

2 Brothers Killed in Queens Fire While Mom Goes to Get Babysitter



Julio Lopez, 6, and Giovanni Castro, 3, brothers killed in Hollis apartment blaze

By Elaine Rivera and Nick Chiles

Two young brothers who may have been playing with matches died in a Queens apartment fire yesterday while their mother was out getting a babysitter, authorities said.

The bodies of Julio Lopez, 6, and Giovanni Castro, 3, were found in the bedroom of their apartment at 212-04 99th Ave. in the Hollis section, said Sgt. Ed Burns, a police spokesman. Miriam Lopez, 33, the boys' mother, had been gone for about 20 minutes, picking up a babysitter so she could go to work, Burns said.

The blaze broke out in the first-floor apartment around 1:15 p.m., authorities said, and caused heavy damage to the two-story apartment building. A neighbor, Carmelo Alvarez, who said he lived on the top floor of the building, said he tried to enter the burning apartment.

"I was across the street when I saw the smoke coming out," Alvarez said. "I tried to kick the door down, but when we went in there, it was pitch black and smoke was pouring out. You couldn't stay in there."

Alvarez said he heard no sounds coming from the apartment. Debra Russell-Cruz, another tenant



Neighbor Carmelo Alvarez tried to enter the burning apartment.

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Subways Return To Bridge

Subway trains carrying passengers crossed the Williamsburg Bridge yesterday for the first time since the span closed two months ago because of excessive corrosion.

The reopening of tracks at 12:01 a.m. came as good news to merchants along Delancey Street in Manhattan who now look forward to an increase in business that had greatly suffered since the bridge was closed.

A spokeswoman for Transit Police said there had been no incidents or delays reported yesterday along the bridge's lines, which include the "J" and "M" trains.

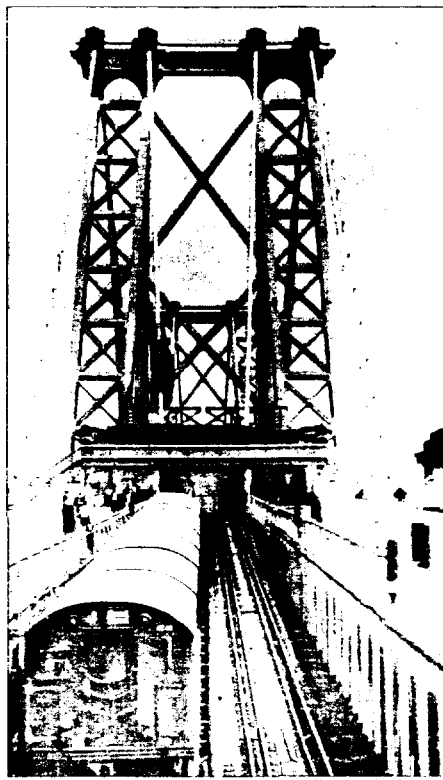
On Saturday, Mayor Edward I. Koch and top transit officials took a train ride over the bridge, which has been reinforced with 225 tons of steel and 6,500 rivets.

After the ride, Koch ran along Delancey Street telling merchants their business was going to be "great."

Yesterday, several merchants said they were "hopeful" business would improve, but they had not seen any signs of improvement yet.

"When a thing like this happens, people become accustomed to doing things in a different pattern," said Harold Zankel, a principal owner of Ratner's, a Jewish deli on Delancey Street. "Weekends in the summer are usually quiet anyway, so we'll be able to tell better during the week" whether the crowd will be back, he said.

—Nick Chiles



They're back: Subway trains roll across the bridge yesterday.

'Silly' Cap: Red Badge Of Courage

Three took the blade the night before. Curtis Sliwa, head of the Guardian Angels, was running on high octane. The restaurant owners on Restaurant Row, 46th Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues, kicked in \$300 apiece to bring in the Angels to police an area that merchants say has not been receiving proper police protection. The merchants claim this sent business down 20 percent.

"They called us," Sliwa said yesterday with a voice as hoarse as flint on stone. "We asked what the problem was. They said their business was going down the drain because these guys were selling crack, hookers were selling themselves, Eighth Avenue was now the green line in Beirut. All we asked for was a place to sleep and food for our guys and girls. They gave us this place, Cafe de France, and we helped in the arrests of two crack heads the first night."

But we told the merchants that if we came in, we would have to do a 10-block spread. Not just 46th Street. But five blocks each way. And so when one of our guys encountered a guy with drugs, we heard it over the walkie talkies on Saturday night."

What the entire network of Guardian Angels heard at 9:15 p.m. over their Motorola MTX-800 radios was a "Code red! Code red! Code red!" from Shabem Abdullah Roman, 24, a guy who lives at 125th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. He was calling in about a guy named Ilya Lichtenberg, 16, from Verona, N.J.

"We always called him 'Poppin' Fresh' because he was like dough," Sliwa said. "But he showed his courage the other night. He's in intensive care."



Denis Hamill

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will put
days ago
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we're going to make it

NEWSPAPER MONDAY, JUNE 13, 1989 NY

OBITUARIES

NEW YORK CITY

Bert Greene, 65, a cookbook author and food columnist whose Long Island food store was one of the first to offer fine prepared foods to take out, died of a heart attack Friday in New York Hospital. Mr. Greene and Dennis Vaughn opened The Store in Amagansett in 1966, preparing salads, pates and mousses for summer parties. His first book, "The Store Cookbook," published in 1974, was based on his retail cooking. Mr. Greene wrote six more cookbooks, taught at cooking schools across the country, and began a syndicated column in 1980 that appeared in six newspapers, including the Daily News. Mr. Greene, who lived in Manhattan and Amagansett, had no immediate survivors.

WORLD NATION

Leon Belasco, 85, a Russian immigrant who parlayed his comedic talents and ability to do a range of foreign accents into a four-decade career as a character actor, died June 1 in his home in Orange, Calif. Mr. Belasco appeared in scores of movies, including "Topper Takes a Trip" in 1939 and "The Russians Are Coming, The Russians Are Coming" in 1964. He generally played excitable characters. He began his career as a violinist and orchestra leader, working with the Andrews Sisters in 1936. His movie career took off in 1939 when he won small roles in several films. Among the better known movies in which he appeared over the years were "Broadway Serenade" in 1939, "Holiday Inn" in 1942 and "Casablanca," also in 1942.

Louis L'Amour Dies at 80

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novel, "Last of the Breed," was a paperback best-seller.

A meticulous researcher, he usually sought out original sources.

"I go to an area I'm interested in and I try to find a guy who knows it better than anyone else," he once told The Associated Press. "Usually it's some broken-down cowboy. I've known five men and two women who know Billy the Kid well. I talked to the woman who prepared his body for burial."

Films based on his stories include John Ford's "How the West Was Won," which won Oscars for best story and best screenplay, "Hondo," starring John Wayne, and George Cukor's "Heller in Pink Tights," with Sophia Loren and Anthony Quinn. One of the latest was "The Quick and the Dead," a movie made for cable television that starred Sam Elliott and Kate Capshaw.

L'Amour was born in Jamestown, N.D., as

Louis Dearborn LaMoore, he changed his name when he became a writer "because 'L'Amour' sounded more exotic," he once said. He left home when he was 15 for what he later called his "yondering" years.

"I wanted to write almost from the time I could walk," he once said. His first books, all published under a pseudonym, "Tex Burns," were Hopalong Cassidy novels for young readers.

His first novel under his own name, "Hondo," was published in 1953. It was followed by 85 more, along with 14 short story collections and one nonfiction book.

His readers included Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan, who read "Jubal Sackett" while recovering from surgery in 1985.

L'Amour received the National Gold Medal in 1983 at the White House and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1984.

Survivors include his wife, Katherine, and their two children, Beau and Angelique.

'Silly' Beret a Red Badge of Courage

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stabbed in his back and his head. He was trying to make drug dealers move."

The words barely came through the pinhole of his gravely throat. He wore his red beret, which looks ridiculous to some people — but not to people, like my mother, when they are on the Brooklyn-bound IRT at two in the morning, or to people who would like to eat in any of the restaurants that cater to the theater crowd on Restaurant Row.

"When we first got the call," Shliva said as he nursed his throat with tea with lemon. "I thought 'Here we go. Trendzoids and Big Bucks looking for protection in the theater district.' Then I took a walk down here to scope it out and I couldn't believe it. Guys were sitting on stoops outside of fancy restaurants where mothers and daughters and young guys and girls go before and after a show. They had crack pipes and were shooting dope, and I was astonished. I mean, they were actually slam-jamming right on Restaurant Row. Then when we moved in they didn't like it, because we got two huckleberries arrested the first night. Then last night [Saturday night], we had cleaned up 46th Street spick-and-span. So we started to move out. We hit 45th Street, and one of our own encountered a crack deal going down and he tried to disrupt it. Shliva came out all around. We heard 'Code red! Code red!' over the radios. The homeboys all played like Zorro and we have six guys hurt, three badly injured and one in intensive care."

Later, the Guardian Angels surrounded a guy named Charles Lorenzo from West 24th Street in Manhattan and had the police arrest him in the stabbing of Lichtenberg.

I used to think this guy Curtis Shliva was a fanatical demagogue who hungered for publicity like a press agent with a fistful of dollars. But when you get

to know the guy, sit him down, peel away the artichoke leaves, there's a well-meaning guy sitting under the silly red hat. This is a guy who actually gives a damn and does something about it. That's not well done, it's rare.

"I guess I am getting a little old for this," he said at a west-side restaurant recently when asked about the T-shirt and the hat and the hype. "But when I move on from this to who knows what, I want to make sure someone is in charge, someone who cares. Yeah, I made my mistakes. I went head-to-head with city hall and NYPD. Who doesn't make mistakes? I learned from some, suffered from some, but I swear it was always because I gave a damn."

You sit in a restaurant or walk the street with this guy and people come up and ask for autographs. If they're young they tell him their mother loves him. If they're old they say they love him. Shliva, with the T-shirt and the beret, smiles, obliges and says "thank you." Forget the Party Line.

"Yeah, I've been approached," Shliva said. "But I have a woman with great high cheekbones that keep us alive when she models. But we are truly serious out here. I mean, four Guardian Angels have died so far. We had three stabbed and three others hurt on Saturday night. This isn't a fashion show out here. The city isn't letting the cops do their job. So when a guy like John Van Duras from Andronos calls us for help, we respond. People are not afraid to come to Restaurant Row anymore because they see these red hats and T-shirts and they know they'll get there safely. Simple as that."

It really is as simple as that. When cops used to walk beats instead of the yard at Downstate Correction Facility, they imposed a presence on an area. Last year, Mayor Edward I. Koch received 92 letters from the merchants of Restaurant Row begging for increased police protection. Nothing happened. So the merchants, frustrated and furious, called in the Guardian Angels and offered them lodging in the defunct Cafe de France restaurant. And the restaurateurs alternate in feeding the 30 Angels who work in shifts around the clock.

"Before they came around we didn't see one boy in blue," said one restaurant owner who requested anonymity. "Now that the Angels are here you see cops all the time because they don't want to be shown up. This is the theater district. Don't we want to preserve something in this city?"

Curtis Shliva dispatched a group of Guardian Angels from 46th Street to go to the Puerto Rican Day Parade, which was policed from my point of view by a conglomerate of bigoted, adolescent ignoramuses. One thing Shliva does insist upon is courtesy from the 30 Guardian Angels he oversees in this city. When he talks they do listen, and listen good.

"I don't believe we have lost the war to the drug lords," Koch says, said Shliva, ever the optimist. "I don't think we should build a wall with rock after rock after rock of crack and put a 'for sale' sign on the top. I think we can still beat them."

He pondered a moment and sipped from his cup of tea and looked out onto 46th Street, where his well-fed legion awaited him.

My biggest problem is not just securing the

street," Shliva said with difficulty. "But my guys are eating the best gourmet food in town. How the hell am I gonna get them to go back to 42nd Street and eat chicken from Popeye's?"

Angel Hurt In Attack

By Elaine Rivera

Three men have been arrested and charged in an attack on five Guardian Angels, one of whom was critically injured, Saturday night during a melee in Times Square, police said.

Guardian Angel Ilya Lichtenberg, 16, of Verona, N.J., was in critical condition last night in St. Vincent's Hospital after he was stabbed in the left side with a knife or a bottle, police said.

Four other Guardian Angels suffered minor injuries in the ruckus that broke out around 9 p.m. near 45th Street and Eighth Avenue after one of the alleged attackers kicked a patrol member, according to Lisa Shliva, who with her husband, Curtis, is a leader of the group.

Arrested were Charles Lorenzo, 25, of 425 W. 25th St., who was charged with attempted murder in the stabbing of Lichtenberg; Maybol Pagan, 25, of 2055 Harrison Ave., in the Bronx, who was charged with third-degree assault; and Julio Medina, 22, of 1600 University Ave. in the Bronx, who police said was charged with reckless endangerment.

The Guardian Angels began to officially patrol the area on Friday after store owners in the commercial district complained of increased drug business. Some store owners complained that business had fallen off by as much as 20 percent because customers feared the drug activity.

Curtis and Lisa Shliva also have charged that police, who they say resent the Guardian Angel, patrolling the area, took too long to respond to the emergency calls for help after the fight.

Lisa Shliva said the group's radio system indicates the first call for help was placed at 9:30 p.m. and a second call came at 9:45 p.m. Shliva said police did not arrive until 17 minutes later.

However, Sgt. Ed Burns, a police spokesman, said police received the first call at 8:59 p.m. "Police arrived a few minutes later," Burns said. "Five minutes after the duty captain was at the scene."



Angels on patrol yesterday on Restaurant Row.

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