

NEWS

THE BATTALION

Murder suspect holds five Orlando people hostage

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Sheriff's deputies trying to arrest a suspect in the killing of a convenience-store clerk ended up in a standoff after the armed man took five people hostage in a home, authorities said.

Jamie Dean Petron, 41, shot an Orange County sheriff's deputy in the leg in a grocery store parking lot before fleeing to the nearby home Saturday, authorities said.

He remained inside with a woman and four children Sunday afternoon.

A SWAT team member fired a shot at Petron at one point, but missed. Petron, who continued negotiating with police, said someone in the house was injured, but police could not confirm whether that was true, said Orange County sheriff's Sgt. Angelo Nieves.

"I'm sure he wants the right thing done," Petron's attorney, Spencer Bryant Siegel, said Sunday after talking to his client by phone.

"Probably the biggest thing preventing him from coming out is the fear of the unknown," Siegel said.

The hostages were a woman in her 40s, a 16-year-old girl, an 8-year-old boy, an 11-month-old boy and a girl either 9 or 10 months old, said Orange County sheriff's spokesperson Jim Solomons. Petron apparently did not know the occupants.

The woman being held captive, the only other adult in the house, was taking care of the children, and there was

enough food for everyone, Nieves said. Still, police sent a remote-controlled robot to the door mid-morning with juice and doughnuts, though the food was not immediately retrieved.

Nieves described Petron's demeanor as ranging from "edgy to calm" and said his willingness to talk to negotiators was an encouraging sign.

"Probably the biggest thing preventing him from coming out is the fear of the unknown."

— Spencer Bryant Siegel
Petron's attorney

"This could go on for days," Nieves said, but added that Petron could end the conflict quickly if he decides to come outside.

Petron shot at a 28-year-old man as he escaped the home Saturday, grazing the man's head, authorities said. The man, identified by relatives as Norman West, was listed in good condition at a hospital.

West's mother escaped uninjured from the home immediately after Petron entered, authorities said.

West and his mother, Thelma Mills, were in the garage when Petron ran up to the house, according to Amanda Clarke, a relative.

"The garage was open; it was the safest place for him to run," Clarke said. "She thought he was some ordinary citizen. She didn't know it was the law chasing him. She thought it was someone trying to hurt him."

Clarke said once Petron got inside the house, Mills saw he was holding a gun and realized she might be in danger. When Petron demanded she get him a phone, she ran out the garage door instead, Clarke said.

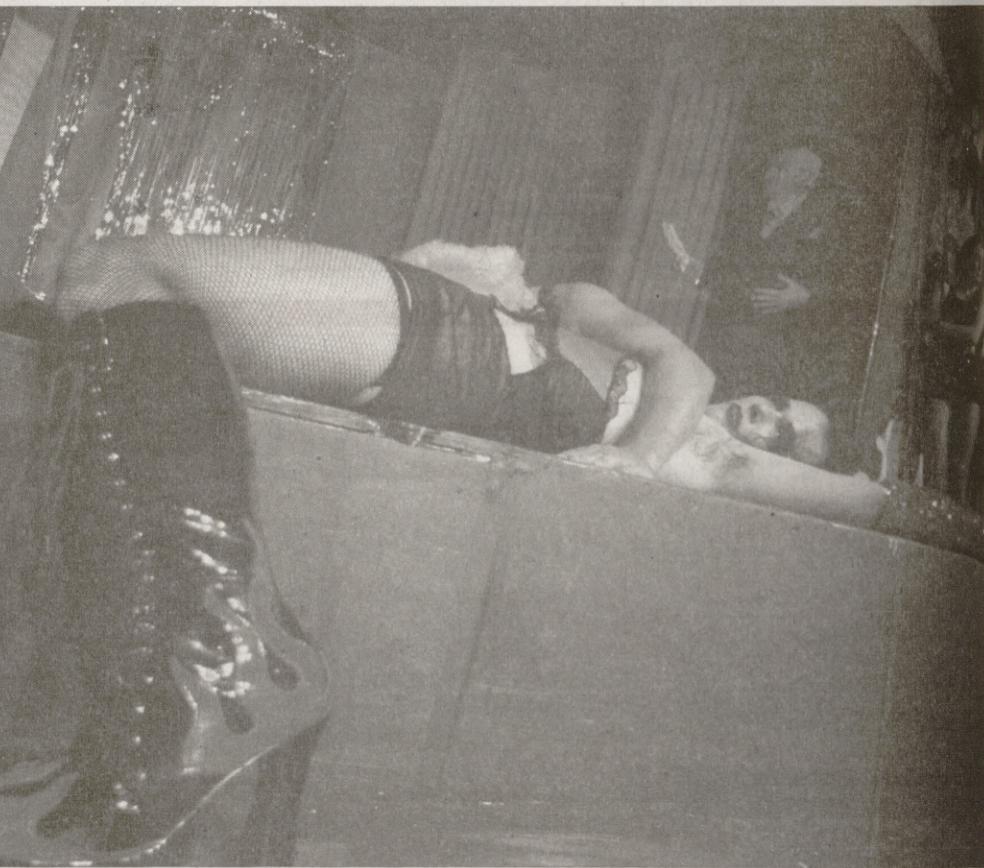
Clarke said the hostages are Mills' sister, who was visiting from New York with her children, and Mills' 16-year-old daughter and 11-month-old grandson.

Orange County Sheriff's Department SWAT officials were surrounding the home in the middle-class Meadow Woods subdivision south of Orlando.

The sheriff's office was receiving assistance from Petron's son, a Broward County sheriff's employee, who traveled to Orlando in an attempt to convince his father to end the hostage situation, which began shortly after noon.

Petron is a suspect in the Friday slaying of Jorge Trillo, 22, during a convenience store robbery in Pompano Beach. Trillo's boss, Samir Hantash, 48, was seriously wounded.

"Let's do the time warp again"



The evil Dr. Frankfurter, played by actor Larry Cashion, lies dead during the final scene of a live performance of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* at the Harbor Playhouse in Corpus Christi on Saturday.

WEBSITE

Continued from Page 1

of MyCampusTrade.com will not be limited to local auctions, convenience for local users is a goal of the Internet site.

The new site is currently accepting registration and notifying users when the site launches next month.

MyCampusTrade.com currently services A&M University of Texas and Southwest Texas, and Kirsch said he hopes to see the company spread throughout the state and nation, as well.

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BY J. GOLDFLUTE

REPUBLICAN

Continued from Page 1

laid from Cheney.

Bush said he will make his decision this weekend and announce it this week, well in advance of the July 31 opening of the Republican convention in Philadelphia. Officials said Saturday that Bush had not made a final decision, although he appeared to be leaning toward Cheney.

Both Cheney and Danforth would give the GOP ticket stature and the Washington experience that Bush lacks. Solid conservatives, either candidate would help Bush shore up his base. Danforth has the advantage of living in a key battleground state, Missouri.

Those mentioned as possible candidates include Govs. Frank Keating of Oklahoma, Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania and George Pataki of New York; Rep. John Kasich of Ohio; and Sens. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska and Bill Frist and Fred Thompson of Tennessee.

The Danforth meeting, first reported by ABC News, was notable because Bush is known to have had few such sessions with candidates. Danforth's wife has expressed reservations about the job, leading the former lawmaker to say in the past that he didn't want to be vice president. Party officials say Mrs. Danforth is now more open to the idea.

Shortly after the Chicago meeting began, Cheney left the room to allow Bush to meet alone with the Danforths. Bush was said to be impressed with the couple, though he has not known them long.

It was not known how many candidates Bush was considering, though one official familiar with Bush's thinking said it appeared that the Texan had more than two options remaining.

Danforth, 63, who retired from the Senate in 1995 after three terms in office, was appointed by Attorney General Janet Reno in September to oversee investigation of the federal

"In May an unexpected political possibility came up, and if there was any chance of that coming to pass, it would mean that I would have to step down as special counsel."

—John Danforth
possible Bush running mate

government's actions during the siege on the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, in 1993. He issued a report Friday that cleared Reno and all government agents of wrongdoing.

Asked why he was releasing his report when it was only 95 percent done, he said he thought it was important to clear Reno and others now. But he also

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