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Community

OBITUARY

Jason VanJohnson

By Timothy Cwiek
PGN Contributing Writer

Friends and relatives are mourning the death of Jason VanJohnson, a hairdresser and female impersonator in the region.

VanJohnson died Sept. 25, 1996, from complications due to AIDS.

He was 26 and lived in South Philadelphia.

Friends said VanJohnson was a talented female impersonator who was known for his portrayal of Diana Ross.

VanJohnson attended the

Philadelphia public school system and graduated in 1989 from Community High School. He worked as a hairdresser and also produced female-impersonation shows throughout the country.

"My son realized his dream of being a female impersonator and portraying Diana Ross so accurately," said his mother, Janice Blair VanJohnson. "In fact, when he met Miss Ross, she said she heard of him because he portrayed her so well."

VanJohnson also was very active with Unity Inc.

"I'm so grateful that Jason touched my life, he was a wonderful person," said Unity executive director Tyrone Smith. "Jason was very direct. If you got to know him, you learned to love him. He had his own opinions and was mature beyond his years."

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his grandmother, Millicent Marie VanJohnson; and his great-grandmother, Irene Blair Hasken.

A memorial service attended by many relatives and friends was held Sept. 30. ▼

Records policy

PGN publishes news that chronicles community members' deaths, engagements, weddings and commitment ceremonies. These news items are compiled by PGN writers,

and include information submitted by readers.

For guidelines, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to PGN Chronicles, 505 S. Fourth St., Philadelphia, Pa.

19147. Please specify type of news item.

Photos will be returned if accompanied by a SASE. Information cannot be taken over the phone. ▼

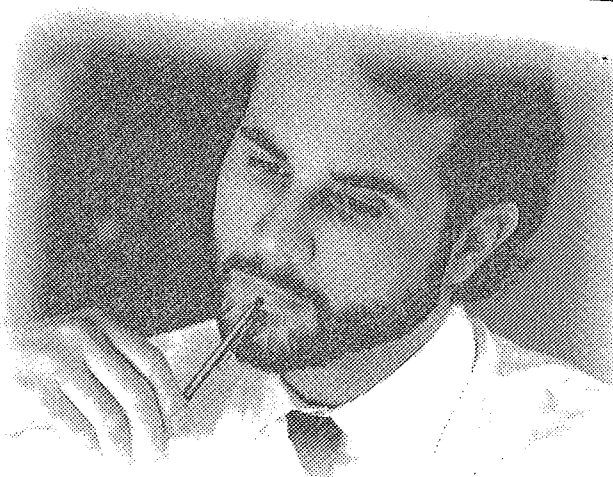
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