



## Harrowing ordeal of seven freed POWs



Spc. Shoshana Johnson is escorted to freedom yesterday in Iraq, ending a three-week ordeal and answering her Brooklyn family's prayers. She and six other POWs revealed they were certain they'd die.

**WAR COVERAGE: PAGES 4-11**

# SMOKE BAN MURDER

## Bouncer dies in cig fight

A bouncer at an East Village nightclub was fatally stabbed after asking a customer to snuff out his cigarette, police said.

Relatives of the victim blamed his death on Mayor Bloomberg's anti-smoking crusade.

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# 'CIG BAN KILLED HIM'

## Bouncer knifed as he boots smoker

By JAMIE SCHRAM, ANGELINA CAPPIELLO and WILLIAM NEUMAN

A bouncer was stabbed to death yesterday in a melee at an East Village nightclub after he asked a patron to put out his cigarette — and his relatives blamed the city's tough new no-smoking law.

"I'm very angry. My brother is a victim of this stupid Bloomberg law," said Anthony Blake, whose brother Dana Blake was killed at Guernica on Avenue B.

"The common person always plays the victim of these political laws, and my brother was their first casualty," said Anthony, a Queens minister.

"I want to know what these guys were thinking when they committed this crime. I want to know if it was worth one person's life for that cigarette."

Cops said Dana Blake, 32, approached two brothers, Johnathan and Ching Chan, in the club's crowded basement lounge at about 2:30 a.m.

At least one of the brothers was smoking, and Blake asked him to put out his cigarette in compliance with the law banning smoking in bars and restaurants. The law, pushed by Mayor Bloomberg, went into effect two weeks ago.

The men exchanged angry words over the blaring music, and Blake decided to toss out Johnathan Chan, said police spokesman Michael O'Looney.

The 6-foot-5, 350-pound Blake grabbed Johnathan by the neck and dragged him toward the exit, but Chan fought back, O'Looney said. His brother Ching joined the scuffle, as did another man and a woman, who jumped onto Blake's back, he said.

Someone plunged a knife into Blake's stomach, and the fighting spilled onto the street, witnesses said.



**SORROW & ANGER:** A bar worker (above) puts up a picture in mourning yesterday for slain bouncer Dana "Shazam" Blake. The victim's brother Anthony Blake (below), a minister, claimed Dana was the "first casualty" of the smoking ban. Matthew McDermott; Steven Hirsch (below)

Police and several others chased the Chans around the corner onto East Third Street and grabbed the brothers.

Blake was taken to Beth Israel Hospital, where he died at 1:30 p.m.

Johnathan Chan, 29, and Ching Chan, 31, were charged with assault, criminal possession of a weapon and resisting arrest.

Police were still trying to determine who stabbed Blake.

"The smoking issue was the initial contact, but the homicide seems to be over the ejection from the club," O'Looney said.

But Travis Keyes, the owner of B3, a bar next door, didn't

hesitate to blame the new law, which has been billed as a way to safeguard the health of pub employees.

"It all started over a cigarette," said Keyes, who helped chase down the Chans. "It's so ironic: Something that's supposed to save lives has already taken a life."

Co-workers at the bar said Blake, 32, was called "Shazam." "He was one of the most lovable souls ... a gentle giant," said cashier Shelly Sabel.

Bloomberg spokesman Ed Skyler said the mayor was pleased the police had quickly arrested the suspects, and "his thoughts are with the family of the victim."



# 'Anger Management' scoops up some mad money

Box office			
Title	Total*	Title	Total*
1. Anger Management	\$44.5M	6. Head of State	\$30.9M
2. Phone Booth	\$26.6M	7. House of 1,000 Corpses	\$3.4M
3. What a Girl Wants	\$20.4M	8. Chicago	\$156.9M
4. Bringing Down the House	\$117.7M	9. The Core	\$25.6M
5. A Man Apart	\$18.2M	10. Basic	\$23.8M

\* represents total accumulated gross

"Anger Management" bullied its way to the top of the box office — raking in \$44.5 million over the weekend.

The Jack Nicholson-Adam Sandler comedy grabbed more cash than the rest of the top 12 flicks combined. Playing in 3,551 theaters, it averaged \$12,532 a cinema.

It was a big boost for Hollywood, after four straight weekends of slumping returns. Sandler plays a mild-mannered man rail-

roaded into anger counseling with a therapist, played by Nicholson, who puts him through ordeals that make him crack.

"The comedy genre this year is just incapable of burning out," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations. "People are looking to blow off steam. What better way than seeing a movie that combines Jack Nicholson and Adam Sandler?"

Last weekend's No. 1, "Phone Booth," the sniper-loose-in-Mid-

town flick with Colin Farrell, fell to second place with \$7.5 million.

The other big release, Rob Zombie's gross-out horror story, "House of 1,000 Corpses," which sat on the shelf for several years, was No. 7 with \$3.4 million in 595 theaters, for a \$5,714 average.

In third place was "What a Girl Wants," with \$6.7 million, followed by "Bringing Down the House," \$4.6 million, and "A Man Apart," with \$4.5 million.

Bill Hoffmann