

## Gunman fires at Tha Row Records offices in L.A.

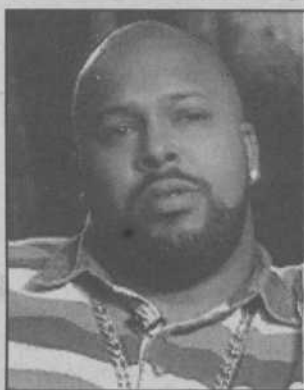
LOS ANGELES (AP) - Rap impresario Suge Knight believes a "jealous boyfriend or a jealous husband" probably fired the seven bullets that smashed through the windows and front door of his Tha Row Records offices last Tuesday.

No one was injured by the gunfire, which erupted about 2:30 a.m., said Officer Jack Richter, a police spokesman.

Police didn't know of a motive or suspect, Richter said, but Knight issued a statement offering his own theory for the gunfire at the company formerly known as Death Row Records.

"The crime was probably committed by a jealous boyfriend or a jealous husband," Knight said.

"We've got a lot of artists like Crooked I, Eastwood and Kurupt that are currently working on new albums. And because of the hype and media attention associated with



*"The crime was probably committed by a jealous boyfriend or a jealous husband."*

— Suge Knight

these two projects, there have been a lot of girls flocking to them at the studio and at the clubs," he said.

Knight, 38, was jailed earlier this year for allegedly violating terms of his parole.

He was sentenced to probation in 1992 after pleading no contest to two counts of assault stemming from an attack on two rappers at a Hollywood recording studio. He was found to have violated that probation when he was involved in a fight at a Las

Vegas hotel in 1996, hours before Tupac Shakur was shot to death while riding in Knight's car.

He served nearly five years in prison on assault and other charges before being released in 2001, then was sent to jail last year for allegedly violating the terms of his parole by associating with gang members. He was released in February and ordered to perform 200 hours of community service aimed at persuading children to avoid gangs.

## Isaac Hayes' songs back in new edition of concert film 'Wattstax'

LOS ANGELES (AP) - To paraphrase his hit song "Shaft" - who's the soul singer with two songs restored to the concert film "Wattstax"?

Hayes. Isaac Hayes.

His performances of "Theme From 'Shaft'" and "Soulsville" were eliminated from the final version of "Wattstax" in 1973 due to a copyright dispute. But the finale footage has been replaced for a 30th-anniversary version, which is set for a limited theatrical run starting June 6.

The film was originally billed as the "Black Woodstock," edited from a seven-hour con-

cert for the benefit of the Watts Summer Festival held at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum in August 1972. More than 110,000 people were in attendance, according to the movie's producers.

Other artists who performed were the Staple Sisters, the Bar-Kays, Albert King and Rufus Thomas.

"Wattstax," which celebrated the music of Stax Records, features concert footage interspersed with commentary from comedian Richard Pryor.

"Wattstax: The Special Edition" will also feature remastered picture and sound.

## Russell Simmons meets Gov. George Pataki

NEW YORK (AP) - Hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons met with Gov. George Pataki to discuss revising the state's drug laws.

The two-hour meeting Monday took place as indications point toward a relaxing of the laws, which have been criticized as unfair.

Simmons has held a series of rallies in recent weeks to address the issue and has enlisted popular rap stars including Sean "P. Diddy" Combs to support his position. He planned to go to Albany Tuesday to meet with legislators to advocate changes in the drug laws, The New York Times reported.

Pataki, Senate Republicans and Assembly Democrats have agreed that the sentences mandated by law are too harsh, but they haven't come to an agreement on whose voice should be stron-



RUSSELL SIMMONS

gest in the sentencing.

The governor and Senate Republicans would let prosecutors decide, but Assembly Democrats think judges should have the power.

After the meeting, Simmons said Pataki seemed "anxious to get this thing done, as far as we can tell," and that the governor is "very aware of the unfair aspects of the law."

## Rebirth

(Continued from Page 7) said.

Shary was curious at the idea of a film being remixed, but expressed a cautionary note as well.

"If you take a lot of scenes out of that film out of context, they do play very violently and they generate a lot of vehement reactions," he said, adding it could create misinterpretations of the originator's intent.

However, Shary said, "if you are very thoughtful about it, you will extract even more meaning from it."

## Pioneering black prima ballerina dies, was 86

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) - Janet Collins, the first black prima ballerina to appear at the Metropolitan Opera and one of a few black women to become prominent in American classical ballet, has died at age 86.

Collins died Wednesday in Fort Worth.

In 1951, Collins performed lead roles in "Aida," "Carmen," and danced in "La Gioconda" and "Samson and Delilah" at the Met in New York City. That was four years before Marian Anderson made her historic debut as the first black to sing a principal role at the Met.

In a 2000 interview with the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Collins recalled she was not allowed to tour with the company during the off-season because she could not perform onstage with white dancers in the South.

"What she did by dancing the way she did to be prima ballerina at the Metropolitan Opera House gave everybody hope," dancer and painter Geoffrey Holder told The New York Times for Saturday editions.

Collins left the Met in 1954. During the 1950s, she toured with her own dance group throughout the United States and Canada and taught. She also danced in films - the 1943 film musical "Stormy Weather" and the 1946 film "The Thrill of Brazil."

The Alvin Ailey American Dance The-



JANET COLLINS

ater in 1974 paid homage to Collins and Pearl Primus as pioneering black women in dance.

Collins was born in New Orleans and moved to California with her parents as a young girl. She moved to New York in 1949, winning the lead dance role in Cole Porter's Broadway musical "Out of This World" in 1950.

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