

DETROIT

NATIVE SUN

Da Rumor Mill



By Tenisha Renee Miller
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What up doe! It's cold in the D but da streets are hot!

When it comes to hot, Kendrick Lamar's performance at the Super Bowl was on fire. I loved the subliminal messages sent throughout his performance - dancers dressed in red, white and blue, Samuel L. Jackson as Uncle Sam, Serena Williams' crip walk, and performance with SZA. We know Drake was probably watching, but he won't admit it. Before Kendrick's performance even started, Drake's team allegedly issued a statement targeted at Universal Music Group, his record label, saying it was "gross" of them to support the Compton rapper. "UMG is masquerading as a champion of artistic freedom by calling its actions merely 'entertainment', but there is nothing entertaining about pedophilia or child abuse in the real world," Drizzy's legal team reportedly told the New York Times. Drake reportedly sued UMG for defamation and harassment, over its release of "Not Like Us." The suit accuses UMG of starting "a campaign to create a viral hit" out of a song that made the "false factual allegation that Drake is a criminal pedophile, and to suggest that the public should resort to vigilante justice in response. We are confident that the evidence we will ultimately present at trial—including information we've already learned and continue to receive since filing the lawsuit—will expose UMG's gross prioritization of its own corporate profits and executive bonuses over its exclusively signed artists' well-being and the truth," the statement continues. "Not Like Us" is no doubt the number 1 diss song and is selling like hot cakes. But, it has also reportedly sparked some of Kendrick's fans to strike out at Drake, who's home has been broken into four times. First break-in: Shortly after "Not Like Us" was released. Second break-in: An individual scaled a fence and left a disturbing note. Third break-in: A group of men attempted to breach the estate but were caught on security cameras. Fourth

break-in: This latest incident, allegedly carried out by fans acting on Kendrick's message. Sources close to Drake's security team reportedly claim that measures have already been taken to prevent further

incidents, including beefing up security presence and implementing new surveillance systems. Drake needs to wave a white flag and surrender. Bro....you lost the rap battle, so give up!

Another person that needs to give up or sit down in the naughty chair is Kanye West aka Ye. Instead of watching the Super Bowl game like normal people, this fool was selling T-shirts with swastikas on his website. "I spent, like, all the money for the commercial on these new teeth," he allegedly said during the commercial. "So, once again, I had to shoot it on the iPhone." He reportedly told fans to go to Yeezy.com to buy a shirt for \$20. Spotify shut down his business. "This store is unavailable." Spotify reportedly said in a statement adding that Ye's online store "did not engage in authentic commerce practices and violated our terms so we removed them from Shopify." Ye's account on X, formerly Twitter, was deactivated, after he claimed to be a Nazi and insulted the Jewish community. "I'm never apologizing for my Jewish comments," he reportedly said on X. Ye is a straight up fool!

Cardi B is reportedly showing that she's no fool and has moved on from Onset. Word on da street says she's dating Stefon Diggs, a wide receiver on the NFL Houston Texans, after the rapper was seen out with Diggs at a club in New Orleans. Offset reportedly accused Cardi of cheating on him with the athlete while she was carrying their child, but at the time, she denied the allegations. "The internet is insane. All these rumors are so f-king crazy," she said at the time. "That's why I don't wanna address it because I feel like s-t is funny. I'mma just let it ride out because I think it's cute, it's funny. I'ma let people think what they wanna think." Offset reportedly clapped back, saying he's moved on too. "My New B-ch Badder," he wrote on X, adding "Had u last week by the way." Is he opening himself up to a new rap battle to go with the divorce? Us nosey folks wanna know.

On that note, we're outta here. Peace out!

Hip-Hop mourns the loss of Irv Gotti, Murder Inc. founder dies at 54

By Stacy M. Brown
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Hip-hop icon and record executive Irving "Irv Gotti" Lorenzo Jr., the mastermind behind Murder Inc. Records, has died at 54. The cause of death has not been announced, though Gotti had battled diabetes-related issues and suffered multiple strokes in recent years.

Def Jam co-founder Russell Simmons was among the first to pay tribute, calling attention to Gotti's impact and the broader health crisis affecting Black men and women.

"Brothers and sisters, please don't let Irv Gotti go without acknowledging the tragedy of his death and the state of Black health in America," Simmons urged. "This talented, beautiful, happy, curious, enthusiastic spirit has left his body way too soon. I am sure God will receive him with love. To the Black men and women of America still here to face this crisis, the epidemic of chronic diseases and illnesses is a result of America's food industry poisoning you and the normalization of bad diets and lack of self-care. Those following great nutritionists like Dr. Sebi are walking away from this cycle of sickness. Help your brothers and sisters take the same path."

Gotti rose to prominence in the late 1990s and early 2000s, shaping the careers of Ja Rule, Ashanti, and DMX. His signature production style fused hip-hop beats with melodic hooks, creating crossover hits that dominated radio and television from 2001 to 2004. He played a pivotal role in crafting chart-topping singles such as "I'm Real" and "Ain't It Funny" with Jennifer Lopez and "Ja Rule and Foolish" and "Always on Time" with Ashanti.

Before launching Murder Inc. in 1998, Gotti worked as an A&R at Def Jam, where he helped sign Jay-Z, DMX, and Ja Rule. Under his DJ moniker, DJ Irv, he produced "Can I Live" from Jay-Z's Reasonable Doubt

album. His influence extended beyond hip-hop, co-producing Vanessa Carlton's Heroes and Thieves album alongside Rick Rubin and Stephan Jenkins.

Lyor Cohen, the former Def Jam executive now serving as YouTube's global head of music, recalled Gotti's contributions. "Def Jam has lost one of its most creative soldiers who was hip-hop," Cohen stated. "When we were on bended knee, he brought the heat and saved us. He came from a very tight, beautiful family from Queens, and it's an honor and a privilege to have known him. Irv, you will be missed."

Gotti's career faced challenges in the mid-2000s when an FBI investigation into alleged ties with drug kingpin Kenneth "Supreme" McGriff led to a raid on Murder Inc.'s offices. Though acquitted, the case tarnished the label's reputation. In recent years, Gotti pivoted to television, launching the BET anthology series Tales, blending hip-hop and storytelling.

Steve Rifkind, founder of Loud Records, recalled his longtime friendship with Gotti. "I met Irv in 1993 when he had Mic Geronimo signed to him. We always laughed about what would have happened if he had gone to Loud," Rifkind reminisced. "After his case in the mid-2000s, we both ended up at Universal, where he had Lloyd and I had Akon. Doug Morris had a plan for us, but we never quite figured out what it was. We just knew we had lunch with him and Mel Lewinter every Monday for a year. We never found out what the plan was, but boy, did we learn a lot and have a lot of laughs. To the Gotti, Lorenzo, and Murder Inc. family, my heart goes out to all of you."

Gotti is survived by his children, Angie, Sonny, and Jonathan Wilson; his mother, Nee Nee Lorenzo; his sisters, Tina and Angie; and his brother, Chris Lorenzo, with whom he co-founded Murder Inc.

"Rest in peace, Irv. You were such a beautiful soul but gone too soon," Simmons said.



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