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UNITED FEATURE

n "Back in the Hood: Gang War 2" (10 p.m., HBO) returns to Little Rock, Ark., the scene of the acclaimed 1994 documentary "Gang War," a film that cast light on the problem of gang violence in America's heartland.

This new film follows Leifel Jackson, former leader of the Little Rock Crips organization. In the first film, he had been a target of a drive-by shooting, and he's spent seven of the past 10 years in prison for drug trafficking.

Upon release, he has been trying to go straight and keep local kids from following his path.

"Gang War 2" does an intelligent and often moving job of dispelling the glamour and appeal of gang life. It's curious, then, why the filmmakers chose to use vulgar and frankly cliched rap music in the film's opening credits, particularly when this music glorifies the mindless violence of "hood" life. Why use music that contradicts the point of your film?

n Look for "Twin Peaks" star Madchen Amick to join the cast of the medical soap "ER," which returns to Thursdays on Sept. 23. Amick's recurring character will show up in the season's fourth episode. She plays an idealistic social worker who catches the eye of Dr. Carter (Noah Wyle).

Since "Peaks," Amick has appeared in the highly touted but low-rated primetime soap "Central Park West" as well as the underrated remake of "Fantasy Island." And who can forget her turn in the 2001 made-for-television shocker "Rats"?

n "Wide Angle" (9:30 p.m., WVPBS) looks at the recent controversial decision by French president Jacques Chirac to forbid the wearing of traditional Muslim headscarves in public schools.

n The gang votes to eliminate another player on "Big Brother 5" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-PG).

n The 1967 documentary "Don't Look Back" (8 p.m., Discovery Times), directed by D.A. Pennebaker, follows Bob Dylan and his entourage on the musician's 1965 British tour. Joan Baez, Donovan and poet Allen Ginsberg also appear.

n Cameron Diaz, Drew Barrymore and Lucy Liu star in the 2000 summer movie adaptation of "Charlie's Angels" (9 p.m., ABC, TV-14,D,L,S,V). It's smug, predictable and often boring, and I hear the sequel is even worse!

n A car bombing on the strip gets noticed on "CSI" (9 p.m., CBS, TV-14,V).

n Julian intervenes in the election for park supervisor in the Canadian comedy "Trailer Park Boys" (9 p.m., BBC America).

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