

Photos, photos and more photos fill a 16-page section celebrating the high school proms of 2002. Photos from all the proms in the area are featured in this dazzling souvenir section. **Look for it Saturday.**



THE WINDSOR STAR

Entertainment

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR MARTY BENETEAU 256-5533

FRIDAY, JULY 5



HIS MANY FACES: Spider Jones was back in his old stomping grounds on Mercer Street in downtown Windsor.



Roberts weds ca in a midnight ce

TAOS, N.M.
Academy Award-winner Julia Roberts married her boyfriend Daniel Moder on Friday at her 16-hectare Taos.

The wedding marks her first trip down the aisle. The away Bride and My Best Friend was married for country and western Lovett.

The darkness of the cool New Mexico morning concealed the details of Roberts' wedding but provided the perfect backdrop for the midnight ceremony.

"Julia Roberts and Daniel Moder married during a midnight ceremony and friends at their home," Roberts' publicist man, said about an hour.

Engelman declined to talk about the couple's bride's attire or the guests. A big white tent was set up Wednesday afternoon and reporters, some of them outside her gate.

A pitch-black sky with millions of sparkling stars and laughter could be seen from Roberts' home morning hours.

George Harrison out of mental ho

LONDON
A paranoid schizophrenic stabbed former Beatle George Harrison on what he thought was "mission from God" was conditionally discharged from a secure hospital.

A panel of experts at the Scott Clinic, a psychiatric hospital in Liverpool, England, found Harrison fit to be released.

Abram, who has a history of mental illness, told psychiatrist Harrison Dec. 30, 1999, that he believed he was possessed by a demon and was on a "mission from God."

He was tried for attempted murder but acquitted in November on grounds of insanity. A spokesman for the clinic said Harrison was conditionally discharged after a 10-month Health Review Tribunal process.

Michael Abram, a spokesman for the clinic, said Harrison's conditional discharge was subject to a Health Review Tribunal. Harrison's spokeswoman for the clinic said his discharge was subject to a Health Review Tribunal. George Harrison died at age 58.

Back on the block

Ex-boxer proves you can turn your life around

By **TED SHAW**
STAR ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Charles "Spider" Jones looked in fighting trim as he walked the mean streets of Windsor where many of his early bouts took place.

The 57-year-old Toronto broadcaster and former four-time Golden Gloves boxer returned to his home town earlier this week to announce a fight card at Windsor Raceway.

Joining him to sign autographs was old friend and sparring partner, George Chuvalo, 64, probably Canada's most famous pugilist. Chuvalo reigned as Canadian heavyweight champ for 21 years through the early-1970s and fought the likes of Muhammad Ali and George Frazier.

Both men now travel the country making personal appearances, often together.

They speak of the evils of misspent youths and overcoming hardships.

For Jones, that meant growing up in Windsor's rough Mercer and Erie Street neighbourhood in the 1950s and '60s. Until he managed to turn his life around in his 30s, boxing was the only saving grace for Jones, who fell into petty crime and did time in prison.

Deprived of opportunities growing up, Jones left Windsor in 1967 with a bitter taste in his mouth and a reputation for meanness.

But he hadn't been back to the old neighbourhood for years. So, with a little time to spare before going to the racetrack Tuesday, Jones took Chuvalo to Mercer Street for a quick tour.

"That's Wigle Park," he said, getting out of his car. "I was a bat boy there. And I had the odd fight, too. You couldn't cross that park without fighting somebody."

Across the street was where his

house stood. It's a vacant lot now.

"A lot of memories here, man. I had my ass kicked so many times on this street, it's pathetic."

Just then a woman about to enter 1632 Mercer, a tidy wartime bungalow, did a double-take. She seemed to recognize him, but wasn't sure.

Jones knew her right off — it was Marilyn Whited.

"I used to babysit for her," he said, turning to Chuvalo. "Hey, I used to babysit for you! Remember me?"

The woman waved. A couple of minutes later, a hefty black man emerged from the house, his shirt open because of the summer heat.

"Ed Whited," Jones called out. "Man, he tooned me one of his best suits for singing contest."

The two men hugged each other and caught up on the intervening years.

Charlie Jones is how they remem-

ber him on Mercer Street — he picked up the Spider nickname after moving to Toronto in the '60s.

Minutes later, a younger man and woman, Dana and Sharon Porter, arrived from next door.

"I babysat you," Jones said to Sharon Porter, who is Ed Whited's daughter.

She smiled.

Jones came by his survival instincts honestly, one of nine brothers and sisters and a cousin raised by his parents, Clarence and Maria Jones. His 82-year-old mother still lives in Windsor.

Lessons were hard-won on Mercer Street in the late-1950s, early-1960s. It wasn't the good, old days.

"This town was violent back then, especially for us blacks. I didn't know a Windsor boy who couldn't fight. You had to fight the Americans, you had to fight the rednecks who lived here."

Chuvalo looked around and said it reminded him a little of the Junction in Toronto where he grew up. "Lots of gangs around there," he said.

Jones chimed in: "We didn't have gangs, we had families. The Joneses, the Whiteds, the Chases, the Talbots, the Browns, the Kerseys were probably the biggest, 20-odd of them."

There weren't too many options for a young black kid in those days. You either fought for your supper or sang for it.

Jones tried both. He sang in a group calling itself The Galahads in borrowed suits and shiny slippers that passed for spats. The Galahads' big claim-to-fame was winning a talent show against a group of Detroit girls known as The Primettes, who later became The Supremes.

PLEASE SEE WORTH / C4



JUST OLD FRIENDS: George Chuvalo, left, and Spider Jones, right, hold court with old friend and neighbor Ed Whited of Mercer Street.

Star photos: Nick Brancaccio