

Entertainment Briefs

MAN TO BE TRIED IN ASSAULT ON DR. DRE

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A man accused of punching Dr. Dre at the Vibe Awards last year must stand trial on an assault charge, a judge has ruled. Judge James Dabney on Friday found sufficient evidence to try 26-year-old Jimmy James Johnson. The man allegedly punched the veteran producer and rap star after asking for his autograph during a taping of the show on Nov. 15. The attack set off a chair-throwing brawl that spread through the crowd. Johnson was allegedly stabbed by rapper Young Buck after Dre was struck. Buck, whose given name is David Darnell Brown, has pleaded not guilty and is free on bail awaiting trial. Dre., 40, whose given name is Andre Young, was about to receive a lifetime achievement award when he was punched.

COMBS, MTV TO LAUNCH 2ND SEASON OF 'MAKING THE BAND'

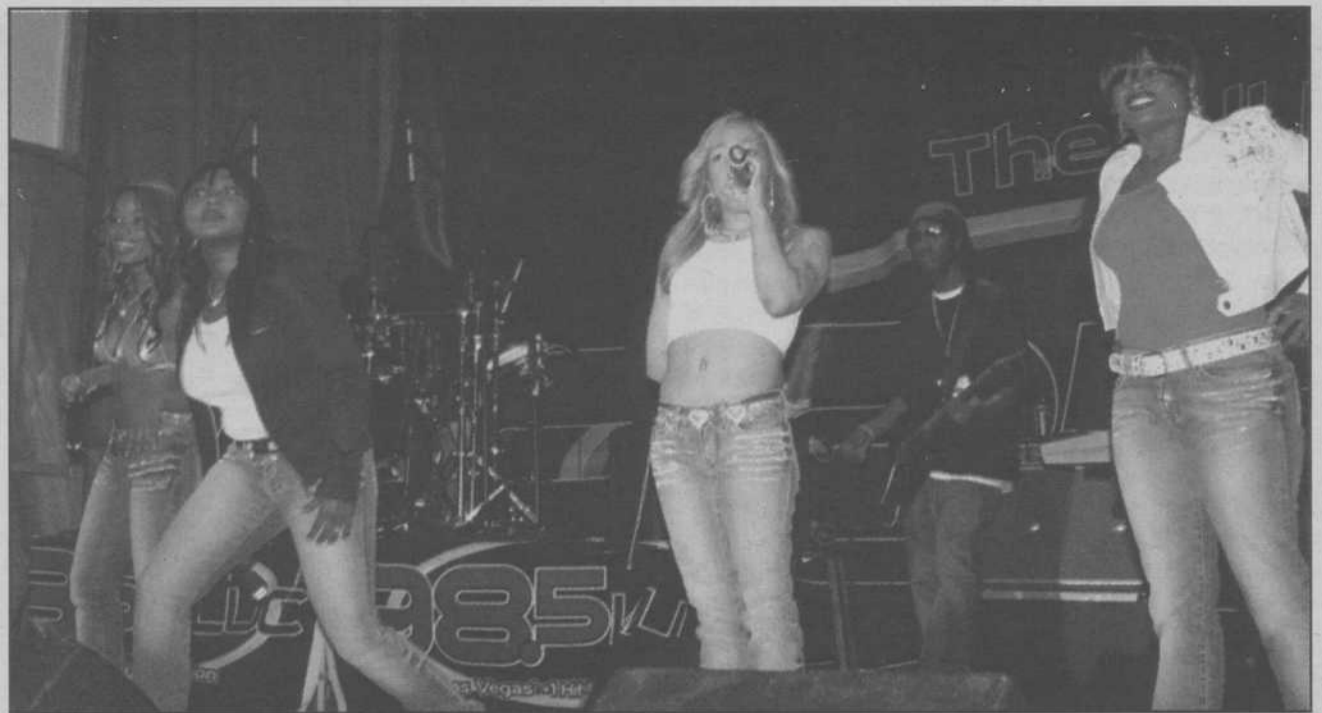
NEW YORK (AP) - Sean "P. Diddy" Combs will continue his reality TV talent search to form and develop an all-girl group for a second season of "Making the Band 3," MTV and Combs announced Thursday. "Get ready for the next season of 'Making the Band,' cause believe me, we're gonna make a band," Combs said in a statement. The hip-hop mogul will continue his search for contestants to compete against three returning cast members. Production will begin with open call auditions starting later this month in New York. "Season one showed our viewers that landing a spot in P. Diddy's next group requires incredible drive, determination and star power," said Lois Curren, executive vice president, MTV Series Entertainment. "As Combs' quest for an all-girl group continues, we invite our viewers who aspire to stardom to pack their bags and audition in a city near them." Contestants are judged on their dancing ability, vocal talent, star power and willingness to be part of a group. Those who don't meet Diddy's standards are eliminated.

ABDUL POKES FUN AT 'IDOL' FLAP ON 'SNL'

NEW YORK (AP) - Despite the controversy surrounding her, Paula Abdul is showing she can have a sense of humor about it. The "American Idol" judge being investigated for an alleged affair with a former contestant made a cameo appearance introducing the opening sketch on NBC's "Saturday Night Live." Corey Clark, a former contestant of the Fox show, claimed this week that Abdul had an affair with him while he was competing in 2003 and coached him on how to do better in the competition. ABC's "Primetime Live" aired an exposé of the scandal, which the SNL cast lampooned on Saturday night. The sketch made comical allusions to the controversy with a mock interview and stage performances, and featured Amy Poehler as Abdul and Finesse Mitchell as Clark. But at the end of the sequence, Abdul returned to the set making her own "Idol"-style critiques of her imitator. To Poehler she said: "You need to perfect the clap a little more and be a lot more sexier so contestants will be willing to sleep with you." Abdul has called the allegations "lies" and issued a statement Friday expressing "my deepest appreciation" for fans who have expressed their support for her.

FOXY BROWN REJECTS PROSECUTION PLEA DEAL

NEW YORK (AP) - Foxy Brown, accused of beating up two nail salon workers, has rejected a plea deal that would have kept her out of jail and would have involved no probation or conditions. Brown, 25, got the offer during her appearance in Manhattan Criminal Court, where she faces misdemeanor charges of assault, attempted assault and harassment in an Aug. 29 dispute at the Bloomie Nails salon in Chelsea. Her lawyer, Joseph Tacopina, said Brown wasn't interested in any resolution that involved her admitting to a crime. He said the offer, a plea to a misdemeanor with no jail time, was "normally a good one, but she's not guilty." Judge Melissa Jackson scheduled Brown's next court appearance for July 28. Brown, whose real name is Inga Marchand, was accused of punching and kicking the two employees in a dispute over payment for a pedicure and a manicure. "I got the pedicure, but they didn't give me the manicure," she said after her last court date. Prosecutors say Brown hit Myoung Yi repeatedly about the body and face with a cell phone in her closed fist and also kicked her.



Tasty Tunes

The third annual Taste & Tunes festival in North Las Vegas drew thousands of attendees for two days of delectable food and great musical performances from celebrities both real (1990s R&B group Xscape), above, and not-so, (Prince impersonator featured in the band Purple Reign), left. The event provided fun for the entire family, such as Samiree Winfree, with cap on, her daughter Sierrah, left, and her friend Brettani Thomas.

Sentinel-Voice photos by Isaac Sawyer



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