

Paris prisoner flies the coop in rented helicopter

From Associated Press reports

PARIS — A "pretty little woman" pilot eased a rented helicopter down to a prison roof on a sunny Monday morning and carried away a tough convict in a blue-and-red warm-up suit who had been hiding from guards behind a chimney.

Police identified the prisoner as Micheal Vajour, 34, who has been jailed 10 times since he was 17 on increasingly serious charges.

Vajour, a veteran of three previous jail breaks, was serving 18 years for armed robbery.

The white helicopter flew low over central Paris, ignoring radio warnings that it was below the illegal altitude limit, and hovered over a roof of the LaSante prison in the southern part of the capital. A man armed with a submachine gun slid down alone from the aircraft to the roof at about 10:45 p.m. Vajour grabbed a landing skid and clambered aboard with the gunman following. The men were hidden from guards by a large chimney.

A second prisoner on the roof, identified by police as Pierre Her-

nandez, 28, did not try to board the aircraft and gave himself up when guards and police reached the roof.

The women set the helicopter down in a soccer field not far from the prison and disappeared with the two men. The police used trained dogs to check out the aircraft, fearing it might be booby-trapped with explosives.

Two men escaped from a Paris jail in a similar manner five years ago, plucked from the sports field

inside the walls by gunmen who forced the pilot of a chartered helicopter to do a similar bidding.

Vajour was convicted on March 8, 1985, of a 1981 bank robbery, to which he admitted, and the attempted murder of a policeman who was shot in the leg in 1980 while Vajour was on the run, which he denied.

Hernandez, who decided to stay behind, is awaiting trial for armed robbery.

Claude Roumet, a 47-year-old

owner of the rental company, said the woman was about 30, called herself Lena Rigon and had taken out the same helicopter several times in the last six months. He described her as "a pretty little woman, the sportswoman type." Roumet said the identification was false. He said the woman had a valid helicopter pilot's license and had been checked out on a dual control aircraft when she first asked to use the Alouette 2 used in the escape.

In-state students face possible tuition hikes

From Associated Press reports

RALEIGH — Gov. Jim Martin's plan to add up to \$16 to UNC's in-state tuition rates took some members of the UNC Board of Governors by surprise and few have taken kindly to the idea.

"The more that you keep raising tuition, the greater the burden on parents," said board member Phil Haire of Sylva. "There are other ways of raising revenues than from college students who we're trying to educate and make taxpaying citizens. And the better we educate them, the greater their possibility of making a greater income and being productive citizens."

Martin says the increase would boost state income by \$1.3 million. He has defended the proposal by noting that 10 years ago, the in-state tuition covered about 13 percent of costs, compared 8 percent today.

The Board of Governors, which agreed to an out-of-state tuition increase, did not support the in-state change.

"Going any further at this time is going to be bad for public higher education," said board member John Jordan of Raleigh. "It is not in the tradition of public education in North Carolina. It is a departure of the philosophy we have followed for 200 years."

Tuition for in-state students is currently \$350 at four-year campuses, \$410 for students at campuses that offer master's degrees and \$480 at doctorate-granting campuses. The governor's plan would add \$10 to the lowest tuition rate and \$16 to the highest.

William Dees, the first chairman of the Board of Governors who now directs its budget and finance committee, said he would have preferred that Martin bring his proposal to the board before presenting it to the general public.

"It's more difficult to get him to back down after he's taken the position he has," Dees said.

UNC President C.D. Spangler said last week that Martin consulted him about the proposal and went ahead despite Spangler's objections.

Some sources told the Greensboro News & Record that Martin trimmed the increase from 5 percent or 6 percent to 3.2 percent after talking with some UNC officials. The 3.2 percent increase is the same raise Martin is recommending for state employees and teachers.

Dees said the last time an in-state tuition increase was proposed, the General Assembly, which originated the proposal, approved the 10 percent increase despite the Board of Governor's opposition.

This time, however, Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan and House Speaker Liston Ramsey have said they oppose the increase. And even former Gov. Jim Holshouser, the only other Republican governor this century and Martin's political ally, was reluctant to support the change.

Holshouser said the Board of Governors seemed opposed to the increase.

"I guess that's the official position and I don't want to go on record as being opposed to it," he said. "I also don't want to go on record as opposing the governor either."



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