

## Entertainment Briefs

### D12 TO RECORD DESPITE DEATH OF BANDMATE

DETROIT (AP) - Rap group D12, which includes Eminem, plans to continue recording a new album despite the shooting death of bandmate Proof. "If people think that because he's not here we're not going to keep doing what we're doing, then they're wrong," said D12 member Denaun Porter, who goes by the rap name Kon Artis. Proof, whose real name was Deshaun Holton and who was Eminem's closest friend, was shot to death last month at an after-hours bar on 8 Mile Road. Police say he was killed after shooting to death another man, Keith Bender Jr. Bender's cousin faces weapons charges in Proof's death while the Wayne County prosecutor's office considers the possibility of more serious charges. The group expects to resume recording next month after one of its members, Swift, gets out of jail on a probation violation. Porter told the *Detroit Free Press* for a story Friday. D12 would use work already recorded by Proof.

### CLUB WHERE RAPPER PROOF WAS KILLED CLOSED

DETROIT (AP) - A nightclub where the rapper Proof, a protégé of Eminem, died in a shootout that also killed another man will close for a year under a deal with authorities. The CCC nightclub also must pay fines for illegally operating after hours, the Wayne County prosecutors said. The settlement and the fines are to be announced at a court hearing Thursday, the *Detroit Free Press* reported. Proof, 32, whose real name was Deshaun Holton, died April 11 after being shot following a fight that occurred 2 1/2 hours after the club's legal closing time. Proof was a member of the rap group D12 and was the best man at Eminem's January wedding. Army veteran Keith Bender, 35, also was shot and died a week later. Police say Proof shot Bender before Bender's cousin, Mario Etheridge, shot Proof. Etheridge is charged with carrying a concealed weapon and discharging a firearm in a building. Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy, who sued the club's owners, said state law for a nuisance violation permits only a one-year closing. Club co-owner Alfred Thompson declined comment.

### CHAPPELLE: WIFE 'SALTY' OVER \$50 MILLION DEAL

NEW YORK (AP) - Dave Chappelle is still explaining to his wife why he left his Comedy Central show and walked away from a \$50 million contract. "My wife is still a little salty with me," Chappelle joked on NBC's "Late Night With Conan O'Brien" on Wednesday night. "She's not mad at me, but don't think you can walk away from \$50 million and your wife is just going to be cool with it." In frequent TV appearances over the past few months, the comedian has repeatedly defended his sudden departure last year from the popular and lucrative "Chappelle's Show." With humor and candor, Chappelle, 32, has laughed at claims that he's "crazy," and said he had doubts about how racial elements of his show were received. He has since returned to performing standup and released the concert documentary, "Block Party." On "Late Night," he also joked about his quick exodus to Africa, where he stayed after leaving "Chappelle's Show."

### SNOOP DOGG TAKES BLAME IN BRAWL CASE

LONDON (AP) - Snoop Dogg has accepted responsibility for using "threatening words or behavior" in a brawl last month at Heathrow airport. The 34-year-old rapper, whose real name is Calvin Broadus, appeared at Heathrow police station and "accepted a caution for a Section Four Public Order Act matter, using threatening words or behavior," police said late last week. A caution means a person has accepted responsibility for the offense, and a record will be made. No further action will be taken, police said. Snoop and five other men were arrested on charges of violent disorder and starting a brawl, and spent the night in jail after trouble flared when some members of the rapper's party were denied entry to British Airways' first-class lounge. Seven officers received minor injuries — mainly cuts and bruises — and one suffered a fracture to the hand. Five others arrested in the disturbance were expected to appear at the police station later in the day. British Airways has banned Snoop from future travel on the airline, it said last month.

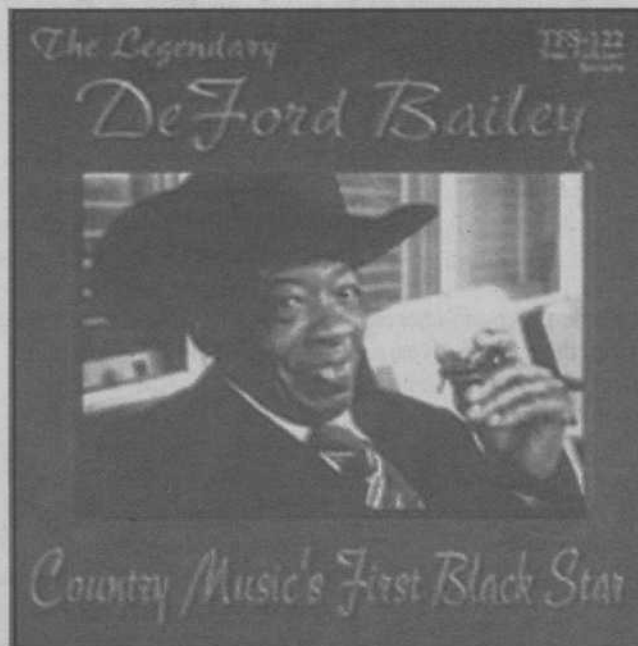
# Bailey recognized at music hall

Special to Sentinel-Voice

NASHVILLE (NNPA) - DeFord Bailey, long denied formal recognition from his peers for his crucial role in helping propel country music into the homes and hearts of millions, was given his due recently when he was posthumously awarded a Country Music Hall of Fame Medallion at a lavish ceremony at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville.

Presentation of the Medallion capped six months of celebration over last fall's decision by the Country Music Association to place Bailey among the elite ranks of other country music legends in the Hall of Fame after years of being passed over for an assortment of reasons, not the least of which was his race.

Bailey, the first Black star of the Grand Ole Opry and



"one of country music's seminal harmonica stylists," according to the Country Music Hall of Fame. He was one of the most popular stars of the Opry from its inception and would remain so for 14 years. He and the Opry parted ways in 1941 after a

dispute and he rarely played again over the next four decades.

Bailey is credited with inspiring the name change of the WSM Barn Dance in 1927 to the Grand Ole Opry.

In 1928, Bailey recorded at the first recording session

in Nashville at the RCA Studio. That same year he performed 49 times on the Opry, double the number of any other artist. In 1939, he was one of the first artists to perform when the Grand Ole Opry made its debut on the NBC Radio network, according to the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum.

Ida Lee Haynes, Bailey's 91-year-old widow, led a small entourage of family members down the Hall of Fame's Red Carpet walkway recently as cameras clicked and reporters jockeyed for a chance to talk with family members about the long sought recognition of Bailey and his contributions to his field.

Accompanying Bailey were her son, DeFord Bailey Jr., and two daughters, Christine Craig and Dezoral Lee Thomas, and grandson (See Bailey, Page 14)

## Diary

(Continued from Page 7) made into a movie) and "Behind Closed Doors," in which he collaborated with Bishop T.D. Jakes.

Perry then moved to film. The movie version of "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" was only expected to make a few hundred thousand dollars. It grossed \$20 million in its first week, \$50 million overall. "Madea's Family Reunion" has grossed over \$55 million since it opened in February.

He's now conquered the book market. "Don't Make A Black Woman Take Off Her Earrings: Madea's Uninhibited Commentaries on Life and Love" debuted at No. 1 on the New York Times Bestseller List.

"Every time he's done something, he's set records," Bernstein said. "Every time Tyler brings something into the market, it blows the model away."

Perry disclosed the keys to his success: He's been able to tap into a phase of the urban market everyone else has ignored, particularly Black women over 35; furthermore, he's been able to share with the audience a form of healing to walk away with.

"The absolute two things I try to do with anything I've done is [provide] a guideline of forgiveness that a lot of people are trying to find on earth, in ours and other cultures," Perry said. "[And] what I've been able to do is take situations and put them on film, show them to people

and it have some form of therapy."

From the stage, to films, to books and now to TV, Perry continues to do that. He confirmed that Madea would find her way in recurring

roles in "House of Payne." Like all of his work, he will succeed in providing his audience with knee-slapping laughs, deep provocative thinking and tear gushing crying, all within one show.

Perry is not slowing down. He has begun production with his next movie, "Daddy's Little Girl," to be released in 2007.

Gordon Jackson writes for the Dallas Examiner.

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