

Lee praises MLK

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROCHESTER, Mich. - Filmmaker Spike Lee gave a campus audience serious words about the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and a joke about the weekend wedding of rap star Eminem.

The director of "Malcolm X," "Jungle Fever" and "Do the Right Thing" spoke to about 500 people Monday during Martin Luther King Day observances at Oakland University.

"I'm glad to be here on the day we honor Doctor King, a true giant, and it's our responsibility to teach our children what the man was and how this is not just a day you don't go to school," Lee said, according to The Detroit News.

"So many people had to fight hard so this could be a national holiday," he said. "Many young Americans, both black and white, have no idea of the blood, sweat and tears that were sacrificed so we could drink from a water fountain, sit down in a bus, have the right to vote."

Lee, 47, urged parents to encourage their children to follow their own dreams and encouraged his younger listeners to work toward careers that they are passionate about - citing his own as an example.

"I say my prayers every night because I get to do what I love," The Oakland Press of Pontiac quoted him as saying.

Brown shines in effort



Continued from page 1D

Brown gets more props for almost totally avoiding the obvious. He's neither thuggish nor overtly sexual. Brown seems more concerned with matters of his heart, not his crotch.

Brown also seems concerned with career already. He's surrounded himself with some of the brightest new pro-

ducers who have given him a radio friendly sound that is surprisingly appealing to adults.

"Run It" has been played to death since late 2005. It appears in two forms, one with Juelz Santana; the other with Bow Wow. It's a cool song, but not Brown's strongest effort. He seems to be better at beat ballads like "Ya Man Ain't Me" and "Winner." His relaxed vocal delivery brings Usher to mind, but Brown is avoiding the overtly sexual references - at least so far.

Brown doesn't shy away from adult subjects. "Is This Love" has him pondering to leave a stale relationship for what seems to be true love. Who says kids have it easy these days?

Oprah selects Wiesel's Holocaust memoir 'Night' as new book club pick

By Anna Johnson

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Winfrey

CHICAGO - In her first book club pick since allegations that some parts of her last selection were fabricated, Oprah Winfrey chose Elie Wiesel's "Night," a classic of Holocaust literature sometimes labeled a novel but regarded by the author as a memoir.

On her show Monday, Winfrey announced the selection of Wiesel's autobiographical account. The 77-year-old Wiesel, who wrote "Night" in the 1950s, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986 for a lifetime of writing and speaking against hatred, racism and genocide.

"Night" is Wiesel's chronicle of his family's placement in the Auschwitz death camp, and was his first of more than 40 books, essays and plays. An accomplished work of prose, the book has often been called a novel, including by the study guide CliffsNotes. But Wiesel's foundation labels it a memoir, as does the book's publisher, Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

The book club on Winfrey's popular television show has meant huge sales for selected titles. By Monday night, a paperback edition of "Night" was No. 1 on Amazon.com, displacing Winfrey's contro-

versial previous pick, "A Million Little Pieces."

James Frey's memoir of substance abuse has drawn criticism over detailed allegations that the author fabricated some parts, including a three-month prison stint that apparently never happened. He has acknowledged some alterations, but defended the "essential truth" of the book as a story of addiction.

Winfrey reaffirmed her support last week of Frey's book when she phoned in to "Larry King Live" at the end of an hour-long interview with Frey and dismissed questions about the book as "much ado about nothing." Winfrey did not mention Frey's book on Monday's show.

In announcing her selection of "Night," Winfrey referred to the King Day holiday.

"Like Dr. King, I have a dream of my own, too, that the powerful message of this little book would be engraved on every human heart and will never be forgotten again. That you who read this book will feel as I do that these 120 pages ... should be required reading for all humanity," she said.

Winfrey also said she plans to travel with Wiesel to Auschwitz next month, and her show will have a high school essay contest on Wiesel's book. Fifty winners will be flown to Chicago, where her show is based, for a taping with the author, Winfrey said.

In a 2002 interview with the Chicago Tribune, Wiesel recalled that "Night," written in Yiddish in the 1950s, translated into French and then English, attracted little notice at first. "The English translation came out in 1960, and the first printing was 3,000 copies," he said. "And it took three years to sell them. Now, I get 100 letters a month from children about the book. And there are many, many million copies in print."

In one passage, he sums up his feelings upon arrival in Auschwitz:

"Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed. Never shall I forget that smoke. Never shall I forget the little faces of the chil-

dren, whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths of smoke beneath a silent blue sky ... Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God Himself. Never."

Associated Press Writer Hillel Italie contributed to this story from New York.

On the Net:
www.oprah.com
www.eliewiesel.org

Be in the know!
keep "The Post" in your system

www.thecharlottepost.com

The Historic **Excelsior Club** Open 6 Nights A Week, Tuesday-Sunday
921 Beatties Ford Rd. • 704-334-5709

"Happy New Year"

- TUESDAY... "FISH FRY" - Only \$5
Doors Open at 5, Fish Fry at 6pm • Disco at 9pm
- WEDNESDAY "JAZZ IS BACK"
Don't Miss The...
"Michael Porter Band"
Jan. 18th, 8pm

Attention Members...
"It's Time To Renew Your Memberships"

- THURSDAY "DIRTY THIRTY THURSDAY"
Let's get this party started right now!
- FRIDAY & SATURDAY The Best "DISCO" In Town
- SUNDAY...Relaxing to the Spinning of Soft Music...

Latifah carries meek 'Holiday'

Continued from page 1D

man who's nickname is Ladies Love Cool James can't tell a woman that he wants her? Not bloody likely.

While the movie was light and fluffy, it did drag in some parts. And what's up with all of these New Yorkers pretending to be from New Orleans?

The movie was shot Pre-Katrina and it showed the regular side of the city, not the French Quarter.

There wasn't a Creole accent in the entire movie. In the end, "Last Holiday" is a cute movie with flaws. Queen Latifah shows that she can carry a movie. Now if she could only get some better material.



"Last Holiday" as a vehicle for Queen Latifah is dull and trite. She's funny and charming but those around her are flat and dull.

Note to Foxx: keep acting



Jamie Foxx
Unpredictable
Jamie Foxx, Breylon Prescott
and **Marcus King**, executive producers
J Records

Jamie Foxx's notoriety is the biggest element powering this rapid CD to stellar sales. It currently rests at the top of Billboard's Hot 200 album and R&B charts.

At least that's what I figure. Who knew an Oscar could influence so many music buyers? Or is it that (gasp) that many people really believe this album is actually good?

It isn't. I can't remember the last time I heard something as generic and uninspired as this mess. Foxx found a group of songs that lack emotion, depth and interest. He's to be commended. That's a feat most couldn't accomplish by trying hard. And at 40, Foxx needs to leave the thug mentality to a younger crowd.

As a singer, Foxx is just OK. His wispy tenor could be mistaken for a number of current R&B crooners. It's pleasant

enough, but doesn't move me in any particular direction. Unfortunately, this mess fits in with what's being passed as music at urban radio. The CD was certainly crafted to get as much radio exposure as possible and on that level it exceeds all expectations.

Foxx is not to be blamed solely for this travesty. He gets help from Mary J. Blige ("Love Changes") Ludacris

("Unpredictable") and Kanye West ("Extravaganza"), each of which need not put this on their musical resumes.

The only bright spot is Foxx's "Heaven." It's not a great song either, but Babyface (or Face as he calls himself now) produces and gives the song a musical quality the rest of this recording lacks.

We Are Not Uptown... We Are

Outer BOUNDS Sports Bar & Grill

Tuesday KIDS EAT FREE
Wednesday REGGAE NIGHT
Thursday .40¢ WINGS
Sunday .35¢ Wings

*Ask about our free Birthday meal!

Special Take Out Offer

- Buy 10 wings & get 5 wings free!
- or
- Buy 20 wings & get 10 wings free!

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - BREAKFAST SERVED
Thurs. - Sat. 11PM Until 4AM • OPEN 3PM

704-537-2447

5546 Albemarle Rd. • Charlotte, NC 28212 • Fax: 704-537-2448

Coca-Cola COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated

Coca-Cola employees attend the Martin L. King Jr. Prayer Breakfast sponsored by McCrorey YMCA. Pictured (L-R) Terry Peterson, Lee Webster, Tiki Walker, Frank Harrison, Randy Broom, Greg Solesbee, Grey Brewington, Renee Benton, Brad Grice, Greg Weston, Hank Flint, Clement McKinley, Pat Gulley and Mike Hughes

"KEEPING IT REAL WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY COCA-COLA REAL"

"Here's How You Can Be Connected"

Submit, in writing, on your organization's letterhead, the title of your event, date, location, contact person and telephone number for your activity to:
Coca-Cola Community Connection
801 Black Satchel Rd., Charlotte NC 28216
Attn: Terry Peterson - Phone 704-697-4040 • Fax 704-697-4054 or Email terry.peterson@ccbcc.com