

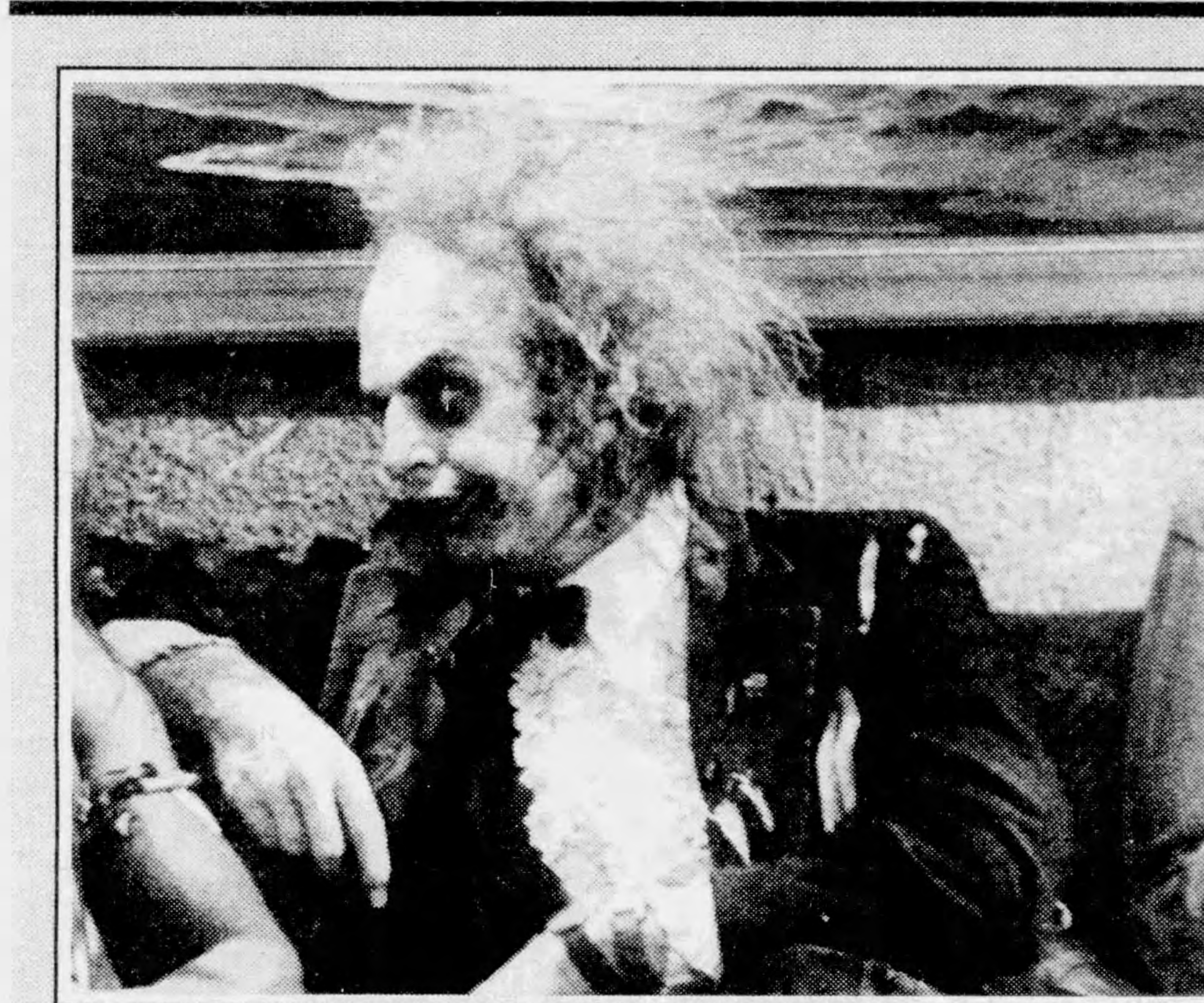
By Michael Fleming, Karen Freifeld and Susan Mulcahy

## Indictments Spur Talent Agency Sale

Less than one month before he goes to trial on charges of mail fraud, racketeering, extortion, and perjury in connection with his signing up college athletes as clients, agent **Norby Walters** has sold his entertainment talent agency, General Talent International (GTI). **Walters**, who has pleaded innocent to the charges, was a well established agent for musical acts when he tried to expand his business into sports and became the center of several college sports scandals when it was discovered he paid money to student athletes who had signed contracts to be represented by him, a violation of NCAA rules. Later allegations had the agent threatening former clients with violence for breaking contracts. GTI has been purchased for an undisclosed sum by agency president **Jerry Ade**, who has retitled it Famous Artists Agency. Most of the client roster has remained with the agency, including **Patti LaBelle**, **Run-D.M.C.**, **Taylor Dayne**, and **Tiffany**. A few acts have defected, including **Luther Vandross** and **Kool and the Gang**, both of whom have signed up with **Sal Michaels**, another principal in GTI, who has opened his own company, Pyramid Entertainment. **Walters** and his former partner, **Lloyd Bloom**, will be tried in U.S. District Court in Chicago on February 27. **Ade** said **Walters**' legal troubles were a factor in the deal. "Of course, it provided the impetus for me to make the offer and go further with it," he said. **Ade**, whose goal is to increase the agency's \$30 million annual volume to \$100 million within five years, said **Walters** would have no role in the new agency.

## Media-genic MDs

Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx has had its ups and downs recently, but, hey, at least the staff is good-looking. The Health and Hospitals Corporation's medical and professional affairs corporation has hired **Larry Sorkin Associates** of Brooklyn to produce a \$9,400 training video for operating room workers.



Michael Keaton in "Beetlejuice"

## Animated 'Juice'

It didn't work with "Dirty Dancing," but that hasn't stopped Warner Brothers from attempting to turn a hit film into a TV series. After auditioning several animation companies, WB has selected the Toronto-based company **Nelvana** to turn "Beetlejuice," which was directed by **Tim Burton** and starred **Michael Keaton**, into an animated series for ABC this fall. "We're producing 13 half-hour shows with **Tim Burton**," said **Stan Blum**, exec veep of **Nelvana**. "Right now Warner Brothers is trying to get **Michael Keaton** to do his character's voice." **Burton**, who also directed **Keaton** as the eponymous star of the upcoming "Batman," is also trying to get **Keaton** involved, said **Blum**. **Burton**, **Blum** explained, came from an animation background, and is very involved in the new series.

The video will be made at Lincoln Hospital. "Why Lincoln?" asked HHC Board Chairman **Paul Henry** at a meeting where the contract was voted on last Thursday. "They are the most photogenic," said **Beverly Bonaparte**, HHC vice president for nursing services. In May, **Sorkin** filmed a \$9,855 HHC nursing recruitment film at Lincoln, she said. **Sorkin's** contract, which will be paid out of \$75,000 state Department of Labor grant, has not yet been approved by the full HHC board.

## Money Bering North

Don't call **Eddie Money** a fair weather rock and roller. Money will be braving the elements to play a benefit concert in Alaska celebrating the opening of the borders of the Bering Strait, which separates Alaska from the Soviet Union. Also playing with Money at the Feb 26th concert will be **Stas Namin**, commonly called the Soviet Springsteen. When asked if a mid-winter concert in Alaska,

where temperatures dipped to 80 below recently, was stretching *glasnost* a bit too far, benefit producer **George Lichter** said: "I'm in California, and it's snowing here. We're getting that cold front they had. There's snow on the beach in Malibu. Right now it's just as warm in Anchorage." Oh.

## Kind, Gentle Trump?

Pass the smelling salts. **Donald Trump** has done something kind and generous. The real estate developer has purchased a \$10,000 table for "Put a Little Love in Your Heart," next Thursday's star-studded benefit for the homeless at the Sheraton Centre. He won't be taking up any of the 10 seats, however. Instead, **Trump** is turning his table over to homeless kids. **Robin Givens** has done the same thing, giving her \$10,000 table to a another group of homeless children. The event, which will benefit two homeless organizations, **Paul Simon's Children's Health Fund** and **Andrew Cuomo's HELP** housing project, will feature

performances by **Robin Williams**, **Ruth Brown**, **Ladysmith Black Mambazo** and **Simon**, who is reuniting the "Graceland" band for the evening. **Warners** chairman **Steve Ross**, **Saturday Night Live's Lorne Michaels** and **Jane Pauley** and **Garry Trudeau** are among the others who have purchased tables for the event.

## It's a Mad, Mad Book

Long before **Spy**, or even the **Lam-poon**, there was **Mad** magazine. "The History of Mad," a book about America's most subversive humor magazine, has been sold to **Little, Brown**, and will be illustrated with some of the mag's distinctive covers. **Bill Gaines**, publisher of **Mad** since its inception in 1952, will be cooperating on the book, due out in 1990, with writer **Maria Ridelbach**, who previously co-authored a book on miniature golf, the cover of which was made of genuine **AstroTurf**.

Edited by Susan Mulcahy

## PEOPLE

### Ex-Justice Powell's pneumonia is 'improving'



Former Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr.

**Lewis F. Powell Jr.**, a retired Supreme Court justice, is steadily improving from his bout with pneumonia, but doctors have not determined when he can leave the hospital, a spokeswoman said yesterday.

"He's been resting. He's real alert, and he looked great," said **Cindy Hamilton**, a spokeswoman at **Baptist Medical Center** in Jacksonville, Fla.

**Powell**, 81, is being treated with antibiotics after developing pneumonia Tuesday. **Powell** also has been exercising, walking in the corridors.

The justice, who spent 15 years on the Supreme Court, was in Jacksonville as a member of a panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

He had complained of dizziness Monday and was taken by ambulance to the hospital, where he was admitted for an acute respiratory infection.

**Powell** retired from the nation's highest court June 26, 1987, citing concerns about his health. He had suffered from prostate cancer.

### Arrest in Threats

**Michael J. Fox** received 5,000 threatening letters from a woman upset that he got married, a district attorney investigator said yesterday.

**Tina Marie Ledbetter**, 26, was arrested in Westlake Village, Calif. last week, but was released after posting

\$100,000 bail. **Ledbetter** faces a possible charge of making terrorist threats, officials said.

**Fox**, 27, who won two Emmys for his portrayal of the insufferable conservative son of liberal parents on the NBC series "Family Ties," married his former co-star on the show, actress **Tracy Pollan**, last July. They are expecting their first child.

**Fox** began receiving unsigned letters last February and they continued after his marriage, said **Al Albergate**, spokesman for the Los Angeles County district attorney's office.

"The letters threatened the lives of **Fox**, his wife and their yet-to-be-born child," **Albergate** said.