

Bexar County Jail faces shake-up after break-out

Escaped prisoner charged in California murder

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A California murder suspect who walked out of the Bexar County Jail during a jail-break alert was on his way to California Tuesday to face charges in the slaying of a 9-year-old schoolgirl, authorities said.

Meanwhile, two jailers have been fired and two others suspended after Richard Luico DeHoyos, 31, of Los Angeles, used a wad of paper to keep his cell door from locking and later escaped from the jail, administrator Tom Barry said.

DeHoyos, who escaped Sunday and was recaptured a short time later, was being transported to California, jail spokesman Brian Menges said.

DeHoyos waived his right to extradition during a hearing Monday, Menges said.

DeHoyos is wanted in the slaying of Nadia Puentes, who was last seen walking home from school in Santa

Ana, Calif., on March 20. Her body was found in a garbage can in Los Angeles' Griffith Park on March 21.

DeHoyos, who told reporters after his jail escape that he killed the girl, said he had been in San Antonio for about two weeks. "I drowned her in a bathtub," DeHoyos said Sunday. "I didn't know her. I just picked her up."

"I was on drugs — cocaine. I was angry. I'd lost my job. I was out of my mind," he said.

Santa Ana Police Chief Paul Walters said DeHoyos was linked to the slaying.

"He has been positively linked to the murder through physical evidence at the scene," Walters said Monday.

Although Nadia's death was caused by asphyxiation, a Los Angeles County coroner's office spokesman said DeHoyos' statement that he drowned her was not inconsistent with the findings of the autopsy.

"He might have pressed her chest and then put her in the water," coroner's spokesman Bob Dambacher said.

DeHoyos jammed his cell lock with paper and later walked out, claiming to be a visitor to the jail, Barry said.

He said San Antonio jail Capt. Hilario Solis, 48, a 25-year veteran of the sheriff's office, was fired for lack of supervision and recently hired jailer Kathleen Rueppel was fired for unsuccessful completion of probation.

Two others, Sgt. Jesus Gonzalez and jailer Stuart Petrusas were ordered suspended for five and 15 days, respectively, Barry said.

DeHoyos' told investigators that someone escorted him out of the jail.

Sheriff Harlon Copeland said. Copeland said DeHoyos had not yet been before a magistrate nor officially booked into jail and still was wearing street clothes.

DeHoyos claimed he took an elevator to the jail basement where he convinced an officer to let him out of the building, the sheriff said.

"He claimed he was here to bail somebody out of jail and that he got lost and that he wanted to get out," Copeland said.

Barry said he had issued a memorandum to jail guards on Friday because of a tip by federal officers about a rumored jail break.

"Security is always your main concern, be especially alert of any suspicious circumstances or acts on anyone's part," Barry's memo stated. "We cannot stress the importance of these measures to prevent a possible escape."

Records show Solis was fired in March 1988 for participating in a Super Bowl pool at the jail.

Solis was later reinstated by the Bexar County Civil Service Commission, which ordered him paid \$10,000 in back wages.

Records also show Solis was suspended for 25 days in October 1986 for failing to perform his duties. The records did not elaborate on the reason for his suspension.

Prof discovers revolutionary microwave tube

By Mia B. Moody

REPORTER

A Texas A&M experimental physics professor has discovered technology that may make long-distance calls via satellite possible, decrease the size of a satellite dish to that of a barbecue grill and improve superacurate radars.

Dr. Peter McIntyre said he was working to improve the source of power for linear colliders when he discovered possible applications for his research in other areas.

"Before this invention, two-way satellite communication wasn't conceivable," McIntyre said. "Now this development is highly likely. In fact, I hope to have a prototype tube developed in two years."

McIntyre said his invention probably would decrease the price of microwave products.

"The tube I developed is much simpler and compact, so the unit cost would be modest," he said. "Not only would it increase efficiency, it would decrease the price of all products that could use the tube."

McIntyre's improved source of power is dubbed the "Gigatron" as a salute to the popular A&M saying, "Gig'em." Another reason for the name is that the high power device will produce billions (giga) of volts of energy, McIntyre said.

The Gigatron also could make radars more accurate in detecting images.

"Presently radar images are big and not sharp," he said. "The Gigatron could make it possible to produce a smaller sharper picture. This could give airplanes more accurate images and make it possible to reduce accidents. It also could make it easier to detect missiles far enough away to do something about them."

Striptease leaves small-town PD in big disarray

CLEAR LAKE SHORES (AP) — A striptease performance at the police station that led to the resignation of four officers has city officials pointing fingers at each other and some suggesting a cover-up.

Four officers — one paid, full-time officer and three unpaid, part-time officers — resigned last month after city officials learned they had taken nude photographs, with a city-owned camera, of a stripper who performed on a desk top at the station, Councilman Sandy Drake said Monday.

"They apparently stopped her for questioning, found out she was a stripper, and she voluntarily decided to put on a show for them," Drake said.

The stripper, who has not been identified, apparently was not charged with any crime.

Drake said he believes Mayor George Kessler and acting Police Chief John Fry covered up the November incident.

"We were all so concerned that the police chief would allow something like this to happen and then surprised that the mayor knew about it two months before the council knew about it," said Drake, Kessler's only challenger in next month's election.

Drake said he is angry the officers were not fired.

"I think John was trying to cover up for his officers," Drake said. "This shows a tremendous lack of judgment on his part."

Drake and Councilman Don Carmichael also blamed Kessler for not telling the council about the incident sooner.

"I believe it was kept from us on purpose by the mayor," Carmichael said. "George realized it was getting back to the council, and it had to be brought out to save his hide."

The mayor called the councilmen's remarks "outright lies," but he said he had no other comment.

Fry, who was out of town at the time of the incident and has been placed on disciplinary probation for his handling of it, said he first heard about the incident in February and then discussed it with Kessler.

Fry, who refused to identify the officers, said he never saw the photos and was told they were destroyed.

"It's a sad and very embarrassing situation," Fry said. "As soon as I became aware of the situation, I took action on it."

Senate OKs budget increase; denies rate hike on some loans

AUSTIN (AP) — The Senate on Tuesday approved a bill that would give the Legislature an additional \$246 million to spend this session and slapped down a measure that would have raised interest rates on certain cash loans.

After a last-minute vote roundup, senators also approved a proposed constitutional amendment that would give private building owners until September 1993 to sue for the cost of removing asbestos from their buildings.

There was no opposition to a bill that would provide lawmakers an extra \$246 million as they write a state budget for 1990-91.

The bill would increase taxes on certain insurers' gross premiums for a net gain of \$133 million and would put into law — for a gain of \$113 million — the settlement of a lawsuit that had challenged Texas' system of taxing out-of-state property and casualty insurance companies.

A 31-0 vote returned the bill, with amendments, to the House.

Sen. O.H. "Ike" Harris, R-Dallas, failed in his effort to win approval of a bill that would have raised interest payments on finance company loans of up to \$8,250.

Harris' bill was tentatively approved March 29 by an 18-7 vote, even though it drew criticism as a loan-shark measure.

When he tried to bring it up Tuesday for final passage, the vote was 16-15, and he needed 21 votes.

Harris had maintained that higher rates were needed to keep certain lenders in Texas.

Sen. Carlos Truan, D-Corpus Christi, asked if he was aware of a list being circulated that included the names and ethnic origins of employees who would be fired if Harris' bill failed to pass.

"It's almost equivalent to blackmail," Truan said.

Harris said he was not aware of

the list and considered such a tactic "distasteful."

"That's not the proper way to do anything," Harris said.

Sen. Hector Uribe, D-Brownsville, walked the Senate floor until he had gathered just enough votes to suspend rules, which led to passage of the asbestos measure.

His proposed constitutional amendment states that suits for damages that otherwise might be barred by statutes of limitations could be filed until Sept. 1, 1993.

"Without a doubt, asbestos kills people. We've known that since 1935," Uribe said, but his proposal was amended to exclude personal injury lawsuits.

Uribe said limitations don't run against public entities but do against private buildings and facilities, and

that is why his measure is needed.

The proposal was sent to the House on a 24-7 vote.

A bill that would implement the amendment was tentatively approved.

In other action Tuesday, the Senate approved and sent to the House bills that would:

- Create a state council to review public trust funds.
- Make it a crime to commit an offense against a railroad, such as discharging a firearm or causing a derailment.
- Raise from \$5,000 to \$10,000 the maximum limit for non-competitive bidding on school contracts.
- Increase annuities for certain retired state employees.
- Give civilian special agents of the U.S. Naval Investigative Service arrest, search and seizure authority in felony cases.

In Advance

Symphonic band performs Thursday night

The Texas A&M Symphonic Band will present its Spring Concert Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

The band will perform a variety of music, including overtures, marches, patriotic themes and tunes from films.

The concert will feature the selections Fantasia in G by Timothy Mahr, Allersellen by Richard Strauss, a march by Henry Fillmore titled "His Honor" and "Incidental Suite."

Student Senate convenes tonight at 8

The Student Senate will meet tonight at 8 p.m. in 204 Harrington.

The band will perform the theme from the movie *The Apartment*, which will feature piano soloist Leigh Baker.

A Mexican dance number, "La Bamba de Vera Cruz" and A Festival Prelude by Alfred Reed are planned to close out the concert.

Tickets for the performance are \$3 for the general public and \$1 for A&M students. Tickets will be available at the entrance of Rudder Theater before the performance.

The meeting is open to everyone.

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