

West poses as Jesus for new Rolling Stone issue

NEW YORK (AP)—Kanye West, with a crown of thorns atop his head, poses as Jesus Christ on the cover of the upcoming issue of Rolling Stone. The outspoken rapper defends his brash attitude inside the magazine's pages, on newsstands Friday. He is also pictured posing as Muhammad Ali.

"In America, they want you to accomplish these great feats, to pull off these David Copperfield-type stunts," he says. "You want me to be great, but you don't ever want me to say I'm great?"

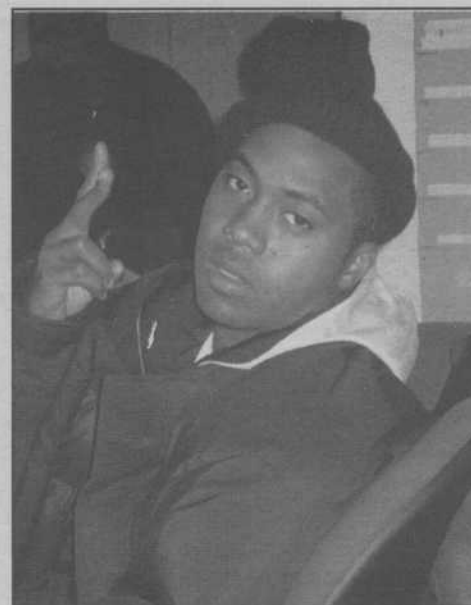
West also says his hit song "Gold Digger" was the best song last year and that it should have been nominated for the Grammy's best rap song category: "That's a gimme Grammy." Nevertheless, the 27-year-old is nominated for eight awards, including album

of the year for his sophomore album, "Late Registration." The Grammys will be presented Feb. 8. West has always been forthright in saying what he feels, most famously when he said "George Bush doesn't care about Black people" during a telethon for Hurricane Katrina victims.

"If I was more complacent and I let things slide, my life would be easier, but you all wouldn't be as entertained," he says. "My misery is your pleasure."

The strangest tangent of the Rolling Stone story, however, is when West says he's addicted to pornography. He remembers first seeing his father's *Playboy* magazine when he was 5 years old.

"Right then," West says, laughing, "it was like, 'Houston, we have a problem.'"



Rappers Jay-Z, left, and Nas recently put an end to their verbal feud and will work together.

Report: One-time rivals Jay-Z, Nas make peace

NEW YORK (AP) - Former rap rivals Jay-Z and Nas are now unlikely business partners.

They have reportedly reached an agreement in which Nas would release albums on Def Jam Records, the rap label run by Jay-Z, *The New York Times* said in Monday's editions, citing music industry executives.

Jay-Z, whose real name is Shawn Carter, stepped in as Def Jam president last year.

According to the newspaper, Sony Music and Def Jam would split the profits from Nas' next two albums. Def Jam would pay for producing and marketing the CDs and would split the profits.

Nas, whose real name is Nasir Jones, would receive about \$3 million, including a recording budget for each of the first two albums. The agreement provides for additional albums with Def Jam, the report said.

Sony retains the rights to a Nas greatest hits album, the

newspaper said.

Sony representative Tony Ferguson refused to comment Tuesday. A call by The Associated Press to Def Jam representative Jana Fleischman wasn't immediately returned.

Music executives said the deal would be a moneymaker for both labels. Def Jam, a branch of Universal Music Group, has signed Nas to add artistic clout. Sony would

share profits from the rapper's next two albums while retaining the possibility of working with him on other projects, including a possible film, the newspaper said. The New York rappers, who have hurled bitter barbs at one another on past records, ended their public feud in October during a concert at the Continental Airlines Arena in East Rutherford, N.J.

Aretha Franklin to sing at Super Bowl XL in Detroit

DETROIT (AP) - Aretha Franklin will join New Orleans singer Aaron Neville in performing the national anthem at next month's Super Bowl.

They will be accompanied by another veteran New Orleans musician, pianist Dr. John.

"The combination of all three should present a very memorable performance," NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy told the *Detroit Free Press*.

Franklin, Neville and a 150-person backing choir will sing to a taped vocal

track to be recorded in Detroit several days before the Feb. 5 game at Detroit's Ford Field, the *Free Press* reported on its website.

In addition, John Legend and Joss Stone will join Motown star Stevie Wonder in performing Wonder's hits as part of the Super Bowl pregame show, which will be broadcast live on ABC.

The NFL's selection of the Rolling Stones for the half-time show prompted demands that the Detroit area's musical legacy be recognized.

That led to the booking of

Wonder and then Franklin, who was 2 when her family moved from Memphis, Tenn., to Detroit in 1944.

The NFL selected Neville, whose home was damaged by Hurricane Katrina, in part to honor the singer's hometown of New Orleans. Neville also performed the national anthem at the 1990 Super Bowl in New Orleans.

Past Super Bowl national anthem singers include Diana Ross, Barry Manilow, Whitney Houston, Garth Brooks, Jewel and Beyonce.



MOTHER IS LOVED

Mother Love, left, visits with guests. Author and former host of "Forgive and Forget" on ABC, attended a mix-and-mingle event on Thursday hosted by the Corner4Success radio show (KLAV 1230 AM) at the Icehouse Lounge in downtown Las Vegas.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Marty Frierson

Holiday

(Continued from Page 7) fore a smitten Sean shows up to sweep her off her feet. This syrupy sweet love story closes back in the States in the ominous shadow of the infamous Gretna Bridge which news junkies will recognize as the spot where thousands of starving, homeless local folk were turned back at gunpoint in the wake Hurricane Katrina.

To the extent that you can forget that the sort of euphoric scenario presented during the closing credits is now nowhere to be found anywhere in the ghost town called New Orleans, you're likely to buy "Last Holiday's" ironic happily-ever-after ending.

Good (2 stars). Rated PG-13 for sexual references.

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