



MARY IUVONE FOR THE TIMES

All Living History Farm in Hopewell Township, workers from New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

# holes after raid



MICHAEL PATCZOFF FOR THE TIMES

37. view the destruction they allege Trenton ment during a raid Tuesday.

gs how it got there.  
ers Detective Sgt. Pedro Medina, a police  
st spokesman, last night could not immedi-  
ately provide the police department's ac-  
count of the raid, but he said that the

# Lawsuit alleges 'racialist' agenda

BY LINDA STEIN  
STAFF WRITER

A lawsuit accusing the Trenton police director of communications of waging "a campaign of racial discrimination and intimidation against white employees" was filed yesterday.

Eight dispatchers and dispatch supervisors allege Irving Bradley Jr. discriminated against them because they are white. They said he filed false reprimands against them and tried to drive them from their jobs.

The suit accuses Bradley, who is black, of assigning the white workers to unfavorable shifts and of promoting less-qualified black employees over them.

The suit also names Talea Woods, acting dispatch supervisor, as a defendant, as well as the city of Trenton and its police department.



BRADLEY

Bradley declined to comment about the lawsuit yesterday, as did Detective Sgt. Pedro Medina, a spokesman for the police. Woods was unavailable for comment, as was city attorney Denise Lyles.

"We will have to examine the court papers and respond appropriately," said Kent Ashworth, a spokesman for the city.

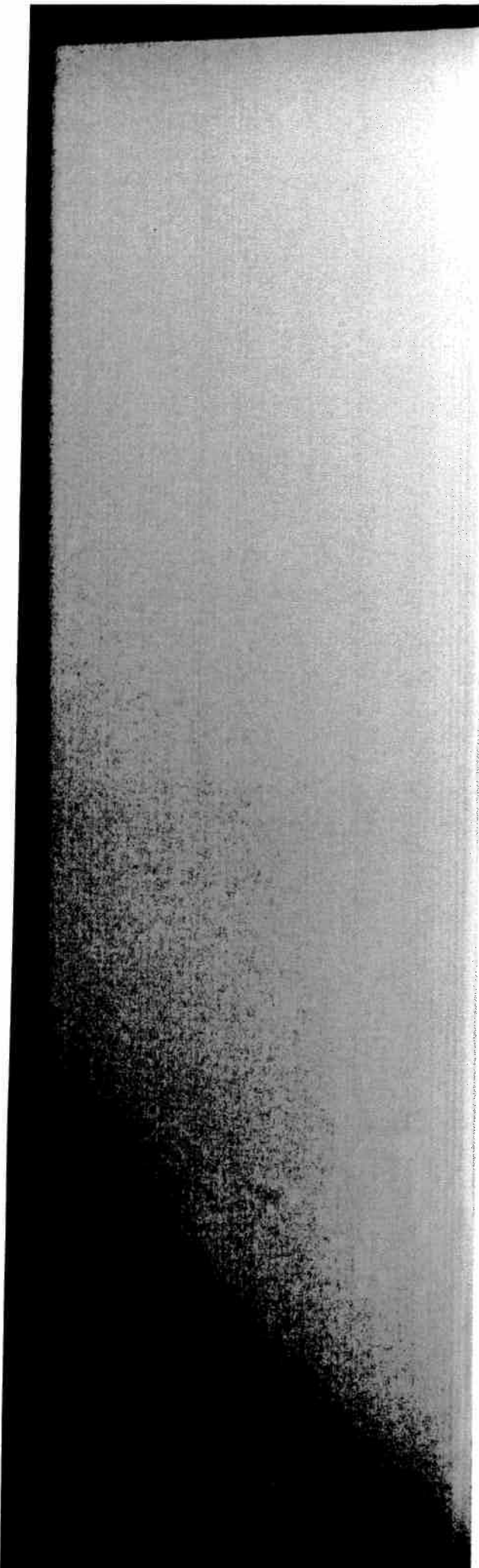
Bradley, who joined the department last year, allegedly pursued a "racialist" agenda, the suit said.

"The complaint makes very serious allegations," said lawyer David Zatuchni, who filed the lawsuit in Superior Court in Trenton. "But we have a lot of evidence to corroborate it."

At his first meeting with the supervisors, Bradley allegedly said Hispanic and black males "have been held down for too long. I'll change that," according to the lawsuit. He also allegedly told employees he would "take care of his people" and make sure "his people will be all set" when he leaves, the suit said.

It accuses Woods of being a "stooge and ally" in Bradley's campaign to target "white employees and create a racially hostile work environment."

Bradley was also seen giving a "black power" salute. A giggling Woods told him

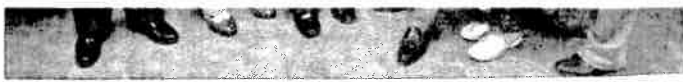


of city residents were relocating to the ship, according to township and parade officials.

This year's festivities will begin with the Columbus Day Ball at Angeloni's Cedar Gardens Friday, Oct. 3 at 6:30 p.m., where Bencivengo and DeAngelo will be recognized. Ticket for the ball cost \$65 per person, Colavita said.

cultural community in Hamilton and the surrounding towns.

"Come celebrate," Rorro-Baldassari said. Between 40 and 50 groups will be marching in the parade, including the Hamilton-based Sunshine Foundation, the Burlington-based Amici Della Lingua Italiana, or friends of the Italian language, as well as marching bands and floats, Colavita said.



MARTIN GRIFF/THE TIMES

From left: Mercer County Italian American Association President John Scarpati and parade chairman Pasquale Colavita announce Columbus Day parade grand marshals Hamilton Mayor John Bencivengo and Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo (center). Also pictured at yesterday's announcement are Gilda Rorro Baldassari and Michael Rossetti, right.

## tornado in Hamilton

A tornado would have caused a continuous path of damage from the point where it touched down to where it lifted off the ground, Miketta said.

The storm, though, did pack a punch. Miketta estimated the wind gusts clocked in at the 60- to 70-mph range. And as for the trees that were twisted out of the ground, that often occurs in the violent swaying action that happens in straight-line winds, he said.

The brief storm at 11 a.m. toppled several trees, flung mailboxes across the neighborhood, ripped metal gutters from the side of homes and launched any item not anchored down, from backyard furniture to large trampolines.

Several people saw swirling dark clouds descend over the neighborhood, many concluding a tornado was touching down. Despite the property damage, Hamilton authorities reported no injuries.

## LAWSUIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A3

the gesture "might hurt somebody's feelings," the suit said.

Bradley, a former Newark police chief, has also come under fire by those who claim he does not live in the city, although Bradley said previously he has an apartment at the Broad Street bank building.

That criticism comes in the wake of court decisions that will force Police Director Joseph Santiago to leave his post later this month for not residing in the city.

Bradley has also appealed a decision by the state Department of Personnel that he is not qualified to take the civil-service exam to

stay in his position permanently.

The lead plaintiff in the lawsuit is John A. Donahue, an acting supervisor who worked in the radio room for 20 years without being disciplined. He contends he has received 32 departmental charges since Bradley took over.

Bradley and Woods allegedly "embarked (on) a vicious campaign of hyper-scrutiny against Mr. Donahue," while never citing any black dispatchers. His shifts were changed three times within a three-month period, causing him "extensive and undue" hardship, the suit said.

When Lisa James, an acting supervisor with 23 years in the department, confronted one of the black dispatcher trainees assigned to her for trying to claim a day off

for a bogus death in her family, Woods told her she "needed to accept such behavior," the suit said.

James was given "retaliatory" shift changes and when she complained to Bradley he allegedly ordered her out of his office. In August, James was brought up on 72 departmental charges.

A black trainee was allowed to wear a "black power" T-shirt to work, the suit said. Another black senior dispatcher wore a "Jena 6" shirt, referring to a racial incident in Louisiana, the suit said.

The plaintiffs say they have been subjected to "mental anguish, embarrassment, stress, anxiety, humiliation and pain and suffering." They seek an unspecified amount of punitive and compensatory damages, court and attorney costs.

n were listed. Henderson said they were two loud ir front door was avily armed police apons drawn, ran e two to the floor. us, 'Where's it at?' n, 'Where's what said.

Henderson were forced to sit on a rs searched their drugs, they said. as found, they said, outside and forced

to stand barefoot in the rain while a police dog was used to make a second search.

After that search came up empty, too, they were brought back inside. "They told us, 'If you don't tell us where it's at, we're going to (expletive) up your house.' And that's exactly what they did. They (expletive) it up," Smith said.

They said they did not actually witness the officers tear apart their apartment. That, they allege, happened while they were taken to police headquarters to be charged with marijuana possession, maintaining a narcotics nuisance, and

fortifying their residence.

The last charge, they said, stems from the video camera they have installed on their front porch. But they said they installed it as a safeguard after their apartment was burglarized a few weeks ago. "We live in Trenton. Be real. We have to protect ourselves," Smith said.

Henderson, released by police about 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, picked up the couple's three children — a 6-year-old daughter and two boys, ages 3 and 2 — from school and day care and then returned home to find that police had secured her

broken front door with a new lock. After she got inside through the rear door, she discovered the devastation.

"I was shocked. I couldn't believe it," Henderson recalled during an interview last night, which she and Smith showed a Times reporter their still-trashed apartment.

Cornish hens and other meat had been emptied from the refrigerator onto the floor. The bathroom was a landfill of ruined clothing, household cleaners and food. Lotion had been poured over a table. The glass on a portrait of the

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. had been broken. The ruined medication and broken nebulizer were for their children.

Smith, who was not released by police until yesterday afternoon, said he believes police acted in an "unprofessional" manner and "need to be held accountable."

Smith and Henderson both said they are grateful their children were not home during the raid and did not have guns put in their faces. The couple and their children plan to stay with relatives until their apartment can be cleaned and possessions salvaged.

**TOMORROW**

**You Ever Seen A Team Win A Championship In Person?**