



INSIDE HIGH STUDENTS HAVE LUNCH WITH COLOMBIAN BALLET COMPANY

See Story on Page 7.

## After Firing First Black Police Chief, Town Seeks Quiet

TABOR CITY (AP) - For the first time since the organized Ku Klux Klan was driven from Columbus County in the early 1970s, tensions divide Tabor City over racial lines.

The tension has heightened since the August firing of the city's black police chief.

"This has caught us all off guard," said Sterling Hinson, a downtown shoe store owner. "I was a boy, one of my best friends was a black man. He'd come and eat dinner with us. His wife and my mother used to come in on the street. He and my father sat in the back watching TV. We don't understand what's going on now."

The fourth Saturday in October usually means crowds of 12,000 people screaming into Tabor City to celebrate yams. But some beauty salons have canceled plans to hold this weekend's North Carolina Yam Festival as have many performers. Many worry the Klan will be thin.

Every Saturday for six weeks, a black group called Concerned Citizens for Justice has marched on Main Street, calling for the reinstatement of Tabor City native Willie Gore. Gore was police chief for six years and a member of the police department for 22 years.

Gore was fired Aug. 9 by Town Manager Al Leonard, with the unanimous backing of the city council. In a letter to Gore, Leonard said he ignored procedure by firing employees' names on time and sick-leave requests.

"I believe what was done to Willie Gore was unjust," said Eugene Williams, a retired teacher who heads the Citizens group, told The Charlotte

Observer. "We want the chief reinstated, or given early retirement with pay." Gore has declined to talk to reporters, but has said he did nothing wrong.

The town last week hired Robert "Bert" Croom, who is white, from the Carolina Beach Police Department to become Tabor City's new police chief.

Croom's hiring came after a tense night Oct. 12. Gore's supporters grew angry after the council adjourned before taking their questions. Several members refused to leave. Acting Chief Thomas Dicker, who is black, and several officers used pepper spray to force them out.

A short time later, bullets started flying, Dicker said. Most of the estimated 100 rounds were shot in the air. The shots also punctured the windows of three passing cars. Some officers heard bullets whiz past. Four people were arrested.

"This thing didn't start out as a racial issue," Dicker said.

"It should stay that way. If Willie Gore has a grievance, he should take it to the courts." On Sunday, fire gutted a discount furniture store owned by Winston Gore, who is white. The day before, Gore's son, Eddie, told marchers they were disrupting downtown business.

Two members of the concerned citizens group have been charged with setting the fire, Dicker said.

George Bryant, the city council's lone black member, said the unrest was triggered by Gore's firing, not by an underlying problem.

"This was just one isolated incident," he said. "It troubles me tremendously. We've had good relations among all people. Now we're in a mess. Things are happening that don't normally happen."

And it's not something we can be awfully proud of."

## Camerawoman Who Filmed Denny Beating Avoids Limelight

LOS ANGELES (AP) - George Holliday was thrust into the spotlight when he videotaped the 1991 police beating of motorist Rodney King. Marika Tur taped Reginald Denny's beating but shuns publicity.

Ms. Tur's footage of the April 29, 1992, beating during the Los Angeles riots, shot from a helicopter, won a local Emmy for spot news coverage, but her name doesn't appear on the award. Instead, the trophy went to her husband, Bob, a broadcast journalist and pilot of the helicopter.

"Marika's name should be on it," Tur said. "It's her trophy." But Ms. Tur, 38, prefers to keep it that way.

"I'm proud of the video I shot and the people who I care about know that I shot it. I don't miss the notoriety," she said.

The Tur's run Los Angeles News Service.

She was subpoenaed by prosecutors in the just-concluded trial of two men accused of trying to kill Denny.

## After Being Set Afire Burn Victim Talks of Healing, Not Vengeance

By James Martinez  
WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) - Instead of vengeance, Christopher Wilson spoke softly of healing after the two attackers who set him afire were sentenced to life behind bars.

"I just want to get on with my life," Wilson told a crush of reporters after Friday's sentencing. "Justice was done." Mark Kohut, 27, and Charles Rourk, 33, both white, each received life terms for the racially motivated attempted murder that left the black New York City stock brokerage clerk with burns over nearly 40 percent of his body.

Circuit Judge Donald Evans called the torching one of the most "senseless and atrocious" crimes he had ever seen and sentenced Kohut to an additional 27 years and Rourk, who carried the gun, to 40 more years for kidnapping and robbery. He also granted a defense request to keep both men isolated in prison because of the nature of their crimes.

"We're going to prison as convicted racists," Kohut told a Florida News Network reporter for broadcast late Friday. "The prison population is 85 percent black. Now, I don't want to die, I sure don't want to be hurt for something I didn't do." Wilson had asked

the judge to give his attackers "what the law allows" and testified about the constant pain that keeps him from working, the nightmares that keep him from sleeping and the painful memories that keep him from trusting.

"Doctors say one day I will get back to normal. I don't know," Wilson testified Friday. "I just have to keep trying and forget what happened to me."

"I wish it just never happened. It happened for no reason at all." The two day-laborers from Lakeland were convicted last month of abducting Wilson on New Year's Day outside a suburban Tampa shopping plaza and forcing him to drive to a remote field. There they sloshed him with gasoline from a plastic jug, insulted him with racial slurs and laughed as they set him on fire.

Emotional testimony from the soft-spoken 32-year-old was credited with winning the convictions despite a prosecution hampered by the mid-trial walkout of its lead prosecutor and a lack of any physical evidence tying the men to the crime.

Kohut and Rourk showed no emotion Friday as they listened to the sentence, but Kohut had burst into

(Continued On Page 2)

~ ELECTION ~  
**VOTE! TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1993**  
6:30 A.M. TO 7:30 P.M.  
VOTE FOR CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR ~ WARDS 1 ~ 3 ~ 5  
~ AT-LARGE POSITIONS ~ BOND REFERENDUMS!

**COME ONE! COME ALL!**  
**"GET-OUT-THE-VOTE" MASS RALLY**  
5:00 P.M. - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1993  
GREATER ST. PAUL BAPTIST CHURCH  
1102 JUNIPER STREET

NEED A RIDE? CALL 682-9690 - 683-3006 - 683-1047  
DURHAM COMMITTEE ON THE AFFAIRS OF BLACK PEOPLE

## Dapper Defense Lawyer In Denny Case Took All-Or-Nothing Gamble

By James Anderson  
LOS ANGELES (AP) - With the country watching, Edi M.O. Faal took an all-or-nothing gamble as he defended Damian Williams on charges of trying to kill Reginald Denny.

Faal, confident that prosecutors had failed to prove Williams meant to kill Denny, increased the risk of a life sentence for his client in an attempt to get him acquitted of all serious charges in a move associates say is typical of his bold style.

Faal allowed the judge to tell jurors to convict or acquit Williams of attempted murder, not the lesser charge of assault. The move denied jurors the chance to compromise by acquitting Williams of attempted murder but convicting him of

assault, a much less serious charge.

"This is it," Faal told the jury in his closing argument.

"The stakes are high." Associates say the move is typical of the 38-year-old attorney whose spirited defense of Williams thrust him into the national spotlight.

"I would expect it of him," said Ann Ruth Grant, a criminal defense attorney who used to share an office with Faal in suburban Downey. "He's very dedicated. He's not afraid." Faal inherited a defense in disarray. Williams' first attorney, Dennis Palmieri, was fired during a preliminary hearing last year.

His boss turned out to be a felon who claimed he was a government agent ordered to sabotage the case. Faal quickly restored order and

set about trying to avoid conviction on attempted murder and aggravated mayhem counts, which carry life terms.

Assault, in contrast, carries a six-month sentence; assault with a deadly weapon, up to four years.

The jury on Monday acquitted Williams of aggravated mayhem and found him guilty of the lesser charge of mayhem, with a maximum sentence of eight years. They continued to deliberate on the attempted murder count. Amid the suspense, Faal exuded confidence.

"There is no question that we won this case," he declared Monday, speaking in his richly textured British empire accent.

"With respect to attempted

(Continued On Page 2)

# Civil Rights Fighter Leon Sullivan Sees Dream Realized

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) - The Rev. Leon Sullivan learned about racism when he was 8 years old and a Charleston drugstore refused to let him down to drink his soda.

"The man said, 'Stand on your feet, boy. You can't sit here,'" recalls Sullivan, 70. "And his face, I can still see it now. It was red, very red. I thought I would stand up to that kind of thing my entire life." The retired pastor of Zion Baptist Church in North Philadelphia spent his career in business and in the church fighting for equal rights.

In 1977 he wrote the "Sullivan Principles," guidelines used as a code of ethics for companies doing business in South Africa.

The principles said American companies should be integrated, use fair wages and employment practices and train non-whites to be managers.

Sullivan later said his principles were not enough to dismantle apartheid. Now, he says, things are looking better.

Sullivan could announce that the Sullivan principles had been realized, there will be free elections, that was a great accomplishment. Nothing Gandhi couldn't do," Sullivan said Saturday in Charleston, where he came to give a speech to the Opportunities Industrial Council.

Sullivan also planned to see relatives in the town where his mother owned an elevator and his stepfather was a janitor.

Sullivan left Charleston after attending West Virginia State College, where he had basketball and football scholarships, and went to New York when he was 20. By then, he had become a minister and had two years experience as a pastor.

He became involved in the civil rights movement in the 1950s and helped organize black boycotts of uncooperative businesses. He led marches on Washington and persuaded major American corporations to hire and promote blacks and to invest in black communities.

Sullivan founded the national job training program in Philadelphia in the 1950s with private funds. The agency now relies heavily on federal grants, but the private sector must do more than it does.

In the 1970s, he turned his energies to South Africa. As the first black board member of General Motors, Sullivan used his influence to persuade American companies there to work to end apartheid.

Many did. He stepped up the effort in 1985, setting a two-year deadline for blacks to vote. When the deadline failed, he called for multinational companies to pull out.

Others argued the noise on the South African economy would hurt blacks. But Sullivan persevered.

"In 1987, I took a risk. What would happen if the companies left? But I thought, it was either things would get worse and change, or things would get worse and not change," he said.

His risk paid off. A multiracial vote is set for April 27, 1994.

Many blacks and white have been killed as the country moves away from white rule. Sullivan expected violence.

"Whenever countries emerge anywhere, they run into violence," he said. "I'm a minister, and I'm part of the non-violent tradition. I think things can be achieved without violence." But Sullivan said he also is a realist and a pragmatist. As with the embargo, the end may justify the means, he said.

During the summer, Sullivan met with African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela in Philadelphia. Mandela asked him to encourage countries to return to South Africa.

The companies will be returning to factories they closed or sold, and will have to compete with companies from around the world which ignored the boycott, Sullivan said.

The region is rich in mineral deposits, including gold, silver and platinum.