

Entertainment Briefs

RAPPER MYSTIKAL GETS YEAR ON TAX CHARGES

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) - Grammy-nominated rapper Mystikal has been sentenced to a year in prison for trying to cheat the federal government out of \$271,000 in taxes. U.S. District Judge James Brady said Thursday that he would allow Mystikal, whose real name is Michael L. Tyler, to serve the sentence at the same time he serves a state sentence for sexual battery against his former hairstylist. Tyler is serving a six-year sentence for the videotaped attack on the woman. He pleaded guilty in June 2003 for forcing her to perform oral sex after accusing her of stealing \$80,000 worth of his checks. In the tax case, Tyler pleaded guilty in August to two misdemeanor counts of failing to file tax returns on \$824,916 he earned in 1998 and \$930,953 in 1999. The judge ordered him to pay back taxes and penalties in addition to the one-year sentence.

RAPPER JUVENILE ARRESTED IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

OCALA, Florida (AP) - Rap artist Juvenile was arrested in central Florida on a warrant related to a child support case, jail officials said Saturday. The rapper was arrested on a writ of bodily attachment child support warrant in Ocala on Friday and released on his own recognizance that evening, Marion County jail officials said. Juvenile's name is listed on entertainment websites as Terius Gray, but it was listed in court records as Teruis Gray, 30, a jail official said. There was no published phone listing for Terius Gray in New Orleans, where he is from, and he could not be reached for comment Saturday. The rapper was taken into custody at The Ritz Hotel in Ocala without incident, The *Ocala Star-Banner* reported. Once he was released, officials said he went to the Ghost House Night Club, where he performed. Ocala is about 65 miles northwest of Orlando.

DMX TO RELEASE SIXTH STUDIO ALBUM

NEW YORK (AP) - Fresh from a 2-month stint in jail, DMX said Friday that he'll release a new album, "Here We Go Again," this summer. The rapper, whose real name is Earl Simmons, was released Dec. 30 from New York's Rikers Island, where he served a 70-day sentence for pleading guilty to violating his parole following a 2004 incident in which he posed as an undercover federal agent and crashed his SUV through an airport security gate. Simmons has now signed a three-album deal with Sony Urban Music/Columbia Records after dropping longtime label Def Jam. "2006 is a new beginning for me, starting fresh with a new label and a new sound," he said in a statement. "I don't make music to make songs, I make music to record my life." Simmons, 34, the husky-voiced emcee behind the 1999 hit single "Party Up (Up in Here)," has sold millions of records. His last album was "Grand Champ" in 2003.

EMINEM AND KIM TRY IT AGAIN

NEW YORK-Eminem, whose real name is Marshall Mathers III, and his ex-wife, Kimberly Mathers, have decided to give it another try. The couple got remarried on Saturday in a small ceremony at the Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester, Michigan. MTV.com reports that D12 rapper Proof was Eminem's best man. The rapper's publicist said, "Family and close friends were in attendance, including members of D12, 50 Cent, Obie Trice, and members of G-Unit." Entertainment for the reception was provided by New York-based DJ Lord Sear and the menu consisted of lobster and filet mignon. The couple plans to honeymoon later this year. The two high school sweethearts were initially married in 1999, but by 2001 they were divorced. Following their separation, Kim Mathers was in and out of rehab as she battled a cocaine addiction. Last year, Eminem checked into a drug treatment program to deal with his own addiction to sleeping pills. Eminem and Kim have a 10-year-old daughter named Hallie Jade, and Kim has a two-year old daughter named Whitney, from another relationship.

Movie recasts historic contest

By Kam Williams
Special to Sentinel-Voice

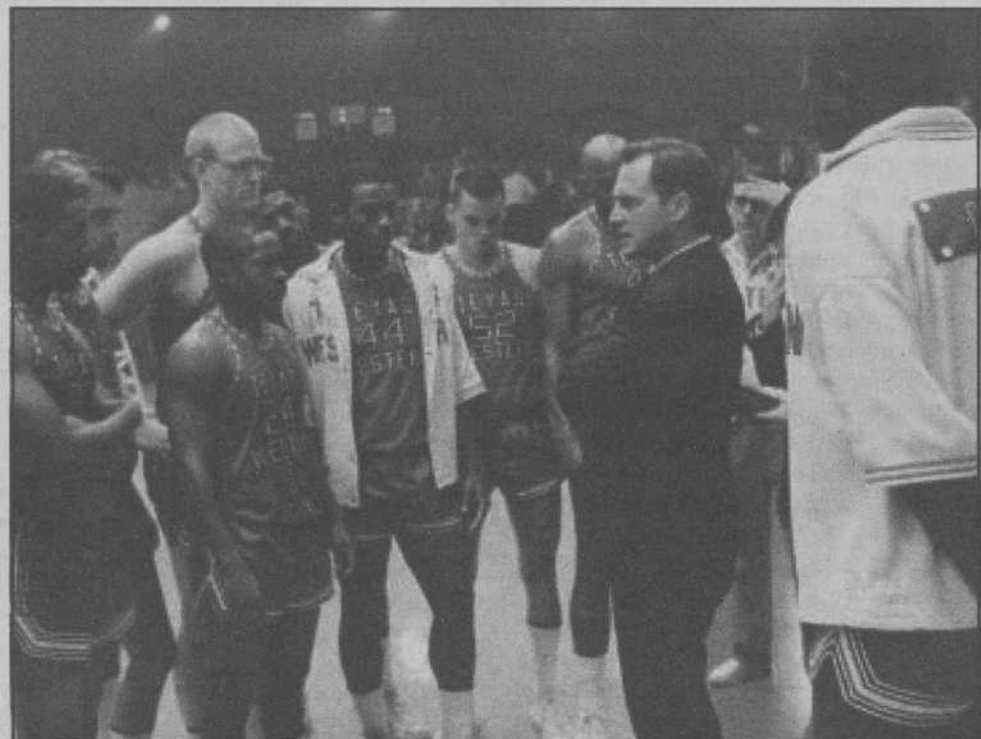
I had my suspicions about "Glory Road" even before I saw it, because I felt like I was being discouraged at every turn from covering the picture. When I asked for an electronic press kit, I was sent a cassette in Beta format. Plus, it was for some other film that opened last year. Then, when I tried to attend an early screening, the good folks at Disney were too busy to help me in that endeavor by arranging for a pass. So, when I showed up anyway and simply informed the theater that I was a critic, the manager flat out lied to my face and said that "Glory Road" wasn't showing that night.

Rather than create a scene, I decided to wait patiently for the picture's release. And now, after finally seeing the movie, I think I understand the reason for the whole charade. The studio was banking on the "pump-and-dump" marketing strategy whereby it hypes a flick with strategic advertising to get as many suckers in the seats that first weekend before word spreads in reviews and on the grapevine.

Via commercials and an ESPN special which have heavily-saturated the airwaves, "Glory Road" has been carefully promoted as a period piece which recounts the 1966 NCAA Basketball Championship Game upset of the heavily-favored, lily-white Kentucky, by lowly Texas Western, an unheralded underdog with five Black starters. The movie is based on the book of the same name by Don Haskins, the coach who took Texas Western to the top that glorious season.

But is it okay to run roughshod over history, as long as you're making a feel-good period flick? I don't think so, and "Glory Road" simply takes way too many liberties with the truth to be taken seriously. First, it presents Haskins, as played by Josh Lucas, as a White Martin Luther King who unilaterally integrated college basketball while pulling off a miraculous victory.

Truth be told, he didn't even integrate his own team, as it already had three African-American players when he took the job. In fact, Texas Western had been recruiting Black kids since the mid-'50s. So, an early scene in which an angry college administrator utters the n-word



"Glory Road" depicts a bellwether moment in collegiate basketball history: Texas Western, with an all-Black starting five, beat perennial power Kentucky, whose team was all White.

in disgust while confronting Haskins over the "new" ethnic make-up of his team makes no sense.

Just as ludicrous is how the new coach is shown as going from heading a girls' high school team to winning the NCAA Championship in less than a year. In reality, he was hired in 1961, which means it took him five years to turn the team around.

Equally as unlikely is the fashion in which his players are presented as insulting stereotypes whose only hope in life rested with being plucked from the ghetto and whipped into shape by their great White savior. For instance, one of them, Willie Cager (Damaine Radcliff), basi-

cally boasts about being a nitwit, putting himself and his people down by informing his geology professor, "I'm a Black man. I don't do rocks." Prefacing this remark by referring to his skin color makes a not-so-subtle inference that African-Americans are anti-intellectual.

The caring coach comes to the rescue, and puts in a call to Willie's mother (Valeri Ross), a sassy "Mammy" who soon arrives on campus and proceeds to sit behind her son in class to make sure he pays attention. The other Black ballplayers have their own embarrassing flaws, too. This one's a Tequila-swilling alcoholic; that one's a womanizer who boasts about hav-

ing 50 or 60 girlfriends, etcetera.

If these characterizations were true, I doubt that Texas Western would have ever achieved its feat, which, by the way, was not the greatest upset in the history of NCAA basketball as claimed here. Both TW and Kentucky (which starred future NBA coach Pat Riley) entered the contest sporting identical 27-1 records. Kentucky was ranked #1 in the nation, TW, #3. So, there have been plenty of more shocking outcomes in the annals of college sports, both before and after.

In closing, let me mention another one of my pet (See *Glory*, Page 9)



VEGAS' QUEEN OF SOUL

Las Vegas resident Ruth Brown, right, was the woman of the moment on Thursday, as Mary Wilson of the Supremes, along with dozens of fans and local entertainers celebrated her 78th birthday at the Bootlegger Bistro. Brown regularly performs there.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy