

# Rapper releases post-mortem CD

By Andrea De Young  
Assistant Sports Editor

Two months after his death, Tupac Shakur's final CD, *Makaveli*, has made its way to the stores.

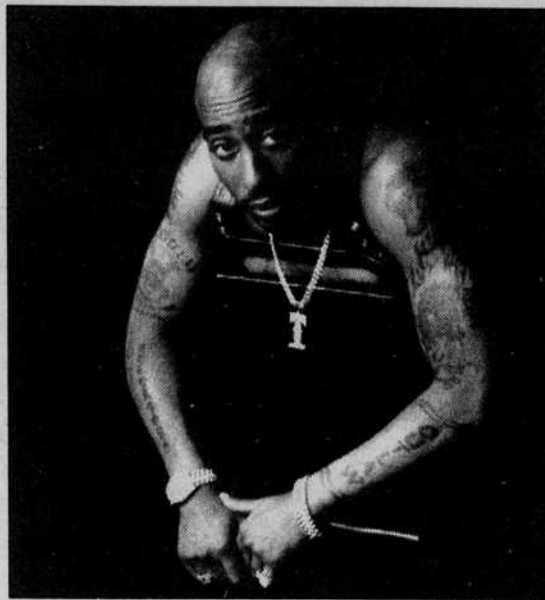
2Pac took on this name in reference to *The Prince*, a book written by Italian political theorist Niccolo' Machiavelli. In the book, Machiavelli states that a ruler holds onto power without considering moral consequences. 2Pac used this work as a theme in his fifth solo album, in which church themes dominate not only the music, but also the art on the cover.

Several tracks include obvious references to religion. "hail mary" has church bells ringing in the background, "toss it up" begins with what sounds like monk chants, and "blasphemy" ends with a woman offering a prayer.

Another theme that threads throughout the entire album, and really through 2Pac's entire career, is life on the streets. This is especially true in the tracks "bomb first (my second reply)," in which 2Pac addresses the rivalry between East Coast rappers and West Coast rappers and "white man's world."

Since the beginning of his career, 2Pac has devoted many of his songs to African-Americans' struggle against oppression and life on the streets, and this album is no exception. His final days before his death were full of controversy, and the music on this album is dark and seemingly bitter.

But that does not make it bad. Although there is a noticeable difference between this album and his first solo album, *2Pacalypse Now*, released in 1991, the change has been gradual and coincides with 2Pac's change in lifestyle from his days as a dancer and rapper with Digital Underground to his signing with Death Row Records before his fourth album, *All Eyez On Me*.



COURTESY PHOTO

Rapper Tupac Shakur's final CD has been released two months after he was shot to death.

Although this album does not have some of the rhythm and blues aspects of his previous albums, some of 2Pac's signature traits are once again evident in "Makaveli." Several different artists make their way into the songs, all of which were written by 2Pac. The two best songs involve JoJo from Jodeci in "toss it up" and Val Young in "to live and die in l.a." Female vocalists such as Young add depth to the album.

The final track on the album, "against all odds," features 2Pac telling his listeners that this is "the realest shit I ever wrote." The album then ends with the sound of gunshots, just like 2Pac's life.

Although *Makaveli* is not 2Pac's best album, the words are all his, and with his recent death, these may be the last songs he ever wrote. Then again, with the way groups such as The Beatles and Nirvana are still producing albums without key members, this may be far from being 2Pac's final release.



## REVIEW

### Makaveli

Tupac Shakur  
★★★  
(rap)

## Ghost: Band has unique style, stage presence

Continued from Page 5A

was more than enough incentive to endure compromise, the most drastic of which was changing the band's name from The Ezra Holbrook Band to Jacob Marley's Ghost.

"Capitol felt 'The Ezra Holbrook Band' was too 'adult contemporary' for our demographic," Holbrook said.

Musically, the band has a warm sound that echoes with guitar harmonies that weave in and out of Holbrook's voice. As his influences suggest, Hol-

brook's lyrical aims sway between a 1950s ethic and a 1990s melancholy, often balancing a tight-rope over fear, sadness and love.

"I really look at writing as a way to get things off my chest," Holbrook said.

To regulars at Cafe Paradiso in the Downtown Mall and Sam Bond's Garage on Blair Street, the band is well-known for their unique stage presence, which features the unwavering uniform of dress shirts, slacks and black ties. Holbrook said he

didn't want the band to project the "slacker" image associated with many young rock bands.

Until January, when the band will record its major label debut, Jacob Marley's Ghost will continue to perform weekly in Eugene and Portland.

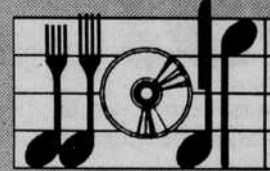
"I want to be able to make music and pay my bills," Holbrook said. "That's my dream. I love, after a couple of Margaritas, just playing my guitar and howling."

"If I can do that the rest of my life, I'll be happy."

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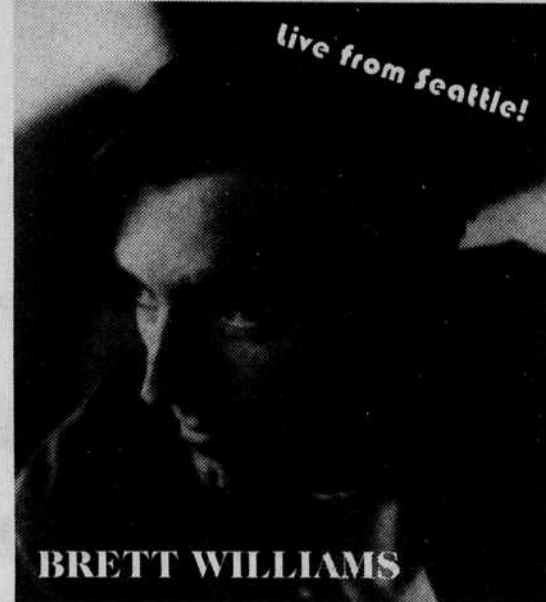
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◇ FRI., NOV. 15 ◇

**Walker T. Ryan, Blues**  
BLACK FOREST  
2657 WILLAMETTE • 344-0816  
10PM • NO COVER!

**The Servant of Two Masters**  
ROBINSON THEATRE  
UO CAMPUS  
346-4191 • 8PM

**Ballroom Dance**  
220 GERLINGER, UO CAMPUS  
8:30-11:30PM  
\$2 STUDENTS, \$3 GENERAL

◇ SAT., NOV. 16 ◇

**Peter Bach, Acoustic Giant**  
BLACK FOREST  
2657 WILLAMETTE • 344-0816  
10PM • NO COVER!

**The Servant of Two Masters**  
ROBINSON THEATRE  
UO CAMPUS  
346-4191 • 8PM

**Scandals Comedy Night**  
2222 CENTENNIAL • 343-4734  
9PM-11PM

This calendar is provided courtesy of the advertising department. For more information call 346-3712.

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