

Entertainment Briefs

R. KELLY'S NEW ALBUM AT TOP OF CHARTS

NEW YORK (AP) - R. Kelly's new album has debuted at the top of the charts despite child pornography charges against him. Kelly's disc "Chocolate Factory" sold about 532,000 copies for the week ending Sunday, according to industry figures released on Wednesday. It's the R&B singer's first disc since his arrest last year for allegedly videotaping himself having sex with an underage girl. Kelly has denied the charges, and they haven't hindered his popularity so far; the first single from the album, "Ignition," is at No. 12 on the Billboard charts. "Chocolate Factory" is Kelly's third album to debut at No. 1, according to his label, Jive Records. Kelly knocked rapper 50 Cent out of the top spot. Although 50 Cent's album "Get Rich or Die Tryin'" is no longer No. 1, it still managed to sell 520,000 copies in just its second full week of release; it's sold 2.2 million copies within three weeks.

RAPPER KEITH MURRAY'S TOUR BUS FLIPS OVER

NEW YORK (AP) - Rapper Keith Murray, best known for his hit "The Most Beautiful Thing in This World," suffered minor injuries Thursday after his tour bus flipped over twice and hit several cars on a North Carolina highway, his publicist said. The bus flipped over, hit a guardrail and struck other vehicles after the driver attempted to avoid another accident on I-85 near Durham Thursday morning, Murray's publicist, said. Cara Donatto, a publicist at Murray's label, Def Jam Records. Murray, the driver and another passenger on the bus were taken to Maria Parham Hospital in nearby Henderson, where they were treated for minor injuries, she said. Murray was on a promotional tour for his disc, "He's Keith Murray," which will be released next month. It's the rapper's first album since he was released from a halfway house in 2001 after serving three years in prison. Murray was convicted in 1996 of bashing a teenage fan in the head with a barstool during a 1995 club brawl; he was sentenced to three years in prison in 1998.

SEAN "P. DIDDY" COMBS PLANS TO OPEN DETROIT EATERY

DETROIT (AP) - Sean "P. Diddy" Combs plans to open a restaurant in downtown Detroit, an associate of the hip-hop entrepreneur said. The Justin's restaurant will open in four to eight months at a location yet to be determined, said Andre Suite, executive vice president of Justin's. Combs will have the final word on the location, he said. We want to be right where the rebirth is - one of the attractions in the downtown area," Suite said. There already are two Justin's, the original in New York and another in Atlanta. The restaurants, which offer soul and Caribbean food, are named after Combs' oldest son. Besides the restaurants, Combs owns the Bad Boy record label, the Sean John clothing line and a market research company. Fortune magazine once estimated the Grammy-winning performer's annual earnings at more than \$50 million. Sean John did a reported \$325 million in sales in 2002.

BLUES LEGEND BO DIDDLEY DISSES RAP MUSIC

DUNNELLON, Fla. (AP) - Bo Diddley is no fan of rap music. The 74-year-old bluesman says rap "is not a thing that's going to last as long as I have." "First of all, you can't understand what it is and it has no meaning," Diddley told an audience Thursday at Dunnellon High School. Dunnellon is about 35 miles from Diddley's home in Archer, near Gainesville in north Florida. "The lyrics are very disgusting because you are a person, and a person deserves respect," he said. "I have daughters, my mother was a woman, and I don't like what I'm hearing." Diddley traded jokes, gave advice, jammed and recruited some new fans from a teenage audience not familiar with him or his hits such as "Bo Diddley," "I'm a Man" and "You Can't Judge a Book by Its Cover." He suggested students discover their talents and use them to earn a living and stressed the importance of hard work. "You've got to hustle, man," he said. "There's a legal way to hustle." Diddley also performed his own style of "clean" rap: "Some folks say old Bo Diddley can't rap. I'm Bo Diddley and I ain't taking no rap."

ENTERTAINMENT

Dance show moving tour of black music

By Alexis Thorton

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The Lula Washington Dance Theatre brought the people and rhythms of Africa to Artemis Ham Hall last weekend, with a vibrant and expressive performance of inspirational movement and visual poetry.

Accented with striking music and spoken word, the troupe of dancers carried the audience from Africa to America with performances that combined jazz with modern dance, and the sounds and feelings of Africa with the beats and sentiment of America.

Lula Washington's opening piece, entitled "African Ukumbusho (African Memories)" celebrated Africa and its people by depicting several facets of life ranging from the strong bonds of community that are native to life on the continent, to the seeming isolation of a warrior in the jungle.

In one section of the suite, the male dancers of the group utilized modern dance and the spoken word to tell the story of the gold mine workers of South Africa who are taken away from their families to work in the caustic mines for up to eight months. As the men exited the stage they chanted, "Don't forget, pass it on," speaking to the underlying community that has survived, despite the industrial and commercial exploitation that many Africans have experienced over hundreds of years.

The women of West Africa were paid homage to in two pieces. The first, performed by soloist Nicole Smith, expressed the joys, beauty and often-troubled lives that they lead in the often-turbulent societies of Africa. Most noteworthy of all was a piece entitled "Om," depicting the controversial ritual of female circumcision. Like the other pieces, where

a sense of community was conveyed by the dancers, the piece moved around a family passing their daughter over to the traumatic experience, left to be "marked" by the event.

Coupled with the occasionally jarring music of John Coltrane, the fear that a young girl experiences, because of tradition, was conveyed. The mother character was torn between the instincts to protect her daughter from what she knows is a horrific experience and the need to act as a member of the community.

By exploring the efforts of the community to turn the agonizing experience into a rite of passage, Washington metaphorically referenced the flaws in adhering to what is considered the "norm" in one's community of friends and peers.

The final section, "Urban Themes," focused on the turbulent life of Tupac Shakur. By paring the hip-hop move-

ments of the dancers with the rapper's music, Washington found inspiration in Shakur's music because of his poetic descriptions of the good and bad that came with his urban upbringing in Los Angeles. "I decided to focus on Tupac because, to me, he is ... a voice of our times. I also like the urban themes — the real life issues that he faced and rapped about as he fought to survive in this day and age."

The piece conveyed the beauty that exists under the controversy and pain that is so synonymous with the slain singer's life and accentuated his affective use of words.

Although the performance lost momentum with the pieces depicting black-American pop culture, as well as the sections addressing Lula Washington's childhood in Arkansas, overall the dance was a great expression of black and African life and the way it has influenced the global community.

Naomi Campbell granted newspaper appeal

LONDON (AP) - The House of Lords has agreed to hear an appeal from supermodel Naomi Campbell in her legal battle with a British newspaper over its reporting about her alleged drug problem. The 32-year-old British model strongly objected to a February 2001 article in the Daily Mirror newspaper that reported her alleged drug addiction and included a photograph of her leaving a Narcotics Anonymous meeting in London.

The High Court upheld her claim of a breach of confidentiality, awarded her \$5,530 in damages and ordered the Daily Mirror to pay her legal costs. But the newspaper took the case to the Court of Appeal, which reversed the judgment.

The Law Lords, who serve as Britain's highest appeal court, said Thursday that Campbell could challenge that ruling.

No date has been set for the appeal.

"Ms. Campbell is delighted with the House of Lords' decision," said Schilling & Lom, the law firm representing her.

The Daily Mirror said in a statement it was disappointed with the decision, "but we look forward to asking their lordships to uphold the decision of the Court of Appeal."

Campbell has claimed that she felt "shocked, angry, be-

trayed and violated" by the article. But the Court of Ap-

peal said she had lied by say-

ing that, unlike other models, she did not take drugs, stimulants or tranquilizers.

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