

DuPont standoff ends peacefully

NEWTOWN SQUARE, Pa. — An heir to the du Pont fortune was captured by SWAT team members Sunday as he stepped outside his mansion to fix his boiler, ending a 48-hour standoff that began with the shooting death of a top wrestler.

John E. du Pont, who had been without heat since police cut off his boiler system Friday night, told negotiators he was cold and was leaving his house, said Newtown Township Police Chief Michael Mallon.

He did not carry one of the many weapons he kept on his 800-acre estate. No one was injured in the capture.

"His intent was to make repair to the boilers because he was without heat," Mallon said. "Within a few

moments our SWAT teams were on the location and they made a capture."

Police, who had cleared the entrance to the estate hours earlier, picked up du Pont at about 3:30 p.m. and took him to the police station for arraignment.

He arrived kneeling in a black van, his hands handcuffed behind him. Wearing a jacket advertising his world-class wrestling center and team, Foxcatcher, and running tights, du Pont looked dazed as an officer grabbed him by the handcuffs and lifted him out of the van.

"He gave up peacefully," Lt. Lee Hunter said.

The capture ended a standoff that police said began Friday after-

noon with du Pont shooting Dave Schultz, a wrestler living on du Pont's estate.

From the beginning, police insisted on negotiating instead of attacking for their own safety: Du Pont's prowess with weapons approaches Olympic-level marksmanship and he had an extensive arsenal that at least at one time included an armored personnel carrier.

The standoff capped a longtime slide into despair for the 57-year-old du Pont, according to wrestlers, acquaintances and relatives.

Schultz, 36, who won an Olympic gold medal in 1984, worked as a coach at du Pont's 14,000-square-foot Foxcatcher National Training Center while training for a come-

back at this summer's Games in Atlanta. Several other wrestlers also lived on the estate, and others traveled there each day to train.

Du Pont paid the wrestlers and coaches for the private Team Foxcatcher more than \$300 a week and contributed \$500,000 a year to USA Wrestling, the sport's Olympic committee.

Du Pont is a great-great grandson of E.I. du Pont, the French-born industrialist who founded the chemical company. As one of hundreds of heirs to the family fortune, he was worth an estimated \$46.2 million in 1985, according to his ex-wife's lawsuit.

Assassin takes over own defense

TEL AVIV, Israel — His defense in disarray, Yitzhak Rabin's confessed assassin cross-examined prosecution witnesses himself Sunday, often interrupting police to correct their accounts of the shooting.

Cordial and casual in a sweat shirt, former law student Yigal Amir took over defense questioning in a chaotic six-hour court session after one lawyer resigned and the second stumbled badly over the Hebrew language, bringing laughter from the packed courtroom and a despairing sigh from Judge Edmond Levy.

Amir has admitted shooting Rabin after a Nov. 4 peace rally in Tel Aviv, saying he believed that Rabin's peace policy put Israelis in greater danger of Palestinian attacks.

Last week, Amir, 25, gave contradictory testimony over whether he intended to kill the prime minister or only disable him so as to force him from office. That was registered as a plea of not guilty. Amir is charged with murder and faces life in prison.

Goldberg, who moved to Israel seven years ago from Houston, frequently fumbled over his words in Hebrew, and his client joined the courtroom audience in laughing at Goldberg's mistakes.

"God help us," sighed Levy. Appearing frustrated by Goldberg's line of questioning, the judge allowed Amir to cross-examine the prosecution witnesses himself.

The former third-year law student easily switched from defendant to lawyer. He cheerfully demanded answers from ballistics experts and the police officers who interrogated him after the murder.

After a screening of a videotaped re-enactment of the killing, Amir turned to beam at his sister, then stood and announced the re-enactment was incorrect — although earlier he had signed a form agreeing it was a true representation of the slaying.

"How did you ever get so far in law school?" Levy asked.

Amir asked officer Moti Naphtali whether he had looked like an emotion-driven murderer seeking revenge for Rabin's peace policies, or a soldier who had killed a terrorist.

Naphtali responded that Amir was "as cold as a fish."

News in a Minute



Man uses statue to kill nuns

WATERVILLE, Maine — Four nuns were beaten and stabbed after a prayer service in their convent, and a man who allegedly bludgeoned at least one of them with a religious statue was in custody.

Two of the nuns died and the other two remained hospitalized Sunday.

"This may be one of the most heinous crimes ever committed in Maine," said spokesman Stephen McCausland of the state Public Safety Department.

Mark A. Bechard, 37, of Waterville, who had a history of mental problems, surrendered without resistance when police arrived.

Bechard, who was known to the nuns and had worshiped in their chapel previously, was also known to police.

"We have dealt with Mr. Bechard in criminal matters and mental health matters," said Morris, adding that the suspect had been involuntarily committed to a mental hospital in 1994. He would not elaborate.

Mother Superior Edna Mary Cardozo, 68, died of head injuries Saturday night at Kennebec Valley Medical Center in Augusta. Sister Mary Julien Fortin, 67, died early Sunday of multiple stab wounds to the face and head, said hospital spokeswoman Mary Plumer.

A third nun was in stable condition and the fourth was in serious condition Sunday.

Boy takes school bus for joy ride

TABOR CITY, N.C. — A 13-year-old boy took off in a school bus and led police on a chase, trying to run patrol cars off the road as he drove 90 miles through parts of two states.

The youth drove as fast as the bus would go, which isn't very fast because North Carolina school buses have mechanical speed limiters.

"We went 46 mph the whole time," said Tabor City police Officer L.D. James. "But I'll tell you, that boy could drive that thing. He was crazy."

At some points during the middle-of-the-night chase, the youth tried to run patrol cars off the road, driving from side to side, and drove with the bus lights off, police Chief R.V. Wooster said.

He took the bus from South Columbus High School, near his home in Tabor City, about 1 a.m. Saturday. The keys apparently were left in the bus.

The bus eventually turned into a driveway at West Brunswick High School in Shallotte, about 30 miles southeast of Tabor City. The gate was closed so the driver parked, set the emergency brake and stepped out of the bus.

"When he came off that bus, he was smiling and laughing," James said.

The youth was turned over to his parents.

Zoo offers animal love tour

SANTA ANA, Calif. — It's an animal lover's ultimate fantasy. For those into amorous iguanas or hot two-toed sloths, the Santa Ana Zoo is holding its 2nd Annual Sex Tour in honor of Valentine's Day.

The adults-only tour Feb. 10 brings people into the boudoirs of their furry and feathered friends. To set the mood, champagne is served.

"It's fun, it's interesting, and everyone blushes," zoo spokeswoman Leslie Perovich said.

It's an educational program to explain the mating habits of animals and reproductive efforts by zoos to preserve endangered species, Perovich said.

The curator and veterinarian who guide the tour offer no guarantees that animals will be amorous. But if they are, visitors are in for an eye-ful.

Take the two-toed sloths for instance. Their foreplay involves rubbing rumps — dancing cheek to cheek, so to speak. Soon the sloths are anything but lethargic. They're airborne, hanging face to face from their front legs.

And the green iguana is a rough Romeo. His partner often ends up scratched and bitten.

The tour costs \$15, which includes champagne and a continental breakfast.

Ethiopians protest rejection of blood

JERUSALEM — Police fired tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannon at thousands of Ethiopian Jews who stormed the prime minister's office Sunday to protest a national policy of rejecting their blood donations.

The anger over the discarded blood donations reflects years of simmering frustration in Israel's Ethiopian community, which has remained an underclass since Ethiopians first immigrated to Israel a decade ago in dramatic airlifts.

Protesters stoned the prime minister's office and police hurled the rocks back, injuring dozens of demonstrators and police. The crowd dispersed only after Prime Minister Shimon Peres promised an investigation.

"I can understand them," Peres told Channel Two television. "But it is hard for me to justify what they did... I am sorry they did not restrain themselves."

Israeli media revealed last week that Israel for years has discarded blood donations from Ethiopians for fear the blood might be tainted with the AIDS virus. Government officials defended the policy, saying that Ethiopian immigrants have a higher risk of AIDS infection than other Israelis.

More than 10,000 Ethiopians, some in skullcaps and others with dreadlocks, filled the street in front of the prime minister's office Sunday and spilled into nearby fields and parking lots.

They held signs reading, "We are black, but our blood is red," and chanted, "Shame on the state."

*"Why do they throw
away our blood?
Because we are*

*Ethiopian, and because
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representatives in the
government."*

PESACH MARESHA

Ethiopian protester

"What's the difference between me and you?" protester Pesach Maresha asked a white reporter. "Why do they throw away our blood? Because we are Ethiopian, and because we don't have representatives in the government."

Maresha held a sign saying, "The dream has gone to hell."

Leaders of the Ethiopian community met later Sunday with Peres and the ministers of immigration and health. Peres promised to form a committee with Ethiopian representatives to investigate the blood situation, said Shlomo Molla of the United Ethiopian Jewish Organization.

Molla said the committee also would look at discrimination against Ethiopian Israelis.

"The blood problem is just a symptom," he said. "The issue is black and white. We are Jews. We are Israelis. But we have to struggle to be equal."

Senate leaders encourage another try at budget plan

WASHINGTON — Congress should make another try at a balanced budget compromise before resorting to the piecemeal approach of limited savings and tax cuts being promoted by House Speaker Newt Gingrich, two Senate leaders said Sunday.

"I think we're close enough," said Senate Majority Whip Trent Lott, R-Miss., citing what he said was growing support in the Senate for a bipartisan plan to balance the budget over seven years.

Gingrich, R-Ga., last week said the effort to find common ground with President Clinton on a balanced budget was hopeless, and proposed attaching up to \$100 billion in savings and \$29 billion in tax cuts to a bill raising the nation's debt ceiling.

Gingrich called it a "down payment" toward a balanced budget.

Appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," Lott said there would have to be some conditions on the debt ceiling bill to get it through Congress, but he was not enthused about Gingrich's down payment idea. "I think that's too small. I think we need to do more. We can do more."

Later, Gingrich said he and Lott conferred about the budget on Sunday. "We agree that any route that gets us to a balanced budget is a good one," he said.

Gingrich has said that even if Republicans and moderate Democrats reached a compromise, Clinton might veto it.

The Clinton administration, after showing some initial interest, has become increasingly negative to the idea of making a "down payment" on eliminating the federal deficit.

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