

Traffic stop a break in NYC shooting

By **JORDAN CARLEO-EVANGELIST**
Staff writer

SCHENECTADY — In retrospect, Michael Sloan may wish he had used his turn signal.

Sloan, who was wanted by New York City police in connection with a night club shooting that killed one off-duty court officer and seriously injured another, was captured Monday night by a sheriff's deputy during a routine traffic stop.

New York City detectives were headed upstate late Monday to arrest Sloan, 27, for second-degree murder, said Sheriff Harry Buffardi.

Sloan is a suspect in the nearly 2-year-old killing of Francisco Rosa, a court officer who was moonlighting as a bouncer at a Queens night club in May 2004, authorities said.

Two others — including another court officer working as a bouncer, Michael Serrano — were injured in the shooting outside Phenomenon Sports Cabaret, according to newspaper accounts.

Rosa, 32, and Serrano, then 35, were assigned to courts in Westchester County. They were shot when a group of men who had been ejected from the club

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earlier that night returned and started shooting outside.

Schenectady County Sheriff's Deputy Robert T. Kennedy says he saw Sloan turn from Veeder Avenue onto Albany Street without signaling around 6:30 p.m., near the county jail.

Kennedy stopped the gray Mitsubishi sedan near Georgetta Dix Boulevard and approached Sloan, who was alone and appeared nervous, the deputy said.

Kennedy, who has been on patrol for about 2½ years, said Sloan gave him a legitimate Pennsylvania driver's license.

The deputy radioed his dispatcher and quickly learned that not only was that license suspended in New York but that Sloan might also be wanted for murder.

Sloan was charged with third-degree aggravated and unlicensed operation and held on the relatively minor traffic ticket while Kennedy drove to the Division of Criminal Justice Services headquarters in Guilderland with Sloan's fingerprints.

The car was registered to a Schenectady woman who did not know there was a warrant for

Sloan's arrest, Kennedy said. It was not clear how long he had been in the city or what he was doing here.

Sloan was arrested with an illegal type of folding knife but cooperated and was taken into custody without incident, the deputy said.

"He wasn't tricky about his name or anything," Kennedy said.

Late Monday, a spokesman for the New York Police Department said he had not received any information on the arrest. The Queens district attorney's office could not be reached for comment.

Sheriff Buffardi praised his deputy, who he said only last week was cited for a traffic stop seizure that uncovered 21 pounds of marijuana.

"We got an extremely dangerous person away from the public," Kennedy said.

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