

# Creepers' sequel beats trend of unscary flicks

By Kam Williams

Special to Sentinel-Voice

According to legend, every 23rd spring, the Creeper, a winged, man-eating monster, returns for a 23-day reign of terror. Just a couple of years ago, the ancient demon devoured terrified teens on a grisly rampage in search of organs and appendages to regenerate his aged body parts. Since that original chiller thriller was such a big box office surprise, the producers have already figured out a way to have the creature return without waiting another 23 years.

Thus, we have Jeepers Creepers 2, another low budget, high body count slasher flick from Victor Salva, the talented writer/director who specializes in fright fare. Mr. Salva has carved out a career in scary movies by producing a string of pictures with names like Something in the Basement and The Hatchet Man. You may remember that this once promising filmmaker found himself caught in a cloud of controversy after it came to light that he had taped himself raping the 12 year-old boy who starred in his Halloween screamer called Clownhouse.

Although the pedophile was ultimately convicted of the crime and served a brief stint in prison, some still found it offensive that after his parole Disney decided to underwrite Powder, his next film. After all, the Disney name happens to be forever associated with the best in



It Ain't the Heartless Scarecrow From the Wizard of Oz: "Jeepers Creepers 2" has scared moviegoers nationwide.

wholesome family entertainment. But the picket lines only seemed to add to Salva's notoriety and to revitalize his dormant career. This made it hard to tell whether with his subsequent release, Rite of Passage, he was exorcising demons or thumbing his nose at Hollywood, given its semi-autobiographical themes linking homosexuality, criminality and child abuse.

Today, with Jeepers Creepers 2 the #1 movie in the nation, I suppose that most

must consider the sick side of Salva's past to be totally behind him. But personally, sitting in the theater, I found it hard to forget the rape because of the movie's unseemly fixation on the male teen form. During the film, Salva seizes on every excuse to have the basketball team at the center of the story shed their shirts to show off their sculpted chests. Meanwhile, the fully clothed female cheerleaders are treated al-

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# Schools fire Snoop Dogg bodyguards

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) - The city school board has voted to fire eight part-time school police officers, including four who were moonlighting as bodyguards for rapper Snoop Dogg when an unknown gunman shot at his convoy in April.

After a four-hour closed session, the board voted 4-1 to fire reserve officers Leslie Gaulden, Randy Robinson and Kenny Archer, all of whom worked for the rapper. Officer and Snoop Dogg bodyguard Marcus Thompson, arrested on weapons charges after an incident at the BET Awards show in Hollywood, was fired last week.

Board members declined to comment on the decision, but interim school police chief Wesley Mitchell said

the fired officers did not have adequate background checks. Mitchell has been pushing to step up background checks and said he is drafting a policy to limit officers' off-duty work.

About a third of the 32 full-time and reserve Inglewood Unified School District officers have guarded Snoop Dogg, a convicted felon whose real name is Calvin Broadus.

Their bodyguard jobs came under scrutiny after several were detained when police and federal agents pulled over vehicles that dropped Snoop Dogg off at the BET Awards in June. Authorities confiscated drugs and weapons from the vehicles, which included an armored van.

Joe Picou, president of an Inglewood school officers

union, told the school board before its Wednesday vote that the officers should not be fired.

Picou said he had hired the men in his former role as a supervisor.

"I conducted the background checks on most of them," he said. "They are qualified."

Six Inglewood schools officers this week filed a civil lawsuit claiming the district discriminated against them because they are black and that their former chief threatened to fire them after they complained.

"They've been trying to get rid of my officers long before the Snoop Dogg incidents," said attorney Craig Byrnes, who filed the lawsuit in Los Angeles Superior Court.

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