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25 CENTS

'Tent City' Behind City Hall

Mayor, Police Provide Food, Clothing



LIVING UNDER THE STARS ... This is part of "tent city" which has grown up in wooded area behind City Hall as home to transients over years. Mayor Jim Kennedy and police officers admit to having brought food and clothing to residents.

Republicans Charge Mayor Tries To Run Both Parties

Regular Organization Republican Council candidates, Robert E. Vesey and Jeffrey Cohen have criticized Democratic Mayor Jim Kennedy for allegedly attempting to hand-pick City Council and Party Committee candidates in both political parties in Rahway, calling upon fellow Republicans to reject the alleged "Kennedy supporters" and "keep the Republican Party independent of Democrat control" in a joint statement.

Kennedy could not be reached for comment on the two Republicans' charges.

Vesey (First Ward) and Cohen (Fifth Ward) are running on the Republican organization line for Council along with Frank Janusz (Second Ward), GOP Committeeman Colton S. Weber (Fourth Ward), Councilman William P. Wuuck (Third Ward) and former Councilman James J. Fulcomer (Sixth Ward).

"Mayor Kennedy and his allies in the Republican primary are trying to establish a new devious rule in Rahway politics," Vesey said. "That new Kennedy rule is that those who support Democrats, those who are part of the Democratic Administration, and those who are Democrats should be the candidates and leaders of the Rahway Republican Party. Our opponents in the Republican primary elections are the tools of the democratic Administration's attempt to make the Republican Party a rubberstamp for Democrat policies."

Cohen charged that in the First Ward Republican primary for Council Kennedy is running "his hand-picked Democrat Council president," in the Second Ward "a three-time loser to guarantee a Democrat victory in November," in the Third Ward "a Kennedy Democrat political appointee," in the Fourth Ward, "the 1991-92 Democrat County Committeewoman," in the Fifth Ward "a Mayor Daniel Martin Democrat political appointee," and in the Sixth Ward "one of the very first paid political appointees of the present Democrat Administration."

"The self-proclaimed head of this phoney

Republican group is an actual member of the Kennedy Democrat Administration, with an office in City Hall," Vesey said. "This is, by far, the biggest scam attempted by any politician on the Rahway voters."

Cohen said records at the Union County Board of Elections show that "at least four of Kennedy's phony Republicans running for County Committee were registered Democrats as of April 1 of this year, and at least two of them were still registered Democrats after they filed their nominating petitions."

Vesey said city records show that "at least six of the Kennedy hand-picked County Committee candidates in the Republican primary elections received Democrat political patronage appointments."

"The Kennedy County Committee candidates also include actual signers of campaign literature endorsing Democrat candidates," he added.

GOP Primary Challengers Seeking Debate Sponsors

The Regular Republican Organization of Union County (RRO) has issued a number of requests to Rahway civic organizations, asking them to sponsor a face-to-face debate with the GOP organization slate for City Council in the upcoming primary election, mediated by the League of Women Voters.

"The RRO includes many Republicans who have been alienated from Mr. James Fulcomer's organization over the years during the Party's disintegration under his perpetual leadership," RRO Chairman Andrew Voros said.

Such members include Committeeperson candidates Bernard Miller and Richard Voynick in the Third Ward and former Councilman George Wagenhoffer in the Fifth; City Council President and candidate for re-election in the First Ward Michael Esposito, Second Ward Council candidate Thomas Cusmano, and Fifth Ward Council candidate Irene Rinaldi.

"Mrs. Rinaldi is the only Republican to have won a citywide victory in nearly 20

"During the past year, Democrat Council President Michael Esposito has been Kennedy's spy in the Republican Party," Vesey asserted. "Not satisfied with that, Kennedy now wants to take over the Republican Party. That takes arrogance. I predict that Kennedy will fall flat on his face in his scheme to make the Republican Party his puppet organization."

"Kennedy wants to place spies for himself and for state Democrat Chairman Raymond Lesniak in the city and county Republican parties," Cohen charged. "This is a threat to the integrity of our two-party system. This greedy scheme must be defeated totally for the good of Rahway."

In losing to Lesniak in last year's senate election, Cohen outpolled Lesniak in Rahway.

Vesey concluded by urging all Republicans to vote for all Regular Organization Republican of Union County candidates running on Line A.

years, when she ran off of Mr. Fulcomer's line in 1978," Voros said.

"The RRO wants to emphasize in the strongest terms the importance of taking part in the primary election," he continued. "The primary is the most significant exercise of voting rights because it directly gives the voter a voice in who their candidates will be, rather than simply picking from a pre-determined 'multiple choice' in the general election."

"The RRO has many candidates and members who are familiar with Mr. Fulcomer's political tactics over his 20-year dynasty," Voros said. "Experience has shown that he will continue to wage a negative campaign of half-truths and attacks to which his candidates will sign their names, while never addressing meaningful issues for the town."

"The RRO wishes to break this childish and misleading political pattern and demands to face off its candidates in several public forums throughout Rahway," he concluded.

by Pat DiMaggio
Kennedy and Asia have been living behind City Hall for two years. They cook over an open campfire, sleep under the stars, and use neighborhood restaurant facilities for basic needs. Kennedy and his "old lady" are among the homeless transients who live in tents on City-owned property. And they are treated by some officials with concern and sympathy.

"This is a social problem more than one of economics," said Mayor Jim Kennedy, who admits to bringing food back to the "tent city" located behind City Hall. Kennedy said the tents have been in place for several years, and have served as a home for a variety of people. Currently, there are four people living off and on in the camp, located between the City Hall parking lot and the river, noted Kennedy.

The mayor said Rahway does not really have a problem with the homeless. "Rahway has a lower percentage of homeless per square mile than most communities in the east," he said. "But Kennedy and Asia are unique. It's not just a case of providing shelter. This is truly a way of life for them." Although Capt. Edward Tilton, Chief of the Detective Bureau, said Kennedy is not dangerous, he did warn

The Rahway News Record about walking back into the "tent city." "If left alone, he doesn't really present a safety problem," said Tilton. "But he shouldn't be confronted." Tilton also admitted to bringing food and clothes back to the homeless people living in the camp. "Most of us at one time or another have brought things back to them," he said. Capt. William O'Leary, in charge of the Police Department's Patrol Division, said Kennedy had been arrested for minor offenses over the years. Kennedy and Asia, and their dog Chico, are often found underneath the railroad bridge on Irving Street and sometimes pass handle downtown. But O'Leary says he has not received any complaints from residents.

Kennedy admits that he has problems. "I've been arrested, placed in a 'nut house,' had drugs and electric shock treatment," said the tall, stocky man, also known as "Bigfoot." He and Asia live, winter and summer, in the tents, heated by Coleman stoves and lighted by lanterns. He says they sometimes cook their own supper. "I have a big frying pan," he said.

Kennedy said he has been dealing with Kennedy and Asia on a "personal basis." He said that when the City-owned property is sold, they will have to move on. "I don't know who is responsible to help place the homeless, but we will make an effort. They don't want to go into a shelter, though. But we will assist them in finding something to live."

When asked if he should living in the tents, Kennedy immediately answered, "I hate it." He said he'd like to go somewhere else, but he and Asia have nowhere to go. "People don't think so, but we have rights. We're citizens, too," he said.

15 Arrested In Demonstration

by Pat DiMaggio
A group of activists was arrested in a planned protest against the siting and construction of Union County's regional incinerator now being built in Rahway. On Saturday afternoon, members of the Concerned Citizens of Union County crossed the Rahway River by rowboat in an act of deliberate civil disobedience aimed at calling attention to their efforts to halt construction of the 1,440-ton-per-day mass-burn incinerator.

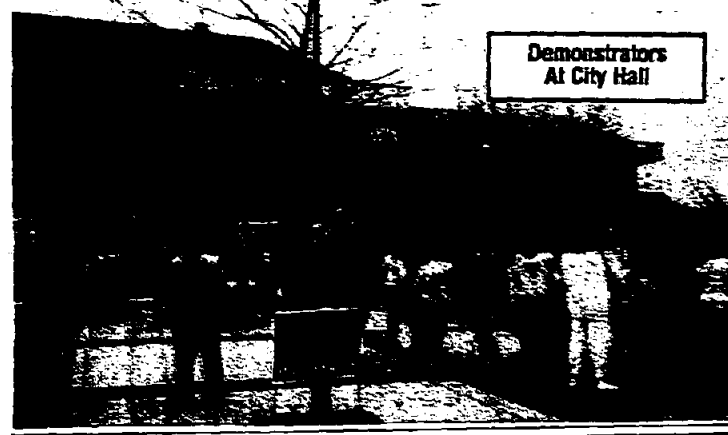
"We are focusing attention on this project and on Governor Florio," said Bob Carson, Vice Chairman of the group. "We will do everything we possibly can to cancel this unsafe, unnecessary process that exposes everyone to toxic materials. And we will go this far to make our point."

The demonstration began at 1 p.m. at Rahway's City Hall and moved to Howard Park on Stockton Street. More than 200 anti-incineration protesters listened as speakers from various environmental groups congratulated them on their fight.

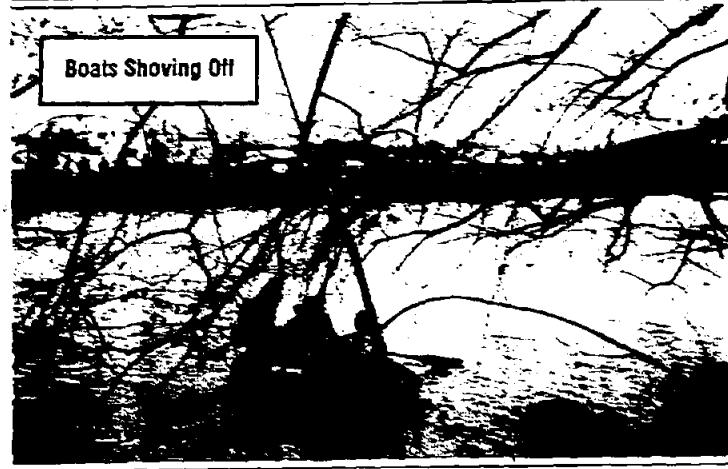
The march then moved to the banks of the Rahway River, where 15 activists, trained in civil disobedience by the Greenpeace organization, were rowed in shifts across the river. During the march and demonstration in the park, each of the 15 Concerned Citizens selected to be arrested wore handcuffs attached to one wrist. Original plans called for the activists to handcuff themselves to the fence surrounding the incinerator site or to machinery used during construction once they were across the river. Just before they entered the rowboat, however, Carson directed his fellow protesters to remove the handcuffs and put them in their pockets.

Union County police lined up on the far shore of the river behind an orange banner marking off the county-owned property. County police also patrolled the river in their own inflatable boat, but made no attempt to interfere.

Protesters erected signs and banners on the shore, and when they moved to cross the banner, police arrested them individually, handcuffed them, and led them off to be processed. All of the activists were later released.



Demonstrators At City Hall



Boats Showing Off

Madelyn Hoffman, director of Grassroots Environmental Organization, Bloomfield, said Saturday's act of civil disobedience was the first in the state aimed at stopping the siting and construction of incinerators. "This shows how important this issue is to the people of Rahway and how committed they are," she said. "We feel we've had to take our demonstrations up a notch and put on more pressure to get this stopped."

Fred Munson, of Greenpeace, called the protesters

"heroes." "You are all modern day heroes," said Munson. "People in this community who will stand up for what they believe in. But you can't do it alone. You have to take this fight to Trenton and to Governor Florio."

POLICE PROBING SHOTGUN BLAST

Police are investigating the firing of what they believe to have been a shotgun at a residence in the 1800 block of Montgomery Street on Monday about 8:25 p.m.

According to police, Officers Christopher O'Brien and Frank D'Errio were dispatched to the scene to investigate a report of a disturbance.

Upon their arrival, the officers were told that several people had pulled up in a vehicle, got out, and fired a shot which struck a building's east side, police said. Police reported that the

suspects returned to the vehicle and fled north on Montgomery Street.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call D'Errio at 388-5600, Ext. 449, or the Rahway Police TIPS Line, 388-1553.

Rabies Clinic

A Free Rabies Clinic will be held at City Hall on Saturday, May 2, for dogs and cats. Dogs will be taken care of from noon to 2 p.m., and cats from 2 to 3 p.m.

Police reported that the

'Gift Bags' Available

A "gift bag" will be distributed to each senior citizen attending the first Community Awareness Day lecture on Sunday, May 3, at the Municipal Council Chambers at 10:15 a.m.

The lecture, "Side Effects of Over-the-Counter Medications," will be presented by Angela Basque of Rahway Hospital.

Some gift bags will include, in addition to manufacturers' samples, other limited gifts and coupons from area merchants.

Stabbing Victim Released

A city man was stabbed repeatedly in an Irving Street tavern early Monday in a dispute over who would use a pinball machine, police reported.

Patrons at the Waiting Room were able to apprehend Scott V. Browne, 23, of Rahway, who was charged with aggravated assault on Michael Greevy, 39.

The stabbing reportedly occurred at 1:48 a.m.

When Officers Anthony DeCarlo and Robert Dedies and Det. Paul Meo arrived, they reportedly found Greevy lying on the floor of the tavern with stab wounds in the back, chest and abdomen, and Browne being held by several customers.

Police said they were told that Greevy was playing the pinball machine when he was shoved by Browne, who indicated that he wanted to play the machine.

Browne then allegedly came up behind Greevy with a knife, stabbing him in the back, causing Greevy to turn and fight back, when he was

allegedly stabbed in the abdomen, police said. Police reported that the knife was recovered. Browne was being held in Union County Jail, Elmsted, in lieu of \$25,000 bail. Greevy was taken to University Hospital, Newark, where he was listed in fair condition.

Free Show, Meeting

Today at 7:30 p.m., the Theater Department of Kean College will bring selections from its current production of "Little Shop of Horrors" to a meeting that is free and open to the public at the Union County Arts Center, 1692 Irving St., Rahway.

Also on the program will be the silent movie, "Dance Tootin'," with Laurel and Hardy accompanied by the theater organ played by Ed Baykowski.

The entertainment will take place following a short business meeting, at which the new Officers and members of the Board of Trustees will be introduced.



"DIAMOND JEWEL" ... James King of Rahway Savings Institution, advised 2500 ... Hospital 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee ... purchase of very lucky \$5 (Diamond Jubilee) ... by Rahway Hospital Foundation in 1917 ... of its Diamond Jubilee Ball, and ... year preceding that ... which raised more than \$400,000 ... and equipment for ... planned for months ahead ... \$137