

## Slasher director murdered, buried under his home

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Al Adamson, a B-movie director whose films included *Five Bloody Graves* and *Satan's Sadists*, was found murdered and buried underneath his house.

The body of the 66-year-old Adamson was discovered Wednesday in Indio, about 150 miles southeast of Los Angeles, Indio police said Monday.

Police issued a homicide arrest warrant for a contractor who had been living at Adamson's home while remodeling it. Fred Huford, 46, traveled to Florida about a week before Adamson was reported missing, police said.

Police have not established a motive for the slaying or a cause of death. An autopsy was scheduled for Wednesday.

Adamson's brother contacted police after the director was missing for five weeks. After examining the construction work at his home, police took up the flooring and unearthed the body.

The son of a filmmaker, Adamson made his reputation with drive-in movies in the 1960s and '70s, most of them with horror or science-fiction themes.

Among his better-known cult works was the 1971 spoof *Dracula vs. Frankenstein*, the last movie made by Lon Chaney Jr.

He also directed *Hell's Bloody Devils*, *Blood of Dracula's Castle*, *Horror of the Blood Monsters*, *The Female Bunch*, *The Brain of Blood*, *The Naughty Stewardesses* and *Stud Brown*, among many others.

Survivors include his brother and two sisters.

## Miss Delaware is a four-time loser in Miss N.J. pageant

GEORGETOWN, Del. (AP) — A four-time loser in the Miss New Jersey pageant is finally

## Stranger than fiction

going to the Miss America pageant — representing Delaware.

After weeks of accusations by two losers in the state contest regarding her eligibility, Michelle Harris released a packet of documents Monday to prove she met the six-month residency requirement.

The Delaware flap marked the third recent Miss America controversy.

In Virginia, Andrea Ballengee was dethroned amid claims she exaggerated her credentials. In Maryland, Linda Yueh was stripped of her title as first runner-up after pageant officials questioned whether she was a resident of Washington, D.C.

Thomas Barnett, state pageant attorney, said the losers who challenged Harris' June 3 victory need to let it go and "go on with their lives."

"Miss Harris won fair and square and she should be allowed to enjoy her victory. Instead, she has been continually under attack since the very moment her selection was announced," he said.

Miss America contestants must be either a full-time student or have worked full time in the state for six months. Or, they must have lived in the state for six months prior to winning a preliminary pageant — another requirement of the national organization.

At a news conference in Georgetown, where Barnett's office is located, Harris released copies of her lease, utility and college bills, and the rental truck contract her father signed to move her into her apartment in Newark, Del., from Marmora, N.J.

Harris, who enrolled in continuing education classes at the University of Delaware, denied she moved to Delaware just to compete in the pageant in

Atlantic City, where Miss America will be crowned Sept. 16. Harris, 24, graduated from Duke University.

"I moved to Delaware to start going to school and trying to get those classes so I could enroll in an M.B.A. program," she said.

## Italy now trying to shake image of 'pinching Italian'

ROME (AP) — The Italian male who pinched women's behinds is a vanishing species.

Far from extinct, though, is the breed who stares and pesters, making it often uncomfortable to be foreign, female and solo, especially in the slow-to-change south.

With spring and the first wave of tourists, young men known as "pappagalli" (parrots) perch on Rome's Spanish Steps or flit around the Naples train station repeating pickup lines in broken English: "What time, please?" "You smoke?" "Dance tonight?"

Young Italian men, yielding to changing social mores, are less likely to lay a hand on a female visitor than in years past, but the stereotype of the pinching Italian dies hard. Some cities — in an effort to erase that reputation and attract more tourists — are trying to help make women traveling alone feel at ease.

Several places in Campania, the region around Naples, are offering freebies to women, such as night fishing excursions and theater tickets. Likewise, a town near the Greek ruins at Paestum called Agropoli is letting women into plays, variety shows and other entertainment for free.

Perhaps the biggest effort is being made in the southern port city of Salerno, where a disco owner began organizing volunteers — mostly men — to escort singles on outings to such places as Capri's Blue Grotto.

The group, called "Gentle-

man," advertises in the Salerno tourist office and matches tourists with volunteers based on age, interests and language, said Annapaola Appicola, who works for the group.

## Cockroach proves no wildcat's been stalking England

LONDON (AP) — Believers in the Beast of Bodmin Moor held up a skull as proof that a big cat was killing livestock. A cockroach proved them wrong.

A team of entomologists and zoologists from the Natural History Museum in London studied the skull, which was found on the moor in Cornwall two weeks ago, and released their findings on Monday:

- The skull belonged to a young male Indian leopard.
- The cat had probably never been near Bodmin Moor.

The critical clue: inside the skull was an egg case from a tropical cockroach that does not exist in England.

"The conclusion is that this particular leopard skull came to Cornwall only by human agency, and it is most unlikely that it has been in the river where it was recently discovered for any appreciable length of time," the report said.

Douglas Richardson, assistant director of mammals at the London Zoo, said the findings didn't shake his belief that big cats are on the loose in southwestern England.

"The evidence that I have examined over the years, coupled with the first-hand observations of some very credible witnesses, leaves me in no doubt about their existence," he said.

In July, Britain's Ministry of Agriculture said six months of research had found no evidence that there are big cats on Bodmin Moor. The ministry said videotapes showing cats prowling the area appeared to be pictures of domestic pets.

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