

Entertainment Briefs

LAS VEGAN SERENA HENRY TO PERFORM AT THE CASTAWAYS

Serena Henry will be competing for a regular lounge spot at the Castaways Hotel and Casino as well as other Strip properties this Sunday, September 9th. The Castaways Hotel and Casino (formerly the Showboat) is located at 2800 Fremont St., between Charleston and Fremont/Boulder Hwy. The show begins at 8:00 p.m. and will feature several acts. Serena is scheduled to perform second. ADMISSION IS FREE.

SNOOP DOGG AND JA RULE CHARGED WITH USE OF INDECENT LANGUAGE

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) - Rappers Snoop Dogg and Ja Rule were charged Thursday with using indecent language during performances in the recent Sumfest music festival in the resort town of Montego Bay. Snoop Dogg and Ja Rule will be asked to appear in a magistrate's court on Sep. 27 to face the profanity charges, according to a statement from police in Montego Bay, 125 miles northwest of Kingston. Police could not immediately say what the maximum penalty was for the charges. The summons will be served to their agents in Jamaica, since the two performers already left for the United States, police said. Snoop Dogg performed on Aug. 4 and Ja Rule the next day. Grammy-winning reggae performer Beenie Man also was charged with profanity for his performance in the trouble-plagued Sumfest and summoned to appear in court Sep. 27. Beenie Man won the best reggae album Grammy this year for "Art and Life."

SEAN "PUFFY" COMBS, DAVID BOWIE REMAKE 'AMERICA' SONG

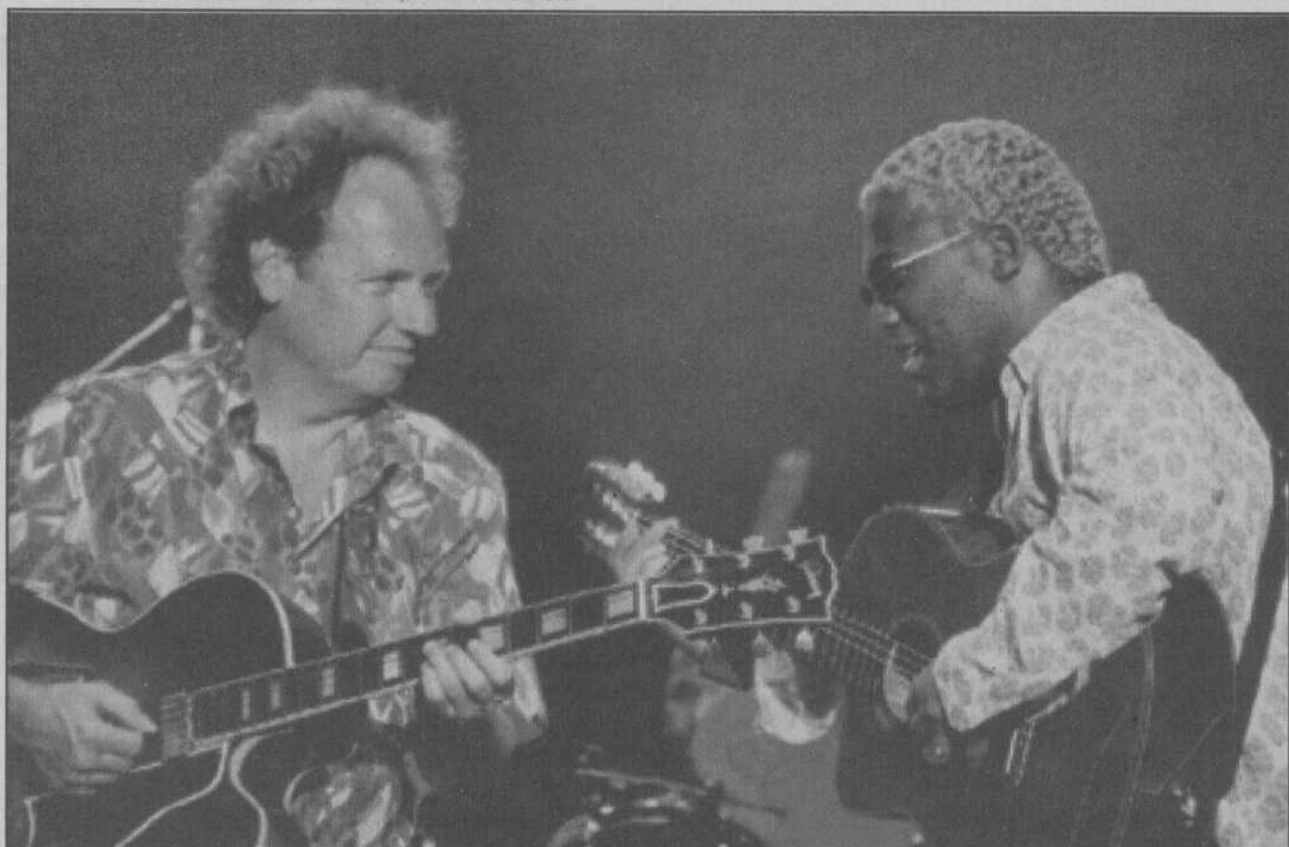
NEW YORK (AP) — David Bowie and Sean "Puffy" Combs are working together on a remake of Bowie's song, "This Is Not America." The song, retitled "American Dream," will be on the soundtrack of the new film "Training Day," starring Denzel Washington and Ethan Hawke. The movie is scheduled for release on Sept. 21. Bowie told Associated Press Television News that he wanted to see the film before making a commitment. After he saw it, he was ready. Combs describes the song as having "a techno, hip-hop funk-type feel" with Bowie bringing in some soul-rock.

BILL COSBY GIVES ADVICE AND WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO EDUCATORS

DENVER (AP) — Bill Cosby had words of encouragement and advice for Colorado educators. "You happen to be that which makes the world go around," Cosby told more than 900 teachers, principals and superintendents who gathered at the Adam's Mark hotel last week. Cosby, 64, honored his sixth-grade teacher, Mary Forchic, at the inaugural fund-raiser for the Thank-a-Teacher education scholarships. The University of Colorado-Denver School of Education sponsored the banquet, which kicked off a new university program that allows people to post tributes to teachers on its Web site in exchange for a \$100 donation. Proceeds will be used for teacher-education scholarships at the university and, later, at other schools. Cosby saluted Forchic, who taught him at Philadelphia's Wister Elementary School, for steering him to the stage. The comedian said he and Forchic, who later married and became Mary Forchic Nagle, kept in touch until she died several years ago. "I didn't realize until much later what an enormous impact she had in my life," he said. "I just loved her so much."

MEKHI PHIFER LIKES ROLE IN LATEST MOVIE, 'O' — AS IN 'OTHELLO'

NEW YORK (AP) — Mekhi Phifer is Odin James in the new movie "O" — as in "Othello" — making the 26-year-old the latest young actor to bring a complex Shakespearean character into modern times. Phifer knew "Othello" because it was required reading in high school. At the time he of course had no idea he would play the lead, or that he'd even be an actor. Now he sees it as "a dream role — especially as an African-American actor being allowed to do a full range of emotions as a real person instead of a stereotypical 'black' character." Phifer, a native New Yorker who lives in Los Angeles, wants to break stereotypes. Not being pigeonholed is what will ensure his longevity in Hollywood, he says. He says he weighs carefully the characters he plays — including parts in the upcoming sci-fi action film "Impostor," the remake of the 1971 James Caan-Billy Dee Williams made-for-TV movie "Brian's Song" and "Paid in Full" about Harlem gangsters — to make sure they show his range.



Dueling guitarists Lee Ritenour (left) and South African Jonathan Butler pluck a Bob Marley tune.

Ritenour and friends fill the night

By Nyla Pickett
Sentinel-Voice

So, if you propose to do any kind of tribute to the legendary Bob Marley, you'd want to have a cast of super music heroes in tow.

Lee Ritenour certainly did cover his bases recently with a merry band of get-down-and-around jazz greats, all present to pay homage to The Visionary, The Poet...The Great Bob Marley.

The setting of Sunset Station's outdoor amphitheatre gave the evening a feeling of festival, ambiance that coupled well with the stylings of Patti Austin, Gerald Albright and Jonathan Butler — an interesting mixture of contemporary jazz and R&B in the midst of cuts like "No Woman..." and "I Shot The Sheriff."

Ritenour's attempt to set boom-bastic irie to the scat of the ivories was somewhat muffled and, overall, not a very successful translation, having no effect at all on the outstanding performances of all artists in attendance.

Actually, Patti's vocals and Ritenour's uniquely melodic strumming led the tribute vision down the righteous path, as Bob would have so profoundly put it, with their rendition of "No Woman, No Cry."

The two coupled, with Ritenour taking lead vocal/guitar and Patti carrying a sweet undertone in line with her incredible range from deep bass to the soprano-like scat she readily applies at the right time. This piece,



Jazz saxophonist Gerald Albright (left) jams and Patti Austin scats in a tribute to reggae king Bob Marley under the stars at the Sunset Station Amphitheatre in Henderson.

Sentinel-Voice photos by Joyce Hudson

along with Gerald and Butler joining in on "I Shot The Sheriff," was certainly the closest "Twist of Marley" comes to the reggae feel of the true tunes, whereas other cuts, like "Stir It Up," seemed to get lost in the free spirit of live jazz.

Alas, this was neither here nor there if one was present to enjoy the performance of the dynamic band while honoring the effort and respect given to the project itself.

Notwithstanding drummer Will Kennedy — whom one could only call "down-right mean," keeping the entire set crisp and crystal clear — and bass player Melvin Davis, who literally thumped out the bass line, the night of tribute included solo performances

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