



ANGELS AND COPS share 46th St. near Eighth Ave. late last night after stabbing the day before of a Guardian Angel in the area around Restaurant Row. VINCENT RIEHL DAILY NEWS

Angels & cops patrol

Grateful area says thank you
By LARRY CELONA
Daily News Staff Writer

The Rev. Dale Hansen stood on the top steps of St. Luke's Lutheran Church yesterday and looked down 46th St. with a smile.

"Today was the first Sunday in six months I didn't have to shovel crack vials and needles off the steps before I said Mass," said Hansen, pastor of the church for 14 years. "The block had become unlivable and unworkable."

Those like Hansen who live or work on 46th St. say the Guardian Angels have made the difference. They welcomed continued patrols by the volunteer group, six of whose members were injured Saturday.

"One lady stopped me today after Mass and said it was a pleasure walking to church today," Hansen said. "We only have the Angels to thank for that."

Some passersby stopped in front of the former Cafe de France, the Angels headquarters, and did just that.

David Arango, who lives on Eighth Ave., interrupted Angels leader Curtis Sliwa to pat him on the back.

The only ones with anything negative to say about the Angels were local prostitutes, pimps and drug dealers.

Sliwa vows to continue

By SHARON BROUSSARD and DON GENTILE
Daily News Staff Writers

Restaurant Row was the safest block in the Theater District last night as police saturated the area, one night after an attack on a group of Guardian Angels patrolling the area.

And the Angels, brought in by frustrated restaurateurs to push panhandlers and drug dealers off their block, vowed to continue their battle.

"We're going to be the crack dealers' worst nightmare," said an angry Angels leader Curtis Sliwa.

One Angel, Illye Lichtenberg, 16, remained in critical condition at St. Vincent's Hospital.

"It's going to take us about six months, but we're going to clear up the Theater District from 42d St. to 49th St.," Sliwa vowed.

Stabbed in the chest

Lichtenberg, of Verona, N.J., was stabbed in the chest and hit on the head with a bottle or bat, and five other Angels were injured Saturday trying to stop a fight between reputed drug dealers on 45th St. at Eighth Ave.

The Angels began patrolling the area last week after the owners of 15 Restaurant Row establishments on W. 46th St. frustrated by apparent inaction by city officials and police sought their help.

On Saturday at 9 p.m., two groups totaling about 25 people began fighting on 45th St., police said. Sliwa said they were drug dealers.

"We stood in the middle of the groups," said Dion White, 18, of Newark, an Angel who was stabbed in the hand.

A man later identified as Charles Lorenzo, 25, of W. 25th St., allegedly stabbed Lichtenberg and hit him over the head.

Through a window

Lorenzo ran onto Eighth Ave., authorities said. There, Shaheem Abdul Roman, an Angel, shoved him through a window of the Lord Camelot restaurant. Lorenzo, however, got up and ran to 43d St. and Tenth Ave., where 10 Angels grabbed him.

"It got wild," said Lt. Peter Pranzo, a plainclothes cop, who arrested Lorenzo for attempted murder, assault and weapons possession. Pranzo said the dealers are upset about the Angels and "want to take the street back."

Also arrested were Maybol Patan, 25, of Harrison Ave., Bronx, who was charged with assault, and Julio Medina, 22, of University Ave., Bronx, who was charged with reckless endangerment.

Lichtenberg was in critical condition in St. Vincent's intensive-care unit following surgery to relieve pressure from bleeding inside his head.

'Contribution to society'

The injured youth's mother, Margot, said her son "wanted to become a Guardian Angel because he doesn't think drug dealers should be



FRISKED: One Guardian Angel searches man (r.) while other Angels look through belongings from purse of a woman last night on W. 47th St. VINCENT RIEHL DAILY NEWS

Couple 'cleared' Angels pounce at 47th St.

The four Guardian Angels sprinted up the steps of the dimly lit W. 47th St. courtyard between Eighth and Ninth Aves. and pounced on the couple sitting on the ground.

"All we had was some weed," shouted the man as an Angel held him against a low stone wall, while another Angel emptied the woman's purse on the ground. All it held was a curling iron, comb, hair-spray, keys - but no drugs.

"You guys will have to realize you can't do this up here," crew leader Thomas (Tut) Hunt, 23, warned the couple.

"We'll never do it again," the woman assured him. The Angels escorted them down the stairs, shooing off some loiterers drinking beers.

Later, Angel leader Curtis Sliwa was asked if this kind of action was a violation of constitutional rights. He replied that the area was frequented by prostitutes.

"Prostitutes, crack dealers, drug dealers - as far as I'm concerned, they have violated my rights," said Sliwa. "We don't have the right to beat them up, but we sure can harass them because we know what they are up to."

A police spokesman refused to comment on the incident. "We're not getting involved in that," said Sgt. Ed Burns.

-Sharon Broussard