

# Vivica Fox denies DUI charges in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Vivica A. Fox pleaded not guilty to drunken driving recently, six months after she was stopped for allegedly driving 80 mph and weaving in a traffic lane on the Ventura Freeway.

Fox wasn't in Superior Court as her attorney entered her plea to two misdemeanor counts of driving under the influence and driving with a blood-alcohol level over the legal limit of .08.

If convicted, the former "Dancing With the Stars" contestant could face up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Fox, 43, was stopped March 20 in the San Fernando Valley after her 2007 Cadillac Escalade passed a black-and-white California Highway Patrol car, according to a CHP report.

After she failed a series of sobriety tests, the report said, the actress began to berate the officers as she was being arrested.

"Fox began to walk away, yelling at my partner,



VIVICA FOX

"Brother, help a sister, are you going to let this racist White cop do this ... well, are you?" the report stated.

She continued to speak in a "condescending manner" as she was placed in the patrol car, the report said.

Fox said later that she regretted the incident.

"I won't ever make that mistake again," she told reporters in June. "Trust me, I'm going to hire a driver next time."

Fox has appeared in films such as "Kill Bill: Vol. 1," "Soul Food" and "Independence Day."

# Editor causes anger over hair comment

By Monica Harris

Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA)

- An editor from *Glamour* magazine kicked off yet another racial debate during what was intended to be a carefree luncheon at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton law firm in New York City.

The unnamed junior editor made remarks about the inappropriate nature of natural African hair during a recent slide show about the dos and don'ts of corporate fashion, according to an article in the August issue of *The American Lawyer*.

"First slide up: an African-American woman sporting an Afro. A real no-no, announced the *Glamour* editor to the 40 or so lawyers in the room. As for dreadlocks: How truly dreadful! The style maven said it was 'shocking' that some people still think it 'appropriate' to wear those hairstyles at the office. 'No offense,' she sniffed, but those 'political' hairstyles really have to go," the national law journal reported.

The reaction to the presentation has been mixed among lawyers, members of the Black community and be-

yond.

"Dreadful? Was she trying to be disrespectful or did she neglect to notice any Blacks in the room?" asked Janet Vaughn of Washington, D.C.

"Either way, I'm shocked that she actually gave a presentation about this. How could someone wearing their natural hair be making a political statement?"

Ingrid Sturgis, news director of AOL Black Voices, says to keep your job opportunities as plentiful as possible, it may be necessary to keep appearances neutral.

"It's really a question of how you want to be seen by your potential employer," Sturgis said. "It's important to stay true to yourself and do what's most comfortable, but know that you may unknowingly turn some people off."

"When I began looking for jobs, I wore my hair straight, but as time went on, I grew my hair into long locks," she explained. "After you break into the industry, your work will speak for itself and you can do whatever you want with your hair."

Sturgis has worked in the (See *Controversy*, Page 7)

# Inmate: I lied about B.I.G. murder

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A prison inmate who implicated a former Los Angeles Police Department officer in the murder of Notorious B.I.G. says he lied about the officer's involvement, a move that provides another twist in a complex and unsolved killing.

Waymond Anderson, a former R&B artist now serving a life sentence for murder in a separate case, said in an Aug. 20 deposition that he lied as part of a scam to win a monetary settlement from the city. Anderson's deposition,

first reported last week in the *Los Angeles Times*, states that he was offered a portion of any settlement if he testified that former police Officer Rafael Perez told him that another ex-police officer, David Mack, was involved.

Both Mack and Perez have long denied any involvement in the March 9, 1997, murder of the New York rapper, also known as Biggie Smalls.

"I don't know David Mack; I don't know Rafael Perez," Anderson said in the deposition. "It was a lie, and I'm ashamed of it."

B.I.G., whose real name was Christopher Wallace, was 24 when he was gunned down while leaving a music industry party at a Los Angeles museum.

Wallace was one of the country's most influential hip-hop artists, and theories have proliferated for years about who might have been behind his murder and why.

His family has filed a wrongful death lawsuit seeking damages from the city. It accuses the Police Department, and specifically Mack, of responsibility for Wallace's death.

In his deposition, Anderson accused the family and their lawyer of offering to cut him in for a portion of any award for falsely implicating the police.

Perry R. Sanders Jr., the Wallace family's lawyer, denied the allegation. "This is wholesale, made-up-out-of-whole-cloth perjury," Sanders said.

Both Mack and Perez have long since left the Police Department.

Mack is serving a federal prison sentence for bank robbery.

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