

VIRGINIA TECH SHOOTINGS

Chaos on campus

■ Gunman kills 32, himself in shooting rampage at Virginia Tech.

■ Incident is deadliest mass shooting in modern American history.

■ Students complain university's warning was slow, inadequate.



The Roanoke Times: Alan Kim via The Associated Press

Injured occupants are carried out of Norris Hall at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va. A gunman killed 32 people on the campus in two attacks two hours apart before killing himself. The gunman's name was not immediately released, and it was not known if he was a student.

Massacre tears community apart

By SUE LINDSEY
The Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — A gunman massacred 32 people at Virginia Tech in the deadliest shooting rampage in modern U.S. history Monday, cutting down his victims in two attacks two hours apart before the university could grasp what was happening and warn students.

The bloodbath ended with the gunman committing suicide, bringing the death toll to 33 and stamping the campus in the picturesque Blue Ridge Mountains with unspeakable tragedy.

Investigators gave no motive for the attack. The gunman's name was not immediately released, and it was not known if he was a student.

"Today the university was struck with a tragedy that we consider of monumental proportions," Virginia Tech President Charles Steger said. "The university is shocked and indeed horrified."

But he was also faced with difficult questions about the university's handling of the

emergency and whether it did enough to warn students and protect them after the first burst of gunfire. Some students bitterly complained they got no warning from the university until an e-mail that arrived more than two hours after the first shots rang out.

Wielding two handguns and carrying multiple clips of ammunition, the killer opened fire about 7:15 a.m. on the fourth floor of West Ambler Johnston, a high-rise coed dormitory, then stormed Norris Hall, a classroom building a half-mile away on the other side of the 2,600-acre campus. Some of the doors at Norris Hall were found chained from the inside, apparently by the gunman.

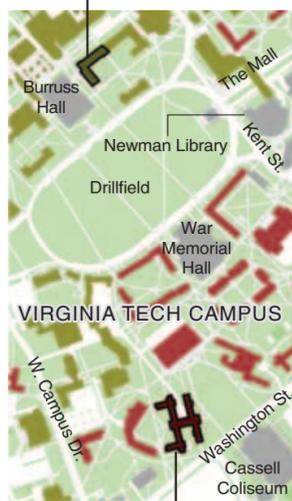
Two people died in a dorm room, and 31 others were killed in Norris Hall, including the gunman, who put a bullet in his head. At least 15 people were hurt, some seriously.

At an evening news conference, Police Chief Wendell Flinchum refused to dismiss the possibility that a co-conspirator or second shooter was involved. He said police had interviewed a "person of interest" in the dorm

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WHERE IT HAPPENED

Appx. 9:15 a.m. **Norris Hall**
Gunman kills 30 people



Appx. 7:15 a.m. **Ambler Johnston Hall**
Two people killed in dormitory

Residential/dining facility
Academic building

SOURCE: Virginia Tech

Shock, grief for those with ties to Blacksburg

By HEATHER DARENBERG
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LAWRENCEVILLE — A Dacula resident who grew up in Virginia said she was shocked, stunned and saddened to hear of the massacre Monday at Virginia Tech that left at least 32 people dead.

"Young people with amazing potential to do amazing things were stopped in their tracks," said Dawn Siska, who grew up in Virginia and Maryland. "They say time heals all wounds. I can't imagine there being enough time to heal from this. ... How does one recover?"

Siska didn't attend the school, but she said many of her high school friends and

their children went to Virginia Tech.

"You go to the University of Richmond or Virginia Tech, if you go to high school in Virginia," she said.

Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick, who lives in Gwinnett County, said in a statement he was "shocked and deeply saddened about the tragic loss of life" that took place at his alma mater.

"My thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones involved in this terrible tragedy," he said. "It is my hope that the university community can pull together to help the students cope with this senseless and unfortunate ordeal."

Vick's fellow Falcon,

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Volunteers identify headstone's owner

By HEATHER DARENBERG
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Rick Johnson, 70, of Lilburn said he found a match in the "Gwinnett County, Georgia: Families, 1818-2005" book: Reuben Irving Ball, who was born Jan. 14, 1877, and died Jan. 24, 1919.

"I saw an article in the Post, and I decided to look up some stuff," Johnson said.

Although most of the words on the stone were faded, police originally said the headstone appeared to be inscribed with the name "Ball" and the dates Jan. 14, 1873, and Jan. 24, 1919. Pictures show what looks to be a "R" and an "I" carved into the stone.

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Special Photo

A Gwinnett Historical Society researcher found a name to match the information on this faded headstone that was found in the shrubs of a Norcross area intersection.

Lawrenceville mulls anti-gang ordinance

City ponders measure mirroring Snellville's

By CAMIE YOUNG
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LAWRENCEVILLE — Gwinnett's county seat may follow Snellville's lead in targeting gang members where they live.

The Lawrenceville City Council has scheduled a special session to give the first reading to a "street gang terrorism and prevention ordinance," similar to the one enacted by Snellville last week.

A county commissioner and a Duluth city councilman said they

were also studying a law for their jurisdictions.

"We don't have a big problem now that I'm aware of, but we're surrounded," Lawrenceville Mayor Rex Millsaps said. "When they are displaced (from Snellville), we don't want them in Lawrenceville."

While Snellville's ordinance was triggered by the arrest of four brothers, suspected gang members who claim to be part of a rap group and were arrested on charges of burglary, armed robbery and false

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