

Los Angeles Inquisitor

Volume 2, Issue 2

Saturday, February 11th, 2006

Children Missing

The number of children missing in Los Angeles county has soared to 12 with the most recent disappearance. The children, all missing over the last two weeks, have disappeared from a variety of public and private hospitals. Police have several leads on the abductions, each pointing towards no single individual that is responsible, but rather a group. Chief Inspector Scott C. Barkley said, "We are following our leads. We believe that there were either religious or cult motivations behind these disappearances. In the mean time, anyone who has any information about these missing children should contact the police immediately."



Police investigators would not comment further on what "cult motivations" are, but mentioned they were involving religious leaders in their investigations. "In matters

pertaining to religious symbolism, we admit we are out of our league" said inspector Barkley. "But we'll find those children."

Meanwhile, grieving parents have formed a collective to offer a reward for a return for their missing children. "I just want my baby back!" said Margaret Tawas, mother of one of the missing children. "We've got money, if that's what you want. Please, I just want my baby back. Please."

Names of the missing children have been withheld, because they are minors. Amber alerts have been issued nationwide.

Gas Station Vandalized

By: Carl Klunk

LONG BEACH – A man was arrested for attempted arson at a Shell gas station in Long Beach on Thursday night. The man, who remains unidentified by police, is thought to have connection with the Crips gang and that the attack was aimed at gang members in rival territory. This information undercuts speculation of terrorist or anti-Arab factions. The man's identity has not yet been released by the police.

Acclaim for "Lilies, Trains"

By: Christine Kong

LOS ANGELES – Local writer

Anne J. Phips has set the poetry world abuzz with her book of children's poems, *Lillies in the Spring, Trains in the Fall*. If one had to draw the co-ordinates for Phips they might intersect about the point where Ginny O'Harahan met Leo Mazin, though without the latter's more intimate knowledge of bloodiness and tyranny. At best they communicate a kind of blessedness like a drunk man dancing along a tightrope. It is not an easy act to pull off, especially in a way understandable to children. The balance between whimsy and unease is delicate, and cultivating it does not necessarily make for lightness, or rather it can make for the wrong kind of lightness in which all the clarity, and all the music, remains but somehow the counterbalance of unease is left lying by the roadside and the tightrope walker falls off.

Designer Drug Invasion Deepens

By: Donald Krumm

The rash of violent crime and overdoses that has swept through the Los Angeles club scene continues to worsen as so-called "designer drugs" take hold. Addicts and thrill-seekers have found an impure and dangerous fix as the home-cooked drugs are marketed under designer names intended to appeal to the fashionable set – names like, "Sleek", "Pale" and "Fantasia".

DEA officials report that the recent and dramatic uptick in dominance of

the illicit drug trade by designer drugs is caused by a mysterious kingpin figure that they have as yet to identify, but who is responsible for much of the coordination between previously hostile groups of criminals. "In the past we've always been able to count on the Russians and the Japanese fight each other over the scraps the Mafia leaves. But these days? It's like they've formed some sort of business partnership. It makes it hard to crack – they present a united front, and unless we get lucky, we can't prosecute." said Detective Ken Christian. "No evidence, no crime, right? No rivalry, no evidence."

Police officials urge drug users to avoid the dangerous home-cooked drugs that qualify as "designer drugs". "They're made in labs that are very unsafe, anything for a buck." said detective Christian. "We have to get this stuff off the streets. People are dying."

Chupacabras Killer Strikes Again

By: Chris Kork



TORRANCE – A girl remains in critical condition after being attacked and partially drained of blood by an unknown assailant. Many are pointing to the Chupacabras Killer as the culprit, though police continue to deny any knowledge of the alleged

murders. The circumstances of the recent assault have not come to light. Currently the victim remains comatose at Harbor General hospital.

Gunman Infiltrates Daily Breeze

By: Carol Kanning

TORRANCE – An unidentified man entered the Daily Breeze offices at night on Tuesday and held the IT department at gunpoint. No one was injured, though three shots were fired and caused minor property damage. The suspect fled when informed that the police had been notified. Witnesses claim that the man was likely unstable and delusional, as he made several references to conspiracies and supernatural phenomena.

After Long Hiatus, Walken Strikes Again

by: Don Kamp

Actor Christopher Walken, implicated in a summer series of bizarre crimes, has struck again after a period of inactivity. Thursday night Amber's Chicken & Donuts was assaulted by the actor, who first shook down patrons for their money, wallets, and "hot dogs", reported witnesses. "Yeah, he really wanted us to give him hot dogs. No idea what that was about." said victim Michael Onhix. "What was with the hot dogs? He also really seemed to be offended by the chicken and donuts – like they were the same dish. But they're not. It's donuts in the morning, see? And then chicken

for lunch."



Witnesses reported that Walken then chased them out of the Encino restaurant, shouting something about "scary feet" and set fire to the place.

Police have requested that Mr. Walken surrender himself for questioning, though his agent insists he was in Reykjavik, Finland for an all Finnish production of "Fiddler On The Roof" at the time of the attack.

OOC Note: Stories have a byline. The initials of the writer of a story will match up to the ST running that storyline.

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