

Cop indicted by second grand jury for fatal shooting

BY ALEXANDRA HARIDOPOLOS
STAFF WRITER

On Sept. 14, 2013, around 2:30 a.m. in Charlotte, N.C., Jonathan Ferrell crashed his car in Bradfield Farm, a subdivision 17 miles from downtown Charlotte.

Instantly, he kicked out his back window to free himself from the wreckage.

After he could not find his cell phone, an injured Ferrell approached the closest home in the neighborhood.

A woman, home alone with her infant daughter, answered. According to CNN, before even listening to Ferrell's situation, she panicked and called 911.

"I need help," the woman told the 911 operator. "There's a guy breaking in my front door. He's trying to kick it down."

Moments later, the police arrived.

One of the three officers tried to use a taser on Ferrell. He missed.

Officer Randall Kerrick, only three years older than Ferrell, fired 12 shots, 10 of which hit and fatally wounded Ferrell.

"Ferrell's death, and so many like it, are part of society's culture of fear of young, black males," said Assistant Professor of Justice and Policy Studies Barbara Lawrence. "An officer's legal use of force must match the force being used in the encounter."

"Statistically, you do not often see young black men shooting at police officers."

At the time of his death Ferrell was unarmed. He would have turned 25 last October.

"He was only seeking help," said Georgia, Ferrell's mother, in a MSNBC interview.

According to The New York Times, the results of the autopsy found the bullets that hit Ferrell had traveled downward, suggesting that at the time of the shooting,

University, a historically black university in Tallahassee, Ferrell had moved to Charlotte to be with his fiancée, his high school sweetheart. Ferrell played football for FAMU from 2009-2010.

Tragically, Ferrell's death is reminiscent of other black male lives stolen by police brutality: Oscar Grant, Kimani Gray, Amadou Diallo and so many others.

"The story is shocking, but not surprising," said junior and Community and Justice Studies

first time in over 30 years that a Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer has been charged with an on-duty shooting.

And as unarguable as that is, the use of lethal force also reflected "the same narrative that has always portrayed black males as a danger," said Director for Diversity Training and Development Jorge Zeballos.

Although most police officers must pass a "Use of Force" test to carry weapons, additional protocol should follow.

indictment to be a surprise and a hopeful sign of change.

"I've never had a trusting relationship with the cops," senior football player Kevin Tiller said. In his experience, "cops have always been late."

"Sometimes (cops) have too much authority," said Rascoe.

Another student's reflection touches on how Guilford's own Judicial Affairs and Public Safety bodies do not function outside of cultural patterns.

"I feel like if something major would happen, Public Safety wouldn't be able to help me at all," said the anonymous student. "I don't want to count on them ... and the same for the Judicial Affairs office."

Without intentionality from administrative offices to educate workers on racialized dynamics, there is no reason why Guilford would operate differently than the outside world.

"Folks that are working here receive the same messages as everybody else does," said Zeballos.

Guilford's departments may benefit from a sensitivity training of their own.

Ferrell's murder should not only be a catalyst for the Charlotte Police Department to incorporate educational and reflective sensitivity trainings, but our own "anti-racist" institution as well.

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Barbara Lawrence, assistant professor of justice and policy studies

Ferrell was already on his knees or lying on the ground.

"Well, I thought about the Trayvon Martin case," said sophomore football player Daytwyn Rascoe. "I thought it was sad that someone who was unarmed would be looked at as a threat."

In addition, the toxicology report showed no signs of alcohol or drug use.

After graduating from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical

major Sara Minsky. "It makes sense that 911 was called, given that Ferrell was injured, but why didn't an ambulance come?"

The Mecklenburg Police Department was quick to state that Kerrick's actions were "excessive."

Although the first grand jury acquitted Kerrick, Attorney General Roy Cooper resubmitted the case to a second grand jury, which found him guilty of voluntary manslaughter on Jan. 28.

The indictment marked the

"(There should be) more emphasis and training on cultural sensitivity," said Lawrence. "In many instances, you are usually operating on a young officer's fears that are simultaneously influenced by cultural cues."

Lawrence works with the Greensboro Police Department's Bias Based Policing Committee to incorporate implicit bias education in all trainings throughout the department.

She also found Kerrick's

Seahawks embarrass Broncos in Super Bowl

BY IAN PENNY
STAFF WRITER

On paper, it was billed by BleacherReport.com as "the ultimate example of the immovable object meeting the unstoppable force."

In retrospect, nothing could be further from the dominating performance put on display.

"I didn't expect a blowout," said senior Daniel Veizaga.

The Seattle Seahawks and the Denver Broncos, two teams hailing from the West squared off in Super Bowl XLVIII.

The Seahawks boasted the best defense, in terms of scoring and yardage, during the

regular season. By those same measures, the Broncos laid claim to the best regular-season offense.

"As an athlete, I've been told defense wins championships and offense wins games," said senior football player Nick Mearite. "The defensive scheme gave Peyton trouble the entire game."

There were plenty of storylines leading up to the Feb. 2 matchup at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

Two years ago, five-time Associated Press NFL MVP quarterback Peyton Manning, formerly of the Indianapolis Colts, was brought into the fold in Denver with a five-year \$96 million contract.

The Seahawks, in contrast, snagged quarterback Russell Wilson for a four-year \$2.99 million in the 2012 NFL Draft.

"The pieces just fell into place," said Michael Gattton '13.

These past two years, both squads have posted back-to-back 10-win seasons.

Ninety days after open-heart surgery, Denver head coach John Fox hoped to lead his team to a championship. Victory was not in the cards.

Just seconds into the game, the ball sailed past Manning's helmet into the end zone, resulting in a safety.

"The first snap was really disappointing," said junior Byron Hamilton. "It was a real s— show."

Weather was thought to be a factor in the contest.

"Defense does well in cold weather," said Early College senior Landon Fried, giving the edge to the Seahawks.

Though Peyton Manning has an 8-11 record in games when the temperature is below 40 degrees, the temperature at kickoff was 49 degrees — nowhere near freezing.

Students gathered around televisions across campus in venues such as the Milner Hall lobby, a bustling hub of fans ranging from the casual to hardcore.

"It's a very exciting atmosphere," said first-year tennis player Mara Stern.

By the end of the first half, the Seahawks held a 22-0 lead.

"The Seattle defense is very good, but

Peyton will find a way," said first-year baseball player Chase Massey, days before the game.

Any thought of a comeback, however, was shattered when Percy Harvin returned the second-half kickoff 87 yards for a touchdown.

The shutout continued until the end of the third quarter, when Manning passed for his only touchdown, and the Broncos made a two-point conversion.

Pete Carroll, recently voted by 22 percent of NFL players the most popular coach in the league, became the first coach to hoist a BCS National Championship and Super Bowl trophy.

Turnovers and a deficient rushing attack were major factors in Denver's defeat. Manning threw two interceptions, one of which was returned for a touchdown by Seahawks linebacker Malcolm Smith.

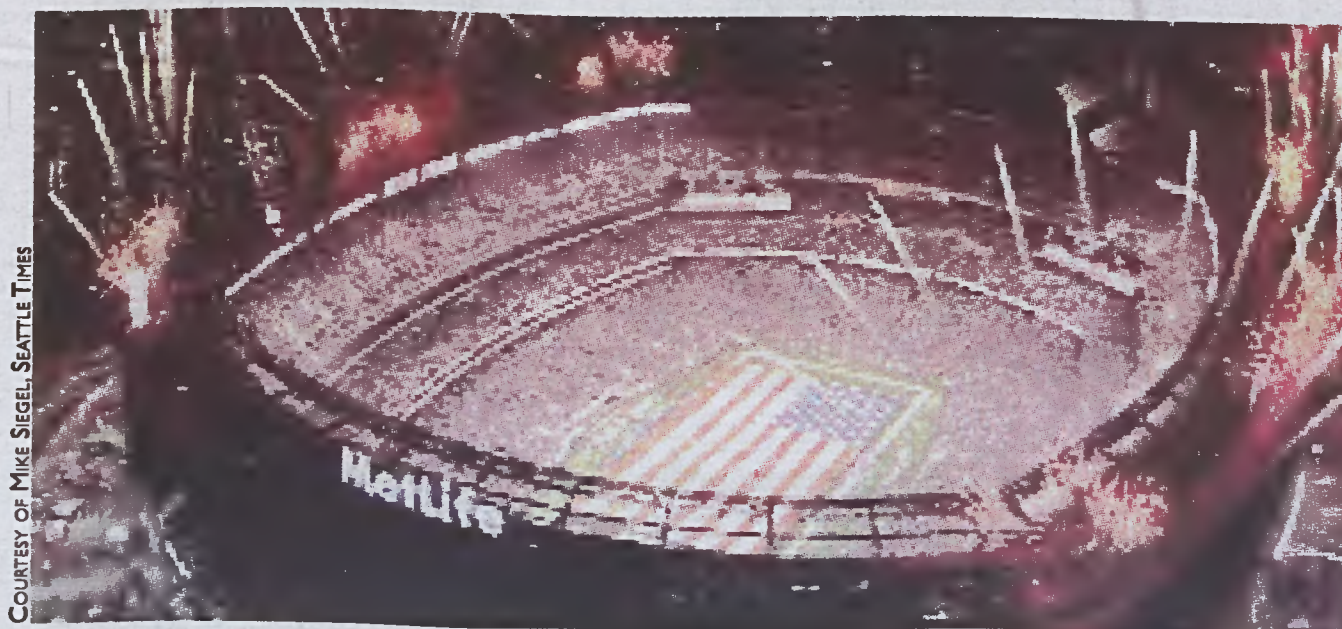
Smith also recovered a fumble during the game, locking up Super Bowl MVP.

The game made its mark in history, ending with the third largest margin of victory in Super Bowl history.

Manning now has an 11-12 playoff record. The loss, his second in the Super Bowl, casts doubt on his status as the best quarterback of all time.

"Peyton has a great legacy during regular season," said Mearite. "He's a great quarterback, but he can't be considered the best after this game."

As for Russell Wilson and the Seahawks defense, they get to bring the first Lombardi Trophy home in franchise history.



COURTESY OF MIKE SIEGEL, SEATTLE TIMES

The Seattle Seahawks cataclysmically defeated the Denver Broncos 43-8 in Super Bowl XLVIII.