

Focus

Ja Rule Wins Dispute

Tiny label wins verdict against music giant

(AP) — A small independent record company won a \$132 million verdict against industry heavyweight Island Def Jam Music Group and its top executive in a dispute over an unreleased record by rapper Ja Rule.

The verdict in the penalty phase of the trial provides roughly \$24 million in compensatory damages and \$108 million in punitive damages to New York-based TVT Records.

Ja Rule, whose real name is Jeffrey Atkins, started his career with TVT in 1993 and moved to Island



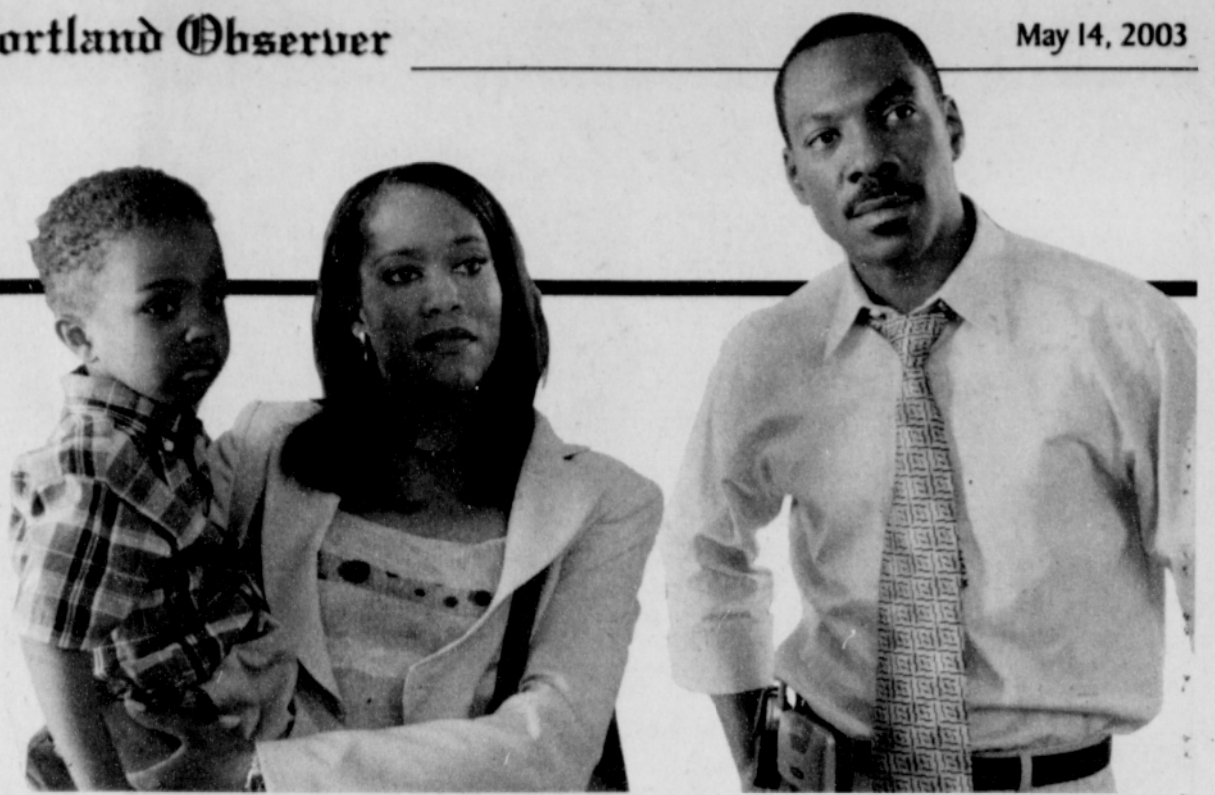
Recording artist Ja Rule.

Def Jam with president Steve Gottlieb's blessing five years later, TVT attorney Peter Haviland said.

In spring 2001, Ja Rule and two friends tried to make an album for TVT that included early Ja Rule recordings, but Def Jam's parent record company Universal Music Group blocked its completion, the lawyer said.

Haviland said Gottlieb was "left in ruins" when he could not release the album he was counting on.

Island Def Jam lawyer James M. Larossa agreed that Gottlieb and his record company were entitled to the finished but unreleased album, money for costs he cannot recoup and other factors.



Regina King and Eddie Murphy star in 'Daddy Day Care.'

Eddie Murphy Learns to Fill a Fathers Shoes

'Daddy Day Care' is a comedy about three men who start a childcare service

One of the funniest men in show business, Eddie Murphy, brings big laughs in Revolution Studios' new family comedy 'Daddy Day Care.' As with the classic comedies

'Mr. Mom' and 'Three Men and a Baby,' Murphy immediately saw the comedy potential in 'Daddy Day Care.'

Murphy plays Charlie who, with his business colleague Phil (Jeff Garlin), starts a day care after they lose high profile advertising jobs. The two had previously been so consumed by their careers they missed out on the joys of fatherhood.

In 'Daddy Day Care,' their kids provide them with a crash course in

child rearing, with uproarious and heartwarming results.

Charlie and Phil figure that if it is easy for the two of them to take care of two kids, how much harder can it be to supervise 10? However, it is much harder than they ever imagined. Somehow they slowly get the hang of it and their new venture begins to thrive.

When the number of kids increases, they bring in a third caretaker, Marvin (Steve Zahn) who is an overgrown kid himself and seems

to speak the children's language.

They begin to teach the kids how to read, play games, interact and have fun at the same time. In the process, Charlie and Phil bond with their own sons, coming to fully appreciate the priceless joys of fatherhood.

Murphy began his career as a stand-up comedian 25 years ago. He joined the cast of 'Saturday Night Live' in 1980 at the age of 19 and has gone on to enjoy a successful career on the silver screen.

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The Art of Thelma Johnson Streat

Out of viewing for almost 40 years, Thelma Johnson Streat's art displays once more at the Portland Art Museum. Johnson, an African American artist who grew up in the Northwest focuses her art on the world's multiple cultures. The exhibit takes place at the Portland Art Museum, 1219 S.W. Park. For more information, call 503-226-2811

Talisman Gallery's Features Works

Painters Miriam Badyrka and Allen Schmetzler will be featured at the Talisman Gallery, 1476 N.E. Alberta through May 25. Badyrka's work incorporates artistic patterns of different cultures and periods from around the world. Schmetzler creates political art combining painting, caricaturing and expressionism for the purpose of bringing political art to the public.

People of the Columbia River Basin

"People of the Columbia," a four-film session narrows in on cultures and rights of minorities in the Columbia River Basin. Documentaries vary from a single black mother's attempt to improve a neighborhood to a movie about an Asian-Indian family torn between their new world and their traditional old world. Documentaries show Tuesdays at 7 p.m., at Kiggin's Theater, 1011 Main St., in Vancouver. "American Gypsy" will



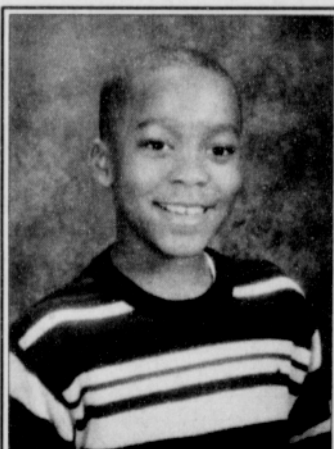
show on May 20. For more information, call the Center for Columbia River History 360-258-3289.

IFCC Asian Pacific Heritage Month

Washington artists Ellen George and MalPina Chan will display works from different views of their Chinese heritage at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N Interstate. George uses hand-formed polymer and Mylar materials to display her take on her Chinese cultural influence; Chan brings monographs of family and historical documents to express the struggle between U.S. and Chinese cultures. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. through 6 p.m., Saturdays 12 p.m. through 4 p.m. or by appointment. No admission is charged, but donations appreciated. For more information, call 503-823-2072 or 503-823-2071.

Curtis Stigers Plays the Northwest Vocal Jazz Festival, May 16

Curtis Stigers, a jazz singer and saxophonist who has played along side Elton John, Eric Clapton, Bonnie Rait and Rod Stewart, will play the Northwest Vocal Jazz Festival on Friday, May 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mt. Hood Community College gymnasium. Stigers gained wide success with "The Bodyguard" soundtrack's "What's So Funny 'Bout Peace, Love and Understanding." Tickets are available by calling 503-491-6969 or available at the door.



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