



GCRC Newsletter

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Government College Relations Council

Wave of school threats shocks U.S.

From an Associated Press story

March 8, 2001

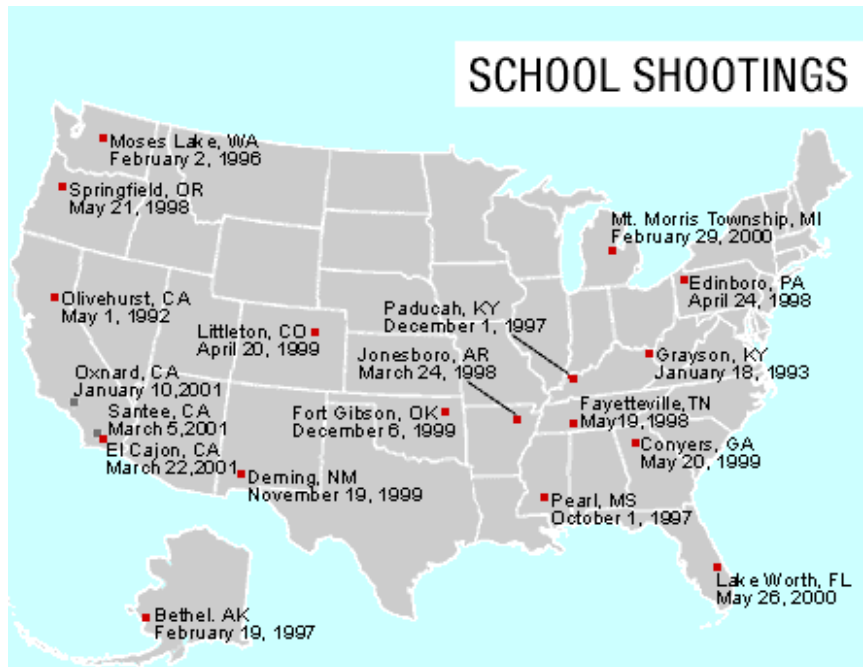
A loaded handgun in a kindergarten class. A revolver with a sawed-off barrel in a middle school. Hit lists in high school. Even boasts that the Columbine massacre was mere child's play.

Ever since Charles Andrew Williams allegedly killed two classmates and wounded 13 others Monday at his high school in suburban San Diego, parents and educators have witnessed a rash of school-related threats.

The schools in question can be public and private. They can be elementary, middle or high. The children can be boys or girls, popular or outcast. The reports keep coming in.

- In California alone, 16 students, including three teens who attend the California School for the Deaf, have been detained since Tuesday for threatening teachers and students or bringing weapons on campus.

Among them was a 15-year-old Perris High School student who was led off in handcuffs Wednesday when he boasted that he could outdo the massacre of 15, including two teen gunmen, at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., in 1999.



Graphic from cnn.com

- In Pennsylvania, a 14-year-old girl was charged with attempted homicide after allegedly shooting a classmate in the shoulder at their parochial school in Williamsport on Wednesday.

And a 12-year-old student of the Thomas Morton Elementary School in southwest Philadelphia was arrested Wednesday after a .22-caliber pistol was allegedly found in his possession.

On Monday, an 8-year-old boy armed with a loaded handgun threatened a "bloodbath" in the Henry C. Lea School in west

Philadelphia before being taken into custody.

- In Michigan, police arrested a 17-year-old girl accused of talking some middle school students into delivering a false bomb threat to authorities. The teen gave a note to three children Tuesday at a playground next to the school and told them to bring it to the sheriff's office.

- In Iowa, a 15-year-old Assumption High School student was arrested Wednesday after threatening to get a gun and shoot everyone in the school, Davenport

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El Cajon Students Return to Classes

By BEN FOX, Associated Press Writer

EL CAJON, Calif. (AP) - Bullet holes patched up and shattered windows replaced, students returned to Granite Hills High School on Monday, March 26, with feelings of apprehension and a desire to return to normalcy.

Parents accompanied many of the 2,900 students on their first day of class since an 18-year-old senior allegedly opened fire on the campus, wounding five people Thursday.

The suspect, Jason Hoffman, was to be arraigned later Monday in El Cajon Superior Court. Arraignment in the same court also was scheduled for Andy Williams, the 15-year-old accused of killing two students and wounding 13 people in a March 5 shooting spree at Santana High School in nearby Santee.

Granite Hills students were beginning classes in fifth period, the hour that was disrupted by Thursday's shooting. More than 150 crisis counselors were in classrooms to present a 90-minute talk on coping with the trauma.

"We want to make sure the school gets back to being the lively community it's always been," school board member Ted Crooks said.

School district superintendent Granger Ward encouraged parents to attend classes with their children. "I'm looking forward to reclaiming our school and trying to get back to normal," he said.

Molly Moranz, 15, walked arm in arm with her mother, Thea. "I'm scared and I'm going to have a lot of memories of what the weekend to shoot his schoolmates opened fire in a boys' bathroom, killing two students

School Was Unable To Avoid Shooting

By ERICA WERNER, Associated Press Writer

SANTEE, Calif. (AP) - Santana High School did everything right: anonymous sign-in sheets for students to report threats, SWAT training for the principal, programs to help youngsters get along, including one called "Names can really hurt us."

A sheriff's deputy was assigned part-time to the school. Seven full-time campus supervisors roamed the grounds. Extra phones, radios and speakers were installed to spread word of trouble quickly across the 1,900-student campus.

Somehow, it wasn't enough.

On Monday morning, a freshman who had been picked on and had threatened over the weekend to shoot his schoolmates

opened fire in a boys' bathroom, killing two students

Wave

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police said. By court order, he will undergo a psychiatric evaluation. A student tipped authorities.

- In Florida, Philip M. Bryant, a sophomore at Bayshore High School in Bradenton, was charged Wednesday with carrying a loaded semiautomatic handgun on campus. Bryant, 17, was suspended.

And John Wayne Morrison, 17, was arrested after he was allegedly found carrying a

revolver with a sawed-off barrel at Meadowlawn Middle School, his former school, in St. Petersburg. A student saw the gun and alerted a detective.

- In Washington state, a 16-year-old boy was arrested Wednesday after allegedly brandishing a gun during a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps session. Classmates at Kentwood High School in Covington said he ordered them to sit down and shut up, then let them leave. No one

was hurt.

- In Virginia, a 12-year old middle school student was arrested Wednesday for threatening to bring a gun to school and shoot a female classmate. He was charged with a misdemeanor charge of making a threat over the phone.

- In Wisconsin, a 14-year-old boy who fled from his middle school while being disciplined Wednesday returned with a gun just after classes let out but was taken into custody without

Gunman Arrested After Threatening to Kill Self in Duke U. President's Office

By JULIANNE BASINGER, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*

A man with a loaded gun walked into the office of Duke University's president, Nannerl O. Keohane, on Wednesday afternoon asking to see her, and after he was told she wasn't there, threatened to kill himself.

Two Duke police officers then subdued the man, and no one was harmed. Duke police officials said that David P. Malone, a 46-year-old who was not a student or current employee at the university, had removed the .32-caliber revolver from a

backpack and said a school board official, who asked not to be identified, said an Abbotsford Senior Secondary administrator opened an ice machine, saw what appeared to be a bomb, and sounded the alarm.

About 1,000 students left the school while Abbotsford police and the RCMP

Shots Ring Out in Penn. School Cafeteria

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (Reuters) - A teenage girl opened fire in the cafeteria of a Catholic high school Wednesday, wounding a classmate in the second U.S. school shooting in less than a week, authorities said.

Police said gunfire rang out around noon EST at Bishop Neumann High School in Williamsport, about 120 miles northwest of Philadelphia.

An unidentified 13-year-old girl was wounded in the attack. She was treated at Williamsport Hospital and Medical Center and then transported to a trauma center 30 miles away in the town of Danville, hospital spokeswoman Tracy Witter said. She could not confirm local media reports that the girl may have been hit in the shoulder.

Meanwhile, the young suspect was quickly

Police disarm bomb found in B.C. school

By Mark Hume, *National Post*

VANCOUVER - An RCMP bomb squad was called to a Fraser Valley high school yesterday to disarm an explosive device found in the cafeteria.

An administrator found the device at Abbotsford Senior Secondary after school officials received a telephone threat saying two bombs were in the school.

The caller said he "didn't want anybody hurt" and indicated one bomb had been left in the cafeteria and another in the library.

A school board official, who asked not to be identified, said an Abbotsford Senior Secondary administrator opened an ice machine, saw what appeared to be a bomb, and sounded the alarm.

About 1,000 students left the school while Abbotsford police and the RCMP

incident, Elm Grove police said.

- In Texas, a high school freshman found with a hit list of pupils he reportedly wanted to kill was expelled from Harlingen High School. The letter suggested the boy wanted to commit the same attack as the shooter in San Diego.

- In Arizona, three students were arrested Wednesday: An eighth-grader was accused of threatening to bring a gun to school to shoot sixth-graders; a 13-year-old was

arrested for making threats to shoot classmates who ridiculed him; and a 13-year-old girl was arrested after a bomb threat was left on an answering machine Tuesday night.

In light of these and similar incidents in our schools today, it is important for us to recognize the nature and magnitude of the problem facing today's educators and youth.

It is important for all of us, as responsible members of the

community, to recognize the causes of these problems and violent outbreaks. It is also imperative for us to address this problem at its roots—in the homes and in society at large.

We should attempt to be proactive, rather than reactive, in curbing the growing trends of violence in our education system today.

The quest for a better and safer for tomorrow for our youth needs to begin today.

Predicting Workplace Violence

New job-applicant test reveals 'desk rage' aggression, hostility

From www.healthscout.com

SUNDAY, Feb. 11 (HealthScout) — There's a new stealth weapon in the war on workplace violence: A 20-minute multiple-choice test designed to weed out job candidates who are prone to devastating outbursts of "desk rage." "Desk rage" is the work world's equivalent of road rage, and this test — developed by two industrial psychologists at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville — is disguised as a series of reasoning questions that actually reveals whether someone is hostile and aggressive.

"There are tons of personality tests out there, and most are geared to self-description, asking people 'Do you have a bad temper?' or 'Do you feel you get mistreated a lot?' People will fake 'em," says Michael McIntyre, who spent eight years developing the test with his colleague, Larry James. "We go after unconscious decision-making, which is a much better predictor of what people will do."

Hostile people see mistreatment and unfairness all around them, McIntyre and James say, so the strategies such people use to reach logical conclusions and solve problems will clearly differ from a normal person's.

Each of the test's 25 questions has one answer designed to appeal to the aggressive worker, whom McIntyre describes as a person who is cynical, paranoid, has a short fuse, puts great importance on his own power, respect and dignity, has contempt for authority, and who would rather get even than get along.

On pilot studies conducted over the last six years at 12 companies across the country and at the university, the test, called "the conditional reasoning test of aggression," worked "like a champ," McIntyre says.

When he and James tracked more than 2,000 test-takers, they found that the applicants who had consistently picked the aggressive answers had performance problems on the job, including late arrivals, chronic absenteeism, walking off the job or arguing with co-workers and superiors.

Sample question

American cars have gotten better in the last 15 years. American car-makers started to build better cars when they began to lose business to the Japanese. Many American buyers thought that foreign cars were better made. Which of the following is the most logical conclusion based on the above?

- a) America was the world's largest producer of airplanes 15 years ago.
- b) Swedish car-makers lost business in America 15 years ago.
- c) The Japanese knew more than Americans about building good cars 15 years ago.
- d) American car-makers built cars to wear out 15 years ago, so they could make a lot of money selling parts. [The aggressive answer is D. It is based on the aggressive person's tendency to be cynical or suspicious of other people's motives and actions.]

The test is available for \$5 from The Psychological Corp., a national test distributor, and from the College of Business at the University of Tennessee.

McIntyre believes the test would have singled out Michael McDermott, the 42-year-old software tester who opened fire at a Wakefield, Mass., Internet consulting firm on Dec. 26, killing seven co-workers before being subdued by police.

While McDermott had no prior criminal record, McIntyre says he mirrored the expected portrait of a rage-prone employee. He was an uncommunicative loner, his job performance had slipped, he had a spotty attendance record and he was grappling with serious financial and personal problems, McIntyre says.

"If you were his co-worker, you might not have seen it coming, but he's the type of person our test was designed to identify," he adds.