

Fans take to the streets of Oakland, Calif., following the Raiders 48-21 loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Super Bowl XXXVII, Sunday. Police in riot gear responded with tear gas after rowdy crowds set cars on fire and threw rocks and bottles at passing vehicles.

Oakland crowds riot after loss

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) - Police used rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse football fans who smashed windows and set cars on fire after the Oakland Raiders' Super Bowl defeat.

At least 80 people were arrested Sunday night, mostly for public drunkenness and throwing rocks and bottles at police and obstructing officers, authorities said. Police said they are reviewing videotapes of the violence to try to identify some of those who escaped arrest.

"Unfortunately, you had a convergence of some young men that seemed hellbent on taking advantage of a situation to engage in lawlessness," Police Chief Richard Word said.

Police had assigned hundreds of extra officers to work

the Oakland streets on Super Bowl Sunday. But trouble broke out after the 48-21 loss to Tampa Bay.

"When it was apparent that the Raiders were going to lose, we did not anticipate that people would turn to the streets to celebrate," Word said.

About 10 vehicles were set on fire and crowds broke the windows of at least one television news van, police and witnesses said. One group of young men set debris on fire in the middle of a street and then posed for news photographers.

Nine fire department vehicles and 12 police cars were damaged by thrown objects and three firefighters were injured, none seriously.

Police lobbed tear gas canisters into the crowds and

pelted them with rubber bullets. Streets were closed off as the trouble shifted through various areas of East Oakland. People who threw things at officers and passing cars quickly retreated into the crowd, often making it difficult to arrest them, the police chief said. It was the second straight week that violence followed a Raiders game. The previous week crowds also set fires and broke windows in the area.

Police were busy from the time of the first drunk driving arrest at 5 p.m. Sunday until about 2:30 a.m. Monday.

A McDonald's restaurant was broken into with a cement garbage can through the front glass door. The inside was ransacked and had been set on fire. Damage was estimated at \$30,000.

Poll says U.S. race relations improving

WASHINGTON (AP) - Attitudes about race continue to improve, says a new poll that also shows blacks and whites still have dramatically different views of how far the United States has come in improving race relations.

While most whites think blacks have an equal chance to get good jobs, affordable housing and fair treatment from merchants, fewer than half of blacks think they get an equal shot at these things, according to the ABC News-Washington Post poll.

Pollster Gary Langer of ABC said the survey suggests social contacts between blacks and whites continue to rise, but perceptions of race relations remain dramatically different.

"We see higher ratings of race relations among blacks and whites alike," Langer said. "At the same time, there are very strikingly different

perceptions of racial discrimination between blacks and whites."

In the poll, 54 percent of whites think race relations are good, and 44 percent of blacks feel that way.

Those numbers are 20 points higher for each group than in a 1997 ABC-Post poll. Ratings are more positive locally, with eight in 10 whites and seven in 10 blacks saying race relations in their own community are good.

The number of whites who say they have a fairly close friend who's black has grown from 54 percent in 1981 to 75 percent now.

And 83 percent of blacks say they have a white friend, up from 69 percent 22 years ago.

A majority of Americans, 54 percent, said they have brought someone of the opposite race home for dinner in recent years, up from 20

percent three decades ago.

The poll also measured personal experience of discrimination among blacks. The poll found:

- 27 percent of blacks said they had been denied housing they could afford.

- 34 percent said they had been denied a job they were qualified for.

- 41 percent said they had been stopped by the police because of their race

- 61 percent said they have been made to feel unwelcome in a store.

Half of blacks, 52 percent, said they had been discriminated against because of race, while 11 percent of whites felt they had faced discrimination.

The poll was conducted among 1,133 adults, including an oversample of 211 blacks, from Jan. 16-20 and has an error margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Klan chief facing prison

Quartet charged with race-based murder

CLINTON, N.C. (AP) - The grand dragon of a Ku Klux Klan group and the wife of a Klan leader in federal custody were among four people charged with murder in the killing of an unidentified man two years ago, authorities said Saturday.

The decomposed body was uncovered in a field earlier this month after a witness called authorities.

Sampson County Sheriff Jim Thornton said Saturday the fatal shooting appeared to be tied to a plot to bomb government offices in Johnston County in July, but he declined to elaborate.

"We've got some witnesses and children and all and would really prefer not to get too deep in it," Thornton said.

Sharon Barefoot, 37, of Benson, and Mark Anthony Denning, 24, of Newport, were arrested Friday, sheriff's Chief Deputy John Conerly said. Marvin Glen Gautier, 50, of Benson, and Michael Anthony Brewer, 30, the grand dragon of a group based in Robeson County, were charged Wednesday, Thornton said.

All were being held without bond in the Sampson County jail Saturday. It wasn't immediately clear if they had attorneys who could comment.

Barefoot's husband, Charles, the grand dragon of a group based in Benson, is in federal custody awaiting sentencing and has not been charged in the attack. He pleaded guilty Wednesday to weapons

charges after agents raided his home and found guns, homemade bombs and bomb-making equipment.

According to a search warrant from the State Bureau of Investigation, a witness who had been involved with the groups led authorities to the body and told them members of at least two Ku Klux Klan organizations were involved in the shooting.

The witness said several KKK members met in September 2001 and then drove to Jacksonville to pick up the victim, according to the warrant, obtained by The Sampson Independent.

On Jan. 10, eight days after the body was uncovered, investigators seized a van at Barefoot's home in Benson, according to the warrant. Investigators found blood stains in the van connected to the slaying, Thornton said.

Conerly said weapons and Klan paraphernalia, including white and purple robes, were recovered from Brewer's home.

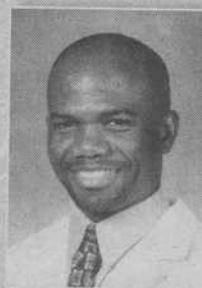
According to the warrant, Brewer had said the victim needed to die because he knew about Brewer's threats to local law enforcement officers.

State Bureau of Investigations agent Jay Tilley said Gautier is believed to be one of the primary participants in the slaying.

An autopsy report released Saturday listed the cause of death as two gunshots to the head, Conerly said. He said the report indicated that the middle-aged man had been killed at least a year ago.

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