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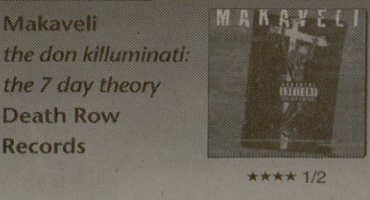
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THE BATTALION

# AGGIELIFE

## Makaveli ponders good, evil

The late Tupac Shakur investigates 'a world of sin' on thoughtful, creative final release



Makaveli  
the don killuminati:  
the 7 day theory  
Death Row  
Records

By BRANDON TRUITT  
THE BATTALION

In the height of the controversy surrounding Tupac Shakur's murder, his newest album (released under the alias Makaveli) may be his strongest work ever.

The *don killuminati: the 7 day theory* is creative and original. The most noticeable thing about the music is the lack of drums and drum machines. Drums have been replaced with stronger bass lines, pianos, organs, rhythmic hand claps and other percussion.

Much of the rap that has been released is little more than someone rhyming over a drum machine and keyboard. Therefore, Makaveli's use of real instruments makes the album fresh and different enough to be catchy.

Tracks like "life of an outlaw," "white man's world" and "me and my girlfriend" are laced with the sounds of a classical, almost mariachi, guitar that is rarely used in rap music.

Makaveli also uses quirky, off-beat piano-playing to spice up the album in songs like "bomb first (my

second reply)," "just like daddy," "krazy," "hold ya head" and "against all odds."

In fact, the only song that is close to being unoriginal is "toss it up" because of the similarities to Black Street's "No Diggity."

With help from JoJo and KC from the soul group Jodeci, Makaveli makes "toss it up" the song that Black Street was attempting to write. KC and JoJo give the background a smooth R&B sound which, when combined with Makaveli's perfect voice, create a song conducive to some serious lounging.

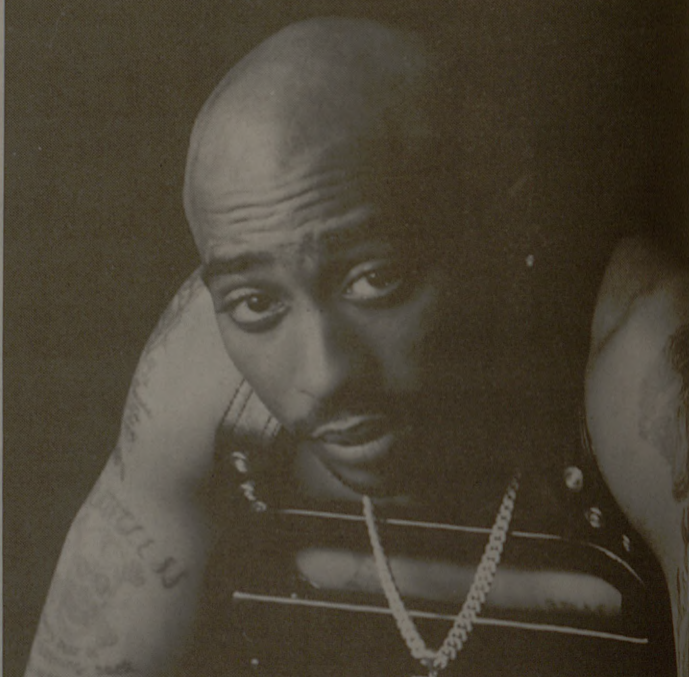
Although the music behind the *don killuminati* makes the album a step forward in the maturing of rap music, it is truly the lyrics that make this album a work of art.

This may be the first rap album to truly uncover the artistic and philosophical importance of the American ghetto's voice. The aim of the album is to raise the philosophical question of evil and provide a viable solution for it.

Makaveli sees his world as full of sin ("me and my girlfriend") and murder, money and power ("intro"). His family tree "consists of drug dealers, thugs, and killers" ("blasphemy").

Given his many imperfections, the aims of Makaveli's album are to believe in heaven, and to enter it, although he has already seen hell.

"Is God just another cop waiting to beat my ass if I don't go pop?"



Tupac Shakur

Is heaven just another door?" he wonders in the highly intellectual song "blasphemy."

Not only does the album raise questions, it offers possible solutions. In "me and my girlfriend," Makaveli sings, "All I need in this life of sin is me and my girlfriend."

Maybe it is up to us to take away each other's pain, or as Makaveli puts it, "I'm looking out for you just

like daddy."

Or maybe Makaveli should member what his pops told ("blasphemy"). Maybe he should follow his elder's footsteps to happiness in the Lord.

No one knows, not Makaveli, but anyone who seriously listens to the *don killuminati: 7 day theory* will see that he is on the right track.

PROFITABLE NUMBER! **845-0569** THE BATTALION CLASSIFIEDS

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## Shakur, Twain score big at American Music Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Four months after he was gunned down in a still unsolved Las Vegas attack, Tupac Shakur was named favorite rap-hop artist at the American Music Awards on Monday night.

Shania Twain, Brooks & Dunn, Toni Braxton and New Edition also won major honors at the 24th annual fan-selected awards ceremony.

Actress and singer Brandy accepted the award on behalf of Shakur, who also lives on in "Gridlock'd," a film starring the rapper and Tim

Roth that premiered this month at the Sundance Film Festival.

Twain was country's favorite female artist on a night when the American Music Awards saluted "The Year of the Woman."

"If anybody ever tells you this gets old — it never does," said Twain, who was the AMA's favorite new artist last year.

With frequent winner Alabama not in the running this year, Brooks & Dunn were honored as country's top band, duo or group.

Braxton, who sang the show's opening number and wore three different outfits in about 15 minutes, won favorite female soul R&B artist, fourth career AMA trophy.

New Edition returned to the winner's spot for the first time in 10 years, claiming the soul-R&B honor.

Young newcomer Jewel beat Donnie and No Doubt for favorite new pop-rock act.

In all, 20 trophies were being awarded in a three-hour ceremony broadcast by ABC-TV.

**EXPERIENCE**

# Republican Steve Ogden.

- State Representative since 1990.
- Strong friend, support of Governor George W. Bush.
- B.S., United States Naval Academy (six varsity letters).
- M.B.A., Texas A&M University.
- Nine years of service in the U.S. Navy Submarine Force.
- Independent oil and gas producer.
- Married 23 years to Beverly Ogden (TAMU Class of '89); father of three, Michael, 22 (U.S. Naval Academy, Class of '98), Stephanie, 20 (TAMU Class of '99), and Kristen, 18 (TAMU Class of '01).

**Steve Ogden FOR STATE SENATOR**

P.O. Box 3126 Bryan, Texas 77805

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**EARLY VOTING RUNS THROUGH FRIDAY, JANUARY 24. Election Day is Tuesday JANUARY 28**

# Richard Smith

**Republican for State Representative**

**BACKGROUND**

- ✪ Businessman / rancher
- ✪ Texas A&M Class of 1959
- ✪ B.S. Mechanical Engineering
- ✪ Corps of Cadets, Squadron 22
- ✪ Former Captain, U.S. Air Force

**LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS**

- ✪ State Representative, 1985-1991
- ✪ Member, Appropriations Committee, 1987-88
- ✪ Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, 1989-90
- ✪ Named to Texas Monthly's "Ten Best Legislators List", 1987
- ✪ Recognized as "Crimefighter of the Year" by Texas State Troopers Association, 1990

**EXPERIENCE COUNTS!**

**Special Election Tuesday, January 28**

Political ad paid by Richard Smith Campaign, 3743 S. Texas Ave., Bryan, TX. 77802