

Church Gunman Hated Liberal Causes

Usher shielded others from bullets

(AP)—An unemployed man accused of opening fire with a shotgun and killing two people at a Unitarian church in Tennessee apparently targeted the congregation out of hatred for its liberal social policies, police said Monday.

Knoxville, Tenn. Police Chief Sterling Owen IV said a letter had been recovered from the SUV of Jim D. Adkisson, 58, by investigators seeking clues about the motive behind the attack. Authorities said he was an apparent stranger to the Tennessee church where gunfire punctuated a children's performance based on the musical "Annie." Two people were killed and seven wounded Sunday.



Jim Adkisson

"It appears that what brought him to this horrible event was his lack of being able to obtain a job, his frustration over that and his stated hatred of the liberal movement," Owen said at a news conference.

No children were hurt, but five people suffered serious or critical injuries. A burly usher who died is being hailed as a hero for shielding others from gunfire Sunday at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Witnesses said

some of the men present tackled a man who pulled a shotgun from a guitar case before shooting.

Adkisson, who is charged with first-degree murder, remained jailed Tuesday under "close ob-



servation" on \$1 million bail, authorities said.

The Unitarian-Universalist church promotes progressive social work, including advocacy of women and gay rights. The Knoxville congregation also has

Adkisson, who neighbors said had previously worked as a truck driver, did not expect to leave the church alive. He added the man also reported having no family or next-of-kin.

"He certainly intended to take

He certainly intended to take a lot of casualties. He had 76 rounds with him.

— Sterling Owen IV, Knoxville, Tenn. Police Chief

provided sanctuary for political refugees, fed the homeless and founded a chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, according to its Web site.

Owen said the letter indicated Members of the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church hug in the parking lot Monday, one day after a gunman opened fire at a youth performance at the church.

a lot of casualties," Owen said. "He had 76 rounds with him."

Although the outlook and beliefs of individual Unitarian churches can vary dramatically, most congregations retain a deep commitment to social justice, which has led them to embrace liberal positions over the years. Unitarians were among the first to ordain women, support the civil rights movement and back gay rights.

Grocery Bag Fee Proposed in Portland

Encouraging reusable cloth bags

(AP)—City Commissioner Sam Adams is pushing a plan to impose a fee on grocery bags. Paper or plastic.

Adams, who hopes to have the fee in place before he takes over as mayor next year, said he's discussing that the City Council vote for a fee ranging anywhere from a nickel to 20 cents per bag.

"It's a simple behavioral change that we have to ingrain in ourselves," Adams said.

Only 52 percent of paper bags and 5 percent of plastic

grocery bags given out in the United States are recycled, said Stephanie Barger, executive director of the Earth Resources Foundation in Costa Mesa, Calif.

And if even people do a better job of recycling, both types present environmental problems. Plastic bags are made from oil and don't biodegrade. Paper bags easily decompose, but it takes trees to make them.

Part of the money raised from the fee would help pro-

vide free cloth bags to poor people. Some would go toward city recycling programs and some would go to stores for administration and programs to educate consumers about the fee.

Adams acknowledged that the switch would represent a lifestyle change for shoppers, who would have to remember to bring their own bags or pressure the cashier to jam the groceries into the fewest bags possible — risking smushed bread.

Portland, however, is not alone on this issue. In fact, it's

behind other West Coast cities.

In March 2007, San Francisco became the first city to ban the use of plastic shopping bags.

Los Angeles, meanwhile, voted Tuesday to ban plastic shopping bags from stores beginning in July 2010. Shoppers can either bring their own bags or pay 25 cents for a paper or biodegradable bag.

And on Monday, the Seattle City Council approved on a proposal to implement a 20-cent fee at grocery stores on plastic bags.

Black War Veteran Dies after Apology

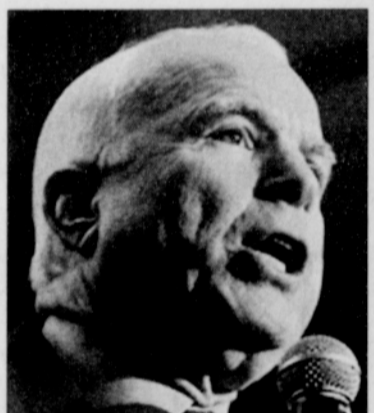
(AP)—An 83-year-old black World War II veteran died hours after receiving a long awaited honorable discharge from the Army.

Samuel Snow of Leesburg, Fla., was one of 28 black soldiers falsely convicted of starting a riot that led to the lynching of an Italian prisoner of war at an Army base in Seattle during World War II.

The Army formally apologized Saturday. The soldiers' convic-

tions were set aside, their dishonorable discharges were changed to honorable discharges and they and their survivors were awarded back pay for their time in the brig.

Snow had planned to attend the ceremony but wound up in a Seattle hospital instead because of a problem with his pacemaker. He died early Sunday morning, hours after his son told him about the apology ceremony.



John McCain



Barack Obama

Candidates Tackle Urban Agenda

Senators John McCain and Barack Obama will speak later this week at the National Urban League conference in Orlando, Fla.

Both presumptive presidential nominees have accepted the invitation to share their individual plans for an urban agenda, and to comment on the National Urban League's Opportunity Compact, the organization's plan to increase opportunities for underrepresented popula-

tions.

"We look forward to having both Senator Obama and Senator McCain at our annual conference to present their plans to help bridge the economic divide between communities of color and mainstream America," said Marc Morial, National Urban League president and chief executive officer.

McCain is scheduled to speak on Friday, Aug. 1, and Obama is slated for Saturday, Aug. 2.

Seeking Donations

An account was opened today by Johnnie B. Williams as a donation account to help with the funeral costs for his grandson Johnnie J. Williams. Reference the Donation Account for Johnnie J Williams at any branch of US Bank.

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