

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

OPRAH WINFREY DONATING \$5 MILLION TO MOREHOUSE COLLEGE

ATLANTA (AP) - Oprah Winfrey will donate \$5 million to Morehouse College, the school announced. The talk show host's pledge came just as Morehouse launched its largest-ever fund-raising campaign, hoping to receive at least \$105 million by 2006. Winfrey, who had previously donated \$1 million to the historically black college, is the school's top donor to date. President Walter Massey said Morehouse will use the money to offer more scholarships, upgrade the campus and ultimately make it more competitive with top colleges. "Our mantra has been that we want to be considered among the finest liberal arts colleges in the country while still remaining the college of choice for African-American men," Massey said Friday. "That's what we've been working toward." The college already has begun construction on a multimillion-dollar leadership center slated for completion in 2004. Plans also are under way for a performing arts center.

WASHINGTON DONATES \$1 MILLION TO BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

MOUNT VERNON, N.Y. (AP) - Denzel Washington brought a \$1 million check with him to a recent dinner celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Mount Vernon Boys & Girls Club, a city councilman says. Washington, who grew up in Mount Vernon, "is truly a great person and very dedicated to the club," said Councilman Lyndon Williams, a member of the club's board. "First, he spent most of Friday at the club. He stayed there until sometime past midnight, hanging out with everybody and with no fanfare at all. Then he comes to the dinner Saturday with \$1 million for an endowment." Sponsors were hoping to raise about \$200,000 from the black-tie, \$150-a-plate event, which also featured Ossie Davis, Jermaine Jackson and several public officials. Washington, 48, won a best-supporting Oscar for 1989's "Glory" and a best actor Oscar for 2001's "Training Day."

OPRAH WINFREY LAUDED FOR CHARITABLE WORKS AND MENTORING

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Oprah Winfrey will receive the Marian Anderson Award for her charitable works and her role as a "national mentor," Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street said. The talk show host is the sixth recipient of the award, named for the late opera singer and Philadelphia native who was the first black performer to sing at the White House. Street said Monday that Winfrey, who has used her show to promote social causes, also deserves credit for her work funding schools in the United States and South Africa, and for producing entertainment programs with a heavy emphasis on self-improvement. "Oprah Winfrey has probably been more influential in opening the minds and hearts of her audiences than any other public figure of the past 50 years," Street said. He called her "one of our most important cultural leaders." Winfrey, 49, is to receive the award and a \$100,000 prize at a gala concert in her honor Nov. 18 at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. Past winners have included Harry Belafonte, Elizabeth Taylor and Danny Glover.

JAMES BROWN, GRATEFUL DEAD TO HEADLINE TENN. FEST

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - The surviving members of the Grateful Dead, singer James Brown and the Allman Brothers will headline the 2003 Bonnaroo Music Festival. More than 30 acts have been confirmed to perform at the June 13-15 event in Manchester. Last year's festival drew more than 70,000 music fans to the Middle Tennessee town in Coffee County, and organizers expect up to 80,000 this year. "We're not trying to be so much different from last year as just improve on the success of last year," said Ashley Capps, president of Knoxville-based A.C. Entertainment, which co-produces the festival with Superfly Productions of New Orleans. "We want to make it the premier event of its kind." The biggest headache of last year's festival was heavy traffic getting to the 600-acre site. Capps said there will be a temporary exit from Interstate 24 this year. "We've been working with the Tennessee Department of Transportation and the Tennessee Highway Patrol to find plans to eliminate bottlenecks," Capps said.

ENTERTAINMENT

Fox to air Jackson interview outtakes

NEW YORK (AP) - The Michael Jackson media wars continue, with Fox agreeing to air outtakes the singer selected from his controversial interview with a British journalist.

A two-hour special, tentatively titled "Michael Jackson, Take Two: The Interview They Wouldn't Show You," is scheduled to air today.

The Jackson spectacle is fodder for hungry television networks, particularly in a

hotly contested ratings sweeps month. ABC's airing of Jackson's interview with Martin Bashir was last week's most popular show, seen by 27.1 million people.

Angered by how Bashir portrayed him - as an odd man-child who says he sometimes innocently lets children sleep in his own bed - Jackson came forward with videotape taken during the Bashir interview by his own production company.

(See Jackson, Page 17)



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

KNIGHT IS SHINING

Motown legend Gladys Knight celebrates the one-year anniversary of her self-titled show at the Flamingo Hilton. Sentinel-Voice staffer Kathi Overstreet shares a light moment with Knight during last week's VIP after-party.

Porn charges don't hinder R. Kelly sales

NEW YORK (AP) - When R. Kelly was arrested on child pornography charges last year, some wondered whether it would be a devastating blow to his career.

The answer, so far, is a resounding no.

Despite being arrested on additional child pornography charges last month, the Grammy-winning singer has written a No. 1 song for the teen boy band B2K and scored his own hit with the sexually charged "Ignition." The video for his song is one of the most requested on BET and has been on MTV, he's up for a Grammy, and his record label, Jive, released the CD "Chocolate Factory" on Tuesday.

"He's probably more

popular now than during 'I Believe I Can Fly' (in 1996)," said Kedar Massenburg, president of Motown Records.

"R&B radio clearly has decided to rally around him," said Sean Ross, editor in chief of the trade publication Airplay Monitor, who says Kelly's musical gifts and track record as a hitmaker - he's crafted hits for Michael Jackson, Celine Dion and other artists besides his own - seem to be an overriding factor.

Ross added that scandals are less likely to affect a celebrity's career. He noted that Jay-Z remained popular despite his conviction of wounding a man in a stabbing; when R&B singer Keke

Wyatt was arrested for stabbing her husband, her songs still got radio play.

"In the '50s and '60s, you heard about careers being destroyed," Ross said. These days, it doesn't automatically happen.

Plus, many of Kelly's fans don't believe the allegations and see them as another attempt to bring a successful black man down.

"I think part of it is a total distrust that a lot of people in the African-American community have of the media and the criminal justice system," said Chicago Sun-Times columnist Mary Mitchell.

R. Kelly (first name: Robert) has been a prolific hitmaker for more than a decade. The 36-year-old's last

album, "TP-2.com," sold 3.5 million copies in the United States, a million more than his previous disc, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

In February 2002, the Chicago Sun-Times reported that it had received a tape that purportedly showed Kelly having sex with a 13-year-old girl. The newspaper passed it along to Chicago police.

Soon afterward, the video was a hot seller on city streets and the Internet; in June, he was charged in Chicago with 21 counts of child pornography. Kelly has maintained his innocence in the case; no trial date has been set, but he faces a maximum of 15 years in prison.

(See Kelly, Page 18)

Jimmi Hendrix's remains moved to new memorial

RENTON, Wash. (AP) - The remains of rock musician Jimi Hendrix have been moved to a new granite and marble memorial that is nearing completion in this Seattle suburb.

The remains of his father, Al Hendrix, who died last April, and Al's wife, Ayako "June" Hendrix, also now rest in vaults at the center of the memorial at Greenwood Memorial Park and Cemetery, and the cremated remains of his grandmother, Nora Hendrix, will be placed there as well, said Janie L. Hendrix, the music legend's half-sister.

The memorial should be finished shortly after the first anniversary of the death of Hendrix's father, she said.

"My only regret is that my father isn't still alive to see

it," Janie Hendrix said.

Renowned for such explosive songs as "Purple Haze," "Hey Joe" and "Foxy Lady," Hendrix died Sept. 18, 1970, while being rushed to the hospital for an overdose of sleeping pills in London.

His initial burial site, marked only by a simple flat gravestone reading "Forever in Our Hearts - James M. Jimi Hendrix 1942 - 1970," has drawn a steady stream of visitors from around the world.

Janie Hendrix said her half-brother's remains were moved from his old burial site in the same cemetery Nov. 26, the day before he would have turned 60.

The memorial, located on a circular drive in the southwest corner of the cemetery, (See Hendrix, Page 11)

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