

Torrance man is suspected in attack

D.C. press gala shooting probe focuses on security questions, alleged gunman's writings



FBI AGENTS arrive Saturday night at the Torrance home where Cole Tomas Allen, 31, lives with his family.

Threats to Trump officials are found

By KEVIN RECTOR, ALENE TCHEKMEDEYAN, CONNOR SHEETS AND TONY BRISCOE

Cole Tomas Allen, the suspected gunman who rattled Washington's leaders by exchanging gunfire with officials just outside a press gala late Saturday, had made a long journey from Southern California and written a "manifesto" threatening Trump administration officials before the attack, officials said.

Allen, a 31-year-old Caltech graduate and high school tutor from Torrance, is believed to have taken a train first to Chicago and then to D.C. before checking into the Washington Hilton with two guns he had previously purchased, authorities said.

The attacker managed to bypass several layers of security at the White House Correspondents' Assn. dinner before being taken down by armed agents outside the ballroom where President Trump and an array of other top federal officials were seated.

Neither Allen nor a legal representative for him could be reached for comment Sunday.

According to Trump, Allen wrote a "manifesto" prior to the attack, and shared it with family. His brother flagged it to local law enforcement in New London, Conn., late Saturday. The New York Post reported that Allen described himself in the document as the "Friendly Federal Assassin" and revealed he intended to kill Trump administration officials.

New London Police Deputy Chief John Perry said that around 10:30 p.m. a man came to the lobby of the agency's headquarters to report that he'd received a troubling email from Allen. The relative initially thought it was spam, but then saw the news of what had unfolded in D.C. and felt he needed to report it.

Perry would not say what was in the email, and did not know exactly what time it was sent, but said that the relative said he only saw and opened it around 10 p.m. "I think he was watching what was going on and kind of put 2 and 2 together and said, 'I need to go to my local PD,'" Perry said.

Police officials provided the email to the Secret Service and FBI, he said. Trump, who like other top officials was escorted from the ballroom unharmed, said the document would be re-

What happened after 'shots fired?'

Times reporters convey the scene at correspondents' dinner. NATION, A4

How party became a busy work night

Journalists took cover, and then their instincts kicked in. NATION, A4

Shots, chaos — and a call for unity

Trump compliments media after the event, but turns adversarial again on '60 Minutes.'

By ANA CEBALLOS

WASHINGTON — President Trump was preparing to take the stage at the White House Correspondents' Assn. dinner Saturday night, eager — by his own account — to "let it rip" before a room of Washington's elite and reporters he has spent years calling the enemy of the people.

Then shots were heard. Secret Service agents rushed him off the stage. And within hours, the president was at the White House calling for unity, offering overtures to a press corps that he had long clashed with.

"I just want to say you did a fantastic job, what a beautiful evening and we are going to reschedule," Trump told Weijia Jiang, the president of the White House Correspondents' Assn., at a news briefing after the shooting at the dinner.

His magnanimity did not last long. On Sunday night, sitting down for an interview with Norah O'Donnell of CBS' "60 Minutes," Trump reacted with fury to her reading of the suspected shooter's manifesto, calling her a "disgrace."

The manifesto characterized his targets as rapists and pedophiles.

"You're horrible people. Horrible people," Trump said. "He did write that. I'm

Rethinking safety in time of tumult

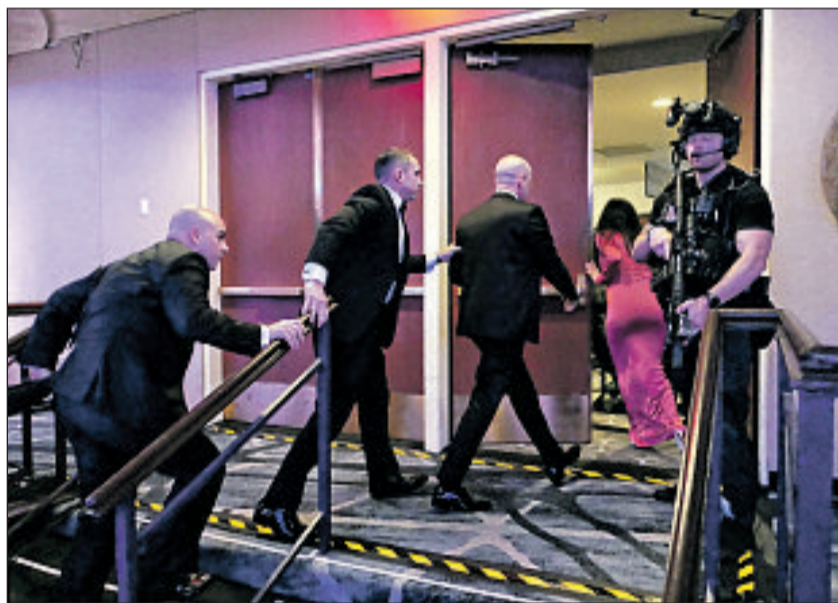
Incident prompts concerns whether event policies fit the modern era

By JUSTINE MCDANIEL AND MICHAEL WILNER

WASHINGTON — An attack on the White House correspondents' dinner by a gunman who came within feet of the ballroom where President Trump sat raised immediate questions about the night's security protocol — and the future of large, high-profile events in a country with easy access to firearms and increasingly high political tensions.

The man breached metal detectors in front of the Washington Hilton ballroom and sprinted dozens of feet ahead before exchanging fire with federal agents. Shots were fired in an anteroom that had not an hour before seen thousands of guests, including senior government officials, streaming through.

A manifesto allegedly written by the suspect described his targets as mem-



DEPUTY Chief of Staff Stephen Miller and his wife, Katie, evacuate.

Becerra's rise renews scrutiny of record

Governor candidate touts long tenure in government, one that has drawn criticism.

By KEVIN RECTOR

After winning his first race for Congress in 1992, 34-year-old Xavier Becerra credited a wave of community supporters in Los Angeles, many Latino, for backing his upstart campaign,

saying he hoped his win was proof that grassroots politics was more valuable than "heavy dollars."

More than 30 years later, Becerra, 68, is again an upstart candidate — this time for California governor. Again he is facing moneyed competition — including from chief Democratic rival Tom Steyer, a self-funded billionaire — and relying on Latino and other grassroots support.

"You are the people power that it takes," he told

a crowd of supporters at a recent "Fighting for the California Dream" town hall in Los Angeles. "California wasn't built by billionaires. It was built by your families. It was built by our families."

That Becerra is still fighting in the race — and drawing new people to his events — reflects a remarkable and hard-to-explain turnaround for a campaign that appeared all but dead less than a month ago, then bounded back into contention after Rep. Eric Swalwell dropped

A 'safe choice' for Democratic Party

Stability is Becerra's strength, George Skelton writes. CALIFORNIA, B1

from the race and resigned from Congress amid sexual assault allegations.

Before Swalwell's collapse, Becerra's biggest splash in the race came in March, when USC excluded

A truce emerges over landscaping in fire-prone areas

By NOAH HAGGERTY

Sacramento officials came to Southern California last week for the first public meeting since they issued new proposed rules on how people in fire-prone neighborhoods will be allowed to landscape their yards.

In contrast to prior proposals from the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, many who attended were ... OK with this one.

"It is a reasonable compromise," Beth Burnam, who holds leadership positions in multiple local environmental and fire safety organizations, told the board. "Do I like everything? No. Can I live with it? Yes."

Under the proposal, residents would not be allowed to plant anything within a 1-foot "Safety Zone" around the home, including beneath roof overhangs; two feet from windows, vents and doors and five feet from decks. Elsewhere within a 5-foot buffer around the home, known as Zone Zero, grass and dispersed plants up to 18 inches tall would be permissible.

Trees would also be allowed, but would need to be trimmed away from walls and roofs, and residents could install only noncombustible fencing against the house. Any sheds in the zone would need a noncombustible exterior.

The response has been a



KINGS EXIT AS ERA ENDS
Mikey Anderson (44) and the Kings are swept out of the playoffs by Colorado in the final game of Anze Kopitar's storied career. SPORTS, D1

Trump omits VA housing funds

Despite president's vow, budget proposal doesn't include more beds at West L.A. campus. CALIFORNIA, B1

Collector helped shape L.A. scene

Eileen Harris Norton has spent 50 years championing artists once little heralded. ENTERTAINMENT, E1

Weather
Partly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 70/52. B5



Lenient penalties in L.A. fireworks blast

By LIBOR JANY

After the LAPD bomb squad botched the detonation of seized fireworks and leveled part of a city block in 2021, destroying dozens of homes and costing the city millions in lawsuit payouts, police officials would not disclose how the officers responsible for the disaster were held accountable.

The punishments remained a closely held secret until recent weeks, when the internal affairs investigative files for the incident surfaced online — along with hundreds of thousands of confidential police records obtained by hackers who targeted the L.A. city attorney's office.

A Times investigation published two years after the June 30, 2021, incident in South L.A. identified the six

bomb squad officers on the scene that day. Since then, neighborhood residents and community activists have repeatedly called for them to be fired.

But the leaked files show they all escaped serious discipline.

The harshest punishment was a suspension of 18 days without pay for Det. Damien Levesque, the highest-ranking member of the unit who was present, the LAPD records show. Others received even less time off before returning to work.

Two bomb squad technicians, Stefanie Alcocer and Mell Stog, were each suspended for 10 days after the investigation found they grossly misjudged the weight of the fireworks they placed into a containment vessel before detonating them, according to the