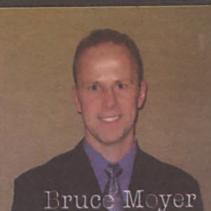
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Newsmakers

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## Celebs deny they're gay

Boxing champ Laila Ali and country music singer Kenny Chesney both insist they're hetero

Rumors surrounding boxing champ Muhammad Ali's daughter Laila Ali have been popping up across the internet and in gossip segments on urban radio stations recently — purporting that the recently divorced female boxer has plans to pursue a romantic relationship with actress Queen Latifah.

The rumor seems to have come from one widely-circulatedemail source that says the following:

"Laila Ali and her husband/manager's divorce is final. The two have been separated since January and their divorce became final Nov. 1. She briefly mentioned it on the Red Carpet of BET's 25 Anniversary show last night. A close friend of the boxing champ tells Atlanta Gossip, (AG) that Laila has finally come to grips with her true sexuality and is happy with her new found freedom and

is dating Grammy nominated actress, rapper, singer, Queen Latifah."

Latifah's rep, Amanda Silverman says that the email is "something that somebody made up" and that her client is not dating Ali. "I don't even think they know each other," she told the EUE online news service.

In a follow-up statement released by Ali, she said the following: "I am not dating, nor will I ever be dating a woman, because I am not gay. It is unfortunate that my divorce has started rumors in the media that are untrue."

In the country music

wing of the entertainment industry, tongues are wagging nationwide after Kenny Chesney's split with actress Renee Zelwegger after less than five months. Zellwegger is asking for an annulment, which would indicate the relationship had not been consumated. In court documents, Zellwegger claims the reason for the



Laila Ali (top) has been reportedly linked romantically to actress Queen Latifah. Kenny Chesney's (left) sexual orientation has long been a point of speculation even before his recent split with actress Renee Zellwegger.

annulment is fraudulent misrepresentation.

Exactly what was misrepresented is unclear — but media gossips were quick to jump on the possibility that Chesney might be gay.

Says Chesney: "They've done nothing short of calling me gay and her a whore. None of those things are true. I'm pretty firm in my sexuality and my love for women."

We thinks they both doth protest too much.

No word from Latifah yet, who never seems to be romantically linked with anyone, anywhere of any gender.

