

Post 6/13/88

NEW YORK

# Angel stab victim is in fight for life



CURTIS SLIWA

By M.D. DIETRICH

The parents of a teenage Guardian Angel critically wounded in a weekend stabbing kept a vigil in a hospital waiting room yesterday as their son fought for his life in the intensive care unit.

Outside St. Vincent's Hospital, a legion of Guardian Angels lined the streets to honor Illya Lichtenberg, 16, of Verona, N.J., who was stabbed in the chest during a brawl as he patrolled the area near 45th St. and Eighth Av. Saturday night.

"I told him that it's getting really dangerous, that drug dealers had guns. But he said, 'No mom, it's not that bad,'" said his mother, Margo Lichtenberg.

Mrs. Lichtenberg said her son had been on a respirator since the stabbing, which punctured one of his lungs.

She said CAT scans would reveal if a blow to the head from a blunt object during the fight caused any permanent brain damage. Hospital officials said Lichtenberg was still in critical condition.

Guardian Angels began patrolling Restaurant Row Wednesday after eatery owners complained drug dealers and panhandlers were driving customers away.

According to police, a fight broke out between 15 Guardian Angels

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and a crowd of about 15 persons after Maybol Pagan, 26, kicked one of the Angels in the stomach.

The fight quickly escalated, leaving Lichtenberg and five other Guardian Angels injured.

Police said Charles Lorenzo, 25, of West 25th St. was arrested at 43rd St. and 10th Ave. at 10:45 Saturday night as he fled a group of Guardian angels, police said. Lorenzo is charged with attempted murder in connection with the stabbing.

Also arrested were Pagan, who is charged with 3rd degree assault, and Julio Medina, 22.

Medina is charged with reckless endangerment for allegedly throwing a bottle into the crowd.

Guardian Angel leader Curtis Sliwa said the group was attacked by a crowd of 30 crack dealers