

Planetarium offers live images of Mars

Casual Mars observers have the perfect opportunity to be brought up to date on the latest from the Red Planet, Lane ESD Planetarium officials say.

The planetarium, located at 2300 Leo Harris Parkway, will download live images from NASA's Mars rover mission.

Images 20 feet by 20 feet will be projected onto the dome screen in the planetarium during the Mars program at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday.

"We are providing what we think are the latest images and information on the excitement that is taking place," planetarium Director Jon Elvert said.

After the presentation by the

TODAY'S NEWS

BRIEFLY

planetarium staff, astronomer John Dobson will give an outdoor viewing session of Mars, Venus and other celestial bodies.

The planetarium has about 125 seats and has sold out similar shows before.

Tickets go on sale at 7 p.m. Sunday. Officials recommend showing up at least 15 minutes before the show to be guaranteed a ticket. Tickets can be reserved by calling 461-8227 by 5 p.m. Friday. The price is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children.

Festival: Treasury did not issue license

Continued from Page 1

the Cuban peoples what it means as a special period of time in Cuba due to the blockade."

Fox is referring to the U.S. blockade imposed on Cuba by the Helms-Burton Act.

"Technically the act prevents people from going to Cuba. It's legal to travel to Cuba, but you can't spend any money there," she said. "You're not allowed to go if you spend money unless you have a special license granted by the U.S. Department of the Treasury."

However, the Department of the Treasury denied licenses for the students' travel to Cuba. "The reason they denied it was because it was not an educational festival," Fox said.

"[The Treasury Department] received many letters from the international community who were appalled that they had denied the licenses," she said.

One student, who preferred to remain anonymous,

remained optimistic. "I feel that they will eventually give us the license to travel," he said. "I feel that they will reverse their decision. We're just trying to work toward world peace. I don't know why they won't let us go to Cuba and work on issues of health care and education, economic democracy and environmental protection."

He and nearly 1,000 Americans still plan on attending.

"Even if the students had received a license, they still couldn't make a financial transaction in Cuba. The license would just give it a sanction," Fox said.

However, the danger of prosecution is real. "Universities have been asked to release the names of students who go to Cuba without licenses," Fox said.

Steven Pinter, chief of licensing at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, was not available this week for comment.

Was it mistaken or stolen identity?

OAKLAND, Calif. — Neighbors rallied around drug-fighting activist Stevie Allman when her home was firebombed. The governor even offered a \$50,000 reward to catch the vengeful dealers suspected in the attack.

But then a badly decomposed body was found in a freezer in the charred ruins. And now police say the woman claiming to be Ms. Allman is really her sister.

The sister is suspected of killing Ms. Allman and stealing her identity, perhaps to cash her pension checks.

"This is the stuff of a Hollywood movie," Capt. Peter Dunbar said.

Sarah Allman, 47 — who is similar in height and build to her 52-year-old sister — was booked Wednesday for investigation of murder, forgery and giving a false name to police.

Although the body found in the freezer was so decomposed that police could not say for sure the identity, sex and cause of death, it was widely believed to be that of Stevie, who had lived with her sister for 20 years.

After the July 1 firebombing, authorities reported that Stevie Allman had been hospitalized for burns. The speculation was that she was the victim of neighborhood drug pushers angry that she videotaped their deals and turned the evidence over to police.

After the fire, she was seen by the neighborhood as a hero who literally risked her skin to fight drugs. Gov. Pete Wilson offered a \$50,000 award for the conviction of those involved in the burning, and the woman who said she was Stevie issued a statement blaming neighborhood dealers.

"I have no doubt they intended to murder me and burn the house down on top of me," the state-

STRANGER THAN FICTION

ment said. "Their warped minds thought the act would clear the way to do their dirty dealing ... and at the same time scare everyone else along 50th Avenue and beyond into a submissive terrified slave state."

"From the beginning, she's seemed like a crime victim" Dunbar said.

But police began to doubt the story last week, and reopened the case. On Tuesday, detectives aided by a search dog found the body in the freezer.

At that point, the woman claiming to be Stevie was brought in for questioning. After police told her they had her fingerprints from a 1971 prostitution arrest, the woman admitted she was Sarah, one of 11 Allman siblings.

Detectives said Sarah had apparently been using Stevie's identification for up to two years. They speculated that it may have been Sarah, not Stevie, who provided the drug deal tapes, and they say they have determined it was Sarah, not Stevie, who was the one hospitalized for burns after the firebombing.

Police said the burns Sarah suffered to her arms and legs were "splash burns," which usually happen when an arsonist sets a fire.

Man attacks City Hall official with hatchet

BUFFALO, N.Y. — A man who frequently visited City Hall to challenge Buffalo's environmental policies attacked a city employee with a hatchet, putting a one-inch gash in the victim's forehead, police said.

Vincent J. DiPasquale, 56, was arrested immediately, after calmly agreeing to accompany another city employee into a coffee break room. He was jailed on charges of assault and possession of a weapon.

"We don't know what state of mind he was in," Lt. Duane Rizzo said. "All of the sudden he went totally bonkers and pulled a hatchet out of the backpack he had with him."

Anthony Luppino, 47, a Planning Division employee, received stitches after the attack in his office Tuesday.

DiPasquale left the ax behind in Luppino's office and was "almost in a stupor" as he awaited police, City Planner Frank Manuele said.

DiPasquale worked as a biologist in West Virginia before waging an unsuccessful bid for Congress in 1982. But in recent years he had become familiar to many City Hall employees as a frequent caller and visitor.

"He kind of went downhill," said Steve Banko, a spokesman for Mayor Anthony Masiello. "He really became unglued."

DiPasquale was once ejected from an Environmental Management Commission meeting for banging his head on a table in a protest against the board's activity, Banko said.

Correction

The page one headline in Tuesday's *Emerald* should have read "Graduate students may lose tax benefit for tuition."

Olympic double-gold medalist Michael Johnson was incorrectly identified in Tuesday's *Emerald*. Olympian Jon Drummond was the athlete pictured.

The *Emerald* regrets the errors.

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