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DN Rocky Mtn News
Denver CO

Date 06/08/99

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Title: Shoels' windfall will
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Denver Rocky Mountain News

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Shoels' windfall will buy guns from teens

Columbine dad goes gambling to seek relief, wins jackpot he'll use to set up program

By April M. Washington

News Staff Writer

Michael Shoels ventured to the casinos of Black Hawk to escape his grief, and he struck gold.

The father of slain Columbine student Isaiah Shoels said Monday that he will use his \$15,000 windfall to form a nonprofit organization that will buy guns from teens. The program is sponsored by the

Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Atlanta.

Shoels won the money on a slot-machine jackpot during an outing with his mother-in-law to Black Hawk's Colorado Central Station Casino over the Memorial Day weekend.

"We know what people are going to think," said Sam Riddle, a spokesman for the Shoelses.

"Michael would go to the casinos occasionally before Isaiah was snatched from him so early in life. His mother-in-law thought he needed a release."

Shoels registered his organization's trademark, Let's Stomp Out Hate, with the secretary of state's

office on Monday.

Isaiah, 18, was the only black among the 13 killed by two teenage gunmen during the April 20 shooting at Columbine High School.

"We're trying to get the state of Colorado to stop covering up the hate and violence that took my son's life," Shoels said. "If I have to use money I never expected to come my way to get us to focus on our children, than that's what I'm going to do."

Critics have assailed the family for filing a \$250 million lawsuit last month against the parents of the Columbine killers Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold.

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The Denver Post
Denver, CO

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6/8

THE DENVER POST

48 •

Shoels' good luck will help fight hate

Michael Shoels, father of slain Columbine High School student Isaiah Shoels, says his mother-in-law wanted to help him relax a couple of weeks ago. She suggested they head up to the Colorado Central Station Casino in Black Hawk to unwind.

Michael Shoels came home with \$15,000 in winnings, and his face showed up recently in a Black Hawk newspaper ad. But it touched off questions from reporters and on radio talk shows about whether Shoels was using donations from the Columbine tragedy to gamble.

"It's pretty straightforward," family spokesman Sam Riddle said Monday. "His mother-in-law took him up there. She put the money in the slot and asked him to pull the lever."

Riddle said \$4,100 of the winnings will be used to buy Isaiah a headstone, and a "few thousand more" will be used to help the Shoelses start a nonprofit organization aimed at combating hate.

"I think people are talking about this because I'm challenging a lot of issues people don't want to deal with, and they don't like it," Michael Shoels said.

Permanent memorial closer

Donations for a permanent Columbine High School memorial are



approaching the \$50,000 mark.

The Colorado Garden Show will donate \$25,000 for a memorial, and the Foothills and Jefferson foundations have received

\$12,500 and \$10,250 respectively, members of a memorial organizing committee said during a meeting Monday.

Should donations exceed the cost of the memorial, a trust fund will be established to maintain the memorial after its completion.

More than 110 memorial design plans have been submitted.

Several artists and groups, including the American Society of Landscape Architects, have offered services and materials for the project.

A more formal committee soon will begin determining the design of the memorial and where it will be placed.

Contributions may be sent to: The Foothills Foundation, Columbine High School Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 621788, Littleton 80162-1788. Attn: Jean Naylor, treasurer.

Crosses on tour draw tears

The wooden crosses originally erected in Clement Park near Columbine High School to honor those killed April 20, have elicited strong emotional responses from visitors in the Naperville, Ill., area, cross-maker Greg Zanis said Monday.

"People have been crying," Zanis said during a break from his nationwide tour. "They've been lighting candles. There are just bags and bags of flowers."

Zanis, who later put up 13 new crosses at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Littleton as part of a permanent memorial for the Columbine massacre victims, said he plans eventually to return the original crosses to Colorado.

Zanis said the crosses next will be shown at the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists in Atlanta this weekend and at Creation Festival on Agape Farm near Mount Union, Pa., June 23-26.

EchoStar aids safer schools

Littleton-based EchoStar Communications Corp. is donating 1,000 satellites and free air time to a nationwide safe-schools effort, the National Education Association announced Monday. The NEA has partnered with Learning First Alliance to develop programming on

school safety that will help identify early warning signs of potentially violent behavior in students. The programs should be available in the fall.

Hero meets Yankees

After living through one of the worst nightmares in this nation's history, Joshua Lapp got to make a dream come true at Veterans Stadium on Monday before the Philadelphia Phillies played the New York Yankees.

Lapp is one of the many heroes of the Columbine High School shooting on April 20. When the shooting started, Lapp dove to shield two female classmates, saving the girls' lives. A bullet missed him by inches.

Paul Bogogosian, a baseball coach at Haverford, Pa., saw Lapp interviewed on TV, and heard him say his dream was to meet Yankees pitcher Roger Clemens. With a few phone calls, Bogogosian was able to make it happen.

Lapp, who pitches for the Columbine baseball team, talked with Clemens in the Yankees dugout and got a few pitching tips.

"It was awesome," Lapp said. "Roger Clemens is my favorite player, but I had to see great pitchers."

The Camden Courier-Post contributed to this report.

6/10/99

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602

IN Post

Wednesday, July 14, 1999

FBI seeks more clues on 911 tape

The 911 tape recorded during the Columbine rampage will be sent to the FBI for further enhancement, part of the Jefferson County investigators' work on establishing a time line of the crime.

Detectives are attempting to craft an "exact sequence of events that occurred that day in the school," Jefferson County sheriff's spokesman Steve Davis said Tuesday.

As part of that work, investigators want to determine if they are missing anything from the 911 tape, which includes a call from teacher Patti Nielson, shrieking at the dispatcher and shouting at the students to take cover.

"On that tape . . . you can hear gunfire, so they want to see if that matches with what witnesses tell them," Davis said.

Meanwhile, the Columbine library — where 10 students were killed and Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold killed themselves — was released as a crime scene Monday.

Now, the school district may proceed with its plans to remodel it, Davis said.

But because investigators may still need to see how the library was situated during the April 20 shootings, the FBI has built a "structural model" of the room, Davis said.

Because the district plans to remodel the library and other parts of the school, the model "will kind of preserve the way it was that day," he said.

The model, at one-eighth scale, is 3½ feet by 3½ feet and a foot high, Davis said. It's in the Columbine Task Force "war room," which is "under lock and key" in the Jefferson County Administration and Court Facility, Davis said.



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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)

The Denver Post
*Denver, CO*Date: *7/14/99*

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Denver Post

7B

7/15/99

Teen who fell from window: thanks local SWAT team

By Beth DeFalco
Special to The Denver Post

Three months ago, Patrick Ireland crawled across backpacks, overturned chairs and dead students and flung himself from a second-story window at Columbine High School into the arms of the Lakewood Police SWAT team.

On Wednesday, he set aside a crutch, the most tangible remaining sign of his injuries, to hang a medal around the neck of each SWAT team member at their annual awards ceremony.

He thanked them for saving his life.

"They were also traumatized," Pat's mom Kathy said of the SWAT team. "They saved his life. What bigger bond can they have?"

"After he jumped out of the window, the SWAT team came over crying, these big burly men, and said that they had rescued him and wanted to know his name and if he would be OK," said Ramonna Martinez, spokeswoman for Lakewood

police.

Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold killed 12 students and a teacher before shooting themselves to death in the worst school shooting in American history.

Ireland was shot while applying pressure to a gunshot wound his friend, Makai Hall, had suffered.

For his bravery, police named Ireland an honorary SWAT team member and presented him with an official jacket and cap.

"This is the first time a jacket like that has been given out," said Lakewood Police Chief Charles Johnston. "We honor his personal heroism in trying to save his friend and himself."

Police also honored Joseph Couch and Ronald Korzen of Loomis Fargo Company, who volunteered their armored van during the tragedy. Couch and Korzen drove the van into the line of fire and with no protective gear so SWAT team members could stand atop it and catch Ireland.

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Denver Co

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1/27 Post

• 13A

Jeffco sheriff says gunmen had help

Denver Post Staff and Wire Reports

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold must have had help planting explosives in Columbine High School, Jefferson County's sheriff said here on Monday.

"I've never thought it was just two because of the amount of stuff that was brought in," Sheriff John Stone said before addressing the Florida Sheriffs Association at PGA National Resort & Spa. "But we don't have enough to charge anyone."

Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, both seniors, planted about 50 homemade bombs in and around Columbine before fatally shooting 12 students and one teacher and wounding 20-some others on April 20.

Stone is now touring the United States and Canada, sharing the lessons he learned from the tragedy. His two-hour presentation to the Florida group, which included spe-

cific tactical advice, was closed to reporters.

Though police exchanged fire with the gunmen, Stone reiterated Monday what his department told The Denver Post this month: No victims were hit by friendly fire.

"(The police bullets) were all 223s, and none of those were in the bodies," he said.

Stone downplayed speculation that Klebold and Harris may have been part of a murder-suicide, rather than each taking their own lives.

Jefferson County Sheriff's Department spokesman Steve Davis said murder-suicide can't be formally ruled out until the final ballistics tests are in.

Though Stone maintained the teens must have had help preparing for or plotting the massacre, investigators have found no evidence they had help planting the explosives. And, officials have said the theory of a third gunman largely has been eliminated.

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1 of 2
DN Rocky Mtn News
Denver CO

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Friday, September 24, 1999

Denver Rocky M

Accounts differ on question to Bernall

Columbine shooting victim may not have been asked whether she believed in God

By Dan Luzadder
and Katie Kerwin McCrimmon

News Staff Writers

Investigators told Cassie Bernall's parents weeks after she died that the now-famous exchange with her killer may not have occurred.

There are questions about whether Bernall said "yes" after her killer, Dylan Klebold, asked whether she believed in God, said chief investigator John Kickbusch of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department.

The question itself may never have been asked, he said.

"The fact that there were discrepancies in this account was brought to the attention of the Bernalls," Kickbusch said.

In the days following the April 20 shootings at Columbine High, several students in the library reported the exchange between



Bernall

Bernall and her killer.

Accounts of the testimonial and death have inspired outpourings of faith around the country and prompted her mother, Misty Bernall, to write a book.

She Said Yes. The Unlikely Martyrdom of Cassie Bernall has sold more than 200,000 copies since its

release two weeks ago.

Misty Bernall could not be reached for comment. But her editor, Chris Zimmerman, said Bernall stands behind the book.

"We don't feel that this discussion ... takes anything away from the crux of Cassie's story," said. "This is a book about a troubled American teen-ager who changed. She changed to the extent that she was ready to face the challenges of her life, and her death, with confidence."

Zimmerman said Misty Bernall had been candid in the book that there were differing accounts of what was said in the library.

See **BERNALL** on 13A

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Page 2 of 2
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Friday, September 24, 1999

Denver Rocky Mountain News

Student under table with Cassie tells different story**BERNALL from 5A**

It was discrepancies in student accounts that led police to question the Bernall testimonial.

Joshua Lapp, a junior, was one of the first students to report Bernall's testimonial of faith. He said his memories have not changed.

"She said it," Lapp said Thursday. "Plain and simple."

But Emily Wyant, 16, tells a different story.

She was crouched beneath a table less than two feet from Cassie Bernall when Dylan Klebold shot her.

They were the only two students studying together at the table in the back of the library.

Wyant told FBI investigators that she never heard Klebold ask Cassie if she believed in God.

Wyant said Cassie was praying out loud after the gunmen stormed the library.

"She was saying, 'Dear God. Dear God. Why is this happening? I just want to go home,'" Emily

said.

Emily answered Cassie in a hushed voice.

"I know. We all want to get out of here."

Emily wonders whether Klebold heard Cassie praying and singled her out.

All of a sudden, he slammed the top of their table, said "Peekaboo," and looked under the table at both girls.

"Then he looked at her, and he shot her," Emily said.

Klebold then glanced quickly at Emily.

She does not know why he didn't shoot her. She thinks he may have gotten distracted.

Emily heard Eric Harris call to Klebold.

"Hey, there's a n---over here," Harris said.

Then both gunmen trained their weapons on Isaiah Shoels.

Police investigating the shooting have detailed minute aspects of the case, including who said what to whom in the school library, and elsewhere, during the

rampage.

Kiebusch said the first account of the conversation between Klebold and Bernall came from Craig Scott, the brother of Rachel Scott, a student who was killed by the gunmen outside the school.

Craig Scott, who was among more than 50 students in the library at the time, told investigators he heard the "Yes" comment and recognized the voice as Cassie Bernall's. He did not actually see the individuals involved.

Scott could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Investigators said Scott was asked to point out where the gunmen were at the time, and he indicated a table where Valeen Schnurr — not Bernall was hiding.

According to Schnurr's mother, the girl was lying in the library with more than 15 bullet wounds, praying out loud, when a gunman approached her and asked if she believed in God, and she responded "Yes, I believe in God."

The gunman spared her, and she survived.

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Title: Sheriff's office disputes story on Eric Harris' diary

20A

Sheriff's office disputes story on Eric Harris' diary

By David Olinger and Peggy Lowe
Denver Post Staff Writers

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office says the journalist who published purported excerpts of Eric Harris' infamous diary was warned that his source could not have been anyone who read the document in the past five months.

Wednesday night, an online magazine, Salon.com, released what it called an exclusive "First Glimpse into Eric Harris' Diary," written by the Columbine High senior who joined Dylan Klebold in a shooting rampage April 20 that killed 13 people before the gunmen committed suicide.

The story had a dozen passages of Harris venting his hatred of everyone from blacks and fitness freaks to "Star Wars" fans and people who mispronounce words.

Thursday, the sheriff's office called the magazine story inaccurate and disputed its fundamental claim. Department spokesman Steve Davis said it was "almost impossible" that anyone had seen the diary and could have read it to Dave Cullen, the freelance journalist who wrote the Salon.com story.

"The diary was booked into evidence that very first day and has been seen only by the lead investigator," Kate Battan, Davis said. "It's in the evidence vault and has been since April 20."

Battan told the writer "there's no way that he had any source that has seen the diary since April 20," Davis said. "She was very clear to him about that."

Davis, who said he hasn't seen the diary, said he believed the writer "inflated what little bit of information he got."

Cullen defended the story's accuracy, saying the sheriff's office itself displayed passages from Harris' diary in meetings with law enforcement and school officials and parents of Columbine victims. "People at some of these places took notes," he said.

But he acknowledged that he has no materials copied from the diary and that some passages presented as exact quotations from Harris' writings may not be verbatim.

Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone disclosed the existence of Harris' diary in the first week after the Columbine High massacre as well as some of its most disturbing

contents.

He said it showed Harris planning the attack for a year, down to the minute when he and Klebold would "rock and roll." Their aim was to kill at least 500 Columbine students, murder residents in the surrounding neighborhood, then hijack a plane and crash it in New York City, he said.

Since then, the sheriff and his investigators have declined to discuss Harris' diary publicly and re-

fused public records requests for the document, calling it part of an ongoing criminal investigation.

Davis said investigators talked about the diary only at a meeting with school district officials before Columbine High reopened. "A very few excerpts — not necessarily from the journal — were shared with school officials and the victims' families in an attempt to give them insight to Eric Harris," he said.

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The Denver Post
Denver, CO

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Friday, September 24, 1999

THE DEN

Harris move to bar noted lawyer

By Howard Pankratz

Denver Post Legal Affairs Writer

Eric Harris' parents filed court papers Thursday trying to keep high-profile Michigan lawyer Geoffrey Fieger from handling the wrongful-death lawsuit against them.

When the family of slain student Isaiah Shoels lodged the suit in Denver District Court in May, Fieger included a motion seeking permission to try the case in Colorado.

But "based upon Mr. Fieger's record and his recent conduct and comments made with respect to this case, Mr. and Mrs. Shoels' motion to have Mr. Fieger specially admitted should be denied," the

motion says.

The motion alleges Fieger and local co-counsel Jack Beam tried to prejudice a jury by distorting of the facts of the case and making accusations of racism. The motion also says Fieger should never have told reporters he is seeking \$250 million, 1,000 times the \$250,000 maximum set by state law.

Beam and Fieger — represented Dr. Jack Kevorkian and won a \$25 million judgment against the "Jenny Jones Show" earlier this year — couldn't be reached for comment.

A separate motion also seeks to put the lawsuit on hold until 90 days after authorities finish their criminal investigation of the April

20 massacre. That could happen in November.

"Although the initial calls for charges to be brought against the parents of Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold have not been repeated in recent months, no decision by law enforcement has yet been announced. Wayne and Katherine Harris are therefore confronted with the defense of a civil lawsuit, while at the same time a decision about potential criminal charges remains up in the air," motion says.

Earlier this week, the Harris move to bar noted lawyer

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609

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Plan gone bad figured in Columbine rampage

Failure of bomb in school cafeteria tied to shootings, investigators say

By Don Lazzador
and Kevin Vaughan

Nines Staff Writers

Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold carried a black duffel into Columbine High School's cafeteria at 11 a.m. on April 20.

None of the students and teachers who were beginning to file in for lunch thought anything of it.

But a two-tank propane bomb was stuffed



Harris



Klebold

into the bag, programmed to explode at 11:15 a.m.

Poorly wired, badly constructed and its timer incorrectly attached, the bomb never went off.

At that point, Harris and Klebold began their killing rampage. When it was over, less than an hour later, 12 students and one teacher were dead. And the two gunmen had killed themselves.

Investigators now believe the deadliest school shooting rampage in U.S. history resulted from a plan gone bad — the failed explosion. They say Harris and Klebold

See SHOOTING on 6A

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Gunmen intended suicide all along, investigators say

SHOOTING from 5A

intended all along to commit suicide in the school.

"They were cowards who were afraid to face the SWAT teams entering the school for fear that they might be wounded and captured alive," said John Kiebusch, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department investigations chief who is running the investigation.

The conclusions will be included in the final report of the Columbine shooting investigation, according to interviews conducted by the *Denver Rocky Mountain News* with persons close to the investigation.

Salon, a New York-based on-line magazine, broke some details of the investigation Wednesday night.

The magazine published what it said were excerpts from writings by Eric Harris in his diary.

Kiebusch would not comment on the accuracy of the excerpts. But he said they were consistent with the types of writings that Harris posted on the Internet and those found in his home following the attacks.

The "diary" has been described to the *News* as a combination of a daytimer and loose sheets, handwritten in part and computer generated in part, all by Harris. Kle-

bold did not leave writings behind.

Harris' writings are vitriolic, hateful rhetoric, directed at anyone and everyone, the sources said.

Law enforcement sources, both local and federal, have confirmed that Harris and Klebold set booby-traps in their cars in the school parking lot, apparently as their last act before walking toward the school's west doors and beginning their rampage.

Those booby traps, police believe, were designed to kill or maim police and firefighters responding to the school.

Kiebusch, in a series of interviews, confirmed details of the gunmen's movements through the school.

He said investigators have related similar details to several law enforcement groups and 150 school faculty members in an effort to reassure them that there was no third gunman, as well as to the families of the dead and injured students.

Here's what investigators have determined:

While the timer ticked on the bomb in the duffel, Harris and Klebold returned to their cars, "suited up" with hundreds of rounds of ammunition, four weapons and pipe bombs made of glass, plastic and metal.

They waited for the explosion. When it did not come, they walked across the park-

ing lot, their arsenal hidden beneath dark western duster coats. Then they opened fire.

Harris carried a 9mm High Point carbine, Klebold the TEC-DC9 semiautomatic pistol. Both had sawed-off shotguns strapped to their weapons belts.

Harris killed Rachel Scott and Daniel Rohrbough as they sat outside the school and shot randomly at others. Together, he and Klebold wounded six students outside.

Police believe they participated equally in the killings.

One of the two shed his duster coat outside, leading witnesses to tell police that they believed there was a third gunman in a white T-shirt.

Klebold shot teacher Patty Nielson and student Brian Anderson through the west doors. He and Harris had a brief exchange of gunfire with two police officers outside, then entered the west doors, where teacher Dave Sanders was hurrying down the hallway toward the library.

As Sanders turned to flee, they shot him in the back twice, then entered the library and began shooting randomly at students.

Kyle Velasquez was killed first. The pair then moved between tables, taunting students, in some cases firing under tables without looking.

The shootings in the library lasted for

18 minutes — from 11:20 a.m. to 11:38 a.m., according to investigators.

Harris and Klebold left the library after the killings, even though they still had ammunition and pipe bombs. Their decision allowed dozens of students, many of them wounded, to escape.

Police can't explain why the killing stopped.

After the library shootings, the two went to the cafeteria and tried to set off their propane bomb by shooting at it.

When that failed, they ignited an explosive device next to it, causing an explosion that started a fire. The fire set off the cafeteria's sprinkler system, which put the fire out.

All of the students, except for a few stragglers and two janitors trying to help students escape, had fled the cafeteria by that time.

Harris and Klebold roamed the halls, shooting at random, placing booby traps and throwing pipe bombs.

They shot up the school administration area, then returned to the library, where they briefly exchanged gunfire with police and fired at unarmed fire rescue workers.

Police believe they each committed suicide with a single bullet to the head, shortly after police SWAT team members entered the school.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
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FBI/DOJ

610

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Police say Columbine tape came from them

Images not intended
to be shown publicly

By Kevin Vaughan

News Staff Writer

JEFFERSON COUNTY — Sheriff's officials said Tuesday that they probably released the Columbine High cafeteria tape that ended up on television this week.

Sgt. Phil Domenico said the department released copies of the tape to law enforcement and emergency services agencies for training, and that it was never intended that any of them would be shown publicly.

Asked how many copies of the tape were given out, Domenico said, "very, very few."

The tape, made by a security camera mounted in the cafeteria, shows students in the room ducking under tables and then fleeing the building shortly before killers Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold enter.

At one point, the tape shows Klebold diving for cover moments before a bomb explodes, filling the cafeteria with smoke. The tape also captures Eric Harris entering the cafeteria and firing a 9 mm carbine across the chair- and table-strewn room.

Authorities have said the gunmen were trying to set off a home-made propane-tank bomb that had failed to explode. Had the bomb exploded, it would have ignited a fire that could have destroyed much of the school, police said.

Domenico would not say which agencies had been given copies of the tape, and he said deputies were trying to trace one to a New Mexico college professor who showed it at a training seminar.

"That's what we need to find out — exactly why it ended up where it ended up," Domenico said.

Portions of the tape were shown Monday morning in Albuquerque at a training session for local law officers and school officials.

A news crew from KRQE-TV, which had been invited to the session to cover it, taped the presentation, capturing the images from a large screen.

As a CBS affiliate, Denver's News4 was given a copy of the tape late Monday evening.

However, officials at the station decided not to air it.

"We weighed the journalistic merits of the videotape with our obligations as responsible broad-

See **TAPE** on 6A

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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#934178

Professor obtained copy of tape

TAPE from 4A

casters, and upon reviewing the tape found that we had no way to advance the story by airing the tape," said Angie Kucharski, the station's news director.

The *CBS Evening News*, however, showed the images.

"I am less concerned about the competitive nature of this story," she said. "I am more concerned about doing the right thing for our viewers."

A copy of the tape was obtained by officials at New Mexico Tech, which is part of a national effort to improve preparations for natural disasters and terrorist acts. New Mexico Tech officials then showed it at Monday morning's training session.

The professor, involved, Van Romero, did not return a message from the *Denver Rocky Mountain News*.

Kim Eiland, a spokeswoman for the college, said she was not sure how the videotape was obtained.

Earlier, in a news release, college officials said the materials for the presentation were gathered from a variety of sources.

Jefferson County school officials notified the families of students

wounded and killed in the April 20 attack that the tape might be shown on television.

They also tried to persuade CBS News to refrain from airing it. Officials at CBS News refused the request.

"We weren't aware until this morning that anyone other than law enforcement agencies had access to the tape," said Rick Kaufman, spokesman for Jefferson County schools.

Kaufman said a number of experts on dealing with trauma have told district officials that repeatedly showing graphic images from April 20 can inflict new wounds on the survivors.

"We've spoken with families of some of the victims today," Kaufman said. "They are deeply concerned — shaken."

The cafeteria tape is not gruesome — nobody was killed or seriously wounded in the room. But Kaufman said showing it publicly is wrong.

"Regardless of what it shows, we don't believe it serves any purpose," he said. "We don't believe that it should be shown, that people need to see it, that it's going to help in any way, shape or form."

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10/13/19 174A-DN 57419-491

Monday, December 13, 1999

Denver Rocky Mountain News

7A

Colorado & The West

Richard S. Chapman, State Editor — (303) 892-2783 • e-mail — metro@denver-rmn.com

INSIDE THE COLUMBINE INVESTIGATION

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Amassing the facts

Bonded by tragedy, officers hunt far, wide for answers

By Dan Luzzadder and Kevin Vaughan

News Staff Writers

THE SERIES

SUNDAY: The first fragmentary

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

✓ Rocky Mountain News
Denver, CO

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FBI/DOJ

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Joe Mahoney/News Staff Photograph

Sheriff's Division Chief John Kiebusch stands in a room containing more than 300 binders filled with reports from Columbine investigators. Kiebusch is directing the criminal probe of the high school tragedy, an exhaustive inquiry nearing its completion.

FBI/DOJ

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613

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

By Dan Luzzader and Kevin Vaughan

News Staff Writers

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Two FBI evidence recovery specialists moved slowly in a sea of backpacks on the flooded floor of Columbine High School's cafeteria.

Then they stopped.

At their feet lay two large dark gym bags, bigger than the packs terrified students had abandoned 48 hours earlier when gunshots exploded just outside the lunchroom. One bag bore scorch marks, and the ceiling tiles above it had melted.

The FBI agents delicately looked inside the bags — and instantly understood the true intentions of Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris: death, by fire, for hundreds of their fellow students.

The gym bags each held a large bomb fashioned from a barbecue grill propane tank, a gasoline can and other fuel cylinders. Each was wired to a pipe bomb. A two-bell alarm clock served as a timing device.

Had both bombs not failed, explosives experts concluded, the 660 kids in the cafeteria at 11:20 a.m. April 20 likely would have died — nearly four times the number killed in the Oklahoma City bombing.

A blast that size would have turned every fork, every spoon, every tray into shrapnel. A giant fireball would have roared through the cavernous room, sucking up oxygen in its wake — making survival all but impossible.

The FBI agents' stunning discovery that morning quickly had reverberations across town.

At Jefferson County District Attorney Dave Thomas' office, newly sworn-in U.S. Attorney Tom Strickland was getting ready to bring Attorney General Janet Reno to Columbine. She wanted to walk through the crime scene.

Now, with the news that Columbine still was not secured, her visit was canceled.

Reno had come to Colorado to talk with families of the victims and the police, firefighters and paramedics who had been at Columbine.

THE SERIES

SUNDAY: The first fragmentary reports of shooting at Columbine bring more than 600 police officers face to face with the unthinkable.

TODAY: After 48 chaotic hours, specialists from a dozen agencies are organized into teams to launch a methodical examination of the crime.

TUESDAY: As they near the end of eight months of intensive work, investigators still grope for an answer to the biggest question of all.

She started with a private meeting in the small law library below Thomas' office, where sheriff's officials brought in pieces of evidence to show her.

Among them were the four guns used by Harris and Klebold, each sealed in a plastic evidence bag. She also saw photographs from the crime scene.

Someone read passages from Harris' writings.

Reno also needed a refuge, a place where she could rest. So a conference room just off Thomas' office was converted into a haven for Reno, who battles Parkinson's disease.

Juice and food were set out, along with a place where she could lie down.

But, engrossed by the day's events, she hardly used it.

A grim task

At five coroner's offices, pathologists began conducting autopsies.

Dr. Nancy Bodelson, Jefferson County's coroner, and her staff positively identified the victims and formally notified their families.

Then she brought in help from neighboring counties.

She wanted to finish the autopsies and release the bodies to mortuaries quickly so bereaved families could plan funerals.

By 6 p.m. Thursday, April 22, they were done.

Two days into the investigation, much of the work at Columbine remained chaotic.

But the introduction of the FBI's Rapid Start computer case-management system put

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*Rocky Mountain News
Denver, CO*

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Edition: *Sunrise*

Title: *Amidst the Facts*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



Glenn Asakawa/News Staff Photographer
Attorney General Janet Reno leaves a news conference at the Jefferson County Justice Center two days after the Columbine tragedy. District Attorney Dave Thomas stands at right. Reno canceled her plan to tour the school after additional bombs were discovered there.

6-57419

meeting in upper part of room

FBI/DOJ

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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IN

COLUMBINE from 7A

the massive criminal investigation on fast forward.

The sophisticated software allowed investigators to track every lead, catalog witnesses, cross-reference evidence and put a stop to duplication.

In a hasty training session, investigators were assured the system was "Crayola simple."

A second computer system managed the blizzard of reports from investigators. Eventually, those reports would fill more than 300 heavy three-ring binders, stored neatly on wooden bookshelves in a room at sheriff's headquarters the investigators came to call "the library."

On Friday morning, the start of Day 4, John Kiekbusch, the sheriff's lieutenant directing the investigation, brought nearly 10 detectives into the Columbine band room to talk.

The room itself was a stark reminder of why they were there. A door had been blown off its hinges by a SWAT team. Instruments, backpacks and music stands lay scattered where students had dropped them.

Chris Andrist, the sheriff's crime lab supervisor, set up large easels with sheets of white paper and color-coded markers to designate different types of information.

One by one, detectives rose, introduced themselves and explained what they had done and whom they had interviewed. As their information was written down, the sheets were ripped from the easels and taped to the band-room walls.

"People were literally pulling matchbooks out of their pocket with notes they had scribbled on them," recalls FBI supervisor Dwayne Fuselier.

For investigators from every major police agency in the metro area, the mass meeting was the first opportunity to hear what everyone had learned.

It also helped Kiekbusch and his command team decide how the crime scene should be managed and how investigative teams should be formed.

The meeting went on for seven hours. Toward the end, Fuselier stood to speak.

He said he was concerned about a rumor, circulating among investigators, that the FBI was taking over the case.

"We are often seen as the 800-pound gorilla, and I wanted people to know we were not trying to take over the investigation," he recalls. "I made it clear we were there to assist in whatever way we could."

"This is Jeffco's case all the way."

A mentor's legacy

John Kiekbusch had come a long way to run the Columbine investigation.

He had started almost 30 years earlier, in the infancy of the Lakewood Police Department, under Pierce Brooks, a legend in national police circles.

Brooks had gained fame in Joseph Wambaugh's book *The*

Onion Field for investigating the 1963 murder of a Los Angeles police officer by two drifters. He later helped the FBI create a serial crimes unit.

Brooks became Lakewood's second police chief in 1971, taking the job as a challenge to craft an efficient, professional police department almost from scratch.

He recruited talented officers from around the country. One of them was Kiekbusch, then a 25-year-old patrolman in Winona, Minn. He landed in Brooks' robbery-homicide squad.

Brooks, who died in 1998, believed that the answer to almost every homicide lay in the evidence at the scene.

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"Murder is the greatest challenge," he once said. "You can't close your mind. You have to wonder what kind of person would act like this. You have to get inside the killer's brain."

He drilled that perspective into every cop who worked for him. Kiekbusch was no exception.

A critical tape

By Friday night, FBI agent Mike Barnett, Jefferson County sheriff's Sgt. Don Estep and Colorado Bureau of Investigation agent Linda Holloway were on a commercial jet to the East Coast.

Their destination: FBI headquarters in Quantico, Va. Their cargo: The videotape from a surveillance camera in the Columbine cafeteria.

FBI technicians were waiting

to analyze the film frame-by-frame and enhance the images.

It was important work. The tape might show whether someone other than Harris and Klebold had carried a gun or bombs into the school that day.

The three officers met the FBI

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

technicians early Saturday morning. Late Sunday night, they hurried back to the airport to catch a flight to Denver, the enhanced tape in hand.

They had watched every second of the black-and-white tape, over and over again. It showed

students hiding beneath tables, then running to safety.

It also showed Harris, in a white T-shirt, kneeling on the landing outside the cafeteria, firing his 9 mm Hi-Point carbine at

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Dennis Schroeder/News Staff Photographer

Bomb squad trucks are deployed to remove explosives found at Columbine. Investigators found more than 80 bombs in the school and the cars and homes of the killers.

Picture on
lower right
page

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The chain of command

Agencies involved

- 1 Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
- 2 Colorado Bureau of Investigation
- 3 Greenwood Police Department
- 4 Arvada Police Department
- 5 Colorado State Patrol
- 6 Federal Bureau of Investigation
- 7 U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
- 8 Jefferson County District Attorney's Office
- 9 Colorado Attorney General's Office
- 10 Denver Police Department
- 11 West Metro Fire Rescue Authority
- 12 Golden Police Department

John Stone, Jefferson County Sheriff

John Dunaway, Undersheriff

Lt. John Kiekbusch (Later promoted to Division Chief)

Sgt. Randy West

Investigator Kate Battan

Capt. Dan Harris,
Sheriff's DepartmentDwayne Fuselier,
FBIMark Pautler,
Legal Adviser, DA's office

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

Traces weapons and examines bombs.

Investigators

Evidence Teams (7 groups)

LEADER: Chris Andrist, Sheriff's Department

60 investigators

Library Team

LEADER: Russ Bontricht, Arvada Police Department

Reconstructs events in the library.

6 investigators

Threats Team

LEADER: Sgt. Rich Webb, Sheriff's Department

Tracks threats of school violence.

6 investigators

Associates Team

LEADER: Sgt. Don Estep, Sheriff's Department

Interviews killers' friends and acquaintances.

14 investigators

Cafeteria Team

LEADER: Rich Price, FBI

Reconstructs events in the cafeteria.

25 investigators

Computer Team

LEADER: Chuck Davis, CBI

Analyzes computers and disks.

6 investigators

Outside Team

LEADER: Mike Barnett, FBI

Reconstructs killers' path before entering school.

16 investigators

Colorado Bureau of Investigation
COORDINATOR: Peter Mang
Evidence collection and laboratory analysis
16 investigators

INSIDE THE NUMBERS

Number of law enforcement agencies involved 12
Pieces of evidence 10,000
Personal computers seized as evidence 19
Computer disks analyzed 5,000
Number of interviews conducted 4,500
Financial cost Undetermined

Clerical Support

6 people

Computer Support

6 people

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the bombs.

The images helped investigators reconcile statements from students who saw a gunman in a white T-shirt and Harris in a trench coat. Harris, it turned out, had shed his trench coat outside the school's west doors as he and Klebold walked in.

The tape also showed Klebold — who'd left his trench coat behind in the library — wearing a black shirt and tossing a pipe bomb at one of the propane-tank bombs. Klebold dove behind some tables as the pipe bomb exploded, setting off sparks, filling the deserted cafeteria with smoke and starting a fire.

What it didn't show was that, by the time the killers reached the cafeteria, their detailed plan had gone awry.

Their huge bombs hadn't exploded as planned — when the cafeteria was full of students between 11:15 and 11:20 a.m.

So Harris and Klebold had started shooting on a hill outside the back door to the library, killing two and wounding eight others. Then they'd gone in the west doors, shooting a student at the far end of a hallway and fatally wounding teacher Dave Sanders.

Next, they'd barged into the library, where they killed 10 students and wounded a dozen more.

Then, the cafeteria tape showed, they went downstairs to try to detonate the bulky bombs.

One question couldn't be answered: Did they intend to die in the fireball certain to result from the detonation of the bombs?

But the discovery of the cafeteria bombs, along with explosives found in the cars Harris and Klebold drove to Columbine, gave investigators fresh insight into the havoc the two teen-agers hoped to rain on their school.

Each of their cars, investigators found, was rigged with explosives timed to blow as police officers, firefighters and

paramedics arrived on the scene.

Harris left his car in a space along the access driveway into the school from Pierce Street. Klebold's vintage BMW was parked not far from the cafeteria, seven spaces from the end of a row of cars teeming with officers after the first call for help went out.

The 'war room'

Monday morning, six days after the tragedy, the task force moved from Columbine to its new home at the Taj Mahal, the nickname for the Jefferson County government building in Golden. County commissioners cleared out west-wing offices to make room.

The area would be collectively known as the "war room," but it was actually several rooms. One, about 20 feet by 20 feet, held only computers — Rapid Start, word processors and machines that let investigators access the Internet and the Colorado and national crime databases. Another was divided — part work space, part telephones. Three other rooms housed investigators.

The CBI, which handles most lab work for police and sheriff's departments across the state, took on the ballistics testing. It was a big job — evidence recovered at the school showed that Harris and Klebold fired nearly 200 rounds.

More than 100 rounds had been fired by law officers — both those who briefly engaged in gunfire with the killers and the SWAT teams that laid down cover fire and, in some cases, blew open doors as they searched the school.

Technicians test-fired every weapon used at Columbine, then compared every bullet, fragment and shell casing. The work tied each round to the weapon that fired it.

The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, which traces 200,000 guns a year, tracked the histories of the four weapons Harris and Klebold had used. In addition, the ATF back-



Dennis Schroeder/News Staff Photographer

Investigators found booby traps in Dylan Klebold's BMW, above, in the high school parking lot. Similar explosive devices also were found in Eric Harris' car nearby.

led lab work on all explosives recovered from the school and the cars and homes of Harris and Klebold.

Investigators found more than 80 bombs.

Some were pipe bombs. Others were fashioned out of propane canisters and CO2 (carbon dioxide) cartridges. Investigators even found some explosives containing homemade napalm, a jellied form of gasoline.

The huge number of bombs led some — including Sheriff John Stone — to believe that Harris and Klebold must have had help.

But because many of the devices were so small, investigators eventually concluded that they could have easily been carried into the school in duffel bags.

Team by team

A vital step for task force leaders was to assign investigators from 12 local and federal agencies to six teams examining specific aspects of the crime.

Arvada police detective Russ Boatright was picked to lead the Library Team, responsible for unraveling the mysteries in the room where Harris and Klebold did most of their killing.

Boatright, 40, was no stranger to kids and guns. In 1991, a 14-year-old pulled a pistol on him in a junior high school in Arvada. Boatright subdued him and took the weapon away.

FBI Agent Rich Price, 38, would run the Cafeteria Team. It would interview nearly 700 kids who had been in the lunchroom that morning.

Price, an ex-Marine, helped investigate the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Estep, 49, would lead the Friends and Associates Team.

An undercover cop who specialized in examining radical organizations, Estep favored jeans and work shirts over the suits and ties of his FBI colleagues. With a full beard and a shock of dark unkempt hair, Estep looked as if he could walk into any biker bar and never draw a suspicious glance.

But his appearance belied a hard-headed attitude toward crime that had earned the respect of officers across the metro area during his 27-year career.

Estep's team would look at every friendship of Harris and Klebold, every co-worker, anyone who had regular contact with them or knowledge of their activities.

FBI agent Mike Barnett was handed the Outside Team.

The 30-something Barnett was the youngest team leader. But he already was a veteran of Fuselier's domestic terrorism squad and known for thoroughness.

His team would retrace the movements of Harris and Klebold the day of the shootings, from the time they got up to their arrival at the school and their first bursts of gunfire on the hill outside the cafeteria, where they

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shot 10 victims. The team's work would stop at the point the killers entered the school behind a hail of bullets.

CBI agent Chuck Davis, 35, would lead the Computer Team. He had joined CBI in February 1995 after three years with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, where he handled counter-espionage and child-pornography investigations.

From the time he built a computer from a kit in high school, Davis had had a passion for these magical machines. But he also carried a gun, served search warrants, kicked in doors and made arrests.

After a personnel shuffle, leadership of the Threats Team would fall to sheriff's Sgt. Rich Webb, 49. His job was to assess threats of school violence made after the Columbine tragedy, a task that eventually involved FBI agents across the country.

With teams in place, computer programs organizing vast amounts of data and evidence collection well under way, the investigation leaped forward.

FBI/DOJ

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

A media horde

As investigators moved through southern Jefferson County to interview witnesses and victims, they had company.

A crush of local, national and international media — television, radio, newspaper, magazine and free-lance reporters, producers and camera crews — dogged their tracks.

Investigators often saw reporters leaving the homes of witnesses as they arrived or arriving as they left.

Steve Davis, the sheriff's spokesman who became the official face of the investigation around the world, couldn't keep up with the demand for interviews.

In the first 30 days, his pager beeped 1,300 times.

Dozens of times, detectives had to conduct follow-up interviews with students after the kids told reporters something different than they'd told investigators.

Controversy even erupted inside the investigation.

Less than three weeks after the shootings, as the media jockeyed for new leads, *Inside Edition*, a national TV news entertainment show, aired a two-year-old videotape made for a class by four Columbine students.

It was a spoof, depicting a secret agent battling a mad scientist trying to blow up the school. But scenes of explosions at Columbine and a gun-toting student in a raincoat took on a sinister, almost prescient, tone in the wake of the killings.

Reporters then discovered that FBI agent Dwayne Fuselier's oldest son, Scott, by then a university student studying filmmaking in California, had created the video in a class editing project.

Fuselier told Kiebusch and Sheriff's Capt. Dan Harris,



that would have tied Fuselier's son to the killers never existed.

"There was absolutely nothing whatsoever to connect Dwayne's son to Harris and Klebold or to the event itself," Kiebusch says.

Nevertheless, the saturation coverage of Columbine continued.

Weeks into the investigation, when Kiebusch was finally getting five hours of sleep a night, he left his house early one morn-

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Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone answers questions about the tragedy hours after the gunfire ended. Stone made himself accessible to the media early in the investigation but took a lower profile after doubts arose about some of his conclusions.

Dennis Schroeder/News Staff Photographer

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

ing. A man rushed up to him in his driveway.

"He introduced himself as Mr. Ono," Kiebusch recalls, "a reporter for Japanese television. He insisted I tell him ... (about) the case."

Kiebusch was already weary of daily calls from reporters, answering the same questions, over and over.

"Oh, no," he thought. "Now they're going to be waiting outside my house."

Kiebusch's boss, Sheriff Stone, was having his own problems with the press.

In the first weeks, he was accessible, sometimes even eager to speak with reporters. He was usually frank, laying out his belief that investigators would find that Harris and Klebold had accomplices. It led to an uncomfortable scene one night after Stone granted an interview to a wire service reporter.

The story left the impression that arrests were imminent. Faced with questions from scores of other reporters, a sheriff's deputy drove to Stone's house, got him out of bed and drove him back to Columbine to backpedal for the press.

Stone, 50, is an unusual breed — part cop, part politician.

A former Lakewood police officer, Stone won a seat in 1986 on the Jefferson County Commission. He won two more four-year terms.

Then, in 1998, he ran for sheriff — without the endorsement of the Fraternal Order of Police — and won. He took office in January.

As a county commissioner, he'd grown comfortable speaking in public and granting interviews. But after his officers were asked, more than once, to respond to statements he'd made early in the Columbine investigation, his top aides privately urged him to say less.

Cops, by nature, are secretive. In the biggest criminal case in state history, some didn't want to divulge anything publicly. Others felt compelled to offer details to a stunned nation.

Stone also faced public criticism for some of his statements, including his speculation the first afternoon that the death toll could reach 25 and that Harris and Klebold probably had accomplices.

Today, Stone defends himself, saying he was merely giving out the best information available at the time.

That first afternoon, he notes, a teacher told investigators there was a "whole bunch" of kids shooting up the school.

It angers him that he was criticized by the same people who clamored for information — reporters.

Months later, after assuming a lower profile, Stone said he didn't regret his blunt comments early on.

"I think the public's got a right to know," he says.

Tomorrow:

The biggest question of all

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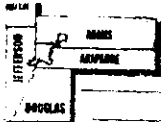
Joe Mahoney/News Staff Photographer

Three days after the tragedy, sheriff's spokesman Steve Davis plays a tape of a 911 call made from inside the school during the shootings. Saturation media coverage made Davis a worldwide symbol of the law enforcement response to Columbine.

FBI/DOJ

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



Sheriff says writer broke agreement

'Not true,' Time says of Jeffco accusations

By Kevin Vaughan and Dan Luzadder
News Staff Writers

Jefferson County sheriff's officials accused a *Time* magazine correspondent Sunday of violating a confidentiality agreement by publishing excerpts from the suicide tapes of Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold.

Late Sunday, a spokeswoman for the magazine disputed the characterization by Undersheriff John Dunaway.

"That's not true," *Time*'s Diana Pearson said. "We won't get into any discussions about who our sources were."

But Dunaway said Sunday that he and Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone agreed to let *Time* correspondent Tim Roche view "brief portions" of the tapes to give him a better understanding of the true motives of Harris and Klebold.

Roche was traveling Sunday and unavailable to comment on the controversy, Pearson said.

Dunaway said he was involved in meetings with Stone and Roche, during which ground rules were discussed for allowing the reporter to see the tapes.

"Stone specifically said there is to be no reference to the tapes or what is in them in the story," Dunaway said Sunday. He said Stone "was repeatedly assured by the *Time* reporter that they would not make reference to the tapes."

Pearson disputed that account.

"Our reporter was allowed to watch the tapes and take down notes," she said. "Lots of people knew *Time* was reporting a story."

"No one ever asked us not to report on the contents of the tapes. ... We can assure you we had explicit discussions about how these tapes would be used and that what we saw would be on the record."

Not true, Dunaway said.

Roche, Dunaway said, indicated that *Time* was not interested in a story on Harris and Klebold but rather a piece on the investigation and the response of SWAT teams.

Consequently, Dunaway said, he and Stone believed showing portions of the tapes to Roche would help him develop background for the story.

"On that basis, we allowed them to see these segments of the tapes," Dunaway said.

Kate Hattan, the lead investigator in the case, selected segments of the tapes that she felt would give Roche an understanding of Harris and Klebold and their murderous plans for Columbine High School.

Roche never would have been allowed to see the tapes if officials knew he was going to make reference to them in his story, Dunaway said.

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Monday, December 13, 1999

'This is just one more lie'

Columbine victim's dad irate videotapes released

By Jeff Kass
News Staff Writer

Brian Rohrbough said he has been asking for months to see the videotapes made by the Columbine High School shooters who killed his son.

Sunday, he learned about the content of the tapes through the media.

"We were absolutely promised by the Jefferson County district attorney's office these would not be released," said Rohrbough, whose son Daniel was among those who died at Columbine. "This is just one more lie in a long string of lies."

Time magazine announced Sunday it was running a story with excerpts of the videotapes made by shooters Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold in the days before their April 20 massacre.

The tapes have been closely guarded. The Sheriff's Department said Sunday *Time* was told that viewing the tapes was for background information only, and they were not to be excerpted.

Rohrbough said that today he would demand to see the tapes.

Authorities also allowed the *Denver Rocky Mountain News* to view the tapes after *Time* released its forthcoming article.

Rohrbough said his ex-wife, Sue Petrone, was equally enraged over the release of the information.

"They're fit to be tied," he said of Petrone and her husband.

Rohrbough said the information on the tapes being reported in the media is helping him understand the shooting a bit more. He said he has learned of signs the parents of the shooters might have caught.

"Clearly, they tell a tale of parents who, if they didn't know, everyone wants to know how they didn't know," he said.

Rohrbough said the release of the tapes in the media comes at a particularly difficult time — the first Christmas after Columbine and one of the toughest holidays that victims' families may face.

"Anyone with the slightest level of decency would have let the families who requested to see these tapes see them," he said.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Rohrbough was particularly irked by a comment made by lead investigator Kate Battan in *Time* saying she works for the victims. If that was the case, he said, families would have seen the videos first.

Rohrbough does not blame the media for pursuing the tapes but blames the authorities for releasing them.

"Apparently, Jefferson County feels *Time* magazine has more of a right to know than the victims' families," Rohrbough said.

Rohrbough said he was actually interviewed by *Time* for the article but was surprised by the contents. He said he had mentioned wanting to see the tapes.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Rocky Mountain News
Denver, CO

Date: December 13, 1999
Edition:

Sunrise

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626

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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Page 1 of 1
Rocky Mountain News
Denver, CODate: December 13, 1999
Edition:

Sunrise

Title: Harris, Klebold videos
Shock investigators

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174A-DN-57419

p 28A

Harris, Klebold videos shock investigators

But tapes by gunmen
don't explain motives

By Dan Luzadder

News Staff Writer

The rambling home videos made by Columbine High School killers Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold shocked investigators but did little to explain the pair's

GARY MASSARO

Columbian Gary Massaro is on vacation.

motives.

"This doesn't solve anything for us," said Jefferson County sheriff's Sgt. Randy West, second in command of the Columbine investigation. "It just hurts some people who were probably not aware of some of these things."

Detectives in the biggest criminal case in Colorado history said Sunday that they found the tapes disturbing. They have viewed them more than a dozen times, looking for insights into the attack.

John Kiebusch, head of the Columbine investigation, said Sunday that he had never seen

anything like the tapes — made before a crime was committed.

"It's a fairly unique thing," he said. "They way the two of them interact is disconcerting to watch."

He said investigators are disappointed that the contents of the videos became public Sunday because the details help the two killers fulfill their ultimate goal: notoriety.

"This was their legacy," said Kiebusch, law enforcement chief for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. "This is exactly what they wanted."

He said he fears the details will

hurt a community already battered by the Columbine tragedy. But he said once *Time* magazine revealed details of the tapes Sunday, officials could not legally deny access to other media.

Kiebusch said the tapes made it "abundantly clear that no one else was involved in the attack on Columbine."

"The pride they took in being able to conceal what they were doing is obvious," Kiebusch said of Harris and Klebold.

West said some of the tapes, viewed by detectives after the killings, left some investigators in tears.

GLD/KKm

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Rocky Mountain News
Denver, CO

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goodbye

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Denver Rocky Mountain News

Monday, December 13, 1999

Greater Denver

Steve Myers, City Editor — (303) 892-5381 • e-mail — metro@denver-rmn.com

Killers taped chilling goodbye

Harris, Klebold apologize, brag in videos made days, minutes before attack on Columbine

By Dan Luzzader, Kevin Vaughan
and Karen Abbott

News Staff Writers

A half-hour before they launched the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold took a couple of minutes to say goodbye.

It was just before 11 a.m. on April 20. They clicked on the video camera one last time in Harris' suburban home.

"I just wanted to apologize to you guys for any crap," the 18-year-old Harris says. "To everyone I love, I'm really sorry about all this."

"I know my mom and dad will be just [shocked] beyond belief."

Klebold, 17, takes a moment to record a message to his mom and dad.

"Just know I'm going to a better place," he says. "I

didn't like life too much, and I know I'll be happy wherever the f--- I go."

While the teen-agers express remorse in some tapes, they spew plans for mass murder in others.

"The most deaths in U.S. history," Klebold says.



"I didn't like life too much. ... I'm going to kill you all."

— Dylan Klebold

As Klebold says this, Harris kisses the gun he's cradling in his arms. He has nicknamed it "Arlene" after a character in the *Doom* video game.

"Hopefully," Harris adds.

"We're hoping," Klebold says. "We're hoping."



"If you're going to go psycho and kill a bunch of people, do it right."

— Eric Harris

"I hope we kill 250 of you."

The chilling messages were in a series of videotapes that Jefferson County sheriff's investigators found in Harris' home the day of the shootings at Columbine High School that killed 12 students and one teacher. Harris and Klebold then took their own lives.

The tapes, made in Harris' home in the weeks before the attack on the school, were reviewed Sunday by the *Denver Rocky Mountain News*.

Undersheriff John Dunaway allowed the *News* to watch the tapes after *Time* magazine released a story Sunday containing excerpts from the films.

The existence of the tapes had come to light Nov. 12, when sheriff's Detective Kate Battan, the lead investigator, read excerpts during the sentencing of Mark Manes, 22, who sold the killers one of their guns.

Harris and Klebold made the home videos on several occasions — the first slightly more than a month before they carried out their attack.

The tapes contain profane language and racial slurs.

In one segment, Harris and Klebold spend more than an hour discussing their hatred for humanity and their fellow students, whom they vowed to kill. They name some of the classmates they hope to murder, although it isn't clear whether any of those students were killed or wounded.

The March 15 tape, filmed in the basement of Harris' home using a stationary camera, captures images of the two boys lounging in recliners.

It was after 1 a.m. They sip Jack Daniel's from a quart bottle as they talk.

"I'm going to kill you all," Klebold says.

A moment later, Harris raises his sawed-off pump shotgun and points it at the camera.

As the tape rolls, Harris' parents, Wayne and Kathy Harris, sleep upstairs.

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174A-DN-57419-497

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Page 27
Rocky Mountain News
Denver, CODate December 13 1999
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Sunrise

Title Killers taped
Chilling episode

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

39A

Denver Rocky Mountain News

Mile High Suburbs

Lake Clarke, Suburban Editor (303) 892-2381 • e-mail — suburban@RockyMountainNews.co

9-11-57419

Killers showed arsenal on video

TAPES from 4A

A couple of times, Klebold warns his friend to talk more softly.

"You guys will all die, and it will be f— soon," Harris says. "I hope you get an idea of what we're implying here. You all need to die. We need to die, too."

"We need to f— kick-start the revolution here."

The disturbing images shocked investigators.

"You look at it, and it's like the kids playing army," said Sheriff's Division Chief John Kiehlbusch, who headed the investigation. "But then you think of the terror that went with it, and it's sickening."

At one point in their March 15 tape, the teenage killers end their conversation to take a video tour of Harris' room, where their arsenal was stored.

Klebold carries the camera as Harris shows off pipe bombs, guns and ammunition.

Sitting on the floor beneath some magazines is a white plastic box filled with pipe bombs and ammunition — shotgun shells and two boxes of 9 mm bullets. The boys talk about a coffee can full of gunpowder.

Harris opens a drawer on his desk and pulls out a black, two-bell alarm clock and talks about using it to construct a bomb. He opens a black plastic box full of carbon dioxide cartridges wrapped with duct tape, fuses protruding from the end of each. The tape holds buckshot against the homemade grenades.

Harris opens another desk drawer, revealing a piece of the handle of one of their sawed-off shotguns.

Then he pulls out a black handled combat knife in a sheath, a swastika scratched



Dennis DeBevoise/News Staff Photography

Investigators document and mark evidence at the crime scene outside Columbine High School on April 21, the day after Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold killed 13 people before killing themselves.

into the surface. Hanging on a wall is a 50-foot coil of green fuse.

Harris opens a CD box, showing off a receipt from Green Mountain Guns for 22 10-round clips for a 9 mm carbine rifle the two later carried into Columbine.

Then he pulls a CD case from a bookshelf. Behind it is hidden several large pipe bombs.

The two brag about hiding their tools of death — and about the close calls along the way.

Harris shows off a black tackle

box with his bomb making equipment inside.

The boys talk openly about concocting their plan under the noses of unsuspecting parents and friends. They talk about the day Harris' parents found the tackle box — and took only the pipebombs out of it.

They mention the time a clerk from Green Mountain Guns called his home. Wayne Harris answered the phone.

The clips ate in, the clerk said.

Wayne Harris told the clerk

he hadn't ordered any clips for a gun. But Harris said his father never asked whether the caller had the right phone number.

Had someone asked questions, April 20 might have been just another day, the boys say.

"We wouldn't be able to do what we're going to do," Klebold says.

Klebold recalls the time his parents walked into his bedroom while he was trying on his trench coat to see whether it

See TAPES on 30A

FBI/DOJ

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Denver, CODate December 13, 1999
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Goodbye

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Denver Rocky Mountain News



Photos by Hal Stooler, Steve Green/News Staff Photographers

Investigators looked for bomb-making materials in the home of Dylan Klebold, left. Klebold and Eric Harris made their videotapes at Harris' home, right.

Gunmen hoped survivors have flashbacks

APES from 2BA

could conceal the shotgun underneath it.

"They didn't even know it was there," Klebold says.

Harris recounts the day he was wearing a gym bag he called his "terrorist bag" through his use. His mother saw the butt of a gun sticking out of the zipper, but she assumed it was nothing more sinister than his BB gun.

At one point, Klebold backs out the room and pretends to be Harris' mother.

Harris waves at the camera.

"Hi, mom," he says.

The killers' parents were frequent topics of some sections of the tapes.

"My parents are the best I've ever known,"

Harris says. "My dad is great. I wish I was a sociopath so I didn't have any remorse, but I do."

"This is going to tear them apart," he says. "They will never forget it."

Then, addressing his parents directly, Harris adds:

"There is nothing you guys could have done to prevent any of this."

Klebold says he could imagine his parents' guilt: "If only we could have reached them sooner, or found this tape."

Harris adds: "If only we would have searched their room. If only we would have asked the right questions."

Harris talks about his mother being thoughtful, bringing him candy and Slim Jims.

"I really am sorry about all

this," he says.

Then Klebold speaks.

"They gave me my life," Klebold says of his parents. "It's up to me what I do with it."

Harris shrugs.

"My parents might have made some mistakes that they weren't really aware of."

Klebold talks about his parents and how they taught him self-reliance.

"I appreciate that," he says.

But just as they worry about the toll their rampage will take on their parents, they say they hope any survivors will go insane.

"I hope people have flashbacks," Harris says.

They speak at length about all the people who had wronged them.

"You've given us s--- for years," Klebold says. "You're f

--- going to pay for all this s---

"We don't give a s--- because we're going to die doing it."

They dream of the large bombs that they plan to detonate against unsuspecting students in the school cafeteria.

And they hoped that one day Hollywood directors would fight for the right to tell their story.

But they say they can't decide whether Steven Spielberg or Quentin Tarantino should direct the film, according to an excerpt cited by Time.

The tapes previously had been a closely held secret part of the sheriff's investigation.

The final report of the eight-month probe is expected to be released next month.

But even then, sheriff's officials have said they expected to withhold the tapes and other key

evidence from public view, citing the ongoing investigation and fears that they would hurt the families of those killed and wounded at Columbine.

The last tape, made a short time before Harris and Klebold headed to Columbine, begins with Harris speaking, saying goodbye to his parents.

"It's what we had to do," Klebold cuts in.

The killers then offer the contents of their rooms to two of their friends.

"That's it," Harris finally says. "Sorry. Goodbye."

Then Klebold sticks his face into the frame.

"Goodbye."

Additional reporting by staff writer Lynn Bartels

630

Denver Rocky Mountain News

Denver and Colorado's largest and best daily newspaper

December 14, 1999 • RockyMountainNews.com

TUESDAY

25¢ (May vary outside metro Denver)

Families view tapes

Parents rip cops for giving media first look at Harris-Klebold videos. 5A

Tuesday, December 14, 1999

Denver Rocky Mountain News

★ 15A

FAMILIES VIEW TAPES

'It's the end of innocence, isn't it?'

Page 1 of 4
Sale page, name of paper, city and state, over Rocky Mountain News, Denver, CO

December 14, 1999 Tuesday
on Metro Denver

Families view tapes
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631

Page 2 of 4
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 Denver, CO

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Columbine families view killers' tapes, express outrage at media release

By Holly Kurtz and Lynn Bartels

News Staff Writers

Families of the Columbine High victims for the first time Monday watched the painful videotapes of Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris plotting to kill their loved ones.

"It was all very bad," said Brad Bernall, whose daughter Cassie died in the massacre.

The viewing came just hours after the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department apologized for showing the tapes to *Time* magazine before the families.

Outraged parents criticized Sheriff John Stone, saying their requests to see the tapes had been repeatedly refused.

"I don't know who to be more upset with, *Time* magazine or the Sheriff's Department," said Connie Michalik, mother of wounded Columbine student Richard Castaldo.

Investigators seized three homemade videotapes from Harris' home in the days after the April 20 shooting that left 13 dead and about two dozen wounded.

The tapes show the cold-blooded killers painstakingly planning the attack they hoped would produce a high body count, a cultlike fan club and famous film directors vying to tell their story.

They named who they planned to

INSIDE

■ Tapes horrible and heart-breaking/6A

■ Inside the Columbine investigation
 LAST OF 3 PARTS/ 7A

■ Shoels family to leave Colorado/33A

■ Jeffco sheriff faces another storm/34A

■ Dusty Saunders: TV cautious/34A

■ Owens: Gun laws didn't work/37A

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 killers' tapes, express outrage
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See TAPES on 38A

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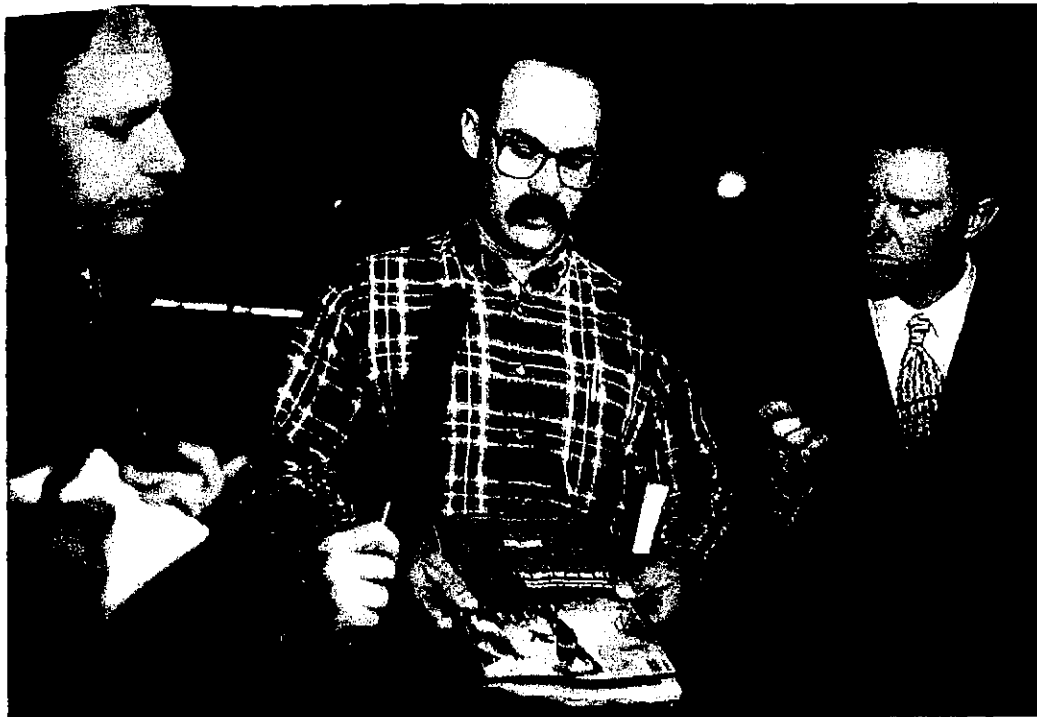
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 Denver Rocky Mountain News
 Denver, CO

Date: December 14, 1999 Tuesday
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 killers' tapes, express outrage
 Character: at media release

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Linda McConnell/News Staff Photographer

Brad Bernall, above, father of shooting victim Cassie Bernall, talks with reporters outside of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department on Monday.

At right, Angela Sanders, daughter of teacher and shooting victim Dave Sanders, at her Aurora home.



Hai Stoezel/News Staff Photographer

FBI/DOJ

633

3841 *

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Page 4 of 4
(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
Denver Rocky Mountain News
Denver, CO

Date: December 14, 1999 Tuesday
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Sheriff's office says Time lied about use of tapes

TAPES from 5A

kill — although investigators say all of their victims were random — and showed off the arsenal of rifles and homemade bombs they had hidden in Harris' bedroom.

The seniors ranted and rambled about minorities, "white trash" and classmates who had picked on them since elementary school — in short, everyone.

"I've narrowed it down," Klebold said on one tape. "It's humans I hate."

"God doesn't exist."

Said Harris: "We're going to die killing you."

Columbine parent Dale Todd, whose son Evan was injured in the library, said he doesn't blame the boys' parents because the teens had hidden what they were up to.

"They were the kids next door," he said. "They could be anybody's kid."

Time created a frenzy when it announced Sunday that it had seen the tapes and had made them their cover story. Because the magazine had seen the tapes, the sheriff's office agreed to the *Denver Rocky Mountain News*' request Sunday to also view the tapes.

All of the media were shown the tapes at noon Monday under the condition no audio or videotapes be made. Viewing for the families was later that afternoon.

Sheriff's officials apologized for causing the families pain. But they defended their actions by saying the *Time* reporter agreed to use the tapes as background, not as information in an article.

"The only thing we did wrong was trust *Time*," Deputy Wayne Holverson said.

Time denies having any such arrangement.

Brig Rohnbrough, whose son was killed April 20, heaped blame on the sheriff's office.

"Jefferson County is lying

through their teeth now," he said.

But Larry Nimmo, whose step-daughter Rachel Scott was the first one killed, said he believes the *Time* reporter "snookered" the sheriff.

"There's no reason to believe they didn't lie," he said of *Time*.

Tom Mauser, whose son Daniel died in the attack, said he couldn't believe the tapes were released during the holiday season, and he called the sheriff's office.

He said Undersheriff John Dunaway called him back and apologized.

The Sheriff's Department administration approved showing the tapes to *Time*, Holverson said.

District Attorney Dave Thomas and Jefferson County Schools Superintendent Jane Hammond also said they had been caught off guard and that the families should have seen the tapes first.

Angela Sanders, whose father died while trying to save his students, was upset.

"We're the victims' families, and the first place we hear anything is in the paper. And it's been that way all along, and it's really frustrating," said Sanders, daughter of teacher Dave Sanders.

As the press showing was getting under way, Columbine parents Randy and Judy Brown showed up and demanded to be admitted.

A sheriff's official tried to keep them out.

"Are you going to arrest me if I go in that room?" Randy Brown angrily asked before storming into the showing.

Officers didn't stop him.

"Rather than have a knockdown drag out with them, we allowed them in," said Holverson.

"They wanted to watch the tapes, and we figured this was as good a time as any."

What the Browns saw on the tapes turned their stomachs.

"It's the end of innocence, isn't

it?" Randy Brown said.

They had long held out hope that Klebold, the boy they had known since second grade, was somehow dragged into the shooting plot by Harris.

A year before the shootings, the Browns had warned the sheriff that Harris was extremely violent, but detectives did not follow up.

Judy Brown sat on the floor, watching the hateful, expletive-laced ramblings. At times, she covered her mouth in horror, especially when Klebold criticized his family.

The gunmen only filmed one video at Klebold's home, a dress rehearsal on April 17 for what they planned to wear during the attack four days later.

In a stunning image of evil vs. innocence, Klebold's tuxedo for the prom the next day hung on his closet door as he donned black pants, a skinning knife, two weapons, ammunition and a black trench coat.

They laughed about the poetry they had written in class that day, about stopping violence and hate.

In their one-minute, 20-second goodbye tape made the morning of the shootings, Harris mentioned two friends, Nate Dykeman and Chris Morris. He told them if they survived the attack, they could have his belongings.

"It's amazing, the anger they had. It's unbelievable," said Mark Taylor, who was severely injured in the attack. "It helps me understand why they did it."

On the tape, Klebold had said, "Everyone has to go through hell. Everyone has to suffer."

And everyone associated with Columbine has.

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Additional reporting by Tillie Fong, Kevin Vaughan, Gary Massaro, Ann Carnahan and Bill Scanlon.

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 Denver Rocky Mountain News
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Denver Rocky Mountain News

Mile High Suburbs

Luke Clarke, Suburban Editor — (303) 892-2381 • e-mail — suburban@denver-rmn.com

Sheriff gets flak for decision to show Columbine videotapes

By Kevin Vaughan
 News Staff Writer

Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone found himself and his department snagged by another public-relations disaster Monday.

The latest controversy centers on Stone's decision to allow a national magazine reporter and then the *Denver Rocky Mountain News* to view videotapes made by Columbine High killers Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, infuriating the families of some of those killed and wounded April 20.

Earlier this year, Stone found himself under fire for his speculation and accusations about the involvement of others in the Columbine killing plot.

"How do you go about impeaching a sheriff," asked Columbine parent Randy Brown, whose son has been a target of some of Stone's accusations.

"It's not the press' fault — the sheriff should be ashamed of himself, again."

On Monday, Stone was nowhere to be found. He did not show up at a news conference, and he could not be reached at home.

Instead, Deputy Wayne Holverson had the task of facing reporters and answering the criticism.

Holverson said Stone, along with Undersheriff John Dunaway, was helping make arrangements with families to view the videotapes.

"They're the ones that we care the most about," Holverson said.

On Sunday, Dunaway told the *Denver Rocky Mountain News* that he and Stone allowed the *Time* reporter to see the tapes with the agreement that the information on them was not to be the subject of a story.

Instead, Dunaway said, he and

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Judy and
Randy
Brown,
friends of
the Klebold
family, leave
the Dakota
Building in
Golden on
Monday
after viewing
videotapes
of the
Columbine
High School
shootings
involving
Dylan
Klebold.Cyrus McCrimmon
News Staff
Photographer

Stone hoped to give the reporter insight into the actions of Harris and Klebold.

"The viewing was allowed with the clear understanding that it was for background purposes only and not to be referenced in the *Time* article in any manner," the sheriff's office said in a statement.

On Monday, *Time* Managing Editor Walter Isaacson denied violating any agreement.

As part of the magazine cover-

age, Stone and Dunaway posed for a photo with three of the four guns used by the killers.

Stone's earlier problems began on the day of the shooting, when he wrongly announced the death toll could climb as high as 25.

Later, he found himself contradicting department spokesmen on several occasions when he announced that he suspected others were involved and insinuated that the department was moving close

to arrests.

Monday, other Jefferson County authorities declined to discuss the decision by Stone and Dunaway to allow media access to the tapes.

"I'm not in a position to adequately comment on what the sheriff did or did not do," said District Attorney Dave Thomas.

Additional reporting by Staff Writer Lynn Bartels.

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Harris referred to notebook as 'Book of God'

By Kevin Vaughan
News Staff Writer

Eric Harris called the blue spiral notebook the "Book of God." On its pages are his thoughts about life and an inventory of the tools of death he and Dylan Klebold were amassing to rain murder on Columbine High School.

On April 12, eight days before the two carried out the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history, Harris turned on his video camera as he lay in bed at home and talked about his life and impending death. He flipped, page by page, through the spiral notebook, a journal confiscated by investigators in the hours after the April 20 assault on Columbine.

"The apocalypse is coming, and it's starting in eight days," Harris says on the April 12 tape, one of

three played for reporters Monday by Jefferson County sheriff's officials.

Time magazine and the *Denver Rocky Mountain News* released portions of the Harris-Klebold tapes Sunday and Monday. Later Monday, authorities played the tapes as well as film from a surveillance camera in the school cafeteria for other reporters.

The soundless black-and-white surveillance tape shows students cowering under tables after they were warned to take cover by Dave Sanders, the teacher who later died. Later images show kids fleeing and the arrival — on two occasions — of Harris and Klebold.

The tapes show the gunmen firing at the two large propane-tank bombs they had jugged into the room, trying to detonate them.

They toss a pipe bomb at the tanks, sparking a large fireball. Nobody was wounded or killed in the school cafeteria.

The hate- and expletive-filled tapes shown Monday include frequent references to the two nicknames used by the killers — Harris was "Reb," Klebold "VoDKa." The three videotapes were made in nine sessions in the five weeks preceding April 20. They contain three hours, one minute and 55 seconds of footage.

The 17-minute section in which Harris talks about his diary is the only portion of tape on which Klebold does not appear.

The section begins with a distorted camera view of Harris as he reclines against the headboard of his bed. He is holding the camera, zoomed in tight on his face, which is cut off below his upper lip.

"This is for Mom and Dad and for the cops or the people who somehow want to have them pay for what I did," he says, unblinking, in a monotone.

His parents, Wayne and Kathy Harris, were the best, he says.

"There was nothing anyone could have done to prevent this," Harris says. "And there is no one to blame except me and VoDKa."

At times, he grows reflective. "This is my last week here on Earth," he says.

In recent weeks, he says, his parents have hounded him about things he has neglected — his application to the U.S. Marines, his car insurance, his checking account.

But they don't know that none of that matters to him, he says.

See JOURNAL on 38A

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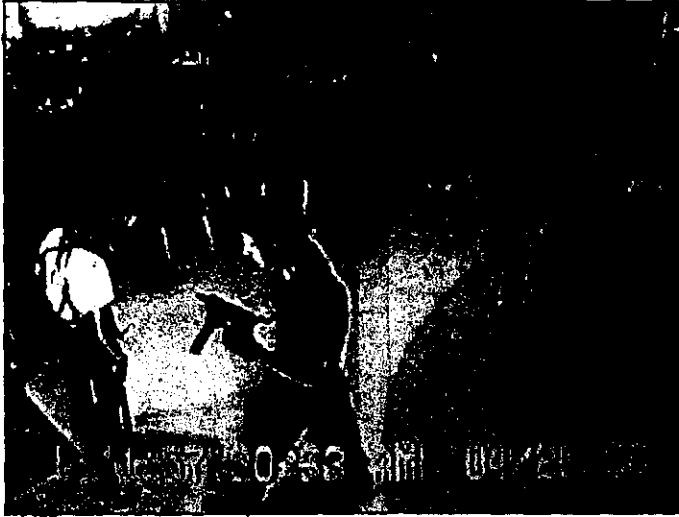
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Columbine High School videotape

Eric Harris, left, and Dylan Klebold appear on a surveillance tape in Columbine High School cafeteria during attack on April 20.

Killer says his parents were not to blame for Columbine killings

JOURNAL from 5A

"War is war and this is war," Harris says. "I've declared war on the human race."

At one point, Harris notes, he has only "seven and one-third" days left until "it's over."

He takes time to scold a half-dozen girls who apparently wouldn't date him. He then seems to grow contemplative.

"Oh, God," he says, "this came up so quickly. It's pretty weird knowing that you're going to die."

He talks about the work he still has to do in his and Klebold's "two-man war against everyone else."

Then he turns his attention to his journal.

One of the first pages lists perhaps a dozen Columbine students from the class of 1998 that Harris says he would have liked to kill.

On another page, Harris lists some kids who apparently were intended victims — "Scoop," "Pretty Boy," and "The Man in the Yellow Hat."

"You're lucky you got out when you did," he says.

He describes the single-spaced,

handwritten pages as "the thought process, the evolution I've gone through for the past year."

On the bottom of one page, Harris draws a swastika and an "SS," a possible reference to Hitler's secret police.

The last entry was made on April 3.

Then the journal tediously lists details about the weapons and bombs amassed by Harris and Klebold — the number of bullets, the weight of explosives. One section describes six batches of pipe bombs that Harris calls by the military nicknames "Alpha," "Beta," "Charlie," "Delta," "Echo" and "Foxtrot."

He details their tests on home-made napalm, a jellied form of gasoline, and plans for rocket launchers.

Harris includes several drawings from *Doom*, his favorite video game, and diagrams for the way he and Klebold planned to carry their gear.

Contact Kevin Vaughan at
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FBI/DOJ

638

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Tuesday, December 14, 1999**Owens: Laws didn't prevent Columbine****Governor criticizes tapes' exclusive release, timing****By John Sanko***News Capitol Bureau*

The videotapes made by Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold show tougher gun control laws wouldn't have stopped the Columbine killers, Gov. Bill Owens said Monday.

"I think the facts show that Mr. Harris and Mr. Klebold broke 17 or 18 or 19 separate laws to do what they did. There wouldn't have been any hesitation breaking several more," Owens said.

Although Owens said he will push for mandatory background checks on all weapons sold at gun shows and raising the age from 18 to 21 for handgun purchases, he added, "do you think these killers would have stopped had they had to go and get a background check at a gun show?"

The guns used at Columbine were purchased at a gun show in Adams County by friends of the two killers, officials said.

The timing of the release of the tape, two weeks before Christmas, and their initial showing to a *Time* magazine reporter surprised Owens, who said the victims' families should have been forewarned.

"First of all, I probably wouldn't have myself given it as an exclusive to a national news magazine," said Owens, who hadn't viewed the tapes. "This is a Colorado issue. If I had had those tapes, I would have -- when the time was appropriate -- shared them equally with all news outlets rather than giving a national exclusive. ...

"Secondly, I would have to have a conversation with the sheriff's department in terms of the timing. Two weeks before Christmas? Is this really the time to re-open Columbine? It's a tough time to be reliving Columbine right now."

Twelve students and a teacher died April 20 before Harris and Klebold turned the weapons on themselves.

Owens predicted that "a significant portion" of the gun-control measures he wants will be approved during the upcoming legislative session.

He also wants tougher laws for people who buy guns for criminals or children, a safe storage law for guns in homes where children have access to them, and the inclusion of juvenile records in background checks.

Owens said he doesn't expect a bill setting rules for Coloradans to get permits for concealed guns will reach his desk next year. A bill died in the legislature this year after the Columbine shootings.

"We're not dealing with gun issues in a vacuum, and Columbine did change the dynamics of what we can do in Colorado in terms of guns," Owens said.

Contact John Sanko at (303) 892-5404 or sankoj@rockymountain-news.com.

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Denver, CO

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Page 1 of 1
 (Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) Pg 5A/11A
 Denver Rocky Mountain News
 Denver, CO

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Killers had unrealistic^{5A} view of death

By Ann Imse

News Staff Writer

Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris didn't really understand the concept of death, a psychologist said Monday.

In the tapes Klebold and Harris made before they died, Klebold says to his parents, "Just know I'm going to a better place. I didn't like life too much, and I know I'll be happy wherever the f---I go."

The teens also speak of hoping the afterlife will be a dreamlike state.

"Hopefully," Harris says at one point, "death is like you're in a dream state for all of eternity."

They both also imagine it might be like a level of *Doom* — the violent video game the youths played for hours.

"Klebold is clear about going to another place," said John Dicke, who has a doctorate in psychology and is a lawyer. "There's a magical quality. It's not a hell. They'll walk through a door and come out on the other side."

Dicke said such views are "typical in children and adolescents. It's what you'd expect from a developmentally arrested kid."

Although Harris' parents were married in a Christian church, he shows no fear of an eternity in hell. Klebold's mother's family was Jewish, a religion that emphasizes good works while someone is alive.

But Klebold insists there is no God.

Dicke also noted the teens "seem to be so aware of what their parents are going to think and how they are going to hurt them," but they go ahead with their mass killing anyway.

"Either they have no conscience, or they are deliberately destroying their parents' lives," he said. "At some level, they know and they don't care."

Psychologist Carollee Nimmer of Kaiser-Permanente warned that the videotapes could re-trigger the trauma for survivors.

Even people who felt they were getting better eight months after the tragedy could suffer symptoms of post-traumatic stress again, Nimmer said.

She was particularly dis-

See **STRESS** on 10A

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Parents urged to talk to kids

STRESS from 5A

turbed by Harris' taunt that the killers would come back and haunt the survivors as ghosts, causing flashbacks and driving them insane.

"Those are essentially post-traumatic stress symptoms — flashbacks, nightmares, anxiety, feeling like you're going crazy," Nimmer said. "Suggesting that Eric is somehow causing that could be really distressing."

But as difficult as it might be to read about or view the videotapes, Dicke believes that "victims need to know this stuff — the senselessness, the randomness. It fills in more pieces of the puzzle, and that's what people who have been traumatized need to deal with it effectively."

Finally, Nimmer has a suggestion for parents who read about the videotapes and worry for their own children.

"What they should do is talk to their kids ... and ask if they are upset," Nimmer said.

Parents who read that the kill-

ers' bombs and guns were in their rooms debated Monday whether they should search their own children's rooms.

"If a parent feels the need to look in a child's room, they need to talk to the child about it first," Nimmer advised. "Say that, 'I'm concerned about what you're doing ... and I'm going to go look in your room now.'"

Children might still be angry, but at least they will understand, Nimmer said.

Parents should apologize for the violation of privacy but move immediately to a discussion of the issue that led to the search, she advised.

Parents also tend to tell their kids what they think, instead of asking the child what he or she would do in a particular situation, Nimmer said.

"Sometimes, kids will open up more than parents realize, if they are offered the opportunity."

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) p. 5A
 Denver Rocky Mountain News
 Denver, CO

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uesday, December 14, 1999

Shoelses fear life in state,^{33A} plan to move

'I can't stand to lose another child or family member,' dad says

By April M. Washington
 and Lynn Bartels

News Staff Writers

Michael and Vonda Shoels were frightened of living in Colorado ever before they heard about the gunmen's videotapes.

The deep-seated racism and hate that led two teen-agers to open fire on Columbine High School, killing their son, Isaiah, have only heightened their fears.

"We all know what was said in that school," Micheal Shoels said. "We know they were running through that the school hollering 'Get the n-----.' I'm getting my family out of this state. I can't stand to lose another child or family member ... with this racial hatred."

The Shoelses said they will move next month to Houston, where they hope to rebuild their lives and regain some privacy.

Isaiah Shoels, 18, was one of two minorities killed April 20. In all, 13 people were killed before the gunmen committed suicide.

Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, made videotapes before the shootings, degrading blacks, Hispanics, Jews and women.

But they didn't limit their venom to minorities.

"I've narrowed it down, it's humans that I hate," Klebold said on the tape.

Nonetheless, both boys made derogatory remarks about blacks, particularly when they showed off the arsenal they had amassed to destroy their school.

They held up a huge hunting knife and then marveled that it had only cost \$15. They joked the knife came with a "free n----- to cut up."

The Shoelses say they no longer feel Colorado is a safe place to rear their children. The couple fears Isaiah's siblings could become the targets of violence if they remain here.

Recent criticism of the family is also prompting the move to Houston.

Since their son's death, the Shoelses have become the subject of media and public scrutiny. Many have accused them of trying to exploit Isaiah's death for personal and financial gain.

"We had to get out of Colorado because people are using us as scapegoats," Shoels said. "They want us to be quiet and to shut up and stop speaking out against the hate and racism that cut down Isaiah far too soon."

The family came under attack after hiring famed Michigan attorney Geoffrey Fieger who filed a \$250 million wrongful death lawsuit against Harris' and Klebold's parents in May. More than a dozen other families filed similar lawsuits or letters of intent to sue in October.

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Media complain that sheriff played favorites

By **Berry Morson**
News Staff Writer

2/6/99

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Department found itself in a testy exchange Monday with reporters who believe videos made by Columbine killers Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris were selectively leaked.

The *Denver Rocky Mountain News* and *Time* magazine had stories on the tapes in Monday editions.

The Sheriff's Department hastily called an official screening for other reporters from 45 media outlets.

But spokesman Wayne Holver-

son first had to fend off questions from more than 40 journalists about why the videos — sought for months by the media — weren't released to all news outlets at the same time.

"I just think it's really sad," said Carol McKinley of Fox News Channel. She said the Sheriff's Department shouldn't have picked favorites.

Holverson said *Time* was shown the tapes for background purposes with the understanding they would not be quoted directly.

"This confidence was violated," he said.

After the *Time* article was an-

nounced Sunday, the tapes were made available to the *News*, he said.

Time Managing Editor Walter Isaacson said in a statement, "The tapes and the other evidence were given to *Time* with no restrictions on their use, so readers could get a complete picture of the investigation. No agreement was violated."

Holverson blamed his department and *Time* for the misunderstanding.

Holverson said the department is concerned that the tapes could cause pain to the families of Columbine victims, but also said they may provide insight into why the massacre occurred.

Holverson said the department is concerned that the tapes could cause pain to the families of Columbine victims, but also said they may provide insight into why the massacre occurred.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

36A

Care planned in tape airing



**Dusty
Saunders**
On TV

News directors at Denver television stations have adopted a cautionary stance on whether to show the controversial videotapes made by Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold before their Columbine rampage.

All four agreed the tapes, excerpts of which have been reported in *Time* and the *Denver Rocky Mountain News*, would be judged for news value and would not automatically be put on the air in raw form.

A spokesman for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department gave no indication Monday when or if the tapes would be available to the stations.

TV reporters were allowed to view them without benefit of audio or video equipment.

"If and when the tapes are available, we'll see if segments contain information which would further the investigation of the Columbine tragedy," said Channel 4's Angie Kucharski. "But we will not air them simply for a sensationalistic display."

Diane Mulligan of Channel 7 noted that any airing of the tapes would be "a hard call."

Most callers during Peter Boyles' newscast on Channel 7's *Speakout* Monday voiced opposition to airing the tapes and objected to the release without notifying families of victims.

"We certainly wouldn't air the tapes for gratuitous reasons," said Channel 9's Patti Dennis. Dennis added: "The timing of all this — during the Christmas season — is lousy. The holiday time is tough enough on the Columbine families. Now they have to deal with this."

Dennis said most callers to the Channel 9 newsroom voiced unhappiness about the release and the fact family members weren't in the loop.

"What would be the value?" Steve Grund of Channel 2 asked rhetorically. "Airing the tapes would be, in essence, like pouring vinegar into open wounds. 'We will report what's on the tapes.'"

National TV news organizations have made no announcements about broadcasting the tapes.

The tapes and the controversy surrounding their release were a major subject on national newscasts and cable talk programs Monday. CNN, which, like *Time*, is owned by Time Warner, provided extensive coverage mainly through interviews with *Time* reporter Timothy Roche.

Dusty Saunders co-hosts the KHOW Radio Media Show, 10 a.m. to noon, Sundays. Contact him at (303) 892-5137 or saundersd@rockymountainnews.com.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state) *P 36A*
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ISSUE COMMENTARY

Denver Rocky



Denver Rocky Mountain News

Larry D. Strutton, Publisher & Chief Executive Officer

Robert W. Burdick, President & General Manager

John Temple, Editor & Vice President

Deborah Goeken, Managing Editor Vincent Carroll, Editor of the Editorial Pages

"Give light and the people will find their own way"

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Denver, CO

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Title: Revealing Columbine videos

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EDITORIALS

Revealing Columbine videos

THE ISSUE:
Harris, Klebold recorded their grisly plans

OUR VIEW:
Tapes should have been released, but not this way

One anguished question echoed down through the weeks after the shootings at Columbine High School — Why?

In their grief and anger, people sought for any hint of an explanation, any glimmer of insight into the minds of Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold. And now, with the disclosure of the videotapes the two made as they planned their rampage, we begin to know how they answered that question.

If we learn only that their carefully nourished rage and hatred were wildly out of proportion to any real injury they suffered, that is worth knowing. Many have carried the burden of wondering whether anything they could have done, or done differently, would have turned away the killers' wrath from Columbine. They can lay that burden down. The fury that burned at the core of this fatal friendship scarcely needed outside fuel.

The contents of the videos should have been released earlier. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Department could have had no reasonable expectation that they could be kept out of public view indefinitely, because they will be relevant to one or more of the civil suits that will eventually be filed. The best time would have been whenever in the investigation it became clear that no one other than Klebold and Harris had participated in the shooting, but the sooner the better. Wrapped up in earlier coverage, it would have drawn less attention — and the coverage would have been less painful in almost any season other than Christmas.

But if the sheriff's department had decided, for whatever reason, to delay releasing the tapes as long as possible, it's simply incomprehensible that officials agreed to show them to *Time* magazine. Never mind who's right about what the ground rules were; what did they expect?

Undersheriff John Dunaway says that in discussions with *Time* correspondent Tim Roche, "(Sheriff John) Stone specifically said there is to be no reference to the tapes or what is in them in the story."

A *Time* spokeswoman disagreed. "No one ever asked us not to report on the contents of the tapes," Diana Pearson said. "We can assure you that we had explicit discussions about how these tapes would be used and that what we saw would be on the record."

Why were they even having such discussions? The victims' families had not been allowed to see the videos. Neither had reporters from the *News*, despite repeated requests, until *Time* released its story.

Though we believe that these tapes are crucial to a fuller understanding of the Columbine story, and should be part of the public record, we agree with parents who say they should have seen them first.

"Anyone with the slightest level of decency would have let the families who requested to see these tapes see them," said Brian Rohrbough, whose son Daniel died at Columbine.

As *News* reporters have documented in a three-part series that concludes today, the investigation now coming to a close has been conducted with methodical care. How unfortunate that blunders like this one have marred a generally thorough and professional process.

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Tuesday, December 14, 1999

Denver Rocky Mountain News

Colorado & The West

Richard S. Chapman, State Editor — (303) 892-2783 • **e-mail** --- metro@denver-rmn.com

INSIDE THE COLUMBINE INVESTIGATION

Biggest question of all

Detectives still can't fathom teen-age killers' hatred

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) *pg 70*
 Denver Rocky Mountain News
 Denver, CO

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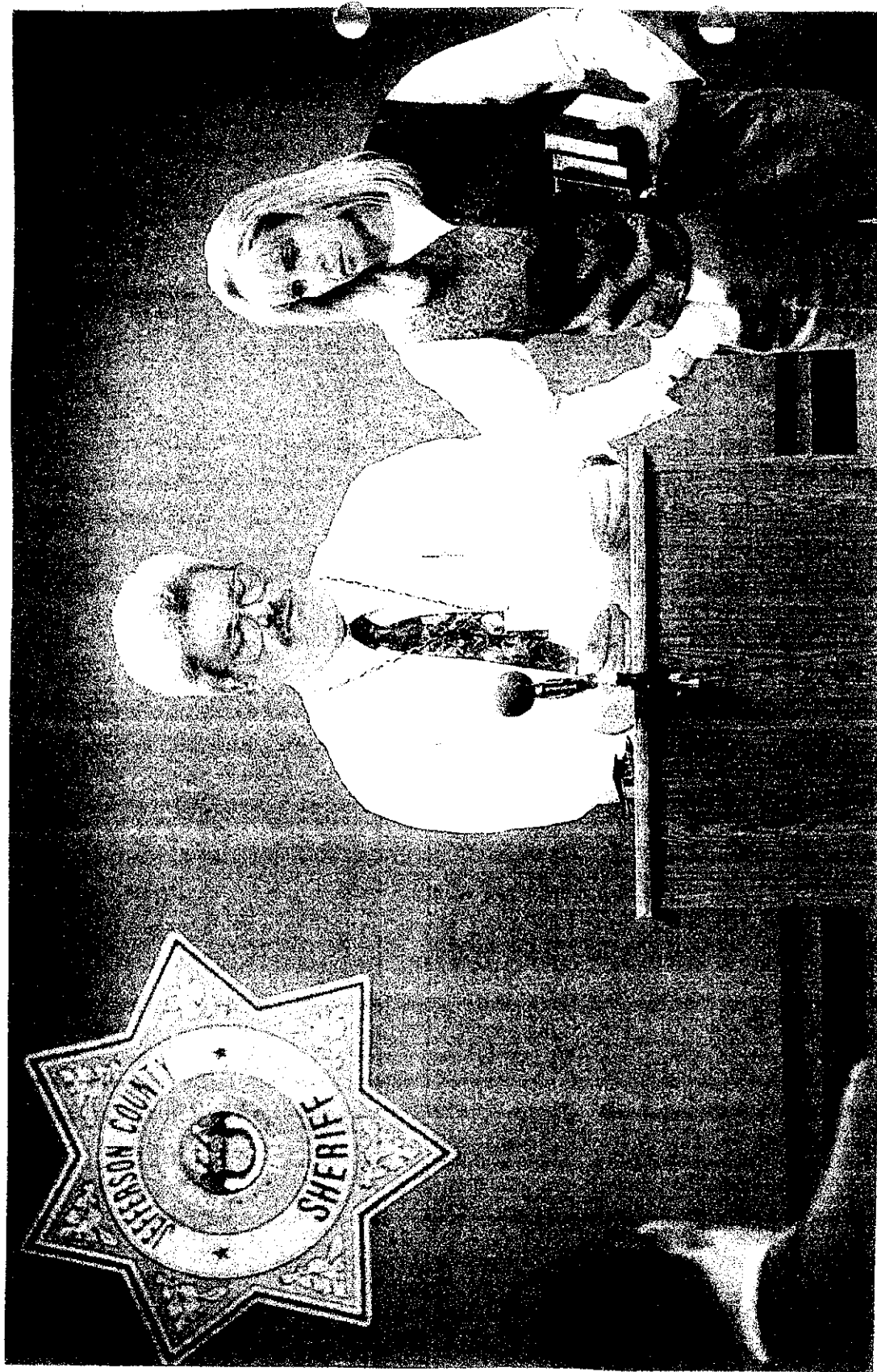
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Jefferson County Sheriff's spokesman Wayne Holverson addresses the media Monday as lead investigator Kate Batten joins copies of videos produced by Columbine gunmen Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold. The chilling videos were shown to the media, and later to families of the victims of the April 20 high school shooting.

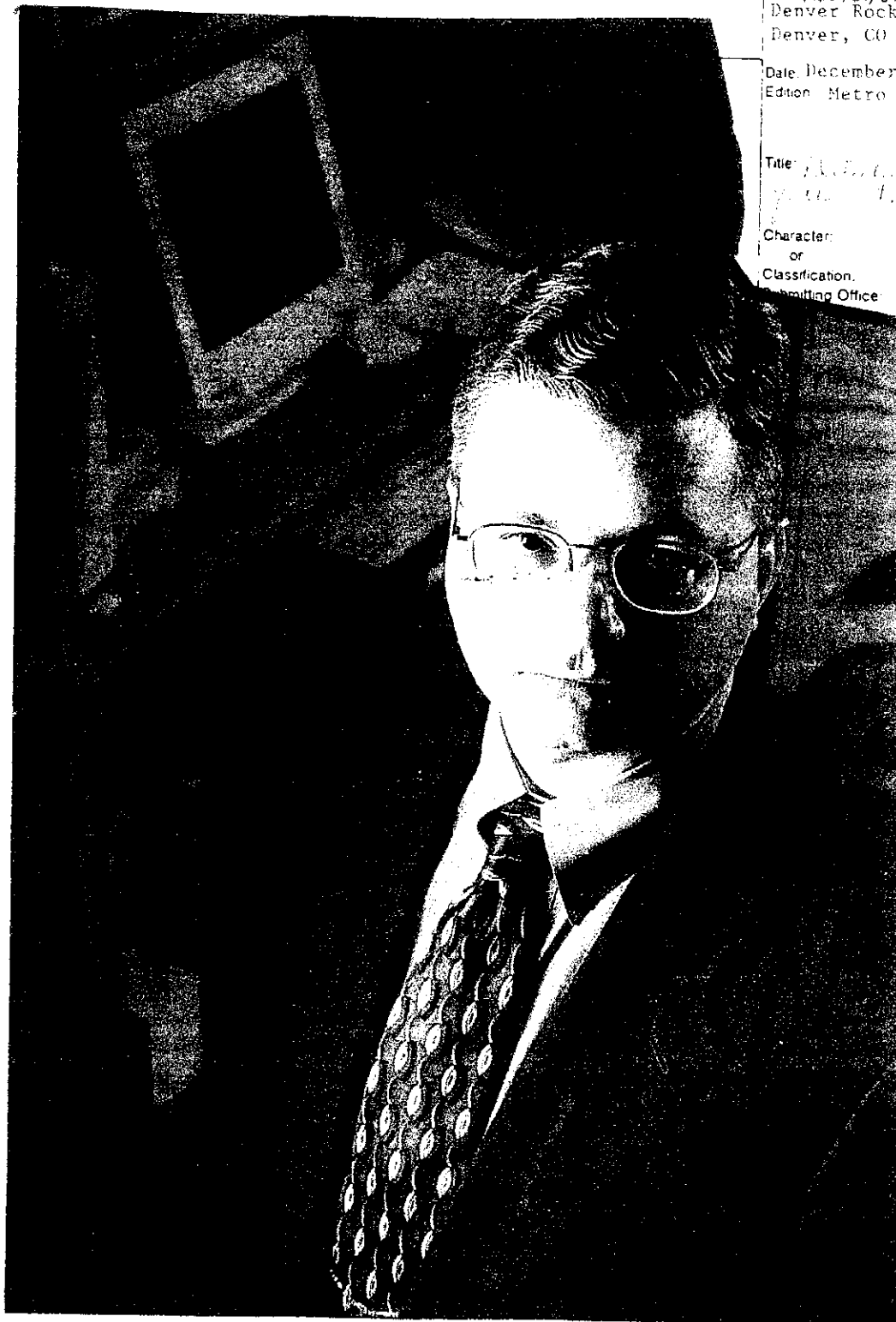
INSIDE THE COLUMBINE INVESTIGATION, PART 3: 'They had so much hate inside.' 7A

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Joe Mahoney/News Staff Photographer
Chuck Davis, a computer expert with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, leads a Columbine task force team analyzing data from the personal computers of Eric Harris, Dylan Klebold and many of their friends.

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by Dan Lizzadder and Kevin Vaughan

News Staff Writers

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Detective Kate Battan walked into a small office, carrying three videotapes.

The tapes, with perhaps three hours of footage, had been confiscated from the home of Eric Harris.

Battan, lead investigator in the Columbine High School shootings about 10 days earlier, dimmed the lights.

Up popped the young killers on the television screen, cocky and confident.

The teen-agers sat on a couch speaking into the camera, weeks before their murderous assault.

There was no doubt whom the boys were addressing. They kept referring to "you detectives."

We're doing this alone, they said, again and again.

And they made another point: They had begun planning their rampage long before the spate of school shootings across the country.

We're no copycats, they said. Those other kids? They're copying us.

If their boasts were true, their plan to assault Columbine had started more than two years earlier — before the shootings in Springfield, Ore.; Jonesboro, Ark.; West Paducah, Ky.; and Pearl, Miss.

The images and voices of the boys stunned Battan, an investigator who had moved in recent years from complex, white-collar and financial crimes to high-profile homicides.

In 1998 alone, the sheriff's detective had been involved in two of the most sensational cases in Jefferson County history — the murder of two children by their mentally ill mother and a triple ax-slashing at a townhome over Fourth of July weekend.

But now, months later, even that experience couldn't ease the horror that enveloped her in the darkened room as she watched Harris and Dylan Klebold speaking, it seemed, directly to her from the grave.

The images spooked Battan so much she turned the lights back up before the tapes finished.

ished.

"It just flabbergasted me," she says. "That so much evil came out of these two teen-age boys."

The release this week by *Time* and the *Denver Rocky Mountain News* of printed excerpts of the videotapes gave the public a detailed glimpse at the criminal minds of the two killers. But the printed words don't convey the cold, calculating tone of the boys' voices.

In their soliloquies, Harris and Klebold thanked two friends who had helped them get the semiautomatic pistol they'd used at Columbine. The boys urged investigators not to press charges against the two.

"If they wouldn't have helped us out, then we would have found someone else," Harris bragged. "We would have gone on and on. We would have found some way around it, 'cause that's what we do."

In the months ahead, Battan would come to see this as the quintessential philosophy of the two boys: "That's what we do."

"That," Battan says, "is Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold."

Guns and bombs

For explosives specialist Doug Lambert of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Columbine was everything he'd ever trained for. His job was simple: make sure more bombs weren't planted in the school.

Two of Lambert's colleagues were unlike any others.

Jenny and Cascade, Labrador retrievers from Virginia, were specially trained to sniff out

See **COLUMBINE** on 50A

THE SERIES

SUNDAY: The first fragmentary reports of shooting at Columbine bring more than 600 police officers face to face with the unthinkable.

MONDAY: After 48 chaotic hours, specialists from a dozen agencies are organized into teams to launch a methodical examination of the crime.

TODAY: As they near the end of eight months of intensive work, investigators still grope for an answer to the biggest question of all.

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7A/52A
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for teen-age killers
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COLUMBINE from 7A

chemicals found in bombs and bullets. ATF agents used them to check each locker, air duct, ceiling and backpack.

The agents examined the scores of bombs — exploded and undetonated — found inside the school. They used a computer program to map where fragments were recovered.

"We basically put all the pieces back together again," says Jerry Petrilli, head of the ATF's firearms group in Denver.

Local bomb experts defused those that didn't explode.

As they went, ATF agents cautiously packaged each device — or what was left of it.

But flying the mass of material to the ATF's national bomb laboratory in Walnut Creek, Calif., was too dangerous. Instead, agents loaded the bombs into a light brown Ford Explorer and drove them to California.

On the scene for more than a week, Lambert came away thankful that Harris and Klebold knew little about building bombs.

They didn't understand explosive reactions. They didn't understand electrical circuitry.

None of the four bombs wired with timing devices — two in the cafeteria and devices in the killers' cars — exploded as planned.

FBI/DOJ

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The killers' suppliers

While bomb experts unraveled explosives evidence, ATF agent Marcus Motte and other investigators tracked the guns.

Investigators, talking to everyone who knew Harris and Klebold, quickly determined how the guns got into the killers' hands.

Three days after the killings, two ATF agents met with Nate Dykeman, an 18-year-old friend of Harris and Klebold.

Dykeman provided some of the first clues to the path of the guns, telling investigators that two weeks before the shootings, he'd seen Harris with a videotape in one of their classes at Columbine. The tape showed Harris and Klebold firing guns at a shooting range in the mountains.

Also on the tape, Dykeman related, were scenes showing Philip Duran, 22, and a friend of his named "Mark" firing two shotguns. Duran worked with Harris and Klebold at a Black-jack Pizza parlor about a mile from the high school.

Two days later, Motte interviewed Duran.

Duran told the ATF agent that Harris and Klebold had approached him in January, eager to buy a gun. Duran gave them the phone number of a guy he knew named Mark Manes.

Duran said he collected money from Harris and Klebold and gave it to Manes as part of the sale of a TEC DC-99 mm semiautomatic pistol, a gun Klebold fired 56 times at Columbine, killing four and

wounding two. It was also the gun that ended his life.

After the shootings, realizing Harris and Klebold had used the gun he'd sold at Columbine, Manes hired an attorney and decided to cooperate with investigators.

On April 30, on the sixth floor of the Federal Building in downtown Denver, Manes and his attorney met with Motte and other investigators.

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PEOPLE IN THIS STORY

Key figures in today's story (unless noted, persons represent Jefferson County agencies):

Mike Barnett: FBI agent

Kate Battan: Sheriff's detective, lead Columbine investigator

Russ Boatright: Arvada police detective

Dr. Nancy Bodelson: Coroner

Chuck Davis: Agent, Colorado Bureau of Investigation

Don Estep: Sheriff's sergeant

Dwayne Fuseller: FBI supervisor

Mark Holstlaw: FBI agent

Lt. John Kiekbusch: Head of the Columbine investigation

Doug Lambert: Agent, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

Marcus Motte: Agent, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

Rich Price: FBI agent

John Stone: Sheriff

Rich Webb: Sheriff's sergeant

Randy West: Sheriff's sergeant

Manes told them he had purchased the weapon at a 1998 gun show and acknowledged that he'd been introduced to Harris and Klebold by Duran.

Manes said he sold the gun to the killers on Jan. 23 for \$500.

Manes was sentenced Nov. 12 to six years in prison for selling the gun to Klebold and Harris and for firing a sawed-off shotgun with them weeks before the massacre. Duran faces similar charges.

Investigators also tracked two shotguns and a carbine from Harris and Klebold to Robyn Anderson, 19. She'd been Klebold's prom date three days before the attack.

But Anderson, who admitted buying the three guns for Harris and Klebold at the Tanner Gun Show in Denver, has not been charged.

Federal law prohibits the "straw purchase" of a firearm on behalf of someone who is ineligible to buy it. The two killers were underage.

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Joe Mahoney/News Staff Photographer

Robyn Anderson: Obtained three guns for killers.

But the law applies only to guns sold by a licensed federal firearms dealer. ATF agents have determined that Anderson bought two of the three guns from a private person — not a dealer. But they have not found who sold Anderson the third gun.



Glenn Asakawa/News Staff Photographer

Philip Duran: Faces charges in sale of pistol to killers.

If that person turns out to be a licensed dealer and Anderson falsified documents to disguise the purchase, she still could face charges.

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The Library Team

As Arvada police detective Russ Boatright took his team into the school library for the first time, technicians were still photographing, cataloging and collecting debris.

"We actually had an idea of what happened before we went in there," he says. "But it doesn't actually hit you until you see it."

At 16, Boatright had been a cop for more than 17 years. He'd seen plenty of misery, including crimes against children.

But the blood-spattered room stunned even him.

At first, he could not imagine the terrifying minutes in the library on April 20 — smoke choking the air, a fire alarm blar-

ing, strobe lights flashing, gunshots ringing out, one after another.

But soon it would become painfully real to him.

Boatright's team had the benefit of one incredible piece of evidence — the tape of a 911 call made by Patricia Nielson, a teacher Harris wounded. She'd been shot near the school's west doors, where the gunman entered, then had crawled to the library and grabbed a phone.

Despite the wail of the fire alarm, investigators were able to enhance the tape.

What they retrieved was an audible record of terror: one gun shot at a time. The tape showed that the shooting in the library was over in 7½ minutes.

Starting with a rough sketch, investigators asked the 40 kids and four teachers who had survived the library massacre to draw in their recollections.



Pool photo

Mark Manes, left, talks to his father, Mike Manes, shortly before being sentenced Nov. 12 to six years in prison for selling a semiautomatic pistol to Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold.

FBI/DOJ

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Page 7

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
 P. 50A/51A
 Denver Rocky Mountain News
 Denver, CO

Date: December 14, 1999 Tuesday
 Edition: Metro Denver

Title: *Detectives still hunt
 Southern death-camp killer*
 hatred

Character:
 or
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 Submitting Office:

Indexing:

174A-DN-57419-

Boatright kept track of the developing story with color-coded markers — red for the dead, blue for the wounded, green for the survivors who escaped physically unharmed.

The FBI sent experts to Columbine from Virginia to construct an elaborate model of the school. They took back rough drawings and detailed measurements.

They returned in midsummer with a diorama of the cafeteria and the library above it. It was exact — down to the bookshelves that divided the library into three sections and the trees standing outside.

Boatright's team started interviewing everyone.

"Nobody saw everything from A to Z," he says.

The physical barriers in the room — bookshelves and desks — and the terror accentuated the reality that no two people ever see an event exactly the same way.

It reminded Boatright of a collage that hangs in a hall at Columbine.

A teacher assigned students to photograph a tree. Each kid snapped pictures from various angles. When they put all the pictures together, the composite image depicted the entire tree, each slice a different size, from a different perspective.

To clear up the inconsistent library accounts, the team last summer launched an excruciating process — taking the survivors back inside.

For the traumatized kids and their parents, it was an appalling scene: dried blood on the floor and walls, name tags marking the spots where students fell.

The investigators asked the survivors to crawl back under the tables where they had ducked for cover. Then they joined them, on hands and knees, to see it how the survivors had seen it.

One of the most noted episodes in the library had been a reported exchange between student Cassie Bernall and one

COLUMBINE from 50A

gunman.

"Do you believe in God?" the gunman asked.

"Yes, I believe in God," Cassie replied.

"Why?" the gunman said, then pulled the trigger.

But student Emily Wyant, who had crouched under a table beside Bernall, told investigators the conversation never happened.

Later, with student Craig Scott, who'd escaped from underneath a table where two classmates died, investigators' doubts grew.

Scott is the brother of Rachel Scott, who had been killed outside the school. He had been a few feet from Cassie and thought it was her voice he heard.

But when he revisited the library, he realized the voice had come from another direction — from the table where student Valcen Schnurr had been shot.

Investigators came to believe it was probably Valcen, who survived, who told the gunman of her faith in God.

Reconstructing events in the library drained Boatright and his team. They gradually realized how vulnerable everyone had been that day.

"When you see the room, you see that no one was really hiding," Boatright says.

One question could not be answered: How did Harris and Klebold pick their victims?

Under one table, they'd gun down two kids, only to leave a third physically unscathed.

"None of it makes sense," Boatright says. "Realistically, they could have gone through that library and shot every single person."

The Cafeteria Team

When investigators filed into the cafeteria Harris and Klebold had planned to incinerate, its

floor was still soggy from sprinklers that sprayed for hours after the fire alarms sounded six days earlier.

A musty stench hung in the air. Food cluttered the tables; 450 backpacks littered the room.

Nine-year FBI veteran Rich Price and his 25-member crew started to identify every student who had been in the cafeteria. A list provided by the school district indicated each student who had an A-period lunch hour. But many of them had gone home or to restaurants to eat.

Investigators went from one student to another. Each would give them a new handful of names to track down.

Some visits would last 15 or 20 minutes, others hours.

Just as it had in the library, technology gave a helping hand.

The surveillance camera in the lunchroom captured the arrival of Dave Sanders, the teacher who was fatally wounded minutes later. It also recorded the exodus of the students, and — finally — the arrival of Harris and Klebold.

By the time they were finished, investigators had developed a seating chart that placed everyone in the cafeteria, exactly where they were when shots rang out.

"It was like dropping 700 toothpicks — give or take — and putting them back in the box, exactly the way they were," Price says.

The Computer Team

In a laboratory off Kipling Parkway in Lakewood, in what looks like the back room of a computer repair shop, Colorado Bureau of Investigation computer expert Chuck Davis went to work.

Behind a locked door, shaded by drawn blinds, Davis and his investigators analyzed the computers seized from the Harris and Klebold homes and elsewhere, tracing their data, uncovering their digital secrets.

Davis was well-suited to the job. When he joined the CBI four years earlier, he became the first investigator outside the Internal Revenue Service and the military to look at computer crime in Colorado.

Just hours after the Columbine killings, Davis went to Harris' home, where detectives seized the killer's computer. It became evidence item No. 001.

In the next few weeks, the team confiscated 18 other computers and 5,000 disks, most from friends of the killers. Three of the computers were taken from Columbine High: the school's main server and two machines in the media laboratory where Harris and Klebold often worked.

See COLUMBINE on 51A

FBI/DOJ

651

Tuesday, December 14, 1999
8:00 PM

Denver Rocky Mountain News
2000-12-14 19:00:00

INSIDE THE COLUMBINE INVESTIGATION



Arvada police detective Russ Boatright reads an interview with a survivor of the carnage in the high school library last April 20. Boatright leads a team of investigators that reconstructed events in the library, where 10 victims died and the killers committed suicide.

Joe Manthey/News Staff Photographer

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for interview

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They pored over e-mail among Harris and Klebold and friends. Most of the writings spoke only of teen-age concerns. Girls. Games. Television shows.

The investigators scrutinized Web postings and other writings — some from Harris' computer — promising more death on April 26, a threat that never materialized.

Unlike Harris' computer, Klebold's offered no help.

Investigators concluded that Klebold had gutted the machine, erasing one of the two hard drives, leaving it blank.

"I can't prove it," Davis says. "But deep down in my heart, I think it was probably nuked either the day before, or that morning."

What did Klebold have to hide?

"We'll just never know," Davis says.

Investigators concluded that other computers probably were tampered with after April 20 and before they were seized.

They found scores of Internet and e-mail threats related to Columbine — everything from "I was there and helped shoot the kids" to "There are pipe bomb instructions at this Web site."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

They tried to track down what they dubbed a "master school bombing list" only to discover it didn't exist.

When a kid in New York posted an Internet message claiming that he'd been at Columbine, cops kicked in his door and took his computer.

"We took it seriously," Davis says. "I like to think cops have a sense of humor, but when you're dealing with a bunch of dead kids, our humor factor was zero."

The computer team found no evidence to suggest that anyone knew about the macabre plans of Harris and Klebold — or helped carry them out.

But the investigators destroyed a myth:

Harris and Klebold weren't the computer experts they had been made out to be. They were good, Davis says, but other kids could do much more.

See **COLUMBINE** on 52A

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

52A
The Rocky Mountain News
Denver, CO

Date: 12/14/99

Edition:

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Title: Detection still part
from them 'teen-age killers'
-Herald

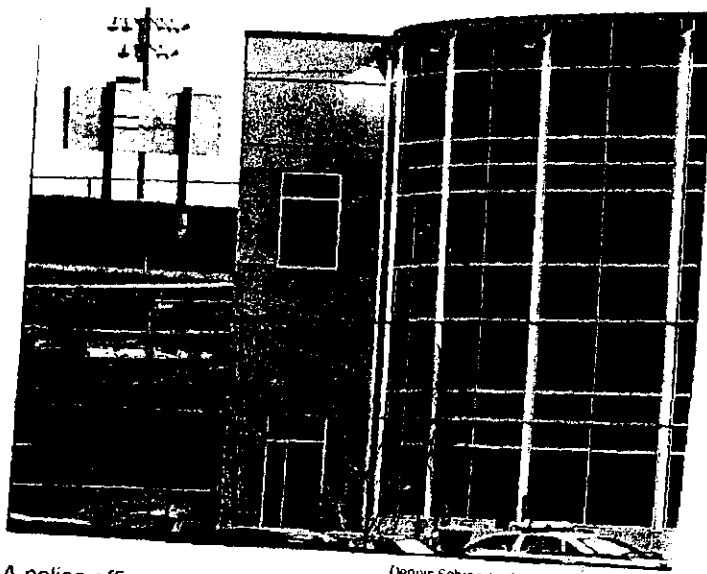
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Submitting Office:

Indexing: 174A-DK 57419



A police officer climbs steps near the shattered windows of Columbine's library, hours after the shooting stopped.

Dennis Schroeder/News Staff Photograph

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Denver Post

Date: 12/14/99

Edition:

1st

Title: Columbine - will send
a letter to the school
by the FBI

Character:

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Classification:

Submitting Office:

Indexing: 174 A. D. 57419

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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IN

COLUMBINE from 51A**The Outside Team**

In the moments before Harris and Klebold began their assault, some students had dropped their backpacks and gone outside to play on the soccer field. Some had left campus. Others took advantage of the sunshine to have lunch on the grass.

Mike Barnett's team eventually identified 100 witnesses outside the school, not including law enforcement officers.

"The main thrust was to interview witnesses to determine the sequence of events," the FBI agent says. "Who was where, who shot whom, who did what."

To do that, the team turned to the FBI's special projects unit on the East Coast. They developed a four-foot-by-five-foot, computer-generated schematic with plastic overlays locating all the outside witnesses, victims and police, and what they had seen.

They tracked down school janitors and maintenance workers from Clement Park next to the school. They found people who had walked past the school or through the parking lots that morning.

And they waited patiently for the chance to interview those who were seriously wounded.

Some witnesses had seen Harris and Klebold arrive in the parking lot. But no one had seen them carry two large duffel bags inside minutes later and set them down in the cafeteria.

Barnett and his team discovered, through sales receipts, that Harris and Klebold had filled the two large propane tanks for their cafeteria bombs the morning of the attack.

The Outside Team also interviewed every police officer outside the school that day, including sheriff's deputies Paul Smoker and Neal Gardner, who briefly traded shots with Harris and Klebold. Team members also interviewed nine other officers who fired their weapons at Columbine on April 20.

The investigators dispelled several claims by witnesses, including one about a rooftop sniper.

The man on the roof, it turned out, was an air conditioning repairman who quickly hid when the shooting started. He saw virtually nothing.

The Friends and Associates Team

The day of the shootings, television crews captured video of three young men in a field near the school. They were wearing military fatigues and walking toward the scene. Police with bulletproof vests and shotguns handcuffed them and led them away.

"Let the media chase those guys," said sheriff's Sgt. Don Estep, who soon took charge of the Friends and Associates Team.

After 27 years as a Jeffco sheriff's deputy, much of it in the shadowy world of undercover in-

telligence, Estep knew almost by instinct that the three young men probably weren't involved. He was right. Investigators quickly eliminated the three as potential suspects.

But ruling out other suspects, those who were friends or associates of Harris and Klebold, would be far more difficult.

The team was confronted by reports that as many as eight gunmen had been in the school. Some witnesses reported seeing someone besides Harris and Klebold firing a weapon inside.

There also were dozens of tips that Harris and Klebold had help carrying pipe bombs into the school and possibly planning the attack.

Investigators visited the homes of witnesses and potential suspects.

They kept hearing the same things about Harris and Klebold: They were smart, they were partners and they kept most of their business — especially their plot — to themselves.

To verify alibis, investigators asked several friends of Harris and Klebold to take polygraph tests.

"We certainly used the lie detector as a tool to clear individuals of involvement in this," says Mark Holstlaw, an FBI agent who worked closely with Estep on the team. "Some agreed, some declined, some had their own done. For those who declined, we used other investigative methods to clear them."

Speculation about additional suspects continued for weeks.

One Denver television station repeatedly showed videotape of a friend of the gunmen being put into the back of a squad car by police on April 20. The reports implied that arrests of co-conspirators were imminent.

But except for Manes and Duran, no other arrests came.

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IDE THE COLUMBINE INVESTIGATION



Joe Maroney/News Staff Photographer

Jefferson County Sheriff's Sgt. Rich Webb, at the agency's shooting range, leads investigators examining school violence threats that proliferated after the Columbine tragedy. The threats led to six arrests in the United States and Canada.

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Sgt. Rocky Mtn. News
12-14-99

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Page 1248
(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
Denver Rocky Mtn News

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The Threats Team

Sgt. Rich Webb, a 24-year law enforcement veteran, missed the first hours of Columbine. April 20 was his day off, and he was in his back yard, landscaping. When sketchy reports of a shooting at Columbine interrupted music he was listening to, he called the office.

"This is bad," he was told. But a supervisor told him to stay home and rest. We'll need fresh people tomorrow.

Webb, a former SWAT team leader, grumbled and threw rocks around his yard the rest of the afternoon. The biggest case of his career and he was out of the loop.

But not for long.

He spent the next two days working with the coroner to identify the dead and assist with autopsies.

By the time he moved onto the Threats Team six days after the shootings, menacing messages were pouring in. From the Internet. From the phone. From other schools in the area.

At a middle school in Arvada,

a student trying to be funny left what looked like a bomb in a bathroom. He had wrapped a plastic box in aluminum foil and taped nails to it.

At an Arvada high school, a woman angry about her son's treatment by athletes phoned in a threat.

In Broomfield, a boy sent a threatening e-mail to the Columbine memorial organization.

Webb's team tracked them all down.

Some threats actually were innocent statements that eventually took on a sinister tone.

One happened at Chatfield High, where many of the emotionally fragile Columbine students were finishing the school year.

"You could bring something into this school," one kid told another, emphasizing what he saw as a lack of security.

Someone overheard the remark. Then it was repeated, again and again.

By the time Webb's team heard it, two kids were plotting to bring in weapons and bombs.

The investigators sped to Chatfield. As they rushed in, they found hallways packed with frightened students.

"The panic was ready to go," Webb says. "These kids were on edge . . . ready to go out that door. Somebody could have snapped their fingers loudly and those kids would have bolted."

Much of the Threats Team's work was tracking information to its original source.

"We would run from rumor to rumor to rumor," Webb says.

After two weeks of chaos, leads began to taper off. By the time the team finished, it had investigated 202 threats.

The threats led to six arrests in the United States and Canada. Eleven students were suspended from school — nine in the Denver area, including six from Columbine.

Along the way, investigators encountered scores of kids who bragged that they were in the Trench Coat Mafia. They found other kids who sympathized with Harris and Klebold and admired their anti-social lifestyle.

"It was just absolutely bizarre," Webb says. "You had to stop and ask, 'What in the world is he talking about?'"

Investigators' aggressive response to the loose talk sometimes crashed head-on into concerns over the right of free speech. Some cops found it disturbing that people could write anything in support of two teenagers so full of hate that they planned — as U.S. Attorney Tom Strickland put it — "to become the biggest mass murderers in United States history."

On their own

As months wore on, detectives focused not only on what

See COLUMBINE on 53A

Date: 12/14/96
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Title: Threats Team says 'Kids'

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Thursday, December 14, 1996

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COLUMBINE from 52A

happened at Columbine, but on what didn't happen.

After analyzing more than 3,500 pieces of evidence, from bullets and spent shell casings to blood and fingerprints, Colorado Bureau of Investigation technicians ruled out one fear — that some victims might have been hit by "friendly fire" from police guns.

They also ruled out the existence of a third gunman.

Many detectives had believed from the start that Harris and Klebold had acted alone.

Confirmation came in late July with the CBI's final ballistics reports.

Every bullet or fragment matched one of the four guns used by Harris and Klebold or weapons fired by police.

Only one conclusion could be drawn: There was no third gunman.

But ballistics evidence could not answer other key questions.

Had anyone known that Harris and Klebold planned to attack the school on April 20? Had anyone helped?

No evidence supported either possibility.

"Are you ever completely sure?" asks FBI agent Dwayne Fuselier, an anti-terrorism specialist who helped run the investigation. "Maybe not. Could something surface in the future? I suppose. But I think I would say this, we're about 99.9 percent sure."

656

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)

Page 13 of
Denver Rocky Mtn. News
Denver Co.

Date: 10/14/99

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Intro

Title: Detection Hill Court
- further teen age killing
- Intro

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Indexing: 174A Nov. 5-14/99

Drawing conclusions

Police finally got their long-awaited interview with the parents of Eric Harris in October. It came after months of quiet negotiations between the family's attorneys and District Attorney Dave Thomas.

Beforehand, investigators agreed with the Harris family and their attorneys not to say anything publicly about the discussion. They were similarly silent about their interview, 10 days after the killings, with Dylan Klebold's parents.

Now, almost eight months after their work began, here's what Columbine investigators have concluded:

■ Only Harris, Klebold and police fired weapons inside the school.

■ No one helped the killers carry bombs into the school.

■ The terror was relatively short-lived — roughly 16 minutes from the first gunshot outside the school about 11:20 a.m. to the last one in the library.

■ Harris and Klebold probably were dead shortly after noon — though that point is still open among investigators. What is known is that between the time they left the library around 11:36 a.m. and returned there to commit suicide, they didn't shoot anyone else.

■ There is no evidence of a wider Columbine conspiracy.

In fact, evidence pointed the other way. The massacre was carried out by two intelligent, secretive, cunning teen-agers who managed to keep their terrible plot to themselves.

Not everyone was convinced. Sheriff John Stone still harbors doubts.

"You'll always wonder if somebody else was involved," he says.

Despite the questions that remain, the Columbine investigation succeeded in one way no one really had foreseen: The multiagency task force became a model for other communities across the country.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

"Basically, they (officers) left their badges and their egos at the curb," CBI Inspector Pete Mang says. "I've never seen that in law enforcement before."

Investigators still wonder why.

"It may have been because this thing was so big that every one had their own piece of it," Estep says. "There was plenty

of work to go around."

The nature of the event and the age of the victims also may have convinced investigators that turf battles would be pointless, unprofessional and insensitive.

Epilogue

In a tiny, stifling interrogation room, sheriff's Sgt. Randy West shifts uncomfortably in a gray plastic chair.

He clears his throat, crosses his legs, takes a deep breath. Now and then, tears well in the corners of his eyes, evidence of the stress of months of investigating the inexplicable tragedy at Columbine.

West, 41, is accustomed to asking questions in this room. But now, he is answering them.

This is how it was, he says, behind the closed doors of the most complex criminal

investigation in Colorado history.

And this is the toll it took.

He recalls the day he realized how close two teen-agers came to accomplishing even more heinous devastation — killing hundreds of students in the school cafeteria with two large bombs that, for some reason, failed to explode.

"I don't know why they didn't go off, and I don't care to know," West says.

A stricken look freezes on his face.

"It would have been worse than Oklahoma City. Much worse. I don't even want to think about that."

But day after day, for months, West and his fellow investigators have thought of little else.

The devastation of families, caused by two teen-age boys, the grief, the horror, the impact on investigators themselves, have all come to rest like an unrelenting weight upon their shoulders.

"We're all tough and mean," he says. "But if you don't learn how to deal with the things you saw in the library, it will eat you up."

"Right now, I just want it to be finished. Then I'll think about the impact on me."

The final report of the investigation task force will be made public in the next few weeks and forwarded to Gov. Bill Owens' Columbine Commission. That panel will review the investigation and the response to the disaster at Columbine.

But the criminal case will be left open indefinitely. There is no statute of limitations on murder.

Leaving the case open, investigators had hoped, would allow them to keep sealed some of the most gruesome and shocking evidence, including crime scene photographs and the Harris-Klebold videotapes.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Their reasoning was simple.

First, they wanted to protect the integrity of the evidence in the event anyone comes forward with new information.

Second, they didn't want to do anything to hurt the families of those injured and killed at Columbine — families the investigators had come to know well and care about.

But now the Sheriff's Department has made the videotapes public, and it's unclear what impact that will have on the disclosure of remaining evidence.

No matter how exhaustive, the official report will never tell the entire story or measure the deep scars this tragedy left on the victims and the community.

It won't say that Coroner Nancy Bodelson still struggles to retain her composure when she thinks about the kids on the floor of the Columbine library.

Or that John Kiebusch, commander of the investigation, worries that the community may yet face the same phenomenon that played out after the Oklahoma City bombing: suicides among police officers, paramedics and firefighters who rushed to the scene.

Or record the chill investigators still feel when they consider that the cafeteria bombs could have killed hundreds of children.

Or show the look on District Attorney Dave Thomas' face when he recalls the eyes of a broken-hearted father, just informed his son was dead.

Or explain why Sgt. Rich Webb and others wonder when — not if — someone will try to outdo Harris and Klebold.

Or finally answer the one question that remains on everyone's lips:

Why?

"I think I know why they did it," the FBI's Fuselier says. "It was because they were so filled with hate.

"But the real question is why they had so much hate inside them."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Denver Rocky Mtn. News

Denver Co

Date: 12/14/99

Edition:

Victim

Title: Detection still can't

vanthorn teen ages

6 Police notes

Character:

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Submitting Office:

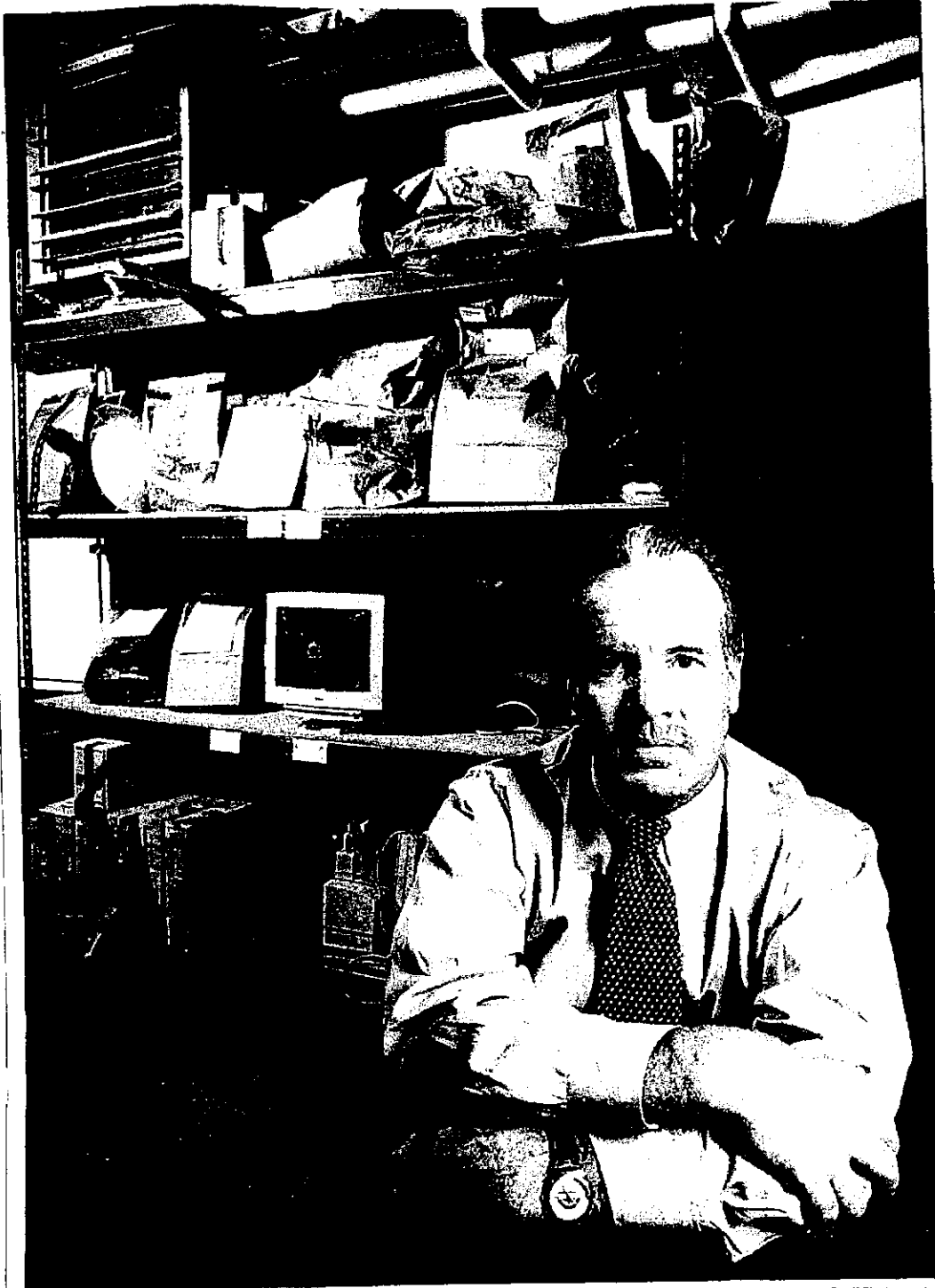
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#538

Randy West
Jefferson County
Sheriff's Office

1744 DA
05-14-19



Joe Mahoney/News Staff Photographer

Jefferson County Sheriff's Sgt. Randy West, a leader of the Columbine investigation, sits near evidence in the case. On one shelf behind him is a computer monitor with a bullet hole in the screen.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Wednesday, December 15, 1999

Denver Ro

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Denver Rocky Mountain News

Denver Co

Date: December 15, 1999

Edition:

Sheriff takes responsibility

Rocky Mountain News

Title: Sheriff takes responsibility

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Submitting Office:

Indexing: 174 A-DN-57419

Stone 'made mistake by trusting a journalist,' showing Columbine tapes

By Charley Able
and Kevin Vaughan

News Staff Writers

GOLDEN — Sheriff John Stone took full responsibility Tuesday for allowing a national magazine reporter to view videotapes made by the Columbine High killers.

And although he expects the films soon would have been made public anyway, Stone decried the national publication of the killers' tapes two weeks before victims' families endure their first Christmas since the tragedy.

"The buck stops here," Stone said. "I made a mistake by trusting a journalist that I thought was trustworthy, that I thought he would keep his word."

Stone said he allowed a *Time* magazine reporter to view more than three hours of tapes made by killers Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold with the agreement that he not divulge their contents. *Time* disputes that agreement.

"My mistake in this thing was not being able to properly evaluate the character and integrity of somebody I thought was a top-notch national journalist," Stone said. "(He) can run back to New York, and we've got to pick up the pieces."

Stone, obviously exhausted and distressed a day after apologizing to families of Columbine victims and explaining why their wounds were reopened, also faced the daunting task of telling local reporters how the tapes fell into the hands of *Time* magazine.

The sheriff also found himself facing new questions about the initial police response to Columbine after Harris and Klebold opened

fire April 20 in an attack that left 12 of their classmates and a teacher dead and more than 20 others wounded. Harris and Klebold also killed themselves.

Stone rejected calls for his resignation over the release of the tapes.

"It's time for Stone to go," said Brian Rohrbough, whose son, Daniel, was murdered outside the school by Harris and Klebold.

"If I did something ethically wrong or if I botched the investigation, I would consider it," Stone said. "But I got 'scondred' by a national publication."

Stone and Undersheriff John Dunaway said the *Time* reporter approached them in November seeking access to investigators and information in the Columbine tragedy.

The reporter, the two top Jefferson County law enforcement officials said, told them he was doing a story on the human impact of the tragedy.

"The focus (of the article) was not on disclosure of previously undisclosed investigative material," Dunaway said. "The focus was to be, in fact, on the human side of our response."

Dunaway granted access to the tapes to a *Denver Rocky Mountain News* reporter Sunday after being told of the content of *Time*'s impending report.

"That then created this nightmare situation where we have the families being completely blindsided by the fact that these things are coming out," Dunaway said.

Time managing editor Walter Isaacson denied the charges Monday.

"The tapes and the other evidence were given to *Time* with no

See **SHERIFF** on 23A

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Page 2 of 3

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 5A
 Denver Rocky Mountain News
 Denver, Co
 Date: December 15, 1999
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Title: Sheriff takes responsibility

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Cyrus McCrimmon/News Staff Photographer

Bob Miller, who works in the evidence room of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, shows three of the four guns used by Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold in their rampage at Columbine High School.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Wednesday, December 15, 1999

Denver Rocky Mountain

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Denver Rocky Mountain News

Date: December 15, 1999

Sheriff defends cops' actions

Main News

★ 23A

The Sheriff takes responsibility

before killers went inside

SHERIFF from 5A

restrictions on their use, so that readers could get a complete picture of the investigation. No agreement was violated."

Rohrbough said he was outraged about the release of the tapes that prosecutors had promised him would never be made public.

He also questioned the decision to share them and other evidence with the *Time* reporter — no matter what the rationale was.

Compounding Rohrbough's anger was the fact that he and other families had repeatedly been denied access to the tapes. And Stone, who approved allowing access to the *Time* reporter and then the *Denver Rocky Mountain News*, acknowledged that he hadn't even seen all of the videotapes.

"Then these idiots have the nerve to say to us, 'We thought this would be healing,'" Rohrbough said.

In the meantime, Stone faced new criticism that the first deputies on the scene didn't do enough to deal with the unfolding disaster.

Dale Todd, whose son, Evan, was wounded in the school library, said he has been told that five officers were on scene before Harris and Klebold disappeared inside the building.

In a meeting with investigators, Todd said he was asked, "What did

you expect of us?"

His answer: "I expected dead officers, crippled officers, wounded officers, disfigured officers — not students, not teachers."

Stone defended the actions of the five officers, two of whom traded shots with Harris and Klebold, and other officers who entered the building to escort trapped students from danger.

"To call a guy a coward who's pinned down behind a police car with nine kids, and who's already been in a gunfight is hitting below the belt," Stone said.

Detailed chronologies, to be included in the department's final Columbine report due out in January, will vindicate the actions of officers, Stone said.

"That final report will lay out all of this," Stone said.

But Todd said the first five officers should have tried to move into the school.

"Was it cowardice?" he asked. "Was it a command decision?"

Meanwhile, because of this week's controversy, Stone called off an awards ceremony planned for Friday.

"I don't want to take and tarnish the ability of our guys to be recognized," Stone said.

Stone said the criticism isn't a surprise: Harris and Klebold are dead, and the anger they caused has to be directed somewhere.

"We're the only ones still ac-

tively involved in this stuff, and a lot of the (pointing) fingers are coming our way," Stone said.

All of the new developments have hurt the very people Stone and Dunaway said they were trying to protect — the families of the victims.

"It has always been our desire to shield the families from any further anguish around this entire tragedy," Dunaway said.

"It's kind of an ironic twist that the very people who had worked as hard as we have to shield them are now, in essence, being blamed for having handed them up to additional anguish when that is the last thing in the world that we ever intended."

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Video tour puts focus on parents

Chilling tape reveals clever and not-so-clever methods Harris, Klebold used to conceal weapons

By Lynn Bartels

News Staff Writer

"Let me take you on a tour of my room," Columbine senior Eric Harris says to the camera.

What a tour it is.

He has an alluring poster of Pamela Lee Anderson on his wall - along with 50 feet of green, coiled fuse.

He has rows of CDs - with pipe bombs stashed behind.

He has an old box from a BB gun - with a sawed-off shotgun hidden inside.

Welcome to Eric Harris' mad-

ness, a basement bedroom in a suburban home that seems like a setting out of *Hogan's Heroes*, the old TV comedy in which prisoners of war quickly hid their radio and tunnel entrance when they heard guards approaching.

The issue of whether Wayne and Kathy Harris should have known more about their son's activities was raised again this week after homemade videos of Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold were made public.

That taped tour might be the most crucial piece of evidence in proving the Harrises and Klebolds are liable for what their sons did at Columbine High on April 20, Denver attorney Scott Robinson said.

"What surely will figure in any trial are the videotaped images of Eric's room, a sort of 'Lifestyle of the Young and Wicked,'" he said.

In one tape, Harris says: "Thank God my parents (didn't) search my room. They would have found so much s---."

Harris' and Klebold's parents are being sued by Michael and Vonda Shoels, whose son Isaiah was one of the 13 people murdered at Columbine before the gunmen killed themselves.

"Without the tape, the Shoelses didn't have much to work with in terms of parental neglect," Robinson said.

Most of the weaponry Harris and Klebold accumulated to destroy Columbine was stored at the Harrises' house, some in clever hiding places, other pieces easy to find by opening a drawer or lifting a lid.

The Harrises, like the Klebolds, have never publicly talked. But the Harrises had known for sever-

al years that their youngest son had problems.

Columbine parent Judy Brown, sometime in late 1997 or early 1998, said she told the Harrises that their son became violent when she confronted him about a car windshield he broke.

At the same time, the Browns' eldest son, Brooks, told Kathy Harris that her son had been sneaking out at night and vandalizing the neighborhood.

In January 1998, Harris and Klebold were arrested for breaking into a van.

Sometime between then and the shootings, Eric Harris said his father found a homemade pipe bomb in his room.

And Harris said on the videotapes that their plans were almost

See VIDEO on 32A

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)

Denver Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Co

Date: December 15, 1999
Edition:

Title:

~~Shooting at Columbine~~
Video Tour puts focus on parents

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

Indexing: 174A-DN-54119

Wednesday, December 15, 1999

'They've got their hell . . . I've got mine'

VIDEO from 5A

foiled when his father took a call from a gun dealer letting him know his clips were in.

But Harris apparently still wasn't worried about being found out.

He and Klebold taped their tour of his bedroom in the early hours of March 15 as the Harrises slept.

"Sssh," Klebold says. "Your mom can hear a bat breathing."

"She hears nothing," Harris answers.

It was a viewing, they said, of "all our illegal stuff."

The tour begins with Harris showing off plastic gloves taken from a doctor's office. They're useful, he says, in building pipe bombs.

As Klebold pans to the bombs, his voice becomes almost reverent: "Beautiful. Oh my God."

For 17 minutes, the teens are a frightening mix of boys and bombers, taping troll dolls and ammunition with the same excitement.

Don Fleming, whose daughter Kelly died in the shootings, said he was surprised to learn what Harris kept in his room.

But he added he didn't want to criticize the gunmen's parents.

"They've got their hell to go through. I've got mine. It's two different hells, but it's still hell."

SP5 JC/HE

2/6/02
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WJH/KLM

174A-54119-
FBI/DOJ 510

663

Teen gets deferred judgment in threats

Boy said he'd 'finish the job' at Columbine

By Sue Lindsay
News Staff Writer

A 17-year-old Columbine High student who threatened to "finish the job" that Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold began pleaded guilty to two misdemeanors Tuesday.

Judge Christopher Munsch of Jefferson County District Court imposed a one-year deferred sentence, which means the conviction will be dropped if the teen stays out of trouble for a year and participates in a juvenile diversion program.

The teen, who isn't named because he is a juvenile, was arrested Oct. 19, the day before the six-month anniversary of the shooting rampage that left 15 dead.

Days earlier, the boy told a classmate that he intended to finish the job the Columbine killers started, police said.

Investigators also seized a diagram of the school and other writings from the diary of the 17-year-old senior, who last year helped Harris and Klebold produce videos foreshadowing their violent assault on Columbine High.

Prosecutors and defense attorneys agreed the boy had no early knowledge of the actual attack and had suffered from emotional problems since the April 20 tragedy.

"He is a wonderful kid who never posed a danger to anyone," said his attorney, Jeffrey Springer. "He is literally and figuratively a Boy Scout who was on his way to becoming an Eagle Scout."

"He had some emotional problems, but he is a great kid who will have a great future."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Prosecutor Mark Pautler said a thorough investigation concluded that the boy isn't likely to pose a danger to the community.

Pautler said the plea bargain serves the needs of the community, but said authorities "will continue to take these kinds of things very seriously. We are going to respond to any type of threats."

The teen pleaded guilty to one count of interfering with staff, faculty or students at a school and another charge of theft. Both are misdemeanors.

As part of his sentence, he must receive therapy, stay on medication and perform community service.

Felony charges of inciting the destruction of life or property were dismissed.

See **TEEN** on 32A

Boy was shunned by schoolmates

TEEN from 5A

The theft charge relates to more than \$100 the boy stole from his employer, Video City, before he ran away in October, Springer said. His father repaid the money.

Springer said the high school senior's writings about Columbine and stealing money to run away were "a call for help."

"Even though his writings were of a threatening nature, it is the belief of psychiatric experts that he did not intend to carry out his threats," Pautler said. The prosecutor also said the boy didn't have weapons or devices to carry out his threats.

Springer said the boy was ostracized by other students after the Columbine shootings last April because he knew Klebold and Harris and had made videos with them in a video production class.

"He truly is another victim of Columbine," Springer said. "He knew Harris and Klebold and was under undue pressure because of that from kids at Columbine."

Contact Sue Lindsay at (303) 892-5181 or lindsay@rockymountainnews.com.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 5A
Denver Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Co

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174A-DN-57419-511

FBI/DOJ

664

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Wednesday, December 15, 1999

Schenectady

Columbine students coping with article, principal says

By Holly Kurtz

News Staff Writer

Columbine High School Principal Frank DeAngelis has never seen the hate-filled videos Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold made before their bloody massacre.

But the tape's aftershocks have resonated through his school's halls each day this week.

No time is a good time for a national news magazine to adorn its cover with your school's most infamous alumni and splash their rantings on its pages.

But it would have been hard to find a less opportune week than this one for *Time* magazine to print the story, DeAngelis said.

Christmas and all its nostalgic baggage is around the corner. And today and Thursday Columbine students are taking finals.

Senior Eric Buckner said reporters buzzing around the school distracted him from studying for exams in reading, woodworking, statistics and economics.

"I think it's crap," he said. "I just get tired of seeing something new each week. It's always distracting. It's always on TV."

In contrast, junior Holly Pinkham says she's heard little about the tapes as she studies for "five or six" finals.

"I don't think it's distracting me that much," she said. "It kind of

bothers me, but I can still focus."

That's the attitude DeAngelis has seen this week as he walks the halls, finishing up the last of his traditional once-per-semester visits to each teacher.

"Kids are struggling, but they're finding a way to get through it," he said. "I think we're taking it one day at a time and we're trying to cope."

Jeanne Oliver, spokeswoman for the Jefferson Center for Mental Health, said things were quiet Tuesday after a surge of calls Monday.

The shock factor has made coping tougher than it might have been, DeAngelis said.

When CBS broadcast video from the school's cafeteria security camera showing killers Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold on April 20, DeAngelis knew exactly what was coming and prepared his students and staff.

But DeAngelis said he was under the impression the team *Time* sent to Littleton was writing an uplifting story of the school's healing.

Late last week DeAngelis said a *Time* reporter did warn him that the story might contain information from the ongoing police investigation.

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Denver Rocky Mountain News
Denver Co

Date: December 15, 1999
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Title: Columbine students coping with article, principal says

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2/6/02

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665

Greater Denver

Steve Myers, City Editor — (303) 892-5381 • e-mail — metro@denver-rmn.com

Web threat closes Columbine

Warning in chat room on Internet prompts school to start break 2 days early

By Lynn Bartels
News Staff Writer

Columbine High canceled finals Thursday and started winter break two days early after an Internet threat rocked an already fragile

community.

"When is it going to end?" parent Brenda Smith asked. "I wake up, and my daughter is crying and she says there's been a threat."

The Internet author — whose online moniker is "Soup81" — warned Columbine sophomore Erin Walton late Wednesday to stay away from school Thursday. "I need to finish what begun (sic) and if you go I don't want

your blood on my hands," Soup81 wrote during a late-night chat session.

Walton's mother immediately called the Jefferson County sheriff's department.

The FBI, which was assisting Jefferson County authorities, obtained a search warrant for Soup81's America Online account and tracked the person to Florida. They are trying to arrange an

interview.

Deputies swept the school early Thursday.

"In the interest of the safety and emotional well-being of our community, we canceled classes," said Jefferson County School District spokesman Rick Kaufman.

Finals had been scheduled for Thursday with make-up exams set for today. They will be rescheduled for January, he said.

The closure rattled parents and students, who have been on edge since Sunday. That's when *Time* magazine disclosed the contents of videotapes Columbine killers Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold made in the days before they ambushed their school April 20.

The seniors killed 12 students and a teacher and wounded about

See COLUMBINE on 43A

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1 of 2
Denver Rocky Mountain News

Denver, CO
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666

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 2 of 2
43A
Denver Rocky Mountain News
Denver CO

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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Columbine

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Friday, December 17, 1999

Denver Rocky Mountain News

Threat brings back tears, confusion for students

COLUMBINE from 4A

two dozen others before committing suicide. They said in their tapes that they had hoped to kill as many as 250 classmates.

Junior Ashley Berner spent most of Thursday morning in tears.

"It just brought back the emotions and confusion. I thought things were going back to normal, but they're not," she said.

"It doesn't feel like Christmas break."

Sociology teacher Rick Bath, who has taught at Columbine for 16 years, said he couldn't believe something happened so close to the end of the semester.

"We thought we were home free," he said. "After winning the state (football) championship everybody was pumped up, and we thought it was going to be a great lead-in to the Christmas vacation."

Freshman Stephanie Fredericksen questioned why the school would cancel classes but not a Christmas concert scheduled for Thursday night.

"That's kind of ridiculous. It makes me question their judgment on the whole thing — but I am glad they are taking precautions," said Fredericksen, who admitted she is relieved to have more time to study for her biology final.

Chuck Davis, a computer crime expert for the Colorado Bureau of

Investigation, said tracking down online communications can be easy or difficult — depending on the knowledge of the person sending the message.

"For every way that there is to track, there's a way to get rid of the tracks," Davis said. "And for every way there is to get rid of the tracks, there's a way to bring them back again."

Davis, who was not assigned to follow up on this week's Columbine threat, said every utterance has to be taken seriously given what occurred April 20.

"Six months from now we're going to get more threats," Davis said. "A year from now we're going to get more threats — there's an awful lot of yahoos out there."

"But everyone is so concerned with this, and it's so important to everyone, that nobody wants to take the chance and let it go."

U.S. Attorney Tom Strickland would not comment on what charges the author of the Internet threat could face. The question of what constitutes a threat on the Internet is hazy.

Kaufman, the district's spokesman, said he learned about the threat at 12:30 a.m. when he awoke from a sound sleep to take a call from Barbara Monseu, the area administrator for Columbine and Chatfield high schools.

There was no sleep from then on.

Shortly after 5 a.m., a group of

school officials began to gather in the conference room at Columbine.

"Everyone looked tired," he said. "All of us are saying, 'Not again!' There's a tremendous amount of frustration on our part."

Monseu, Kaufman, DeAngelis and Deputy Superintendent Cindy Stevenson talked to Superintendent Jane Hammond by phone. It took about 30 minutes to reach a decision about the closure.

With the story blaring on television and radios and with Columbine doing a mass calling, only about 30 to 40 students arrived unaware at the school, where a sheriff's deputy stood guard in the driveway.

Columbine did not close in October after a student was arrested for making a threat virtually identical to Soup81's.

But the combination of the *Time* article, the release of the suicide videotapes, plus the pressure of finals and the first Christmas since the shootings clinched the decision.

"You throw all those things together in a mix, and it can push people to the edge," Kaufman said.

"It's not fair to the kids, and it's not fair to the staff."

Staff writers John Eusslin, Kevin Flynn and Kevin Vaughan contributed to this report.

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FBI/DOJ

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Many parents support closing

Most say safety of
students comes first

By Holly Kurtz and Lynn Bartels
News Staff Writers

Parents gave Columbine High School mostly high marks Thursday for moving quickly to close the school after an Internet threat.

Some of those parents had lashed out at the administration in October for failing to warn them after a student threatened to finish what was started at the school April 20.

"I think they're finally putting students' needs above all the baloney," parent Randy Brown said.

"And the fact that they did it in this case makes me very happy. It's awful that you have to close the school but protecting the kids comes first."

Some parents were concerned that students missed their finals on Thursday, but they still backed the administration.

"I'd rather have them close it than having something happen when they're to finish their finals," parent Brenda Smith said.

Student body president Michael Sheehan said he agreed with the decision to close the school.

"It's going to be hard for people who have to do them in January," he said. "But I think it was a good idea. A lot of kids would have been too worried to concentrate on finals."

Parents Rod and Gail Schneider initially wondered whether the person who made the threat was trying to get out of finals, but supported the school's

See CLOSING on 38A

Mount Clipping in Space Below

Some question why concert was held

CLOSING from 4A

decision.

The Schneiders, who have three children at Columbine, weren't happy with how the school handled the October incident.

"You send them off to school like nothing out of the ordinary is going on and then you hear on the news that they've arrested a kid for making a threat," Gail Schneider said.

Parent Russell Oliver wondered where the line would be drawn.

"If they close school with every threat that comes along it would be closed 365 days a year," he said. "I don't think it's fair to the administration."

B. Adams said her daughter was upset she will have to study again for her finals.

"Every time something like this happens are these kids' lives going to be turned upside down?" she asked.

Like several other parents and students, she questioned why the school canceled classes but continued with a holiday concert Thursday night.

"I don't get it," Adams said.

Continued on Page 4A

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
4A/38A
Denver Rocky Mountain
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Killers' tapes may saturate TV stations

By Joanne Ostrow
Denver Post Television-Radio Critic

Ultimately the Columbine killers' chilling home videos may be just a click away on every channel, set to music.

Like the 65-page Unabomber Manifesto, the three hours of videos made by Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris may someday be available on the Internet for all who care to endure them.

"How long before they end up on MTV as a music video?" Denver talk show host Peter Boyles recently asked his KHOW audience.

The eventual appearance of the tapes on MSNBC, CNN, "Rivera Live" and the rest is a realistic and, to some, disturbing possibility. (It was Geraldo Rivera who put the bloody 8mm Zapruder film of the JFK assassination on national television in 1975, a controversial step at the time.)

First Amendment proponents believe the eventual uses of the Columbine tapes are beside the point.

"At this stage you can't say MTV videos are not also going to be a way of educating people as to what happened," said Rebecca Daugherty, Freedom of Information Service Center director for the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press in Arlington, Va.

"People are always going to use current events as a basis for poetry, literature,

Please see **TAPES** on 5B

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

The Denver Post
Denver and the West

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669

Possible release of tapes to TV raises ethical questions

TAPES from Page 1B

music and other means of commenting on the times," she said. "At its core it gives the public a way to evaluate what happened."

"All images can be misused by people who want to shock or titillate," said Ken Paulson, executive director of the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University.

"We had a rock band called the Dead Kennedys. Tasteless, but under the First Amendment that band's name was protected. People will want to exploit ugly events for cynical purposes but we can't let that short-circuit our system."

To press advocates, the tapes have the status of public documents.

Paulson, a journalist and lawyer, noted that if either Klebold or Harris had survived, the videotape would be introduced in open court at the trial. "Would anyone suggest it should not be introduced as evidence for the families? Of course not."

The future repackaging of the Columbine

tapes is irrelevant to those who view this as a freedom of information question.

"Concerns about ugly art are simply not a legitimate question in our society," Paulson said. "People create ugly art every day, and they have a right to create ugly art. They have a right to offend under our system. The real question is whether the press and public have a legal right to a document detailing facts behind this crime."

Making the Columbine tapes public could have positive results impossible to foresee.

Law-enforcement officials and journalists who opposed publishing the text of the Unabomber's manuscript, saying it was wrong to give in to the demands of a killer, conceded the result was to cause Theodore Kaczynski's brother to come forward and identify him. Psychologists believe the extensive Columbine tapes offer a rare glimpse into the mind of a sociopath that could help understand and profile future cases.

While the release of the tapes is anticipated in January, Denver television executives are struggling with difficult questions of whether and how much to broadcast.

Local TV news directors are weighing how to handle the tapes, attempting to balance ethical concerns of what is appropriate for viewers with journalistic instincts and responsibilities. Will they show the tapes or do a story referring to the tapes? How can they avoid trivializing the massacre or glorifying the killers?

"If and when those tapes become available, we will review them carefully and weigh their journalistic merits to see if they advance the story," said KCNC-Channels 4 News Director Angie Kucharski. "We will evaluate their worthiness for our local newscast." Kucharski declined to speculate on whether the station would show excerpts or simply run a story reporting on the tapes' release.

Judgment calls will be made in each newsroom. "There is no guarantee that each media outlet will do things the same way," Kucharski noted.

Timing weighs into the decision-making, local news executives agree. A visual deemed too harsh for viewers at the time of the Columbine attacks may be considered tolerable a year later.

"Unfortunately the whole tragedy does not belong just to the families in an event like this one," said Daugherty of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

"Like the Oklahoma City bombing and like other tragedies that have really touched us all — the tragedy belongs in many ways not just to the families but to the public. We share their grief; we want to share in any understanding that can be gleaned from the tragedy."

"Once the cat's out of the bag, there's no going back," said Rick Kaplar, vice president of the Media Institute in Washington, D.C. Usually in these sorts of cases, Kaplar said, the courts have said that unless the material is defamatory, if it is newsworthy it should be made public.

"Any discomfort of the victims' parents is of secondary concern to the newsworthiness of the tapes," Kaplar said.

Whether tasteless byproducts result, Paulson says: "Finding something grossly distasteful doesn't mean you have a right to cut the communication off."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

5B
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Denver, CO

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Disturbate TV Stations

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Concert provides tranquility

Holiday get-together eases
tension for 3,000 revelers

By Holly Kurtz

News Staff Writer

School had closed, but the show did go on.

The Internet threat that shut Columbine High on Thursday couldn't keep away 3,000 people from a free holiday concert outside the school. About 15,000 tickets were distributed.

"Nothing can kill the spirit of Columbine," said parent Jenny Zahn, 46, as she listened to Christmas carols from the steps near the entrance where the Columbine killers started their deadly rampage.

The show was billed as a way for Columbine to thank Colorado. Tickets went to students, hospitals, emergency medical services, pastors and police.

The Alumni Association of Columbine High sponsored the show. It was staged by Holiday Express, a New Jersey charity. There were about 90 security guards, no more or less than planned before the threats, Jefferson County school district spokeswoman Marilyn Saltzman said.

Before the show, rumors surfaced that such big-name performers as Bruce Springsteen and 'N Sync would appear. No dice.

The final lineup included the Ryan Tracey Band, the Columbine Jazz Band and Holiday Express.

"This will probably take the kids' minds off things a little while," said Columbine parent Cecilia Maes, 45.

Spectators waited in hourlong lines for hot chocolate, swayed in time to *Jingle Bells* and *Let it Snow* and watched while lights on a tree were lit.

"There is grief in our hearts for the lives that we lost," Jefferson County Schools Superintendent Jane Hammond told the crowd. "We are changed forever for that. Eight months later you can look and see the unity we are building."

Holiday Express raised money for the show's expenses. Any extra revenues will go to the alumni association, which supports the April 19 memorial service.

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
Page 172
Denver Rocky Mtn. News
Denver Co.

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tranquility

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671

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)



Cyrus McCormick/News Staff Photograph

A Columbine High chorus sings during a concert Thursday at the school's parking lot. The Internet threat that shut the school earlier in the day couldn't keep 3,000 people from the evening event.

FB/DOJ

672

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Stone paying for his decision

Jeffco sheriff regrets releasing tapes, shares blame with Time

By Kevin Simpson
and Stacie Oulton
Denver Post Staff Writers

Last Sunday, when his fax machine churned out the news release from Time magazine touting its exclusive story on the Columbine videotapes, John Stone figured he'd feel the wrath of the local media he'd jilted.

That was the easy part.

But last Monday, the Jefferson County sheriff tried to explain to angry families of victims his decision to reveal virulent video of killers Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold to a national news magazine — a blunder some regarded as an inexcusable violation of trust.

Emotions ran high: One parent told Stone that if someone committed suicide in the wrenching wake of all this, it would be on his shoulders. Those words stuck with Stone, whose own teenage son committed suicide a decade ago.

"You do take that home," said Stone, interviewed in his office late last week. "Because what he says is a possibility. Everybody is stressed out in this thing."

Yet, after a tumultuous week that began with the Time revelations and ended with another threat of violence that closed Columbine High School, the sheriff — besieged by criticism and calls for his resignation — had dug in to ride out the storm.

Stone has in the same breath accepted and deflected responsibility for the untimely Time revelations, confining his culpability to a simple case of well-intentioned but misplaced trust in the reporter he allowed to view the tapes.

And he has never for a moment considered stepping down.

"Should I let an issue that really is a political issue, and a battle between the media here, be an issue that throws me out?" asked Stone, who had been in office only four months when the April 20 rampage rocked Columbine.

"The big pictures here are what we did with the school, and the integrity of that investigation. And I think the evidence will clearly show that that investigation was handled very well."

As the eight-month probe winds to a close, Stone has pinned his reputation to the contents of the report that could be released late next month. But from Day 1, when he was the conduit for early, erroneous information about the toll of the Columbine rampage, Stone's media presence has made him a lightning rod for criticism.

"Is it my fault all this happened?" he asked. "I don't think so. We do our part as best we can to resolve the criminal side and be open and honest with people. But that seems to be where I'm getting clobbered."

Long known as a man who speaks his mind, Stone's public candor initially served him well during his 12-year run as county commissioner, when it could be spun as a refreshing trait on the political scene. But his shoot-from-the-hip comments eventually cost him political currency.

By last week, his penchant for the public eye had devolved to an embarrassing seduction by the national media.

Reasoning his acquiescence to Time as a move that could help a story that would be



The Denver Post / Karl Gehring
Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone has apologized for the pain caused by information he released that was revealed in a Time magazine article.

healing to the community, Stone weighed the risk and forged ahead, even posing with some of the murder weapons for a photographer.

When his strategy misfired, he blamed the magazine.

Time has sharply disputed Stone's contention that the tapes were shown to a reporter on the condition that excerpts not be published. Other media had requested access and been denied, so Stone claims he braced for a two-pronged assault when he

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Please see STONE on 5B

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FBI/DOJ

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Page 2 of 4

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sunday, December 19, 1999

Stone paying for his decision

STONE from Page 1B

learned the magazine planned to make the Harris and Klebold performances the centerpiece of its package.

"This is a blatant slap in the face to you (local media) guys," he said, holding up the faxed announcement from Time trumpeting its story in last week's edition. "And that's when I knew this (criticism) was coming. I didn't think it would be as severe as it was, but I knew it was coming."

But the second wave of criticism, more stinging to Stone, came from the families of those killed or injured in the Columbine massacre.

Dan Rohrbough, whose son Daniel was among the 12 students killed in the rampage, may be Stone's most outspoken detractor. To him, the issue of whether Stone was duped by a reporter doesn't excuse the sheriff's decision to show the tapes to anyone in the first place.

"I want to know, if he's going to use the excuse that he was lied to by Time magazine, how is that different from him lying to us about never releasing the information?" Rohrbough said. "That guy lied to me. If these things aren't ethically wrong, then who sets what the morals are?"

"He should resign. He's victimized the families in an excruciating way at the worst possible time he could."

Stone says the families knew the tapes existed and that they consisted basically of Harris and Klebold "Rambo-ing it in front of the camera." But snippets from the killers' cocky and cold-blooded monologues added another dimension to the horror that upset the families when they became, with little warning, national news.

Still, the sheriff attributes much of the vitriol directed at his office by the families as the byproduct of lingering grief that, in the absence of the suicidal killers themselves, has nowhere else to go.

"Because we're the most high profile in this, maybe we're the easier targets," Stone said. "When people go through the grieving process, part of that is anger and blame. I can understand Mr. Rohrbough's anger. I can understand his grief. But I didn't kill his son, and this department didn't kill his son."

In some ways, the enduring Columbine controversies, which reached a crescendo with last week's events and public calls for his resignation, seem to have isolated Stone. Although long known as a practical joker and great fun in a crowd, the 50-year-old sheriff also is seen largely as a loner, even by those who have worked with him for years.

Arvada Police Chief Ron Sloan says Stone has never asked for advice, help or support on the Columbine case from his fellow executives in the county — a trait Sloan sees as an "inherent problem."

The sheriff "cannot stand alone with an event of this magnitude," Sloan said.

Others sympathize that they don't know where he could turn for help in handling the pressures of such a high-profile incident.

"He's pretty shook up over this. It's been a very traumatic experience. He feels like the world is caving in on him," Westminster Police Chief Dan Montgomery said after seeing Stone at last week's regularly scheduled meeting of law-enforcement executives in the county.

But one friend says Stone's resilience will carry him through the waves of criticism.

"If he's human, which he is bound to be, he's probably down in the spirits," said Leo Bradley, a Golden businessman and lawyer. "But it won't last too long."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

The Denver Post

Demerco

Date: 12/19/1999

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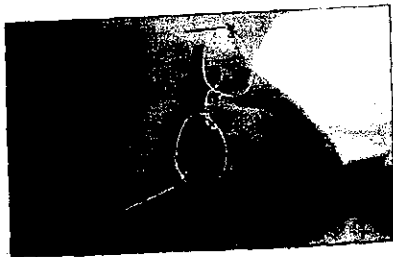
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674



Is it my fault all this happened? I don't think so.
We do our part as best we can to resolve the
criminal side and be open and honest with people.
But that seems to be where I'm getting clobbered.

Sheriff John Stone

"My heart goes out to John and his family," added Jefferson County Commissioner Michelle Lawrence. "He is suffering. He's strong man. He'll survive."

Stone already has reasoned away media criticism as the inevitable

fallout from Time's scoop, coupled with his own desire to give reporters what they need.

"Living with the press is a very delicate thing," Stone said. "If you shoot straight with them, sometimes you end up being on the other

end of the barrel."

Stone also shrugs off some criticism from law-enforcement colleagues as simple politics, although he has been somewhat more concerned about the perception of his employees. Last week, he sent let-

ters of regret to 600 staffers and appeared at roll calls to talk to the rank-and-file and explain what happened in the Time fiasco.

He insists he has retained the trust and support of those who work for him, although he realizes "the department feels bruised over this." Still, while acknowledging that he erred in making the videotapes available, Stone accepts blame entirely in the context of someone else's failings.

That, critics say privately, reflects a pattern of Clintonesque apologies that have dogged his political career.

Asked if he has any regrets about his performance in the Columbine case, he cuts himself slack.

"I haven't done anything ethically wrong, I haven't done anything mean-spirited," Stone said. "Have I made a mistake? Everybody makes mistakes. I made a mistake in judgment on an individual I

thought was being honest with me.

"Is that something I should regret for? I don't think so. My interest here is the public interest. I can't say it's the last mistake I'm ever going to make, but I'm not going to run away from it, either."

Stone seems to anticipate the upcoming report on the Columbine investigation as impending professional vindication: the victims' families have regarded it warily.

At the very least, the sheriff says, release of the report could finally move the community toward elusive closure — such as it is for an event of Columbine's scope.

And Stone means to be there, although the experience has been very difficult, white-water ride. His mantra: Hope every day gets better.

"Today was better than it was yesterday," Stone said. "I'm not a quitter. Believe it or not, I'm an optimist."

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Stone Paying for
his decision

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The Denver Post
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The Denver Post / Karl Gehring
Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone, while sorry about his decision to release the tapes to Time magazine, does not intend to step down from his job amid the clamor.

67b

Jeffco was warned on safety

School officials told 'unthinkable' possible, ex-security chiefs say

By Kevin Vaughan
and Charley Able

News Staff Writers

Jefferson County school officials repeatedly ignored warnings to improve security, the district's past two safety chiefs have charged.

The warnings were issued as late as fall 1998 — just months before Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold burst into Columbine High

School with guns and bombs, killing 12 classmates and a teacher and wounding more than 20 others.

"There was not much interest in school safety until April 21," said Jefferson County Undersheriff John Dunaway, who left the school district a year ago after 12 years — the past several in charge of security and risk management.

Even after Columbine, the response was inadequate, said Howard Cornell, who succeeded Dunaway, then retired from the district in October.

But the district's superintendent, Jane Hammond, said that

using the Columbine tragedy as a backdrop for discussing school security isn't fair.

"Is any school in this district or any other prepared to handle that?" she asked.

Dunaway and Cornell contend that they repeatedly warned administrators that the "unthinkable" — even a school shooting — could happen in Jefferson County.

"Every year we suggested these things," Cornell said.

As school attacks occurred across the country, Cornell said, he felt increasingly that the district needed to "enact some kind of program."

Among Cornell's and Dunaway's recommendations were:

- Installing security staff in every building.
- Drafting a policy for dealing with students who make death threats.
- Expanding information that is shared about problem students.
- Giving teachers the power to lock down their classrooms.
- Writing a plan for dealing with a violent incident.
- Training all principals in security issues.
- Getting control of who has keys to district buildings.
- Considering closing campus-

es and limiting access to schools. They never happened, both said.

Hammond disputed that contention.

"I believe the school district is and has been committed to creating a secure environment for all kids," she said.

Dunaway scoffed.

"They are the most colossal bunch of ostriches I have ever known," he said.

Dunaway is a former Lakewood police captain. Cornell also is a former Lakewood police officer and former Broomfield police chief.

See **SCHOOLS** on 20A

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 173
The Denver Rocky Mountain News

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Denver Rocky Mountain News

Schools 'committed'

Sunday, December 19, 1999

to safety

SCHOOLS from 4A

Cornell said only those measures that "didn't cost anything or ... could be handled pretty straightforwardly" were implemented.

Dunaway agreed.

"I fought a long, losing battle about improving security," Dunaway said. "I tried for years and years to improve school security."

"The school district doesn't have any security to speak of."

He said the response of district officials to the repeated warnings was: You sound too much like a cop.

Hammond said district officials believed that Cornell's thoughts on security — specifically on the issue of putting armed security guards in every building — weren't "compatible" with a task force created in the wake of the April 20 shootings.

"I think there are things that Howard (Cornell) suggested that are not in sync with where we wanted to go," Hammond said.

Deputy Superintendent Cindy Stevenson agreed.

"Our job is not to create an armed police force," Stevenson said. "That is not the job of a school district. So anyone in our district who would advocate a large, armed staff — that's not our role."

But she said the task force has embraced some of the ideas Cornell and Dunaway advanced.

For example, there has been more intensive security training for principals. And that began before the Columbine attack, she said.

"We started a year ago last fall getting very serious," Stevenson said. "We have intensified our efforts."

And the district has this year limited access to its buildings and is working on its policy for dealing with students who make death threats.

On issues like the circulation of keys to a particular building, Hammond said the district is testing a new security system. It would replace keys with cards to grant access to the buildings.

Both Dunaway and Cornell said one of the things that troubled them was that Hammond seemed to have little interest in security issues.

"She (Hammond) never asked me a single question about security," Dunaway said.

"I worked for the woman for almost three years, the full time she was there, and we never had one private meeting," Cornell said. "We never talked about security one day."

On some questions posed to Hammond, she deferred to other administrators because she said she was not involved in the work on those security issues.

One of the security issues that most troubled both Cornell and

Dunaway was a multimillion-dollar alarm system installed in all of the district's schools between 1992 and 1997.

Both said the district had numerous problems with the system.

"It is out there right now and they are struggling with it," Cornell said. "They were changing over at the time I came on."

"They had started this change-over in 1992, and it wasn't working when I started in '93 and it wasn't working in October."

But the district's assistant superintendent, Dave Hendrickson, said there were no problems with the new system.

"The new system's in place at this point in time and works fine," he said.

For a time, the district, in effect, operated two systems while it switched to the new technology, he said. The problems occurred then, he said.

But that was just one of many frustrations for Cornell and Dunaway.

For example, Cornell said that after his staff proposed a plan for facing a violent incident, school officials took it and said, "We'll handle it."

"What came out of that were guidelines for establishing a plan — no plan emerged, just guidelines, which was maddening," he said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 2 of 3
The Denver Rocky Mountain News
Denver, CO

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Hammond, however, contends that the district had a crisis plan in place long before Columbine and, in the past eight months, has done much more school-by-school planning around the question of how to respond to a violent incident.

Told that Cornell and Dunaway accused district officials of failing to acknowledge that the unthinkable could happen in Jefferson County, Hammond said, "That's probably right."

She said as she saw coverage of other school shootings, she could not fathom that it would happen in her district.

But she also defended the district's attention to school security.

"Would you build a big stone wall around your schools and put armed guards on it?" Hammond asked. "I think we are putting in place the kinds of things that can create safe schools."

Cornell and Dunaway said they were not sure what effect — if any — their proposals would have had on the events of April 20.

"After arguing all last summer on this (point) in the task force ... there would be, 'Well, that wouldn't have stopped Columbine.' To most of it I say, 'Well, maybe that's right,'" Cornell said.

But he said Neil Gardner, a sheriff's deputy assigned to Columbine who traded shots with Harris and Klebold, delayed the killers by engaging them in gunfire and probably saved some lives.

"I think if we had had more of that, we would have saved more lives," he said.

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The Columbine Threat: Reopening the wounds

World won't let Columbine forget

ANDREW WEST/The News-Press

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN: Kyle Ishmael, 12, left, and Chris Lawrence, 13, pause to read comments

scrawled on the memorial cross of

Daniel Rohrbough, who died April 20 at Columbine High School.

The crosses at Chapel Hill Cemetery on the outskirts of Littleton, Colo., serve as a memorial to the 13 victims of the Columbine massacre.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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The Columbine Threat

Reopening the wounds

Nine months ago Americans sat stunned in front of their television sets as images of stampeding students and heavily armed police were broadcast from Columbine High School. Students returned to school in the fall, although by then Columbine was seared into the nation's consciousness as a symbol of school violence.

Just days before Christmas, a Cape Coral teen allegedly reopened Columbine's wounds with an online message that threatened more violence.

Staff writer Kimberly Miller and photographer Andrew West spent week in Littleton, Colo., talking with victims' family members and others about how Columbine is dealing with its recovery and continued threats from outside

Community forced to relive nightmare again and again

By KIMBERLY MILLER
THE NEWS PRESS

LITTLETON, COLO. — Columbine High School is nestled between gated communities with names such as The Glen at Church Creek and The Jefferson at Racoon Creek.

Month-old snow covers the ground, interrupted by patches of brown grass. In sunny areas, snow melts trickles along the curb and down the hill from where the school is perched.

No wilting flowers lean against makeshift memorials. No teddy bears, filthy with snow and rain. No hand-scrawled testimonials to dead friends.

Not even the school sign memorializes the 13 victims of the worst school shooting in the nation's history. "Happy New Year, Welcome Back," it reads.

The lone testament to the April 20 horror stands deep inside Chapel Hill Cemetery — miles from the school — where students Rachel Scott, 17,

Corey DePooter, 17, and teacher Dave Sanders, 42, are buried.

There, 13 crosses and 13 saplings are festooned with mementos.

The absence of reminders could be Littleton's way of trying to heal. To forget.

The world will not allow it.

In the nine months since this wealthy western town was betrayed by two of its own children, the wounds remain raw but hidden.

Littleton now is a spot on the map where tour buses cruise slowly by Columbine and where the popular question at the chamber of commerce is for directions to the infamous campus.

Instead of looking back on the tragedy, however, the school and the community try to focus on homecoming games, Christmas concerts and SATs.

Littleton exudes tranquility and prosperity, hope and healing. But looks can deceive.

The murderous rampage of students Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold shook the feelings of serenity and safety in the Rocky Mountain foothills community.

Residents are trying to build on the remnants of that security. Authorities go after those who threaten it.

That's why residents find it hard to forgive Michael Ian Campbell.

The Cape Coral 18-year-old entered their world Dec. 15 through an Internet message that threatened to finish what Harris and Klebold started.

The recipient of the e-mail, 16-year-old Erin Walton, was one of the last survivors to escape Columbine on April 20.

Campbell, who pleaded not guilty to sending the message in a Denver federal courtroom Tuesday, was not the first to threaten Columbine's scant feelings of security. Residents say he won't be the last.

See COLUMBINE / 5A

COLUMBINE: Events keep reopening wounds

From Page 1A

■ ■ ■

Jacqui Walton couldn't remember what her daughter was wearing the day of the killings.

It was what they all wanted to know — the police, the triage workers, the school officials. Searching through names of the students who escaped Columbine, she saw lots of Erins, but when her eyes slid to the last names, none of them matched.

She remembers standing on a hill near the school with her mother. Teen-agers run by her. She picks out blondes in the distance, but none of them are Erin.

She is loaded onto a bus and taken to another school. "I thought, 'This is it, they are telling me my daughter is dead,'" she recalls.

Parents fill on paperwork. People want to know again what Erin is wearing.

Walton can't remember.

She walks up to a detective and says she's looking for her daughter.

He adds her name to a list of hundreds of other parents.

Someone hands her a cellular phone. She calls the house. Her husband answers. He has Erin. He found her at a gathering point about a mile from Columbine.

"That was my life that day," she says. "No one who wasn't there could ever understand it."

Erin, 16, hid in a science lab next to the one where teacher Dave Sanders was dying. She gave up her coat to cover him when students caring for his wounds needed something to use as a blanket.

Columbine didn't end for the Waltons that day. It still hasn't.

Walton's youngest daughter, Cassie, started skipping classes this year. She has trouble sitting in a room that doesn't provide an easy escape route.

Erin slept with every light in the house on.

Fifty days before Christmas, Erin got online and started chatting with Campbell — known as Soup81 in the anonymity of cyberspace.

Campbell warned her not to go to school. He said he was going to finish what Harris and Klebold started. He didn't want her blood on his hands.

Erin didn't know Campbell was nearly 1,500 miles away in Cape Coral. He could be next door.

Walton sent her daughters to a relative's home to hide. She put Erin's car in the garage in case the e-mail sender knew what her daughter drove. She admits that might appear neurotic.

But, then, no one else was Walton on April 20.

When the FBI told the Waltons that Soup81 lived in Florida, family members relaxed a bit. But the trauma still was too much for Erin and Cassie.

The sisters finally gave up on Columbine and enrolled in neighboring Chatfield High School on Monday.

"If I could say anything to Mr. Campbell, it would be, 'Come and hang out with me on the day it happened. Live my life.'"

Walton says, "I don't want to keep reliving April 20, and people like him are forcing me to do that."



INTERNET SCARE: Michael Campbell leaves the federal courthouse in Denver on Tuesday with attorney Ellis Rubin after appearing before a judge.



PAIN REVIVED: Erin Walton, one of the last students out of the school during the Columbine shooting, was the victim of an Internet threat by Cape Coral resident Michael Campbell.



SHERIFF'S CRITIC: Brian Rohrbough whose son Daniel who was killed, believes law enforcement agents should have entered the school earlier.

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On Dec. 15, Jefferson County School officials issued a "White Hot" alert. The term — born out of the Columbine tragedy — mobilizes the district's top administrators and their media spokespeople. It's a warning that yet again the 89,000-student school district is in crisis.

This time the crisis is sparked by a computer keypad in Florida and a teen who didn't understand that, even eight months later, a thoughtless threat about finishing what Harris and Klebold started would jar Littleton.

The two teen-agers killed 13 people who got up on an unusually warm April morning and began what promised to be another routine day. By 1 p.m. they were dead.

Rachel Scott was one of the first to die. She was shot three times at the top of an outside staircase that leads from the second-floor library to the cafeteria.

According to witnesses, one killer asked the wounded teen whether she still believed in God. When she said yes, he put a bullet in her temple.

Lance Kirklin, 16, was headed to the parking lot during lunch to have a cigarette with Danny Rohrbough. Both were shot.

Lance, still alive, looked into the blaring sun and saw a silhouette. He didn't realize it was one of the killers.

"I need help. Can you help me?" Lance pleaded.

"I'll help you," the killer responded and shot him in the face.

Lance, unlike Danny, lived. He has endured months of rehabilitation. He will carry his horrifying memories for life.

Cassie Bernal hid under a table in the second-floor library when Harris and Klebold attacked.

By then the killers had shed their trench coats. Their floor-length jackets made it harder to wield their weapons.

One looked under Cassie's table, said "peek-a-boo" and shot her in the face.

But then people know this. The gory details. They've been drummed into people's skulls like the beat of a heavy metal music anthem. The tale that goes largely untold outside the Littleton bubble is the devastation that followed the massacre.

Gun lobbyists fight Littleton parents who want tougher gun restrictions.

A call for the resignation of Sheriff John Stone has gone out from people who believe he mishandled not only the killings but the follow-up investigation.

Parents have criticized a teacher who called 911 from a library phone but hid in a cabinet as students died.

The mother of a student partially paralyzed in the attack committed suicide, ending her life with a revolver she saw in a pawn shop window.

The 1999 Columbine High School yearbook — which normally sells for

\$45 — was commanding thousands.

"The worst times began around the six-month anniversary," says Rick Kauffman, a Jefferson school district spokesman. "A Columbine student made a threat against the school. That same week Carla Hochhalter committed suicide."

Columbine attendance, normally 95 percent, dropped to 50 percent.

"Then the school was riding high because they won the state championship," Kauffman said.

That euphoria didn't last. Videotapes of Harris and Klebold planning the attack were released soon after the victory, Kauffman said.

And Time magazine publicized them. Then, right before

finals and the last day of school, Campbell's threat flashed through cyberspace.

Campbell, whose father died in November, faces charges of sending an Internet threat.

His lawyer argues Campbell was temporarily insane because he was intoxicated by the virtual world of the Internet.

Columbine shut down two days early for winter break.

Final exams were postponed.

"What he did to Columbine would be exactly like if someone from here sent him an e-mail saying that. 'Hey, we're glad your dad is dead. Now we're coming for you and your mom,'" says Brian Rohrbough, whose son Danny died April 20.

It is easy for Southwest Florida residents to push Columbine High School to the corners of their minds, places where they keep images of a Waco compound in flames, of a hollow shell of a federal building in Oklahoma City.

In Lee County the name Columbine makes its way into school board discussions about safety and newspaper stories about bomb threats.

Columbine no longer is a flower in America's vocabulary. It is an adjective used to stress tragic scenarios.

The nation's familiarity with Columbine and other school shootings is why University of Virginia

Professor Peter Sheras believes Campbell's conscience didn't stop him from making his false threat.

Sheras, who studies adolescent behavior and clinical psychology, says Campbell and society are desensitized to tragedy.

"My guess is, he never dreamed he would get this kind of response," Sheras says. "A lot of teen-agers don't know what the rule for behavior is anymore. They live in a social microcosm that's different than the society around them."

Campbell, an aspiring actor, says he was playing the role of a villain when he sent the message. He wanted to see what kind of reaction he could get.

Campbell says he never dreamed what the consequences would be. He has apologized repeatedly for the threat, even asking to speak to Columbine students during an assembly.

"I can't put myself in their shoes," Campbell says. "I can try. I can say, 'What would it be like to have my child taken away.' I try to see where they are coming from."

"I know they think I'm just some punk kid from Southwest Florida who was trying to play with them," he says. "I just wasn't thinking."

Lance Kirklin, 40, cautions that he doesn't want his son reliving the shooting. There's been too much of that. He wants to focus on the latest threat, the one from Campbell.

Still, details of April 20 seep in. "If (Michael) would have been around to see how it affected everyone, right here in Littleton, right here in my own home ... it really infuriates me," says Mike Kirklin. "You've got 13 deaths, and people are paralyzed. I had to see my son's head as big as a basketball. He needs to think about what happened here."

Lance Kirklin was semiconscious when a 12-gauge shotgun exploded in his face. He already had been shot three times and lay at the bottom of a stone staircase near the school cafeteria.

"A month later everything died down for a lot of people around here. A month later I was still feeding my son through a tube," Mike Kirklin says.

Kirklin is a straight-talker — a hard-working, blue-collar guy. A burly truck sits in his driveway, several muscular steps above the average pickup. A pool table dominates the living room.

A framed picture of Lance — tucked into a hospital chair, tubes running from his arm to plastic bags full of clear fluids — is in the foyer. Members of the rock band Aerosmith stand behind him. Lance is giving a thumbs-up.

Mike Kirklin is just returning to work after spending months caring for his son. The lost business hurts. Calls from bill collectors are another reminder of the family's financial situation.

Lance returned to school in the fall and says life is as normal as it's going to be for a while.

Doctors stole bones from his left calf to reconstruct his jaw. His leg scars rival those on his face.

Yet there is laughter in the house. "The town really came together, and people, I think, look out for each other more," Mike Kirklin says.

"Yeah, although someone still cut me off yesterday," says Lance, sarcasm lacing his tone.

Bob Curnow sounds flat and tired in the voice-mail recording.

"I got your message. As far as that threat is concerned, I could care less either way," he says about Campbell's Internet message.

Curnow's son, Steven, 14, died April 20.

On his cross at Chapel Hill Cemetery, someone scrawled, "At the end of the year, I missed you!!" (Sitting behind me in gym.) I am sorry."

"I'll pass your name and number along to some people who might want to talk," Curnow says.

Even though he's done "hundreds" of interviews, he knows people remain curious.

Lance Kirklin, 16, still is groggy when he answers the door of the two-story house he shares with his father, Mike. It's 8 a.m. on a Saturday.

Despite the early hour, he's willing to talk about what happened to him.

Even though he's done "hundreds" of interviews, he knows people remain curious.

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Even though he's done "hundreds" of interviews, he knows people remain curious.

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BLUNT REMINDER: "I got well," said the man of his face in late '60s. The scar on his head shows where doctors removed the tumor. "I was in the hospital for a while."

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■ ■ ■

Harris and Klebold wanted to kill more.

They carried two duffel bags when they walked into Columbine just before the first lunch period. Each bag contained a 20-pound propane tank. A one-gallon gas tank was attached to each of those.

The killers set them down on a cafeteria table.

"No one paid any attention," says Kaufman, the school district spokesman who was at Columbine less than 15 minutes after the massacre started. "Nowadays there could have been athletic gear in there or props for a play."

Harris and Klebold set the tanks to explode a few minutes into lunch. Then the pair went outside to "gear up."

Kaufman says the plan was to wait for the bombs to explode and then pick off survivors fleeing the building.

The two teens converged on the building when the bombs didn't go off.

"They sprayed it with gunfire," Kaufman says. "Kids in the cafeteria thought it was a senior prank at first. Then they started getting under the tables."

The killers entered the second-floor library, near an outside entrance.

"They randomly started shooting kids; there was no rhyme or reason," Kaufman says.

Other witness accounts vary.

In the beginning witnesses believed the killers were gunning for jocks who taunted them in the past.

Others said they were racists, picking out Isaiah Shoels, who is black, as a victim.

Others believed the pair had something against Christians.

Kaufman recounts shooting details from a fourth-story conference room in the school administration building.

Here again there is a lack of anything relating to the killings.

The only reminder, other than Kaufman's memories, is a small blue lapel pin he wears in the shape of a ribbon.

When Kaufman arrived at the school, he found two people struggling to get Lance Kirkin to an ambulance.

A former emergency medical technician, Kaufman grabbed Kirkin by the waist and helped pull him to safety.

Kaufman's eyes tear when he remembers how they thought Kirkin was dead. "It was the most surreal experience I have ever had."

Inside Columbine, Harris and Klebold returned to the cafeteria. They

moved one unexploded bomb into the kitchen and got themselves sodas.

Kaufman says surveillance video shows them trying to get into a freezer where custodians were hiding.

From Day 1 the district's goal has been to resume a normal routine, Kaufman says.

Memorials piled up around Rachel Scott's car and John Tomlin's truck where they were parked the morning of the massacre in Robert F. Clement Park, adjacent to the school. That's all gone now.

School district volunteers cleaned each item placed at the memorials, boxed them up and placed them in rooms at the Denver Federal Center. Each victim has his or her own room, even Klebold and Harris.

■ ■ ■

Rick Castaldo's son is shooting villains in a James Bond video game when the telephone rings.

"Can you hear that?" he says of the computer-created gunfire in the background before sighing at the

irony of it. "It's actually good for therapy in his hand."

Richard Castaldo, 18, is partially paralyzed from the wounds he suffered.

Castaldo agrees to talk over the telephone only — it's less disruptive. Since the shooting he moved from Virginia to Colorado. Richard lives most of the time with his mother and stepfather in Littleton.

Castaldo moved to help take care of his son. "I guess I would describe our lives as having highs and lows," he says.

There have been many bumps, such as Campbell's threat. Life in Littleton, he says, never will be the same.

"I think it's going to get worse. One of my personal frustrations is I don't think the community is ready to really look at what has happened here," he says. "Oh, it will quiet down for a while, but only until the next big thing happens."

Richard, now a Columbine senior, offers Campbell little sympathy. "They should put him away for a long time," he says.

■ ■ ■

Who actually said they believed in God before being shot has become an odd debate.

Early accounts attributed the testimony to Rachel Scott, overheard by Richard Castaldo, who lay wounded near her.

Police told Rachel's family of the words after hearing Richard recount the details.

Now Castaldo can't remember telling that story to family and friends shortly after the shooting.

A library witness said he heard Cassie Bernall declare her belief in God, but when questioned months later by police, he said he might have mistaken the place where Cassie hid for where another survivor took refuge.

The debate doesn't bother Beth Nimmo, Rachel's mother. She says she believes her daughter, a devout Christian, uttered the words.

Rachel's burgundy Acura still sits in Nimmo's driveway. White writing on the windows is fading with rain and snow. "We love you" still is clearly visible.

The rear window sports a black bumper sticker that reads, "Disappear fear."

Rachel's youngest brother, Michael, answers the door to the family's two-story house. He's 15 and takes two classes at Columbine. He is taught at home for the others.

His brother Craig, 17, was in the library when the shooting began. He played dead so he could live.

"It's hard to concentrate," says Michael about taking classes at the school. He's upset that there are no memorials for the dead of Columbine.

On the 20th of every month, he sets roses down on the sidewalk where his sister died.

Nimmo quit her job as an administrative assistant to take care of her two sons and continue speaking publicly about God — a ministry they say Rachel started. The salary her husband brings in now supports the family.

Money from a state victim's assistance program has run out. Nimmo says she will have to reapply.

"I think we are going to have to redefine normal in our family," she says. "The whole day seems to revolve around April 20. There's nowhere to hide."

Her daughter wrote letters, sometimes to God, and poems that hint at a life cut short — not by suicide but by homicide. A drawing done shortly before she died shows 13 teardrops falling from two eyes onto a rose.

"I believe she knew something but

didn't know what she knew," Nimmo says.

Nimmo also is upset about the lack of memorials to the dead. She says a new foundation is working to create a permanent memorial.

On the first day of school, thousands of supporters rallied in front of the school to create a sort of human shield for the children entering. During a pep-rally inside, the shooting was barely mentioned.

"It was all, 'Rah, rah, rah, We're Columbine,' but some of Columbine is buried now," Nimmo says.

■ ■ ■

At this time last year, Brian Rohrbough worked with his son Daniel in his automobile detailing shop. The plan was to pass it down to his son, and Daniel wanted the challenge.

Now Daniel is dead. Rohrbough scaled back his business and turned his energy to battle the sheriff's office, which he feels should have entered the school earlier during the shootings and should have listened to parents' complaints about Harris and Klebold.

"This has consumed all of my life," Rohrbough says. "My son died outside the school in a photo that was

seen around the world. I knew right from the beginning that I would take a stand."

When a church put up 15 crosses — 13 for the victims, two for the killers — Rohrbough told CNN he planned to remove the crosses for Harris and Klebold. He did it in the middle of the day, with television cameras rolling.

"We said, 'If you want to worship murderers, go ahead. But don't put them next to my kid.' They are no way equal," he says.

Rohrbough says he will not forgive Harris and Klebold. He's angry local churches have preached forgiveness.

He's not ready yet to forgive Campbell. "I do feel for him, though," he says.

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WAY TO REMEMBER: Beth Nimmo's daughter Rachel Scott, shown in the portrait behind her, was one of the first to die in the Columbine High School massacre. Nimmo quit her job to start a ministry in Rachel's name.



STILL THERE: Nine months after the Columbine High School shootings, tributes still cover the windows of Rachel Scott's car. Scott died during the massacre. Her car was parked that day in Robert F. Clement Park, near the school. Mourners covered it with flowers and other offerings.

Schools no longer ignore rumors

Massacre forces officials to take all threats seriously

By **KIMBERLY MILLER**
The News-Press

School rumors of violence once disregarded as immature signs of adolescence — now summon police and bomb-sniffing dogs.

It's life after Columbine.

Since the shootings that left 12 students, a teacher and two teen gunmen dead in Colorado last April, school districts around the country have changed the way they handle threats.

In Lee County, school resource officers and administrators have been trained to react to the slightest hint of potential trouble.

"A lot of the information we formerly looked at as not being that big of an issue we now thoroughly investigate," said Charles Bell, who oversees security as director of student services. "Before we

might have said, 'Well, kids are just being kids.' Now we track everything down, find the source and make sure we have looked at every possible avenue."

In December, Mariner High School Principal Michael McNerney called in police and metal detectors after learning of a rumor about a school shooting.

It turned out to be a lunchroom joke.

But someone overheard the conversation, and it soon became a rumor.

The story was traced back to two teen boys, who were suspended for two days before Christmas break.

They were allowed to return Jan. 3 after a disciplinary hearing found no cause for further punishment.

A similar incident occurred in May. More than 1,600 students stayed home from three schools in response to an alert issued by the Lee County Sheriff's Office based on rumors of pending violence.

The threats, one written on a bathroom mirror, came less than

two weeks after the Columbine shooting.

"We are not going to have students coming in concerned about safety instead of learning," Bell said.

Lois Sheras, University of Virginia associate professor of education, sees a similarity between school threats and bomb jokes that people used to make in the metal detector line at the airport.

When airports increased security in response to hijackings, any threat was met with a full investigation.

"People started to realize what would happen if they joked about it," Sheras said. "Students will start to realize the same thing."

But some parents can't wait for that day.

John McQuire pulled her son out of Cypress Lake Middle School after a November bomb threat.

She's now home schooling the 17-year-old.

"Columbine, certainly, no doubt was part of this," she said. "My life is tremendously more easy. I don't have to worry about my son's safety."

687

■ ■ ■

With the temperature hovering in the mid-40s, Chris Lawrence, 13, sits on a black granite bench staring at the 13 crosses erected at Chapel Hill Cemetery.

Lawrence's stare is blank. He's not there to think about the dead. He passes the memorial twice a day when he cuts through the cemetery to get to Newton Middle School, which was not left unscathed by Columbine.

Newton also was shut down after Campbell's message. The bomb squad arrived, and dogs sniffed around the campus searching for threats.

"I didn't understand it," Lawrence says. "Columbine is far away from here."

Today he's waiting for a friend. The memorial has become a meeting place between the two boys' houses — a part of everyday life.

When his friend shows up, the boys walk away without a backward glance at the strangers left standing there.

Two days later Lawrence is back again. Cutting through the cemetery with the same friend. This time they stop at the crosses and look.

"The more people talk about this, the more the families cry about it and stuff," he says before walking away. "They should stop talking about it."

— Kimberly Miller can be reached at 335-0356.

WORDS IN MEMORIAM

Handwritten messages left on wooden crosses at one of the memorial sites for the victims of the Columbine High School shooting.

Daniel Rohrbough

"Danny, I promise to tell your story." — Todd

Cassie Bernal

"You inspire a lot of people. Way to go. See you later."

Kelly Fleming

"My little Kelly Bells, there is not a day that goes by that you are not in my thoughts." Love, Dad

Lauren Townsend

"Lulu — Always my baby, now my guardian angel. I'll see you in paradise. I love you bunches, oodles, always and forever." — Mommie

Kyle Velasquez

"Kyle, we miss you. My garden will always grow for you." — Mark & Belinda

Mathew Kechter

"Well Matt, I miss you so much. I will never forget geometry class. We had so much fun in that class." — Kami

John Tomlin

"Do not worry, you will make the ultimate touchdown on judgment day. Amen."

Rachel Scott

"You touch my heart and I'll see you when I die." — Love, Eddie, 8 years old

Dave Sanders

"Uncle Dave, I love you lots. I will always remember you as a hero and a great person."

Corey DePooter

"For the short time we knew each other you became one of my best and most respected friends. I will always love you, bud. You're in God's hands now."

Isaiah Shoels

"Hey Isaiah, it's me Jeff! I miss you a lot! I finally graduated. We had good times jokin' around at school. Thanks for being a real friend."

Daniel Mauser

"When I was in school people called me Moose too. Moose, help everyone heal."

Steven Cumow

"At the end of the year, I missed you!!! (Sitting behind me in gym.) I am sorry."



SYMBOLS OF SORROW: Thousands of offerings in memory of the 13 victims of the Columbine High School massacre sit in rooms in the Denver Federal Center. All the tributes left for the victims were taken to the center.

Web sites hawk Columbine trinkets

Some question ethics of selling products marking massacre

By KIMBERLY MILLER
The News Press

First the carnage came to Columbine High School, then the commemorative T-shirts.

More than nine months after two teen-age gunmen entered the Colorado school, killing 13 and themselves, trinkets memorializing the slaughter still are plentiful on the Internet.

At numerous Columbine Web sites, people can buy everything from commemorative Beanie Babies to "Never Forgotten" lapel pins.

Memorial-service videos run \$16.95. Bible study guides go for \$4.99. Poetry, decals, jewelry (\$9.99 for a lapel pin), key-chains (\$8.50), magazines and books also are available.

Hawkers of the commemorative items say they are a way to remember the dead and sometimes are used to promote religion. Many Web sites claim some of the proceeds will go to help the victims or to organizations endorsed by the victims' families.

Still, some people question the ethics of capitalizing on a tragedy such as the murders at Columbine.

"It is surely in poor taste at best and raises questions about the decency of a civil society," said University of Virginia Professor Patricia Werhane, who teaches philosophy and ethics. "Is it unethical to capitalize on these tragedies? Well, I would say questionable and undignified."

Memorial Web sites sprouted just days after the April 20, 1999, shooting at Columbine, said Lora Raber, director of the Foothills Foundation, which helped consolidate some of the money pouring in for the victims.

Raber said the number of different fund-raising accounts made some people question their legitimacy.

Eventually, the Denver district attorney's office got involved in tracking where the donated money was going.

"Everybody was aware that there was a lot of confusion," said Raber, who began noticing commemora-



File photo

TRAGIC DAY: Critics say Columbine High School students' anguish has been exploited for profit.

tive bumper stickers and other items shortly after the shooting. "The McDonald's was even giving decals away."

Raber's foundation is listed on a Web site that touts itself as the "Official Columbine Information and Relief Efforts" site.

Besides information about where to send money, it also advertises memorial lapel pins and CDs and tells how to donate to a book drive.

Raber knew nothing about the Web site. "I don't know how official it is when I've never even heard of it."

Another Web site, called Columbine Redemption, is dedicated to Rachel Scott, 17, who was killed at the school.

Rachel's father, Darrell Scott, has quit his job in Littleton and is traveling the country speaking about his daughter's life and her dedication to God.

The Web site doesn't advertise commemorative items, but it is linked to a new teen magazine called Rachel's Journal.

The magazine costs \$24 for 12 issues and focuses on religious matters.

Editor Eric Baker said part of the proceeds will go to the Columbine Redemption Foundation to build a religious training center for young people.

But Baker said he wasn't sure how much of the profits will be for charity.

"I know part of the money will go to pay for the magazine; I'm sure whatever's left will go to Columbine Redemption," said Baker, who also sells videos made by Scott.

Baker said he is concerned people may try to make a profit on the Columbine tragedy without donating any money for charitable causes.

He admitted that there is no accountability for any of the Web sites.

Rachel's mother, Beth Nimmo, said the commemorative items don't bother her.

"I think it's just the way our society relates to an event like this," she said. "A lot of people have been profoundly impacted by Columbine."

Glenn Whitehouse, assistant professor of philosophy at Florida Gulf Coast University, compared the Columbine aftermath to the memorabilia frenzy that followed Princess Diana's death.

The Internet, he said, makes it easier for people to sell their wares.

"People have always used these kinds of tragedies for political purposes," Whitehouse said. "There are greater opportunities now with the Internet. Keeping it tasteful is the hard part."

One of the larger Web sites selling books, key chains, videos, hats, T-shirts and CDs is sponsored by Yes I Believe, a foundation dedicated to Cassie Bernal.

Cassie, 17, died in the Columbine library. It was widely believed that she was shot after one of the gunmen asked whether she believed in God and she said "yes."

Christian groups took her alleged affirmation and used it to promote a resurgence in youth religion.

Cassie's mother, Misty, even wrote a book called "She said Yes, the Unlikely Martyrdom of Cassie Bernal."

Recently, however, Cassie's proclamation has been questioned in the confusion of the moment, witnesses may have made a mistake about who actually said they believed in God.

The question hasn't stopped the Yes I Believe Foundation, which continues to sell memorabilia in Cassie's name.

Jason Janz, a Littleton youth minister, said the Bernal family still believes Cassie said the three famous words and will continue to sell items commemorating her.

Janz refused to say what portion of the proceeds of Yes I Believe products goes to the Cassie Bernal foundation.

He said the foundation is using the money to set up youth ministries locally and nationally.

Different motives emerged in the aftermath of Columbine, Janz said. "Some people view Columbine as a responsibility to spread the word of God, like the Bernalls," he said. "Others see it as an area for financial gain."

"Everyone has to judge what they feel is a worthy cause. The people at Yes I Believe aren't making any money."

That's what consumers have to be aware of, said Dan Langan, director of public information for the National Charities Information Bureau.

The bureau investigates charities for their legitimacy.

He said the office hasn't been asked to investigate anything related to Columbine but said the public should be alert to charities that spring up after tragedies.

"Scams really come out when it has to do with catastrophes," Langan said. "We always suggest that you know exactly how much of the money is going to charity and what the charity is using it for."

690

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 01/06/2000

To: Denver

From: Sacramento

Chico RA

Contact: SA [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED]

Drafted By: [REDACTED]

:mj

Case ID #: 174A-DN-57419-520 (Pending)

Title: UNSUB;
THREATS - COLOMBINE HIGH SCHOOL

b7c

Synopsis: Threat information provided.

Details: On 12/17/1999, writer was contacted by Lieutenant [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Glenn County Sheriff's Office, [REDACTED] concerning a call his department had received regarding a potential suspect concerning an email threat directed towards Columbine High School. [REDACTED] advised that contact was made with reporting party [REDACTED] who advised that she had been in a chat room with an individual identified only by screen name [REDACTED] advised Sheriff's units that [REDACTED] a 12-step recovery chat room in which they communicate via computer with individuals who have various addictions. [REDACTED] further advised the Sheriff's units that she was in conversation in the chat room with the individual identified as [REDACTED] and that the individual claimed responsibility for making a threat towards Columbine High School.

The writer then contacted Denver in reference to the current case during which he was advised that Denver had an individual in custody for the captioned E-mail threat. Based on information Sacramento received concerning the chat conversation, it appeared that the individual claiming responsibility may have been simply attempting to gain the attention of [REDACTED] This information was provided to Denver. Denver advised the writer that no further investigation was requested of Sacramento based on information they had concerning their suspect in custody.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/6/02 BY SP5JC/AE
#934178

174A-DN-57419-520

691

To: Denver From: Sacramento
Re: 174A-DN-57419, 01/06/2000

Based on Denver's apprehension of the suspect concerning the captioned E-mail threat and request for no further investigation to be completed in Sacramento, this matter is considered covered.

♦♦

040MAH01.EC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 02/09/2000

To: Denver

Attn: Squad Five Agents (Info)

From: Denver

Squad Five/JTTF-DT

Contact: SA [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED]

b7C

Drafted By: [REDACTED] mah

Case ID #: 174A-DN-57419 (Pending)
174A-DN-57419-IT (INTERNET THREATS)

Title: ERIC HARRIS (DECEASED) ✓
DYLAN KLEBOLD (DECEASED) ✓
UNSUB(S)
COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL
JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLORADO ✓
04/20/1999
ACTUAL AND ATTEMPTED BOMBING

Ⓟ
X

Synopsis: Request to open an Internet threats sub file as a repository for related Internet threats concerning captioned matter.

Details: Request a separate sub file be opened as a repository for related Internet threats concerning the Columbine incident.

Based upon the increase in related Internet threats coming to the attention of the Denver JTTF, writer recommends opening a sub file to captioned matter as a repository for these threats.

If the subject of a specific threat can be located and identified, writer recommends that the case agent initiate a separate PI or FFI, as appropriate, and discontinue working the investigation under captioned file.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/16/02 BY SP5 JCA/E

#934178

174A-DN-57419-521

693

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Date: 2/8/00
Edition: St. Petersburg Times

Title:

Character: 174A-DN-57419
orClassification:
Submitting Office:

TAMPA

Indexing:

Plea deal set in Columbine threat

Compiled from Times wires

DENVER — Federal prosecutors have reached a plea agreement with Michael Ian Campbell, the Florida teen accused of threatening Columbine High School on the Internet.

IN BRIEF

The deal will require Campbell to plead guilty to a crime, but terms remained secret Monday.

Campbell, 18, of Cape Coral is charged with transmitting a threat of violence across state lines, a federal felony punishable by up to five years in prison.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/6/02 BY SP5JCL/AE
#934178

174A ~~DN~~ 57419-522

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174A-DN-57419
MAH:mah

1

On the dates indicated, the following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] Denver FBI, JTTF-DT:

On 02/23/2000, [redacted] DOB [redacted] current residence at [redacted] telephone [redacted] was telephonically contacted and advised he was being requested to take a polygraph exam concerning his possible involvement in the COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL (CHS) shootings of April, 1999.

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[redacted] advised he would discuss the matter with his father, [redacted] and get back to the FBI with an answer.

[redacted] also advised that on 01/20/2000, he had been in contact over the Internet with an individual using an E-mail address of [redacted] Internet service provider was JUNEAU. [redacted] later ascertained that this E-mail address belonged to a [redacted] informed [redacted] she had previously talked with DYLAN KLEBOLD over the Internet prior to the CHS shootings. [redacted] informed [redacted] she would contact him later using a new E-mail address of [redacted] aol.com. [redacted] agreed to keep the FBI apprised of his conversations with [redacted]

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b7D

On 02/24/2000, [redacted] telephonically contacted the FBI and expressed concerns about why his son was being requested to take another polygraph exam. After explaining to [redacted] why his son was being offered another polygraph, he agreed to talk the matter over with his son and get back with the FBI concerning his son's decision.

On 03/07/2000, [redacted] was telephonically contacted and advised SA [redacted] that since he already subjected himself to two polygraph examinations, he would not agree to a third one.

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[redacted] advised that the first one, which he believed was fully-completed by the FBI; as well as a second one, which was provided by an ATF agent, revealed that he was telling the truth about his not being involved in the CHS incident. According to [redacted] the ATF agent who provided him with a "visual polygraph," indicated to him that in the agent's opinion, [redacted] had been truthful and therefore, would not need to take another polygraph examination.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/6/02 BY SP5JCL/AF
#934178

174A-DN-57419-523

695

087MAH01, EC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 03/27/2000

To: Denver

From: Denver

Squad Five/JTTF-DT

Contact: [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED]

b7E

Drafted By: [REDACTED]/mah

Case ID #: 174A-DN-57419 (Pending)

Title: CHANGED

ERIC HARRIS (DECEASED)

DYLAN KLEBOLD (DECEASED)

COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL

UNINCORPORATED JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLORADO

04/20/1999

EID - ACTUAL AND ATTEMPTED BOMBING

Synopsis: Request for caption change.

Previous Title: Title marked "Changed" to reflect deletion of UNSUB(S) from the title and specification of the location of captioned incident as being in unincorporated Jefferson County. Title previously carried as "ERIC HARRIS (DECEASED); DYLAN KLEBOLD (DECEASED); UNSUB(S); COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL; JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLORADO; 04/20/1999; EID-ACTUAL AND ATTEMPTED BOMBING."

Details: Case agent requests change of caption in this investigation.

♦♦

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/6/02 BY SP5JC/AE
#994178

524
174A-DN-57419-5

696

087MAH02.LC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 03/27/2000

To: Denver

Attn: All agents

From: Denver

Squad Five/JTTF-DT

Contact: [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED]

Drafted By: [REDACTED] mah

Case ID #: 174A-DN-57419 (Pending)
66-17

b7C

Title: ERIC HARRIS (DECEASED)
DYLAN KLEBOLD (DECEASED)
COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL (CHS)
UNINCORPORATED JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLORADO
04/20/1999
EID - ACTUAL AND ATTEMPTED BOMBING

Synopsis: Information pertaining to planned activities in remembrance of the anniversary date of the CHS incident. Agents are requested to provide any information which could potentially have an impact on these activities to Squad Five, JTTF-DT.

Details: On 04/20/1999, the worst school killings in United States history occurred at CHS in Unincorporated Jefferson County. The attack, which included the use of explosive devices, resulted in the deaths of 13 students, one teacher, and both gunmen. Hundreds of law enforcement personnel responded to the scene, including members of the Denver FBI Office.

For information of Denver agents, during the month of April 2000, several memorials, remembrances, and fund raisers will be held at the school, as well as in the surrounding park. Extensive local and national media coverage is anticipated during several of the events. Crowds in excess of 80,000 are expected to attend some of the more highly-publicized events occurring on 04/20/2000. Columbine area churches will also hold services at various times throughout that day.

Some of the main activities expected to draw a large number of participants include a 5K memorial run on Sunday, 04/16/2000, and a series of memorials and other activities at the adjacent Clement Park on Thursday, 04/20/2000. The day will conclude with a candlelight vigil beginning at 9:30 pm at the Clement Park Amphitheater.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/16/02 BY SP5JCL/NE
#934178

174A-DN-57419-525

697

To: Denver From: Denver
Re: 174A-DN-57419, 03/27/2000

The Jefferson County School District has announced it will not hold any classes for CHS students on 04/20/2000. There will be a voluntary assembly for faculty and students starting at 9:30 that morning.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Department incident command post will be operational from Monday, 04/17/2000, until Thursday, 04/20/2000.

Based on the large media presence and past national exposure subsequent criminal activity has garnered in the Columbine area, the CHS memorial events could draw the interest of extremist groups and/or individuals attempting to gain national exposure and publicity for their political or social agendas.

Denver agents are requested to provide any information which could potentially have an impact on the planned CHS events to Jefferson County Sheriff's Investigator [redacted] JTTF-DT, [redacted] or SA [redacted]

b7C

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089MAH01,EC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 03/27/2000

To: National Security
All Field Offices
All Legats

Attn: CTD, [REDACTED]
DTOU, [REDACTED]
Attn: DT squads/JTTFs

From: Denver
Squad Five/JTTF-DT
Contact: [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED]

Drafted By: [REDACTED]/mah

b7C

Case ID #: 174A-DN-57419 (Pending)

Title: ERIC HARRIS (DECEASED)
DYLAN KLEBOLD (DECEASED)
COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL (CHS)
UNINCORPORATED JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLORADO
04/20/1999
EID - ACTUAL AND ATTEMPTED BOMBING

Synopsis: Information for all Field Offices and Legats pertaining to planned activities in remembrance of the anniversary date of the CHS incident. Recipients are requested to provide positive information which could have an impact on these activities to the Denver Field Office.

Details: On 04/20/1999, the worst school killings in United States history occurred at CHS in unincorporated Jefferson County, Colorado. The attack, which included the use of explosive devices, resulted in the deaths of 13 students, one teacher, and both gunmen. Hundreds of law enforcement personnel responded to the scene, including members of the Denver FBI Office.

For information of recipients, during the month of April 2000, several memorials, remembrances, and fund raisers will be held at the school, as well as in the surrounding park. Extensive local and national media coverage is anticipated during several of the events. Crowds in excess of 80,000 are expected to attend some of the more highly-publicized activities occurring on 04/20/2000. Columbine area churches will also hold services at various times throughout that day.

Some of the main activities expected to draw a large number of participants include a 5K memorial run on Sunday,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/6/02 BY SP5TJ/AE
#994178

174A-DN-57419-526

699

To: National Security From: Denver
Re: 174A-DN-57419, 03/27/2000

04/16/2000, and a series of memorials and other activities in the adjacent park on Thursday, 04/20/2000. The day will conclude with a candlelight vigil beginning at 9:30 pm at the Clement Park Amphitheater.

The Jefferson County School District has announced it will not hold any classes for CHS students on 04/20/2000. There will be a voluntary assembly for faculty and students starting at 9:30 that morning.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Department incident command post will be operational from Monday, 04/17/2000, until Thursday, 04/20/2000.

Based upon the expected media presence and past national exposure subsequent criminal activity has garnered in the Columbine area, CHS memorial events could draw the interest of extremist groups and/or individuals attempting to gain national exposure and publicity for their own political or social agendas.

Receiving offices are requested to provide any positive information which could have an impact on the planned memorial events to SA [redacted] Denver FBI JTTF, telephone [redacted] or to Jefferson County Sheriff's Investigator, [redacted] Denver FBI JTTF, telephone [redacted]

♦♦

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PPG 700