

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

MASH vet makes headlines with painting

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — Gary Burghoff, who played Cpl. Radar O'Reilly on "M-A-S-H," turned from acting to painting the great outdoors.

Burghoff displayed his wildlife paintings Saturday at the Fenwick Gallery near Toledo. The longtime animal preservationist was bitten by the fine arts bug three years ago, after judging a national duck stamp competition.

"I realized I should be doing that, so I set up my easel," he said.

After nearly 8 years of playing the efficient but nerdy corporal who always knew when wounded soldiers were coming in, Burghoff left the long-running television show in 1979.

Despite the show's huge following, Burghoff remains somewhat surprised by calls for a "M-A-S-H" reunion show.

"It's very curious to me why that is so important," Burghoff said. "There seems to be a real need to know we're still friends."

Burghoff got a hug at his opening from an unexpected guest: Jamie Farr, the 4077th M-A-S-H's cross-dressing Cpl. Max Klinger. Farr was in town for his Jamie Farr Kroger Classic women's golf tournament.

Former Patsie from Happy Days spends time behind camera

NEW YORK (AP) — Whatever happened to the guy who played Patsie on "Happy Days?" Well, he just ducked behind the camera.

Anson Williams' new role is that of director, with credits including "Hercules: The Legendary Journeys," "seaQuest DSV," and "Fudge."

TV directing veteran Garry Marshall helped him make the career switch.

"He said 'anything you want to learn, come to me,' and he arranged for you to observe," Williams says in the July 13 issue of TV Guide.

And Williams has no desire to return to acting.

"I always felt limitations as an actor," he said. "Once in a while I'll do something if someone asks, but I don't miss it as a career."

Dollywood cashier captured with stolen money, minus \$1,000

RENO, Nev. (AP) — A cashier at Dollywood's country music theme park in Tennessee who allegedly embezzled \$647,000 got as far as Reno, but police caught up with him before he could blow it all at the casinos.

Police recovered the missing money, minus about \$1,000, after arresting John Joseph Rightsell Jr. late Friday at the hotel where he was staying.

Rightsell, a supervising cashier at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., disappeared several days earlier and the money was discovered missing.

He was jailed with no bail pending extradition to Tennessee.



PARTON

Soap star takes stab at crime boss part in upcoming release *Fled*

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Nader, suave tycoon Dimitri Marick on the TV soap opera "All My Children," usually doesn't play bad-to-the-bone types. Now he's got his chance.

Nader tackles the part of a fierce Cuban crime boss in *Fled*, starring Laurence Fishburne and Stephen Baldwin, which opens nationwide this month.

Shedding his image as a daytime drama pretty boy wasn't easy, Nader said. First he needed to turn 50.

"It's been a real dilemma — getting those kinds of roles after playing romantic leads," Nader, 51, says in the July 13 TV Guide. "I'm finally starting to get a little character in my face, but I'm still considered a threat to a lot of good-looking movie stars."

ID4 makes movie history

LOS ANGELES (AP) — *Independence Day* grossed \$83.5 million over the July Fourth holiday for the best five-day opening in film history, industry sources estimated Sunday.

Buoyed by heavy media coverage and strong word of mouth, the alien invasion thriller out-muscled Arnold Schwarzenegger's *Eraser* and other summer blockbusters and appeared to be on track to reach the \$100 million mark with record speed.

"It's right up there with the biggest pictures of all time," said Tom Sherak, the executive vice president of 20th Century Fox.

The weekend's other debut was *Phenomenon*, starring John Travolta as a man who suddenly gains superintelligence and psychic power. It opened in third place with a five-day gross of \$25 million. Eddie Murphy's *The Nutty Professor* was second with \$26.5 million over five days.

Independence Day, produced for about \$70 million, stars Will Smith, Jeff Goldblum, Bill Pullman and spectacular special effects that include the fiery destruction of major cities by invading spaceships.

Many theaters sold out. Scalpers reportedly were getting up to \$20 a ticket.

Independence Day was expected to gross \$49 million from Friday through Sunday and \$83.5 million for the period from its Wednesday debut.

The previous five-day mark was set by 1991's *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*, which sold \$52.3 million worth of tickets. The three-day record is held by last year's *Batman Forever*, which grossed \$52.8 million.

However, Sherak said that figure included a midnight and a preview screening. *Independence Day* would have beaten that mark if Fox included the more than \$11 million it grossed in Tuesday previews, he said.

Unless sales lag, *Independence Day* could top the \$100 million mark in seven days, two less than it took 1993's *Jurassic Park*, Sherak said.

From the start, the film was geared to attract a family audience, Sherak said. There is little graphic violence and virtually no sex or swearing.

"Although 740 million (people) get killed in the second act, you never see that," Sherak said.

Fox planned its marketing campaign with all the shrewdness of an invasion. Last Christmas, long before the movie's final cut was ready, trailers showed spaceships casting eclipse-like shadows over Washington and blowing up the White House.

A \$1 million Super Bowl commercial warned: "Enjoy the Super Bowl ... It may be your last."

The studio also courted the press — an increasingly vital form of free publicity — with early peeks at some scenes and tongue-in-cheek gifts such as a dashboard with the Earth in the bull's-eye.

"The press bought into it hook, line and sinker. They saw what we had," Sherak said. "Everybody who wrote about it said it could be the biggest picture of the summer ... everybody liked it."

The movie appeared on covers of Time and Newsweek last week.

But hype alone cannot make a hit — moviegoers must be entertained, Sherak said.

- ### THE TOP 10
- #1. *Independence Day*, 20th Century Fox, \$83.5 million.
 - #2. *The Nutty Professor*, Universal, \$26.5 million.
 - #3. *Phenomenon*, Disney, \$25 million.
 - #4. *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Disney, \$14 million.
 - #5. *Eraser*, Warner Bros., \$13.4 million.
 - #6. *The Rock*, Disney, \$8.6 million.
 - #7. *Strip-tease*, Columbia, \$7.5 million.
 - #8. *Twister*, Warner Bros., \$4.4 million.
 - #9. *Mission: Impossible*, Paramount, \$3.6 million.
 - #10. *The Cable Guy*, Columbia, \$2.7 million.

"They come and stand in line because you've touched a nerve," he said. "Something happens to all of us ... who get involved in the carnival atmosphere of what popcorn movies are. This is a movie that P.T. Barnum would have approved of."

Preliminary figures are based on industry estimates of ticket sales for Wednesday through Sunday. Final figures will be released Monday.

Election

Continued from Page 1

June 16, Yeltsin won by only three percent of the vote. There were concerns voiced over Yeltsin's health and rumored alcoholism.

Mestrovic said the Russian people should pay close attention to these potential problems.

"This is a serious concern because if he died in office, there would be a stampede for power," Mestrovic said. "And we shouldn't assume the transformation would be peaceful and orderly, like in the U.S."

Alexander Lebed was one of the candidates on

the ballot of the June 16 election. In an effort to gain Lebed's supporters, Yeltsin appointed him National Security Adviser after the preliminary election.

Mestrovic said Lebed is a man the Russian people should be wary of.

"Lebed was a general in the Afghan War and he's very much a bigot, an authoritarian and a nationalist," Mestrovic said. "He is very anti-Western, and if he were to seize power it would be a very bad thing for the West."

Last week, Lebed was criticized for comments he made about religion.

In a Houston Chronicle article, Lebed said there are only three established religions in Russia — Orthodox Christianity, Islam and Buddhism — a remark that pointedly omitted reference to Russia's 650,000 Jews.

Powell

Continued from Page 1

Moms, one must have held an office in the chapter closest to her hometown.

Powell said her experience as president of Plano Aggie Moms gave her the skills necessary to serve as president of the entire federation.

"I think I can bring a unique perspective to the Aggie Moms. It's such an honor to wear the ring and work with these ladies," Powell said. "I love the ladies. Even though they're not all A&M graduates, we're all part of the Aggie family. It's very special to us."

Powell will keep busy during her term as president — from Parents' Weekend 1996 to Parents' Weekend 1997.

Powell said she will commute two or three times a month from Plano to College Station and

stay for a few days.

She also has other things to keep her busy.

"I'm a grandmother," Powell said. "Between that and Aggie Moms, I'll have a full-time job."

Powell even moved to College Station for a brief time in order to spend more time working on various Aggie Mom projects.

Becky Segrest, a former member of the Aggie Mothers' Club Federation Board, said Powell is an ideal president.

"She's so hard-working, very dependable," Segrest said. "She really has a heart for Aggies."

Powell encourages students to tell their mothers about Aggie Moms. There are no specific qualifications for serving as an Aggie Mom, only to have a heart for the University and the students. The organization is open to all mothers and legal guardians of students and former students.

"We offer 'at-large' membership to those who are not close enough to be in a specific club," Powell said. "These members receive our newsletter and participate in our Adopt-A-Student program. Adopt-A-Student is where the Aggie Mom just sends care packages or birthday cards to a particular student while that student is away from their own mom at college or studying abroad."

According to the University administration Aggie Moms help to add a "small university atmosphere" to a very large university.

Powell said Aggie Moms are a united group of women because they are all part of the Aggie family.

"My daughter said the other day, 'I know if I needed something and couldn't reach you, I could call any Aggie Mom and they would help me,'" Powell said. "It is such a neat feeling for a student to know that they are so loved and cared for by the Aggie Moms."

Critics question Christian Coalition's avoiding federal taxes, say group acts as political machine

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dave Jenkins is hardly the first guy you'd guess the Christian Coalition would regard as an enemy.

The conservative Republican grew up in Newport News, Va., half a mile from the childhood home of Christian Coalition founder Pat Robertson, attended a Baptist high school and majored in religion at the nearby College of William and Mary.

But when he decided to seek the Republican nomination for a U.S. House seat in Texas this year, he found himself on the wrong side of a powerful political force.

"I did make some attempts to court them," Jenkins said in an interview. He painstakingly filled out a 91-question form stating his views on the coalition's issues, from taxes to health care to foreign policy. He said he agreed with the coalition on 80 percent of the issues.

When thousands of copies of a voter guide were distributed just before primary election day, "They selected seven issues I disagreed with them on. It made it look like I was totally against everything they stood for."

It was, Jenkins said, "a total distortion."

Similar complaints have come from candidates on the wrong side of a Christian Coalition voter guide, one of the organization's most powerful political tools. The group plans to publish 64 million of them this year.

Coalition director Ralph Reed defends the guides as nonpartisan voter education tools, saying the coalition chooses questions based on "our own sense of what our members think is important."

But last month, Robertson made this bold claim: "The Christian Coalition, without it probably Bob Dole wouldn't be the (Republican presidential) nominee."

On June 27, Reed and Robertson met again



with Dole, who is expected to officially win the nomination in August, in hopes of working out a compromise on the divisive abortion issue.

Such meetings, the voters guides and for-sale lists of conservative voters leave critics and tax experts questioning whether the group has crossed the line from tax-exempt education to political machine.

Since it was formed in 1989, the Virginia-based organization has paid no federal income taxes, claiming an exemption for groups that promote public welfare. Such groups can dabble in partisan politics, but it cannot be their primary purpose.

After more than six years the IRS still hasn't ruled on the claim, one of the longest delays ever for such an application.

Senate

Continued from Page 1

cents — unless you're among the excluded millions."

Republican conservatives dismissed Clinton's threat and said Bond's amendment was needed to shield small businesses from the job-killing effects of what amounts to a 20 percent increase in their labor costs.

"He can call it a poison pill. He can call it anything he wants. My guess is he will sign it if it gets to his desk," said Senate Majority Whip Don Nickles, R-Okla.

The minimum-wage bill, cleared 281-144 by the House on May 23, provides a two-step increase — from \$4.25 to \$4.75 immediately and then, on July

1, 1997, to \$5.15. It's paired with a package of tax breaks, mostly for business.

Bond's amendment also would delay the effective date of the increases by six months — to Jan. 1, 1997 and Jan. 1, 1998. He would double the period during which businesses could pay a training wage to 180 days from 90 days in the House version. And he would permit the training wage, which would be less than the minimum wage, for workers of all ages, not just for workers younger than 20.

Meanwhile, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., plans to offer an amendment that would shorten the training wage period to 30 days and strike a provision in the House bill excluding workers who earn tips.

The Senate tax-break package, intended to soften the blow to businesses of the wage raise, is more generous than the House's — roughly \$11 billion over eight years compared with \$7 billion.

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By Melissa Nunn
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