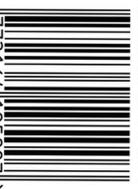




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PATRICK KELLY DAY26 STAN ZEFF B-SLADE
ATLANTA'S SEXIEST SPRING FASHION 3WAY RELATIONSHIPS
THE PERCY SAYS! COLUMN ON THE RIDICULOUS, THE ABSURD & THE CRAZY



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Special Thanks: ADAC, Smith Grubbs Associate, Innovations USA, Moattar, J Nelson, Inc., August Avery, Anna Hajiyeve, Kristine Turner, Mckenzie Johnson, Ken Barber Crystal of Nya Nya Couture, Papa Diouf, Ashley Dniece, Patrick Story, CJ, Stan Redfearn, Sydney, Jay & Danny of J Nelson, Andrea of Moattar, Mr. Grubbs & Carlos de Torres of Smith Grubbs & Associate, Michelle Hatfield of Innovations USA, Dani Scarcella, Hyun Gu Kim, Kotera, Brynne, Elena, Tiana, Kierra, Deanna, Kenya, Coda, Gracie, Max, Kellen Timothy and Brian

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USL Magazine
ISSUE 1 VOL. 2

MODEL KOTERA & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF PATRICK KELLY, PHOTOGRAPHED BY ANNA HAJIYEV. STYLING: ANNA HAJIYEV & KEN BARBER OF KEN BARBER SIGNATURE, ATLANTA. MAKEUP: PATRICE STORY. RETOUCHES BY ANNA HAJIYEV PHOTOGRAPHY



ON THE COVER: PATRICK KELLY AND MODEL KOTERA, PHOTOGRAPHED BY ANNA HAJIYEV. STYLING: ANNA HAJIYEV & PATRICK KELLY. HAIR: KOTERA. MAKEUP: MAKEUP BY PATRICE STORY. RETOUCHES BY ANNA HAJIYEV PHOTOGRAPHY

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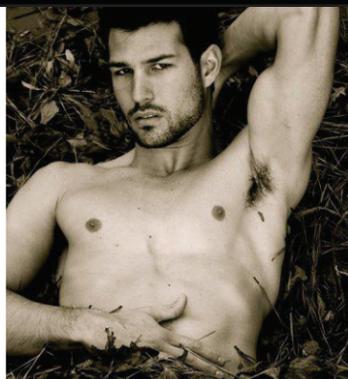
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COLUMN



DJ SKY NELLOR

Graces the cover of USL Magazine's Spring 2012 Issue. In music, Sky captivates the crowd, ruling the turn-tables at some of the world's most exclusive parties. In fashion, Sky successfully maintains her status as one of modeling's elite, continuously photographed on the red carpet and in high profile fashion campaigns. -facebook.com/djskynellor



MODEL SEARCH WINNERS

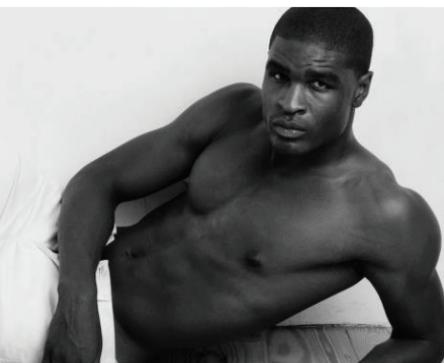
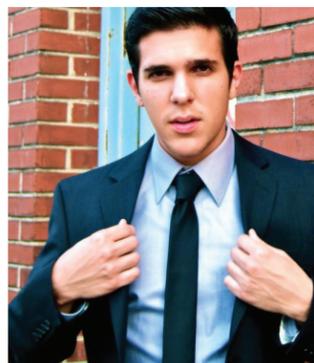
IN THE PREMIERE ISSUE

FOR THE PREMIERE

ISSUE USL Magazine launched a regional model search through modelmayhem, which quickly gained national attention as models compete for a feature spot in USL Magazine. During the course of the 60 day competition, USL Magazine's facebook fanpage received over 120,000 visits from models, their families, friends and people who just wanted to know what the highlights were all about.

Here are some of the models who won the competition and was a part of our Opulence Series and Ken Barber Signature fashion shoots.

Top: (L-R) Timothy McCulloch, Brian Murphy, Max Dinatale and Kellen Marcus



Bottom (L-R) Kotera, Kenya, Deanna, Kierra, and Tiana

Want to be an UM Model? Submit your portfolio to modelsearch@uslmag.com.



Hey there beautiful



A SINCERE
THANK YOU
TO EVERYONE
WHO MADE
THE LAUNCH OF
USL MAGAZINE
A GREAT SUCCESS!

PATRICK Kelly
Editor-In-Chief

Why is it when you have a great idea in your mind it seems so easy to accomplish. You construct this great idea one layer at a time until you decide that its well put together. Before you launch it, however, you check and re-check to make sure all the t's are crossed and all the i's are dotted. Then, you test it. You let reality get a piece of this great dream of yours and what happens; it's just never what you could have imagined in your head. It's a funny thing how naivety can play tricks on you and it's maturity that will get you out of the cross roads.

We've been working on this initiative, USL Magazine that is, for over 5 months now and it is a massive undertaking. Through all the photo shoots, interviews, editing, designs, graphic layouts and written works, the team of people we've been blessed to work with were amazing.

I've decided that it wasn't just enough to note everyone's contributions on their particular works, but to have this page set aside so that every time our magazine is read, reviewed or discerned you will know that each and every hand involved in USL Magazine was a blessing from God.

Team, thank you all very much and your kindness will never be obliterated.

Patrick Kelly, Editor-In-Chief



**ATLANTA'S
SEXIEST
PERSONALITIES**

THE UM CHOICE LIST is USL Magazine's selection of what's hot, relevant and deserves attention in Atlanta's music and entertainment lifestyles. From restaurants and nightclubs to personalities, DJ's, music artists, producers, dancers, photographers, stylist and designers; who will make The UM Choice list?

Selection for The UM Choice List takes into account ones stature, personality, personal style, business savvy as well as personal and professional reviews from known and unknown sources. Congratulations to all who have made this list and also made an impression worth talking about.

L-R: Tyler Perry (Actor, Director & Playwright), Brandon Rudat (News Anchor & Reporter), Kenny Burns (V103 Radio Personality), Angie Stone (Singer & Author), Miss Sophis (Socialite & Radio Personality), Elle Duncan (V103 Radio Personality)



The UM Choice List
USL Magazine's choice of what's hot, relevant and deserves attention!

**ARTIST ON THE
UM CHOICE LIST**

MORE FEATURES at www.uslmag.com



Each month USL Magazine chooses 7 artists that will be apart of The UM Choice List. For the premiere issue, The Coedz were chosen as one of the seven. Selection for The UM Choice List takes into account ones stature, personality, personal style, business savvy as well as personal and professional reviews from known and unknown sources.

The Coedz were chosen to be apart of the UM Choice List because of their tensity to be relevant, to make good music and to be competitive in an already swamped industry of barbie doll look-a-likes and over exaggerated label

whores. "Kudos on the vocals, track and hot single "Runway!" Ladies you're not just hot as hell, you ladies can actually sing very well." -Patrick Kelly

Get on the list: umchoice@uslmag.com



CURRENT SINGLE

REIGN NIGHTCLUB

1021 Peachtree St. N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30309
(404) 898-1704

Dress: There is an EXSTREMELY STRICT DRESS CODE. Reign has 9,968 square feet and can accommodate 658 people. The nightclub opens Friday & Saturday nights from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. Friday night is Asian night .Saturday night is general dance and pop music hosted by Q100.



**NIGHTCLUB ON THE
UM CHOICE LIST**



FEATURED DJ

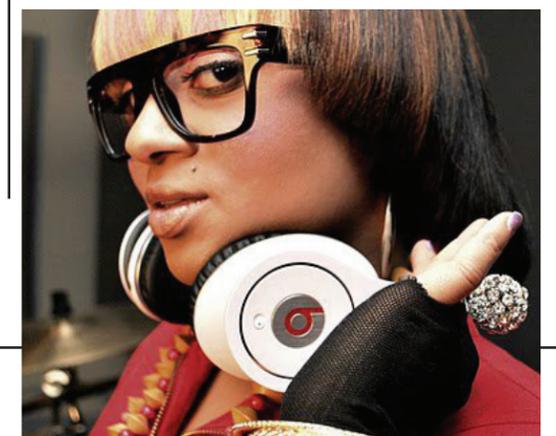
PRINCESS CUT

Currently at Legends Nightclub
5851 Buffington Rd College Park, GA 30349

"The wisest soothsayers would have no idea that she would cultivate that love for music to fulfill a destiny that would include DJing

for BET, Neiman Marcus, The Dream, and a childhood favorite, Goodie Mob. In fact, these opportunities have forged DJ Princess Cut into a veteran of foreign campaigns that have criss-crossed the nation and as far away as the Middle East. Thus demonstrating the universal nature of music and why "I love being able to influence people with the music I play," explains the world travelling DJ Princess Cut."

-By: Keith "1st Prophet" Kennedy



LAQUAN SMNITH
FALL/WINTER 2011



"LaQuan's success has allowed him to showcase his collection both domestically and internationally with fashion shows in Atlanta, Philadelphia, Athens, Cayman Islands, South Africa, LA, New York and more. While in Atlanta supporting Foundation F.O.C.U.S, LaQuan received the F.O.C.U.S. for Life Service Award for surviving cancer and not allowing the trauma of such an experience hold him back from his passion.

LaQuan opened his first showroom in 2011 in Soho, Ny." -*laquan-smith.com*

// THE FASHION REVIEW //

USL Magazine touts African American Fashion Designer Laquan Smith as one of it's hottest and most trendsetting designers for fall 2011. The fall line dubbed "Eclipse" by LQS flaunts ingenuity and futuristic appeal. Clean lines, imagination and a very expensive look accompanies Laquan's 2011 fall line; a much needed reality by African American designers who impress ladies daring to wear the best looks, style and feel and have the body to pull it off.

ANNA Hajiyeu, Art Director

"Having been fortunate enough to travel to and live in many countries, i've always looked for inspiration in new experiences, BE THEY AESTHETIC OR PERSONAL."

>See more of ANNAHajiyeu's photography on annahajiyeu.com

She is fascinated with bold colors and unusual shapes and attempts to translate feelings they invoke into photography.

Born and raised in Belarus (a former Soviet republic), she moved to the U.S. in 2006 to pursue a doctoral degree in Communication. Both a student and a photographer, she combines her two greatest passions - the rigor of academia and the free flow of creativity. She enjoys enormous support from her parents (her father is a professional photographer), husband and friends on her exciting life journey.





NEDRA Phillips
2011 Fashion Sense Winner

“Nedra Phillips, a Georgia native, is a model (Arden P), stylist and entrepreneur. Nedra first pursued modeling four years ago with Diva Day International in Atlanta, GA.”

The Fashion sense Contest was established to display Atlanta's fashionista's in their everyday look and sense of style. These individuals are encouraged to submit their interest at USL Magazine's facebook page (uslmagazine) by selecting the like button and leaving a comment.

For the month of October, 2011, Mrs. Nedra Phillips was chosen out of over 100+ people who submitted for the contest to win a brand new Apple TV and a feature in USL Magazine's premiere issue.

“Never let anyone tell you that image isn't important. Image is the perception people use to judge their first impression of you, so make it count. Our decision to chose Mrs. Nedra Phillips as Octobers Fashion Sense Winner was because she proved that no matter if you are a size zero or a size 16, there is no excuse for looking shabby. And Nedra's own sense of fashion and style beckons attention from even the least style conscious jeans and t-shirt kind of person.” -PK

PATRICK KELLY

Fashion Designer



There are those who try to distinguish themselves from being fashionable; to seem less pop-culture. Then there are some who try to alienate others for not being hip enough or having swag. However you wear your jeans, tie or not tie your shoe laces, it really doesn't matter unless you are confident enough to pull it off.

In this issue, we want to bring attention to an almost forgotten designer by the name of Patrick Kelly. Yes, my name is Patrick Kelly as well, thus, it's no coincident that the first feature fashion designer would be the late great Patrick Kelly himself.

It's almost 22 years since the death of one of the most notable African American designers in the fashion industry. I can remember seeing Patrick Kelly being interviewed on television and talking about his Parisian experiences in the mid 80's. He was the only African American designer ever to be admitted into the esteemed Chambre Syndicale De La Haute Couture and his designs where always signified by buttons; sometime big colorful buttons. Like so many high-end designers who have passed on, but their talent still dress the masses, Patrick Kelly wasn't one of the fortunate. Although you can find a few signature pieces on Ebay including his black dress with multi-colored buttons, Patrick Kelly's talents died with him and it's a shame his family didn't carry on the legacy he worked so hard to accomplish.

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Signature

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Variations

*Photographed by Stan Redfearn
Retouches by Anna Hajiye Photography
Styling by Patrick Kelly
Make Up by Patrice Story
Hair by CJ
Models Max, Brian, Kellen & Timothy*





mychaelknight



MYCHAEAL KNIGHT
2012 LOST WORLD REVIEW

Mychael Knight's first showing as a designer at Bryant Park for season 3 of Bravo TV's Project Runway finale did not make a statement at all. That line was such a disappointment from a young man whom America thought had so much promise. Now Knight has debuted his 2012 spring line dubbed "Lost World" which is a follow-up from his first; a cliché.

Yes, Mychael is known for dressing the ladies from head to toe and he has always had the right shoes with the must have bag and jewelry to match. However, as talented as he is his lines represent someone who just hasn't took flight. His 2012 line is cute at best. It doesn't really offer any significant purpose to fashion or high fashion that is. It's like a bubble-gum line representing a 1st year student at Bauder. When I first saw photos from his New York fashion

week showing, the word that came to mind was gimmicky. The best attributes from the new line are the shoes, belts and models.

Honestly, I feel Mychael Knight has much more talent than he has displayed thus far.

And while his supporters praise him in adoration, they should really tell him to stop putting out lines until he can do it well! I for one am waiting for the day when he flourishes into the creativity he has known since he came into himself. Let it shine Mychael, People will respect you more and we all will be speaking your name as one of the greats in fashion.

Source: Derek Blanks & Elizabeth Waugh

KEN BARBER SIGNATURE
kenbarbersignature.com



Photographed By Carlos Bell



STAN ZEFF

A TAMBOR EXPERIENCE

I first met DJ Stan Zeff through an introduction by Luis Villamizar of Dynamite Entertainment Group. Initially the meeting was to feature Stan and DJ BE on The Ultimate Spotlight CMV TV show, now defunct. Through this meeting and a subsequent interview for the show, I took a liking to Stan's ideas and passion for the now smashing dance party called Tambor.

Tambor is probably thee most engaging and vigorous dance party in Atlanta. Its patrons are from all walks of life, status and station in society. People who go to the the monthly Tambor parties probably will never die from stress. Why? Well, for the two times I've been at Tambor, everyone seems as though they have no cares in the world; it's like the 70's all over again.

Now two years strong, Dj Stan Zeff is taking Tambor on the road and aspire to create a long since remembered house party experience from his days spinning in London.

You've been in the business for over 20 years now, lets talk about your transition from starting in London to being in Atlanta djing and the whole conception of Tambor. How has music progressed since the 90's up to now and how can it get better?

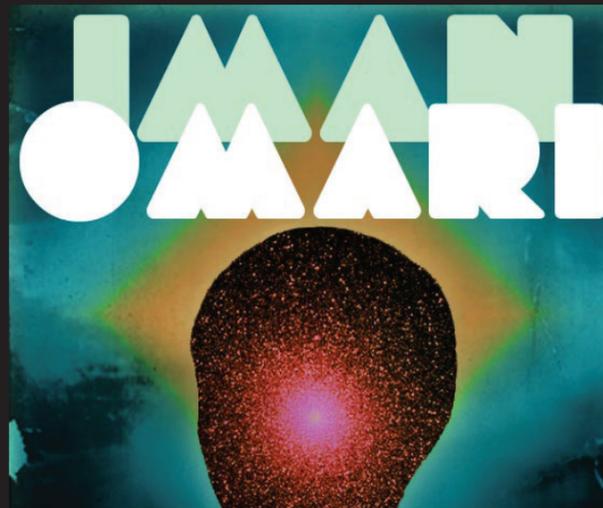
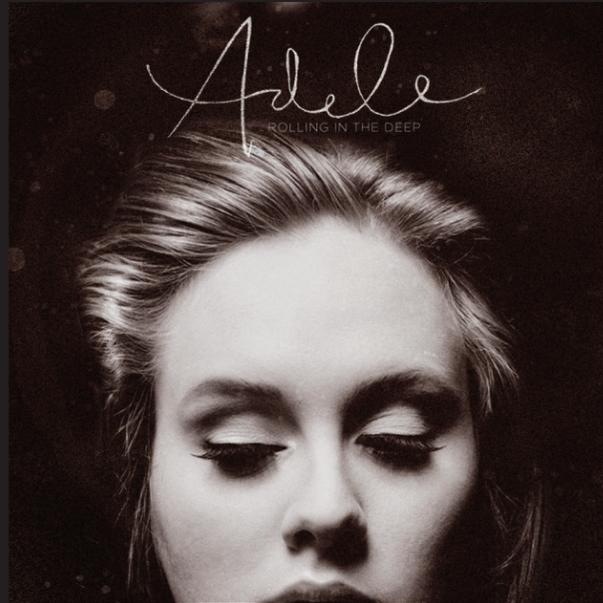
I think that's a really good question because the progression of Black dance music depends on the genre. The genres that have really progressed are the hip hop and the R&B and they have always been at the forefront of Black dance music. Back in the 80's, the mid to late 80's, that was always what was prevalent at that time. House music on the other hand was always 2nd or 3rd best and its still pretty much the same today. Although its growing, it has not grown or it's not as widespread as hip hop and R&B, dub set, jungle or any of those other dance genres. It's still very an underground music scene, but it is growing. I call it the new indie music.

Hip hop music seems like its a chameleon. It's always looking for something to grab onto to help push or to help motivate it to keep going and I think that is whats going on now. You've got Usher, Nayo, Chris Brown, Jason Durelo and all these music artists that's doing a mixture of dance music with R&B, pop and hip hop.

How do you feel about Jason Durelo remake of Robin S's "Show Me Love" hit single from 1993?

I think its good. I think its good because in order to stay successful and stay at the top, you have to be versatile. You have to be able to take other types of influences and add it to your repertoire so that you can keep your crowd and keep your audience captivated. I think its good! I think it's really smart! What I'm actually looking at now, up to this point, is house music in the U.S. has been very much a underground, you put your back-pack on, you drink your water, you're a dancer and its a very closed off type of club. Now, I'm bringing in more influences so that more widespread people who like the music but they don't know how to get into it; it will attract them. I want to do that. We've seen that in this thing now because people are doing remixes of Kem, Usher and Jill Scott's music, they're bringing that into house music as well. So, when people hear it they're like oh okay, that's Jill Scott right. It's Usher. It feels good!

[CONTINUE READING at www.uslmag.com]



B SLADE
THE REINVENTION OF TONEX

By Arabia Karriem

THE MULTI STELLAR AWARD WINNING, GRAMMY NOMINATED RECORDING ARTIST KNOWN AS B-SLADE (formerly Tonex).

"In mid 2010, former Stellar Award winning gospel artist Tonex, now B Slade, came out publicly about his sexual preference and being a gay christian. When I heard about the interview, I wondered, isn't that an Oxymoron. To be gay and a christian doesn't really cut the mustard in the realm of Christianity, especially to be black, gay and a christian. Although we all know or at least assume that we know someone in our congregation who is gay, it's just something that isn't talked about freely. The question is, when are we as human beings who live and die by the word of God, just let God be the judge?" -Patrick Kelly

So many people approach the world for other people's approval. Allowing others to define who they are, not realizing that one can lose who they are by trying to please others by portraying who they are not.

When putting this in perspective, the musician B-Slade/Tonex comes to mind.

Introducing Tonex, Tonex is a multi nominated Grammy Gospel musician who over 14 years has released several hundred songs while producing several others for artist in different genres. Tonex has won six Stellar Awards, a GMA Award, and received Grammy nominations for "Best Soul Gospel Album" for his 2004 album Out The Box and 2009 for Best Urban/Soul Alternative Performance for the single "Blend," from the album, "Unspoken."

Tonex flooded the airwaves when he revealed his true self to the world. By coming out and stating that he was homosexual brought a lot of criticism his way. As Tonex was a perception of what a Gospel artist was to "the people." Tonex decided to recreate himself to show and give the world who he really is, introducing himself as B-Slade.

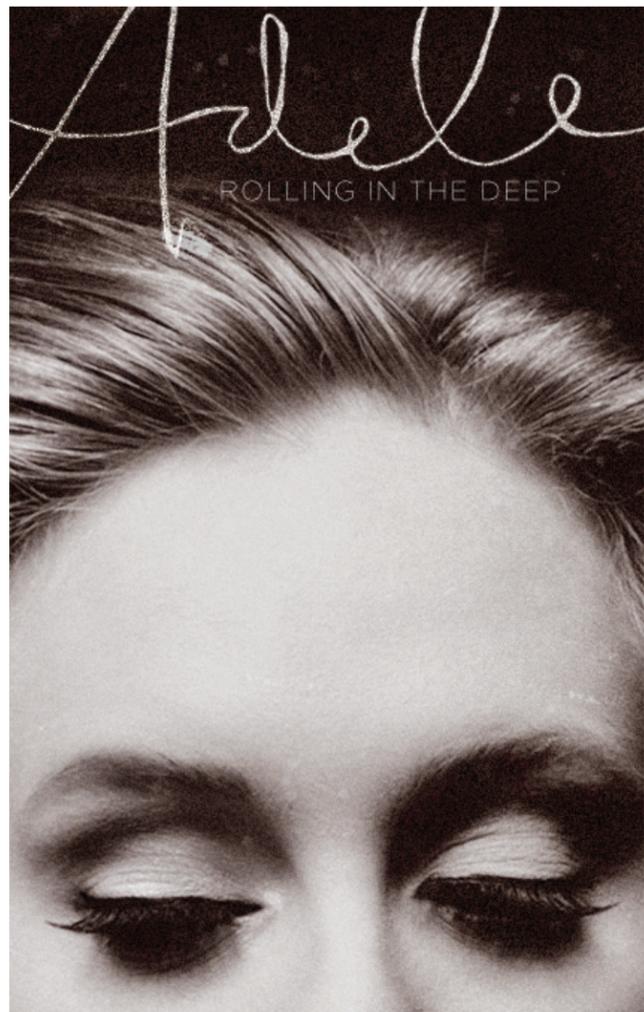
The name derived from the 1998 British/American drama film, The Velvet Goldmine directed by Todd Haynes. A Story of an

artist who was one way to the world but he reinvented himself to be more fitting for who he truly was.

As B-Slade reinvented himself, he did not change his spiritual being. As Tonex was a recording artist, B-Slade is a recording activist. Stating that he is here to raise the conscience of the people of current and world events within the community that's getting swept under the rug.

Through all the daggers thrown his way, he becomes immune to them, ignores it and continues to only take in the words of God. When one explores who B-Slade is, his story makes you understand that God puts you through situations for others. After accepting himself publicly, a lot of people in the world also felt that it was okay to accept who they were as well, with the feeling of I'm not the only one. As so many articles and interviews state that B-Slade was a "Gospel Artist 'turned' Gay Activist," it makes one wonder why does sexuality has to be in the title of who he is.

No one titles other artist of different genres, for example drug dealers turned rappers, like really? All because it's Gospel there is an issue. With any public figure in any genre, there has to be an issue? What happened to "Only God Can Judge Me." There are requirements to music now? Get serious. All of those that feels like God will not accept B-Slade because of his honesty, should definitely go and pick up their bible and not just read but understand they are not God. There are testaments out there some should definitely study. The negative reactions to B-Slade publicly saying he was homosexual could possibly make that one person out there afraid to be themselves because people throwing stones at a public figure would be worst for those that are not in that position to the world. B-Slades music speaks truth, liberation, equality, and more important real life. One commends B-Slade as he doesn't blame his sexual preference on molestation or rape but as genetics, adult choices and it is what he likes. As one quotes The film The Velvet Goldmine, "I should think that if people were to get the wrong impression of me, the one to which you so eloquently refer, it wouldn't be the wrong impression in the slightest." Meaning what or who you believed one was, was your opinion so in fact you weren't wrong because its what you believed. So to think B-Slade has changed himself beside his name and being open, then you're right because your perception knew someone else.



ADELE Known for making very good songs that speaks to the heart, Adele has done it again with her portrayal of one of the best songs of 2011. "Rolling In The Deep" definitely epitomizes her artistry! She describes the song as being dark, bluesy and is a story that reflects the revenge of a lover who has done her wrong. Such an amazing tune, it captivated her fans and the industry as a whole which led her to win song of the year at the 2012 Grammy's. Adele is definitely a force to be reckoned with as her success propels her internationally. Nothing can keep her from being the sensation that she is; not even throat surgery which can be very scary to any singer relying on their voice to make a living.

Look out for the new single "I Know You Wanna Party" written, produced and performed by PapaRoc.
 >Soon to be available on iTunes and all major online distributors.



ANTHONY Q's
 formerly of Day 26
 Single Release Party



Producer PapaRoc
 Singer Anthony Q
 Patrick Kelly



Designer Darryl Bordenave
 & USL Magazine's Patrick Kelly



Singer Anthony Q

TAMBOR
 DanceParty



Photography by Josh Ferrell



Photography By Derek Blanks

DAY 26

A NEW DAY

You had to have been under a rock in 2009 not to know who Day 26 was. MTV's mastery promotional machine along with P Diddy had us all hanging onto every sound bit and video images they could get their hands on; to make us buy into "Making The Band." And buying into it we did; as if we had a choice!

Now about to release their 3rd studio album "A New Day," I had an opportunity to catch-up with the guys and I must give you my impression of them. First off, before the interview started, Brian and I had a short conversation and my impression of him was that he is probable the most level headed member of them all or at least it seemed that way. On into the interview I became even more impressed because of his personal outlook on life.

Mike, on the other hand, was a bit standoffish at first until I began telling him how I appreciated his whole struggle with his weight issue and how he dealt with Puffy riding his back.

I guess one can be a bit aloft when you really don't know how someone will come at you. Now medium mike, as Brian calls it, I feel that he has a totally different perspective on life and the music business once the notoriety wore off a bit.

I must confess that Robert, on the other hand, has always been my favorite personality. His perception and thought process makes him the cool guy; always taking the higher ground. And let's not forget that the brother has a tone that will swoon any lady off her feet. Not taking away from Brian, Mike and Willie who definitely showed why P. Diddy chose them in the first place.

Willie was a member in the group that always seemed in the background to me, but while doing the interview I found out why. There isn't any other young artist out there who is more about their success than Willie. He reminds me of the old cliché people say about Jamaicans having more than one job because Willie sings, writes with the group as well as for other artist and he even has his own record label with artists in tow. During the interview, he was most out spoken, funny, consistent and seemed about his business.

Coming full circle, Day 26 less Anthony Q, is a bunch of really talented young African American men who had their lives changed over-night by MTV's "Making The Band" with P. Diddy and the public at-large. Although they've had much success with their albums totaling 2 million plus, some of them are still trying to find their way and discover who they are while others seem to know exactly where they are going and what they want out of life.

What have you guys been up to individually?

Brian Angel: I have my own label by the name of Ambassador Way Entertainment. I've just been working with my artists and I currently have several different artists with whom I've been working with. I've also been doing a lot of features and writing on other people's projects. I'm trying to stay relevant and keep the Day 26 brand alive any possible way I can.

Who are some of those people for whom you've been writing for?

Brian Angel: I've been writing for a lot of hip-hop artists. I've been doing a lot of features for different people. I've actually had the opportunity to write and record a hook with Ricky Rozay which I'm not sure if he's going to use it on a project or not. I've also worked with Slim Thugg, Purple Veins, Trader Truth, and a lot of other people.

Mike, what about you? What have you been up to since your last album?

Mike: Man, I've just been out here making music, staying in the studio, and staying fly. I'm the flyest nig@#.

Brian Angel: Might I add he's Medium Mike now. He's no longer Big Mike and I'm very proud of him.

Mike: I'm just out here trying to make business decisions and to further life outside of music. That's really what I've been doing since the break.

What is life outside of music for you?

Mike: I'm trying to figure out what to tap into now. I want to develop different interests outside of music that will keep me eating and keep me focused. If I didn't have music I could do something else.

Robert, what's happening in your life? Robert: Pretty much, I stay in the studio. I like to write, and that's what I've been doing. I put out a mix-tape last year called "Swagnum." Since then, I've been getting ready for this new Day 26 movement that's about to happen. I've also been bettering myself and getting my skills and vocals ready for this next round for the fans and for Day 26.

Willie, what about you?

Willie: I've been in the studio working. I released "Sextape" about a year ago now. The response to that was great. I've been writing for other people and with other people. I just got out the studio with Jeremih. We got a crazy record. I'm staying focused and ready for this new Day 26 album. I also run Noivak Music Brand, my new label.

Do you have any artists signed to your new label thus far?

Willie: Yeah, Avery Smith who was on 106 & Park in June and July, but you can check out the full roster at www.Noivak-music.com.

Why did you guys choose Roscoe Dash as a feature on your 1st single "Let it Go"?

Willie: Personally, I love Roscoe Dash's music. He's a dope rapper. I think he's kind of underrated and I wanted to use somebody who had the talent and who is making noise in the club. Club music is definitely what Day 26 was lacking, whereas Roscoe is really winning in that area. I sent him the record and he jumped on it. We rocked it and there it is.

When you say that Roscoe Dash is underrated, what does that mean?

Willie: I think he's underrated as a lyricist. I don't think people know him as a person who can spit bars. They have him in a box where he's just doing hooks as if his music isn't something believable. I think the dude is raw when it comes to talent. When we reached out we knew it was

something that could really happen.

Did any of you guys have any type of writing credit on the new single?

Willie: Yeah, that's all of us.

Now, what is "Let it Go" in reference to? Who or what are you letting go?

Willie: It's in reference to going to the strip club and letting that money fly around. It doesn't even have to be a strip club, it can be anywhere. Some girl with a beautiful body is moving around and dancing and just want to take whatever money you have in your pocket and let it go. When we were thinking about it, it was all about a strip club.

So I guess I have to get the lyrics to find out what you guys are talking about.

Willie: You haven't even heard it yet! You're in for a treat, brother. Just make sure you divide your one's from your fifty's and your twenty's and your hundred's. It's one of those songs where you have to throw something.

You have a new freedom from Puffy. Is that a negative or a positive?

Brian: I would say that it's neither. It was great being a part of the whole Bad Boy family. Bad Boy is a dynasty, and to actually say that we were a part of that is an honor and a great privilege. That chapter in the book ended, now we're writing our own chapter.

Willie: That's kind of a trick question you asked us! Naw, I'm messing with you (laughs). Like Brian said, we love the freedom, but it's not like we didn't have freedom at Bad Boy as well. What happened at Bad Boy was not directly about Day 26 and it all was over our heads. Puffy is our brother and we still keeping in touch with him. He still gives us advice and the whole nine yards.

You said something was going on that was over your heads. Being that Bad Boy is with Interscope now, what happened why you guys couldn't move with the family?

Brian: Honestly, that's really something that we can't disclose. Like we said before, there's no love lost. We still talk to Puff. We hang out with Puff. Whenever he's in our cities he'll invite us out to shows. It's still all love. He was kind of upset about the situation because he looked at us like his little brothers. Everything is still all good.

Are you saying it was a higher power that made decisions and it wasn't necessarily Puff?

Brain: I don't know if it was actually over Puff. The difference lies between Bad Boy and Atlantic. It has to do with whatever differences they had when they parted ways because we were always signed to Atlantic. It wasn't like we just up and went to Atlantic.

Willie: We're still Bad Boy for life. We're just under a different thing, but we're going to ride with them forever.

How is your relationship with Puffy? Is he there with you, business wise, even though you're not with Bad Boy records?

Brian: It is definitely Bad Boy for life. That saying is so true. It is so, so true.

What really happened between you guys and Anthony Q? I've heard that it's been about money and a bunch of other stuff, but what's the real deal?

Willie: It's real simple. We had business differences, and in order to work with someone for a long period of time you have to have some type of cohesion in the group. We reached the point where we could go no further. It's still all love. We still respect and support him.

What was it that made you guys say enough is enough?

Willie: It's as simple as differences. When you don't see eye-to-eye in a way that will hinder making money, then you have to make waves. It didn't go to blows, and it didn't go to hate. We still talk to him on the phone. If we see him it's all love. In business or anything, if you and your partner don't see eye-to-eye, then you won't be able to make it happen. We could've let it fall apart and there would be no Day 26 but at the end of the day, that wasn't what was called for.

When we announced we were doing an interview with you, a lot of people commented that they thought you'd broken up. Where did people get that?

Brian: We haven't really had a single out. We took time to develop and be with our families for like the past two years. They just don't know. Once we drop the single and they hear it, the fans will be back and they'll all know. For the last two years, you didn't see us together, and then Rob and I both had individual mixtapes. That sabbatical left questions in all our fans' minds. We're bringing it back with album number three. We're ready to show out. It's a new day.

Since you don't have bad blood with Anthony Q, can we expect a feature from him down the road?

Brian: I wouldn't have a problem with that.

Willie: We definitely wouldn't have a problem with that. You never know out here. Who knows, we might do a reunion tour or something; a David Ruffin spin or something.

What did it feel like when you guys were chosen by Puffy to be a part of the group?

Willie: In the words of my boy Julius from "Making the Band 4," it felt like a thousand chains had been unloosed.

Brian: The only thing I could think was to thank Jesus. Everything I had dreamed about all my life, and all that I wanted to do have finally come true.

Mike: I was picked at the end. By then I was thinking if this dude doesn't pick me, I might go and dive on him across the stage. When he picked me, it was like a great feeling. I saw a lot of things flash before my eyes. I lived in the moment and just got ready for the next day.

Robert: It felt good. I've been grinding at this music thing for years, so when my name was called it felt I finally found my beginning. It was a return on all the hard work I'd put out. In that moment I was real happy and thankful to God that I even got that opportunity and I was ready to go to work, but I knew that was only the beginning.

Mike, I know that you went through a lot on the show with Puff. What's going on with you now?

Mike: I'm in the gym heavy. I do a lot of different things during the week. I'm trying to get in the best shape of my life. I want to come back looking like D'Angelo in the videos. I'm in the gym real hard and I'm looking pretty good.

Mike, are you still doing what you were doing before the show as far as dancing and working on cars?

Mike: I still dance. I go back and help out with step-teams and different events in my community. A woman named Ms. Keyshia has a studio where the kids all come to dance and I teach classes sometimes. I have an up and coming group called Fly Guys. And other than that, I just help out doing everything.

Who was the first person that called you when you became a part of the group and what did they say to you?

Mike: My mom was the first person that called. My girlfriend at the time wasn't in the room, but my mom was. My mom told me she loved me and that she was so proud. You know how that goes.

Brian: My wife and sister were there, so the first person I called was my mom and that call was televised on MTV. My mom cried and she told me how proud she was. That was the very first person I talked to on the phone.

Willie: The first person who got me on the phone was my mom who was backstage. They brought us all into one room and she called me and told me how proud she was. It was just a joyous occasion. She was crying so hard, like she just got a whipping (laughs). I had to ask her if she was all right.

Let's talk about some of your achievements.

Your first album sold like 190,000 copies in the first week? What was that like?

Brian: Correction 197,000 (laughs).

Willie: We did a Best Buy signing in Times Square when the album first came out. Man, when I tell you the city came out, literally, the city came out. That was an immense moment. And we were told they only see crowds like this for folks like N*Sync and Michael Jackson. On a personal level, I thought about being a young dude from Harvey, Illinois where the block is really, really rough. Then, there we were with all these people screaming and ready to knock our van over as it pulled into the Best Buy parking lot.

Mike: I still sit back and look at the Gold Plaque that we got from that album and it's an amazing accomplishment.

When you guys finally got some isolation from all the fans, cameras and even your family to where it was just you, what feeling did you guys have?

Mike: For me it was more of a preparation moment. I started thinking about that next step. Once you get settled and start celebrating, you're losing. You should just continue with what you're doing and once you accomplish it, focus on the next goal.

Brian: I had to ask myself if it was real. Then I thanked God, because he knows my struggles and my past. Only he could take me from where I was before to where I am now. I took the time out to really express my gratitude to him.

Willie: When I had that time to myself, I definitely did talk to God and thank him for even giving me that opportunity. For him to favor me and allow me to reach the goals that I've reached is amazing. I hang a lot of my accomplishments around my office, so that I can always be reminded about what I've done and where I'm going. My wall is my road map. I can see what I've accomplished already, but I want so much more. I just keep it moving, man. I keep God first. That first moment was just me, tears, and God.

Neyo wrote a couple of songs for you guys, right? What was it like working with him?

Willie: Neyo wasn't actually there when we cut his records. He was on tour, but people from his camp were there. I did actually talk to him afterwards, and he told us how well we did on the record.

This is a hypothetical question. If an aspiring artist came to you in the gym or on the street and asked you to put him on, what would you tell him? Is there a process that you would take him through or would you tell him you couldn't help him?

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“THIS PARTICULAR COVER SHOT WAS STYLED BY KEN BARBER AND ANNA HAJIYEV.”



PATRICK KELLY:

Sanity VS. Chaos

By Percy Howard

*photography by Anna Hajiyev
Cover Model Kotera*

Styling Ken Barber, Anna Hajiyev & Patrick Kelly

*Make-Up Patrice Story
Hair Kotera*





“THIS WAS THE FIRST COVER FOR ISSUE 1 VOL. 1. BOTH ANNA AND I THOUGHT IT WAS AN AWESOME SHOT!”

The road that leads to success sometimes can be a long and tumultuous one. It seems like everything that can go wrong will. All of your main support system will fall by the way side like it was planned sabotage.

The beginning of any downward spiral is to appoint people with your heart and not their qualifications. Sometimes you may have a tendency to give people opportunities only to be proven wrong, but it's no fault of your own. Being a bit facetious is a sentiment we all share especially when you know everyone needs someone else to help them along the way. It's making the right choice in whom to help that's the problem. And of course the person receiving the help has to recognize the potential and profitability of where they are in the bigger scheme of things.

One can, however, reach their breaking point when they get wearisome of being the nice guy always wanting to make sure everyone is alright. The guy that will give you the shirt off his back, figuratively speaking, decides he has had enough of all the B.S. and people most valued, like partnerships and friendships don't really hold the same weight. Why, you ask? Well, it's like having your scrotum caught in a vice grip with pressure being applied every time you did something no one liked. You always have to keep all four eyes (2 in the back and 2 in the front) wide open because there is a chance someone might try and pull the wool over your eyes; metaphorically speaking. What can you say to that; you're glad they are all gone? The so called support system, the so-called associates and definitely the so-called friends are all gone?! Enemies seem more fruitful to hang out with in those inferences. At least with enemies, you can ascertain when they will try to strike because you're always on-guard.

“There is one thing I've learned a very long time ago and that is to never let them see you coming. It's like creating a two way mirror where the reflection that is seen is never what's intended. And of course, you must always play the helpless role to make sure you're on an even playing field. It's also very important to put yourself in depraving situations from time-to-time so that you can really see where people are with you; to see where you stand. What I've learned from these scenarios is that in hardships, most people will cling to their own individual wants and needs without any regard to your own well-being. And people who just happen to be around you always have at least two motives even though they pretend to be on your side with a helping hand. Seeing so many sides of the people spectrum (what's not intended to see) can be a bit exhausting, but it keeps you abreast of whom you're dealing with instead of the facade.” -Patrick Kelly

First off, who is Patrick Kelly?

I'm an optimist. I'm the guy who isn't afraid to take chances, win or lose. I'm that friend to people I know and I'm an associate to people

HOW I CHOOSE TALENT!

“BEFORE I CHOOSE TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH MODELS, ARTISTS OR PEOPLE WORKING IN THE BUSINESS, I LIKE TO DO POERSONAL THINGS WITH THEM LIKE GO HANGING OUT OR TAKE THEM AROUND OTHERS SO THAT I CAN SEE THEIR TRUE PERSONALITY.”

I come to know. Patrick Kelly is that guy that most people see and say oh, he's a really nice person. He appears to be not too much on his game so let's see what I can get from him. The funny thing is since I was 12 years old, I realized what my gifts were and often times I play the not so smart guy just to flush out peoples personalities. In a nut shell, I am that guy who will help anybody; the guy that will give you 110% because he expects 110% in return.

So you've been getting a lot of flak from people you know about being a hard ass, especially when it comes to what you're passionate about. What do you say to that?

The only thing I can say is that you live and you learn. There are a lot of people out there who want to mold your personality in something they can manage, but I've always been a strong headed and confident person even when it didn't appear so. I'm sorry that certain people may feel intimidated by me, but that's life. There are leaders and then there are followers and clearly I'm a leader; always have been. Yes, I do agree that I can be stubborn at times, but I'm also that guy who is man enough to apologize when I'm wrong too. I think what you have to remember is that when you find people who disapprove of you as a personality, it's because you remind them of something they aren't, yet always strive to become.

You've been in Atlanta for what 18 years now? What are some of your accomplishments in music and entertainment and who are some of the people you have helped along the way?

Yes, I have been in Atlanta now over 18 years. I moved to Atlanta right after my horrible spring semester at Towson University in Maryland. I relocated here on August 22nd of 95, a date I will never forget because it was the first time I had ever felt the feeling of being homeless. It's not a pretty feeling at all. When I moved to Atlanta, I was supposed to transfer to Clark Atlanta University while working at Stouffer Hotel and live with my aunt and uncle in Decatur; none of which worked out. I didn't like Clark and my new job transfer and living situation fell through so I was left to go on faith. I remember driving by Spring and 14th with tears in my eyes because I knew that I wasn't gonna go back home; I wasn't gonna just give up after a few setbacks. By the grace of God there was a guy I met while being in Atlanta for Freak Nik that year name Kevin Bryant who introduced me to my first roommate. If you don't know who Kevin Bryant is, well, he's a soul/dance artist here in Atlanta who garnered his first hit dance single by doing a remake of Chaka Khan's single “Any Love.” As far as my accomplishments, I did a lot modeling and TV work my few years in Atlanta and got a new job through one of Kevin's friends Eddie Young who happened to be manager of The Evergreen Conference Center and Resort at the time. Throughout the years, I was able to form relationships and was co-founder in a clothing line called Whatever Wear which Kevin and Lentheus Chaney was a part of. From there I and an ex-friend Chuck Dobe founded SEID Entertainment and Production. I also was a part of Beautiful People, Megavibes and the Urban Spotlight, a local talent show we did with DJ T-Wrex and DJ Tron of Urban Legends DJs which ran for 13 months at the infamous Shark Bar Restaurant and Lounge. As far as people that I've helped, I was Kevin Bryant's graphic artist for over 12 years which means I was in charge of all his street promotions and design. We did artists development through SEID Entertainment and Productions and educated many artists on the music business including signing our first gospel rap group called Reign Down (Carlos Jones). Through our clothing line Whatever Wear, we were able to do Morehouse Fashion Shows, The Black Expo, For Sister Only, Tribeca Clothing and Straight From The Apple, Upscale Magazine and also worked with celebrity photographers Shawn Dowdell and Umari. Models who started with us and have made a name for themselves are Teck Holmes from MTV's The Real World Hawaii & the movie Van Wilder, Black Men Cover Model Sincily and Ryan Neal.

What is your passion for the music/entertainment business and why start USL Magazine?

Well, my passion for life is to help people. I really realized that during one of our Urban

Spotlight shows that DJ Cowboy and ET from The Dirty Boyz and 107.9 had attended. An artist came up to me while I was standing at the sound board and said "Mr Kelly, we really appreciate what you all are doing for us indie artists." It wasn't until then that I really realized my calling in music. Since I was a youngster, I've always been inspired by music, TV and the movie industry. However, starting USL Magazine was actually brought up by Darryl, a colleague who happened to be working with us while we were taping the Ultimate Spotlight CMV TV Show. The TV show idea spawned USL which is somewhat of an acronym from the name of the show. Starting USL Magazine just seemed like the next reasonable step with everything I had created prior to now.

What are you hoping to accomplish with the magazine and who are your target audience?

The magazine speaks for itself. It's a diversity of music and musical artistic in conjunction with entertainment, different lifestyles and some satire. USL Magazine is primarily an online magazine, but I've decided to print quarterly for the local market. As far as demographic we're trying to reach, they were reached during our male model casting for the first issue. And we're talking about young men and women of many races and culture between the ages of 17 and 25 who are diverse, fashionable and open-minded. We are also beginning to see a trend, especially, with the hip-hop and jerk community. In a nut shell, USL Magazine gives you real life attitude fused in music and entertainment with fashionable attire for the young and viable.

I see you're doing sex stories and the current issue is talking about 3 way relationships. Why did you choose to do a story of 3 way relationships?

The whole idea for this piece was because I have either had scenarios of the sort presented to me or has heard of them so I wanted to not only say my piece on the subject, but also find couples who have experienced it. Honestly, I don't care what people do in the privacy of their own home. Their privacy is exactly what it means; their own privacy. But if you're in a relationship, is it fair to say you love someone and you've given them your heart yet you don't really know them? The object of this piece is to help or allow couples and people who are thinking about going into relationships to really think about who they are and what they want from it. We all know everybody lies and the ones who are protesting the most and the loudest are usually who you should really worry about.

So what was it like interviewing Day 26 and why did you chose them to be a part of the magazine?

We were actually solicited by Day 26's publicist to get them in the magazine. With all the traffic that was happening on facebook alone, I believe they had gotten wind of the magazine

TV

"INITIALLY, THE PLAN WAS TO LAUNCH THE TV SHOW TO COINCIDE WITH THE MAGAZINE LAUNCH, HOWEVER, WE'VE HAD SEVERAL SETBACKS WHICH WERE AN ENDRESULT OF MY MEDICAL ISSUE!" -Patrick Kelly

and wanted to be a part of it. While interviewing the men of Day 26, I realized they were still real people and the fame and prosperity had not changed them at all. Mike is particular was a bit standoffish at first, but he later warmed up to me. What I gathered from the interview was that these young men are trying to find their place in the business while still trying to make good music for their fans.

Tell us a little about the photo shoot you all did at The Atlanta Decorative Arts Center. How it all was arranged?

Actually going to ADAC was really a fluke because we were initially looking to do the shoot at The Aurum Lounge. After playing phone tag a few times with the owner, I called ADAC, and spoke to Katherine about the magazine and what we wanted to do for a shoot there. Two days later Anna Hajiyevev (Art Director of USL Magazine) and I went for a tour and we were introduced to the showroom owners who became a part of the shoot. Everyone at ADAC was very inviting except for one showroom in particular who will remain nameless in my book. Overall the shoot lasted for 8 hours. Anna shot 7 girls (Kotera, Kenya, Deanna, Tiana, Brynne, Kierra & Elena) and 2 dogs (Gracie & Coda) in 5

showrooms (J Nelson, August Avery, Moattar, Innovations USA & Smith Grubbs Associate) with 2 make-up artists (Patrice Story & Letitia), 2 hairstylist (Tamiko Burk & CJ), 2 wardrobe stylist (Nera B & Tomiko Couture), a clothing designer (Crystal of Nya Nya Couture) and 3 assistants (Papa, Manny & Ashley Dniece).

From what I've read, the magazine initially had a release date of Sept 2011.

What changed the release date to some three months later?

Believe it or not we had been working so hard to have a release for September, but as you know sometimes your plan doesn't co-align with Gods plan. It's hellish putting out a magazine, especially when you want it to be perfect. Everyone who is contributing have to follow the plan and time table set to accomplish everything if you hope to launch on time. We had three main problems which sidelined the launch of the magazine. One was getting the writers and transcriptionists to finish up with the interviews and editing, and then we had a late shoot because I wanted to include a local boutique in the premiere issue. Finally, the mother of all mothers happened; I began losing my sight. I had been having problems focusing my eyes a month earlier, but thought it was because I wasn't getting enough sleep being in school full-time and working on two magazines at the same time. Then one morning I woke up and was seeing doubles and my eyes were going in and out of focus. You are talking about a scary situation. This went on for over 6 weeks even after I had seen the optometrist who said I had CVS (computer vision syndrome) from being on the computer a lot. Everything suffered from that point because I needed my eyes for all that I had to do. I even got a mere 3.0 last semester because I could not spend hours at a time on the computer. Now over two months later, I still have problems with my eyes from time to time, but it's not as severe as it was initially.

So you're finally launching USL Magazine, a January/February issue, what do you all have planned for the spring and summer issues?

For the Spring issue which will come out some time between March and April, celebrity DJ/ Model Sky Nellor will be on the cover and we are looking to possibly have feature interviews from Anthony Q (formerly of Day 26), Frank Ski, Miss Sophia, Diana Degarmo, a few major DJ's in LA, some TV stars and many others. A well-known rapper will be on the cover for the summer issue plus we will be heading to Miami soon where we will be shooting models for our summer swimsuit fashion spread. That's all I'm going to say for now.

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ANNAHAJIYEV

www.annahajiyev.com

Anna Hajiyevev is an Atlanta-based photographer capturing moments of fashion and art, people and places. Born and raised in Belarus (a former Soviet republic), she moved to the U.S. in 2006 to pursue a doctoral degree in Communication. Both a student and a photographer, she combines her two greatest passions - the rigor of academia and the free flow of creativity. She enjoys enormous support from her parents (her father is a professional photographer), husband and friends on her exciting life journey.





CLIFF LOVETTE

TURNING THE TIDE

From a big time music exec at Laface Records to jet-setting with the stars (LA Reid & Usher Raymond), entertainment attorney Cliff Lovette riding high landed many moons ago. And for the better, might I add. He's no longer stressed with the day-to-day operations of the music business. Instead, he's living the life many of us only dreamt of and that is to be free of all the pretentious BS which complicates our daily lives. Now-a-days, you can find Cliff Lovette spending more time with his kids and having the luxury of basking in his pool daily after coming from his two four hour gigs.

So let's talk about what you're doing now. Is it film? Is it TV?

This is what my day is like. First of all I'm a single Dad.

Oh, so you're single now?

I've been divorced since 2009. My ex went out of the states and just got back, but for all intents and purposes I am a single dad. I have a 16 year old and an 11 year old, and that's part of the reason why I was limited in my employment because I had to be home to take care of the kids. My workdays comprised of waking up early in the morning to help the kids get ready for schools. Fortunately, I was able to find a live-in nanny, who moved in with me recently. She's a 27 year

old South African woman and she's very kid friendly. She's wonderful! She helps get the kids ready for school. I commute by motorcycle and I have a really nice cruiser out there. My son Liam, who's 11, hops on the back of my motorcycle and I take him to school at about 8:30. Then, I head to my first of two day gigs. I kind of transitioned out of being a pure entertainment lawyer into being a general counsel. I am the head lawyer for two very high tech, dynamic companies. Both of which are in compatible fields. The first one is Macquarium Intelligent Communications. They've been around for about 15 years and they do very high-end user experience for websites and Internet applications. Their clients include Pepsi, Lowes, Lockheed, and other fortune 100 and fortune 500 companies. They help these companies refashion the on-line experience of everyone who interacts with them. It all gets very sophisticated and they're probably world class at what they do. They're one of the topnotch user experience companies in the world. They've represented the Olympics committee, Coca Cola, Pepsi, Home Depot, and now Lowes. They come in as consultants for huge, huge companies that spend a lot of money and they work for the companies' IT departments. I'm their head lawyer. I do all their transaction work, intellectual property work, and some HR legal work. Whatever they need; I do it for four hours. I get in there at 9 o'clock AM and I'm done by 1 o'clock PM. I hop back on my motorcycle and ride to my house which is about two and a half miles away, make lunch, maybe hop in the pool for about an hour and then I go to my other

job called Definition 6. Definition 6 is equivalently at the top of its game. It is more like a marketing and advertising agency but they take it to the future, sort of like a digital agency. Their clients include Coca Cola, GE, Lexus Nexus, and other huge companies. They help companies unify all their marketing communications across the board from traditional print and billboard to wireless, social media, and live events. They're very branding and unifying intensive and give companies a unified vision of what their marketing and branding is. Definition 6 won one of the highest awards in the ad business for a campaign they did for Coca Cola called the Happiness Machine. It started as a web promotion. Coca Cola loved it so much, they converted it into a commercial, and put it on American Idol buy time which is the second most expensive buy time behind the Super Bowl. That's the kind of stuff they do. What I do for them is almost similar to what I do for Macquarium. I draft and negotiate contracts and look at their vendors with clients, employees, and contractors. I also help them with human resources issues and intellectual property issues. If there are any litigations or lawsuits that involves a client being sued, and they are involved because they were involved in the project, I also work with outside counsel. I break up my day between two livelihoods over an 8 hour span and then I hop back on my motorcycle, and spend the rest of the time with my kids. I still have the entertainment law practice on the side, but I have to find slots where I do that.

How did you make the transition from entertainment law into high-tech and new media?

With Definition 6, a lot of their clients are like HBO and Nickelodeon so it's still entertainment. Those companies are often the ones that are driving the entertainment business, in that most companies are looking at new ways to connect to the consumer and to have the consumer connect back. It's truly interactive, and that's what social marketing is. Definition 6, for example, makes an application on Facebook where you can become a fan of True Blood. Through that special application, with your permission, they will do a mini-segment of True Blood and insert your photograph and your name in elements of the three-minute segment. It will also insert the names and photographs of all your friends who have similarly opted into this fan page. You could be watching the show and now all of a sudden you're in it. That's the kind of new interaction that is taking place. Definition 6 is the leading company in its field.

From my impression, you seem to be very stress free and doing something that you love; unpretentiously. It seems that, with the major changes you've made in your life, you have also shed a lot of unnecessary stress. Is the pace of your life now something you aspired to coming from the glamour of the music business, or did you more so fall into it as a result of everything that happened in the past?

Well, I wish I could say there was a lot of intention behind it, but it was a combination of two things. I have an incredible amount of luck and I know a lot of people. Those people value what I do. With Macquarium, my first of the two recent general counsel jobs that I got, the owner also owned the building where I had my law offices. He is also a film producer, who produced an animated film called Zelda, which is a feature length computer generated animated film. He hired me to do all the voice over contracts. I've done voiceover contracts for many big names, and this was another pretty big project. He was both my landlord and my client, and he enjoyed coming down four flights of stairs to sit in his lawyer's office. We had a good rapport. It took a while for, what I call, the death spiral of the record industry specifically to take effect—and its also effecting film, TV, publishing media, you name it. The record industry is going through transitions and the economic and business models are changing. The people who were running the shops were not quick to anticipate what the changes are and work with them. They often fought those changes. The business model for the entertainment law practices changed too. I used to have franchise artists like Usher, Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes of TLC and I was working for Laface Records as Senior Vice President of Business and Legal Affairs. With a small law practice, I only needed two or three of those artists to sort everything out. When the record industry bottomed out all of a sudden a lot of those artists got out of the business and of

course with Lisa, she passed away. Then, the competition for their business became a lot fiercer and larger law firms began to dangle deals that I couldn't afford to dangle.

When you say "deals that I couldn't afford to dangle," do you mean percentage wise?

Well the larger law firms could work for free for six months until an artist's negotiation and next deal came along. They were never guaranteed return and some cases they didn't get it, but for those six months I lost a client. I'm not saying all the losses were like that. There are different reasons for losing clients, but the Kessler model of the entertainment law practice was do the work, pay your people enough to do the work for your client, and there would be enough business where every three or four months a big deal would hit. A lawyer would be reimbursed or paid for the work that hadn't been paid yet from nine months before that. The cash flow was always reliable. Then all of sudden it became very unreliable. The deals that were being handed out were fewer and further between, and the lawyer's take on those deals was greatly reduced, I mean dramatically reduced. It came to situations where even producers, who produced three or four tracks, weren't guaranteed to get paid. Some producers have enough leverage to get pre-paid, but the whole business model of the law practice didn't work. It especially didn't work for law practitioners. The big firms could still survive, but even they tended to move away from purely artist representation and towards institutional representation. Usually, to companies Coca Cola; companies that because of the nature of the business, wanted or needed to get into the entertainment business. Entertainment wasn't their core business, but they needed experts to help them navigate those waters. You'll find that some of the traditional, highly successful entertainment lawyers kind of made that move. I ended up getting a job with Macquarium. I said, "look, I need some work" and Mark offered me a job at their firm. They were using a paralegal and they wanted to up-ticket to a lawyer as general counsel so I started working for them. I've been there for about a year, but I kept telling them I'm underemployed. Is there anyone else that you know who'd want to hire me for the next four hours? They recommended me to Definition 6. Maybe 5% of the work the two companies do is competitive. They overlap, but it's a very small percentage. They're two different companies with two

very different business models. Between the two jobs, all the entertainment work I get is essentially gravy now.

So let's talk about your entertainment practice.

When people ask you for representation do you tend to build relationships with the clients?

Did you build relationships with the clients you had in the past, like Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes? If you did, what was that first feeling like when you heard she'd passed?

I remember precisely finding out about it because Michael Bennett, who was one of the lawyers in my office, emailed me – this is before text – and said turn on the news. Lisa Lopes was a very, very spiritual person. She was a very complex person. She was a very intelligent person. She was an extraordinarily creative person. Most of all, she was a very spiritual person. She always had premonitions and dreams that something like this would happen; to the point where she knew which month it was going to happen. She was off by the year, but she knew the correct month. So, there was almost an expectation from her that she would die prematurely. You know, she was a good friend with Tupac, so she had experience dealing with death. I was concerned for the family because I was afraid that her death would be manipulated.

How did you feel personally when you turned on the TV and saw that she had passed? What were your first emotions?

Well, I was shocked. I also started having dreams about her death. I had sleepless nights and I had dreams. I remember not being able to sleep very well the night before her funeral. I had dreams as if she were trying to communicate with me. I'll give you an example, though I don't know how this is going to go over with you...

Oh, I'm very spiritual so I totally understand where you're coming from.

I had questions about the way the funeral was being arranged. I was concerned that the agenda for the funeral, which was at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, was not going to be right; there was going to be an agenda that was separate from honoring her life.

Which was...?

Well, you know, New Birth is a heavily Christian church and they have beliefs that are contrary to her beliefs. For example, they gave a very strong message, you know, that is against gays and she wasn't like that. She was a very welcoming and inviting person. I got the sense that there would be a message that wasn't her message being conveyed, which turned out to be true. Before the funeral, before I knew that this was going to happen, I had a nightmare that there were a bunch of snakes being stuffed down my throat. This is the most bizarre thing that's ever happened to me. I mean, it was a nightmare where I woke up gagging, trying to pull snakes from my throat. I tried to shake it off, but I couldn't sleep. I went and turned on the TV.

[CONTINUE READING at www.uslmag.com]



LAMAR CAMPBELL

LIFE AFTER THE GAME

Ask any inner city kid playing high school football what they aspire to become when they grow up and 9 times out of 10 the answer will be "to play in the NFL." Just as rappers rapping in hopes of amassing a fortune, young inner city kids with any amount of athletic skills have hopes of playing in the NFL or the NBA so they too can get the multi-million dollar contracts. But reality can seem to render half-truths with the façade of champagne lifestyles and caviar dreams.

I too thought that once you sign into the pro's you're on your way to a life only regular folks dreamt of until this interview. Not all pro-ball players get the 7 figure salaries.

Most often than not, their salaries are more like \$200,000 to \$300,000. Who's better to tell the reality of it all than someone who actually lived it, such as an ex-pro ball player?

"I PLAYED WITH THE DETRIOT LIONS WHEN WE WERE WINNING!"

Lamar, let's go back to when you first started playing football in the NFL, were you drafted out of high school or was it college?

No, actually my senior year of high school, I had to transfer schools out to a suburban district. It was a new situation for me. It was a team that actual had perennial football powers and had a lot of guys that were already going D1 (Division 1). It was a situation where I was just trying to "get in where I fit in." Allegedly I had gotten into some trouble back in the inner city and they thought it would be better for me to go to school out in suburbia. The new school had a really good program and it was a good school. They had won the presidential award for education. It was a great opportunity. I was just looking to take my mind off the streets and get into something positive. I'm from Philadelphia. City of brotherly love isn't always that brotherly love feeling. When I got to Strath Haven High School (Wallingford, PA), I was a 5'8, 155 linebacker and wide receiver. They were already stacked at all the other positions and once again I just wanted to "get in where I fit in." You know, I really didn't take to camp real well and I didn't like being out there in the sun with the temperature

hitting 95 degrees while all my boys were just hanging out; it was just what I wasn't use to doing. In the 1st pre-season game, during one of the scrimmages, the coach threw me a pass and I got my head knocked off. That kind of pissed me off of course with me being a competitor so I told the quarterback to throw the same pass again. He was like no, I'm not supposed to do that and I said listen, throw the same pass again and I went 95 yards for a touchdown. When I got to the sidelines my coach said "wow, I didn't know you had that in you." I said listen, to keep my mom off my back and tell her I'm doing a good job, I'll score as many touchdowns as you want me to. And that's pretty much how it all started. We had a great season. I really wasn't recruited highly. I had never played before so when they came to see the other people play, I had an opportunity to get scholarship offers from the big 10 universities, a lot of SEC universities and then some out in the Pac 10 and I just took it from there.

How did you get into the NFL?

Well, I took a scholarship to The University of Wisconsin. Barry Alvarez, a great guy, came to my neighborhood where a lot of football coaches wouldn't come to recruit guys.

So why was Barry Alvarez there? Was it because he had heard about you?

They sent films out and they had actually come to a bigger game that year. We had a guy that had been pre-season All American three years in a row and we were playing against a guy who was number one defensive lineman in the country. So obviously they came to see him and I just had a hell of a game.

So were your plays intentional because you knew that Barry Alvarez was there?

No, no! You know coach called me in about a week later and said Wisconsin and other schools had been calling about me. My family didn't know anything about recruiting and I didn't know what that entailed. I had never been on an airplane before to fly out to universities, but I flew out to Wisconsin and had a chance to meet with Mr. Alvarez. Deep down I wanted to go to Penn State. Joe Paterno told me I wasn't a Big 10 guy; I wasn't big enough to play in the Big 10. So I decided that if I was going to play in the Big 10, I wanted to play Joe Paterno every year and make it a point to bust his butt every time. I went to University of Wisconsin and ended up starting as a freshman and played for four years. University of Wisconsin is a great school; number one partying school in the nation. It was a crazy transition but definitely the best four years of my life. I wasn't drafted out of college so it was pretty much a walk-on situation for me out of college to the NFL. Detroit brought me in, my signing bonus was \$2000, but I had my foot in the door. I played five years in the NFL for the Detroit Lions and got a chance to start my last three years. I had a chance to play some great hall of famers and it was a great transition from my high school years into the NFL.

It seems like playing professional sports is like you getting a major record deal and so many people get glamorized because they think that now you are with the NFL, you're getting paid millions of dollars. What's the ratio of players who actually gets the million dollar contracts as oppose to middle to lower tier players with the regular \$200,000 and \$300,000 contracts?

It's really solid money for the middle tier guys who get the \$200,000 to \$300,000 salaries. They can't expect to play forever and some guys are not going to be the Deon Sanders, the Terrell Owens and the Chad Ochocincos where you're going to get the hundred million dollar contracts. The average NFL career use to be 3 1/2 years, now it's just 3 years. Even with the lockout situation that just passed this year. You know, we're not worried about the multi-millionaire guys, we are worried about the guys who make \$300,000.00 and then Uncle Sam comes in and takes half of that so you really only have \$150,000. There are a lot of stand-up guys that even with the \$150,000, they go home and do the right thing. They take care of mom, they take care of grandma and they put their siblings through school. You know those were some of the things I did; putting my sisters through school and helping the family out. So those are the guys that worry during the lockout situation because at that time you really have to re-up on everything that you helped your family out with because you have nothing to show for it other than the pride of helping your family out, of course. All of us want to continuously make that big check, but you're not going to play in the NFL forever.

Let's talk about the nest egg. It really doesn't matter if you're making \$200,000 or \$4,000,000 a year, you do have a lot of athletes who go into pro sports making all this money, but don't have the financial literacy to invest properly and spend wisely. When their career is over, a lot of them are broke as hell. How did you educate yourself about financial literacy?

You know what, I was lucky enough to have some really good veterans around me. My family wasn't the type of family that really talked about finances even though we had the Sunday dinners. They never really said, Lamar make sure you understand credit.

I'm going to put this on record to say, in the past, most black families didn't really educate their kids on credit because there wasn't an understanding of credit. It didn't matter where you're from then.

I'm from the islands, but I grew up in the U.S. and we never talked about credit. It was like, what's that? I learned about credit when I went away to college and began receiving a bunch of credit card offers in the mail and the effects of not paying those bills on time.

You get those credit cards in college and all you're saying to yourself is, this is free money and not realizing you have to pay it back. You don't really understand credit or the importance of credit until you have to buy that first car or that first home. Then unfortunately, if you're a ball player, you have enough money to just pay those debts off so you never really understand how it affects your credit and that how much you pay in finance charges is really determined by how well you pay your bills. You do have a lot of guys who go into the NFL not educated about their financial future. They're ignorant. They just don't know because no one ever taught them about handling their finances.

Say you have a mom on welfare with two kids. People complain about how they don't understand why she stays on welfare and not go get a job. What they fail to realize is that once you've been on welfare for a long period of time, you get hooked, complacent and have a lack of motivation to do anything other than the typical (live day-to-day). You can't just cut people off welfare without equipping them with the tools to be able to sustain themselves. They have got to learn how to earn a living and be educated on money management.

You know my son is four years old, but he understands interest rate. He would ask me for \$1.00 to get some candy and chips and I would tell him he could have the \$1.00, but he had to pay me back \$1.25. I do that so he will grow up understanding credit and what I've been privy to. My parents didn't come from a lot of money, but I'm sure if they had known that credit was that important, especially in this market, I know for sure my parents would have made it a point to discuss finances. You know, it's been tragic for everyone the last 10 years or so. If they would have known this was something that I needed, they would have told me. They grew up struggling so they never had to worry about high money coming into the house-hold; they just got by. Their financial literacy was just to get by each month. Now times have changed. Credit has become so important; no telling what it's going to be like for the next generation.

Let's talk about young Lamar. You said that before you got into football, you were allegedly in a little trouble. What were some ideologies and processes you learned to cultivate who you are now?

Unfortunately, everything I learned came from bad experiences. If you look at my 7th grade picture, there are 12 males and only 5 of them are here to discuss anything today. Most went to jail or were shot and is gone.

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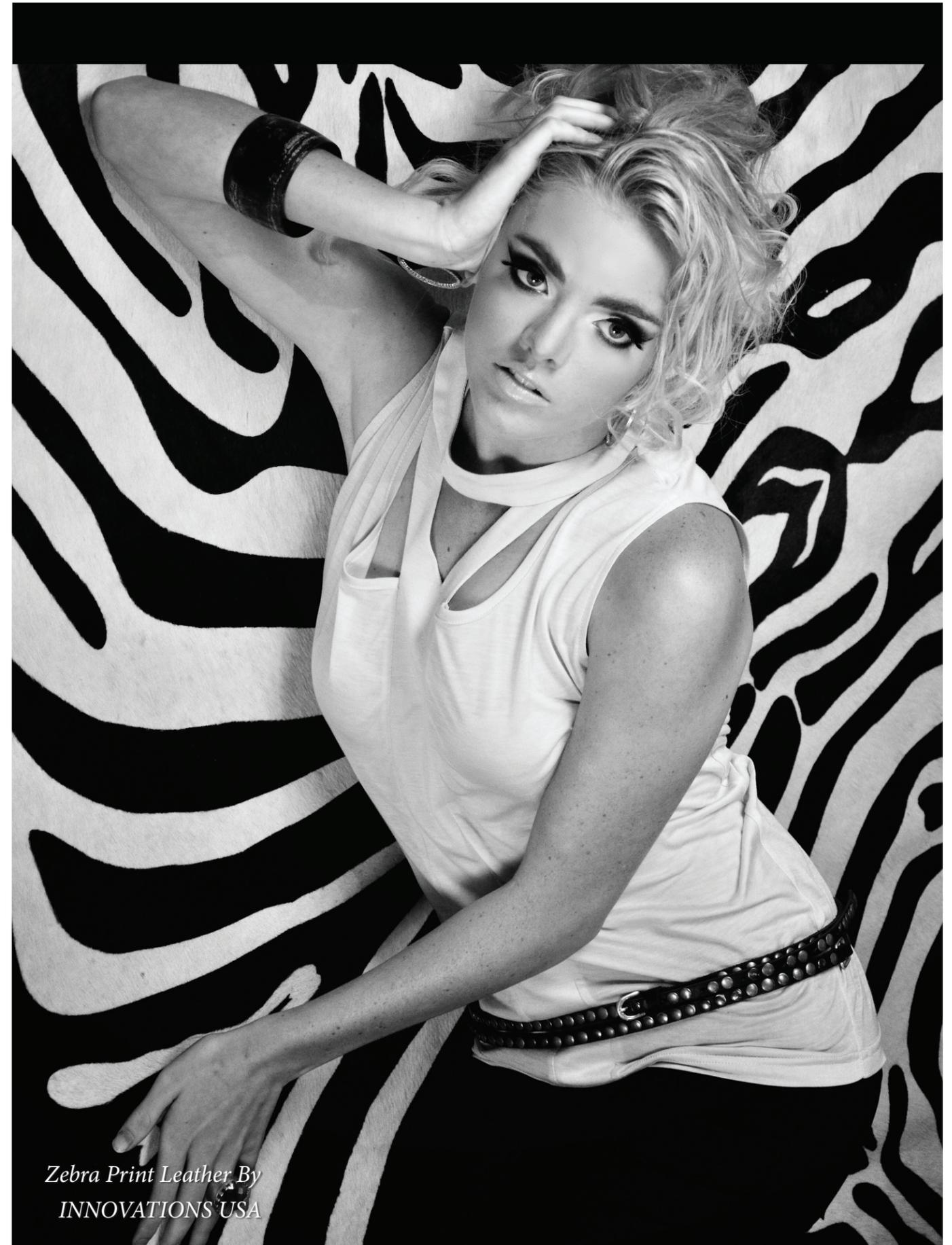






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August Avery

Newlyeds admitting to committing infidelity within the first year of marriage are 18% women and 12% men.
infidelityman.com

3WAY Ménage à Trois SWINGING The Alternative to Cheating

BY Patrick Kelly

There isn't a single person who's in a relationship that is completely and utterly 100% honest with their significant other. As much as we would like to massage our own egos and think that we are the exception; don't fool yourself. It is so much easier to lie or scave the truth, as some would see it, than bare your soul. And as much as you are in love or committed to God, the bible, Christianity or any other religion, you are still no exception.

Being in a committed relationship is a jail sentence to most people and turns them into habitual liars if they haven't already adapted the practice. Having a wife, a girlfriend, a husband, a boyfriend, a lover, a partner is all an illusion. It's a cover for one's own inhibitions, weaknesses, and as some would consider, immoral degradation. There's no right if you are heterosexual. There's no wrong if you are homosexual. And there's no neutral, in between or on the border, if you are bi-sexual. Honestly, who really cares if you choose to screw another person? It's a decision all your own, but bigots beckon an arbitration of naysayers as if anyone in their right mind should have the audacity to comment on someone else's desires, wants and needs. A person once said to me that the reason most people poke their noses in other people's business is because they are hiding from their own issues.

Well it's 2012 and it's about time that we all make a sensible resolution to be completely honest to our husbands, wives, girlfriends, boyfriends, lovers and partners about whom we really are, what we really want and how we really want it.

I sat down in an interview with two Atlanta couples from different worlds, religions, status and backgrounds and they revealed some grown-up decisions that all too many of us make and cannot recover from. Let's just say they are The Jones and the Levy's, for all intents and purposes. These two couples were caught cheating and almost destroyed each other and their marriages. The situations were different, but yielded the same end-result; marriages almost ending in mass devastation.

Priscilla Jones told me that when she met her husband David, he was the perfect catch. He had just graduated med school and was offered residency with a top hospital here in Atlanta. Now we all know that med school graduates doing their residency don't often make a lot of money. However, David was the exception because he came from money. His parents were high school sweet-hearts who had gone on to make a life for themselves as successful entrepreneurs. They had their son David, an only child, and naturally wanted to give him the world and they did.

Growing up in Chicago, Priscilla told me that her mother always stressed the fact that the best husband is a financially stable one. "No one wants a broke loser, so the first chance I got to marry a winner, I did. And it didn't hurt that he was handsome, light complexioned and had a nice head of hair. David was my superman saving me from just being a regular chic."

Priscilla, were you in love with your husband and was that the reason you decided to marry him?

Love had nothing to do with my decision to get married, at first. I think David was in love with me or at least the idea of having a show-piece on his arm. Initially I married David because I knew he could take care of me financially. Our sex life wasn't what I was used to. At first the sex was good and then about six months after we were married, the sex became just okay. David submersed himself into work and wasn't really around a lot to take care of my needs, so I started looking at other men and comparing them to my husband.

Where would you go to notice men? Was it while you were out or did you use other methods?

No, I didn't use the online sites and all that. As a woman, you don't really need those thinks to meet guys. I would look at different men while I was running errands, shopping or just hanging out with my girls.

What was it that caught your eyes in the men you were checking out?

Well, I like a man with a nice build; someone who can protect me and make me feel safe. I prefer really good looking men who are lite complexioned with nice hair, pretty lips, a nice butt and just all around fine. And of course he must be well endowed. I noticed all men, but the ones that would make me pause would be like my husband.

Are you using the fact that your husband was busy with work as an excuse to look at other men?

That wasn't the only reason. David is a good lover, but he wasn't the best I had. After our first night together, I knew that there would be some sacrifices on my part. One of the main sacrifices was having sex the way I wanted it and was used to. I'm sorry but I like them big."

What do you mean "you like them big?"

All of my boyfriends were endowed and that's what I was used to. David isn't built that way and I thought I could deal with it if I had everything else. When our relationship fizzled, I began thinking about the sex I used to have with my old boyfriends and it felt like I was going to lose my mind. The more I thought about it, the worst the hunger and yearn became.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but didn't you know what you were getting into before you married your husband, yet you married him anyway? Are you using your husband's size as an excuse to cheat?

Yes, I knew what I was getting into or more like I knew what I had to give up to marry David. I know now that I should have waited before rushing into marrying him. It's great to have a marriage where you get all the bells and whistles, but my mother didn't tell me about the sacrifices and compromising too.

So you are unhappy with David sexually?

Yes, I'm sorry but I am. It's more noticeable now that he's hardly around.

Did you ever act on any of your sexual desires, more or less; did you cheat on your husband David? If so, when was the first time you cheated?

[CONTINUE READING at www.uslmag.com]

PERCY SAYS!

THE RIDICULOUS THE ABSURD AND THE JUST PLAIN CRAZY!

WHAT CONSTITUTES AS A FLOSSY VEHICLE?

If you have the duckets to purchase a nice ride, maybe a Mercedes CL or even a BMW 600 series, then we might just give you a little room to show it off. Just a little. A 500 series BMW does not give you room to floss especially when its used, its your first quote, unquote high-end vehicle and your buddies in the pack are riding in Altimas and Chrysler 300's. Even worst, don't take it to Lenox Mall and valet it only to come from shopping with one small bag that says Macy's. There's nothing wrong with Macy's, but it just doesn't say "floss" like Burberry or Versace.

The sugar on top is that you get your

500 series, used BMW out of valet only to have it parked in front of the mall entrance with the doors wide open blasting your latest masterpiece. Granted, a masterpiece that you and the homies just finished lacing, the night before, in a \$500 studio. Come on people, get a grip?!

By Percy Howard

To submit your story send us an email to percysays@uslmag.com.



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1 iPhone 4s



In my opinion the **iPhone 4s** is one of the hottest items you can buy right now. Its small frame packs a large punch with its 8MP camera, HD video, and siri (personal assistant).

Its very "in" right now.

2 Macbook Pro



I know it seems like I'm being bias towards Apple products, but I can't leave out the new **Macbook Pro**. This is the best laptop that is on the market now. It's battery last up to 7 hours, it's super light, and it has the slickest aluminum uni-body ever. Partner that with the new lion OS and the gestures features and you have the gods gift to man ...

I actually have one so if you buy this then I know you'll fall in love.

3 Ipad 2



A device that can handle all your WIFI needs. The **IPad 2** is my second best device, I'm forced to ask the question "what can't it do". With its 10Hr battery life, dual cameras, and I cloud capabilities the I pad to is a device of dreams.

4 VIZIO 42" Class 3D LCD



The **VIZIO 42" Class 3D LCD** is a great buy with this television you can make your living room the theater it's 3d wich is the direction all electronics seem to be leaning these days, HD , and with a quality brand like vizio you cant go wrong.

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