

Entertainment Briefs

RAPE CHARGE DROPPED AGAINST ANTHONY ANDERSON

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) - A judge dismissed rape charges against "Barbershop" actor Anthony Anderson last week, saying testimony by his accuser was some of the most "incredulous" he has ever heard. Judge Anthony Johnson said the woman's testimony at a preliminary hearing did not produce probable cause to let the charges stand. A rape charge also was dismissed against co-defendant Wayne Witherspoon. Anderson, the rotund comic co-star of "Kangaroo Jack" and the original "Barbershop," and Witherspoon, an assistant director, have been in Memphis filming a movie. The woman, who was seeking a job as a movie extra, said Anderson and Witherspoon attacked her July 27 in a trailer on the set. Testifying to the judge, the woman acknowledged having sex with both Anderson and Witherspoon over a period of several days before the reported attack. She said those encounters also were forced but she didn't report them. Anderson and Witherspoon refused comment on their lawyer's advice as they left the courtroom.

KANYE WEST, LIL JON TOP SOURCE AWARDS

MIAMI (AP) - Rapper-producers Kanye West and Lil Jon each took home three prizes at the Source Hip-Hop Music Awards last week. West won awards for breakthrough artist of the year, album of the year for "The College Dropout" and video of the year for "Through The Wire," which he starred in and co-directed. He led all nominees with seven. Lil Jon won along with Usher and Ludacris in the R&B/rap collaboration category for the club anthem "Yeah," which Lil Jon produced. He also took home awards for collaborating with the group Youngbloodz on the single "Damn," and for producer of the year. Ludacris won the male solo rap artist of the year, while the Ying Yang Twins won the rap group award. Chingy's catchy "Right Thurr" won two awards—single of the year by a solo artist and remix of the year. Terror Squad also won twice, for group single of the year and best female rap collaboration with Remy Ma for the dance hit "Lean Back." In R&B categories, Usher was named male artist of the year, and Alicia Keys won female artist of the year. The Source Awards will air Nov. 30 on BET.

P. DIDDY WANTS LADIES FOR REALITY SHOW

NEW YORK (AP) - Sean "P.Diddy" Combs is on the prowl for some ladies — who can sing and dance. He announced dates for an open-call audition for his new MTV series, "Making the Band 3," a reality show about Combs producing an all-girl pop group. "I want a group of women that can sing like Christina Aguilera and dance like Usher," Combs told The Associated Press by phone Thursday. "I'm looking to create an international super-group to follow in the footsteps of the Supremes and Destiny's Child." Combs hosted "Making the Band 2" for three seasons in which he formed the hip-hop group, Da Band, before disbanding them. This time around, Combs sees less opportunity for failure. "Diddy with the ladies! How can you go wrong?" he told the AP. The rap and fashion mogul says the new group will still have hip-hop undertones, and will definitely have more determination. The open-call auditions begin Oct. 12 in Los Angeles, then head to Miami on Oct. 18 and New York City on Oct. 21. Contestants must be at least 18 years old. "Making the Band 3" will premiere on MTV early next year.

JA RULE TO STAND TRIAL FOR ASSAULT

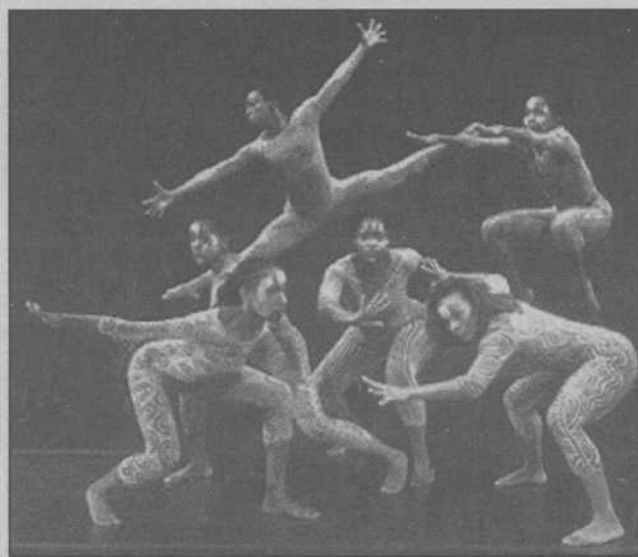
TORONTO (AP) - New Jersey rapper Ja Rule will return to Toronto next spring to face a charge of assault causing bodily harm, a Canadian court ruled at a pretrial hearing. A trial for the 28-year-old star, whose real name is Jeffrey Atkins, was tentatively set for March 7 to 11 in Ontario Court. The performer did not attend. Lawyers will return to court Tuesday to cement the date after co-counsel Marie Henein asked for time to contact her client to ensure he'd be able to attend the duration of the Toronto trial. His lawyers have said the rapper will plead not guilty to the charge. Ja Rule, known for hits such as "Holla, Holla," is accused of being part of a June 5 altercation at La Rouge Nightclub in the heart of Toronto's club district.

E N T E R T A I N M E N T

Urban Bush Women celebrate 20 years

NEW YORK (AP) - It's not every artist who would kick off an anniversary season by showing other people's work. But given Urban Bush Women's focus on community and empowerment, it's fitting that the dance company would choose to celebrate 20 years with a weekend of works choreographed by past and present members, instead of the usual best-of retrospective.

With founding artistic director Jawole Willa Jo Zollar looking on, Danspace Project hosted "Voices From the Bush," featuring seven choreographers in a weekend of intimate and uneven performances at St. Mark's Church. During a pre-performance



Urban Bush Women performers exhibit the characteristic dexterity and flair that's made the dance group a must-see.

discussion Sunday about the Urban Bush Women, assistant professor of anthropol-

ogy at Duke University and former company member Deborah Thomas noted that "the company is always dancing about something," be it political and historical issues surrounding the African Diaspora, or the lives of Black women in America today.

The weekend program proved Thomas right, with work centered on such topics as domestic abuse and the struggles of Mamie Till Mobley to have her son

Emmett's murder investigated. (Emmett Till was a Black youth who was tortured and murdered by Whites in Mississippi in 1955 for allegedly whistling at a White woman).

Sometimes these contexts enriched the dances. Other times they limited. The two strongest works were created by current Urban Bush Women Christal Brown and Nora Chipaumire.

In the opening of her solo "Convoys, Curfews and Roadblocks (2004)," Zimbabwe native Chipaumire stood in darkness. As light filtered in from the church's stained glass windows, she chanted, "I am a child of struggle, violence, resistance ..."

Her litany faded as the lights rose, revealing a red square of light. Chipaumire raised her right hand in defiant salute then stared down into the pool of red, grabbing at her belly and retching. Alex Potts' remixed Shostakovich score gave way to Prophets of Da City while Chipaumire jogged around the square's (See *Bush Women*, Page 16)

Jackson angry with Eminem over video

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Michael Jackson is angered by the way he is mocked in rapper Eminem's recently released video "Just Lose It" and has asked cable music stations to remove the video from their rotations.

"I am very angry at Eminem's depiction of me in his video," Jackson said Tuesday in an interview with comedian Steve Harvey on the Los Angeles radio station 100.3 FM. "I feel that it is outrageous and disrespectful. It is one thing to spoof, but it is another to be demeaning and insensitive."

In the video, Eminem appears dressed mockingly as Jackson, who has pleaded not guilty in Santa Barbara County to child molestation, conspiracy and administering alcohol to an underage companion.


Eminem, costumed as Jackson, is seen with a group of boys in the background, jumping around as he sings about Jackson's child molestation allegations: "Come here little kiddie, on my lap. Guess who's back with a brand new rap..."

"I've admired Eminem as an artist, and was shocked by this," Jackson said in the radio interview, according to a transcript provided by his publicist. "The video was inappropriate and disrespectful to me, my children, my family, and the community at large."

Later in the video Eminem also ridicules plastic surgery done on Jackson's nose, and an accident in which Jackson's hair caught on fire while filming a Pepsi com-

mercial in 1984.

So far, only Black Entertainment Television has agreed to pull the video. The network's president and founder, Robert Johnson, said he felt it was inappropriate to disparage a celebrity.



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