

Snoop Dogg pleads guilty to toting baton in luggage

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) - Snoop Dogg pleaded guilty to one count of felony possession of a dangerous weapon. The rapper was sentenced to 160 hours of community service and three years' probation, his attorney said.

Snoop Dogg, 35, was arrested in September 2006 after the discovery of a collapsible baton in his computer bag at John Wayne Airport in Orange County.

Authorities said it was a dangerous weapon. He said it was a prop for a video he was filming in New York.

His attorney, Donald Etra, said the felony conviction would be reduced to a misdemeanor after one year if Snoop Dogg does not violate the law.

"We are very pleased with the outcome," Etra said recently. "Snoop's goal is to make music, not make court appearances."

In the plea deal, Snoop Dogg was also ordered to make a \$10,000 charitable donation, Etra said.

"He wants to get on with his life," Etra said. "He will



SNOOP DOGG

continue his music and his filming and performing."

The case is Snoop Dogg's second in the past year. He was arrested at Bob Hope Airport in Burbank on Oct. 26 on suspicion of transporting marijuana. Police later found a gun at his home.

The rapper, born Cordozar Calvin Broadus Jr., pleaded no contest in April to felony gun and marijuana charges and agreed to five years' probation and 800 hours of community service.

The cases marked the end of a relatively long trouble-free stretch for Snoop Dogg. He had burnished his image in recent years with appearances in mainstream movies and by starting a youth football league.

Snoop Dogg was convicted in 1990 of cocaine possession and charged with gun possession after a 1993 traffic stop. In 1997, he pleaded guilty in exchange for three years' probation and a promise to make public service announcements against violence.

He was acquitted of a murder charge in 1996 after the death of an alleged street-gang member killed by gunfire from the vehicle in which Snoop Dogg was traveling.

Singer feted for education

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Legendary Motown singer-songwriter Smokey Robinson is being honored for his contributions to the miracle of education.

Robinson, who helped put the fledgling Motown record label on the map in the early 1960s with his group the Miracles, is receiving the United Negro College Fund's Award of Excellence.

"The award honors Smokey not only for his five-decade career as a creative artist, but also for the contribution he has made to helping students



SMOKEY ROBINSON

get the college education they need and deserve," said Michael L. Lomax, the group's president and CEO. Previous winners include

Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Quincy Jones and the late Lou Rawls.

Robinson, 67, was to receive the award Saturday night at the taping of the group's 29th annual "Evening of Stars" concert at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. The show is to be broadcast sometime in January.

Robinson shot to fame as the frontman for the Miracles, giving Motown its first No. 1 R&B hit with "Shop Around" in 1960. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987.

Judge gives The Game conditional discharge

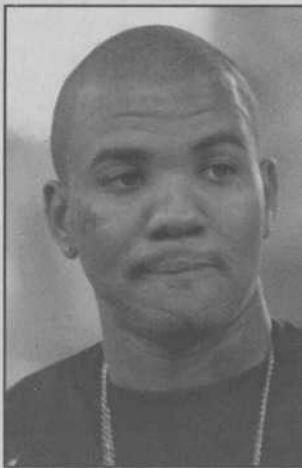
NEW YORK (AP) - A judge let The Game go free recently on a charge that he impersonated a police officer.

Manhattan Criminal Court Judge Marc Whiten gave the West Coast rapper, whose real name is Jayceon Taylor, a conditional discharge, meaning that if he isn't arrested again within six months, the misdemeanor charge will be dismissed and the case file sealed.

Taylor was arrested Nov. 16, 2006, after he told a cab driver that he was an undercover police officer and directed him to run several red lights, police said after the rapper's arrest.

Taylor, 27, of Glendale, Calif., had hailed the livery cab shortly after appearing on CBS' "Late Show With David Letterman." The cab driver drove about 13 blocks before he was pulled over, police said at the time.

Taylor, who has a large "LA" tattooed on the right side of his face and a teardrop under his left eye, said the cab driver noticed they were being followed and asked who was in the car.



THE GAME

Taylor said he told the driver they were the hip-hop police, and the driver decided on his own to run the red lights.

Jeffrey Lichtman, Taylor's lawyer, said it was unlikely that a cab driver, seeing his client's tattoos, would have thought he was a policeman.

"I've never seen a cop with writing all over his face," Taylor said.

Taylor had rejected offers of a plea deal that would have kept him out of jail in exchange for a guilty plea. He said he was innocent of any crime.

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