Focus

Parks' Rap Group Lawsuit Reinstated

Civil rights pioneer claims OutKast song defamed her character

(AP) - Rosa Parks can go ahead with a lawsuit rap group OutKast for using her name as the title of one of their hit songs, an appeals court ruled last week.

A three-judge panel of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati sent Parks' false advertising and publicity claims back to U.S. District Judge Barbara Hackett in Detroit. The ruling reversed Hackett's finding for the defendants in a 1999 pretrial decision.

"This actually has reaffirmed the rights of other citizens in the United



against the Grammy-winning An appeals court has reinstated parts of a lawsuit brought by civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks against the rap group OutKast. She accuses the group of misusing her name in a song title." (AP Photo)

propriate one's name for profit without one's consent," said Parks' lawyer, Gregory Reed. "It's another stand for which Mrs. Parks has

Lawyers for the 90-year-old civilrights pioneer argued that Parks has the right to sue OutKast for the segregating public transportation States that others should not apuse of her name in "Rosa Parks,"

one of the songs on their 1998 album, "Aquemini." LaFace Records is also named as a defendant.

Parks, a Detroit resident, contends the use of her name without permission constituted false advertising, infringed on her right to publicity, defamed her character and interfered with an ongoing business relationship. The lawsuit seeks to have all references to Parks removed from future versions of the disc.

OutKast has argued that using the words "Rosa Parks" is protected by the First Amend-

Parks made history in December 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 381day boycott of the bus system by blacks and led to court rulings denationwide

New UPN Sitcoms Feature Minority Casts

Network will focus on comedy for its fall lineup

(AP)—UPN, finishing a weak season, is pinning a comeback on comedies with minority casts. Eight sitcoms - up from four this season - fill two of the network's five-night fall schedule, which is being unveiled to advertisers in New York

Six of the eight feature minority casts, including one produced by Will and Jada Pinkett Smith, said to be based on their life, and another starring hip-hop singer

UPN, which led WB last season, now lags far behind and has lost nearly 17 percent of its viewership, the steepest falloff of

Will Smith and wife Jada Pinkett Smith will star in "All of Us," the family comedy based loosely on Will Smith's life on UPN this fall.

any broadcast network.

But UPN's comedies retained their loyal audience, paving the way for a new Tuesday comedy night to be anchored by top-rated Monday staple One on One.

UPN's new shows: "All of Us," the family comedy

based loosely on Will Smith's life. Duane Martin stars.

"The Opposite Sex," a romantic comedy about twentysomethings, led by singer Eve.

"Rock Me Baby," starring Dan Cortese as a young shock-radio DJ forced to grow up as a new father.

"TheMullets," a male-buddy comedy starring Michael Weaver and David Hornsby as brothers who work as roofers. With Loni Anderson.

"Jake 2.0," UPN's lone new drama, about a National Security Agency worker who turns into a superhero after being accidentally injected with computer chips.

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 Schmertzler 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. Schmertzler creates political art combining painting, caricaturing and expressionism for the purpose of bringing political art to the public.

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 monoprints 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.

Hair, through May 24

"Hair" is rock, nudity, profanity, drug references and incense wrapped in one production. The play comes to Portland's Alberta Arts Pavilion after its debut 35 years ago on Broadway. The Alberta Arts Pavilion is located at 2315 N.E. Alberta. Friday and Saturday shows begin at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees start at 2 p.m. The performances end Sunday, May 25. Tickets are \$14 for general admission and \$12 for students or seniors with a dollar off for a canned food donation. For more information, call 503-502-8261

Soul Vaccination, May 24

The funk and soul band "Soul Vaccination" covers groups Tower of

Power, Commodores, Earth Wind and Fire and others. Check them out Saturday, May 24 from 9:30 p.m. through 1 a.m. Cover charge is \$5 at the Chicago Blues, 115 E 7th St. in Vancouver.

Oregon Music Academy Performance Celebration, May 26

Free for all ages performances by Pink Martini, The Jefferson High School Choir and the Ethos Student Recital organization takes place Monday, May 26, 1:00 p.m. through 4:30 p.m. at the Outdoors, 5308 N Commercial St. For more information, call 503-28-ETHOS.

An Evening With "Life of Pi" Author, May 27

Tuesday, May 27 at 7:30 p.m. Portland Arts & Lectures presents Yann Martel. Writing "Life of Pi" won Martel a Booker Prize and propelled his name into a circle with the likes of Joseph Conrad, Salman Rushdie, Paul Auster and Paul Theroux. Share an evening with Martel in the First Congregational Church, 1126 SW Park Ave. General admission tickets cost \$12, senior and college student tickets cost \$7 and high school student tickets cost \$5. Tickets are available at the door or by phone 503-227-2583.

Woman Tree Art Gallery Opening

Focusing on community artists, the Woman Tree Art Gallery on Alberta Street will host a different woman artist each month. The first artist, Soonae Kim, studied for months the people of Vietnam, Laos, Nepal and India for inspiration of her many talents: fashion design, ceramics, printmaking, wood sculpting, drawing and painting. Gallery hours run 11 a.m. through 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. For more information, call 503-335-5800 or online at www.womantree.org.

Def Jam Vendetta Tour, May 30

Capone and N.O.R.E with guests Joe Budden and Cadillac Tah lead a night of rap with East Coast influence Friday, May 30, 9 p.m. Tickets on sale Saturday, April 26 at 9 a.m. Advanced ticket purchases through TicketsWest locations are \$20. Tickets purchased at the door are \$25 both prices applicable to service charge. Pay by phone 503-224-8499, 800-992-8499 or online at www.ticketswest.com.



