

Entertainment Briefs

MISSY ELLIOTT LIKES HER CAREER ROLE AS RAPPER AND PRODUCER

NEW YORK (AP) — Missy Elliott is perfectly happy being a rapper and producer, not a pop teen queen. "I don't trip, because it doesn't have to be about getting all butterball naked and singing, 'Oops! ... I Did It Again,'" Elliott said, slamming Britney Spears in the June issue of Vibe magazine. "If you've got talent, you've just got to do you. If they want to take their clothes off and sell those records, fine." But Elliott worked with another scantily clad pop diva, Christina Aguilera, on a cover of "Lady Marmalade" for the "Moulin Rouge" movie soundtrack. Lil' Kim, Mya and Pink also sing on the remake of the Labelle classic. "I ain't even gonna front, those girls can sing," Elliott said. "I think the competition made Pink and Christina both work a little harder." Elliott's new album, "Miss E ... So Addictive," came out last week.

SINGER ANITA BAKER SUES EQUIPMENT RENTAL COMPANY

DETROIT (AP) — Grammy-winning singer Anita Baker has filed a lawsuit in federal court against an audio equipment rental company she says ruined some of her recorded song tracks. Baker filed the lawsuit last Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Detroit against Zomba Recording Corp. and its Dreamhire division. She is seeking more than \$200,000. Chris Dunn, vice president and general manager for Dreamhire, declined comment to the Detroit Free Press. Baker alleges that a 24-track tape machine she rented produced random popping noises. The company sent a technician to Baker's studio to repair the equipment, but Baker said the technician determined that the recorded material could not be salvaged because no system could remove the popping noises. Baker, who began recording the songs in August 2000, said she was forced to rerecord them. According to the lawsuit, she said it cost her more than \$500,000 to rent the equipment, hire producers, songwriters, musicians and vocalists, and pay their travel and housing expenses.

JACKSON: I WON'T PART WITH BEATLES' CATALOG

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Jackson says he has no plans to part with his lucrative catalog of Beatles' songs. "I want to clarify a silly rumor: The Beatles' catalog is not for sale, has not been for sale, and never will be for sale," Jackson said in a statement last week. Recent reports said Jackson was prepared to sell the rights he owns to some 200 Beatles' hits. Jackson bought the ATV Music catalog in 1986 for more than \$47.5 million and merged it with Sony Music Publishing in 1995 for \$100 million. Best known for his moonwalk and 1983 "Thriller" video — a mini-movie that was more of a pop culture event — Jackson recently topped VH1's list of the "100 Greatest Videos." He had the second-highest number of videos on the list with five, being edged out by Madonna with six videos appearing on the countdown. Clocking in at 17 minutes and directed by John Landis, "Thriller" was much hyped before its 1983 premiere on VH1's precursor and sister channel, MTV, and it helped catapult Jackson's album of the same name to the top of the all-time best-seller list.

HIP-HOP SUMMIT BEING ORGANIZED FOR JUNE 12-13 IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK (AP) — Rap mogul Russell Simmons is calling on hip-hop's power brokers to attend a summit that will focus on the lyrics, content and advertising of the music. The summit, set for June 12-13 in New York, is sponsored by Simmons, head of Rush Communications, and other top executives in the music business, including Sean "Puffy" Combs and Master P. Among those scheduled to participate are rappers Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, KRS-One, Q-Tip and Common. "The purpose of this summit is to address various issues affecting the very survival of the integral spirit of hip-hop music," Simmons said in a statement. "We are taking a pro-active approach to deal with the serious issues that are facing the hip-hop industry." Simmons said the goal of the conference is to spur the industry to enact positive reforms.

ENTERTAINMENT

Day of infamy recalled in epic film

By Kam Williams

Special to Sentinel-Voice

On December 7, 1941, America was finally drawn into World War II when Japan destroyed the US Pacific Fleet in a Sunday, dawn sneak attack at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Termed 'A date which will live in infamy' by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the devastating defeat shook the country to its core.

In a flash, public opinion shifted away from a position of peaceful isolationism, galvanizing instantly into a patriotic commitment to an all-out war effort. Pearl Harbor, directed by Michael Bay (Armageddon), recreates this defining moment in our history with a spectacular saga of courage and heroism against all odds.

This fast-moving, three-hour epic rests on a curious love triangle as a compelling front story, one which is ultimately overwhelmed by the looming backdrop of the ominous outbreak of war. In this respect, the movie resembles Titanic, another big-budget flick which worked its way inexorably to an unavoidable, catastrophic conclusion.

The film stars Oscar-winner Ben Affleck (for Good Will Hunting) and Josh Hartnett (Blow Dry) as Rafe and Danny, respectively, childhood friends from Tennessee, who share the same dream of becoming fighter pilots.

By 1940, Danny ends up at Pearl Harbor in the Army Air Corps while the eager for action Rafe volunteers to join Britain's Royal Air Force, already engaged in daily dog-fights with the Nazis.

Rafe asks Danny to keep an eye on his girlfriend Evelyn (Kate Beckinsale), a nurse stationed at the same Hawaiian base. After Rafe is reported missing-in-action, the disconsolate Danny and Evelyn first cry on, then caress, each other's shoulders, allowing time and touch to heal all wounds.

Will Rafe reappear? In an atmosphere just bristling with anticipation, I found myself tensely wondering which would arrive at Pearl Harbor first, Rafe or the Japanese.

The historical backdrop is peopled by an impressive supporting cast topped by Oscar-winners Cuba Gooding, Jr. (for Jerry Maguire) and Jon Voight (for Coming Home).

Gooding appears here as Dorie Miller, the Navy chef-



turned-gunner who was later decorated for his valiant efforts during the battle. It is interesting to note that in his last movie, Men of Honor, Cuba also played a celebrated navy veteran.

Voight convincingly dis-

appears into his characterization of FDR, the wheelchair bound President forced to declare war in the wake of the surprise slaughter. Others in the ensemble cast include Alec Baldwin (The Hunt for Red October), Tom Seizmore

(Saving Private Ryan), Dan 'Conehead' Aykroyd, Guy Torry, Leland Orser and supermodel James King.

Like the aforementioned Titanic, Pearl Harbor deftly blends a fictional love story with a factual incident to yield a stirring experience with something for everyone.

Romance fans will take to the satisfying resolution of the bittersweet romance at the heart of the melodrama.

History buffs and special effects fanatics will appreciate the painstakingly-recreated battle sequences, filmed on location on Oahu. After the action is over, the film delivers a powerful punch by providing chilling shots of The Arizona, the sunken battleship still at the ocean floor with its crew of 1,100 ever entombed.

All of the above adds up to a bona fide blockbuster hit and a fitting tribute to the soldiers who lost their lives in the defining event for a generation of Americans.

Excellent (4 stars). Rated PG-13 for fairly graphic bombing, strafing, and other fight sequences, mild profanity and sexual situations.



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