

PRETENTIOUS EARS: CD REVIEWS

Rick Wakeman and the New English Rock Ensemble "Out of the Blue" (Music Fusion)

Rick Wakeman's magnificent keyboard flourishes can be heard on a new release of keyboard-soaked progressive rock, "Out of the Blue," performed with the New English Rock Ensemble.

a penchant for jamming is your hunger, "Sixty Minutes with Man" has got a spoonful. (Available through Music Video Distributors.)

Ne-Yo "Because of You" (Island Def Jam)

There's a small kaleidoscope's worth of reasons why Ne-Yo's music works. For one thing, it's a garden of influences at work here.

somewhere (besides Slayer, though, of course, they're the torchbearers for the old school since Metallica has left the thrash building, the less-than-stellar "St. Anger" notwithstanding).

Rick Wakeman "Tribute" (Music Fusion)

Rock/prog keyboard stylist Rick Wakeman here turns his attention to classic rock-n-roll innovators The Beatles.

Evile "Enter the Grave" (Earache) Classic thrash makes a comeback with Evile's "Enter the Grave."

-Kristofer Upjohn

Co-defendant to plea, testify in O.J. armed robbery case

By Ken Ratter ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Accused of being one of five men who joined O.J. Simpson in a hotel-room confrontation with two sports memorabilia dealers, Charles Cashmore will plead guilty to a reduced charge and testify that guns were involved in the theft of sports collectibles.



The Associated Press

Charles Howard Cashmore, one of three men involved in O.J. Simpson armed robbery case, appears in a Clark County Justice courtroom in Las Vegas on Thursday, Sept. 20.

Cashmore will testify that two of the other men who entered the room with the former football star were armed, his lawyer, Edward Miley, said Friday.

A court hearing is set for Monday, a court clerk confirmed.

"He was just in the wrong place at the wrong time," Miley said of Cashmore, a 40-year-old laborer, bartender and disc jockey who lives in Las Vegas.

Clark County District Attorney David Roger declined to comment.

Simpson and the others are charged with kidnapping, armed robbery, assault, burglary and conspiracy in the Sept. 13 encounter in a Las Vegas casino hotel room between Simpson and memorabilia collectors Alfred Beardsley and Bruce Fromong.

Simpson also faces a felony charge of coercion, alleging that he took a cell phone from Fromong.

Simpson has said he wanted to retrieve personal items that belonged to him, and his lawyers have maintained that no guns were used.

But Cashmore will testify that Walter Alexander and Michael McClinton, two men who entered the room with Simpson, had guns, Miley said.

"The only people with guns that he knew of were Alexander and McClinton," Miley said, adding that Cashmore's crime was failed.

ing to immediately go to police and turn over the items he carried out of the room.

Cashmore surrendered to authorities six days later and turned over the items, after police released images from hotel security videotapes showing him carrying a box from the room.

Lawyers for Simpson, McClinton and most of the others did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Alexander's lawyer, Robert Dennis Rentzer, declined to say whether Alexander had a gun in the room.

"I owe the district attorney an answer to that question before the press," he said. Rentzer said he was scheduled to meet with Roger on Monday, but he expressed doubt Cashmore could say Alexander was armed.

"How can he put a gun in the possession of someone who didn't have a gun out?" Rentzer said.

Miley said Cashmore met Simpson and most of the others in the group for the first time minutes before the alleged robbery.

"O.J. says, 'Hey I've got to move some stuff, can you help?'" Miley said.

ATF agents search the home of Atlanta rapper T.I. during BET Hip-Hop Awards

ATLANTA (AP) — Federal authorities searched the home of Grammy-winning rapper T.I. on Saturday, hours before he was expected to win big at the BET Hip-Hop Awards being taped downtown.

Agents with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives spent most of Saturday afternoon at the home in East Point, about 15 miles southwest of Atlanta. It was unclear what they were looking for.

A search of property records listed the owner as Clifford Harris, T.I.'s given name. A law enforcement official who was not authorized to speak but talked to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity confirmed it was the rapper's home.

No one besides law enforcement was at the home during the search, officers at the scene said.

The 27-year-old rapper was noticeably absent from red carpet festivities before the show began at 6 p.m., though he was at the center where the show was to be taped earlier Saturday.



The Associated Press

In this image from video, the East Point, Ga., home of the rapper T.I., whose given name is Clifford Harris, is shown as agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives search inside on Saturday.

Sydney Margetson, a spokesman for T.I.'s label, Atlantic Records, declined to comment Saturday evening.

Saturday was supposed to be a day of revelry for T.I., the co-chief executive of Grand Hustle Records. The self-proclaimed "King of the South" won three awards at last year's inaugural BET Hip-Hop Awards and received nine nominations this year,

including CD of the Year, Lyricist of the Year and MVP of the Year.

Instead, half a dozen ATF agents were still searching the home well into the night, removing boxes and envelopes from the large, red brick house with white columns and ornate glass windows, removing boxes and envelopes.

The BET Hip-Hop Awards were taped Saturday and are

scheduled to air on Oct. 17 at 8 p.m.

The rapper's sixth album, "T.I. vs. T.I.P.," was released July 3 and debuted at No. 1.

In May 2006, T.I.'s best friend, Philant Johnson, was killed and three others were injured in a gun shootout after a post-performance party in Cincinnati. The killer remains at large, and T.I. was briefly locked up a few days after the funeral on suspicion of failing to perform community service stemming from a 2003 arrest.

T.I. grew up in Atlanta and was selling crack by the time he was a teenager. After years of hustling to launch his rap career, recording demos and flying back and forth to New York shopping for a record deal, his first taste of success came with his 2003 album, "Trap Muzik."

But the next year, warrants were issued for his arrest on probation violations for a drug conviction, and he was sentenced to three years behind bars. It wasn't clear Saturday how much of the sentence he actually served.

TONIGHT ON TELEVISION

Find listings for the entire week in Saturday's special supplement — Select TV — only in The Commercial

Table with columns for SUNDAY, PB-Pine Bluff, CC-Classic Cable, S-So. Pine Bluff/Sulphur Springs, and OCTOBER 14, 2007. Rows list various TV channels and their programming schedules.

Advertisement for Carmike Cinemas Pines Mall 8, featuring bottled water coolers and movie listings.

Advertisement for Big Banjo Pizzeria Parlor, offering two medium pizzas for \$17.99 and two large pizzas for \$21.99.

Large advertisement for DISH Network, highlighting various channel packages and promotional offers like 'Snap! Snap!' and 'Free DishHD'.