

# POLICE

## Race Riot Murder Defendant Enters Plea

BY MARC C LEVY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

YORK, Pa. (AP) — A white man charged in the 1969 murder of a young black woman during the city's convulsive race riots pleaded no contest Wednesday to attempted murder and conspiracy.

Ezra T. Slick, 53, entered the plea over his role in the slaying of Lillie Belle Allen, of Aiken, S.C., at the hands of a white mob girded for war with blacks. His case was the only one pending in Allen's slaying.

Speaking with the aid of an artificial voice box, Slick told York County Common Pleas Judge John C. Uhler he thought he would be convicted if he went to trial.

Slick's lawyer, Rick Robinson, said Slick entered a no-contest plea because he was too intoxicated to remember clearly what happened the night Allen was gunned down.

Uhler accepted Slick's plea and scheduled sentencing for May 28. Slick faces up to nine years in prison.

In a 2002 interview with police, Slick said he fired a handgun four times in the direction of the car in which Allen and four family mem-

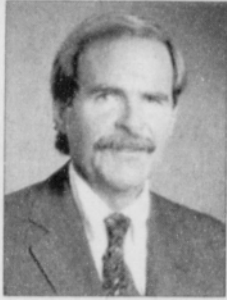
ber in 1969, was acquitted by the same jury. He had been accused of inciting whites to violence against blacks and supplying ammunition to white gang members.

The riots raged for 10 days, leaving two dead, dozens wounded and whole blocks burned before 400 state troopers and national guards with tanks arrived to quell the violence.

Allen, 27, was gunned down on the fifth day of rioting.

Three days before, a rookie white policeman, Henry Schaad, was fatally shot during the riots while he was patrolling a black neighborhood in an armored police truck. Schaad, 22, died two weeks later.

Two black men, Leon Wright and Stephen Freeland, were convicted last month of second-degree murder in that slaying and were scheduled to be sentenced this month.



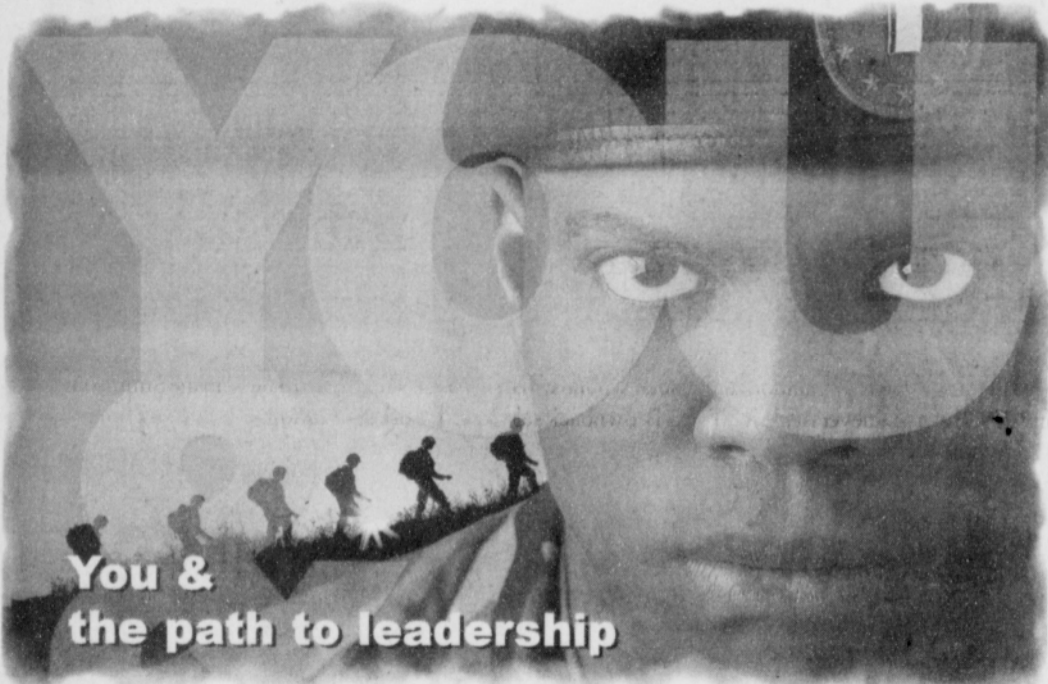
*The primary culprits in this have brought to justice.*

—prosecutor Thomas Kelley

bers were riding, according to police affidavits.

Of the 10 white men charged with murder in the case, six others pleaded guilty to lesser charges. Two men, Robert Messersmith and Gregory Neff, were convicted in October of second-degree murder and sentenced in December.

Former Mayor Charlie Robertson, who was a police of-



You have the desire and the drive to make it to the top. Become a leader and shape your own future in the Army National Guard. Most Guard members serve one weekend a month and two weeks a year, leaving plenty of time for college or a career. Learn the confidence and skill to lead any team and earn money for college at the same time. In the Army National Guard, YOU CAN.



1-800-GO-GUARD

www.1-800-GO-GUARD.com



Buy whatever you want.



MEGA MILLIONS. The only and only... Must be 18 to purchase or redeem. Be a smart player.



## CRIME STOPPERS

(503) 823-HELP 111 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204

### Clackamas Cat Burglar Alludes Capture

Detectives are seeking the public's help in apprehending a cat burglar who is believed responsible for at least 20 night-time burglaries in a southeast Portland apartment community which includes Watermark Square, Clackamas Village, Overlook and Easton Ridge between Dec. 20 and March 24.

This suspect is targeting both first and second level apartments. He enters unlocked, sliding glass doors or unlocked, front doors between midnight and 5 a.m. He steals purses, removes cash and disposes the purse in area dumpsters.

Clackamas Sheriff's Office warns that residents should be sure to lock all doors and windows, even to upper level apartments. An interior light should be kept on to deter potential burglars.

A victim who interrupted one burglary was able to give enough information for a forensic sketch. The suspect is described as a white male, 15-20 years of age, 5 foot-7 to



A forensic sketch shows what the Clackamas cat burglar may look like. A witness described his as a white male, 15-20 years of age, 5'07-09", with a slender build, no facial hair, pale complexion with a youthful appearance.

9 inches tall, slender build, no facial hair, pale complexion and with a youthful appearance.

Police said he was wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt pulled up over his head.

### Man Wanted for Multiple Robberies

Suspect targets businesses that cater to women or have women working alone

Portland Police, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for help in identifying and apprehending an armed robbery suspect targets small businesses such as tanning parlors, beauty salons, clothing boutiques and others that traditionally cater to female clientele and often have a female employee working alone.

The suspect appears to be responsible for more than a dozen robberies over the past year. The Beaverton Police, Gresham Police and the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office have also taken similar robbery reports.

The suspect usually enters a business either just before it closes or just after it opens. In all robberies the suspect displays or simulates a handgun.

The latest robbery occurred on Wednesday, March 12 at approximately 8:35 p.m. at a tanning salon in the 200 block of Northwest 21st Avenue. In this case there were two female employees and the suspect disabled their

telephone.

The suspect, who appears to be in his mid to late 20s, is described as being either Hispanic, with a very light complexion, or possibly of Hispanic/Caucasian mix. He is roughly 5 foot 4 inches to 5 foot 8 inches tall with a "stocky" build and a noticeable "beer belly."

Police say he has "almond-shaped" eyes and extremely smooth looking skin that has been described as almost "baby like."

At the time of the latest robbery, he had scratches on the right side of his face that the victims described as so fresh they appeared to still be bleeding.

Crime stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, which leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony crime. Call Crime Stoppers at 503-823-HELP.

### Springfield Man Charged for Hate Crime

Woman of Sikh faith felt she was targeted because of her appearance

(AP) — A man in Springfield near Eugene was charged with a hate crime for gesturing at a woman wearing a turban.

Jeffrey Marc Cohen, 28, was charged last week with harassment after he pulled up next to the woman of Sikh faith on Monday, approached her car and pointed both in-

dex fingers at her, pretending to shoot, said Pam Olshanski, police spokeswoman.

Cohen said he was merely giving a "what's up" gesture, Police Chief Thad Buchanan said, but the woman felt her appearance precipitated the attack.

"Obviously, she was terrified," he said.

Kent Mortimore, chief deputy district attorney, said bias crimes are typically prosecuted as intimidation, with sentences of up to 30

*Obviously, she was terrified*

— Springfield Police Chief Thad Buchanan in the case of a man who allegedly approached the car of a woman in a turban, pointed his fingers and pretended to shoot

months.

"As soon as the Eugene police department provides us with the details of the investigation, we're going to see whether there's enough evidence to support a prosecution," Mortimore said. "If there is, we'll go for it."

### Drivers Ticketed for Honking at Protesters

Honking for anything other than an emergency is illegal

(AP) — Four motorists who honked in support of an anti-war vigil across from City Hall were ticketed at least \$77 apiece, police said.

Under Oregon law, honking for anything other than an emergency is illegal. Honking at the camp is considered "excessive noise," said traffic Cmdr. Mike Garvey.

Outraged residents of the peace camp, a 14-day-old vigil of lawn chairs, sleeping bags and signs, said they see the ticketing as selective enforcement of a law that almost everyone breaks.

Police haven't ticketed motorists honking at "support the troops" and pro-war rallies, but that doesn't mean officers are taking sides, Garvey said.

Shortly after the media began inquiries about the tickets, police ended the practice.

### Court Upholds Cross Burning Ban

(AP) — The Supreme Court ruled Monday that states can punish Ku Klux Klansmen and others who set crosses afire, finding that a burning cross is an instrument of racial terror so threatening that it overshadows free speech concerns.

The court voted 6-3 to uphold a 50-year-old Virginia law making it a crime to burn a cross as an act of intimidation. A lower court had ruled the law muzzled free speech.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, writing for the majority, said the protections afforded by the First Amendment "are not absolute" and do not necessarily shield cross burners.

Justice Clarence Thomas, the court's only black member and a law-and-order conservative who frequently departs from civil rights orthodoxy, wrote separately that "those who hate cannot terrorize and intimidate to make their point."

The ruling seemed at odds with past Supreme Court decisions that protected the constitutional speech rights of unsavory or unpopular groups and causes, including flag burners, pornographers and strippers, and people who use swastikas or crosses in demonstrations.

"This is an emotional topic for everyone," said New York free speech lawyer Floyd Abrams, noting the cross-burning ties to racist violence. "The ruling is nonetheless a defeat for First Amendment principles."

Virginia Attorney General Jerry W. Kilgore predicted the decision would prompt more states to outlaw cross burning.

"A burning cross is a symbol like no other. It doesn't just say we don't like you. The message is we are going to do you harm," Kilgore said.

Thomas grew up in then-segregated Georgia. During arguments in the case, he spoke of a century of violence and terror at the hands of the Klan.