

Rap stars' arrests a trend in hip hop?

By Tarsha White

Are criminal arrests becoming a trend in hip-hop and rap?

It seems that way with the recent wave of rap artists who just can't seem to stay out of trouble.

Tupac Shakur, who has played a major role in the film, *Juice*, and now more recently in John Singleton's *Poetic Justice* along with Janet Jackson, was arrested in early November for allegedly shooting two undercover cops. As if that wasn't bad enough, just a couple weeks ago, Tupac was arrested again, this time on charges of sodomy and sex abuse.

Tupac had allegedly taken a female fan

up to his hotel room and, along with three other friends, sexually abused her. Police have a video tape of Tupac and what appears to be a drunken minor Flav was arrested for pulling a gun on his neighbor. Though Flav did not actually shoot the neighbor, charges were filed against him.

Many observers hope this will be the last of the crime and violence for Rap and Hip-Hop music. Fans say the music form has endured enough bad publicity on its own without any of its artists helping it along. As for Tupac, Snoop Doggy Dog, and Flav-O-Flav—will these arrests have a bad affect on their future as artists?

Only time will tell.

University players shine in Miller's Crucible

By Tarsha White

ECSU's University Players has scored another hit with *The Crucible*.

The Players' November presentation of *The Crucible* was an action-packed and well cast production of this true-account drama by Arthur Miller.

Set in Salem, Massachusetts in 1692, *The Crucible* tells the story of the "witch hunt" which actually took place during that year. The main action of the play deals with the efforts of John Proctor (Craig Avondo) to save his wife, Elizabeth (Tresha R. Griffin) from being hanged as a witch.

Avondo turns in a mesmerizing performance as Proctor. He brings the character to life, and successfully involves the audience in his frantic, desperate attempts to save his wife.

The play opens with the young women of the town in the woods stirring a witch bowl, calling spirits. After that scene, a young girl falls ill. The town's residents assume that she has been bewitched because she has seen the witches in the woods.

Meanwhile, Abigail Williams (Regina Reddick) is accused of leading the children into the woods and dancing. Abigail's true motive is to discredit John Proctor's wife, Elizabeth, because she is in love with John Proctor. She is able to convince the others Tishuba does witchcraft.

The play's action builds to a final, tragic conclusion, keeping the audience on the edge of their seats throughout the performance.

All of the actors worked well together, even with such a full cast.

The set design and lighting helped to achieve a realistic portrayal of the time in which the witch trials took place. The set was designed and constructed by James Bean, Kenneth Jordan, Valerie Rawls, Sam Perry, BJ Wiseman, Wally Horner, Joni Horner, Kathleen Brooks, Jackson Morris, and Lavenia Dameron.

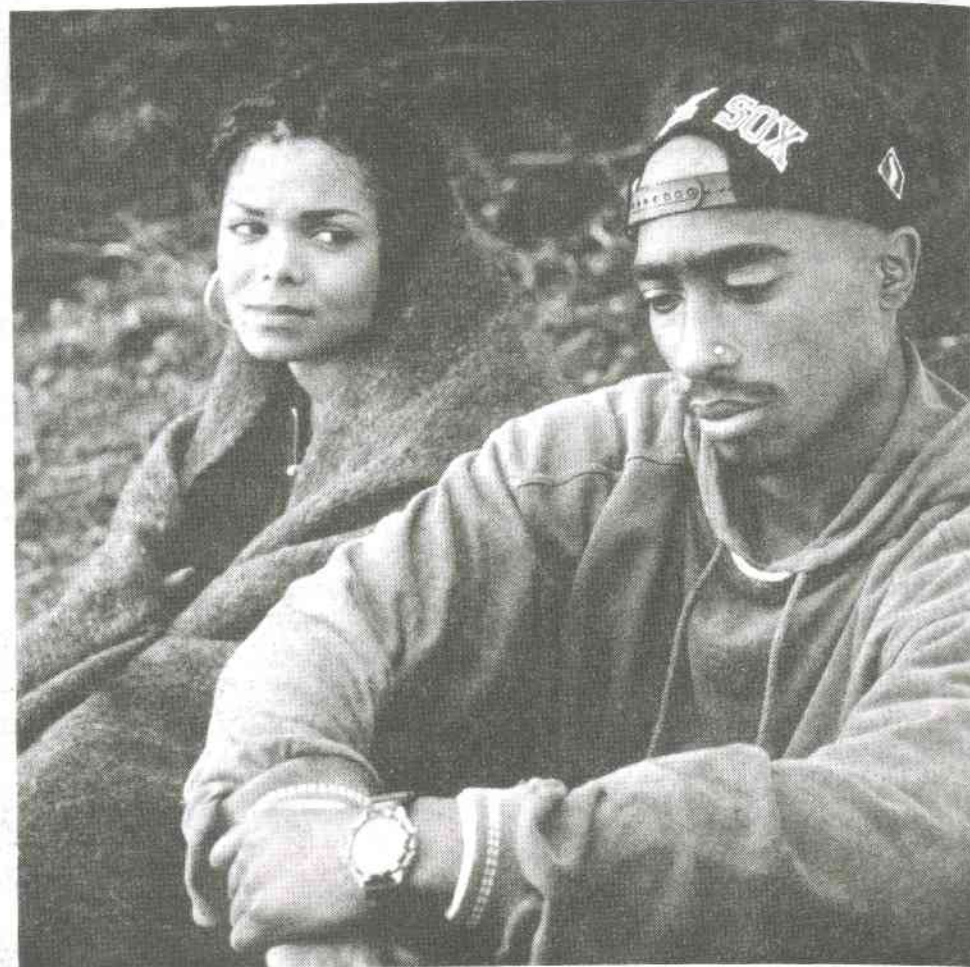
The Crucible, directed by Shawn Smith, features such veteran actors as Robin Gresham (Tituba). Gresham, who has previously played Zarita in a Scholarcade production of *Simply Heavenly*, is a receptionist in the office of the Chancellor. She lives in Moyock.

Shawn Smith, who plays Rev. John Hale, is the Director of Theatre at ECSU. Chester Dunton, who plays John Willard, has been recognized for his roles in many productions with the University Players. Among these are *The Good Doctor*, *Dracula*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Chained Camels*, *Cry of the Crowds*, and *Bus Stop*.

Cordell Garrett has previously worked with the Players in *Fences*.

The Crucible is based on the actual trials conducted in Salem, New England. A short time after the Salem trials, Parris was voted from office and left the village, never to be heard from again.

Thirty years have passed since *The Crucible* was first performed at Elizabeth City State University. Chancellor Dr. Jimmy Jenkins and his wife, Dr. Faleese Jenkins, appeared in that performance as students at the University.



Tupac Shakur's career took off when he appeared as Lucky in John Singleton's *Poetic Justice*, along with Janet Jackson (right). However, due to his legal troubles Shaker's may be in the wave.

Sampson likes 89.9

By Greg Sampson

"One, two, three, and we're rollin'! And welcome to the interview of a lifetime. Hi, this is Greg Sampson....." laughs Greg Sampson, chillin' in the production room of WRVS FM.

Gregg Sampson is the latest arrival at Elizabeth City State University's radio station, WRVS, as production director (pd). Sampson attributes his working at a variety of radio stations—from classical to urban—to his success here at ECSU.

"I came from California," says Sampson. "This is my sixteenth year of broadcasting, so my first station was a college station in California, KCSN, which was for Cal State University Northridge."

"I worked for six years for free, didn't know that I could get paid for this until somebody sat down and told me."

Sampson also worked at a classical radio station, KFAC-AM while in California.

"My position was music librarian in charge of research. They also needed an air personality who was familiar with classical music terminology and jargon. It sure wasn't urban radio, but I gave it a shot anyway."

Sampson says he also worked at a satellite network, and has done news and talk radio.

"I've done everything but country. And now, since I've been in North Carolina,

I've done urban/contemporary, RAP format," says Sampson.

From California, he moved on to North Carolina, working in cities such as Winston-Salem, New Bern, Greensboro, and Highpoint.

In Greensboro, Sampson worked at WQMG-FM for four years as music director.

"And now I'm here in the illustrious city of Elizabeth City, at the prestigious You look to the northeast and you'll see a shining star," laughs Sampson.

Sampson says that his heart has always been with playing urban music or R&B music. When he came to Greensboro, Sampson says that they had a 32-year-old AM radio station. He says that he played the last record of the 32 years, it was "Goodnight My Love".

Sampson says he loves working at 89.9 ECSU because he loves working with the student staff, as well as the professional staff.

"I came to teach, to educate students how to make promos and public service announcements (PSA's) and my technical aspects."

He also likes 89.9 for the variety of programming. The station doesn't just play one type of music, it has gospel, rap, regular urban format, specialized programs, and live programs.

"WRVS combines everything I've done before, so it fits."