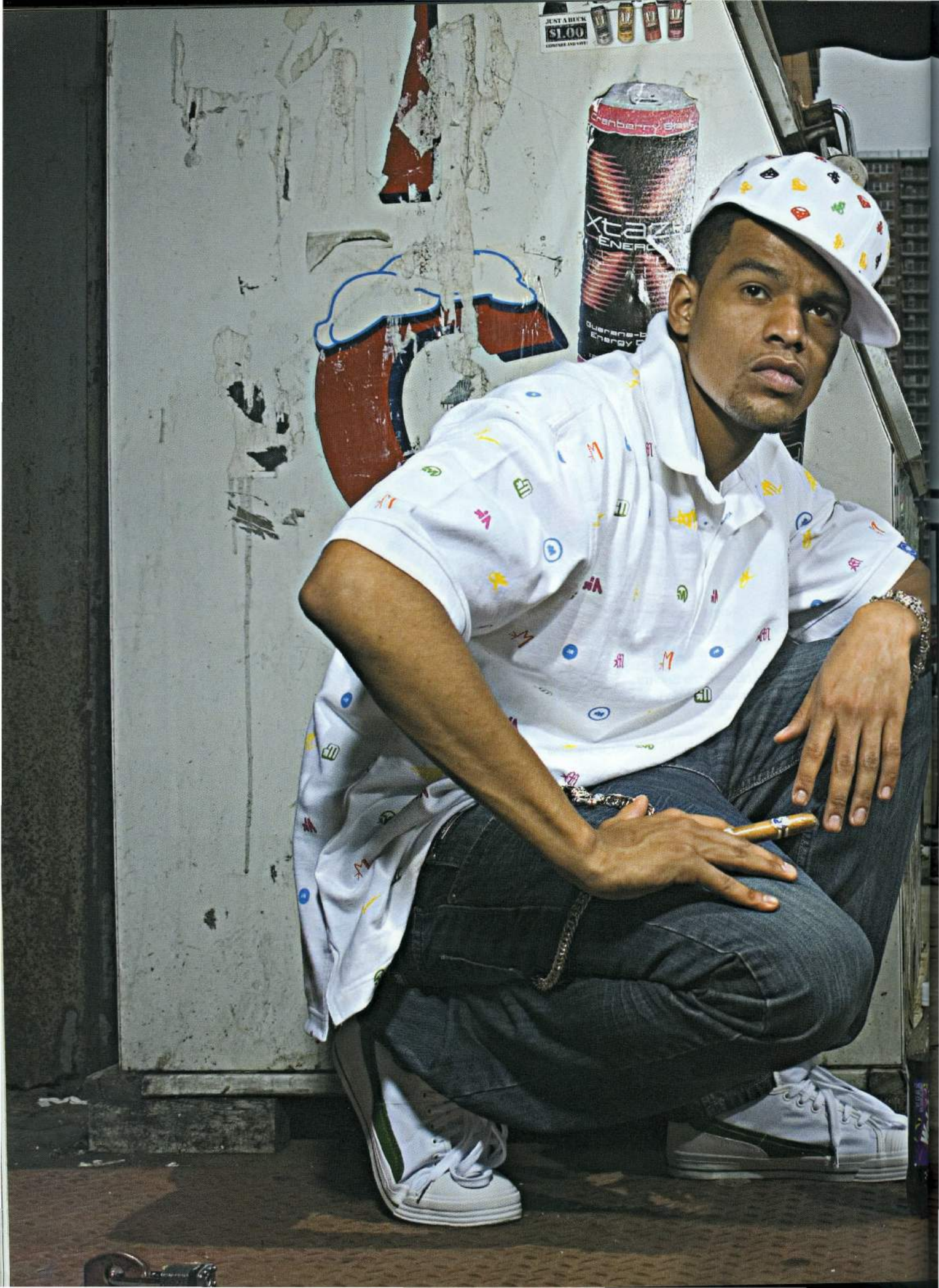
BD: If I can help it, I try not to expose myself to other designers' work. I'm most inspired by my upbringing, my sense of humor, my friends, family, and the things I've seen and done in this lifetime.

CLIK: Nothing like taking inspiration from oneself. So tell us, where can we purchase the BSIXTEE6 collection?

BD: Right now you can purchase items directly from the website at www.bsixtee6.com. I can also customize pieces or do variations of product you'll see on the site.

CLIK: What can we expect to see from you in the near future?

BD: With me you never know, but if you don't keep an eye on me, you might miss something exciting.





HARLEM WORLD

PLAYAZ, BALLAZ AND HUSTLAZ

Photographed by Taj Washington
Fashion Director Curtis Davis

Donovan wears shirt by **MECCA**, jeans
by **SCIFEN**, sneakers by **PF FLYER**,
hat by **SOUTHPOLE**



SIZZLE

All Photos By Sizzle Miami Staff
Photographer Jerry Boles

Review By LT Dinwiddie

This year I had the opportunity to attend Miami Sizzle's Sixth Annual event in sunny Miami, Florida, and to call it pandemonium would be a true understatement. Sizzle CEO Dwight Powell and his team (Luis Medrano, Lorenzo Turner, and Cordell McClary) launched one of the highest-octane and activity-packed holiday weekends I've ever been a part of.

Miami was the perfect backdrop for this sexy, ultra-classy affair where I received eye candy that will have me running to the dentist for a fill in. In a twist this year, the 4-Star Hyatt Regency Miami happily welcomed the 'gay dollar' acting as the host hotel instead of as a satellite hotel as in previous years. The city welcomed the black gay community with open arms as the mayor of the booming metropolis, Carlos Alvarez, delivered a personal welcome letter that was included in the events brochure.

Droves of same gender loving men and a few women came from all across the world to take part in an event that is catered to us and, more importantly, by us. From The Sizzle Booze Cruise, The True Queens Of Comedy, The Haulover Beach Patrol, Carnival, and everything in between. The Sizzle organization flawlessly executed the daunting task of providing interesting yet sexy events.

But don't think the Memorial Day weekend was just about parties and clubbing because it wasn't. When I needed to get away and relax I strolled on over to Sizzle Village and lost myself in the movie lounge, caught up on some e-mails in the Cyber Café, and just laid back in the hospitality lounge. There was a fascinating open-forum discussion on online hookups and sex moderated by Derrick L. Briggs.

Since this was my inception to the ultra-elegant, five-day excursion, I'll have to admit that there were a few things I did right and a few things I did wrong. As a result, I thought that I would compile a list of dos and don'ts that will guarantee you the best experience possible while you make Miami your destination for next year's first summer holiday weekend.

1 Purchase a VIP card! Sizzle offers different VIP access cards that secure your admission to every Sizzle-sponsored event. There's no waiting in line, no worrying about getting into a party, no nonsense. I had one and I got the chance to see everything while some of my friends weren't so lucky. If you're a true baller let me suggest the VIP Black Card!

2 Rent your own vehicle and book your own hotel room! Let's face it. Friends are great and you want to experience a great time while

in their company, but when it comes to hookups and late night adventures, it's best that you have your own accommodations so that you don't have to answer to anyone or wait for anybody when you're out and about.

3 Leave the attitude at home! Listen, everybody knows that we gays can be some shady bitches; however, when you're coming to a gay event you need to be as open to meeting as many people as possible. In the long run you're only hurting yourself by walking around acting like your shit don't stink.

4 Safe sex is very important, but I think it's pointless to waste your money on condoms upon arriving. Every place I went over the weekend seemed to be offering free condoms (yes, even the ones to fit us blessed downstairs bruthas). I didn't even get a chance to crack open the fresh box of Magnum XLs I brought with me.

5 LEAVE YOUR BOYFRIENDS AT HOME!!! I can't stress this suggestion enough. This event, as classy as it is, isn't for couples. There are so many scantily-clad men walking around that are bound to approach you with things other than "getting to know you" on their mind. Don't play yourself by bringing your significant other or there are bound to be issues! I personally witnessed three couples break up



Queen's of Comedy headliner Sommore & Kennedy Davenport



Miss Sommore showed her ass!!! Truly a highlight of the week.



while in attendance. I'm not advocating cheating, but I am sure that you're better off declining an advance on your own rather than in the company of your mate.

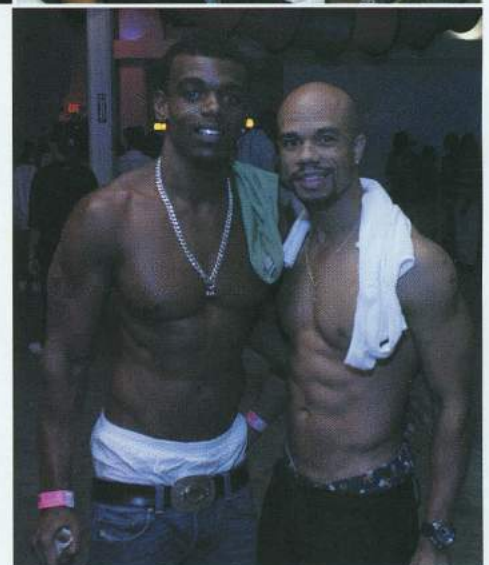
C Don't get an attitude with event employees, hotel staff, or security. It's a crazy-ass weekend, and everybody is working diligently to accommodate everybody. Try to take into consideration the daunting tasks that event staff is attempting to accomplish to make your stay as enjoyable as possible.

7 Tip your bartenders! That doesn't need further explanation.

8 Bring enough money to cover your own expenses. This is another rule that I can't stress enough. With it being a holiday weekend, things are going to cost a little more than usual. Make sure your budget can accommodate you so that you don't have to impose upon anyone else's finances to support your fun.

9 Don't leave your drink unattended for any reason! If you put your drink down and walk away from it for any reason, consider it a wash and just purchase another one.

Have fun, be responsible, and make it a weekend to remember!

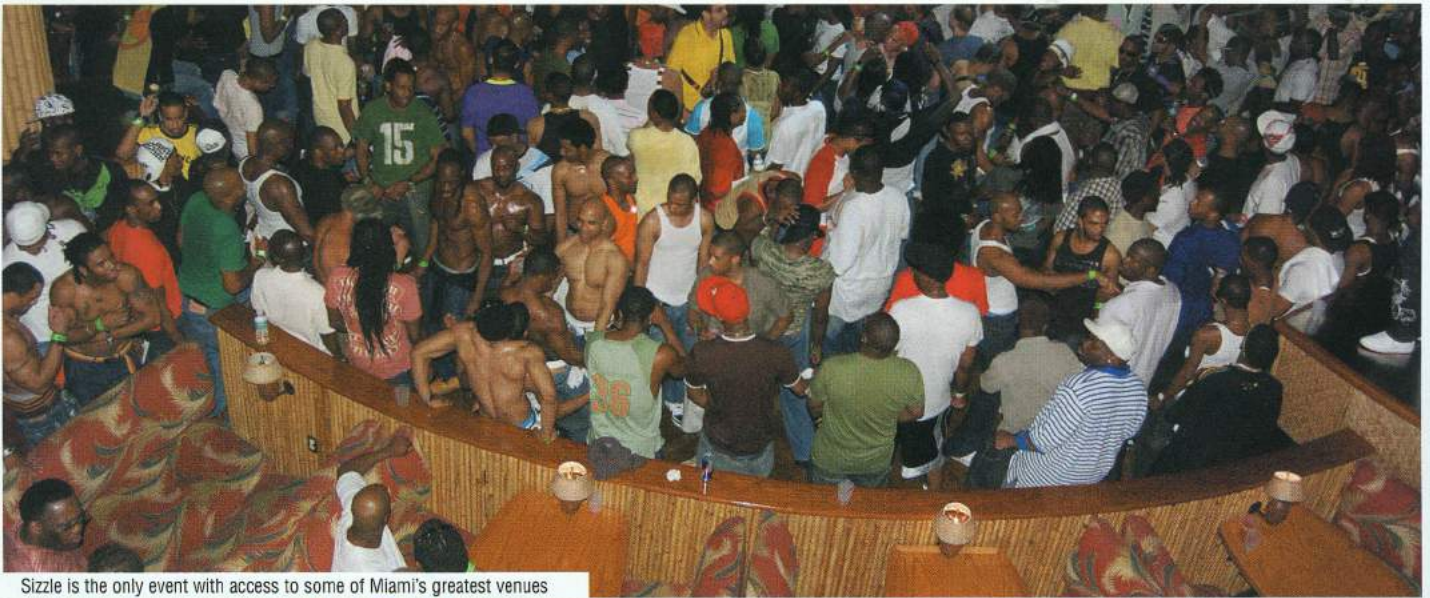


Hot guys at one of Sizzle's largest and hottest parties Carnival

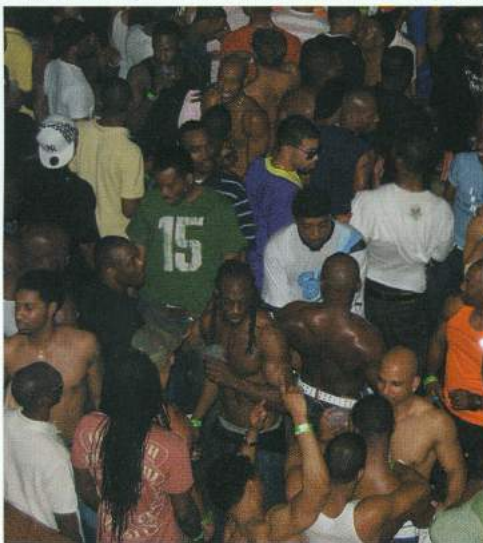


SEEN @ SIZZLE 2007

Pictorial Review



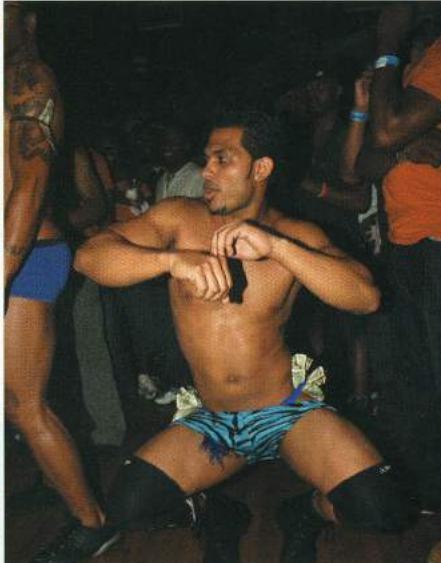
Sizzle is the only event with access to some of Miami's greatest venues



New York's DJ MK on the 1s and 2s



Ivan Daniels and friend



Tons and tons of hot boys hittin' the dance floor



Truly the #1 club in the world. ... now Sizzle guests know why!





(right to left) Raymonde Green, Maurice Jamal, and friend



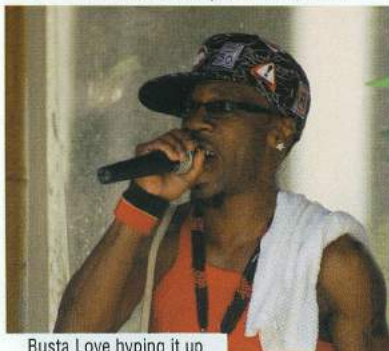
Sexy guys strippin' down for the Tat-Tat-Tatted-up Contest



Charles LaSalle and The City Gym Boys striking a pose



Miss Ruff N'Stuff posin' for the kids

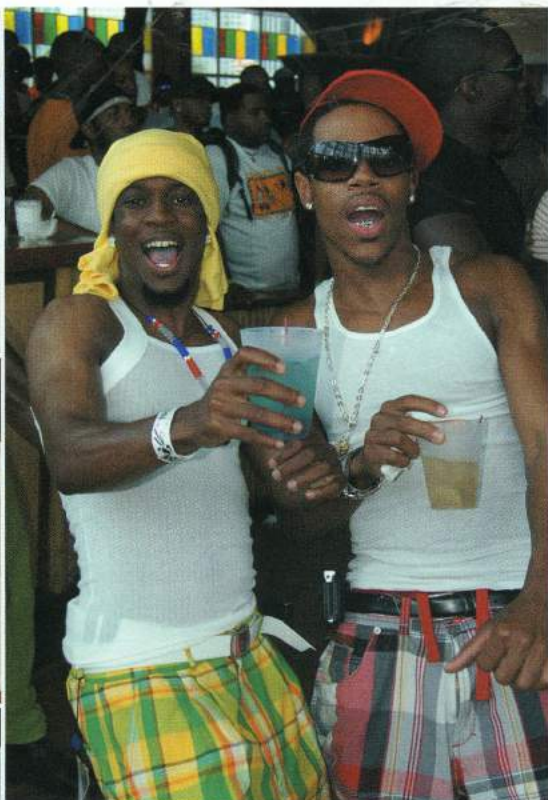


Busta Love hyping it up

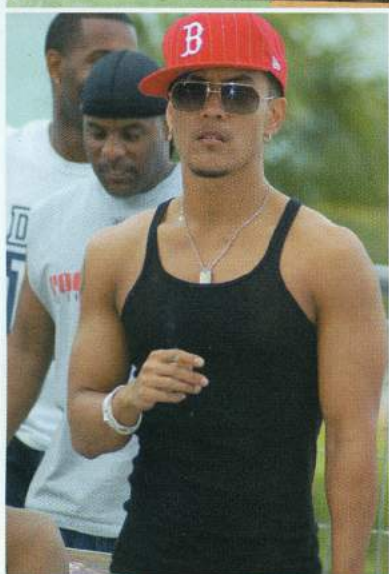


SEEN @ SIZZLE 2007

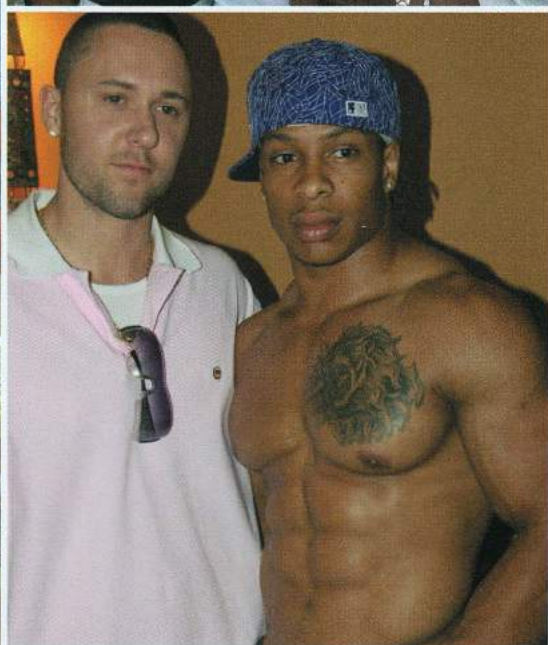
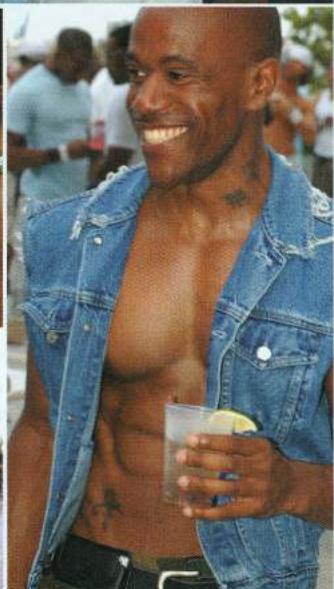
Pictorial Review



Gettin' the party started!



The perfect place to hang with friends and make new ones



Posing with CLIK cover model. . . model is City Gym Boy's Lamar

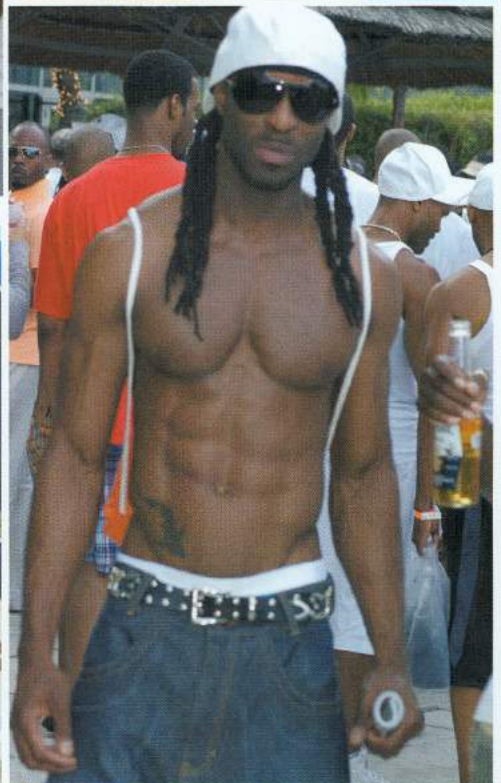




John Campbell, Maurice Jamal, cast and models of *B-Boy Blues* the movie



From dusk til dawn, Sizzle keeps the party goin' all day long!



All the hot guys were in Miami. If you missed Sizzle, you missed a hell of a great time. . . need I say more?



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