

Incident at football game becomes political issue at Fairfield meeting

By ALLISON FREEMAN

What began as a complaint about events at a football game in Fairfield on Saturday night turned into a political controversy when residents challenged the mayor at last night's council meeting.

Some politicians and residents said the incident reflects the upcoming municipal election. Last week, both Democratic candidates withdrew from the race and gave their support to the Republican candidates, said Steve Berzak, an independent candidate.

The independents said the events represented the Republicans' fears of having an independent majority on the township council while the Republicans said Mayor Anna Maria Rotunda reacted differently because she wanted her two councilmen re-elected.

The Fairfield Falcons were playing the second of their two Junior Football League games against Montville when one of their players was injured, said Albert Olster, head coach of the Falcons B-Division. The boy could not be moved until medical help arrived due to the nature of his elbow injury.

More than 300 parents and 150 youngsters were at the night game. More than 50 parents attended last night's meeting.

"The Republican party is trying to discredit the mayor, who has appointed two independent candidates," said Michael Mortorano, an independent, about last night's controversy.

"In normal cases, she wouldn't act like this," said Recreation Commissioner Tom Dinardi. "She wants to get her two councilmen elected."

The Fairfield Falcons Booster Committee wrote a letter of complaint to the mayor about her actions which was read at the meeting.

The letter said the committee was outraged and displeased with the events Saturday night.

"We do not appreciate the mayor taking a stand against a program which has been so beneficial to the com-

munity," the letter read. "We are not a political group, but we believe that the mayor has lost touch with the community and the things which are important to its residents."

Rotunda said many of the things written in the letter were not true.

"Some of the things in this letter are totally fabricated," she said. "As mayor, I thought I should find out what was going on and I did."

Rotunda said she received complaints from a few residents about the noise from the field, so she called the police and went down to the field to see for herself.

Police officers arrived and asked Dinardi to turn off the lights and the public address system or told him they would arrest him in front of all of the spectators, Dinardi said.

"They told me they would lock me up and that it was a direct order from the mayor," he said. Dinardi said the incident embarrassed him in front of the children and the parents and should have been handled in a more sensitive manner.

The police officers who said they would arrest Dinardi did not attend the meeting.

Two other police officers and parents then got into a heated argument about what time the ambulance was dispatched to the scene.

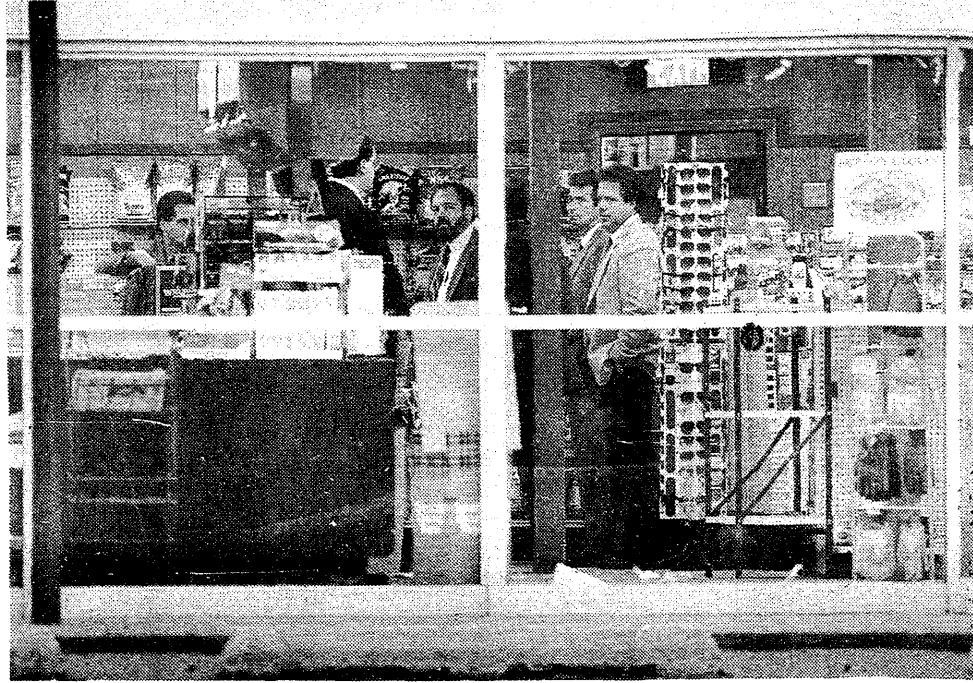
"That baby laid on that ground for 45 minutes in pain," said Elizabeth Hoaire, the 10-year-old's mother. "It was cold and I was afraid he was going to go into shock."

The committee also said the mayor's attitude toward the recreational program had changed.

"Fairfield, like any other community, has its share of problems, but it has always been a town which encourages youth and recreation programs."

"The actions taken by Mayor Rotunda last Saturday night signify to us that that attitude is changing for the worst."

At the meeting, the council discussed the possibility of instituting an ordinance stating the field could be lit and used until a certain time.



Law enforcement officials inspect the scene of a shooting in a South Brunswick convenience store where a 39-year-old woman was slain during an apparent robbery

Mother of nine is shot to death on the job at convenience store

By JAY McDANIEL

A 39-year-old Kendall Park woman, a mother of nine children, was slain yesterday in an apparent robbery at a convenience store where she worked.

The victim, Aileen Morris of Constable Road, lived a short distance from the store.

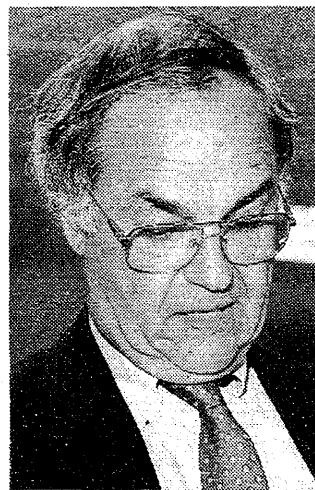
Middlesex County Prosecutor Alan A. Rockoff said the woman was killed between 9 a.m. and 11:40 a.m. He said the apparent cause of death was multiple gunshot wounds, but that authorities will not be certain until an autopsy is conducted today.

Authorities provided only a sketchy account of the homicide, which occurred in a Krauser's convenience store on Allston Road, just off Route 27, in the Kendall Park section of South Brunswick.

Morris' body was discovered shortly before noon by a patron.

Rockoff said the victim was "in the public part of the store" when she was shot, although he declined to specify where her body was found.

He said authorities have yet to positively determine a motive for the killing, but it appeared money was



Alan A. Rockoff
'Not ruling out robbery'

missing from the cash register.

"We're not ruling out robbery when there's money missing from the cash register," the prosecutor said. Rockoff confirmed that police are

interviewing people who were in the store yesterday morning and were developing composite drawings.

Rockoff said the victim's children, four boys and five girls, range in age from 5 to 18. He said the children are staying with their father, who did not live with Mrs. Morris, and their grandparents.

Authorities said the victim had worked part-time at the convenience store for "some time."

Rockoff described the victim as "friendly and well-known to the customers."

The convenience store remained closed late yesterday, and investigators stayed at the crime scene into the evening.

At the victim's home, an orange ranch house decorated for Halloween, several people gathered in the driveway, although no one was at home. The bystanders declined to be interviewed.

South Brunswick Police Chief Frank College said funeral arrangements had not yet been made.

Rockoff said the prosecutor's office is seeking additional witnesses and urged anyone with information to contact South Brunswick police.

Irvington leader blasts Cooperman for refusing to curb school board

By KEVIN DILWORTH

State Education Commissioner Saul Cooperman displayed a "stonewalling attitude" in refusing to appoint a fiscal monitor for the outgoing Irvington Board of Education, the head of the township council charged yesterday.

Council President Anthony W. Zappulla said, "In the past week I have learned that this commissioner is more concerned about appeasing board members than he is about students and the taxpayers."

Zappulla's remarks were in reaction to Cooperman's dismissal last week of a township complaint that the elected, nine-member school board, which residents recently voted to oust on Jan. 31, is violating state laws and should be subject to state oversight.

Cooperman, in a written ruling, determined that no laws were broken by the school board and told the township to stop trying to interfere in the school district's day-to-day operations.

Zappulla maintained that he, along with the majority of the township council and Mayor J. Walter Jonkoski, presented "sufficient evidence to prompt even the most pro-school board commissioner to call for a hearing."

"But Cooperman summarily dismissed our contention that the lame-duck school board is failing to fulfill its responsibilities to students," Zappulla said. "The money is being spent like water, but certainly not on the education of our youngsters, whose test scores are most discouraging."

What Cooperman has done, Zappulla insisted, is to adopt a "stonewalling attitude toward taxpayers, whose interests he has completely ignored. The people of Irvington voted on Aug. 1 to repudiate this board and to replace it with an appointed panel."

"Despite this obvious vote of no-confidence by the people, many of them parents of students, Commissioner Cooperman has given the board permission to continue operating as if nothing happened."

The complainants "have not set forth any alleged violations of statute or regulation perpetrated by the Irvington Board of Education, which would provide a basis for intervention by the commissioner," Cooperman wrote in his decision.

Jonkoski and a majority of the council, along with some township residents and a community group called Taxpayers for Responsible Educational Expenditures (TREE), repeatedly have condemned the board for its spending practices and for not better informing the public about an April 5 school ballot question and its effect on the property tax rate.

That ballot question asked residents to approve an unprecedented \$23 million tax levy that, unbeknownst to most people, represented a \$13 million hike over last year's levy and almost caused the property tax rate to skyrocket from \$12.01 per \$100 of assessed valuation in 1988, to \$17.15 this year.

Although voters approved that \$23 million tax levy by a margin of 401-292, the township council on Sept. 6 voted to shave \$9.1 million from that amount.

Essex staffer shot in apparent robbery try

By KINGA BORONDY

An Essex County corrections officer was shot in the back during an apparent robbery attempt yesterday as he and a woman were eating in his parked car, police said.

Anthony White, 26, of Wilbur Avenue was in stable condition early this morning in the intensive care unit of University Hospital following surgery to remove a bullet near his spine, said Anthony Vieira, a spokesman for the Essex County Department of Public Safety.

White and the unidentified woman were in his car at Frelinghuysen Avenue and Emerson Street eating hamburgers when three men approached and started banging on the vehicle, Newark police spokesman Daniel Collins said.

Detective Collins said one of the men pulled a gun, and as White tried to start the car and flee, the gunman broke a window and fired a shot, striking him in the left shoulder.

His companion helped him start the car and drive off, Collins said. They fled into nearby Weequahic Park and the woman was able to flag down a patrol car for help.

White has been a corrections officer since August 1985 and had been assigned to work in the Essex County Jail Annex in West Caldwell, Vieira said, adding the man was off duty at the time.

"He was in the wrong place at the wrong time," Vieira said, describing White as a well-liked and respected officer who has a good record in the department.

Boyfriend seized for terror and assault

By KEVIN DILWORTH

A 35-year-old Orange man yesterday was charged with holding his girlfriend prisoner in his apartment, robbing her at knifepoint and assaulting three police officers, according to authorities.

Police Director Charles Cobbert identified the man as Douglas Roach, a resident of an apartment building at 355 Thomas Boulevard.

After an argument between Roach

and his girlfriend, Michele Waters, 31, of Hillside in the building, Roach "took out a knife, put it to her throat, took her ring and necklace and said, 'I'll cut your throat,'" Cobbert said.

Roach punched Waters in her face and repeatedly threatened her by saying, "I'll kill you," Cobbert added. Police noted the suspect kept Waters captive from 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., before she finally was able to flee the apartment and run out of the building.

After making her way to police

headquarters, Waters accused Roach of kidnapping, aggravated assault, making terroristic threats, possession of a weapon, unlawful possession of a weapon and armed robbery, Cobbert said.

When police went to the Roach residence, Roach attempted to flee on foot and fought with police as they took him into custody.

In addition to the charges Waters filed against Roach, police accused the suspect of resisting arrest, and assault and battery on three police officers.

There's no place like

Home Liquors

THE LOW PRICE LEADER!

KEGS AVAILABLE!

Liquor...	Clan MacGregor	Seagram's	Gordon's
BACARDI	Gin	Vodka 80°	
RUM			
Silver or			
Amber			
13⁹⁷	12⁹⁹	11⁹⁹	9⁹⁹
1.75 Liter	1.75 Liter	1.75 Liter	1.75 Liter
Seagram's	Stolichnaya	Cutty	Courvoisier
Crown	Vodka	Sark	Cognac V.S.
12⁹⁷	9⁹⁹	22⁹⁹	15⁹⁹
1.75 Liter	750 ML	1.75 Liter	750 ML
Canadian	Southern	Cromwell	
Club	Comfort	Gin or Vodka	
17⁹⁹	6⁹⁹	8⁹⁸	
1.75 Liter	750 ML	1.75 Liter	
Tanqueray	Royal Tara		
Sterling	Irish Cream		
Vodka	7⁹⁸		
10⁹⁹	750 ML		
Beer...	Piels	Rheingold	Old Milwaukee
Coors			
Light	5⁹⁹	6⁹⁹	6⁹⁹
Coors	Case of Cans	Case of Cans	Case of Cans
Extra Gold			
10⁹⁹			
Case of Cans			
Beck's	LaBatt's	Guillem	Home
Imported from	Canadian or	Imported from	Beer or
Germany	LaBatts Ale	Holland	Home
14⁹⁹	9⁹⁹	9⁹⁹	Light
Case of Bottles	Case of Bottles	Case of Bottles	Case of Bottles
Tecate	Brand Beer	Pilsner Urquell	Bass Ale
(Mexico)	(Holland)	(Czechoslovakia)	(England)
3⁹⁹	4⁹⁹	4⁹⁹	4⁹⁹
6 Pack Cans	6 Pack Bottles	6 Pack Bottles	6 Pack Bottles
Foster Lager	Fontana	Mouton Cadet	Manischewitz
(Australia)	Candida	Red or White	Cream
3⁹⁹	7⁹⁹	4⁹⁹	4⁹⁹
6 Pack Cans or Bottles	1.5 Liter	750 ML	1.5 Liter
Watney's Red Barrel	Como	Taylor	Bartles
(England)	California	Champagne	and Jaymes
3⁹⁹	Wines	4⁹⁹	Coolers
6 Pack Bottles	All Varieties	750 ML	All Varieties
Wine...	PAUL MASSON	Monticello	Prodis
Chablis	Burgundy	Rioja	Asti
4⁹⁹	4⁴⁴	3⁹⁹	Spumante
3 Liter	4 Liter	750 ML	750 ML
...and more!	Pepsi,	Perrier	Moussy
Coke, Diet Coke,	Diet Pepsi,		Non-Alcoholic
or Sprite	or Slice		Beer
1⁹⁹	1¹⁹	2²⁹	3⁹⁹
6 Pack Cans	2 Liter	11 Oz. Bottles	6 Pack Bottles