



Win \$50 from Q-Notes! See page 3 for details.

For Black History Month: an A-Z of notable queers of color

A collection of LGBT African-Americans and their contributions to our culture

by Donald Miller

During the month of February Americans are celebrating Black History Month with festivals, exhibits, lectures and seminars. Clearly, African-American culture has offered a rich contribution to American society as a whole — particularly in the South. Much has been accomplished by LGBT folk of color, as well.

After extensive research we've collected here many of those individuals. The process was educational — and fascinating. Take a look at our list of who's who in Black queer culture.

• **Joan Armatrading**
(Dec. 9, 1950)

American and British pop-singer, born in Basseterre on the island of St. Kitts in the West-Indies.

Musical hits include "Me, Myself, I" and "I'm Lucky."

• **Josephine Baker**
(June 3, 1906 - April 12, 1975)

Bisexual dancer, singer and actress. Born in St. Louis, Mo., she lived most of her life in France and adopted 12 children from all over the world, calling them her "rainbow family."

Films include "Zou Zou" (1934) and "Princess Tam Tam" (1935).

• **James Baldwin**

(Aug. 2, 1924 - Nov. 30, 1987)

Author, playwright and civil rights activist. Died of stomach cancer.

Books include "Go Tell It On The Mountain" (1953), "Notes Of A Native Son" (1955), "Giovanni's Room" (1958), "Nobody Knows My Name" (1960), "Another Country" (1962), "The Fire Next Time" (1963), "Tell Me How The Train's Been Gone" (1968), "If Beale Street Could Talk" (1974), "Just Above My Head" (1979), "Evidence of Things I See" (1983).

• **Paris Barday**

(June, 1956)

Director and writer, born in Chicago Heights, Ill. Graduated from Harvard in 1979. Television work includes "Angel Street," "NYPD Blue," "City of Angels," "The West Wing" and "ER."

• **Jean-Michel Basquiat**

(Dec. 22, 1960 - Aug. 12, 1988)

Painter and graffiti artist, born in Brooklyn, N.Y. His life story was made into a movie in the 1996 film "Basquiat," with Jeffrey Wright as Basquiat and David Bowie as Andy Warhol.

• **Gladys Bentley**

(Aug. 12, 1907 - Jan. 18, 1960)

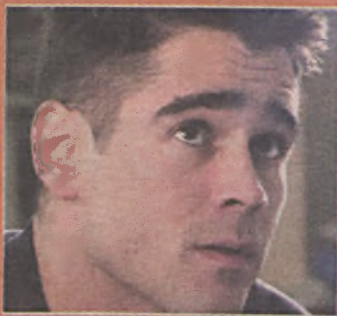
Born in Philadelphia, Bentley left



Josephine Baker

Pennsylvania at 16 to be part of the Harlem Renaissance. She began singing at rent parties and buffet flats and moved on to speakeasies and nightclubs. Later she would headline the popular speakeasy, the Clam House, as well as the Ubangi Club. She wowed audiences with her powerful voice and obscene parodies of blues standards and show tunes and was famous for her glamorous girlfriends. Very open about her sexuality, Bentley also performed at lesbian bars and once told a gossip columnist she had married a white woman while in Atlantic City, N.J.

see LOOK on 12



GLAAD announces award nominees

25



LIN

Out in Print: Was Abe Lincoln gay?

29

HIV/AIDS rates holding steady

20

Human genome study may reveal reasons people are gay or straight

21

NGLTF salutes Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

16

North and South Carolina

North Carolina: Charlotte gets gay rugby team

08

South Carolina: Catawba Cares offers free Orasure test

10

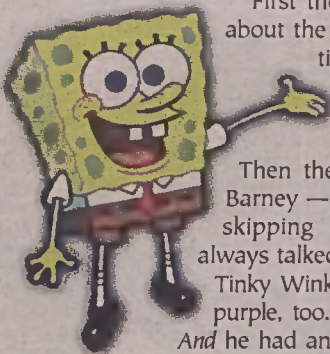
ONLINE Q.POLL
www.q-notes.com

Will you attend Charlotte's Black Gay Pride Celebration?
. Yes . No

Focus on the Family goes after SpongeBob

FOF's James Dobson calls video featuring character a threat to children

by Donald Miller



SpongeBob, as he appears on the Nickelodeon TV series.

character SpongeBob SquarePants.

First there were the innuendoes about the exact nature of the relationship between Bert and Ernie — the household-sharing puppets from TV's "Sesame Street."

Then there was the uproar over Barney — the singing, dancing and skipping purple dinosaur who always talked about love. Then it was Tinky Winky the Teletubbie. He was purple, too. He also carried a purse. And he had an upside-down triangle on his head!

Now U.S. evangelicals are up in arms over a music video featuring the cartoon

Over 1,000 servicemembers plea for help in 2004

SLDN encourages U.S. to follow Britain's lead and lift the ban by Steve Rawls

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) announced Jan. 10 that it received a record 1,025 requests for assistance in 2004, up from 991 similar requests in 2003. SLDN provides free, confidential legal counsel to service members impacted by the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on lesbian, gay and bisexual personnel.

"Service members continue to report to SLDN that they face a hostile military environment rife with anti-gay harassment and discrimination," said SLDN Executive Director C. Dixon Osburn. "Even as their talents are more urgently needed than ever before, lesbian and gay service members face investigation, harassment and discharge. Their courageous service to our country, and not their sexual orientation, should be what matters."

SLDN attorneys fought a successful battle in see THOUSANDS on 4



Gays and lesbians fighting in Iraq confirm they face a hostile military environment rife with harassment and discrimination.