

Entertainment Briefs

PRINCE'S SECOND WIFE SEEKS DIVORCE

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Prince's second wife, Manuela Testolini Nelson, has filed for divorce from the pop superstar, his attorney has confirmed. Patrick Cousins, Prince's general counsel, said recently the case was pending. He had no further comment. Edward Winer, attorney for Nelson, issued a statement late last week saying it was a difficult decision for Nelson to seek the divorce and that she hoped for a "cooperative resolution" and a quick end to the case. The *Star Tribune* reported on its Web editions that the case was filed May 24. A court administrator told the AP the case was sealed on July 11. Prince, 48, has rarely spoken publicly about his marriage to Nelson. He married dancer Mayte Garcia in 1996; that union ended in 1998. The Minneapolis-based singer was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2004. He recently closed his NPG Music Club website, surprising many fans.

UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND TO HONOR FRANKLIN

NEW YORK (AP) — Aretha Franklin will be the first female artist to receive the Award of Excellence from the United Negro College Fund. The 64-year-old singer will receive the honor at the UNCF's "An Evening of Stars," to be taped Sept. 8-9 at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, Calif. The annual TV special will air nationwide in late January 2007. Franklin is being honored for her work with the college fund to provide deserving students with access to higher education as well as for her activism and philanthropy on behalf of other causes. Previous honorees include Lou Rawls, Quincy Jones and Stevie Wonder. Michael L. Lomax, UNCF president and CEO, said in a statement that Franklin's career "has established a standard of excellence that exemplifies the educational distinction to which our member colleges are dedicated and to which they hold their students." Franklin, a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, has won 17 Grammy Awards. Her hits include "Chain of Fools," "Think" and "Respect."

DMX TURNS DOWN PLEA DEAL IN TRAFFIC CASE

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — Rapper DMX's traffic woes likely won't be ending anytime soon. The hip-hop star, whose real name is Earl Simmons, turned down a plea bargain in a case that stems from his arrest on traffic charges. The rapper's lawyer, Murray Richman, did not describe the offer after DMX appeared in court on Monday. Police arrested DMX in White Plains on June 2 and charged him with speeding, making unsafe lane changes, not wearing a seat belt and driving without a license. DMX, 35, spent a night behind bars last month after a judge issued an arrest warrant when he failed to appear in court to answer to the charges. He walked out after posting \$25,000 bail. "I don't feel good about this at all," the rapper said after his court appearance. "It's not fair — \$25,000 for traffic tickets? Come on. Let's keep it real." The case was adjourned until Aug. 25. White Plains is 26 miles north of New York City.

DANNY GLOVER HELPS UNION IN PUERTO RICO

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Danny Glover helped launch a campaign to rally Puerto Rico's hotel workers to join the local branch of a large U.S. labor union in a bid to gain better pay and benefits. Glover, whose movie credits include "The Royal Tenenbaums" and the "Lethal Weapon" series, joined leaders of the Gastronomical Union, which represents about 2,100 employees at nine hotels in the U.S. territory, to call for the island's hospitality workers to unite under a single banner. "The union's fight is to construct a world in which we want to live," Glover said at a news conference Sunday at the Condado Plaza Hotel & Casino in the capital of San Juan. Glover, 59, has long been involved in political activism. He has traveled to San Francisco, Boston and Toronto with labor leaders of UNITE HERE — of which the Gastronomical Union is a member. In Puerto Rico, about 8,000 hospitality workers do not belong to any organized union, said representatives of UNITE HERE, which represents about 450,000 workers.

New probe set in B.I.G. death

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Six veteran homicide detectives are leading a new task force investigating the unsolved 1997 killing of Notorious B.I.G., a Los Angeles Police Department spokeswoman said Monday.

The new probe comes in the wake of a wrongful death lawsuit filed by the rapper's mother, Voletta Wallace, and other relatives, who claim rogue police officers were involved in the killing.

The lawsuit filed by the Wallace family ended in a mistrial last year when it was discovered that a police detective intentionally hid statements by a jailhouse informant linking the killing to two former officers. A judge ordered the city to pay \$1.1 million in legal fees and other expenses to the rapper's family. A new trial is set for early next year.

There is no new evidence in the case, said police officer

Norma Eisenman. But evidence discovered by the task force could help the city in its argument against the family's claims.

B.I.G., born Christopher Wallace, was 24 when he was gunned down March 9, 1997, while leaving a party at a Los Angeles museum. The New York rapper, also known as Biggie Smalls, was one of the most influential hip-hop artists of the 1990s.

The investigative team is exploring the theory that Wallace was killed by a member of the Southside Crips gang as part of a hip-hop feud that that involved the slaying of rapper Tupac Shakur in Las Vegas six months earlier, Eisenman confirmed. The investigators also are pursuing allegations that Wallace was killed by a Blood gang member hired by Marion "Suge" Knight, the owner of Shakur's record label. Knight has denied any involvement in the killing.

Musical celebrates Warwick's life

CHICAGO (AP) — Dionne Warwick received a rare treat — hearing her hit songs performed in a musical devoted to her career. Warwick, 65, was in the audience as the Black Ensemble Theater performed "Don't Make Me Over (In Tribute to Dionne Warwick)." The show features four actresses singing Warwick hits including "Walk On By," "Do You Know the Way to San Jose," "I Say a Little Prayer," and "I Know I'll

Never Love This Way Again."

Warwick received a standing ovation Friday night when she entered the theater, clapped and smiled through much of the show, and even laughed at a joke about her role as host of the "Psychic Friends Network" in the 1990s.

After the curtain call, a visibly moved Warwick took the stage to speak to the cast.

"My babies, you were magnificent. Truly magnifi-

cent," she said. "I cannot thank you enough for caring that much about me."

The show treads lightly on Warwick's personal life. Instead, it focuses on her family's roots in gospel, her beginnings in the music industry as a backup singer, and her legendary partnership in the 1960s with the music/lyrics team of Burt Bacharach and Hal David.

One of the show's themes is whether Warwick would have been successful without

Bacharach, and vice versa. At a reception after the show, Warwick said some earlier retrospectives of her career only focused on the work she did with Bacharach and David.

"They forgot there was an entity called Dionne Warwick," she said. "My career has spanned many composers, many producers. Of course the bulk of my music is Bacharach/David, which I'm very, very proud of and grateful for, but life goes on."

Lawyers okayed to quit Jackson case

NEW YORK (AP) — For the second time in a year, a law firm representing Michael Jackson has parted company with the pop star, saying it hasn't been paid and can't get Jackson on the phone. For his part, Jackson claims he fired the firm. In any event, a federal judge in Manhattan on Monday gave attorneys at Wachtel & Masyr permission to withdraw from a case in which a financial company claims the singer owes it \$48 million.

In a letter to the judge, attorney William Wachtel described his trouble communicating with Jackson through a series of representatives. Over months, Wachtel said, he dealt with the singer through one intermediary after another, only to be informed repeatedly that they were quitting or had been fired.

The last straw came, he said, when Jackson dropped out of contact with the firm entirely after his only face-to-face meeting with his lawyers in June, at the luxurious Hotel de Crillon in Paris.

At the session, Jackson apologetically promised to be in better touch, Wachtel said — and that was the last they heard of him.

"Unfortunately, Mr. Jackson has failed to respond to every e-mail and telephone message left for him over the past four weeks," Wachtel said.

A letter from Jackson to

the law firm, dated July 17 and faxed to The Associated Press on Tuesday, said the singer had fired Wachtel.

"It is with deep regret that I must terminate the services of Wachtel & Masyr, LLP, effective immediately," the pop star wrote.

The legal team is the second to leave the case. Attorneys from the firm of Latham & Watkins quit in November after reporting that their bills weren't being paid and that

it was impossible to communicate with Jackson.

U.S. District Judge Kevin Castel said Monday that he would allow Jackson to reorganize his legal team but that he wanted the parties back in court Sept. 5. The judge said Jackson must hire a new lawyer by then or appear in court himself.

Next up for Jackson could be New York attorney L. Londell McMillan, whose clients have included Prince

and Stevie Wonder. Jackson's representatives announced in late June that McMillan had been hired to coordinate the singer's legal affairs.

The case involves the Pre-scient Acquisition Group, which claims it helped Jackson refinance \$272.5 million in debt owed to the Bank of America and arrange \$537.5 million in financing related to his ownership interest in the Beatles song library.



BIRTHDAY BOY

KCEP FM 88.1 radio personality "Galaxy" Glenn, middle, celebrates his birthday with two notable friends, Harrah's headliner/comedian George Wallace (left) and Julius. Galaxy's birthday festivities were held Friday at Sam's Town Hotel-Casino.