

Lincoln-Mercury cougar killed after attacking child on neck

United Press International
PITTSBURGH — The Lincoln-Mercury cougar was shot to death Saturday after the animal attacked and seriously injured a 9-year-old boy during an automobile show.

Police said the 130-pound puma, named Tom-Tom, was being led on a leash through the back door of the David L. Lawrence Convention Center by its owner, Bob Steele of Florida, shortly before the attack on

James Seals of suburban Upper Saint Clair.

The cat, whose fierce roar highlighted Lincoln-Mercury promotions across the country as well as a national television commercial, was to be part of the car company's display at the show.

Steele said he noticed some boys running nearby as he opened the door and warned security guards around him to "watch that boy." He said Seals

seemed to "run right under him (the cougar)."

Police said the boy never touched the animal, but the animal reacted by grabbing him around the neck and pinning him to the floor, refusing to let go.

Eyewitnesses of police Steele and other bystanders began kicking the animal and hitting it with a stick in fruitless attempt to free the boy.

Steele reportedly jumped on

the animal and tried to pry its jaws open. When that failed, an off-duty police officer standing nearby shot the cougar to death.

"If people hadn't gathered around and kicked the animal, I could have gotten him to let go," said a shaken Steele, who added it was the first injury he had in 10 years of training dangerous animals. "They only made things a lot worse."

As police officer Arthur Banze fired the shot that killed the cougar, he was attacked by two of the animal's trainers who were arrested.

Seals was taken to Allegheny General Hospital, where he was listed in serious condition. A hospital spokeswoman said the child was bitten and clawed "in the neck area," but refused to elaborate on the extent of the injuries.

College tuition costs keep pace with cars

United Press International
NEW YORK — A \$50,000 tab for a college education at the higher-priced private schools soon will wallopp thousands of American budgets.

A United Press International survey showed Saturday that some tuitions will hit \$12,000 a year in the 1982-83 school year.

If the prices keep going up the cost of four years of college will be more than \$50,000 by 1985 at the most expensive schools.

The state appropriations per student at the public colleges in the nation range from a high of \$12,712 in Alaska to a low of \$1,943 in New Hampshire.

At many other state universities, increases are expected due to state budget cutbacks, said James Trulove, editor of "Memo to College Presidents" put out by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

In the academic stratosphere, meanwhile, all-time high bills in the \$12,000 ballpark are projected mostly at the expensive private schools such as Yale University and Stanford University. There are dozens of such schools across America.

The figure for four years covers tuition, room and board and miscellaneous ex-

penses. It's not a bad hearing officials tell it. Tuition paid by the state from one-third to one-half the actual cost of instruction.

Along the higher end of the trail, there is this oddity: The tuition part of the at private schools has kept pace with that of a Chevrolet — the price size one.

The formula checked out, for example, will be the case of Bruce MacDonald at the Motors Corp. in Michigan, was asked what a Chevrolet that would cost.

He settled on a full-size A four-door Impala for \$8,300.

Inflation and reduced income due to Reagan administration cuts are two major reasons for the charges.

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Immigrant suspected in murder

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — Police suspect a Turkish diplomat was the assassin in the assassination of a public to help arrest.

Police Chief Darrell Krieger "KoKo" Saliba, a Lebanese-Armenian, was one of the who riddled Turkish General Kemal Arslan with bullets two weeks ago.

Gates said there were three suspects, including Sassounian, 19, charged with the murder in the early morning of the Jan. 11 assassination. Saliba and another live in the same Pasadena neighborhood.

Gates said Saliba, who has a job in a bank shortly after the assassination, is 5-foot-11, weighs 165 pounds, and has black hair and a mustache. He said it is possible Saliba is the assassin.

The Justice Commission pledges to investigate the century-old Armenian massacre in Los Angeles. It is not known if Saliba is a member of the group.

Sassounian, being out on bail, pleaded guilty to murder charges after being identified in a lineup as one of the who shot into the dip-

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