

Confusion, rain cut protesters

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By JONATHAN HODGES
Staff Reporter

ALBANY — Less than an hour after U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall refused a last attempt Tuesday by state officials to cancel the Springboks' rugby game, the planned demonstration against the South Africans' visit began with two peaceful protests at opposite ends of Albany.

On the steps of the state Capitol, leaders for the Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour coalition called for an end to U.S. involvement in South Africa and voiced their displeasure at what they considered "the narrow constitutional interpretation" used by public officials in allowing the game to be played.

"In the future, I hope their reading of the Constitution extends beyond the First Amendment down to the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments."

said Albany NAACP President Clara Satterfield.

Despite the confusion, due to the legal battles involving the Springboks, and the inclement weather, about 400 persons, representing a wide variety of groups, attended the 5 p.m. Capitol rally. Representatives from the Peace and Justice Commission of the Albany Catholic Diocese stood side-by-side with members of the radical activist group, Red Balloon Collective, whose banner proclaimed their opposition to racism, sexism, the military junta in El Salvador and Mayor Edward Koch.

Michael Cohen of Red Balloon said the confusion over whether or not the rugby game had been canceled resulted in far fewer members of his Long Island-based group turning out for the demonstration than was originally planned. That sentiment was also expressed by coalition leaders. As the coalition members at

Photo by Tom Killips

the Capitol began their march to Bleecker Stadium, where a crowd of some 200 people had already formed, a second demonstration, involving primarily students from the state University at Albany, began at the Albany Thruway House where the Springboks were staying. "Go Home Springboks," the students demonstrated without incident outside the Thruway House before beginning their walk.

At the motel, Eastern Rugby Union President Thomas Selfridge was with reporters when he first learned of Justice Marshall's ruling allowing the game to be played. "Alright, Rugby three, Carey nothing," said Selfridge, referring to the three court decisions that had been made in ERU's favor since Gov. Hugh Carey's decision to ban the game due to what he considered "an imminent danger of riot."

Carey had issued the ban following the release of a state police report which indicated as many as 15,000 people might attend the demonstration and hinted of a possible clash between members of the Communist Workers Party and the Ku Klux Klan.

On Monday, U.S. District Court Judge Howard Munson ruled Carey had acted improperly in canceling the game. Despite efforts Tuesday morning by state attorneys, a federal appeals court in New York refused to reverse Munson's decision. The state's possible legal avenues were exhausted when attorneys, who flew Tuesday afternoon to Washington, D.C., were refused a stay by Justice Marshall.

Also in Washington Tuesday, the House of Representatives refused, in a narrow 200-198 vote, to pass a resolution condemning the Springboks' tour.

Photo by Tom Killips

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Bomb is detonated outside rugby office

By Ronald Kermani 9/23/81 TE
Staff Writer

A powerful bomb — big enough to do the job, police said — exploded outside the downtown Schenectady offices of the Eastern Rugby Union early Tuesday. The rugby association's headquarters were damaged only slightly, but six adjacent offices were destroyed.

No one was injured in the blast, which ripped through a portion of the second floor of 408 State St. at about 1:17 a.m. Local police and federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents continued Tuesday afternoon to sift the debris in search of clues. No one has been arrested and no suspects have been identified, Schenectady Investigator James McGrath said.

The blast was the first violent act since the schedule for the controversial rugby match between the South African Springboks and a local team was announced more than a month ago.

A female caller telephoned Schenectady AM radio station WWVD at about 1:10 a.m. and told disc jockey Dale Lane a bomb was going to detonate shortly in downtown Schenectady, said radio station reporter Polly Hill. Lane told reporters he thought the caller was a "crank" and did not call police.

About 10 minutes later, the bomb, placed in a vacant closet across from the rugby offices, exploded, shredded new office walls, damaged the floor and hallways, but did not cause any significant structural damage, police and LeGrande Serras, general manager of the 400 Block, said.

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The rugby controversy

Bomb exploded near the offices of the rugby team

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Serras estimated the damage at more than \$50,000. No organizations have claimed responsibility for the bombing, police said. McGrath said there were no witnesses, and the double glass doors leading to the second floor were locked.

McGrath said police and firemen first thought a gas line had exploded in the building because of the extent of damage, but later determined a bomb had detonated after smelling a strong sulphur odor.

"We're not dealing with any normal type of bomb," McGrath said. "This one was big enough to do the job," he added.

McGrath and other officials refused to say if the bomb was made of gunpowder or plastic explosives, or whether it was triggered automatically or by a timer.

Agents from the federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms office in New York City also were called to inspect the scene.

The bomb extensively damaged the offices of the Hood Ice Cream Co. and attorney Eric Von Wigen, police said.

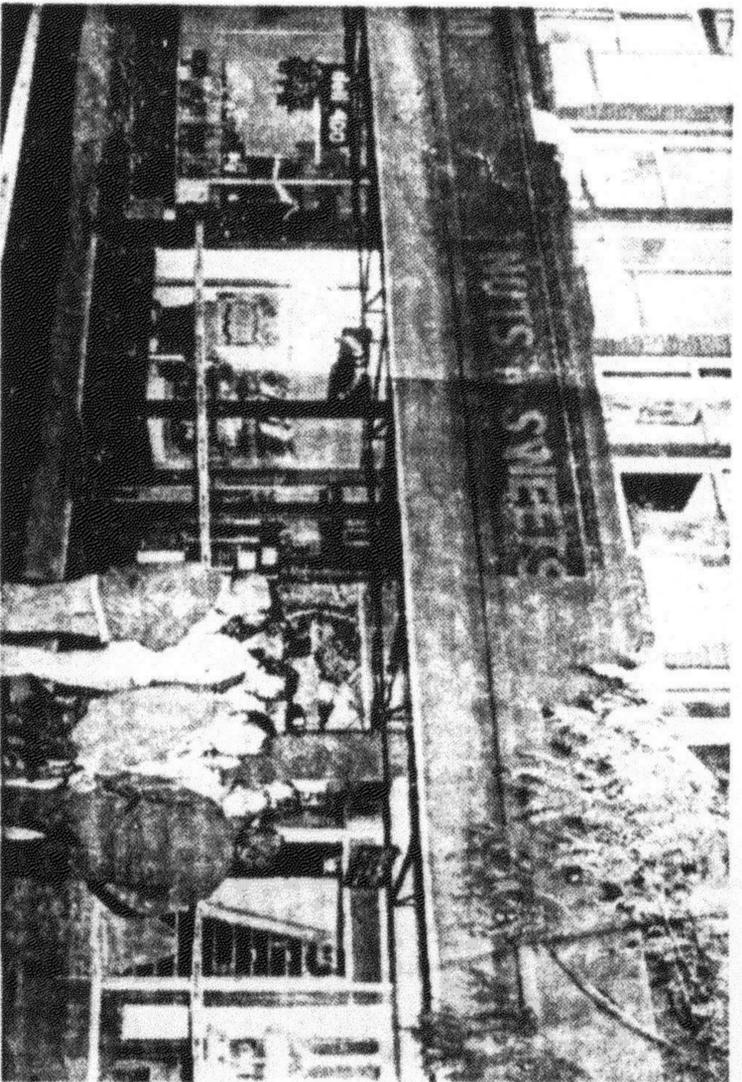
Vacant offices, recently remodeled, also were destroyed by the blast, which damaged the ceiling of two first-floor stores, Serras said.

Thomas Selfridge, president of the rugby union, said two windows and a door to his office were damaged by the blast. He estimated the damage to be about \$50 to his two-room office.

Shortly after the explosion, Glenville police dispatched a patrol to Selfridge's house on Mountlawnwood Drive, where State Police Officer James Keough and his dog Barretta checked for explosive. None were found, said Glenville Police Chief William Przybylek said.

More patrols were ordered in Selfridge's neighborhood Tuesday as a result of the bombing, the chief added.

Serras said he and his security crew have been



BLAST SITE — Schenectady police and federal agents survey scene of bomb explosion

more cautious at the 400 Block since the rugby controversy flared.

"We made sure everything was locked tighter and looking to see if any weirdos were hanging around," Serras said about the increased vigilance around the block of stores.

His security staff checked the outside of the building Monday night, Serras said, but they did not visit the upstairs offices on their rounds.

"All of this stuff we can rebuild," said Serras about the blown-out offices. "I would have been devastated if someone was hurt in this."

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Albany Rain Keeps The Turnout Small For Springbok Game

By PAUL L. MONTGOMERY

Special to The New York Times

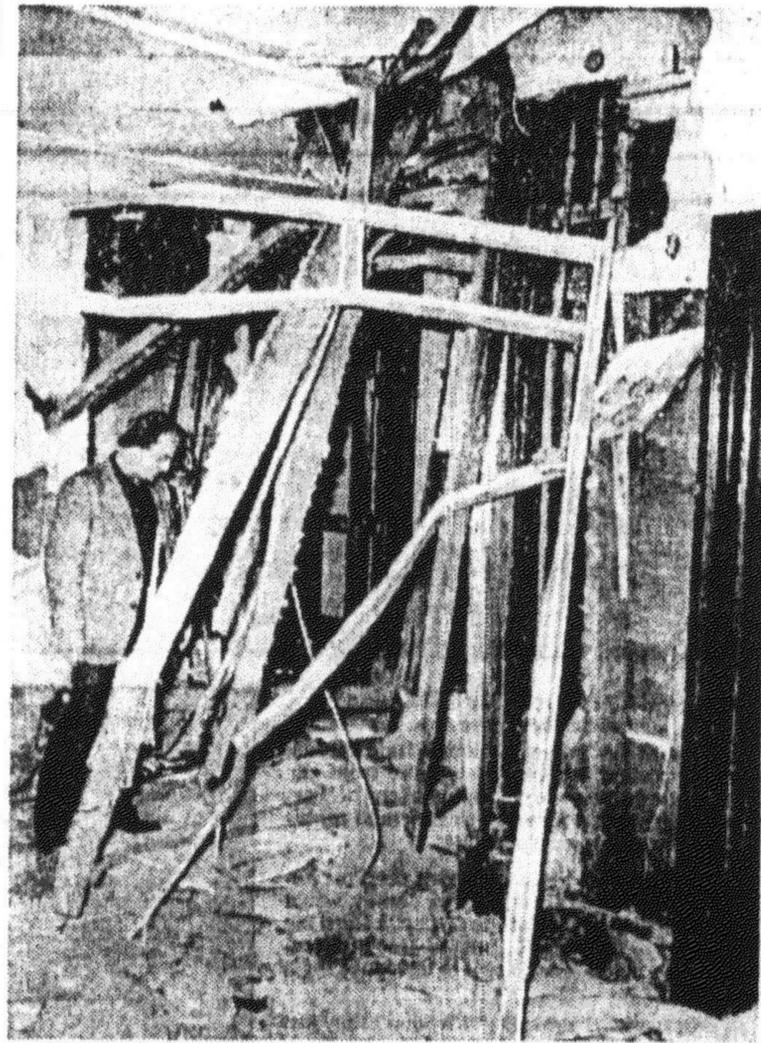
ALBANY, Sept. 22 — The disputed rugby match between the Eastern Rugby Union and the touring South African Springboks team got under way here tonight in heavy rain in a small floodlighted stadium surrounded by police officers and a thousand demonstrators.

Huddled under umbrellas and slickers and carrying soggy signs, the demonstrators, protesting South Africa's apartheid policy, shouted "Stop the game, join the march" as they walked behind a cordon of police officers and marshals from their own group. When the game began at 6:40 P.M., 20 minutes ahead of schedule, fewer than 300 spectators were in the stadium to watch the game.

Authorities, meanwhile, searched for the origin of a bomb that damaged the Rugby Union's office in nearby Schenectady early this morning.

This afternoon, a three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in Manhattan upheld a Federal court decision that permitted

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A police investigator examining damage caused by a bomb that exploded yesterday outside Eastern Rugby Union's office in Schenectady, N. Y.

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Heavy Rainfall in Albany Keeps Crowd Small as Springboks Play

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the amateur match to take place, saying that its cancellation would be an abridgement of freedom of speech.

The state's lawyers then appealed to United States Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, but he, too, ruled that the game should be played. Mr. Marshall is designated to supervise matters of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, which has jurisdiction over New York, Connecticut and Vermont.

Governor Carey had sought last week to bar the match on the ground that demonstrators protesting South Africa's apartheid policies presented an "imminent danger of riot."

City police had ringed the city-owned Bleecker Stadium, a mile and a half from the State Capitol, since yesterday in preparation for the match. A number of civil rights groups, including the Capitol District Coalition Against Apartheid and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, planned a march through the city to the stadium.

Mayor Erastus Corning 2d of Albany, who had earlier reluctantly announced the cancellation at the instance of Governor Carey, said late this afternoon that his administration was mobilized to permit the match to be played. He said all available members of the city police force of 400 were on hand, supplemented by officers of the Albany County Sheriff's office. The state police at the nearby Loudonville barracks were on standby, Mayor Corning said.

"Speaking for myself, it makes me proud to be an American," Mayor Corning said in commenting on the decisions to allow the match to take place. "It's a victory for democracy and a victory for the first amendment." But the Mayor, who has been in office 39 years, expressed hope that the afternoon's heavy rain would continue, limiting spectators at the stadium.

The demonstrators marched two and a half miles from the Capitol to the stadium where the match was played. Policemen in riot helmets and bulletproof vests stood by.

Researcher a Protester

Dr. David Massey, 35 years old, carried a sign that read "Boston coalition for the liberation of South Africa." Dr. Massey, a researcher in African studies at Boston University, said other members of the coalition had traveled to the demonstration in carpools.

"They are exporting apartheid," Dr. Massey said of the rugby match.

The bomb at the headquarters of the Eastern Rugby Union, the sponsor of the Springboks' Albany appearance, went off at 1:17 A.M., about nine hours after Judge Howard G. Munson of Federal District Court in Albany had issued an order enjoining Governor Carey from canceling the match.

The explosion caused damage estimated at \$50,000 to an office building in a shopping center that contains the Rugby Union's headquarters. A Schenectady police investigator, James McGrath, said that the device, placed a few feet from the Rugby Union's door, sent the force of the blast went away from the door. The office building was vacant at the time. Tom Selfridge, the president of the Rugby Union, said damages to the union's offices amounted to about \$50. Mr. Selfridge said the blast might have been merely coincidental to the Springboks' visit.

The Eastern Rugby Union team opposing the Springboks is drawn from players in the Northeast. Before this afternoon's rain, some were warming up in the parking lot of the Albany Motel where the visitors are staying. "There are distractions, but the way we've been handling distractions is to concentrate on rugby," said George Yasso of Bethlehem, Pa., a member of the All-Stars.

The Springboks, who have two players among 35 classified by the South African Government as "colored" — meaning of mixed race — play in a sports system in South Africa conforming to the Government's rules of separation of the races. Their world rugby tour, beginning in New Zealand, has been attended by disorder from those opposed to South Africa's policies.

The Springboks arrived in Chicago on Sept. 14, producing several days of demonstrations. After Chicago canceled the team's scheduled match, the South Africans played a game beginning at 9:15 in the morning last Saturday in Racine, Wis.

The team arrived here Sunday night for its game with the Eastern All-Stars. The game had been scheduled by oral agreement last February. Mayor Corning had announced the cancellation of the game before the South Africans arrived, acting after Governor Carey had warned of possible riot.

The lawyer for the Eastern Rugby Union, Richard P. Walsh Jr. of Schenectady, had sought an injunction against the cancellation and was joined in the attempt by Steven Shapiro of the New York Civil Liberties Union. In ruling for the plaintiffs yesterday, Judge Munson said the Governor sought "to destroy the very constitutional freedoms which have enabled more than a century-long struggle in this country to insure racial equality."

In Washington, a sense of the Congress resolution opposing the Springboks' tour because of racial separatism in South Africa received 200 votes yesterday, but it was defeated because a two-thirds vote was required for passage. The measure was opposed by 198 Representatives.

John Spearman Jr., 31, of Lawrence, Kan., was arrested in a parking lot near the motel where the Springboks are staying and charged with illegal possession of a .38-caliber revolver. Mr. Spearman, the police said, identified himself as a member of the Revolutionary Youth League of the Communist Workers Party.

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The rugby controversy

A game changed two men's lives



Thomas Selfridge



Richard Lapchick

The rugby match between the Springboks of South Africa and the Colonials of the U.S. Eastern Rugby Union was a contest among athletes.

It also was a contest between two points of view — one that politics has no place in the world of sports, the other that the meshing of sports and politics — specifically South Africa's apartheid policy — is an unavoidable fact of life.

Those differing viewpoints are embodied in two men: Thomas Selfridge, president of the Eastern Rugby Union and organizer of the match, and Richard Lapchick, an opponent of apartheid and organizer of the anti-game demonstration. Here is how the controversy affected their lives:

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Lapchick

By SUSAN SCHULMAN
Knickerbocker News Reporter

Fearing for his life, Richard Lapchick drove from his New York City home to Albany with two bodyguards to join the protest he organized against the South African Springboks.

Soft-spoken, yet adamant about his views, the 36-year-old resident said Tuesday he's been receiving threatening anonymous messages for the past month.

Lapchick uses terms such as "racist sore" when discussing South Africa's apartheid policy of racial discrimination.

He's the person who directed the phone calls to get busloads of protestors from New York City to Albany Tuesday.

He's been one of the protest leaders who emphasized the protest must be non-violent.

He's also the person who told the *Washington Post* the Eastern Rugby Union, which invited the Springboks to Albany, received a \$25,000 donation last December — the same month the invitation was extended — from a known conduit of the South African government.

Soon after, he turned on his answering machine and heard the anonymous message: "We got you before." Since then, his apartment has broken into and his wife's car tampered with.

One night, the phone rang again. "Have you heard us yet?" the anonymous caller said. "Have you got the message?"

The message Lapchick said he got was that his life was again in danger because of his active role in the anti-apartheid movement. He's heard the message before. The last time was in 1978.

He was opposing the South African tennis team playing in the United States, and was hospitalized, he said, after two men beat him up and carved the word "niger" (sic) on his stomach.

The incident occurred at Virginia Wesleyan College, where Lapchick — now a consultant to the United Nations — was a professor teaching classes on the Third World and race relations.

A Virginia doctor said the wounds were self-inflicted, but New York City's chief forensic pathologist and a group of New York City doctors discounted that report. A polygraph test showed Lapchick was telling the truth.

Lapchick became acquainted with the race issues as a child. He was five years old, living in Yonkers. As manager of the New York Knicks basketball team, his father Joe Lapchick was the first man to bring a black into the National Basketball Association.

Lapchick said his father told him about the days when blacks weren't allowed on white teams, how the white teams were lauded as the pros, but weren't comprised of the best players around.

In college, he majored in political science, then went on to earn a master's degree in African studies. He was working on his doctorate and planning to do his dissertation on American foreign policy when he attended a dinner with Dennis Brutus, who was exiled from South Africa for trying to integrate the country's olympic team.

Lapchick wrote his dissertation on the role of sports in apartheid. When his dissertation was published as a book, he began being asked to speak on the subject, and later formed an organization that published a journal of works the role of sports in racial, sexual and political contexts.

Lapchick said he frequently has sat back to assess the effects his active role in the anti-apartheid movement is having on him and his family.

The obstacles and threats he has encountered, he said, increase his determination to continue battling against apartheid.

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Selfridge

By SUSAN SCHULMAN
Knickerbocker News Reporter

From the day the game was announced, Thomas Selfridge insisted the Springboks were coming to Albany to play rugby — nothing else.

An international class rugby player and president of the Eastern Rugby Union, Selfridge — like rugby — received little media attention in the past. The few stories written about his athletic ability usually appeared on the sports pages of local newspapers.

But as the Springboks' tour became more controversial, Selfridge received national and international attention.

For his role in the controversy, Selfridge has been labeled "Nazi" and "murderer" by members of the anti-apartheid movement.

His Scotia home has been picketed by demonstrators and his Schenectady ERU office is thought to be the target of a bombing early Tuesday, which a radical group — the Black Liberation Army — has taken credit for.

Tuesday night, after his ERU team was beaten 41-0 by the Springboks, Selfridge reluctantly talked about the events of the past two months.

Asked if he thinks the experience has made him more "media-wise and politically astute," Selfridge, 34, offered a smile and the words, "I'm just an athlete."

He again denounced South Africa's apartheid policy of racial segregation and — almost in the same breath — denounced the interjection of politics into sports.

"When we started this in December, we were convinced it could not be turned into a political event and we tried to make sure it wasn't.

"It was a great game. I'm happy. It was a tribute to the sport."

Selfridge called the game a symbol that sporting events can be isolated from the governments of the countries whose members are playing a game.

He said the court battle he has fought over the game proves athletes can stand up to politicians who attempt to use them as political pawns.

"If you believe in something, you have to stick with it," Selfridge said, at the same time denying he faced a difficult struggle.

"It was easy," he said.

Such responses have become typical of Selfridge who has shrugged off controversial political questions with a "No comment" or "Sports and politics don't mix" answer.

Selfridge offered similar remarks when protestors picketed his house earlier this month. He later acknowledged having other feelings about the incident, saying somewhat impatiently, "What was I supposed to say, that my wife was crying and my children were upset?"

Asked if he felt hurt or uncertain of his position during the controversy, Selfridge said he never felt badly about his position.

He said he knows what he is, and anyone who knows him also knows there is no truth in what the protestors had to say.

Nevertheless, there is no doubt Selfridge is much more than, as he says, "just an athlete."

Among other things, he is the owner of the Albany Valve and Fitting Co. in Schenectady.

A Cleveland native, he's a graduate of the University of Cincinnati, married, and the father of four children. At one time, he thought about a career in professional football.

He said Tuesday's game achieved for the Springboks the knowledge American democracy allows people to protest against things they don't believe in, but also defend their right to exist.

Being able to bring that message back to South Africa may be a more beneficial message than the one the Springboks would have received had they not been able to play in Albany, Selfridge said.

Scenes from a rugby fest

By Knickerbocker News Reporters

Lamont looked about six years old.

He was sitting at knee height among on his Big Wheel tricycle, appearing very out of place in the night street-scene of angry adults with armbands and posters and banners.

Rain poured down on his new brown corduroy pants and checked shirt and beaded in his hair. He moved instinctly under the protection of the umbrella.

Across Clinton Avenue, protestors chanted "We're Fi-i-ired Up" and scurried down the street. The crowd of marchers approached from a distance like an army battalion. Marshals locked hands.

Are you here with your parents?

"No."

Where do you live?

"Down the street."

Why don't you go inside that building to keep dry?

No answer.

Red police lights flashed by the marchers and cheers became louder.

Lamont was gone, weaving his Big Wheel up the sidewalk between the shoes of the running adults.

Tuesday's cold, wet weather literally put a damper on the anti-apartheid demonstration, and one Albany policeman offered this joking explanation of how it came about:

"Every time they're afraid something big is going to happen in Albany, the mayor has a talk with the man upstairs, and then it either rains or it snows."

Security forces at the Thruway House surrounded three blacks who strayed too close to the wing housing the Springbok rugby team Tuesday night after the match. After a startled explanation and body search, the trio was allowed to continue on their way to the Hellman Theatre next door for a 9:20 film.

The name of the film? "Body Heat."

One South African rugby player ordered a giant chef's salad for lunch at the Thruway House. Halfway through it, another main course, fried chicken, arrived.

When he finished both, to the astonishment of the waitress, he leaned across the table and politely asked a teammate if he was going to finish his applesauce.

One fan stood in line for 15 minutes at the only refreshment stand open in Bleecker Stadium, situated at the far eastern sector of the park.

She said she wanted a hot dog, but, when she reached near the front of the line, she discovered only T-shirts on sale — "Springbok" souvenirs at \$7.50 each.

Springbok players, forbidden to drink beer the night before the match, drank the Thruway House dry of all available Coca-Cola. Management had to put in a call for more.

A steam pipe burst in one of the rooms of the Thruway House at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, sending police and one fire truck scurrying to the rescue. The problem was at the opposite end of the wing from where the rugby team was staying, and firefighters quickly solved it, but not before six or seven frantic reporters checked out what was rumored to be a bomb.

Of the 32 Springbok players, only 16 were allowed to dress for Tuesday night's match against the Colonials. Rules state only two substitutes are allowed, and then only when serious physical injury occurs. Doctors from both teams must agree that injury is serious enough to permit substitution.

At the Rockin Horse Bar on Clinton Avenue, across from Bleecker Stadium, some patrons were playing pool or darts. But others were complaining loudly about the change in their routine caused by the influx of reporters lined up to use the bar's only pay phone.

One man asked if he could cut into the waiting line of reporters to make what he promised would be a quick call home to tell his wife what time he'd arrive for dinner.

Another said he had only 10 minutes left to phone a woman for a dinner date. He left without making the phone call.

Among rugby players, it is traditional to trade team insignia. One of the hottest items at the Best Western Thruway House Tuesday night was a small, gold-colored tie tac in the shape of a Springbok, a small South African antelope and symbol of the team.

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Some rugby players object to game and vow to try unseating Selfridge

By DAVID SYLVESTER
Knickerbocker News Reporter

Dissidents within the Eastern Rugby Union are angered over the way the South African Springboks tour was scheduled and plan to challenge the union's leadership, say some rugby union members.

Wayne Saitta, captain of the third team for the Manhattan Rugby Club, joined the anti-apartheid demonstrators outside Bleecker Stadium Tuesday and denounced the match between his rugby union's team and the Springboks as heatedly as the most militant protester.

"None of the teams were contacted, and none of the members of the teams were contacted," of the decision to bring the Springboks to the U.S., he said. "We're going to be demanding how a decision to have this tour was made by (ERU president Thomas) Selfridge."

In addition, dissident union members

want to know if rugby dues money paid for the lawsuit against Gov. Hugh Carey's ban. Selfridge has said he will pay for the suit with his own money.

A 26-year-old urban planning student at Columbia University, Saitta said he was upset over the \$25,000 donation to the Eastern Rugby Union by South African businessmen Louis Luyt, adding he had not heard of it until he read about it in *The New York Times*.

A committee composed of two representatives of each team finally accepted the donation last week by a vote of 36-4, he said. The money will go into the union's 1982 budget.

He also questioned whether the game was even a sporting event because the match between the superior South African team and inferior American team was so uneven.

"It's like the New York Yankees going to play some team like the French or something," he said. "They'll march all over us. As an

athletic even, it has no validity."

Some rugby fans seemed to agree as they left the game. "The rugby community is not unsympathetic to what is going on," said Thomas Sciacca of Tupper Lake who belongs to the Saranac Lake Rugby Club.

"There was a lot of dissention," he added. "But if you're going to get good, you have to play the best."

He called the apartheid system in South Africa "barbaric and inhuman."

But other rugby players seemed to hold to the prevailing opinion that politics was not involved in the game and should be separate from sports.

"You never get a chance to see a game at this level," said Lance Connelly, from Staten Island who plays with the Monmouth Rugby Club in New Jersey.

"Just came to see some good rugby," said Michael Sweeney, 385 Delaware Ave., Delmar, who has stopped playing the game.

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Peaceful Protesters March At Rugby Match in Albany

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The decision by Albany Mayor Erastus Corning II to let the game go ahead made Albany the only city in the country where the touring South Africans have been allowed to play in a municipal stadium with the blessing of local authorities. New York City, Rochester, and Chicago refused to allow the team to play in those cities.

Before the demonstrators from the Capitol arrived at Swinburne, a contingent of about 20 members of the Communist Worker's Party New York City chapter paced in front of the main park entrance on Clinton Street, carrying pickets and chanting, "Victory to African Liberation Worldwide!" and "1, 2, 3, 4, we're gonna stop this rugby tour!"

The CWP marchers, who had set up their pickets about noon, were behind a line of parade marshals for "protection

against the Klan, Nazis, cops, rugby players, and all the other white supremacists here today," according to CWP member Lisa Roth of New York City.

One of the marshals, Arvell Jones of Albany, said he joined the CWP after the rugby tour was announced. "I'm here to voice my opinion about white supremacy," he said.

Anre Youngerman, an Albany attorney, and Geoffrey Smith of New York City, were two of 25 "legal observers" with the Mass Defense Committee of the National Lawyer's Guild standing by to serve as witnesses in case did so. But Cross and others remain convinced that increased focus on this approach is the way to go in youth treatment.

"What you spend now is going to have a savings in the long run," Cross insisted.

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in a vacant office across the hall from the ERU's, ripping through the floor into the candy store on the first floor.

Police were told of the explosion by a passerby, who was not identified.

A Schenectady radio station, WWWD, received a call about five minutes before the blast, warning that a bomb was about to go off somewhere in Schenectady. Disk jockey Dale Lane did not call police when the female caller hung up.

"It's a blessing he didn't," said Police Chief Richard Nelson. "We might have had some people down there if he did call."

The anonymous caller did not specify where in Schenectady the bomb would explode, said Capt. Victor Palmo of the city investigative unit.

No one called police, newspapers, or broadcast stations yesterday claiming responsibility for the explosion.

Agents of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms trained in bomb investigations arrived in Schenectady around noon to assist in the investigation. By nightfall, they had completed their work, said Palmo, and sent what evidence they could salvage to their laboratory for analysis.

The preliminary investigation could not determine what kind of explosives were used, Palmo said.

LeGrande Serras, president of the 400 Block Development Corp., manager of the Canal Square project, said there was no permanent structural damage to the building.

He said there were no security guards on duty in the building at any time before it closed for business at 5:30 p.m. Monday.

The office in which the bomb was placed was vacant, Serras said, and was being prepared for use as a model for prospective tenants. The office door was unlocked and anyone could have entered the unseen, he added.

When he arrived shortly after the blast occurred, Serras said the door at the street level entrance was still locked but the glass in it was shattered. It wasn't determined immediately whether the glass was broken by

the blast or by whomever planted the explosives.

No dollar amount was placed on the damage done by the explosion. Serras described the damage as "extensive, but I have no idea to what degree."

ERU president Selfridge said he first learned of the explosion when a policeman knocked the door of his Glenville home at 2 a.m.

"He told me a bomb had exploded," Selfridge said. The damage to the ERU office was minor, he said.

"There is no indication of who is responsible," he said in response to questions. Given the peaceful motives expressed by the anti-rugby coalition, Selfridge said the blast might be "an incident of coincidence." He said the phone call received by WWWD warning a bomb would go off could have been coincidence, also.

"We're glad no was hurt," he said.

Gary Lambert, a member of the White Plains rugby club and one of the players scheduled to face the Springboks, said the explosion "won't effect anyone" facing the South Africans.

"It hasn't even been brought up by any one," Lambert said, just before leaving the Ramada Inn for a workout.

He said the police protection is "great" and he was not worried about violence at the game.

Boyd-Morrissey, a rugby player from New Orleans scheduled to play in the preliminary rugby contest at Bleecker Stadium, said he was "surprised at the controversy."

"I'd be surprised if there'd be violence. I would be disappointed, depressed, if there was," he said.

In Washington, the bombing was called an "example of transnational terrorism" by a conservative congressman arguing against a resolution calling for a ban of the Springboks' U.S. tour.

Rep. Larry McDonald, D-Georgia said, "in this case, the beneficiary of the terrorism in America was the African National Congress, a terrorist

group controlled by the Soviet Union and the South African Communist Party."

"Clearly," McDonald said, "this is an attempt to intimidate this body into yielding to demands that we should condemn the visit of the Springboks."

The "sense of Congress" resolution received 200 votes in favor to 198 against, 90 votes short of the two-thirds required for approval. Among those voting against the call to cancel the tour were Rep. Samuel Stratton, D-Amsterdam, and Rep. Gerald Solomon, R-Queensbury. Rep. Donald Mitchell, R-Herkimer, voted in favor of ending the tour.

Arrested early yesterday at a seventh floor apartment in Central Towers, 400 Central Ave., Albany, on charges unrelated to the Schenectady explosion were:

Michael Young, 28, of Brooklyn, who was charged with criminal possession of a loaded weapon, and unlawful possession of marijuana and fireworks.

Aaron Estis, 22, of Summerville, Mass., also identified as a member of the Communist Workers Party. He was charged with possession of marijuana and fireworks.

Vera Michaelson, 36, who police said is the person renting the apartment. She was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana.

The police made the arrests around 3:25 a.m. on information gathered in the wake of another arrest Monday evening of a Lawrence, Kan., man.

John Spearman Jr., 31, was arrested on the Albany State University campus across the street from the Thruway House where the Springboks team is staying.

Police charged Spearman with criminal possession of stolen property after they determined the car he was driving had been stolen from New York City, police said.

Spearman was stopped by police after he allegedly was observed circling the motel. Security around the lodging has been tight since the Springboks arrived in Albany Sunday.

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BLACK POWER/Demonstrators at Tuesday's Springboks rugby game in Albany march behind a banner calling for majority rule in South Africa and the end to

By **DREW MacDONALD**
Staff Reporter

ALBANY — The only confrontation at Tuesday's controversial rugby game was on the playing field itself, as heavy rain and precautions taken by anti-apartheid rally organizers and the Albany Police Department resulted in a wet and noisy but peaceful demonstration outside Bleecker Stadium.

The soaking rain throughout the evening helped keep the crowd to less than 2,000, according to a police estimate, as local and out-of-town demonstrators opposed to the appearance of the South African Springboks team marched from the state Capitol to Swinburne Park to speak out against the racial policies of the South African government.

Six persons were arrested during the night, but none of the arrests were directly related to the demonstration itself. A man with a knife was picked up inside Bleecker Stadium, and five youths were later arrested at a nearby restaurant on disorderly conduct charges.

The Springboks whipped its host, the Eastern Rugby Union's Colonials, 41-0.

"Things went very well tonight," said Albany Police Chief Thomas Burke, commanding the 300-man police contingent at the scene. "We just had the one arrest inside the stadium." He said that the rain, the New York City primary, and the on-again-off-again nature of the game helped keep the crowd down.

Clara Satterfield, president of the Albany chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said she was pleased by the turnout. "There are a lot of people from Albany out here, and things like this usually don't happen here."

Protest takes place, but it fizzles in the rain

By DAVID SYLVESTER
Knickerbocker News Reporter

"To come here and sing didn't change a thing," said Nim Paroski, a member of the Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour, as he stepped into a chartered bus to return to New York City at the end of the anti-apartheid protest.

"They won the game, they won the battle, they won the war," he said. "To have succeeded, we had to stop the game. It was only a get-together."

But on the hilltop of Swinburne Park, ~~protesters~~ ~~organizer~~ ~~Michael Lapchick~~ had a somewhat different view. "Our aim was to stop the tour, and clearly we didn't do that."

But these people (the Springboks) have been chased around from place to place. They had to cancel in Lake Geneva, Wis., in Rochester, in New York City, in Chicago. It's unprecedented."

With the ranks of protestors thinned by the confusion of last-minute court appeals, a driving rain storm, and

rumors of violence, SART organizers had a variety of opinions on the largest American anti-apartheid demonstration against the U.S. tour of the South African National Rugby Team.

SART organizers plan to meet at noon today in New York City to attempt to learn of the planned location for the Springboks' Saturday game. A full meeting of SART — a coalition of 60 activist groups — is planned for Thursday, Lapchick said.

"We need to be wherever they are going to be," called out Adeyral Baraka, international affairs coordinator for the Black United Front.

The rally, which originally was expected to attract some 10,000 protesters then underwent a revised estimate to a few thousand, started with only a handful of people in front of Blecker Stadium and a dozen people on the steps of the State Capitol.

During the four-hour protest, the number of demonstrators swelled to 1,000 (Police Chief Thomas Burke's

estimate) to 2,000 (Lapchick's estimate).

The protest and game proceeded peacefully, although there were two bomb threats called to the stadium, one to the Albany Parks and Recreation Department and one to the Albany headquarters of the NAACP.

Burke said state police dogs were used to search the stadium stands after the bomb threats.

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Protest fizzles in the rain ...

CONTINUED

More than 340 law enforcement officers from the Albany Police Department, the Albany County Sheriff's Department and the New York State Police created a heavy police presence at the gates and around the perimeter of the field. Groups of police also mingled with the crowd.

At 4 p.m., while awaiting the main contingent of marchers from the State Capitol, some 200 protesters braved the light rain in front of Blecker Stadium, dressed in brown plastic garbage bags, and chanting slogans: "Two, four six, eight; Stop the Apartheid Fascist State."

"Stop the Springboks, stop the tour. Victory to the People's Tour."

Lisa Roth, a union secretary representing the Material Aid Campaign to ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union), said a number of groups had joined the demonstration, including the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee, May 19 Communist Organization (representing the birthday of both Ho Chi Minh and Malcolm X), the Black United Front, and the Women's Committee Against Genocide.

Locally, Michael Dollard, secretary of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid, said some 40 groups had joined in the opposition to the game. He said he was pleased with the smaller turnout.

Why? "With so much talk of violence, I felt the crowd the better off we were."

A group of 500 marchers, joined by 200 more from the State University at Albany, converged with the Blecker Stadium group at about 6:30 p.m., just after a deluge soaked the crowds.

The marchers carried a banner into the glare of television lights and a swarm of reporters bristling with microphones and tape recorders. Parade marshals wearing red armbands directed the groups to Swinburne Park, a city facility adjacent to the playing field. There they listened to songs, poems and chants for over two hours.

Pete Seeger, well-known folksinger and activist, was on hand to sing to and talk with the crowd.

At the forefront of the march were prominent Albany residents, including Clara Satterfield, president of the Albany County NAACP; Fifth Ward Alderman Nebraska Brace and his wife Ann-Marie; activist Rodney Littles; the Rev. Ernest Boston, and the Rev. Robert Dixon.

Ms. Satterfield called on voters to "send a message to" Albany Mayor Erastus Corning II on election day, urging people to register. "Don't let today be the end of all this," she said.

Their path cleared by a police escort, the demonstrators marched six abreast up Washington Avenue and crossed the Northern Boulevard bridge to Clinton Avenue along with a dozen cameramen and photographers.

They chanted anti-Corning as well as anti-apartheid slogans as they marched, and urged residents standing along the predominantly-black Clinton Avenue neighborhood to join them.

The Springboks entered the playing field from a distant Ontario Street gate to the field, entirely unnoticed from the crowd at 6:50 p.m.

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From the top of the hill, the glistening peaks of umbrellas spread out to the street as demonstrators listened to speeches, including those of Stephanie Reed-Robinson, coordinator of the Center for Athletes' Rights in Education in New York City:

"We hear you, Mr. Backlash," she called out.

"Hey, it's Mr. White Backlash," responded a member in the crowd.

"You have those mean old Mr. Backlash Blues," she said. "Yes, you're the ones, Springboks; yes, you're the one, Selfridge; yes, you're the one, Mr. Corning, who have the blues."

After an hour, a group of 50 more militant protesters moved closer to the stadium gate in defiance of the marshals and urged the group to rush the field.

"Stop the game," called out one militant. "Stop the game, you idiots."

Joining in the shouting, which was attributed to Communist groups at one point, were students from Amherst College, the Ivy League school in Massachusetts.

"I don't want any violence, but we do want the game stopped," said Diana Ohlbaum, an Amherst sophomore shouting with the militants. She said the group would rush the field only if enough people joined them, which seemed unlikely.

Samuel Mahlau of Poughkeepsie, an Amherst junior, said some 90 students had arrived in vans and private cars for the rally — far fewer than expected because of the confusing court rulings.

A group of black students from Troy's Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute taunted the police lines of the Albany Police Department, massed before the gates to the game.

"Look at them," one student called out to reporters. "They're animals. Look at him gripping that stick. That's what you should be covering. They're animals."

On a calming note that seemed incongruous in the face of the shouting, a friend turned to the shouter and asked: "Do you want some hot chocolate?" The student shook his head "no."

Spectators emerged from the game at 8:45 p.m. to the boos and hisses of protesters. They were guided by police, a move which angered protesters. Dollard called the police "irresponsible" for giving the marshals no warning.

But despite all the fanfare and buildup, the crowd quickly dispersed, and the small neighborhood park in Albany's west end was empty by 9 p.m.

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Police-rugby friendship creates a flawless

By E.B. GRAY Jr.

Knickerbocker News Reporter

If it had been a bank heist, the operation would have been strictly the work of pros. Instead, it was a logistical masterpiece pulled off by Albany and state police.

It was their job Tuesday to protect the South African rugby team and get the players to and from Blecker Stadium without any confrontations.

The results were flawless. A team of crack commandos should do so well.

Nestled safely in the eastern wing of the Best Western Thruway House on Washington Avenue, Albany, the

Springboks have enjoyed a friendly environment of unflappable plainclothes officers and special detectives since their arrival Sunday night.

The team members already had grown familiar with some of their New York babysitters. A special state police unit flew to Chicago over the weekend for the match eventually played Saturday in Racine, Wis.

"They're really nice guys," said a trooper assigned to the team. "They are very quiet and polite. You should see them at mealtime, always saying grace. Some of them are policemen, like us. Others are doctors and teachers

and professional people."

Guilderland police also have been providing security for rugby players staying in that town.

Many of the Eastern Rugby Union all-stars have been staying at the Ramada Inn on Western Avenue. And the Edwardians, another rugby team from South Africa which arrived in Albany Monday, have stayed in Guilderland motels.

Guilderland police provided taxi service for some of the Edwardians Tuesday night -- escorting them from the Thruway House to their own lodgings.

A Guilderland officer said "They are our responsibility. We are providing security for them until they leave."

A common trust quickly developed between the Springboks and New York's finest. So, when the time came to face the public and the American rugby squad Tuesday night, the two sides worked as a close-knit team.

"They gave us many briefings," said Johann Claassen, manager of the team. "We did what they told us."

The team was quartered in a separate wing of the sprawling motel across the street from the State University at Albany. The location provided easy

security operation

security for sealing off outsiders.

A network of cruisers and unmarked cars patrolled the parking lots and streets nearby. By 6 p.m. Tuesday, one hour before game time, the plan was set. The players would be transported to Blecker Stadium in two vans, escorted by a convoy of 10 police cars, half of them unmarked.

"They told us to wear our uniforms. We would be playing the match as soon as we arrived at the stadium," said Claassen.

Just before the vans pulled away from the Thruway House at 6:35 p.m. for their 10-minute trip to Blecker Stadium, two yellow traffic control cruisers opened up a lane on Washington Avenue for a couple of moments as the small caravan prepared to depart.

Inside each van sat a state policeman at the wheel while the 15 players rode in silence. The trip was quick and uneventful. Scooting down Western to Colvin Avenue, the 10 cars with the two vans in the middle cut through traffic easily. Once reaching Central Avenue, the convoy bolted straight for the stadium and the isolated Ontario Street entrance at the extreme eastern end of facility.

Like clockwork, the gates swung open and in rolled the carefully guarded cargo. Peeling out like a SWAT team in a gang war, the disciplined Springboks ran onto the field and began playing almost immediately.

The game started 10 minutes ahead of time because their journey had been so trouble free.

The trip back to the motel was just as quick and precise. Before some fans realized the game was over, the Springboks were climbing back into their vans which had been left parked inside the stadium, facing Ontario Street for a fast getaway.

While lingering chants from demonstrators echoed in the streets, the Springboks were whisked away as quickly as they appeared.

"We didn't even stick around to shake hands, either" at the end of the game, said Claassen. "We were told not to."

"I thought it was a very good effort," he said after it was all over. "We're going to have our party now. It's traditional for members of each team to present each other with presents."

Claassen pulled out a plaque, a team photograph and a tie from a bag he was carrying. Each bore the Springbok insignia. "These are the gifts we shall give to our American friends," he said.

As he talked, members of the Springbok and Colonial teams filed into the motel's Regency Room. A buffet, lots of beer and handshakes were on tap.

Near one of the doors stood another friend: an Albany plainclothes police officer who addressed a walkie talkie.

"Everything's secure here," he said.

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Covering the media covering the event

By STEVE WEBB

Knickerbocker News Reporters

By Tuesday afternoon, the rugby game between the South African all-star Springboks and the Eastern Rugby Union all-star Colonials had become a media event.

Reporters were arriving in town from Buffalo, Toronto and Pretoria, and telephoning trans-Atlantic from London.

Local and national TV crews were situating themselves to cover the game and related activities.

And they generally were aware of each other. WRGB anchorman Ed Dague asked a protest organizer within five minutes of the beginning of "News Center Six" if the fact the game-demonstration had become "a media event — you can see the network crews from here" made the turnout disappointing.

And the public was certainly aware of the media, particularly ABC's late-night news program "Nightline." It was broadcast from the recital hall of the Empire State Plaza Performing Arts Center ("The Egg") Tuesday night, and the words "Ted Koppel" were heard almost as frequently as "Springboks," "apartheid" or "racism" on Clinton Street before the game.

In a press conference that afternoon, Koppel agreed with a suggestion that news coverage can have a definite, and not always positive,

effect on events.

"As soon as the camera is on the scene, it is perceived to have an impact on what happens," Koppel said. "It is hard to determine whether demonstrators show up because of TV, or whether TV plays to the demonstrators."

Another out-of-town reporter, Terence McElroy of the Buffalo Courier-Express, recalled an incident similar to the game and demonstration.

"In Buffalo last January, we had a 'Nazi rally' take place the day of Martin Luther King's birthday," McElroy said, "but it ended up that there was only one Nazi there, and the rest of the crowd consisted of blacks either celebrating King's birthday or demonstrating against the Nazi."

The "Nightline" staff, estimated by Koppel as between 30 and 40 by airtime in Albany, was most concerned with keeping its broadcast location secret. Tuesday was the second time "Nightline" has experimented with doing a program that would normally originate in Washington on the field.

"In this particular situation, the story is about people intent on disrupting a game, and to do it on location would be a logistical nightmare, an invitation for someone to disrupt our broadcast. You can't run that risk with live television."

Koppel's broadcast began without ERU President Tom Selfridge, scheduled to be the first guest in a tandem interview with Albany NAACP President Clara Satterfield. He did not arrive for his interview. A distraught ABC employee searched for him shortly before airtime at the hotel where the Springboks were staying, and midway after rearranging the interview sequence so it made less sense, Koppel suggested: "I think we ought to stiff Mr. Selfridge. I think Mr. Selfridge has stiffed us enough already."

The local news media had a concentration of reporters and photographers present. Among the four area TV stations, WRGB had the most employees at Bleeker Stadium with 15. WTEN and WAST each had nine. WMHT had three, half its team that puts out "Inside Albany" weekly.

The Knickerbocker News had five reporters and an editor at the stadium, and two other reporters doing related stories at other locations. The Times-Union had 10 reporters and an editor, and the Schenectady Gazette had three reporters.

Midway through the first period during the game, Albany police officers cleared a small group of TV reporters and photographers from the asphalt sidewalk circling the stadium.

Covering the media covering the event

A few minutes before, Times-Union reporter Tom Friedmann was ejected from the stadium in a scuffle with three police officers. He had walked into the west entrance with the approval of Selfridge, who stood at the end of a gauntlet of helmeted police.

One officer complained to Selfridge. "He's been in here and out four times already." If that were true, it would have violated one of Selfridge's rules. The rugby union president nodded and responded with a military-like gesture at Friedmann, saying "I want him out."

Officer Richard Rider grabbed Friedmann and pulled him, back through the gate. Meanwhile, the reporter said "That's wrong. I've only been in once."

Another officer shoved Friedmann as Rider continued to push him away from the gate area and into the crowd of demonstrators.

At an event defended on First Amendment grounds allowing freedom of expression and assembly, the restrictions on news media movement might have seemed ironic. But as he was ordered away from the gate area, WRGB reporter Mark Karras noted there wasn't much that could be done about it.

"A working reporter can press the first amendment issue, sure, but if you get thrown out, where are you? You'll win the court case, but in the meantime you don't have a story."

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Local 'bomb call' radio station has its own bomb scare

After receiving a call warning of an impending bomb explosion at the offices of the Eastern Rugby Union in Canal Square, Schenectady, personnel of radio station WWWD in Schenectady received two more calls Tuesday. One led to a search of Bleeker Stadium in Albany during the Springbok-ERU rugby game; the other meant evacuation of the radio station building on Liberty Street.

Early this morning, Schenectady police cordoned off Liberty Street between Jay Street and Broadway after a bomb threat was received against the radio station at 4:25 a.m. The caller said a bomb was in the building and would explode at 4:30 a.m.

A state police dog sniffed out the building and found nothing. Police units and a fire department pumper stood by until about 4:40 a.m.

State police dogs also were used to check Bleeker Stadium shortly before the Springboks after a man called WWWD and said an explosive had been planted at the Albany field.

The call was received on the station's request line at 6:01 p.m. Tuesday by disc jockey Keith McKenna, fellow DJ Sharon Spies said.

The caller first identified himself as being affiliated with whom ever planted the bomb that exploded earlier Tuesday in the Canal Square building.

Schenectady police said a caller, identifying himself as a member of the Black Liberation Army, called a New York City wire service reporter Tuesday morning, claiming responsibility for the Schenectady bombing.

The second caller said his organization "has planted yet another well-concealed bomb in Bleeker Stadium. Unless you call off the game you will be responsible for the deaths (garbled) to happen soon. Stop the Springboks." The station notified the FBI, which in turn called Albany police and the state police.

Authorities said the stadium was checked for explosives, but none were found.

The Black Liberation Army, an organization lead by Jean Chesimard, was active from about 1969 through 1973 and claimed responsibility for the execution-style murders of several police officers in New York City and other major cities.

Albany Times-Union

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Rugby Protest Fizzled Amid Rain, Litigation

By JERRY ALLAN
News Washington Bureau

The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid demonstration turned out 1,000 to 1,500 to protest an exhibition game in Albany that the South African Springboks rugby team, played against an enthusiastic group of U.S. rugby amateurs assembled by the Eastern Rugby Union of America Inc., based in Schenectady.

"Rain is a cop's best friend — a deterrent to

Commentary

protests," said a State Police investigator, who declined to be quoted by name.

He stood in the twilight Tuesday as the demonstrators, six abreast, trudged 2 miles from the statehouse to Bleecker Stadium in a steady downpour.

Getting more than 1,000 persons together on a rainy night is a solid achievement but the protest fizzled because it was over-advertised.

Even Gov. Carey, in forcing Albany Mayor Erastus Corning II to cancel the game — a decision reversed in the federal courts — mentioned State Police intelligence bulletins that said the game would attract "in excess of 10,000 protesters" with the likelihood of infiltration by "professional agitators."

ALBANY BECAME what the media has labeled "a racially tense city" several weeks ago when the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People began to protest the planned appearance of the South Africans.

All the attention-getters that create a sense of foreboding came together in the messy situation in Albany, including deadline appearances in the federal courts.

Only about three hours before the game was played here, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall ended several days of whirlwind litigation with a one-word opinion! "Denied."

Some of the demonstrators blamed the off-again, on-again aspect of the game for the relatively low turnout by protesters.

Fear increased in Albany Tuesday when word spread that a bomb had exploded near the Schenectady offices of the Eastern Rugby Union and the likelihood of a violent confrontation mounted after a deputy state attorney general, representing Gov. Carey, told a federal appeals court in New York City of the arrest in Albany of a 37-year-old man from Lawrence, Kan., in a State University of Albany parking lot across the road from a motel where the Springboks were staying.

The suspect, John Spearman Jr., was in a stolen car, armed with a revolver and, according to police, he said he belonged to the Revolutionary Youth League, the militant arm of the Communist Worker's Party.

And early Tuesday, police armed with warrants raided a downtown Albany apartment and arrested a Brooklyn man, a man from Massachusetts and an Albany woman on a variety of charges, including possession of a weapon, possession of marijuana and possession of illegal fireworks.

IT IS NOT surprising that the fireworks led to erroneous reports that the police had seized explosives.

The game itself, which Federal Judge Howard G. Munson of Syracuse said had been transformed from a sporting event into a "match that has attracted extraordinary political prejudice," was, of course, an anti-climax.

What prompted Gov. Carey, a lawyer and a staunch defender of constitutional freedom of assembly guarantees, to ban the game will be debated at length and is certain to be a factor next year if the governor, as anticipated, seeks re-election.

What is clear is that Gov. Carey exposed himself to severe criticism by a federal jurist.

Gov. Carey banned a "lawful public assembly," Judge Munson said, based on a "paltry showing" of supposed violence.

Even more damaging to Gov. Carey's standing as a civil libertarian in Judge Munson's statement that "by enjoining the scheduled sporting event, the governor of the State of New York seeks to destroy the very constitutional freedoms that have enabled the more than century-long struggle to ensure racial equality in this country."

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Knickerbocker News/Bob Richey

START OF A WET MARCH — Demonstrators protesting the appearance at Bleecker Stadium of a South African rugby team head up Washington Avenue in the

rain from the front steps of the State Capitol toward the stadium early Tuesday evening. Albany City Hall is in the background.

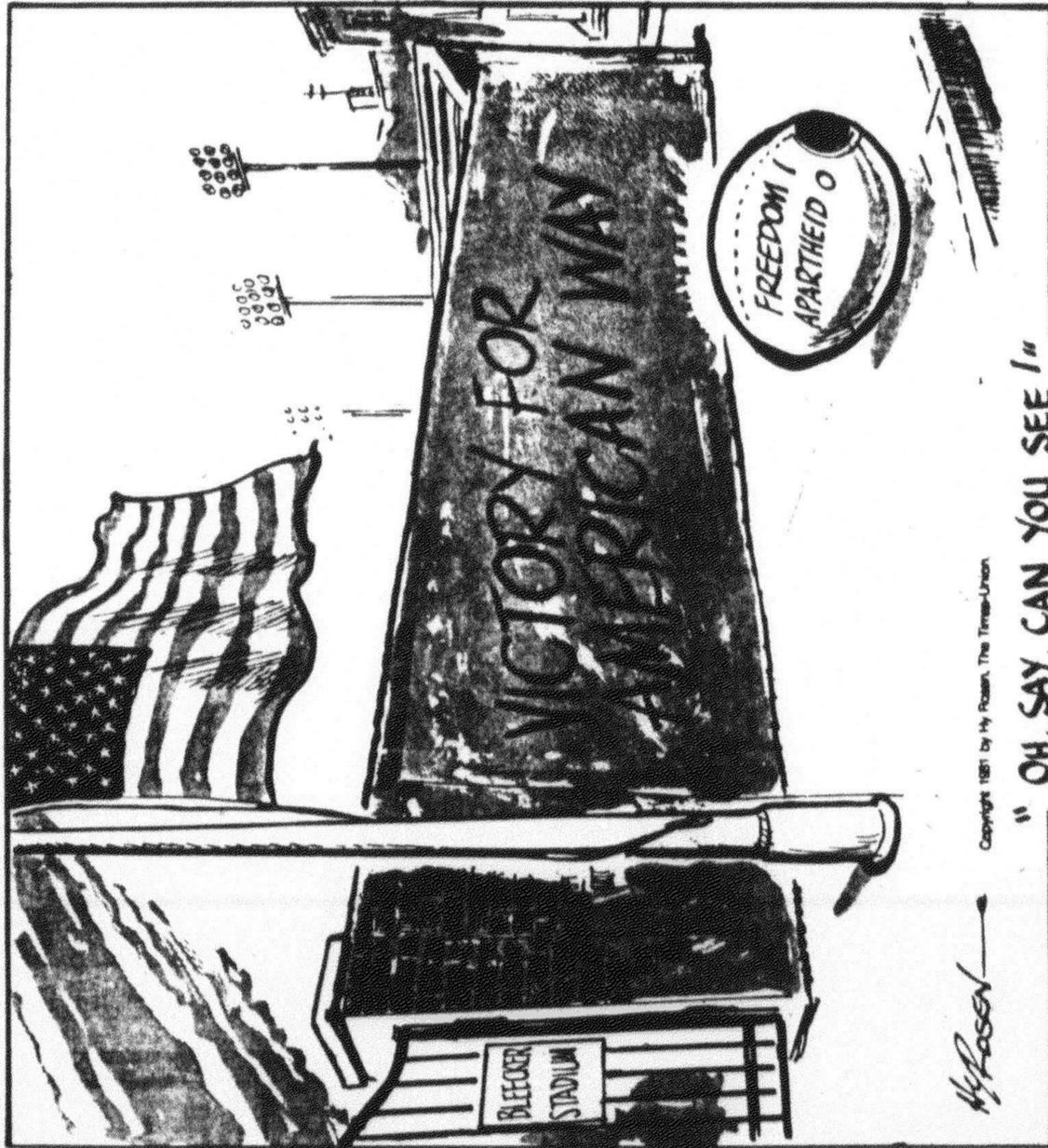


Knickerbocker News/Bob Richey

JEERING THE FANS — Anti-apartheid protesters jeer a paying customer exiting Bleecker Stadium after

watching the South African Springboks throttle an American team, 41-0, Tuesday night.

AS HY ROSEN SEES IT:



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"OH, SAY, CAN YOU SEE!"

EDITORIALS:

A victory
for liberty

The rugby game is over, almost anticlimactically, and in fact that it was played stands as a victory for the American way.

The dissent was heard, the threats of violence and intimidation were met and, in the end, the system worked.

In the controversy that swirled around this event are two clear lessons.

One is that opposing views can clash and be resolved within the framework of law — our law, based on freedoms provided for us all under the U.S. Constitution.

The other is directed in no uncertain terms to the rugby players of South Africa and others who sympathize with that nation's oppressive practice of apartheid.

The protests and the demonstrations that marked the team's visit to Albany should imbed a profound impression in their minds — one we trust they will carry back to their homeland.

We do not see the rugby match at Bleecker Stadium as a victory for South Africa; indeed, it is a defeat. The worldwide attention brought to focus on that nation's apartheid policies by this event cannot help but reflect a profoundly negative image on that nation, and, we hope, hasten quick and monumental reform.

We are stronger today for our tolerance yesterday. The oppressive practices of South Africa are weaker for having been placed on the world stage.

Editorial Page (??)



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9/23/81

The governor lost the rugby match

The controversial rugby game involving the South African team known as the Springboks is over without incident, but not without questions about how Gov. Hugh Carey reached his decision last week to cancel the game.

Was Mr. Carey correct in his perception that the Springboks' appearance here had given rise to an imminent danger of riot. That was the reasoning behind the governor's decision to cancel the game despite the position of Albany Mayor Erastus Corning II that the team had a constitutional right to play here. Even though a three-judge panel of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals refused to stop the game, it did note the state had the right to cancel such events if it appeared they might get out of hand.

A report to the governor from the state police had warned of possible confrontations involving protesters, members of the Ku Klux Klan and the Communists Workers Party, and that report led the governor to act.

The report apparently impressed no one else but Mr. Carey. The governor's justification for canceling the match was called "woefully inadequate" by federal Judge Howard G. Munson in the first round of court battles between the state and the supporters of the rugby match.

In fact, the anti-apartheid protest outside Blecker Stadium Tuesday night never really came to the point of getting out of control. Part of the reason, no doubt, was that the ranks of protesters were limited because the game had been canceled and rescheduled, and then in doubt up until the last hours. And the cold, rainy weather no doubt kept many others away.

But the fact remains that the weather might be better and the protesters more organized and in greater numbers at any future controversial events in Albany or elsewhere in the state.

Can we rely on the Carey administration to make a more accurate assessment of state police intelligence the next time — when the stakes might be higher?

.twisted thinking

There was a false analogy circulating around town this week that was used as a justification for allowing the South African rugby team, the Springboks, to play here. The analogy goes like this: If the United States hockey team can face the Soviet Union team in Olympic competition, why can't American rugby players host the South Africans?

That the Soviet Union is a repressive government is beyond debate, but so is the fact that U. S. teams have not always been allowed to compete with Russian athletes when that repression threatens a particular people. The obvious example is Afghanistan and the U.S. subsequent boycott of the Moscow Olympics. Should the Soviet Union invade Poland, a similar boycott of Russian athletes on U. S. soil would not be out of keeping with our traditions.

However, during times of detente, when there appeared to be a thawing of relations between our nation and the Soviet Union, teams from both nations have faced each other in competitive sports.

The situation in South Africa is not the same. That government's policy of apartheid targets one race for perpetual subjugation. There is no detente and no hope of improved conditions for blacks in that country unless world opinion gets through to the ruling minority.

For now, the nation's whole educational system teaches blacks their inferiority and whites their supremacy. This is not a matter of periodic purges, this is unrelenting racism. The very fabric of the South African government is built on the denigration of one race.

That is why their rugby players, who by now should be seen as transparent ambassadors for their government, affront so many here. That is why they affront us.

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GAZETTE PHONE 374-4141

SCHE

Protests

By STEVE NELSON
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — They were the persons Gov. Hugh L. Carey said harbored the potential for riot, posed a threat serious enough for him to edge out on a constitutional limb and try to stop the match.

They were the soldiers of the anti-apartheid, stop the rugby tour movement, people who more than a month ago began preparing a demonstration that would draw the attention of the country to the Springsboks, the alleged ambassadors of apartheid.

Groups such as the Capital District Committee Against Apartheid, Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour, the NAACP and a variety of religious groups banded together to form the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid.

Their plans called for a demonstration involving as many as 10,000. Buses carrying protesters from as far away as Buffalo and Boston were expected.

But for a while yesterday, those plans appeared in jeopardy. Heavy rain, an explosion, bomb threats and arrests seemed to reduce the number of persons who would march from the State Capitol steps to Bleeker Stadium.

The first to arrive at the Capitol around 4 p.m. shook their heads with concern about

whether they would get the numbers they needed.

"There's not many people here, are there. There should be more here," said Nebraska Brace, the Ward 5 alderman who has been one of the leaders of the protest.

"This is Black Tuesday here in Albany," he said. "I think a lot of people were scared away...by the rain, by everything."

Michael Dollard, a spokesman for the coalition said there was "no doubt" that the bombing of the building housing the Eastern Rugby Union and the arrest of Communist Workers Party member for carrying an illegal firearm compelled some marchers to stay at home.

But there were 500 protesters by the time the march to Bleeker began shortly before 6 p.m. Up Washington Avenue they went to Northern Boulevard. Up the Boulevard to Quail Street, where they were met by another 500 from the Albany State University campus.

Led by police cars with flashing lights the group moved 6 to 8 abreast up Clinton Avenue, chanting and holding their placards and banners high.

They met another group from Boston and elsewhere at the stadium. By game time, the demonstrators' ranks had swelled to 2,500.

It was not as large as they planned, but organizers were pleased so many ignored the rain and the threats of violence to express their feelings.

Dr. Manning Marabile was one of those pleased at the turnout. A professor in political economics at Cornell, he had arrived with a group of 50 from Ithaca. Dr. Marabile's fiery speech at the Capitol had roused the crowd.

"They've said that politics have nothing to do with sports. Sports is fundamentally political," he cried. "Everything is political when it has to do with racism."

He and local NAACP president Clara Satterfield helped prepare the crowd for the hours of chanting and speech making ahead.

Despite bomb threats phoned in to the NAACP headquarters, the Department of Parks and Recreation offices in Hoffman Park and again to radio station WWWD, the violence that so worried Carey never appeared.

The crowd, gathered in Swindburne Park next to the stadium, spent most of the time chanting and listening to speeches and music. The only violence that threatened was nipped cleanly by the marshals of the demonstration.

A group of helmeted sheriff's deputies appeared on the scene, moving toward the building alongside the stadium. Some of the demonstrators booed and hissed the officers, moving in to confront them.

Standing just inches from a line of helmeted police armed with batons, the crowd screamed for the South African team to go home.

Protests Were Nonviolent

By CARLO WOLFF
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — The chants outside the stadium went on longer than the game itself.

Inside Bleeker Stadium, 30 men played rugby before a rain-soaked public, police and press last night.

Inside, there was one arrest, a player altercation, a stand-hawking 'Springbok America Tour' T-shirts — and a slick, muddy field that pitted the championship South African rugby team, the Springsboks, against the Eastern Rugby Union.

According to police, Daniel Noonan, 21, of Brandywine Avenue, Schenectady, was arrested inside the stadium at 8 last night and charged with criminal possession of a knife. Noonan was lodged in city jail pending morning arraignment.

"I like football, I like baseball, I like basketball," Albany Police Chief Thomas Burke said outside the stadium after the game. "I'm not interested in rugby." Burke said. "I was out here with the working men."

Burke said he felt the game — and the demonstration outside — hadn't caused problems for the 300 Albany policemen, 40 Albany County sheriffs, 100 city marshals and six State Police dogs mustered for the controversial event.

The total Albany Police force numbers 370.

Rain Dampens the Crowd

The chief estimated about 900 people sat on bleachers on the stadium's north side, braving wet, chilly weather to watch the Springsboks trounce the Eastern Rugby Union team, 41-0.

The crowd was predominantly white male, ponchoed and raincoated. Many spectators wore hats sporting the legend, "Eastern Rugby Union Colonial."

ERU President Thomas Selfridge said 1,867 people had purchased tickets to the game.

As members of the defeated team talked to the press after the Springsboks ran off the field into vans at the eastern exit of the stadium, Selfridge said he was happy with the game and pledged to bring Canadian and English teams to this area in 1982 and 1983.

"Mayor Corning is to be complimented on the way he handled the issue," said Selfridge. "Hair plastered and suit soaked. Meanwhile, protesters outside the stadium chanted anti-apartheid slogans."

During the game, members of the press were confined to the stadium. In fact, city police ordered them to stay in the concrete area/pressbox on the south side, opposite from the spectators.

Burke said he had worked out security with Selfridge during the afternoon. The chief said that the purpose was to keep the press off the track "in the eventuality something could happen."

After several ERU team injuries during the first half, many members of the press left the stadium, partially in protest of their restrictions, partially to check out the demonstration on Clinton Avenue and Second Street.

There were about 125 print, radio and television reporters, and 50 photographers and cameramen.

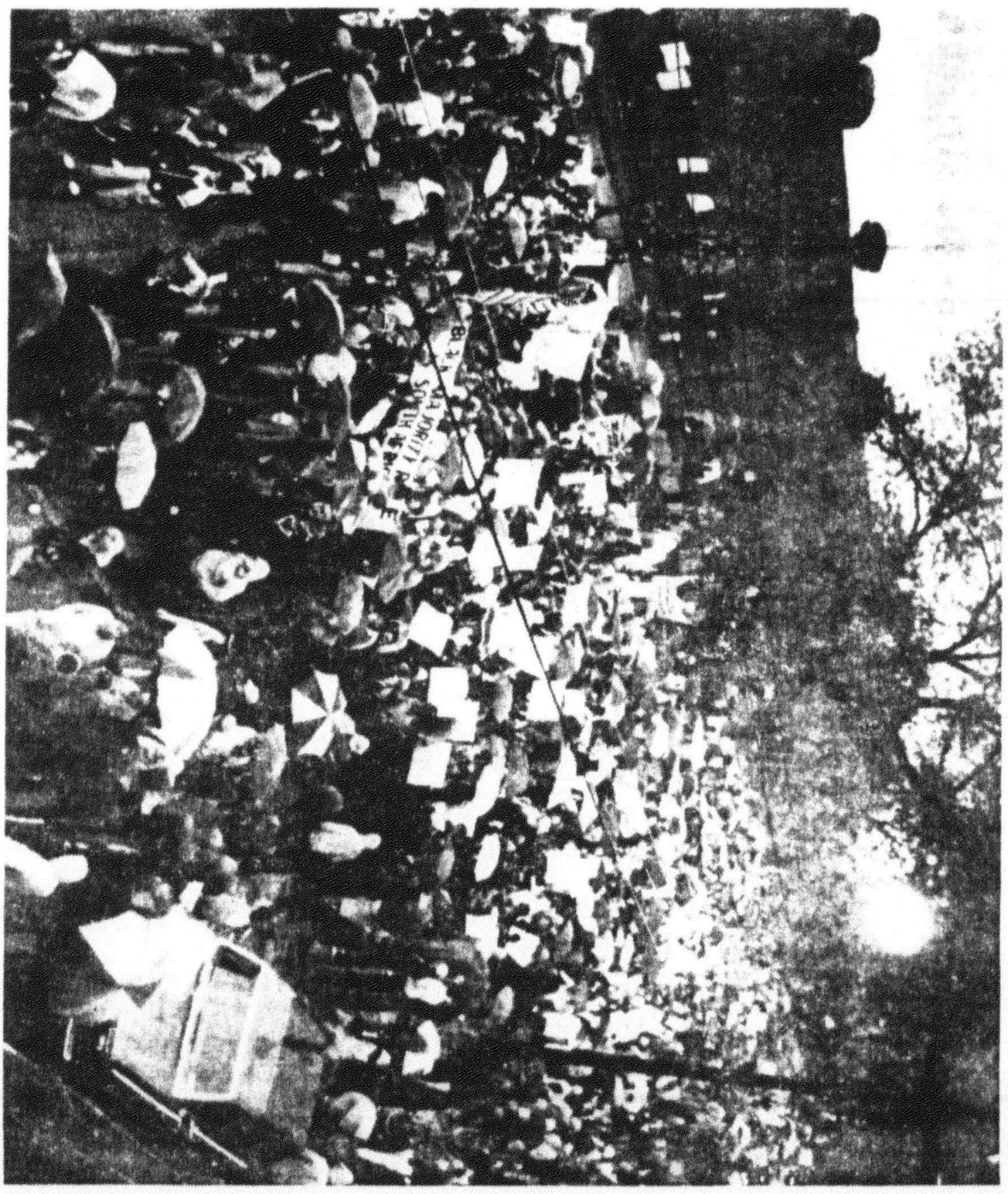
A contingent from ABC News fed information to Channel 10 and to Nightline's Ted Koppel. The star of the late-night network news show was set up at the Egg in Empire State Plaza, the base from which he was scheduled to broadcast Nightline live at 11:30 last night.

Nothing much happened except that the Springsboks clobbered the ERU.

Immediately after the game, which went a little over an hour because of injury make-up time, Selfridge rounded up three ERU players to answer questions.

A muddy, wet and bleeding back-row forward said he'd enjoyed the game, though "it would have been respectable to get a few points."

The Springsboks were "a very classy team," said Gary Lambert. But he said he thought the ERU had turned in a creditable performance, even though "we lost our intensity" after the Springsboks moved ahead 20 points.



AT THE GAME — This is how it looked outside Albany's Bleecker stadium last night as the South African Springboks took the field against the Eastern Rugby Union team. There were only a few minor incidences during the game, won by the Springboks 41-0.

—(Gazette Photo)

...Corning kept a very low profile



Knickerbocker News/Fred McKinney

Erastus Corning II
...eludes reporters

A Q&A session with the mayor

By E.J. McMAHON Jr.
Knickerbocker News Reporter

Albany Mayor Erastus Corning II shunned the glare of international publicity and stayed away from the rugby match that would not have been played without his unyielding stand on constitutional principle.

While the Springboks were routing an American team in a driving rain Tuesday night — with hundreds of heavily armed police keeping a wary eye on more than 1,000 demonstrators outside Bleecker Stadium — Corning was having dinner about a mile away in the genteel surroundings of the Fort Orange Club.

Corning eluded reporters who attempted to interview him at the Fort Orange Club after the match ended. Reached at his home by telephone late Tuesday night, the mayor said he had spent the earlier part of the evening in the police command post at the Traffic Safety Building on Central Avenue.

He said he stayed at the command post until after the rugby match began, leaving "when I saw I was no longer needed." Then he went to his club.

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Q: Since the match came off so smoothly, with no incidents of violence and only minor arrests, did he feel vindicated by the outcome?

A: "I don't think it had anything to do with it."

Q: Had he been in close touch with Police Chief Thomas Burke during the match?

A: "The entire time, surely. I just wanted to be sure that everything worked out."

Q: Was he surprised by the peacefulness of the demonstration?

A: "You don't get surprised by those things. You take what comes."

Q: Did Gov. Hugh L. Carey's abortive cancellation of the game, coupled with the mayor's own statement in federal court in support of overturning the governor's action, mean there had been any change in the political relationship between the two men?

A: "No."

Q: Some are interpreting the governor's action as embarrassing to the mayor and seeing it as evidence of a rift in their relationship. What does Corning think about it?

A: "I did not know that."

Q: Did he think the controversy would hurt Carey's image or standing?

A: "I haven't any idea about that."

Corning also said he could not predict how the rugby controversy might affect him in his campaign for an 11th term, particularly among black voters.

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In a sea of mud and confusion,

By E.B. GRAY Jr.
Knickerbocker News Reporter

For what turned out to be a mudhole in the heart of Albany, Tuesday night's rugby match at Bleecker Stadium still lived up to its billing as an international stage.

Although the South African Springboks rugby team ended up playing the role of spear-carriers, the main characters watched from the wings as cameras and notepads from around the world

recorded the significance of 30 grown men in shorts struggling with a leather ball in a sea of mud.

The 41-0 Springbok stampede surprised no one. What still has some observers shaking their heads is the very idea of an upstate mayor and an obscure rugby union official upstaging first the governor of the Empire State, then the federal court system and, finally, a diluted band of rain-soaked protesters.

By embracing the U.S. Constitution, Mayor Erastus Corning II pulled off the big one.

He showed that a municipal stadium could host a match involving a South African team without it being legally interpreted as an endorsement for apartheid.

More than 300 Albany police officers, draped in sinister black slickers and shiny white riot helmets, were only one line of defense as the soggy Swinburne

the play went on

Park-Bleecker Stadium complex was squeezed off from the rest of humanity, except those carrying either specially-acquired tickets or press passes.

To penetrate the security, one had to skirt through a ring of 40 orange-coated Albany County sheriff's deputies armed with tear-gas guns and six snarling dogs, endure a body search inside the gate and then be exiled to one side of the field.

The irony was rich. South Africa, a

country where races are segregated, was having its national team play a match in front of an audience not allowed to mix.

On the north side sat 500 diehard rugby fans. In the cement stands on the south side swarmed a pack of confused journalists, many of whom had never seen a rugby player in his or her life.

In between, another row of police and

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U.S. Hosts Routed, 41-0—

Rain Douses Rugby 'Ruckus'

By PHIL BLANCHARD and STEVE NELSON
Gazette Reporters

ALBANY — The South African Springboks rugby team, whose world tour triggered riots in New Zealand and an American political controversy, played in rain-drenched Bleeker Stadium last night while 2,500 peaceful demonstrators outside railed against apartheid. The Springboks, considered the world's best rugby team, logged to a 41-0 victory over a U.S. all-star team.

A bomb blast early yesterday at the offices of the Eastern Rugby Union in Schenectady failed to deter the sponsors of the match from going ahead with the controversial appearance of the Springboks.

The game started 11 minutes before the 7 p.m. scheduled time, only a few hours after U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall had rejected New York's arguments to to cancel it.

Gov. Hugh L. Carey's action last week to prohibit the game was voided by a federal judge in Albany Monday, whose decision was upheld yesterday by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in New York and, finally, by Marshall.

The 5,000 to 10,000 demonstrators who had been expected to gather at the Capitol around 5 p.m. never materialized.

Organizers blamed the weather and the fear of violence sparked by the explosion for the less than expected turnout. But by the time the protestors began their march to the city-owned Bleeker Stadium, at least 500 persons chanting and carrying

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anti-apartheid placards were on hand.

They were greeted on the way by about 500 students who had marched through Albany from the Albany State University campus on Washington Avenue. Another 200 or so demonstrators were already at the stadium when the marchers arrived.

The crowd gathered in Swinburne Park to hear a steady stream of speakers denounce the apartheid policies of South Africa and what they claimed was the United States' tacit support of it.

Deputy Police Chief John Reid estimated that there were 2,500 to 3,000 demonstrators on hand when the match began.

By the time the game had ended 90 minutes later, the demonstrators numbered about 400.

Inside the 7,000-seat stadium, an estimated 2,000 spectators endured the downpour with about 150 reporters and photographers.

Albany Police Chief Thomas Burke said later that officers had arrested one person with a knife inside the stadium and that four others were arrested for disorderly conduct at a fast-food restaurant on Central Avenue. He did not release any names.

More than 300 Albany police officers were also on hand to greet the demonstrators but protest organizers kept the two sides apart. About 40 members of the Albany County Sheriff's department later joined the Albany force in cordoning off the stadium grounds.

Earlier yesterday, Albany police arrested on a weapons charge a Communist Workers Party member, who had taken an active part in organizing the anti-apartheid protest. Michael Young and three others were seized in an Albany apartment at 3:25 a.m. and were in Albany County Jail when the game began.

None was injured in the 1:17 a.m. blast on the second floor of the State Office Building in Schenectady.

The ERU office.



IN PROTEST — Willie Neal of Schenectady sings the Black National Anthem on the Capitol steps. — (Gazette Photo)

presumably the bomb's target, sustained only minor damage. The brunt of the blast was borne by the offices of the Hood Ice Cream Co. and the Nuts 'n' Sweets candy store on the first floor of the building. Police said the blast occurred at a press conference at the

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Peaceful Protesters March At Rugby Match in Albany

Continued From Page 1

in a vacant office across the hall from the ERU's, ripping through the floor into the candy store on the first floor.

Police were told of the explosion by a passerby, who was not identified.

A Schenectady radio station, WWWD, received a call about five minutes before the blast, warning that a bomb was about to go off somewhere in Schenectady. Disk jockey Dale Lane did not call police when the female caller hung up.

"It's a blessing he didn't," said Police Chief Richard Nelson. "We might have had some people down there if he did call."

The anonymous caller did not specify where in Schenectady the bomb would explode, said Capt. Victor Palmo of the city investigative unit.

No one called police, newspapers, or broadcast stations yesterday claiming responsibility for the explosion.

Agents of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms trained in bomb investigations arrived in Schenectady around noon to assist in the investigation. By nightfall, they had completed their work, said Palmo, and sent what evidence they could salvage to their laboratory for analysis.

The preliminary investigation could not determine what kind of explosives were used, Palmo said.

LeGrande Serras, president of the 400 Block Development Corp., manager of the Canal Square project, said there was no permanent structural damage to the building.

He said there were no security guards on duty in the building at any time before it closed for business at 5:30 p.m. Monday.

The office in which the bomb was placed was vacant, Serras said, and was being prepared for use as a model for prospective tenants. The office door was unlocked and anyone could have entered the unseen, he added.

When he arrived shortly after the blast occurred, Serras said the door at the street level entrance was still locked but the glass in it was shattered. It wasn't determined immediately whether the glass was broken by

the blast or by whomever planted the explosives.

No dollar amount was placed on the damage done by the explosion. Serras described the damage as "extensive, but I have no idea to what degree."

ERU president Selfridge said he first learned of the explosion when a policeman knocked the door of his Glenville home at 2 a.m.

"He told me a bomb had exploded," Selfridge said. The damage to the ERU office was minor, he said.

"There is no indication of who is responsible," he said in response to questions. Given the peaceful motives expressed by the anti-rugby coalition, Selfridge said the blast might be "an incident of coincidence." He said the phone call received by WWWD warning a bomb would go off could have been coincidence, also.

"We're glad no was hurt," he said.

Gary Lambert, a member of the White Plains rugby club and one of the players scheduled to face the Springboks, said the explosion "won't effect anyone" facing the South Africans.

"It hasn't even been brought up by any one" Lambert said, just before leaving the Ramada Inn for a workout.

He said the police protection is "great" and he was not worried about violence at the game.

Boyd Morrissey, a rugby player from New Orleans scheduled to play in the preliminary rugby contest at Bleecker Stadium, said he was "surprised at the controversy."

"I'd be surprised if there'd be violence. I would be disappointed, depressed, if there was," he said.

In Washington, the bombing was called an "example of transnational terrorism" by a conservative congressman arguing against a resolution calling for a ban of the Springboks' U.S. tour.

Rep. Larry McDonald, D-Georgia said, "in this case, the beneficiary of the terrorism in America was the African National Congress, a terrorist

group controlled by the Soviet Union and the South African Communist Party."

"Clearly," McDonald said, "this is an attempt to intimidate this body into yielding to demands that we should condemn the visit of the Springboks."

The "sense of Congress" resolution received 200 votes in favor to 198 against, 90 votes short of the two-thirds required for approval. Among those voting against the call to cancel the tour were Rep. Samuel Stratton, D-Amsterdam, and Rep. Gerald Solomon, R-Queensbury. Rep. Donald Mitchell, R-Herkimer, voted in favor of ending the tour.

Arrested early yesterday at a seventh floor apartment in Central Towers, 400 Central Ave., Albany, on charges unrelated to the Schenectady explosion were:

— Michael Young, 28, of Brooklyn, who was charged with criminal possession of a loaded weapon, and unlawful possession of marijuana and fireworks.

— Aaron Estis, 22, of Summerville, Mass., also identified as a member of the Communist Workers Party. He was charged with possession of marijuana and fireworks.

— Vera Michaelson, 36, who police said is the person renting the apartment. She was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana.

The police made the arrests around 3:25 a.m. on information gathered in the wake of another arrest Monday evening of a Lawrence, Kan., man.

John Spearman Jr., 31, was arrested on the Albany State University campus across the street from the Thruway House where the Springboks team is staying.

Police charged Spearman with criminal possession of stolen property after he admitted the car had been stolen in Albany City, police said. Spearman was arrested after he served a security check. He had been tight arrived in

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— (Gazette Photo)
THE UNBEATABLE FOES — For the Eastern Rugby Union team it was South Africa's Springboks; for these helmeted and slickered Albany policemen at Bleecker Stadium it proved to be a downpour of rain, rather than anti-apartheid demonstrators. The unidentified girl in the foreground was among the demonstrators.

Bomb is detonated outside rugby office

By Ronald Kermani
Staff Writer

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A powerful bomb — big enough to do the job, police said — exploded outside the downtown Schenectady offices of the Eastern Rugby Union early Tuesday. The rugby association's headquarters were damaged only slightly, but six adjacent offices were destroyed.

No one was injured in the blast, which ripped through a portion of the second floor of 408 State St. at about 1:17 a.m.

Local police and federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents continued Tuesday afternoon to sift the debris in search of clues. No one has been arrested and no suspects have been identified, Schenectady Investigator James McGrath said.

The blast was the first violent act since the schedule for the controversial rugby match between the South African Springboks and a local team was announced more than a month ago.

A female caller telephoned Schenectady AM radio station WWVD at about 1:10 a.m. and told disc jockey Dale Lane a bomb was going to detonate shortly in downtown Schenectady, said radio station reporter Polly Hill. Lane told reporters he thought the caller was a "crank" and did not call police.

About 10 minutes later, the bomb, placed in a vacant closet across from the rugby offices, exploded, shredded new office walls, damaged the floor and hallways, but did not cause any significant structural damage, police and LeGrande Serras, general manager of the 400 Block, said.

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The rugby controversy

Bomb exploded near the offices of the rugby team

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Serras estimated the damage at more than \$50,000. No organizations have claimed responsibility for the bombing, police said. McGrath said there were no witnesses, and the double glass doors leading to the second floor were locked.

McGrath said police and firemen first thought a gas line had exploded in the building because of the extent of damage, but later determined a bomb had detonated after smelling a strong sulphur odor.

"We're not dealing with any normal type of bomb," McGrath said. "This one was big enough to do the job," he added.

McGrath and other officials refused to say if the bomb was made of gunpowder or plastic explosives, or whether it was triggered automatically or by a timer.

Agents from the federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms office in New York City also were called to inspect the scene.

The bomb extensively damaged the offices of the Hood Ice Cream Co. and attorney Eric Von Wigen, police said.

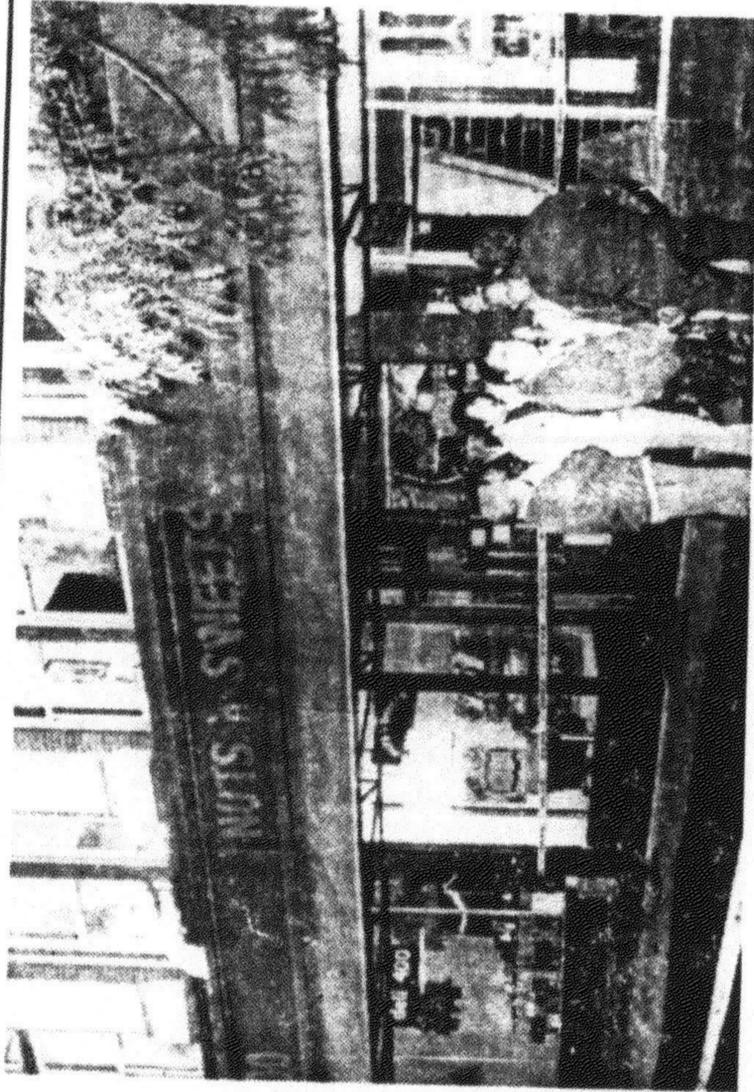
Vacant offices, recently remodeled, also were destroyed by the blast, which damaged the ceiling of two first-floor stores, Serras said.

Thomas Selfridge, president of the rugby union, said two windows and a door to his office were damaged by the blast. He estimated the damage to be about \$50 to his two-room office.

Shortly after the explosion, Glenville police dispatched a patrol to Selfridge's house on Mountainwood Drive, where State Police Officer James Keough and his dog Barretta checked for explosive. None were found, said Glenville Police Chief William Przybylek said.

More patrols were ordered in Selfridge's neighborhood Tuesday as a result of the bombing, the chief added.

Serras said he and his security crew have been



BLAST SITE — Schenectady police and federal agents survey scene of bomb explosion

more cautious at the 400 Block since the rugby controversy flared.

"We made sure everything was locked tighter and looking to see if any weirdos were hanging around," Serras said about the increased vigilance around the block of stores.

Associated Press
at building housing offices of the Eastern Rugby Union, hosts of the Springboks.

His security staff checked the outside of the building Monday night, Serras said, but they did not visit the upstairs offices on their rounds.

"All of this stuff we can rebuild," said Serras about the blown-out offices. "I would have been devastated if someone was hurt in this."

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