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Students shot in Washington, Texas

One suicide and one accidental shooting compounded the events at Thurston High School

By Ben Romano
Higher Education Reporter

America was rocked by three separate incidents involving students and guns Thursday. The tragedy of the fatal shooting at Thurston High School in Springfield was compounded by a suicide in the Cinebar area, a small community outside the town of Onalaska, Wash., and an accidental shooting in a suburban high school outside of Houston.

Onalaska High School student Miles Fox, 15, died at approximately 6 p.m. at Harborview Hospital in Seattle after suffering a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head earlier in the day.

At about 7:45 a.m. Thursday, the Lewis County Sheriff Department received a call reporting that an individual was holding a gun to his head in a residence. Lewis County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the scene.

Sheriffs say the incident unfolded as follows: Fox boarded the school bus in front of his home, about 10 miles east of On-

alaska. He was armed with a 9 mm handgun.

Fox contacted his 14-year-old girlfriend, and they began arguing, Sheriffs said. Sources say the argument was about the couple breaking up. Both students carried the argument off of the bus and into Fox's home. The bus driver contacted the high school and the girl's parents, who reportedly rushed to the scene, sheriffs said.

Fox told his girlfriend that he was contemplating suicide, sheriffs said. When the girl's parents arrived at the residence, her father forcibly entered it. While entering, he heard a gunshot followed by his daughter's scream; he then found Fox lying in the hall with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

Authorities rushed Fox to Onalaska High School, where he was airlifted to Harborview Hospital. He arrived at 9:35 a.m. and was immediately put in the intensive care unit, said Larry Zalin, a hospital spokesman.

School district counselors and counselors from area churches were brought to the high school to meet with students, according to a release from the high school's principal, Bill Huizinga.

Onalaska is a small, unincorporated community of about 600 people. It is located approximately 10 to 15 miles southeast of Centralia. Onalaska High School has about 175 students.

In Houston, a 15-year-old girl was shot in the lower right leg at about 3:00 p.m.

Officials from Jersey Village High School said a gun in one student's backpack went off accidentally as students were getting up to leave their final class of the day.

The girl was taken to Spring Branch Medical Center where she was treated and was listed in stable condition as of 8 p.m. PST.

Deputies from Harris County Constable have Marko Antonio Guerrero, 17, in custody. Charges for carrying a weapon on school property, a third-degree felony, are pending against Guerrero, said chief deputy Karen Moore.

Guerrero told police he had been carrying the weapon since May 1 because of an off-campus threat he had received, Moore said.

Moore described the Jersey Village community as a quiet, upper-middle class neighborhood.

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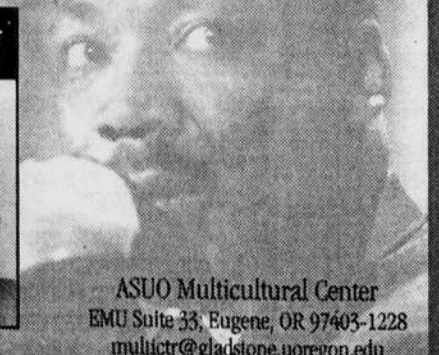
The 21st century is coming, but where are we going?

Arun Gandhi is the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi. He is the founder of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence and the author of several books, including: *Gandhi for Youth* and *World Without Violence- Can Gandhi's Vision Become a Reality?*

Yolanda King

Multiculturalism, the next frontier

Yolanda King is the eldest daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King. She is the founder of Higher Ground Productions and is currently the Co-Director of NUCLEUS, a group of performing artists promoting positive energy through the arts.



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