Man claiming to be booking agent arrested for theft

Friday, January 7, 2011
A man who claimed he was a booking agent for Grammy-nominated singer Keyshia Cole was arrested for stealing money from a college student who wanted to hire Cole for an event.

Percy Pittman, 25, of Petal, MS, was arrested Wednesday in Shreveport after he came to town to collect a payment from the victim.

In December, Pittman presented the victim with a contract to hire Cole for an AIDS benefit at an area college. Pittman represented himself as a booking agent from Hattiesburg, MS, and claimed to be in contact with Cole and her agent. Pittman met the victim at the library on Hollywood Avenue in Shreveport, where he was paid $750. The victim also agreed to pay an additional $6,300 to have Cole perform at the event. An arrangement was made between Pittman and the victim to meet again at the library on January 5 for a $3,000 payment.

Meanwhile, the victim became suspicious of the contract and contacted the Caddo-Shreveport Financial Crimes Task Force to investigate. During the investigation it was learned that the contract was fraudulent.

On Wednesday, Task Force members were waiting for Pittman when he arrived at the library. He was arrested for felony theft and booked into Caddo Correctional Center by Caddo Sheriff's Detective Bobby Herring.

Herring said the Task Force is investigating whether Pittman may have been involved in other similar scams. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Sheriff's Office at 681-0770.