

A1 Final

Arizona Daily Star

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'While they send out that e-mail, 20 more people got killed.'

JASON PIATT, VIRGINIA TECH STUDENT ON THE WARNING SENT BY ADMINISTRATORS TO STUDENTS



Some of those wounded in the bloody rampage at Virginia Tech are carried out of Norris Hall. A gunman opened fire in a dorm and later in a Norris Hall classroom; at the end of the day, 33 were dead, including the gunman.

Rampage leaves 33 dead

Va. Tech gunman ranges across campus in slaughter

MORE REPORTS

Thirty-four people were killed Monday on the campus of Virginia Tech in what appears to be the deadliest shooting rampage in modern history, according to federal law enforcement officials. Many of the victims were students shot in a dormitory and a classroom.

"Today, the university was struck by a tragedy that we consider to be without parallel in our history," said the university's president, Charles Steiner.

The university's chief said Monday evening that 15 people were wounded by the gunman, although the university reports of higher numbers of injuries.

Witnesses described scenes of mass chaos and unimagined horror. Some students were lined up against a wall and shot. Others jumped out of windows to escape, or crawled on floors

to take cover.

There were two separate incidents on the campus in Blacksburg, Va., the first at about 7:15 a.m., when two people were shot and killed at a dormitory.

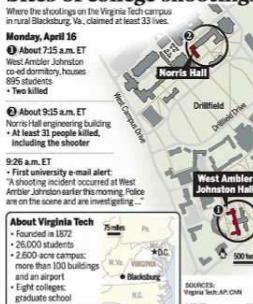
More than two hours later, 31 others, including the gunman, were shot and killed in a classroom in a dormitory, where some of the doors had been shattered by gunfire.

Police and medical students were getting ready for classes or were on their way there when they heard gunfire, evacuate the campus or notify students of that attack until several hours later.

The rampage unfolded, details emerged from witnesses

as they escaped, or crawled on floors

Sites of college shootings



'Enormous hammer' noise, screams shatter morning

MORE REPORTS

BLACKSBURG, Va. — The first crackle of gunfire shattered the Monday morning calm. It was 7:15 on the campus of Virginia Tech, and an epic killing spree had just begun.

Snow was swirling on the windy April day, and classes had not yet started when a man in a dark shirt and jeans burst into the nation's largest coed dormitory, West Ambler Johnston Hall, home to 895 people.

Just 15 minutes later, he was on the fourth floor at Ambler Johnston when the shootings occurred on the opposite side of the building.

"You could hear two shots, one followed shortly by a second," recounted Bushman, who was passing through the dorm class.

Nowhere else were most of the other students nearby, understanding what had happened until several hours later, after a man armed with a rifle and a handgun burst into Norris Hall, a classroom building a half-mile away on the other side of the 3,600-acre campus.

Two students were killed in the rampage at others were killed in Norris Hall, including the gunman, who put a bullet in his head.

At least 33 people were hurt, some seriously.

MORE INSIDE

• Virginia officials defend actions in face of criticism of how deadly gun laws are. [Page A5](#)

• Restless students sent by administrators to students as theings unfolded. [Page A4](#)

• UA security meets with students to ensure the campus is prepared for emergencies. [Page A4](#)

• Check throughout the day for news and multimedia updates of the Virginia Tech campus shootings at [azstarnet.com](#).

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MASS KILLINGS AT COLLEGES

The shootings at Virginia Tech are the deadliest on a university campus.

• Oct. 26, 2002, in Tucson: Failing UA nursing student and GI Joe veteran Robert Flores, 40, walks into an interior design store and begins shooting. A few minutes later, armed with five guns, he enters one of his nursing classrooms and kills two more of his students before fatally shooting himself.

• July 12, 1976, in Fullerton, Calif.: Edward Charles Alvarado, a custodian in the library of College of the Holy Names, begins shooting fellow employees and wounds two others. He was found innocent by reason of insanity.

• Aug. 1, 1968, in Austin, Texas: Charles Whitman points a rifle from the observation tower of the University of Texas and begins shooting in a horrific rampage that goes on for 36 minutes. Sixteen people are killed and 31 wounded.

Sources: The Associated Press

See SCREAMS, A4

Iraq casualty Rodriguez is laid to rest

By Carol Ann Abellino
Associated Press

Teen soldier Damian Lopez Rodriguez, who was born in Mexico, volunteered to join the U.S. Army and died in combat while serving American citizenship, was laid to rest in Tucson on Monday under the flag of his homeland and his adopted country.

A son of Stars and Stripes was present at the funeral. Mexican flag as the coffin of the private first class was lowered into his grave at Evergreen Cemetery. Earlier, a son sang "America the Beautiful."

Four in the casket was carried out of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church on the South Side.

Rodriguez, a native of Guadalajara, Mexico, had been in Tucson, southwest of Tucson, who spoke on behalf of his mother, Sophie, died

in 2005 graduate of Pablo High Magnet School, Rodriguez was killed in action in Baghdad on April 6 when his

husband was hit by a homemade bomb.

He was overseas with the 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, based in Schweinfurt, Germany.

For Rodriguez, who believed he was making a difference, "Past said, "He was willing to give his life for your nation, and in this case, your adopted nation."

"We thank you for giving your

son to us," Past told the soldier's father, Rafael Lopez, and his mother, Ana Rodriguez, who sobbed as her youngest child was buried.

More than 100 friends and family members, including the son of the infantryman, who was educated in Spain and in England.

For Rodriguez, an occasion to remember the contributions of

See RODRIGUEZ, A6

Search our database of military careers from Iraq and Afghanistan at [azstarnet.com/attack](#)



MARI APOW / AZULONA DAILY HERALD

Army Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast comforts Ana Rodriguez, the fallen soldier's mother, who is receiving the American flag.

WEATHER: C6

Sunny and warm
High 78° / Low 53°



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