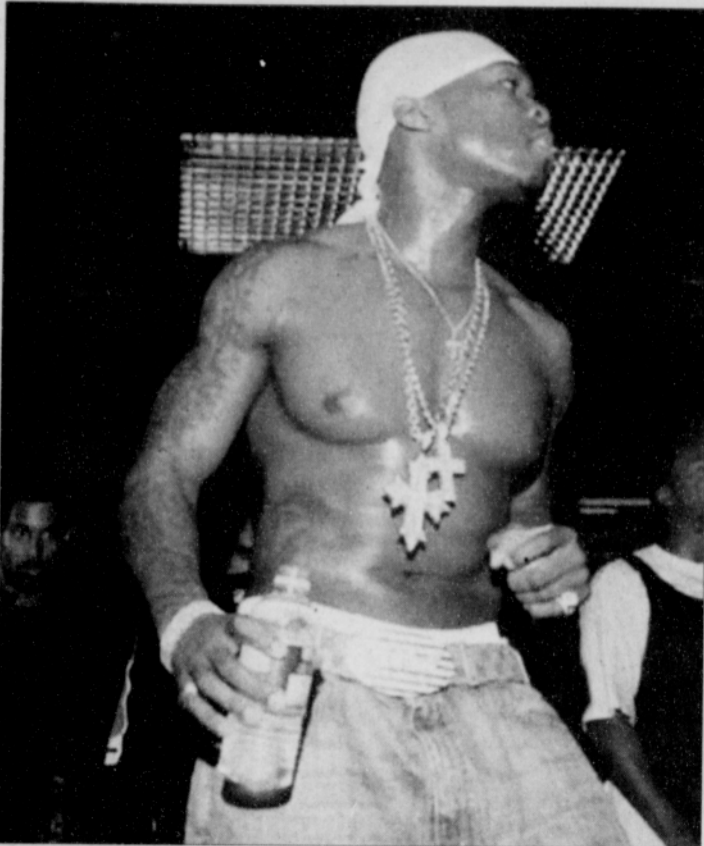


# Focus

## Godfather of Soul Earns Lifetime Achievement Award



### Rapper 50 Cent Named Best New Artist

Rock, pop and soul legend James Brown was given a Lifetime Achievement Award during the annual BET awards.

Rapper 50 Cent was named best new artist and best male hip-hop artist at the 2003 BET Awards.



(AP)—Rapper 50 Cent captured best new artist and best male hip-hop artist honors at Tuesday's BET Awards show, while Michael Jackson presented the "godfather of soul," James Brown, with a lifetime achievement award.

The often reclusive Jackson made a surprise appearance and garnered a huge ovation as he

danced briefly with the 70-year-old Brown, who also performed "It's a Man's World" and "Sex Machine."

"Nobody has influenced me more than this man right here," an emotional Jackson told the audience moments after wrapping a cape around Brown's shoulders.

Brown, a seminal figure in rock, pop and soul, is also known as

"Soul Brother No. 1" and the hardest working man in show business. He is currently on a national concert tour.

BET awards recognize people of color in music, film and sports categories. They are voted on by record label executives, news media representatives and fans.

The third annual awards show

was broadcast live on the East Coast June 24 and on a taped-delayed basis on the West Coast on the Black Entertainment Television network. Actress Mo'Nique was host.

Other winners included Los Angeles R&B quartet B2K for top group and Queen Latifah for best actress. Tennis star Serena Williams beat out her sister Venus for

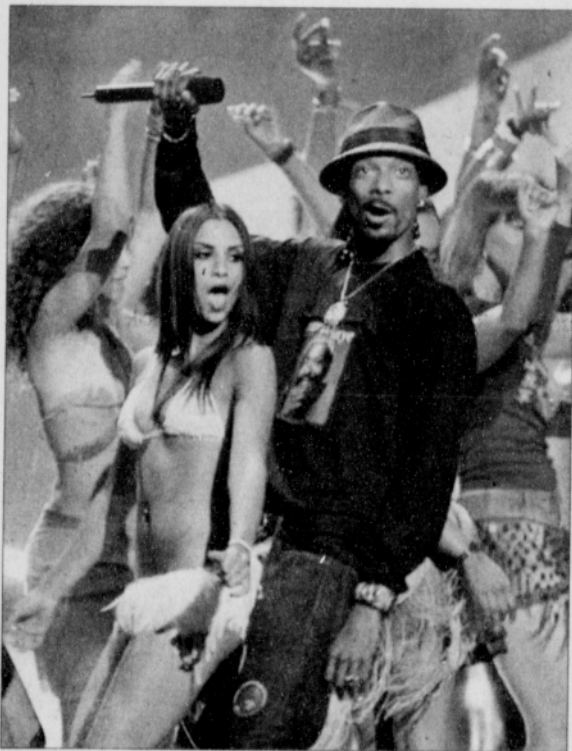
best female athlete.

R. Kelly tied with fellow crooner Jaheim for best male R&B artist and Derek Luke was named best actor. Erykah Badu and Common won for their "Love of My Life" video and Snoop Dogg's airy pairing with Pharrell on "Beautiful" won best collaboration.

Repeat winners from last year

included best female hip-hop artist Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott, best gospel artist Yolanda Adams, best female R&B artist India.Arie and best male athlete Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers.

A former Lakers basketball star turned business entrepreneur, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, received the humanitarian award.



Snoop Dogg is surrounded by dancers as he performs "Beautiful" during the 3rd annual BET Awards in Los Angeles. (AP photo)

### Snoop's Armed Entourage Arrested

(AP)—California state officials will launch a thorough investigation into off-duty employment of all state workers after three parole agents were found to be part of rapper Snoop Dogg's armed entourage at the BET Awards.

While the state Corrections Department does not have a specific policy barring outside employment connected to people with criminal records, parole agents are required to tell their bosses about who they work for and if there is any knowledge of criminal conduct.

Authorities stopped Snoop Dogg's armored procession outside the awards show and

arrested three of the rapper's bodyguards. An Inglewood reserve school police officer who also was working as a Snoop Dogg bodyguard surrendered to police on weapons allegations related to the incident. Marcus Thompson, 35, was placed on leave by school district officials.

Snoop Dogg, whose given name is Calvin Broadus, was not detained. Broadus, 31, was convicted in 1990 of possession of cocaine for sale. Under federal law, it is illegal for a felon to possess guns or ammunition. It also is against the law for someone knowingly employed by a felon to carry a gun or ammunition.

### Chris Rock Named Music Awards Host



Comedian Chris Rock will host the MTV Video Music Awards Aug. 28 in New York.

(AP)—Chris Rock will be back as host of the MTV Video Music Awards. But he acknowledges that his stand-up skills are a little rusty.

So the comedian is going on a cross-country club tour to prepare for the 20th annual awards show Aug. 28 at Radio City Music Hall.

"I haven't performed in a lo-o-o-o-ging time," Rock said.

After starring in the Emmy-winning "Chris Rock Show" on HBO in the late '90s, he's been focusing on films the past few years, including "Down to Earth," a

remake of "Heaven Can Wait"; "Bad Company" with Anthony Hopkins; and this year's "Head of State," his directorial debut, in which he starred as a presidential candidate.

Rock won't announce his comedy show dates ahead of time - he wouldn't even say where the tour will begin next week. Tickets will go on sale in each city just 24 hours in advance.

But after having hosted the irreverent awards show in 1997 and 1999, Rock knows that much of the comedy springs organically as the evening progresses.

"Half the time the presenters don't read what's on the cue cards and you never know when Diana Ross is going to grab Lil' Kim's (breast), and you'd hate to miss that because you're putting on something from Banana Republic."

Rock was referring to one of the more outrageous moments in Video Music Award history in 1999, when Ross fondled rapper Lil' Kim's left breast, which was covered only in a lavender pasty.

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