

HANDOUT 25

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DRIVER ARRESTED IN HATE CRIME AT MALL

BYLINE: This story was reported by Samuel Bruchey, Alfonso A; Castillo, Theresa Vargas, Steve Wick, Emi Endo, Sid Cassese, Erik Holm and Pat Burson and written by Burson

A Huntington Station man who screamed that he was "doing this for my country" was arrested last night after trying to run down a Pakistani woman with his car, Suffolk police said.

The incident, one of several on Long Island that authorities and victims attributed to a backlash of hatred generated by Tuesday's terrorist attacks, occurred at Walt Whitman Mall in South Huntington.

Police said Adam Lang, 76, of Huntington Station, was outside the mall revving his engine for several minutes. Then, as the woman stood on a sidewalk awaiting a ride home, he put the car in drive and headed directly at her. "If she hadn't jumped out of the way," said Det. Sgt. Robert Reecks, commander of Suffolk's Bias Crimes Bureau, "he would have run right over her."

Lang jumped out of the car, Reecks said, and screamed that he was "doing this for his country" and was "going to kill her."

Lang, of 25 Sixth Ave., was charged with first-degree reckless endangerment, a hate crime. He was being held pending arraignment today.