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Kirk Burrowes, ex-president of Bad Boy Entertainment, is making explosive claims in new court papers which implicate Sean 'P Diddy' Combs in the 1995 murder of Suge Knight's bodyguard and accuse his conglomerate of ordering the hit on Tupac Shakur

In legal filings obtained by The New York Post, Burrowes claims the mogul set up an "enterprise" of thuggish associates "to gain power, recognition, fame and financial gain through acts and threats involving murder, mayhem and extortion via the enterprise."

Burrowes, godfather to Diddy's son, Justin, makes the extraordinary claims as part of a \$25 million suit in Manhattan federal court. The disgruntled label exec says he enjoyed a "very close, family-like relationship" with Combs before their relationship erupted. This past June, he filed the legal action, claiming Diddy cheated him out of \$25 million, threatened him with a baseball bat and undermined his management deal with R&B diva Mary J. Blige.

"With the consent, approval and ratification of the [Bad Boy] enterprise, Suge Knight's chief bodyguard Big Jake was murdered in 1995," Burrowes says in a sworn legal statement. Allegedly, the bodyguard was killed soon after Combs' "advance man" got into an "East Coast-West Coast bashing contest" at an Atlanta party. A local deputy sheriff, who was later killed in a "mysterious car accident," identified Combs' "advance man" - a convicted felon named Anthony Jones - as the shooter, claims Burrowes.

Burrowes also accuses Bad Boy Entertainment of hiring the shooter who killed Tupac. Burrowes did not offer more detail on this in his sworn 37-page statement. Burrowes lawyer John Bostany will argue in court today for Burrowes' new claims of violence to be admitted to the case. "My client appears to be the victim of a corrupt group that 'thugs its way through it and I am here to help him get justice," Bostany said yesterday.

Additionally, Burrowes accuses Combs of the champagne-bottle attack on April 15, 1999 against Universal Records exec Steve Stoute - an attack Diddy admitted to and apologized for. Burrowes continues naming Roy Reid and Dante Dixon, alleged members of Diddy's "enterprise" were directed by Combs to threaten, harass and stalk John Bentley, a songwriter and owner of Calidelpia Records.

Combs lawyer Benjamin Brafman said yesterday Burrowes' claims are "entirely baseless" and "without merit."

And in other news. The backbone of this year's breakout group Little Brother is getting recognized for his production talents in a big way. 9th Wonder recently got in the studio with Jigga to bang out a track for "The Black Album." According to Chaundilla of 9th's extending fam. the Justus League, "Let me say this. Watchin 9th make the beat in 20 minutes, and watchin Jay putting his rhyme together with no fucking paper at all, was the greatest thing I ever witnessed." This album was



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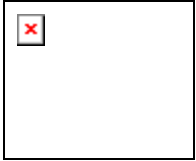
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originally supposed to have 12 producers, with 12 tracks. Producers being: DJ Premier, Ski, Dre, Eminem, Just Blaze, Kanye West, Neptunes, Timbaland, Swizz Beats, Track Masters, Rick Rubin, and DJ Quik. But this news just broke about Jigga teaming up with 9th recently. No one knows whether or not Jay will drop a track from the "Black Album" to include this recently recorded track. Or if it will just be 13 cuts rather than the 12 originally planned. Either way look for "The Black Album" to drop November 28th. That is also "Black Friday" and Jay will be releasing his "Black Book" on that day, and also his black shoe for the S.Carter collection for reebok.



And a update with A Tribe Called Quest's, Phife Dawg says fans should expect the first single from his group's reunion LP to drop in the fall and the album in the winter - the winter of 2004, that is. No, the Tribe's full-fledged reformation isn't going to blast off right away, but we will get a taste of what's to come very soon.



The trio of Phife, Q-Tip and Ali Shaheed Muhammad teamed up last month for the first time in many moons to record the song "(ICU) Doin' It," which will be a track on the upcoming Violator Records compilation V3: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.

"Our records sound like we never left," Phife beamed last week on the phone from San Diego. "The chemistry never dwindled. We saw each other for the first time in a minute, but it sounded like we never stopped recording with each other. The voices are pretty much the same. Tip's still got the whole nasal, abstract thing going on. My voice grew a little bit ... that's the only difference, my voice sounds a little older

"['(ICU) Doin' It' is] a vintage joint," he added. "A call-and-response, like that record we did on The Love Movement, 'Against the World.' Or the hook to 'Check the Rhyme': 'You on point, Phife?' [We're] going back and forth like that. It was produced by Rashad Smith's crew, Tumbling Dice."

The five-foot freak, as he calls himself, said that ever since the word got out that he and his crew had gotten back together and were making another album, everyone's been sending them tracks to rhyme to.

"One problem that I've seen thus far is that a lot of producers come to me and say, 'I got the Tribe sound locked, I know exactly what y'all need,' " Phife said. "I don't think they should do that because first of all, you don't have the Tribe sound locked. We don't even know what the Tribe sound is. It's a vibe that we've got when we go into the studio. That's not what you do when you want to submit beats. Submit what you're best at doing and if we like it, we're going to spit to it. Tribe is no exception as far as trying to be different [is concerned]. Just send some hot sh--."

Tribe's vibe in the early '90s strayed away from the norms of the style of rap music at that time. Breaking new ground in hip-hop with their socially conscious lyrics and jazz-infused tracks, three of the group's most highly influential releases - People's Instinctive Travels and The Paths of Rhythm (1990), The Low End Theory (1991) and Midnight Marauders (1993) - were hailed as classics, paving the way for equally eclectic rap groups such as Outkast.

Phife isn't sure about when his crew will actually begin recording its new disc, but he does mention that the group members have been keeping busy. Both Q-Tip and Ali have





solo LPs dropping soon and Phife is trying to help launch the careers of some up-and-coming acts he's taken under his wing. Also contributing to the delay of the album's start date was the recent death of Q-Tip's longtime manager.

Itching to perform again, two-thirds of Tribe made a surprise appearance earlier in the month during a De La Soul show at L.A.'s House of Blues. Tip and Phife jumped onstage and gave the fans a special treat.

"We would've gotten tomatoes if we ain't do the Tribe joints and we [was] onstage together, the Dawg laughed. "We could've freestyled, but I think we needed to do at least one Tribe joint. We ended up doing three joints together. The singles, 'Check the Rhyme,' 'Find a Way' and 'Award Tour.' They were pretty exhausted by the end of the show, which I was quite happy with."



And in other news. Nas will be releasing his last album on Columbia/Sony Records on December 16. The album will feature production from DJ Premier, Large Professor, Nashiem Myrick, LES, Trackmasters amongst others with a track produced by Rza still to be recorded. Possible guests include AZ, Pharaoh Monch, Outkast and Alicia Keys. This album is either "The Lost Tapes 2" (which is reported to drop on the same date). Or its a completely new album. "The Lost Tapes 2" will feature new remixes, freestyles, and unreleased tracks dating back to the early 90's. Nas is also reportedly in talks for a label deal for his Ill Will Records imprint with Universal Motown's newly appointed VP, Steve Rifkin of Loud Records fame. Plans are to release an album by Nas' posse the Bravehearts as early as February 2004 followed by a release by protege Nashawn. A close source to Steve Stoute, Nas' manager, revealed that Nas is also looking to launch a clothing label and publish a collection of Poetry by him and other poets in 2004.

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