

THE BATTALION

Two Rhode Island students shot

JOHNSTON, R.I. (AP) — Jason Burgeson's family spent part of the weekend picking out his casket, the finality almost too much to bear.

"We can't make sense of it," Kellie Surdis, 26, said Sunday of her brother's slaying. "We're just completely shocked."

What began as a night of dancing for the 20-year-old college student and his friend ended with the pair kidnapped from downtown Providence, then taken to a golf course in Johnston and shot in the head.

The slayings were the first in this community of 26,500 in five years.

"You can read about it happening elsewhere but

when it comes in your backyard, it frightens you," said Johnston Mayor William Macera.

Burgeson, of Lakeville, Mass., and Amy Shute, 21, of Coventry, were forced at gunpoint into Burgeson's sports utility vehicle early Friday morning. The carjackers took the victims to the golf course under construction, then argued about whether to kill the pair. Burgeson was shot twice; Shute once.

Workers discovered the bodies later that day. They were together in a "semi-sitting position," said Police Chief Richard Tamburini.

An engagement ring that belonged to Shute was found at the scene by investigators.

"She removed it in an attempt to hide it from

the assailants," Tamburini said. The victims, who were not engaged, were robbed of a small amount of cash.

Five suspects have been charged with murder, kidnapping and carjacking and were scheduled to be arraigned Monday, police said. One suspect was stopped by police while riding in Burgeson's vehicle less than an hour after the investigation began. The others were arrested Saturday.

Burgeson's family said they would push for the death penalty under a federal carjacking statute. The statute allows for the death penalty if the crime results in murder. Rhode Island does not have the death penalty.

Rooftop repairs



Construction worker Nero Rios unloads material to repair the roof of the MSC.

North Korea refuses to explain delays

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea is holding a summit with South Korea in the same mysterious style it has often employed over the years: With the planned meeting only hours away, it still refused to announce the schedule.

In South Korea, television showed images of President Kim Dae-jung strolling with his wife Monday in the gardens of the presidential Blue House. Government officials mingled with jour-

nalists at a press center in a Seoul hotel.

In the North, by contrast, there were no official pronouncements on the summit. Officials in the South attributed the summit secrecy, at least in part, to concerns over the security of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il.

"He will agree first on the easiest and most practical issues."

— Park Joon-Young, chief presidential spokesperson

The South wants the North to agree to reunions of separated families, a summit sequel in Seoul and other conciliatory gestures in exchange for resources to rebuild the communist nation's ravaged economy. North Korea, which suffered a deadly famine in the late 1990s, relies on food

aid from its traditional foes, South Korea, Japan and the United States.

Reunification, the stated goal of both nations, is likely to be a lengthy process.

There are a host of touchy issues to resolve, among them North Korea's missile and nuclear programs, and U.S. military presence in South Korea.

South Korea's Kim will "broaden understanding by saying everything he wants to say," Park Joon-Young, the chief presidential spokesperson

said Monday. "He will agree first on the easiest and most practical issues."

Seoul officials were quick to downplay North Korea's weekend request to delay the summit by a day Tuesday. They said minor technical problems held up the schedule.

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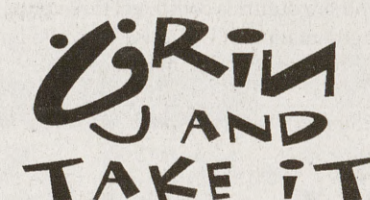
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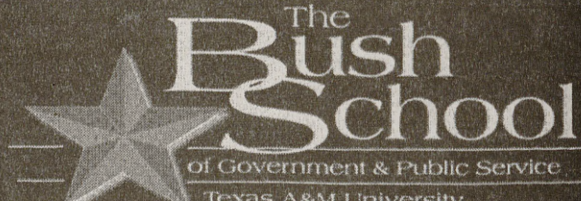


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