

Six killed in Texas church shooting

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A man dressed in black walked into a teen-age church service Wednesday night, pulled a gun and opened fire. Six were killed before the gunman fatally shot himself, police said.

"He hits the door real hard to make his presence known, and he just immediately started firing," said Dax Hughes, the church's college minister.

Lt. David Ellis of the Fort Worth Police Department said the man killed three adults and three teen-agers before he killed himself. Eight more were hospitalized, some in critical condition, he said.

About 150 young people were inside the sanctuary when the shooting began, Hughes said.

"He was very calm and looked normal and was smoking a cigarette," witness Christy Martin said, who said the man had long hair and wore a mustache.

Chris Applegate, a seventh grader, said he was in choir practice when the gunman burst into the room.

"We were singing a song and then in the middle of the song this guy opened the door and fired one shot," he said. "He just kept telling us to stay

"*He was very calm and looked normal and was smoking a cigarette"***"**

CHRISTY MARTIN
witness to shooting

still."
"We all just jumped under the benches, and he fired about 10 more shots. ...

"Somebody said, 'Run, run,' and we all started running," Chris said.

The man reloaded several times during the rampage.

When the gunfire was over, Hughes said, the man "sat in the back pew and put a gun (to his head) and shot himself and fell over."

Police herded reporters and bystanders to an elementary school across the street because possible explosives had been found by the bomb squad.

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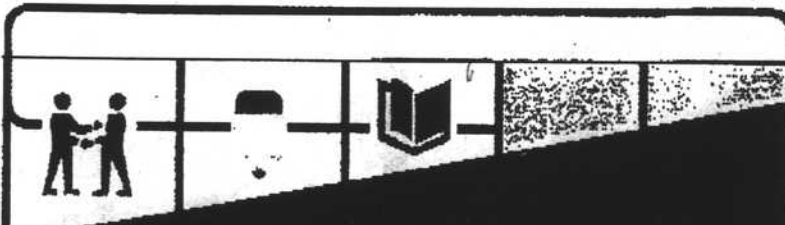
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