

Entertainment Briefs

VANDROSS RECORD COMING OUT AFTER DEATH

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There's new Luther Vandross music on the way. Fans of the legendary singer, who died in July last year, can enjoy two new tracks when "The Ultimate Luther Vandross" collection is released Aug. 22. It includes the previously unissued songs "Shine," produced by Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, and "Got You Home." The collection features 16 other songs from Vandross' two decades of recording, including the hits "Here and Now" and "Endless Love." Vandross sold more than 30 million albums during his award-winning career. Vandross, who began his career as lead singer of the group Change, made his solo recording debut in 1981 with the album "Never too Much." In 2005, he was nominated for a Soul Train Music Award for a duet with Beyonce on "The Closer I Get to You," which is on the new collection.

NEVERLAND ANIMALS MOVE OUT

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Michael Jackson is moving towards the permanent closure of his Neverland ranch, after many of the animals were found new homes. The pop superstar, who has been living in Bahrain for the last 12 months since his acquittal on child molestation charges, seems to be winding down his former home. Apparently Jackson's two tigers, Sabu and Thriller, are now being cared for by actress Tippi Hedren, former star of Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds." Hedren runs the Shambala feline sanctuary in California. Her fiancé, Dr. Martin Dinnes, is Jackson's long-time vet, and he says that the animals are being moved out. However, Dinnes insists they will all be happy in their new environments, as stipulated by Jackson. "We're being really, really fussy about where they go. We want the best possible environments. Michael is adamant about that," said Dinnes. An African bull elephant, a female elephant, and the ranch's horses have also been re-housed. Apparently four giraffes, two orangutans, and some parrots, reptiles and deer remain at Neverland. Dr. Dinnes insists that the zoo at Neverland has remained in good hands in Jackson's absence, despite reports to the contrary. He commented: "There has never been a lapse in the animals' care or feeding. I visit about once a week."

NOTORIOUS B.I.G. DEATH SUIT POSTPONED

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A federal judge postponed retrial Monday in the wrongful death lawsuit brought by the family of slain rapper Notorious B.I.G. against the city. U.S. District Judge Florence-Marie Cooper on Monday pushed retrial to Jan. 16, three months later than the date she originally set, to give the family's attorneys more time to seek information from the defense. The rapper, whose real name was Christopher Wallace, was shot and killed March 9, 1997, after a party at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles. The murder has not been solved. In the lawsuit, the rapper's family claims that rogue police officers were involved in the killing. Cooper declared the mistrial last summer after finding that a police detective intentionally hid statements by a jailhouse informant linking the killing to former officers David Mack and Rafael Perez. The judge also ordered the city to pay \$1.1 million in legal fees and other expenses to the rapper's family. After the mistrial, an investigation of the Police Department's Robbery-Homicide Division uncovered statements by a former Perez cellmate, who had told the department that the disgraced officer had confessed to participating with Mack in Wallace's killing. Plaintiffs' attorney Perry Sanders was seeking information from 27 city employees he said had contact with the statements.

CineVegas fetes Fishburne

By Debbie Hall
Sentinel-Voice

Born in Augusta, Georgia in 1961, actor Laurence "Fish" (as his friends call him) Fishburne moved to New York City as a child. Acting since the age of 10, he was 14 when he landed the role of Clean in the movie "Apocalypse Now" with long time mentor Dennis Hopper. His movies and roles include Ike Turner in "What's Love Got To Do With It?," "Boyz 'n the Hood," "The Tuskegee Airmen," "Death Wish 2," and "The Matrix."

During CineVegas 2006 held in Las Vegas recently, Fishburne was one of the honorees of the Half Life Awards to honor those in the prime of their careers but with a great body of work. Actor Hopper spoke on stage about his friendship with Fishburne before introducing him.

To a standing ovation, Fishburne and Columbia Pictures representative Elvis Mitchell spent 30 minutes in conversation before the screening of the star's latest movie, "Five Fingers."

Fishburne first spoke about working with Dennis Hopper on "Apocalypse Now" in the Philippines. "I was just impressed with his wildness, his freedom...the most impressive kind of thing was when his character [in the movie] says, 'I wish I had some words.'



LAURENCE FISHBURNE

"He didn't have any words. There was no script. There was no action. Nothing. Everything coming out of that character's mouth is coming off the top of his [Dennis'] head and is born out of the moments actually happening there."

Fishburne continued about his mentor's performance: "It is this crazy performance, this wild performance, born out of nothing, he takes nothing and makes music, makes poetry, makes jokes, you know."

Mitchell spoke about jazz pioneers Coltrane and Davis and how they made music out of nothing and Fishburne responded, "It is more than that. If you don't have a net, you have to fly. I think

what Francis [Ford Coppola, the director of 'Apocalypse Now'] did for us was push us out. He would hand out index cards with an activity. You would be brushing your teeth, or getting a suntan and action. So that experience of creating on the spot, to be really living under imaginary circumstances, there is fearlessness I have as a result of that experience." In 1982, he portrayed a character who was observing life in "Rumblefish."

"I was watching a black and white TV with a movie starring Clark Gable and that's when I got it. He was an artist. I didn't know you can be an artist until I was 16 and I was working with Francis [Ford Coppola, the director]."

He laughed when he said, "It was also interesting to be working in America. When I was working on a movie the first time, we were in the Philippines and everyone looked like me. Everyone was brown, red or yellow and they had Chinese eyes. And I got to meet Muhammad Ali while filming "Rumblefish," which was really cool."

He spoke about working on the movie, "The Cotton Club," which was very similar to "Apocalypse Now," heavy on the improvisation, no script, and his instance that he was a gangster,

(See Fishburne, Page 9)

Atlanta emcee faces charges

Special to Sentinel-Voice

In the chart-topping single "Lean Wit It, Rock Wit It," Dem Franchise Boyz boast that they're "gonna rock wit it, gonna lean wit it [and] smoke some green with it."

According to Atlanta cops, one of the rappers had plenty of green, too. Boyz member Maurice "Parlae" Gleaton and seven others were busted this week after a police raid on the group's recording studio turned up 11 pounds of pot, along with two handguns and \$160,000 in cash.

The 23-year-old hip-hopster and his cohorts were charged Wednesday with trafficking marijuana after authorities seized surveillance video from the studio that purportedly showed the suspects trying to flush the stash down a toilet as police arrived.

Investigator Natanya Albritton of the Atlanta Police Department said that the vice squad moved in with a search warrant Tuesday after being tipped off about drug activity going on at the location. Officers found the drugs and cash after the toilet got clogged.

Among those busted in addition to Parlae was Anthony Blalock, the 27-year-old CEO of Making Big Moves Entertainment, who was the target of the warrant. He was charged with traf-

ficking in marijuana as well as illegal possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Also nabbed in the raid was Daniel Smith, 26, who was charged with illegal possession of a firearm and Jody Mayfield, 45, who faces one count of disorderly conduct.

Two children were also at the scene who turned out to be Gleaton's younger siblings, and they were released to a member of his family.

Ash Joshi, a high-powered Atlanta defense attorney representing the Boyz rhymer, said his client was simply at the "wrong place, wrong time."

Joshi said that his client "arrived there maybe half an hour before the police... He was with his 15-year-old sis-

ter and two-year-old brother and was there because a couple of artists he was hoping to produce had...leased some studio time. When the police arrived shortly thereafter, a few of the other guys — not his guys — tried to throw marijuana away and tossed some in the trashcan in the same room that he was in."

Joshi noted that the rapper was not the target of the search warrant — that dubious honor went to Blalock, whose bond was denied at Wednesday's arraignment.

The lawyer expected that prosecutors will try to parlay a past indiscretion by Parlae into pressing for some sort of jail sentence: The artist is still on probation for — you

guessed it — marijuana possession.

"He's on probation and I'm certain the government will attempt to revoke some part of his probation for this arrest," said Joshi. "The case is two years old and was only a small amount of marijuana... He accepted his responsibility and he had already reported the day before his arrest."

Parlae's next hearing is scheduled for June 28.

"The Boyz's latest album, On Top of Our Game," featuring cameos by Bow Wow and Jermaine Dupri, has been certified gold and spawned the hits "I Think They Like Me," "She Freaky as She Want to Be" and "Lean Wit, Rock Wit It."

If you are looking for a reason to adopt foster children, here are two wonderful reasons.



For more information on adoption or foster care call Clark County Department of Family Services at 1-888-4-A-FAMILY. If you are interested in adopting this sibling group, please contact Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter Collette Smith at (702) 455-7286

