

ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment Briefs

GRANDMASTER FLASH NOMINATED
FOR ROCK HALL OF FAME

NEW YORK (AP) - Grandmaster Flash & the Furious Five are among the nominees for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame — the first rap artists to get that distinction — joining U2, Randy Newman and the O'Jays on the ballot. Getting his start as a DJ at Bronx parties in the late 1970s, Grandmaster Flash later joined with the Furious Five for the social commentary of "The Message" and "White Lines (Don't Don't Do It)". Other nominees include blues guitarist Buddy Guy, rockabilly pioneer Wanda Jackson, rock band the Pretenders, soul singer Percy Sledge, "Centerfold" singers the J. Geils Band and the late country singer Conway Twitty. Previous nominees on the ballot: the Sex Pistols, Patti Smith, the Stooges, Lynyrd Skynyrd and Gram Parsons. Singers of "Back Stabbers" and a string of other soulful hits, the O'Jays had their chart heyday in the 1970s. A singer of satirical songs like "Short People," Newman is now one of Hollywood's most successful composers of movie music. Musicians, industry professionals and journalists vote, and results of the 20th annual election will likely be announced in December. Artists are eligible to be inducted into the Rock Hall after at least 25 years have passed since their first record was released.

TRAFFIC CHARGES DISMISSED
AGAINST ROBIN GIVENS

MIAMI (AP) - Charges have been dismissed against actress Robin Givens after three police officers failed to show up for her traffic court trial for running over an elderly pedestrian's leg. Givens, a star of the 1980s TV comedy "Head of the Class" and the ex-wife of boxer Mike Tyson, struck Maria Antonia Alcover as she was about to step onto the sidewalk after crossing a busy city street Jan. 28, police said. After stopping at a red light, Givens turned the corner and hit the 89-year-old woman, sending her into a backward fall, police said. The back wheel of Givens' Mercedes-Benz SUV ran over Alcover's right leg. She was critically injured and suffered internal injuries, but doctors were able to save her foot. Givens was ticketed for failing to use due care with a pedestrian in the crosswalk, an offense carrying a fine of less than \$70. The charge was dropped when the officers didn't come to court. Alcover filed a civil suit against Givens in June. Givens, who flew in from New York for trial, had no comment leaving court but signed some autographs on her way out.

LONG-LOST HENDRIX CONCERT
TAPE DISCOVERED

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) - Technicians at Sweden's public television have unearthed an unexpected delight for music lovers — a complete original recording of a Jimi Hendrix concert in Stockholm from 1969 on a tape long thought to have been destroyed. The unmarked tape was recently found stashed on a shelf deep inside the station's enormous archives during a project to transfer archived material from tape and film to digital, SVT spokeswoman Catarina Wilson said Friday. "They looked through the tape and found it had some Jimi Hendrix," Wilson said. "Then they saw it had a lot of Jimi Hendrix — the entire concert, which is what makes this tape unique." The black-and-white recording from Stockholm's concert hall was ordered destroyed by a producer in 1969, a time when it was too expensive to keep all raw footage, Wilson said. Hendrix died in 1970. Wilson said it was likely that one of the state-run network's workers, perhaps a Hendrix fan, stashed it on the shelf, where it sat for 35 years gathering dust. Part of the 56-minute concert was broadcast on SVT in 1969, before the Jimi Hendrix Experience disbanded, but it has never been shown in its entirety. SVT is determining if it still has the rights to show the entire broadcast of the concert. "Of course we realize that this is great material that we would love to show," Wilson said.

Usher, OutKast win
at music awards

LAS VEGAS (AP) - Usher and OutKast were the top winners at this year's World Music Awards, which took place for the first time in Las Vegas.

The show at the Thomas & Mack Center was broadcast live last week on ABC. According to preliminary ratings from Nielsen Media Research, the WMAs drew 6.3 million viewers, an increase of 900,000 viewers from when ABC last aired the awards in 2002.

The program will air in more than 150 countries during September.

For its first 15 years, the World Music Awards took place in Monte Carlo. But this year, event organizers opted to bring the telecast to the United States so some

viewers could see the show live. "Las Vegas was really the logical choice, as it's one of the hottest and most entertainment-focused cities in the country," says Melissa Corken, executive producer of the awards.

Thirty awards, based on sales figures supplied to the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, were presented.

Usher and OutKast each picked up three awards. Usher — who opened the show with "Yeah!" — earned trophies for the world's best male artist, pop male artist and R&B artist. OutKast was named the world's best group, pop group and rap/hip-hop artist. Big Boi of OutKast performed new single "Ghetto Musick" with Patti LaBelle.



Platinum-selling recording artist Usher performs at the 2004 World Music Awards at the Thomas and Mack Arena last week in Las Vegas. Usher won various awards—Best Male Artist, Best R&B Artist and Best Male Pop Artist.

CBS fined \$550,000 for Jackson mishap

WASHINGTON (AP) - Federal regulators on Wednesday fined CBS a record \$550,000 for Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction," which exposed the singer's breast during this year's Super Bowl halftime show. The Federal Communications Commission voted unanimously to slap each of the 20 CBS-owned television stations with the maximum indecency penalty of \$27,500. The total penalty of \$550,000 is the largest fine levied against a television broadcaster. Most of the FCC's bigger fines have been against radio stations.

"As countless families gathered around the television to watch one of our nation's most celebrated events, they were rudely greeted with a halftime show stunt more fitting of a burlesque show," said FCC Chairman Michael Powell. "The show, clearly intended to push the limits of prime time television."

The commission decided not to fine CBS' more than 200 affiliate stations, which also aired the show but are not owned by the network's parent company, Viacom.

The two Democrats on the 5-member commission said the fine should have been higher. Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein said the fine amounted to a "slap on the wrist" and suggested that the agency could have sent a stronger message about in-



Janet Jackson covers up after her breast was exposed during a Super Bowl performance with singer Justin Timberlake.

decency by reprimanding CBS' affiliates as well.

MTV, a Viacom subsidiary, produced the Feb. 1 halftime show, which featured Jackson and singer Justin Timberlake performing a racy duet. At the end, Timberlake ripped off a piece of Jackson's black leather top, exposing her right breast to a TV audience of about 90 million.

Timberlake blamed a "wardrobe malfunction," and CBS was quick to apologize to viewers. The breast-baring song generated a record number of complaints to the FCC — more than 500,000. CBS said it was extremely disappointed with the decision.

"While we regret that the incident occurred and have

apologized to our viewers, we continue to believe that nothing in the Super Bowl broadcast violated indecency laws," the network said in a

statement. "Furthermore, our investigation proved that no one in our company had any advance knowledge about the incident."

Viacom has said it will fight any fines leveled against its stations for the Jackson performance. Over the summer, Viacom co-president Leslie Moonves said a fine would be "grossly unfair" and promised a court challenge.

Federal law bars radio and non-cable television stations from airing references to sexual and excretory functions between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., when children may be tuning in. Once a complaint is made to the FCC, the agency determines whether the broadcast was indecent.

Television networks began taking pre-emptive action by implementing broadcast delays so censors could scrub anything deemed racy.