

1st Ave. showered with bricks

BRICKS AND debris plummeted 30 stories from the facade of an Upper East Side building, hailing onto the streets below Monday night — but miraculously no one was hurt, cops said.

The shattered facade littered portions of First Ave. and E. 63rd St. like confetti after crumbling from a building at the busy intersection around 10 p.m., authorities said.

“The bricks flew all over the place,” said Manny Campisi, 65. “It sounded

like an explosion. My son-in-law grabbed my daughter and threw her on the floor and covered her.”

FDNY sources said the debris blew off from a section that was under construction.

First Ave. was closed between E. 59th St. and E. 64th St. as first responders secured the scene, police said.

The collapse left a two-story-by-100-foot portion of the facade bare.

Kerry Burke and Joseph Stepansky

Facade of building is bare after collapse sent bricks plunging to sidewalk at First Ave. and E. 63rd St. Monday night. Fortunately, nobody below was injured.



ANGUS MORDANT

Wrong-way driver killed in bus smash

ONE PERSON died and two others suffered minor injuries after a wrong-way driver crashed into a city bus in Queens on Monday night, authorities said.

The crash took place just after 8:30 p.m., at Union Turnpike and 175th St., by the St. John's University campus, according to an FDNY spokesman.

An automobile going the wrong way down Union Turnpike slammed head-first into a Q46 bus in the eastbound lane, said Metropolitan Transportation Authority spokesman Kevin Ortiz.

The vehicle's driver died at the scene, Ortiz said.

The bus driver and a woman who was a passenger wound up hospitalized, he added said.

The NYPD's collision investigation squad was probing the crash.

John Annese

Crime spree ends in alligator's jaws

THIS FLORIDA alligator took a bite out of crime.

A suspected burglar died after he was chomped by a gator while hiding from police near Barefoot Bay, Brevard County sheriffs said.

Authorities found Matthew Riggins' body on Nov. 23 in a lake. As police tried to pull the remains from the water, they were almost attacked by an 11-foot alligator, Major Tod Goodyear said in a statement.

After the gator was euthanized, forensic investigators found the 22-year-old suspect's hand and foot in the reptile's stomach, officials said. “He hid in the wrong place,” Laura Farris, a Barefoot Bay resident, told Bay News 9.

Several hours before his awful fate, Riggins told his girlfriend of his break-in plans, officers said. Riggins was reported missing by family the next day and ultimately was found dead in the lake 10 days after the burglary call.

Alfred Ng

Guilty in '06 tot slay

A 37-YEAR-OLD man was convicted Monday of firing the bullet that killed a Bronx toddler as he rode in his parents' van on Easter Sunday nine long years ago.

The guilty verdict in Bronx Supreme Court against Darryl Hemphill for the slaying of little David Pacheco Jr. is justice for a family whose grief touched the city after the toddler's death in 2006.

“Nothing will ever bring my son back, but this definitely has brought closure to me and my family,” Joanne Sanabria said.

Ben Kochman

LOOT-Y CALL

Feds: Gal offered JFK agent sex to let in goods

BY JOHN MARZULLI
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

A WOMAN visiting from China was arrested after she tried to bribe a border patrol agent with sex and a fancy watch, officials said.

Hong Yang, 55, didn't want to declare the pricey items her daughter was carrying at Kennedy Airport, so she offered the agent cash and a wristwatch, and then a more personal incentive, to look the other way, according to court filings.

Customs officers discovered the daughter had in her possession a slew of undeclared goods, including expensive designer pocketbooks, watches, a fur coat and diamond jewelry valued at \$160,000, according to court papers.

The officer excused himself to get wired for sound, and returned to Yang, who then offered to “sleep with” him and take him to China, the Brooklyn Federal Court complaint says.

Yang allegedly offered the officer \$10,000 and a watch if he let her daughter pass through customs with the goods, the complaint states.

The woman had arrived on an Air France flight from Paris in July

with her sister and her daughter, who lives in Manhattan.

Yang allegedly wrote her nickname and a telephone number on a piece of paper and passed it to the officer, according to the complaint.

Yang was not charged and was allowed to leave the airport, defense lawyer Robert Gottlieb told the Daily News.

But she was arrested over the weekend at the airport when she attempted to board a flight back home to China.

Yang was charged with customs fraud and released on \$250,000 bail on Monday afternoon. She'll stay at her daughter's apartment on E. 54th St.

“There was clearly a misunderstanding that unfortunately has resulted in an unjust arrest of a wonderful woman,” Gottlieb said.

Last month, border agents said 13 passengers from Cancun left Kennedy Airport after a flight without showing their passports.

The 11 passengers who were later processed and the other two who weren't immediately checked were all U.S. citizens, Friel said.

JFK and Customs have launched an investigation into how the mistake occurred.

JESSE WARD



Hong Yang (l.), accused of offering sex bribe to Customs officer at Kennedy Airport (inset), leaves court Monday with Wu Yang.



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