

Tupac's Mom Brings His Dream to Life

Afeni Shakur keeps memory and truth about her murdered son alive

(AP) — Afeni Shakur, the 56-year-old mother of the late rapper Tupac Shakur, does not fit the image of a savvy record executive. She lives on a farm in North Carolina. She prefers to spend her time overseeing her garden, attending to her grandchildren and taking naps. Yet Shakur is the executive producer of the new documentary "Tupac: Resurrection," as well as founder and CEO of Amaru Entertainment/Amaru Records, which has released several million-selling

Tupac albums. "I'm not a filmmaker. I'm not a music producer by choice," Shakur says plainly, wearing a velour sweatshirt during an interview in a New York hotel suite. "Whatever it is I'm doing I do because my son was murdered, and he was not able to complete his work. So as his

grieving mother. "I read every agreement of every contract. Anything I put my signature on, I really do read them. And I find things," says the former Black Panther, laughing about an incident where a company tried to get paid for a photograph they hadn't even taken.

she says. Certainly, that motherly instinct has helped keep Tupac's name and legacy vibrant in the seven years since Tupac Amaru Shakur died, gunned down on a Las Vegas street corner at age 25.

Tupac was already one of rap's greatest talents — and certainly its most dynamic, charismatic and controversial figure — when he was killed. But since his unsolved 1996 slaying, Tupac's allure and mystique have grown exponentially.

"Tupac: Resurrection" is just the latest example of Shakur's star power after death. The film is being released in conjunction with a picture book and a soundtrack featuring new Tupac material.

Although there have been several documentaries produced on

I think from the time it's released, it will always be the reference material that anybody uses about Tupac.

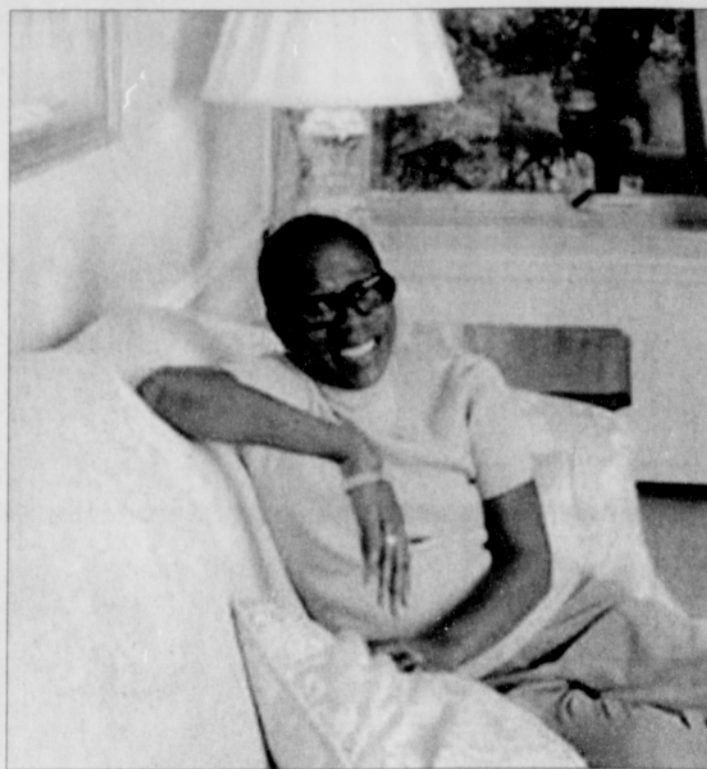
— Afeni Shakur

mother, my whole job and responsibility is to see to it that that happens for him, and I do that with love."

Yet as Shakur talks about upcoming projects, soon-to-be completed deals and other tasks, it's clear she's much more than just a

They didn't get away with it — Shakur, noticing something amiss, had the situation investigated and the proper person credited.

But savvy? Please, she says. "That's not savvy — that's your mama. That's show your mama does it as opposed to how they do it,"



Afeni Shakur, 56-year-old mother of late rapper Tupac Shakur. (AP photo)

Strip Search Lawsuit Settled

(AP) — The federal government has agreed to pay \$350,000 to a woman who says she was singled out for a strip search by Miami airport agents because she is black.

Rhonda Brent's search and dozens of others prompted changes in federal law and poli-

cies based on claims that customs inspectors made it a national practice to single out minority women for unjustified, humiliating searches in the 1990s.

She is relieved that it's over, and she in her way is also glad to know that other people can benefit from what she did to stand up for their

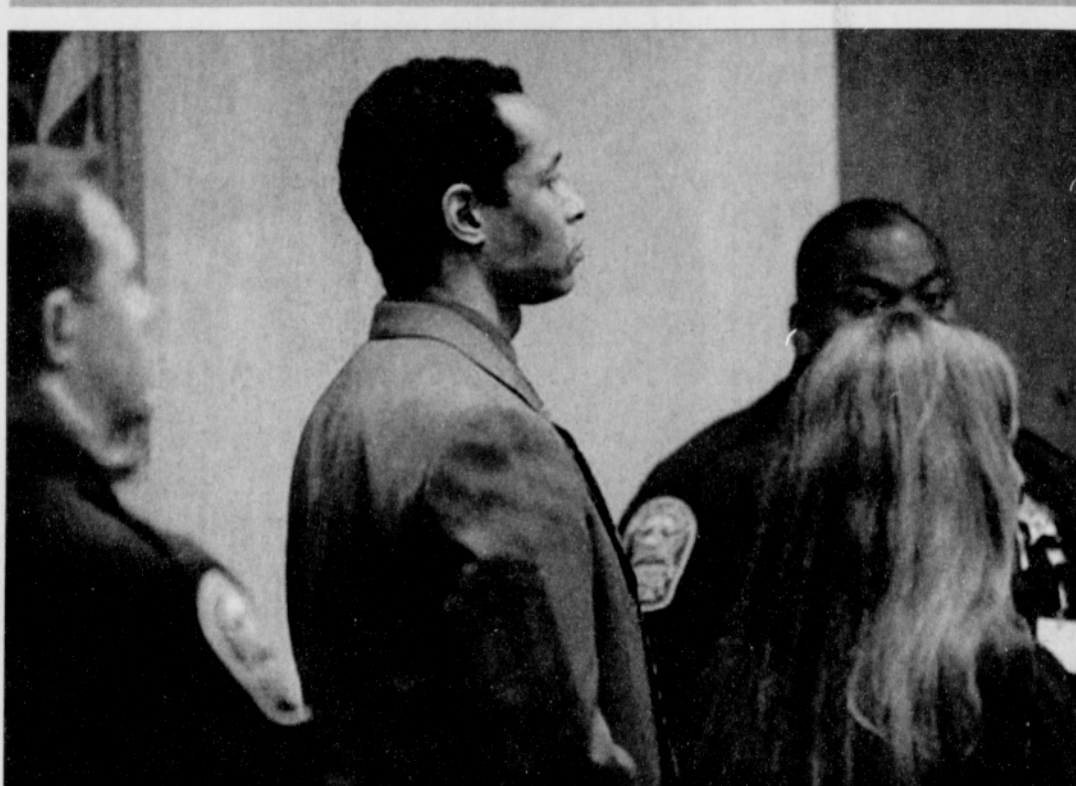
rights," the Houston woman's attorney, L. Obii Aham-Neze, said.

The Justice Department agreed to settle a lawsuit filed by Brent without an admission of wrongdoing two years after she won an appeal that found she was subjected to an unconstitutional strip search and X-ray exam.



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John Allen Muhammad stands for the reading of a guilty verdict Monday. The former resident of Tacoma, Wash. was charged in last year's sniper attacks in the Washington, D.C. area.

Army Veteran Guilty in Sniper Case

Faces death for multiple murders and terrorism

(AP) — In a verdict that could cost him his life, a stone-faced John Allen Muhammad was convicted Monday of using a high-powered rifle, a beat-up car and a teenage sidekick to murder people at random and terrorize the Washington area during last year's sniper attacks.

The Virginia jury immediately began hearing evidence on whether

the 42-year-old Army veteran should get the death penalty or life in prison.

"We reserve the death penalty for the worst of the worst," prosecutor Richard Conway told the jurors. "Folks, he still sits right in front of you without a shred of remorse."

Muhammad stood impassively as the verdict was read, looking straight ahead with the same enigmatic look he had throughout the trial. Two jurors held hands, and two others wept. Family members of victims held hands and wiped away tears.

The jury deliberated for 6 1/2 hours over two days before convicting Muhammad of two counts of capital murder. One accused him of taking part in multiple murders, the other — the result of a post-Sept. 11 terrorism law — alleged the killings were designed to terrorize the population. Muhammad is the first person tried under the Virginia law.

Muhammad was found guilty of killing Dean Harold Meyers, a Vietnam veteran who was cut down by a single bullet that hit him in the head on Oct. 9, 2002, as he filled his

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