



USING LIGHTS IN BAD WEATHER— A new North Carolina law now requires that motorists turn on their headlights and wipers while driving in the rain. The law stems from research done on the number of accidents that have occurred during bad weather.

Police Commissioner Refuses To Voice Comment On Deaths of Nine

NEW YORK (AP)— Police Commissioner Lee Drown refused to comment on the actions of a police captain in charge of outside City College the night nine people died at a rap celebrity basketball game.

Speaking on Thursday about a city report on the tragedy, Drown said any judgement of Capt. Daniel J. Carlin would be withheld pending the outcome of an Internal Affairs investigation.

Carlin was one of many people rebuked in a mayoral review of the deadly Dec. 20 City College surge. The captain called a news conference Thursday and angrily denounced the conclusion that he had acted improperly.

"I am self assured, my conscience is absolutely clear, that what I did was proper for that time," said Carlin. "And everything that I could do, I did do."

Drown repeatedly refused to offer his opinion of the Deputy Mayor Milton Mollen's report. He said the department has asked Mollen to share materials, such as interviews with people who refused to talk to the police.

Meanwhile, City College, criticized for inadequate security during the tragedy, has been moved up on the list of schools previously earmarked for specially trained peace officers.

And City University of New York board member Herman Daddilo called for the firing of three City College officials accused of negligence in the stampede.

The mayoral investigation, released late Wednesday, blamed nearly all the parties involved: police, college officials, event organizers, student groups and the crowd itself.

It said police used "highly questionable" judgement in controlling the 5,000 people who tried to press into a 2,700 capacity gymnasium for a benefit basketball game by rap musicians.

Mollen charged that Carlin ignored an officer's warning, just moments before the deaths, about a "commotion" in a stairwell.

"That is contested," said Carlin's lawyer, Richard Dienst. "The only words that were used were, I believe, in the report, 'a commotion.' That 'commotion' has not been defined."

Dienst also denied that when a college administrator asked for medical assistance inside, Carlin was initially unresponsive for maintaining order outside the gym.

Drown reminded police officers that they have an obligation to "respond immediately when there is reason to believe a danger to individuals or public safety exists or that a crime is in progress."

The commissioner defended his department:

"I think the citizens of New York can take some confidence knowing the New York City Police Department historically handles large gatherings, whether it's parades, whether it's concerts in Central Park, whether it's New Year's Eve in Times Square, whether it's the rock concert at Madison Square Garden, the NYPD has a reputation throughout the country of being able to handle large crowds. That expertise has not disappeared, that we will continue to handle large crowds, as it has done for years and years and years prior to that event and also subsequent to that event."

When asked if any lessons had been learned, Drown responded: "I think all of us learned the lesson that you need to do proper planning for events, that there needs to be coordination of all entities involved."

Meanwhile, Daddilo, a former Bronx borough president and congressman, told the New York Post recently that City College Vice President for Student Affairs George McDonald, security director Charles Delaney and Jean Charles, director of the Finely Center, which includes the gym, should all lose their jobs over their failure to prevent the

stampede. The mayoral report accused three of abdicating responsibility in connection with the ill fated

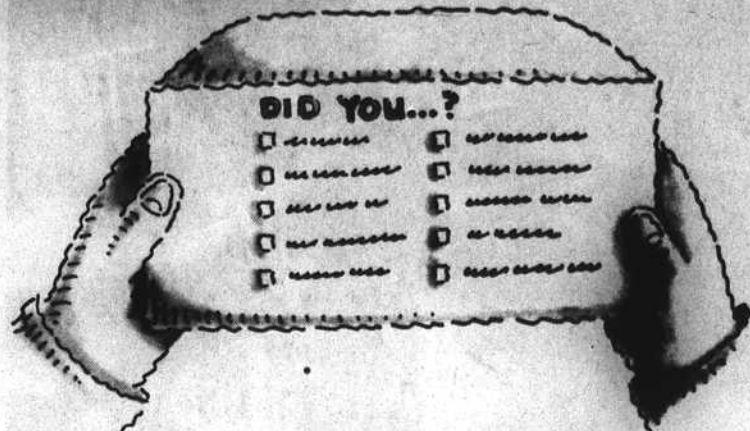
basketball game. "I think we would be negligent if we gave them a second chance," Daddilo said.

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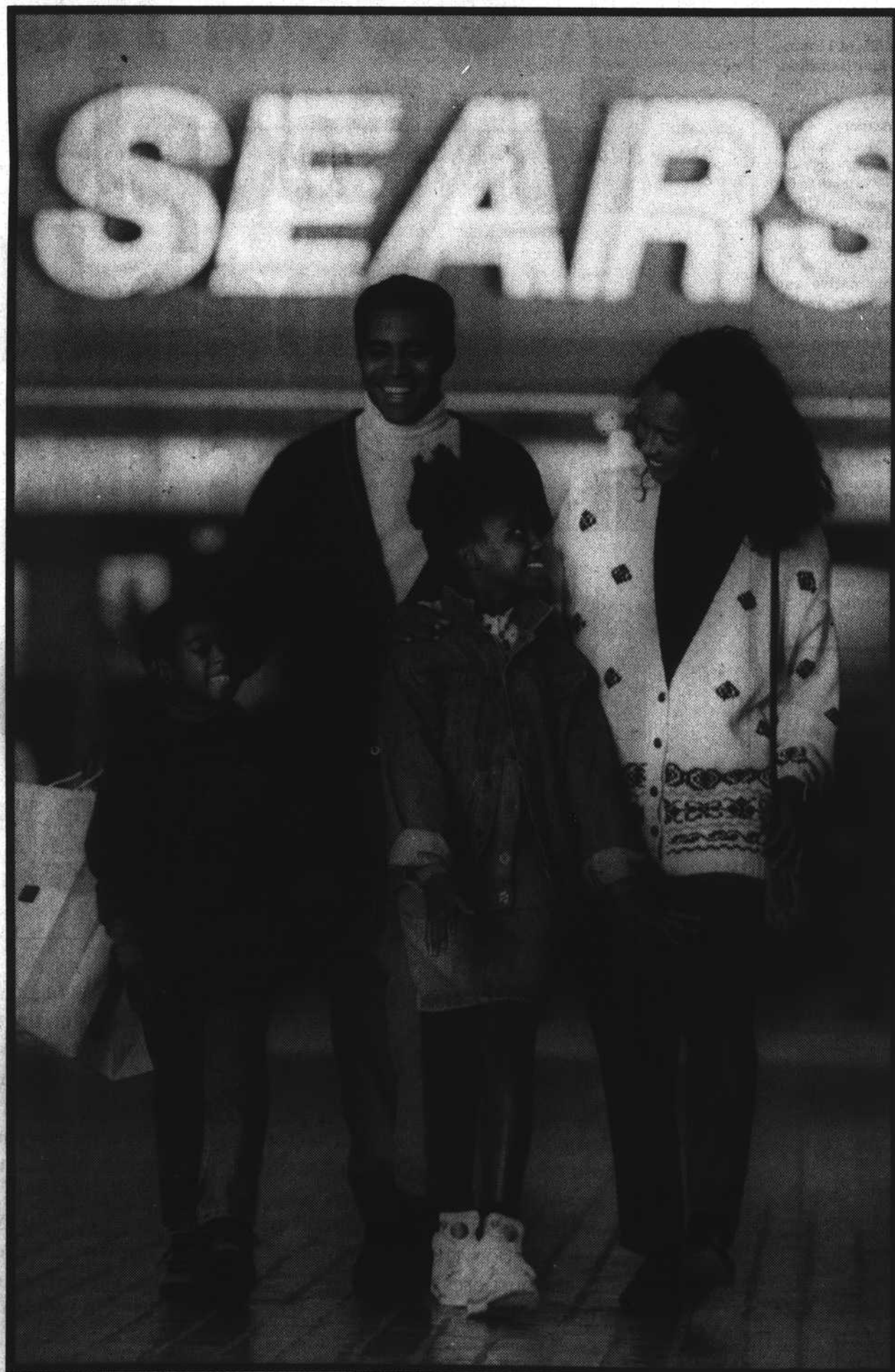
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