

## Entertainment Briefs

### WAYANS REBUFFED ON NAMING CLOTHING LINE AFTER SLUR

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Call it Charlie Brown with a twist. Brothers Keenen Ivory, Shawn and Marlon Wayans, of "Scary Movie" and "In Living Color" fame, have created a series of animated children's shows, with books and toys to follow. Its name: "Thugaboo." The series of three specials will premiere on Nickelodeon, then air on the network's all-animation channel, Nicktoons, a network spokeswoman said recently. Inspired by the Wayans brothers' favorite childhood cartoons, "Thugaboo" follows the misadventures of nine kids growing up in the inner city. "It's like hard meets soft," Shawn Wayans told The Associated Press. "The thug is how they dress, kind of street, but they're good kids and they make the right decisions." Three specials are planned — an hourlong show and two half-hour programs — focusing on important times in children's lives. The first episode, set to air in August, will have a back-to-school theme, said Nickelodeon spokeswoman Marianne Romano. The second will focus on the holidays, she said. The third, called "Don't Judge a Boo by its Cover," addresses how appearances can be misleading, Shawn Wayans said. The aim of the specials, Marlon Wayans said in a statement, is to get kids laughing "by creating characters they can relate to while entertaining their parents at the same time." The Wayans brothers are all parents, Shawn Wayans said. "I wanted to make the show that I want my kids to watch," he said. Known for their irreverent comedy, the Wayans brothers most-recent film project, "White Chicks," featured co-writers Shawn and Marlon as race-swapping, cross-dressing FBI agents. Keenen Ivory directed and co-wrote the film.

### RAPPER YOUNG JEEZY ARRESTED IN FLORIDA AFTER SHOOTOUT

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) - Young Jeezy was arrested after an alleged shootout in South Beach involving some of his friends. The 28-year-old rapper, born Jay Jenkins, was charged early Saturday with two counts of carrying a concealed firearm without a permit, police said. Jenkins was with a group of men involved in a fight around 5:30 a.m. Friday, according to a police report. When a passerby filming the fight refused to hand over his video camera, one of the men in the group began shooting, the report stated. Jenkins and about nine men fled the scene in two sport utility vehicles, police spokesman Robert Hernandez told The Miami Herald. Officers stopped both vehicles, and found a semiautomatic firearm under Jenkins' seat and another gun near the armrest when they searched his SUV. Two members of Jenkins' group also were arrested. Tramiel De Juan Golden was charged with strong armed robbery, and Steven Lesly Savain of Kendall was taken into custody on trespassing charges stemming from previous warrant for his arrest.

### BROWN ARRESTED, THEN RELEASED ON 14-YEAR-OLD VIOLATIONS

WEBSTER, Mass. (AP) - Singer Bobby Brown was recently arrested for minor motor-vehicle violations dating back 14 years. The 37-year-old entertainer was in town last Friday to watch his daughter in a high-school cheerleading tournament that night when a police officer conducted a warrant check. The check revealed the old misdemeanor charges of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and having an uninsured motor-vehicle trailer, according to Webster Police Chief Timothy J. Bent. He said a warrant check is "a common thing to do." Brown was "very cooperative" and was allowed to drive — with his bodyguard — to the police station after the cheerleading event, Bent said. Brown was detained for about one hour, and was released on \$40 bond. "He was very forthright in wanting to clear this up," Bent said. "He probably didn't know he had this." Brown's attorney, Maurice Bennett, did not immediately return a call to comment. Brown lives in Alpharetta, Ga., with his wife, singer Whitney Houston. He has two children with Kim Ward of Stoughton, Mass. Brown was sentenced to 90 days in prison in June 2004 for missing three months of child-support payments to Ward. That sentence was immediately suspended after Brown made back payments totaling about \$15,000.

# Hayes departs 'South Park'

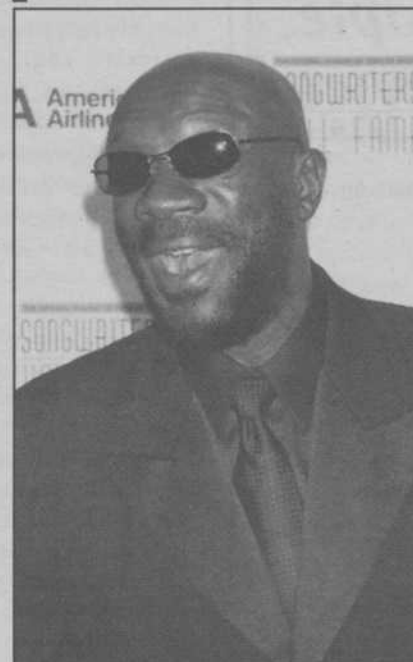
(AP) Isaac Hayes has quit "South Park," where he voices Chef, saying he can no longer stomach its take on religion.

Hayes, who has played the ladies' man/school cook in the animated Comedy Central satire since 1997, said in a statement Monday that he feels a line has been crossed.

"There is a place in this world for satire, but there is a time when satire ends and intolerance and bigotry towards religious beliefs of others begins," the 63-year-old soul singer and outspoken Scientologist said.

"Religious beliefs are sacred to people, and at all times should be respected and honored," he continued. "As a civil rights activist of the past 40 years, I cannot support a show that disrespects those beliefs and practices."

"South Park" co-creator Matt Stone responded sharply in an interview with The Associated Press Monday, saying,



Singer Isaac Hayes quit "South Park" objecting to quips on religion and Scientology, the religion he practices.

"This is 100 percent having to do with his faith of Scientology... He has no problem — and he's cashed plenty of checks — with our show making fun of Christians."

Last November, "South Park" targeted the Church of Scientology and its celebrity followers, including actors Tom Cruise and John Travolta, in a top-rated episode called "Trapped in the Closet."

In the episode, Stan, one of the show's four mischievous fourth graders, is hailed as a reluctant savior by Scientology leaders, while a cartoon Cruise locks himself in a closet and won't come out.

Stone told The AP that he and co-creator Trey Parker "never heard a peep out of Isaac in any way until we did Scientology. He wants a different standard for religions other than his own, and to me, that is where intolerance and bigotry begin."

## Book lays out covenants for change

By Kam Williams  
**The Covenant with Black America**; Edited by Tavis Smiley; Third World Press; Paperback, \$12.00; 268 pages, illustrated ISBN: 0-88378-277-4

*"Why a Covenant with Black America? In short, because... without organization, Black folk will never be able to take, keep, or hold onto anything, much less, the hard-fought gains that we have struggled to achieve."*

*Our interest with this document was to create a national plan of action to address the primary concerns of African-Americans today. Once we are organized and mobilized, we can create the world we want for generations to come.*

*"The Covenant" is required reading for any person, party, or powerbroker who seeks to be supported politically, socially, or economically by the masses of Black people in the coming years. So start reading.*" — Excerpted from the Introduction by Tavis Smiley

Every February for the past seven years, in the wake of the President's State of the Union Address, talk show host Tavis Smiley has convened many of the nation's top Black leaders to assess the State of the Black Union. Feeling that an annual symposium simply exchanging opinions wasn't enough, Tavis and company decided to come up with a blueprint addressing the most critical issues confronting the African-American community.

In consultation with some of the most brilliant Black minds around, that blueprint

has arrived as "The Covenant with Black America," a book containing 10 Covenants written by 11 different authors, who each focus on his or her own area of expertise. For instance, former Surgeon General Dr. David M. Satcher M.D. handles the opening covenant, "Securing

the Right to Healthcare and Well-Being," while Columbia University Education Professor Dr. Edmund Gordon Ed.D. deals with the second, "Establishing a System of Public Education in Which All Children Achieve at High Levels and Reach Their Full Potential."

Other topic areas covered include: criminal justice, by criminal lawyer James Bell; policing, the ACLU's Maya Harris Esq.; housing, urban activist attorney Angela Glover Blackwell; democracy, civil rights lawyer Wade Henderson; rural roots, Oleta (See Book Review, Page 9)

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