

[Print - Close Window](#)

City News Service

No City News Service material may be republished without the express written permission of City News Service, Inc.

October 1, 2003 Wednesday

Magnet Con

LENGTH: 255 words

DATELINE: PASADENA

For some pain-ridden victims in Pasadena and Glendale, the attraction for the fictional Dr. Sven Kugler apparently is over.

But police in Simi Valley, the low-crime bedroom community just over the Ventura County line from the San Fernando Valley, are now looking for the man authorities identify as Thorsten Wietschel.

They say he's a con artist who claims he can cure arthritis, vascular disease and heart attacks with his "Magnetic Field Therapy," which amounts to a mattress cover laced with magnets.

Wietschel/Kugler held a seminar yesterday at the Grand Vista hotel in Simi Valley, SVPD Detective Tom Marshall said.

The Pasadena Star-News reported that people had to be turned away when he convened similar seminars in the Crown City.

Glendale police arrested Wietschel on Sept. 15 for commercial burglary and grand theft, following an undercover operation, but he is now free on \$20,000 bond, according to the Star-News.

Glendale Detective John Genna told the Star-News that the mattress covers "cost the alleged scam artist between \$43 and \$82.50," but were offered to his customers for more than \$700 each.

Genna said Wietschel's claims that he can cure various ailments are illegal. Wietschel also purports to be a physician, but is not, Genna said.

According to the Star-News, the Arizona attorney general's office has ordered Wietschel not to advertise or sell his wares in that state.

Marshall asked anyone who may have been victimized by Wietschel to contact him at (805) 583-6958.

PERSON: THORSTEN WIETSCHEL (93%); JOHN GENNA (90%); SVEN KUGLER (73%); TOM MARSHALL (68%);

COUNTRY: UNITED STATES (92%);

STATE: CALIFORNIA, USA (92%); ARIZONA, USA (79%);

COMPANY: PASADENA STAR-NEWS (90%);

SUBJECT: POLICE FORCES (90%); DISEASES & DISORDERS (90%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (78%); ARTHRITIS (78%); BURGLARY (77%); CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE (76%); ARRESTS (73%); JUSTICE DEPARTMENTS (73%); BAIL (72%); LARCENY & THEFT (68%); ATTORNEYS GENERAL (65%);

LOAD-DATE: October 2, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Copyright 2003 City News Service, Inc.