

## Haight incident apparently racial

ny hate crimes.

Reports of the ugly incident brought a renewed call for increased police presence in the Haight-Ashbury where, according to Joe Konopka, head of the neighborhood's civilian patrol group RAD, "there's a drug-dealing convention going on daily on Haight Street."

Pleas to City Hall and the Police Department for a police kiosk at the famous corner of Haight and Ashbury streets or for added patrols have been ignored and "laughed at," Konopka said.

Police Chief Fred Lau responded that the Haight is one of the most heavily patrolled areas of The City, but he added: "We're open to constructive criticism. We're very intent on working with the com-

munity."

The incident allegedly occurred shortly before 8 p.m. Monday in the neighborhood that was ground zero for the "Summer of Love" three decades ago.

Palmer said he, Butler and two friends, plus Butler's 11-month-old baby, were walking on Page Street near Ashbury when a crowd of about 20 white males began verbally attacking them.

Butler said the men yelled that they were on "a white block" and they should leave.

McDavid allegedly began yelling "f----- n-----" at Palmer, according to police reports, taunting him, "Come on, you want some?"

Then, according to Palmer's statement to police, McDavid slashed at Palmer and his companions: his cousin, Victor Mike Truvillion, 20, of Belmont, and his girlfriend, Celia Rivera, 17, of San Francisco.

### Feared for their lives

All of the victims told Officer Paul Dennes they feared for their lives and they believed McDavid was trying to kill them.

Dennes said that when he responded to 911 calls, he saw several white males chasing the two black men. Dennes said Palmer received knife wounds to the hand and also was hit on the arm with a chain and on the head with a skateboard. He was treated at the scene by paramedics.

During the altercation, Butler was pushing her baby Keianna in a stroller and she pleaded with the alleged attackers to watch out for the infant, screaming, "My baby, my baby."

McDavid allegedly said, "F--- the baby." Butler said the stroller was knocked over and her baby's head hit the pavement, although she was not injured.

Rivera said that when she tried to intervene while McDavid allegedly was trying to stab Palmer, the assailant slashed at her and called her racial names. She said McDavid asked her "if I wanted some, too."

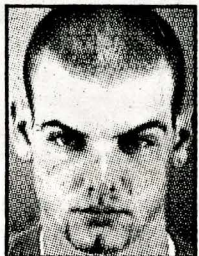
Butler said the assault began before anyone had time to react to the warning to get off the block.

"They all had weapons — bottles, chains, skateboards. One had a knife," Butler, 18, from East Palo Alto, recalled in an interview Tuesday. "I was so scared."

Nobody was seriously injured. Truvillion received scrapes and bruises. Rivera and Butler were unhurt.

The alleged attack was reported by numerous residents in the area who called 911.

Dennes arrested McDavid at a nearby restaurant after witnesses



**Charles McDavid** was arrested in an alleged assault by a group of whites on 2 black couples and a baby.

## 1 suspect held, more sought in S.F. attack on blacks

By Julie Chao  
and Larry D. Hatfield  
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

Desiree Butler, a young black woman, said she was scared for her life when she saw a band of up to 20 young white men approach, shouting racial epithets and wielding weapons in the heart of Haight-Ashbury.

Then things got worse.

The men allegedly assaulted Butler and her companions in an attack police have labeled a hate crime.

One arrest was made and more may be, police said. Charles Shawn McDavid, 24, of Santa Cruz, was accused of knifing Victor Palmer, 19, of San Francisco. McDavid was booked on felony charges of assault with a deadly weapon and two felo-

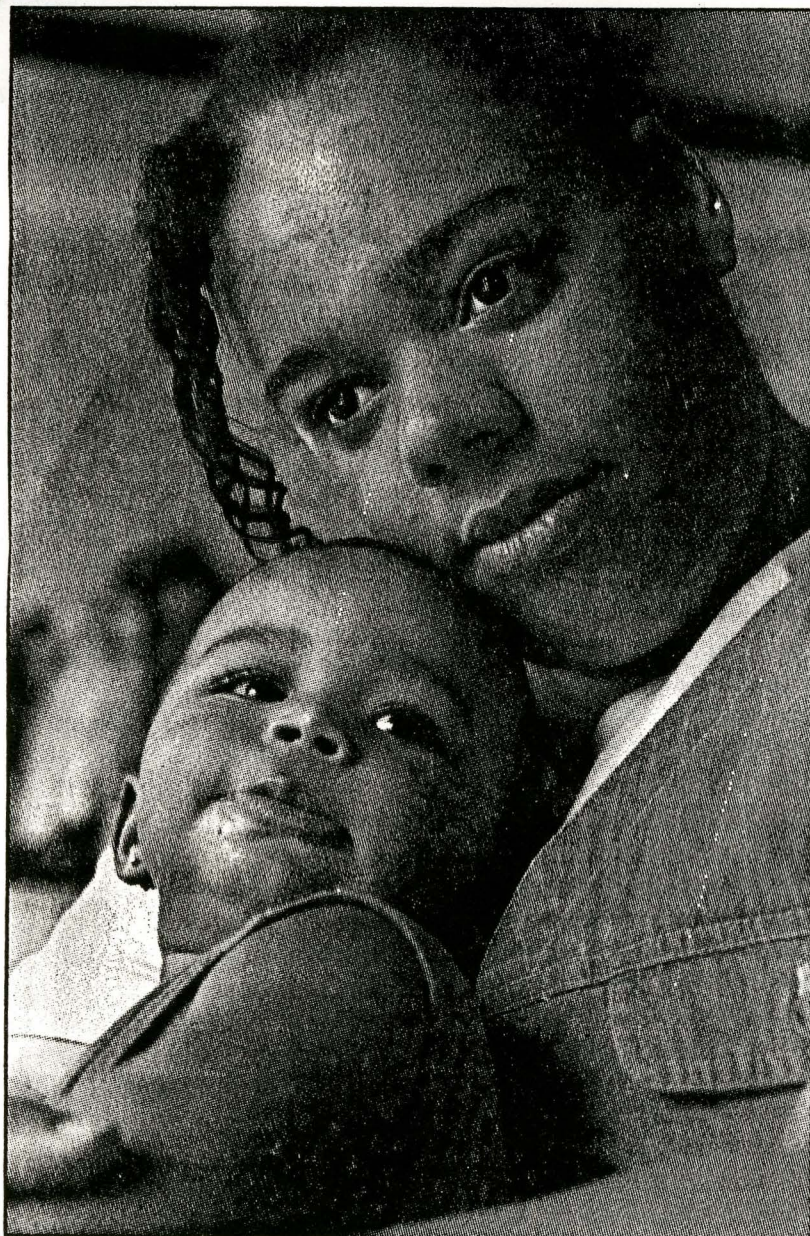
[ See HATE CRIME, A-12 ]

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER 6/10/98 p. A1

CRIME

HAIGHT ASHBURY VF





**Desiree Butler, 18, holds her 11-month-old daughter, who Butler says was knocked from her stroller by one of the men who allegedly accosted Butler and her friends on the sidewalk at Page and Ashbury streets.**

directed him there. He was identified at the scene by the victims, Dennes said.

McDavid had no identification on him and was not being cooperative in answering questions, said Officer Henry Seto, a hate crimes specialist and the lead investigator on the case. Seto said he would try to verify McDavid's identity through the national fingerprint system.

McDavid had a nearly shaved head, wore a camouflage jacket and had numerous piercings on his ears, nose and tongue, according to Seto.

"I can't say he's a skinhead or neo-Nazi," said Seto. "I don't know. The way he dresses resembles that, but it's not proven."

#### More arrests possible

Seto was still interviewing victims and witnesses and said more arrests are possible.

McDavid will be arraigned Thursday.

"This is not that common that a group of white individuals attacks a group of black individuals in the Haight," Seto said. "It's very diverse out there in that neighborhood. We never expect anything like that."

Butler said she and her boyfriend were in The City to meet Palmer and his girlfriend for a movie when they saw the group.

"We tried to run, but we got caught," Truvillion wrote in his police statement. "They hit me with a skateboard, tried to stab me, hit me with a police flashlight and knocked my daughter out of her carriage."

In his statement, Palmer wrote: "He hit me with a ball of chains in the head. . . He called me a f-----g n-----r, spit on me, then told me, you little n-----r, you better run off."

Butler said she had never experienced that type of racial animosity.

"I couldn't believe that ever would happen," she said. "The men

er heard people yell racial slurs and be that serious over race."

The civilian patrol group's Konopka said that Mayor Brown was invited to a heavily attended December meeting in the Haight to discuss crime and drug problems but he never showed up.

He and others also met with Brown the day before last week's election but nothing has resulted, he said.

"About a year ago at the police commission, we asked for a mini-kiosk at Haight and Ashbury and that was laughed at," Konopka said. "We have violence, public intoxication, public defecation. . . We've been meeting (with city officials) for months and nothing gets done."

Brown's press spokeswoman, Kandace Bender, said the question of a police kiosk never came up during the recent meeting. Moreover, she said, the general wisdom is that the kiosks are not effective. "We had one in the Mission a couple of years ago and it pretty much turned into a place for people to urinate in," she said.

Lau said a kiosk might be effective in the immediate area where it was located but police believe foot and other patrols are far more effective in dealing with crime problems.

#### Strong police presence

He said that Deputy Chief Rich Holder "tells me the Haight is probably one of the most intensive beats we have in The City" with four to six foot or bicycle officers on patrol along Haight Street.

Those patrols are supplemented by plainclothes narcotics officers in the area and officers from the department's special operations unit, he said.

"We put as many resources there as we can," Lau said. "I know the community would probably want more and we're going to . . . assess the situation and see whether more patrols are appropriate. We'll put additional people out there when we can."

On the other hand, he said, "There's a question of balance. We also have people complaining that we have too many officers out there."

Konopka said Monday night's attack was not surprising to Haight residents, adding: "This is obviously just totally unacceptable, . . . (but) I know elderly people who are afraid to walk down Haight Street because they're afraid they'll be knocked down. . . I know a gay man who was beaten. . ."

"It's a tragic story. The shopkeepers are begging for help. When are you (The City) going to do something?"