

START YOUR WEEKEND WITH Scene
INSIDE: After Page 60



Movies
Fast Track: Keanu Reeves speeds toward stardom
Slow Ride: Billy Crystal pokes along in 'City Slickers 2'



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IN Television

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HERALD

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Haitian extremist group eyes Hub office

By JASON B. JOHNSON

A Haitian extremist group suspected of murder, torture and repression plans to form a Boston branch to recruit support and financial aid from the area's large Haitian community, group leaders said.

Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti (FRAPH) leaders and opponents said yesterday Boston is one of the first American cities the right-wing organization has targeted.

As FRAPH has opened offices this year in New York and Miami, accusations of death threats, hit

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Ex-cop sets pain aside to work in bomb film

By RALPH RANALLI

The men in Boston Police uniforms huddled together in the kitchen of a Charlestown home, talking in wake-goers' somber tones about a cherished friend killed in action. A Red Sox game played on a television nearby.

"Cut!" a director yelled. The actors relaxed. Another scene of the summer action thriller "Blown Away" had been filmed.

But for one actor, there was a time when there was no director.

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A 94-long! John Coyne adjusts a muslim covering on the Quest Eternal statue in front of the Prudential Building yesterday. The figure is being fitted for a waiters' tux — complete with tray — to mark the June 14 opening of an outdoor food court at the Pru. For the record, the 5-ton statue by artist Donald DeLue has a 68-inch waist and 42-inch neck. Staff photo by Arthur Pollock.

Senate leader pushes \$20G pay hike

Repeal-proof raise sought for Bay State lawmakers

By ROBERT CONNOLLY

One of the state Senate's most powerful figures is pushing for a 67 percent pay hike for lawmakers — and says it should be repeal-proof so voters cannot take it back.

Senate Ways and Means Chairman Thomas F. Birmingham said, "For the responsibilities we have ... I don't think \$50,000 would be a terrible amount."

Rank-and-file lawmakers currently receive \$30,000 a year and would need a 67 percent boost to get to \$50,000.

Birmingham said yesterday it may be necessary to attach a legislative pay raise to a bill hiking salaries for state judges because a law

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Channel 7 pulls anchor on longtime sportscaster John Dennis: See Page 104

DON'T MISS THIS WEEK'S BOSTON SUNDAY HERALD



PLAYING IT SAFE
Best-bet investments

TRADITIONAL WEDDING? HAH!
Getting hitched goes PC & funky

JACK CRIES 'WOLF'
Nicholson on wild role



An act of undying friendship

Ex-cop plays role in flick

From Page 1

no cameras, no Hollywood make-believe.

Francis X. Foley had been there before.

"I could see myself in real life being at a scene like that. It was like a real wake would have been," said Foley, a former Boston Police Bomb Squad member who on Oct. 28, 1991, lost a friend, an eye and a career when he survived perhaps the city's most infamous bombing.

The 51-year-old Foley spent three weeks last summer working as an extra in the film — a fictional account of the Boston Police Bomb Squad battling a mad bomber — which opens nationwide on July 1.

A seven-year veteran of the bomb unit, Foley was gravely wounded when a remote-control bomb containing three sticks of dynamite detonated as his partner, Jeremiah Hurley, was examining it in a Roslindale driveway.

Hurley was killed by the device, which was built by two Quincy men, Thomas Shay and Alred Trenkler, who were later convicted of trying to kill Shay's father for insurance money.

At first Foley visited the set just to watch, as a guest of real Bomb Squad Chief Lt. Robert Molloy, the film's technical adviser. Foley also wanted to be sure Hollywood wasn't mocking the work to which he had almost literally given his life.

But Molloy says he was asked if he knew anyone who could play an extra, and immediately thought of Foley, who had retired on a disability pension.

Molloy also said he recommended Foley for the same reason he recruited him for the bomb squad from the mounted patrol. "It's the kind of guy he is, you always know he's going to be there," he said.

Somewhat surprisingly to those close to him, Foley signed on as a \$100-a-day extra, a non-speaking role as "Lt. Frank Foley." Foley himself admits he



pretty much likes to "hide" from publicity.

"I think they were doing it out of being courteous to me, and I appreciated it," Foley said. "They had me come into wardrobe, get fitted for a costume."

The costume was his old Boston Police uniform.

It was the first time he had worn it in three years. "I knew I wasn't a police officer," he said. "I knew it wasn't part of my life anymore. I'm no longer a police officer, but when I had the uniform on I tried to act like I should act."

Foley must have been convincing. At one point a real Boston officer working crowd control asked Foley to sign his detail pay card.

The part was no desk detail, said Molloy, who was impressed with Foley's work in a crowd-control scene in which reporters were told to "be aggressive."

"He actually got a little pissed off, but he handled it and it was a great scene," Molloy said.

Then there were the inevitable memories, the head-on confrontation with still-fresh visions of a good friend horribly maimed and dying from a bomb blast.

"It wasn't depressing at all, I'm doing pretty good," he said.

The hard part since his injury, he said, is the loneliness and boredom of a premature retirement and the short New England



golf season. "It was a tough winter. I miss working. It's been almost three years now and it's getting a little tedious."

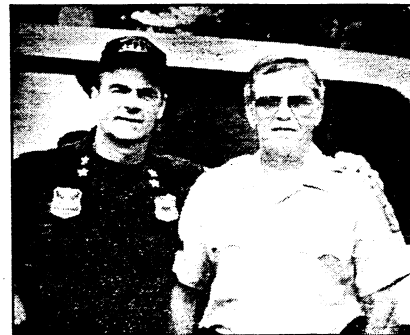
In fact, he said the best part of the movie was "meeting a lot of nice people" like stars Jeff Bridges, Lloyd Bridges

and Forrest Whittaker. But he became especially close to John Finn, who played a fictional version of Molloy.

Finn ad-libbed a line in the press-conference scene — "If you have any more questions, you can ask Lt. Foley here" — to get Foley's

THE CAST: Above, former bomb squad member Francis Foley, back, second from right, stands in with 'Blown Away' extras and stars, including second from left, Forrest Whittaker, a bearded Lloyd Bridges and plaid-clad son Jeff, and John Finn at the younger Finn's left. Below, Foley with Finn, who plays a bomb squad captain in the film to be released this summer. At left, Foley looks through some of the photos of his experiences on the set.

Staff photo left by Nancy Lane



name in the film. (Still, not even Foley knows if any of his scenes were spared the cutting-room floor.)

In return, Foley gave Finn a bomb squad medallion, carrying the bomb technician's motto: "Initial success or total failure." Tradition has it that if one bomb squad member puts his medallion on a bar, and the member he's with doesn't have his, he has to buy the drinks.

Molloy had given a medallion to Jeff Bridges. Foley made sure his friend wouldn't be caught short.

Which is the kind of guy

he is, say friends like Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul V. Kelly, who prosecuted Shay and Trenkler.

"He's a very thoughtful, caring guy, a true public servant," Kelly said. One reason federal agents and Boston Police worked so hard on the Shay/Trenkler case was to make sure that Foley and Hurley — who they considered heroes — received justice, Kelly said.

"I think the only reason they cast Frank in the role was that Paul Newman wasn't available, so they had to have Frank play himself," Kelly said.