

'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



ALAHMIA / THE EVENING TIMES

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

By JEFFREY S. BROWN

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 and government officials. Many of the victims were students shot in a dorm and a classroom building.

"Today, the university is still reeling with a trauma that we consider of monumental proportions," said the university's president, Charles Steger.

The campus police chief said Monday that most of the people wounded by the gunman, although there were other reports of higher numbers of injuries.

Witnesses described scenes of mass shooting and carnage, including as 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 about 7:15 a.m., when two people were shot and killed at a dormitory.

More than two hours later, at others, including the gunman, were shot and killed across campus 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 walking to their 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

See RAMPAGE, A4

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
 Norris Hall, Norris-Johnson co-ed dormitory, houses 895 students
 Two killed

• About 9:15 a.m. ET
 Norris Hall engineering building
 At least 21 people killed,
 including the shooter

• 9:26 a.m. ET

• First university e-mail alert:
 "A shooting has occurred at West
 Ambler Johnston-engineering building. Police
 are on the scene and are investigating..."

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About Virginia Tech
 • Founded in 1872
 • 26,000 students
 • 2,600-acre campus:
 • 100 buildings and an arena
 • Eight colleges:
 graduate school


 SOURCES: Virginia Tech; AP, CNN
 4/17/07
 MCT

'Enormous hammer' noise, screams shatter morning

By JEFFREY S. BROWN

BLACKSBURG, Va. — The first crackle of gunfire shattered the Monday morning quiet at 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 murderous rampage that would claim the most lives in a school shooting, at Ambler Johnston Hall, home to 895 people.

Jessica Pearson 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 Pearson, who was preparing to go to an early class.

Neither she nor most of the other students nearby understood what had happened until they heard loud枪声, 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, an otherwise quiet one, Pearson said. Hall, including the gunman, who put a bullet in his head. At least 15 people were hurt, some seriously.

Some of the doors at Norris Hall were shattered, and the students, who had been by the gunman. Students jumped from windows in panic.

Young people and faculty members carried out some of the wounded themselves, without waiting for ambulances to arrive.

See SCREAMS, A4

MORE INSIDE

• Virginia Tech officials called actions in face of criticism of how security was handled. Page A5

• Read the e-mails that were sent by administrators to students as the shootings unfolded. Page A4

• UA team meets once a month to ensure the campus is prepared with emergencies. Page A4

Check throughout the day for news and multimedia updates of the Virginia Tech campus shooting at azstarnet.com

MASS KILLINGS AT COLLEGES

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

• Oct. 28, 2002, in Tucson, Tucson: A nursing student and GI War veteran Robert Flores, 40, walks into an emergency office and fatally shoots her. A few minutes later she returns and kills the entries one of his nursing classrooms and kills two more of his instructors before fatally shooting herself.

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

• Aug. 1, 1966, in Austin, Texas: Charles Whitman points a rifle from the observation deck of the University of Texas Tower and begins shooting at random, killing 23 and wounding 30. That goes on for 96 minutes. Sixteen people are killed and 31 wounded.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

Iraq casualty Rodriguez is laid to rest

By Carol Ann Alvarado

AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Ten soldiers, including Capt. Lope 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 flags of his homeland and his adopted country.

A sea of Stars and Stripes was punctuated by a lone Mexican flag as the remains of Capt. Lope Rodriguez, who was lowered into his grave at Evergreen Cemetery. Earlier, a soloist sang "America the Beautiful,"

full" as the casket was carried out of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church on the South Side.

Rodriguez, 19, a native of Nogales, Sonora, died "a natural hero," said Capt. George Fast, top commander at Fort Huachuca, southeast of Tucson, who spoke on behalf of the Army.

U.S. Army Pfc. Damian Lopez Rodriguez



U.S. Army Pfc. Damian Lopez Rodriguez
 yearning to serve your nation, and in this case, your adopted nation.

"We thank you for giving your

son to us," Fast told the soldier's father, Russell Lopez, and his mother, Barbara, who had been holding her youngest child was buried.

More than 200 mourners attended services for the young infantryman, who was eulogized in Spanish in his native town.

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 azstarnet.com/attack



MARIAH PONTE / AMERICAN-STATESMAN

WEATHER, C6

Sunny and warmer
 High 75 / Low 53


 ALICE NEWSPAPER
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