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Father In Balloon Boy Saga Still Denies Hoax

The Colorado man who pleaded guilty in the runaway balloon saga that riveted the nation for hours in October says the event was not a hoax.

Richard Heene (HEE'-nee), an aspiring reality television show actor and backyard scientist, said in an interview on CNN's "Larry King Live" that he believed his 6-year-old son, Falcon, was in the balloon. He says he pleaded guilty to a felony count of falsely influencing authorities to protect his Japanese wife, Mayumi, who faced deportation if convicted of a more serious crime.

Richard Heene, who was sentenced to 90 days in jail on Dec. 23, will begin serving his jail sentence on Monday. Mayumi Heene pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor of knowingly filing a false report with emergency services and was sentenced to 20 days in jail.

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