



Q Notes

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Dammit, Janet!

Disciplined diva's got love for 'the children'

Becoming a pop icon takes undeniable talent, ferocious discipline and, of course, a solid gay fanbase. The legendary Janet Jackson has all three, and she's proving it yet again with her 10th studio album, appropriately titled "Discipline."



'I'm not going to stop being who I am and creating the music that I create.'

Photo Credit: Chuando & Frey

Miss Janet returns to her pop roots on the new release with infectious songs like "Luv" and "Can't B Good" and heats up the clubs with cuts like the thumping lead single, "Feedback," "Rock With U" and "The 1" (featuring Missy Elliott).

For those late-night rendezvous, there are freak-session songs like the title track, in which Janet coos, "Daddy take your time... I want you to punish me... I need some discipline tonight." Wow, what's next — a Janet Jackson booth at the Folsom Street Fair?

In a relaxed one-on-one chat, a jovial Jackson dished on her gay friend "Keisha," her celebrity girl-crush and hip-hop homophobia, before dispensing the greatest advice of all: how to battle a "Madonna" drag queen.

Janet, what can your gay fans expect from the new album, "Discipline?"

What's in it for the children? The kids!

[Laughs] I know they love to dance — that's what it is. There's "Rock With U," a house song, which everyone's seemed to have fallen in love with — even the kids in Europe.

At what point in your career did you know you had a gay following?

I think it showed its face more to me, or maybe I realized it more, when I did "Together Again." What album was that?

That was 1997's "The Velvet Rope."

Thank you very much for knowing my own work! [Laughs] I don't ever really remember saying, "I've got a pretty nice gay following," or "The children are really into me." I never thought about it.

Do you have many gay people in your inner circle?

Yeah, I do.

Who is the closest gay person to you?

His name is Gil, and we've been best friends for about 11 years. He's a creative director and one of the choreographers that I work with as well.

How does your man, Jermaine Dupri, react to the gay boys around you?

He doesn't. We're all friends. As a matter of fact, it's so cute because we all call Gil "Keisha." It's a pet name. Jermaine calls him "Keisha," too, and it startled Gil because he had never done it before. It's just cute to see.

Are you asking because Jermaine's in the hip-hop world?

Exactly.

It's just another friend with Jermaine. He loves Gil just as much as I do. I've heard people talk a little bit about that, but that doesn't apply when it comes to Jermaine. He's very comfortable with all my friends, and they've become his friends as well.

You have a strong fan base in hip-hop, which does have a reputation of homophobia. How do you balance that with your own personal acceptance of the gay community?

I've never really thought about it. I just do what I do. There have been moments where I know people have spoken out about certain things that I've done, which skewed more toward topics that dealt with the gay community, and they disliked it — but I'm not going to stop.

For instance, I think it was "The Velvet

see jackson's on 17

S.C. gender-variant teen killed

News receives little regional, national attention

compiled by Q-Notes staff

N. CHARLESTON, S.C. — News that a gender non-conforming teenager was shot down here more than a month ago has been slow to reach regional and national LGBT media organizations.

Adolphus Simmons, 18, was shot at the Bradford Apartments complex by a 15-year-old boy on Jan. 21. Police arrested and charged the suspect on Jan. 24. Another juvenile was arrested and charged later. The names of the suspects are not being released by authorities.

Jackquez Witherspoon, 19, was arrested and charged with accessory after the fact of murder, for giving a false report to police and hindering the investigation.

Simmons dressed as a woman and was a freelance hair stylist, according to the Charleston *Post and Courier*. Family and friends described him as lighthearted and jovial.

Public information officer Spencer Pryor

has said police are not releasing a motive for the killing and that there is no evidence the act was a hate crime.

About two weeks prior to Simmons' murder, a group of people broke into his apartment and stole some items. Simmons' mother, Felicia Moultrie, told *The Post and Courier* that the thieves "were looking for him." It is not clear if the break-in and robbery have any connection to Simmons' death.



Adolphus Simmons, 18, was shot outside his apartment on Jan. 21.

Notes learned of the killing at the end of February. ▽

The Feb. 13 California classroom shooting of openly gay and gender-variant Lawrence King has spurred coverage of anti-gay and anti-trans violence across the country, but news of Simmons' murder has only recently begun to receive attention. Q-Notes learned of the

Community remembers 1990 hate crime victim

Memorial breaks the silence on Talana Kreeger slaying

by Bambi Weavil
Special to Q-Notes

WILMINGTON, N.C. — Eighteen years ago, Talana Kreeger was brutally sexually assaulted and murdered in a vicious hate crime here. The painful memory of that tragic event has been held in silence in this Coastal community — until now.

Community members gathered into a packed sanctuary at St. Jude's Metropolitan Community Church on Feb. 22 to remember and celebrate Kreeger's life. They came to express the need to answer the questions of why Talana Kreeger was murdered and why

the community had been silent about such a brutal and passionate crime of hate.

Kreeger, 32, was murdered by truck driver Ronald Sheldon Thomas on Feb. 22, 1990, after leaving Park View Grill, a lesbian establishment, where they drank and played pool. Kreeger was



Talana Kreeger, 32, was raped and murdered by Ronald Sheldon Thomas (pictured right) in Wilmington, N.C., on Feb. 22, 1990.



remembered as fun-loving, loved and free-spirited.

The memorial service allowed community members to express the need to start the process of healing within the gay community and come together to fight for stronger hate crime legislation in North Carolina and nationwide.

The gathering was organized by Tab

see hate on 17