

6 years later...

TUPAC MURDER MYSTERY SOLVED



SIX years after Tupac Shakur died in a hail of gunfire, the bloody crime has finally been solved!

Investigators say that the gangsta rapper was killed by a rival L.A. gang member he'd beaten up a few hours earlier.

Shakur, 25, was shot in September 1996, while riding in a black BMW with Marion "Suge" Knight, head of the singer's record label, Death Row. The two were in Las Vegas for a Mike Tyson fight.

No one was ever arrested for the murder. But theories about who committed it ranged from Knight — so he could exploit the dead star commercially — to Shakur himself, faking his own death to escape the pressures of fame.

But now investigators reveal that the real culprit was Orlando "Baby Lane" Anderson, a member of the Southside Crips, a Compton, Calif., gang. They add that New York rapper Notorious B.I.G. supplied the murder weapon and had agreed to pay the Crips \$1 million to knock off Shakur.

B.I.G., whose real name was Christopher Wallace, was gunned down six months later in L.A., and Anderson fell victim to a gang-

related shooting in 1998. Before they died, both denied they had anything to do with Shakur's death and B.I.G.'s family is still adamant he played no role in it.

But investigators point out that on the night he died, Shakur spotted 21-year-old Anderson in the lobby of the MGM Grand Hotel after the Tyson fight. Anderson and his fellow Crips had previously beaten and robbed one of Shakur's bodyguards,

who were members of The Bloods, a rival gang.

Shakur punched Anderson, and Knight and their bodyguards



Marion "Suge" Knight

joined in until hotel security broke up the brawl. Even though security cameras showed Shakur and his pals punching and kicking someone, local cops insisted they had "no reason to believe that the altercation has any connection to the shooting."

But Wes McBride, president of the California Gang Investigators Association, begs to differ. "In gang culture, that fight was a killing offense," McBride explains. "If you embarrass gang members in public, they will retaliate with a vengeance."

- ROBIN MIZRAHI