

New scandal added to exhibit controversy

NEW YORK (AP) — City officials have fired another round in their escalating fight with the Brooklyn Museum of Art, accusing the museum of displaying controversial work to drive up its value.

The accusations made Wednesday by Deputy Mayor Joseph Lhota and the city's top lawyer, Michael Hess, came a day after the museum sued to stop Mayor Rudolph Giuliani from freezing its funding over the dispute.

Giuliani has threatened to cut city funding to the museum because of its decision to display an exhibit that includes a black Madonna decorated with elephant dung and pornographic cutouts. The funding amounts to \$7 million or about one-third of the museum's budget.

The pieces are from advertising executive Charles Saatchi's collection. Lhota and Hess said the museum planned the "Sensation" exhibition, working behind the scenes with Christie's auction house, so the works would fetch high prices at auction once the show closes. Christie's is helping sponsor the exhibit.

The museum's board members are "shilling for a British subject who is a multimillionaire and trying to enhance his art collection," Lhota said.

He cited a New York Observer article that said after the show closed in London, Saatchi auctioned 128 pieces from his collection, many of them by artists in the show. Giuliani, on a fund-raising trip

in California, said he had been in touch with Lhota and Hess about their accusations. He said the project raised the question whether a publicly funded museum should engage in "shock commercialization."

Frederick Goetzen, spokesman for Christie's in London, said that in December 1998, "We sold 130 works from the Saatchi collection to create bursaries (scholarships) for young artists." He said none of the works sold were in the "Sensation" exhibit, but a number of them were by artists featured in the show.

But Andree Corroon, a spokeswoman for Christie's in New York, said the house had no plans for an auction afterward.

"This bewildering accusation has absolutely no substance, is absolutely not true," she said.

In a statement, the museum called the accusations "preposterous and misleading."

Meanwhile, a federal judge has been asked to decide whether to restore the museum's funding. The museum sued the city on Tuesday, saying Giuliani's act violates the First Amendment.

In Washington, the Senate agreed unanimously Wednesday to a non-binding measure calling for the withholding of federal funds from the museum unless it cancels the exhibit.

Independent Sen. Bob Smith of New Hampshire said the museum had received \$500,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts in the last three years.

Watson to perform at Lied

■ The musician, best known for his modern jazz group, Horizon, is a UNL graduate.

BY DANELL MCCOY
Staff writer

Bobby Watson's love for music began during elementary school and continued well after that.

"I was very ambitious," Watson said in a press release. "By the time I was in junior high, I had learned the fingering on the French horn and flute and the slide position on the trombone."

Even before learning all of these techniques, Watson had already learned to play the piano, clarinet and tenor saxophone.

Tonight, Watson will show off his talents in a performance at the Lied Center for Performing Arts, 301 N. 12th St.

Although Watson is known to play works in various contexts, he is best known for his modern jazz group, Horizon.

Horizon, which includes a 17-piece ensemble known as the Tailor Made Band, was formed by Watson shortly after he left another group in 1981.

But his performing abilities go way beyond the Horizon.

Watson co-formed his own

record company, New Notes, in 1983, played lead alto for the Spike Lee film "School Daze" and has served as Bill Cosby's musical partner.

Watson's newest releases, "Midwest Shuffle" and "Urban Renewal," are his 18th and 19th recordings and represent his individually flexible style with sounds that include pop, swing, classical and funk.

"I'm discovering that my mission is not only to make music but to reach out to people of different backgrounds, touch them through music and maybe help bring them together," Watson said in a press release.

Joining Watson for his performance will be acclaimed percussionist and composer Victor Lewis, Omaha native and former University of Nebraska-Lincoln student.

During his senior year at UNL, Lewis left school and moved to Minneapolis. There he worked with a cabaret show to earn enough money to move to New York.

Lewis, who began studying music at the age of 10, arrived in New York almost a year later in 1974.

It was during his first gig that Lewis met trumpeter Woody Shaw. He joined Shaw's band and made his recording debut on Shaw's classic album "The Moontrain."

It didn't take long for Lewis to make a name for himself in the

Lied Center The Facts

What: Bobby Watson and Horizon featuring Victor Lewis
Where: Lied Center, 301 N. 12th St.
When: Friday 8:00 p.m.
Cost: \$30, \$26, \$22
The Skinny: Bobby Watson and Victor Lewis return with their jazz group

music business.

Soon Lewis was busy playing with such musicians as Joe Farrell, Earl Klugh, Hubert Laws, Carla Bley and David Sanborn.

It was while playing with Sanborn that Lewis' writing skills were first noticed.

By the end of the '80s, Lewis was one of the busiest jazz freelance musicians in the music business.

Lewis acts as a co-leader with Watson for Horizon and also plays with the Kenny Barron Quintet.

Watson, Lewis and the Kenny Barron Quintet first appeared at the Lied Center in November 1993.

Tonight Watson and Lewis will be performing with Horizon.

Before the performance, pre-performance talks will be held in the Lied's Steinhart Room at 55 and 30 minutes before curtain.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. performance are \$30, \$26 and \$22. Student tickets are available for half price.

'Alison's House' opens at Wesleylan tonight

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forming the play in New York now too, Chipman said.

The play highlights the fourth year of Wesleylan's commitment to present historic plays by women playwrights.

Chipman said the 12 cast members had impressed him with their dedication.

"We put it together in just over four weeks. They're an excellent cast dealing with a difficult production and the language of the 1890s," he said.

Theatre Preview The Facts

What: "Alison's House"
Where: McDonald Theater
When: 8 p.m. tonight, Saturday and Oct. 8-9, 2 p.m. Oct. 10
Cost: \$5
The Skinny: Nineteenth century family contemplates the arrival of the 1900s.

"Alison's House" will be performed tonight and Saturday, and Oct. 8 and 9 at 8 p.m., and on Oct. 10 at 2 p.m. For tickets, call the McDonald Theater Box Office at (402) 465-2384.

Breathtaking docudrama tells stirring Tibetan tale

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half of the cast chose to withhold their names from the credits.

One of the film's four main actors is a woman named Dadon who fled Tibet by crossing the Himalayan Mountains on foot, as many other Tibetans have over the years.

The film itself is breathtaking, in the truest sense of the word. It is an homage to the 1.2 million Tibetans who have been killed by government forces since China first invaded

Tibet. The film also comes as a cry for help from the millions who face assimilation or extinction every day.

The Chinese government has condemned "Windhorse" and has continually taken steps to prevent it from being shown at film festivals and theaters around America. We should feel lucky the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater is showing it, even though it's playing only this weekend.

A portion of the profits from the film go to some of the main Tibetan charities in Nepal.

'I Am The Walrus' lyrics auctioned off for \$129,000

LONDON (AP) — Sold! Goo goo ga joob.

The lyrics for John Lennon's "I Am The Walrus" sold for \$129,000 in an auction at Christie's on Thursday. The lyric sheet contains 20 lines of the 1967 Beatles classic and was sold to an anonymous telephone bidder.

The sheet contains Lennon's notes and changes, including the deletion of the word "policeman," which was changed to "priestess."

The lyrics are believed to have been inspired by the Lewis Carroll poem "The Walrus and the Carpenter."

George Harrison's 1962 Rickenbacker guitar also went to an anonymous bidder for \$92,900.

Other top sellers included an Elvis Presley shirt, worn in the 1970 movie "Elvis — That's the Way It Is."

It went for nearly \$32,900. Presley's cream-colored stage suit sold for \$20,800.

Motorist who hit Stephen King indicted

■ The driver was charged with aggravated assault, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

PARIS, Maine (AP) — The driver who hit horror writer Stephen King was indicted by a grand jury Thursday on charges of aggravated assault and driving to endanger.

The Oxford County grand jury found that Bryan E. Smith "did recklessly cause serious bodily injury to

Stephen King" as the author was walking along a country road June 19 in Lovell, Maine.

Aggravated assault carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. The other charge could bring Smith up to six months in prison.

King, who was walking against traffic while reading a book, was thrown 14 feet and suffered multiple broken bones and a collapsed lung. He is recovering at his home.

King has said he believed Smith was a danger to himself and others

and should not be allowed to drive.

Smith, 42, told police he lost control of his Dodge Caravan because he was distracted by his dog and has called the incident "an accident without a cause." Smith has said that he was very sorry for what happened but that the accident should not be treated as a crime.

District Attorney Norman Croteau said the case was not reviewed differently than any other case in which a pedestrian was injured.

Playboy interview nets Ventura enemies

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Anyone who was NOT offended by Gov. Jesse Ventura's Playboy interview, please raise your hand.

The former pro wrestler gave an interview in which he aimed barbs at religion and fat people and declared the Navy's Tailhook scandal was overblown.

On Thursday, the morning after the interview became public, Ventura got the tag-team treatment from both his political opponents and his own party.

State Republican chairman Ron Eibensteiner said Ventura should consider stepping down because his "attacks show he has a fundamental lack of understanding of the world he lives in."

The Body defended his comments by saying: "This is Playboy. They want you to be provocative."

In it, Ventura called for the regulation of illegal drugs, with the creation of "places where the addict can go get it."

He pronounced organized religion "a sham and a crutch for weak-minded people," and blamed it for the unpopularity of legalized prostitution. He declared Tailhook was "much ado about nothing" and claimed fat people "can't push away from the table."

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