

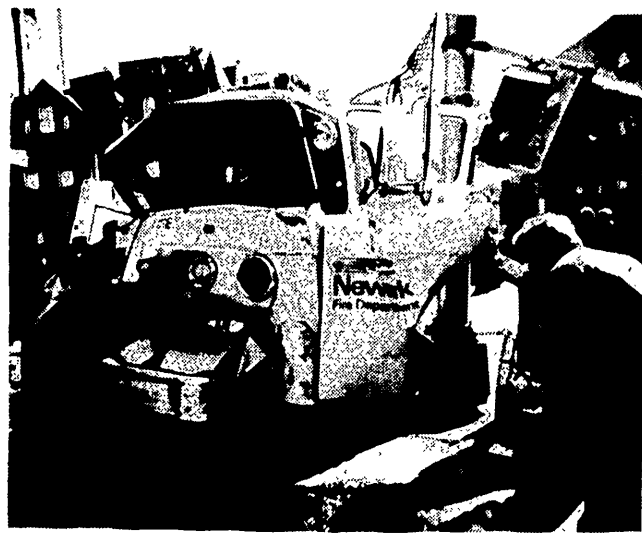


Photo by David Scull
Newark firefighters inspect a rescue vehicle after it crashed into a storefront at Central Avenue and Washington Street

Four firefighters hurt in collision with truck

By KINGA BORONDY

Four firefighters were injured yesterday when a fire engine collided with a delivery truck at the corner of Central Avenue and Washington Street in Newark.

According to authorities, the fire truck was responding to a call with siren wailing and lights flashing at the time of the crash.

"They were responding to a fire in progress on 9th Avenue," said Larry Krieger, a fire department spokesman, adding several persons had called headquarters about the blaze.

The firefighters were traveling west on Central Avenue when they collided with a panel truck driven by Sami Afionni, 22, of Raritan. The man told police he did not hear the siren, said Sgt. Ernest Newby, a police spokesman.

Police said the force of the impact drove the fire truck into the wall of Giuliano Brothers Pizzeria and Restaurant, buckling the brick structure, breaking windows and twisting wrought iron security bars. The second truck toppled over on its side, crushing a parked car, they added.

In addition to the four firefighters, the driver of the panel truck was injured in the accident.

"Imagine the potential for disaster," Krieger said, noting the pizzeria owner told him the crash occurred about 15 minutes before the establishment's customary 11:30 a.m. lunch rush. "Luckily there was no one in the pizza parlor or standing on that corner," Krieger said.

Police issued a summons to Afionni for jumping a red light after five witnesses told officials the man began moving his vehicle before the traffic light changed in his favor.

Krieger said. The driver, an employee of Rapid Package Systems for six months, suffered back, neck and arm injuries in the crash.

Firefighters gathered at the scene after the crash said their colleagues were "very lucky men" to escape with only minor injuries.

Firefighters Michael Cawley, Clifford Dainty, Anthony Apostolico and John Scofield, all assigned to Rescue One, were briefly treated at an area hospital, Krieger said.

"Considering the front of the truck and the shape of the wall, they are all in pretty good condition," said Carmine Falone, a member of Rescue One who was assigned for the day to neighboring Truck One.

Tony Giuliano, owner of the pizzeria, said he was preparing for lunch when he heard tires squealing, a thump, followed by the sound of breaking glass. "I went and looked out the window and saw my wall coming inside at me," Giuliano said.

"If the accident had happened a half-hour later, it would have been a disaster in there," Giuliano added, gesturing to the blocked front door of the restaurant.

"Now I have to wait for the insurance company to find out what will happen," he muttered.

It did not take long for Valerie Hodge, of East Orange and a worker at the nearby Newark Museum, to get the bad news about the crash—and the car that she had gotten out of the repair shop on Monday.

"Someone came in and said there was a truck on my car," Hodge said.

Meanwhile, no one was injured in the fire at occurred at 118 9th Ave., and is under investigation by the arson squad, Krieger said.

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

Vo-tech neighbor ringing mad on school's loud clanger

By AL FRANK

Virginia Ourganian is 65 and hardly deaf so when the Essex County Vocational Technical High School in Bloomfield installed a new, outside bell directly facing her Franklin Street home she noticed it right away.

"I'm going crazy," Ourganian said yesterday.

For the 20 years she and her husband, George, 71, have lived next to the school, there has been a bell practically overhanging the driveway of their two-family house.

But the one installed last spring is much louder and, worse, chimes some 20 times a day.

"The other bell was softer and wasn't as constant, although I didn't keep track because it didn't bother me because it was softer," she said.

Even yesterday, with the windows closed, the Ourganians could hear the periodic clanging, as could someone on the other end of a telephone conversation.

Yet, she contends pleas to the school's principal and vice principal have gone unheeded.

"I feel like a little kid that they gave a lollipop and told me to go home," she said.

"I just don't know where to go for help," Ourganian added. "My husband and I are senior citizens on social security; we can't get a lawyer."

She wonders, though, why she should even have to consider such a step when, in her view, the problem can easily be resolved.

She said she can more than understand the need for a morning bell to summon students inside, or ones that will sound to end a lunchtime recess or even a fire drill.

"I know about school," Ourganian said. "But



Photo by Richard Rosenberg
Virginia and George Ourganian stand in front of their home on Franklin Street in Bloomfield as they describe the loud bell-ringing that they hear from the Essex County Vocational Technical High School next door

why should bells ring outside the school for the kids inside the school?"

Contacted later, Edmund Riccardi, the school's vice principal, agreed.

"It's located in the driveway right outside her door," he said of the annoying bell. "We're making every attempt to cooperate with her because we can understand it must be a real pain."

The bells had been ringing every 45 minutes from 8:30 in the morning till 9:30 at night. After Ourganian's first complaint, the system was ad-

justed so the ringings were halted at 2:30 p.m.

However, after Ourganian complained that the bell was ringing in the wee hours of Saturday and Sunday nights, Riccardi said he summoned the maintenance company again on Monday.

By yesterday, the contractor had still not arrived but Riccardi said he intends to have the bell disconnected or moved to the back of the building.

"If he can't do that, I'm going to have maintenance silence it altogether," he promised.

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Another teen girl held in fatal gang stabbing

By KEVIN DILWORTH

A 16-year-old girl has become the fourth suspect arrested in connection with the gang stabbing death last summer of a woman in Orange. Police Director Charles Cobbert said yesterday.

The girl, whose name was not released because of her age, lives on 17th Avenue in Newark and is "the primary person" suspected of murdering Aliha Reese, 20, of New Street, Cobbert said. Two suspects remain at large.

Essex County Sheriff's Department Detective Keith Cummings, while patrolling on Prince Street in Newark about 5 p.m. Wednesday, saw the suspect and made the arrest, the police director added.

According to Cobbert, the suspect was placed in the Essex County Youth House in Newark. She will remain there pending an Essex County Juvenile Court hearing, he added.

The events leading to Reese's murder began about 11:30 p.m. Aug. 30 when Reese and another woman got into an argument at Park and William streets in Orange, Cobbert said.

The confrontation ended, he continued, when the other woman left the scene and drove into Newark, where she gathered some friends who returned with her to Reese's neighborhood in a van and a car.

About 1:30 a.m. the next morning five females and a man accosted Reese at Park and New streets, near her home. The woman was stabbed twice, with one blow striking her in the heart. Reese died less than an hour later, authorities said.

According to Cobbert, the murder apparently stemmed from a dispute Reese had with one of the female suspects regarding a man by whom both had a child.

The day after Reese's murder, Orange police arrested Harvey Holland, 28, of Glenwood Avenue in East Orange, a 17-year-old girl who lives on the same street and Keela Simon, 21, of Ward Street in Orange.

Cobbert said Orange Police Detective Clarence Derricott and Essex County Prosecutor's Office Detective Roger Spain are in charge of the continuing murder investigation.

Bid to bail out friend leads to couple's arrest

By KINGA BORONDY

A man and woman who entered Newark Police headquarters with more than \$10,000 to bail out a friend were arrested on an outstanding contempt of court warrant and lost the cash after a drug-sniffing dog reacted to the money, police said.

Police arrested Edward Nieves, 32, of Second Street and Lydia Rodriguez, 41, of President Street yesterday, said Sgt. Ernest Newby. The pair had tried to bail out a friend, Magda Rodriguez, 23, of Mt. Prospect Avenue in Newark, who was arrested Wednesday night after selling pills to a plainclothes policeman, the spokesman said.

When Nieves and Rodriguez arrived with \$10,199 in cash, police became suspicious and questioned where they obtained the money, said Sgt. George Bagnall of the narcotics squad. Authorities said the man carried the money in a waistband.

"First they said the owner of a Washington Street restaurant gave them the money. Then they said they got it from a bookie they wouldn't identify," Bagnall said. According to Bagnall, Newark officers make it a policy to ask people where they acquired large amounts of cash used to make bail.

"They couldn't account for the money," Bagnall said, adding the pair and their money were escorted to the narcotics squad office for a meeting with the county drug dog, Sable, and his handler.

"Sable went bananas when he smelled the money," Bagnall said, explaining the dog is trained to detect drugs or items tainted by the substances.

Police confiscated the cash and arrested the two individuals when a check revealed they were wanted by Newark on contempt of court and other charges. Authorities could not immediately elaborate on the charges.