

Charge Activists, Klansmen With Rioting

By National Black News Service

GREENSBORO, N.C. — (NBNS) — Six anti-Klan activists and two Klansmen were indicted May 3 on felony riot charges stemming from the KKK/Nazi murder of five members of the Communist Workers Party (CWP) here last Nov. 3.

Five of the anti-Klan activities were CWP members or supporters. The

sixth was a Black community activist. Released on bond, they are to be arraigned May 19.

The Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice (SOC) has charged that the indictments against the anti-Klan demonstrators are "a disgrace to Greensboro, to North Carolina, to the nation and to humanity."

The charges were made in communications sent to Greensboro District Attorney Michael Schlosser and Governor James Hunt by Rev. Ben Chavis and Ann Braden, co-chairpersons of SOC.

"We are outraged anew at the efforts of officials to blame the victims for the crime that occurred in Greensboro last November 3," Braden and Chavis said.

Reverend Ben Chavis spent almost four years in North Carolina prisons as the leader of the Wilmington, 10. The messages to Schlosser and Hunt said there are "startling parallels" between the case of the Wilmington 10 and the Greensboro situation.

"In Wilmington too the Klan and other racist groups shot at innocent people, and criminal

charges were brought against the victims," Braden and Chavis said.

The felony "engaging in a riot" charges against CWP members Nelson N. Johnson and Rand R. Manzella were levied days before they were to go on trial for the lesser misdemeanor charge, "inciting to riot."

It has been estimated that between 35 and 40 men took part in the

caravan that attacked the November 3 demonstration against the Klan. Only 16, including the two indicted this month, have been charged in connection with the killings. The trial of the 14 Klan/Nazi members indicted on murder and riot charges is due to begin June 6, but only six of the defendants will be tried at that time. Conspiracy to murder charges were dropped against the 14.

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Local Woman Charged In Husband's Murder

Metro Police reported Tuesday that a 29 year old woman was charged with murder after she allegedly shot her husband to death following a family squabble in their apartment.

Mary Sue Johnson, 29, was booked into Clark County Jail on the murder charge shortly after the incident.

Witnesses reported that the couple had been engaged earlier in a loud family fight. Shortly afterwards, they heard shots ring out in the apartment. It was said that the wife entered the door of their apartment after the shooting and appeared somewhat dazed.

Mrs. Johnson then sat outside of the couple's low-income apartment, hysterically moaning and repeating, "I'm tired. I'm tired." Friends nearby unsuccessfully tried to calm her.

John Ray Johnson, 32, 1801 North "J" Street,

was pronounced dead shortly after the 6:30 p.m. shooting with multiple gunshot wounds to the abdomen.

An account was given by one witness who said that Mrs. Johnson recently bought a handgun to defend herself against the husband's alleged beatings. Mrs. Johnson had related to neighbors a number of experiences where she had feared her life.

The woman's mother arrived shortly afterwards and told reporters Johnson had tried to kill her daughter. The mother appeared distraught over the incident and said with some concern, "Now they're going to put all of the kids in the juvenile home."

The couple had five children. Three of the children witnessed the shooting.

Johnson was employed at a local convalescent home.

'Operation Independence' Presents Extravaganza

Marking the 15th anniversary of Operation Independence Day Care Center's graduating festivities, O.I. Director, Mrs. Lubertha Johnson and members of the O.I. Board of Directors will present a "Pink & Blue Graduation Pageant" Sunday, June 1 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Pan Am Club Room, 900 West Owens Avenue.

The production is currently in rehearsal with Kim Bailey as

choreographer. Costume Designs are by Katherine Joseph and Set Decorations by Steve Reed. More than 60 youngsters will perform in the fantasy pageant. Executive Producer Lubertha Johnson said the youngsters will display their talents in four skits. Skit I "Salute to a King" is a tribute to the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. Skit II will offer "Day in School & Graduation."