

SF Examiner

GILBERT (La.) — (UPI)

— The body of Leonard Brown Jr., one of two black students slain at Southern University a week ago, was buried yesterday on a cold, windswept knoll surrounded by cotton fields. His cousin asked the all-black funeral congregation to "forgive!"

"Forgive, forgive! Because that's the way God planned it," said Cecil Collins, cousin of the 20 year old student killed in a clash with police.

One old woman in the congregation broke into sobs and had to be taken from the New Macedonia Church in this small town 148 miles north of the Southern campus at Baton Rouge.

"It is not easy for you as friends and us as relatives to shine on as if it never happened," Collins told the 350 blacks in the church.

"The world will never forget what has been done here. The family asks that those attending the funeral services will forgive," Collins said.

Brown was one of two Southern students killed during a battle with police in front of the school administration building. Services for the other victim, Denver A. Smith, 20, of Morganza, La., were held today.

A tall church elder, Bennie Lee, delivered the eulogy for Brown and also urged forgiveness and understanding between blacks and whites.

"What we are suffering today — look for more of it. Man's wisdom is too weak to bring about a lasting peace," said the old man, speaking behind an oak pulpit.

He pointed to the casket in front of him, flanked with rows of red, white and yellow carnations and roses, and said, "Now it hurts me. It hurts me so much."

But he said, "Leave your hate. Leave all your problems. Leave it here at the altar."

"When you do that, God will fight your battle."

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Funeral Of Slain Student