

# The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 115, ISSUE 32

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007

www.dailytarheel.com

## 'MONUMENTAL' TRAGEDY

### VIRGINIA TECH COMMUNITY HORRIFIED BY SHOOTINGS

7:15 A.M.

Shooting began at West Ambler Johnston Residence Hall. Campus police found two students dead in a room.

ABOUT 8 A.M.

Resident advisers knocked on students' doors in dorms, warning them not to leave their rooms.

9:26 A.M.

All students and faculty were notified of the homicide investigation at West Ambler in an e-mail.

9:45 A.M.

Police received a 911 call from Norris Hall. They responded to the scene where the gunman and 30 others died.

BY ERIN FRANCE, JESSICA SCHONBERG AND ALEXANDRIA SHEALY

BLACKSBURG, Va.

STAFF WRITERS

Virginia Tech's campus was virtually empty Monday afternoon. The doors to the student union were locked, and police in squad cars blocked every entrance.

As the news that 33 people were shot and killed and 15 more were wounded Monday morning on their campus began to sink in, students either left town or began to venture out and react to the tragedy.

The deaths occurred in two separate shootings, one in a residence hall at about 7:15 a.m. and the other in a classroom, office and laboratory building about two hours later.

"I'm in disbelief because this is the last place I would imagine it happening," said sophomore William Lindner, a business information and technology major who is minoring in computer science. "Blacksburg is a tiny town. This isn't the kind of place you would expect something like this to happen."

Lindner said the hardest thing for him is not knowing who was killed.

"As a computer science engineer, I could very well have had a lab where I was working with one of these kids that got shot, and I don't know that," he said.

SEE TRAGEDY, PAGE 9



AP PHOTO/THE ROANOKE TIMES, MATT GENTRY

Students watch from the doorway of McBryde Hall on the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg, Va., as police infiltrate the area where a shooting took place Monday. A gunman opened fire in a Virginia Tech dorm and then, two hours later, in a classroom on campus killing 33 people.



DTH/TIMOTHY REESE

Flags were lowered to half-staff outside the Alumni Center at Virginia Tech on Monday afternoon to mourn those killed earlier in the day.



DTH/TIMOTHY REESE

Students mourn at a vigil held Monday night at the War Memorial Chapel near Norris Hall, where shootings took place earlier in the day.

**Deadly shootings at Virginia Tech**  
A gunman killed at least 32 people before killing himself on Virginia Tech's campus Monday morning. The shootings occurred on opposite sides of the 2,600-acre campus in Blacksburg, Va.

**Norris Hall**  
- At least 31 killed, multiple injured  
- Shooting started around 9:45 a.m.  
- Gunman found dead inside

**West Ambler Johnston Hall**  
- At least two killed, multiple injured  
- 911 call received around 7:15 a.m.  
- Houses up to 895 residents

DTH/WALLIE WASSUM

## Shootings hit close to home

### UNC community reacts to tragedy

BY ALLISON NICHOLS  
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Members of the UNC community reacted with shock and sympathy as news unfolded Monday of a deadly shooting spree on the Blacksburg, Va., campus of Virginia Tech.

Many students expressed empathy as they imagined how a similar situation might play out in Chapel Hill.

"If somebody comes into your hall, what do you do? Where do you run?" asked freshman Tara Lowe, a drama and communications double major from Greensboro.

Alison Linas and Stephanie Berman are among UNC students from northern Virginia who are helping to organize a UNC candlelight vigil Tuesday in the Pit.

They both said they have friends

SEE REACTION, PAGE 9

## Gusting winds knock out power across county, cause traffic jams

BY KEVIN KILEY  
STAFF WRITER

Orange County residents were left in the dark Monday about when their power would be turned on after high winds knocked down several trees and power lines.

Wind gusts of up to 50 mph caused more than 9,000 Duke

Energy customers in Orange County to lose power Monday, with 217,500 customers throughout North and South Carolina experiencing power outages.

By 7 p.m. power had been restored to 2,000 customers, but Duke Energy officials said the statewide power outages could last

several days.

"Crews have been working all day and will continue to work around the clock until this is fixed," Duke Energy spokeswoman Marilyn Lineberger said.

In an e-mail to the town of Chapel Hill, Duke Energy customer relations manager Ken

Kernodle said crews would work until sundown and restart restoration efforts at 6 a.m. Tuesday.

Several trees and utility poles were downed on Franklin Street between Boundary Street and Estes Drive, taking out phone and power lines and disrupting traffic. Trees also were reported down at

Piney Mountain Road and Friday Center Drive.

Areas in Orange County that lost power included the south side of West Franklin Street, East Franklin Street between Estes Drive and Boundary Street, Hillsborough and Pittsboro streets, University Square Plaza, Smith Level Road

and sections of Carrboro.

Workers for BellSouth and Duke Energy at the site of the downed trees said it could be as late as midnight before new poles could be installed.

The outages caused several stop-

SEE OUTAGES, PAGE 9

### announcement

#### SUMMER ON THE HILL

Get a feel for what it's like to spend a summer in Chapel Hill with our special inserted section that features stories on all the summer hot spots.

### inside

**KEEP ON KEEPING ON** UNC Hospitals CEO is getting a contract extension, PAGE 4

**CHANCELLOR APPROVAL** Exemplary students are honored with awards, PAGE 5

**HONORING FRIENDS** Baseball players shave their heads in solidarity, PAGE 10



### plugged in | page 11

#### NEW TRAVEL PLANS

A host of new Web sites offer world travelers the chance to sign up to sleep on a stranger's couch and team up to book cheap flights and hotel rooms.

### this day in history

#### APRIL 17, 2002 ...

Honor Court officials say drug-related cases brought to their attention are up 311 percent from last year. There were 37 cases so far in the academic year.

### weather

Windy  
H 68, L 43

#### index

police log ..... 2  
calendar ..... 2  
sports ..... 10  
games ..... 10  
opinion ..... 12