

Fugitive cop shooter took rifle to school

Paula Doneman
and Michael Ware

THE gunman wanted for Monday's shooting of three Brisbane police officers was known by his school-mates as a "nutter" who took an air rifle to class.

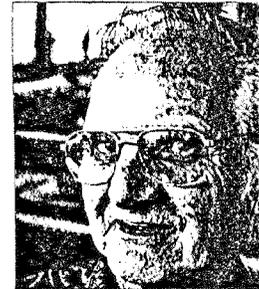
As Nigel Parodi, 32, continued to elude a massive police manhunt yesterday, former students of the respected Brisbane Grammar School revealed his obsession with weapons had reached into the classroom.

They recalled Parodi, who had only attended the high-profile private school for about three years, showing them the air rifle and boasting of prowess in martial arts.

However it is not known whether his behaviour - described as larrikin-like and designed to gain the attention of his peers - ever came to the notice of school authorities.

A mammoth police operation, including air and ground searches, yesterday failed to locate the fugitive gunman, whose three victims remain in the Royal Brisbane Hospital.

However last night there



IAN Cole ... father of wounded officer



was drama not far from the scene of Monday's shootings as Chermiside residents reported hearing gunshots and police cordoned off several streets near Prince Charles Hospital. But the state of emergency was called off when searches of the area failed to turn up anything.

Police recovered a gun during a search of Parodi's Chermiside West home on Monday night, but the 22-calibre rifle used in the shooting - fitted with a silencer and telescopic sight - has not been found.

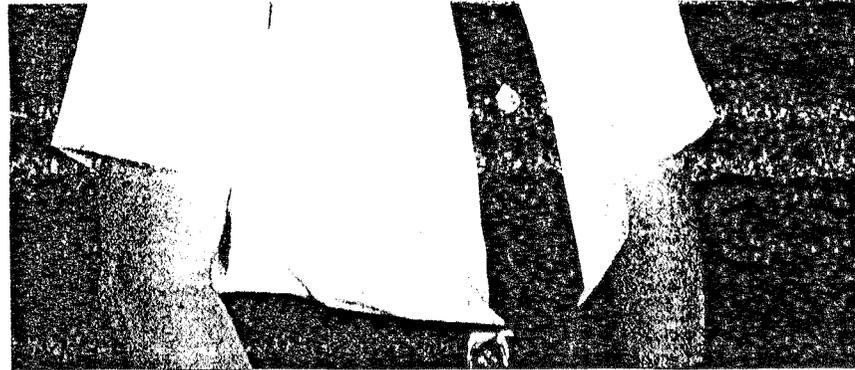
Parodi has been on the run since about 4am on Monday, when he opened fire on Sergeant Chris Mulhall and constables Sharnelle Cole and Darryl Green as they sat in their patrol car in a Chermiside West street.

They had been responding to a neighbourhood dispute involving Parodi and were checking the firearms register when Parodi ambushed them from behind and fired 12 shots at point-blank range.

Constable Cole, who bore the brunt of Parodi's attack and was shot eight times, has had three operations and last night was in a serious but stable condition.

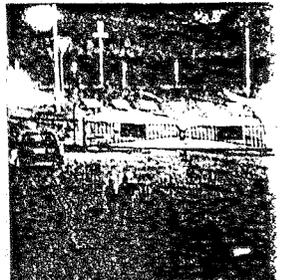
Constable Green was shot in the face and back and was dangerously ill. Sgt Mulhall, who was shot in the upper right arm and buttocks, was in a satisfactory condition.

Police last night repeated



OFFICER down ... Constable Sharnelle Cole, one of three police officers gunned down on Monday.

NIGEL Parodi ... subject of intensive police manhunt.



ALERT ... police check Point Charles Hospital grounds last night.

warnings to the public to be security-conscious and not to approach Parodi under any circumstances.

Officer-in-charge of the operation Det Insp Graham Rynders said there were still concerns over what Parodi might do, and urged the public to contact police with any information.

Children due to return from their Easter break yesterday stayed away from school in the Chermiside area as worried parents kept them at home.

The Brisbane Grammar School headmaster at the time of Parodi's enrolment in the early 1980s, Max Howell,

last night said he could not even recall the boy.

One former student who claimed to have been Parodi's friend said the wanted man once told him he had been abused at the school.

He said the man accused of the abuse had been the subject of similar allegations from other former students and committed suicide in the mid-1990s.

Mr Howell said that at no time had any concerns been raised about the man's behaviour with boys.

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The phone call families dread

IT was just before 5am on Monday when Ian and Frances Cole received the phone call all families of police officers dread.

Their youngest daughter, Sharnelle, had been shot. "We always knew we may get a phone call which we never wanted," Mr Cole said yesterday.

The father of five said he was "numbed" by the news which was relayed to the family barely an hour after the shooting.

"We usually know there's something wrong when the phone rings at that hour of the day," Mrs Cole told The Courier-Mail yesterday.

Mrs Cole said her thoughts first turned to her sister, fearing she had been involved in a car accident while travelling from Victoria to Queensland with a friend.

"Then Ian came and sat on the side of the bed and he said to me 'It's Sharnelle, but she's okay'."

Since the news, the family has rallied to never leaving Sharnelle in Royal Brisbane Hospital.

The Coles and their children, Chris, Peter, Jonathan and Karen, have taken refuge at Sharnelle's bed.

Despite Sharnelle's wounds in the face and per body, doctors have told the Coles their daughter will resume a "normal life."

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Lisa Gilby

SEVERAL major bread companies have been accused of misleading their customers after cutting the size of their standard loaves by 10 per cent.

sandwich bread without a price. His bakery planned to the traditional bread weight.

Brisbane Consumers Action spokesman Justin Maibon said the smaller loaves, which are misleadingly