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LO-JACK HIT LEADS FLORIDA POLICE TO MOVIE PIRATE

Pirate lab and marijuana found in home of video store owner

Los Angeles, CA – A Hialeah, Florida man was taken into custody yesterday after a lo-jack hit led the Hialeah Police Department's Auto Theft Unit to a stolen vehicle at the man's residence. Further investigation revealed that the suspect, Eduardo Martin, 21, owner of VIP Video Store located in Hialeah, was operating a pirate movie lab at his residence and, ironically, at his video store. Detectives also recovered 24 marijuana plants at Martin's residence.

"This is an important case in two ways: it illustrates yet again that film piracy is often connected to other crimes – in this case, auto theft and narcotics. Secondly, it is an example of thorough, alert and responsible policing that the Hialeah police department should be commended for," said Mike Robinson, Senior Vice President and Director of North American Anti-Piracy Operations for the MPAA.

Detectives recovered multiple burning towers, nearly 2,000 counterfeit DVDs, and supplies for the production and distribution of thousands more DVDs, including 336 original legitimate DVDs used as master recordings at the defendant's residence and video store. Investigators from the MPAA responded to the scene & verified both locations as DVD burner labs. The defendant remains in custody pending court proceedings.

The MPAA works with law enforcement agencies across the country to train and educate personnel about the damaging impact of piracy and most importantly, what actions to take when they identify a pirate operation.

The worldwide motion picture industry, including foreign and domestic producers, distributors, theaters, video stores and pay-per-view operators lose more than \$18 billion annually as a result of movie theft. More than \$7 billion in losses are attributed to illegal Internet distributions, while \$11 billion is the result of illegal copying and bootlegging.

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About the MPAA

The Motion Picture Association of America, Inc. (MPAA) serves as the voice and advocate of the American motion picture, home video and television industries from its offices in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. Its members include: Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc.; Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation; Universal City Studios LLLP; and Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

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