

S.U. Shooter 'Identifiable'

Some members of the biracial commission investigating the deaths of two Southern University students in Baton Rouge say they believe it is now possible to identify the person or persons who fired the fatal shot, The New York Times reported today.

The Times said the commission has concluded the students were killed by a single shotgun blast fired by a police officer. Authorities have "just about pinpointed the spot" from which the shots were fired, The Times said.

However, state Atty. Gen. William J. Guste denied the 12-member commission has arrived at any such consensus. He said no conclusion has been reached on who fired the shots.

But he did concede that a number of commission members have probably reached the conclusion that a single blast killed 20-year-old juniors Leonard Douglas Brown and Denver A. Smith.

The incident occurred Nov. 16 during a confrontation between police and students on the Southern campus.

GUSTE SAID the commission probably will conclude its investigation and announce its findings sometime this week. It will be decided at that time whether to present the commission report to a grand jury, he said.

The attorney general said "there may be some degree of accuracy" in the comments made by The Times' source, but also "a lot of loose statements in there." He emphasized that the commission "as a group" has made no findings other than the previously announced conclusion that a law officer fired the first tear-gas canister that preceded the shooting.

Information from "sources close to the investigation," according to The Times, indicated the students were killed by 29 buckshot pellets, of which 23 have been recovered.

The story said Gov. Edwin M. Edwards was informed of the findings by commission members Thursday night. They told the governor he had been misled by state police about what pre-

ceded the shooting, The Times said.

EDWARDS, BASED on what state troopers had told him, had been quoted as saying students first threw a tear-gas canister at police.

The Times' source also indicated that some deputy sheriffs carried personal weapons in addition to regulation firearms. Guste said this is accurate.

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general confusion, especially among deputy sheriff's officers," and that "the (East Baton Rouge) sheriff's department has displayed a lack of professionalism."

"The television films show and testimony has confirmed that a state police lieutenant tossed a defective tear-gas canister at the students," a commission source told The Times. "The canister had a delayed fuse on it and gave the students a chance to pick it up and toss it back at police.

"There was a mix-up in orders, and the lieutenant should not have thrown the canister. Films show that there was much confusion. The deputies didn't have on their tear-gas masks. The film showed that many of them didn't even know how to put them on.

"Another deputy is clearly shown resting the barrel of his shotgun on the ground with the muzzle pointed in his stomach while he tried to put on his mask."

Boycotting students at Southern University in New Orleans, meanwhile, will not lose credit for the current semester if they return to classes by Dec. 22, the SUNO administration has announced.

Dr. Asa C. Sims, dean of academic affairs, said Dec. 22, when the Christmas holidays begin, is the last day students may resign from the university or drop courses. He denied a report that 2,300 students would receive no ac-

ademic credit for the fall semester and that unless enrollment returned to normal, the university would not re-open for the spring semester.

A student boycott has been about 90 per cent effective since Oct. 27, and negotiation of student demands between protestors and administrators

appears to be at an impasse.

THE MAIN Southern University campus at Baton Rouge has been closed since a student-police confrontation Nov. 16 that left the two students dead. Classes there are scheduled for resumption on Jan. 4.

Sims said the SUNO Christmas holidays will extend through Jan. 2, with final examinations Jan. 3 through 9. The exams were re-scheduled, he said, "so as not to deprive the students and faculty of the holidays."

The spring semester will begin Jan. 16 with orientation and testing for beginning freshmen, registration Jan. 17-19 and the start of classes Jan. 22, Sims said.

The dean said students who have been avoiding classes may withdraw from each course "without penalty."

DR. LEON Netterville, whose resignation as Southern's president has been a key demand by students during the long controversy, called for efforts to save the predominantly black university system.

"I am worried about the future of Southern University," he told an alumni group Saturday, "for its image has been tarnished, and persons who were friends of the university are no longer friends.

"Southern University and Grambling College are the last black citadels of learning presided over by black people. Most of the black principals are already gone."

Dr. Netterville, who has the support of the state Board of Education, said alumni should urge the board and the state legislature to keep the university in operation.