

LAS VEGAS

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Notorious B.I.G. killed in a drive-by

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Rap star Notorious B.I.G. was gunned down in Los Angeles, early Sunday morning, the victim of a drive-by shooting. He is the second rap star to be killed gangster style in six months.

He was killed outside a party while sitting in GMC Suburban. Five bullet holes pierced the outside of the vehicle.

Still inside the Suburban, he was rushed to Cedars-Sinai Hospital where he was pronounced dead. There are no immediate suspects in the shooting.

Notorious B.I.G. whose real name was Christopher Wallace was attending a party, hosted by VIBE magazine at the Petersen Automotive Museum. The party was celebrating

the 11th Annual Soul Train Music Awards.

"Someone just rolled by and started shooting," said Kevin Kim who had been at the party with Wallace and Faith Evans, Wallace's estranged wife.

A witness from a high-rise across the street heard people screaming and saw some passengers of a dark green vehicle jump out and then jump back in before racing away.

Wallace's debut album, "Ready to Die" sold over 1 million copies. He was signed to Bad Boy Entertainment, run by East Coast producer Sean "Puffy" Combs.

Wallace's rap lyrics described his past as a crack dealer in the tough Bedford Styvesant section of Brooklyn, New York.

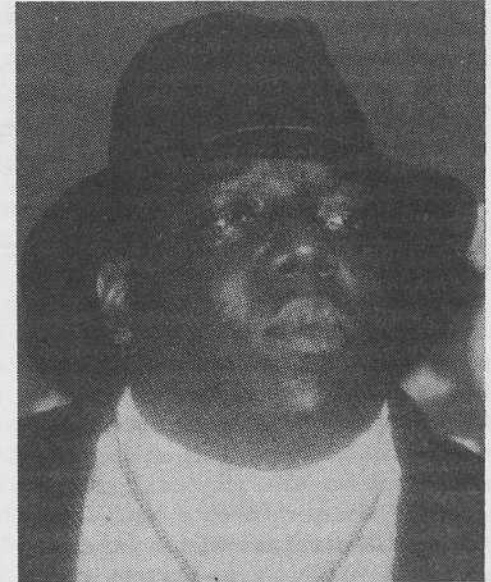
Last September rapper Tupac Shakur was killed in a drive-by shooting in Las Vegas. The investigation into Shakur's death is still ongoing.

Shakur had said Wallace was involved in a 1994 robbery during which Tupac lost \$40,000 in jewelry, but Wallace denied any involvement. Shakur also liked to comment about having had sexual relations with Wallace's wife.

Inevitably, various sources have tried to link Wallace's killing to Shakur's but, Sgt. Kevin Manning of the Las Vegas Metro Police said the two deaths are a coincidence and he sees no connection.

He added that the investigation into Shakur's death continues and Metro's homicide division is still trying to contact two people who were witnesses to the killing and stated later to the L.A. Times that they could identify Shakur's killer if they were shown photographs. They gave a different story to Metro the night of the killing.

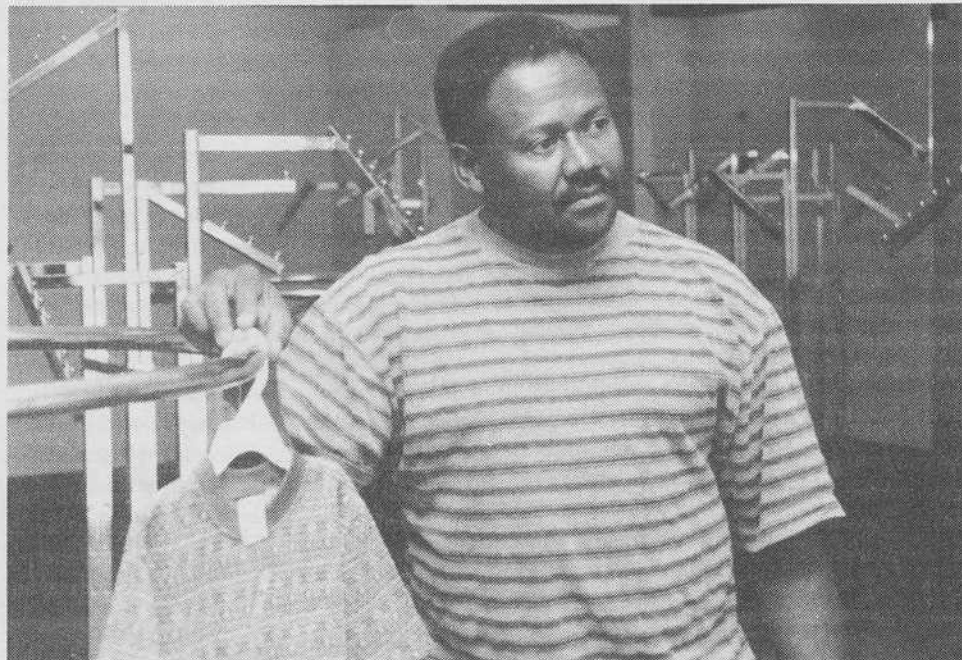
Metro has been criticized for its handling of the case by Shakur's fans, friends and family, but Manning stated "We have put more time into this case than any five (homicide cases)



Notorious B.I.G.

we've got."

"We gone on more trips, made more phone calls, and created more paper. We have 12 inches of paper on this case alone. Meanwhile, (See Drive-by, Page 3)



Down but not out, Kiddin' Around owner Julius Prader assesses his losses after Tuesday's break-in at Nucleus Plaza. Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

Break-in and theft at Nucleus Plaza

By Damon Hodge Special to Sentinel-Voice

Theft and damage totalling nearly \$2,000 to a soon-to-be opened children's clothing store has a businessman and residents alike wondering aloud: who would steal from kids?

Between 11 p.m., Monday night and 8 a.m. Tuesday morning, \$1,400 in clothing was stolen from Kiddin' Around, located at 912 West Owens, in the Nucleus Plaza Shopping Center, according to owner Julius Prader.

Prader said window replacement and cleanup costs will top \$500, but the store should meet its scheduled opening date in early April.

Prader also sells children's clothing in a parcel inside the Rancho Indoor Swap Meet.

The kids suffer most from this, said Linda Clark, a mother of two. Clark, and many area residents, plan to shop at the store when it does open. Tanecia Dixon hopes the guilty party realizes that burglaries hurt all involved, even the perpetrators.

At 8 a.m., Tuesday, Prader said he received a police dispatch call informing him of the burglary. He arrived, 15 minutes later, to find a busted window and the rock used to shatter it, empty clothing racks, and glass strewn everywhere.

"I was in disbelief," he said. "I had the business' s name and hours put on the door just last week."

Prader, a Metro officer since 1985, is used to filing crime reports, just not as the victim.

Prader isn't discouraged. He sees his store providing area youth with job skills. Area youth helped unload and stock inventory and he has hired and will train others to work in the store.

The store also gives parents a chance to buy their children decent, affordable clothing, he said. The store offers families, especially single-parent households, an alternative to Wal-Mart and K-Mart.

Prader buys inventory from a national wholesaler in Los Angeles, thus, saving money and enabling him to pass on the savings to his customers.

Prader said he didn't open his stores to get rich he opened them because it needed to be done.

"I know how important clothing is to young kids," he said. "I'm a parent myself. Decent clothing is a must for any child."

Prader believes the clothing was stolen to buy drugs and will surface soon because much of his stock can't be found anywhere in Las Vegas.

L.A. police chief Williams denied second term

By Nancy Watson Sentinel-Voice

Los Angeles Police Chief Willie Williams was denied a second five-year contract Monday, but it appears Williams will not leave without a fight.

One of his attorneys, Johnny Griggs, has suggested that Williams may file a lawsuit.

Williams has not said which course of action he will take, but he didn't deny rumors about fighting the Police Commission's ruling.

Williams was hired after the 1992 riot which took place after L.A. police officers were acquitted of criminal charges in the Rodney King beating. He replaced Daryl Gates and was the city's first black police chief.

Williams was hired to rebuild public confidence and police department morale. His termination came from a civilian police commission instituted under reforms that took place after the riots.

The five member police commission's vote against renewing Williams' contract was unanimous.

Although Williams, former police commissioner in Philadelphia, maintains that the L.A. police department has progressed and made changes, he was cited by the commission as lacking effective leadership.

John Mack, president of the Los Angeles Urban League said that Williams was faced with a hostile police force. Many of the officers were against someone from outside the city and some were against an African-American as chief.

As stated in the Los Angeles Sentinel, Mayor Richard Riordan, who appointed the

commission and who is running for re-election was quoted as saying that Williams would be judged on performance and merit alone, however, he often indicated his bias against Williams. Gates also frequently took "pot shots" at the chief.

But Senator Tom Hayden, who is running for mayor was very supportive of Williams and he is not alone.

Polls indicate that Williams is one of the most respected officials in Los Angeles.

Since becoming chief in 1992, he tried to visit every neighborhood in the city and tried to institute community policing. He is credited with a steady decline in crime since 1992.

Despite the possible death of affirmative (See Williams, Page 16)



WILLIE WILLIAMS