

Entertainment Briefs

GEORGIA COUNTY TO HONOR SLAIN RAPPER TUPAC

STONE MOUNTAIN, Ga. - DeKalb County political leaders joined with the family of Tupac Shakur to break ground over the weekend for an arts center honoring the slain rapper. Organizers expect the Tupac Amaru Center for the Arts to open in March 2003 in Stone Mountain. Shakur's family has lived in the area for nearly a decade. The center will feature studio space for the performing arts and a gallery that initially will hang the art of Shakur's fans who have sent their work to his mother, Afeni Shakur. An adjacent garden will commemorate Shakur, who was shot dead in Las Vegas in 1996, and other victims of violence.

RAPPER C-MURDER TURNS HIMSELF INTO AUTHORITIES

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) - Rapper C-Murder, the brother of Master P, turned himself into police Friday and was awaiting booking for allegedly trying to fire a gun at a nightclub owner earlier this week. Police said the 30-year-old rapper, whose real name is Corey Miller, faced charges of attempted first-degree murder and illegal use of a dangerous weapon in the Tuesday night confrontation at Club Raggs in Baton Rouge. He faced separate burglary and firearms charges in an incident in June, police said. Miller's surrender follows the filing of a lawsuit Thursday by night club owner Norman Sparrow, security guard Daryl Jackson and others who allege that the problems started when Jackson asked to search Miller for a weapon before he entered the club. Miller wanted to enter without being searched, but Sparrow refused. The lawsuit alleges that Miller grabbed Sparrow by the arm and that Sparrow pulled away, at which point Miller is accused of pulling out a gun and trying to fire at Sparrow. The gun jammed. Police spokesman Cpl. Don Kelly said Miller tried to clear the jam and fire again, but the gun would not discharge.

NICOLE PARKER DISCUSSES 'SOUL FOOD' ON SHOWTIME

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nicole Parker stars on Showtime's "Soul Food" as the eldest of three sisters struggling to hold together their extended family. Spun from the 1997 feature film, "Soul Food" is now in its second season, airing on Wednesday nights. Although the drama series focuses on a black family living in Chicago, it also addresses universal issues. "I think it is really wonderful this season because we are exploring it outside just being Afro-American," Parker told The Associated Press. "I think for a season we really had to put our stamp down in terms of the kind of show we are, and we didn't mind being called a 'black show' because if that's where we have to begin, that's where we have to begin."

ENTERTAINMENT

Rapper brings 3,000 people to club

LAKE OF THE OZARKS, Mo. (AP) — Rappers are known for their large entourages, but rap star Nelly might have broken a record.

The rapper and an accompanying crowd estimated at about 3,000 people were refused entry to a Lake of the Ozarks night club Saturday night.

"We were already full by midnight and had anywhere from 1,500 to 2,000 people already inside," Shooter's 21 owner John Teichman told the Lake Sun Leader newspaper in Sunday's edition. "When I realized Nelly and thousands of friends were trying to get inside the front door, I called the cops for help."

The crowd was not violent, said Missouri Water Patrol officer J. Pragman, but



NBA player Shaquille O'Neal, left, and pop recording artist Nelly joke around with the media after Nelly was named new artist of the year Monday during the The Source Hip-Hop Music Awards at the Jackie Gleason Theatre in Miami Beach, Fla. (AP Photo/Amy E. Conn)

people continued to try to push through the club's locked doors. No injuries occurred and no one was arrested, Pragman said. It took police almost two hours to disperse the crowd, he said.

"I don't even want to imagine what would have happened if I had let Nelly inside," Teichman said. "With us already being full and that many people outside wanting in, it would have been a nightmare."

Attempts by The Associated Press to reach Nelly's record company, Universal, were unsuccessful Sunday.

Nelly's 2000 album, "Country Grammar" was nominated for two Grammy Awards. The St. Louis native apparently was at the lake for a private party at the resort area's water park.

Hollywood getting more minority actors

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A record number of minority actors found work in Hollywood last year as employment for performers overall rose by 7 percent, the Screen Actors Guild said Monday.

Union officials credit diversity awareness programs and civil rights groups for pressuring studios and producers to hire more black, Hispanic and Asian actors.

Of the 53,134 TV or movie roles, 11,930 went to minority actors, the guild reported. White actors still dominate the industry, however, playing 76.1 percent of all roles.

"We're moving slowly but steadily toward the reality of portraying the American

scene," SAG President William Daniels said. "We are delighted to see gains for all ethnicities on the large and small screen, but there's no question there's still plenty of room for growth in diversity in the television and film world."

About 14.8 percent of all roles went to blacks, the highest percentage since the guild began compiling statistics in 1992. In 1999, blacks received 14.1 percent of all movie or TV parts.

"This is important data to have, but I don't know that the good news is really that good," said Darnell Hunt, director of the Center for African-American Studies at

University of California Los Angeles.

"When you start looking at the types or roles and screen time, there may be more roles but these aren't starring parts," he said.

Hispanics and Asian-Pacific Islanders broke other casting records. Hispanics received 4.9 percent of all roles, up from the previous high of 4.4 percent in 1999, and Asian-Pacific Islanders garnered 2.6 percent, up from 2.2 percent the previous year.

"It's too little progress, but the number is going in the right direction," said Lisa Navarrete, spokeswoman for the National Council of La Raza, the nation's largest

Hispanic advocacy group. "We're 13 percent of the population of the U.S., so I'd hope we could get 13 percent of the roles."

She credited movies like "Traffic" for supplying a number of starring roles for Hispanics last year. Puerto Rican-born Benicio Del Toro won a supporting actor Oscar for playing a conflicted Mexican police officer in the drug epic.

Meanwhile, American Indians were cast in 0.3 percent of roles, up from 0.2 percent.

However, guild spokesman Greg Krizman cautioned that the guild's data only examine the quantity of minor- (See Actors, Page 10)

Doug Banks

Mornings

V108

Las Vegas' Hip Hop and R&B Station