

C I T Y

Man Charged With Murder After Firing on Crowd

By JAYSON BLAIR

A Queens man who the police said fired on a group of men on a Manhattan street last week to try to put an end to a running dispute was arrested yesterday and charged with first-degree murder, the authorities said.

Investigators said that the suspect, Kenneth Ambrose, 32, did not hit any of his intended targets in the shooting, which left two men dead and two others wounded. Mr. Ambrose, the

police said, ambushed the men in retaliation for a fight a day earlier at a nightclub, which they said was one of several disputes between two groups of men.

William Quinones, 27, and Lateef Cobb, 24, died in the shooting outside Henry Phipps Plaza on East 26th Street, a mixed-income apartment complex where they lived, last Wednesday evening. The wounded men, Ricky Rotmayer, 20, and Michael Smalls, 22, both lived in the

neighborhood.

Mr. Ambrose was arrested by detectives in his neighborhood in Flushing, Queens, yesterday morning. Detective Vito Buoscenti, of the Manhattan detectives, said that Mr. Ambrose did not hit any of the people he intended to shoot, none of whom were identified by the police yesterday.

Mr. Ambrose was awaiting arraignment last night in State Supreme Court in Manhattan, said Wayne Brisson, a spokesman for the Manhattan

District Attorney's office.

Mr. Ambrose has been charged with two counts of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder in the attack, officials said. Investigators believe that Mr. Ambrose was trying to retaliate against some of the men who had assaulted one of his friends at the Cheetah Club at 12 West 21st Street, Detective Buoscenti said.

That fight, and previous ones between the groups, was believed to be over a woman or drugs, he added. Detective Buoscenti said that the victims were members of the group that

was being shot at, but that the group was not a gang.

Police officials said the four victims were standing with a larger group of about 10 to 12 people in front of a parking garage at 330 East 26th Street, between First and Second Avenues, when another group of men approached them on foot last Wednesday. After the two groups argued briefly, someone in the second group opened fire at 6:55 P.M., firing at least a dozen bullets, they said.

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