

FBI investigates derailment, focuses on 'Sons of Gestapo'

■ **TERRORISM:** A letter left behind by the person(s) who sabotaged an Amtrak train gives little clue as to motive

HYDER, Ariz. (AP) — FBI agents hunting the saboteur who derailed an Amtrak train worked Tuesday to determine whether the "Sons of Gestapo" is really an anti-government terrorist group or just someone with a grudge against the railroad.

Fifty-five miles away in downtown Phoenix, authorities found a device capable of derailing a train placed on a track. The FBI refused to discount the possibility it was a second sabotage attempt.

The FBI expanded its painstaking search

for evidence to a mile-square area surrounding the gulch where the Sunset Limited lurched off a damaged track and asked the public for help finding the culprit.

The train jumped the tracks at the damaged section early Monday, toppling 30 feet from a bridge, killing a crew member and injuring at least 78 people.

A letter found at the scene mentioned federal raids on right-wing extremists at Waco, Texas, and Ruby Ridge, Idaho. It was signed "Sons of Gestapo," raising fears the sabotage was the work of anti-government extremists.

A passenger who saw one version of the note said Tuesday that it didn't specifically claim responsibility for the derailment, was written in a sort of verse and gave the impression the writer "wanted to

be some sort of poetic martyr."

"It was a lot of gibberish. It started out with something about women and children praying as it gets dark, then it talked about how they didn't have any electricity," said Michelle Cruz, a psychiatric nurse from Sacramento, Calif., who saw the letter about 8 to 10 feet from the coach, held down by a rock. The FBI was mentioned along with other government agencies she couldn't recall.

There apparently are several versions of the letter, said Gov. Fife Symington, who said he has read one version. He wouldn't talk about what it said, except to say he was told there were multiple versions that were "comparable in terms of content."

FBI officials held a brief news conference six miles from the scene Tuesday, but

offered little insight into the investigation called Operation Splitrail, refusing to comment about the letter.

With about 90 agents on the scene, Larry McCormick, acting special agent in charge of the Phoenix office, said he believed it was the bureau's second-biggest crime scene investigation after the Oklahoma City bombing.

"We are going to pursue every bit of evidence and every lead very thoroughly...until we find the person or persons who committed this crime," said U.S. Attorney Janet Napolitano.

A tip from a trucker who heard a noise and saw two men acting suspiciously around a Southern Pacific track in downtown Phoenix, caused police Tuesday to recover a device used to derail a train.

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University of Chicago professor's ideas earn him Nobel Prize in economics

■ **LUCAS:** The Yakima, Wash. native's theories have become standard teaching for economists

CHICAGO (AP) — A University of Chicago professor won the Nobel Prize in economics Tuesday for demonstrating how people's fears and expectations can frustrate policymakers' efforts to shape the economy.

Robert E. Lucas' work is now part of the "standard toolbox" of all economists, said the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm.

Lucas, 58, who was born in Yakima, Wash., found that government attempts to regulate unemployment and investment by regulating the national money supply often are undermined by the way people adjust their spending decisions and other behavior.

For instance, if the Federal Reserve raises interest rates to slow economic growth and prevent inflation, people might stop taking out loans and making major purchases. That, in turn, could cause a recession and force the Fed to cut rates.

"Models that we thought were guiding the fine-tuning of the

economy through monetary and fiscal policy are more or less useless," Lucas said after winning the prize. "Those models presumed a lot of stupidity on the part of the ordinary citizen."

Lucas was feeding his cat and fixing coffee early when he learned he was the fifth University of Chicago professor in the last six years to win the Nobel prize in economics. The prize is worth \$1 million.

"Robert Lucas is the economist who has had the greatest influence on macroeconomic research since 1970," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in its citation. Macroeconomics deals with such things as wages, supply and demand, and inflation.

Lucas' work centered on "rational expectations" — a term describing the way households or businesses use available information about the future to update decisions about their own finances.

At one time, the thinking among economists was that unemployment and inflation could be manipulated by changes in government spending or monetary policy.

That theory, first propounded in the 1930s by British economist John Maynard Keynes, led gov-

ernments all over the world to try to tinker with tax and interest rates to try to rid themselves of recession.

In 1976, Lucas demonstrated that shifts in economic policy often produce a completely different outcome because of people's shifting expectations.

Despite the enormous impact Lucas' work has had on economic research, it hasn't changed much in government and banking, said Olivier Blanchard, professor of economics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"I think it had zero impact on the way governments and central bankers perceive their job," he said. "His influence has been enormous on macroeconomic theory. I don't think it's had much effect on macroeconomic practice."

Lucas came to the University of Chicago after leaving Carnegie Mellon University in 1975. He is the eighth Nobel economics laureate from the University of Chicago, which has had more Nobel Prize winners — 65 — than any other institution in the world.

On Tuesday, he credited the research-driven philosophy of the university's economic department.

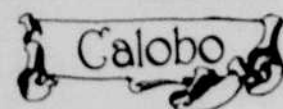
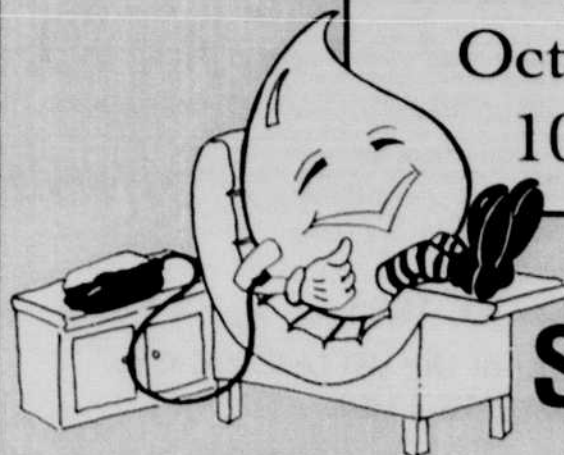
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