

# National

## Staten Island ferry, Norwegian vessel collide in fog

United Press International  
NEW YORK — A packed Staten Island ferry with a history

of mishaps collided with a Norwegian freighter in dense fog just south of the Statue of Liberty Wednesday, injuring scores of commuters.

The collision set off a brief panic aboard the ferry, as passengers screamed, knocked into each other and scrambled for life vests, but the boat was towed safely back to Staten Island.

Police said at least 62 people were injured — four seriously — and were taken to hospitals on Staten Island. Of the four seriously injured, one person had a heart seizure, one had a fractured thigh bone, another had a neck injury

and the fourth suffered chest pains.

A Coast Guard spokesman said the collision between the ferry boat, the American Legion, and the 515-foot freighter, Hoegh Orchid, occurred at 7:20 a.m. in Upper New York Bay, about one mile from the St. George ferry terminal on Staten Island and just south of the Statue of Liberty.

It was the third time the American Legion has been involved in a mishap, prompting some angry passengers to label the vessel a

"jinx ship."

It was not known how many people were aboard the ferry but the Coast Guard said there usually are between 2,000 and 3,000 commuters on the boats during the morning rush hour.

Among the passengers on the ferry at the time of the collision were David Curran, 32, a U.S. Customs official and Bob D'Arco, 33, who works for Prudential Steamship Lines in Manhattan, both of Staten Island.

"I'm a little shaken," said Cur-

ran. "There was a lot of fog, a lot of horns, then all of a sudden, we looked and saw a bow of a huge ship smash in our side."

"People were really scared. They were ripping down life preservers. It was really a panic. No one could see more than 20 feet because of the fog."

D'Arco said the ship was heading toward the freighter and at one point the ferry was put rapidly in reverse. The sudden change knocked people over and then the

crash occurred.

D'Arco said that after the collision, the captain said over the loudspeaker, "Don't panic."

"A lot of people were grabbing life savers," D'Arco said. "It was quite a jolt, but I think people were more shaken up emotionally."

The fog was so intense that reporters standing on the Battery in Manhattan said they could not see anything in the distance.

Police said the port or left side

of the ferry was smashed in and the freighter did not appear to be seriously damaged.

A tugboat towed the ferry to the St. George terminal on Staten Island while the freighter remained in the bay for a day. Passengers who were not injured got onto another ferry and were taken to Manhattan.

The Coast Guard sent several investigators to Staten Island to determine the cause of the collision.

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## South African blacks gain power in industry

United Press International  
JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — South Africa's blacks suddenly have found new strength in labor unionism, and it has started to pay dividends at the negotiating table.

For the first time, black and multiracial unions in the steel and engineering industry took part in wage talks this year as full members of their industrial council.

As a result, half a million work-

ers of all races were awarded substantial wage increases. Semi-skilled black workers got the biggest raises.

Until two years ago, the nation's 7 million black workers were not allowed to belong to unions, although a number of unofficial ones did exist. Strikes by black workers were considered criminal. Whites kept a jealous hold on skilled jobs.

The breakthrough came when

the government realized the country was faced with an acute manpower crisis, the result of 40 years of racial discrimination in the job market.

A government report in 1979 was the catalyst. It called for abolishing all discriminatory practices on the factory floor and the rapid training of all races to overcome the crippling shortage of skilled workers.

The reservation of certain jobs

for whites only now has been eradicated in all industries except for mining.

Black workers also won the right to unionize, and they have been doing so with a speed and militancy that dismays many conservative employers as well as the government.

White unions attempted to form "parallel" black unions led by moderate workers, but more radical groups opposed to government control have flourished instead.

The black unions were first regarded as dangerous by the government and most firms. Now such views have softened.

Led by Ford Motor Co. in Port Elizabeth, many firms have begun to negotiate with the unregistered unions as more representative of their workers. Even Labor Minister Fanie Botha and the conservative Federated Chamber of Industries advocate talking to whatever worker body is most representative, registered or unregistered.

"The Chamber clearly spells out that it is the representativeness of an employee organization that is the more important issue," said Andrew Levy, an industrial relations consultant. "This stance is crucial to the possibility of industrial peace in South Africa."

Despite progress in the past two years, Western diplomats and labor experts say it will take several years for the whole movement

to settle down.

Arthur Grobbelaar, white secretary-general of the Trade Union Council of South Africa, the conservative of the multiracial union bodies, says employers "never had to bother with negotiating with blacks" as well as experienced black unionists who learned "the complexities of occupation" both had a lot to offer.

"Probably 90 percent of the strikes last year need not have happened," Grobbelaar said. A draft labor bill currently causing controversy, it bills what appears to be tough legislation for unions on one and abolition of all racial actual discrimination on the other.

Established union leaders expect the government eventually will force all unions into its industrial conciliation system, which lays down conditions under which a strike can be called.

Henry Chiyea, president of the unregistered Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union, said that doesn't worry his members, but that they do worry about proposals to curb political activity by unions.

"In the complex South African context, union activity is political," Chiyea said. A provision would give the government a chance to label any activity as political.

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## Youngest recipient of heart 'doing fine'

United Press International  
MINNEAPOLIS — One of the country's youngest heart transplant patients, a girl, 9, who had been suffering a terminal cardiac disease, survived the critical 24-hour period after surgery and was reported doing fine Wednesday.

"Her new heart is pumping away beautifully and her blood pressure is normal," Dr. John Najarian said.

The girl, who was not identified, received the heart of an 11-year-old girl in surgery early Tuesday at University of Minnesota Hospitals.

Najarian, chief of surgery, said the girl will remain in intensive care and on a respirator for several days.

The child should be able to go home in six to eight weeks, said Ralph Heussner, a hospital spokesman. She then can lead "a relatively normal" life with regular checkups and medication.

It was the sixth heart transplant at the university since 1978.

The girl was one of the youngest heart transplant recipients in the country, but doctors said they did not view her "age, size, or emotional maturity, as a prohibitive factor."

Two of the six university plant patients are alive the longest for two and one-half following surgery. Three died of complications.

Doctors were optimistic the latest transplant would be successful because the girl survived "most critical period," the first hours, and because of newly developed anti-rejection drugs.

Najarian said the girl had been suffering a heart disease known as myocardiopathy (disease of middle layer of the heart) for almost five years, and "she had months to live at the most" prior to the operation.

During the past year, she was able to go to school but little more. It was "an effort for her to go through three steps," Najarian said. "There was nothing you could do for her except replace her heart."

She had been hospitalized in early March and her condition was growing progressively worse while doctors waited for a young donor.

Four surgeons performed the operation — Drs. Robert Anderson, Ernesto Molina, John McNeil and Ronald Ferguson.

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