



Capture methods

Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies subdue a "suspect" by spraying him with a soda-based dry propellant from a fire extinguisher

and throwing a net over him during a demonstration Wednesday of non-lethal weapons. These devices will be used against suspects not armed with a gun who are resisting arrest. — AP Photo

Hastings crash kills 2 Yonkers residents

By ED TRAPASSO
Staff Writer

Two young Yonkers men were killed and a third badly injured Wednesday night in a traffic accident in Hastings-on-Hudson that virtually split their automobile in half. The victims were identified as John G. Losee, 22, of 71 Caryl Ave. and Donald McGonigal, 17, of New Main Street. Russel Martinez, 19, of 480 Hawthorne Ave., survived the accident.

Police were summoned to the scene at 9:30 after a 1967 Ford sedan driven by Losee slammed into a utility pole on Route 9 near Warren Street, not far from the Yonkers city line.

According to Hastings police, the vehicle had entered the stretch of Route 9 at the point where it forks into two separate one-way roads in either direction.

The car was traveling northbound in the left lane when it collided with the telephone pole nearby the service entrance to the John E. Andrus Memorial Home.

"The left side of the car was sheared wide open," said Michael Witkowski, the first Hastings police officer at the scene. "The dashboard was pushed in. Really, the only thing left was the car's rear end."

The victims were rushed to St. John's Riverside Hospital where the two were pronounced dead. Martinez, who was admitted to the hospital, was apparently seated in the auto's front passenger seat when the collision occurred.

"He (Martinez) was sitting on the side of the road," Witkowski said. "It's really unbelievable that anyone could walk away from it." Martinez was listed in stable condition early today. He suffered multiple injuries of the face and extremities and possible internal injuries.

Officials declined to speculate if the car was speeding, although one officer who was at the scene attributed the cause to "human error."

A resident in the neighborhood witnessed the accident and provided investigators with a statement. Police declined to disclose the contents of the statement.

Lead paint effects hit 200 county children

By ROSEMARY McMANUS
Staff Writer

Nearly 200 young Westchester children last year were suffering from various levels of lead poisoning, a recent Health Department survey found.

Of those, 12 cases were serious enough to require the child be hospitalized for further tests or painful treatment. The other cases are being monitored closely by pediatricians and the Health Department.

The results of the survey, taken under the Lead Poisoning Control Program, have prompted health officials in Westchester to urge that parents use caution in working with leaded paint. Also, the program is offering free blood tests for youngsters under six years old to determine the levels of lead in their blood.

"We want to alert parents that there is still a problem," said James Verboys, administrator of the program. "Usually the only way we can tell (if a child is suffering from lead poisoning) is a blood test," he said.

The problem is not as severe as it was when use of leaded paint was in

more common use. Most paints today do not contain lead.

A popular misconception is that youngsters contract lead poisoning only by eating lead paint chips.

But a pair of 2-year-old White Plains twins got large doses of lead last year while their parents were scraping and sanding painted walls and woodwork in their home for several months, according to Diane Halley of the Health Department.

She said the twins are being monitored to determine when the lead level subsides and that they apparently do not need special treatment. "We caught them early enough that it probably isn't as serious," she said.

"The problem is that people don't really think about it," she said. "They want to get the painting done."

But as long as youngsters are playing nearby, they are also inhaling harmful lead dust, she said. A toddler can even contract poisoning by placing his fingers in his mouth after touching large amounts of lead dust.

While adults also can contract lead poisoning, children appear to be more susceptible.

Council OKs panel to seek new manager

By TIM McQUAY
Staff Writer

The Yonkers City Council calmly took its first step Wednesday to find a new city manager.

An internal search committee was set up by an 11-2 vote to solicit and find candidates for the annual \$50,000 job and report all names back to the entire 13-member council. A new city manager can be appointed when a council majority votes to hire him.

The search comes after Pat T. Ravo, the fifth city manager in six years, announced his resignation Tuesday after a week of angry debate surrounding the disclosure that the city's Community Development Agency (CDA) has gone broke and mispent money. The city manager is chairman of that agency.

Ravo is staying on until a successor is appointed.

"The purpose of this search committee is only for the mechanics of advertising and soliciting candidates," said Stephen Kubasek, the Republican majority leader. "No attempt will be made by this committee to

select a city manager on its own. All resumes will be shown to the entire council. Everything will be gone over with the entire council."

The two dissenters - Katherine S. Carsky, R-11, and Nicholas V. Longo, R-12 - said they thought a better search committee could be formed.

The emergency council session was calm and took less than an hour, in contrast to the last Friday's heated meeting that resulted in a 7-6 vote of confidence in Ravo.

Four days after that vote, however, Ravo resigned saying, "The council is divided. It's extremely difficult to get any city business moving under that... any city manager worth his salt will resign under these circumstances."

The search committee, said Kubasek, will immediately begin preparing an advertisement in professional journals and large-circulation newspapers. Kubasek and Harry Oxman, the Democratic minority leader, are co-chairmen of the seven-member committee. Other members are Mayor Gerald E. Loehr, Vice Mayor Arthur E. Freddoli-

no, Bernice Spreckman, R-2, Frank McGovern, D-8, and Carsky. There are four Democrats and three Republicans on the committee.

Mayor Loehr said all council members are invited to all meetings and all information will be available.

However, Carsky and Longo, who finally voted against the committee resolution, moved during the meeting for some changes. Carsky wanted some changes clearly stating the group's powers were for recruitment and not actual selection. Her amendments were rejected 10-3 with Carsky, Longo and Edward Fagan, R-10, in favor.

The problem, she said later, is that the committee's function needed fuller discussion and some of the resolution's language was unclear. She said she had already received many telephone calls from people worried the committee was stacked in favor of the influence of Democratic City Leader Angelo Grippo, who has associated in the past with a cross-party mix of Kubasek,

Oxman, Spreckman and McGovern, among other councilmen.

Asked if that influence seemed real, Carsky said, "I won't know till I sit on the committee."

Oxman countered her concerns by saying "The whole council will be involved. Nothing is going to be put on the side without everyone knowing what's going on. That about covers everything."

Longo had offered the idea of a committee constructed of citizens named by the council, an idea also nixed in a 10-3 vote. He said he was looking for the strong appearance of a non-partisan, non-political group. Critics said his method of selecting citizens from categories - like having an instructor of public administration, with at least a masters degree, from a neighboring educational institution - was cumbersome, confusing, and detracted from the council's responsibility of making the decision.

The day before the council meeting, city leaders projected it could take from 30 days to mid-May to find Ravo's replacement.

Inside

Lifestyles Selecting new tiles shouldn't floor you. Home Style covers the latest in floor tiles and how to choose them. See Page B1.

World/Nation President Carter is stepping into the lagging Palestinian autonomy talks to try to spur a settlement and to head off a distracting West European diplomatic drive. See Page C1.

Index

Campton.....A3	Money.....D1-3
Classified.....C8-11	Obituaries.....A12
Comics.....B11	Sports.....C3-12
Editorials.....A10	Television.....B10
Education.....D8-10	Theaters.....B9
Insight.....A11	Weather.....A2
Lifestyles.....B1-11	World-Nation.....C1,2

Mystery man fled 'Sam' killings

By MAURY TERRY
Copyright, 1980,
Gannett Westchester Newspapers

Moments after the final Son of Sam attack, a motorist chased a yellow Volkswagen driven by a man who matched perfectly an eyewitness description of the gunman who had just fatally wounded a young woman and blinded her date.

The chase, following a near-collision barely a block from the Brooklyn shootings, included a face-to-face confrontation between the motorist and possible killer. It ended blocks away after the Volkswagen driver squealed down a one-way street in the wrong direction, raced up another street, abruptly U-turned, tore back toward his pursuer and roared past him onto the Belt Parkway where he disappeared.

Both the description of the gunman and the Volkswagen he was driving are at odds with the Brooklyn prosecution's version of what happened that night. And, while an official report of the Volkswagen chase is in the files of the Brooklyn police, it was

never made public.

The contents of the report, but not the witness' name, were uncovered by Gannett Westchester Newspapers. The newspaper group has been investigating whether David Berkowitz of Yonkers had accomplices in the 1976-77 Son of Sam murder spree, which left six young people dead and seven others wounded.

The Son of Sam case was reopened last October by Queens Dist. Atty. John Santucci after a number of articles in Gannett Westchester Newspapers demonstrated that Berkowitz apparently was not alone. Five of the eight Son of Sam attacks occurred in Queens. Santucci declined comment on the Volkswagen report, saying only, "It is not our policy to comment on ongoing investigations."

Berkowitz, insisting he acted alone, pleaded guilty in 1978 to all six murders and is serving six 25-years-to-life terms in Attica State Prison.

The new information about the chase, however, further weakens his assertion as well as the position of Brooklyn law en-

forcement officials that Berkowitz was the gunman in that borough's lone .44-Caliber murder.

The chase followed the murder of Stacy Moskowitz and blinding of Robert Violante as they sat in his parked car in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, in the early hours of July 31, 1977. Last year, through a timed reconstruction of events that night and interviews with the principals, these newspapers demonstrated the likelihood that Berkowitz not only had an accomplice but that the accomplice pulled the trigger while Berkowitz acted as a lookout blocks away.

The Volkswagen report reinforces that likelihood. It shows that a man - whose description perfectly matches that of the killer as provided by the key eyewitness to the shooting - fled in a yellow Volkswagen that was then chased for nine blocks through the streets of Brooklyn by another witness.

Please see SAM on page A8



Welcome

Black students arriving by bus get friendly greeting Wednesday at Cleveland's Jefferson Junior High School. The occasion was the first day of court-ordered desegregation for the city's junior highs. — AP Photo

Expert: April 1 transit strike is a sure thing

NEW YORK (AP) — Veteran transit mediator Theodore Kheel says it seems to him that an April Fool's Day strike by 33,000 bus and subway workers is "inevitable" and might cause a national recession.

Noting that Mayor Edward Koch has placed limit of four percent on wage increases for city employees while the unions representing the transit workers have been demanding a 30 percent increase.

Kheel said Wednesday that he doubted the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the TA's parent agency, would try to give the workers more than a four percent raise without Koch's public endorsement.

Kheel, who said that over the years he has been involved in "16 or 17" transit negotiations, is not participating in the current bargaining. But as an advisor to the million-member Central Labor Council, he is watching the talks and reporting back to the council which is made up of people who work for the city. Council members are negotiating for a new contract to take effect July 1.

The current transit contract between the TA and the Amalgamated Transit Union and the Transport Workers Union expires at midnight March 31. The unions have said that if a new contract is not in place by then, the trains and buses stop.

Kheel said Wednesday that he intended to report back to the labor council that the results of the transit talks "unfortunately, is bound to be a devastating strike."

Kheel said it was his opinion, "particularly in light of the president's actions in cutting back financial assistance to the cities, that the transit negotiations will remain stalemated and that a strike is inevitable."

Lesson: Youth + alcohol = disaster

By GAIL HOROWITZ
Staff Writer

For those Yonkers parents who gathered together Wednesday night to learn about teen-age alcoholism, the facts brought shock and surprise when a Yonkers High School drug counselor revealed that students are coming to school drunk before the school day begins.

"They are having a drink before coming to school, during the day and after school,

no longer just on the weekends," said the counselor, Maria Napoli.

But for those parents who have known alcoholics, young or old, the reality is the real killer.

"It was pure hell," said one mother at last night's PTA Council meeting at School 18. "My mother drank up to four quarts of alcohol a day and she died because of it."

"We have to hit the supermarkets and the liquor stores which are selling the stuff to

our kids who are underage," she added.

For close to three hours last night parents and school officials gathered at School 18 on Park Hill Avenue to hear two experts on alcoholism and alcohol abuse tell them some of the facts: There are students at Yonkers High School with drug and alcoholism problems who wait on line early in the morning to see the school's drug counselor

Please turn to ALCOHOL on page A5

