



NOT-SO-FAST GETAWAY

GAINESVILLE, FLA.—Big guys on the run are taken down routinely here, the home of the University of Florida's Gators. But 6-foot-8, 280-pound Patrick McIntosh stole more than a football, running off on April 17 with a rental truck carrying more than \$1.5 million in artworks. He ultimately got sidelined by the global positioning system device located inside the truck.

David Jones Fine Art Services had hired McIntosh to transport antique furniture, sculpture and paintings from Palm Beach County to New York City. In the shipment were seven canvases

by American modernist Milton Avery ("Clara," left, 1933, oil on board), returning from a retrospective of the artist's nudes at the Boca Raton Museum of Art, which had been arranged by Harmon-Meek Gallery in Naples.

Authorities discovered that McIntosh has a long rap sheet—one that went undetected during a background check—of convictions for trafficking in stolen property and grand theft. Thanks to the tracking system, authorities recovered the artworks intact, as well as arrested McIntosh at a Gainesville trailer park May 3. —Denise Reynolds

Hyams' Theft Recovery Ongoing

LONDON—The gang of thieves behind Britain's largest art theft (a daring raid on Harry Hyams' Ramsbury Manor in Wiltshire in February that netted nearly \$150 million in irreplaceable objets d'art) remains on the run. But police had a significant breakthrough recently when investigating officers discovered a cache of about 140 items from the manor buried in an underground bunker near Stratford-upon-Avon, 100 miles away. "Of the 300 items stolen in the robbery, around one-third have been recovered," says David Taylor, spokesperson for the Wiltshire police investigating team. Of the pieces found, 30 were damaged.

Hyams, a 78-year-old, reclusive multi-millionaire, bought the 600-acre estate in 1964 and filled the opulent interior of the 17th-century manor house with one of Britain's finest private art collections. Striking at night, the thieves weren't deterred by alarms protecting the collection. Included in the heist was a table clock by Thomas Tompion, a circa-1725 barometer and a rare Vincennes figure of a seated poodle (right) made in 1752. For more information visit www.wiltshire.police.uk. —Caitlin Randall



OLD MASTERS, NEW OWNER

OSLO, NORWAY—The Goudstikker Settlement, announced by the Dutch government in February, could mean the loss of 202 Old Master paintings—including masterpieces by Jan Steen and Salomon van Ruysdael—from 17 Dutch museums. The paintings will go to Marel von Saher, the Connecticut-based daughter-in-law of pre-World War II Dutch art dealer Jacques Goudstikker, who spent years trying to recover hundreds of paintings "bought" (below market rates) in the early 1940s by Hermann Goering and others in the Nazi Party from Goudstikker's gallery (the Dutch government recovered scores of Goudstikker's paintings after the war, depositing them in Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum and other institutions). What's the collection worth, and will von Saher keep, loan or sell the paintings? Her attorney isn't saying, but you can bet art dealers, auction houses and museums are all angling for a cut. —Nord Wennerstrom