

'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

WIRE REPORTS
Thirty-three people were killed Monday on the campus of Virginia Tech in what appears to be the deadliest shooting rampage in American history, according to federal law-enforcement officials. Many of the victims were students shot in a dorm and a classroom building.
"Today, the university was struck with a tragedy that we consider of monumental proportions," said the university's president, Charles Steger.
The campus police chief said Monday evening that 15 people were wounded by the gunman, although there were other reports of higher numbers of injuries.
Witnesses described scenes of mass chaos and unimaginable horror as some students were lined up against a wall and shot. Others jumped out of windows to escape, or crouched on floors

to take cover.
There were two separate shootings on the campus in Blacksburg, Va., the first at around 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 across campuses in a classroom building, where some of the doors had been chained from the inside. Victims were found in different locations around the building.
The first attack started as students were getting ready for classes or were on their way there. The university did not evacuate the campus or notify students of that attack until several hours later.
As the rampage unfolded, details emerged from witnesses

Sites of college shootings

Where the shootings on the Virginia Tech campus in rural Blacksburg, Va., claimed at least 33 lives.

Monday, April 16

• **About 7:15 a.m. ET**

West Ambler Johnston co-ed dormitory, houses 895 students

• **Two killed**

• **About 9:25 a.m. ET**

Norris Hall engineering building

• **At least 31 people killed, including the shooter**

9:26 a.m. ET

• **First university e-mail alert:**

"A shooting incident occurred at West Ambler Johnston earlier this morning. Police are on the scene and are investigating."

About Virginia Tech

• **Founded in 1872**

• **26,000 students**

• **2,600-acre campus;**

more than 100 buildings

and an airport

• **Eight colleges, graduate school**



'Enormous hammer' noise, screams shatter morning

WIRE 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.
Some were sweltering on the windy April day, and classes had not yet started when a murderous rampage that would shake the nation started in a co-ed dormitory, West Ambler Johnston Hall, home to 895 people.
Jessica Paulsen said she was on the fourth floor at Ambler Johnston when the shootings occurred on the opposite side of the floor.
"You could hear two shots, one followed shortly by a second," recounted Paulsen, who was preparing to go to an early class.
Neither she nor most of the other students nearby understood what had happened until several hours later, after a man armed with two handguns stormed Norris Hall, a classroom building a half-mile away on the other side of the 2,600-acre campus.
Two people died in a dorm room, and 31 others were killed in Norris Hall, including the gunman, who put a bullet in his head. At least 15 people were hurt, some seriously.

MORE INSIDE
• Virginia Tech officials ordered actions in face of criticism of how security was handled.
• **Page A5**
• Read the e-mail that was sent by administrators to students as the shootings unfolded.
• **Page A4**
• UA team meets once a month to ensure the campus is prepared to deal with emergencies.
• **Page A4**
• Check out the day for news and multi-media updates of the Virginia Tech campus shootings at astatnet.com

MASS KILLINGS AT COLLEGES

• **Oct. 28, 2002, in Tucson:** Failing UK nursing student and G.I. film writer Robert Farns, 40, walks into an instructor's office and fatally shoots her. A few minutes later, armed with five guns, he enters one of his nursing classrooms and kills two more of his instructors before fatally shooting himself.

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

• **July 12, 1976, in Fullerton, Calif.:** Edward Charles Alway, a custodian in the library of California State University Fullerton, fatally shoots seven fellow employees and reasons two others. He was found innocent by reason of insanity.

Aug. 1, 1966, in Austin, Texas:

Charles Whitman grabs a rifle from the observation deck of the University of Texas Tower and begins shooting in a homicidal rampage that goes on for 90 minutes. Sixteen people are killed and 31 wounded.

Source: The Associated Press

Iraq casualty Rodriguez is laid to rest

By Carol Ann Alaimo

Special to the Star

Teen soldier Damian Lopez Rodriguez, who was born in Mexico, volunteered for the U.S. Army and died in combat while awaiting 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 punctuated by a bare Mexican flag as the coffin of the private first class was lowered into his grave at Evergreen Cemetery. Earlier, a soldier sang "America the Beautiful"

as the casket was carried out of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church on the South Side.
Rodriguez, 19, a native of Nogales, Sonora, died "a national hero," said Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast, top commander at Fort Huachuca, southeast of Tucson, who spoke on behalf of the Army.
A 2005 graduate of Pueblo High Magnet School, Rodriguez was killed in action in Baghdad on April 6 when his



U.S. Army Pfc. Damian Lopez Rodriguez

Humvee was hit by a roadside bomb.
He was overseas with the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, based in Schweinfurt, Germany.
"Like many soldiers, he believed he was making a difference," Fast said.
"There is no greater cause than to give your life for your nation, and in this case, your adopted nation."
"We thank you for giving your

son to us," Fast told the soldier's father, Rafael Lopez, and his mother, Ana Rodriguez, who sobbed as her youngest child was buried.
More than 300 mourners attended services for the young infantryman, who was enlabeled in Spanish and in English.

For many, it was an occasion to reflect on the contributions of

See RODRIGUEZ, A6

Search our database of military casualties from Iraq and Afghanistan at astatnet.com/attack



ARMY Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast comforts Ana Rodriguez, the father's mother, who is comforting the American flag.

WEATHER, C6
Sunny and warm
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