

Entertainment Briefs

RAPPER LOON NABBED IN CONNECTION WITH L.A. STABBING

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A rapper and two other men were arrested in connection with the stabbing of a security guard outside a nightclub, authorities said. Rapper Loon was arrested and booked Friday for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon. He posted \$1 million bail and awaits arraignment. The 28-year-old Loon, whose real name is Chauncey Hawkins, signed on P. Diddy's Bad Boy label and has recorded songs with Jamie Foxx, Omarion and Lil Vicious. His first album was the eponymously titled Loon. Two acquaintances, William Reyes, 22, and Teon Tanqueray, 26, also were arrested and booked for investigation of murder. They are being held on \$1 million bail, according to the Los Angeles County sheriff's Web site. Authorities said the security guard was stabbed early Friday outside the House of Blues in West Hollywood after he refused to let the three men into a party for Lil Jon & the East Side Boyz. The guard was taken to a hospital and his injuries were not considered life-threatening, authorities said.

SINGER ERYKAH BADU DOESN'T LIKE 'NEO-SOUL' LABEL

DENVER (AP) - Singer Erykah Badu might be credited with starting music's neo-soul movement, but she really doesn't like the term. "Neo-soul is just another label," she told the Denver Post in Sunday's editions. "We don't make up those labels. Who knows where they come from? Probably from somebody who can make money by boxing it and selling it." Many credit Badu's award-winning, chart-topping, five-time platinum 1997 debut album "Baduizm" for helping spark the neo-soul movement. She just wants to be known for making good music. "Hip-hop is not something we do, it's something we live," she said. "It's the way we dress, the way we talk... everybody bobbing to the same beat. It's a culture, and you have to find your own place in that culture. Top 10 or Top 40 can't dictate that. They can only dictate what's marketable." Badu, born Erica Wright, followed up "Baduizm" with the Grammy-winning album, "Mama's Gun," and her most recent CD is titled "Worldwide Underground."

B.B. KING BRINGS THE BLUES TO THE PEOPLE

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) - Guitarist B.B. King says blues music doesn't get much airplay on radio stations, so he continues to bring it to the people with 200 shows a year. "My fun is usually nights on stage, watching the people," said King, 78. "I pay attention to them and how they respond to the music. That's my biggest fun when I see the people out there enjoying themselves." King performed at the Shrine Auditorium there last week. He says he doesn't think his voice sounds very good. "Nobody sounds as terrible as I do," he said in a telephone interview from Jackson, Wyo. "Some people warm up before a show, but I never have. I get scared before I go on stage. I'm just a regular old guy." King, married twice and now divorced, has 14 living children, two of whom help manage his shows. He said his wish for his children is a good education. "I didn't finish high school, only went through the 10th grade," he said. "There is never a day that comes up that I don't regret not finishing school."

BOBBY BROWN JAILED IN PROBATION VIOLATION

DECATUR, Ga. (AP) - Singer Bobby Brown is back in jail for violating his probation on a prior drunken driving conviction. Brown, 35, was being held Saturday without bond at the DeKalb County Jail, sheriff's spokeswoman Mikki Jones said. He was taken into custody after appearing before a judge Friday, but officials could not confirm exactly what Brown had done to violate his probation. The judge's ruling may have been related to Brown's charge of misdemeanor battery in December, following an argument with his wife, singer Whitney Houston. A preliminary hearing in that case was set for May 5. Brown left the R&B group New Edition in the late 1980s for a solo career. He has been on probation since January 2003, when he was convicted of a 1996 drunken driving incident. Brown had been ordered to remain on probation until Feb. 17, 2005. Brown's hits include "My Prerogative" and "Every Little Step."

Report: Turner to star in Indian film

BOMBAY, India (AP) - Tina Turner will play an Indian goddess in a new Merchant-Ivory film and sing Indian classical songs, a newspaper report said recently.

Turner, who had a successful farewell tour four years ago, said she'd enjoyed being able to fill stadiums, "but now I'm ready to move onto another kind of performance," she told The Times of India newspaper.

Famous for power-packed performances in high heels and leather mini-skirts, the 64-year-old singer will star in "The Goddess," the newspaper reported.

"I think Ismail (Merchant) chose me because of my shakti (strength) within," said Turner, who is a Buddhist. "I'm special in that I've had a long run and I'm still here."



TINA TURNER

Merchant, a producer known for making lush period films with director James Ivory, said Turner had spent two weeks in India and had been practicing classical music with Zakir Hussain, India's maestro of the tabla, a small set of drums. "She'll have to sing in Latin and Sanskrit for the film," he said.

Turner, who co-starred with Mel Gibson in 1985's "Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome," said she's looking forward to the new role, "not as Mad Max, but as a goddess - that's real power and real love."

But if she wanted, she insisted, she'd be able to keep up with the new generation of pop singers.

"I can stand with any of them on stage and hold my own," said Turner. "I am still in the playground."

Trumpet Awards

(Continued from Page 3) program is being broadcast to more than 100 countries and people will be able to see positive images of African-Americans.

"Hollywood and the music industry has dishonored our culture and our young people by creating images of us being gang members, drug dealers, thugs, rapists, scaring people abroad and telling them to stay away from us," Tucker said. "This is a different message going to other countries about who we are. We are descendants of kings and queens of Africa. They (the world) still are trying to find out how we built the pyramids without Silicon Valley."

Hayes agreed about media exploitation and poor depiction of African-American entertainers.

"Don't allow that kind of stuff, that garbage to deter you from being the best that you can be, and keep your head up high," he said. "All type of missiles are thrown at you to make you weak and succumb to all this criticism, but you still got to be strong."

Tucker's message for Black people also includes self-reliance.

"We are responsible for our own situation, not other people," she said. "When I was former secretary of state in Pennsylvania and chief of elections, I introduced voter registration by mail and reduced the voting age from 21 to 18. If we vote, we win. We have got the power and we need to use it."

Ward, presented with the Civil Rights Trumpet, has a long history of fighting wrong.

"I feel that this is one of the highest honors that someone can get representing black achievers and recognizing my efforts over the years in de-



Sentinel-Voice photo by Huel Washington

Judge Mablean Ephriam (left) and actress Olivia Brown were among the celebrants at the anniversary party held at Fitzgeralds Casino in Las Vegas, where guests also viewed the Trumpet Awards. The annual ceremony honors African-Americans who've made contributions to society.

segregating the University of Georgia, becoming a civil rights lawyer, state senator, state court judge and a federal judge," he said.

"This is the 50th anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education. Brown has not been fully implemented. Its been implemented as a loss for African-American students. The public schools today look as segregated as they did before Brown, but not

segregated the same way. During Brown, it was by law and now it's because of other circumstances. The future is that we have to continue to struggle and in a political year such as this we have to get out and vote to make a difference."

Gregory is still crusading on several fronts.

"I am starting a fast and a prayer vigil on Ash Wednesday and I will never eat no

more solid food in life until we get a federal law to put a handle on police brutality," he said.

"That's the number one problem confronting Black people in America."

He has empathy for veterans.

"I detest war," Gregory said. "Once you tricked your boys into fighting overseas, you should treat them right when they return home. So, when I think about all of the soldiers who went overseas, so many of them are now homeless. My prayer vigil is to see that they are treated well. Also, I will not eat any solid food until homeland security laws are dismantled. I hope that people across American will join me in prayer each day at noon until we change the way things are now."

The four-day celebration also included educational achievements of Booker Elementary School students, an art exhibitions, soul food entrées and the "United We Funk" concert, starring ConfunkShun, the Dazz Band and Midnight Star.

Following the awards telecast, singer Howard Hewitt provided entertainment.

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