

# Wizard comes to trial

### Justice may finally be served in Dahmer killing

By TIMOTHY R. BROWN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — Mississippi confronted one of the ugliest episodes from its segregationist past Monday, putting a former Klansman on trial for the fifth time on charges of ordering a 1966 firebombing that killed a Civil Rights leader.

Samuel H. Bowers Jr., a 73-year-old former imperial wizard of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, is charged with murder and arson in the death of Vernon Dahmer, who prosecutors say was killed for helping blacks register to vote.

"It's time for justice to be done," District Attorney Lindsay Carter said as he walked to the courthouse.

By Monday night, a jury of six whites, five blacks and one Asian was chosen. The panel was selected from about 400 potential jurors, called from voter registration records.

Bowers was tried by three state juries and one federal jury in the late 1960s, but each one deadlocked.

He eventually served six years in prison for one of the most notorious crimes of the civil rights era: the 1964 "Mississippi Burning" slayings of three civil rights workers — Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner and James Chaney.

In Mississippi's first latter-day attempt to convict a white man for crimes against blacks during the 1960s, Byron De La Beckwith was found guilty in 1994 in the 1963 assassination of NAACP leader Medgar Evers.

Like the De La Beckwith trial, the Bowers case will dredge up Mississippi's segregationist past, when blacks who dared to challenge white control were killed with impunity.

"Just the fact that the state is pushing these trials is very good. It means a change has taken place in the official climate of the state," said Charles Sallis, a college history professor who co-wrote a Mississippi textbook on the civil rights struggles of the 1960s.

The trial, and possibly future ones, "will go a long way to countering the negative image Mississippi has," Sallis said.

Four Klansmen were convicted in Dahmer's murder, but Bowers went free. For the killings of the three civil rights workers, Bowers and six others were convicted on federal charges in 1970. He was released in 1976.

Prosecutors have said Bowers and fellow Klansmen were upset after Dahmer (pronounced DAY-mer) announced that blacks could pay their poll tax at his grocery store. The tax, since outlawed by the federal Voting Rights Act, was designed to discourage blacks from voting.

The firebombing of Dahmer's home and store reportedly had been planned for at least three months in advance, including a "dry run."

Citing new evidence and under renewed pressure to reopen the long-dormant Dahmer case, state and Forrest County prosecutors revived an old indictment against Bowers, Charles Noble and former Klansman Deavours Nix.

Noble is charged with murder and arson, Nix with arson. Trial dates for Noble and Nix have been not been set. All three say they are innocent.

"It's certainly never too late for people to have justice," said Bea Branch, former Mississippi president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "How can the Dahmer family go on with their life until somebody is brought to justice for what they did to this husband and father?"

While defense attorneys claim that too many years have passed since the original trials and that memories have faded, Branch said: "These people who say it's been too long need to put themselves in the Dahmer family's shoes and see how they would feel. Would they think time has anything to do with it, with bringing justice for what was done to their loved ones?"

# African continent an easy target



The injured are helped to an ambulance after an explosion ripped apart a building and heavily damaged the U.S. Embassy in downtown Nairobi. More than 40 were killed in the bombing which observers say could mark the beginning of more bloody terrorism in African nations.

By JUDITH ACHIENG and LEWIS MACHIPISA  
Special to THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

NAIROBI, Kenya — Africa's weak security is increasingly rendering the continent a much easier target for international terrorism, African analysts say.

"The intensity of terrorism is shifting from Europe and America toward Africa where there are still many weak points," Okoye Obosi of the University of Nairobi says, commenting on the Aug. 7 bomb attacks on the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Obosi, a lecturer at the university's department of government, says recent cases in Algeria, Egypt and the recent twin bombings in the East African capitals, are indications of a new trend of international terrorism making its way into Africa from Europe and America.

"Nairobi and Dar es Salaam were weak points where terrorists knew they could cause the greatest

damage," he says. "They (terrorists) are trying to look for other places apart from Europe and America, which recently have tended to be forewarned and prepared."

The two bombs estimated to weigh six tons each, exploded simultaneously near U.S. embassies in the two countries, killing at least 210 and injuring 5,000 people.

There is little information about the reasons behind the attacks, although fingers are pointed toward Islamic fundamentalists.

One suspect of Arab origin has been arrested in Kenya, while in Tanzania, authorities have reportedly detained 12 people in connection with the attack. Their identities have not been revealed.

In Kenya, anti-Arab and anti-Islamic sentiments are beginning to emerge. In buses, bars and the marketplace in Nairobi, discussions are centered on the attack with some people calling for stiff

action against Arabs and Muslims.

Muslims account for about 10 percent of Kenya's approximately 30 million people, while in the United Republic of Tanzania, Muslims are 35 percent of the population of more than 29 million.

"These cowards should be tracked and dealt with severely," said one Nairobi resident.

"If the U.S. was the target, it was stupid of them; because Kenya was the loser at the end of the day," added another man.

Norman Nyazema, of the University of Zimbabwe, says Africa should not become the new playground for terrorism against the United States.

"I can't understand the wanton destruction of human life. We are so poor here in Africa. We are battling with HIV/AIDS and the next thing we don't want is some people coming to fight their wars on our continent. They should take their wars somewhere else," says Nyazema.

The United States and Israel

have indicated that the bombings could be linked to a wealthy Saudi Arabian businessman, Osama bin Laden, who has threatened a holy war against U.S.

Zimbabwean political analyst Thomas Deve, also believes Islamic fundamentalists are behind the bombings. "Naturally these guys (Muslim fundamentalists) are behind it," says Deve. "Kenya and Tanzania were considered soft targets..."

"The problem lies at the doorstep of the countries concerned. Tanzania and Kenya have a strong presence of Muslims, so the involvement of locals cannot be ruled out. The attack would not have been possible without local assistance," Deve adds.

"Muslims are quite strong in Kenya and Tanzania. There is a possibility that the attacks could have been engineered from the other end (the U.S.). This could be a way of pitting Muslims against Christians," another observer, who declined to be named, said.

But Deve believes the attacks may not necessarily lead to a worsening of Muslim Arab/Christian relations in Africa. "It's hegemony politics inspired by Islamic values. What is happening is Muslims using force to drive out Americans, just like the Americans do to the Arabs."

"These two countries were targeted for not doing enough to be anti-American like some of the Muslim countries are, so I don't think Christians will see it as a clash of religions. The two do business together."

"The message has been sent to the U.S. that they need to be careful when dealing with other countries. The fact that those responsible could target and cause such damage, shows that we are headed for tougher times," the Zimbabwean political analyst said.

Obosi of Kenya says while countries like the United States may take a hard line to bring the culprits to justice, there are diplomatic issues at stake in tracking down those who were behind the bombings.

"Handling Arabs is a risky business. They are unpredictable. It needs tact and diplomacy," he says, cautioning that no one is really sure that the actual sponsors of the bomb attacks were Muslim Arabs.

The Chronicle's e-mail address is: wschron@netunlimited.net

Triad Pest Control

beware!!!

Termite Season



is Coming...

Call

Triad Pest Control  
1535 S. Martin Luther King Drive  
Winston-Salem, NC  
788-3020

Carmike's

4.50 UNTIL 6 PM • NO COUPONS  
Wyansboro 12 765-5875

1001 HANES MALL BLVD.  
DEAD MAN ON CAMPUS (R) ..... 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30  
RETURN TO PARADISE (R) ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30  
EVER AFTER (PG-13) ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30  
THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG-13) ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30  
SNAKE EYES (R) ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30  
LETHAL WEAPON 4 (PG-13) ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30  
THE NEGOTIATOR (R) ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30

Presented in 11-X  
WRONGFULLY ACCUSED (PG-13) ..... 1:15 3:15 5:15 7:15 9:15  
SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R) ..... 1:30 4:15 7:30  
BLADE (R) ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30  
HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (R) ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30  
SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R) ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30  
SUN-TITLE ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30  
THE AVENGERS (PG-13) ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30

Carmike 10 922-1301

2848 REYNOLDS RD.  
DEAD MAN ON CAMPUS (R) ..... 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30  
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (R) ..... 1:30 4:15 7:15 9:15  
DOCTOR DOLITTLE (PG-13) ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30  
RETURN TO PARADISE (R) ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30  
DANCE WITH ME (PG) ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30  
ARMAGEDDON (PG-13) ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30  
ALIBI 2 - GOLDEN RECEIVER (PG-13) ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30  
PARENT TRAP (PG) ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30  
WRONGFULLY ACCUSED (PG-13) ..... 1:15 3:15 5:15 7:15 9:15

Presented in 11-X  
SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R) ..... 1:30 4:15 7:30 9:30  
SUN-TITLE ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30  
HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (PG-13) ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30

Marketplace 6 727-1787

2808 PINEHURST CIRCLE, PINEHURST  
HALLOWEEN (R) ..... 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30  
SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R) ..... 1:30 4:15 7:15 9:15  
SUN-TITLE ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30  
SNAKE EYES (R) ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30  
ALIBI 2 - GOLDEN RECEIVER (R) ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30  
THE AVENGERS (PG) ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30  
HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (R) ..... 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

# 1 in 5 teens carries weapons or drives after drinking

By KAREN HILL  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — Black and Hispanic high school students are more likely than their white counterparts to be a threat to others by carrying weapons or fighting, while whites are more likely to hurt themselves by driving after drinking alcohol, a government study found.

The similarities among teenagers were equally stark: About one in three are involved in fights. Almost one of every five carries a weapon or drives after drinking. Almost one in 10 attempts suicide.

The findings, based on a survey of 16,262 high school students nationwide, were released last Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"The lesson here is that too many youth continue to practice behaviors that put them at risk — for injury or death, now and chronic disease later," said Laura Kann, a chief researcher for the CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

The 1997 survey looked at behavior leading to injury, and surveyed teen-agers' use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs, and their sexual and physical activity.

Hispanic high school students were most likely to arm themselves, with 23 percent carrying a gun, knife or club, compared with 22 percent of blacks and 17 percent of whites.

Blacks were most likely to have fought in the previous year, at 43 percent vs. 41 percent for Hispanics and 34 percent for whites.

Whites were most likely to

have drunk five or more glasses of alcohol on at least one of the 30 days before the survey; 38 percent of whites said they had, compared with 35 percent of Hispanics and 16 percent of blacks.

Blacks were least likely to mix alcohol and driving. Nine percent drove after drinking, compared with 19 percent of whites and 18 percent of Hispanics.

The differences could be "a marker for socioeconomic status" and urban living, Kann said.

White teen-agers were nearly twice as likely as Hispanics to smoke frequently or chew tobacco, with 20 percent of whites saying they smoked frequently, compared with 11 percent of Hispanics. Among blacks, 7 percent smoked frequently and 2 percent chewed tobacco.

Six percent of Hispanics had used cocaine in the 30 days before the survey, double the number of whites and nine times the number of blacks. Hispanics also were more likely to have used steroids or injected drugs.

Nineteen percent of whites and 18 percent of Hispanics had tried other illegal drugs such as LSD, PCP, Ecstasy, mushrooms, speed, methamphetamines or heroin. Only 3 percent of blacks had.

Asked whether they ate the minimum five daily servings of fruits and vegetables recommended for good health, only 29 percent of whites and 28 percent of Hispanics and blacks said they did.

Teen-agers at 151 schools filled out confidential questionnaires for the survey. The margin of error, which differed for each question, was as high as 4 percentage points.

## Carolina Mirror Factory Store

An Enterprise of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, NC

# Summer Sale

### 30% OFF MIRRORS

Reg. Priced Items

### 20% OFF MIRRORS

Reg. Priced Items

**NEW MINI MIRRORS**  
\$8<sup>99</sup> - \$9<sup>99</sup>

**Selection of Prints framed & Matted**  
\$9<sup>99</sup> - \$49<sup>99</sup> All Sizes

5046 Styers Ferry Road • Lewisville, NC 27023  
Monday - Saturday 9-5

712-8152

# Subscribe today.....722-8624