

NEWS

TOWER
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der that it never had before," said Gary Lavergne, author of a 1997 book on the shootings, "A Sniper in the Tower."
"The quickest way to turn something into a shrine is to make it forbidden," Lavergne said. "When you remove these restrictions, you remove the mystery."

Actually, the tower didn't close for good in 1966. It reopened 10 months after the shooting. But after four students jumped to their deaths in four years, the school closed the deck in 1974.

To the south, at the base of a statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, is a bullet mark from Whitman's rifle.

The mark has widened and been worn smooth from decades of students running their fingers along its grooves. Whitman's siege lasted 96 minutes and proved to be the archetype for modern mass murder.

In March 1966, his wife, Kathy, urged him to visit a psychiatrist at the university. He complained to the doctor that he had underachieved in life and felt depressed. He said he had the gnawing suspicion that something was wrong with his brain.

Whitman then confided a recurring fantasy. He said he often thought "about going up on the tower with a deer rifle and shooting people." He never returned for a second session.

Shortly after midnight on Aug. 1, Whitman dropped by his mother's apartment near campus. Margaret Whitman had moved to Austin a few months before, having left her abusive husband in Florida. Whitman fatally stabbed her with a hunting knife, then returned home and stabbed his wife to death as she slept.

He left notes saying he wanted to spare the women the shame of what he was to do next.

About 11:30 that morning, Whitman arrived at the tower with a footlocker loaded on a dolly. He had packed three rifles, a shotgun, handguns, a machete, a hatchet, knives, 700 rounds of ammunition, a radio and food.

He rode an elevator to the 27th floor, dragged his footlocker up the stairs to the 28th-floor observation deck, and, using one of his rifle butts, he clubbed

a receptionist to death.

He then shot four unsuspecting tourists who had followed him up the stairs, killing two. He was on the deck by 11:48 a.m.

His next victim was the 8-month-old fetus inside Claire Wilson, 18.

"He could have hit her in the left shoulder or the right shoulder, but he aimed right for that woman's stomach," said Robert Heard, an Associated Press reporter who covered the shooting. "That tells me the man obviously wanted to do as much ugliness as he could."

Whitman did most of his work in the first 15 minutes, running from side to side, picking off bewildered pedestrians as far away as 600 yards.

Students huddled behind trees and posts. The wounded were forced to play dead on the concrete, sizzling from the heat.

Police were nearly helpless to stop Whitman. There were no SWAT teams then. Indeed, the concept was born as a direct result of Whitman's rampage.

The police had no 911 system to communicate. They also carried only shotguns, which lacked the accuracy to return Whitman's long-range rifle fire.

An hour passed, and the casualties mounted. Police tried everything, at one point commandeering a small plane and placing a sharpshooter aboard. But Whitman's fire drove the craft away.

It was then that two young Austin police officers, Houston McCoy and Ramiro Martinez, acting on their own, decided to confront Whitman face to face.

The pair, along with an Austin shopkeeper Martinez deputized on the spot, pushed past Whitman's barricades and opened the south door to the deck.

"There was fear," said Martinez, now a retired justice of the peace. "If you say you're not scared, you're either a liar or an idiot."

Creeping around the northeast edge, the officers spotted Whitman crouched in the opposite corner. Martinez emptied his revolver, prompting Whitman to shoot wildly in return. McCoy, standing over Martinez's shoulder, then fired two shots through Whitman's head.

Whitman was dead. But he never really went away.

And yet, said Rosa Eberly, a UT professor, "nobody was telling the story of what Whitman's acts were doing to the university."

PEACE CORPS
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our volunteers overseas to our goal of 10,000 people," Kaminsky said. "We're looking for all sorts of people from all sorts of backgrounds to increase the diversity of Peace Corps."

All majors qualify, according to Kaminsky. Applicants' community work experience, leadership skills and organizational and planning skills are also taken into consideration.

"We're targeting students in business programs, environmental education majors, agriculture majors and English teachers with teaching experience," Kaminsky said.

Kaminsky encourages anyone interested in teaching to volunteer. Certification isn't necessary, she said. She suggested that students become involved in English Programs for Internationals as an alternative to being certified.

Some USC students and graduates said they think the Peace Corps is effective and resourceful.

"It's a good way to figure out what you want to do with your life and how you can serve others," art graduate student Jeanna Hayes said.

International studies senior Kenyon Maree said, "I think the Peace Corps is a good experience for students and everyone involved to use resources of our country to help people in developing areas."

The Peace Corps has several categories of volunteers, including educational, business, environmental, agricultural, health and nutritional and community development.

Ten USC graduates are serving as Peace Corps volunteers in nine different countries. Fifty-nine South Carolina residents serve in Peace Corps, and 219 USC graduates have volunteered since 1961.

Sixty percent of the current graduates are serving in Peace Corps in educational programs, and 20 percent are working in environmental programs.

For more information, call (800) 424-8580 or visit www.peacecorps.gov.

FAIR
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students with employers."

When employers come back for on-campus recruiting, Reece said, students tend to feel more comfortable with them.

Crockett said the Career Fair experience also helps give students a better idea of what post-graduation life will be like.

"It [the Career Fair] benefits students because it gives them a good idea of opportunities available upon graduation,"

Crockett said.

Business representatives say the criteria they use to evaluate student resumes are based mainly on strong academic backgrounds and high grade point averages.

However, some employers are becoming increasingly interested in students who have a background in community service, or who have strong work experience and extracurricular involvement.

"We don't just want students who make straight A's," said Tiffanee Dykes of the graduate program at the University of Maryland.

"We're looking for dynamic students," she said.

Reece said that the Career Center is available to students year-round.

Services offered by the center include job posting online, resume referrals and critiques, and on-call counseling about job concerns.

For more information about these services, call the center at 777-7280.

The Gamecock
News meeting this week at 5 p.m. Tuesday in RH 333

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