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Rap 'heavy' sued over club bash

By MICHELE McPHEE

DAILY NEWS POLICE BUREAU CHIEF

A Shady Records bodyguard who protects rappers 50 Cent and Eminem will face the music in court today after being sued for allegedly beating up a city worker at a posh Manhattan nightclub.

Scott Cherry, a 7-foot, 400-pound bouncer, allegedly attacked a Department of Environmental Protection employee partying at Spa, a glitzy Union Square dance club where Cherry worked. Michael Esposito, 25, said he was leaning against the bar on Feb. 10, 2002, when Cherry suddenly ordered him to leave and then lunged at him.

"I had no idea why he asked me to leave, so when I asked him, he attacked me for no reason at all," Esposito, of Brooklyn, told the Daily News yesterday. "I put my drink down and, boom, I was struck in the nose. There was blood everywhere. My nose was broken."

Esposito is suing for \$3 million, citing two separate surgeries he underwent to repair his shattered nose. John Bostany is representing Esposito in the case, slated to start this morning in Brooklyn Supreme Court. Cherry's attorney, Greg Nelson, did not return a call for comment. In a deposition, Cherry described himself as a bodyguard who protects rap stars for Eminem's Shady Records label.

Cherry also claims that Esposito, who is 5-feet-8, punched him first, a claim Esposito hotly denied.

"I did not strike Scott Cherry, or anyone else on the premises," Esposito said. "This was a completely unprovoked attack."

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