

Track star witnesses stabbing at bus depot

Fortune smiled upon Tony Wheeler last Monday afternoon. By sheer luck, Wheeler, who was the Southwest Conference's top half miler last year was a witness rather than a victim in a double slaying at a Waco bus station.

Wheeler was standing in line to buy a bus ticket when a man began to approach him. At first he didn't realize that the man was carrying a knife in his hand. "A brown-handled knife like the kind you find in the

kitchen," Wheeler said.

The armed man then turned upon a man standing only a few feet from Wheeler and began to stab him repeatedly. "He just kept stabbing him, eight or nine times," Wheeler said.

Wheeler, a 23-year old freshman from South Africa, then ran out the side entrance only to become the witness to a second murder. He saw a Waco policeman lying on the

ground with a knife in his head and the same man take the officer's revolver and shoot him three times. Wheeler then said he went inside when a gun battle began between the man and police.

"There were millions of cops around," Wheeler said. "I was kind of walking around in a daze."

The man was shot by police and taken into custody.

Police identified the man as Thel-

tett Brandon.

The two slain men were bus driver Frank Johnson and Waco Police Sgt. Roger Barrett.

Brandon was still in intensive care this morning in a Waco hospital.

Brandon faces charges if he lives, police said.

"I never saw so much blood in my life," Wheeler said. "I was really lucky. The whole time I realized that it could have been me."

Trucking cost studied

Which will ultimately "cost" more, either in money or quality of service — having America's trucks running fully loaded all the time or having some sit idle at freight terminals?

Two Texas A&M University economists are conducting a two-year study of this and other questions under a \$74,100 National Science Foundation grant.

Co-investigators Dr. Arthur S. DeVany and Dr. Thomas R. Saving are seeking ways in which economic model planners can determine optimal product quality. They cite fire trucks as an example.

"You don't want all the firetrucks

in service all the time. If that happens, the quality of the product (in this case, someone to fight your fire) suffers. You want some firetrucks standing idle on reserve," explain the researchers.

One of the points of the research is to determine the highest point of efficiency in a service or production process, not the highest possible production.

"Another example of this theory, although we are not examining this specifically, happened during gas rationing," explain DeVany and Saving.

"Rationing was instigated to save

fuel. But consumers stored gas cans at their home, kept their tanks much fuller than normal, filled up at every available chance.

"Gas, for practical purposes, is either 'waiting idle' in service stations or was at maximum use buyers' homes and cars."

The home environment is more susceptible to evaporation and spillage, so the actual efficiency of gasoline use declined in the home opposed to the station. The cost lost gasoline was greater than the gas had remained idle at pumps," they said.

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