

## MORE MEOW

Lincoln Drive in Philadelphia, C. DeLores was Pennsylvania's Secretary of State from 1971 to 1977 and she's remembered for promoting women and African Americans to state boards and commissions, for working to lower the voting age to 21 and for marching from Selma to Montgomery, AL, alongside Martin Luther King Jr. Later in life she led a public campaign against gangster rap and misogynistic lyrics in music.

### Comedian Tony Rock squashes 'All of Us' rumors

Comedian/actor Tony Rock is best known for his role as Dirk Black on the CW show "All of Us." It's his first major TV role and he landed it in 2003 after grinding for six years as a standup comic. He's less known as Chris Rock's brother, which is also an achievement. "If my brother wasn't Chris Rock, I'd still be doing this," Tony told S2S. He didn't lean on his brother's success to get into the game, nor did he distance himself from it. "I had an agent suggest that I (change my name) once, but I didn't want to because that's my father's name. It's not Chris' name," he explained.

Tony stepped up to the mic for the first time at Harlem's Uptown Comedy Club around 1995. "I was booted off the stage," the Brooklyn native recalled. "If that wasn't bad enough the host would make fun of me every time he got back

onstage.... It was horrible." Today his visibility on "All of Us" brings a lot of new faces to his stand-up performances, which are so funny that "Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam" producers picked him for this year's premiere episode. Tony said he is very loyal to "All of Us" but he does do side projects when he has time.

During one break Tony filmed *Homie Spumoni*, a comedy about a family that loses one of their two sons in Italy. The lost son (Donald Faison) is raised by an Italian family and doesn't know he's Black until he moves to the US where his father (Paul Mooney), mother (Whoopi Goldberg) and brother (Tony) reunite with him. The indie film has been shown at festivals and may hit select theaters before going to DVD in 2007. Tony also plays a recovering heroin addict who learns he has HIV in the HBO film *Life Support* starring Queen Latifah and Darrin Dewitt Henson. Tony proudly told us that despite the heavy issues his character faces, he still manages to be funny in the role.

He wasn't joking around when we asked him about rumors that Chris Rock made a call to get "All of Us" added to the CW lineup when UPN and the WB merged. He said that's absolutely untrue, but Will Smith did make a call. "That's the haters talking," Tony said. "They're only saying that because

Tony Rock is on the show. If Joe Smith played Dirk, no one

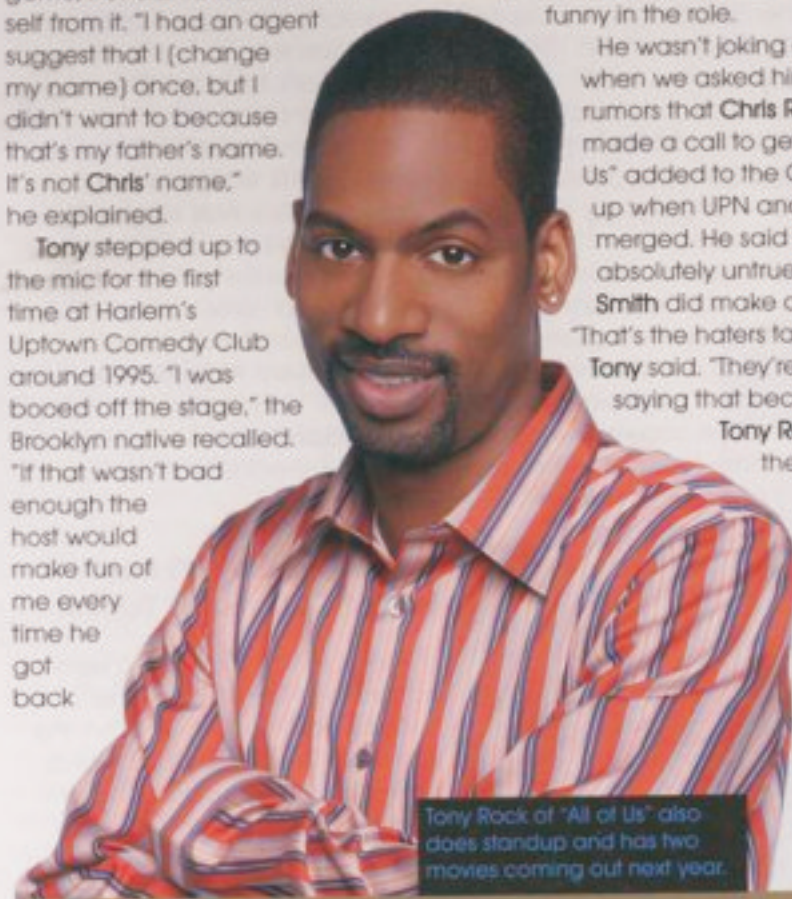
would ever say that. Losers always need an excuse for why they're losing. But Chris did not make a call." We hear that!

So what's up with a Tony and Chris Rock comedy tour? "Coming soon," Tony said. How soon isn't clear; they're definitely interested but Tony wants to make sure he's established first. "I don't want people to say Chris Rock has a new movie out and his brother's in it, too! I want them to say Chris Rock and Tony have a new movie." So, hurry up and get to know him so we can see these two in action together soon!

### James Stephens III is a comedian with a conscience

James Stephens III has jokes, but he also has a conscience. The impressionist, comedian and actor was on the original "Russell Simmons Presents Def Comedy Jam," and has shared the stage with the likes of Richard Pryor and Paul Mooney. The catch is that he holds his own without using profanity.

"I was on TV before Steve Harvey, I was on before Bernie Mac and all these



Tony Rock of "All of Us" also does standup and has two movies coming out next year.



James Stephens III

(Bottom) Photo by Cliff Lipson/CBS Broadcasting Inc.