

## Entertainment Briefs

### DR. DRE GIVES \$1 MILLION TO AMERICAN RED CROSS RELIEF FUND

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rapper-producer Dr. Dre contributed \$1 million to Los Angeles radio station KPWR-FM's fund-raising campaign for the victims of last week's terrorist attacks. The station is hoping to raise \$1.6 million for the American Red Cross. The 36-year-old rapper made the donation last Monday. Other stars who are donating to relief efforts include Britney Spears and Jim Carrey.

### DENNIS RODMAN CHARGED IN BOAT INCIDENT

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif.- Dennis Rodman has been charged with three misdemeanors for allegedly speeding through Newport Harbor in his 47-foot boat. The former NBA star was cited on Aug. 3 for speeding in his boat, Sexual Chocolate, after the Orange County Sheriff's Department said its Harbor Patrol clocked him doing more than 20 mph in a 5 mph zone. Rodman was cited and released after docking the boat at Josh Slocum's, a restaurant he co-owns. He was charged on Monday and scheduled to appear in court Wednesday, but prosecutors said they plan to ask the judge to hear the speeding case and another one pending against Rodman next month. Rodman is set to return to court on Oct. 1 for allegedly making too much noise during a 40th birthday party at his Newport Beach home in May. Conviction on the noise charges including disturbing the peace and two counts of illegally using sound amplification equipment, could bring him another 18 months in jail and a \$3,000 fine.

### AL ROKER: STILL LOOPHOLES IN AIRPORT SECURITY

WARREN, Ohio (AP) - TV weatherman Al Roker found that airport security might not be as complete as it could be. Appearing in Warren for a lecture Wednesday, Roker said his trip through security at New York's LaGuardia Airport was "just shy of a full body cavity search." Security officials took away a disposable razor and batteries that Roker had packed - and then he went into an airport store and was able to buy the same items. He took them back to the officials. "I wasn't trying to be a wise guy," Roker said. "Obviously, we haven't closed all the security loopholes."

### WHITNEY HOUSTON'S ANTHEM VERSION RE-RELEASED

NEW YORK (AP) — Arista Records is rereleasing Whitney Houston's soaring version of "The Star-Spangled Banner," which became a unifying song for Americans during the Gulf War, in response to last week's terrorists attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania. Houston performed the song at Super Bowl XXV on Jan. 27, 1991, when the United States was at war with Iraq. Her rendition brought many to tears. The single already is on the radio, and Arista hopes to have it in record stores by next week, spokeswoman Laura Swanson said. "I think that it's something that helps pull us together and brings us together as a nation," Arista president Antonio "L.A." Reid told The Associated Press on Monday. "It was one way for us for us at Arista to say, 'Hey, we're here to help.'" Proceeds from the sale of the commercial single CD will benefit the New York Firefighters Disaster Relief Fund and the New York Fraternal Order of Police.

### CAT STEVENS DENIES ASSOCIATION TO MILITANT TIES

PARIS (AP) - Yusuf Islam, formerly known as pop singer Cat Stevens, is denying rumors that he is associated with a militant Muslim group in Britain. "Like most Muslims all over the world, I want to state without reservation that massacres like those committed in the United States ... have nothing to do with Islam or with the beliefs of most Muslims," he said in a letter published Thursday in the French newspaper Le Figaro. The former pop singer said he'd heard that French television linked his name with a hard-line, British-based Muslim activist, Sheikh Omar Bakri Mohammed. "Under the present circumstances, I think it's essential to set things straight," he wrote, alluding to last week's suicide hijacking attacks in the United States. Islam, who changed his name after converting to the religion in the late 1970s, cautioned against violent counterattacks to retaliate for the terrorist hijackings, saying that "this situation must not be exacerbated by reprisals on even more families and innocent communities."

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Carey makes film debut in sappy songfest

By Kam Williams

### Special to Sentinel-Voice

It's not fair to hit a girl, when she's down, but Mariah Carey is gonna take a few kicks to those big fake choppers for her big screen debut in *Glitter*, an unabashedly vacuous, vanity vehicle. This thinly-veiled, fictionalized account of the singing sensation's own rise, is little more than the cinematic equivalent of a fan club magazine. Romanticized and oversimplified to the point of insult, the film will only find an audience in that loyal legion of pre-teen following Mariah appropriately refers to as her 'Lambs'.

The release of *Glitter* had been delayed several weeks due to fallout from the recent well-publicized emotional and physical breakdown which left the distraught diva institutionalized and under constant psychiatric care this summer. Prior to being rushed to the hospital amid rumors which ranged from plate smashing to suicide attempts, it seems that Mariah had become a bit of a loose cannon.

Her bottoming-out followed reports of such bizarre behavior as a surprise striptease on MTV's Total Request Live and an impromptu parking lot press conference where a publicist had to cover her mouth. Suffering from what her spokeswoman described as 'extreme exhaustion', Mariah disappeared and had to cancel all of her sched-



Mariah Carey makes her big screen debut in *Glitter*.

uled appearances to recuperate.

Apparently, the 31 year-old singer's share of personal woes, which culminated in commitment, began in the wake of the quickie divorce the diva obtained in the Dominican Republic, a good place to get any official-looking documents on short notice, as Danny Almonte can attest to. So, Carey split from Tommy Mottola, the Sony CEO & Svengali responsible for his considerably younger bride's makeover into a pop

icon.

Unfortunately, *Glitter*, more fairytale than factual, bears no resemblance to the tabloidal events in Mariah's everyday life. Who cares about the idyllic, make-believe, rags-to-riches, happily-ever-after love story up on the screen, when her real biography is so much more compelling?

Ms Carey's actual father was a very respectable Venezuelan aeronautical engineer. Her Irish mom was an opera singer who was dis-

owned by her family for marrying a black man. The couple's marriage crumbled when Mariah was three under the strain of all the bigotry they encountered, such as having a dog poisoned and a car sabotaged. The gifted Mariah was then raised by a pushy stage mom who simultaneously served as a vocal coach during her daughter's push up the show-biz ladder.

With the story tweaked somewhat for the sake of sentimentality, Carey appears in *Glitter* as little orphan Billie, abandoned by her now white, deadbeat dad ("I told you never to come by here.") and seized as a ward of New York State from her now black, alcoholic mother. In a blink of her press-on eyelashes, Billie sings her way out of the orphanage and signs on with Dice (Max Beesly), the cute, charismatic music producer who is fated, a little too obviously, to put Billie's name up in lights and to become her lover as well.

So we're only five minutes in, and most of the mystery is already gone. All that's left is to sit through about two hours of Mariah's brain-numbing caterwaul as she overcomes every adversity before the pair finally saunters off into the sunset. The only time the audience applauded was the moment when the twin World Trade Center towers appeared onscreen.

(See *Glitter*, Page 11)

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