

Elian's return prompts violence

WASHINGTON (AP) — Elian Gonzalez spent a secluded Easter with his father and got a visit from the Easter Bunny, insulated from the clatter in two nations' capitals and a shaken Miami over the armed raid used to take him away.

"They had a very quiet day, a family day — I don't think they had many visitors," Gregory Craig, lawyer for the boy's father told The Associated Press late Sunday.

After a day of raw anger, street fires and violence in the Little Havana neighborhood, Miami fell quiet for Easter celebration Sunday morning, still under tight police control after more than 350 arrests.

"We will celebrate in tears," said Sergio Perez, a Miami neighbor of the relatives who kept Elian for five months until federal agents brandishing guns burst through their door before dawn Saturday and seized him. Later Sunday, scores of chanting protesters returned to the neighborhood.

In Washington, near the heavily secured air base where the 6-year-old Cuban boy is staying, a congressional Republican leader "sickened" by the use of force said hearings were certain on Capitol Hill.

"This is a frightening event, that American citizens now can expect that the executive branch on their own can decide on whether to raid a home," said House Republican whip Tom DeLay of Texas.

DeLay joined criticism made by George W. Bush, the presumptive GOP presidential nominee and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi.

"There was no court order that gave them permission to raid the private home of American citizen," DeLay said, appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"This has been a bungled mess." But a top Justice official said the only regret was that authorities wait-

ed as long as they did. "We were forced into the action we took by the intransigence of that family," said Eric Holder, deputy attorney general. "We probably should have taken a decisive action sooner."

Holder, also on NBC, said a previous court ruling upholding the government's general actions in the case, combined with an order from the Immigration and Naturalization Service, sufficed as legal grounds for moving in.

He acknowledged concern by the administration that Elian may be used by Cuban President Fidel Castro as a political trophy.

Indeed, Castro called Saturday "a day of glory for our people" as some 400,000 Cubans summoned to a rally celebrated the father-and-son reunion.

Praising U.S. officials for their forceful action, the communist leader declared a "truce" in his enduring Cold War-era struggle with the United States but added: "Tomorrow the battle continues."

U.S. officials, anticipating Elian will go back to Cuba when court appeals are through, hoped to influence Cuban officials on how the boy is treated in his homeland.

Elian, for once, was out of earshot of all the fuss.

He joined his father, stepmother and baby half-brother Saturday in private quarters at Andrews Air Force Base, the home base of Air Force One.

In a national CNN-Gallup poll taken after the seizure, six in 10 respondents supported the government's actions to reunite Elian with his father.

They were split on whether the government used too much force.

That question percolated through Washington and the presidential campaign.

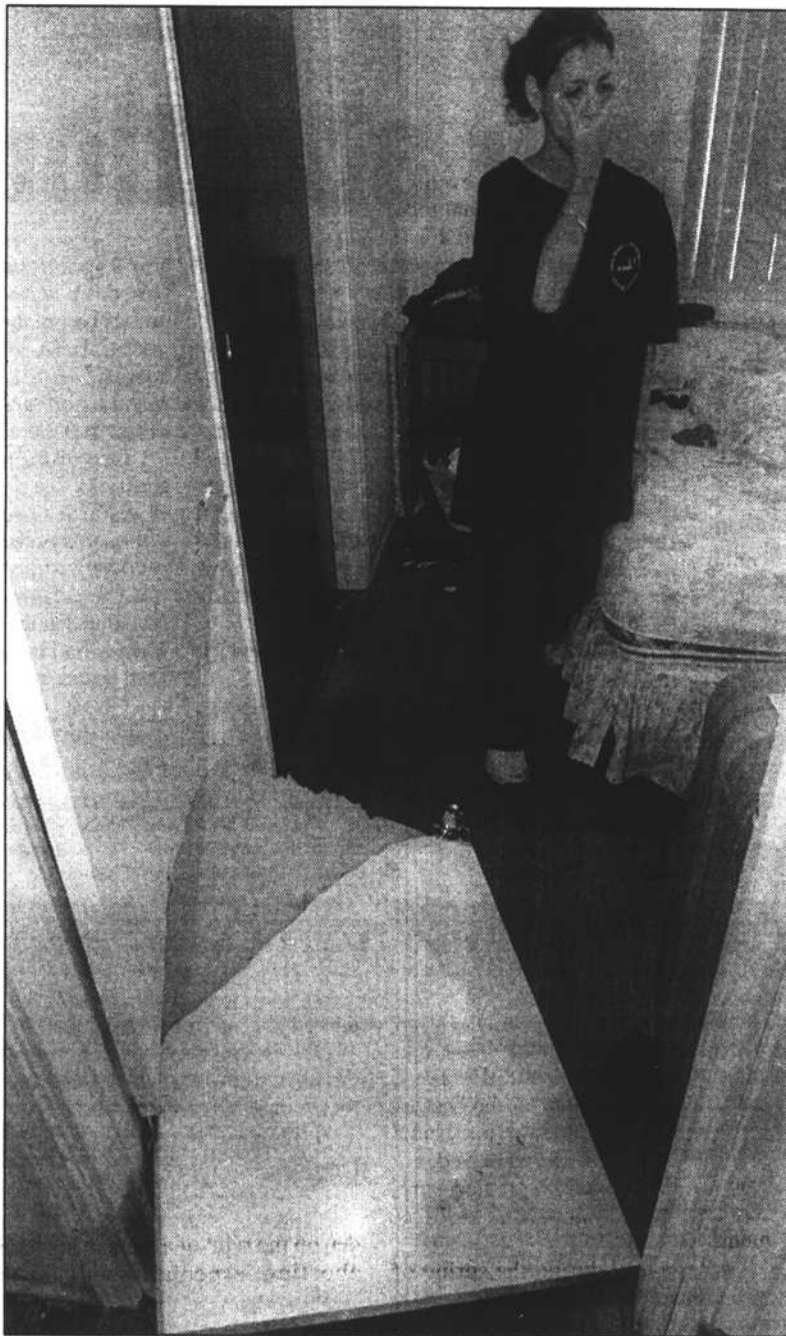


Photo by Al Diaz/Miami Herald
Elian Gonzalez's cousin Marisleysis cries as she stands in front of the broken-down door of the bedroom where federal agents grabbed Elian from family friend Donato Dalrymple's arms during a predawn raid Saturday.

Grogan back in Senate race

OMAHA (AP) — Just when Nebraskans thought the GOP Senate race couldn't get any more theatrical, it appears Omaha millionaire businessman George Grogan is back in the race.

He said Friday he never dropped out, although 11 days ago he implied just that.

A statement issued April 12 said he was ceasing all campaign activities, and that personal attacks "drove him from U.S. Senate race."

His name will appear on the May 9 primary ballot and he said he "fully intends" to win.

At one time or another there were seven Republican candidates in the race. Five of those entered after U.S. Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., announced Jan. 20 he would not seek a third term.

Lt. Gov. Dave Maurstad stayed in two weeks. Grogan quit campaigning last week, and then Dr. Elliot Rustad dropped out this week. Then there were four.

Now it appears that number has grown again to five candidates.

"It just makes it all fun," said GOP candidate John DeCamp. "One big adventure."

Court to hear suit against Boy Scouts

WASHINGTON (AP) — It took James Dale 11 years to rise through the ranks of the Boy Scouts. It took the Boy Scouts only 11 days to kick him out after learning he was gay.

Dale was a Cub Scout at 8, a Boy Scout at 11, a member of the Order of the Arrow at 13, an Eagle Scout at 17. His mom was a den mother. His dad was a scouting commissioner. At 18, Dale became an assistant scoutmaster.

But the Boy Scouts of America expelled him in 1990 after discovering he was co-president of Rutgers University's gay and lesbian organization.

James Anderson, faculty adviser to the group and Dale's friend, said the expulsion was a real setback for Dale.

"(Scouting) was really so central to his life, to his growing up, to becoming a man," Anderson said.

"They slapped him for such a core aspect of his being."

Dale struck back with a 1992 lawsuit accusing the Boy Scouts of

discrimination. The U.S. Supreme Court hears arguments in the case Wednesday.

The Boy Scouts of America says homosexuality contradicts its oath requiring scouts to be "morally straight." That policy has withstood numerous court challenges, said Gregg Shields, national spokesman for the organization.

"We've always taught traditional family values," Shields said. "That goes back to our founding in 1910. An avowed homosexual would not be a role model for those values."

But Evan Wolfson, who will argue Dale's case before the Supreme Court, said an organization that claims to be open to all boys and works in partnership with public schools "cannot discriminate against any young boy or young man because of his identity as gay."

Dale, now 29, lives in New York City and is advertising director for a magazine for people who are HIV-positive. He declined an interview through his representatives.

World and Nation Datelines

Toronto

Police: School stabbing planned for Columbine date

TORONTO (AP) — A 15-year-old boy accused of stabbing five people at his high school apparently planned the attacks to coincide with the first anniversary of the massacre in Littleton, Colo., police said Sunday.

Det. Sgt. Ken Doyle said comments by witnesses and other evidence indicated the attacks Thursday were tied to the anniversary of the April 20, 1999, shootings at Columbine High School, where two students killed 13 people before turning their guns on themselves.

The stabbings Thursday began at about 11:21 a.m. — the time the Columbine shootings started.

New York

NYU graduate students to vote on unionization

NEW YORK (AP) — In her climb up the academic ladder, Laura Tanenbaum teaches freshman writing at New York University while working on her doctorate.

It pays \$11,500 for a nine-month stint, a pittance in high-priced New York, the 25-year-old complains.

What graduate teaching and research assistants need is the right to bargain collectively for better pay and benefits, Tanenbaum and some of her colleagues say.

This week, in a move NYU officials warn could shatter academic freedom but students insist means survival, 1,400 graduate teaching and research assistants at the university will vote whether to form a union represented by the United Auto Workers.

A "yes" vote could make NYU the first private American university subject to collective bargaining with graduate assistants.

Philippines

Forces attempt to free 27 hostages held by rebels

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine forces advanced on the mountain base of Muslim rebels, hammering their defenses with air strikes and artillery in an attempt to free some 27 hostages.

The top general vowed to push ahead with the offensive against Abu Sayyaf rebels on southern Basilan island, despite rebel threats to kill more hostages after beheading two last week.

The rebels killed those two after authorities refused their demands for the release of Muslim militants jailed in the United States, including the mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

Vatican City

Pope delivers Easter message with plea for peace

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Capping a grueling Holy Week schedule, a weary-sounding Pope John Paul II offered Easter wishes for peace in 61 languages and called on the world Sunday to end racism and xenophobia.

So many Holy Year pilgrims, tourists and Romans turned out for the pope's late-morning Mass in St. Peter's Square that by the time he delivered his Easter message at noon, the crowd, numbering close to 150,000, was spilling over into the boulevard leading to the Vatican.

John Paul expressed hope that the sense of life associated with Easter may "overturn the hardness of our hearts."

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THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

WEATHER

TODAY

Partly cloudy
high 68, low 47

TOMORROW

Partly cloudy
high 74, low 48