

Troy police officers suspensions in fatal shooting are rescinded

By SUZIE ROLLINS

The proposed disciplinary actions against three Troy patrolmen involved in the fatal shooting of 24-year-old David Prior reportedly have been rescinded.

According to a police source, City Manager Frank Gerstenecker has dropped plans to temporarily suspend Patrolmen Joel Woods, Stephen Zavislak and Donald Zimmerman in connection with their actions the night of July 31. Woods and Zavislak were the officers involved in the shooting. Zimmerman was the dispatcher working that night.

Gerstenecker also dropped plans to put letters of reprimand in the patrolmen's files, according to the source.

However, Gerstenecker still wants to place letters of reprimand into the personnel files of Lt. Glenn Dunn and Sgt. Mark Tuck, the two command officers on duty during the night Prior was killed, according to the source.

Gerstenecker refused to comment on

the cases because a lawsuit filed by the Prior family is still pending against the city. The Priors are seeking damages in excess of \$10,000.

"I'm not going to comment any further on the issue pertaining to the personnel matter. Because of the pending litigation, I do not believe it is advisable," he said.

Both the Troy Police Officers Association (TPOA) and the Troy Sergeants and Lieutenants Association (TSLA) had filed grievances objecting to penalties imposed on their members in late October. The disciplinary action prompted a short bout of the "blue flu" in which officers called in sick to protest the actions. They returned to work after the city agreed to delay the suspensions pending the outcome of the grievance.

THE COMMAND officers' union still plans to appeal Gerstenecker's final decision on the written reprimands, said Sgt. Bill Tullock, TSLA president.

"The grievance is still being contin-

ued. The grievance is being pursued through the next step of the grievance procedure," he said.

Frank Blake, the city's personnel director, said the command officers' contract states that the next step is holding an arbitration hearing.

"No date has been set yet for the hearing. It will probably be after the first of the year, before an arbitrator from the American Arbitration Association is assigned to the case."

POLICE CHIEF JOHN Donovan said he is glad the grievance against the patrolmen is settled and the officers can return to business as usual.

"The whole issue was foremost in

many people's minds, while it was pending," he said. "Now that it's settled we can look to other things and hope the whole issue dies down."

Prior was shot by Zavislak and Woods while he was guarding his van from burglars. The van was parked in his driveway.

Although the police had been told Prior would spend the night in his van, Woods and Zavislak weren't reminded of that fact when Zimmerman dispatched them to Prior's home to investigate a call of a larceny in progress. Zimmerman said he didn't recall being told Prior would be in his van.

Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson, cleared the officers of criminal charges in September.

Classes to spark collector's interest

Collectibles — art, silver, pottery and antique furniture — will be viewed for value as well as aesthetic appreciation in non-degree courses offered by the Oakland University Division of Continuing Education, beginning Jan. 22.

In Birmingham, beginning Tuesday, Jan. 22, a course in 19th and 20th century American and European oil paintings will be conducted for novice-to-intermediate-level investors.

Patrick J. Coffey of Hartland, a registered representative of the National Association of Securities Dealers, will instruct the six-week course on Tuesday evenings at Seaholm High School.

Also at Seaholm on Wednesday even-

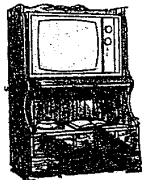
ings, beginning Jan. 23, the appreciation, manufacture, and pitfalls in purchasing authentic antique silver and the market for sterling silver will be discussed by George M. Omellano of Birmingham, silversmith and expert in the field of antique silver. The course will run four weeks.

Both the art investment and silver appreciation courses will be conducted from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

At the Birmingham Center for Continuing Education, a non-technical course for the collector and ceramic hobbyist will be offered from 1:30-3:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning Jan. 22.

For a detailed brochure or registration information, call the Continuing Education office, 377-3120.

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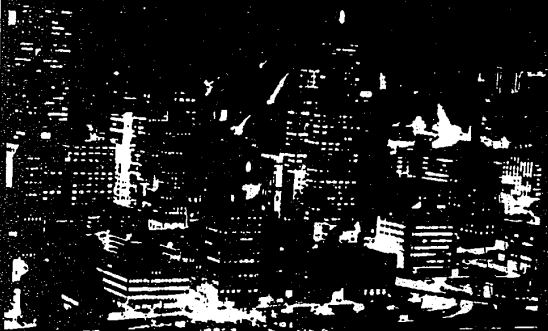
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