

# Gunman opens fire at UT Austin, kills self

By Kelley Shannon  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AUSTIN, Texas — A student wearing a dark suit and a ski mask opened fire Tuesday with an assault rifle on the University of Texas campus before fleeing into a library and fatally shooting himself. No one else was hurt.

The shooting began near a fountain in front of the UT Tower — the site of one of the nation's deadliest shooting rampages more than four decades ago, when a gunman ascended the clock tower and fired down on dozens of people.

Within hours of Tuesday's gunfire, the school issued an all-clear notice, but the university remained closed, and the area around the library was still considered a crime scene.

"Our campus is safe," said President Bill Powers said.

Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo expected the school to be "completely open and back to normal" by Wednesday morning.

Authorities identified the gunman as 19-year-old Colton Tooley, a sophomore math major. Police declined to speculate on his motive. Tooley's parents did not immediately respond to a message left by The Associated Press. At his family's home in Austin,

police investigators went in and out Tuesday afternoon carrying bags and boxes. There was no immediate word on what was in the containers. A neighbor said police arrived at the home about three hours after the campus shooting.

The 50,000-student university had been on lockdown while officers with bomb-sniffing dogs carried out a building-by-building manhunt.

After the gunfire, authorities searched for a possible second shooter, but they eventually concluded the gunman acted alone. Confusion about the number of suspects arose because shots were fired in multiple locations, and officers received varying descriptions from witnesses, campus police Chief Robert Dahlstrom said.

Before reaching the library, the gunman apparently walked for several blocks wearing a mask and dark clothing and carrying an automatic weapon, witnesses said.

Construction worker Ruben Cordoba said he was installing a fence on the roof of a three-story building near the library when he looked down and made eye contact with the suspect.

"I saw in his eyes he didn't care," Cordoba said.

The gunman continued down the street, firing three shots toward a campus church, then changed direction and fired three more times into the air, Cordoba said.

A garbage truck driver leaped out of his vehicle and ran away as did a woman carrying two babies, the construction worker said.

"I'm not scared, but I was scared for the people around me," Cordoba said.

Handall Wilhite, an adjunct law professor, said he was driving to class when he saw "students scrambling behind wastebaskets, trees and monuments," and then a young man carrying an assault rifle sprinting along the street.

"He was running right in front of me ... and he shot, and I thought we're three men, please, not at me. He's firing at me, but not at me," Wilhite said.

The professor said he didn't have the opportunity to shoot several people, but he did.

Police said they didn't know who shot the gunman, but they're looking for anyone with the AK-47.

Osita Trevino, who manages work on campus, said she saw the gunman when he was near the library. She said she saw him shoot and then she saw him run and fall down. She said she later heard the shot.



Tamir Kalif/The Daily Texan

Police prepare to enter Carhoun Hall at the University of Texas in Austin, Texas on Tuesday. A gunman opened fire Tuesday inside the Perry-Castañeda Library then fatally shot himself.

"It's freaking out. I'm trying to calm my town. I've just been trying to love her and relax."

Acevedo said officers were able to track the gunman's movements with the help of students who were nearby in the right direction.

The police chief said he believes the gunman ran into the library as officers closed in on him, then shot himself in the head on the sixth floor. Police did not fire any shots, Acevedo said.

In the middle-class Austin neighborhood where the Tooley family lives, the street was blocked off by yellow crime-scene tape Tuesday afternoon. Investigators were gathered in front of the home and could be seen coming out of a neighbor's house.

Powers credited the school's crisis-management plan and social networking for quickly warning students, faculty and staff.

## Oman tries to secure release for Americans

By Nasser Karimi  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

TEHRAN, Iran — A delegation from the Persian Gulf sultanate of Oman is visiting Iran to try to secure the release of two American men imprisoned for more than a year and accused by Tehran of illegally crossing the border and spying, the U.S. State Department said Tuesday.

Oman helped secure the Sept. 14 release of a third American, Sarah Shourd, who was arrested along with the men, Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal, near the Iran-Iraq border in July 2009. Shourd denies Iran's allegations and says the three were just hiking through a scenic area of Iraq's northern Kurdistan region during a vacation.

Her release raised hopes that Oman — an ally of both the



Sarah Shourd, second left, and her mother Nora Shourd, second from right, visit the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque in Oman on Sunday. She is one of three American hikers detained by Iran in July 2009.

United States and Tehran — could help secure the two men's freedom as well. An Iranian newspaper reported over the weekend that Omani officials were expected to visit Iran as early as Sunday and hoped to take the detainees home with them.

In Washington, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley gave the first official confirmation that such a visit was taking place. Crowley said the State Department has received no word of any progress in the Omanis' discussions with Iranian officials, but he said the U.S. appreciates Oman's efforts.

"The Omanis plan to visit the two men with their families, the two hikers and their families are grateful for their efforts," the U.S. State Department said in a statement.

"For the details of the Oman government's efforts, visit our website."

Earlier Tuesday, the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Mehdi Karubi, a minister, would visit Tehran to talk to the men, but did not outline any details.

Asked about the report, the newspaper said the Iranian government would not comment on "delegations from other countries travel to Iran to discuss the case."

## Pa. candidate changes story on helping felon

By Michael Rubinkam  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LANCASTER, Pa. — A former Pennsylvania prosecutor running for Congress has dropped his claim that he had permission from the Justice Department to serve as a personal reference for a convicted felon seeking a casino license.

Republican Tom Marino asserted in an April radio interview that his superiors authorized him to act as a reference on an application submitted by the bossman Louis DeNaples — a crime boss in Marino's office in Washington, D.C.

Marino's account was called into question when The Associated Press reported Sept. 17 there was no documentation that Marino had permission from the Justice Department to vouch for DeNaples, a wealthy northeast Pennsylvania businessman who had been convicted in a federal case and fined the government of more than \$500,000 in 2006 for racketeering.

asserted that "the release of certain documents would end this matter." But Marino refused to produce the letter his campaign said he received, saying he was not authorized to release "documents related to my service as United States Attorney."

Marino now says he never asked for permission because he didn't need it. He told The Daily Item of Sunbury in a story published Tuesday that he was permitted to provide personal references as long as he didn't use his job title or attempt to promote staffers.

"I did it all the time," he said, according to the newspaper.

Campaign spokesman Jason Fitzgerald on Tuesday confirmed Marino's comments in the newspaper but refused to make the candidate available to the AP saying his "schedule will not permit" an interview. Fitzgerald said the issue over whether Marino had authority had gone on "entirely too long."

"It's about a nonissue," he said.

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