

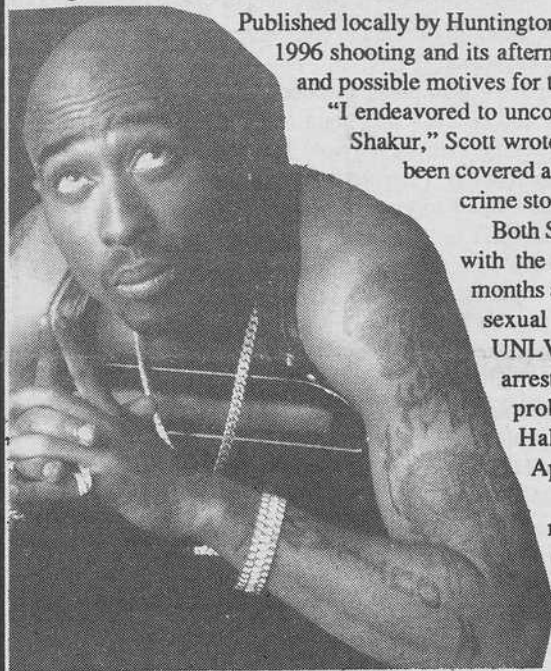
Reporter's book recounts Tupac killing

By Damon Hodge, Sentinel-Voice
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A local police reporter's book profiling the killing of rap icon Tupac Amaru Shakur hit bookstores Monday, a week before Saturday's one-year anniversary of the entertainer's death last Sept. 13.

More than 100 sources were tapped for the 182-page book, which Las Vegas Sun police reporter and author Cathy Scott said seeks only to separate fact from fiction and not to solve the case. A Las Vegas police investigation into the murder is ongoing.

A picture taken 15 minutes before the shooting serves as the book's cover. A stoic Shakur sits passenger-side in a black BMW driven by his boss Death Row label CEO Marion "Suge" Knight. The book's bullet-riddled back cover hints at the violent existence of both men.



Published locally by Huntington Press, the book also probes the Sept. 7, 1996 shooting and its aftermath, the Las Vegas police investigation and possible motives for the attack on East Flamingo.

"I endeavored to uncover the truth about the killing of Tupac Shakur," Scott wrote in the author's note. "I don't think it's been covered as a sad story. It's only been covered as a crime story," Scott said last week.

Both Shakur and Knight had numerous scrapes with the law; Shakur, most notably serving 11 months at Clinton Correctional stemming from a sexual abuse charge in Manhattan. Knight, a UNLV defensive lineman from 1985-1986, was arrested in Las Vegas and later placed on probation for shooting a man twice on Halloween 1987 at the Rancho Sahara Apartments.

Knight bonded with Shakur while the rapper served time on the sex abuse charge, eventually inking him to a contract with Death Row. The two became inseparable after Shakur's release.

Both were headed to Club 662 last

September, after Mike Tyson defeated Bruce Seldon for the WBA Heavyweight boxing title, when police said a late '90s, white 4-door Cadillac carrying four people shot into the car, then fled on Koval Lane.

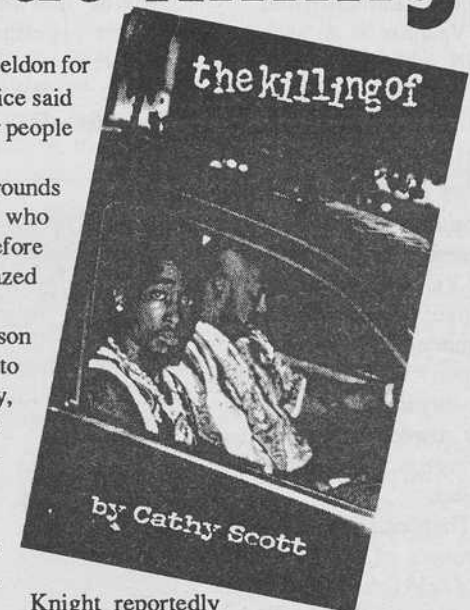
According to Scott, investigators said 13 rounds were fired into the car; three pierced Shakur, who would lose his right lung and fall into a coma before succumbing six days later. The bullets grazed Knight's head.

The next day, Scott wrote, the Rev. Jesse Jackson asked parishioners at Second Baptist Church not to condemn Shakur for his lifestyle. Later that day, Jackson and the Rev. Willie Davis, the church's pastor, visited Shakur and prayed at his bedside. Davis was out of town and could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

The days following the shooting and Shakur's subsequent death were shrouded in secrecy, according to the book.

Witnesses, including Knight, clammed up, failed to show up for questioning or had little new information to offer. University Medical Center officials kept quiet the decision by Tupac's mother, Afeni Shakur, not to resuscitate her son who had fallen into a coma. Worldwide media - in Las Vegas to cover the Tyson fight - reportedly harped about denied breaking information in the case and about Tupac's condition.

Southern California police noted 12 retaliation shootings in the aftermath of the Las Vegas attack, with Crips gang members the target in several of the incidents, the book said.



Knight reportedly has ties to the Crips' rivals, the Bloods.

Scott segways into the controversial Las Vegas investigation, quoting police Homicide Lt. Wayne Peterson as saying that the case might go unsolved and the killer unpunished. Shakur's mother Afeni Shakur, Death Row officials and witnesses have chided Metro's investigation.

"We receive calls weekly, but nothing has amounted to anything," Police Homicide Sgt. Kevin Manning said Monday. Manning refuted claims that Metro mishandled the shooting scene and bypassed potential
(See Tupac, Page 2)

100 men nominates humanitarian

By Angela Brown
Sentinel-Voice

Committed 100 Men will honor philanthropist and businessman Ernest M. Fountain, Saturday at its Sixth Annual Humanitarian of the Year Awards Banquet at the Palace Station, 2411 W. Sahara Ave.

Fountain, who enjoys working with people, heads two companies; New Venture CDC and Operation Management. He began at Valley Bank, eventually switching to New Venture Capitol and working his way up.

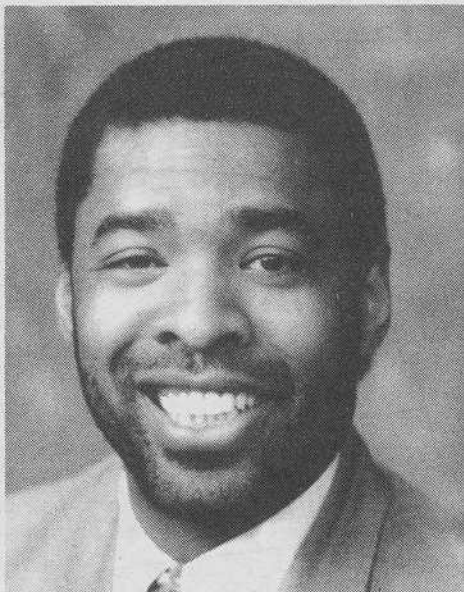
Mike Waller, president of Committed 100 Men, said that Fountain's commitment, persistence and drive made him the success that he is today.

Waller credited Fountain with creating and administering to many small businesses and elevating the quality of life for Las Vegas' black youth.

Committed 100 Men is a mentoring organization for youth ages 7-13. Their program offers young men one-on-one interaction with adult male role models. It also provides the youth with instruction, discipline, cultural awareness, community involvement and leadership.

The group hosts an annual event where the participants go to Carson City and visit the Legislature.

Because of the program's merits, Waller said that many youth want to get involved.



ERNEST FOUNTAIN

There is usually a 20-to-30 person waiting list, he said.

Waller said the group chose Fountain because he has a good rapport with the community and local businesses. "Fountain has the determination to make a difference in his life and the lives of others," he said.

Waller hopes the banquet inspires youth to engage in community service. "We are hoping that as we produce this type of event that the youth follow in the path of the recipients."

Confab delves into music's business side

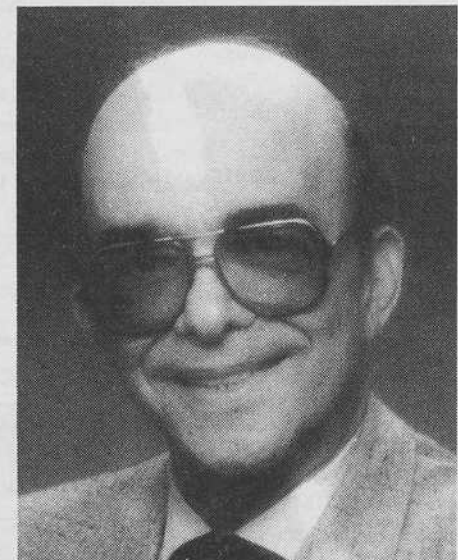
By Lee Brown
Sentinel-Voice

Some of the country's top record executives and entertainers will be in Las Vegas for the 2nd Annual Business of the Music Conference, Sept. 20 and 21 at the West Las Vegas Library Theatre, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd.

The MGM Grand Hotel & Casino is acting as the conference's headquarters.

Hosted by the Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County's Micro Business Program and sponsored by KCEP-FM 88.1 radio, the conference looks to educate music industry hopefuls on the business aspect of the industry.

Conference workshops, which will be held from 9 a.m. to 6:45 p.m., will include such topics as: "Making the Music Industry Plunge/The Rights and Wrongs;" "There is No Music Romance Without Music Finance/Publishing Royalties;" "Movie Sound Tracking and Negotiations;" "Taking Your Music to The People/Creating the Buzz/Promotions & Marketing;" "The Business of the Radio Airwaves and the General Managers Show 'How You Do It';" "Engineering and Mixing the Sounds That



Tribute scheduled for the black music pioneer Jack "The Rapper" Gibson.

Are the Record Hits;" "How to Get on the Major Las Vegas Strip Hotel/Concert Stages;" "Understanding the Deal!—Global Licensing and Distribution" and "Gospel Music on the Rise."

"This conference is designed to encourage
(See Music, Page 7)