

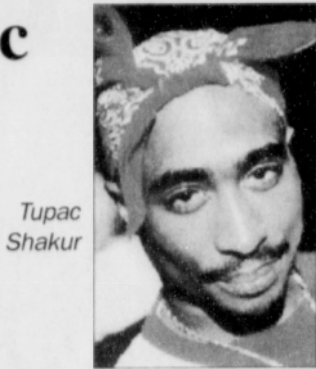
Focus

Book Looks at Softer Side of Tupac

An authorized novel "Inside a Thug's Heart" will be released in May 2004, depicting the intimate side of the slain rapper Tupac Shakur.

The book documents Shakur's thoughts during his 1995 incarceration, including poems, lyrics, short stories and an overall compelling portrait of the artist.

Booksellers note that material by or about Shakur sells extremely well, noting that one of the latest in a series of Shakur material, "Holler if You Hear Me" went to press twice, selling 80,000 copies within the first month.



Tupac Shakur

Author Angela Ardis completed the story with the intention of showing a gentler side of Shakur, who is often portrayed as hostile.

"Inside a Thug's Heart" will be released by Kensington Press.



Filmmaker Spike Lee speaks to students at Brown University in Providence, R.I. (AP photo)

Spike Lee Takes Swipe at Rap

(AP) — Continuing his criticism of some of the lyrics in rap, Spike Lee told an audience at Brown University that a lot of popular music portrays blacks in a negative light.

Speaking to an audience of more than 400 students Dec. 1, the director of films including "Do the Right Thing" and "Malcolm X" repeated the complaints he's made at colleges and universities over the past year.

"I've always felt you can feel the progress of African Ameri-

cans by listening to their music," Lee said. "Some of this 'gangsta rap' stuff, it's not doing anybody any good. This stuff is really dangerous."

He said some black adults equate education, good grammar and good grades with "being white," but when he was growing up, those things were seen as positive goals.

"You were not ridiculed if you spoke correct English," he said. Lee urged the audience to make their voices heard by not buying or viewing anything that portrays blacks in a negative way.

"We buy all this stuff, not even thinking about what's behind it... Think about the power that we have," the 46-year-old said. "We can't just sit back and think it doesn't affect us. We have to do something about it. We have to be more choosy about the types of stuff we support."

Lee also urged students to follow their dreams after graduation, "or you'll be sitting around, fat, divorced and miserable because you took some job, or you took some path that you didn't really want to do."

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

What a View!
Take in the Portland lights from the Sternwheeler for Christmas through Dec. 28. Admission ranges from \$20 to \$65 for dinner, dancing and holiday brunches. For more information, visit www.sternwheeler.com or call 800-643-1354.

Santa's Late
Find Santa at the Oregon Zoo's holiday simulator ride for the holidays through Dec. 28. Call 503-226-1561 or visit www.oregonzoo.org for more information.

Ozzie's Birthday
Join Oregon Zoo staff for a third birthday party for Ozzie, the famous otter, who was conceived, born and raised by his mother in captivity. Birthday party guests receive cupcakes. For more information, call 503-226-1561 or visit www.oregonzoo.org.

Revel Rousers
The Portland Revels presents the 2003 Christmas Revels Stage through Sunday, Dec. 14. Tickets are \$25, and discounts are available. For more information, visit www.portlandrevels.org.

Sax Flies West
Charles Gayle, a New York jazz saxophone street performer, will have a rare West Coast performance at Disjecta, 116 N.E. Russell St., on Jan. 10. Free.

Arts Benefit
The Talisman Gallery presents "Foot Square," benefiting Habitat For Humanity, through Dec. 28. For more information, call 503-287-9529.

Kwanzaa Gala
Bridge Builders is holding its seventh annual Kwanzaa Gala and Initiates Ball at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27 at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are \$30. For more information, call 503-306-2960.

All New Christmas Carol
The Northwest Children's Theater and School presents the "All New Christmas Carol" at the Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center, 1819 N.W. Everett St., through Dec. 24. Tickets are \$20 for adults. For showtimes and more information, call 503-222-4480 or visit www.nwcts.org.

Happy Times
The Children's Museum is creating happy times for kids during the holidays including clay glazing workshops from 2 to 4 p.m. each Saturday this month. For more information, call 503-223-6500.

Multicultural Carols
Kathleen "Catalina" Juergens plays soulful, revolutionary folk music and multicultural Christmas songs at 7 p.m. Dec. 15 at the Red and Black Café, 2138 SE Division St. \$3 cover. For more information, visit www.redemmarecords.com.

Urban Bush Women
White Bird and the PSU Dance Series presents return of Urban Bush Women in "Shadow's Child" at 8 p.m. from Dec. 11-13 at PSU's Lincoln Hall, Southwest Park and Market. Tickets are \$24 with student discounts available. For tickets, call 503-224-4400.

Trippin' through Town
Take a trip through time to find the hottest poetry, hip-hop and soul influencing Portland Wednesdays at the Ohm. \$7 cover. 31 N.W. First Ave.

Wild Party
Excite your child with a birthday party in the woods, meadow or near a pond, hosted by Portland Parks and Recreation staff. Themes include forest fairies, Indian legends, Lewis and Clark exploration, animal tracking, camouflage critters and more. Parties begin at \$100 for 10 children, including games, activities and favors. For more information, call 503-823-3601.

R Kelly Fights Pornography Charge



R Kelly

(AP) — Attorneys defending R&B star R. Kelly against child pornography charges have filed a host of motions, including one contending the alleged victim could have been old enough to legally

consent to sex. Also included in the 11 motions Kelly's attorneys filed Dec. 1 in Cook County Circuit Court is the argument that the case should be dismissed because prosecutors failed to specify the date of the alleged crime in their indictment against Kelly, 36.

Kelly, whose first name is Robert, was arrested in June 2002 after a videotape surfaced that allegedly showed the Grammy winner having sex with a girl.

By alleging that the illegal acts happened between November 1997 and February 2002, Kelly's attorneys argue, the girl could be anywhere from 13 to 17 years old. If she was 17 at the time, she would have been old enough to consent to sex.

Further, they argue, such a large window of time makes it impossible for Kelly to mount a fair defense.

Eminem Called on Racist Lyrics

(AP) — The Source magazine has Eminem on the defensive over a decade-old song that calls black girls "dumb" and depicts them as gold diggers. In the latest chapter of the Source's campaign against Eminem, Source principals David Mays and Raymond Scott held a press conference to play the recording. It features Eminem, who is white, saying things like: "Black girls are dumb and white girls are good chicks."

There also is another brief song in which a rapper, who the Source says is Eminem, uses the n-word. The tape was provided to the magazine by "three white hip-hop fans from Detroit who were peers of Eminem in the early 90s, at the time of the recording," the Source said in a press release. Eminem acknowledged that he made the song deriding black women. He said in a statement it was "something I made out of anger, stupidity and frustration when I was a teenager."

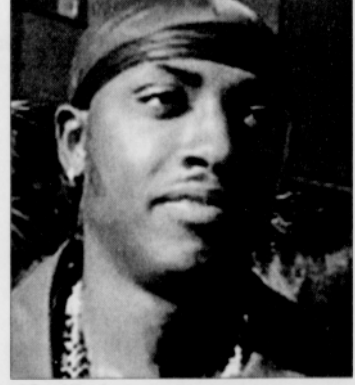


Eminem

"I'd just broken up with my girlfriend, who was African American, and I reacted like the angry, stupid kid I was. I hope people will take it for the foolishness that it was, not for what somebody is trying to make it into today."

Eminem has a history of inflammatory and derogatory comments about women, gays, and just about everyone else in between, including his mother and his ex-wife.

Mystikal Sentencing Delayed



Mystikal

(AP) — The Louisiana judge who accepted rapper Mystikal's guilty plea to sexual battery shouldn't be allowed to sentence him because he has seen an "inflammatory" videotape of the assault, his lawyer says. The rapper, whose real name is Michael Tyler, had been scheduled for sentencing last Wednesday, but it was put off until Jan. 15 after a

hearing on attorney David Bourland's complaint.

Tyler, 33, and two bodyguards pleaded guilty in June to sexual battery, which has a maximum 10-year prison sentence.

They'd videotaped themselves in forced sex acts with Tyler's hairstylist. The woman said Tyler accused her of stealing \$80,000 worth of his checks and told her he wouldn't go to police if she did something "degrading," according to prosecutor Sue Bernie. The woman has denied stealing money.

Bourland said he and the bodyguards' attorneys would argue to withdraw the guilty pleas next month.

"My client would not have entered a plea if he knew the tape was going to be shown, because it's inflammatory," he said. "The tape doesn't reflect the entirety of the events."