

G "They were burning disco records Gloria Gaynor did

by Elio Iannacci

In 1975, Gloria Gaynor was crowned the official Queen of Disco by the mayor of New York and, ever since, her brand of booty-based music has changed the way we gay men live, love and liberate ourselves. Twenty-seven years, a handful of hits and some thousands of remixes later, Gaynor has changed too. She has matured and made some gospel and Euro-house albums, reassessed her "mission" in life and bought the best DJ a diva could get (Hex Hector) to remix her latest Billboard dance #1 hit, "I Never Knew" (off the album, *I Wish You Love*). It all seems to be working out. She's back from outer space; she's got all her life to give and all her life to live, so it's due time we caught up with her.

Elio Iannacci: I'm interested in that period of time – between the late '70s and early '80s – when disco records were being burned because they were seen as 'filthy' gay music. What was the atmosphere like?

Gloria Gaynor: I didn't know anyone who burned my records. I do know they were burning disco records, but not mine. People who were affected by disco's bottom line started this 'disco sucks' business. People who were losing money off of disco's success. People are sheep. If you shout long enough, someone will end up shouting with you. Before you know it, you'll have a crowd protesting against something they have no clue about.

Christian fundamentalist leaders actually called your song, "Honey Bee," a "sinful" song that "reinforces gay anal sex."

WHAT! Whoever said this has figured out how to get their head even further in the gutter than I can ever even imagine. It's so hilarious that it is sad.

You've been viewed as the 'spiritual' disco queen. What do you think Grace Jones and Donna Summer represented? And what of tomorrow's queen?

It looks to me that people saw Grace Jones as a mad person. Donna Summer they saw as a sex symbol even though she'd be hor-



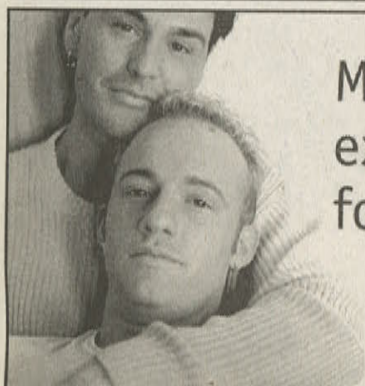
rified about that now. Tomorrow? Lauryn Hill looks pretty powerful.

Hill has received a lot of flack for releasing a folk album. Since you once moved from disco to gospel, can you relate?

I don't understand why people get so upset when you decide to make a different choice! Why must she or I be subject to all this backlash? Donna Summer wanted to do country music. I don't think most of her recordings ever showed off her voice so this could have been a way to do so. I don't like the country genre altogether but if Donna records a country album and I have something to say, it will only be my opinion.

Donna Summer and Boy George are both bringing musicals based on their lives to Broadway. Ever thought of doing the same?

No. But I have written a film script on my



Meet new and exciting people for ...*whatever*.

Free trial on now.

WWW.OUTCONNECTIONS.COM



Karl Mahler
VW SALES MASTER



Queensway Volkswagen Inc.

1306 The Queensway Toronto, Ont

Tel: 416-259-7656

Fax: 416-259-2016

Cell: 416-801-3321

kmahler@sympatico.ca



but not mine” survive

life; fictionalized it a bit though. I'll seek out some producers and find out which way they would like me to take it.

Tina Turner walked out during many of the scenes on *What's Love Got To Do With It* when she saw it. Do you think you'd do the same?

I understand. It can be painful. I found writing my autobiography [*I Will Survive*] to be very cathartic. I don't have a problem looking at my past.

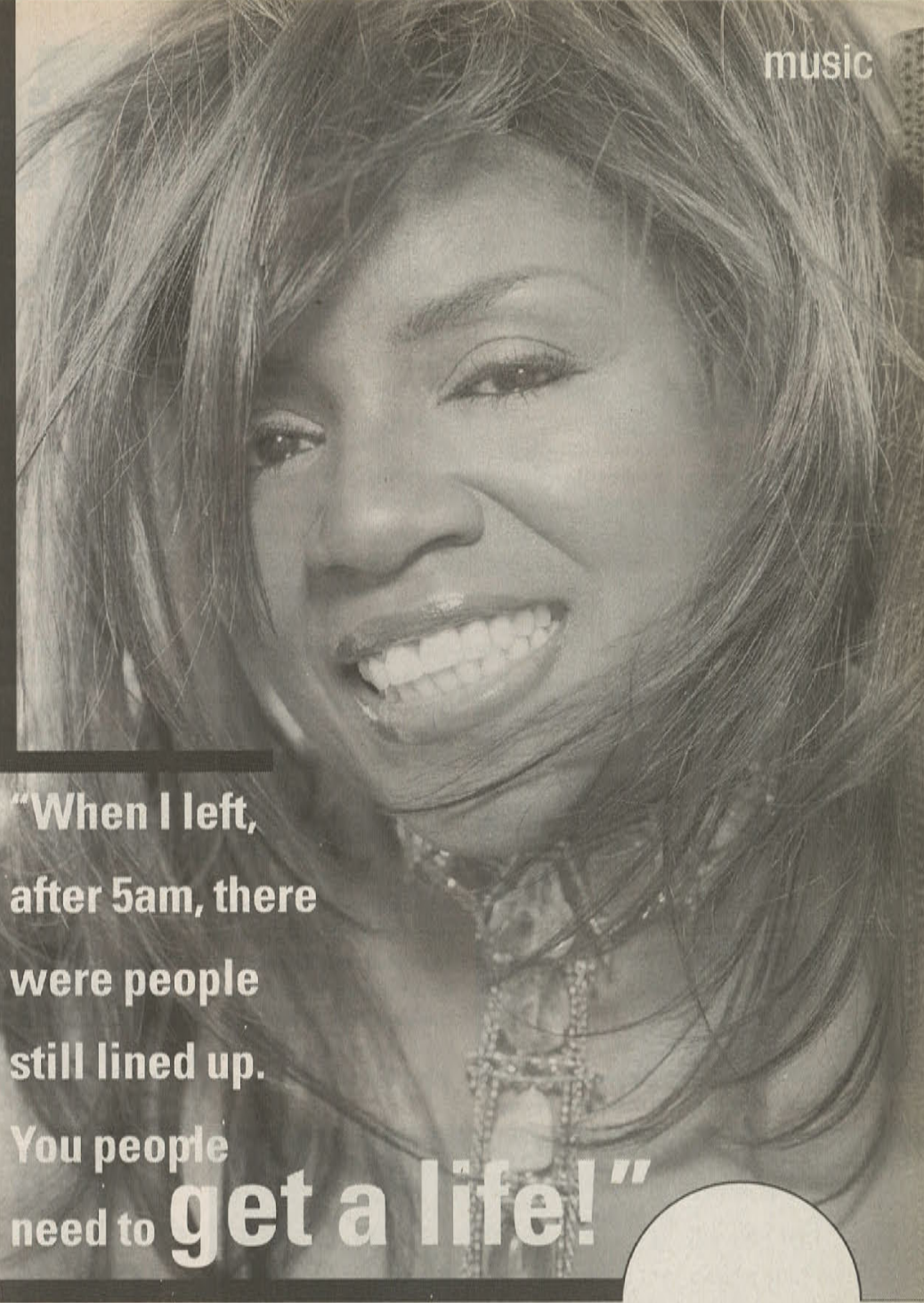
In an interview with *HX* magazine, you were talking about gay venues and said, "you can go in the place and not be of the place." What did you mean?

Some of these places are filled with what I was doing in the '70s – stuff I've outgrown – illicit sex, staying up all night and drinking too much. I performed at a club one night and the show started at 4am. When I left, after 5am, there were people still lined up. You people need to get a life!

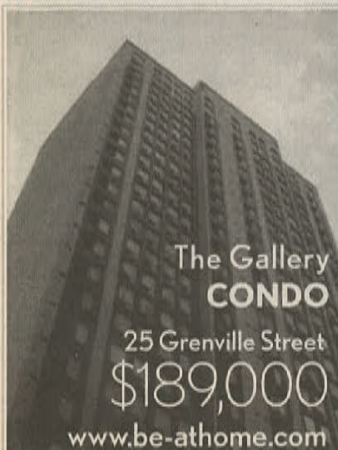
How do you feel about the drag queens who have helped "I Will Survive," survive so long?

It puzzles me. It is also the number one karaoke song in the world and the number one most requested wedding song. The couple hasn't even did it yet and they are worried about surviving it? Honestly.

■ Elio Iannacci is fab's music editor.



**"When I left,
after 5am, there
were people
still lined up.
You people
need to **get a life!**"**



**The Gallery
CONDO**
25 Grenville Street
\$189,000
www.be-at-home.com



New Everything
Totally reno'd
1 Bedroom
High Floor
Steps to TTC
FAB Facilities

Brian A. Elder
Sales Representative
416.921.1112

ROYAL LEPAGE

TOOLBOX

508 Eastern Ave. Muther's Guest House 416.466.8616
Monday's, Free Pool! Board Games Night, Settlers of Katan
Tuesdays, Eucre 8 pm, Pool Bar League
Wednesday, Play Pepper to - Divas of Jazz & Blues etc.
Thursday, Roman Towel Night, Free clothing check
Friday Oct. 25, Gen X Bears Toronto – Bear Mash Halloween Party
Saturday, Cruise Night Leather/Bears
Sunday, Brunch 12 Noon to 3 pm (now only \$8)
www.toolboxtoronto.com