

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

ACTOR WESLEY SNIPES SUED
AGAIN OVER MORTGAGE

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) - Actor Wesley Snipes has been sued for the second time in two years for failing to make mortgage payments on his 10,000-square-foot mansion in the gated community of Isleworth. The lawsuit was filed two weeks ago in Orange County Circuit Court by Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corp. The lawsuit said Snipes defaulted on his payments last October and owes the bank almost \$609,000. No one answered at an Orlando telephone number listed in court records as belonging to Snipes. Snipes was sued by the bank for \$640,700 in February 2001 for failing to make his mortgage payments. Chase Manhattan asked for dismissal of the lawsuit a month later, after payments were made. The mansion was purchased in 1993 for more than \$1 million. It is now valued at \$1.7 million. L. Joseph Hoffman, an attorney for Chase Manhattan in Coral Gables, said Friday he couldn't comment on the case.

RAPPER JUVENILE ARRESTED
ON MARIJUANA DRUG CHARGES

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - Terius Gray, better known to rap music fans as Juvenile, was arrested on drug charges with three other people when police smelled, then saw, two burning marijuana cigarettes in the car they were in. Gray was a front seat passenger in the rented Lincoln Town Car stopped Wednesday at a New Orleans intersection where police had set up a checkpoint to make sure drivers were carrying proof of insurance. "Officers detected a very strong odor of burning marijuana coming from the vehicle," Sgt. Paul Accardo, a police spokesman, said in a news release. "Officers then observed two, still burning, marijuana cigarettes in the ashtray and subsequently arrested all four occupants for possession of marijuana." The men were later booked with possession of cocaine after officers found a small amount of cocaine in the trunk of the car, Accardo said. Gray, 27, also faces a simple robbery charge from an incident in September. Police said two of Gray's associates took \$200 from a barber whom Gray had accused of bootlegging a Juvenile compact disc. Gray's address is listed in LaPlace, a bedroom community west of New Orleans.

RAY CHARLES BACKS OUT OF COLORADO
SHOW DUE TO LABOR DISPUTE

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) - The Colorado Springs Symphony, in debt and embroiled in a labor dispute, postponed two concerts after musician Ray Charles backed out. Charles, scheduled to play Friday and Saturday, bowed out because the orchestra would not play. His contract called for a full orchestra backing him, said Larry Barrett, symphony executive director. The 72-year-old is also a member of the American Federation of Musicians, which has asked union members to boycott the orchestra because of the labor dispute. The symphony is \$1 million in debt and filed for bankruptcy protection in early January after the musicians rejected a pay cut. Symphony officials also filed a motion to dissolve the contract with the musicians. Union members claim the financial troubles stem from the symphony board's mismanagement and have asked the city to help resolve the dispute. Musicians formed the Colorado Springs Philharmonic Orchestra as a replacement if the symphony folds. They planned a free concert Sunday at Grace Episcopal Church. "Making music together, this is what we do best," said Ingrid Rodgers, who plays viola.

ALICIA KEYS CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY
WITH 10 MILLION DISC SALES

NEW YORK (AP) - Some people celebrate their birthday with a cake. Alicia Keys celebrated with a plaque recognizing 10 million in sales of her debut disc, "Songs in A Minor." The five-time Grammy winner marked both milestones with a party hosted by her mentor, J Records founder Clive Davis. Though she turned 22 on Saturday, the crowd of well-wishers sang "Happy Birthday" to her Wednesday night as she received the plaque from Davis. With her long hair flowing from beneath a brown fedora, it appeared that Keys had taken out her signature braids. But when she removed the hat, the singer revealed the top of her hair - still in cornrows. "They're always in there," she laughed. Keys is busy in the studio working on her sophomore album. "Everything is going to be from my heart, which is how it always is going to be," she told The Associated Press.

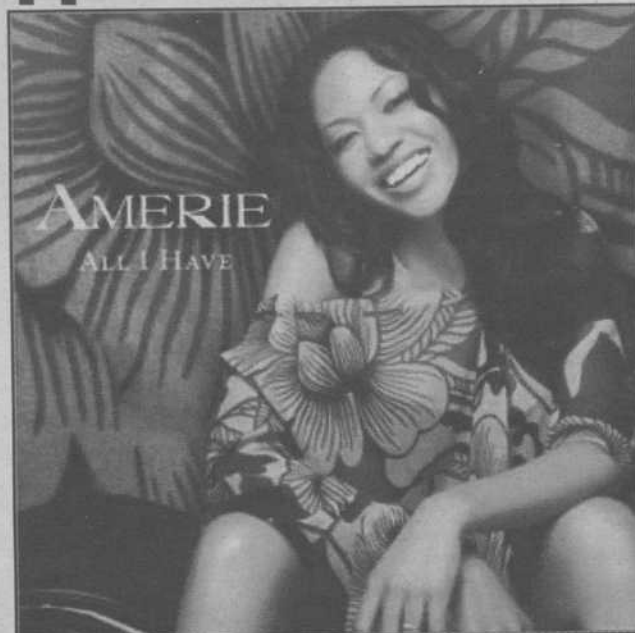
ENTERTAINMENT

Amerie tapped for 3 Soul Train Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) - R&B ingenues Ashanti and Amerie collected a leading three nominations each Monday for the annual Soul Train Music Awards.

Ashanti's self-titled album and Amerie's "All I Have" were named in the best female R&B album category, while Ashanti's "Foolish" and Amerie's "Why Don't We Fall In Love" were among nominees for best female R&B single.

Ashanti, who won two honors for favorite new hip-hop-R&B artist and new pop artist at the American Music Awards and has five nominations for the upcoming Grammys, was also nominated for soul or rap album of



Amerie collected three nominations, including one for best new artist, Monday for the 17th annual Soul Train Music Awards to be announced in March in Los Angeles, CA.

the year.

Amerie had an additional mention for best new artist.

Among other Soul Train nominees, Floetry, Justin Timberlake, Musiq, B2K and Nelly had two nominations each.

The Soul Train Music Awards, started 17 years ago by the syndicated music show "Soul Train," celebrates artists in R&B, hip-hop, rap and gospel music. The awards will be presented during a March 1 ceremony at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium.

The awards are determined by a group of radio station professionals, talent managers and performers.

Complete list of nominees (See Amerie, Page 14)

Michael Jackson opens up in documentary

LONDON (AP) - A revealing and unsettling documentary in which Michael Jackson revealed that he sometimes lets children sleep in his bed unleashed a torrent of sharply divided opinion about the reclusive King of Pop.

Friends said Tuesday that the 90-minute program by British journalist Martin Bashir showed a troubled but innocent genius with a deep love of children.

But Britain's tabloid press pounced on the man they call "Wacko Jacko." The Sun said the "shocking confession" would end Jackson's career, while the Daily Express said Jackson "faces a wave of revulsion."

In 1993, Jackson - who says he identifies with Peter Pan and lives on a ranch called Neverland - was accused of molesting a boy who had stayed at his home. He denied the allegations, and no charges were filed.

"I fully trust Michael, he is a pure innocent human being, he brings so much joy

into the lives of people," said psychic Uri Geller, a friend of Jackson, who said he helped set up the interview.

"I think Michael was brutally honest, he was direct, he never flinched from the most difficult questions," Geller told British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

In the interview, screened Monday night on British TV, Jackson faced tough questions about plastic surgery, his unhappy childhood, the child abuse allegations and the notorious the baby-dangling incident.

Jackson was shown with several of the children who regularly sleep over at his California ranch, and was seen riding a Ferris wheel, driving go-carts and climbing a tree on the 3,000-acre property.

When Bashir asked Jackson about his friendships with children, Jackson said: "I have slept in a bed with many children," including actor Macaulay Culkin and his brother Kieran.

"When you say 'bed,'

you're thinking sexual," Jackson said. "It's not sexual, we're going to sleep. I tuck them in. ... It's very charming, it's very sweet."

The singer has a 5-year-old son, Prince Michael I, and 4-year-old daughter, Paris, born during his marriage to nurse Debbie Rowe, which ended in 1999. He also has an infant son, Prince Michael II, whose mother has been a mystery.

Jackson told Bashir that the baby was conceived by a surrogate mother that he had never met.

"I used a surrogate mother and my own sperm cells. She doesn't know me and I don't

know her," he said.

But at another point during "Living With Michael Jackson," Jackson said he had been in a relationship with the unidentified mother when the baby was conceived.

Jackson said his children had no contact with their mothers, and Prince told Bashir he did not have a mummy.

"She can't handle it ... she'd prefer them to be with me than with her," Jackson said of Rowe. "She did it for me. She said, 'You need to be a daddy.'"

Jackson has routinely kept his children's heads covered (See Jackson, Page 13)

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