

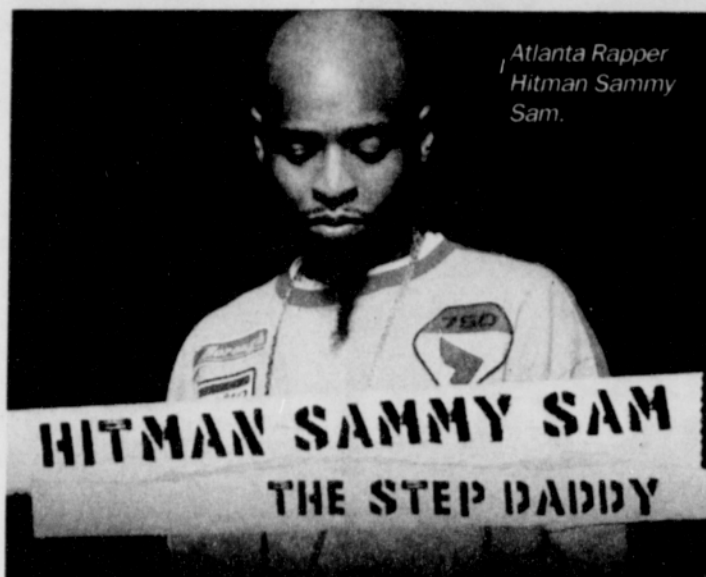
Focus

Candlelight Vigil Held for Vandross



Singer Aretha Franklin performs during a prayer and candlelight service for friend and singer Luther Vandross, shown in photo behind Franklin, at Little Rock Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit. Vandross has been unconscious since suffering a stroke in April. (AP Photo)

Rapper Finds Home Front Inspiration



Atlanta Rapper Hitman Sammy Sam.

Hit song based on own experience raising children

(AP) — Atlanta rapper Hitman Sammy Sam says he found the inspiration for his comical hit, "Step Daddy," in his own house.

The song—in which a stepfather's authority is challenged by back-talking kids—came to him one night as his own children were getting ready to take their baths and go to bed.

"I heard them singing 'The Itsy-Bitsy Spider,' and I said, 'I got to make that into a song,'" he said.

The quirky hit, which uses the nursery rhyme in the lyrics and samples Frankie Smith's "Double Dutch Bus," is nearing the national top 20 on the rap and R&B airplay

charts and crossing over to top 40.

The raspy-voiced rapper engages a chorus of children in a call-and-response over a galloping bass line. His character has plans for a quiet night watching the game, but the kids' mother is not home, and they have other ideas: "You ain't my dad/Shut up! I'ma callya' mama. You just a man 'cause you ain't my dad."

The comedic video for "Step Daddy" features belt-wielding actor John Witherspoon (Ice Cube's dad from the "Friday" movie series) trying to get a handle on the misbehaving youngsters.

While this is Hitman's first major-label release, he's put out seven independent albums over the past decade. He's confident that this hit is only the beginning.

"I ain't no one-hitter quitter," he said. "I don't make the kind of music I want to hear. I make the kind of music the world wants to hear."

People can relate to it. I don't make the kind of music I want to hear. I make the kind of music the world wants to hear.

—Rapper Hitman Sammy Sam, on his hit single Step Daddy

S.C. Pardons James Brown for Crimes

Drug and assault charges will be dropped against the soul legend

(AP) — James Brown had plenty of reason to feel good last week as South Carolina officials pardoned the soul legend for his past crimes in that state.

Brown, who served a two-and-a-half-year prison term after a 1988 arrest on drug and assault charges, and was convicted of a drug-related offense in 1998, was granted a pardon by the state Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services.

Brown, who appeared before the board, sang "God Bless America" after the decision, said his publicist, Dan Forman.

"God bless America on this beautiful day. I hope my pardon shows the youth that America is a beautiful country," the 70-year-old singer said in a statement. "I feel good!"

Brown had friends, family and state lawmakers speak on his behalf.

Brown, famous for countless hits, including "I Feel Good," "Sex Machine" and "Living in America," unsuccessfully tried to get a pardon for his crimes in 2001. Last week's pardon means he is fully forgiven from all the legal consequences of his crime and his conviction.

State Rep. Ken Kennedy, who spoke on Brown's behalf, said the pardon will allow the singer to share his experiences and help others.

"I've been a fan



Entertainer James Brown was pardoned last week for his past crimes in South Carolina. State Rep. Ken Kennedy, who spoke on Brown's behalf, said the pardon will allow the singer to share his experiences and help others.

of James Brown all my life. I've listened to his music all my life," Kennedy said. "I think this is something that he deserves. He has been one of our great entertainers in this country. He's done so much for the country and for me as a young person growing up here."

In September 1988, Brown, high on PCP and carrying a shotgun, entered an insurance seminar next to his Augusta, Ga., office and asked seminar participants if they were using his private restroom, according to authorities.

Police chased Brown for a half-hour from Augusta into South Carolina and back to Geor-

gia. The chase ended when police shot out the tires of his truck.

Brown received a six-year prison sentence after he was convicted on charges of assault, failure to stop for a law enforcement officer, resisting arrest, carrying a pistol and drug possession. He spent 15 months in a prison near Columbia, S.C., and 10 months in

I think this is something that he deserves. He's done so much for the country.

—S.C. State Rep. Ken Kennedy, who spoke on James Brown's behalf

a work-release program in Aiken before being paroled on Feb. 27, 1991.

In 1998, police found marijuana and guns at Brown's home when sheriff's deputies took him into custody on a probate judge's order as a "mental transport."

Brown spent a week in a private Columbia hospital, recovering from what his agent said was dependency on painkillers the singer took after hurting his back during a show.

He was convicted of use of a weapon while under the influence, but completed a 90-day drug program, O'Boyle said.

To receive a pardon in South Carolina, a person must apply to the Pardon and Parole department. The board hears about 200 or 300 pardon cases annually and about 60 percent to 65 percent of those pardons are granted, O'Boyle said.

Rapper Camouflage Fatally Shot

(AP)—The rapper Camouflage, whose homespun albums made him a celebrity in Savannah, Ga. while flirting with greater fame, was fatally shot while walking with his toddler son outside his recording studio.

The 21-year-old rapper, whose real name was Jason Johnson, died last week at a local hospital after he was shot

outside Pure Pain Records in midtown Savannah.

His son was not hurt. Police had made no arrests Tuesday.

Acting Police Chief Willie Lovett formed a task force to investigate whether Johnson's death was related to recent violence including two other killings, and whether retribution might be involved.

The rapper Camouflage, whose real name was Jason Johnson, died last week after he was shot outside his recording studio in Savannah, Ga.



CANNON'S

RIB EXPRESS

(FORMERLY CHUCK HINTON'S)

Catering & Take-Out
OUR SPECIALTY:
REAL HICKORY SMOKED BAR-B-Q

- Sandwiches • Salads
- Chicken • Pork Ribs
- Beef Ribs

HOURS:
Mon.-Thurs. 11am-9pm
Fri.-Sat. 11am-10pm
Sun. 11am-8pm

CATERING EVENTS LARGE AND SMALL

Fish Sandwich — \$8⁰⁰ FRIDAY & SATURDAY
Fish Dinner — \$10⁰⁰

***** NEW LOCATION *****
5410 N.E. 33RD 503-288-3836

Health Pursuits

"Helping you pursue your health and fitness goals"

We cordially extend an...
Introductory Offer:
(5) Personal Training sessions: \$25 ea. or...

Friends and Family Training Sessions \$30
Featuring Indoor Cycle & Circuit Training
(Maximum three persons per group session)
Offer expires May 15, 2003

503-513-9715
or Email: HealthPursuits@excite.com
4815 NE Fremont Ave. • Portland, Oregon

Denise Johnson

- B.A., Health & Fitness Management
- M.P.H. (Physical Activity and Risk Reduction (currently enrolled))
- Certified Personal Trainer, A.C.E.
- Group Aerobic Instructor, A.F.A.A.
- 23 Years Experience Weight Lifting & Body Building

FREE LONG DISTANCE

When You Switch or Order New Residential Telephone Service

Order My Line Complete Today
Get Unlimited Local Calls
Unlimited Nationwide Long Distance
Caller ID†
Call Waiting
Call Forwarding
3 Way Calling
Call Rejection
Speed Dial†
Priority Call
Anonymous Call Rejection†
Last Call Return
... just **\$49.95** (In Most Areas)
†Not available in all areas

Want More from your Phone Company?
My Line Complete offers a competitive and flexible alternative to other local carriers. Besides the great call features, **My Line Complete** offers Unlimited Long Distance! This means you can talk to your family and friends all you want, whenever you want. With this plan, it's easy to stay in touch. One low price, **My Line Complete** offers Local and Long Distance Calls to anywhere in the U.S.—24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Order by Phone: 503-241-3434
Have Copy of Current Phone Bill before Calling
Fax: 503-698-5980 Email: My-Line@usa.com

Service may not be available in all areas, credit approval required. To expedite order process and ensure accuracy, please have copy of current phone bill available while placing order. Name and address must be given exactly as listed on current phone bill. Service provided by Excel Var.Tec. All orders require call back through 3rd-party verification service. Note: First phone bill will be higher than subsequent billings to include prorated 1st month, month rate and fees, as applicable. State and Federal taxes, surcharges and fees are additional. Order service via phone, fax or email available all hours. Allow 7 to 10 days to activate service. Offer good Qwest or Verizon areas only.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

The Art of 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

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.

Carl Smith and The Natural Gas Co.
Carl Smith and The Natural Gas Co. will perform funk at O'Connors Restaurant with a view for fireworks during the evening. The show on Friday, May 30 begins 7 p.m. at the Yamhill Marketplace in downtown PDX.

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.

"Shift" Benefit-film Festival, May 30
A night of bicycle themed film shorts takes place Friday, May 30 from 8 p.m. through 10 p.m. La Palabra Café Press hosts the event, 4810 N.E. Garfield. Admission based on a sliding-scale donation with a minimum \$3 to \$10. For more information, call 503-542-6900 or go online www.ShiftToBikes.org.

Community Music Center Concert and Reception, May 31
CMC faculty performs a concert to benefit the music center. After the concert a reception at the Korgold home unfolds. Saturday, May 31 the concert begins at 7:30 p.m. and the reception will follow the concert. Ticket prices vary.