

Suspect remains silent as victim fights for life

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A former mental patient accused of wounding four people during a shooting spree kept his silence Thursday while a victim struggled for her life, authorities said.

The suspect, Marvin Duncan, 55, described by family members as having a history of mental problems, was shot in the left thigh by officers and was in good condition at Medical Center Hospital, hospital spokesman Inez Eisazadeh said.

Duncan has been charged with six counts of attempted capital murder and his bond was set at \$1.5 million.

He is accused of leaping from a taxicab with .357-caliber Magnum in each hand and shooting four people and at two officers during a five-minute rampage near the Alamo Wednesday.

Police spokesman Sgt. Paul Buske said Thursday the gunman had not discussed the shooting with officers from his hospital bed.

"I talked to the detectives a while ago and they still don't know why this happened," Buske said.

Meanwhile, Deborah Reyes, 29,

who had tried to hide from the gunman, was shot in the chest and stomach and remained in critical condition at Brooke Army Medical Center Thursday. She was expected to be in the intensive care unit for several days, hospital spokesman Robert Clark said.

Two other victims, Ilian Niaves, 17, and Toni Longoria, 17, who each suffered gunshot wounds to their right legs, were released from the hospital Thursday. A third victim, Alton Watson, 16, who suffered a graze to his right ankle, was treated and released from a hospital Wednesday.

Buske said the gunman took a taxicab to the downtown area about 9 a.m. Wednesday and as it approached a corner the man began shooting at people.

The man then got out of the taxicab and shot four people before Donald Kawazoe, a policeman on his way to work, saw the man and ordered him to stop, authorities said.

The two traded shots and the gunman fled and was confronted by Park Ranger Bennie Burley. They

also exchanged gunfire before the gunman was arrested, authorities said.

Buske said Thursday the gunman was trying to reload one of his weapons when he was shot.

"It's going to be difficult to determine who shot him because he had an entry and exit wound," Buske said. "We might be able to tell by the trajectory of the bullet, but we still haven't ruled out that he may have shot himself in his haste to reload his weapon."

Buske said the gunman was able to conceal the weapons because he was wearing a long raincoat and had two holsters tied to his belt and strapped to his legs with electrical wire.

Police said that Duncan had a history of arrests dating back to 1973 and court records indicate that he was placed in the Ruske State Hospital for the mentally or criminally insane in October 1980.

University officials test food in check of student illnesses

ABILENE (AP) — Officials at Hardin-Simmons University were conducting interviews and testing food samples in the school cafeteria Thursday as they investigated a wave of sudden illness among students.

More than 100 dormitory students were affected by the symptoms that may have been caused by some type of food poisoning.

Those stricken included five men on the university's basketball team, scheduled to play Mercer University in a Trans America Athletic Conference match Thursday night.

The players, however, said they planned to play in the game despite their illness.

The students became ill at Hardin-Simmons Wednesday evening, and officials said Thursday they were trying to determine whether food poisoning was to blame.

Forty of the students were taken to hospital emergency rooms for treatment Wednesday evening and one was hospitalized, officials said.

The student was in good condition Thursday afternoon and was expected to be held until this morning for observation, said Ross Johnson, HSU's vice president for student development.

"At this time we cannot say whether it is food related or some kind of virus that's causing the symptoms," Johnson said.

He said officials became suspicious that food poisoning may have been involved when students in several residence halls began complaining of diarrhea, vomiting, cramps and fever.

"I would assume personally that it would be OK to go eat in the cafeteria," said Johnson, who added that

more than 150 students had breakfast there Thursday morning.

He said city and state health department officials were taking samples of food stored at the school cafeteria to check for possible bacteria growth.

ARA Food Services, which prepares and serves meals on campus, also was checking on the condition of foods still in storage at the university to determine its quality.

College officials say an average of 700 students at the university — about one-third of HSU's enrollment — eat in the school's cafeteria each day.

ARA also supplies Abilene Christian University, which has not reported similar cases of illness.

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