

Z-Rock hits Aggieland

By Rob Clark
THE BATTALION

There's a new tune on the radio waves in Bryan-College Station. Z-Rock, a 24-hour national rock station, started broadcasting last week on the 101.9 FM frequency.

In a news release, Carolyn G. Vance said the station is geared toward the adult audience ages 18-34.

Vance said surveys were conducted on the Texas A&M and Blinn campuses during the spring and summer semesters.

"We found the true rock format was not being met by any station currently serving the Aggieland area," Vance said. "In fact, some stated 'We must listen to the local rock station by default.'"

Z-Rock has a different style of programming than most radio stations. There are no disc jockeys at the station. Instead, it is a national format, with the radio shows in Dallas and Houston being broadcast at the local affiliate station.



Robyn Calloway / THE BATTALION

Bill Vance, Brett Vance, Mike Fitch, Cylinda Walker and Carolyn Vance in front of Z Rock's satellite dish.

Rapper shot five times, checks out of hospital same day

NEW YORK (AP) — Rap star Tupac Shakur, whose "gangsta rap" lyrics echo his own violent way of life, was shot five times in a robbery Wednesday, a day after a jury began deliberating sexual assault charges against him.

He was listed in serious but stable condition at Bellevue Hospital with gunshot wounds to the hand, head and groin. After undergoing surgery, Shakur checked himself out of the hospital against medical advice, said hospital spokesman Larry Dugan.

"He was in satisfactory condition" when he left early Wednesday evening, Dugan said. He had no more information about Shakur's medical condition.

The sequestered jurors at his trial were unaware that the 23-year-old musician and actor and his manager had been wounded and robbed of \$45,000 in jewelry shortly after midnight in the lobby of a recording studio.

Police said the gunmen apparently didn't know the identity of their victims. But Shakur told police he believed the assailants knew him and were after him, said a police source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Shakur and another man, 24-year-old Charles Fuller, are on trial on charges of sodomizing and sexually abusing a woman in their New York City hotel room last year.

Neither was in court Wednesday, and Judge Daniel Fitzgerald told the jury that "circumstances beyond their control" were responsible.

"Please don't hold it against them in any way," Fitzgerald said. The jury retired for the night Wednesday without reaching a verdict.

Shakur, who has the words "Thug Life" tattooed on his torso, has faced criminal charges five other times since March 1993.

In 1992, then-Vice President Dan Quayle urged record chains to remove his album "2Pacalypse Now" because of lyrics condoning violence against police.

In his new video "Natural Born Killaz," Shakur — who starred with Janet Jackson in the movie "Poetic Justice" and also appeared in "Above the Rim" — plays an officer who guns down fellow rappers Dr. Dre and Ice Cube.

Police said Shakur lost a large diamond ring and an assortment of gold chains in the holdup at Quad Recording Studios.

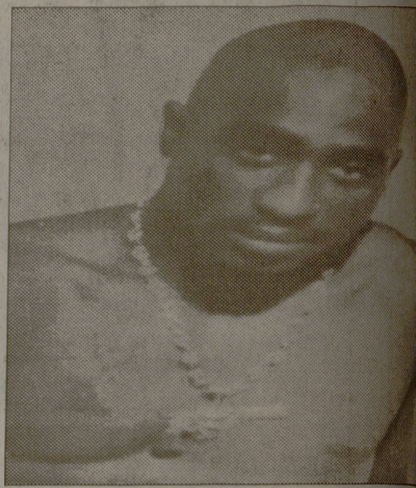
According to police, Shakur and his three-man entourage were followed by two robbers into the building, where a third robber was waiting.

"Anybody who was going into that building at that time was going to be robbed," said Assistant Police Chief John Hill.

Shakur was shot when he refused the gunmen's order to get on the floor and lunged for one of their guns, police said.

Shakur's manager, 24-year-old Freddie Moore, was shot in the abdomen and chased the gunmen into the street before collapsing, police said. He was listed in stable condition.

Six months ago, Shakur spent 15 days in jail for assaulting a video director. Two



Tupac Shakur

weeks earlier, he was held overnight on weapons and drug charges. Last year, he was charged with assaulting a limousine driver.

Once his trial is finished, Shakur must return to Michigan to serve 10 days, menacing a fellow rapper with a baseball bat during a 1993 concert. Charges were dropped in a shootout last year with off-duty officers in Atlanta.

Police on Wednesday found a clip of 15 rounds of ammunition and three bags of marijuana in Shakur's jacket at the robbery scene. No charges will be filed because he wasn't wearing the coat, said police spokesman John Miller.

Shooting of Shakur indicative of plague of violence in the gangsta rap world

Wednesday's shooting of gangsta rapper Tupac Shakur was a devastating blow to the rap industry. Shakur is a gifted rapper, mixing tales of urban violence with social consciousness. And Shakur has made a huge splash in the movies, scoring with stunningly charismatic performances in "Juice" and "Poetic Justice."

But it seems that life imitates art once again when it comes to gangsta rap.

Shakur is no stranger to trouble with the law. Charges of resisting arrest in 1991, a brawl with film directors Albert and Allen Hughes, charges of shooting two off-duty police officers in Atlanta, a sexual assault case in New York. Shakur's rap list is about as graphic as his most violent rap songs.

But then again, Shakur is not alone in his troubles. Snoop Doggy Dogg is still pending trial on murder charges and Dr. Dre was recently sentenced to jail time for (among other things) taking the police on a high-speed chase in his Ferrari.

So why are gangsta rappers so attracted to violence?

Simply put, most hardcore rappers come from an environment of violence. A world where gang warfare is rampant, drug abuse is the norm and a place where 40-ounces and blunts replaced books a long time ago.

In the February issue of VIBE magazine, Shakur said his young life was one of fear. "Hell, I felt like my life could be destroyed at any moment," he said.

But rap provided a way out for Shakur and other young black men. Rap talent paved the road from the ghetto to stardom. Money, girls and success was at stake now.

Perhaps the escape route of rap stardom isn't an escape at all.

Fame, riches and the adulation of millions is something Shakur never experienced growing up in the ghetto. The harsh world of poverty and racism has suddenly been replaced by top ten singles, successful videos and sold-out performances.

And there is no question that some of Shakur's raps are undeniably violent. The most graphic case is "Souljah's Story" from his 1991 album "2Pacalypse Now." Shakur tells the tale of a shootout with police officers — "Keep my shot cocked, 'cause the cop's got a gloc too / What the f---k would you do? Drop him or let him drop you? I chose droppin' the cop."

Indeed, the shocking imagery of songs such

as these is undeniable.

But there is another side to Shakur's music. For all the misogynists in the rap game, Shakur displays a rare respect for women in his music. This was best portrayed in his 1993 hit "Keep Ya Head Up."

"Since we all came from a woman, got our name from a woman and our game from a woman / I wonder why we take from our women, why we rape our women, do we hate our women? / I think it's time to care for our women, heal our women, be real for our women."

Now there is no question Shakur has put himself in many a dangerous situation and has made bad judgment in several cases. But he still has not been convicted of a major charge, like murder or rape.

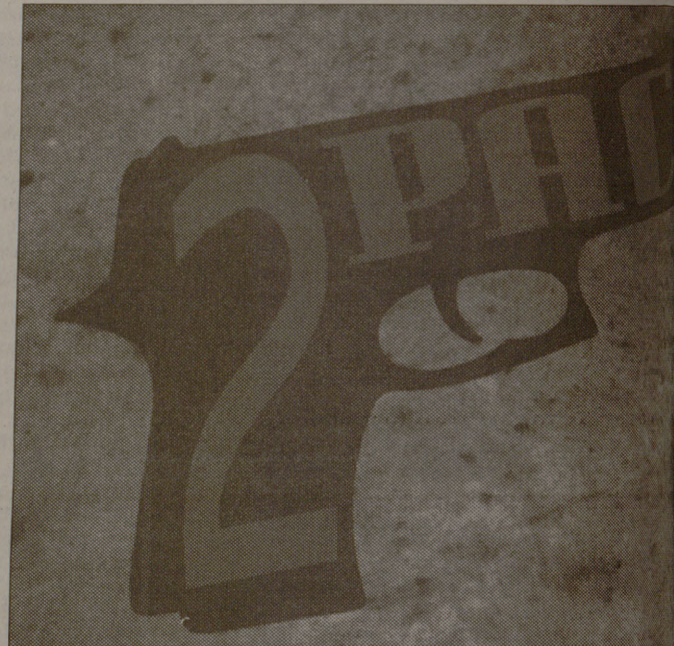
Can Shakur stay out of trouble? "What do they want me to do?" Shakur asked in the VIBE interview. "There's not a place called 'Careful.'"

Shakur found that out Wednesday as the five bullets tore into his body. But he was lucky. He's going to live. Yet the image of violence seems to be permanently branded on the rap industry.

There may not be a place called 'Careful.' But if rappers would learn to explore solutions to violence in their raps and keep violence out of their personal lives, perhaps then they could keep their heads up.

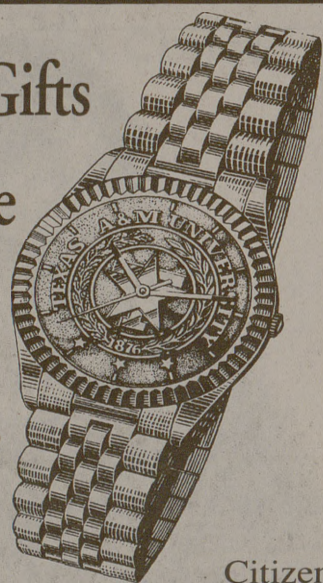
Rob Clark

Aggielife Editor



From Tupac Shakur's 1991 album "2pacalypse Now"

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|---------|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| 3-6 pm | ACCT 230 Test I & New Material | ACCT 230 Test II & New Material | 3-5 ACCT 230 Test I & New Mat. 5-7 BANA 303 Test I & New Mat. | ACCT 230 Test I & II & New Mat. BANA 303 Test II & New Mat. | ACCT 230 Test II & New Mat. BANA 303 Test III & New Mat. | 11-2 MATH 152 New Mat. & Review 2-5 ACCT 229 New Mat. & Review |
| 6-9 pm | ACCT 229 Test I & New Material | ACCT 229 Test II & New Material | 7-9 ACCT 229 Test I & New Mat. 9-11 MATH 152 Test I & New Mat. | ACCT 229 Test II & New Mat. MATH 152 Test II & New Mat. | ACCT 229 Test III & New Mat. MATH 152 Test III & New Mat. | 5-7 BANA 303 New Mat. & Review 7-9 MATH 151 New Mat. & Review |
| 9-12 pm | MATH 151 Test I & II & New Material | MATH 151 Test II & III & New Material | 11-1 MATH 151 Test I & New Mat. 9-11 FINC 341 With Lil Dave | MATH 151 Test II & New Mat. FINC 341 With Lil Dave | MATH 151 Test III & New Mat. FINC 341 With Lil Dave | 9-11 ACCT 230 New Mat. & Review 9-11 FINC 341 With Lil Dave |

Tickets for Finals will go on sale Saturday at 2:00 p.m. Math 141 classes will be offered the weekend between exams.

For questions call 846-TUTOR (846-8886)



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