

Students Join Panel On Killings

9/11/25/52
BATON ROUGE, La., Nov. 24 (UPI)—The chairman of a biracial commission that will try to find out who killed two blacks at Southern University during a battle between police and students today named a coed and a Vietnam veteran working his way through college to the panel.

William Guste, Louisiana attorney general and head of the commission, appointed Wanda Butler and Cornelius Bass, both students at Southern's New Orleans campus (SUNO).

"These students have the respect of their peers and were selected by a consensus of the student leadership at SUNO," Guste said.

Both students are black, as is 98 per cent of Southern's enrollment.

Miss Butler is vice president of the junior class and is majoring in mathematics and physics. Bass, the Vietnam veteran, is a sophomore studying psychology. He also is studying the problem of drug abuse and is working his way through school with a part-time job in the college's department of drug abuse.

Other members of the commission of inquiry include Turner Catledge, former executive editor and a member of the board of The New York Times, and Revious Ortique, a black New Orleans attorney and former member of the President's Commission on Campus Unrest.

First witnesses will appear Monday before the panel. The testimony will be secret, Guste said, because of possible criminal charges that might come from the investigation.

Denver A. Smith and Leonard Brown Jr., both 20-year-old Southern students at Baton Rouge, were killed Nov. 16 during a clash between students and police at the administration building.

The Baton Rouge campus

has been ordered closed until Jan. 3 to reduce tensions.

Fourteen prominent Negroes, saying they have no confidence in Guste's commission, will conduct their own investigation into the killings. The group, calling itself the "Black People's Committee of Inquiry," includes State Rep. Julian Bond of Atlanta, City Councilman D'Army Bailey of Berkeley, Calif., and Owusa Sadauki, president of Malcolm X University at Greensboro, N.C.