

Freeholder says private donations will fund convention 'get-together'

By PATTY PAUGH

Bowing to public pressure, Sussex County Freeholder Director Victor Marotta yesterday said private money, rather than tax dollars, will be used to fund a reception for up to 300 Sussex and Warren county officials at an Atlantic City convention next month.

At a press conference in Newton, Marotta said most people he approached about his plan for a Nov. 16 get-together at the League of Municipalities program supported the concept.

But he acknowledged some felt county tax revenues should not be used to finance the event, which he estimated would cost between \$6,000 and \$8,000 for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Consequently, Marotta said private individuals, whom he declined to identify, would pay for the function.

The first-year Republican freeholder defended his decision to organize the event, contending it would serve as a forum for municipal and county officials to discuss numerous mutual concerns such as garbage, transportation and the state Development and Redevelopment plan.

County Counsel Donald Kovach said he concluded public funds could be used for programs designed to promote better intergovernmental relations. However, he recommended tax dollars not be expended in this instance because no prior agenda or discussion topics had been developed.

Marotta conceded he had erred in that respect. "I have made a mistake," he said. But he added, "The mistake is not in the activity. The mistake is a procedural one, and I must take responsibility for that."

Marotta lashed out at his colleagues, whom he said criticized the proposal and claimed they had not been informed about the event. But Freeholder Nicholas Masi ar-

gued Marotta was merely trying to mask what he deemed an inappropriate use of county funds.

"You can't talk if you've got shrimp in your mouth. You can't write if you've got a drink in your hand. And you can't hear if you've got a piano playing in the background," Masi retorted. He was referring to items that he said would escalate the cost of the affair to more than \$10,000.

Marotta displayed a copy of a computer printout signed by all three freeholders last month approving a \$350 deposit to the Atlantis casino-hotel, where the event is to be held. Marotta presented a check to the county yesterday to cover that cost.

Both Masi and Freeholder Michael LaRose maintained that printout represented a deposit on rooms reserved for officials and employees attending the four-day convention, not a downpayment on the reception.

Marotta also charged Susan Capozzoli, clerk of the freeholder board, notified the two other freeholders of the event in August. Capozzoli declined comment.

While Masi flatly denied he was briefed on the function, LaRose said Capozzoli told him she could not remember whether she had informed him about the event.

Marotta also criticized his colleagues for censuring him on this proposal when they had participated in similar activities previously.

Specifically, he pointed out both had approved spending \$414 in January 1987 on a private party held at Wilpert's Newtonian Inn in Hampton for outgoing Freeholder Edmund Zukowski in December 1986.

LaRose yesterday reiterated his support for parties honoring departing long-time officials and employees, calling it a "healthy tradition."

DEVELOPING ISSUE

Seton coeds vie for Playboy photo fame

By BILL GANNON

Seton Hall University might be hopping mad over it, but more than a dozen women students have already had their picture taken by Playboy for the magazine's Women of the Big East Conference pictorial, and the photographer's appointment list is growing.

"The turnout isn't as good as we would like, of course, but it's a Catholic school and the university has said they don't want us around. So maybe some women were discouraged," said David Chan, Playboy's photographer, as he waited to interview students in a suite at the Turtlebrook Inn in West Orange yesterday.

He quickly added that he was not worried about getting the two or three women he would need for the 8- to 10-page pictorial for the April 1989 issue.

"We always get girls," he said with a smile. "By the time I leave on Sunday, I will have seen several dozen girls and I'll have the two or three we need for the story," he added.

As if on cue, the phone rang and the door opened simultaneously.

Five minutes later, there were four attractive Seton Hall students giggling nervously and filling out a form which asked them, among other information, about their hobbies, bust, cup and shoe sizes and inquiring if they would pose in the nude, semi-nude or clothed.

Big East Conference school pennants hung on one wall, while a Seton Hall sweatshirt draped over a lamp softened the light.

Chan, who has been traveling the nation taking photographs of college women in various stages of undress for 12 years, kept the conversation flowing as he smiled, joked and told them all how pretty they were.

Soon after they arrived, Chan briefly interviewed each student, taking several Polaroid photographs of them posing fully clothed by the glow of the Seton Hall sweatshirt-lamp.

Jeanine Marson, a 21-year-old junior majoring in communications and minoring in psychology and religious studies, said she wanted to be in the magazine because "when an opportunity presents itself, you should take advantage of it."

Marson, of Cranford, described herself as a devout Roman Catholic and stressed she would only appear in the magazine fully clothed.

"I don't think I'm doing anything wrong. Even if I did appear nude, God created the nude body and nudes have appeared in great art for centuries," Marson said, adding that she hoped the exposure would help her launch a modeling career.

Two friends who accompanied Marson declined to be completely identified, but also had Chan photograph them. Both said they would not appear nude, although one murmured she might consider going topless if she was chosen to appear in the magazine.

The shooting session of one of her friends, Andrea, a pretty Seton Hall freshman who skipped English class for the opportunity, stopped when Chan glanced at the photo

form and noticed she had not filled in her age.

"I'm 17," said Andrea, as Chan immediately lowered his camera, telling her he could not take her picture because she was too young.

After a brief discussion, with Andrea telling Chan she would turn 18 in a few months—before the April pictorial is published—Chan agreed to discuss the matter with the magazine's main office in Chicago.

Angela, a 21-year-old dark-haired junior, said she accompanied her friends at the last minute and stressed she did not think that appearing in Playboy would be degrading. But she said she was worried about what her family and friends might think.

Seton Hall earlier this month said, "Playboy magazine... is not within the teachings of Christian values of a Catholic university" and would not cooperate in any form and banned the magazine from placing ads in the campus newspaper.

Cindy Rakowitz, a Playboy spokeswoman based in New York, said the magazine did not intend to offend anyone by targeting the Big East, where six of the nine universities have Catholic affiliations.

"We didn't have a strategy that said, 'Let's go do a pictorial at Catholic schools,'" Rakowitz said.

"Playboy's taking the approach that there are a lot of beautiful Catholic girls who are willing to appear in the pages of Playboy," Rakowitz added.

Coye won't fight court decision

Continued from Page One

tion, both have strong political ties to Kean.

The attorney general's office has for the past nine months been investigating the question of why Coye bypassed the process outlined in state law and regulations to approve lucrative certificates of need for the Ocean Convalescent Center project and two others in North Jersey despite objections from her own staff and regional review agencies.

Attorney General Cary Edwards has said the investigation is nearing completion, but declined to speculate on when the probe will be concluded

and the findings made public.

Riley said the department will not make any decisions about the certificate of need process until the investigation is completed.

Referring to the Ocean Convalescent Center project, Riley said that at the time the application was reviewed, "We believed it was the appropriate process and that's the way it was handled."

But Riley said department staffers overlooked a regulation that required a review of nursing home relocation applications from municipalities with a population of over 50,000. "We did not catch it until the court appeal," she said. "It was an oversight. The judge said it should have been handled another way, and we are not planning to appeal."

"I don't know what is next," said Kozlov, who maintained he never used his ties to the Governor to influence Coye's decisions. "It is up to the client (to decide if an application is made for a certificate of need to relocate the facility). I just don't have a reaction. Nothing is absolutely predictable. The client is studying it."

Bathgate was not available for comment. His office said he would be out of the state until next week.

Jonathan Weiner, the lawyer for Geriatric and Medical Associates, which filed the suit to block the move

of Ocean Convalescent Center to Lacey Township, said, "It means the commissioner did not follow the clear mandates of her own department by way of subjecting this applicant's request for a relocation of a nursing home for a full review."

Weiner said the suit was filed because his client—who opened a new facility in May—was denied an opportunity to present his side of the story in a matter that would directly affect his business.

Kozlov confirmed he negotiated the Ocean Convalescent Center application with Coye. And he said he dealt directly with the health commissioner on an agreement to have 120 beds at the Wanauque Medical Center in Wanauque set aside for AIDS victims in return for Coye's approval of a new 120-bed nursing home in nearby Bloomingdale.

Kozlov holds a 10 percent ownership in the Bloomingdale facility, which along with the Wanauque Convalescent center is owned by Stephen Lasovitz, a Florida resident who operates nursing homes in Pennsylvania and Cherry Hill.

Nursing home industry officials, meanwhile, reacted to the judicial finding by saying the rebuke by the appeals court, coupled with the criminal investigation of how Coye has personally handled nursing home approvals, "sullies everybody in the process."

Judge affirms new contract for 150 probation officers

By DIANE CURCIO

A judge yesterday upheld the Essex County Probation Officers Association's contract for 1987, rejecting County Executive Nicholas Amato's contention that it was not valid.

The 150-member probation union filed a lawsuit when the county refused to authorize the wage hikes established in the contract signed by Assignment Judge John A. Marzulli. Union president Anthony Giarruto, who attended yesterday's hearing in Jersey City with four members of his executive board, said he was extremely pleased by the outcome.

Giarruto said he was grateful "to have finally upheld in court, what we believed all along—that we had a bona-fide contract signed in good faith."

Superior Court Judge Dorothea O.C. Wefing said when Marzulli signed the contract on March 20, 1987, he "had the power to determine salaries and working conditions" for the probation department.

She said the power to fix salaries "cannot and should not be dependent upon extraneous events... such as a change in administration."

Amato's attorneys emphasized in their arguments that the memorandum outlining the wage hikes was signed on Dec. 18, 1986—two weeks before Amato took office. The new Republican county executive had campaigned on a pledge to hold the line on taxes to quell the public outrage over the 22 percent increase in 1986.

In her opinion, Wefing said a "critical" point was the fact Joseph Martin signed the memorandum as county administrator and he continued in that post for several months despite the

changeover in government.

Wefing said she realized the contract would have a "fiscal impact" on the county. But she said former Court Administrator William Carpenter signed an affidavit saying \$1.2 million had returned to the county treasury from the judicial budget in 1986 and 1987.

Thomas Bachman, an assistant county counsel, said the unexpended money was for positions the judiciary had expected to fill, but did not. He argued the figure does not represent a surplus.

Amato said he would not appeal Wefing's opinion. The county executive repeated his contention that the contract is unfair to other county workers who endured a wage freeze in 1987.

There is already a projected \$8 million deficit for 1988. Amato said the contract further complicates the fiscal problems and could mean a tax hike next year. "It's the last legacy of the prior administration—spending money you didn't have," he lamented.

The contract calls for a 5 percent increase in the base salary, retroactive to Jan. 1, 1987, another 3 percent increase on the base, effective Jan. 1, 1988, followed by a 3 percent hike on July 1, 1988. In addition, the contract calls for a 4 percent hike in 1987 for the additional half-hour per day the probation officers must work. Another 4 percent raise was effective Jan. 1, 1988, for the second half-hour tagged onto the workday.

Union officials said the contract brings the starting salary for a probation officer, who must have a bachelor's degree, to \$19,200. It had been \$16,400.

2 seized in different assaults

The sexual assault and robbery of a woman in Orange yesterday and the robbery and attempted sexual assault on another woman 40 minutes later led police to arrest two men, one in each crime.

Both incidents happened along Center Street, just off Main Street, according to Police Director Charles Cobbett.

Just a few hours after both victims reported to the police what happened to them at 2:20 a.m. and 3 a.m., respectively, he noted, the suspects

were arrested.

Cobbett identified the suspects as Wuanjie Daniels, 19, of South 9th Street, Newark, and Christopher Randolph, 22, of Cleveland Street, Orange.

A 26-year-old woman reported she was robbed and sexually assaulted by two black men as she walked home from work, Cobbett noted.

The second victim, 29, said she also was attacked by two black men, he added.

Both suspects were jailed pending arraignment.

Halloween comments stir probe

A Salem County teacher who allegedly told students that Halloween is satanic and should not be celebrated is being investigated by the local school board, officials said yesterday.

The teacher, whose name has been withheld by Woodstown school district officials, purportedly also told children not to tell their parents what she had said.

A letter presented by a parent to the Woodstown School Board at its Oct. 17 meeting said the students "were told that Halloween is Satan's work and they would be bad children if they participated in the celebration of this holiday."

But the letter also said the "main issue here is the fact that the teacher told the children not to tell their parents, and threatened them."

The parent, who would not give her name, said her child was told that trick-or-treaters would be punished by God.

"We know for a fact the teacher was reprimanded for a similar incident last year," the letter said. "We feel the teacher's dismissal is imminent."

School Board President James Pope said the teacher's name will remain private because the incident is a personnel matter.

"We have obligations by law," he said.

School Superintendent Ronald Udy said yesterday that the controversy will be discussed at a closed executive session on Nov. 14.

"We have done a preliminary investigation, but the results have not yet been determined," he said. "We're attempting to ascertain what was said."

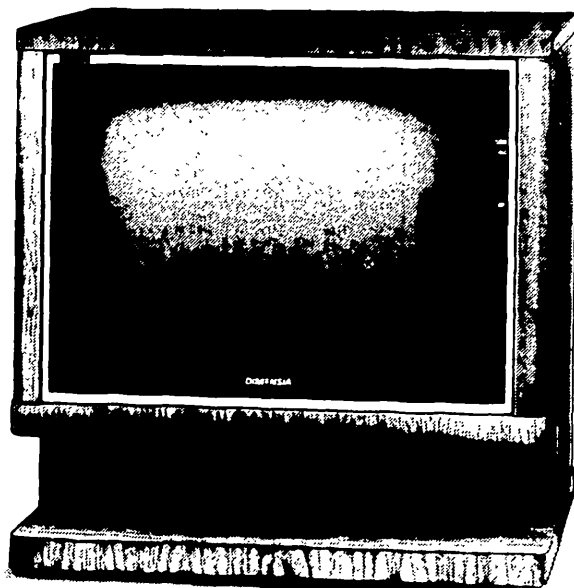
Jack Gibson, a New Jersey Education Association official who is representing the teacher, said the controversy "could be an exaggerated matter."

"I've heard about nine different versions of what the teacher supposedly said to the class," he said. "One parent told me her child was told by another child who heard the incident from yet another child, so you have a lot of hearsay."

Gibson said another teacher who overheard the Halloween comment called the incident "exaggerated."

He said the teacher in question is a religious woman who most likely described Halloween as a religious holiday, "but did not necessarily refer to it as a satanic occasion."

THE TELEVISION OF THE FUTURE IS NOW PLAYING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.



Come in for a demonstration of Dimensia®

The upper limits of home video technology are on view at our showroom. Our high-performance Dimensia receivers. With 16k microcomputer-driven interactive intelligence and a 56-function remote for both cable and off-air broadcasts, you control picture, sound, and up to 16 components without leaving your seat.

Dimensia receivers offer MTS Stereo sound with dbx® noise reduction, on-screen prompts, a high-contrast COTY tube for a crystal-clear, virtually distortion-free image, and a high-resolution comb filter. And, on our 27" Dimensia models, we provide wideband video amplification for Super VHS capability.

Dimensia receivers also simplify your life with autoprogramming, a sleep timer, alarm timer, and parental control. And a one-year limited warranty includes parts and labor in your home.

Choose your favorite Dimensia from a full range: 20-inch compact to 46-inch projection. Why wait for tomorrow's TV when it's already here? Dimensia. Television's next generation.

*dbx is a registered trademark of dbx, Inc.

DIMENSIA
P&S

KARL'S
APPLIANCES PROFESSIONALS SINCE 1941

FAIRFIELD
1000 N. 1st St.
Maplewood
Near Rte. 1 & 2

WATCHUNG
1000 N. 1st St.
Belleville
Near Rte. 1 & 2

PERTH AMBOY
1000 N. 1st St.
Montclair
Near Rte. 1 & 2