

1 March 2007

By: Elena Gorgan, Entertainment News Editor



## **Newspaper Runs Fake Photos of Anna Nicole Smith's Corpse**

*Taking journalistic investigation to a new level or just scooping to a never-before-seen low?*

Anna Nicole Smith will be buried on Friday, the judge ruled yesterday, after dismissing Vicky Arthur's claim to take the body of her daughter to Texas to bury her in a family plot. Meanwhile, the rumor that the model's embalmed body is slowly decomposing (despite being kept in a refrigerator) has prompted some to go and fake photos of her and then publish them. Running phony photos under the claim that they're real has been done before and, in most cases, the culprit got away with it. But, somehow, whoever thought of Photoshopping pictures of Anna Nicole to make them look as if they were taken only hours after her death was not quite aware of the inappropriateness of the gesture. The newspaper in question is no other than 'The National Enquirer' that ran the photos in its most recent issue. With a huge heading that literally screamed at you and pulled at your sleeve to go and buy the paper ('Chilling Final Image of Anna Nicole Smith') and the tiniest caption on the bottom of the page (written in fine printing) that said the photos are not real, the (in)famous magazine almost got away with the scam. As you can see for yourselves, the photos show Anna in a partially zipped body-bag, with her lips already blue and her face frozen in rigor mortis. Actually, no one paid that much attention to the writing that said that the photos are not of Anna... until 'Radar' exposed the 'National' on the Internet. The site, specialized in blowing up stories like this one, ran an article on the fake photos, claiming that resorting to this is not surprising coming from, quote, 'the tabloid that famously bribed one of Elvis Presley's cousins to shoot photos of his open casket'. However, the 'National' will not be silenced: in response to accusations of being 'cheap' and 'low' for Photoshopping the pictures, the editor in chief, David Perel says that the photos are 're-creations' based on eyewitness accounts and that 'If you had our images side-by-side with the actual photos, I don't know if you'd be able to tell them apart'. Accompanying the pictures is also a story that claims the former glamour girl did not die of an overdose, but of pneumonia. This, despite the fact that the toxicology reports are not yet back from the lab. 'Sources very close to the death investigation told The ENQUIRER that the prescription drugs masked the seriousness of her pneumonia. Anna Nicole had previously been hospitalized for pneumonia in the Bahamas after her son died. This time, the painkillers Anna Nicole was taking masked her symptoms and quickened the deadly effects of the pneumonia', the tabloid writes.