

S.U. Victim 'Just a Good Kid'

By CHARLES LAYTON

BATON ROUGE (AP)

"He was just a good kid. I mean, he just happened to be an innocent bystander, I think," Mrs. Hazel Hewitt said.

She had known Leonard Douglas Brown since the day he was born, 20 years ago in a little brown house on the Hewitts' 100-acre farm, until the day he died on a Southern University campus sidewalk, shot in the head and shoulders with buckshot.

Brown and the other victim of last Thursday's campus violence, Denver A. Smith, 20, were both country boys, both from large families, both apparently more interested in

their educations and future careers than with revolutionary campus politics.

Brown's half-brother, Willie Jenkins, recalled a conversation he had with Brown four days before the young man's death. They had talked about the past three weeks of student boycotts and protests.

"He had determined that he would be glad when it was all over because he was ready to get on with his work, you know, so he could go on and graduate. He didn't want to have to put in any extra time in school. He wanted to go on and get out," Jenkins said.

Brown and four brothers and two sisters grew up together on a farm near the village of Gilbert, about 25 miles

from the Mississippi line in northeast Louisiana.

He was majoring in agriculture, planning either to teach or get a job as some kind of government agriculture agent. He was a junior, a "C" student the first of his family ever to go to college.

On the last day of his life he stood with 100-odd of his fellow students in front of the administration building, facing a cordon of sheriff's deputies. The students were refusing to vacate the building they had occupied early that morning.

When the tear gas shells began to burst, the students scattered. Brown ran a distance of about 30 feet, to his right, and was felled by a blast of buckshot. He died immediately.

And yet, his half-brother described him as having been only a half-hearted participant in the student protests.

"You know, they had legal grievances, but he felt that they didn't go about it right. You know, he wasn't one of the leaders or anything."

The other victim, Denver Smith, fell to the sidewalk three feet behind Brown.

Smith was the fourth of 12 children, an above-average student, a computer science major. He commuted to school from his parents' home in New Roads, La., a small town 20 miles up the Mississippi River from campus.

Mrs. Lorance Smith said she talked with her son the previous night, about the troubles at Southern. He was sitting on the living room couch reading a book.

"I asked him 'are you-all going to classes yet?' And he said no, that they had not reached any compromise yet with the administration."

Mrs. Smith said she asked Denver what he was reading, and "he said he was just studying . . . getting ready for when school did resume."

"He was concerned about his grades," she said.