

'Barefoot Bandit' pleads for more time in U.S. court



MIAMI-- The teenage "Barefoot Bandit" will find out whether he will be going back to Seattle on Friday. He faces numerous criminal charges there.

Colton Harris -Moore, 19, appeared in a Miami federal court Wednesday, telling a judge he needed more time to confirm he has an attorney. Harris-Moore told U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert Dube he thought his mother had hired him an attorney, but he wanted to talk to her. Dube then set a second hearing for Friday to discuss if the youth should be granted bail or sent back to Seattle, where he was charged in a criminal complaint.

His mother has hired attorney O. Yale Lewis, who has handled several high-profile cases in the Seattle area, though it's not clear if he will represent Harris-Moore on the criminal charges.

Swiss free Polanski, reject U.S. extradition request

BERN, Switzerland-- Switzerland has declared Roman Polanski a "free man," Monday, but not everybody is happy.

From prosecutors in Los Angeles to justice officials in Washington, the Swiss decision to free the renown film director was described as a disappointment.

Los Angeles District Attorney Steve Cooley says he plans to continue to pursue Polanski, even though the Swiss Ministry of Justice refuses to extradite him.

"I am deeply disappointed that the Swiss authorities denied the request to extradite Polanski," Cooley said in a statement. "Our office complied fully with all of the factual and legal requirements of the extradition treaty and requests by the U.S. and Swiss Departments of Justice and State. We will discuss with the Department of Justice the extradition of Roman Polanski if he's arrested in a cooperative jurisdiction."

But Polanski's lawyers issued a statement contradicting Cooley and are calling for an investigation into the U.S. refusal to provide requested evidence to Swiss authorities in his 33-year-old sex case.

The Swiss ruling cannot be appealed and within hours of the ruling Polanski had appeared to have left his multimillion dollar chalet where he had been confined on house arrest since last year. Polanski is safe from arrest only in his home nations of France and Poland and now, Switzerland. A warrant for his arrest remains active, effectively barring the 76-year-old from returning to the U.S., which he fled in 1978 on the eve of sentencing for a charge of having unlawful sex with a 13-year-old girl.

The Oscar-winning director of "Rosemary's Baby," "Chinatown," and "The Pianist," was

FDA panel votes to keep Avandia on market Controversy remains over risks of diabetes drug

WASHINGTON--An advisory panel of the Food & Drug Administration voted Wednesday to keep the controversial diabetes drug Avandia on the market, despite evidence linking the drug to an increased risk of heart disease.

After two days of hearings, 12 of the 33 panelists had voted to pull the drug from the market, losing out to the majority who recommended Avandia remain on the market.

The panel of scientists were deeply divided after reviewing the evidence. They concluded that while there was evidence that Avandia increases the risk of heart attacks and strokes, there was no sufficient evidence that the drug increased the risk of death. The panel did, however, recommend

The teenager was taken Tuesday from the Bahamas to Miami to face charges, the FBI said. Harris-Moore's arrival occurred a few hours after he pleaded guilty in a Bahamas court to a charge of illegally landing a stolen plane. The U.S. Embassy paid the \$300 fine so that he could face prosecution for a two-year string of break-ins and plane thefts across the country.

He was captured in the Bahamas Sunday after police ended a high-speed chase by shooting out the engine of a stolen boat he was driving.

Harris-Moore is a former fugitive from Camano Island, Washington. He is suspected in the theft of at least five small aircraft, a boat and two cars, and in the burglaries of at least 100 private residences in various locations around the Pacific Northwest of the United States and Canada.

Authorities said he earned the "Barefoot Bandit" nickname by committing some crimes while shoeless, and in February he allegedly drew chalk-outline feet all over the floor of a grocery store during a burglary in Washington's San Juan Islands. The teen has been on the run since he escaped from a juvenile halfway house in Renton, Washington in 2008. The FBI had offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to his arrest.

If taken to Seattle by U.S. marshals, the case will go to a grand jury. And if an indictment is returned on Harris-Moore for allegedly stealing a plane in Bonner's Ferry, Idaho and crashing it outside Granite Falls, Washington, more charges could be filed.

The federal charges of interstate transportation of stolen goods carries a penalty of up to 10 years.

Harris-Moore has more than 80,000 Facebook fans. In December, Time magazine dubbed him "America's Most Wanted Teenage Bandit." It is reported that 20th Century Fox has purchased the rights for a film based on his exploits.



accused of pluing his victim with champagne and part of Quaalude during a 1977 modeling shoot and raping her. He was initially indicted on six felony counts, including rape by use of drugs, child molesting and sodomy, but pleaded guilty to unlawful sexual intercourse.

Poland's Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski thanked his Swiss counterpart Micheline Calmy-Rey in a phone conversation Monday for the "prudent decision" to release Polanski, a dual French-Polish citizen.

Born in Paris in 1933 into a Polish-Jewish family, his parents took him back to Poland in 1936 where he learned early about the dark side of human nature. He was eight when the Nazis took away his parents and he was forced to flee the Jewish ghetto in Krakow-an experience that lent an almost autobiographical tone to the movie "The Pianist."

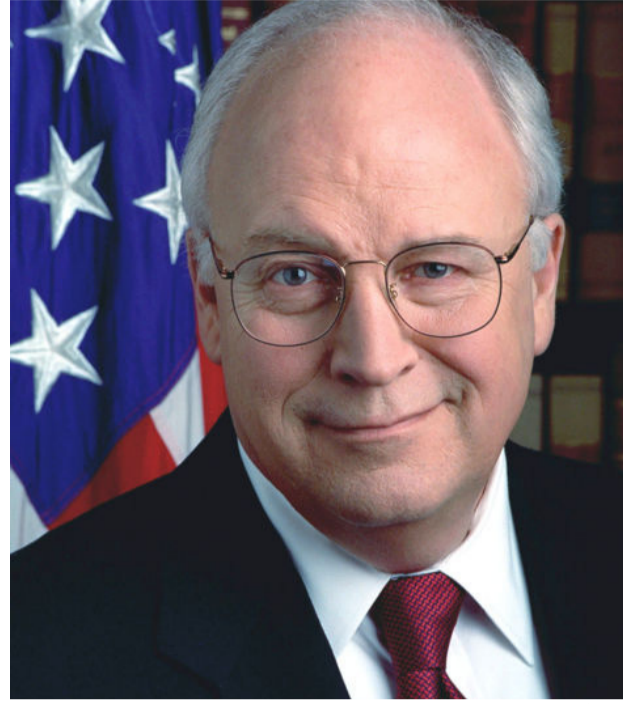
Wandering the Polish countryside, going from family to family and dodging German soldiers, Polanski saw first-hand the perversity and cruelty to people. The experience shaped his performance as a teenage actor in post-war Poland in the 1950s and underpinned his own short movies, made after a course at the Lodz Film School.

stricter warning labels for the drug.

FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg will now have to decide what action to take. The agency is under pressure to move swiftly from members of Congress and advocacy groups who claim that GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), the maker of Avandia, hid data relevant to the safety of the drug.

The Senate Finance Committee has been investigating the safety of Avandia since 2007. In a report released in February, the committee found GSK promoted the drug despite studies suggesting serious health risks. Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) and ranking member Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) sent more details of that investigation to the FDA July 12.

Heart pump for former VP Dick Cheney



WASHINGTON-- Former Vice President Dick Cheney, who had battled coronary artery disease for decades, had a small heart pump implanted last week at Inova Fairfax Hospital.

Cheney said in a statement that the operation went "very well" and that he is recuperating at the hospital after undergoing the procedure at the

hospital's Heart and Vascular Institute.

"After a series of recent tests and discussions with my doctors, I decided to take advantage of one of the new technologies available and have a Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) implanted," he said. "The LVAD is a small implantable pump that improves and will enable me to resume an active life."

LVADs help maintain the pumping ability of a heart that cannot work effectively on its own. They are usually implanted only in patients with severe heart failure and are nicknamed a "bridge to transplant," according to the American Heart Association.

Congestive heart failure is a chronic condition that develops as the heart loses its ability to pump properly and gradually enlarges. Cheney previously had a defibrillator implanted to monitor his heart and shock it back into a normal rhythm if abnormal beating occurred. It was replaced in 2007 because of a low battery.

Studies have shown LVADs reduce the risk of death in end-stage heart failure patients by 50 percent, extending the average life span from 3.1 months to more than 10 months.

Not guilty pleas by 3 officers in Katrina shootings



NEW ORLEANS--Six New Orleans police officers have been charged in connection with the shooting of civilians on a bridge in the days after Hurricane Katrina.

Three of the officers entered not guilty pleas when they made their initial court appearances in New Orleans Wednesday. They are Sgts. Kenneth Bowen and Robert Gisevius, and Officer Anthony Villavaso. U.S. Attorney Jim Letten's office said the Justice Department hasn't decided whether to seek the death penalty against them and former Officer Robert Faulcon, who was arrested in Texas Tuesday.

Two supervisors, Sgts. Arthur Kaufman and Gerard Dugue, are accused of attempting to cover up the incident.

According to the U.S. Justice Department indictment, the four police officers opened fire on a family on the east side of the Danziger bridge on Sept. 4, 2005, killing a 17-year-old boy and injuring three other people. The family was walking across the bridge to get food and supplies from a supermarket.

The officers also killed a man with severe mental disabilities. Both victims were unarmed.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said in a statement: "As our investigation of the Danziger bridge incident shows, the Justice Department

will vigorously pursue anyone who allegedly violated the law. Put simply, we will not tolerate wrongdoing by those who have sworn to protect the public."

Five former officers have already pleaded guilty to helping cover up the shootings on the bridge.

Four days before the shooting, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin had ordered the city's 1,500 police officers to leave search- and- rescue missions and return to the streets as looting was turning increasingly hostile. Extra National Guard units were also brought in to tackle the lawlessness, with reports of shootings, carjackings, rapes and attacks on police officers.

However, some officers with a history of corruption turned to crime themselves. The Danziger bridge case is one of several incidents of alleged misconduct of New Orleans police in the aftermath of the storm. Last month, five officers were charged in the shooting death of a 31-year-old man.

Dozens of officers were fired or suspended for abandoning their posts during the crisis. Nagin has been succeeded by former Louisiana Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu who replaced the city's police chief and called in a team from the Justice Department to overhaul the police department.

Skokie pilot and 3 Israeli grandchildren die in Michigan plane crash

SKOKIE, IL-- A 73-year-old Chicago-area man and three of his granddaughters from Israel were killed when their small plane crashed on an Interstate in Michigan's Upper Peninsula Tuesday evening.

A 13-year-old grandson who was hospitalized after being ejected from the aircraft, was the only survivor, Mackinac County Sheriff officials said. The pilot, Moshe Menora, who lived in the north suburb of Skokie, Ill., was killed along with Rikki Menora, 16; Rachel Menora, 14; and Sara Klein, 17.

The grandchildren had been visiting from Israel for about a week, Moshe Menora's widow, Sema Menora said. She also said the boy, Yossi Menora, suffered burns to half of his body and that the others died instantly.

Police said the twin engine Beechcraft Model 58 had not yet reached 1,000 feet after taking off from the Mackinac County Airport when it encountered trouble. The plane flipped after striking a median barrier on I-75 before resting on the shoulder about 250 miles northwest of Detroit.

Moshe Menora and his grandchildren took off about 10:15 a.m. Tuesday in the six-passenger



Shalom Menora and three of his children Yossi Menora, 13, left; Rikki Menora, 16, second from right; and Rachel Menora, 14, right

plane from a small airport outside Chicago on a day trip to Mackinac, his widow said. He had been a pilot for about 30 years.

The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board will investigate.

Rikki and Rachel came from Bet Shemesh, Israel, along with their brother. Sara was from Jerusalem. Moshe Menora was born in Haifa, Israel, and had been working in real estate in the Chicago area.