

Lauryn Hill wins big at MTV awards

NEW YORK (AP) — Pavarotti was out and Puff Daddy was in. Instead of the Three Tenors, rappers Eminem, Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg were in the (opera) house. And in the

end, there was no fat lady to be found.

Instead, it was Lauryn Hill, the svelte hip hop artist, who capped off Thursday night's 1999 MTV Video Music Awards, the garish annual

extravaganza that relocated for one night to the staid Metropolitan Opera House.

Hill captured awards for best video, female video, R&B video and art direction. And she graciously accepted the evening's final award — for best video — after surprise presenter Paul McCartney inexplicably introduced her as "some guy named Lawrence Hill."

Wearing rose-colored glasses, Hill also performed her song "Everything is Everything" on the stage typically reserved for the music of Wagner or Handel.

Presenters from Tupac Shakur's mother, Afeni, to actress Heather Locklear handed out MTV's astronaut statues, honoring videos that aired on the network between June 1998 and June 1999.

Joining Hill as the night's big winners were British dance artist Fatboy Slim, who collected three awards for his "Praise You" video; Ricky Martin, who won twice for his ubiquitous "Livin' La Vida Loca"; and Korn, which captured a pair of statues for

its "Freak on a Leash" video, a technological marvel that featured a slow-motion animated bullet.

The MTV crowd, renowned in the past for rude and lascivious behavior, toned down its act at the tonier venue. Guests strolled down a red carpet and up a spiral staircase, walking past an enormous chandelier. The MTV censor, ordinarily busy during the live broadcast, had a virtual night off.

Still, when Blink 182 performed outside the opera house before the show, Lincoln Center hosted its first mosh pit.

Host Chris Rock, opening the show, joked that he was the first black man to appear on the Met stage "without a mop."

And later, Motley Crue drummer Tommy Lee — sporting only an overcoat and a knit wool hat — visited the press room to flash his love, Pamela Anderson Lee.



LAURYN HILL



TLC: from left, Rozonda "Chilli" Thomas, Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes, and Tionne "T-Boz" Watkins won for best group video, "No Scrubs."

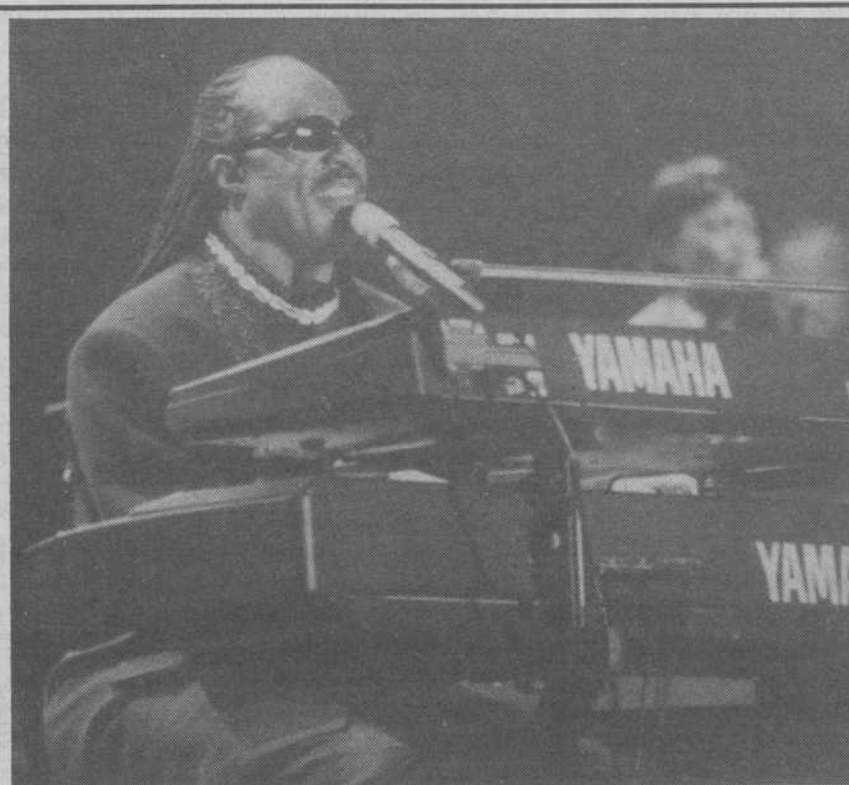
Puff Daddy must undergo counseling

NEW YORK (AP) — Sean "Puffy" Combs was ordered Wednesday to undergo a day of anger management counseling after he pleaded guilty to harassing a recording executive.

Combs, 29, and an associate were arrested in April on charges of assaulting Steven Stoute, who suffered a broken arm, a broken jaw and cuts to his head after being hit with a chair and a champagne bottle, police said.

The rap mogul initially was charged with second-degree assault and faced up to seven years in prison, but Stoute balked at pursuing the prosecution and Combs was allowed to plead guilty to the lesser charge of harassment.

Combs blamed Stoute for letting MTV air a video with a scene that showed Combs nailed to a cross. His attorney said Combs wanted the scene cut because he worried it might be offensive.



WONDERMENT

R&B icon Stevie Wonder tickles the ivory for a memorable performance during last week's grand opening of the \$785 million Paris Hotel and Casino.

Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

UPN beats WB in ratings again

NEW YORK (AP) — At a time when its future is the subject of new questions, the UPN television network can take comfort in some small victories.

UPN narrowly beat its mini-network rival, the WB, in the ratings for the second straight week — the only two times it has done so since April 1998.

It's not quite a fair fight, since UPN has gotten a jump on the fall season by premiering a handful of its shows while the WB is airing mostly reruns. But UPN's new Thursday night wrestling series had higher ratings than anything on either network last week and Jaleel White's new sitcom, "Grown Ups," shows signs of being a modest hit.

UPN is half-owned by Viacom, which announced its plans to purchase CBS this week. Under current federal regulations, Viacom would not be allowed to own more than 33 percent of UPN. So the young network will likely be sold, shut down or folded into CBS if the rules can't be changed.

Viacom's chairman, Sumner Redstone, would not tip his hand on UPN's future but indicated he was happy at the company's efforts to turn around by concentrating on a young male demographic.

"UPN is doing a lot better than it was," Redstone said.

CBS won the Nielsen Media Research prime-time ratings crown during a lackluster week, where the most popular show was an exhibition football game. CBS had a 6.4 rating and 12 share, NBC had a 6.0 rating and 11 share, ABC had a 5.8 rating and 11 share, and Fox was at 4.2 and 8.

UPN had a 2.3 rating and 4 share, the WB had a 2.2 rating and 4 share and Pax TV was at 0.8 and 2.

The "NBC Nightly News" won the evening news ratings race with a 6.9 rating and 16 share. ABC's "World News Tonight" had a 6.7 rating and 15 share and the "CBS Evening News" was at 6.0 and 14.

A rating point represents 1,008,000 households, or 1 percent of the nation's estimated 100.8 million TV homes. The share is the percentage of in-use televisions tuned to a given show.

For the week of Aug. 30-Sept. 5, the top 10 shows, their networks and ratings were:

"NFL Pre-Season Football: San Francisco at Oakland," ABC, 9.1; "20/20-Wednesday," ABC, 9.0; "Dateline NBC-Tuesday," NBC, 8.5; "ER," NBC, 8.5; "Everybody Loves Raymond," CBS, 8.5; "Frasier," NBC, 8.3; "Frasier" special, NBC, 8.2; "Friends," NBC, 8.1; "The King of Queens" special, CBS, 7.9; "48 Hours-Monday," CBS, 7.7; "Law and Order," NBC, 7.7.

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