

## Entertainment Briefs

### SNOOP PLEADS NOT GUILTY IN BATON CASE

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) - Snoop Dogg recently pleaded not guilty to a charge of possessing a deadly weapon, a collapsible police baton found in his luggage at an airport. The rapper did not attend as his lawyer entered the plea in Orange County Superior Court and he remains free on \$150,000 bail. If convicted, he could face up to three years in prison. Snoop Dogg (real name: Calvin Broadus) was charged with the felony count after a security screener at John Wayne Airport noticed the baton in his computer bag on Sept. 27. He has said the baton was a prop for a video he was filming in New York. Meanwhile, no charges have been filed against the rapper in connection with two arrests in Burbank in October and November. The cases were under review, said Jane Robison, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County district attorney's office. Broadus was arrested Oct. 26 at Bob Hope Airport in Burbank for investigation of being a felon in possession of a gun and transportation of marijuana. On Nov. 28, he was arrested outside NBC Studios in Burbank for investigation of illegally having a firearm, cocaine, marijuana and a false compartment in his vehicle. Burbank police served a search warrant stemming from the earlier arrest at Hope airport.

### B.B. KING BACK TO 'OLD SELF'

HOUSTON (AP) - B.B. King was discharged from a Galveston hospital Saturday following treatment for a fever and was "back to his old self," a spokeswoman for his management agency said. The 81-year-old, Grammy-winning blues man was "feeling fabulous," said Tina France, vice president of Lieberman Management of New York. King had been scheduled to perform last Thursday at the Grand Opera House, but was admitted to The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, said Paul McCarthy, a hospital administrator. King, who has a history of diabetes, had a 100.4-degree fever following a bout with the flu, and monitoring was required because of his age, said France. Doctors treated him with antibiotics, she said. He was kept in the hospital's elderly acute care unit as a precaution, said John Koloen, a spokesman for the hospital in Galveston, about 50 miles southeast of Houston. The Grammy winner resumed his tour Tuesday keeping his concert date in Fort Worth, Texas. From there, King's itinerary has him in Louisiana for shows scheduled for today through Saturday. His long list of hits includes "The Thrill is Gone," "Every Day I Have the Blues" and "You Upset Me Baby," and he was awarded a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1987. He has become a spokesman in the fight against diabetes. In December, President Bush awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award.

### BROWN'S CHILDREN WANT TRUSTEES REMOVED

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) - James Brown's six adult children believe the soul singer's valuable estate was mismanaged and want the trustees removed, according to court documents. An emergency petition filed recently in Aiken County also claimed that some of Brown's assets are in danger of being "lost or dissipated or stolen." The irrevocable trust, signed in 2000, is said to contain most of Brown's primary assets, including music rights and his 60-acre Beech Island home. The trust is separate from Brown's will, which was filed separately last week and divided personal possessions such as clothes, jewelry and automobiles among the children. Trustee Buddy Dallas, also an attorney for Brown, said everything in the trust was handled "appropriately and properly" when the 73-year-old entertainer died Dec. 25. "I've been Mr. Brown's trusted friend and counsel for 24 years — a relationship that was built totally on our trust," Dallas said. "And I never violated that trust for 24 years." The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reports that a hearing scheduled for this week to decide whether to replace the personal representatives of James Brown's estate has been moved to February 9, according to Dallas, one of the three personal representatives for Brown's estate. Also, the motion will be heard by a circuit court judge rather than a probate judge. Dallas said he thought the motion, filed last Wednesday by Brown's heirs, had been moved because it would no doubt have been appealed to circuit court.

# Parody of parody fails, bombs

By Kam Williams  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

January is a time when Hollywood studios are known to foist junk on the unsuspecting public. A clue that this might be the case with "Epic Movie" is that the film was not made available to critics for screening prior to its release, usually a sure sign of a plan to "pump and dump" a turkey.

The marketing strategy involves bypassing reviewers while hyping the movie by putting the best scenes in the TV ads in order to make as much money as possible on opening weekend — before word of mouth has had a chance to spread.

"Epic Movie," a sophomore spoof of the Hollywood blockbuster, relies on the familiar formula already employed by "Scary Movie" and "Date Movie." The good news is that it's actually not nearly as bad as anticipated. But the bad news is that I wasn't expecting much, and the laughs are still few and far between.

Worse, this bottom-feeder is so relentlessly crude, profane and vulgar that it truly deserves an R instead of its kid-friendly PG-13 rating. At least it does have the rudiments of a plot, which is more than can be said for most of the parody genre.

The story revolves around a quartet of orphans, each a refugee from a recent hit flick. Lucy (Jayma Mays) is based on Sophie from "The DaVinci Code," the detective descended from Christ. Edward (Kal Penn) is patterned after Esqueleto, Jack Black's homeless sidekick in "Nacho Libre." Susan (Faune Chambers), a character inspired by "Snakes on a Plane," is flying to meet her adoptive celebrity parents, Bradgelina, when all hell breaks loose aboard the aircraft because of, you guessed it, snakes on the plane. And finally, Peter (Adam Campbell) is an "X-Men" reject sans superpowers.

After introductory sequences featuring sketches from each of the aforementioned films, the four meet at a chocolate factory where they discover a magical wardrobe that deposits them in the Land of Gnomia where they encounter a flamboyant pirate (Darrell Hammond), a boy wizard (Kevin McDonald) and an evil White bitch (Jennifer Coolidge). Our intrepid young heroes proceed to embark on a hair-raising adven-



The scene from this movie mocks "Snakes on a Plane."

ture in this dangerous parallel universe, during which they must join forces with a horny lion to defeat the White bitch and her minions.

But it's more important for the audience to pay attention to all the allusions to hit

flicks arriving at breakneck speed than to the plot developments in this clumsily cobbled together fable. The problem with the picture is that it makes no effort to appeal to anything but the lowest common denominator,

whether that be via fart jokes, urination humor, projectile vomiting, or a litany of lewd asides.

So, instead of offering any enlightening insights, the idea here is nothing deeper than to make references in the most infantile fashion imaginable. Besides takeoffs on recent movies ("Borat," "Talledega Nights," "Mission: Impossible," "Hustle & Flow," "Casino Royale," "Click," "The Fast and the Furious," etcetera), the film makes lame attempts to poke fun at individuals like Paris "Am I annoying?" Hilton, and Kanye "George Bush doesn't care about Black people" West.

It also lampoons popular television shows such as MTV's "Cribs" where we get to see a gangsta' rapper boast about his conspicuous consumption while his nearly-naked video ho pours Cristal champagne over her implants.

Can a picture really be considered a parody if it merely parrots rather than satirizes its source material?

Fair (1 star). Rated PG-13 for sex, expletives, crude humor and slapstick violence.

# James Ingram

R&B and Soul Artist

## GRAND EVENTS CENTER

February 10 @ 9 pm

doors open at 8 pm

### Ticket prices

from \$37.50 plus tax

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at all Station Casinos  
Reward Centers, the Fiestas,  
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"I DON'T HAVE THE HEART"  
"BABY COME TO ME" &  
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