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'I'm a man!' lesbian growled during fight

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Friday, April 13th 2007, 4:00 AM

A furious lesbian raged, "I'm a man!" during a wild seven-on-one beatdown of a male filmmaker in Manhattan, a witness testified yesterday.

Tattoo artist Louis Barak said he saw victim Dwayne Buckle try to diffuse the tension last August by ordering, "Calm down, woman!"

"And she's like, 'I'm not a woman, I'm a n-----, I'm a man!'" Barak said.

Barak said he never saw who threw the first punch in the melee outside the IFC Center on Sixth Ave., but he told jurors he saw one woman swipe at Buckle with a knife. Buckle took no offensive action, he said.

"He would do what any person would do," Barak said. "He was in a defensive mode."

But defense attorneys tried to paint Buckle as the aggressor by playing a video in which he appeared to be choking a woman. They also aired a video clip of Buckle, a video engineer who makes his own low-budget films, triumphantly waving a handful of hair pulled out during the fight.

Three women involved in the rumble are already behind bars for attempted assault, while the four others are currently on trial on felony gang assault charges.

The lesbians say Buckle, 29, was belted after he said, "I'll f--- you straight, sweetheart," to a woman who had rejected his come-on.

Prosecutors contend that the Queens man - who denied making the crude crack - was preyed upon by the gang of angry lesbians.

Jurors yesterday viewed videos and photos of the fight and heard from the cop who arrested the brawling ladies.

Police Officer Christopher O'Haire said the women were "almost festive" as he tailed them shortly after the street fight.

"They were walking, almost carrying on," he said.

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