



### Around the Perimeter. . .

**Pension:** Joseph Dike, First Vice President of the CCA, has been assigned the task of working with Harry Greenberg and Floyd Holloway on our 20-year pension benefit. Joe will be making plenty of trips to Albany to nail down this pension. Good luck Joe — keep a bag packed and ready.

**Annual Dinner Dance:** The CCA is now going to hold an annual dinner dance for the entire membership, rather than a dinner dance specifically for retirees. Every year we will honor a different member at the event. A committee will be formed under the direction of Mike Sassano, Sergeant-at-Arms, to determine who the honoree will be. This year we will honor Donald Cranston, former CCA president. We urge all active and retired members to attend this event to give Captain Cranston hearty farewell wishes.

**Retirees Reminisce:** At our general membership meeting on June 18th, we invited all our recent retirees to join with active captains at Antun's for a fancy smorgasbord in honor of their retirement. It was great to see active and retired members laughing, joking and reminiscing about the job. Retirees also got the chance to see many captains with whom they worked over the years. Best wishes and continued success to our recently retired captains.

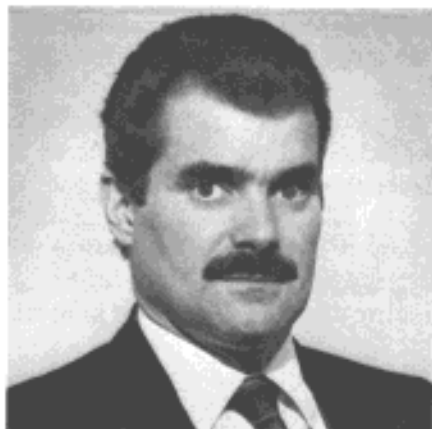
**Rikers Island Run:** The CCA was honored to help sponsor this year's Rikers Island Run, a Department of Correction tradition. CCA Secretary Kathy Perugini and Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Sassano were on hand, and said the event was an impressive demonstration of the solidarity of our members. Angelo Rivituso, ADW-Academy, Sandy Smith, director of special events and Catherine Martinez, CO-Academy, all deserve special thanks for making this event a success.

**Delegates Seminar:** This long-talked-about event has become a reality. As this issue went to press, delegates were preparing for CCA's first Delegates Seminar on October 27th, 28th and 29th at the Nevele Hotel in Ellenville, N.Y. The seminar was scheduled to bring together all our delegates and our professionals — including Harry Greenberg, Mario Biaggi, Jr. and Irv Mechanic — to disseminate information on contract negotiations and grievance procedures.

## 20-Year Retirement Tops CCA's Priorities for 1992

by PETER D. MERINGOLO  
President

In April 1991, Donald Cranston retired due to health reasons and I became the president of the CCA. At this point, the executive board of the CCA was realigned and responsibilities were redefined so that we can best meet the goals of our members.



Before I list our priorities for the upcoming year, I would like to introduce the experts we have assembled to work for the CCA. I am confident that this team will make a substantial positive impact for the CCA.

**HARRY GREENBERG, Special Counsel:** Mr. Greenberg comes to the CCA with many years of experience in labor relations. We intend to keep him very busy with the 20-year pension, contract demands and member grievances.

**MORTIMER MATZ ASSOCIATES, Public**

**Relations:** As you have seen by the articles which have already appeared in the newspapers, Mr. Matz will be helping us with our battles. He will also make the Mayor's office and general public aware of the difficulties captains face in the department.

**FLOYD HOLLOWAY, Albany Lobbyist:** Mr. Holloway, who has years of experience in labor and legislative matters, will be our representative in Albany and at all levels of government. His top-priority assignment is to help us obtain the 20-year pension.

(Continued on Page 2)



CORRECTION CAPTAINS AND KIDS race off at the sound of the starting blast in the annual Rikers Island Run.

## 20-Year Retirement Tops CCA's 1992 Priorities

(Continued from Page 1)

ARTHUR I. STRIER, *Legal Medical Counsel*: Mr. Strier's counseling services are being expanded to include consultations on Social Security disability claims, workers compensation, personal injury lawsuits, Civil Service Commission appeals, and disability pension awards. Mr. Strier will be available through the CCA office 24 hours a day, seven days a week for emergency consultation.

### PRIMARY GOALS OF THE CCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

• **20-Year Pension:** More than 600 of our 950 captains must work 25 years before they can retire with half pay. This is unacceptable, and we are mounting an exhaustive campaign to obtain the 20-year half-pay benefit we rightly deserve.

• **Contract:** We have decided to set specific priorities in our demands. Our highest priority is the three additional tours worked each month by captains promoted after July 1, 1990. We have found this to be an inequity which divides our union, and we will fight it. A second major concern is the 10 rescheduled tours. Reports indicate that the city's financial condition is not good, and our tactic will be to assure ourselves that the financial numbers submitted by the city in negotiations are accurate and true. Mr. Greenberg will be extremely aggressive on this issue and I am sure we will see positive results.

• **Shift Reduction and Rescheduling:** The Correction Department's arbitrary practice of closing down posts is jeopardizing the safety and security of our captains. We are currently fighting to stop this practice.

• **Communications:** We are determined to provide ongoing communication with our captains so all members are aware of what is happening in the CCA. **CAPTAINS' QUARTERLY** is just one of our efforts to keep you informed on union matters. We also will distribute pressing information to delegates for immediate posting.

• **Respect and Recognition:** We are now engaged in an all-out effort to gain respect and recognition for all captains from the managers of our department. Correction Captains are, without doubt, the hardest workers performing the hardest job in the Correction Department. Each and every one of us deserves appreciation and gratitude.

Let me assure you that the present CCA executive board is committed to serving you better. The officers of the CCA and I will always be available to help you in any way possible as we work toward improving life and working conditions for our union. I can't promise a win on every issue, but I can promise a no-holds-barred attempt to gain for the CCA everything it deserves.

## ACADEMY STAFF SAVES FAMILY

On August 20, 1991, members of the Correction Academy Training Staff displayed bravery above and beyond the call of duty when they entered a burning building and helped avert what could have been a tragedy. Through their courageous actions and selflessness, they were able to evacuate a mother and three children from a burning building.

Once again, members of our department placed concerns for their

own safety aside and rose to the occasion to make Commissioner Maghan and the department proud. The CCA would like to commend these brave individuals for their heroic actions:

- Captain William Hecker #131
- Captain Gregory Kassebaum #739
- Captain Michael Colorundo #62
- C.O. Kevin Pettiford #8207
- C.O. Scott Barden #2377
- Civ. Mr. McCormick #24450

## CAPTAINS' QUARTERLY



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FRANCES MULVANEY, executive secretary for the CCA, at work in the union offices at 299 Broadway in Manhattan. Frances has helped many of you find solutions to union problems.

# CCA FORCES DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE CHEMICAL AGENTS AT VIERNO CENTER

After our members were forced to work for months without necessary chemical agents at the George R. Vierno Center, the CCA took action by taking the matter public. Through Mortimer Matz Associates, we made our concerns known through a Page 2 article in the New York Post. The very next day we received satisfaction from the

department, which had previously ignored our requests.

The CCA also thought it was important for the public to know that Correction Department brass is spending \$1,620 per month on a luxury apartment in Louisiana to monitor construction of a new jail barge. The fiscal priorities of the department might receive closer scrutiny.

# NEW YORK POST

July 23, 1991

## City rents Big Easy apt. for jail bigs' trips

By DAVID SEIFMAN  
City Hall Bureau Chief

The city Correction Department is renting a \$1,620-a-month luxury apartment near New Orleans so its top officials will have a place to stay while checking construction of a jail barge, The Post has learned.

Since February, correction brass have spent a total of 252 "person days" at the furnished, three-bedroom corporate suite, generally in three-day stints.

The 7½-month lease cost taxpayers about \$12,000. Amenities include washer-dryers, fireplaces and private patios with access to a swimming pool, said a spokeswoman for the managing agent, Pirogue Cove.

Of course, the city picks up the tab for airline tickets, cab fares, meals and other expenses of the visiting officials.

Peter Meringolo, president of the correction captains' union, said that kind of spending is unconscionable at a time the jails are absorbing major cuts.

"The captains are short-handed, security posts are being reduced, [prisoner] activities have been cut back and these people are taking vacations in Louisiana," he said.

May 7, 1991

# GAS FUMES COULD MAKE RIKERS BLOW

POST  
EXCLUSIVE

By MURRAY WEISS

Explosive gas is seeping into the city's newest jail, on Rikers Island, and could ignite if guards use Mace to quell an inmate disturbance. The Post has learned.

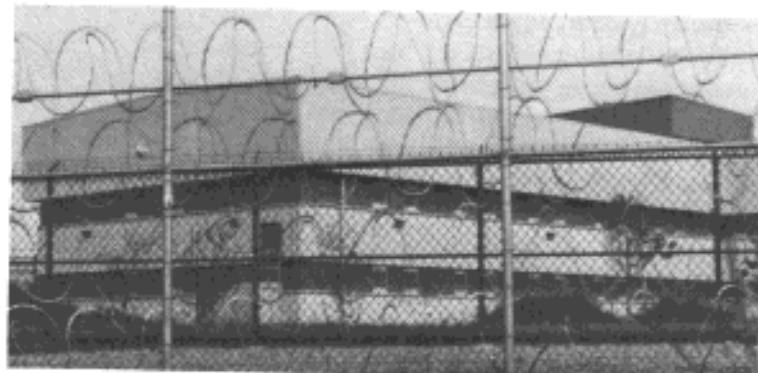
That's why Correction Department brass have withheld the crowd-controlling chemical agent from officers manning the island's 16-week-old, \$139 million facility for 800 of the city's most dangerous criminals, said Peter Meringolo, president of the Correction Captains Association.

Meringolo charged methane fumes continue to seep into the facility from an underground landfill and the city apparently fears chlorine in the Mace will ignite it.

"Mace is the principal means for controlling inmates," Meringolo explained. "This department has gone to using chemical agents because it wants to deter the use of batons and force."

"My concern is that they don't have chemical agents [to use instead of force] in this facility," he said. "And I'll tell you they don't have [Mace] in that building — because you still have methane."

The withholding of Mace means guards will have no choice but to use force



**EXPLOSIVE SITUATION:** Volatile methane gas is leaking into the basement of a new \$139 million unit built to house Rikers' meanest inmates.

against these inmates, including some convicted killers awaiting transfer to upstate prisons.

Ironically, the department recently was criticized severely because excessive force was used by officers in dealing with disturbances last year.

Methane initially was detected in the George R. Vierno Center two years ago while workers poured its foundation atop an old landfill.

The discovery prompted lengthy delays when outside contractors were brought in to test for gas. They later recommended — and installed — a complex, and costly, exhaust system in the basement to eliminate the danger.

The city also created a

"Methane Safety Plan" for the facility that had to meet no less than 21 conditions set forth by the Fire Department and included an evacuation plan drafted by the city's Environmental Protection Agency.

"The [exhaust] system in place is state of the art and it has a backup system as well," a Fire Department spokesman said.

Yet, despite the elaborate exhaust system, the city has not issued Mace or any other chemical agent to the guards in the Vierno Center, which is now the second maximum security facility on Rikers. The other is the House of Detention for Men, which holds 1,200 dangerous inmates.

The department spokesman confirmed there are no chemical agents at the

facility because there "is a question about introducing those agents into the jail."

He said the department is discussing the situation with the state Department of Environmental Protection and with the Police Department's hazardous material unit.

In event of a disturbance, he said there are mutual assistance plans to get help from officers at other Rikers facilities and for emergency response units trained in handling disturbances to help.

The methane problem stems from the fact that all of Rikers Island is built on landfill.

The Vierno Center is the first facility where volatile gas has been detected, officials said.

## SECURITY BENEFITS CORNER

by IRV MECHANIC

*Security Benefits Consultant*

As your benefits funds consultant, I would like to present an overview of the welfare funds benefits of the Correction Captains Association Security Benefits Funds — active and retired.

As you know, the City of New York, by contract, contributes a certain amount of money per member to each welfare fund. The function of Mechanic & Associates, Inc. is to administer the numerous services offered and to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees for enrichment of programs.

### A Long Association

Mechanic & Associates, Inc. has been associated with the CCA for more than 15 years. We have seen the CCA active membership increase from 150 to the current 915. The CCA is large enough to offer comprehensive services, and small enough to be sensitive to the individual requirements of each member.

My constant contact with the CCA's Board of Trustees and Captain Meringolo ensures that all benefits will be continually reviewed and that each member's needs will be met as quickly as possible.

### Pre-Retirement Counseling

In addition to the services offered to you through the welfare fund, there is a pre-retirement counseling service that has been extended to the membership. This service has been very well received by the membership. You can get information on it by calling my office at (914) 624-3800.

I am proud to have been associated with the CCA over the past decade and a half, and I look forward to the next decade and a half.



**BETTY MAGRETTI**, benefits administrator for Mechanic and Associates, Inc., the CCA's security benefits experts. Don't hesitate to call the specialists at Mechanic's office when you run into trouble with security benefits.

## CCA Loses Hero

# CAPTAIN STANLEY RHEM

On June 15, 1991, Captain Stanley Rhem was buried, and the Correction Captains Association mourned the loss of a dedicated member and a hero. Stanley sacrificed his own life to save the life of a friend, and to stop a crime from being committed in this city. His act of valor honors all Correction Captains and the entire law enforcement community in this city.

After Stanley's death, the CCA posted a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer. As a result of this reward, a suspect is now in custody. We hope swift justice is done. The CCA also promises a relentless effort to achieve for Stanley Rhem a line-of-duty death, which will provide numerous benefits to his family.

Each and every member of the CCA has the deepest sympathy for Stanley's wife, Brenda, and his children, Latoya and Lamont.

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