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WILD FONDLING SPREE. L.I. MAN GROPE 4 WOMEN, GIRL IN 30 MINUTES - COPS

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A TROUBLED DEAF MAN went on a groping spree on Long Island, fondling four women and an 11-year-old girl in a 30-minute span, police said yesterday.

Three of the bizarre incidents were drive-bys - with the 42-year-old suspect seated in his car as he reached out his window to grab his victims near Hicksville stores, police said.

The attacks began Saturday just after 2:15 p.m., when police say Harvey Holmes 3rd of Hicksville approached an 11-year-old girl leaving the Stop & Shop on Old Country Road with her mother and began to grind his hips against her.

Her mother called for help, and store employees wrote down the license plate of Holmes' 1990 Buick, police and witnesses said. Holmes, who according to his lawyer suffers from schizophrenia, then moved to the parking lot of a nearby Target, police said.

He drove toward a 35-year-old woman, grabbed her and held her against his car window as he fumbled to undo her bra, police said. He fled after she threw coffee in his face.

Holmes grabbed two more female shoppers from inside his car before moving to a nearby 7-Eleven, police said. Once in the store, he rushed the counter, reached across and grabbed the chest of the 19-year-old clerk, police said. He was stopped by cops as he tried to flee the scene of a nearby fender bender. He was charged with second-degree sexual abuse, endangering the welfare of a child, forcible touching and menacing.

"Whatever he's accused of doing, he's not a dangerous sexual predator," said his father, Harvey Holmes Jr., 62, a librarian. "He's very mentally ill, and the system has really not helped him."

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