

Entertainment Briefs

BOBBY BROWN'S LATEST COURT EDITION

Being Bobby Brown sometimes seems synonymous with being in some kind of trouble. The R&B bad boy appeared in a Brockton, Massachusetts, courtroom Tuesday for a closed-door hearing on whether he will face drug charges stemming from his Dec. 1 arrest in a hotel parking lot. Police who were responding to a report of a fight at a Holiday Inn said they found the singer outside in an SUV with what his lawyer described as "very small amounts of cocaine residue" in his possession. A clerk magistrate has delayed making a decision on the matter while awaiting more details from police on the circumstances surrounding the situation. The possible drug charges aren't the only legal matter on Brown's docket. The former New Edition singer filed court documents in July seeking to overturn a decision granting ex-wife Whitney Houston sole custody of their 14-year-old daughter, Bobbi Kristina.

RIHANNA HELPING N.Y. LEUKEMIA PATIENT

She just became an honorary cultural ambassador for Barbados, and now Rihanna is advocating for another cause: a New York City leukemia patient in urgent need of a bone marrow donor. The 20-year-old singer is working with DKMS, an international donor network based in Tübingen, Germany, to try to find a donor for Lisa Gershowitz Flynn, *People* magazine reported on its Website Saturday. "When I heard about Lisa's plight, my heart broke," Rihanna told the magazine. "I said, 'I need to get the word out about Lisa right away.'" Flynn is a 41-year-old mother of two young children. She was diagnosed in November with acute myelogenous leukemia, a fast-growing cancer of the blood and bone marrow. Doctors have told her she has four to six weeks to find a suitable donor, according to *People*. Flynn said she was stunned by the singer's efforts on her behalf. "For Rihanna to even be thinking about helping others and putting herself out there when she is so busy with her career is tremendous," Flynn said.

ARETHA MAKES PETA'S 'WORST-DRESSED' LIST

PETA thinks Aretha Franklin is no queen of soul when it comes to wearing fur. Franklin was crowned this year's worst-dressed celebrity by the animal rights organization. Her crime: wearing "yet another vulgar fur" at the Grammy Awards. "... you looked as if you were going to perform 'I Am the Walrus' by the Beatles," *People* for the Ethical Treatment of Animals said later of Franklin's appearance. "You might be a queen, but you don't know jack about compassion. How 'bout some RESPECT for animals?" PETA added. The other offenders are Marilyn Manson, Eva Longoria ("in her trashy furs, she looks like the streetwalker of Wisteria Lane"), Lindsay Lohan, Kate Moss and Kylie Minogue. PETA called Minogue cold-blooded for toting a python purse. Christina Ricci, Martha Stewart and Alicia Keys have said they've given up wearing fur since being singled out by PETA in previous years.

NAOMI CAMPBELL HOSPITALIZED IN BRAZIL

Naomi Campbell was hospitalized in Sao Paulo for the removal of a small cyst, her publicist said. The 37-year-old British supermodel, a frequent visitor to Brazil who earlier this month celebrated Carnival in the northeastern city of Salvador, was treated at Sirio Libanes Hospital. "Naomi Campbell was admitted to the hospital ... to have a small cyst removed," her publicist, Jeff Raymond, said in a statement Tuesday. "Following the successful procedure, she is now resting and is looking forward to getting back to work. She would like to thank the doctors who have kindly looked after her." Dr. Jose Aristodemo Pinotti, a gynecologist, said by telephone that Campbell underwent abdominal surgery. "I cannot reveal what Naomi had, nor how serious her condition was, but I can say I operated on her yesterday, that everything went smoothly and that she is completely cured and walking in her room," Pinotti said. He described the procedure as a laparoscopy, in which doctors use a thin, lighted scope to view internal organs.

Yayo beats charges of threat

Special to Sentinel-Voice

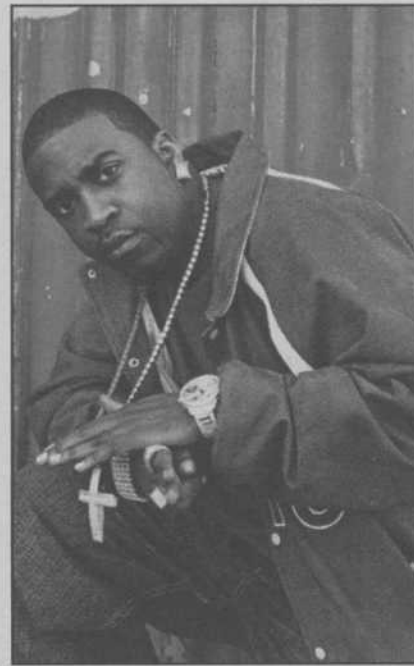
Tony Yayo's avoided the same fate as The Game.

Days after his former G-Unit running mate was sentenced two months in a Los Angeles jail for pulling out a gun during a schoolyard basketball game, Yayo got off with community service in his own criminal case.

The 29-year-old rapper, whose real name is Marvin Bernard, admitted in Manhattan Criminal Court recently that he threatened but did not touch the 14-year-old son of The Game's manager, Jimmy "Henchman" Rosemond.

In a court declaration, Yayo copped to "glaring" at James Rosemond Jr. in a way that was "meant to threaten physical violence" during a confrontation in March 2007.

The "Mo Money, Mo Problems" emcee had been accused of actually striking the teen, who was standing



Rapper Tony Yayo received community service for threatening a NY teenager.

across the street from Violator Management, the Big Apple base of 50 Cent and his G-Unit crew. The younger Rosemond was wearing a T-shirt touting his dad's Czar Entertainment.

But last month, Yayo attorney Scott Leemon filed evidence showing that the rapper's acquaintance Lowell Fletcher had told police it was he who slapped the boy and Yayo pulled him away.

Yayo pleaded guilty to a violation, a lesser offense than a misdemeanor. He will do 10 days of community service at the Book Bank Foundation, an organization that promotes literacy.

Fletcher pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of endangering the welfare of a child for grabbing the teen. He received a nine-month jail sentence. In a statement, the boy's family said Yayo "tried to wiggle his way out of his role" in the incident and demanded a public apology.

Book Review

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should come as no surprise that in his will he chose to free only 5 of his 200+ slaves after his death. Subsequent Democratic presidents were just as intolerant. For instance, plantation owner Andrew Jackson saw slavery as "the necessary foundation" of American civilization, if Whites were to maintain their quality of life economically.

When James K. Polk took over the White House in 1845, he fired the existing domestic and kitchen staff and replaced them with slaves. Politically, Polk declared in his 1848 State of the Union Address that Congress had no power to end slavery.

This attitude was later only rubber-stamped by fellow Democrat James Buchanan who, in 1857, hailed the Dred Scott Deci-

sion with, "Had it been decided that either Congress or the territorial legislature possess the power to annul or impair the right to property in slaves, the evil would be intolerable."

The very next year, during the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates, Democrat Stephen A. Douglas argued,

"I hold that a Negro is not and never ought to be a citizen of the United States. I hold that this government was made... by the White men, for the benefit of White men and their posterity forever, and should be administered by White men and none others. I do not believe that the Almighty made the Negro capable of self-government... In my opinion, the signers of the Declaration of Independence had no reference to whatever to the Negro when they declared all

men to have been created equal... thus, my friends, I am in favor of preserving the government on the White basis as our fathers made it."

Many forget how Republican Abraham Lincoln's ill-advised choice of a Democrat as a running mate in 1864 gave John Wilkes Booth a good excuse to assassinate him

For upon assuming the presidency, Andrew Johnson immediately began doing his best to ruin the Reconstruction effort by vetoing the Civil Rights Act and by repealing the Freedmen's Bureau legislation guaranteeing each ex-slave 40 acres and a mule.

Worse, he allowed the Southern states to pass the repressive Jim Crow laws prohibiting Blacks from voting, holding office, marrying Whites, and so forth. With

African-Americans denied the vote, this signaled the demise of the Republican Party in the region, leading to the notion of the Solid South, meaning solidly Democratic. With no checks or balances, the next 100 years would be marked by widespread lynching, vigilantism and the rise of the Ku Klux Klan.

Speaking of the Klan, did you know that Harry Truman joined it in 1924? Wrong on Race: The Democratic Party's Buried Past by Bruce Bartlett is stocked with tons of such shocking tidbits. And while this illuminating tome might not make you shift your allegiance to the Republicans this election season, at the very least it ought to make you question the wisdom of remaining reflexively loyal to a party which has never officially apologized for its checkered past.

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