

Police still seeking killer of state senator's son



Police say the assailant, depicted here in a sketch, used a chrome-colored handgun to shoot Hunter McPherson in the chest Saturday morning after asking for his wallet and his girlfriend's purse.



Hunter McPherson
27-year-old's father is state Sen. Bruce McPherson, R-Santa Cruz.

Authorities are asking the public to help them find the man who shot Hunter McPherson as he walked home Saturday.

By **Howard Mintz**
Mercury News

San Francisco police on Sunday were still searching for the killer of state Sen. Bruce McPherson's son, Hunter, who was gunned down Saturday during what appears to have been a random street robbery in his Potrero Hill neighborhood.

At a news conference late Sunday, police officials asked the public for help in finding the shooter, de-

scribed as a Latino male in his mid-20s, between 5 feet 8 and 5 feet 11, and 160 to 180 pounds.

Authorities say the killer used a chrome-colored handgun to shoot Hunter McPherson, 27, as he walked home early Saturday with his girlfriend, Alexa Savelle.

Police say the man demanded McPherson's wallet and Savelle's purse, and then shot McPherson in the chest before leaving the scene.

McPherson died hours later at San Francisco General Hospital.

Bruce McPherson, R-Santa Cruz, held an open house for family and friends Sunday afternoon at his home in the hills above Santa Cruz, but the family declined to talk to the media. Fred McPherson, the senator's brother, said Hunter's parents were not ready to discuss the tragedy.

The family released a statement Saturday in which the senator called Hunter McPherson "his

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mother's pride and joy and his father's best friend." Bruce McPherson, who has announced his intention to run for lieutenant governor, is a former editor of the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

McPherson currently represents the 15th State Senate District, which covers a small portion of southern Santa Clara County and all of San Benito, Santa Cruz and Monterey counties.

San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown has offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the capture and conviction of Hunter McPherson's killer. Police say the attack appeared to be a random act of violence in a neighborhood not known for being dangerous.

At the time of the killing, Hunter McPherson and his girlfriend were walking back to their apartment after spending the evening at a friend's house nearby.

Neighbors who lived near the shooting scene on Mariposa Street near Texas Street, said they heard one shot followed by a woman screaming. Police were immediately flooded with 911 calls from neighbors. Savelle was not injured in the attack.

McPherson grew up around Santa Cruz, graduating from Harbor High School, where he played baseball and basketball. He later graduated from the University of California-Berkeley.

He moved to San Francisco about six months ago, working as account executive for a company called BizDevEx, a business development firm.

Mercury News Staff Writer David L. Beck contributed to this report. Contact Howard Mintz at hmintz@sjmercury.com or (408) 286-0236.