

Focus

RAY CHARLES BACKS BLACK CULTURE STUDIES

(AP) — Ray Charles has donated \$1 million to Dillard University for the creation of a program about black culture.

The donation will create an endowed faculty position and program devoted to the musical, culinary, artistic and linguistic contributions of black Americans, Dillard spokeswoman Maureen Larkins said.

Charles received an honorary degree in May from Dillard, a private, predominantly black school



Ray Charles lends his support to black culture studies.

associated with the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ.

The 73-year-old singer donated the money in the name of the Robinson Foundation for Hearing Disorders, a laboratory he founded in 1987 for the treatment and research of hearing problems.



The Peking Acrobats balance on a bicycle not built for 12.

Dazzling Acrobats

Diplomats of Chinese culture plan performance

Peking Acrobats will awe audiences of all ages with their dexterity and agility at Chinook Winds Casino in Lincoln City on Friday, Dec. 12 and Saturday, Dec. 13.

Hailing from the People's Republic of China, the Peking Acrobats have been diplomats of their wondrous culture since 1958. Members of the troupe have been seen on "The Wayne Brady Show" and in the movie "Ocean's Eleven."

Last year they set the Guinness Book of World Record for Highest Human Chair Stack (six acrobats balanced themselves on a 21-foot-

high stack of six chairs while simultaneously performing handstands with no safety lines or guide wires).

These gymnasts, jugglers, cyclists and tumblers transform 2000-year-old athletic disciplines into an all-ages festival of entertainment and wonder.

Tickets range from \$15 to \$25. For more information, call 1-888-MAIN-ACT (624-6228).

Rapper Guilty of Obscenity Charge

(AP) — Former 2 Live Crew leader Luther Campbell avoided jail after pleading guilty to an obscenity charge for a performance at a North Charleston nightclub last year.

The Miami-based rapper pleaded guilty last month to aiding and abetting another person

to expose body parts in a lewd and lascivious manner, prosecutor Walter Bailey said Tuesday.

Circuit Judge James Williams suspended the maximum six-month jail sentence in favor of banishing Campbell from making paid performances in South Carolina for the next five years.

Campbell's lawyer, Glenn Churchill, said the 42-year-old rapper could make an unpaid appearance in South Carolina.

Campbell often appears around the country at voter registration drives and discussions on the First Amendment, the lawyer said.



Chris Rock

Black Ambition Tour to Hit Portland

Chris Rock is determined to remain this generation's strongest comedic voice with his Black Ambition Tour, coming to Portland in January.

Lauded by critics and the public alike, Rock has redefined standup comedy with his smart and incisive

takes on race, relationships and society.

Tickets for Chris Rock's Jan. 8 performance at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall went on sale Saturday. Advance tickets cost between \$38.50 and \$55 and can be purchased by calling 503-224-4400.

Kidman Conceals Kravitz Romance

(AP) — After more than a decade in the public eye with ex-husband Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman said she's keeping her new relationship with Lenny Kravitz private.

"I don't think I will ever put myself up for scrutiny, in terms of a personal relationship, ever again," she



Nicole Kidman

told W magazine for its December issue. "It's too delicate, too ephemeral, too painful when it fails. So to have it on display terrifies me."

Kidman said she was depressed after her divorce from Cruise in August 2001, but now



Lenny Kravitz

the 36-year-old star of "The Human Stain" and the upcoming "Cold Mountain" seems to have found love again.

"The idea of being able to give part of yourself again, that's a nice thing," she said.

Comedy Diva at the Hollywood Theatre



Comedian Karen Williams performs at the landmark Hollywood Theatre in northeast Portland at 7 p.m. Nov. 23.

Karen Williams, a standup comedian of national note and international acclaim, will delight Portland audiences at 7 p.m. Nov. 23 at Hollywood Theatre, 4122 N.E. Sandy Blvd.

Williams is a comic craftmaster, a multitasking actress and writer, and a committed artist of the highest caliber. She is also a rising star on the international festival circuit, having performed in Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver and Sydney.

As a humanist and social activist, Williams has participated in raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for various HIV/AIDS organi-

zations, women's health and social service agencies, multicultural events, youth groups and pride celebrations.

Her upcoming performance is part of the 20th anniversary celebration of Portland's Just Out newsmagazine. Admission is \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at Gai-Pied, It's My Pleasure, Touchstone Coffee House or www.justout.com.

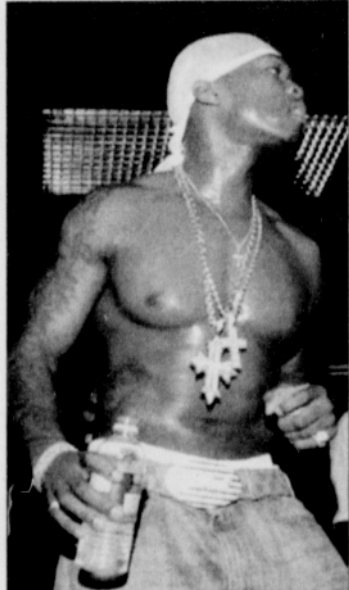
Rapper 50 Cent Sued for Millions

(AP) — 50 Cent and his record label have been sued for \$21 million by a New York Post photographer who claims the rapper's bodyguards attacked him.

James Alcorn alleges in a lawsuit filed in state Supreme Court that he was "assaulted and battered" by seven bodyguards Aug. 27 while photographing 50 Cent, who was shopping in the diamond district.

With the 27-year-old rapper looking on, the unidentified men allegedly slammed Alcorn down on the sidewalk, then loomed over him as he snapped a photo of them. Alcorn claims he suffered neck and jaw injuries.

The incident was being investi-



50 Cent

gated as a possible misdemeanor assault, a police spokesman said.

The lawsuit accuses 50 Cent and Interscope of "not exercising reasonable care and diligence in the employment" of the bodyguards.

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