Focus

P. Diddy Pleads for Drug Law Changes

Supporters say Rockefeller-era legislature is too harsh

You can't really even fathom the amount of damage this is doing to somebody's family - somebody's mother, somebody's father, somebody's child.

Sean "P.Diddy" Combs, speaking out against New York drug laws he feels are outdated

(AP)—Sean "P. Diddy" Combs joined fellow rap impresario Russell Simmons and former U.S. housing secretary Andrew Cuomo in calling Rockefeller drug laws.

"If you're not affected by this the amount of damage this is doing to somebody's family-somebody's

somebody's child," Combs said Wednesday. "Lives are changed by this law, that if it's not happening to you or to one of your family for the repeal of New York's strict members you may not really feel the

The Rockefeller laws, passed time offenders to 15 years to life in prison if convicted of selling as mother, somebody's father, little as 2 ounces or possessing



trolled substance

There is a broad consensus that law you can't really even fathom in the 1970s, can subject first- the laws are too harsh, but Gov. George Pataki and the state Legislature have been unable to agree on how to reform or repeal them.

addresses the media during a news conference held to call for the repeal of the state's Rockefeller-Era drug laws, last week in New York. The laws, passed in 1973 and 1974 during then-Gov. Nelson Rockefeller's administration, can subject first-time offenders to 15 years to life in prison if convicted of selling as little as 2 ounces, or possessing as little as 4 ounces, of a controlled substance. (AP Photo)

Joining Simmons, Combs and Cuomo at a news conference at a midtown hotel were the Mothers of the New York Disappeared, representing family members of people incarcerated under the Rockefeller



BIG EASY

Buck Braden's "Zu Zu Mamou" depicts the human side of the Big Easy. The ladies or "flowers" are incorporated with the New Orleans architecture, sights and sounds. The painting goes on display from June 26 to July 27 at the Talisman Gallery, an artist owned cooperative at 1476 N.E. Alberta.

if even bright things get you down.

Rap Stars and R&B Legends Join 'Hollywood Homicide'

Harrison Ford and Josh Hartnett join rap sensations Master P and Kurupt, as well as R&B veterans Gladys Knight and Smokey Robinson, in the fast-paced action-comedy Hollywood Homicide.

The film which open in local theaters Friday provides a rare inside look at the professional and personal lives of Los Angeles Police Department detectives Joe Gavilan (Ford) and K.C. Calden (Hartnett), who turn LAPD upside-down with laughter.

Gavilan is a wearied but tenacious police veteran at the top of his game professionally, though his personal life is rapidly unraveling. K.C. moonlights as a yoga teacher and aspiring actor and is constantly getting in the way of their investigation into a high-profile gangland-style murder.

Master P plays club owner Julius Armas, a man who takes pride in being a successful businessman and entrepreneur, but suddenly finds himself thrust into the middle of an intense police investigation after four rappers are violently murdered in his nightclub.

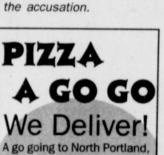
Rap sensation Kurupt plays K-RO, a young rapsongwriter who witnessed the gangland-style murders, but he is fearful about pointing the finger. He is convinced the man behind the murders is Antoine Sartain (Isaiah Washington) a dangerous record com- adds to a wild, but, ultimately, satisfying moviepany executive, whose version of tough love is death. going experience.



Kurupt's mother is played by R&B legend Gladys

During the films final scenes, a wild pursuit ensues as Gavilan and Calden close in on the suspect. When Gavilan desperately needs a car, he commandeers a taxi and takes it kicking and screaming from the cab driver, played by R&B veteran Smokey Robinson.

The music in the film also offers mixed selections of today and yesterday with cutting edge hip-hop, as well as some classic oldies. The mix



Lee tells Viacom to

Do the Right Thing'

Filmmaker Spike Lee has

sued media giant Viacom

over its plans to rename the TNN cable channel Spike

TV. In the suit filed Tuesday,

Lee - born Shelton Jackson

Lee - claims Spike TV refers

to his name. Viacom denies

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Jackson 'Thrilled' Lawsuit Settled

(AP) - A \$12 million lawsuit against Michael Jackson by former financial advisers that could have revealed details of his finances has been settled.

"It just got to a point where we agreed on what we needed to do," Jackson attorney Zia Modabber said, adding that the singer "was thrilled."

Union Investment Corp. of South Korea and its financial adviser, Myung-Ho Lee, claimed Jackson owed them \$12 million in unpaid fees and expenses for their efforts to put his financial affairs in order. The agreement came as the judge

was to rule on a request by Jackson's lawyer to dismiss the suit on grounds that Lee was not properly licensed to give investment advice in California. Court TV was asking to televise

closely guarded finances. The suit claimed that Jackson, who amassed a half-billion-dollar

the trial, which could have meant a



ruptcy.

public airing of records of Jackson's fans lined the streets to watch his diploma.

Michael Jackson

by Roosevelt High

School administra-

tors in Gary, Ind.,

Jackson returned to

first time in decades

to the city. (AP photo)

last Wednesday.

hometown for the

the city of his

and was also presented with a key

holds up an honorary

diploma given to him

Stops included City Hall, where Jackson, meanwhile, was in Gary, the mayor gave Jackson a key to the Ind., for ceremonies honoring him city, the neighborhood where he in his hometown, which he had not grew up and a high school where visited for decades. Thousands of Jackson was awarded an honorary

Luther Vandross Leaves Intensive Care

been moved out of intensive care critical condition since his April 16 and upgraded to stable condition, stroke, at one point contracting his business manager said Thurs- pneumonia and needing a trache-

Vandross "is more and more reday miracle."

The 52-year-old R&B singer remains hospitalized at Cornell-Weill

(AP) - Luther Vandross has Medical Center. He had been in otomy to help him breathe.

However, family and friends told sponsive each day," Carmen The Associated Press last week Romano said in a statement. "I feel that Vandross was beginning to as though I am watching a modern mouth words and had started light therapy. He also no longer needs a

respirator to breathe. His move out of intensive care



Luther Vandross

comes two days after the release of his new album, "Dance With My

H. & B. Too

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