

Bagging Billboard awards



Newcomers Dru Hill flexed their muscles by winning R&B single of the year.

'Bad Boys,' girl big winners

Special to Sentinel-Voice

A "Bad Boy" and a woman known for showing off her bad body were big winners at Monday's eighth annual Billboard Music Awards inside the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

Sean "Puffy" Combs, CEO of the New York City-based Bad Boy records walked away with the rap artist and rap single of the year awards.

Tony Braxton drew whoops and hollers from a slew of ogling fans. The songstress, wearing a slinky, form-fitting white dress, garnered three trophies: female R&B artist of the year; adult contemporary artist; and adult contemporary single of the year for "Unbreak My Heart."

The sultry Maryland-based



Decked in Army paraphernalia, Sean "Puffy" Combs proved his "Bad Boy" label is a force to be reckoned with by commandeering two rap awards.

group Dru Hill rounded out the African-American winners, pocketing the R&B single of the year as well as R&B singles artists of the year.

Gospel music sensation Kirk Franklin spirited the crowd away performing, with his group God's Property, the hit single "Stomp."

The mother of slain rapper the Notorious B.I.G., (Christopher Wallace) eulogized her son with a tender poem.

This is the second year Las Vegas has hosted the awards. Winners are chosen by record sales and radio airplay.



Silky songstress Tony Braxton wooed fans with her beauty, eliciting a spirited response for her dress. She dazzled listeners enough to win three awards.

Sentinel-Voice photos by John Broussard

SEE ADDITIONAL PHOTOS PAGE 9

Friends and foes tag Winnie during commission hearing

By Gumisai Mutume

Special to Sentinel-Voice

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — More than 40 witnesses lined up to testify before South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission that Winnie Madikizela-Mandela vocally directed an apartheid-era campaign of violence.

Madikizela-Mandela and her group of bodyguards, known as the Mandela United Football Club (MUFC), are facing 18 charges of assault, kidnapping and other human rights abuses, including eight murders.

According to the commission's deputy chairman, Alex Boraine, at least 42 people were lined up to testify in the hearing, which began Nov. 24.

"Public figures like Winnie should expect rather more attention than the small, insignificant apartheid murderers," says political scientist

Tom Lodge. "Winnie is a politician of renown and if the TRC does not give her such attention it will be accused of trying to cover up."

So far, the attention has been stoked by the damning allegations made against her. Katiza Cebekhulu, the main witness and a former member of MUFC, told the commission how, in 1989, he saw her stab 14-year-old activist Stompie Seipei, whom she accused of being a police spy.

Cebekhulu also made these allegations in a book published in October by British journalist Fred Bridgland entitled "Katiza's Journey: Beneath the Surface of South Africa's Shame."

However Cebekhulu's testimony clashed with that of former MUFC coach Jerry Richardson who, through his lawyer, confessed to the murder and that of two other youths, Lolo Sono and Siboniso Shabalala. Richardson,

(See Mandela, Page 3)



Shoes for tots

West Las Vegas Library Theater director Joyce Thomas sets up donated shoes collected during the 3rd Annual Shoes for Children Holiday Concert Wednesday night at the theater.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy