

Cops hunt bum who stabbed guard and fled

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A CRAZED VAGRANT forced cops to shut down a bustling block in the Times Square area yesterday after he stabbed a security guard inside a building and then disappeared into a crowd on the street below.

Surveillance cameras spotted the muscular intruder, shortly before 2 p.m. as he prowled the 10th-floor halls of 315 W. 43rd St., witnesses said.

"The guy's on 10. I'm going to get him out," security guard Eddy Juarez, 34, told his boss over his walkie-talkie.

The next image caught on camera was Juarez staggering and clutching his shoulder.

"He stabbed me and said, 'That's for you!'" Juarez told the Daily News yesterday from his bed at Bellevue Hospital, where he was in stable condition. "He looked crazy. He didn't belong in the building."

The attacker — whom he described as a tall, muscular Hispanic man dressed in a black leather jacket and wearing a backpack — bolted down 10 flights of stairs and fled out a maintenance entrance. His escape was also caught on tape.

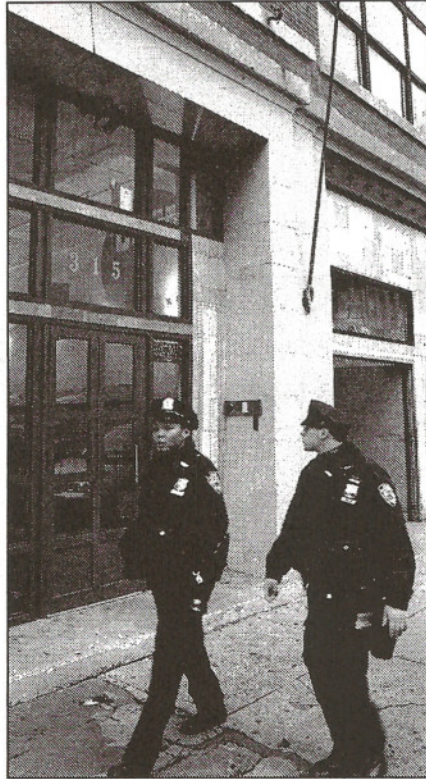
More than 30 cops flooded the block and combed the building and surrounding area for the stabber. The street was briefly closed to pedestrians.

"I guess it's par for the course. I expected to see it," said tourist Tamra Nichols of Arkansas, who was unruffled by news of the attack.

Nichols said she wasn't frightened to walk around Times Square — but she was savvy enough to ask a reporter for a detailed description of the suspect.

Juarez, who lives in Woodhaven, Queens, with his mom and two sisters joked with doctors as they stitched up his shoulder. But the incident unnerved his boss, Terry Dworjan.

"This is so stupid and unnecessary," Dworjan said. "I feel very bad."



JAMES KEIVOM DAILY NEWS

Cops outside 315 W. 43rd St. in Times Square area, where vagrant fled after stabbing security guard.

Juarez said he spotted the trespasser on a security camera and took the elevator to the 10th floor, home of Telsey & Co., a theatrical casting company closed for the holidays.

The vagrant was using a knife to slice open a delivery box left for Telsey & Co. when Juarez approached him. The attacker stabbed the guard, dropped the box — with a watch inside — and fled, Juarez said.

A calm Juarez, who has been a security guard for nine years, said he was unfazed by the incident.

"This is the first strange thing that has happened to me," he said.

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