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Church Bombing Klansman Convicted



(Above) The four girls killed in a 1963 Birmingham church bombing.

(Left) Former Ku Klux Klansman Bobby Frank Cherry.

(AP) — In the final trial stemming from one of the most notorious crimes of the civil rights era, a Birmingham, Ala. jury convicted former Ku Klux Klansman Bobby Frank Cherry of murder in a church bombing that killed four black girls in 1963.

The 71-year-old Cherry faces an automatic sentence of life in prison.

The jury of nine whites and

three blacks deliberated less than a day before returning the verdict May 22 after a weeklong trial marked by witnesses with admittedly faded memories and haunting images from the nation's segregationist past.

Cherry was accused of being part of a group of Klansmen who plotted to bomb Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, a downtown rallying spot for protests against

racial segregation in 1963.

He was the last suspect to be tried in the blast. In the nearly four decades since it jolted the nation's conscience on a Sunday morning, two other ex-Klansmen were convicted and a fourth died without being charged.

The dynamite bomb killed 11-year-old Denise McNair and three 14-year-olds: Addie Mae Collins, *continued* ▼ on page A3

Rapist Sent Gets 31 Years

(AP) — A man was sentenced to 31 years in prison last week for attacks against six prostitutes.

Anthony Humphreys, 39, was indicted on attempted murder, kidnapping and sexual assault charges after he picked up a prostitute in Portland on May 13 last year. He took her to a remote area in Estacada, where he sexually assaulted her and cut her with a knife.

Police said Humphreys used the same method against other victims. He'd pick the women up in a red truck, drive them to a secluded area, claim he was in the Mafia and threaten to kill them with a knife or gun if they didn't comply with his demands. Then he'd rob and repeatedly sexually assault them, said Portland police Detective Sue Fachini.

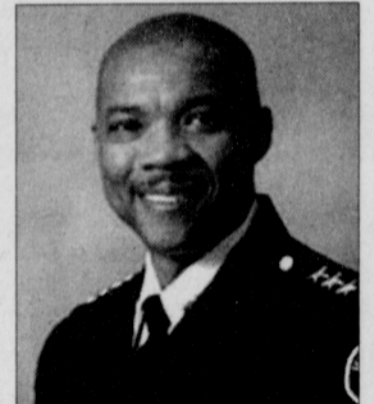


Anthony Humphreys

"For hours, he would have his way with them," she said.

Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Frank Ravelo said Humphreys had shown no remorse for his "incredible streak" of victimizing women.

Vancouver Police Chief Quits



Stan Reeves

Vancouver is looking for a new police chief after the resignation of its African American commander.

Last week, Chief Stan Reeves decided to step down from his position immediately, citing family and health reasons.

Reeves has served as Vancouver's chief since October 2000.

Deputy Chief Brian Martinek has been named acting police chief until a replacement has been hired.

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