

## Entertainment Briefs

### REPORT: MONTEL TIES THE KNOT

NEW YORK (AP) - Montel Williams is a married man. The talk show host wed Tara Fowler Saturday afternoon in Bermuda. "I am ecstatic! Unbelievable," he said. Fowler, 36, was dressed in an off-white Badgley Mishka gown and chandelier earrings. Williams, 51, wore a gray pinstripe suit. The couple's poodle, Mr. Max, was the ring bearer. It is the first wedding for Fowler, a former flight attendant. Williams has been married three times, and has two children from each marriage.

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### CHARGES AGAINST JADAKISS DROPPED

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) - Prosecutors are dropping a drug-and-gun case against Jadakiss, a year after the rapper's arrest. His lawyer said it was "a travesty that the case went this far." The Westchester County district attorney's office has asked a judge to dismiss the charges against the rapper, whose real name is Jason Phillips, and a co-defendant, Kristian Smith. Phillips, Smith and Darnell Frazier were arrested last October in Yonkers, the rapper's hometown, and indicted in February. Police claimed they smelled marijuana coming from the men's car and then found a gun inside. A jury last month acquitted Frazier after DNA tests didn't link any of the three to the gun. Jadakiss' attorney, Clement Patti, said the 32-year-old rapper "has had this cloud over his head for a year, affecting his career." The dismissal becomes official after the prosecutor's motion is granted by the judge.

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### NICK CANNON, SELITA BANKS CALL IT QUITS

NEW YORK (AP) - Months after a public proposal in Times Square, Nick Cannon and Victoria's Secret model Selita Ebanks have parted ways — for the time being. "Selita and Nick are taking a break to focus on their careers but still very much love each other and remain the best of friends," Ebanks' publicist, Melissa Raubvogel, said. No further details were provided. Cannon popped the question in May. The 26-year-old rapper-actor got down on bent knee as the words "Selita will you marry me?" flashed on a giant TV screen in Times Square. He then presented Ebanks with a 15-carat diamond ring that he helped design. They met at a Super Bowl party in Miami in February.

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### GINUWINE ALLEGES CONTRACT WAS A FRAUD

NEW YORK (AP) - Ginuwine says he was duped into signing a contract with a record company that doesn't exist. In a lawsuit filed in Manhattan's state Supreme Court, the R&B singer says he was persuaded to sign on May 8 with King Music Group Inc., a company that a personal acquaintance, Michael Bourne of Memphis, Tenn., said he owned. Terms of the contract gave Ginuwine, whose real name is Elgin Baylor Lumpkin, \$1.75 million to record his first album with King, including a \$500,000 advance, according to court papers. In nearly five months, the singer hasn't made any records and hasn't been paid a cent, the lawsuit said. In addition, the lawsuit said, there is no corporate record for King Music Group Inc. anywhere in New York, California, Florida or Tennessee. The lawsuit accuses King Music and Bourne of breach of contract, fraud and negligent misrepresentation. It asks for a total of \$4 million in damages. Ginuwine's lawyer, Corey D. Boddie, said that his client is now unable to record anywhere else. He said the singer could be sued if he made records for another company while under contract to King. Boddie said he has been unable to contact Bourne. Bourne's telephone number in Memphis was unlisted and directory assistance had no listing for King Music Group. Ginuwine's albums include "Back II Da Basics," "Ginuwine ... The Bachelor" and "The Life."

# Snoop Dogg gets hip-hop honors

NEW YORK (AP) - Snoop Dogg is usually quick to brag and boast, but even he felt humbled as he was honored for his rap achievements at VH1's fourth annual Hip Hop Honors.

The gangsta rapper was lauded along with Missy Elliott, the '80s rap trio Whodini, A Tribe Called Quest, music executive Andre Harrell and producer Teddy Riley for creating the "New Jack Swing" sound, and Fab Five Freddy and Charlie Ahern for the groundbreaking movie "Wildstyle."

Among those on hand to congratulate Snoop backstage during the honors were Q-Tip from Tribe and rap legend KRS-One, of whom Snoop asked, "Have I been a good student?" KRS-One gave him an approving nod.

"These are guys that I grew up wanting to be like and learning their words and dreaming and hoping and wishing, and now they know who I am and they respect me and they say that my work has put me in the position that I can be commended — it's unbelievable, I can't believe it," he told The Associated Press backstage.

The celebration was more like an old-school party than an awards ceremony.

During the tribute to Whodini, Nelly and Jermaine Dupri did '80s dance moves while Whodini delivered their



Common performs during the VH1 Hip-Hop Honors celebration in New York on Monday.

classic raps; Timbaland joined Eve, Ciara, Nelly Furtado and Keyshia Cole onstage to perform Elliott's hits as the singer-rapper-producer looked on.

Bow Wow, who performed onstage with Snoop when he was just a child, rapped with him again at the ceremony, while Busta Rhymes, Common and Lupe Fiasco performed Tribe's "Scenario."

Other stars on hand included LL Cool J, Ne-Yo, Chris Rock and host Tracy Morgan.

KRS-One, a previous honoree, said the event was crucial because it pays tribute to crucial figures in rap that are sometimes overlooked.

"Every time you validate a guy like KRS-One, you are

validating a certain voice in hip-hop that doesn't get much validation or time on the airwaves," he said.

Snoop also noted that it brings much needed positive attention to a genre that's been criticized anew for promoting the negative.

"This is the best thing for us to happen for hip-hop, it's positive," he said. "These awards shows — never no violence; it's never negative, never anything in the media the wrong way. It's always a great celebration of music and the artists and what they did."

KRS-One is hoping to harness the positive aspects from the Hip Hop Honors for a new project. At the event, he was enlisting artists like Snoop Dogg to record a new version of his '80s message

song "Self-Destruction," an all-star recording that then included acts like Queen Latifah and Big Daddy Kane. Snoop expressed interest as the two huddled together backstage.

"Hip-hop as a culture is getting a lot of backlash right now for its lyrics, for its public image, and the people are crying out for more responsibility," said KRS-One as he explained the need for the new recording.

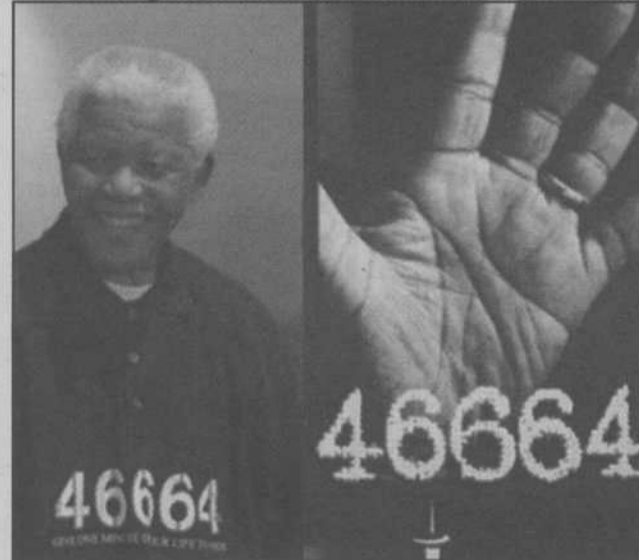
"Nelly, Snoop, 50, Jay-Z, you are the Big Daddy Kanes, the Queen Latifahs, the Stestasonics of today," he continued. "Let's get this movement together that tells families in the United States: We never intended for your child to go to jail... the social ills of society, we never intended to highlight them."

## Mandela announces AIDS concert

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) - The fifth in a series of international concerts that Nelson Mandela has used to raise awareness about AIDS will be held Dec. 1 in Johannesburg.

"I am very delighted that we are engaging the youth in schools, communities and through the media, breaking the silence and stigmas around HIV and AIDS and making them realize that the power to beat the pandemic lies in their own hands," said Mandela, 89, wearing a sweat shirt emblazoned with 46664, the number apartheid prison authorities gave him and which he has used in his campaigning on social issues since.

"The 46664 campaign has done great work in putting the global spotlight on the issue of HIV and AIDS," the former South African presi-



Former South African President Nelson Mandela, pictured, is spearheading the 46664 campaign against HIV/AIDS.

dent said Monday at a press conference at his Johannesburg offices. "We will continue to use celebrities from the world of music, sports and entertainment to speak to the youth about the disease."

The concert, expected to

attract 30-35 international and local artists and draw a crowd of over 50,000 people, will be held to mark World Aids Day on Dec. 1.

Details of the lineup will be announced later this month. Previous concerts in Cape Town, Spain and Nor-

way boasted some of the world's top musicians including U2, Annie Lennox, Peter Gabriel, Beyonce, Bob Geldof and Angelique Kidjo.

"We are trying to make this concert something very different," said Tim Massey, the international director for the campaign. "This is going to be the greatest concert yet."

The campaign was launched in 2003 by the Nelson Mandela Foundation. The funds raised through the concerts are used to create awareness of the AIDS pandemic among young people.

An estimated 5.4 million South Africans are infected with the AIDS virus — the largest number in any country in the world — and about 900 people die each day of the disease.

Massey said about \$3 million has been raised through the concerts so far.