

'WALKING TIME BOMB' ARRAIGNED IN BUHL RAMPAGE

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Sunday, June 13, 1982

Author: HELEN FOGEL, JOHN CASTINE, TIM KISKA, SANDY McCLURE, RICIA MONTIMURRI and RICK RATLIFF, e Press Staff Writers

A 35-year-old Detroit **man** described by a fellow worker as "a walking time bomb" was arraigned on a first-degree **murder** charge Saturday **in** the Friday shooting and firebombing rampage at a Buhl Building attorney's office.

Robert Harrington, confined to his bed **in** the police detention area at Detroit Receiving Hospital, was also **charged** with four counts of attempted **murder**, arson and violation of Michigan's felony firearms law.

Harrington was arraigned before 36th District Judge Ricardo Lubienski, who went to the hospital for the court session. The judge said Harrington will be held without bond pending a preliminary examination June 23.

Harrington was apprehended early Friday afternoon after the 90-minute rampage **in** the eighth-floor Buhl Building offices of the Bell & Hudson law firm. Harrington, a client, apparently was enraged because he had not received a \$2,500 check from an insurance settlement.

Eve August, 24, a summer intern **in** the law office, was killed and 38 people were injured, two of them critically, after they fell or jumped from an office window to a landing four stories below.

AN ACQUAINTANCE, Larry Folmar of Detroit, who once worked with the suspect at the Prudential Insurance Co.'s Oak Park office, said Harrington's behavior sometimes seemed irrational. Both **men** were agents with the firm.

"He was somewhat combatant," said Folmar, who left Prudential **in** March to form his own business. "He would become enraged. He wasn't happy with some of the things the company was doing."

Folmar said Harrington became frustrated by what he considered excessive delays between the time he sold a policy and the time the company paid his commission.

Folmar, who described Harrington as a "walking time bomb," said the suspect would react "verbally -- loud talking," to what he considered unfair company policies.

"I was not shocked by it, let's put it that way," he said of Harrington's arrest.

ACCORDING TO eyewitness reports, Harrington, who lives on Huntington Street **in** northwest Detroit, burst into the office Friday about 11:15 a.m. and demanded the check.

He asked to see Bell, a former Circuit Court judge and the senior partner **in** the law firm. Bell came to the anteroom and the visitor asked about the check.

Receptionist Michelle Jenkins and another secretary started sorting through the mail to see if the check had arrived.

When Bell told him the check was not there, he became upset. Bell turned around to return to his own inner office, and the suspect removed a shotgun from under his coat.

"DON'T SHOOT," Jenkins screamed, and jumped under her desk. The **man** shot her **in** the chest, through the top of the desk. Then he went through the suite from room to room, firing shots.

Harrington stopped shooting and ignited a bottle of gasoline he was carrying, then reloaded the gun and began firing again, police said.

Harrington's brother, Gerald, a vice-president at First Independence National Bank, arrived shortly after the shooting started and eventually convinced Robert to give up his gun, police said.

FUNERAL SERVICES for Miss August will be Monday at 11 a.m. at the Ira Kaufman Chapel, 18325 W. Nine Mile Road **in** Southfield.

Miss August, who had just completed her second year of study at the Detroit College of Law, was shot five times **in** the chest.

According to her father, Herbert August, his daughter "was just bathing **in** the glory of working for Ed Bell."

Martin Kotch, a professor at the college, described Miss August as one of the school's most promising students.

HARRINGTON was described **in** satisfactory condition Saturday by Receiving emergency chief Dr. Ronald Krome. Five other people were also still **in** the hospital.

Bell's partner, Lester Hudson, 33, one of the **men** who fell from the eighth floor window to a landing four stories below, remained **in** critical condition Saturday after surgery for a head injury.

Saturday, Hudson's brother Joey, a reporter for a Mt. Clemens radio station, said Hudson was "responding" to conversation and was able to move his toes.

SAUNDERS DORSEY, another lawyer **in** the firm, who also fell to the landing, was still **in** serious condition with a back injury.

Jenkins was **in** satisfactory condition, Krome said. Chuck Holben and a second victim of smoke inhalation who did not wish to be named were **in** satisfactory condition, Krome said. Others injured had been treated and released.

At the height of the Friday episode, the shotgun blasts and the four-alarm fire sent scores running for cover while hundreds of onlookers watched the drama from other buildings and the street below.

Using ladders and cherry pickers, fire fighters rescued people trapped by the fire.

Tenants of other offices were forced to flee the building down stairs through the smoke. Still others fled up stairs to the roof of the building, where they waited out the ordeal.

Caption: Pix

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 1A

Index Terms: MISTORY-HARRINGTON

Record Number: 8301200976

Copyright (c) 1982 Detroit Free Press