

MASSACRE

33 KILLED AT VIRGINIA TECH IN NATION'S DEADLIEST SHOOTING RAMPAGE



AP PHOTO

Some of the injured are carried out of Norris Hall on Virginia Tech's campus Monday. Witnesses described 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.

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By Christine Hauser and Anahad O'Connor
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Thirty-three people were killed Monday on the campus of Virginia Tech in what appears to be the deadliest shooting rampage in U.S. 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," university President Charles Steger said. 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, 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

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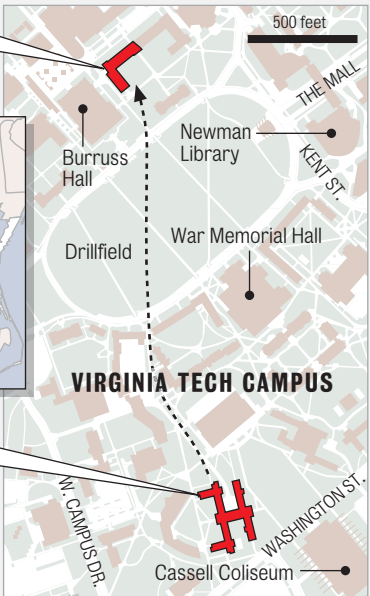
TRAGEDY AT VIRGINIA TECH

A gunman opened fire in a Virginia Tech dormitory and classroom Monday, killing 33 people and wounding at least 15 in the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history.

About 9:15 a.m.: Norris Hall
31 people killed, including gunman, who shot himself



About 7:15 a.m.: Ambler Johnston Hall
Two people killed in the dormitory



AP MAPS
Note: All times Eastern (local)
Source: Virginia Tech

SHOOTING SPREES

Some of the nation's worst mass shootings in recent years

AUGUST 1966: In what became the archetype of a random shooting, student Charles Whitman shot dead 14 people from a 27-story tower at the University of Texas before being shot by police. He had

killed his wife and mother the night before.

AUGUST 1986: A part-time postal worker threatened with dismissal killed 14 people and wounded six in a locked post office in

Edmond, Okla., before killing himself.

DECEMBER 1987: A former Air Force sergeant killed 14 of his relatives on Christmas Day in Russellville, Ark.

OCTOBER 1991: A man slammed his truck into a cafeteria in the Texas town of Killeen and opened fire on the

lunchtime crowd, killing 23 people. He then killed himself in a bathroom.

JULY 1993: A heavily armed man killed nine people at a major law firm in San Francisco before shooting himself.

APRIL 1999: Two heavily armed teenagers went on a bloody rampage at Columbine High School

outside Denver, shooting 13 students and staff members before killing themselves.

JULY 1999: A gunman killed nine people at two brokerages in Atlanta after apparently killing his wife and two children. He committed suicide five hours later.

Reuters

Parents still fuming about prom dress protocol

School officials might review dress code

By Rob Nelson
West Bank bureau

Three days after about 25 girls from a Marrero high school were turned away from their senior prom because adult chaperones said their dresses violated the Jefferson Parish public school system's policy, district officials are trying to soothe the uproar and said



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Monday there's a chance the system might review its rules governing attire.

In an episode that has garnered national media attention, most of the girls were turned away because of an excessive

display of cleavage, though the policy also bans clothing that is "tight-fitting" or "see-through." School system spokesman Jeff Nowakowski said L.W. Higgins High School Principal Germain Gilson is inviting upset

From left, Miranda Melerine, India Procter, Christine Genusa, Caress George, Laketa Davis, Dazerre Washington, Jessica Griffin, Chazonia Lewis and Shontyria Walker wear their unapproved prom dresses. The girls said chaperones cited problems with their décolletage as a reason for denying them entrance to the prom.

See PROM, A-4

Insurance suit yields \$2.8 million verdict

Federal jury says wind leveled house

From staff and wire reports

Allstate Insurance Co. must pay a Louisiana man who lost his home to Hurricane Katrina more than \$2.8 million in damages and penalties, a federal jury decided Monday in a case that hinged largely on whether it was wind or storm surge that wiped out his house.

Allstate spokeswoman Kate Hollcraft said the company will appeal.

"Allstate is shocked with the jury verdict in favor of the plaintiff. Allstate believes it acted in good faith throughout the entire claims process with the Weiss family," she said.

The jury found Allstate — which claimed most of the damage was due to storm surge, an event not covered in its policy — did not pay Robert Weiss enough money to cover wind damage to his home. The verdict included a \$1.5 million bad faith penalty for the company's failure to pay the claim quickly enough — significantly more than the plaintiff's attorneys had suggested.

See ALLSTATE, A-4

