

A Ludacris April Fool's Day

It's no joke: Rap artist Ludacris to stop at Reed Arena on a previously unannounced concert tour

By Jose Cruz
THE BATTALION

Reed Arena will be hosting hip-hop superstar Ludacris in a rare visit to College Station next month. The show will be the first big act to perform at Reed Arena since Nickelback rocked the house more than a year ago. The southern rapper will be performing a complete show on April 1, promoting his latest album release, "Chicken and Beer." The show at Reed Arena in College Station will fall between shows in Chicago and Boston.

According to his official Web site, Ludacris' first two albums, "Back For the 1st Time" and "Word of Mouf" have sold more than 7.5 million copies. With his role in last summer's hit movie "2 Fast 2 Furious," Ludacris' popularity has continued to soar.

Although College Station may not be known for its established hip-hop scene, some students believe the concert will be a success. Danny Long, a senior architecture major, is happy to see a change of pace in College Station.

"I would say hip-hop is becoming more mainstream here in College Station. They play it on the radio and people are always looking for something different," he said. "We usually get country bands here, so I think it's cool that we are getting someone like Ludacris to perform here."

Mary Helen Bowers, associate director of special events at Reed Arena, says she's excited about the show.

"He's an artist that is really popular right now. He's not

someone that is barely emerging, so we are really excited and think it will be a great show," she said.

Bowers said she would love to have more popular artists perform at Reed Arena, but it said finding such artists can be challenging.

"Finding a promoter that is willing to bring a big group here, for whatever reason that may be, can be difficult," she said.

Zach Sugg, a senior geography major, said he thinks the concert will be a success. "It doesn't seem like it would be a good match for College Station, but a lot of college kids know who he is. He has a really big fan base," Skuggs said.

Sugg said that most clubs in College Station play hip-hop music and as a result his music seems to be very popular. Sugg has attended various concerts at Reed Arena and said he thinks it's a great place to carry on a concert.

"Reed probably offers the best place for big concerts in the Bryan-College Station area because of the size of building," he said. Sugg also said he would like to see more bands come to College Station.

"I have a lot of friends that drive to bigger cities like Austin and Houston frequently just so they can see their favorite bands perform. I think just the fact that we don't often get big bands to come here will make the concert a success. People will want to take advantage of it," he said.

Bowers said the floor of Reed Arena will be opened up for standing room which is the common arrangement for concerts. Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. Thursday with prices ranging from \$21.50 for balcony seats to \$29.50 for floor entry. Students can buy tickets at the Reed Arena box office, MSC Box Office or any Ticketmaster location.

GIGS

who:
Ludacris

where:
Reed Arena

how much:
\$21.50 - \$29.50

doors open:
April 1st at 6 p.m.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Judge in Jackson molestation case convenes grand jury

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The district attorney who charged Michael Jackson with child molestation is convening a grand jury to hear evidence in the case, a move apparently designed to sidestep a public preliminary hearing, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Citing unnamed legal sources, the Santa Barbara News-Press said potential grand jurors have received summonses to appear later this month.

A spokesman for Tellem Worldwide, which handles media inquiries for Santa Barbara County prosecutor Tom Sneddon, said a grand jury is being convened but he could not say whether it's for the Jackson case or another matter.

"The business of the grand jury is confidential," spokesman Jason Karpf said.

Jackson's lawyers said Wednesday they could not comment due to a judge's gag order.

"It doesn't surprise me if he (Sneddon) has decided to go to the grand jury," said Loyola University Law School Professor Laurie Levenson. "It avoids the media spectacle and it gives them a chance for a dress rehearsal" before a possible trial.

Jackson has pleaded innocent to seven

counts of performing lewd or lascivious acts on a child under 14 and two counts of administering an intoxicating agent, reportedly wine. He's free on \$3 million bail.

Prosecutors argue privacy rights in case of Limbaugh, medical records

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Prosecutors who want to review Rush Limbaugh's medical records argued in court papers that privacy rights shouldn't be used to hide criminal wrongdoing.

Seizing the conservative radio commentator's medical records in their investigation of his prescription drug use didn't violate his constitutional or privacy rights, Palm Beach County prosecutors said in documents filed Monday.

Limbaugh's lawyers are asking the 4th District Court of Appeal to bar prosecutors from using the records seized in November. Limbaugh is under investigation for possible violations of the state's "doctor shopping" law, which prohibits someone from secretly obtaining overlapping prescriptions from different doctors.

Limbaugh, 53, hasn't been charged with any crime. In October, he told radio listeners he was addicted to painkillers and was entering a

monthlong rehabilitation program.

His lawyer, Roy Black, had no comment on the filing. He contends prosecutors should have followed a procedure in state law that requires them to notify someone with a subpoena before they can obtain the records rather than using a search warrant. The notification is designed to give a person a chance to contest it in court.

Assistant State Attorney James Martz argued that Limbaugh's records were seized with a search warrant because investigators feared evidence would be altered or destroyed.

Nixon on hand to lobby for New York public schools

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Cynthia Nixon, costar of HBO's "Sex and the City," emerged from the office of state Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver to the TV cameras, microphones and tape recorders of a dozen reporters.

But Nixon didn't want to talk about her new role or her series' recent finale. She was among the celebrities lobbying at the state Capitol Tuesday, and the 37-year-old actress wanted to talk education funding.

Nixon, who has a child in New York City public schools, also came to Albany last year to push for more school spending.

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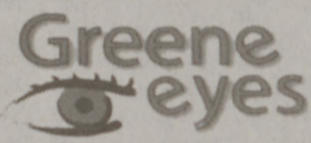
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