



Rufus Wainwright cemented his friendship with Dorothy on June 14 and 15 at Carnegie Hall.

helped him walk to the nearby hospital, where he was listed in serious condition with a shattered jaw and severe bruises all over his body.

Police arrested four attackers. Gerard Johnson, 16, of Manhattan; Akino George, 20, of The Bronx; Jarell Sears, 20, of Newark, N.J.; and Gregory Archie, 18, of Manhattan were charged with a hate-crime assault.

Aviance, who hit No. 1 on the *Billboard* dance charts with his songs "Da Da Din" in 1997 and "Alive" in 2003, said he was doubly upset because he was scheduled for many performances during Gay Pride Week.

NYPD Denies Permit to Trans Day of Action

TransJustice, a New York-based organization leading the second annual Trans Day of Action for Social and Economic Justice, was denied a permit by the New York Police Department.

Event organizers met May 30 with NYPD Assistant Chief Bruce Smolka and were reportedly told "to go back to the village."

"The struggle we are facing in getting permits for the march is a clear example of the police trying to make us invisible and denying us the right to freely demonstrate," said Imani Henry, a member of TransJustice.

TransJustice proposed the march route because of its relevance to the transgender community. Eighth Avenue has been home to the transgender community and is the location of several community service agencies as well as many HIV organizations and nightclubs.

"To deny TransJustice the right to publicly call for social and economic justice in their own communities along Eighth Avenue is to perpetuate the devastating effects of U.S. policy by once again attempting to silence the struggles of those most impacted," said activist Sha Grogan-Brown.

Like many other oppressed communities, transgender people continue to fight police brutality, racism and xenophobic immigration policies as well as lacking access to living wage employment, adequate affordable housing, quality education and basic health care. They are also affected by U.S. imperialism and the so-called "war on terrorism" being waged against people at home and abroad.

TransJustice calls on all social justice activists from communities of color, queer movements, immigrant rights, youth and student groups, workers organizations, religious communities and HIV/AIDS and social service agencies to endorse, build contingents and help fight for the right to march June 23 on Eighth Avenue.



The U.S. Postal Service honored Judy Garland with a 39-cent first-class commemorative postage stamp.

DC Comics Brings Batwoman Out of the Closet

DC Comics, stewards of the venerable and lucrative Batman franchise, will be resurrecting the character of Batwoman as a lesbian in a comic to be published in July.

The newest incarnation of the 5-foot-10 crime fighter sports a femmy look, with long red hair, knee-high spike-heeled boots and the inevitable skintight black suit.

"We decided to give her a different point of view," said Dan DiDio, vice president and executive editor at DC. "We wanted to make her a more unique personality than others in the Bat-family. That's one of the reasons we went in this direction."

Not to be confused with her better-known niece Batgirl, the original Batwoman was created in 1956. With her unrequited crush on Batman and a "utility purse" containing such gimmicks as charm-bracelet handcuffs and an expanding hair net, the early Batwoman hardly challenged traditional gender roles. She was killed off in 1979.

"This is not just about having a gay character," DiDio said of the newly retooled superheroine. "We're trying for overall diversity in the DC universe. We have strong African-American, Hispanic and Asian characters. We're trying to get a better cross section of our readership and the world."

Post Office Issues Judy Garland Stamp

Legendary gay icon Judy Garland has been honored with a 39-cent first-class commemorative postage stamp.

The U.S. Postal Service unveiled the stamp at New York City's Carnegie Hall on June 10—what would have been Garland's 84th birthday. Carnegie Hall was the venue for her legendary 1961 concert, heralded as "the greatest night in show business history."

The free event was open to the public and featured appearances by out performers Michael Feinstein and Rufus Wainwright. Wainwright returned to the venue June 14 and 15 to re-create Garland's 1961 concert in its entirety.

The Garland stamp is the 12th in the "Legends of Hollywood" series and features a portrait of Garland based on a publicity photo for *A Star Is Born*. The photo on the selva shows Garland in her signature role as Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*. 10

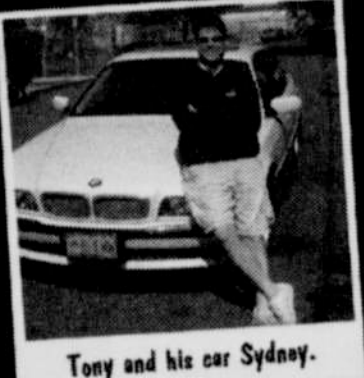
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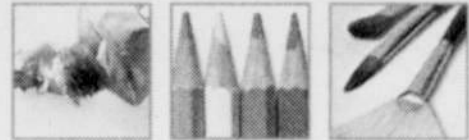
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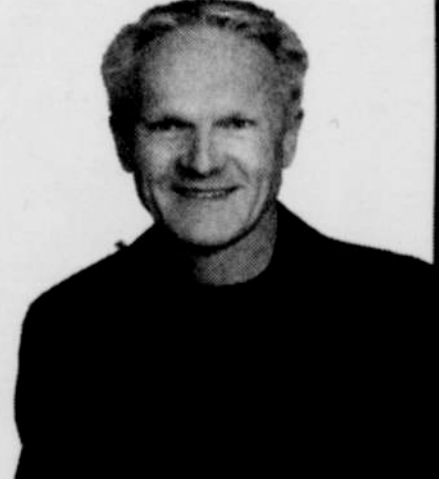


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