

Rapper lawsuit: \$1 million owed

NEW YORK (AP) - Heavy D has sued an insurance company for \$1.5 million the rapper says it owes him after nine people were crushed to death in a stampede at a 1991 celebrity basketball game he helped organize.

About 5,000 people showed up at a City College of New York gymnasium, which had a capacity of about 2,700, for the Dec. 28, 1991, event. Fans crowded down a stairwell to a closed door, where people at the bottom were crushed, nine fatally.

The 39-year-old rapper, whose real name is Dwight Myers, says in court papers that he bought a \$1 million policy from National Union Fire Insurance Co. of Pittsburgh in 1989 that covered him for anything involving his work as an entertainer.

Myers contends his entertainment work included the heavily promoted basketball game featuring music stars that he, rap mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs and others organized at the college's Nat Holman Gymnasium.

The lawsuit, filed Friday in Manhattan's state Supreme Court, says the insurance company exhausted its legal appeals and has been ordered by the state Supreme Court's Appellate Division to reimburse Myers for payments to victims or their families.

Myers seeks reimbursement of \$791,899 — plus interest of \$381,167 — for personal-injury and wrongful-death claims, and is asking for \$324,919 for legal fees and costs incurred in suing the insurance company. Heavy D has also made a name for himself as an actor.

West upset by award shutout

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) - Rap star Kanye West was named Best Hip Hop artist, but still came off as a sore loser at the MTV Europe Music Awards.

West apparently was so disappointed at not winning for Best Video that he crashed the stage Thursday in Copenhagen when the award was being presented to Justice and Simian for "We Are Your Friends."

In a tirade riddled with expletives, West said he should have won the prize for his video "Touch The Sky," because it "cost a million dollars, Pamela Anderson was in it. I was jumping across canyons."

"If I don't win, the awards show loses credibility," West said.

The rapper grabbed the Best Hip Hop award earlier in the night in a star-studded event hosted by Justin Timberlake in the Danish capital.



Rapper-producer Kanye West, left, complains alongside Jeremie Rozan and Martial Schmelz, directors of the video for "We Are Your Friends" by Justice vs. Simian at the MTV Europe Music Awards at The Bella Centre, Copenhagen, Denmark, last week.

West has a particular affinity for the "Touch The Sky" video.

In an interview with The Associated Press in August, he expressed his displeasure that the clip, an elaborate Evel Knievel spoof, wasn't

nominated for an MTV Video Music Award.

"It didn't get any nominations, but it's one of the most memorable videos of the year for me," he told AP.

It's also not the first time he's had a meltdown at an

awards show. At the 2004 American Music Awards, West bitterly complained backstage that he was robbed when he didn't win a trophy.

A West publicist did not return an e-mail request for comment.

Quincy Jones "Behind the Lens" tribute ceremony

By Dwight Brown

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Back in the day, Ray Charles and Quincy Jones came up together in the northwest. Charles was 16 and Quincy 14. They had a saying that got them through thick and thin: "Not one drop of my self worth depends on your acceptance of me"

As Quincy Jones stood before a packed ballroom at the Beverly Hills Hotel, accepting the DaimlerChrysler 2006 "Behind the Lens" Award, he reminisced about his life, two brain surgeries and three divorces.

Self-confident, able to measure his life in a string of outstanding achievements — Grammys, Oscars, Emmys — Jones obviously has taken his adolescent mantra to heart. And as he spread his words of wisdom to an appreciative crowd the movies and TV shows he'd scored and or produced were projected on two walls.

We live in the land of Oprah, Donald Trump and P Diddy, but long before them, back in the '40s, '50s, '60s, '70s, Quincy Jones was a pioneer musician and producer and entrepreneur who was making history, setting records and turning pop culture on its ear.

The breadth of his work and the majesty of his career are unparalleled in the entertainment industry. Jones



QUINCY JONES

composed scores for numerous films: "Pawnbroker" (1964), "In the Heat of The Night" (1967), "The Color Purple" (1985), "Get Rich or Die Trying" (2005). And he composed for TV: "Ironside" (1967), "Sanford and Son" (1972), "Roots" (1977), "In the Heat of the Night" (1988). He was executive producer for "The Color Purple" (1985), "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" (1990) and "Their Eyes Were Watching God" (2005).

Who else could put the elite of jazz, R&B, pop and hip-hop on one album? — "Q's Jook Joint," and "The Dude." Who else could conduct the orchestra at countless Academy Award Shows? Who else could ignite the career of a young vocalist who became the pop icon Michael Jackson?

Tata Vega performed.

Chaka Khan sang, too ("In the Heat of the Night") and reminded Q of the time she showed up late for a recording, unrepentant, and Q wrestled her to the ground. Khan said, "I never showed up for a recording late after that!" Then Yolanda Adams sang a song of inspiration — a showstopper.

From the stage director Norman Jewison reminded Quincy of the scene from "In the Heat of the Night" when Sidney Poitier slaps a White

town official back while investigating a murder. That was a turning point in film history in 1967, when Black men didn't have to take crap off the White man anymore.

From the stage Debbie Allen tried to turn the evening into a roast, making jokes at Quincy's expense. But when the elder statesman took his turn, he gave as good as he got: "Debbie Allen is 'ghetto.' I've known her since she was 5. She's ghetto with a capital G. Black Belt

Ghetto." The audience roared.

Through the evening, Q looked grateful and surprisingly alert, considering he'd just flown in from China, where Steven Spielberg, director Ang Lee ("Brokeback Mountain") and Jones will be producing the opening ceremony for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Proving true entrepreneurs never die; they just make the world their stage at age 73.

Frank Fountain, Senior

Vice President of External Affairs and Public Policy at DaimlerChrysler handed the "Behind the Lens" award to Q and the room erupted. The award, presented to accomplished people in film and television who work behind the camera, was a grand gesture to a great man whose career stretches over 50 years. Q learned early in life that his self-worth wasn't dependent on anyone but himself. It's a life lesson worth celebrating.

Cosby settles lawsuit in assault case

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Bill Cosby settled a lawsuit Wednesday with a woman who said the entertainer drugged and sexually assaulted her at his home outside Philadelphia.

Terms of the settlement will remain confidential, according to a one-paragraph statement released jointly by both sides. "(The plaintiff) and Mr. Cosby have resolved their differences," the statement said.

Cosby's publicist, David Brokaw, said there would be no further comment. A telephone number for the plaintiff could not be determined Wednesday and she could not be reached for comment. Her lawyer, Delores M. Troiani, declined further comment.

The woman claimed that Cosby, 69, assaulted her at his mansion in Cheltenham

in early 2004 after giving her pills. Attorneys for Cosby say the comedian gave the woman Benadryl after she complained of stress and sleeping problems.

The federal judge presiding over the case earlier denied Cosby's request for a gag order and the plaintiff's request to shield the names of a dozen other women who say Cosby assaulted them. Some of the accusations raised by the other women go back for decades, and none have pending lawsuits filed against him.

The plaintiff, a native of Ontario, Canada, who is in her 30s, previously worked at Temple University in Philadelphia, which touts Cosby as a trustee and one of its most famous alumni. She is identified in court documents, but The Associated

Press does not publish names of alleged sexual assault victims without their consent.

The woman, who called Cosby a friend and mentor, went to police about a year after the encounter, but Montgomery County prosecutors declined to file criminal charges. She then filed a lawsuit.

Cosby, best known as a warm, funny TV dad on "The Cosby Show," has sparked debate with blunt remarks on personal responsibility aimed at the black community. In 1997, the year his son Ennis was murdered, the long-married Cosby acknowledged a brief affair with the mother of Autumn Jackson, a young woman convicted of extorting money from him.

The woman said Cosby had given her three blue pills that rendered her semicon-

scious, and then molested her. She said she awoke to find her bra undone and her clothes in disarray.

Cosby, in his legal filings, denied the assault and said he made the woman breakfast the next morning. He described them as social friends who sometimes had dinner together, alone or with others.

The accuser also sought damages for defamation after Cosby's representatives allegedly suggested that her family had asked him for money before going to police.

Temple has no plans to distance itself from Cosby over the assault allegations or the settlement, spokesman Ray Betzner said Wednesday. Cosby, a trustee since 1982, has four years remaining on his current term.