

# CHO'S TRIP TO THE POST OFFICE

Niels Bonde

Space Poetry  
2011





Seung Hui Cho

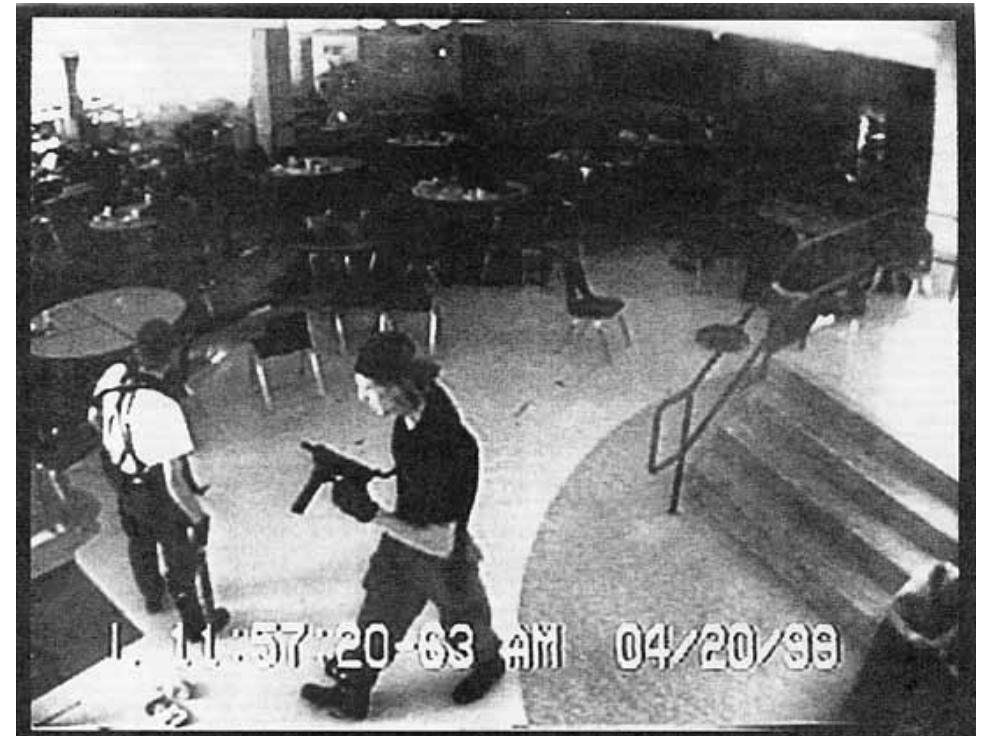
**1984** Seung Hui Cho is born to a family living in a small two-room apartment in Seoul, South Korea. He is an inordinately shy, quiet child, but no problem to his family. He has serious health problems from 9 months to 3 years old, is frail, and after unpleasant medical procedures does not want to be touched.

**1992** Cho's family emigrates to Maryland when he is 8 years old.

**1993** The Cho family moves to Fairfax County, Virginia, when he is 9 years old. They work long hours in a dry-cleaning business.

**1997** Seung Hui in the 6th grade continues to be very withdrawn. Teachers meet with his parents about this behavior. In the summer before he enters 7th grade, he begins receiving counseling at the Center for Multi-cultural Human Services to address his shy, introverted nature, which is diagnosed as "selective mutism." Parents try to socialize him more by encouraging extracurricular activities and friends, but he stays withdrawn.

**1999** During the 8th grade, suicidal and homicidal ideations are identified by Cho's middle school teachers in his writing. It is connected to the Columbine shootings<sup>[1]</sup> this year. (He references Columbine in school writings.) The school requests that his parents ask a counselor to intervene, which leads to a psychiatric evaluation at the Multicultural Center for Human Services. He is prescribed antidepressant medication. He responds well and is taken off the medication approximately one year later.



[1] The Columbine High School massacre occurred on Tuesday, April 20, 1999, at Columbine High School in Columbine, an unincorporated area of Jefferson County, Colorado, United States, near Denver and Littleton. Two senior students, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, embarked on a massacre, killing 12 students and one teacher. They also injured 21 other students directly, and three people were injured while attempting to escape. The pair then committed suicide. It is the fourth-deadliest school massacre in United States history, after the 1927 Bath School disaster, 2007 Virginia Tech massacre and the 1966 University of Texas massacre, and the deadliest for an American high school.

The massacre provoked debate regarding gun control laws, the availability of firearms in the United States, and gun violence involving youths. Much discussion also centered on the nature of high school cliques, subcultures, and bullying, as well as the role of violent movies and video games in American society. The shooting also resulted in an increased emphasis on school security, and a moral panic aimed at goth culture, social outcasts, the gun culture, the use of pharmaceutical anti-depressants by teenagers, violent films and music, teenage internet use,[2] and violent video games.[3][4] (Source: Wikipedia)

[2] Janelle Brown (April 23, 1999). "Doom, Quake and mass murder". Salon.com. Retrieved August 24, 2008.

[3] "Lessons from Littleton (Part I)" (in English). Independent School. National Association of Independent Schools. Retrieved August 24, 2008.

[4] "JonKatz" (April 26, 1999). "Voices From The Hellmouth". Slashdot. Retrieved August 24, 2008.

**August 2003** Cho enters Virginia Tech as a business information systems major. Little attention is drawn to him during his freshman year. He has a difficult time with his roommate over neatness issues and changes rooms. His parents make weekly trips to visit him. His grades are good. He does not see a counselor at school or home. He is excited about college.

**Fall 2004** Cho begins his sophomore year. Cho moves off campus to room with a senior who is rarely at home. Cho complains of mites in the apartment, but doctors tell him it is acne and prescribe minocycline. He becomes interested in writing and decides to switch his major to English beginning his junior year. He submits the paperwork late that sophomore year. His sister notes a growing passion for writing over the summer break, though he is secretive about its content. Cho submits a book idea to a publishing house.

**Same suite, different planet**  
**Ex-suietmate reflects on Cho's actions**

ALLEN D. BREED AND OWEN HAHN / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
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BLACKSBURG, VA. — When Andy Koch last saw Seung-Hui Cho in a dining hall a week ago, his former suitemate pretended he didn't see him and simply walked the other way.

Koch is among a handful of Virginia Tech students who passed within the orbit of the gunman of his victims in the last hours before his murderous assault. He has had a week now to reflect on the ominous warning signs that may have existed before Cho carried out his massacre.

For Koch, a few of his bizarre interactions with Cho make more sense now. But Cho's actions remain as inexplicable as they were when the gunfire started echoing through campus a week ago.

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Koch remembers taking Cho out to some parties at the start of the fall semester in 2003. He introduced Cho to friends, but the suitemate didn't say much. At one party, Cho did get tipsy enough that he opened up and began talking about his virtual love life.

He said he had an imaginary girlfriend named Jelly, and that she was "a supermodel that lived in space." Jelly had a nickname for Cho — Spunky.

Once, Koch knocked on Cho's door looking for his roommate, John. The door was locked, and Seung wouldn't open it.

"I'm in here with my girlfriend and we're making out," he said.

"Who says that kind of stuff?" the junior from Richmond asked.

Then there was the beer-pong game. It was down to the final shot, and it was Cho's turn to sink a ping-pong ball in a beer-filled cup from across a table. Cho stared down a cup of beer and nailed the shot with amazing accuracy.

"Usually there's a lot of smack talk going on, and he didn't even blink an eye," Koch said.

The incident offered a glimpse of the calm Cho's victims witnessed as he marched from desk to desk, room to room, firing his two guns into

defenseless targets.

A couple of months later during Thanksgiving break, Koch's phone rang. It was Cho.

"I didn't know why he called, and I was like, 'What's up.' He goes, 'I'm vacationing with Vladimir Putin. I was like, 'Really? I think he lives in Russia.' He's like, 'Yeah, we're in North Carolina.' I'm like, 'I'm pretty sure that's not possible.' Seung."

And that was a relatively innocent conversation compared with some of Koch's other experiences.

One night, he was awakened by police officers banging on the door. Cho had been harassing a female student over the Internet and was talking about suicide, and police showed up to intervene. When Cho did the same to a friend of Koch's, and the woman contacted the police, Cho lost a text message to his suitemate.

"I might as well kill myself," he wrote. Koch called police again, and Cho was committed for what turned out to be a too-short psychological evaluation.

Still, Koch never imagined that Cho was capable of the bloodshed that he unleashed a week ago when he killed 32 students and teachers before committing suicide.

He is amazed Cho even knew how to use a gun, and he never feared his physical presence.

Koch will be returning to classes this week, a little zwerbuck about what just happened.

"It's hard to believe that I ate dinner and lived in the same suite with the largest mass murderer," he said. "That's just beyond my thought process."

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- Last 24 Hours**  
 Math who hopes method will go forth, multiply  
 'Sewer Monster' discovered below Cameron Village  
 Ex-university brass get leaves, payouts  
 Duke student shot in attempted robbery  
 Hamilton stands tall on relapse
- Last 7 Days**  
 Edwards' ex-girlfriend leaves courthouse  
 Man spills out anger at Cary on heave  
 Budget raises year taxes  
 Proposed state budget increases taxes, cuts spending  
 Man found dead at Wondy's
- Last 24 Hours**  
 Math who hopes method will go forth, multiply  
 Ex-university brass get leaves, payouts  
 How the homebuyer tax credit works  
 Caterpillar right out local jobs  
 Madogascar rivals agree on transition deal
- Last 7 Days**  
 Burr's constituency  
 Medical health spending slashed  
 Ex-university brass get leaves, payouts  
 Out-of-state athletes keep tuition break  
 Man spills out anger at Cary on heave

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**Featured Homes**

- Cary, NC  
 4 Bedrooms, 1 Bathrooms  
 2,714 Square Feet  
 \$319,900
- Holly Springs, NC  
 4 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms  
 3,717 Square Feet  
 \$600,000
- Raleigh, NC  
 4 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms  
 5,161 Square Feet  
 \$700,000

**Spring 2005** Cho requests a change of major to English. The idea for a book sent to a New York publishing house is rejected. This seems to depress him, according to his family. He still sees no counselor at school or home, and exhibits no behavioral problems other than his quietness.

**Fall 2005** Cho starts junior year and moves back into the dorms. Serious problems begin to surface. His sister notes that he is writing less at home, is less enthusiastic, and wonders if the publisher's rejection letter curbed his enthusiasm for writing and reversed his improving attitude. At school, Cho is taken to some parties by his suitemates at the start of the fall semester. He stabs at the carpet in a girl's room with a knife in the presence of his suitemates.

Professor Nikki Giovanni, Cho's poetry professor, is concerned about violence in his writing. She also asks him to stop taking pictures of classmates from a camera held under the desk. She offers to get him into another class and writes a letter to English Department Chair Lucinda Roy to create a record that could lead to removing Cho from her class.



2005  
PROFESSOR NIKKI GIOVANNI REQUESTED THAT CHO EITHER CHANGE THE SINISTER CONTENT OF HIS POEMS OR DROP THE CLASS. CHO RESPONDED: "YOU CANT MAKE ME"

CHO WAS REMOVED FROM PROFESSOR GIOVANNI'S CLASS AND TUTORED ONE-ON-ONE. WHEN CHO REFUSED COUNSELING THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS, COOK COUNSELING CENTER, SCHIFFERT HEALTH CENTER, VIRGINIA TECH POLICE AND THE COLLEGE WAS ALERTED.

**November 27** A female resident of WAJ files a report with the Virginia Tech Police Department (VTPD) indicating that Cho had made “annoying” contact with her on the Internet, by phone, and in person. The VTPD interviews Cho, but the female student declines to press charges. The investigating officer refers Cho to the school’s disciplinary system, the Office of Judicial Affairs.

**November 30** Cho calls Cook Counseling Center and is triaged (i.e., given a preliminary screening) by phone at following his interaction with VTPD police.

**December 6** E-mails among resident advisors (RAs) reflect complaints by a female resident in Cochrane residence hall regarding instant messages (IMs) from Cho sent under various strange aliases. E-mails also report that he went in disguise to a female student’s room (the event of November 27).

**December 12** A female student from Campbell Hall files a report with the VTPD complaining of “disturbing” IMs from Cho. She requests that Cho have no further contact with her. Cho does not keep a 2:00 p.m. appointment at Cook Counseling Center but is triaged by them again by phone that afternoon.

**December 13** VTPD notifies Cho that he is to have no further contact with the second female student who complained. After campus police leave, Cho’s suitemate receives an IM from Cho stating, “I might as well kill myself now.” The suitemate alerts VTPD. The police take Cho to the VTPD where a prescreeener from the New River Valley Community Services Board evaluates him as “an imminent danger to self or others.” A magistrate issues a temporary detaining order, and Cho is transported to Carilion St. Albans Psychiatric Hospital for an overnight stay and mental evaluation.

PSYCHOLOGIST  
ROY CROUSE

2005 DEC 13  
VIRGINIA TECH POLICE NOTIFIED  
CHO THAT HE WAS TO HAVE  
NO FURTHER CONTACT WITH  
THE FEMALE STUDENT



AFTER THE CAMPUS POLICE LEFT,  
ANDY KOCH -CHO'S ROOMMATE -  
RECEIVED AN SMS FROM CHO :  
" I MIGHT AS WELL KILL MYSELF "  
KOCH ALERTED CHO'S FATHER AND  
CAMPUS POLICE , WHO TOOK CHO  
TO COUNSILING EVALUATION AND  
TO CARLION ST. ALBANS  
PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL WHERE  
PSYCHOLOGIST ROY CROUSE  
DETERMINED THAT CHO " PRESENTS  
AN IMMINENT DANGER TO HIMSELF  
AS A RESULT OF MENTAL  
ILLNESS "

December 14

7 a.m. The person assigned as an independent evaluator, psychologist Roy Crouse, evaluates Cho and concludes that he does not present an imminent danger to himself.

Before 11 a.m. A staff psychiatrist at Carilion evaluates Cho, concludes he is not a danger to himself or others, and recommends outpatient counseling. He gathers no collateral information.

11-11:30 a.m. Special Justice Paul M. Barnett conducts Choi's commitment hearing and rules in accordance with the independent evaluator, but orders follow-up treatment as an outpatient. Cho then makes and keeps an appointment with the campus Cook Counseling Center.

Noon The staff psychiatrist dictates in his evaluation summary that "there is no indication of psychosis, delusions, suicidal or homicidal ideation." The psychiatrist finds that "his insight and judgment are normal. ... Followup and aftercare to be arranged with the counseling center at Virginia Tech; medications, none." Cho is released.

3:00 p.m. Cho is triaged in person at the Cook Counseling Center for the third time in 15 days.

2006

January The Cook Counseling Center receives a psychiatric summary from St. Albans. No action is taken by Cook Counseling Center or the Care Team to follow up on Cho.

TEMPORARY DETENTION ORDER  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
Va. Code §§ 16.1-340, 19.2-177.1, 19.2-182.9

Case No. Grille-17

General District Court  Circuit Court  
 Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

MONTGOMERY  
Seung-Hai Cho Blacksburg, VA 24060

NAME AND ADDRESS OF RESPONDENT

TO ANY AUTHORIZED OFFICER OF: Va Tech PD  
Based upon facts presented in the detention hearing, and based upon advice presented by Kathy Godbooy

RACE	SEX	BOUN	HT.	WT.	HAIR	EYES
A	M		5' 0"	150	BRO	B

- finds probable cause to believe that the respondent:
- pursuant to § 19.2-809, is mentally ill and in need of hospitalization, and presents an imminent danger to self or others as a result of mental illness, or is so seriously mentally ill as to be substantially unable to care for self, and is incapable of volunteering or unwilling to volunteer for treatment.
  - pursuant to § 16.1-240, is a juvenile who is mentally ill and in need of hospitalization, and presents an imminent danger to self or others as a result of mental illness, or is so seriously mentally ill as to be substantially unable to care for self, and is incapable of volunteering or unwilling to volunteer for treatment.
  - pursuant to subdivision A 2 of § 19.2-169.6, is a defendant in custody and awaiting trial, and is mentally ill and in need of hospitalization, and presents an imminent danger to self or others as a result of mental illness, or is so seriously mentally ill as to be substantially unable to care for self.
  - pursuant to subdivision B of § 19.2-176, is a defendant who has been convicted of a crime but not yet sentenced and is mentally ill and in need of hospitalization, poses an imminent danger to self or others if not immediately hospitalized, or is so seriously mentally ill as to be substantially unable to care for self.
  - pursuant to § 19.2-177.1, is a defendant who is in the custody of a local correctional facility after having been sentenced for a crime and is mentally ill and in need of hospitalization, and presents an imminent danger to self or others as a result of mental illness, or is so seriously mentally ill as to be substantially unable to care for self.

- a person who has custody of the respondent has filed a petition to commence the mental commitment proceeding.
- pursuant to § 19.2-182.9, is an acquittee on conditional release, and has violated the conditions of release or is no longer a proper subject for conditional release, and requires emergency evaluation to assess the need for inpatient hospitalization.
- The respondent is currently in a juvenile detention or shelter care facility.

HEREFORE, you are commanded to take the respondent into custody and transport the respondent from the respondent's present location at Virginia Tech PD, Blacksburg, VA 24060

TO: Carilion St. Albans Behavioral 2900 Lamb Circle, Christiansburg, VA 24073

- Prior to placement in the above facility, transport the respondent to a medical facility to obtain emergency medical evaluation or treatment. The duration of temporary detention may not exceed the period authorized in Virginia Code § 37.2-803, § 16.1-340, subdivision A 2 of § 19.2-169.6, subdivision B of § 19.2-176, § 19.2-177.1, or § 19.2-182.9. If this order commands that the respondent be detained pursuant to § 37.2-809, the director of the facility of temporary detention may release the respondent prior to a hearing as authorized in § 37.2-814 if it appears, based on an evaluation conducted by the psychiatric or clinical psychiatrist treating the respondent, that the respondent would not present an imminent danger to self or others if released. If the respondent is detained by this order pursuant to § 16.1-340, subdivision A 2 of § 19.2-169.6, subdivision B of § 19.2-176, § 19.2-177.1, or § 19.2-182.9, the director of the facility of temporary detention may not release the respondent without an order of a judge. If the judicial officer issues this order pursuant to § 37.2-809, § 16.1-340, subdivision A 2 of § 19.2-169.6, subdivision B of § 19.2-176, or § 19.2-177.1, this order becomes void if not executed within  24 hours  \_\_\_\_\_ hours after issuance.

12/13/2005 10:12 PM  
Elinor E. Williams  
Elinor E. Williams  
JUDGE

on this day: \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ NAME/TITLE

of this Order  
-12-15 2250 12-18-05 2250  
DATE AND TIME OF EXECUTION DATE AND TIME RESPONDENT DELIVERED TO FACILITY

SENT INTO CUSTODY BY \_\_\_\_\_ VA Tech PD  
RECEIVED BY \_\_\_\_\_ BATCH NO., AGENCY, AND JURISDICTION

2005 DEC. 14  
CHO WAS RELEASED FROM  
CARILION ST. ALBANS  
PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL AFTER  
HIS EXAMINATION BY  
ROY CROUSE.  
  
CHO'S PAPERWORK WAS  
SENT TO SPECIAL JUSTICE  
PAUL M. BARNETT  
WHO CERTIFIED THE  
FINDING AND ORDERED  
FOLLOW-UP TREATMENT

CHO NEVER GOT ANY  
OF THE TREATMENT  
ORDERED BY THE JUDGE.



**April 17** Cho's technical writing professor, Carl Bean, suggests that Cho drop his class after repeated efforts to address shortcomings in class and inappropriate choice of writing assignments. Cho follows the professor to his office, raises his voice angrily, and is asked to leave. Bean does not report this incident to university officials.

**Spring** Cho writes a paper for Professor Hicok's creative writing class concerning a young man who hates the students at his school and plans to kill them and himself. The writing contains a number of parallels to the events of April 16, 2007 and the recorded messages later sent to NBC.

**September 6–12** Professor Lisa Norris, another of Cho's writing professors, alerts the Associate Dean of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Mary Ann Lewis, about him, but the dean finds "no mention of mental health issues or police reports" on Cho. Professor Norris encourages Cho to go to counseling with her, but he declines.

**Fall** Professor Falco, another of Cho's writing instructors, confers with Professors Roy and Norris, who tell him that Dr. Roy in Fall 2005 and Professor Norris in 2006 alerted the Associate Dean of Students, Mary Ann Lewis, about Cho.

PROF.  
BRENT STEVENS



IN BRENT STEVENS CLASS  
HE ANALYZED "THE TEXAS  
CHAINSAW MASSACRE" AND  
EXPLORED IN PAPERS AND  
A "FEAR JOURNAL" HOW  
"HORROR HAS BECOME A  
MASOCHISTIC PLEASURE"

Cho enrolled in Professor Brent Stevens's English 3984 class, "Special Studies: Contemporary Horror. - 'not for the faint of heart'." [1] In that [Professor Brent Stevens's English 3984 class, "Special Studies: Contemporary Horror. - 'not for the faint of heart'"] class Cho analyzed The Texas Chain Saw Massacre and explored in papers and a "fear journal" how "horror has become a masochistic pleasure." [2] Cho later sold his textbooks on eBay-affiliated site half.com. The textbooks that were sold included Men, Women, and Chainsaws by Carol J. Clover, a book that explores gender in the modern horror film. Others include The Best of H. P. Lovecraft: Bloodcurdling Tales of Horror and the Macabre; and The Female of the Species: Tales of Mystery and Suspense by Joyce Carol Oates - a book in which the publisher writes: "In these and other gripping and disturbing tales, women are confronted by the evil around them and surprised by the evil they find within themselves." [3][4]

TEXTBOOK FROM  
PROF. BRENT STEVENS'  
CLASS

JOYCE CAROL OATES

TALES OF MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE

THE *F*EMALE  
*of the*  
SPECIES



[1] The official timeline was compiled by TriData Corp, a division of defense contractor System Planning Corp., for use by the eight-member panel appointed by Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine.  
[2] Mary Grabar (2007-04-24). "The making of a mass murderer--In english class".  
[3] ADAM GELLER and CHRIS KAHN Kristen Gelineau and Allen G. Breed (April 22, 2007). "Internet Key in Probe of Va. Tech Gunman". The Washington Post.  
[4] ADAM GELLER and CHRIS KAHN (April 21, 2007;). "Va. Tech Probe Focuses on Computer Use". The Washington Post.

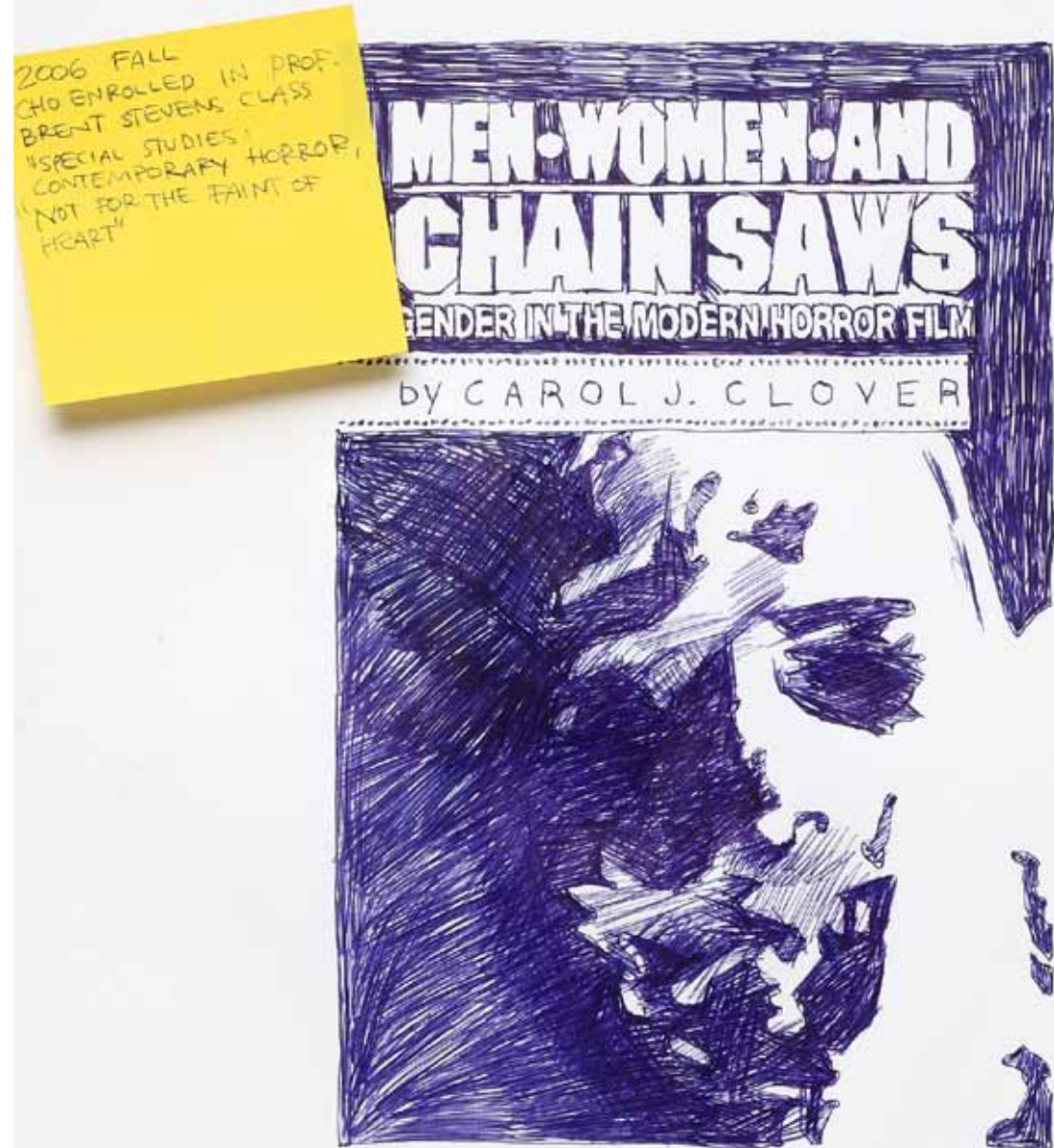
## The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (USA 1974)

En route to visit their grandfather's grave (which has apparently been ritualistically desecrated), five teenagers drive past a slaughterhouse, pick up (and quickly drop) a sinister hitch-hiker, eat some delicious home-cured meat at a roadside gas station, before ending up at the old family home... where they're plunged into a never-ending nightmare as they meet a family of cannibals who more than make up in power tools what they lack in social skills... [1]



Original poster from 1974 for "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre".

[1] IMDB Internet Movie Database



Topical review  
H.P. Lovecraft  
1953

"H. P. Lovecraft is the only writer who has produced in the Department of Fantasy the greatest and most varied of the classic 'horror tales'." — *Spectator*, 1934

T H E B E S T O F  
**H. P. LOVECRAFT**



**BLOOD-CURDLING TALES OF  
HORROR AND THE MACABRE**

INTRODUCTION BY ROBERT PLOCE

compare in terror with what I now saw; with the bizarre marvels that sight implied. The sight itself was as simple as it was stupefying, for it was merely this: instead of a dizzying prospect of treetops seen from a lofty eminence, there stretched around me on the level through the grating nothing less than *the solid ground*, decked and diversified by marble slabs and columns, and overshadowed by an ancient stone church, whose ruined spire gleamed spectrally in the moonlight.

Half unconscious, I opened the grating and staggered out upon the white gravel path that stretched away in two directions. My mind, stunned and chaotic as it was, still held the frantic craving for light; and not even the fantastic wonder which had happened could stay my course. I neither knew nor cared whether my experience was insanity, dreaming, or magic; but was determined to gaze on brilliance and gayety at any cost. I knew not who I was or what I was, or what my surroundings might be; though as I continued to stumble along I became conscious of a kind of fearsome latent memory that made my progress not wholly fortuitous. I passed under an arch out of that region of slabs and columns, and wandered through the open country; sometimes following the visible road, but sometimes leaving it curiously to tread across meadows where only occasional ruins bespoke the ancient presence of a forgotten road. Once I swam across a swift river where crumbling, mossy masonry told of a bridge long vanished.

Over two hours must have passed before I reached what seemed to be my goal, a venerable ivied castle in a thickly wooded park, maddeningly familiar, yet full of perplexing strangeness to me. I saw that the moat was filled in, and that some of the well-known towers were demolished; whilst new wings existed to confuse the beholder. But what I observed with chief interest and delight were the open windows—gorgeously ablaze with light and sending forth sound of the gayest revelry. Advancing to one of these I looked in and saw an oddly dressed company, indeed; making merry, and speaking brightly to one another. I had never, seemingly, heard human speech before and could guess only vaguely what was said. Some of the faces seemed to hold expressions that brought up incredibly remote recollections, others were utterly alien.

I now stepped through the low window into the brilliantly lighted room, stepping as I did so from my single bright moment of hope to my blackest convulsion of despair and realization. The nightmare was quick to come, for as I entered, there occurred immediately one of the most terrifying demonstrations I had ever conceived. Scarcely had I crossed the sill when there descended upon the whole company

a sudden and unheralded fear of hideous intensity, distorting every face and evoking the most horrible screams from nearly every throat. Flight with universal, and in the clamor and panic several fell in a swoon and were dragged away by their madly fleeing companions. Many covered their eyes with their hands, and plunged blindly and awkwardly in their race to escape, overturning furniture and stumbling against the walls before they managed to reach one of the many doors.

The cries were shocking, and as I stood in the brilliant apartment alone and dazed, listening to their vanishing echoes, I trembled at the thought of what might be lurking near me unseen. At a casual inspection the room seemed deserted, but when I moved toward one of the alcoves I thought I detected a presence there—a hint of motion beyond the golden-arched doorway leading to another and somewhat similar room. As I approached the arch I began to perceive the presence more clearly; and then, with the first and last sound I ever uttered—a ghastly ululation that revolted me almost as poignantly as its noxious cause—I beheld in full, frightful vividness the inconceivable, indescribable, and unmentionable monstrosity which had by its simple appearance changed a merry company to a herd of delirious fugitives.

I can not even hint what it was like, for it was a compound of all that is unclean, uncanny, unwelcome, abnormal, and detestable. It was the ghoulish shade of decay, antiquity, and desolation; the putrid, dripping eidolon of unwholesome revelation, the awful baring of that which the merciful earth should always hide. God knows it was not of this world—or no longer of this world—yet to my horror I saw in its eaten-away and bone-revealing outlines a leering, abhorrent travesty on the human shape; and in its moldy, disintegrating apparel an unspeakable quality that chilled me even more.

I was almost paralyzed, but not too much so to make a feeble effort toward flight; a backward stumble which failed to break the spell in which the nameless, voiceless monster held me. My eyes, bewitched by the glassy orbs which stared loathsomely into them, refused to close; though they were mercifully blurred, and showed the terrible object but indistinctly after the first shock. I tried to raise my hand to shut out the light, yet so stunned were my nerves that my arm could not fully obey my will. The attempt, however, was enough to disturb my balance; so that I had to stagger forward several steps to avoid falling. As I did so I became suddenly and agonizingly aware of the *nearness* of the carrion thing, whose hideous hollow breathing I half fancied I could hear. Nearly mad, I found myself yet able to throw out a hand to ward off the fetid apparition which pressed so

close; when in one cataclysmic second of cosmic nightmarishness and hellish accident *my fingers touched the rotting outstretched paw of the monster beneath the golden arch.*

I did not shriek, but all the fiendish ghouls that ride the nightwind shrieked for me as in that same second there crashed down upon my mind a single and fleeting avalanche of soul-annihilating memory. I knew in that second all that had been; I remembered beyond the frightful castle and the trees, and recognized the altered edifice in which I now stood; I recognized, most terrible of all, the unholy abomination that stood leering before me as I withdrew my sullied fingers from its own.

But in the cosmos there is balm as well as bitterness, and that balm is nepenthe. In the supreme horror of that second I forgot what had horrified me, and the burst of black memory vanished in a chaos of echoing images. In a dream I fled from that haunted and accursed pile, and ran swiftly and silently in the moonlight. When I returned to the churchyard place of marble and went down the steps I found the stone trap-door immovable; but I was not sorry, for I had hated the antique castle and the trees. Now I ride with the mocking and friendly ghouls on the night wind, and play by day amongst the catacombs of Nephren-Ka in the sealed and unknown valley of Hadoth by the Nile. I know that light is not for me, save that of the moon over the rock tombs of Neb, nor any gayety save the unnamed feasts of Nitokris beneath the Great Pyramid; yet in my new wildness and freedom I almost welcome the bitterness of alienage.

For although nepenthe has calmed me, I know always that I am an outsider; a stranger in this century and among those who are still men. This I have known ever since I stretched out my fingers to the abomination within the great gilded frame; stretched out my fingers and touched *a cold and unyielding surface of polished glass.*



CHO POSING AS  
OH DAESU - ~~THE~~  
AVENGER - FROM  
THE ULTRAVIOLENT  
FILM "OLDBOY"  
FROM 2004 -

ALSO, NOTE HOW CHO'S  
POSING IS SIMILAR TO  
PROF NIKKI GIOVANNI'S  
PLAYFUL POSE IN FRONT  
OF THE FOOTBALL MASCOT  
"FREEDOM HICKIE"

Oldboy (South Korea 2003)

An average man is kidnapped and imprisoned in a shabby cell for 15 years without explanation. He then is released, equipped with money, a cellphone and expensive clothes. As he strives to explain his imprisonment and get his revenge, Oh Dae-Su soon finds out that his kidnapper has a greater plan for him and is set onto a path of pain and suffering in an attempt to uncover the motive of his mysterious tormentor. [1]

[1] IMDB Internet Movie Database

CHOI MIN-SIK

YOO JI-TAE



15 Jahre eingesperrt.  
5 Tage Zeit für Rache.

GROSSER PREIS DER JURY  
INTERNATIONALE FILMFESTSPIELE  
CANNES 2004

# Oldboy

EIN FILM VON PARK CHAN-WOOK





FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2007

CHD ORDERED A HANDGUN ONLINE HE PURCHASED THE  
.22 WALTHER P22 ON THE INTERNET FROM TGSCOM.



2007

**February 2** Cho orders a .22 caliber Walther P22 handgun online from TGSCOM, Inc.

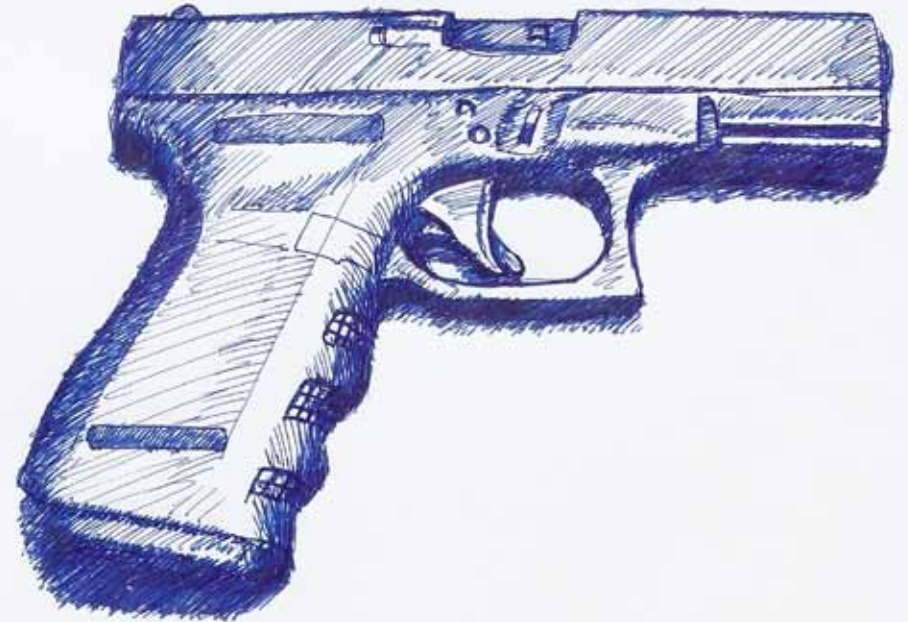
**February 9** Cho picks up the handgun from J-N-D Pawnbrokers in Blacksburg, across the street from the university.

**March 12** Cho rents a van from Enterprise Rent-A-Car at the Roanoke Regional Airport, which he keeps for almost a month. (Cho videotapes some of his subsequently released diatribe in the van.)

**March 13** Cho purchases a 9mm Glock 19 handgun and a box of 50 9mm full metal jacket practice rounds at Roanoke Firearms. He has waited the 30 days between gun purchases as required in Virginia. The store initiates the required background check by police, who find no record of mental health issues.

TUESDAY MARCH 13 2007

CHO PURCHASED A 9 MILLIMETER GLOCK 19 HANDGUN  
AND A \$10 BOX OF 50 9-MM FULL METAL JACKET AMMO.



SATURDAY MARCH 31  
2007  
CHO PURCHASED  
ADDITIONAL AMMUNITION  
AND A HUNTING KNIFE  
FROM WAL-MART  
- AND CHAINS FOR  
LOCKING THE DOORS FROM  
HOME DEPOT



**March** Cho stayed in a Roanoke motel and hired a dancer, Chastity Frye, for a one hour performance.[1]

**March 22** Cho goes to PSS Range and Training, an indoor pistol range, and spends an hour practicing. Cho also purchases two 10-round magazines for the Walther P22 on eBay.

**March 23** Cho purchases three additional 10-round magazines from another eBay seller.

**March 31** Cho purchases additional ammunition magazines, ammunition, and a hunting knife from Wal-Mart and Dick's Sporting Goods. He buys chains from Home Depot.

**April 7** Cho purchases more ammunition.

**April 8** Cho spends the night at the Hampton Inn in Christiansburg, Virginia, videotaping segments for his manifesto-like diatribe. He also buys more ammunition.

**April 13** Bomb threats are made to Torgersen, Durham, and Whittemore halls, in the form of an anonymous note. The threats are assessed by the VTPD; and the buildings evacuated. There is no lockdown or cancellation of classes elsewhere on campus. In retrospect, no evidence is found linking these threats to Choi's later bomb threat in Norris Hall, based in part on handwriting analysis.

**April 14** An Asian male wearing a hooded garment is seen by a faculty member in Norris Hall. She later (after April 16) tells police that one of her students had told her the doors were chained. This may have been Cho practicing. Cho buys yet more ammunition.

**April 15** Cho places his weekly Sunday night call to his family in Fairfax County. They report the conversation as normal and that Cho said nothing that caused them concern.

CHASTITY FRYE

2007 MARCH  
CHO STAYED IN A MOTEL AND  
HIRED A DANCER, CHASTITY  
FRYE, FOR A ONE HOUR  
PERFORMANCE.  
CHO ALSO HIRED A VAN AND  
TAPED SOME OF HIS  
DIATRIBE IN THIS VAN



[1] ABC News 24, April 2007 Report: Cho Hired an Escort Before Rampage

when the time came  
I did it, I had to  
you had a hundred billion chances  
and ways to have avoided today

but you decided to spill my blood  
you forced me into a corner  
and gave me only one option  
the decision was yours  
now you have blood on your hands  
that will never wash off

you just loved crucifying me  
you loved inducing cancer in my head  
terrorizing my heart  
and ripping my soul all this time

I didn't have to do this  
I could have left  
I could have fled, but no,  
I will no longer run

if not for me  
for my children  
for my brothers and sisters  
that you (beeb)  
I did it for them  
I may be nothing but a piece of (beeeeb)

you have vandalized my heart  
ripped my soul and torched my conscience  
you thought it was one pathetic boys life you were extinguishing  
thanks to you I died like Jesus Christ  
to inspire generations of the weak and the defenseless people

do you know what it feels like to be spit in your face  
and have trash shoved down your throat  
do you know what it feels like to dig your own grave  
do you know what it feels like to have your throat slashed from ear  
to ear  
do you know what it feels like to be torched alive  
do you know what it feels like to be humiliated and be impaled on a  
cross  
and left to bleed to death for your amusement

you have never felt a single ounce of pain your whole life  
did you want to inject as much misery  
into a life, as you can  
just because you can

you had everything you wanted  
the mercedes wasn't enough, you brats  
your golden necklaces weren't enough, you snobs  
your trust fund wasn't enough  
your vodka and cognac weren't enough  
all your debaucheries weren't enough  
those weren't enough to fulfill your hedonistic needs  
you had everything

*Cast of Characters*

Richard McBeef.....Step-father, 40  
Sue.....Mother, 40  
John.....Son, 13

*Setting*

Living room, basement, car.

**Richard McBeef**

ACT ONE

SCENE 1

(It is morning. The sun is shining through the windows of the kitchen. John enters the kitchen, grabs a cereal bar, and opens it. Richard McBeef is sitting in the kitchen with his legs crossed reading the newspaper.)

RICHARD

Hey, John.

(He forces a smile at him.)

JOHN

What's up, Dick!

(He frowns.)

RICHARD

Try dad.

JOHN

You ain't my dad and you know it, you Dick.

(John chews on the cereal bar angrily.)

RICHARD

Come on, John. Sit down. We need to have man-to-man talk.

(Richard pulls a chair next to him from under the table.)

JOHN

Man-to-man up your ass, bud!

(John sneers then proceeds to the living room and turns on

the TV. Richard follows him, sits down, and faces him.)

RICHARD  
I may not be your biological father, but I'm your new father. We live under the same roof. We really need to get along. Come on, son, give me a chance.

(Richard gently rests his hand on John's lap.)

JOHN  
What the hell are you doing!

(John slaps Richard's hand.)

JOHN (Cont'd)  
What are you, a Catholic priest! I will not be molested by an aging balding overweight pedophilic stepdad named Dick! Get your hands off me you sicko! Damn you, you Catholic priest. Just stop it, Michael Jackson. Let me guess, you have a pet named Dick in Neverland ranch and you want me to go with you to pet him, right?

RICHARD

(He sighs and ignores the comment.)

What is it you want from me, what do you want me to do? Why are you so angry at me--

JOHN  
Why am I so angry at you! Because you murdered my father so you can get into my mom's pant!--

RICHARD  
Now hold on right there mister. It was a boating accident. I did everything I could to try to save your father.

JOHN  
Bullshit! Are you always full of shit, McBeef? I can see that you are by the extra fat you have packed on! You MURDERED my father and covered it up! You committed a conspiracy. Just like what the government has done to John Lennon and Marilyn Monroe.

RICHARD

WHAT? WHAT?

(Frowning, he catches a glimpse of an old tabloid titled "The Cover-up of Marilyn Monroe and John Lennon!!")

JOHN  
You once worked for the government. As a janitor, at least. You hated the fact that my mom was with my dad. You knew my mom was too good for my father. So you took him out and stole her, you son of a bitch!

St-

RICHARD

JOHN  
No, Dick! You shut the hell up and listen to me.

You--

RICHARD

JOHN  
Me what! You want me to stick this remote control up your ass, buddy! You ain't even worth it man. This remote was five bucks. You are such a--

NOW THAT'S ENOUGH.

RICHARD

(Richard raises his hand to strike his stepson, but before he does, John's mom comes down the stairs.)

Oh my god! What's going on?

SUE

(She covers and hugs John and ushers him to the other end of the couch.)

SUE (Cont'd)  
What are you doing to my son! You said you would have a nice chat to get on terms with him. And this is what I catch you do! What kind of step-father are you? Pretending to be nice to him with a fake smile on your chubby face!

Tell me, what were you trying to do to him. You were about to hit him! Damn you, Richard!

He was- RICHARD

I don't want to hear it! SUE

(Sue tells John to go up to his room. But he observes the spectacle half way up the staircase.)

I swear Sue! I tried talking to him. He called me a son of a bit-

SUE  
How dare you! John would never-NEVER-say such a thing, my poor little poeey poeey boy! He lost his father just a month ago. Show some compassion! Some stepfather!

JOHN  
He tried to touch my privates!

SUE  
(She gasps.)

Holy shit! Oops. Sorry John. Dick, You son of a b-

(She peeks at John. She approaches Richard and slaps Richard in the head multiple times. Taking off her shoes, she hits him hard.)

RICHARD  
(He brushes Sue with his large arm and build.)

Sue Sue Sue. Listen to me!

SUE

(The manner and girth frightens her.)

Oh my god! What are you trying to do! Are you gonna hit me too!

(She covers and runs into the kitchen. She grabs the first thing she can which is a plate.)

Stay back! Stay back! Or I'll..

(She throws the plate, shattering squarely on his forehead. But he is unmoved.)

You fat piece of pork! John! Go to your room and lock it!

(She runs down the basement.)

Are you a bisexual psycho rapist murderer! Please stop following me. Don't kill me!

(She throws wrenches and pipes lying on the ground at him, but he is unharmed.)

RICHARD  
I didn't even do anything. Okay. I'll stop following you.

(He stops with his hands in the air. He kneels. She throws a few more heavy objects at him.)

Let me explain! John is a rambunctious pubescent boy!

SUE  
Oh my god! You are a pedophile!

RICHARD  
No! No.Honey-poo.

SUE  
Honey-poo?



RICHARD

Honey-poo. Don't you believe me? John is just a mischievous kid who having trouble getting over his father's death. He'll get over it. He just needs time.

SUE

Really?

RICHARD

Yes. Now, why don't we go to the bedroom and do it doggy style, just the way you like it, honey-poo.

JOHN

(In his room, he smiles and throws darts on the target that is the face of Richard.)

I hate him. Must kill Dick. Must kill Dick. Dick must die. Kill Dick... Richard McBeef. What kind of name is that? What an asshole name. I don't like it. And look at his face. What an asshole face. I don't like his face at all. You don't think I can kill you, Dick? You don't think I can kill you? Gotcha. Got one eye... Got the other eye.

(He runs down to the basement by his mother's side.)

~~That fat man murder dad.~~ He told me so while you were asleep, mom. And he molested me.

SUE

What! Ahhh!

(She grabs a chainsaw and brandishes it at Richard. He runs out of the house and into his car. Thirty minutes later John goes out to Richard and sits on the passenger's side eating a cereal bar.)

JOHN

I wonder why ~~its~~ so sunny out! Today is one fruity day!

(John stares squarely at Richard with a contemptuous look who is sitting with a flushed face.)

Guess what, Dick. You wanna know something. You wanna know why I don't like you? Because you can't provide for my mom. You barely make the minimum wage, man. All you do for mom is all this honey-poo shit. Honey-poo! Honey-poo! You piece of shit! You were a janitor one time. You're a one time truck driver. You taught preschool kids for two months. And now you're what you like to call yourself a chef, what the rest of the world calls hamburger flipper. Back where you came from. The pinnacle of your career was when you were a pro football player. How long did that last? Three weeks! Ha! You're over the hills, buster! Just look at yourself, all fat and lazy. Only if you were smart enough to stay in the league, you wouldn't be like this. A former player. No wonder your name is McPork-I mean McBeef. While the guys were packing on muscles, you were packing on McDonald's fat, chowing down on three Big Mac's in three minutes. You wanted me to call you dad? Okay. Hey ~~dad~~, you are such a asshole! Asshole of assholes, ~~DAD!~~ And as for you banging my mom, looks like that lasted a long as your pathetic career, you prematurely ejaculating piece of dickshit. Sucks for you, you motherfucking McBeef.

RICHARD

HOW DARE YOU TALK TO YOUR STEP-FATHER LIKE THAT!

JOHN

Eat this, you giant tree trunk piece of ass.

(John sticks his half-eaten banana cereal bar in his step-father's mouth and attempts to shove it down his throat.)

RICHARD

AHHHHHHH!

(He pushes John away and takes out the cereal bar.)

JOHN

Fuck you, ~~DAD!~~

RICHARD

(Out of sheer desecrated hurt and anger, Richard lifts his large arms and swings a deadly blow at the thirteen year old boy.)

*Cast of Characters*

John.....17  
Jane.....17  
Joe.....17  
Mr. Brownstone.....45  
Casino workers

*Setting*  
Casino

Mr. Brownstone

ACT ONE

Scene One

(They each sit in front of slot machine.)

JANE  
Can't believe we got through using the fake ID.

JOHN  
I've always wanted to come to the casino.

JOE  
Yeah. Finally a cool place to hang out where we won't be constantly bushwhacked.

JOHN  
Uh! After a long ravishing day at school, we just want to be left alone.

JANE  
There is like no safe place for us to hang out. We can't hang out in front of the grocery store, we can't hang out at the park, we can't hang out in the street. The only place where we are safe from that him is behind the shitty dumpster.

JOHN  
Mr. Brownstone.

JOE  
That old fart just won't leave us alone.

JANE  
He has to make our lives miserable.

JOHN  
I'd like to kill him.

JANE  
I'll be damn if he doesn't die. I wish that old fart would have a heart attack and drop dead like old people are supposed to.

JOHN  
Make room for the new generation, you old fart!

JOE  
All he does is follow us around and nag and threaten us.

JANE  
Doesn't he have anything better to do?

JOHN  
I don't think he does. He's like a parasite. He lives off of the misery he inflicts on us.

JOE  
If he's a leech we'll be able to yank it off and squash him beneath our boots. But he a full grown man.

JOHN  
A freakin' teacher.

JANE  
A teacher. Oh god.

JOE  
That man has no sense of decency.

JOHN  
Eight hours a day is enough.

JANE  
What more does he want from us, always stalking us around. We're just kids. Leave us alone damn it.

JOE  
Such a wicked old flapper.

JANE  
Giving me a D when I only forgot to turn in two homeworks.

JOE  
Coming over to my house and talking to my mom for laughing that I don't have phone service yet in my new house.

JOHN  
Giving me an after school detention and ass-raping me for make a harmless joke.

JOE

Oh. You mean that joke about his name?

JOHN

I just said that his name sounds like kidney stone of the ass and that that's why he is always gruffy and angry. His shit is so thick and so oddly shaped that he can't go and all his shit are piled up in his intestines all the way up to his chest. He probably rips his sphincter to relieve a single gram of turd after two hours of pushing, sweating, teeth clenching, screaming in frustration, and holding breath for a half gram of green mold shit.

JOE

That's why he can't sit still and leave us kids alone. You were just expressing your opinion, John. And he probably gets a lot of splash back too when he's pushing that hard.

JANE

I agree totally. It must feel like a woman giving birth or something...He ass-raped you. He's such a rapist.

JOE

He ass-raped probably half of the kids in the class.

JOHN

He ass-rapes us all. Isn't that what high school teachers do?

JOE

Such an old constipated wicked man.

JOHN

I wanna kill him.

JANE

I wanna watch him bleed like the way he made us kids bleed.

JOHN

I wish I'd win the five million dollar jackpot.

(John moves over one to the five million dollar slot and starts playing.)

JOHN

Is it me or do I smell evil around here?

JANE

Not just evil but old too.

JOE

Old is bad enough. You mix evil with old, and rotting turd-hell on earth.

MR. BROWNSTONE

(Lowering his voice.)

You fucking little kids. Don't you publicly humiliate me! You know what I can do to you at school on Monday?

JOHN

I feel a satanic presence around me. Do you guys feel it?

JOE

Absolutely.

JANE

Do you remember...what's his name. Mr. Brownstone. Our current math teacher.

JOE

Ha! That old fart! I hate that man!

JOHN

Do you know what he reminds me of.

JOE

What?

JANE

Tell us, John!

JOHN

The song by Guns N' Roses called Mr. Brownstone. The song was about their heroin addiction.

JANE

Oh, I love that song!

JOE

That is my favorite song of all time. It goes...

(sings.)

I get up around seven  
Get outta bed around nine  
And I don't worry about nothin' no  
Cause worryin's a waste of my\_time.

JANE

(sings.)

The show usually starts around seven  
We go on stage around nine  
Get on the bus about eleven  
Sippin' a drink and feelin' fine.

JOHN, JOE, JANE

(sing.)

We've been dancing with  
Mr. Brownstone  
He's been knockin'  
He won't leave me alone.

JOHN

(sings.)

I used ta do a little but a little wouldn't do  
So the little got more and more  
I just keep tryin' ta get a little better  
Said a little better than before.

JANE

(Jane repeats what John just  
sang.)

JOHN, JOE, JANE

(sings louder.)

We've been dancing with  
Mr. Brownstone  
He's been knockin'  
He won't leave me alone.

JOHN  
Here comes the best part.

(Sings.)

Now I get up around whenever  
I used ta get up on time  
But that old man he's a real muthafucker  
Gonna kick him on down the line.

(Stops singing.)

That's what Mr. Brownstone, our teacher, is--a real  
muthafucker!

JANE

Just leave the fuck us alone, muthafucker!

JOE

This is far worse than any heroin addiction. We would  
rather be addicted to the most powerful heroin than be  
fucked by this old muthafucker!

JOHN

(sings louder.)

That old man he's a REAL MUTHAFUCKER gonna kick him down  
the line!

MR. BROWNSTONE

(Menacing evil look appears on his  
face.)

JOHN

(Smiling, he turns, inserts  
quarters, and pulls the handle of  
the slot. The symbol lines up and  
he wins the jackpot. The bell  
rings, the siren goes off. His  
smile turns into a daze.)

What? I won? I won?

(Jane and Joe beam at him.)

JANE  
You won!

JOE  
You won, my man!

JANE, JOE  
Mmmn, mmm. Mmm, mmm.

(Joe and Jane throw their arms around John. Jane kisses the right side of his face, Joe kisses the left side of his face.)

JOHN

(Holds up the five million dollar ticket in the air.)

We're rich! No more Mr. Brownstone! No more Mr. Brownstone, you old muthafucker! Fuck you old man. We're rich, we're rich!

(Blue uniformed casino official comes to them with two security guard. A smile appears on Mr. Brownstone's face.)

CASINO OFFICIAL  
Congratulations--

MR. BROWNSTONE

(Bends his waist, pretends to be a senior citizen, and talks in an old dry voice.)

That's mine. These seventeen year old kids pushed me over when they saw that I won. These underaged gangsters shouldn't even be in here. These disrespectful hooligans!

CASINO OFFICIAL  
Is that so!

(After checking their driver's licenses with the onsite police officer, he signals the security guards to take them out.)

JOHN  
No! No! Please sir! No!

CASINO OFFICIAL  
Get outta here kids, and don't come back!

(Snatches the ticket from John and hands it to Mr. Brownstone.)

CASINO OFFICIAL (cont'd to  
Brownstone)  
I am so sorry about those gangsters, sir. We'll beef up our security. Are you alright sir?

(He hands Mr. Brownstone the ticket. Brownstone smiles.)

JOHN, JOE, JANE

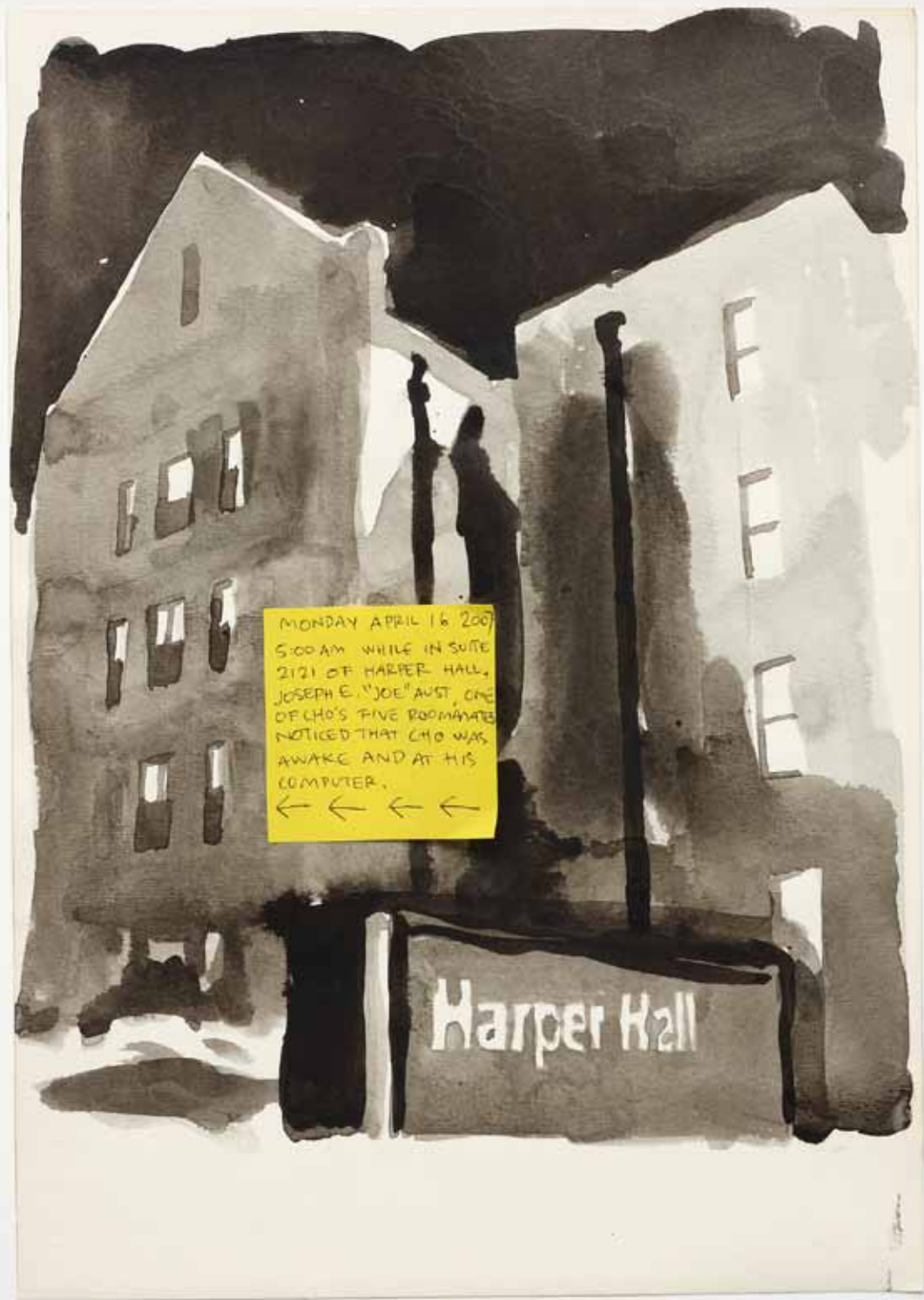
(As being dragged out.)

You won't get away with this, Brownstone! You old muthafucker! Muthafucker! Muthafucker!



This is where it all ends, 2009  
Oil on canvas 39 x 27 cm

Cho, 2010  
Oil on canvas 200 x 170 cm



Cho's dorm on campus in Harper Hall, suite 2121



April 16, 2007

**5:00 a.m.** In Choi's suite in Harper Hall (2121), one of Choi's suitemates notices Cho is awake and at his computer.

**About 5:30 a.m.** One of Choi's other suitemates notices Cho clad in boxer shorts and a shirt brushing his teeth and applying acne cream. Cho returns from the bathroom, gets dressed, and leaves.

**6:47 a.m.** Cho is spotted by a student waiting outside the West Ambler Johnston (WAJ) residential hall entrance, where he has his mailbox.

**7:02 a.m.** Emily Hilscher enters the dorm after being dropped off by her boyfriend (the time is based on her swipe card record).

**About 7:15 a.m.** Cho shoots Hilscher in her room (4040) at WAJ. He also shoots Ryan Christopher Clark, an RA. Clark, it is thought, most likely came to investigate noises in Hilscher's room, which is next door to his. Both of the victims' wounds prove to be fatal.

**7:17 a.m.** Choi's access card is swiped at Harper Hall (his residence hall). He goes to his room to change out of his bloody clothes.

**7:20 a.m.** The VTPD receives a call on their administrative telephone line advising that a female student in room 4040 of WAJ had possibly fallen from her loft bed. The caller was given this information by another WAJ resident near room 4040 who heard the noise.

**7:21 a.m.** The VTPD dispatcher notifies the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad that a female student had possibly fallen from her loft bed in WAJ. A VTPD officer is dispatched to room 4040 at WAJ to accompany the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad, which is also dispatched (per standard protocol).

**7:24 a.m.** The VTPD officer arrives at WAJ room 4040, finds two people shot inside the room, and immediately requests additional VTPD resources.

**7:25 a.m.** Cho accesses his university e-mail account (based on computer records). He erases his files and the account.

**7:26 a.m.** VT Rescue Squad 3 arrives onscene outside WAJ.

**7:29 a.m.** VT Rescue Squad 3 arrives at room 4040.

**7:30 a.m.** Additional VTPD officers begin arriving at room 4040. They secure the crime scene and start preliminary investigation. Interviews of residents find them unable to provide a suspect description. No one on Hilscher's floor in WAJ saw anyone leave room 4040 after the initial noise was heard.

**7:30–8:00 a.m.** A friend of Hilscher's arrives at WAJ to join her for the walk to chemistry class. She is questioned by detectives and explains that on Monday mornings Hilscher's boyfriend would drop her off and go back to Radford University where he was a student. She tells police that the boyfriend is an avid gun user and practices using the gun. This leads the police to seek him as a

“person of interest” and potential suspect. 7:40 a.m. VTPD Chief Flinchum is notified by phone of the WAJ shootings.

**7:51 a.m.** Chief Flinchum contacts the Blacksburg Police Department (BPD) and requests a BPD evidence technician and BPD detective to assist with the investigation.

**7:57 a.m.** Chief Flinchum notifies the Virginia Tech Office of the Executive Vice President of the shootings. This triggers a meeting of the university's Policy Group.

**8:00 a.m.** Classes begin. Chief Flinchum arrives at WAJ and finds VTPD and BPD detectives on the scene and the investigation underway. A local special agent of the state police has been contacted and is responding to the scene.

**8:10–9:25 a.m.** Chief Flinchum provides updated information via phone to the Virginia Tech Policy Group regarding progress made in the investigation. He informs them of a possible suspect, who is probably off campus. 8:11 a.m. BPD Chief Kim Crannis arrives on scene.

**8:13 a.m.** Chief Flinchum requests additional VTPD and BPD officers to assist with securing WAJ entrances and with the investigation.

**8:15 a.m.** Chief Flinchum requests the VTPD Emergency Response Team (ERT) to respond to the scene and then to stage in Blacksburg in the event an arrest is needed or a search warrant is to be executed.

**8:16–9:24 a.m.** Officers search for Hilscher's boyfriend. His vehicle is not found in campus parking lots, and officers become more confident that he has left the campus. VTPD and BPD officers are sent to his home; he is not found. A BOLO (be on the lookout) report is issued to BPD and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office for his vehicle. Meanwhile, officers continue canvassing WAJ for possible witnesses. VTPD, BPD, and the Virginia State Police (VSP) continue processing the room 4040 crime scene and gathering evidence. Investigators secure identification of the victims.

**8:19 a.m.** Chief Crannis requests BPD ERT to respond for the same reason as the VTPD ERT.


**8:20 a.m.** A person fitting Choi's description is seen near the Duck Pond on campus.

**8:25 a.m.** The Virginia Tech Policy Group meets to plan on how to notify students of the homicides.

**8:52 a.m.** Blacksburg public schools lock their outer doors upon hearing of the incident at WAJ from their security chief, who had heard of the incident on police radio.

**9:00 a.m.** The Policy Group is briefed on the latest events in the ongoing dormitory homicide investigation by the VTPD.

**9:01 a.m.** Cho mails a package from the Blacksburg post office to NBC News in New York that contains pictures of himself holding weapons, an 1,800-word rambling diatribe, and video clips in



2007 MONDAY APRIL 16  
BEFORE 7:00 CHO WAS  
SEEN WAITING OUTSIDE  
AN ENTRANCE TO WEST  
AMBLER JOHNSTON HALL

7:15  
A 9-1-1 EMERGENCY CALL  
REPORTED A SHOOTING,  
LEAVING RYAN CHRISTOPHER  
CLARK AND EMILY HILSCHER  
FATALLY WOUNDED



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THE MEDIA PACKAGE SENT TO NBC FROM BLACKSBURG POST OFFICE IN AN "INTERMISSION!" THE MATERIAL INCLUDED STILL IMAGES AS WELL AS VIDEO FOOTAGE SPANNING MORE THAN A MONTH, AT LEAST FOUR DIFFERENT LOCATIONS INCLUDING THE DAY OF THE SHOOTING.

The 1 to 6

AFTER KILLING TWO  
PEOPLE, CHO RETURNS  
TO HIS ROOM, WHERE  
HE FINISHES HIS  
"MEDIA PACKAGE". THEN  
HE BRING IT TO THE  
POST OFFICE.





which he expresses rage, resentment, and a desire to get even with oppressors. He alludes to a coming massacre. Cho prepared this material in the previous weeks. The videos are a performance of the enclosed writings. Cho also mails a letter to the English Department attacking Professor Carl Bean, with whom he previously argued.

**9:05 a.m.** Classes begin for the second period in Norris Hall.

**9:15 a.m.** Both police ERTs are staged at the BPD in anticipation of executing search warrants or making an arrest.

**9:15–9:30 a.m.** Cho is seen outside and then inside Norris Hall, an engineering building. He chains the doors shut on the three main entrances from the inside. No one reports seeing him do this.

**9:24 a.m.** A Montgomery County, Virginia deputy sheriff initiates a traffic stop of Hilsheri's boyfriend off campus in his pickup truck. Detectives are sent to assist with the questioning.

**9:25 a.m.** A VTPD police captain joins the Virginia Tech Policy Group as police liaison and provides updates as information becomes available.

**9:26 a.m.** Virginia Tech administration sends e-mail to campus staff, faculty, and students informing them of the dormitory shooting.

**9:31–9:48 a.m.** A VSP trooper arrives at the traffic stop of the boyfriend and helps question him. A gunpowder residue field test is performed on him and the result is negative.

**About 9:40 a.m. until about 9:51 a.m.** Cho begins shooting in room 206 in Norris Hall, where a graduate engineering class in Advanced Hydrology is underway. Cho kills Professor G. V. Loganathan and other students in the class, killing 9 and wounding 3 of the 13 students. Cho goes across the hall from room 206 and enters room 207, an Elementary German class. He shoots teacher Christopher James Bishop, then students near the front of the classroom and starts down the aisle shooting others. Cho leaves the classroom to go back into the hall. Students in room 205, attending Haiyan Cheng's class on Issues in Scientific Computing, hear Choi's gunshots. (Cheng was a graduate assistant substituting for the professor that day.) The students barricade the door and prevent Choi's entry despite his firing at them through the door. Meanwhile, in room 211 Madame Jocelyne Couture-Nowak is teaching French. She and her class hear the shots, and she asks student Colin Goddard to call 9-1-1. A student tells the teacher to put the desk in front of the door, which is done but it is nudged open by Cho. Cho walks down the rows of desks shooting people. Goddard is shot in the leg. Student Emily Haas picks up the cell phone Goddard dropped. She begs the police to hurry. Cho hears Haas and shoots her, grazing her twice in the head. She falls and plays dead, though keeping the phone cradled under her head and the line open. Cho says nothing on entering the room or during the shooting. (Three students who pretend to be dead survive.)

**9:41 a.m.** A BPD dispatcher receives a call regarding the shooting in Norris Hall. The dispatcher estimates that the shooting began at this time based on the time it took for the students and faculty in the room next door to recognize that the sounds being heard were gunshots, and then make the call to 9-1-1. The dispatcher initially has difficulty understanding the location of the shooting. Once identified as being on campus, the call is transferred to VTPD.

**9:42 a.m.** The first 9-1-1 call reporting shots fired reaches the VTPD. A message is sent to all county EMS units to staff and respond.

**9:45 a.m.** The first police officers arrive at Norris Hall, a three-minute response time from their receipt of the call. Hearing shots, they pause briefly to check whether they are being fired upon, then rush to one entrance, then another, and then a third but find all three chained shut. Attempts to shoot open the locks fail.

**About 9:45 a.m.** The police inform the administration that there has been another shooting. University President Steger hears sounds like gunshots, and sees police running toward Norris Hall. Back in room 207, the German class, two uninjured students and two injured students go to the door and hold it shut with their feet and hands, keeping their bodies away. Within 2 minutes, Cho returns. He beats on the door and opens it an inch and fires shots around the door handle, then gives up trying to get in. Cho returns to room 211, the French class, and goes up one aisle and down another, shooting people again. Cho shoots Goddard again twice more. A janitor sees Cho in the hall on the second floor loading his gun; he flees downstairs. Cho tries to enter room 204 where engineering professor Liviu Librescu is teaching Mechanics. Librescu braces his body against the door yelling for students to head for the window. He is shot through the door. Students push out screens and jump or drop to grass or bushes below the window. Ten students escape this way. The next two students trying to escape are shot. Cho returns again to room 206 and shoots more students.

**9:50 a.m.** Using a shotgun, police shoot open the ordinary key lock of a fourth entrance to Norris Hall that goes to a machine shop and that could not be chained. The police hear gunshots as they enter the building. They immediately follow the sounds to the second floor. Triage and rescue of victims begin. A second e-mail is sent by the administration to all Virginia Tech e-mail addresses announcing that "A gunman is loose on campus. Stay in buildings until further notice. Stay away from all windows." Four loudspeakers out of doors on poles broadcast a similar message. Virginia Tech and Blacksburg police ERTs arrive at Norris Hall, including one paramedic with each team.

**9:51 a.m.** Cho shoots himself in the head just as police reach the second floor. Investigators believe that the police shotgun blast alerted Cho to the arrival of the police. Choi's shooting spree in Norris Hall lasted about 11 minutes. He fired 174 rounds, and killed 30 people in Norris Hall plus himself, and wounded 17. While the shootings at Norris Hall were occurring, police were taking the following actions in connection with the shootings at WAJ: *i*• Officers canvass WAJ for possible witnesses. *ii*• VTPD, BPD, and VSP process the room 4040 crime scene and gather evidence. *iii*• Officers search interior and exterior waste containers and surrounding areas near WAJ for evidence. *iv*• Officers canvass rescue squad personnel for additional evidence or information. *v*• Police officials assign the additional responding law enforcement personnel. At Norris Hall, the first team of officers begins— *i*• Securing the second floor. *ii*• Triaging the 48 gunshot victims and aiding survivors in multiple classrooms. *iii*• Coordinating rescue efforts to remove survivors from Norris Hall. *iv*• Gathering preliminary suspect or gunman descriptions. *v*• Determining if additional gunmen exist.

**9:52 a.m.** The police clear the second floor of Norris Hall. Two tactical medics attached to the ERTs, one medic from Virginia Tech Rescue and one from Blacksburg Rescue, are allowed to enter to start their initial triage.

**9:53 a.m.** The 9:42 a.m. request for all EMS units is repeated.

MONDAY APRIL 16 2007

NORRIS HALL

9:15 CHO LOCKS

THE DOORS WITH CHAINS

AND PROCEEDS TO KILL

30 STUDENTS



**10:08 a.m.** A deceased male student is discovered by police team and suspected to be the gunman: No identification is found on the body. He appears to have a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. He is found among his victims in classroom 211, the French class. Two weapons are found near the body.

**10:17 a.m.** A third e-mail from Virginia Tech administration cancels classes and advises people to stay where they are. 10:51 a.m. All patients from Norris Hall have been transported to a hospital or moved to a minor treatment unit.

**10:52 a.m.** A fourth e-mail from Virginia Tech administration warns of "a multiple shooting with multiple victims in Norris Hall," saying the shooter has been arrested and that police are hunting for a possible second shooter.

**10:57 a.m.** A report of shots fired at the tennis courts near Cassell Coliseum proves false.

**12:42 p.m.** University President Charles Steger announces that police are releasing people from buildings and that counseling centers are being established.

**1:35 p.m.** A report of a possible gunshot near Duck Pond proves to be another false alarm.

**4:01 p.m.** President George W. Bush speaks to the Nation from the White House regarding the shooting. 5:00 p.m. The first deceased victim is transported to the medical examiner's office.

**8:45 p.m.** The last deceased victim is transported to the medical examiner's office.

**Evening** A search warrant is served for the residence of the first victim's boyfriend. Investigators continue investigating whether he is linked to the first crime; the two crimes are not yet connected for certain.





Sony Ericsson



Pause

More

During Cho's attack the students mobile phones were in action, and the images and video footages have been posted on the YouTube and similar sites.

Notable school shootings  
North America  
United States

Name	Location	Date	Year	Number of victims	Name	Location	Date	Year	Number of victims
University of Texas Massacre	Austin, Texas, United States	August 1	1966	16	Lindhurst High School shooting	Olivehurst, California, United States	May 1	1992	4
SC State killings[1]	Orangeburg, South Carolina, United States	February 8	1968	3	Palo Duro High School shooting	Amarillo, Texas, United States	September 11	1992	0
Kent State shootings[1]	Kent, Ohio, United States	May 4	1970	4	Berkner High School shooting	Richardson, Texas, United States	November 6	1992	1
Jackson State shootings[1]	Jackson, Mississippi, United States	May 14-15	1970	2	Edward Tilden High School shooting	Chicago, Illinois, United States	November 20	1992	1
Olean High School shooting[1]	Olean, New York, United States	December 30	1974	3	Simon's Rock College of Bard shooting	Great Barrington, Massachusetts, United States	December 14	1992	2
California State University, Fullerton massacre	Fullerton, California, United States	July 12	1976	7	East Carter High School shooting	Grayson, Kentucky, United States	January 18	1993	2
Cleveland Elementary School shooting	San Diego, California, United States	January 29	1979	2	Fairfax High School shooting	Los Angeles, California, United States	January 21	1993	1
Deer Creek Middle School shooting	Littleton, Colorado, United States	April 7	1982	1	Amityville High School shooting	Amityville, New York, United States	February 1	1993	1
Parkway South Middle School shooting	Manchester, Missouri, United States	January 20	1983	2	Reseda High School shooting	Reseda, California, United States	February 22	1993	1
Goddard Middle School shooting	Goddard, Kansas, United States	January 21	1985	1	Wauwatosa West High School shooting	Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, United States	December 1	1993	1
Portland Junior High School shooting	Portland, Connecticut, United States	December 10	1985	1	Central Middle School shooting	Sheridan, Wyoming, United States	September 17	1993	1
Pine Forest Senior High School	Fayetteville, North Carolina, United States	May 6	1986	0	Margaret Leary Elementary School shooting	Butte, Montana, United States	April 12	1994	1
Pinellas Park High School shooting	Largo, Florida, United States	February 11	1988	1	Grimsley High School shooting	Greensboro, North Carolina, United States	October 12	1994	1
Hubbard Woods School shooting	Winnetka, Illinois, United States	May 20	1988	1	Wickliffe Middle School shooting	Wickliffe, Ohio, United States	November 7	1994	1
Atlantic Shores Christian School shooting	Chesapeake, Virginia, United States	December 16	1988	1	Blackville-Hilda High School shooting	Blackville, South Carolina, United States	October 12	1995	2
Cleveland School massacre	Stockton, California, United States	January 17	1989	6	Richland High School shooting	Lynnville, Tennessee, United States	November 15	1995	2
University of Iowa shooting	Iowa City, Iowa, United States	November 1	1991	6					

[1] not a "school shooting" in the contemporary sense

Name	Location	Date	Year	Number of victims	Name	Location	Date	Year	Number of victims
Frontier Middle School shooting	Moses Lake, Washington, United States	February 2	1996	3	Santana High School shooting	Santee, California, United States	March 5	2001	2
Hamilton High School shooting	Scottsdale, Georgia, United States	February 2	1996	1	Granite Hills High School shooting	El Cajon, California, United States	March 22	2001	0
San Diego State University shooting	San Diego, California, United States	August 15	1996	3	Martin Luther King, Jr. High School shooting	Manhattan, New York, United States	January 15	2002	0
Hetzel Union Building shooting	State College, Pennsylvania, United States	September 17	1996	1	Appalachian School of Law shooting	Grundy, Virginia, United States	January 16	2002	3
Bethel Regional High School shooting	Bethel, Alaska, United States	February 19	1997	2	John McDonogh High School shooting	New Orleans, Louisiana, United States	April 14	2003	1
Pearl High School shooting	Pearl, Mississippi, United States	October 1	1997	2	Red Lion Area Junior High School shootings	Red Lion, Pennsylvania, United States	April 24	2003	2
Heath High School shooting	Paducah, Kentucky, United States	December 1	1997	3	Case Western Reserve University shooting	Cleveland, Ohio, United States	May 9	2003	1
Westside Middle School shooting	Jonesboro, Arkansas, United States	March 24	1998	5	Rocori High School shooting	Cold Spring, Minnesota, United States	September 24	2003	2
Parker Middle School dance shooting <sup>1</sup>	Edinboro, Pennsylvania, United States	April 24	1998	1	Columbia High School shooting	East Greenbush, New York, United States	February 9	2004	0
Thurston High School shooting	Springfield, Oregon, United States	May 20	1998	2	Fairleigh Dickinson University shooting	Florham Park, New Jersey, United States	April 4	2004	2
Columbine High School massacre	Littleton, Colorado, United States	April 20	1999	13	Randallstown High School shooting	Randallstown, Maryland, United States	May 7	2004	0
Heritage High School shooting	Conyers, Georgia, United States	May 20	1999	0	Red Lake Senior High School massacre	Red Lake, Minnesota, United States	March 21	2005	8
Fort Gibson Middle School shooting	Fort Gibson, Oklahoma, United States	December 6	1999	0	Campbell County High School shooting	Jacksboro, Tennessee, United States	November 8	2005	1
Buell Elementary School shooting	Mount Morris Township, Michigan, United States	February 29	2000	1	Pine Middle School shooting	Reno, Nevada, United States	March 14	2006	0
Lake Worth Middle School shooting	Lake Worth, Florida, United States	May 26	2000	1	Essex Elementary School shooting	Essex, Vermont, United States	August 24	2006	2
University of Arkansas shooting	Fayetteville, Arkansas, United States	August 28	2000	2	Orange High School shooting	Hillsborough, North Carolina, United States	August 30	2006	1

Name	Location	Date	Year	Number of victims	Name	Location	Date	Year	Number of victims
Platte Canyon High School shooting	Bailey, Colorado, United States	September 27	2006	2	Henry Ford High School shooting	Detroit, Michigan, United States	October 16	2008	1
Weston High School shooting	Cazenovia, Wisconsin, United States	September 29	2006	1	University of Central Arkansas shootings	Conway, Arkansas, United States	October 27	2008	2
Amish school shooting	Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania, United States	October 2	2006	6	Dillard High School shooting	Fort Lauderdale, Florida, United States	November 12	2008	1
Henry Foss High School shooting	Tacoma, Washington, United States	January 3	2007	1	Henry Ford Community College shooting	Dearborn, Michigan, United States	April 10	2009	2
Herbert Henry Dow High School	Midland, Michigan, United States	March 8	2007	1	Hampton University	Hampton, Virginia, United States	April 26	2009	0
University of North Carolina at Greensboro	Greensboro, North Carolina, United States	March 24	2007	0	Covina High School shooting	Covina, California, United States	April 30	2009	0
University of Washington shooting	Seattle, Washington, United States	April 2	2007	2	Wesleyan University	Middletown, Connecticut, United States	May 1	2009	1
Virginia Tech massacre	Blacksburg, Virginia, United States	April 16	2007	32	Canandaigua Academy shooting	Canandaigua, New York, United States	May 5	2009	1
Delaware State University shooting	Dover, Delaware, United States	September 21	2007	1	Harvard University	Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States	May 18	2009	1
SuccessTech Academy shooting	Cleveland, Ohio, United States	October 10	2007	1	Larose-Cut Off Middle School shooting	Larose, Louisiana, United States	May 18	2009	1
Louisiana Technical College shooting	Baton Rouge, Louisiana, United States	February 8	2008	3	Skyline College shooting	San Bruno, California, United States	September 2	2009	0
Mitchell High School shooting	Memphis, Tennessee, United States	February 11	2008	0	Atlanta University Center	Atlanta, Georgia, United States	September 3	2009	1
E.O. Green School shooting	Oxnard, California, United States	February 12	2008	1	Deer Valley High School shooting	Antioch, California, United States	September 16	2009	0
Northern Illinois University massacre	DeKalb, Illinois, United States	February 14	2008	6	Northern Virginia Community College	Woodbridge, Virginia, United States	December 8	2009	0
Davidson High School Shooting	Mobile, Alabama, United States	March 9	2008	1	Discovery Middle School	Madison, Alabama, United States	February 5	2010	1
Central High School shooting	Knoxville, Tennessee, United States	August 21	2008	1	University of Alabama in Huntsville	Huntsville, Alabama, United States	February 12	2010	3

Notable school shootings  
North America  
Canada

Name	Location	Date	Year	Number of victims	Name	Location	Date	Year	Number of victims
Deer Creek Middle School	Jefferson County, Colorado, UnitedStates	February 23	2010	0	Altona schoolhouse shooting	Altona, Manitoba, Canada	October 10	1902	2
Birney Elementary School	Tacoma, Washington, United States	February 26	2010	1	Centennial Secondary School shooting	Brampton, Ontario Canada	May 28	1975	2
Ohio State University	Columbus, Ohio, United States	March 9	2010	2	St Pius X High School School	Ottawa, Ontario, Canada	October 27	1975	1
Belleville Township HS East	Belleville, Illinois, United States	August 17	2010	1	École Polytechnique Massacre	Montreal, Quebec, Canada	December 6	1989	14
University of Texas at Austin	Austin, Texas, United States	September 28	2010	1	Concordia University massacre	Montreal, Quebec, Canada	August 24	1992	4
Alisal High School	Salinas, California, United States	October 1	2010	1	W. R. Myers High School shooting	Taber, Alberta, Canada	April 28	1999	1
Mid-Atlantic Christian University	Elizabeth City, North Carolina, United States	October 3	2010	1	Dawson College shooting	Montreal, Quebec, Canada	September 13	2006	1
Kelly Elementary School	Carlsbad, California, United States	October 8	2010	0	C. W. Jefferys Collegiate Institute shooting	Toronto, Ontario, Canada	May 23	2007	1
Marinette High School	Marinette, Wisconsin, United States	November 29	2010	1	Bendale Business and Technical Institute shooting	Toronto, Ontario, Canada	September 16	2008	0
Millard South High School shooting	Omaha, Nebraska, United States	January 5	2011	2	Central Technical School shooting	Toronto, Ontario Canada	September 30	2010	0
Martinsville West Middle School	Martinsville, Indiana, United States	March 25	2011	0					
Worthing High School	Houston, Texas, United States	March 30	2011	1					
Ross Elementary School	Houston, Texas, United States	April 19	2011	0					
Pearl City Middle School	Pearl City, Hawaii, United States	May 23	2011	1					

## Notable school shootings Europa

Name	Location	Date	Year	Number of victims
Bremen school shooting	Bremen, Germany	June 20	1913	5
Cologne school massacre	Cologne, Germany	June 11	1964	10
Eppstein school shooting	Eppstein, Germany	June 3	1983	6
Raumanmeri school shooting	Rauma, Finland	January 24	1989	2
Colston's School	Bristol, United Kingdom	March 5	1991	0
Aarhus University Shooting	Aarhus, Denmark	April 4	1994	3
Dunblane massacre	Dunblane, United Kingdom	March 13	1996	18
Erfurt massacre	Erfurt, Germany	April 26	2002	17
Coburg shooting	Coburg, Germany	July 3	2003	1
Terra College	The Hague, Netherlands	January	2004	1
Grund- und Hauptschule von Rötzt shooting	Rötzt (Oberpfalz), Germany	March 7	2005	0
Geschwister Scholl School attack	Emsdetten, Germany	November 20	2006	1
Jokela school shooting	Tuusula, Finland	November 7	2007	9
Kauhajoki school shooting	Kauhajoki, Finland	September 23	2008	11
Winnenden school shooting	Winnenden, Germany	March 11	2009	16
OAED Vocational College shooting	Athens, Greece	April 10	2009	1
Kanebogen elementary school shooting	Harstad, Norway	April 28	2009	0
University of Pécs shooting	Pécs, Hungary	November 26	2009	1

## Notable school shootings South America, Asia and Australia

Name	Location	Date	Year	Number of victims
Sanaa massacre	Sana'a, Yemen	March 30	1997	6
University of the Philippines shooting	RQuezon City, Philippines	February 19	1999	1
La Trobe University shooting	Melbourne, Australia	August 3	1999	1
Monash University shooting	Melbourne, Australia	October 21	2002	2
Pak Phanang school shooting	Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand	June 6	2003	2
Islas Malvinas School shooting	Carmen de Patagones, Argentina	September 28	2004	4
Beirut Arab University shooting	Beirut, Lebanon	January 25	2007	4
Euro International school shooting	Gurgaon, India	December 12	2007	1
Mercaz HaRav shooting	Jerusalem, Israel	March 6	2008	9
Azerbaijan State Oil Academy shooting	Baku, Azerbaijan	April 30	2009	13
Realengo massacre	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	April 7	2011	13



Intervju 19.08.11  
kunstkritikk.no / Jacob Lillemose  
Fra Virginia Tech til Utøya

I 2009 lavede den danske kunstner Niels Bonde udstillingen Paris, Britney, Adolf og Cho. Udstillingen inkluderede et værk, som omhandlede Virginia Tech-massakren i 2007, hvor den studerende Cho Seung-Hui dræbte 32 og sårede 25. I lyset af hændelserne i Oslo og på Utøya den 22. juli har Kunstkritikk bedt Bonde om at se tilbage på sit værk.

*Hvad tænkte du da du først hørte om Anders Behring Breiviks massekræ?*

Da jeg hørte om terroren, havde de danske nyheder længe gisnet om hvem, der havde gjort det og hvorfor. Teorierne om islamisk-funderet terror cirkulerede, selv sent på aftenen, hvor DR havde inviteret en journalistisk ekspert i studiet, der fastslog, at det var Al-Qaida, og det var endda efter at man havde hørt om skyderierne på Utøya. Der sad jeg og råbte af min fladskærm: «Hvorfor bliver du ved med at sige det? Det ved du da ikke! Det ligner sgu da mere skoleskyderierne end noget andet.»

Da det stod klart, hvad der rent faktisk var foregået, kunne jeg ikke lade være med at se Breivik som endnu en indebrændt, narcissistisk og selvhøjtidelig ung mand der med våben tvinger verdenen til at give ham den opmærksomhed, som han forurettet mener at have krav på. Det var også mit syn på drengene fra Columbine High, Cho Seung-Hui fra Virginia Tech og personerne bag de efterfølgende tyske og finske skyderier. Det er mennesker, der med udgangspunkt i et forskruet opblæst selvbillede og selvkonstruerede forulempelser mener at have ret til masse mord. Sådan forstår jeg dem. At de så hver især har forskellige personligheder – eller rettere personlighedsforstyrrelser – er en anden sag, en sag for psykiatere og psykologer.

*Hvad var din motivation for at lave værket om Cho Seung-Hui fra Virginia Tech?*

Mediepakken! Det vil sige, da NBC NEWS rapporterede om, at de havde fået tilsendt en mediepakke fra Seung-Hui, der indeholdt en DVD med videoer, billeder samt et manifest som de begyndte at viderefremidle i små bidder. Efter at have hørt hans

videomanifester, der vel sagtens er en slags knækprosa-møder-splatterfilm, havde jeg så mange ubesvarede spørgsmål, som jeg følte jeg måtte prøve at finde svar på. Svarene var ikke enkle, men jeg var sikker på, at Seung-Huis mediepakke markerede noget nyt, nemlig bevidstheden om hvor vigtigt det er at kontrollere medie billedet for at få den tilsigtede opmærksomhed og sikre eftermælet i form af et martyrium. I videoerne prøver han at løfte sine voldsomme anklager op på et højere og mere altruistisk plan ved at erkære, at han gør dette for fremtiden. At anklagerne om, at nogle skulle have skåret halsen over på ham, tydeligvis er overdrevne stopper ham ikke. Kombineret med hans tydelige frustrationer over det modsatte køn fremstår det ræsonnementet temmelig forvrøvet. Hvad der til gengæld er tydeligt er, at hans tilværelse i høj grad foregår online. Det er der, at han køber sine pistoler for penge han har fået for salget af sine bøger. Det er der, at han har et forhold til sin cyberkæreste «Jelly». Og hans kontakt med de kvindelige medstudierende på Virginia Tech er medieret af teknologi. Den foregår via cyberstalking i form af SMS'er og videoptagelser foretaget med mobiltelefonen. Da han halvandet år før sit morderiske raid beslutter sig for at begå selvmord, meddeler han det således også meget sigende via SMS.

*Men hvis dit værk omhandler denne udvidede mediebevidsthed som er affødt af de digitale teknologier integration i vores liv, hvorfor bruger du så analoge medier?*

Billedkunst, og helt specifikt de gamle medier, som fx tegning og modeller som jeg brugte, har både fordele og ulemper i den henseende. Ulemperne er at de er så langsomme – langsomme at producere og langsomme at fordøje. Fordelene er præcis de samme. Det tager lang tid at producere værkerne, især hvis man skal modellere, bygge, tegne eller male. Til gengæld giver denne tid mulighed for at reflektere over indholdet og fungerer dermed som et holdepunkt i en mediestrøm, hvis hastighed truer med at drukne ansatser til eftertanke. Det er denne tidslige dimension jeg skaber med brugen af slowmotion i Cho's Trip to the Post Office. Cho har selv sendt billeder til en tv-station. Deres udsendelse har så at sige været hans egentlige formål, og medierne går derfor hans ærinde. Derimod har fastholdelsen af hans gerninger i en tør dokumentarisk form, et



slags antropologisk studie, en effekt der ikke går Chos ærinde. Bruger vi længere tid på at nærlæse hans udsagn end nyhedsindlægget tillader og opfordrer til, så falder hans historie fra hinanden. Jeg har således bevidst brugt old media som maleri, tegning og model for at fastholde både min egen og beskuerens koncentrationen i forhold til emnet.

*Lars von Trier har udtalt, at han fortryder, at han lavede Dogville, der jo indeholder en brutal skydescene, fordi Breiveik på sin Facebook-side nævner den som en af sine yndlingsfilm. Er du bekymret for at dit værk også bliver misforstået og misbrugt i en sags tjeneste, der strider mod værkets intention?*

Det korte svar er nej. Et længere svar ville være, at alle vi andre der har set von Triers film ikke er gået amok i en blodrus, men at alt kan misbruges. Det kan vi ikke sikre os mod. Personer som Breivik forvrænger alt, hvad de ser. Uanset hvad tingene, i det her tilfældet Dogville, har haft af betydning før de kom ind i hans sind, så er de tilpasset hans argumenter, når han kommunikerer dem ud.

Prøv at se på det således: Det stoppede ikke Breivik, at folk tiggede ham om ikke at skyde. Og at forestille sig, at en film som Dogville skulle kunne have fået ham til at ændre sine synspunkter, er en voldsom overvurdering af kunstens kraft.

Jeg er sikker på at fremtidens Seung-Hui og Breivik'er – for Breivik er ikke den sidste, det vil være en illusion at tro – sagtens kan se videoen Cho's Trip to the Post Office, som en glorificering af Seung-Hui, men kun hvis man ser isolerede dele af værket udenfor kontekst. Selv ser jeg Cho's Trip to the Post Office som en skamstøtte. Derimod er det relevant at notere, at Breivik ligesom Seung-Hui er blevet inspireret af forgængere, som de imiterer. Breivik's manifest er jo et orgie af cut-and-paste. Men citaterne kommer ikke fra kunsten!

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Space Poetry

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Niels Bonde

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