Weather

Today: Increasingly cloudy, cool, afternoon rain. High 62. Low 53. Wednosday: Morning rain, then partly sunny in the afternoon. High 66. Low 55. Yesterday: Temp. range: 58-75. Pollen count: 23. Details on Page B2.



119th Year ···· No. 154 TUESDAY, MAY 7, 1996

Prices May Vary in Areas Outside Metropolitan Washington (See Box on A3)

Colby's Body Found Along **River Shore**

Ex-CIA Director Guided Spy Agency In Turbulent Time

By Todd Shields

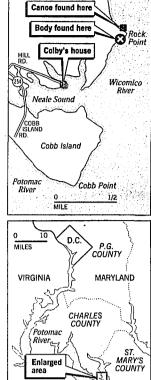
Police recovered the body of for-mer CIA director William E. Colby yesterday in knee-deep water near his Southern Maryland vacation home, nine days after he disappeared and apparently drowned while canoeing. The body floated ashore overnight

and came to rest in a clump of aquatic grass in the two-mile-wide Wicomico River near Rock Point, about 200 yards from where Colby's va-cant canoe was found April 28.

The clothed body bore no life jack-et, and authorities said it showed no signs of trauma or foul play, leading them to believe that Colby, 76, had drowned after struggling to stay afloat in chilly waters. Colby's body was sent to the Maryland medical examiner's office for an autopsy, and results are expected today.

Colby, who served 25 years with the CIA, guided the spy agency through its most turbulent era. Before his firing as director of central intelligence by President Gerald R. Ford in November 1975, the normally quiet and secretive Colby disclosed some of the agency's most glaring excesses, leading to the stricter congressional oversight that persists today.

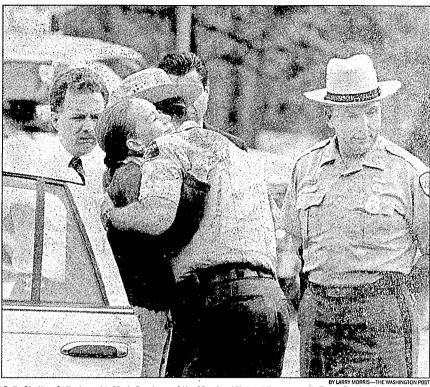
Sally Shelton-Colby, who remained at the couple's Cobb Neck retreat about 40 miles south of Washington during the search for her husband. said yesterday that he had a "magnificent" life in an espionage career that spanned World War II and the Vietnam War, including a two-year stint as CIA director in the 1970s.



"He fought the fascists, and he fought the communists, and he lived to see democracy take hold around the world," Shelton-Colby said. "He was just thrilled."

In a statement, President Clinton said: "Throughout a quarter of a cen-tury at the CIA, William Colby played a pivotal role in shaping our nation's intelligence community. . . . He made tough decisions when necessary, and he was always guided by the core val-ues of the country he loved." Colby served first in South Vietnam from 1959 to 1962, then returned to

the country in 1968 to direct the pacification program that included contro-versial Operation Phoenix. The operation was aimed at identifying and neutralizing the communist infrastructure in Vietnam, including Viet Cong officials and operatives. Colby later See COLBY, A10, Col. 3



Sally Shelton-Colby hugs Lt. Mark Sanders, of the Maryland Natural Resources Police, after her husband's body was found near where his canoe was discovered. The former CIA director is pictured below in 1975.



Colby's Candor

William E. Colby's short tenure as CIA director, in the wake of the Watergate scandal, led to the reining in of an agency with freewheeling habits. By revealing some of the CIA's secrets, Colby also prompted the beginning of the agency's loss of mystique. NATION, Page A10

An appreciation of the CIA's invisible man is in Style, Page D1.

Phone Firms Seek Higher Local Rates Average Bill Would Rise \$10 a Month To Subsidize Service

FINAL Inside: Health

25¢

By Mike Mills ashington Post Staff Writ

Phone companies nationwide are proposing that local phone bills rise by about \$10 a month over the next several years.

The companies say that the local rate increases would be more than offset by declining long-distance bills and lower rates for add-on services such as call-waiting and caller identi-fication. But consumer groups dis-pute that claim, saying that the net effect would be higher phone bills Bigger phone bills are just what

lawmakers and the industry said would not result from a new telecommunications law that was enacted in February. Supporters of the deregulatory bill trumpeted a new era in which brisk competition would mean lower rates and more choices for consumers. The proposals for higher local

rates have engendered some initial opposition at the Federal Communi-cations Commission, which would have to approve the plan. "I'm totally focused on the need to keep the local phone bill affordable," said FCC Chairman Reed E. Hundt. The phone companies' rate pro-posals are part of a debate mandated

by the telecommunications bill over how to continue a decades-old program in which certain phone servic-es are deliberately overpriced to generate about \$18 billion a year in subsidies to local phone companies.

Much of the money from these subsidies goes to provide service in rural areas, where it can be as much as four times costlier to wire a home than in a city, and to give rate breaks to low-income households. The rest of the money (the industry See RATES, A8, Col. 1

Escaped Murder Suspect Caught After Assault 5 Miles From Jail

By Rajiv Chandrasekaran and Peter Pae ashington Post Staff Writ

A murder suspect who scaled a 14foot fence to escape from the Loudoun County jail last week was arrested yesterday afternoon after he tried to rape a woman less than five miles from the jail, authorities said.

Jose Antonio Sagastume, 29, who apparently sneaked out of the jail Friday evening, assaulted a woman who was working in her garden, officials said. After she fought him off and called 911, officials said, he led sher-iff's deputies on a 15-minute chase by car and on foot until he was captured near the rural community of Waterford.

The victim of the attempted rape, whom authorities did not identify, suffered bruises and scratches in the attack and was taken to Loudoun Hospital Center, officials said.

Sheriff's officials have placed two jail supervisors on paid administrative leave until an internal affairs probe into Sagastume's escape is completed, said Maj. John Patton, of the Loudoun sheriff's department. Jail officials failed to discover Sagastume's disappearance until Sunday morning, he said.

Commonwealth's Attorney Robert D. Anderson said yesterday that he asked the Virginia attorney general to have the state police conduct an independent investigation into the escape.

See ESCAPE, A10, Col. 1

Dick Armey, Stepping Ahead to Lead 'Yes' or 'No' Conservative Learns to Say 'Maybe'-Even to Moderates By Guy Gugliotta Washington Post Staff Writer Dick Armey loves free markets, the balanced budget and the flat tax. He hates farm subsidies, the Commerce Department and the minimum wage. He's not shy about saying what he thinks, and he "You gotta understand," he told a group of high school honor students from Florida who asked him

about the future of federal education grants during a recent visit to the Capitol. "I'm not a big fan of the federal government." Two months have passed since House Speaker

Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), whose national popularity was sinking out of sight, "stepped back" from the day-to-day legislative grind to raise money for GOP House candidates and coordinate reelection strate-gy with Senate Majority Leader Robert J. Dole (R-

Kan.), the party's presumptive presidential nomi-

In Gingrich's absence, House Majority Leader Richard K. Armey (R-Tex.) has stepped forward, bringing with him an impeccable reputation as a redmeat conservative with rough edges, who, even in his current job, often serves as the leadership's ideological last line of defense. This is perhaps both his greatest strength and his weakness.

Armey's suggestion Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Armey's suggestion sunday on the structure Press" that the government cut education spending to fund the repeal of a 4.3 cents-per-gallon gasoline tax prompted immediate cries of outrage from the Clinton administration.

But inside the House, Armey wins respect for having the courage of his convictions and the willingness to state them. Both his friends and his enemies agree that he doesn't lie, doesn't take cheap shots and See ARMEY, A4, Col. 2

Students Go the Extracurricular Mile for Admission to Elite Colleges

A provision of the defense budget requires the Pentagon to give away 373,000 old rifles, sparking protests from advocates of gun control. NATION, Page A3

Gun Giveaway

INSIDE

Nightclub Slaying

AD.C. man was shot to death and at least 15 other people were injured when a gunman opened fire in a downtown nightclub. METRO, Page B1

Seeking to Settle?

 Representatives of Mitsubishi have approached the EEOC to discuss the agency's sexual harassment suit against the company. BUSINESS, Page C1

Tony Nominations

 The youth-oriented musicals "Rent" and "Bring In 'da Noise" are the top theater nominees, suggesting a Broadway break with tradition. STYLE, Page D1



By Eric L. Wee on Post Staff Write

Lauren Powell sits down and talks about her game plan with her adviser.

As the 16-year-old sophomore discusses her list of extracurricular activities at Washington-Lee High School in Arlington, one detail sticks out: Lauren is the coxswain for her school's crew. Minority students usually aren't involved in sports such as crew, she is told. That's a plus for her.

"So that will be a good strategy for us when

I start marketing you to colleges," Kpakpundu Ezeze says to Lauren. "I'll say, 'Listen, not onis she brilliant, she's a Hispanic woman fandl she's in crew.

House Majority Leader Richard K.

Armey is now playing a bigger role.

Ezeze is a new type of pitchman on the educational landscape: a paid consultant who says he can help top-notch students such as Lauren get into elite colleges-in her case, Harvard University or Johns Hopkins University.

For students determined to get into the nation's most prestigious universities, the high school years always have been a time of angst. But now these teenagers are feeling a new level of pressure, because the competition for ad-mission keeps getting stronger.

This year, many top universities, including Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, Brown and the University of Pennsylvania, received the highest number of applications and handed out the lowest percentage of acceptances in their histories. The University of Virginia and Georgetown University also had a record number of applicants.

With those longer odds, students know that perfect grades and test scores are no guarantee of admission. So many Washington area

students are pushing themselves in every con-ceivable way to reach their dream college, students and educators say.

They are loading their schedules with col-lege-level courses that can push their average above the traditional 4.0 peak, sometimes tak-ing extra classes during lunch hour or before the regular school day starts. They're squeez-ing in sports, music or volunteer work, believing that selective colleges will expect such activities.

And some students are turning to consul-See ADMISSIONS, A7, Col. 1

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School Bell Takes Its Toll in S. Korea

Booming Country Eases Its Fierce Devotion to Education

By Mary Jordan

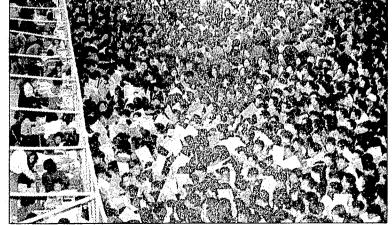
SEOUL-It was 11 p.m., and fourth-grader Moon Sae Bom was solving math problems and double-checking her social studies maps. For the past two hours, her mother had sat beside her, checking her answers, making sure the 10-year-old didn't fall asleep.

This is a regular night at the Moon house and in millions of homes throughout South Korea, where mothers spend hours a day studying with their elementary and secondary school children, even plying them with caffeine to keep them awake and learning. There is a huge new industry of private tutors for women who need to relearn algebra, world history and other subjects so they can help with homework

Across this academically hyper-achieving country, students file out of public and private high schools not at 3 p.m., but at 10 p.m. Ev-ery weeknight they study in their classrooms from dinner until late into the evening,

'This kind of excessive commitment has allowed South Korea to develop so fast and has made Korea different from other developing countries," said Kim Byung Kook, a professor at Korea University. "But we are worried we may have gone over the limit."

Min Hye Kyoung, Sae Bom's mother, is so worried about the "hell" of South Korean col-lege exam pressure that she plans to send her daughter to high school in Britain, where she See SOUTH KOREA, A13, Col. 1



Scenes of thousands of students pushing to file their college applications have been common in South Korea, but many parents are now seeking a less-stressful upbringing for their children.

In Wake of Watergate, Colby's Candor Forever Changed CIA

By George Lardner and Walter Pincus

Bill Colby was a quiet, determined man who made a career in the CIA's clandestine service but is best remembered for disclosing its most embar-rassing secrets to Congress and the American public.

Deceptively mild-mannered, he al-ways tried to do his work in understated fashion, but the result of his short tenure as CIA director in the wake of the Watergate scandal was to rein in

the agency's freewheeling habits. It was Colby who in 1973 received a compendium of misdeeds, including assassination attempts, burglaries, bugging and LSD testing of unsuspecting subjects. He took it to a handful of House and Senate overseers and quietly briefed them on its contents, over the objections of some of his colleagues and without first telling the Nixon White House,

The congressional overseers obligingly kept silent, but two years later, stories about the CIA's missteps became public through press accounts, a presidential commission and new House and Senate committees bent on

public disclosure. "That was the beginning of the agency's losing its mystique, its shield of secrecy," former CIA deputy director Richard Kerr said yesterday. "People saw that we made mistakes and were not infallible. More important, it made Congress more aggressive." Out of all this came what seemed a

rather modest reform: creation of per-manent House and Senate oversight committees to keep regular tabs on the

activities of the CIA and all other U.S. intelligence agencies. In the 20 years since, the supervision and attendant regulations have become tighter and tighter, and the intelligence apparatus has become more and more hureaucratized. Even so, the negative publicity, while never duplicating the crisis of the 1970s, keeps coming, year after year.

To Colby, this was simply inevitable. To him, as he said in 1975 during the midst of the investigations, there were "good secrets" that needed to be kept, "bad secrets" that needed to be exposed, and "non-secrets" or known facts about intelligence that in the old tradition would never have been admitted.

"My strategy quite simply had been to be guided by the Constitution, and to apply its principles," he explained in his 1978 memoir, "Honorable Men." This meant that I had to cooperate with the investigations and try to edu-cate the Congress, press and public, as well as I could about American intelligence, its importance, its successes and its failings." Inside the CIA, there was a mixed

reaction to Colby's candor. Many of his colleagues in the clandestine service frequently described in the press as the "department of dirty tricks" -were angry at him for taking it on himself to pass on information to Congress with-out a court fight. But one former colleague said yesterday that it was more "consternation at the way it was done. Congressional oversight was overdue and if it hadn't been Colby, it would have been someone else" who triggered it.

Former CIA director Richard Helms, who had been Colby's boss for

Former CIA directors George Bush and William E. Colby appear before a Senate committee looking into reorganizing U.S. intelligence in 1978. many years, yesterday said it was real-ly the Nixon White House, and the Watergate scandals, that made the agency ripe for attack. Helms recalled that even before the Watergate break-in in June 1972, the then-president sent a high-ranking aide, John Ehrlichman, to CIA headquarters to get its files on Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam, Rafael Truiillo of the Dominican Republic and Patrice Lumumba of the Congo, all of whom the agency had conspired to kill with the acquiescence of presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson

Helms said he refused to turn the files over to Ehrlichman without a direct request from President Richard M. Nixon. Shortly thereafter, Helms said, he was summoned to the White House and produced the material in a face-to-face meeting with the president.

Helms saw this as part of a Nixon plan to exploit the CIA's past plotting if it were needed as ammunition against the Democrats in the 1972 election. After the Watergate burglars, most of whom had CIA backgrounds, were captured. Nixon tried to enlist the agency's help in covering up the scandal. After all, Nixon said on the famous smoking gun" tape of June 23, 1972, we have protected Helms from one hell of a lot of things.

Looking back on those days, Helms said there was no question that Colby's subsequent disclosures brought about change in the agency, but he feels the real agent of change was "a guy [Nix-on] who was supposed to protect the age

The 693-page compendium of misdeeds, known as "the Family Jewels," including an account of the assassination attempts, was pulled together the following year in response to an order by James R. Schlesinger, Helms's successor as CIA director. He acted because of unfolding CIA links to unsavory Nixon White House activities, including disguises loaned to Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt. But by the time the collection was put together, Schlesinger had been named secretary of defense and it was up to Colby, who succeeded Schlesinger, to decide what to do.

Sam Halpern, a former high-ranking officer in the agency's clandestine ser-vice, said yesterday that putting the Family Jewels together was actually Bill Colby's "concept" when he was working under Schlesinger. Halpern said Colby wanted "to see what we had done that we shouldn't have done" and sold the idea to Schlesinger. But while Colby has been widely

criticized in intelligence circles for his ready disclosures to Congress, a dissenting note came from former representative Otis G. Pike (D-N.Y.), who in 1975 and 1976 headed the House investigation.

"Getting a secret out of William Colby was like trying to get a piece of raw meat away from a starving lion," Pike declared. "He was an honorable man."

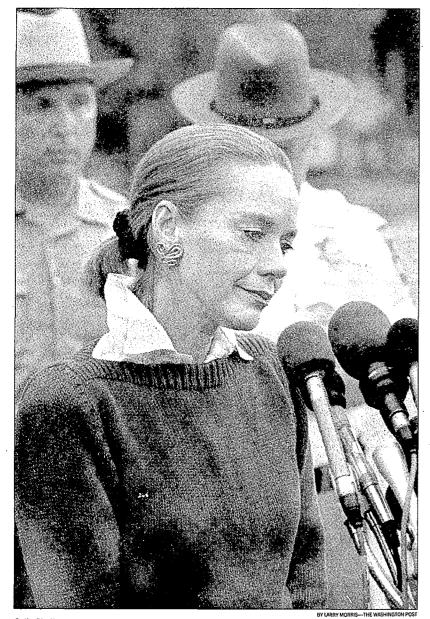
Halpern said, however, that Pike's staff was "a bunch of young whippersnappers" who didn't know what they were looking for. Whether too much-or not

enough-was disclosed is a question that will never be settled, but as Helms put it yesterday, it "set a precedent that can't be stopped." Subsequent congressional investigations of the CIA's involvement in the Iran-contra scandal in the 1980s and allegations about a connection to killings in Guatemala in the 1990s show that public accountability is now the rule.

The irony of Colby's career is that his penchant for trying to put the CIA in a good light only led to bigger and bigger headlines about its failings. Even his attempts to stay in the background in 1976 at the swearing-in of successor George Bush backfired. As President Gerald R. Ford shook hands with Bush amid a gust of applause that, day, Colby withdrew to his dusty sedan for the final drive home.

The gesture commanded the headlines about the event in the next day's Washington Post, which described it as "an ending that would have done justice to George Smiley-the anti-hero of spy novelist John le Carre-understated and not without its ironies."

Colby died in much the same way, sliding unnoticed into the Wicomico River and thereby commanding frontpage attention until his body was



Sally Shelton-Colby speaks with members of the news media. "He fought the fascists, and he fought the communists, and he lived to see democracy take hold around the world," she said of her husband.

COLBY, From A1 told a House investigating committee that 20,587 suspected Viet Cong were killed in Operation Phoenix and that, because of in-

adequate identification, there had been some "illegal killing." Although Colby said he had tried to halt such abuses, he staunchly defended Operation Phoenix as part of a political war. He said, however, that he regretted the furor it caused in the United States.

His leadership of the agency, from 1973 to 1975, coincided with the final months of the Vietnam War and the Watergate crisis that led to the resignation of President Richard M. Nixon, and it also was one of the most stormy periods in the CIA's history.

As the CIA's top officer, Colby was called before congressional investigating panels 56 times to answer questions about alleged wrongdoing, ranging from assassination plots against foreign leaders to intercepting and opening mail of U.S. citizens and illegal domestic spying.

He elected to cooperate with the investigators, turning over, among other items, a 693-page list of CIA secrets, sometimes called the "family jewels." This earned him the antipathy of some CIA loyalists who believed he had betrayed his colleagues. It may also have cost him his job.

The White House described his dismissal as essential to a reorganization of the agency.

But in his 1978 memoirs, "Honorable Men: My Life in the CIA," Colby said he was fired for refusing "to stonewall" congressional and executive branch investigations into CIA wrongdoing.

As director of central intelligence, he had fired one of the CIA's most controversial officers, the counterintelligence chief James Jesus Angleton, who had become notorious for his aggressive pursuit of what he believed to be Soviet "moles" operating throughout the U.S. intelligence system.

Reliable CIA officers' careers were being damaged and destroyed as a result of these theories, Colby said, declaring Angleton to have had an "ultraconspiratorial turn of mind." The firing of Angleton brought accusations from the hard-line right that Colby was himself a Soviet mole.

Friends and colleagues of Colby's re-

membered him as a down-to-earth man. The Silver Star medal he won in World War II hung out of view on a back wall at the Georgetown home. He called it his Colbys "good conduct medal." When he was CIA director, he never had a guard with him. Colby told Alan Alocke, an Arlington business associate, that if people wanted to harm him, they'd find a way. He saw no sense in putting anyone else in danger.

Colby Led CIA During Stormy Period

In retirement, Colby was an accessible and continuously busy presence on the Washington scene.

Two weeks ago, he returned from a trip to Mongolia, where he was promoting new business ventures, the staple of his profes-sional life in the last decade. He wrote a newsletter, spoke at seminars across the country, met with business officials, practiced law with a New York firm and was a regular guest on news programs.

At his death, he owed me an article," said Craig S. Carpel, a New York publish-er of Colby's Strategic Weekly Briefings, a newsletter. "This guy was not exactly a stay-at-home type.'

In 1992, he and Saily Shelton-Colby, assistant administrator for global pro-grams at the U.S. Agency for International Development, bought a waterfront cottage in Charles County, where they loved to sail. With his wife away for the weekend in Texas, authorities believe Colby went for an evening canoe trip April 27. He was not seen alive again.

More than 100 searchers, using helicopters, patrol boats, sonar, specially trained dogs and drag lines in the days that followed, concentrated on an area of less than one square mile where Colby usually canoed.

Yesterday, Cpl. Leonard Sciukas, of the Maryland Natural Resources Police, found the body about 8 a.m. after spot-ting a splash of red near the Wicomico River shoreline.

Colby was wearing a red nylon windbreaker, khaki stacks, a blue and white striped polo shirt and socks but no shoes, said Charles County Sheriff Fred Davis. The missing shoes could indicate that Colby kicked off his footwear so he could swim better, said Lt. Mark Sanders, of the Natural Resources Police, a lead agency in the search.

Sanders said it appeared Colby had breathed in water. "Judging by what

we've seen, it's likely" that he struggled and drowned, Sanders said.

"We still think it was a boating acci-dent," Davis said. "We have no reason to believe otherwise."

Shelton-Colby, accompanied by two friends, identified the body on the shore, bending over to view it as police lifted a blanket.

Often described as the archetypal intelligence officer, Colby was mild mannered and unassuming, soft-spoken and conserva-tive in dress. He was said to be a perfect match for his own description of the ideal intelligence officer, "the traditional gray man, so inconspicuous that he can never

catch a waiter's eye in a restaurant." During World War II, he served in the Office of Strategic Services, the predeces-sor agency of the CIA and an unofficial proving ground for a cadre of its early officers. His war record included dropping by parachute into Nazi-occupied France to help organize resistance forces. Later, he parachuted into Norway to help blow up German-held rail depots. He was born in St. Paul, Minn., the son

of a career Army officer. While growing up, Colby spent three years in China when his father was posted there. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Princeton University in 1940. After the war, he received a law degree from Columbia University in 1947, then practiced law in New York and with the National Labor Relations Board in Washington before joining the CIA in 1951.

After leaving the agency, Colby practiced law in Washington and did international business consulting and promotion.

Recently, with former KGB Gen. Oleg Kalugin, he played a starring role in an interactive CD-ROM game, "Spycraft: The Great Game."

"I'm sort of the avuncular fellow the player can turn to for advice," Colby said of his role in the game, which involves the assassination of a Russian presiden-tial candidate, the Russian mafia, double agents and layer upon layer of betraval. His marriage to Barbara Heinzen Col-

by ended in divorce. Survivors include his wife, Sally Shelton-Colby of Washington, and four chil-dren from his first marriage.

Staff writers Bart Barnes and Jackie Spinner contributed to this report.

Murder Suspect Who Escaped From Loudoun Jail Is Arrested After Alleged Assault

ESCAPE, From A1

Sagastume, a day laborer who lived in Washington, had been in the jail since he was arrested in October in connection with the fatal shooting of Rogalio Lozano, 40, the manager of a migrant worker camp in rural Loudoun. Sagastume was awaiting an August trial on charges of first-degree murder and firearm violations.

Sheriff's department officials said they do not know how Sagastume spent the first two days after his escape. But early yesterday afternoon, Patton said, he attacked the woman near the guest house of a large estate on Hurley Lane.

The house is in a rural area of Loudoun where million-dollar estates dot the landscape and where the nearest neighbor lives at least a quarter-mile away.

The woman ran into the guest house and alerted authorities, Patton said

While deputies made their way to the scene, Sagastume entered the main house on the property, where he found and put on a brown suit, a tie and dress shoes, officials said. He also stole a blue Volvo sedan from the estate and drove it into the back

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JOSE ANTONIO SAGASTUME police say he attempted a rape

yard before crashing it into a tree, officials said.

Pursued by several deputies, Sagastume then fled into a wooded area. After running for almost 15 minutes, he wound up heading directly toward the deputies who were trying to find him, officials said. Depu-ties returned Sagastume to the county jail under heavy security yesterday afternoon

"He made a daring getaway, but

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he wasn't very smart after that." Patton said. "It's a big relief for us. It feels like a great weight has been lifted from our chest."

Jail guards said they took three counts of the inmate population-on Friday evening, Saturday morning and Saturday evening-before determining, at 5:49 a.m. on Sunday, that Sagastume was missing. "We don't know what they were

counting those three times," said Lt. Robert Weitershausen, a department spokesman.

Weitershausen said Sagastume had rumpled his bedcovers to make it appear that he was in his cell. His cellmate has refused to talk to investigators, Patton said. "He says he doesn't know anything," Patton said.

Jail guards are supposed to look into-but not enter-each cell to make sure inmates are still there and in good health, said Capt. John Hickman, who runs the jail. Hickman said investigators are examining how thoroughly those inspections were completed last weekend.

Sheriff's officials said they believe Sagastume crawled under a wooden ramp in the exercise yard that serves a library trailer. After guards escorted the other prisoners in the yard back to their cells, Sagastume

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allegedly climbed on a bench, pushed aside barbed-wire coils and scaled the 14-foot fence.

The escape is the latest blow to Loudoun's troubled jail system,

The suspect "made a daring getaway, but he wasn't very smart after that."

- Maj. John Patton, of the Loudoun sheriff's department

which has been beset by crowded and inadequate facilities as well as staff shortages. In late March, an inmate who was

sobering up in the county jail apparently suffered a seizure, and several hours passed before guards discovered his condition, doctors believe.

Last year, three juveniles escaped from an interim holding facility near the jail after beating the sole guard with a porcelain toilet lid. All three were apprehended within days and convicted of the escape.

The jail, which was built for 63 inmates, houses more than 80, Hickman said. Often there are only five guards during each 12-hour shift, fewer than in most jails of a similar size, he said.

Hickman said the facility also lacks a modern video camera system to monitor inmates, and the exercise yard, from which Sagastume escaped, is not well lighted at night.

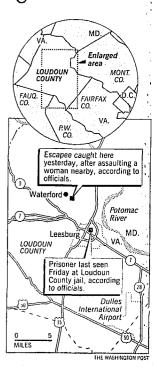
"We've got a primitive, old jail that's falling apart," Hickman said, "And we don't have nearly enough people to run this place."

Court records show that Sagastume was charged previously with attempted murder and malicious wounding after allegedly shooting a man in Leesburg in October 1994. Those charges later were dropped after witnesses refused to cooperate with investigators. Anderson said.

Instead, Sagastume pleaded guilty to two weapon violations for which he served less than four months in jail, according to court records.

Sagastume also has been charged with assault three times in the District, most recently in August, but, in each case, charges eventually were dropped, according to court records.

Staff writers Pamela Constable, Charles W. Hall and Bill Miller contributed to this report.



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