

National

Police officer suspended for Mardi Gras shooting

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — A veteran police detective who fired into a marching high school band and wounded three persons during the height of a Carnival parade honoring nine Marine hostages held in Iran was suspended Monday.

The shooting Sunday night during the Bacchus parade, one of the

most spectacular events leading up to Tuesday's Mardi Gras, sent thousands of screaming spectators on the edge of the French Quarter running for cover.

Floats carrying the Marines were well ahead of the spot where the shooting occurred and were not endangered.

The officer who did the shooting was identified as Det. John Walters of the Family Services Division, a 10-year veteran of the department. He was in plainclothes working a "lost child" detail at the time.

"The officer discharged his weapon in an unauthorized manner and was suspended this morning," said police spokesman Don Joly.

Drum major Ray Johnson, 17, was shot in the neck and spectator John Barker, 20, of Plaquemine, La., was hit in the groin. Both were in stable condition at Charity Hospital.

Another bystander, Gary Bartley, 20, of New Orleans, suffered powder burns on his eye.

After interviewing more than 30 witnesses police still were uncertain how the shooting started, Joly said, and the investigation was not closed.

Johnson said it started with a scuffle between the officer and a chaperon who was helping to clear crowds from the St. Augustine High School band of New Orleans.

"Then the shot went off and I felt the pain," he said. "There won't be any more performing at Mardi Gras for me."

A hospital spokesman said doctors decided to leave the bullet in Bartley because it was lodged too close to a main artery in his groin, making surgery dangerous.

Bartley, a sophomore at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La., said he heard a shot then felt the pain.

"I thought I might be dying," he said. "Did you ever see Jack Nicklaus tee-off? I felt like I was three feet in front of him."

Last week, another high school marching band was involved in a fight with spectators who smashed their instruments. Five persons were arrested in that incident, and bands began surrounding themselves with chaperones to help separate the members from the surging crowds.

The parading will continue through Tuesday, Mardi Gras, when downtown and suburban streets become jammed with more than a million "maskers" drinking, partying and dancing in the streets in the final celebration before the austere period of Lent.



Chili cook-off

"Goldy" David Kinkaid, "Orville" Brad Lindsey and "Porkie" Wayne Young prepare chili in their award winning style at Hart and McFaddin Halls' Chili Cook-off at the Quonset Huts Saturday. The three and four other Hart H-ramp residents won

the showmanship award. The ingredients that won them a second place in the taste category include deer sausage, deer steak, ground beef, a bottle of Louisiana hot sauce, beer, onion, chili powder and tomato sauce.

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Hundreds hold rallies to dramatize Atlanta killings

United Press International
ATLANTA — Nationwide prayer vigils and rallies and a march through Atlanta, dramatizing the killings and disappearances of 21 black children, underscore the growing public pressure to solve the 19-month string of murders.

About 125 marchers, mostly black college students, joined a 2-mile single-file walk Sunday from the state capital to Morehouse

College, an event sponsored by the Association of Christian Student Leaders.

Wearing green ribbons in the shape of an upside-down "V" — which has become the symbol of sympathy to the investigation — the marchers spread out silently along the parade route in single-file to "demonstrate how the children have been murdered, one by one," said the Rev. David Smith, ACSL national president.

The group's leaders said the march was "a prelude" to a national rally March 15, which they said includes a "walk-a-thon" at Georgetown and Boston College.

In Newark, N.J., a city councilman, Michael Bottone, has launched a campaign to encourage his friends, colleagues and all others to wear the green ribbons.

The Atlanta Braves are putting the green ribbons on their batting helmets and plan to do 30-second radio spots making pleas for the killer to surrender.

In Baltimore, Md., St. Mary's seminary sponsored a memorial mass Sunday. Camille Bell, whose 10-year-old son Yusef was found slain in 1979, told the 300 people who gathered to pray for her son and the other 20 missing and dead children that the eerie mystery has driven children into their homes.

"Atlanta is a big city with great areas, parks and playgrounds," she recounted to the audience. "Up until a year ago, there were children in those parks and playgrounds."

"But now when the wind blows it blows an empty swing. Kids are hidden and held prisoner in their own homes."

On Saturday, about 1,000 people in Chattanooga, Tenn., attended a rally sponsored by a coalition of area churches and civic organizations. The crowd, mostly black, chanted, "We want it stopped," and sang gospel prayers.

The city of Atlanta has spent more than \$1 million in its effort to solve the 19-month-old tragedy. Nineteen children are known dead and two others are missing. All have been black, but between the ages of 7 and 15 and from poor neighborhoods. All but two have been boys.

Officials have asked for federal and state financial aid to help with the probe. But since the federal response has been slow, offers of financial support have come from entertainers, state legislators and cities.

Help has come from opposite poles of human nature — a white extremist organization has offered a reward and a Catholic priest serving a low income black parish in Washington took up a special collection to send to the families of the 21 children.

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