

15 dead in school shooting

Hundreds participate in job fair

John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

Food, music and face painting contributed to a fun, carnival-like atmosphere at a career day-job fair last week sponsored by the Southern Nevada Enterprise Community in the parking lot of the Vons store at Owens Avenue and H Street.

More than 750 people attended.

Between 50 and 100 applicants over the past four years have found and retained jobs via the event.

"It's an annual event that reaches out to the community by offering jobs," said Debra Conway, manager of business development for Clark County.

"It's very nice and very informative," said Winnie Smith, a participant seeking employment in sales. "Companies let you know what positions are available and provide information to assist the public."

Twenty-year-old William McGee said the fair helps people to get jobs. Employment, in turn, helps the community, he said.

Everyone wasn't as satisfied.

"I think this is good, but my problem is that they are not really hiring," said 41-year-old Gerald Singleton, who recently moved to Las Vegas from Cortez, Colo. and heard about the job fair on the radio.

"I could've collected the same stack of applications walking down the strip."

A sampling of employers included MGM Grand Hotel and Casino, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Dept., Coca Cola, M&M World, Ethel M. Chocolate, Sunrise Hospital and Wells Fargo Bank.

"These are businesses recruiting residents for jobs," said Maurice Reid, who sits on the organizing committee for Southern Nevada Enterprise Community and serves as a management analyst for the County.

Terror at Columbine High

About 25 people, mostly students, were killed Tuesday when two people with guns went on a deadly shooting spree at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo.

One student's eyewitness account

Sophomore Patrick Simington, 16, is having lunch at about 11:30 a.m. with some of his friends when the shooting starts. His story:

1 Simington and his friends hear three or four gunshots. They think it's a prank until more than a dozen students run through the cafeteria shouting that someone is shooting.

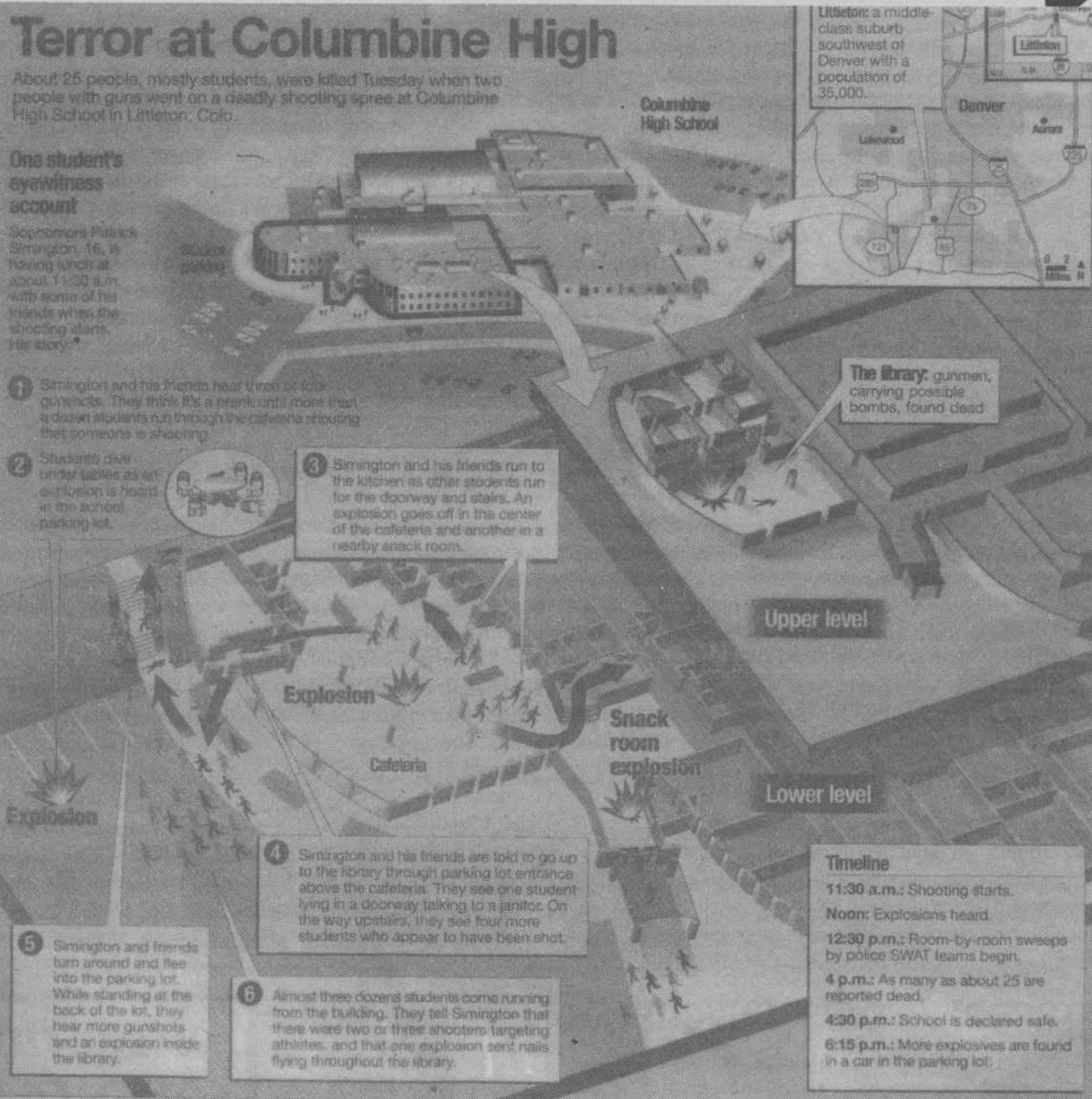
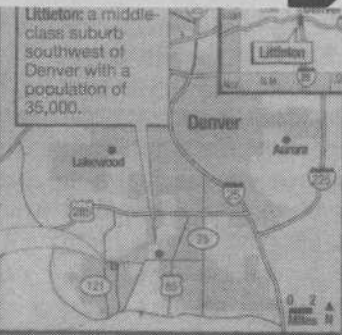
2 Students dive under tables as an explosion is heard in the school parking lot.

3 Simington and his friends run to the kitchen as other students run for the doorway and stairs. An explosion goes off in the center of the cafeteria and another in a nearby snack room.

4 Simington and his friends are told to go up to the library through parking lot entrance above the cafeteria. They see one student lying in a doorway talking to a janitor. On the way upstairs, they see four more students who appear to have been shot.

5 Simington and friends turn around and flee into the parking lot. While standing at the back of the lot, they hear more gunshots and an explosion inside the library.

6 Almost three dozens students come running from the building. They tell Simington that there were two or three shooters targeting athletes, and that one explosion sent nails flying throughout the library.



Timeline	
11:30 a.m.	Shooting starts.
Noon	Explosions heard.
12:30 p.m.	Room-by-room sweeps by police SWAT teams begin.
4 p.m.	As many as about 25 are reported dead.
4:30 p.m.	School is declared safe.
6:15 p.m.	More explosives are found in a car in the parking lot.

Illustration courtesy of USA TODAY

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) — Two students in black trench coats swept through their suburban high school with guns and explosives in a horrifying suicide attack Tuesday that left 15 people dead. Several students said the killers were gunning for minorities and athletes.

It was by far the bloodiest in a string of school shootings that have rocked U.S. communities over the past few years.

"One of them opened his cape and had a shotgun. Finally I started figuring out these guys shot to kill, for no reason," said a student, Nick Foss. The gunman "didn't say anything. When he looked at me, the guy's eyes were just dead."

The gunmen — both juniors at Columbine High School in this Denver suburb — were found dead in the school library with self-inflicted gunshot wounds and what appeared to be bombs around their bodies, sheriff's spokesman Steve Davis said.

"It appears to be a suicide mission," Sheriff John Stone said.

Students said the killers, whose names were not released, apparently belonged to a clique of outcasts called the "Trench Coat Mafia" who wore long black coats, boasted of owning guns and disliked blacks, Hispanics and football players.

Davis said that the motive for the attack was unknown

and that school officials had not heard reports of trouble from the students.

Davis said 20 to 25 people were injured, students and

teachers alike. But by late Tuesday, officers had yet to remove any bodies - which were in rooms throughout the school — because of the

danger of explosives and the need to preserve evidence.

FBI agents and police SWAT teams slowly made their way through the

building, and a bomb set on a timer exploded just before 11 p.m. No one was hurt. At least 12 other bombs were

(See Shooting, Page 17)

Minority candidates broach platforms during meeting

Catisha Marsh
Sentinel-Voice

With the exception of William Robinson, incumbent North Las Vegas city councilman, and Dave Cienega, the black and latino candidates in the race for City Council made appearances at Tuesday's North Las Vegas Township Democratic Club meeting. All candidates were invited to share their visions of how they would best serve the community.

Chris Montanez, of Puerto Rican descent and three

African-American contenders, Linda Hinson, Laura Perkins and Tony White were the only ones who came out to make their cases.

Montanez, who currently works as general manager at Fort Las Vegas casinos and serves on the city's Planning Commission, highlighted four major issues that he hopes to concentrate on if elected.

Referring often to the "mature area" of North Las Vegas, Montanez stressed the need to develop and not

neglect the older part of the city. He also said that solving problems with senior housing, developing a thriving business environment in the downtown area, and starting an auxiliary police unit were priorities on his platform.

As the only hispanic running, Montanez also feels he can effectively represent the growing latino population.

"The attitude is that although the Spanish population is 35 percent,

those that are here, are here illegally. That's just not true. They work, they pay taxes and shop in this town ... I will be their voice," he said.

Montanez complained that currently there are no bilingual employees working at City Hall and that translates into problems for Spanish-speaking residents who need to fill out forms and go through the proper channels to establish themselves in the community.

Linda Hinson, 19-year city employee and former City

Manager, said that the primary issue is money, especially when the city is growing so fast and furious.

"We have to understand where revenue comes from ... just because people are moving in, that doesn't mean the city sees that money right away. Sometimes that money doesn't figure in until a year down the road."

When asked if the council's decision to terminate her contract in 1998 had any negative impact on her

(See NLV Race, Page 3)