

Reporting on the Dec. 13, 2025 Brown shooting

Michelle Bi & Emily Feil
The Brown Daily Herald at Brown University

December 13-18 and Initial Reporting

- On Dec. 13, a shooter entered a lecture hall in Brown's physics and engineering building, Barus & Holley. The shooter killed two students and injured nine, then fled.
- Over the next five days, authorities conducted a manhunt throughout New England. On Dec. 15, the shooter murdered MIT professor Nuno Loureiro.
- Claudio Neves Valente was found dead in a New Hampshire storage unit on Dec. 18.
- The *BDH* published 46 live updates during the shelter in place, which lasted until 5:42 a.m. on Dec. 14.
- Between Dec. 13 and 15, nine Herald reporters wrote 96 live updates on the unfolding situation.



Media by Kaia Yalamanchili

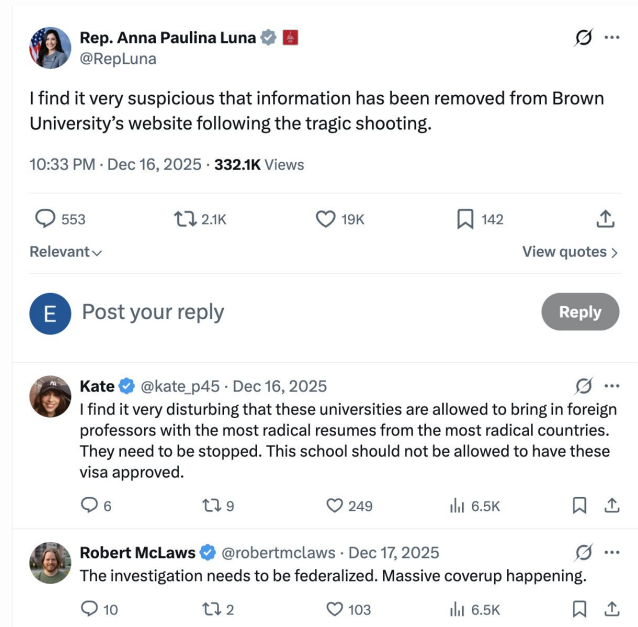
Misinformation

With a lack of tangible information, internet speculators tried to fill the gaps.

- One Brown student was doxxed
- The name of an ultimately-innocent person of interest was leaked to the public
- Some asserted that victims were targeted for their political views or identity, an unsubstantiated claim

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) criticized the speculation in Washington on Dec. 17 for hindering law enforcement's investigation.

With calls to shut down Brown for their alleged security failures, we had to distinguish between facts and rumor.



The screenshot shows a Twitter thread. The top tweet is from Rep. Anna Paulina Luna (@RepLuna) posted at 10:33 PM on Dec 16, 2025, with 332.1K views. The text of the tweet is: "I find it very suspicious that information has been removed from Brown University's website following the tragic shooting." Below the tweet are engagement metrics: 553 replies, 2.1K retweets, 19K likes, and 142 bookmarks. There is a "Relevant" filter and a "View quotes" link. Below the tweet is a "Post your reply" button. The second tweet is from Kate (@kate_p45) posted on Dec 16, 2025. The text is: "I find it very disturbing that these universities are allowed to bring in foreign professors with the most radical resumes from the most radical countries. They need to be stopped. This school should not be allowed to have these visa approved." Engagement metrics: 6 replies, 9 retweets, 249 likes, and 6.5K views. The third tweet is from Robert McLaws (@robertmclaws) posted on Dec 17, 2025. The text is: "The investigation needs to be federalized. Massive coverup happening." Engagement metrics: 10 replies, 2 retweets, 103 likes, and 6.5K views.

Speculation came not only from the fringes of the internet but also from members of Congress.

Balancing Coverage: Hard News

- Update speed was crucial
- We balanced timeliness with accuracy and thoroughness
- Worked to quickly distinguish real, helpful information from rumors and falsehoods



Annika Singh
Metro Editor

12/13, 7:53 p.m.

Susanna Sharp '29 wrote in a message to The Herald that she was studying in Barus and Holley when she heard “around 15 to 20” loud noises, unsure if they were gunshots. But after two other students in the room received phone calls shortly after, Sharp began to grow concerned. “I jumped from my seat,” she wrote.

As they were exiting the building, she added, she saw that tables in the Engineering Research Cafe — located in the lobby of Barus and Holley — had student belongings lying on them, but there were no students sitting at the tables. She assumes that “most of the first floor ran out when the shots happened.”



Ian Ritter
University News Editor

12/13, 7:49 p.m.

In an email to the Brown Community, President Christina Paxson P'19 P'MD'20 confirmed that there were two fatalities and eight more victims in critical but stable condition, though the situation is “evolving.” Law enforcement is still working to identify the victims, she wrote, but Brown may not be able to immediately release their identities.

The suspect is still at large and campus will remain locked down, she said. Updates will continue to be sent out through the RAVE alert system and the Brown website.

Paxson encouraged community members to reach out to their families. “They are worried about you,” she wrote.

THE BROWN DAILY HERALD

‘Unimaginably tragic’: Tracing the 50 hours after the shooting at Brown

The Herald constructed a timeline of events that followed Saturday’s shooting.

Reporting by **Michelle Bi** & **Alejandro Ruiz**

Website by **Annika Singh**

Balancing Coverage: Softer News

- Focused on student and community perspectives, stories, emotions
- Source sensitivity and handling difficult interviews
- Utilized our perspectives as Brown students to write nuanced stories

METRO

Community gathering honors victims of shooting incident

The Herald spoke with several event attendees who emphasized the importance of community solidarity.

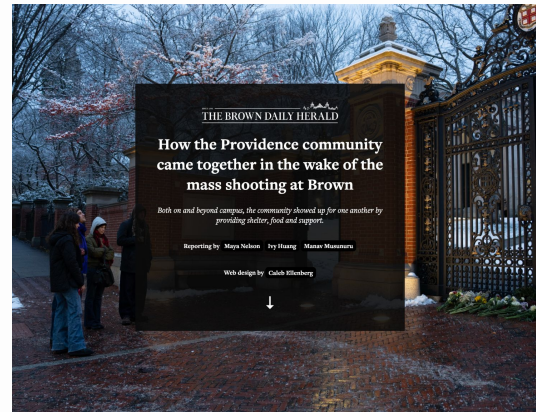


Sunday night's vigil at Lippitt Memorial Park. The gathering was originally scheduled as a menorah and tree-lighting ceremony.

Media by [Max Robinson](#) | The Brown Daily Herald



By [Emily Fell](#)
Metro & University News Editor
December 15, 2025 | 4:01am EST



Follow-Up Coverage

In the weeks and months since the tragedy, the Herald has been working to shed further light on both the shooting and its aftermath. Topics of coverage have included:

- Federal, city-wide, and University after-action reviews
- Brown's "Ever True" recovery initiative
- Community solidarity and activism
- FBI leads and limited CAPS availability
- Shooting preparedness training prior to incident and updated security
- How students, staff felt coming back to campus



Media by Anna Luecht

What we've learned

Take care of your mental health during reporting on stressful events; lean on each other

Be sensitive and empathetic when interviewing sources — especially during times of community trauma

Don't sacrifice quality for speed (be careful in choosing what and what not to cover)

Tell stories that give people a concrete understanding of complicated events, as well as the emotion that came with them



Media by Anna Luecht