

Man opens fire on former co-workers, kills himself

MELROSE PARK, Ill. (AP) — A factory worker who got caught stealing from his employer forced his way into the suburban Chicago engine plant Monday and opened fire one day before he was to report to prison. He killed five people, including himself, and wounded four others.

William D. Baker, 66, showed up at the Navistar International plant with an arsenal of weapons in a golf bag and made his way through the vast building, blasting away with an AK-47 assault rifle, police said. Employees scattered in terror.

He shot seven people, three of them fatally, in an engineering area, then went into an office, where he killed one more person and then shot himself, police said.

stop him, Baker put a .38-caliber revolver to her side and forced his way into the plant, police said.

Once inside the plant, Baker fired the assault rifle, police said. He also carried a shotgun and a .30-caliber hunting rifle in addition to the revolver, police said. They were not sure

"I heard someone yell, 'There's a guy in the center aisle with a gun!'"

— Martin Reutimann shooting witness

whether those weapons were used.

The plant, about 15 miles from company headquarters in downtown Chicago, employs about 1,400 people.

Navistar identified three of the dead as Baker; Daniel Dorsch, 52, a supervisor in the engine lab; and Robert Wehrheim, 47, a lab technician. Two of the slain were not identified at the request of their families.

Of the wounded, one was in critical condition: Carl Swanson, 45, who was shot in the abdomen.

Baker was a tool room attendant from suburban Carol Stream who had worked at the plant for 39 years before he was fired in 1994.

According to his plea agreement, Baker admitted helping a fellow plant employee steal diesel engines and components worth \$195,400. He used his forklift to hoist the engines onto a truck driven by the other employee.

The thefts began in the fall of 1993 and stopped the next spring.

Baker was sentenced Nov. 7. He had faced five months of house arrest after his prison term and had been ordered to repay the \$195,400.

The U.S. Attorney's office also said Baker pleaded guilty in 1998 to a sex charge involving a family member under 17. He was placed on probation.

The shooting comes six weeks after seven people were shot to death at a Wakefield, Mass., Internet consulting company, Edgewater Technology Inc. Software tester Michael McDermott is charged with murder in the Dec. 26 rampage. Authorities said the shooting may have stemmed from an Internal Revenue Service order to seize part of his wages to repay back taxes.

Navistar is the nation's second-biggest producer of heavy-duty trucks, which it sells under the International brand. It also manufactures mid-sized trucks, school buses and diesel engines, which it also sells to Ford and other truck makers. The Melrose Park plant makes engines.

Horsing around



Tiffany Pate, a senior animal science major, takes a sample of milk from Candy Asset at the Horse Center on George Bush Drive on Monday. The sample will undergo a test strip that will help determine how close Candy is to giving birth.

BERNARDO GARZA/The Battalion

Election in Israel ends today

JERUSALEM (AP) — Ariel Sharon was poised Monday for a stunning political comeback, holding a 20-point lead in the polls over Prime Minister Ehud Barak on the eve of Israel's election — a vote seen as a referendum on Israel's relationship with the Palestinians.

Barak warned that Sharon would plunge Israel into war with its neighbors, but many voters — fatigued by the five-month Palestinian uprising against Israel — appeared either apathetic or swayed by Sharon's mantra of "peace with security."

Jerusalem travel agent Anat Azoulay, 27, said she would not vote Tuesday. "Barak is not good. We are not in a safe situation. Every day someone is killed," Azoulay said, adding, "Sharon, he will make war again."

Her friend Liat Sherf, 25, an Israeli living in a Jewish neighborhood in traditionally Arab east Jerusalem, said she backed Sharon because she fears Barak will give part of the city to the Palestinians. "He (Sharon) can save what is left. Jerusalem will not be separated," Sherf said.

Polls open at 7 a.m. Tuesday and close at 10 p.m., when both major TV stations are planning to announce projected results based on exit polls of a sample of 50,000 voters.

Violence flared anew during the countdown to election. An Israeli soldier was killed in a gun battle with Palestinians near the Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt. In response, Israel shut down the Palestinian airport in Gaza and the Rafah crossing. A firefight erupted in the West Bank town of Hebron.

Islamic militants threatened bomb attacks in Tel Aviv and one of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's lieutenants in the West Bank, Marwan Barghouti, said Tuesday would be a "day of rage," with large-scale demonstrations against Israel.

"The message we want to send to the Israelis is that the demonstrations are that the uprising will continue, regardless of who the prime minister of Israel is," Barghouti said.

Sharon, 72, has been riding a wave of disappointment with Barak's leadership, appealing to Israelis upset with the prime minister's insistence on making concessions for peace while Palestinian violence continues.

Pledging security first and peace talks only after the war is restored, Sharon has opposed Barak's offers to the Palestinians, including a state in almost all of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and parts of Jerusalem.

News in Brief

Train collision injures riders

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — A slow-moving Amtrak passenger train rear-ended a freight train Monday, injuring 61 people, four critically.

Officials would not comment on what caused the crash.

The eastbound Amtrak

train had just left the Syracuse station when it hit the back end of the 92-car CSX freight train, also eastbound, in an industrial area north of the city, said CSX spokesman Robert Sullivan.

The five-car Amtrak train was headed from Niagara Falls to New York City with 98 passengers and four crew members, Amtrak said.

Reagan has 90th birthday

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Twelve years after leaving the White House with plans to spend his sunset years chopping wood and riding horses, Ronald Reagan celebrates his 90th birthday as a recluse battling old age, Alzheimer's disease and a broken hip.

Reagan's birthday Tuesday will be a subdued celebration at the former president's Bel-Air home, where he is recovering from surgery to repair the hip he broke Jan. 12 in a fall.

The former movie star is one of only three presidents to reach 90 — John Adams and Herbert Hoover are the others.

Valentine Portrait Special

CNC Photographics
Has a fun romantic gift

Black and White prints with "spot coloring"

Only \$54.95*

*Includes session and 1-5x7 black and white portrait with spot coloring

Call today for appointment and clothing ideas
979-846-2174

Want Money?

Gender Issues Educational Enhancement Grant

For information and applications visit 211A YMCA or <http://studentlife.tamu.edu/gies/Women/wdrgrant.htm>.

Grant requests should not exceed \$250, and should be of clear and direct benefit to Texas A&M students with regard to gender issues. All students currently enrolled at Texas A&M University and University-recognized organizations are eligible to apply for a Gender Issues Education Services grant.

Applications are available and will be due February 9, 2001.
Announcement of winner(s) will be made February 23, 2001.

STUDENT LIFE

Join the
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Firefighting Team

for
CAREER ADVENTURES
In the most
Beautiful and Unique
Places in America

Permanent Seasonal

Forestry Techs	GIS Specialists
Firefighters	Ecologists (Fire)
Engine Crews	Wildland Specialists
Prevention Education Specialists	

www.nps.gov/fire/jobs
1-866-NPS-FIRE
National Park Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Left
Coast

Right
Job

Bring your teaching degree to
California

In California you'll have more choices for school locations, teaching environments, climate, sports, entertainment and places to live than in any other state. And you'll be welcomed with open arms and minds eager to learn. We need you here. To learn how easy it is to get here, call toll-free **1-888-CalTeach** or visit our website at www.calteach.com.

- Competitive starting salaries and benefits
- Smaller class sizes in schools statewide
- Housing and cost of living incentives
- Strong community support for teachers
- Beautiful and diverse climate and scenery

CalTeach
Left Coast. Right Job.™