

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Charges Wait in Jackson Death

Decision will come from D.A.

(AP) -- It's been almost three months since Michael Jackson's shocking death, and while Los Angeles police are close to wrapping up their investigation, the decision on whether to bring criminal charges is at least weeks and perhaps months away, legal experts say.

Last month the Los Angeles County coroner ruled Jackson's June 25 death a homicide caused primarily by the powerful anesthetic propofol in combination with the sedative lorazepam. Both were administered in Jackson's mansion by his personal physician, Dr. Conrad Murray.

Murray is the target of what police term a manslaughter investigation but the probe is far broader, encompassing a half-dozen doctors who treated Jackson over the years. Police and federal Drug Enforcement Ad-

ministration agents are trying to reconstruct Jackson's extensive drug history, a task made more difficult because the pop star used pseudonyms to obtain medications.

Tracking down where Jackson got drugs, who provided them, how much his prior drug use contributed to his death and lining up experts to distill complex medical information into layman's terms for a jury is time-consuming.

"There's no reason for anyone to jump the gun on this," said Greg D. Lee, a retired supervising DEA agent. "Time is on their side. There's no imminent danger to the public from Dr. Murray."

The decision on criminal charges will come from the Los Angeles County district attorney's office. Spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons said a request for charges comes after a po-



Michael Jackson

lice investigation is completed and prosecutors examine the evidence themselves. "We haven't been presented with anything," she said.

Except for a brief video posted to YouTube, Murray has not spoken publicly since Jackson's death. In the video, he said: "I told the truth and I have faith the truth will prevail."

Murray's attorney, Edward Chernoff, did not return a message seeking comment but pre-

viously has said nothing Murray gave Jackson "should have" killed him.

Murray has been interviewed twice by police. According to court records, he told investigators that over about six hours he injected Jackson with two doses each of lorazepam and midazolam. Finally, around 10:40 a.m. on June 25, Murray said he succumbed to Jackson's demands and administered propofol, a drug Murray said he had given Jackson every night for six weeks to allow him to sleep.

The coroner's finding of homicide, or death at the hands of another, does not automatically mean a crime was committed. To bring a manslaughter charge, prosecutors must show there was a reckless action that created a risk of death or great bodily injury. If a doctor is aware of the risk, there might also be an issue of whether the patient knows that risk and decided to take it.

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Neil Simon's Rumors

Rumors, a comedy by Neil Simon, will be performed Oct. 7-11 and 14-15 in the Hunt Center Theater on the University of Portland campus, 5000 N. Willamette Blvd. All performances from Wednesday through Saturday are at 7:30 p.m., and the Sunday performance is at 2 p.m.

The play, directed by graduate student Jennifer Hunter, opens with four high society couples attending Charlie and Myra Brock's anniversary party. Upon their arrival, they find the

servants gone, the hostess missing and Charlie lying upstairs with an accidental gunshot wound to the earlobe.

Hilarity ensues as the friends frantically try to protect their host, who is the deputy mayor of New York, and themselves by hiding these events from the world. As this side-splitting farce unfolds, secrets are revealed and complications mount.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. For reservations, call 503-943-7287.



Stephanie Bayne (from left), Brian Burger, Jamie Kluth, and Devin Olson star in 'Rumors,' set to open Oct. 7 in the Hunt Center Theater on the University of Portland campus.

Famed Singer was Civil Rights Activist

Mary Travers of Peter, Paul and Mary dies

(AP) -- Mary Travers, one-third of the hugely popular 1960s folk trio Peter, Paul and Mary, is being remembered after her death at age 72.

Travers died Sept. 16 after battling leukemia for several years.

She joined forces with Peter Yarrow and Noel Paul Stookey to mingle music with liberal politics, both onstage and off. Their



Folk group Peter, Paul and Mary perform on stage in the mid-1980s.

version of "If I Had a Hammer" became an anthem for racial equality. Other hits included "Lemon Tree," "Leaving on a

Jet Plane" and "Puff (The Magic Dragon)."

They were early champions of Bob Dylan and performed his "Blowin' in the Wind" at the August 1963 March on Washington.

And they were vehement in their opposition to the Vietnam War, managing to stay true to their liberal beliefs while creating music that resonated in the American mainstream.

The group collected five Grammy Awards for their three-part harmony on enduring songs like "Leaving on a Jet Plane," "Puff (The Magic Dragon)" and "Blowin' in the Wind."

At one point in 1963, three of their albums were in the top six Billboard best-selling LPs as they became the biggest stars of the folk revival movement.

"Blowin' In the Wind" became another civil rights anthem, and Peter, Paul and Mary fully embraced the cause. They marched with King in Selma, Ala., and performed with him in Washington, D.C.

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Film to Profile Obama's Mom



This 1960's photo shows President Barack Obama as a young child with his mother Stanley Ann Dunham.

(AP) -- President Barack Obama often is greeted like a movie star, but it's his mother who will be the subject of an upcoming documentary.

"Stanley Ann Dunham: A Most Generous Spirit" would go into production next year, with an expected 2011 release.

The movie will focus on Dunham, who went by Ann, for her role as the president's mother. But it will also be about her work with micro-finance, helping women in Third World countries. She died of cancer in 1995 at 52.

Johnny Sanders Benefit Sunday

Many Portland musicians are gathering Sunday, Sept. 27 at the M & M Lounge in Gresham to raise money to help keyboard player Johnny Sanders with his health care expenses.

Johnny and his brother Jimmy have been mainstays on the Portland music scene since the 1960s, playing with many local musicians such as Linda Hornbuckle, Patrick Lamb and the Triclops Organ Trio.

Johnny moved to Nashville, Tenn. about three years ago to take a position in the house band at BB King's nightclub. He also had a full calendar of stu-

dio sessions with Nashville-based national recording artists.

After he was diagnosed with liver cancer, Johnny moved back to Portland to fight this battle with his children at his side.

Norman Sylvester, Lloyd Jones and an eclectic mix of blues and jazz musicians will perform at Sunday's benefit from 3 pm until 1 a.m. at the M & M Lounge, 137 Main St., Gresham. Area residents are invited to attend and enjoy tons of good music and support a great musician when he is in need of financial help.

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