

## Raiders on the roof (and the £25,000 bill for taxpayers): Bungling burglars stuck for six hours after being trapped by police

Stuck on the roof of the house they had burgled, these **clowns**<sup>1</sup> thought they might as well make the most of their remaining freedom.

While police **worked out**<sup>2</sup> how to get them down, they made boastful<sup>3</sup> phone calls to their friends and showed off the laptop and Rolex they had stolen.

After a six-hour stand-off they were **plucked from**<sup>4</sup> the roof with a cherry-picker<sup>5</sup> in an operation that cost taxpayers at least £25,000.



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- 1 Stupid **payaso**
  - 2 To find de answer **solucionar**
  - 3 **Presumiendo**
  - 4 To be plucked from: **arrancar de**
  - 5 **Grua**

High time: Aaron Pask (left) and Christopher McNorthey photograph themselves with their haul<sup>6</sup>, including a laptop, from the house below in Kew, South-West London



**Stand-off<sup>7</sup>:** The thieves look relaxed as officers (ringed) try the roof window

Christopher McNorthey and Aaron Pask had clambered on to the roof through a loft window in a failed attempt to hide from police officers called to the house by neighbours.

Once up there, they found they could not get down again. But it didn't seem to worry them.

Witnesses said the pair dialled up friends to **boast<sup>8</sup>** of their predicament, took pictures of themselves and played games on the stolen MacBook computer.

Their haul from the house in Kew, South-West London, included cash, an iPod Touch and a Sony PlayStation.

Hakan Yazici, a neighbour who took the pictures of the stand-off, said: 'The two men went on the roof to hide from the police.'

<sup>6</sup> The things they have stolen. **botín**

<sup>7</sup> **Permaner fuera**

<sup>8</sup> **Presumir**. To boast , boastful

‘It wasn’t really the brightest idea as they easily stood out<sup>9</sup> on the skyline and were quickly spotted<sup>10</sup>.

‘The burglars tried to get down but realised it was much **too steep to dismount**<sup>11</sup>. It didn’t seem to worry them. They looked like they were really enjoying themselves and got very **cocky**<sup>12</sup>.

‘They started making **abusive gestures**<sup>13</sup> and one was on the phone for hours, laughing and **gigging**<sup>14</sup>.’



No way out: No longer laughing, the pair wait to be plucked from the roof

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<sup>9</sup> Seen, to stand out *destacarse*

<sup>10</sup> Vistos, observados

<sup>11</sup> empinado para bajarse

<sup>12</sup> engreido

<sup>13</sup> gestos abusivos

<sup>14</sup> Riendose, risa nerviosa



Arrested: Finally down on the ground, Pask is taken away

McNorthey, 22, from Winnersh in Berkshire, slipped while **trying to evade arrest**, fell and was taken to hospital with a head injury.

At Richmond Magistrates' Court, he and Pask, 19, of Shepherd's Bush, West London, admitted burglary and causing a **public nuisance**<sup>15</sup> over the incident which happened two days before their court appearance.

Jackie Franks, prosecuting, said: 'There was a stand-off lasting roughly six hours but eventually the London Fire Brigade used a cherry-picker. Pask **handed himself in**<sup>16</sup> but McNorthey moved to the rear<sup>17</sup> of the house, slipped<sup>18</sup> and fell on to the patio.'

She said the cost of the two men's actions was an 'estimated £25,000 alone in staff spending'.

Frank Lyness, chairman of the bench, said: 'We regard it as a very serious offence. You **forced entry**, took high-value items, and caused huge inconvenience to the public.

<sup>15</sup> Alteración del orden publico

<sup>16</sup> Se entregó

<sup>17</sup> La parte de atrás de la casa

<sup>18</sup> Se resvaló

‘It has led to a high cost to the police and the taxpayer. It was a very serious and costly offence.’

Both men were remanded in custody and will be **sentenced at Crown Court** at a date to be fixed.

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