

Lifestyles

Firefighter comic book, Vickie Winans and British art collection

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The newest comic book superheroes hail not from the planet Krypton, but from firehouses in New York City.

Marvel Comics plans to introduce a six-issue miniseries based on the experiences of New York City firefighters.

"Call of Duty: The Brotherhood," is set to debut on Wednesday. The company has planned two other miniseries to be released this summer, "The Call of Duty: The Precinct," about New York police officers, and "The Call of Duty: The Wagon," about emergency medical service workers.

The story lines have not been made public, but writer Chuck Austen said they'll be based on real people dealing with dangerous situations.

Austen did extensive research for the series, and spent time with the firefighters of Engine Co. 228 in Brooklyn, including Lt. Richard Smith, whose son is an editor at Marvel.

"A lot of the guys are very excited," Smith told The New York Post in its Monday editions. "It's a nice thing."

Marvel plans to combine the three miniseries into a single monthly series that focuses on a police officer, a firefighter and a paramedic, to be released early next year.

NEW YORK (AP) — Praising God can make you work up a good sweat — at least the way Vickie Winans does it.

Winans gave herself and the audience a workout when she performed at McDonald's Gospelfest at the Hammerstein Ballroom on Sunday. The veteran gospel star sang and stomped so much during her rousing performance she admitted she needed a breather.

"I sang about it, I danced about it ... and now I'm tired about it," she joked. "I need to catch my breath!"

Gospelfest is an annual event in which amateur gospel choirs, singers and other artists from around the New York region compete for cash prizes and bragging rights. McDonald's sponsors similar competitions in other parts of the country.

Winans was among the stars who sang during the breaks in competition. Others who performed were Hezekiah Walker, Cissy Houston (mother of

Whitney Houston), and Desiree Coleman Jackson.

Jackson, who's married to New York Knicks guard Mark Jackson, told young fans that singing for God "is an awesome thing."

LONDON (AP) — Art historian Luke Herrmann is donating a valuable collection of 18th and 19th century English artworks to public museums and galleries around Britain.

Herrmann donated the 34 paintings and drawings, including works by John Constable and George Stubbs, to the National Art Collections Fund, a charity that helps museums and galleries acquire works of art.

Herrmann, emeritus professor of art history at the University of Leicester, received the works in a 1960s bequest from Bruce Ingram, former editor of the Illustrated London News.

"I began collecting English watercolors in the later 1950s with the guidance and encouragement of Sir Bruce Ingram, one of the great collectors of those years," Herrmann said recently.

"He left me the group which I have always thought of as my Ingram drawings to fill gaps in my collection, of which in



(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

**** FILE **** Gospel singer Vicki Winans performs on stage at New York City's Apollo Theater, Wednesday, April 24, 2002. Winans gave herself and the audience a workout when she performed at McDonald's Gospelfest at the Hammerstein Ballroom on Sunday, June 2, 2002. The veteran gospel star sang and stomped so much during her rousing performance she admitted she needed a breather. Gospelfest is an annual event in which amateur gospel choirs, singers and other artists from around the New York region compete for cash prizes and bragging rights. McDonald's sponsors similar competitions in other parts of the country.

fact, they have always been the stars.

"They have given me, my family and friends, constant pleasure for nearly 40 years, and I have selected their new museum homes in the hope

that that pleasure can now be enjoyed by many others."

The works will go to the British Museum, Victoria and Albert Museum and Tate Britain in London; the Ashmolean Museum

in Oxford; Cambridge's Fitzwilliam Museum; the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester; the York City Art Gallery and the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.