

NHA official favors firing workers citing asbestos for refusal to work

By REGINALD ROBERTS

A Newark Housing Authority commissioner last night recommended firing maintenance employees who, amid a management-union dispute over asbestos, refuse to work in boiler rooms to restore heat at public housing buildings.

"Technical people have refused to go into the boiler rooms because of asbestos," NHA Commissioner Anthony Carrino said at a monthly meeting of the board last night, adding the housing authority has determined the carcinogenic material, which is hazardous when airborne, has proven not to be a health threat at its complexes.

Because of the employees' refusal to enter the boiler rooms, some tenants, particularly at senior citizens complexes, have gone without heat for periods of time, Carrino said. In some cases supervisors have had to work to restore heat, he added.

Carrino said he wants to determine "who's playing games and who's really concerned about their health" among the workers, adding those employees who are not performing their jobs based on unfounded reasons should be fired.

Last week Robert Fiore, president of the Skilled Trade Association, said the housing authority had known of the as-

bestos problem in its buildings for years and has done nothing about it. He said workers had been forced to enter areas known to be contaminated with the material.

Earlier this month, it was announced the NHA has contracted a firm to train employees in working safely near asbestos.

In other business, commissioners heard a complaint from Jacquelyn Spruill, whose six-year-old daughter, Shadrigh, was critically injured when struck by a stolen vehicle in July in a playground at Kretschmer Homes.

Three months later, Spruill complained that she still has not been relocated to an apartment which could better accommodate her daughter, who is confined to a wheelchair. Spruill said she requested to be relocated because she found it difficult to gain access to her third-floor apartment with her daughter. She added that her daughter remains hospitalized and continues to undergo operations, but is allowed to come home on weekends.

Spruill said she sought an apartment with accommodations for the handicapped, but was told there was a waiting list for relocations. "This is an emergency and I have gone through enough," she said.

Officials said Spruill's request had been approved, but did not say when she will be relocated.

E. Orange tunes up band fest

The East Orange school district will host its second annual "Festival of Marching Bands" on Sunday.

It will be held 1:30-4 p.m. at Martens Stadium on North Clinton Street, between Park Avenue and Hamilton Street.

The event is "designed to give band members the opportunity to perform, demonstrate acquired skills and appreciate the musical talents and marching skills of other musical organizations," according to Patricia Marshall, the district's music supervisor.

The participants this year will be band members from East Orange High School, Clifford J. Scott High School in East Orange, Weequahic High School in Newark and Orange High School.

The event "will open with the ROTC color guard from East Orange High School, followed by all bands participating in the national anthem," said Daryl Robinson, the East Orange High School band director. "Each band will then be allotted a set time in which to perform on the field."

Additionally, she said, all bands will be awarded trophies by East Orange Schools Superintendent T. Joshi Haig.

Admission to the band festival is free, but by ticket only. Tickets are available at East Orange and Clifford J. Scott high schools, as well as at the board of education headquarters, 715 Park Ave.

Stolen car chase ends in six-vehicle smashup

By KINGA BORONDY and ANGELA STEWART

A police chase involving two suspected car thieves on Route 22 yesterday afternoon resulted in a six-car accident on Routes 1&9 in Newark which caused several injuries and tied up traffic, police said.

The accident, the latest in a series of crashes occurring during pursuits of suspected car thieves, prompted Newark Police Director Claude Coleman to issue a statement calling for clarification of state guidelines regarding "hot pursuit."

"This incident is a perfect example of what we here in Newark have been attempting to prevent," he said. "Sooner or later, we're going to have to reach a common agreement concerning auto pursuits. What is needed is a clear and concise policy which is easy to understand and follow."

Detective Daniel Collins, spokesman for the Newark department, said Newark police did not participate in the pursuit of the two suspects but assisted in their apprehension after they were chased into the city by police from Union.

Arrested were city residents John R. Arnaud, 19, of Providence Street and Rui Ferreira, 19, of Filmore Avenue, Collins said.

They were charged with receiving stolen property and with aggravated assault on a police officer, arising from

a separate incident involving a stolen car earlier this week, Collins said.

He said Sgt. Gary Prystauk of the Newark Police Department injured his right hand in yesterday's incident and was treated at St. James Hospital. The extent of other injuries suffered by motorists involved in the accident were not immediately known, Collins said.

Union Police said they chased the two suspects from the parking lot of a shoe store on Route 22 after spotting them breaking into cars along the highway.

Deputy Chief Dennis Farrell said officers Robert Miller and Kenneth Elliott reported seeing three men in a white Monte Carlo breaking into cars.

He said the officers tried to stop the car and chased it along Route 22 east, onto Routes 1&9 and finally into Newark.

The chase continued into Newark's Ironbound section, then back onto Routes 1&9, and where, after the accident, the suspects were cornered near the Delancey Street exit, Farrell said.

Collins said a Wayne man had walked into the East District precinct on Raymond Boulevard in Newark shortly before the chase began to report that his car had been stolen from Polk and Ferry streets.

The man told police the suspects were heading east on Ferry Street in his car. It was a half-hour later, about 2:30 p.m., that Union police spotted the stolen car on Route 22, Collins said.

Gunmen hunted in Orange holdup

By KEVIN DILWORTH

Four armed suspects were being sought in Orange yesterday for staging a noontime holdup outside the National Westminster Bank on Main Street, according to Police Director Charles Cobbett.

No shots were fired, and no injuries were reported in the 12:10 incident.

However, the suspects forced two security guards to lie down while they took \$915 from them, including \$815 in coins, Cobbett said.

The security guards, employed by Dillon Security, worked out of the Veterans Administration Hospital in neighboring East Orange. After making a transaction, the guards left by the rear of the bank, off S. Day Street, Cobbett said.

As the pair approached their car to return to the hospital, "three people walked up to them, told them to 'hit the

ground,' took money bags from them, handcuffed one victim" and unsuccessfully tried to handcuff the other, Cobbett said.

The bandits also managed to take a loaded .38-caliber gun from one of the guards and to grab the victim's wallet and identification, the director added.

Almost simultaneously, Cobbett continued, another man drove up in a red car. The driver picked up the three bandits, and all four sped off down S. Day Street toward Route 280.

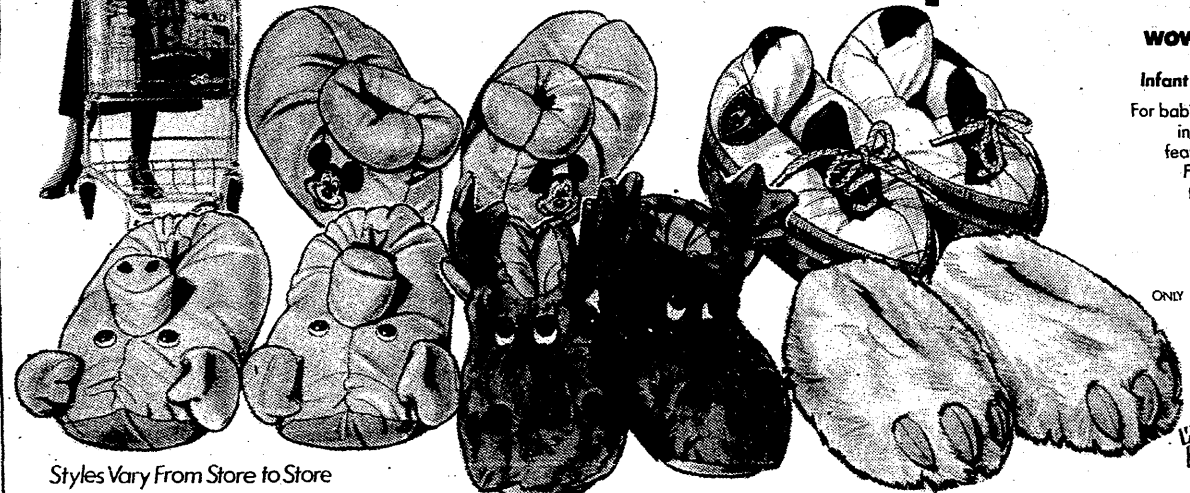
When the two victims got up off the ground, they ran inside the bank and asked that police be telephoned. The police arrived at the bank "within 30 seconds," but the bandits were gone, Cobbett noted.

All four suspects were described as "black males," Cobbett said. One was about 5 foot 9, dark complexioned and wearing blue jeans and a beige jacket, while another was "6 feet tall and wearing security-guard-type pants."



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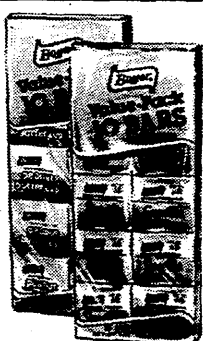
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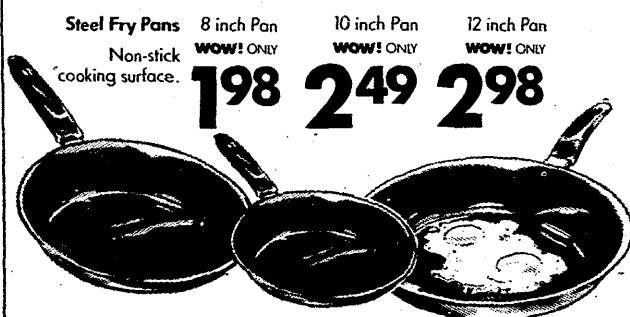
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