

**Entertainment Briefs**

**WAYNE BRADY'S WIFE FILES FOR DIVORCE**

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The wife of comedian Wayne Brady has filed for divorce. Mandie Brady cites "irreconcilable differences" as the reason for ending their marriage, according to court documents filed recently in Los Angeles Superior Court. She is seeking joint legal and physical custody of their 4-year-old daughter, Maile.

The couple wed in 1999, but separated in April 2006, the papers said. A message left after business hours with the comedian's publicist was not immediately returned.

Wayne Brady, 35, won two Daytime Emmy awards for hosting "The Wayne Brady Show." He has also won an Emmy Award for his performance on the improvisational comedy game show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?"

**BEYONCE VISITS TWO HURT BY FIREWORKS**

ST. LOUIS (AP) - Two people injured when pyrotechnics went awry at Beyonce Knowles' concert in St. Louis received a surprise emergency room visit from the singer.

The accident happened Sunday night, just as the R&B star's concert began. A spokeswoman for Scottrade Center didn't return phone calls seeking comment, but broadcast reports said pyrotechnics meant for the stage accidentally spilled into the front row.

Two concertgoers were taken to Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Spokeswoman Kathy Holleman wouldn't release their names but said the injuries were minor. Both were expected to make a full recovery.

Soon after the concert, Knowles arrived at the hospital, said head nurse Darryl Williams. "She was just very concerned about the people injured in the audience," Williams said. "It was unannounced and we kept it very low-key so that she could spend time with them."

Knowles, 25, met with the fans for about 45 minutes. "I just thought it was a great thing for someone of her stature to do," Williams said.

A spokesman for Houston-based Music World Entertainment, which represents Knowles, declined comment.

Knowles' world tour opened in April in Tokyo and runs through early September. Other stops include New Orleans, Dallas, New York City, Washington, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

She won a Grammy Award in February for contemporary R&B album for "B'Day," her second solo album. Knowles won five Grammys for her solo debut, 2003's "Dangerously in Love." She previously fronted R&B girl group Destiny's Child. Knowles starred in the 2006 movie "Dreamgirls."

**SEAN 'DIDDY' COMBS, GIRLFRIEND SPLIT UP**

NEW YORK (AP) - Just months after his longtime girlfriend gave birth to twin girls, Sean "Diddy" Combs has announced that the pair have split up recently.

A publicist for the 37-year-old rap mogul confirmed that he and model Kim Porter were no longer together. On Dec. 21, Porter gave birth to daughters D'Lila Star and Jessie James; the couple also have a son together.

The move comes a few months after the two publicly proclaimed their love for one another in a cover story for *Essence* magazine, which detailed their turbulent history: They already had a son, Christian, when Combs began his high-profile romance with Jennifer Lopez. That romance ended in 2001.

In the December article, Porter said Combs simply fell for a "big booty and a smile" and she knew he would be back. Though she took him to court to increase her child support payments in 2002, Combs eventually reunited with her. But while Combs told *Essence* he was an "ex-player," he admitted that he wasn't ready to marry Porter and even wondered, "Do you really think that God meant for a man to have just one wife?"

Though Combs said "this is the most monogamous I've ever been in my life," rumors persisted about other women — so much so that actress and friend Sienna Miller recently took pains to deny that they were a couple.

He has another son, Justin, with ex-girlfriend Misa Hylton-Brim.

**Rhymes facing several trials**

NEW YORK (AP) - Busta Rhymes, accused of attacking two men, driving drunk and driving with a suspended license, has rejected a plea deal and is facing four separate trials.

Manhattan Criminal Court Judge Larry Stephen denied a recent motion by the prosecution to consolidate two assault charges against Rhymes. The 35-year-old rapper is accused of beating a fan and also of beating and kicking a former employee last year.

"The two assault cases cannot be consolidated," said Rhymes' lawyer, Scott Leemon. "The decision today validated Busta's defenses to the assault cases. We detailed to the court that we have defense to these cases and the court agreed."

Assistant District Attorney Harrison Schweiloch hadn't moved to have the



Hip-hop artist Trevor "Busta Rhymes" Smith Jr. arrives for an appointment at the county courthouse in the Manhattan borough of New York on Tuesday.

drunken driving and suspended license cases consolidated, so the judge allowed them to remain separate.

Rhymes again turned down Schweiloch's offer of a year in jail to cover all the cases.

"It's the same offer" the prosecutor made at Rhymes' last court appearance, Leemon said, "and it's one which Busta adamantly rejects."

Rhymes, whose real name is Trevor Smith, was arrested

in May — the fourth time in less than a year — on a drunken driving charge.

At that time, he had been scheduled to go to trial on the two assault charges.

In one case, Rhymes is accused of beating and kicking his former driver during a Dec. 26 pay dispute outside Rhymes' lower Manhattan office.

In the other, he is charged with assaulting a fan after an Aug. 12 performance at the AmsterJam Music Festival on Randalls Island.

While those charges were pending, Rhymes was jailed briefly in February after police said they stopped him for running a red light and discovered he was driving with a suspended license.

Rhymes, a former member of Leaders of the New School and known for outlandish outfits and antic performance style, has hits that include "Put Your Hands Where My Eyes Could See," "Dangerous" and "Touch It."

He also has appeared in movies, including "Shaft" and "Finding Forrester."

Stephen adjourned the cases until Sept. 5.

**T.I.**

(Continued from Page 6) bums in the first week with "King."

His mainstream appeal has skyrocketed over the past year: He starred in his debut movie, "ATL," and has a role opposite Academy Award-winner Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe in upcoming "American Gangster."

Chevrolet also tapped him to star in their commercials, including pairing him with All-American NASCAR star Dale Earnhardt.

His appearance on Justin Timberlake's hit "My Love" earned them both a Grammy for best rap/sung collaboration. T.I. also won a Grammy for best rap solo for "What You Know."

Now, he's ready to lift hip-hop to another level, which he believes only he has the power to do.

"True, Lil' Wayne is from the south and can rap. Okay. ...Ludacris has his own company and in movies. And, (Young) Jeezy is respected from the 'hood and his street credibility is impeccable," says T.I., as he stands up and rubs his head after the barber finishes the haircut.

"But can't nobody do everything at the same time, like I can," he said with extreme confidence. "Not taking anything away from them. But let's be real. When setting the standard and raising the bar, ain't nobody doing it like me. I'm the MVP. I'm hands down, pound for pound the best. That's me."

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