

News at a Glance

Judge bars Kelly from L.A. video shoot

CHICAGO (AP) - R&B singer R. Kelly, free on bond since he was indicted on 21 child pornography charges, cannot travel to Los Angeles for a July music video shoot, a judge ruled last week.



R. Kelly

Cook County Judge Vincent Michael Gaughan said Kelly's attorneys presented no argument why the Grammy-winner couldn't produce his video with technology and creative resources in the Chicago area, where he is required to stay as part of his bond.

Gaughan did allow Kelly, whose first name is Robert, to travel later this month to Los Angeles for a Black Entertainment Television awards show and to Dallas for a charity concert for the families of soldiers injured or killed in the Iraq war.

Gaughan said barring Kelly from the awards show or the charity concert would "do more harm than good."

Kelly, 36, hasn't been allowed to leave without a judge's permission since he was indicted June 5, 2002, after a videotape surfaced purportedly showing him having sex with an underage girl. Kelly has denied the charges.

A Kelly trip request last month prompted complaints by prosecutors, who have consistently opposed his travel. Kelly was granted his request to travel to New York to perform a concert, but prosecutors later discovered he was never listed as a performer.

Ed Genson, Kelly's attorney, said barring Kelly from travel limited his ability to make a living.

No trial date has been set for the Illinois pornography indictment. If convicted, Kelly could face 15 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

Depositions taken in AKA drowning suit

LOS ANGELES (NNPA) - Depositions are under way in a lawsuit filed against Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (AKA) by the family of Kristin High, one of two women who drowned at a Playa Del Rey beach during alleged hazing activities last year.

Sam High and Patricia Strong-Fargas, High's parents, and her fiancée, Holman Authurs, on behalf of High's and Authurs' son, Skyler, filed a \$100 million wrongful death lawsuit against the organization and the members and pledges present when she died in September.

Angela Reddock, an attorney with the firm Collins, Mesereau, Reddock and Yu, LLP, representing High's family, said potential witnesses in the case are being interviewed by attorneys for the defendants and plaintiffs.

Next month, Reddock said, she will be in Chicago taking depositions from AKA's national officers.

This month, attorneys for High's family will be taking depositions from "big sisters" who were present during the alleged hazing and named in the suit.

According to the lawsuit, High was blindfolded and then driven to the beach where she was led into the ocean with her hands tied. The lawsuit calls this activity a "right of passage ritual" that was facilitated by High's "assigned...big sister," one of the sorority members. The women were students at California State University-LA.

Initially, police said there was no hazing involved, but according to the county coroner's autopsy report, released by the plaintiff's attorneys, "the manner of death could not be determined." Police are still investigating the matter.

The national AKA has suspended all pledging at the undergraduate level until this fall.

Black students are benefiting from generosity of late funny man Flip Wilson

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (AP) - Black journalism majors at Rutgers University will soon benefit from the generosity of a late New Jersey-born comedian who gained fame by dressing in drag before most of the school's students were born.

The first Flip Wilson scholarship will be selected next spring. The decision will be based in part on a 500-word essay that focuses on some aspect of Wilson's work and its impact on television or comedy, said John Pavlik, chairman of the journalism and media studies department at Rutgers' New Brunswick campus.

The \$23,500 scholarship, which can be used to pay for tuition, fees, room and board and books, will be one of the state university's highest-paying undergraduate scholarships for an individual student.

Eligible students must be black, enrolled at Rutgers full time as a junior or senior, and major in journalism or media studies. They also must show a financial need and have a grade point average of at least 3.0.

Wilson, who died of liver cancer in 1998, did not have a journalism background. However, his friend and former publicist Kathleen Fearn-Banks helped convince him that it was a field where his money could make an impact on the black community after his death.

Wilson then agreed to put a clause in his will that provided funding for annual scholarships at Rutgers and other schools across the nation.

Scholarships also will be set up at the University of Washington, Wayne State University in Detroit, California State University-Northridge and Howard University in Washington.



Wilson

Mom says she was concerned about son before stroke

Doctors say legendary crooner is showing signs of improvement

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - In the days before he suffered a stroke, Luther Vandross couldn't stop overeating, according to his mother.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Mary Vandross also blamed her son's hectic schedule for his April 16 stroke.

"He just worked himself to where he is right now," said Mrs. Vandross, 80.

Vandross has been semiconscious since suffering a stroke in his Manhattan home. He had been putting the finishing touches on his new album, "Dance With My Father," which hit stores last week.

Vandross' fluctuations in weight have become famous over the years.

"He had regained his weight back, and that of course really bothered me tremendously, because I knew how hard he was struggling not to gain the weight," said Mrs. Vandross. "And yet he would eat uncontrollably."

A few days before his stroke, Vandross, 52, visited his

mother in her Philadelphia home. Although the visit was a good one, she worried about him because he was "eating everything in sight."

"I asked him, 'Are you upset about something?' He said, 'I don't know, but ... when you go to your mama's house, you're supposed to eat,'" she said.

One time, Mrs. Vandross said, "I got annoyed, and I asked him, 'Why do you do this to yourself again?' And he said, 'I don't drink, I've never drunk, I've never smoked, I've never done drugs.'"

"He said, 'Mama, I just don't know what to do anymore.'"

She visits him in the hospital often. If she is not there, another relative or friend is by his bedside.

During the day, he is shown photos of family and friends, and someone reads him the get-



Mary Vandross



File Photo

A slimmed-down Luther Vandross performs three years ago.

well cards and e-mails that have been pouring in. He also hears music by his favorite singers - Aretha Franklin, Diana Ross and Dionne Warwick.

His background singers have even come in to perform for him, said Max Szadek, his personal assistant.

Those closest to him say his condition has improved. Earlier on, he contracted pneumonia and needed a tracheotomy to help him breathe.

But now, he has begun mouthing words, even trying to eat a bit of an orange.

See Vandross on A10

L.A. honors former POW Shoshana Johnson

BY ROBERT JABLON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES - Shoshana Johnson, who was wounded and held prisoner in Iraq, was honored Friday as a war hero and a role model to blacks, women and all Americans.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you," the 30-year-old Army cook told a cheering crowd of about 100 people who filled the First United Christian Church in South Los Angeles, where Johnson's aunt and other relatives worship.

She urged her well-wishers to continue praying for U.S. soldiers still in Iraq, including a cousin in Baghdad.

Johnson and other members of the 507th Maintenance Company were captured in a March 23 ambush near Nasiriyah in which nine soldiers died. Johnson, who was shot in the ankles, was rescued three weeks later, along with five others.

"I don't consider myself a hero. I consider myself a survivor," she told reporters before the ceremonies. "And the heroes to me are the ones that gave their lives that day, my comrades, and the Marines that took a chance and found us and pulled us out and brought us home. Those are my heroes."

Johnson declined to discuss her captivity but said she feels fine physically. She has another year to go in the Army and has not decided whether she'll re-enlist.

She called the attention she has been showered with confusing but "wonderful."

Although her home is in El Paso, Texas, Johnson's large and close Panamanian-American family includes relatives in Los Angeles and suburban Lancaster.

A yellow ribbon decorated a palm tree outside the storefront church that her Los Angeles relatives attend.

Inside, some well-wishers wore white ribbons or waved flags proclaiming in red letters "She's free!"

Johnson, wearing her Army dress uniform and a knee-high brace on her right leg, stood stiffly at attention as "The Star-Spangled Banner" was sung.

California and Los Angeles proclaimed it "Shoshana



Johnson

See Johnson on A10

Have It All!

FREE CREDIT EVALUATION!

Achieve your goal of home ownership through our credit and home counseling!

Exceptional Standard Features, Great Floorplans & A Convenient Location!

· Fireplace Per Plan · Deck · Crown Mouldings on First Floor



Homes from the \$110's

Canaan Place
NORTH

Please call 336-784-9161 for more information.
Visit Our Model Sun-Fri 2-6, Sat 10-6

Take 1-40 to Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. to New Walkerton Rd. Left on Carver School Rd. Right on Lanning Dr. Canaan Place North is on your right. SANDRA ANDERSON BUILDERS, INC.

Attention Homeowners

Homes 1 year and older need to be checked for termites

"A flea circus is a good act but it takes termites to bring a home down."

Call
Triad Pest Control
1535 S. Martin Luther King Drive
Winston-Salem, NC
788-3020

INDEX

OPINION.....A6
SPORTS.....B1
RELIGION.....B5
CLASSIFIEDS.....B9
HEALTH.....C3
ENTERTAINMENT....C7
CALENDAR.....C9

The Chronicle (USPS 067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Nubisi Egemonye in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. Annual subscription price is \$30.72.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636
Winston-Salem, NC 27102-1636