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BEBERGAL HAS 'TOO MUCH TO DREAM' BOOKS {page 13}

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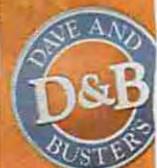


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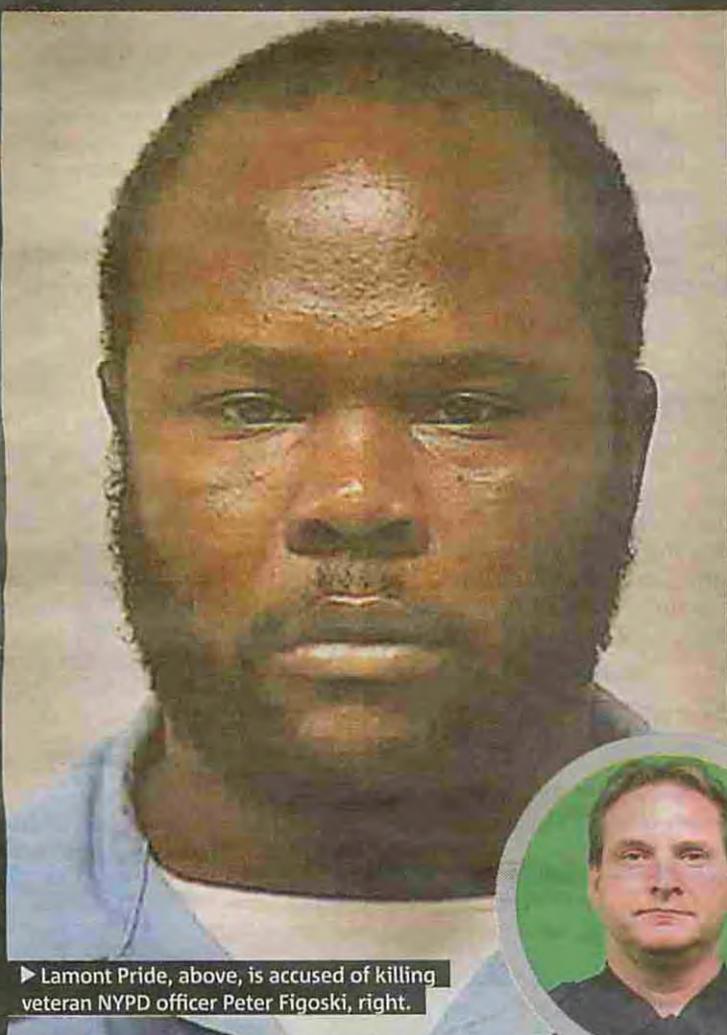
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Cop killer suspect arrested, released last month

► Wanted on three warrants in NC, including shooting with intent to kill, before being nabbed in Brooklyn on drug charges
► Guilford County police turned down chance to extradite him {page 02}



► Lamont Pride, above, is accused of killing veteran NYPD officer Peter Figoski, right.

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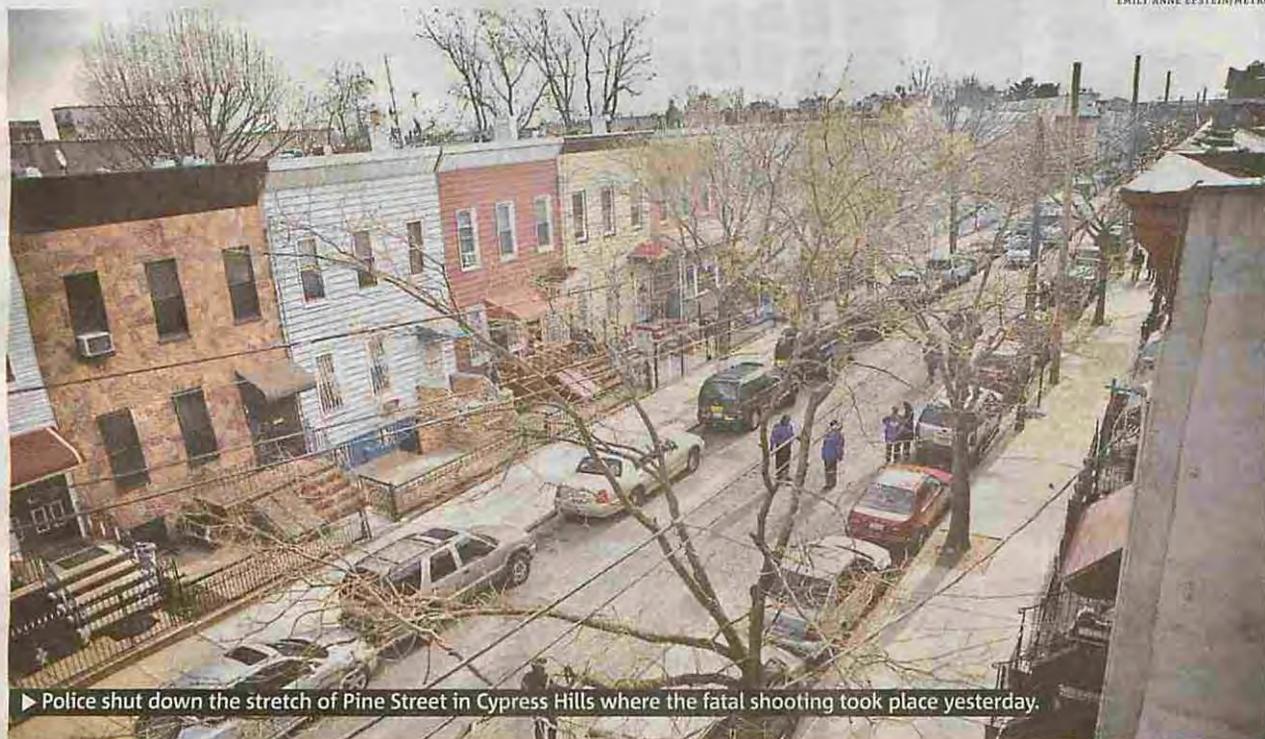
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Accused cop killer slips through cracks

▶ The man accused of killing a cop was in NYPD custody just last month
 ▶ Was wanted on multiple warrants in North Carolina ▶ But city forced to cut him loose, police say, after North Carolina declined to pick him up

EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN/METRO



▶ Police shut down the stretch of Pine Street in Cypress Hills where the fatal shooting took place yesterday.

Killed in the line of duty

NEW YORK. Figoski is the 10th officer to die in the line of duty since 2001, and the second this year; Alain Schaberger broke his neck when he fell over a railing while responding to a domestic violence call in March.

Figoski leaves behind four daughters, ages 14 to 20, and is part of a family of officers.

"You want a reminder of the danger that our men and women in law enforcement face every day?" said Mayor Michael Bloomberg. "Look no further than this shooting." ● METRO

The man accused of murdering a 22-year NYPD veteran in cold blood yesterday was arrested in Brooklyn just more than a month ago — but then let back out on to the streets despite having three outstanding warrants for violent crimes in North Carolina.

Lamont Pride, 27, is accused of fatally shooting NYPD officer Peter Figoski just after 2 a.m. yesterday, after Figoski responded to a robbery call in Cypress Hills.

According to the NYPD, Pride was arrested last month, on Nov. 3, when cops found him in Brooklyn with

six bags of cocaine. At that time, he was wanted in Guilford County, N.C., on three outstanding warrants for felony charges, according to the Guilford County sheriff's office. The warrants all stemmed from an August incident, said NYPD deputy commissioner Paul Browne. One of the warrants was for an alleged assault with a deadly weapon, with intent to kill.

The NYPD contacted Guilford County police, Browne said, but North Carolina officials initially decided not to extradite him.

Then, on Nov. 8, Browne said, North Carolina police

changed their minds and told the NYPD they wanted him. But it was too late. "He was in the wind," Browne told Metro.

Pride allegedly skipped a scheduled Nov. 15 court date and the NYPD sent a fugitive task force of officers out hunting for him.

To extradite?

The expense and time commitment are likely reasons why states decline to pick up wanted suspects, according to a Manhattan defense attorney.

▶ "Unfortunately, it definitely happens," said criminal defense attorney Vinoo Varghese. "There's a whole process for transporting

fugitives that can be quite expensive and North Carolina is not a quick trip."

▶ Browne refused to blame Guilford County police for their decision not to extradite Pride.

▶ "One of our officers is dead because Pride shot him," said Browne. "It's wrong to put the murder of a police officer on the responsibility of another jurisdiction instead of on Lamont Pride."

But yesterday, Pride turned up at 25 Pine St. in Cypress Hills. There, police say, he and another suspect were robbing a 25-year-old basement tenant when Figoski and his partner arrived.

Figoski was shot in the face and died at Jamaica Hospital.

No one in Guilford County law enforcement was available to confirm the NYPD's assertion that North Carolina law enforcement decided not to pick him up.

ALISON BOWEN and CARLY BALDWIN