

Et Tu, Rahway?



Once Rahway Automatic Paper Punchers, the world's fastest confetti manufacturer, drove Konfetti Gesellschaft Wiesbaden out of business, its management envisioned a rosy future. But then its slicing machine got stuck in the "on" position for six days. Confetti kept piling up in the factory till the west wall burst, inundating downtown Rahway with trillions of punched paper products. The mayor, not amused, ordered an investigation into Rahway's safety practices. Turns out the company cut nearly as many corners as it did confetti strips, resulting in the founding of the National Safe Confetti Manufacturers Council, which later became the National Safety Council. (You can look it up.) Facing citywide litigation, the company closed up shop, and for years thereafter, the world was poorer for a lack of quality confetti.