

NOV 27 1972

NYTimes

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400 Pay Tribute To 2 Slain Students At Louisiana Capitol

BATON ROUGE, Nov. 26 (AP)

—A memorial service for the two black students slain at Southern University drew 400 people to the steps of the State Capitol today. Meanwhile two independent commissions prepared to begin full-scale investigations tomorrow of the Nov. 16 police-student confrontation at the school.

State officials and school administrators countered threats of continued turbulence with pleas for calm as they prepared to resume classes at Southern's smaller New Orleans branch for the first time since the tragedy 90 miles to the north.

About 400 blacks assembled for the hour-long rally today. Leaders said it was in memorial for the two dead students. John E. Brown, who told the crowd he had organized the event, said: "The very existence of the black race today is threatened. We are not going to continue to sit by and watch our race exterminated from the face of the earth."

The focal point for the activity was the 30 minutes of violence on Nov. 16 when policemen chased students from Southern's administration building. Denver A. Smith of New Roads and Leonard Douglas Brown of Bilbert, both 20 years old, were sprayed with buckshot and died of head wounds. The authorities contended at the start that the police had fired nothing but tear gas. Later, however, they conceded that an officer could have mistaken a shotgun cartridge for tear gas cartridge.