

## THE NATION

# 'Oh no, not again': 2 hurt in Va.

## Student opens fire on last day of school year

By Scott Bowles  
USA TODAY

Gunshots were heard at another U.S. school Monday as a Richmond, Va., freshman opened fire, wounding a teacher and a school volunteer, police said.

Students dove under desks and ran screaming from Armstrong High School when the 14-year-old boy pulled a handgun and fired at least three times at other students in a hallway, police said.

Wounded were Gregory Carter, 45, a basketball coach and history teacher, and Eloise Wilson, 74, a volunteer aide. Investigators said both were unintended targets and are expected to recover fully.

Monday's violence follows fatal school shootings in West Paducah, Ky.; Pearl, Miss.; Jonesboro, Ark.; and Springfield, Ore., in the past 8½ months. At least 14 children and adults have died and 42 have been injured.

Carter was shot in the chest, Wil-

son in the arm. Carter was listed in stable condition at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond. Wilson was treated and released.

"When I heard there was another school shooting — right here in Richmond — I thought to myself, 'Oh no, not again,'" Richmond police officer Bill Chorney said. "We're just grateful it wasn't more serious than this. No kids were hurt. It easily could have been a bigger tragedy."

Many students were taking their final exams Monday at Armstrong, a school of about 750 students on the east side of the city.

The student, who was not identified because he is a minor, walked onto school grounds about 9:55 a.m. carrying a .32-caliber Llama semi-automatic handgun, investigators said. Police said the youth had gotten into an argument with other students earlier in the day, and he apparently roamed the halls later that morning looking for them.

Richmond Deputy Police Chief

Teresa Gooch said Carter and Wilson tried to maintain peace among the youths, but when the teen saw the other students, he opened fire.

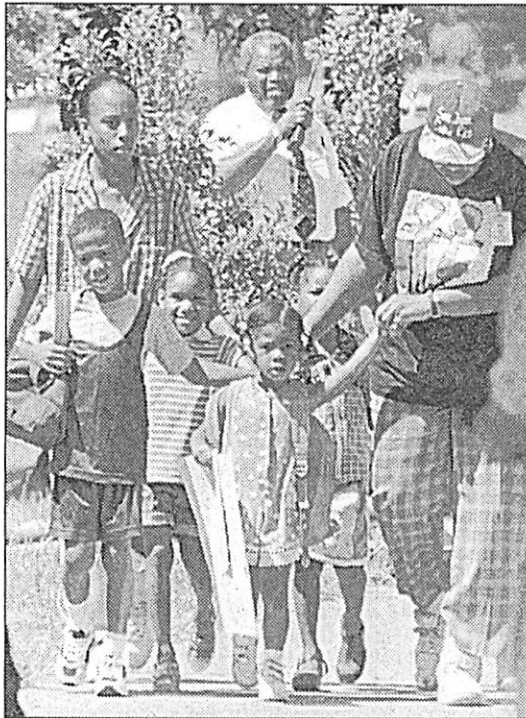
"The adults are not, were not, the intended victims," Gooch said.

Several students said the threat of violence among some students had been simmering for months and came to a head Monday, the day before summer recess.

"All the stuff that happens during the year gets taken out" in the last days of school, graduating senior Clifton Taylor, 19, said. "That's why a lot of kids don't come to school the final day."

Chorney said the school is near a drug-plagued housing project and is the scene of routine fights and scuffles. "But they've never had anything along the lines of this."

Authorities said they will charge the teen as an adult with two counts of aggravated assault and two firearms charges. He was being held in the Richmond Juvenile Detention Center.



By Steve Helber, AP

**In Richmond:** Children are led away from Armstrong High. Classes were canceled after the shooting.

*School shooting #5*

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