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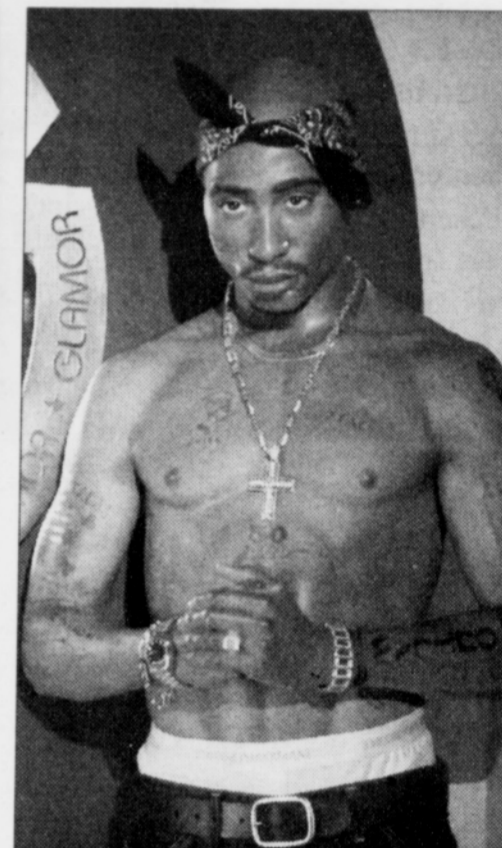
East Coast Meets West Coast

Tupac Shakur and Biggie Smalls (aka Notorious B.I.G.) were re-united for the first time – in wax – last week at Madame Tussauds in Washington, D.C.

Both figures are on loan from Madame Tussauds of New York for three months. During that time, fans will have the opportunity to take photos and get up close and personal with the incredibly lifelike figures.

Tupac's wax likeness was created from hundreds of photographs and precise measurements provided by Tupac's mother, Ms. Afeni Shakur. Tupac's wax figure is shirtless – sporting a bandana, Emporio Armani underwear, saggy jeans and replicas of Tupac's multiple tattoos.

Biggie's figure was created from extensive research. Studio artists studied hundreds of photos and hours of video footage to create



Music icons Tupac Shakur and Notorious B.I.G.'s wax figures are unveiled at Madame Tussauds in Washington, D.C.

Biggie's wax likeness, which dons a white three-piece suit, white hat and white shoes.

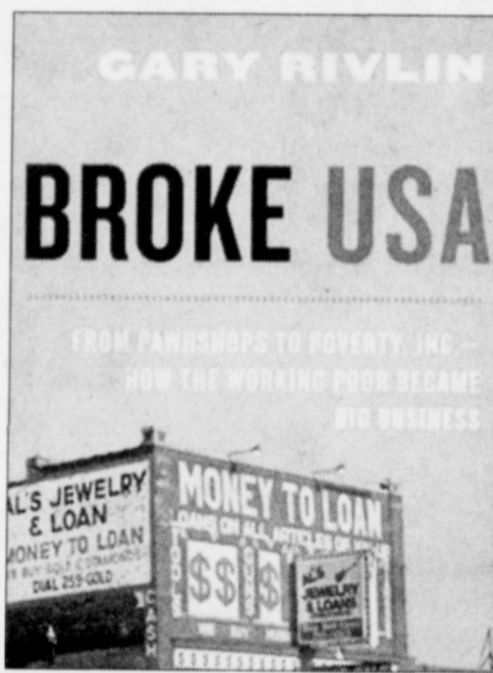
Tupac and Biggie are widely recognized as two of the greatest hip hop artists and rappers of all time.

Broke USA Book tells how poor became big business

(AP) -- To the upper and middle classes, they're all but invisible, but to the working poor, they're a fact of life: pawnshops, payday lenders, storefronts offering high-rate mortgages, tax preparers promising instant cash refunds. They sprouted throughout America's poorest communities over the past two decades, eventually saturating the slums and expanding outward into the suburbs.

By late 2008 when they were at the core of a nationwide economic collapse, they were too big to ignore.

In "Broke, USA: From Pawnshops to Poverty, Inc. — How the Working Poor Became Big Business," business journalist Gary Rivlin unravels the events that led to the



crisis, explaining how the dark corner of the financial services sector he calls "the poverty industry" was allowed to rage out of control with the backing of Wall Street and the

inaction of Washington and state governments, despite the warnings of consumer advocates.

The size of "Poverty, Inc." is not insignificant. According to Rivlin, consumers spent \$11 billion on payday loans and check cashing fees in 2008 — as much as they spent on movie tickets that year. They spent an additional \$7 billion on rent-to-own stores, which attract cash-strapped customers with low entry fees, but over time sell home furnishings and electronics at markups far higher than any conventional retailer.

Rivlin appears to hold particular contempt for the subprime lenders who cater to clientele with tarnished credit.

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