

Rapper Beanie Sigel jailed for child support

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Rapper Beanie Sigel, who has sold more than a million records glamorizing a criminal lifestyle, was briefly jailed Thursday until he paid about \$27,000 in child support.

Sigel, 31, born Dwight Grant, spent about an hour in jail after being sentenced in Family Court to six months in prison unless the payments were made to help his children by two mothers. Sigel paid the money and \$2,000 in fines and was released, one

of his attorneys said.

The children's names and ages were kept confidential. Sigel said one case involved a child of about 5.

He said he had made cash payments to that child's mother but had no records to prove it.

Sigel attorney Walter McHugh also argued Thursday that Sigel has not been earning money to pay the support because he has been under house arrest, in drug rehab or in prison for much of the past two years.

Cigarettes

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eral against major cigarette manufacturers to stop deceptive cigarette marketing. The study says that information obtained from tobacco industry documents could be used by the attorneys general to return to court with a claim that the industry has not kept its court-ordered promise to not market to minors.

"Policymakers should support legislation prohibiting manufacturers from adding these candy-like flavors to tobacco products," it states.

The report also states that the tobacco industry has failed to disclose to the public and to public health professionals how it delivers its flavors, including a plastic pellet placed in the cigarette filter. Researchers examined the filters of Camel Exotic Blend cigarettes to identify the "unique flavor-delivery pellet" that they found described in U.S. patents and within the internal documents on the website.

"These findings raise concerns as to the potential added health risks associated with using new flavored tobacco products, and they underscore the need for effective assessment and monitoring of tobacco products," the report states.

Because of the mystique still involved in the marketing, the Harvard study recommendations include:

- Coordinated public education and community action to inform youth about tobacco industry deception and confront the tobacco industry; especially in the absence of governmental regulation.
- Vigilance from community groups to fight against manufacturers who target high risk groups.
- Public awareness and action at the community level in response to youth-targeted products.

Many public awareness and community action programs are already underway.

Last year, the American Legacy Foundation awarded a \$4.5 million, three-year grant to a coalition of six national African-American organizations — the National Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation, the NAACP, the National Urban League, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, the National Conference of Black Mayors and the National Association of Neighborhoods — to help curb tobacco use among African-Americans.

Lisa Fager, director of the anti-smoking education initiative of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, one of the groups funded by the American Legacy Foundation, travels to historically Black colleges and universities to disseminate information about the dangers of tobacco. She says her program aims to motivate student activism against smoking.

"It is to hopefully get them to a place where they will think critically about their community and how it is being targeted unfairly in a number of unhealthy ways," Fager said, adding, "and how the tobacco industry has gotten smoother and slicker with their marketing strategies."

Fager said her education tour has reached seven HBCUs, including Howard University in Washington; the University of the District of Columbia, Spelman and Morehouse in Atlanta; Bethune-Cookman in Daytona Beach; and Tougaloo College and Coahoma Community College in Mississippi. Fager said it is expected to reach at least 30 HBCUs by 2007.

Fager said that reaching students with information about how they and their community are being targeted is the key to spreading the word among youth: "It unnerves them. It gets them riled up."

50 Cent saddened by violence at film

HOMESTEAD, Pa. (AP) - Rapper 50 Cent said he was saddened by the fatal shooting at a theater where his movie "Get Rich or Die Tryin'" was playing.

"I feel for the victim's family in this situation," 50 Cent said on ABC's "The View" on Friday. "But you know, these weren't kids. This was a 30-year-old man (who) had a dispute with three other guys."

Shelton Flowers, 30, was shot at least three times last Wednesday night after he got into an argument with another man inside a Loews multiplex just east of Pittsburgh.

Allegheny County police said Flowers had just watched 50 Cent's movie and got into a confrontation with three men in the bathroom.

A fight ensued and spilled out into the concessions area, where Flowers was shot, authorities have said.

No one has been arrested.

It was not known what movie the three men had seen, but John McCauley, the vice president of marketing for Loews Corp., said the company decided to stop showing it at the theater during the investigation.

The violence in the film prompted another theater chain, National Amusements, to end any midnight showings in a Toledo, Ohio, neighborhood where rioting occurred last month after a neo-Nazi group visited the city.

Businesses were burned and looted, and bricks thrown at police.

Police raised concerns that the film might lead to more unrest.

The theater will continue matinee and evening showings, spokesman Brian Callaghan said Friday.

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