

Focus



The Afro Celts, having recently released their newest album, "Seed," bring their unique sound to the Oregon Zoo on Friday, July 18.

MUSICAL FUSION

The Afro Celts are going to rock the lawn near the Asian elephants at the Oregon Zoo on Friday, July 18. Afro Celt Sound System is electrifying audiences across the nation with their innovative fusion of West African rhythms, Irish traditional music, and cutting-edge dance grooves. Tickets for the Afro Celt's July 18 performance are on sale now.

Considered pioneers of the glo-

bal beat movement and originally called the Afro Celt Sound System, the sound of the Afro Celts has evolved in the past seven years from an emphasis on programmed beats and grooves to real instrumentation and song craft. The latest album in their continual musical exploration, *Seed*, has an organic feel throughout.

Tickets for the Afro Celt's performance are on sale now. Ticket

price is \$15. Tickets are available at the zoo reception office and Safeway TicketsWest Ticket Centers, on-line at TicketsWest.com (service charges apply) or by calling 503-224-8499 or 800-992-8499. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the concert begins at 7 p.m. For additional information, please visit www.oregonzoo.org or call 503-226-1561.



Macy Gray's Return to Pop



Singer Macy Gray poses as preparing for the release of her third album, "The Trouble With Being Myself." The 32-year-old singer-songwriter finds herself in the uncomfortable position of having to re-establish herself as a pop success.

Only two years ago, Macy Gray was on top of the music world - a critical and commercial darling with a multi-platinum debut album, a Grammy and a ubiquitous hit single.

Then her second album landed a week after Sept. 11, with a resounding thud. Now, as Gray prepares to release her third album, "The Trouble With Being Myself," she finds herself in the uncomfortable position of having to re-establish herself as a pop success.

"Music is all about timing," reflects the 32-year-old singer-songwriter. "You could put out the hottest record in the whole world - if it's not the right time for it, it won't work."

Timing was certainly part of the problem surrounding Gray's "The Id." In the wake of the terror attacks, Gray's sexy, exuberant attitude didn't mesh with the somber, healing tone of the times. "The Id" sold about 585,000 copies - decent for some artists, but a flop compared with the 3.3 million copies sold for her debut.

Judge Throws out Felony Charges Against Beanie Sigel

Rapper with firearms possession charge had prior charges dropped

At the close of a state court hearing on an assault case, rap artist Beanie Sigel was arrested by federal officials and charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Sigel, a South Philadelphia native whose real name is Dwight Grant, was to remain in custody on the weapons charge until a federal detainer hearing, said his lawyer, Fortunato Perri Jr.

The charge comes from an April

20 arrest in Philadelphia, when police said Sigel threw a gun from his vehicle during a traffic stop, Perri said.

The 29-year-old also has a pre-

Police said Sigel fired two shots after intervening in an argument between Speller and two women outside the Pony Tail Bar. Speller was expected to recover.

liminary hearing on a charge of shooting a man outside a West Philadelphia bar. Last week, Sigel surrendered to police on an attempted murder charge for allegedly shooting Terrence Speller in the stomach and foot on July 1.

Police said Sigel fired two shots

after intervening in an argument between Speller and two women outside the Pony Tail Bar. Speller was expected to recover.

In the court hearing last week, a Philadelphia judge threw out a felony assault charge but upheld two misdemeanor charges against Sigel for a January assault. The victim, Wendall Mathis, testified that Sigel punched him in both eyes, breaking the orbital bone around his left eye, according to Assistant District Attorney Crystal Scott.

Sigel's 1995 drug conviction is the basis for the federal gun-possession charge, Perri said.

A protege of Jay-Z, Sigel gained a following in 2000 with his gold-certified debut CD, "The Truth." His second album spent several weeks in the top 10 of Billboard's R&B/Hip-Hop chart.

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