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Campus copes as details come in

BY ERIN FRANCE AND ERIC JOHNSON
SENIOR WRITERS

BLACKSBURG, Va. — A steady stream of breaking news added to the tension on Virginia Tech's campus Wednesday following the Monday deaths of 33 students and faculty. An afternoon press conference revealed that NBC News received a package containing what network officials described as a "multimedia manifesto" from Cho Seung-Hui, the student definitively identified as the gunman in one of two shootings Monday.

"Upon reception of this correspondence, NBC News immediately notified authorities," Virginia State Police Superintendent Col. Steven Flaherty said. "This may be a very new, critical component of this investigation." Authorities still were evaluating the materials Wednesday night, even as NBC began to release images and videos taken by Cho. Students gasped and whispered "Oh my god" as television screens flashed an image of Cho posing menacingly with two handguns raised at eye level. The videos portray the intense anger of an individual whose exact motives still are unclear. Cho assigned blame for the massacre to his victims, claiming that he "died like Jesus Christ, to inspire generations of weak and defense-

less people." He called his victims "snobs" and suggested the source of his rage was the privilege and materialism that he saw in his classmates. "Your trust funds wasn't enough," he said, sitting in front of a plain cinder-block wall and appearing to read from a script. "Your vodka and cognac wasn't enough. All your debaucheries weren't enough." The release of the video capped an already uneasy day. Even two days after the shootings, and with a dwindling number of students on campus, the community remained on edge. Early in the day, a swarm of police and media descended on Burruss Hall after a Va. Tech operator received a threat on university President Charles Steger's life. The building was secured by police

and a report of a suspicious person came in amid the confusion, said campus police Chief Wendell Flinchum. "These kinds of reports are not uncommon in the wake of what has occurred in the last 48 hours," he said, alluding to the vigilant mood in Blacksburg. The last two days have left investigators, reporters and students scrambling to understand an event that left friends, family and community members dead. There is growing frustration at the news that Cho had an extensive history of psychological instability, including a recommendation of involuntary hospitalization dating back to 2005. Campus police were contacted



DTH/TIMOTHY REESE
Va. Tech sophomore Chris Maupin plays catch Tuesday outside Ambler Johnston Residence Hall. "It was kinda something to do," Maupin said.



DTH/ABBY KEIPER
Charlene Lee, who has bipolar disorder, is a client of Club Nova. "This is getting me prepared to go into the work area," Lee said. "I have no insurance. Other than my job, I have no other income." Lee said Club Nova helped her secure an apartment and leave a homeless shelter.

SEARCHING FOR SUPPORT

BY BRENDAN BROWN
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

For most of her life, Charlene Lee has been unable to hold a steady job because of her drastic mood swings. "I can go from being perfectly normal, to cussing at you, to feeling so guilty about it a minute later that I'm crying," she said. "When I face my day, I don't know if I'm going to be adult Charlene or child Charlene." Lee, 39, has been troubled since childhood by her genetic bipolar disorder. She has attempted suicide several times by overdosing on her prescribed medication, she said. The most recent attempt, she said, came in April 2006 and led to more than two weeks of intensive care at UNC Neuroscience Hospital. For months after her release, Lee was jobless and homeless, staying at a women's shelter in Chapel Hill from October until the end of the year. Since January, she has received daily help and comfort from Club Nova in Carrboro. The club is one of roughly 1,000 community support providers statewide that aid those leaving or awaiting intensive care to navigate the mental health system and integrate into the community by helping them build social skills,

find housing or take their medicine. But an abrupt decision two weeks ago by state officials to cut the hourly Medicaid billing rate for such services by a third sent shock waves through a mental health system that has undergone radical change since 2001. Those reforms have focused on providing proven treatment techniques and privatizing and localizing services — moving away from state-run facilities. The announcement, which came after an investigation suggesting that some providers were misusing funds, threatens to reduce the quality and quantity of services, advocates say. Brad Dean, spokesman for the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, which includes the mental health division, said a group of 20 local providers and mental health officials will suggest a new temporary Medicaid rate today. But community support providers already are struggling to stay afloat financially. Lee said she was assigned a community support worker in January through one of the many providers that, like Club Nova, used to be run by a state agency before being privatized. But she said the company told her two weeks ago that the worker was taking a job elsewhere, leaving her without those services for an indefinite amount of time. Along with one in 20 state residents who need mental health care, she has been affected

most by the system's growing pains. "That's the story of my life," Lee said. "One thing gets fixed, and then something else comes apart." **Fragmented system** Club Nova used to be operated by the Local Management Entity for Orange, Person and Chatham counties. Last year, as part of the state's ongoing efforts to divest from the government-run LMEs in favor of local community support services, Club Nova became a private nonprofit responsible for Medicaid billing, paying employees and various other services once taken care of by the LME. Though the LMEs still monitor and distribute funds to the providers in their area, the services no longer are under their direct control and are fragmented between groups that provide services from crisis management and hospitalization to community support. "Our system really needs coordination to make it work," said Judy Truitt, director of the LME for Orange, Person and Chatham counties. The local LME, which serves roughly 5,000 mental health, developmental disability and substance abuse patients, stopped directing most local services in May 2006. The complexities of the system make it difficult

SEE MENTAL HEALTH, PAGE 12

Universities mull privacy

BY ERIN FRANCE AND ERIC JOHNSON
SENIOR WRITERS

BLACKSBURG, Va. — The revelation that Virginia Tech shooter Cho Seung-Hui had a documented history of psychological problems is likely to intensify an already heated debate about how campuses handle troubled students. A number of high-profile court cases in recent years have centered on the constraints and responsibilities university officials confront in deciding whether to take pre-emptive action on behalf of at-risk students. Christopher Flynn, director of the Cook Counseling Center at Virginia Tech, alluded to that difficulty in discussing Cho's history of strange behavior. "There are lots of issues that are present on a college campus,"



Cho Seung-Hui showed signs of mental illness before the shootings.

Flynn said during a Wednesday press conference. "The extent to which we can make a judgment about whether someone is a danger is a separate issue." For universities, it is an issue fraught with moral and legal complications. Officials have to balance concern for campus safety with an obligation to protect individual privacy, often with vague guidelines. "Schools walk a real fine line," said Johnne Armentrout, assistant director of counseling services at Wake Forest University. "The tricky thing is that they face lawsuits on both sides, either from not doing enough or from violating their students' privacy rights." Federal law prohibits universities from revealing a student's psychological problems, even to parents, unless they have a signed waiver or believe the student poses an imminent danger to himself or others. Deciding when to break that confidentiality is difficult, but universities typically have erred on the side of protecting student privacy. In recent cases, universities have

SEE PRIVACY, PAGE 12

UNC unsure how lead got into water

BY SERGIO TOVAR
STAFF WRITER

Lead levels exceeding national regulations found in the water systems of Chapman Hall and Caudill Labs have sent University officials and students looking for answers. Officials have not yet determined the source of the lead in the water supply or the exact amount of lead in the drinking water, which can cause everything from headaches and irritability to problems in the nervous and the gastrointestinal systems. "Right now we're just in the process of getting some advice," said Carolyn Elfland, associate vice chancellor for campus services, adding that officials have consulted experts to create a plan of action. Information about the lead found in the water has been provided via e-mail to faculty members who work in the affected buildings, but some question why the entire campus community wasn't notified. Ray Hackney, UNC environment, health and safety director, said he didn't see a need to tell



DTH/DANIEL BAND
A sign posted above a water fountain in Chapman Hall informs students and staff that lead has been found in the water systems. everyone about the problem. "We don't feel like the whole campus is at risk, and we have signs up in the buildings informing people not to drink the water," he said. Luanne Williams, a toxicologist with the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, said

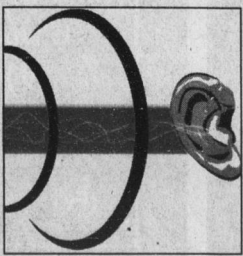
SEE LEAD WATER, PAGE 12

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NO DROP ZONE State leaders discuss a plan to raise high-school graduation rates
FRIENDLY ADVICE A UNC professor files an amicus brief in a post-Sept. 11 case
THINKING GREEN Speaker talks about global warming during Earth Day festivities

dive | page 5

SIGNALING A PARTY
The Southeast Electronic Music Festival will return to Chapel Hill next weekend bigger than ever with house, techno and many other genres set to be featured.



arts | page 15

'ENTERTAIN ME'
Inspired by students, senior Tiffany Okafor wrote a one-act play examining hip-hop culture that opens tonight at the Stone Center.

this day in history

APRIL 19, 1967 ...
UNC's No. 1 tennis player, Bitsy Harrison, is declared disqualified for play by the NCAA on the grounds that his years of eligibility expired.

weather

Rainy
H 62, L 45
index
police log 2
calendar 2
games 10
sports 13
opinion 16