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The Score...

Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey acrobat death. The show went on, but the clowns were crying when popular acrobat Dessi Espana fell to her death May 22 in a rigging accident during a show at Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul, Minn. She was 32 years old. A police investigation found no fault.

Loss of one of the few stadium tours. Members of popular jam band Phish announced May 25 that they will call it quits after 21 years following the last show of their summer tour, Aug. 15 in Coventry, Vt. The band placed #19 in our Midyear Hot Tickets for their \$2.29 million run of three shows at Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas April 15-17.

Clifford The Big Red Dog poops out. The tour was rerouted, but the change did not seem to remedy the main problem, which was poor ticket sales. During the last week of May, venues were informed that the tour was canceled. Producer Turnstile Entertainment says they will take the show to the vet and be back for a second run.

The Arena Football League. During the AFL regular season, which ended May 30, the league attracted a record 12,024 fans per contest, up 6 percent over 2003. A total of 1,827,579 attended AFL games this season, shattering the old mark of 1,458,830 set in 2003. There were 19 teams playing this year.

Jennifer Lopez stole our man. Marc Anthony announced his Nada Personal Tour this spring, then cancelled only weeks before he ended up in the tabloids at the altar with actress/singer Lopez amid widespread rumors of a pregnancy. The salsa singer blamed the delay on his album production schedule.

Simon & Garfunkel, Rod Stewart, David Bowie and Eric Clapton. Quality is always a draw. These legacy favorites show up in our Midyear Hot Tickets a total of nine times.

Olympic preparation nailbiter. The world looks on with anxiety as construction schedules fall behind for the Olympics' return to Athens, Greece this summer. The press guesses whether or not they will be ready and throws questions about security into the ring for discussion. As of press time, the torch is still making its way around the globe and the games

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Based on concert and event grosses May 15–June 15, 2004, as reported to Venues Today.

Venue, Location No. of Seats Total Gross Total Attendance Shows

15,001 or More Seats

1. MGM Grand Garden, Las Vegas	15,200	\$9,581,894	41,806	3
2. HP Pavilion at San Jose (Calif.)	20,000	\$7,659,129	75,474	5
3. The Forum, Inglewood, Calif.	18,679	\$6,965,055	43,158	3
4. Arrowhead Pond of Anaheim (Calif.)	19,400	\$5,378,484	45,082	4
5. Staples Center, Los Angeles	20,000	\$4,961,331	69,287	4

10,001-15,000 Seats

1. Mandalay Bay Events Center, Las Vegas	12,200	\$2,432,651	22,594	2
2. Tommy Hilfiger at Jones Beach Theater, Wantagh, N.Y.	14,209	\$1,680,352	39,029	4
3. Save Mart Center, Fresno, Calif.	14,800	\$1,380,668	12,712	1
4. The Mark Of The Quad Cities, Moline, Ill.	12,000	\$1,037,833	19,949	3
5. Lawlor Events Center, Reno, Nev.	12,400	\$996,470	9,405	1

5,001-10,000 Seats

1. Chastain Park Amphitheatre, Atlanta	6,700	\$1,998,129	32,949	6
2. Tucson (Ariz.) Convention Center	9,278	\$851,666	8,316	1
3. Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, S.D.	10,000	\$765,316	7,287	1
4. Duluth (Minn.) Entertainment Convention Center	6,600	\$719,960	6,390	1
5. Everett (Wash.) Events Center	10,000	\$387,564	12,925	5

5,000 or Fewer Seats

1. Fox Theatre, Atlanta	4,678	\$1,889,691	61,440	28
2. Community Center Theater, Sacramento, Calif.	2,452	\$1,342,400	29,131	18
3. Warner Theatre, Washington, D.C.	1,980	\$796,669	13,570	17
4. Westbury (N.Y.) Music Fair	2,742	\$741,425	17,657	10
5. Careerbuilder.com Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford, Conn.	4,800	\$531,025	13,158	4