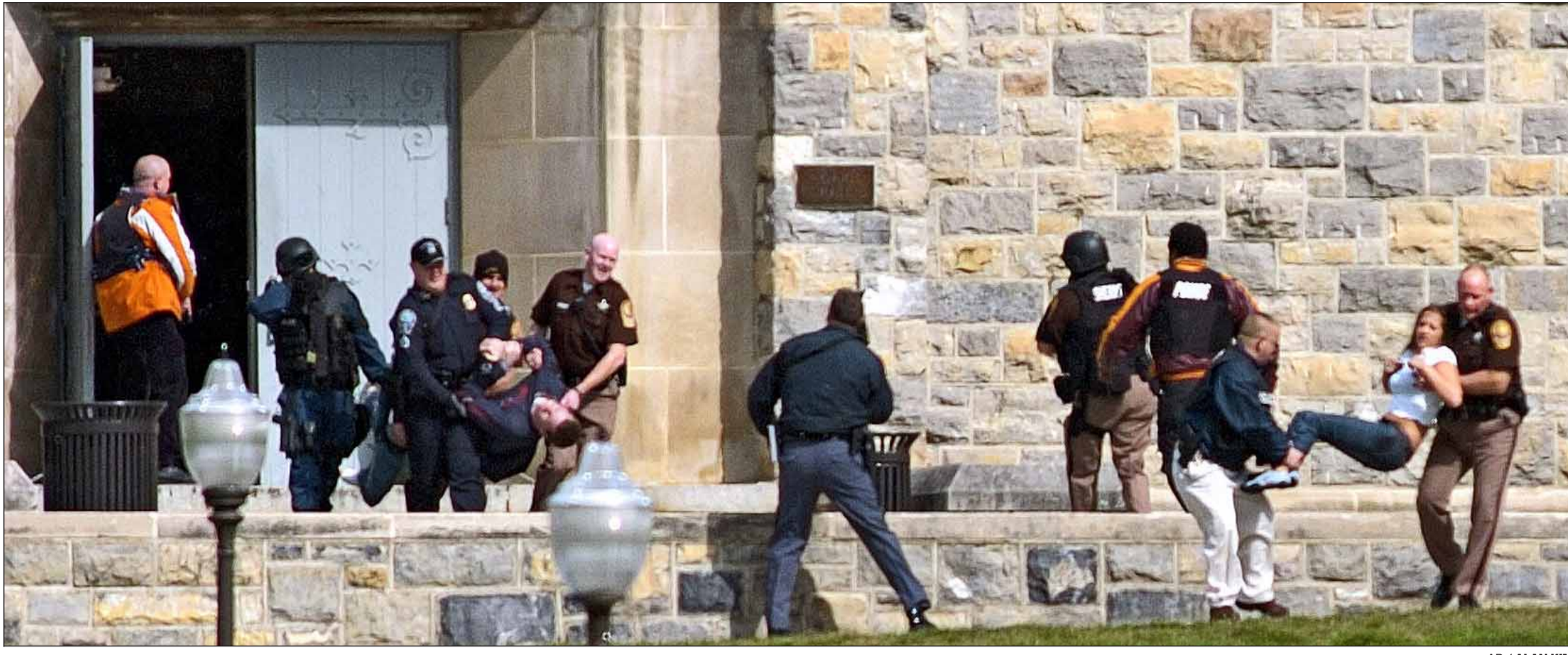


SHOOTINGS AT VIRGINIA TECH



AP / ALAN KIM

Shooting victims are hustled out of Norris Hall at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., yesterday. Some doors at the classroom building were found chained from the inside, apparently by the gunman.

Carnage on a college campus

The first hint of death came with a steady beat



MaryEllen Fowler hugs Virginia Tech freshman Matt Malagavi, a friend of her son Ryan, near Norris Hall, the site of yesterday's shooting.

The reports from the gunman's two pistols were the first indication many students had that a massacre was under way.

BY SHAILA DEWAN
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BLACKSBURG, Va. — The gunshots were so slow and steady that some students thought they came from a nearby construction site, until they saw the police officers with rifles pointed at Norris Hall, the engineering building at Virginia Tech.

Bang. Bang. Bang. They went on and on, for what seemed like 10 or 15 or 20 minutes, an eternity with punctuation.

Bang. Bang. On the third floor of Norris Hall, Scott L. Hendricks, a professor, looked out the window of his office and saw students crawling away from the building.

Bang. Tiffany Oty's accounting class crammed into an office and locked themselves in, crying in fright.

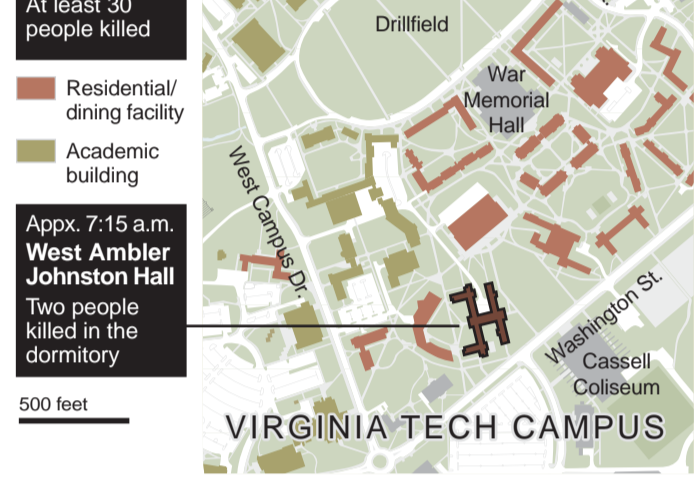
SEE SCENE, A8

Mass shooting on Virginia Tech campus

A gunman opened fire in a dormitory and a classroom building yesterday, killing at least 32 people in the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history.

APX. 9:30 a.m.
Norris Hall
At least 30 people killed

APX. 7:15 a.m.
West Ambler Johnston Hall
Two people killed in the dormitory



SOURCE: Virginia Tech

32 killed in two attacks in dorm, classrooms

BY SUE LINDSEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BLACKSBURG, Va. — A gunman massacred 32 people at Virginia Tech in the deadliest shooting rampage in modern U.S. history yesterday, cutting down his victims in two attacks two hours apart before the university could grasp what was happening and warn students.

The bloodbath ended with the gunman committing suicide, bringing the death toll to 33 and stamping the campus in the picturesque Blue Ridge Mountains with unspeakable tragedy, perhaps forever.

Investigators gave no motive for the attack. The gunman's name was not immediately released, and it was not known if he was a student.

"Today the university was struck with a tragedy that we consider of monumental proportions," Virginia Tech President Charles Steger said. "The university is shocked and indeed horrified."

But he was also faced with difficult questions about the university's handling of the emergency and

SEE SHOOTINGS, A7

Powerful storm grounded Green

Winds gusting to 60 mph breach a temporary wall, sending debris swirling through the terminal, leaving stranded passengers out in the cold for 10 hours.

BY CYNTHIA NEEDHAM
KANSAS CITY STAR

WARWICK — The Kenneys' story was an all-too-familiar one yesterday.

The family woke before dawn and dashed from their house in Smithfield to T.F. Green Airport to catch a 7 a.m. flight that would whisk them to Disney World for the vacation their 4-year-old daughter, Hannah, had begged to take.

But when they spotted the warning signs on the highway and the state police cruisers blocking the airport entrances, Mary and Mark Kenney knew the Magic Kingdom was a long way away.

A wind gust during a powerful storm early yesterday morning blasted through a massive, makeshift construction wall

in the terminal, scattering Fiberglas insulation and drywall onto the concourse in the middle of what is considered one of the busiest travel days of the year, closing the airport for the first time since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Heavy rains swell rivers across Rhode Island. **RI** IRS extends tax deadline for those affected by the storm. **RI**

No one was hurt in the collapse, but the terminal remained closed for 10 hours, and flights were canceled while crews rushed to replace the crumbled two-story facade. The wall's location, just steps inside the security check-

point, facing the runway, made it all but impossible to divert passengers around the debris.

Even after flights resumed, airport officials said it could take until tomorrow before all of yesterday's travelers got off the ground.

Typically, when an airport is forced to close, airlines can squeeze travelers onto flights later that same day, but because it is school vacation week — one of the busiest family flying times all year — there were few seats on any later flights, meaning the delays continued to mount, Rhode Island Airport Corporation director Mark Brewer said yesterday.

Airport personnel estimated wind gusts to be 50 to 60 miles per hour early yesterday morning, which was too much for the temporary structure, erected

SEE AIRPORT, A11



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BILL MURPHY

Construction crews remove debris and build a new temporary wall to replace the one that collapsed yesterday at T.F. Green Airport.

INSIDE TODAY

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GADGETS GALORE

Americans have always loved gadgets and nowadays there's a profusion of gizmos that promise to allow you to do anything from annoy a coworker in the office to brew a hot cup of espresso while driving. **F1**



MARATHON WINNERS

Robert Cheruyot of Kenya wins his second straight Boston Marathon and his third title in four years with a time of 2:34:13; Lidiya Grigoryeva from Russia was the top women's finisher with a time of 2:29:38. **C1**



HEALTH COVERAGE DISPUTE

United Healthcare of New England asks the Health Department for permission to drop St. Joseph Health Services from its provider network. **B1**