

transvestite's assailant not charged in shooting

MINEOLA NY — A grand jury in Nassau County has declined to charge a New York City transit cop in a shooting incident which resulted in a bullet wound to the neck of a black transvestite, according to the *Long Island Connection*.

Patrick Smith was in critical condition after the shooting by George Christ, Jr. Smith says that Christ shot him when he went to the aid of his friend, Deon Miller, also a transvestite. According to Smith, Christ solicited Miller for sex, but became hostile when he found out Miller was a man. Christ assaulted Miller in an alley and then shot Smith when he attempted to help Miller.

Although two other witnesses, also transvestites, and a cab driver gave testimony in agreement with Smith and Miller, the nearly all-white grand jury chose to believe Christ who said that Smith tried to rob him at knife point. Christ claims he shot Smith in a scuffle which occurred when he tried to arrest Smith. After the shooting, Christ left the alley without arresting Smith and did not report the shooting to police for two hours after it had happened.

Ironically, Smith could spend 15 days in jail under New York state law for appearing in drag in public. Smith has already been arrested for crossdressing several times.

Members of the gay and lesbian community of Long Island planned a demonstration to protest the apparent racism, sexism and homophobia of the Nassau County Grand Jury, according to the *Connection*.