

Gunman kills four on train

Commuter train shooting

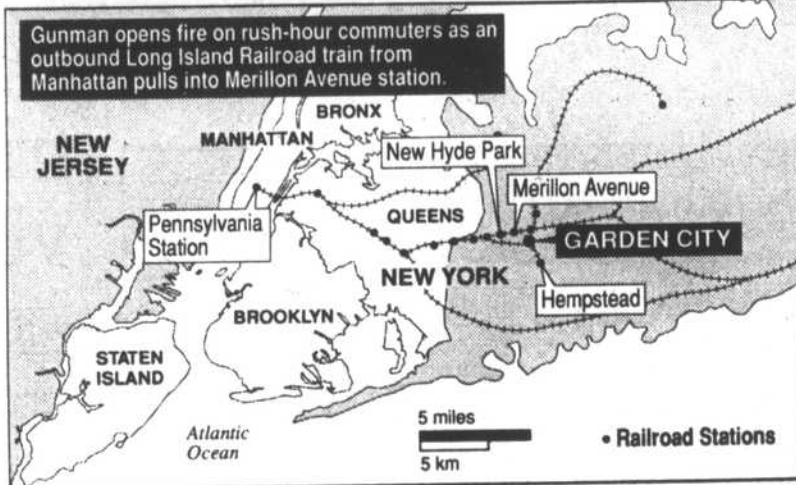
GARDEN CITY, N.Y. — A gunman methodically walked through a crowded commuter train Tuesday evening, randomly firing at one person after another and pausing to reload. Four people were killed and 12 wounded before passengers subdued him.

The man, a passenger on the train, started shooting as it was entering the Long Island Rail Road's Merillon Avenue station in Garden City, said Officer Andrew DeSimone, a spokesman for the Nassau County police. Four of the wounded were critically hurt, DeSimone said.

"The guy just went berserk," passenger Diane McClarey told WCBS-TV. "The shots just kept going off. He would not stop shooting."

Passengers said they saw the man fire repeatedly, then reload his gun and fire again. The weapon was a 9-millimeter handgun, said Detective Donna Fairweather of the Nassau County police.

"A man started walking through the cars, shooting randomly at the other passengers," said Detective Donna Fairweather of the Nassau



police. Fairweather refused to release the man's identity. He was taken to Nassau County police headquarters. "Right now, there doesn't seem to be any thing as far as a motive," DeSimone said. "It seems like a random shooting."

A woman identified only as Erin told CNN the gunman opened fire without a word. "He did not say anything, just started shooting," she said. The train left New York City's Penn Station about 5:33 p.m. and was bound for Long Island's Port Jefferson. The gunfire broke out shortly after 6 p.m., witnesses said.

Parolee arraigned in Klaas case

SANTA ROSA, Calif. — The man who confessed to kidnapping and murdering Polly Klaas is suicidal and sorry for what he did, a defense attorney said Tuesday.

Richard Allen Davis also can't recall many details because he was high on drugs and alcohol the night of the slaying, the lawyer said.

"He was the saddest person I've ever seen in my life," Chief Deputy Public Defender Bruce Kinnison said after meeting with Davis.

Davis, who has twice been convicted in kidnapping cases and was on parole at the time of the abduction late on the night of Oct. 1, faced arraignment Tuesday afternoon on charges of kidnapping and murder.

Kinnison, who talked to Davis for about an hour late Monday, declined to discuss defense plans.

He confirmed Davis confessed to abducting the 12-year-old girl from the bedroom of her Petaluma home while she and two friends played a board game during a slumber party.

"I was concerned he was suicidal. He cried periodically. I was really surprised," Kinnison said.

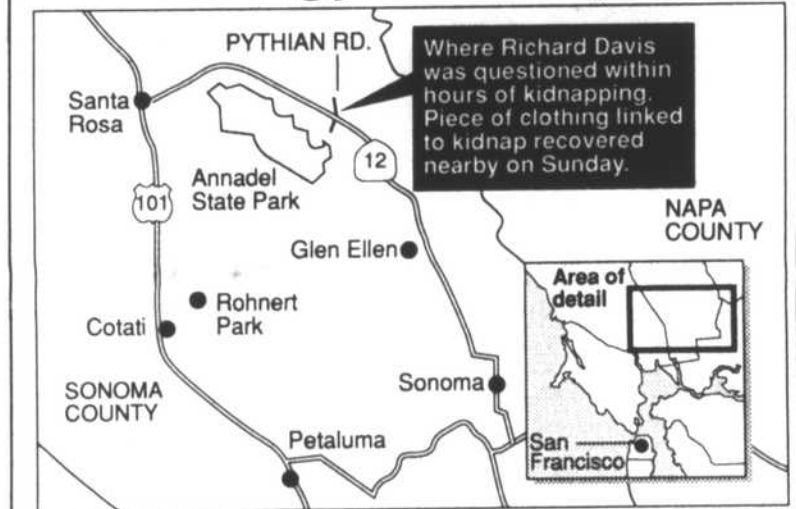
"I've dealt with other people accused of these kinds of crimes and they always had a way of deflecting the responsibility. I was really surprised at how he direct he was. He was immediately remorseful."

Davis, 39, told Kinnison he was high on drugs and alcohol and remembered little of that night. Authorities said 16 grams of methamphetamine was found in the house where Davis was arrested last week.

Davis told police he selected Polly randomly and strangled her. The Press Democrat of Santa Rosa and the San Francisco Examiner quoted law enforcement sources as saying. He directed searchers to a brushy area near Cloverdale, about 50 miles north of Petaluma, where Polly's body was found Saturday.

Polly's mother, Eve Nichol, urged

Chronology of kidnap case



A chronology of events surrounding the kidnapping of Polly Klaas, prepared by the FBI and the Petaluma Police Department:

- Friday, Oct. 1, 1993
10:35 to 11:03 P.M.: Polly Klaas kidnapped.
11:42 P.M.: Woman in Santa Rosa calls the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department and reports a suspicious person, later identified as Richard Allen Davis, on her property.
Saturday, Oct. 2, 1993
12:08 A.M.: Sheriff's deputies arrive at property and interview Davis.
12:46 A.M.: Deputies escort Davis, who is driving his vehicle, from the property and release him.
Sunday, Nov. 28
EARLY MORNING: The property owner calls the sheriff's office and reports suspicious items on her property.
9:33 A.M.: A deputy collects the evidence and takes it to the Sonoma Valley substation.
5 P.M.: FBI takes potential evidence to forensic experts in Washington, D.C.
Monday, Nov. 29
MIDMORNING: Analysis of the evidence by the FBI Crime Laboratory in Washington, D.C., determines it is related to the Polly Klaas kidnapping.
Tuesday, Nov. 30
Richard Allen Davis arrested for a state parole violation.

people to "grieve together for our hope lost, for our faith betrayed. When we can, let's open our hearts to forgiveness and healing." "Davis should never have been free to walk the streets of Petaluma, looking for an innocent child to kill," she said.

Maximum sentence given to man who beat Denny

LOS ANGELES — A judge gave the maximum 10-year sentence Tuesday to the black man convicted of viciously beating white truck driver Reginald Denny and attacking other motorists at the outset of last year's deadly riots.

"It's intolerable in this society to attack and maim people because of their race," Superior Court Judge John Ouderkirk said as he sent Damian Williams off to prison.

Ouderkirk sentenced black co-defendant Henry Watson to probation until January 1997 and to 320 hours of community service.

Williams, 20, was convicted of attacking Denny and four Hispanic and Asian victims as a rampaging mob took to the streets on April 29, 1992, the first day of the Los Angeles riots that killed 55 people.

Watson, 29, was convicted of misdemeanor assault and pleaded guilty to an assault count against trucker Larry Tarvin. He served 17 months between his arrest and the trial.

The riots were unleashed by the state court acquittals of four white police officers in the videotaped beating of black motorist Rodney King.

The attack on Denny was televised live from a news helicopter and his battered, bloody face became a symbol of the race riots. Videotape showed Williams in a gleeful dance around Denny's body.

Williams' lawyer, Edi Faal, said his client once faced the possibility of two life sentences plus 47 years. Now, he said, Williams will be eligible for parole with four years' prison time. He was also fined \$1,000. Faal said he would appeal the convictions.

"The jury spoke. We have now, I think, closed the chapter," said District Attorney Gil Garcetti.

Denny testified about the numerous skull fractures and operations he experienced, and said he remembered nothing about the assault. He recently expressed forgiveness toward his attackers and

It's intolerable in this society to attack and maim people because of their race.

— Ouderkirk Los Angeles County superior court judge

said they should receive leniency. Ouderkirk played the riot videotape again Tuesday as a reminder of the violence and explanation of his sentence.

"The court has considered that this crime involved great violence and acts involving cruelty, viciousness and callousness," he said.

"It's a gross miscarriage of justice," said John Cager, minister of youth at First AME Church, a center of activism in south-central Los Angeles.

"The community sees that nothing has changed," said Joseph Westmoreland, First AME minister of music. "The only way we could get some expression is by rioting."

A man was ejected from the courtroom Tuesday after he laughed and yelled: "What about the Rodney King verdicts? This was all injustice."

The jury forewoman, Carolyn Walters, said the sentence was unfair.

"I'm sure politics had a lot to do with the sentence that Mr. Williams got," she said.

The lead prosecutor, Deputy District Attorney Janet Moore, responded: "It makes me wonder whether the forewoman had a hidden agenda from the very beginning."

Williams was convicted of felony mayhem for attacking Denny and four misdemeanor assault counts. The mayhem count carried a maximum eight-year term; each misdemeanor count, six months.

STATE WIRE

Scandal hits Midland Lutheran College

FREMONT — Allegations that a camera hidden in a male dorm room recorded a female student engaged in sexual intercourse have sparked widespread rumors and disciplinary action against three male students at a Lutheran college.

Midland Lutheran College President Carl Hansen confirmed Tuesday the college investigated an allegation that a male student had videotaped a female student in a sexual act without her knowledge.

Disciplinary hearings for two male students began Monday. The disciplinary board, composed of faculty, students and administrators, could take up to three days to decide the cases, said Nicki McIntyre, dean of students.

A third male student voluntarily withdrew from the campus rather than face the board, McIntyre said. She recommended that all three male students be expelled.

The incident is a hot topic of dis-

cussion and rumors at the 110-year-old college, which is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

Many people at the 1,017-student college are upset and can't believe that something like this could happen, said Le Ann Steppuhn, 20, a student and resident assistant at one of the women's dormitories.

She accused college administrators of trying to "sweep it under the rug."

"I think they just don't want to take Midland and put it up in the headlines because they don't want people to think a Lutheran college has lower standards," she said.

"I think students should be aware it does happen on this campus."

McIntyre learned of the allegations through a staff member, a raid was conducted of the dormitory room of one of the male students, and a camera was seized, officials said.

SPORTS WIRE

NCAA to reconsider college football playoff

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. — The NCAA is again considering a playoff for major college football.

The governing body said Tuesday it has formed a group to study the advantages and drawbacks of a Division I-A playoff.

Clearly, there would be no time to institute a Division I playoff and settle this season's Nebraska-West Virginia-Florida State logjam at the top of the polls. Nor could a playoff system be in place before the 1995 season.

But the mere fact of such a study group will be hailed by playoff advocates. It could also mean schools will vote on a playoff at their convention

in January 1995. "I don't think this necessarily advances the possibility of a football playoff," said Francis Canavan, the NCAA's group executive director for public affairs. "What it advances is that, finally, there will be a firm decision, yes or no. There has been lots of talk about a playoff, and it has heightened this year, as it does every year at this time."

A high-powered sales pitch was made to the Presidents Commission at its meeting in Kansas City last summer, presented in part by the Nike International, which said as much as \$40 million could be raised.

At that time, presidents said they were impressed by the slick presentation but not inclined to go along with it. There cannot be a football playoff until it gets the approval of the commission, which has promised to try to lessen the commercial aspects of big-time athletics.

"Whether this advances or retards the possibility of a championship will be driven by the facts the study uncovers," Canavan said. "The purpose is to gather the information so we can have solid, objective information about the impact on the schools and on the student-athletes, and on the financial impact."

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