

## Entertainment Briefs

### FATS DOMINO FINDS NEW ORLEANS HOME IN RUINS

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - Visiting his home for the first time since he was rescued from rising floodwaters in a boat, Fats Domino found his piano overturned among mud and debris and his house in ruins. Despite the destruction, the 77-year-old legendary musician found a few bright spots during last week's tour, arranged by WWL-TV: a favorite shirt that survived unblemished and a bust that made it through the storm unbroken. Those were the exceptions. His electric keyboard sat against a wall covered in dried mud, mildew and mold, and his white grand piano was overturned, broken and stained with the filth that flowed into the Lower Ninth Ward along with the floodwaters. The water reached well over 8 feet, brushing the bottoms of chandeliers inside the home, WWL-TV reported. Domino's fate was not publicly known for several days after the Hurricane Katrina-spawned floods hit the low-lying neighborhood. He was rescued in a boat along with other family members from an upper-floor balcony. The side of the balcony was spray-painted with a premature farewell when it was feared Domino had not survived. "R.I.P. Fats. You will be missed." Domino's house was a mansion of pink, yellow and lavender decorated with such touches as his "Cadillac couch," resembling the rear of a 1950s car. The room was left in shambles.

### BIG BOI OF OUTKAST RECEIVES ARTS AWARD

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) - Antwan "Big Boi" Patton has another prize to add to his collection of awards — and this one is from his hometown. Patton, one-half of the multiplatinum duo OutKast, received the Fine Arts Award from the King-Tisdell Cottage Foundation on Saturday for his achievement in the arts. The foundation is dedicated to researching and preserving Black history and culture in the oldest city in Savannah, Ga. "It feels great," said Patton, a Savannah native who has lived and worked in Atlanta for over a decade. "It's been a long time coming. After 13 years, I appreciate it." Patton and OutKast musical partner Andre "Andre 3000" Benjamin have won six Grammy Awards, including best rap album and album of the year for 2003's "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below." The 30-year-old rapper, who owns the Atlanta-based Purple Ribbon record label, said he's working on a movie starring OutKast and produced by HBO.

### COUPLE SEEKS REMOVAL OF FANTASIA SIGNS

HIGH POINT, N.C. (AP) - A couple wants signs promoting Fantasia Barrino removed because they think her new autobiography portrays the city negatively. In her book, "Life is Not a Fairy Tale," Fantasia said she couldn't read after attending local schools. She also described how her friends used to call High Point the "Land of the Dead." The 21-year-old R&B singer won season three of the Fox television show "American Idol." Kyle Sandler, 29, and Jennifer English, 26, have created a website to counter the book's descriptions. "I can see people driving in to (the furniture) market saying, 'Ha ha ha. Fantasia hates them but look at the signs saying Welcome to High Point, home of Fantasia Barrino,'" Sandler said. Council member Latimer Alexander said there are no plans to remove the signs, although he said they are not permanent. Mayor Becky Smothers says the city has bigger issues. "There's a lot more serious things happening right now than Fantasia's signs," she said.

### ROKER PEDDLES DOG REALITY TV PROGRAM

NEW YORK (AP) - Al Roker is going to the dogs for inspiration. The production company of the NBC "Today" show weatherman is making what it calls the first-ever dog reality television show. Roker is teamed with Tamar Geller, who's built a living training celebrities' dogs. Each show will have hidden cameras that catch dogs acting like, well, animals. Geller then swoops in with obedience training. He hasn't sold the show to a network yet. "A former Israeli intelligence officer, Tamar will show us how to make the most of our loving relationship with dogs," Roker said. "And if you do not watch the show, she knows 17 different ways to kill you with a paper clip. That's television!"

# Radio mogul at odds with Harvey

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*  
DALLAS (NNPA) - "I think Steve Harvey is probably one of the most disrespectful, ungrateful individuals I've ever in my life come across," said Cathy Hughes, founder of Radio One Inc., which employed the comedian as a morning show host on its Los Angeles affiliate KKBT The Beat.

Harvey stepped down from the show last May and recently joined the Clear Channel family as host of his new nationally-syndicated "The Steve Harvey Morning Show," apparently leaving behind a slew of choice words against his former station and its owner.

"He was the highest paid air personality on a one-market basis in the industry,"



Cathy Hughes

Hughes told Lee Bailey, head of Electronic Urban Report and EURweb, Monday during Radio One's 25th anniversary gala at Windows restaurant Los Angeles. "Radio One paid him more than Howard Stern, Rush Limbaugh, any of them, on a one-market basis, and he has been so disrespectful."

Hughes said that she was sitting in the audience of the recent BET Comedy Awards in Hollywood when Harvey told the crowd that "The Beat and Radio One could kiss his whole ass."

"I'm a 60-year-old woman. How dare he be disrespectful to an elder," Hughes said in a measured tone. "I can't tell you how disappointed I am because I really like him and I really respect him. But false pride goes before the fall, so I'm certain that God will cause him to have to answer for the unkind lies that he's telling about Radio One. The things that he's saying are just absolutely, positively ridiculous."

"It saddens me because this was a brother that we re-

ally helped get established — financially and his popularity," Hughes added. "Steve was still working the chitlin' circuit when we embraced him."

Harvey's run on The Beat began in 2000, when the comedian's WB sitcom "The Steve Harvey Show" was in the fourth year of its six-year run. He had also just wrapped six years of hosting the syndicated "It's Showtime at the Apollo" variety series. Harvey's first film role, 2003's "The Fighting Temptations," came three years into the King of Comedy's gig on The Beat.

Alas, Steve Harvey is just one chapter in the 25-year history of Radio One, and Hughes said her media em-

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## Ruby

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ership Conference and the Congress of Racial Equality, that were fighting for change to the American status quo.

They counted as their friends American icons such as Paul Robeson and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The two served as masters of ceremony for the 1963 March on Washington.

"I didn't really come into the movement or decide anything. I don't know how you can be Black and not already be a part of it," she shared.

Their views got them labeled as Communists in the "McCarthy era" of the early 1950s. Dee shared how the Black community helped them through these times.

"Many performers that we knew, particularly White, lost jobs, some had to move, a couple of people committed suicide. It was a terrible time, but when they told us we were on some 'Black list' we wandered what difference that would make because we weren't working all that much before. We did surprisingly well because we'd always been mostly connected with Black people anyway," she shared.

When mainstream work was scarce, they contacted authors and actors that they knew and had what they called "notebook theatre."

"Have notebook, will travel," Dee explained.

"We were surprised by the number of requests we got. Once we went to one club, organization or church we'd get recommended to other places. We began to develop a feeling of belonging to Black people.

"Ossie was fond of saying 'you weren't going to get rich, but Black people won't let you starve,'" she shared.

The couple shared their ups and downs in the 2000 book "With Ossie and Ruby: In This Life Together."

How is life without her leading man?

"It's hard," she shared. "I keep hearing him say to me over and over when I'd be moaning through some situation and he'd say, 'Well, without remedy, without regard... if you can't fix it, just leave it alone.' He was a positive creature. At his mother's

funeral he had us laughing. Not that it was funny, but funny because he was very moved and he was very upset by it. But all the things he said about life and death and loving, it was reassuring and comforting. I'm trying to get around to that," she said.

"I'm doing things like he said don't do (at his mother's funeral)... you're grabbing at the wind after it's gone by. You need to feel it on your face while you can, because when it's gone, it's gone," she continued.

While Dee said she can't watch the films she and her

husband starred in together at the moment, she knows they will eventually bring her comfort.

"I'm not ready to do that yet, but I'm looking forward to maybe doing that next year," she said.

In the meantime, she's staying busy with projects including publishing a series of her husband's political writings, lectures and letters in book form. She's also planning to write another book with fellow actress Alfre Woodard.

Genoa Barrow writes for Sacramento Observer.

## Corner4Sucess with Amie Jo Radio Talk Show The Talk Of Las Vegas!



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