

## Run Hide Fight - Mike Delaney, 5/2/19

### Run Hide Fight

That's what the trainer had said  
And he showed us all the video  
So, we wouldn't wind up dead  
It seemed so far away  
An unexpected sight  
That became our urgent warning  
Run Hide Fight

### Group presentations

On the last day of class  
Riley listens close  
Then it happened so fast  
Young man in black jumps up  
Firing off his gun  
Riley's first thought is  
Where can I run?

### Run Run Run

**Riley thought to run  
No way left to flee  
Couldn't escape the gun  
Riley couldn't run**

The classroom is crazy  
Shrieks and screams and shouts  
The gunman taking aim  
His shots are ringing out  
Riley looks around  
No way to get outside  
Everyone is trapped  
Trying hard to hide

### Hide Hide Hide

**Riley thought to hide  
If there were a closet  
He surely would have tried  
Riley couldn't hide**

Riley knows his heart  
It's the time to bravely act  
Has to save his friends  
There's no turning back  
Riley makes his choice  
Though his chances are slight  
Take the gunman down  
Now's the time to fight

### Fight Fight Fight

**Riley chose to fight  
With the gun still blazing  
He charged with all his might  
Riley chose to fight**

Taking three bullets  
As he crushed the gunman down  
Without hesitation  
Riley took him to the ground  
How many were saved?  
We can only guess  
Now Riley is an angel  
We know Riley's blessed

### Run Hide Fight

**There are times when you must  
fight  
If run isn't an option  
And there's nowhere to hide  
Sometimes you must fight  
Like Riley chose to fight**

# Run Hide Fight

Mike Delaney, 5/2/19

**C G C –**

**C**

Run Hide Fight

**F**

**C**

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**F**

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**D7**

**G**

So, we wouldn't wind up dead

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**Run Hide Fight**  
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**Sometimes you must fight**  
**Like Riley chose to fight**

# ***Riley Howell's Parents Say He Was Shot 3 Times While Tackling the U.N.C. Charlotte Gunman***

Photographs of Riley Howell at his viewing ceremony on Saturday in Waynesville, N.C. Credit Swikar Patel for The New York Times







Image

Photographs of Riley Howell at his viewing ceremony on Saturday in Waynesville, N.C. Credit: CreditSwikar Patel for The New York Times

**By Jim Dwyer and Myah Ward**

• May 6, 2019

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WAYNESVILLE, N.C. — He kept charging. A bullet to the torso did not stop Riley Howell. A second bullet to the body did not prevent him from reaching his goal and hurling himself at the gunman who opened fire last week inside a classroom at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The third bullet came as Mr. Howell was inches from the gunman, who fired at point-blank range into his head.

Mr. Howell’s parents said their 21-year-old son, who is being heralded for his bravery, was shot at least three times. He tackled the gunman so forcefully that the suspect complained to first responders after his arrest of internal injuries, the parents said the authorities told them.

Thomas Howell, 48, who works as a trauma nurse, said he saw his son’s body and viewed evidence suggesting that the gun muzzle was pressed against his son’s skin when he was shot for the third time, either as he and the gunman fell or were on the ground.

“This was burned,” Mr. Howell said, pointing to a spot along the jawbone near his right ear. “That bullet went up into his brain and killed him.”

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That final shot marked the end of what could have been a far worse massacre, the police told his parents.

“The chief said no one was shot after Riley body-slammed him,” said his mother, Natalie Henry-Howell.

By then, another student, Ellis Reed Parlier, 19, of Midland, N.C., had also been killed, and four others wounded, in the shooting last Tuesday, the final day of spring classes at U.N.C. Charlotte.

Riley’s parents, Thomas Howell and Natalie Henry-Howell, at their home in Waynesville. Credit: Swikar Patel for The New York Times









Image

Riley's parents, Thomas Howell and Natalie Henry-Howell, at their home in Waynesville. Credit Swikar Patel for The New York Times

Mass shootings have their perpetrators and their victims. And then there are those, Mr. Howell now among them, who risk their lives in some combination of strength, cunning and bravery in an effort to save others and themselves.

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Over the years, gunmen have been confronted or thwarted, at least in part, by teachers, principals, school custodians and [students](#) during attacks such as the ones at [Sandy Hook Elementary School](#) in 2012 and a two-hour siege at [Virginia Tech](#) in 2007.

Last year, a [teacher in Indiana](#) hurled a basketball at a 13-year-old boy who was firing shots and, as he was being hit by three bullets, tackled and disarmed the boy. And a customer in a Nashville Waffle House last year [wrested an assault rifle](#) from a shooter who had killed four people and threw it over a counter. The gunman fled.

“We’re seeing more and more of it,” said Officer Johnathan Frisk, who is with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department’s “active survival” training program.

American society at large has been unable or unwilling to mount a response to mass shootings, which have [killed more than 140 people in schools](#) since the Sandy Hook shootings, and so the survival tactics and ingenuity of individuals have been incorporated into lessons for “active shooter” training provided to schools, workplaces and houses of worship.

People are directed to run, barricade themselves or fight, Officer Frisk said. “The bottom line is that Riley countered, brought the fight to the shooter and saved many lives.”

In interviews with nearly 20 relatives and friends of Mr. Howell, not one person was surprised that he had acted decisively and with little regard for himself.

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Riley and Teddy Howell used to play video games together. After his brother's death, Teddy taped a note on Riley's chair: "Reserved for a hero." Credit Swikar Patel for The New York Times



Image



Riley and Teddy Howell used to play video games together. After his brother's death, Teddy taped a note on Riley's chair: "Reserved for a hero." Credit Swikar Patel for The New York Times

"As soon as we heard, we thought — of course he did, of course he did," said Kevin Westmoreland, whose daughter, Lauren, had been Mr. Howell's steady girlfriend since they were both 16. "I could see him turning



and just thinking he could physically beat the bullets to get to that guy, because I'm sure he didn't really imagine anything else."

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Before their son's funeral on Sunday, Mr. Howell's parents said in an interview that their son had died as he had lived: headlong and helpfully.

Born Dec. 13, 1997, Mr. Howell grew up on a 100-acre "gentleman's farm," as his mother called it, on the edge of a small town in the Great Smoky Mountains. The families of his parents live in the area.

The first grandchild on both sides, he was doted on by aunts, uncles and grandparents. As the eldest of his generation, he was the cousin-in-chief, leader of hikes and the designated shark in rowdy swimming games.

"I remember being little, and I named all my boy Barbies after Riley because I thought he looked like them — he looked like Ken," said Katie Pritchard, 17, a cousin.

As a toddler, he spent time with a deaf uncle and used sign language before he spoke, said his mother, who is 48 and a teacher.

Her son was not a young man who played it safe, she said. He jumped without trepidation from high rocks into the ocean and worked a chainsaw on the farm.

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Teddy Howell with Lauren Westmoreland, left, and his sister Juliet Howell at the viewing ceremony. Credit Swikar Patel for The New York Times



Image





Teddy Howell with Lauren Westmoreland, left, and his sister Juliet Howell at the viewing ceremony. Credit Swikar Patel for The New York Times

He was also a deep scholar of Star Wars, amassing a legion of Jedi action figures with his brother Ted, 14. He cooked on a cast iron skillet he got for Christmas, fixed up junk cars and was an avid target shooter, but not a hunter.

His sister Juliet, 16, said that when she began thinking about a first car, her older brother took it on himself to shop online to find deals for her, counseling against certain vintages because they had been manufactured during recessions and he believed their quality could be suspect.

And he was handy, an uncommon quality among many young men, who do not have the slightest idea how to fix things, said another sister, Iris, 19. “Guys his age looked up to him because he was a jack-of-all-trades,” she said.

During a school break earlier this year, Mr. Howell’s job with student housing kept him on campus. With the grounds almost entirely to himself, he rigged a connection from a video game console to the student movie theater and spoke to his father as he played a game on the giant screen.

Mr. Howell played sports, including soccer and cross-country in high school, and while he was aggressive, his family said, he was not competitive. His mane of wavy blond hair and muscular physique threw people off, including, initially, Mr. Westmoreland, who said he was wary of this “big, handsome boy” dating his daughter.

The reality, Lauren Westmoreland said, was infinitely more endearing.

“People thought he was going to be a jerk or something, a big old gym guy, but he was just, like, the biggest dork I’d ever met,” Ms. Westmoreland said.

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On their first date, when she was too nervous to eat, he volunteered to finish her food, an introduction to his Henry VIII-level appetite. He never hounded her to wear makeup, she said, or to pretend that she was anyone other than herself.

Mourners at the viewing ceremony. Credit Swikar Patel for The New York Times



Image



Mourners at the viewing ceremony. Credit Swikar Patel for The New York Times

Her father said that Mr. Howell turned out to be instinctively helpful — carrying a stranger in his arms who had fainted in a restaurant, or seeking out Mr. Westmoreland's father, who has Alzheimers, at gatherings.



“He would go and look him in the eye, asked how he was and made sure my dad knew he existed in that room,” Mr. Westmoreland said. “A lot of people aren’t comfortable doing that.”

To the youngest of the clan, cousin Maisie Moylan, 13, Mr. Howell’s age never changed, even after he became an official grown-up. “When Riley got the choice between the kids’ and the adult table, he always chose the kids’ table,” Maisie said.

An avid student of subjects that he cared about, he barely mailed it in for school courses that did not grab him. Mrs. Henry-Howell said that she accompanied her son five times to a military recruiting office until he decided that he would go to college.

He spent two years at a technical college, which he attended largely to please his parents, Mrs. Henry-Howell said, and scheduled classes around his work at a landscaping company. By the time he enrolled at U.N.C. Charlotte last fall, he had become absorbed by horticulture.

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“He was coming around to figuring out what it was he wanted to do and be,” Mrs. Henry-Howell said.

Last Tuesday, Mr. Howell was in a room with about 60 other students to give 10-minute group presentations for their anthropology and philosophy of science course. It was not a typical classroom: There were 14 tables, with a lectern at the front of the room and doors at either end.

A few minutes into the first presentation, the shooting began. The professor, Adam Johnson, wrote in a [blog post](#) that he did not hear a door open or close.

More than 1,500 people attended the memorial service for Riley Howell on Sunday. Credit Swikar Patel for The New York Times



Image



More than 1,500 people attended the memorial service for Riley Howell on Sunday. Credit Swikar Patel for The New York Times

Mrs. Henry-Howell and her husband did not learn until nearly eight hours later that their son was dead. “Right off the bat, their very first words, ‘Your son’s a hero,’” Mrs. Henry-Howell said.

Having watched her boy survive more than a few reckless antics over the years, Mrs. Henry-Howell said she would have been mad had he been killed by diving onto a rock or crashing a car. She is angry that her son is dead, she said, but she cannot be upset that he took on the gunman.

“That was just who he was,” she said.

Most of a 2,000-seat auditorium at Lake Junaluska near Waynseville was filled on Sunday for Mr. Howell’s funeral. To get cut flowers there in time, market workers in Manhattan boxed and drove them directly to a cargo plane.

And although he was not in the military, Mr. Howell received tributes common to the burials of people in the armed services. A volley of shots was fired by an honor guard, and his family was presented with a military burial flag.

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The North Carolina bluegrass band Balsam Range played an “Amazing Grace” filled with spirit. The Rev. Dr. Robert M. Blackburn, who had baptized Mr. Howell, prayed for the other students injured in the attack, and for the family of Mr. Parlier. He also prayed for the man accused of the shootings, [Trystan Andrew Terrell](#), and his family.

A cousin, Hank Pritchard, announced that the Howells were establishing the Riley Howell Foundation to provide support for other families who are victims of violence, including the Parliers.

All of the cousins were there, of course, including the youngest, Maisie. At Mr. Howell's viewing, she remembered being on a trampoline, flipping over backward and nearly landing on her head when he reached out.

"He caught me in the air," she said, "before I fell."

*Correction: May 6, 2019*

*An earlier version of a picture caption with this article misstated the first name of one of Riley Howell's sisters. She is Juliet Howell, not Juliette.*

*Correction: May 6, 2019*

*An earlier version of this article misstated the name of a bluegrass band that played at Riley Howell's funeral on Sunday. It is Balsam Range, not Balsam Ridge.*

## ***U.N.C. Charlotte Student Couldn't Run, So He Tackled the Gunman***

Kennedy Hall on the University of North Carolina at Charlotte campus a day after a gunman opened fire on students in the building. Credit Travis Dove for The New York Times







Image

Kennedy Hall on the University of North Carolina at Charlotte campus a day after a gunman opened fire on students in the building. Credit Credit Travis Dove for The New York Times

**By David Perlmutter and Julie Turkewitz**

• May 1, 2019

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CHARLOTTE, N.C. — In an alert that flashed across computer and phone screens all over campus, the instructions were spare but urgent: “Run, Hide, Fight. Secure yourself immediately.”

But Riley Howell could neither run nor hide. The gunman was in his classroom. So, the authorities said, he charged at the gunman, who had already fired several rounds, and pinned him down until police officers arrived.

“But for his work, the assailant may not have been disarmed,” Chief Kerr Putney of the Charlotte-Mecklenberg Police Department said of Mr. Howell, who was among six victims of a mass shooting at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte campus Tuesday evening. “Unfortunately, he gave his life in the process. But his sacrifice saved lives.”

On Wednesday, students and teachers were still reeling from the attack that left two students, including Mr. Howell, dead and four others injured. Chief Putney said the death toll could have been far worse had Mr. Howell, a 21-year-old former high school soccer goalie, not intervened.

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“He is my hero,” said Mr. Howell’s girlfriend of nearly six years, Lauren Westmoreland, who said she was overcome with grief. “But he’s just my angel now, as well.”

Police identified the gunman as Trystan Andrew Terrell, 22, and said he had been charged with two counts of murder and four counts of attempted murder. The authorities said the handgun used in the shooting had been purchased legally.

Chief Putney declined to discuss the suspect’s motive and also would not say whether any of the students in the crowded classroom had been targeted. But, he said, the building was familiar, and the choice to focus on it “intentional.”

Students said Mr. Terrell had attended classes at U.N.C. Charlotte, but also said that he appeared to have disappeared from classes in recent months.

The attack Tuesday evening was the latest in a string of mass shootings at educational institutions across the country that have left parents, police and school administrators grappling with how to stanch the violence. It came, too, on the heels of an attack at a California synagogue last weekend and the recent 20th anniversary of the Columbine shootings.

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The shooting punctured what had been a celebratory graduation week at one of the largest schools in the University of North Carolina system, a leafy, often sun-drenched campus built on old farmland about 10 miles northeast of uptown Charlotte. About 30,000 students attend classes in its red brick buildings.

On Tuesday, the final day of classes, students were looking toward exams and graduation. LBST 2213, a class that examines the anthropology and philosophy of science, was scheduled to meet at 5:30 p.m. in Kennedy Hall.

Adam Johnson was teaching, and his students were planning to give group presentations. According to a description of the class, the students had spent the semester examining critical philosophical questions, such as: What is science? What is evolution?

Miranda Finch, 20 and a sophomore, sat at a large circular table, watching a group presentation about the galaxy. Her group, which had planned to deliver a talk on lobotomies and electric shock, was next.

Then she heard three loud pops. She said she wasn't sure what the sound was — she had never before heard a gunshot.

She hadn't heard anyone come into the classroom, so she wasn't sure whether the attacker entered quietly or just stood up from the table closest to the door.

But there he was, pointing a gun.

“I looked at him,” she said, “and the gun was aimed at my table and at me.”

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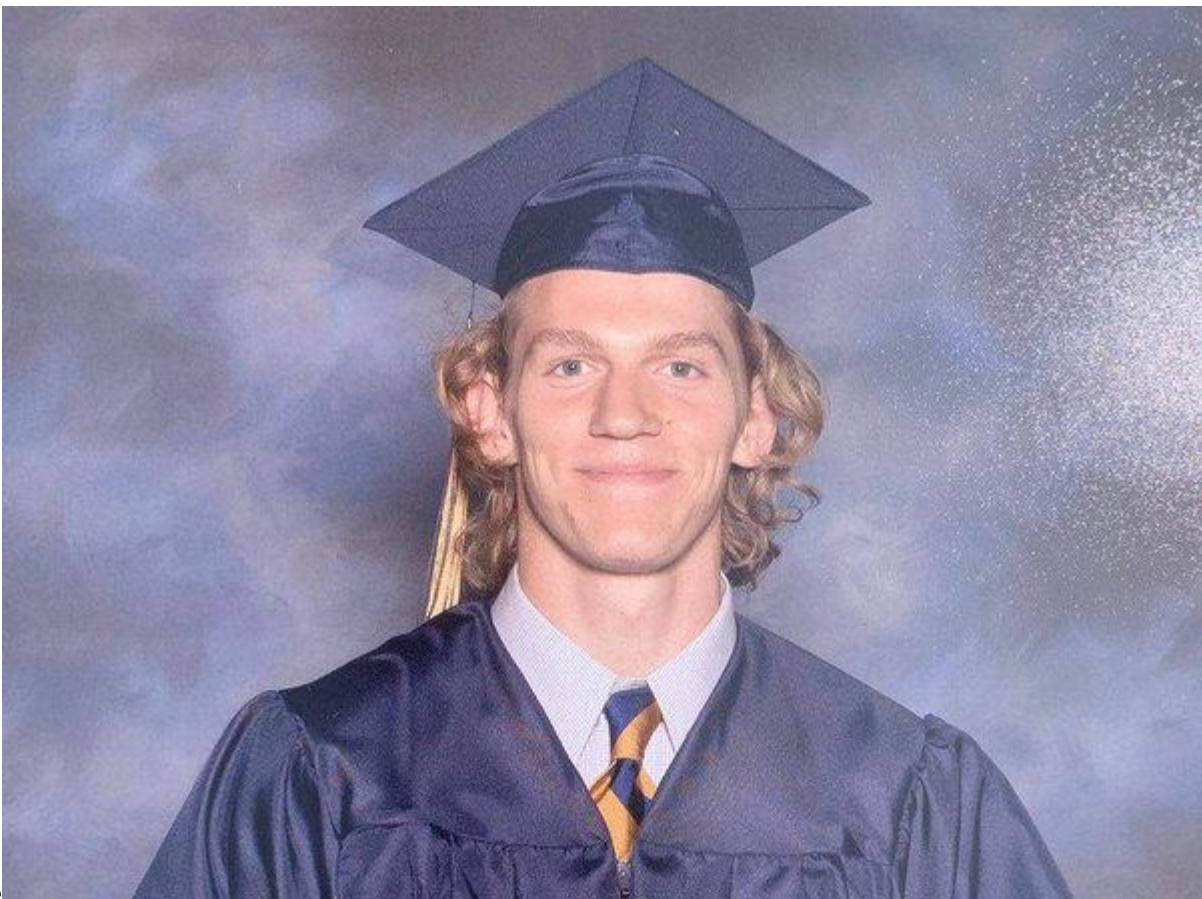
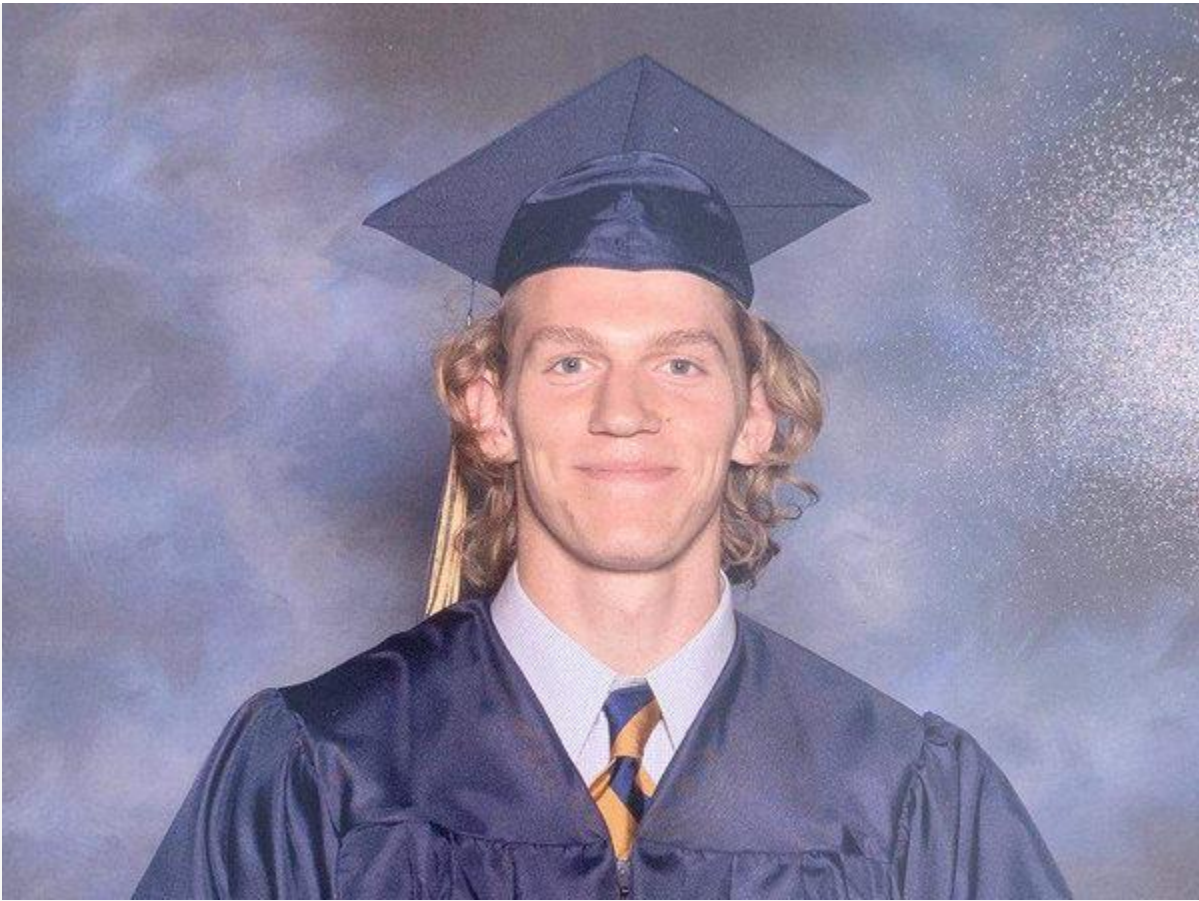
Tristan Field, a 19-year-old sophomore, said the gunman began shooting about 10 minutes into class. It was quiet, he said, until violence broke out and people began to scream and run away.

Mr. Field said it was the silence beforehand that stood out to him the most on Wednesday. “Only the presentation video was playing, and then suddenly, shots and chaos,” he said.

One bullet grazed a cheek of Ms. Finch's friend. Another boy at their table slumped on the floor. Then a bullet hit a third person. Three of the four people wounded in the shooting had been sitting at that table, about 20 feet from the door, Ms. Finch said. They were all in her group, waiting to give their presentation.

Riley C. Howell, 21, one of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte shooting victims. Credit via T.C. Roberson High School





Image

Riley C. Howell, 21, one of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte shooting victims. Credit via T.C. Roberson High School



Ms. Finch and her friend crawled behind a table. For a moment, she said, she crouched there, terrified that the gunman would come looking for them.

Ms. Finch didn't notice Mr. Howell lunge at the gunman, but she said it could have happened while she was ducking behind the table. The next thing she knew, the gunman was lying on the floor.

"That was the weird thing," she said. "He just came in and shot, and then he stopped shooting, and then he didn't say a word at all."

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Ms. Finch and her friend ran out of the classroom and into a building across the street. Ms. Finch's friend sat down inside, crying.

"She asked me to look at her hip, and when I looked, it was the first time I had ever seen it, it was definitely a gunshot wound," Ms. Finch said. She applied pressure until help arrived. And then she went home covered in blood.

Mr. Field was also among those who ran away. In a tweet after the ordeal, he tried to process what had happened. "Why here?" he wrote. "Why today? Why U.N.C. Charlotte? Why my classroom? What did we do?"

The six people who were killed or wounded were all students at the university, officials confirmed. In addition to Mr. Howell, of Waynesville, N.C., Ellis R. Parlier, 19, of Midland, N.C., also was killed.

Mr. Howell had considered a career in the military or firefighting before enrolling at the university, where he was an environmental studies student. In a statement, his parents said he was a fearless athlete with a sturdy frame who relished a challenge, "whether it be jumping from the highest cliff into the water below or power lifting competitions at the gym."

"Once committed to something," they said, "he never gave up, never gave in, and gave everything he had."

Mr. Parlier, who was known as Reed, graduated in 2017 from the Central Academy of Technology and Arts, a magnet high school in Monroe, N.C., where he studied computer technology, according to a spokeswoman for the Union County Public Schools. He aspired to develop video games. In his free time, he tutored Charlotte middle school students.

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The university identified the injured students as Sean DeHart, 20, and Drew Pescaro, 19, both of Apex, N.C.; Emily Houpt, 23, of Charlotte; and Rami Alramadhan, 20, of Saihat, Saudi Arabia. Three remained hospitalized Wednesday evening.

The attack came during a particularly turbulent decade for Charlotte, North Carolina's largest city and a banking hub hit hard by the Great Recession. Over the last 10 years, it has seen a mayor resign over corruption charges, rioting over a police officer's killing of a black man, and been at the center of a political battle over transgender rights.

In a news conference, the city's mayor said that over the years, she has heard mayors across the country talk about the impact of mass shootings in their cities. On Wednesday, it was her turn.

"We know a tragedy like this can divide a community or bring us together," said Mayor Vi Lyles, a Democrat. "It is our choice of how we move forward."

On Wednesday, the university — typically lively and festive — felt "dull and emotionless," said Devin Chase Martin, 23, a student who had attended a history class with Mr. Terrell but did not know him personally. At an evening vigil, about 7,500 people, mostly students, packed into Halton Arena, where the 49ers play basketball, to grieve. Gov. Roy Cooper and other state and local officials attended.

Some students, unsure how the attack was unfolding Tuesday, spent hours hiding in classrooms before they realized they were safe. They, too, spent Wednesday recovering.

Philip L. Dubois, the university's chancellor, said the school would continue with graduation ceremonies that are scheduled to begin this weekend. One of the students who was injured, Ms. Houpt, is among those set to graduate, and Mr. Dubois said she would cross the stage.

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But final exams were canceled until Monday morning, he said, adding that the school would be flexible with students who might not be ready to study and take tests.

Before the attack, Wednesday had been set aside as a study day to prepare for exams. Normally, the school's library and student union would have been "bustling to cram for exams," said Brooke Davidson, 19. Yet both buildings felt virtually deserted.

"There is a sense of somber — of sadness here," she said.

Ulani Robinson, 19, a freshman, was still recovering from the three-plus hours she said she spent cowering in a dark classroom with other students on Tuesday.

That night, she said, "we slept only because our bodies made us sleep."

"I tossed and turned," she added, "but my mind never rested."

**Correction:** May 1, 2019

*An earlier version of this article misspelled two of the wounded students' surnames, based on preliminary information from the radio station that interviewed the university chancellor. The students are Emily Houpt (not Haupt) and Rami Alramadhan (not Alramatin).*

**Correction:** May 1, 2019

*An earlier version of this article misstated how Paul Rold, a grandfather of the shooting suspect, described his grandson's attitude toward guns to The Associated Press. Mr. Rold told the agency that his grandson had never shown an interest in guns or other weapons, not that he knew him to be a weapons enthusiast.*

David Perlmutter reported from Charlotte, N.C., and Julie Turkewitz from Denver. Sarah Mervosh and Adeel Hassan contributed reporting from New York, Alan Blinder from Detroit and Farah Stockman from Boston. Susan C. Beachy contributed research.

A version of this article appears in print on May 2, 2019, on Page A19 of the New York edition with the headline: Hailed as Hero, Student Died After Tackling Gunman in the Classroom. [Order Reprints](#) | [Today's Paper](#) | [Subscribe](#)

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These days, if something isn't captured on video, then no one believes it happened.

Two women are slugging it out on Route 128  
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## **CAUGHT ON CAMERA: 2 Women Trade Punches in Road Rage Incident on Route 128**

By [Kathryn Sotnik](#) and [Nathalie Sczublewski](#)

Published Mar 29, 2019 at 6:21 PM | Updated at 8:42 AM EDT on Mar 31, 2019

Police are investigating a road rage incident that happened on Route-128 in Danvers.

(Published Saturday, March 30, 2019)

A fight between two women on a highway was captured on video.

Massachusetts State Police say charges could be filed in the road rage incident that took place on Route 128 southbound at Exit 21 in Danvers. Video taken by an eyewitness shows two women fighting in the travel lane around 10 a.m. Friday.

Police identified both women. One woman operating the lead vehicle, a Subaru Outback, is a 33-year-old from Gloucester. The second woman driving the Nissan Altima, is a 64-year-old from Beverly.

Katherine DeLeo took the video on her way to the gym. She says the woman in the first car, a Subaru, aggressively banged on the window of the Nissan behind her.

### **CAUGHT ON CAMERA: Road Rage Fight Between 2 Women on Busy Highway**



Police are investigating after two women were caught on camera fighting in a road rage incident on Route 128 in Danvers.

(Published Monday, April 1, 2019)

"She gets out of the car and starts banging on the other lady's window to get out, and she gets out and they both start fighting," said DeLeo.

The driver of the Nissan then appears to fall getting out of her car before the fight starts.

State police say both women could have been run over.

"This could have been a lot worse, and that goes without saying," said Lt. Michael Harvey. "Back in the day, people would beep the horn and maybe do a hand gesture. Those days are gone, and people are pulling weapons."

Police believe a lane change started the fight.

They've talked to the Nissan driver and believe she may have been acting in self-defense. The video helped police identify both women and their vehicle information.

No charges have been filed for this case, but charges are being considered and will be determined with the Essex County District Attorney's Office, according to Massachusetts State Police.