

Entertainment Briefs

JUDGE DISMISSED CHARGES AGAINST RAPPER LOON

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) - A judge has dismissed assault charges against rapper Loon, who was arrested in February after a security guard was stabbed outside a nightclub. Superior Court Judge Richard Stone dismissed the case against the rapper, whose real name is Chauncey Hawkins, at a preliminary hearing. District attorney's office spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons said neither the victim nor a witness could identify the attacker. Hawkins, 29, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon following the incident outside the House of Blues in West Hollywood. He posted \$1 million bail. Loon is signed on P. Diddy's Bad Boy label and released his first album, "Loon," last year. Also dismissed Wednesday were assault charges against two acquaintances, William Reyes, 23, and Teon Tanqueray, 27. Authorities said the 32-year-old security guard was wounded Feb. 13 after he refused to let the three men into a party for Lil Jon & the East Side Boyz.

WEST LEADS WITH SEVEN SOURCE AWARD NOMINATIONS

NEW YORK (AP) - Rapper-producer Kanye West received a leading seven Source Hip-Hop Music Awards nominations, while Ludacris got six. West's nominations included best album, video, lyricist and producer of the year. Jay-Z, Ludacris, Lil Flip, Twista and Juvenile will battle for male artist of the year while Youngbloodz, Ying Yang Twins, 8Ball and MJG, Westside Connection and OutKast duke it for group of the year. The Source Awards will be handed out Oct. 10 in Miami, as they have been since 2001. David Mays, The Source magazine's co-owner, also is planning a political rally during the Source Awards weekend which will go beyond just asking people to vote. "The hip-hop community and media coverage has surrounded this simple concept of people voting," Mays told The Associated Press. Mays is inviting the Bush and Kerry daughters - who appeared at the recent MTV Video Music Awards - as well as a boatload of celebs and political types to debate the issues during the rally. "If you want us to vote, you've got to address these issues," Mays declared. The Source Awards will air Nov. 30 on BET.

P. DIDDY PUTTING TOGETHER ALL-WOMAN 'BAND'

NEW YORK (AP) - P. Diddy is back to "Making the Band" — this time, with all women. For three seasons, P. Diddy (aka Sean Combs) developed the now disbanded hip-hop ensemble Da Band in the show's second incarnation. During the first season of "Making the Band 2," Puffy and his Bad Boy Entertainment team searched the country to construct the music group while the second and third seasons chronicled Da Band on the road and in the studio. But Da Band received da ax at the end of the third season when P. Diddy disbanded the group. "We watched P. Diddy work magic with his last group Da Band, who despite their issues working together, still managed to take their very first album gold," said MTV Series Entertainment Executive Vice President Lois Curren. "We can't wait to see what he has in store for us as he forms a girl group in a whole new music genre." Auditions for singers and musicians for the as-yet-unnamed group are scheduled for the first two weeks in October in Los Angeles, Miami and New York City. The third installment of "Making the Band" will premiere next year.

BEYONCE CLOTHING LINE EXPECTED OUT IN 2005

NEW YORK (AP) - While models strut their way down the catwalk at New York Fashion Week, a new star has announced her "bootylicious" arrival on the fashion scene: Beyonce. The singer and her mother, Tina Knowles, announced last week the birth of their new clothing line, to be called "The House of Dereon." The line is named after Beyonce's grandmother, Agnes Dereon, whose work as a skilled seamstress inspired the two generations of stylish women. "To me, this is the greatest way to enter into the fashion world," Beyonce said in a statement. "Inspired by my grandmother, working with my mother and pursuing a dream we have all had for many years — establishing an important fashion company." The trademark for the line will be "Couture. Kick. Soul." It will be produced by the Knowles' company, Beyond Productions, and is expected to hit stores in fall 2005.

ENTERTAINMENT

Baseball film lets Mac stretch his chops

By Kam Williams  
Sentinel-Voice

Born Bernard Jeffrey McCullough in Chicago in 1958, Bernie Mac started his career as a teenager, performing on the streets of the "Windy City." From there he worked his way onto the chitlin' circuit of clubs catering to predominantly Black audiences. After years of developing a faithful following, the colorful comic finally garnered the wide recognition he deserved in 2000 as one of the Original Kings of Comedy.

After that hit tour of concerts was turned into a concert film, Bernie Mac landed his own sitcom on Fox and his became a household name. On the big screen, he's since appeared in Head of State, Ocean's 11, Bad Santa and even played Bosley in Charlie's Angels 2. Recently, he talked with me about his first title role as Mr. 3000, a major league baseball player who unexpectedly has to come out of retirement in order to achieve Hall of Fame



Bernie Mac and Angela Bassett star in "Mr. 3000." Mac did the film to change perceptions of his acting ability.

status.

KW: What's happening, Bernie?

BM: "I just got out of the hospital with pneumonia. I was doing two movies, The Dinner Party and Ocean's Twelve, and making a commercial at the same time, and that's how I caught pneumonia, I guess."

KW: How was the set of Ocean's Twelve?

BM: "I won't say nothing but it was the best shoot I've ever been on. It was a stone cold blast."

KW: So, Clooney and company really know how to party?

BM: "Let me tell you something, that's the new Rat Pack. I mean, we had a ball all damn day. I really don't like to compare anything, but those guys are great guys from a peoples perspective, George, Don [Cheadle], Scott [Caan], Brad [Pitt]..."

KW: Tell me about this flick, Mr. 3000, and the character you play, Stan Ross.

BM: "He's an asshole."

KW: Who is he modeled after?

BM: "I used my brother, though I used the swing with the slap of Roberto Clemente, my favorite, and the swagger and shake of Rod Carew. But Stan Ross was my brother, the most arrogant, self-centered son of a bitch you ever want to meet in your life. He hasn't seem it yet, so you pray for me, because there's gonna be some stuff."

KW: Did he ever play baseball?

BM: "He was a helluva baseball player. My brother should've been playing pro, but he didn't have the discipline or the drive. He was a dynamic, Tommie Agee type player with range, speed, agility and power. Lou Brock got him into the St. Louis farm system, but his head got as big as the room."

KW: Did you learn from his mistakes?

BM: "Yeah, I came from a large household, and being last gave me an opportunity to watch and to reflect. I saw all the lack of appreciation and took notes. We live in a microwave society where everybody wants what somebody else got, and they want it quick. I didn't want to be that. Don't nobody owe me nothing. Don't nobody have to give me nothing."

KW: Well, you've cer-

tainly paid your dues on your way to starring in your first title role as Mr. 3000.

BM: "This is my first film as a leading man. I don't believe in no stars. Stars fall. I'm an entertainer. I'm just an ordinary man with an extraordinary job."

KW: Why did you decide to make this movie?

BM: "I didn't want to make a buffoonish film, or an over-the-top or under-the-bottom film. I wanted to make you laugh, cry, think and sit there and say, 'I didn't know Bernie could do that.' And I didn't want a Hollywood ending. Charles [director Charles Stone III] and I talked and we were on the same page. And I said, 'Now Charles, when we go to shoot, don't trip on me, because I'm not going to do it.' I want to entertain you, and I want to do this for a long time."

KW: How do you find time to meet the competing demands of your TV show, movie schedule, commercials, stand-up dates and other appearances?

BM: "I love work. I ain't scared of work, work's scared of me. I was a construction worker, a professional mover, a cook, a waiter, a painter, and a school bus driver for the handicapped, so all this is luxury. This is a treat. I finally found something that makes my heart keep beating. I never knew that passion for work was possible, because I never had the love for a job that I have for what I do now."

KW: Do you feel an extra burden having to carry a movie for the first time?

BM: "It ain't about just Bernie Mac. If this movie is a success, it's due to every player that's involved. I'll be happy for Angela [co-star Angela Bassett], for Brian [White], for Charles. We all win. Everybody needs help. Even Jesus had twelve disciples."

KW: Why don't you travel with an entourage?

BM: "I ain't got no bodyguards, because they're gonna do nothing but get in my damn way. I ain't living like that. I ain't got no vices, no outside kids, I don't do no drugs. I'm not living like that. I'm a comedian. Even though people say I shouldn't, I go to the store whenever I want. I been that way and I don't want ever, ever, ever to lose that. See ya later, alligator."

BACK IN THE GAME. OUT OF HIS LEAGUE.

Mr3000.com

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SEXUAL CONTENT AND LANGUAGE

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