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The Seattle Medium

A MESSAGE FROM THE PEOPLE... TO THE PEOPLE...

King Birthday Celebration Highlights

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Sending The WRONG Message

Too Much Violence, Pornography In Hard-Core Rap Music

By Karla Clark
The Seattle Medium

One week indicted for murder and topping the charts the next. Snoop Doggy Dogg is just one of the rap artists today whose music is making him millions while he's facing criminal charges. Are these artists the type of role models we want for our children? Should they be held responsible for what they preach through their music?

These questions run through the minds of parents every day. The latest word for this hard core rap era is "Gangsta Rap". This is believed to stem from the fact that many of the rap artists today are ex-gang members, current gang members, or involved in some type of gang activity.

Rapper Snoop Doggy Dogg is making headlines after allegedly killing a man he claims was stalking him. Some might hesitate to believe his claim due to the violent lyrics in some of Dogg's songs. For example, the term "gat" often used by his partner, Dr. Dre, is another name for a gun. There is also much negativity towards the female gender in Dogg's music. Referring to females as b--ches and "hoes" is not someone's idea of respect.

Not only is the derogatory and degrading name-calling in rap music being criticized, but also the explicit talk about drinking and drug use. One line in a song off Dogg's album states, "Rollin' down the street smoking Indo, sippin' on Gin and juice." Most youngsters know that Indo is another term for marijuana.

Some feel very strongly against hard-core rappers like Snoop Doggy Dogg. Recently in Washington, D.C., several well-known names in the African American community were arrested for protesting outside a local record store. The store reportedly sells the most negative gangsta rap and misogynist music around. Those arrested included the national chairperson of the National Political Congress of Black Women, Dr. C. DeLores Tucker, comedian Dick Gregory, and former D. C. Councilmember Nadine Winter.

"The graphic enclosure in Snoop Doggy Dogg's album is nothing more than hard-core porn which is being sold to our children. It is our moral responsibility to halt the sale of this rap pornography. It teaches our children to rape, kill, and do acts of violence against their people," said Dr. Tucker.

In an interview with the video show M-TV, Snoop Doggy Dogg defended himself by saying he is expressing himself and what he is about in his music. Some might say that's not saying much, but others might say it's okay to tell the listeners who he is and what he is really about. "I think it's okay for rappers to express who they are," said 17-year-old Xavier Finch. "True enough the music some of the teens listen to is influential, but I strongly feel that's where the parents come in."

Snoop Doggy Dog isn't the only one getting a "bad rap" these days. Rap star and actor 2 Pac Shakur is making headlines

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The Death Of Antonio Jackson Prosecutor Calls For Inquest

By Denise Villavaso
The Seattle Medium

King County Prosecuting Attorney Norm Maleng announced Monday his recommendation for an inquest

into the death of 25-year-old Antonio Jackson after the family's outrage gained support when the medical examiner ruled it a homicide.

Donald Reay, King

County's medical examiner, said last week that the autopsy report showed that a chokehold in combination with chest compression, were attributing factors that resulted in Jackson's

death.

Irma Hudson, the victim's mother, was in emotional shambles when she charged that the police officers and two Safeway employees who

reportedly restrained her son are responsible for his death.

"I know that the police officers and the store employees did something wrong," Hudson said from her Compton, California home Monday. "I feel that they are responsible for my son's death."

She continued, "I feel like this is all a bad dream. I would like every person involved to be held accountable and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Maleng said that while his office is independent and unbiased, he has assigned senior deputy prosecutors, Jeff Baird and Lee Yates, to the case.

Maleng said that the two deputy prosecutors will handle the inquest and conduct a complete and independent investigation surrounding the entire incident of Jackson's death.

"The role of the prosecutor is to investigate the case, call witnesses, and present the complete picture to the inquest jury," Maleng said. "Our role is to investigate the case, call witnesses, and present the complete picture to the inquest jury."

Meanwhile, James Kelly, director of the Commission on African American Affairs with the state, expressed that because of the prosecutor's prompt response, it is too early to request that the attorney general's office get involved.

"It is our opinion that it would be premature to ask the attorney general's office to get involved," Kelly said. "We are pleased that an inquest jury will examine all allegations involved."

Though no formal charges have been filed against Donald Carrick, 23, a Safeway checker in Federal Way, friends of the Jackson family who were at the scene of the incident, charged that Carrick allegedly applied a chokehold, while another sat on Jackson's chest after chasing the victim approximately 200 yards from the store.

Cherie Meyers, a spokesperson for Safeway, said that because of pending litigation by the Jackson family's attorney, they cannot comment, but said they are "saddened" by the incident.

"All of us at Safeway are saddened," Meyers said. "Although we do not believe that the employee had intent to harm Jackson, our hands are tied since the family of the deceased has retained an attorney."

Dan Donohoe, a spokesperson for the King County Police Department, said that the prosecutor's office will review evidence that they have received from the medical examiner's office along with results from the police investigations.

"It is inappropriate to say that Jackson would be alive today if CPR had been administered," Donohoe said. "An investigation which may take up to four weeks has to be conducted before any conclusions are made."

The CPR issue is crucial in this case because Mona McCoy, a certified nursing assistant, who was a witness at the scene of the incident, said she pleaded with officers to let her help Jackson by administering CPR because he was unconscious.

"But they ignored me and refused to let me help him even though I identified myself as a

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Ski Season: Tubing Down The Slopes!

With the Christmas break over, schools resumed classes this week and youngsters had to say a somewhat remorseful good-bye to all the fun and excitement, and get ready to hit the books once again.

The happy little campers in this photo are shown enjoying a recent ski trip at Snoqualmie Pass as they "inner-tube" down the slopes. Staff photo/Monique Douglass.

KING BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE SOUND

(Editor's Note: The following are highlights of some of the activities The Medium has received in celebration and honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. Events begin Monday, Jan. 10. If your organization is planning a celebration for Dr. King's birthday, please send the announcement to The Seattle Medium, 2600 South Jackson Street, Seattle, WA 98144.)

Jan. 10-14, University of Washington, Week-Long Campus Celebrations

The campus celebration at the University of Washington of Dr. King's birthday will be used to remember the contributions of Dr. King and other civil rights leaders. In addition, the week's events will examine some of the contributions of different cultures to the richness and diversity of the UW community, explore scholarship that addresses issues related to ethnicity, and further the dialogue concerning the challenge of multiculturalism in the curriculum.

There will be a book and artifact exhibit, student forums, film discussions and a lecture on "Dr. King's Unfinished Agenda: Economic Justice."

Keynote speaker, Thursday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m., Ronald Takaki, professor of ethnic studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Topic: "A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America."

All events are free. Information: Bob Roseth, 543-2580.

Tuesday, Jan. 11, Metro/King County Employees, Kingdome, 11:30-1:30

The Metropolitan King County Employees' 7th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration will be held Jan. 11 in the Kingdome from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. The Rev. Vernon King, a nephew of Dr. King, is this year's keynote speaker. The King County Chorus, Diversity Dance Workshop, Total Experience Choir, the Righteous Rainbow Children's Choir, and orator Carl Mack will all take part in this exciting birthday celebration.

Other participants include newly elected King County Executive Gary Locke, King County Councilman Ron Sims, and new King County Councilmember Larry Gossett.

Information: Deborah Brockway, 296-7739, or Manfred Lee, 296-7618.

Sunday, Jan. 16, 1994, Benefit Guild, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 3 p.m.

The Benefit Guild Association of Seattle presents its 25th annual birthday celebration service on Sunday, Jan. 16 at 3 p.m. at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 19th and Madison with the Rev. Dr. Samuel McKinney as host pastor. Theme: "Young People Doing The Right Thing: Keeping The Dream Alive." Young people who have demonstrated a commitment to family, church, school and community will be recognized. The Central Area Youth Association under the direction of Michael Preston will receive the Benefit Guild Founder's Award for its hard work and contribution to the boys and girls of the community.

The program will be moderated by young people and notable youth groups and choirs will be in attendance such as The No Kidding Choir (Where Kids Are Winners, Inc.) of Portland; Xymplycity, of CAYA, and the Mt. Zion Junior Choir will be featured in the celebration. Patrick Wright and Debbie Cavitt will be guest soloists.

Although there is no cost to the celebration service, there will be an offering. Proceeds will be used to further Dr. King's

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