

# DETROIT

## Da Rumor Mill

# NATIVE SUN



By Tanisha Miller  
SUN ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

What up doe! Da Rumor Mill is on and poppin' and here's what's poppin' off in da streets.

Rumor has it that Rapper Sexy Red was allegedly caught throwin' blows in a brawl at the Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey. The fight was reportedly caught on camera and folks are saying the St. Louis rapper was the cause of the brawl. Sexy Red allegedly said that it's not her in the video. "Dat wasn't me," the rapper tweeted. The video shows someone who looks like Red in the middle of the fight about to knock someone out with a metal stanchion. She tripped over something which stopped her from landing a blow. "To the people that was in that altercation at the airport, please DM me so I can replace yo phone," she added. Sounds like a confession to go with the disorderly conduct charge she reportedly faces. This time ya should da kept your mouth shut.

When it comes to shuttin' up, peeps are saying that Rapper Nikki Minaj shoulda kept her mouth shut, after one of the

stops on her Pink Friday 2 World Tour. First the rapper reportedly announced that she's single, ending her 5 year marriage to music industry executive Kenneth "Zoo" Petty. Then she was capture on video by the paparazzi talkin' crazy. Some have accused her as being high as a kite on some weird drugs. She might need drugs if she is really getting a divorce and have to pay alimony and child support to her husband. The rapper has sold over 100 million records worldwide. She has three number one albums and 23 top ten songs in the U.S. Her tours are selling out all over. It all adds up to no money, no money with no honey.

While Nikki is selling out on tour dates, Rapper Young Thug's lawyer, Brian Steel, says he's no sell out. His attorney was charged with contempt of court and was sentenced to 20 days in jail for refusing to snitch. Young Thug, aka Jeffery Lamar Williams, is facing a RICO charge. The 32-year-old founding member of the gang Young Slime Life or YSL or YSL is accused of co-founding a violent criminal street gang and using his music to promote it. He's charged with violating Georgia's anti-racketeering and gang laws, among other alleged offenses. If convicted, he faces 120 years in prison. He is also charged with killing rival gang member Donovan "Nut" Thomas Jr. Steel refused to tell Judge Ural Glanville who told him that Kenneth "Lil Woody" Cope land reportedly confessed to killing Donovan "Nut" Thomas Jr. "You got some information you shouldn't have gotten," Glanville reportedly told Steel. Steel reportedly responded to the judge saying that Young Thug did not want to continue the trial without his presence. "You are removing me against his will, my will, and you're taking away his right to counsel." Dang...now both of them are behind bars. He must be getting' paid not to snitch. I probably would have taken the money and got out of town.

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

## Usher to receive 2024 ASCAP Voice of the Culture Award

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) recently announced that multi-platinum, Grammy-winning global icon USHER and multi-talented 2024 Best New Artist Grammy winner Victoria Monét will be honored at a VIP party in Los Angeles to celebrate ASCAP's top music creators at the crossroads of music, art and culture. On Thursday, June 27, USHER will receive the distinguished ASCAP Voice of the Culture Award and Victoria Monét will accept the esteemed ASCAP Vanguard Award.

The ASCAP Voice of the Culture Award is presented to ASCAP members who have had a major influence on music and culture and this honor recognizes their success as creators and changemakers. Timbaland, Swizz Beatz and D-Nice were the latest artists to receive the award in 2021.

The ASCAP Vanguard Award is presented in recognition of ASCAP members whose innovative work is helping to shape the future of music. Migos, Janelle Monáe and Beastie Boys are past recipients of the award.

"Usher has owned the R&B crown for decades, captivating listeners with his incomparable vocal chops and songs that span the R&B and pop genres," said ASCAP Chairman of the Board and President Paul Williams. "His charisma and performances are unmatched in the R&B world and his humanitarian impact is just as undeniable.



It is an honor to present Usher with the ASCAP Voice of the Culture Award."

"Victoria Monét has proven herself not only as an illuminating songwriter, but also as a flourishing artist and ASCAP member who continues to break barriers," continued Williams. "Her resilience, talent, and exemplary work ethic have helped her become a multi-award-winning singer and songwriter. She is well-deserving of

the ASCAP Vanguard Award."

USHER has changed music, culture and countless lives. The multiple Grammy Award-winning, diamond-selling, international icon, actor, dancer, entrepreneur and philanthropist continues to inspire change. Three decades into his record-breaking, culture-shifting career, the multifaceted superstar is still carving new pathways in music, fashion, philanthropy, entrepreneurship and live performance.

Beyond selling over 80 million records worldwide and collecting dozens of awards, USHER has simultaneously lit up the small screen on NBC's The Voice and the big screen in blockbusters such as Hustlers. He has tirelessly distinguished himself as a devout humanitarian, raising tens of millions of dollars for various causes and uplifting youth via his New Look Foundation.

## Howard University revokes Sean "Diddy" Combs' honorary degree as mogul's legal troubles grow

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Just days after Howard University announced it would revoke the honorary degree awarded to Sean "Diddy" Combs in 2014, additional details have emerged about the decision and the mounting legal issues facing the hip-hop mogul.

On Friday, June 7, Howard University's Board of Trustees voted unanimously "to accept the return by Mr. Sean Combs of the honorary degree," as stated in their official release. The decision, linked to a series of abuse allegations against Combs, has led to the university stripping all associated honors and privileges.

Combs, 54, who attended Howard University from 1987 to 1989 before leaving without graduating, pledged \$1 million in 2016 to establish the Sean Combs Scholarship Fund for financially needy students. The university has also terminated this pledge and a 2023 agreement with the Sean Combs Foundation.

The catalyst for this drastic move was a series of disturbing revelations. In November 2023, Casandra Ventura, known professionally as Cassie, filed a lawsuit accusing Combs of rape and physical abuse. The lawsuit was swiftly settled the next day. More recently, in May, CNN published surveillance footage from a Los Angeles hotel showing Combs attacking Ms. Ventura near the building's elevators.

Combs posted an apology video on Instagram in response to the footage, stating, "I hit rock bottom — but I make no excuses. My behavior on that video is inexcusable. I take full responsibility for my actions in that video."

Howard University, founded in 1867 to educate freed slaves, is a renowned historically Black university. Its notable alumni include Vice President Kamala Harris and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Toni Morrison. Last year, the university awarded honorary degrees to Representative James E. Clyburn of South Carolina and Keith Christopher Rowley, the prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago.

"Mr. Combs' behavior, as captured in a recently released video, is so fundamentally incompatible with Howard University's core values and beliefs that he is deemed no longer worthy to hold

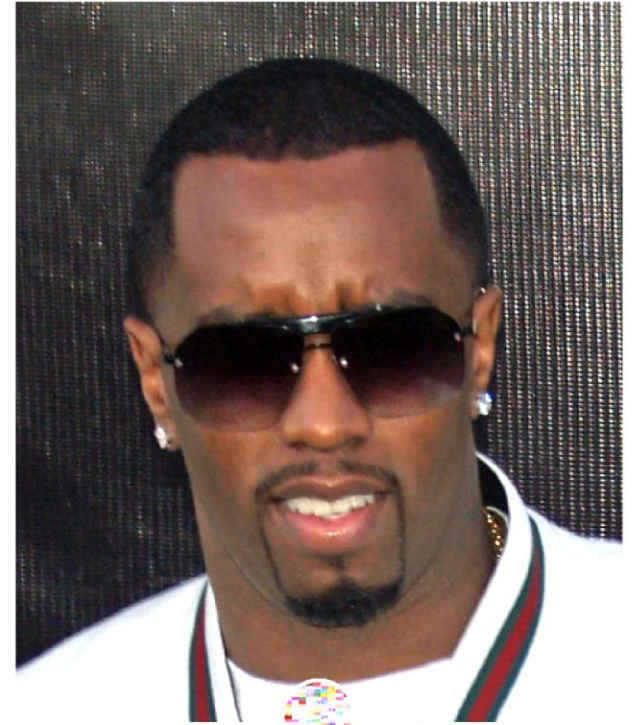


Illustration by Stacy M. Brown

the institution's highest honor," board members said.

The revocation of Combs' honorary degree comes amid a cascade of legal challenges for the founder of Bad Boy Records. In March, federal agents raided his homes in Los Angeles and the Miami area as part of a human trafficking investigation. Although no charges have been filed, the raids followed lawsuits by four women, including Ventura, accusing Combs of rape and sexual assault. A man has also accused him of unwanted sexual contact. Combs' lawyers have been actively filing motions to dismiss these lawsuits.

Reportedly, prosecutors have convened a grand jury in New York and may seek sex-abuse and other related charges against the mogul.

Adding to his woes, Combs recently sold his majority stake in his media company, Revolt, as his legal issues intensified. Earlier, he sold his half of the liquor brand DeLeón for approximately \$200 million after its parent company cited tarnished reputation concerns. Moreover, a New York charter school network that Combs had been instrumental in expanding has severed ties with him.

"The university is unwavering in its opposition to all acts of interpersonal violence," Howard University's board wrote.

"Mr. Combs' behavior is so fundamentally incompatible with Howard University's core values and beliefs that he is deemed no longer worthy to hold the institution's highest honor."

## MR. LACEY

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# HANDYMAN RENOVATIONS

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