

## RALLY

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or education.

A caravan will start at Southern Oregon State College Friday morning, joining students at the University, Oregon State and Western Oregon State College on to Salem. Cars and busses will leave at 10:30 a.m. from 13th Avenue and University Street.

Rally organizers are also asking for volunteer drivers, and parking will be available before the rally on 13th and University.

Students can become active in other events to win tax reform in Oregon. The Heart of Oregon Coalition is a grass-roots network to educate the public on Oregon's system of funding and services. Call 581-1505 to help.



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## TRIAL

Continued from Page 1

They backed off as helmeted officers blocked the doors. One man was arrested and objects were thrown at officers.

Television news cameras also showed sporadic acts of violence and looting throughout the south side. Small fires could be seen burning.

The jury acquitted the officers of the more serious assault charge and secondary charges, but it deadlocked on one count of excessive force against Officer Laurence Powell.

A hearing was scheduled for May 15 to decide whether to prosecute Powell on the undecided count.

The jury said it cast four guilty votes and eight innocent votes in the excessive-force count against Powell after three days of deliberation on that count alone.

The officers could have faced four to seven years in prison if convicted on all charges.

After the verdict, the defendants hugged relatives, shook hands with attorneys and slapped each other on the back.

Besides Powell, 29, those acquitted were Sgt. Stacey Koon, 41, and officers Timothy Wind, 32, and Theodore Briseno, 39.

"Very happy," Powell told reporters. "It's hard to be surprised when you felt that way ... I know I'm innocent, and that was the verdict."

Wind was overcome with emotion, saying he had "too many feelings - I can't express them." Koon told reporters "you can read about it in the

book" and left. Briseno did not talk to reporters.

"I was shocked and disappointed," said the prosecutor, Deputy District Attorney Terry White. "That's the way the system works."

The jury - which included an Asian, a Hispanic and no blacks - left in a sheriff's bus without talking to reporters.

"This experience has been a very difficult and stressful one, one which we have agonized over a great deal. We feel we have done the best job we could have possibly done," the jury said in a statement.

The trial lasted nearly three months in a case that strained race relations in Los Angeles and forced the resignation announcement of Gates.

All four had been charged with assault with a deadly weapon and excessive force by an officer under color of authority. Koon and Powell also were charged with filing a false police report, and Koon with being an accessory after the fact.

Wind, a probationary officer, was fired. The others, who were suspended, now face future police department hearings to determine if they will face any further discipline, including dismissal.

The acquittals raised fears of unrest in the wake of the verdicts. Police had earmarked \$1 million in overtime in case acquittals sparked riots.

The national leader of the NAACP, Benjamin Hooks, also denounced the verdict as "outrageous, a mockery of justice," but he appealed to blacks that "the decision be met with calmness."

The jury heard from 54 witnesses whose recollections of the violent night of March 3, 1991, often conflicted.

## PROTESTS

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Bradley, Police Chief Daryl F. Gates, and leaders of the black community, appealed for calm.

In a scene that was captured by news helicopters and broadcast live, a truck driver was pulled from his tractor-trailer rig, and beaten and clubbed with a tire iron as looters went through a nearby liquor store, gas station and auto parts store.

Men who beat the truck driver raised their hands and smiled.

The man's pockets were picked, and he was kicked before he was able to stumble to his truck and drive away.

In another attack, about 25 people stood around as looters pulled a man from a vehicle at the intersection, beat and kicked him.

The man staggered about in the street, his head bloody,

looking for help or a way out. After several minutes, two good Samaritans emerged and lead the man away.

A motorcyclist was seen shooting a shotgun at passing cars at the intersection, and at least one other person was wounded.

At Parker Center, the downtown police headquarters, demonstrators demanding Gates' resignation threw rocks and uprooted plants.

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