

FOCUS

FOUR TOPS

Legendary group to perform this weekend



The smooth vocal blending of the Four Tops will bring the DooWop days of the 50s to life when the legendary entertainers perform at Chinook Winds Casino in Lincoln City for 8 p.m. shows on Friday and Saturday, March 21 and 22. The Four Tops have been marveling audiences with their infectious blend of pure vocal power and sweet harmonies since 1954. For tickets, call 1-888-624-6228 or 1-800-992-8499.

Homage Paid to Moms of Slain Rap Stars

(AP) — Six years after rapper The Notorious B.I.G. was slain, the grief is still fresh for his mother, Voletta Wallace.

"Just the shock of the news, telling me that my son is not breathing ... that pain is unending," she said.

Her pain was eased in the weeks after her son's death, however, by the outpouring of support she received from fans and friends, Wallace said.

So she decided to follow that example by honoring the mothers of other musicians who died untimely deaths - Aaliyah, Lisa "Left Eye" Lopez, Tupac Shakur, Jam Master Jay, Big Pun, Big L and Freaky Tah - at "B.I.G. Night Out," a benefit for the Christopher Wallace Memorial Foundation.

"Over the years, they've encountered one of the worst tragedies a mother can ever face, and I'm hoping not to put closure to their loss but just to share a little



Rapper Sean "Puffy" Combs hugs Voletta Wallace, mother of deceased rapper Notorious B.I.G., whose real name is Christopher Wallace, during a "B.I.G. Night Out" benefit for the Christopher Wallace Memorial Foundation, a group founded by Voletta Wallace to provide educational resources for children.

warmth with them," Wallace said.

She sent a card to Aaliyah's mother, Diane Haughton, after the singer-actress was killed in a plane crash in August 2001. She also ex-

tended sympathies to the mother of slain rapper Freaky Tah, Herminia Rogers.

At the benefit in Manhattan, Wallace met most of the mothers

for the first time. She said she had no advice for them, but wanted to celebrate their courage.

"It is our way of saying, 'Keep your head up,'" said Wallace. "It's the foundation's way just to let these parents know that we love them."

The Notorious B.I.G. - born Christopher Wallace and also known as Biggie Smalls - was shot to death on March 9, 1997, in Los Angeles. His killing remains unsolved.

One mother Wallace has already met is Afeni Shakur, whose son Tupac had a bitter rivalry with The Notorious B.I.G., and was killed six months before him.

Like Shakur and Wallace, Connie Mizell's son Jason - Run DMC's pioneering DJ Jam Master Jay - was shot to death. His October killing also remains unsolved.

The Christopher Wallace Memorial Foundation provides educational resources for children.

More Police Troubles for Ross

Singer cited for expired tags, months after drunk driving arrest

(AP) — Diana Ross has been cited by police in Greenwich, Conn. for driving an unregistered car.

Ross was stopped Sunday afternoon when a police officer noticed the registration sticker on the black Ford Taurus' license plate had ex-



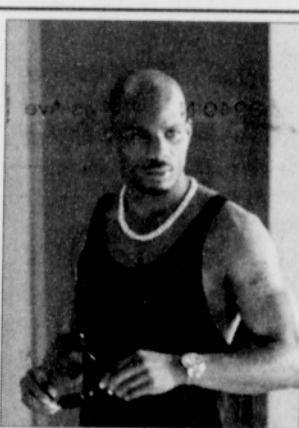
Diana Ross

pired, the Greenwich Times reported.

Ross, who has a home in Greenwich, said she rarely drives the car because it's owned by her Los Angeles booking agency, police said.

The 58-year-old singer was issued an infraction that carries a \$78 fine.

Ross was arrested for investigation of drunken driving Dec. 30 in Tucson, Ariz. She has pleaded innocent to the charge.



DMX Done With Rap

Hip-hop artist DMX says his next album, "It's Not a Game," will be his last. On the set of his new film, "Never Die Alone," the star of "Cradle 2 the Grave" told MTV News that he is hanging up the microphone to spend more time with his family, read the Bible, act and work with his Bloodline Records label. One musical exception: a collaboration with chart-busting rapper 50 Cent.

Rosa Parks Refuses to Attend Image Awards

NAACP endorsement of 'Barbershop' movie brings protest

(AP)—Civilrights pioneer Rosa Parks did not attend the recent NAACP Image Awards because the event's host, Cedric the Entertainer, made jokes about her in the film "Barbershop" that she considered offensive.



Rosa Parks

In a letter Elaine Steele, a co-founder of the Rosa & Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development, said the invitation

was appreciated but that jokes by Cedric's character in "Barbershop" represent "a sensitive area to us."

"We with many others do not understand the endorsement the NAACP gave to the hurtful jokes in the movie 'Barbershop,' about America's civil rights leaders," the letter stated.

Parks, 90, made history in De-

cember 1955 when she was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Ala., city bus. Her arrest triggered a 381-day boycott of the bus system by blacks and led to court rulings desegregating public transportation nationwide.

Kweisi Mfume, president of the NAACP, said he was disappointed that Parks wouldn't attend, in part because "The Rosa Parks Story" is nominated in the category for outstanding TV movie, miniseries or dramatic special.

Settlement Reached in D'Angelo Spitting Incident



R&B singer D'Angelo has reached a settlement with a woman who said he cursed at her and spit on her in a Nov. 18 traffic confrontation. D'Angelo, 29, won Grammys in 2000 for best R&B album for "Voodoo" and for best male R&B vocal performance for "Untitled (How Does It Feel)."

(AP)—Grammy-winning R&B singer D'Angelo has reached a civil settlement with a woman who said he spit on her.

D'Angelo, who was charged under the name Michael Eugene Archer, was to have been tried last Wednesday on misdemeanor assault and obstruction of justice charges. He reached a settlement with a woman who said he cursed at her and spit on her during a Nov. 18

traffic confrontation in Richmond, Va. Settlement terms were not disclosed.

When a policeman tried to serve warrants at D'Angelo's home, he tried to shut the door on the officer, who then forced his way in and subdued the singer with pepper spray.

D'Angelo was fined \$500 on the obstruction of justice charge after pleading no contest.

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