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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of transcription 12/13/1999

12/10/99

[redacted] DOB [redacted] white female, home address [redacted] Houston, Texas, was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent and investigator and the purpose of the interview. [redacted] provided the following information:

[redacted] advised she attended [redacted] High School [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] she met [redacted] while on the Internet. [redacted] he was a student at [redacted] High School. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] To the best of her knowledge, [redacted] had only contacted one another over the Internet and telephone.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/24/02 BY SP5TC/AE
#934178

Investigation on 12/06/1999 at Houston, TexasFile # 174A-DN-57419-288Date dictated 12/10/1999INV
SANJTTE DT-DLE
:sad

3453001 CCT2

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1601

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of transcription 12/10/1999

[redacted] white female, home address [redacted] Houston, Texas, 77062, home telephone [redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent and investigator and the purpose of the interview. [redacted] provided the following information:

[redacted] had contact with him over the Internet and telephone. [redacted] advised [redacted] [redacted] introduced [redacted] to her via the Internet. [redacted] explained [redacted] had attended [redacted] High School with [redacted] [redacted] stated she last spoke with [redacted] over the telephone in [redacted] and over the Internet in [redacted] [redacted] never met [redacted] in person.

[redacted] advised [redacted] now lives at [redacted] Houston Texas.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/24/02 BY SP5JC/AE
#934178

Investigation on 12/06/1999 at Houston, TexasFile # 174A-DN-57419-289 Date dictated 12/10/1999INV
SAJTTT-BT:DLE
SAC [redacted]

3445ad03 (CT2)

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1602

12/07/1999
Houston, TX

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Interview Log

09:32AM TASK FORCE AGENT (TFA) [redacted] and SPECIAL AGENT (SA) [redacted] arrive at the home address for [redacted] Houston, Texas.

09:40AM Interview began.

09:52AM TFA [redacted] and SA [redacted] obtain verbal and written consent to search the bedroom area for [redacted] located [redacted], Houston, Texas.

10:30AM [redacted] TFA [redacted] and SA [redacted] depart residence and travel to F.B.I. Office, 2500 East T.C. Jester, Houston, Texas. b7C b7D

11:13AM Arrived at F.B.I. Office, 2500 East T.C. Jester, Houston, Texas. SA [redacted] asked [redacted] if he wanted anything to eat or drink. [redacted] declined.

11:15AM Obtained fingerprints from [redacted]

11:25AM SA [redacted] read body fluid consent form to [redacted] signed the form.

11:26AM Obtained saliva samples from [redacted]

11:28AM [redacted] requested to use the restroom. [redacted] used the restroom.

11:32AM Writing began for Exemplar B-1.

12:12PM Writing completed for Exemplar B-1.

12:13PM Writing began for Exemplar B-2.

12:30PM [redacted] having difficulty writing with his left hand. [redacted] complains he is cold. TFA [redacted] offers him a jacket. [redacted] puts on the jacket.

01:00PM Writing completed for Exemplar B-2. Writing began for Exemplar B-2a. SA [redacted] offered [redacted] something to eat or drink. [redacted] declined.

01:10PM Writing completed for Exemplar B-2a. Writing began for Exemplar C-1.

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#934178

342sado1 (CT2)

174A-DN-57419-290

1603

01:29PM Writing completed for Exemplar C-1. Writing began for Exemplar C-2.

01:30PM SA [] offers [] something to drink. [] requested and received bottled water from FBI coffee shop.

01:39PM Writing completed for Exemplar C-2. [] stood to stretch his arms and legs.

01:40PM Writing began for Exemplar E.

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01:50PM Writing completed for Exemplar E. [] offered something to eat. [] walked with TFA [] to stretch and use the restroom.

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02:00PM [] told he is free to leave. [] decides to stay and talk with TFA [] and SA []

02:05PM []

02:16PM [] told he does not have to write a statement, to do so is voluntary. [] signed and began writing a written statement.

02:30PM [] completes written statement. SA [] telephones [] to tell her [] they will be leaving in the next couple of minutes to return home. SA [] TFA [] and [] leave FBI office.

02:45PM SA [] TFA [] and [] arrive at [] home.

- 1 -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/08/1999

On December 7, 1999, [redacted] born [redacted]
[redacted] Houston, Texas voluntarily provided
saliva samples to SA [redacted] for use in an FBI
investigation. These samples were collected utilizing sterilized
cotton tipped swabs and the collection took place at the offices of
the Houston FBI, 2500 East T.C. Jester, Houston, Texas.

Prior to providing the samples, [redacted] was advised of the
identity of the collecting agent, of the purpose of the FBI's
request, and of the FBI's intention to analyze the samples. After
reading and stating that he understood the "Consent to Collect
Bodily Fluids and Hair" form, [redacted] voluntarily signed the form
and provided the collecting agent with the saliva samples.

The collection of these samples and signing of the
consent form was witnessed by SA [redacted] and Denver Joint
Task Force Officer [redacted]

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DATE 01/2/02 BY SP5JC/ME

#934178

CND J/K/Km

Investigation on 12/7/1999 at HoustonFile # 174A-DN-57419-291 Date dictated 12/7/1999by SA [redacted] SA [redacted]
JTF Officer [redacted]

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342wmp01

1605

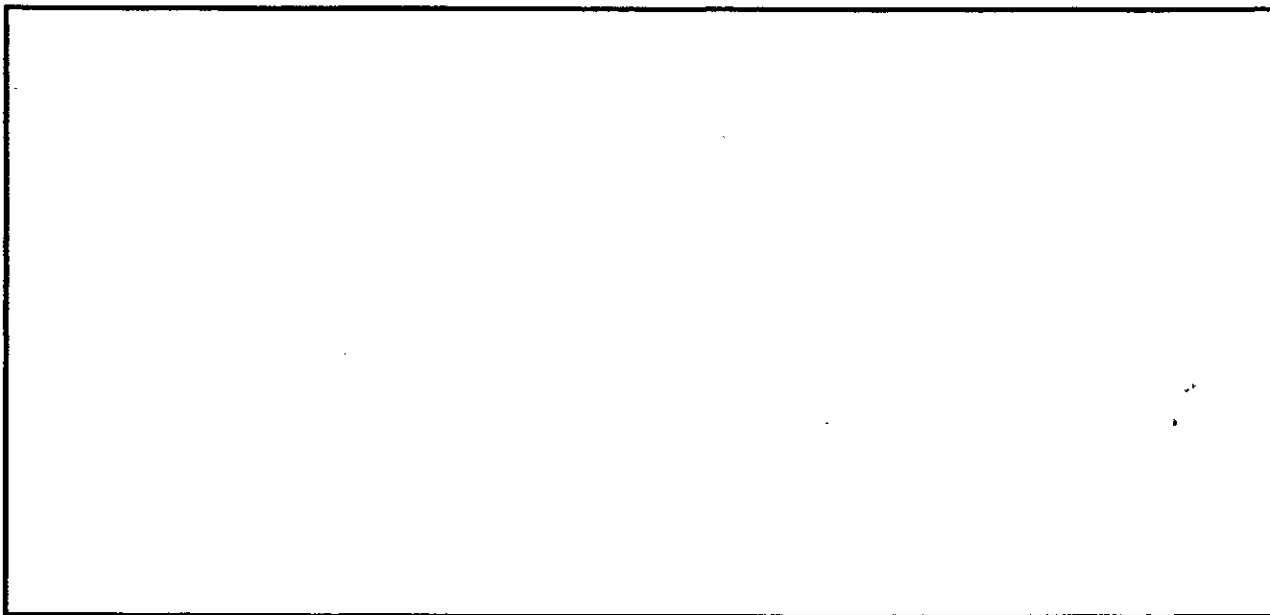
- 1 -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/08/1999

[redacted] Date of Birth [redacted] Social
 Security Account Number [redacted]
 Houston, Texas, telephone number [redacted] was interviewed at
 his place of residence and at the Office of the Federal Bureau of
 Investigation, 2500 East T.C. Jester, Houston, Texas. After being
 advised of the identity of the interviewing agents and the nature
 of the interview, [redacted] provided the following information:

[redacted]
 [redacted] He has a home computer [redacted]
 [redacted] He got the computer
 approximately one year and five months ago. America On Line (AOL)
 has been the Internet Service Provider (ISP) for [redacted] His
 screen name on AOL is [redacted] Additional screen names for
 [redacted] are [redacted] and [redacted] met ERIC
 HARRIS last summer over the Internet while he was trying to look up
 people who knew how to play a video game. [redacted] did not realize
 he was actually talking to ERIC HARRIS.



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Investigation on 12/07/1999 at Houston, Texas

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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 DATE 01/24/02 BY SP5/ME
#934178

File # 174A-DN-57419-292Date dictated 12/08/1999

by SA [redacted] TFA [redacted] DE [redacted]

342500 02 (CT2)

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1606

174A-DN-57419

Continuation of FD-302 of

, On 12/07/1999 , Page 2

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[redacted] knew about the stuff from COLUMBINE through watching television. He would write everything down on a piece of paper so he would know it later. [redacted]

_____ have been placed in a 1A envelope and are being maintained in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

He knew the Sheriff from television.

1607

174A-DN-57419

Continuation of FD-302 of [REDACTED]

, On 12/07/1999 , Page 3

[REDACTED]

One day, [REDACTED] would like to write a film or movie. [REDACTED] has video copies of several horror movies including Scream I, Scream II and the Texas Chainsaw Massacre. He got some of his ideas for the threats from the movie, Scream I.

[REDACTED] wrote a free and voluntary statement to SA [REDACTED] and TFA [REDACTED] regarding [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The signed statement was turned over to TFA [REDACTED]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 01/06/2000

[redacted] date of birth [redacted] Social Security
Account Number [redacted] Houston, Texas,
telephone number [redacted] was interviewed over the telephone
while he was at his place of employment, [redacted] High School Sr.,
[redacted] Houston, Texas, telephone number [redacted]
After being advised of the identity of the interviewing agent and
the nature of the interview, [redacted] provided the following
information:

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DATE 01/24/02 BY SP5SC/RE
#934178

[Handwritten signature]

Investigation on 01/06/2000 at Houston Texas (telephonically)File # 174A-DN-57419Date dictated 01/06/2000by SA [redacted]sad *[Handwritten initials]*

- 1 -

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

b7D

Date of transcription 01/04/2000

[redacted] Date of Birth [redacted] Social Security
Account Number [redacted] Houston,
Texas, telephone number [redacted] was interviewed in the back
yard of her residence. After being advised of the identity of the
interviewing agent and the nature of the interview, [redacted] provided
the following information:

[Large redacted area]

[Redacted area]

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/24/02 BY SP3 JCL/AE
#934178

Investigation on 12/29/1999 at Houston, TexasFile # 174A-DN-57419Date dictated 12/29/1999by SA [redacted] :sac [signature]

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174A-DN-57419-294

1610

174A-DN-57419

Continuation of FD-302 of

[REDACTED]

, On 12/29/1999

, Page

2

Columbine, the Sheriff and

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

He is not a bad kid. He did not know what he was doing. He was just trying something.

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1611

- 1 -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of transcription 01/04/2000

[redacted] Date of Birth [redacted] Social
Security Account Number [redacted]
Houston, Texas, telephone number [redacted] was interviewed in
[redacted] located at [redacted]
Houston, Texas. After being advised of the identity of the
interviewing agent and the nature of the interview, [redacted]
provided the following information:

[Large redacted area]

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DATE 1/29/02 BY SP5 JHEInvestigation on 12/29/1999 at Houston, Texas#934178File # 174A-DN-57419Date dictated 12/29/1999

by SA [redacted] sad [signature]

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174A DN-57419-225

1612

174A-DN-57419

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Continuation of FD-302 of

, On 12/29/1999, Page 2

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] used the computer for school and pleasure. During school, he would come home and stay on the computer for several hours. [REDACTED] is knowledgeable about the computer.

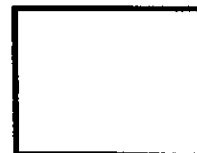
[REDACTED] writing threats to Columbine, the Sheriff, and [REDACTED] would be the first problem they ever had with [REDACTED]

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1613

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 01/06/2000

To: Denver

Attn: Investigator [redacted]
Squad 5/DNJTF-DT

From: Houston

CT - 2 Domestic Terrorism

Contact: SA [redacted]

Approved By: [redacted]

Drafted By: [redacted]

:sac [redacted]

Case ID #: 174A-DN-57419 (Pending) -296

Title: ERIC HARRIS (DECEASED);
DYLAM KLEBOLD (DECEASED);
UNSUB(S);
COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL BOMBING,
JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLORADO;
04/20/99;
ACTUAL OR ATTEMPTED BOMBING

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/24/02 BY SP5TC/AG
#934178

Synopsis: To report requested information to Denver.

b7C

Reference: 174A-DN-57419 Serial 279

b7D

Administrative: Enclosed FD302's were sent to Investigator Donald Estep via Groupwise email on 01/05/1999.

- Enclosure(s):
- (1) One original and one copy of FD302 regarding interview with [redacted]
 - (2) One original and one copy of FD302 regarding interview with [redacted]
 - (3) One original and one copy of FD302 regarding interview with [redacted]
 - (4) Two FD340, 1A envelopes containing original notes from above interviews.

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Details: On 12/29/1999, Special Agent (SA) [redacted] of Houston's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) interviewed [redacted]

[redacted] as requested by Investigator [redacted] of Denver's JTTF.

The interviews were conducted to develop background information on [redacted]. To summarize the interviews, [redacted] Nothing

GPJ/KRM

To: Denver From: Houston
Re: 174A-DN-57419, 01/06/2000

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negative was learned about [redacted] through her interview. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Denver also requested Houston interview [redacted]
[redacted] teachers in order to identify the teacher who
[redacted] In talking
with [redacted] SA [redacted] has learned

[redacted]
[redacted] and [redacted] are no longer employed
at [redacted] High School. SA [redacted] will continue her investigation
to complete the lead and identify and interview the teacher who
received the threat.

Investigation is continuing at Houston.

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♦♦

06sad01

Automated Serial Permanent Charge-Out
FD-5a (1-5-94)

Date: 01/20/00 Time: 10:11

Case ID: 174A-DN-57419 Serial: 297

Description of Document:

Type : FD515
Date : 01/10/00
To : HOUSTON
From : HOUSTON
Topic: FEDERAL SUMMONS OF [REDACTED] ON 1/10/2000

Reason for Permanent Charge-Out:

new case was opened for subject

b7C

Transferred to:

Case ID: 266A-DN-58448 Serial: 5

Employee: [REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/24/02 BY SP5RC/AE
#934178

174A-DN-57419:297

1616

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 01/18/2000

To: Denver

Attn: SAC
ASAC-A
ASAC-C
SSA [REDACTED]

From: Denver

Squad 5

Contact: SA [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED]

Drafted By: [REDACTED] dae

b7C

Case ID #: 174A-DN-57419 (Pending)

Title: ERIC HARRIS (DECEASED);
DYLAN KLEBOLD (DECEASED);
COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL BOMBING
JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLORADO;
04/20/1999;
ACTUAL OR ATTEMPTED BOMBING
OO: DENVER

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/4/02 BY SP5TC/AE
#934178

(X)

Synopsis: Close case pertaining to Team 4, the Cafeteria Team, as investigation has been completed.

Details: Writer and Team 4 has conducted and completed a thorough and complete investigation pertaining to captioned matter, specifically the investigative responsibilities of the Cafeteria Team. SA [REDACTED] has forwarded all the results of the investigation to [REDACTED] Lead Investigator, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

No further investigation is anticipated with a logical investigation being completed. This matter is to be considered closed.

♦♦
Re: [REDACTED]
A2
Adri [REDACTED]
1/19/00
1/19/2000
KLM

b7C

1617

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Copycat threats spook schools across nation

By Jim Hughes

Denver Post Staff Writer

As investigators continued cataloging evidence from Tuesday's massacre at Columbine High School, officials from Wyoming to Georgia reported copycat incidents and unrelated but haunting acts of school violence involving guns.

From bomb threats to bad jokes, the incidents left one injured and perpetuated the atmosphere of fear that has prevailed in schools across the country in the wake of the Columbine tragedy.

■ All schools in Florence were closed Thursday after a Colorado Springs television station received an e-mail message from a self-described satanist promising a gory continuation of the Columbine tragedy at Florence High School. Officials traced the message back to that school's computer system, but couldn't determine who had sent it or from which computer terminal. Schools were scheduled to reopen today.

■ A rumor wreaked similar havoc at Russell Middle School in Colorado Springs.

"The student body heard that a certain individual had a list of (people) he was going to kill and had entered the school with a weapon," said Colorado Springs Police Lt. Steve Liebowitz.

About a dozen students, scared by the rumor, went home with parents. Uniformed police officers spent the remainder of the day going from classroom to classroom comforting students, Liebowitz said.

■ Also in Colorado Springs, four high school students were arrested on trespassing charges after showing up for school wearing black masks and trench coats, an apparent attempt to spoof the two Columbine suspects. Several Colorado Springs schools also received bomb threats in the past two days, Liebowitz said.

■ Two 16-year-old males were arrested Thursday for making bomb threats to Douglas County High School in Castle Rock, according to county officials. They claimed to be members of the Trench Coat Mafia, officials said.

■ Bomb threats also were reported by officials at a Cheyenne school administration building and a Cheyenne high school student, described as a Goth, was suspended after he made comments on the Columbine tragedy that administrators found unacceptable. Members of Gothic groups often focus on death and violence.

■ Just outside Baton Rouge, La., a 14-year-old girl was accidentally shot Thursday on the grounds of Scotlandville Middle School by a man across the street engaged in a lovers' quarrel. She received superficial wounds from the errant bullet, said East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office spokesman Lt. Darrell O'Neal.

School officials' first thought the shooting was a copycat scenario, said Bill Miller, a spokesman for the Louisiana Department of Schools.

"The initial reports scared us to death," he said. "We thought we had a copycat thing here, but it's not."

■ In a small Ohio town on Thursday, a 13-year-old boy was arrested after threatening to come to school with a gun "to kill all of the people that he didn't like," said Tuscarawas Police Chief Scott Ballentine.

■ And on Monday, the day before the killings at Columbine, two students at Evans High School in Georgia were arrested for illegal possession of a handgun. Local authorities, with the help of the FBI, are looking into allegations that those two boys, aged 15 and 16, may have had some kind of Internet contact with Dylan Klebold, Eric Harris, or their associates.

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

The Denver Post Denver CO

Date: 11/12/99

Edition:

Title: Copycat threat spook schools across nation

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

Indexing: 114A DW-57419

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/24/02 BY SP5 JC/AE
#934078

[Handwritten signature]

FBI/DOJ

114A-DW-57419-299

1618

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Friday, April 23, 1999

Two teens arrested for making bomb threat

Douglas County High receives call in name of Trench Coat Mafia

By M.E. Sprengelmeyer

News Staff Writer

Two teen-agers have been arrested on charges of making a bomb threat against Douglas County High School in the name of the Trench Coat Mafia.

Authorities think the bomb threat Wednesday at the school in Castle Rock was a hoax but will continue to investigate any possible links to the tragedy at Columbine High School, said sheriff's deputy Kimberly Stuckenschneider.

Someone called the school about 11 a.m. Wednesday and stated: "This is the Trench Coat Mafia and there is a bomb in the building; detonation time three minutes."

Investigators got tips from numerous parents and students implicating two boys, a student and a former student, Stuckenschneider said. They were charged Thursday with making false reports of explosives and conspiracy, which are both felonies, Stuckenschneider said. They were not identified because they are minors.

"The reason we're pushing so hard for felony convictions on this is so we won't get so many hoaxes," Stuckenschneider said.

On Tuesday, several hours before the Columbine High tragedy, a fake pipe bomb was found in front of Highlands Ranch High School. It consisted of two pipes with a fake timing device, wrapped in duct tape, but contained no explosives.

After the killings in neighboring Jefferson County carried out by two students linked with a group calling itself the Trench Coat Mafia, security has been added at all Douglas County Schools.

Highlands Ranch High School held an assembly Thursday to quell rumors that the school had been targeted by the Trench Coat Mafia.

"It's kind of scary. This very easily could have been us," said junior Keri Ross.

Ross was thankful for extra security officers stationed in the school's lobby, but their presence has made others uneasy.

"It's scary. You feel like you're in prison," said sophomore Jenny Freeland, 15. "It makes me worry more. I feel something terrible is going to happen."

Sitting in class, Freeland thought about what she would do if shooting erupted.

"I was thinking, 'What window would I jump out of?'" Freeland said.

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

Date: 04/23/99
Edition:

Title:

Character:
or

Classification:
Submitting Office:

Indexing:

174A-DN-57414

INFORMATION
SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
FILED
APR 24 1999
SP5JCAE
#934178

174A-DN-57414-300

Mount Clipping in Space Below

Killers' parents owe community an explanation

Where were their parents? That is a question, spoken or not, that is on the mind of anyone who wonders how the terror that stalked the hallways of Columbine High School could have been incubated.

It must have come, in its infancy or in its adolescence, from the home.

Yet we aren't sure.

The parents of the killers, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, can help us understand.

But so far they have been wrapped in a silent, self-imposed cloak of seclusion, afraid to provide us with any insight.

That, more than anything in this confusing and baffling mystery, is understandable.

If I were them, I'd have sought out a protective womb, too. I would not want to face a battery of network microphones, or an antagonistic prosecuting attorney, or an angry parent of a child who had been shot in the face.

I would hide.

But I would be asking myself — repeatedly asking myself — one question:

Can something good emerge from something so evil?

The answer, clearly, is: Yes.

And you can help provide that answer.

For the moment, your silence, your grief, your embarrassment, your shame, your sorrow, all can be understood. We can identify with all of that.

And we will give you time to console yourselves, to absorb the anguish of

defensive. Just give it to us straight.

Did you know what Eric and Dylan were feeling? Did you know their frustrations? Did you know the extent of their hate? Did you know of their obsession with guns and explosives? Did you know of their obsession with German militarism? Had you ever reviewed their Internet activities? Did you know of their addiction to violent video games and satanic music?

Were you in touch?

It is not shameful if you were not. That only puts you in the crowd of many parents of teenagers who have veered, inexplicably, from the rational world.

But it doesn't excuse you from an obligation to help us understand what happened.

These were your kids. You may have

done everything possible to help them, to stay close to them, to respect their privacy, to give them some space.

You may have practiced so-called "tough love," and you may have been too lenient. You may have turned away, not wanting to believe what you were seeing, or you may have just thought they were going through a harmless phase of acting out.

But we need to know.

Please — talk with us. For the others who died, and for those who might die in the future, you owe us that much.

Chuck Green's commentaries appear on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. He discusses current events on KNLS 710 at 7-15 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. His telephone is 303-820-1771; his e-mail address is cgreenpost@aol.com.

Chuck Green



friends, to receive the comfort of those who are closest to you.

But then, please talk to us.

Only you can tell us what went wrong on Tuesday — not totally, but partially.

And please — please — don't be

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

The Denver Post
Denver Co

Date: 04/23/19

Edition: final

Title: Killers' parents owe community an explanation

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

Indexing: 114A DN 5-7-19

ALL INFORMATION
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DATE 11/24/02 BY SP5JC/AE
#934178

6/27/19

FBI/DOJ

114A-DN-57419-301

1620

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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

Rocky Mtn News
Date: 4/23/99 Denver Co

Edition:

Metro

Title: Teen Maintains
Resolve, Faith in Face
of Tragedy

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

Indexing:

174A-DN-57419

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/24/02 BY SP5JTC/AE

Teen maintains resolve, faith in face of tragedy



**Gary
Massaro**

JEFFERSON COUNTY —

A window took a bullet for Adrien Grimm.

All she had planned to do Tuesday was walk outside Columbine High School, grab a Coke and walk back inside.

Instead, she ran for her life.

"Glass blew out in front of me," she said. "I saw this young kid, a freshman or sophomore. He was big but young. He had a baby face. He staggered about halfway down the hall. He was holding his throat or his chest. He dropped. He kind of rolled over. He couldn't get up."

She had been in the hallway of the library, where most of the victims were killed.

Wednesday, she was walking around

Clement Park just west of the school.

This is an example of your usual lawlessness in this neighborhood: A woman was walking her dog in Clement Park, right past the sign that said no dogs allowed.

Grimm ignored the woman, intent on offering her observations about the mass murders.

"I hung around with that group my freshman year," said Grimm, 17, a senior. "The school gave them that nickname, Trench Coat Mafia. It started out with two people. Then more started doing it. And they weren't their lonely selves anymore. They were in a group."

She said she had called her mother as soon as she got to a friend's house.

When she got home, she got calls.

"I've had people call me who haven't talked to me in years," she said. "It's kind of cool to know other people care."

As Grimm talked, she was approached

by Elaine Jarvinen, a stranger, who hugged her.

"I just wanted to come and give somebody a love," Jarvinen said.

When Grimm talked, she folded and unfolded her hands loaded with six silver rings on her fingers and left thumb.

Folks who say the kids of Columbine will never be the same may be right. But don't consider kids like Grimm fragile flowers, either. She's tough as cactus. Nor are her dreams shattered like the window that took the bullet for her.

"I'm still going to graduate," she said. "I'm not going to let this ruin anything. I'm not."

When Gary Massaro listens, people talk. Call him at (303) 892-5271. Massaro's column appears Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

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Denver Rocky Mountain News

Friday, April 23, 1999

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

Scary rumors all too real for minority students



**Bill
Johnson**

You can see them if you look hard enough, teenage kids walking the streets to nowhere in particular at midmorning, far from the spot where the killings occurred.

"Why aren't you in school?" you ask the four girls walking not far from the mall. It's clear they are Catholic high school girls because, well, the

sweater worn by one of them says so.

"Um," they say, their eyes darting, their faces turning crimson. They are busted. They know it. "Solidarity," one of them finally says. "We're mourning for the kids who were killed the other day."

The reasons are myriad and some, no doubt, are genuine. Like those of the 16-year-old boy who has spent the past three days unmoving in his bedroom. His mother called to tell me of him. His fears to him are so real, she says. Speak with him, find out for yourself, she adds.

But please, don't identify him, she pleads. Don't use his name. His life at high school already is difficult enough. And it isn't just him. She's been on the phone all this morning, she says, with a half-dozen other parents of fearful kids just like hers.

Asian parents. Hispanic parents. Three are, like her, black. They have heard the rumor of a still-active "hit list" that was posted on a now-dismantled Internet site. Their children, all ethnic minorities, are the rumored targets.

Should they dismiss it? Yet isn't that what people at Columbine High did? May-

be it really is all nonsense. Maybe they just need time. And maybe — just maybe — they'll miscalculate and send their kids to school, only to have them come out in body bags. "How do you know what to trust now, what is real and what isn't?" the woman on the phone is saying.

Her boy is staying home.

It is a little before noon. I have to wake him. "It's OK," he says sleepily.

He is 16 years old. His mom, he says, thought she was doing a good thing when she moved them south of the city from Montbello to a predominantly white school. He would get a good education there, she told him. He did better in Montbello, the boy now says matter-of-factly.

He and his mom agreed he would stay home for a while after watching the news on TV all day and night Tuesday. "I hate feeling so scared," he says.

Yet too many things were similar at his school. There are kids with black trench coats. Large numbers of them. He sees the way kids there stare at him, mumble racist things as if he were deaf, too stupid or too afraid to say anything.

Kids at Montbello would say the same thing, but it was different there, he said. "They would say it to your face and — I don't know — it was bad, but it was somehow different. Better."

Now, he says, the kids say it but lie about it. "I went up to one kid who did it and confronted him. He looked so surprised. 'Whatever, man' is all he said. It got worse after that."

At first, he thought it was just him. And why did people have such a problem with him? But other minority students were

getting the same thing. "Mostly, it was threats," he said. "An Asian girl just a few weeks ago finally complained, but the school did nothing."

They said it happened too long ago to do anything, the boy said. "The reason she didn't was she was afraid. The boys had threatened her. She told because she couldn't take it anymore. She's at home now, too."

He hates feeling, he says, like a scaredy-cat. He knows people will see him that way. He hates having asked his mother to transfer him out of the school — "I know that's just running away" — to one where he feels more comfortable. "Where I can be, you know, just me."

Maybe he would go back next year, he says, "to see if anything is different, if things have been fixed." The school told his mom they'll have police officers through Friday.

"But what happens when it's Monday?" the boy asks. So he'll just stay in his room.

"I know there's no guarantees, that if a kid wants to do something bad, he will," he said. "But if kids are threatening others, I think the school should act. Ours doesn't. It's like they just don't want to deal with it. But that's what led to Tuesday."

"Those kids were saying things, but nobody did anything. And look at what happened."

Monday, he says after a long pause. Maybe Monday.

Bill Johnson's column appears Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. Rockybj@aol.com (303) 892-2763.

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Armed student wanted to help

Police couldn't believe their eyes when at the height of Tuesday's murder spree, a young man ran toward Columbine High School armed with a pistol and a knife.

Already on high alert, and fearing the black-clad young man was part of the killings, SWAT members aggressively confronted the youth.

He turned out to be a Columbine student, intent on aiding his schoolmates. His pistol was a BB gun.

"He didn't understand when they told him he couldn't go in," a police officer said.

Dozens of police agencies involved

JEFFERSON COUNTY — At least two dozen police agencies are involved at the crime scene at Columbine.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office is coordinating the investigation, but the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is leading the investigation into explosives used in the crime, said Dick Weatherbee, spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in Denver.

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State schools don't screen for violence

State leaves policies on identifying troubled kids up to each district

By Brian Weber

News Education Writer

Colorado school districts are not required by the state to have methods for identifying students like the two who killed 13 people at Columbine High School.

As a result, it's hard to know whether teachers use any written guidelines where they exist, officials said.

Betty Fitzpatrick, director of health services for Jefferson County schools, said individual schools set policy.

"Every school has support services in place, and each one will handle it differently," she said.

Outside psychological help generally is called in if a major problem is identified by a teacher or counselor. Parents usually are brought in.

State authority over schools is limited primarily to discipline of the most serious offenders and reporting of child abuse. Most policies are left to each district.

Questions have arisen over why the violent potential of the Columbine killers wasn't detected earlier. They had made a violent video similar to their rampage.

But it's tough to tell whether those were signs of trouble or just creative exhibitions by kids making fashion statements, said Jane Grady, assistant director of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado.

"Lots of kids like violent videos or music, but they don't go out and shoot up the school," she said.

Cherry Creek school district encourages teachers to look for signs of depression, said Terry Connelley, executive director of high school education.

"Good teachers pick up on it," he said. "Some are better than others."

Denver, Aurora and Douglas County have referral processes but not policies on spotting trouble.

"We give training on generic things," said Debbie Lynch, Aurora's spokeswoman. "I'd hesitate to say we watch out for things in students' work."

Teachers have needed more such training for years, their leaders say. Teachers are often the first to see changes that foretell trouble.

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"Teachers have been saying for a long time that we need training on how to intervene with kids," said Deb Fallin, spokeswoman for the state's largest teachers union. "Ask any teacher on the street. It's an ongoing problem with bigger classes and kids with more special problems."

Jefferson County Education Association President Jane Goff said schools should hire more counselors and social workers.

"If these two boys in kindergarten or pre-school had had counselors to spot that they weren't fitting in, this probably wouldn't have happened," she said.

The Columbine tragedy will prompt more attention to the issue, officials around the area said.

"In light of this, we're evaluating the security and emotional needs of our students," Bruce Caughey, Douglas County's spokesman, said. "It's a high priority now."

School officials already have sought advice from the state Department of Education and the Colorado Association of School Boards.

"The next phase is, the community will turn around and say: 'What are we going to do now?'" said Dave Smith, a state education official who runs programs for expelled students.

Reporter Mariny Gonzales contributed to this report.

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Columbine shootings make students wary

Rumors of more violence unnerve some at Chatfield High amid intensified security

By Tille Fong

News Staff Writer

Students returning to school Thursday were haunted by the Columbine High School shootings, fearing that their school might be targeted next.

Rumors abounded at Chatfield High School, where students found deputies guarding the front entrance.

"It's like a prison in there," said sophomore Jessica Miller, 15, after leaving the school.

Miller had heard rumors, spread on the Internet and by phone, that "Chatfield would be next."

Sophomore Tyler Herbert, 16, was nervous when school officials required that anyone with a free hour go to the school commons.

"I'm a little worried about putting all the kids in one place," he said. "If someone wanted to come and start shooting again, it would be real easy for them."

Tensions were not eased when two bomb squad trucks sped to the school after a backpack was found in a hallway.

It contained books, but authorities were spooked because some of the bombs at Columbine High School were in backpacks.

Another student, a 17-year-old junior who did not want to be identified, had also heard the rumors.

"There have been rumors that they would hit Columbine first, then Chatfield," he said.

He said all his friends knew about it but didn't know where the rumors originated.

The rumors were so pervasive Thursday that they were part of one of his class discussions about Tuesday's shootings at Columbine High School.

"You can never tell if they're true," he said.

He said security had been intensified at Chatfield, with teachers watching every door, and people watching who went in and out.

Still, "I don't feel safe at school anymore," he said.

**"I don't feel safe
at school anymore."**

**17-year-old junior
at Chatfield High**

Although many students seem to be going about business as usual, some are feeling very real fears, said Nicole Frosh, a peer counselor at Rangeview High School in Aurora.

"You have those few that are scared," she said. "They want answers, and those answers are very few."

Cari Day, 45, mother of a sophomore at Green Mountain High School, said she was appalled to hear that there was a similar group to the Trench Coat Mafia at her son's school.

"My concern is that this is a problem that's been there a long time, and if you got some kids that have some problems, it's going to happen again," Day said.

Her son, 16-year-old Kiel Johnson, a sophomore, said there were maybe two to four kids who wore black trench coats at his school.

"They stay to themselves, and they don't cause any problems."

He said that the group doesn't bother him, but fears that there may be copycats of Columbine.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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1625

Deputies from L.A. to judge response

Some criticize police
for not acting faster

By Hector Gutierrez

News Staff Writer

Two Los Angeles sheriff's deputies came to Denver Thursday to evaluate the police response during the Columbine High School shooting.

L.A. sheriff's spokesman Michael Irving said local authorities requested the assessment.

Police have been criticized for not moving quicker to rescue Columbine students.

Jefferson County authorities could not be reached for comment about the investigation.

"Nothing's been mentioned as far as mistakes that may or may not have been made," Irving said.

He said that it's customary for law enforcement agencies nationwide to ask his department for a review after deadly and violent confrontations. L.A. County SWAT deputies are considered the foremost experts on special weapons and tactics.

They have advised departments after the Oklahoma City and World Trade Center bombings.

Police officers took 3½ hours to secure the scene, even though they traded shots with the gunmen in the initial minutes after two teens stormed the school.

Officers have defended their initial actions: "No training (adviser) in the world would tell a small number of officers to go in," said Westminster police spokesman Dan Mayer.

Irving said the officers, Sgt. Jack Ewell of the SWAT unit and explosives expert Sgt. George Gomez, will also help Jefferson County sheriff's deputies in their investigation of Tuesday's massacre.

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Videotape of slayings may exist

Columbine had surveillance camera in library, but officials say they don't know if system was on

By Kevin Vaughan
News Staff Writer

The grim possibility exists that some — maybe even all — of Tuesday's massacre at Columbine High School was captured by security cameras.

Investigators acknowledged Thursday that a video surveillance system is located in the library, where 10 teen-agers and the two gunmen

died, and the father of one student said cameras also overlook the commons area and hallways at the sprawling school.

Fred Maten, whose children attend Columbine, said he believes that at least four cameras are located in the first-floor commons area, where the shooting started late Tuesday morning.

"I want to know why we don't know what happened to the camera surveillance," he said. "Where are the tapes that were in those cameras?"

Jefferson County sheriff's Sgt. Jim Parr said it was too early to know whether tapes exist that show any of the mayhem that erupted

when two teen-agers armed with guns and bombs walked into school and calmly started picking off their classmates and teachers.

When it was over, 15 people — including the two gunmen — lay dead, and 23 more were hospitalized.

Parr said he was not sure, for example, whether the security system in the library was working Tuesday or whether investigators have recovered any tapes.

Parr said if any tapes exist, they are not likely to ever be released to the news media or the public.

News staff writers Carla Crowder and Karen Abbott contributed to this story.

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Bowling class photo



In this photo, Eric Hains, in ballcap, and Dylan Kl. bold, are appear to be pretending to show pins. The group photograph was taken of Columbine students who were in a bowling class together.

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Police step up search for others involved

'Very good chance' more than two teens conspired to pull off Columbine massacre, police say

By Kevin Vaughan and Lynn Bartels
News Staff Writers

Investigators intensified their search Thursday for possible accomplices in America's deadliest school shooting.

One Columbine High School student and the parent of another said they had been questioned by police about a teen-ager suspected of lugging duffel bags of bombs into the school and fleeing before the assault that left 15 people dead and 23 wounded.

The teen-ager disappeared, according to his friends, who are cooperating with investigators.

A law enforcement source confirmed that police are seeking a third suspect.

The discovery Thursday of another powerful bomb inside the school strengthened authorities' suspicion that the assault was the work of more than the two student gunmen who apparently killed themselves as SWAT teams closed in.

"We certainly think that there is a very good chance now that we have more than two people involved," Jefferson County sheriff's deputy Steve Davis said. "How many people, I don't know."

The bomb, found tucked away in the school kitchen late Thursday morning, was fashioned

from two 20-gallon propane tanks. It would have been difficult for one or two people to move it into the school without help.

Davis said no arrests were imminent.

The Columbine student and the parent said investigators told them not to mention the third suspect or reveal his name.

"We cannot tell anyone who it is," the student said. "They don't know where he is."

She said detectives have interviewed the boy's family twice.

She said he was not present when Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, opened fired on teachers and students.

"He left before it even happened," she said.

Harris and Klebold both died in the school library, apparently after each shot himself in the head.

Another 21 students and two teachers were injured. Fourteen remained hospitalized Thursday — three in critical condition.

In other developments Thursday:

■ Police continued to defend themselves against criticism that they didn't move quickly enough to enter the school after the shooting began.

■ The first funeral for the slain victims — services for student Rachel Scott — was set for 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

■ Attorney General Janet Reno met with Columbine students and staff members and law

See COLUMBINE on 76A

COLUMBINE from 2A

enforcement officers.

■ President Clinton prepared to release \$1.5 million to compensate victims of the shooting.

■ Vice President Al Gore made plans to attend a memorial service Sunday at Clement Park next to the school.

Colorado Gov. Bill Owens will lead a p.m. service.

"The killers planned to destroy this entire school, and they failed," Owens said Thursday.

District Attorney Dave Thomas said he has reviewed notes apparently written by Harris. They were confiscated along with other evidence by sheriff's deputies at Harris' home.

Thomas would not characterize the writings as a suicide note or whether they described the planning of Tuesday's bloodbath. Thomas said he believed it was written in the last few months.

Thursday's discovery of the large propane bomb in the kitchen brought to 30 or 31 the number of

explosives discovered at the school, in cars in the nearby parking lot, and at the homes of Harris and Klebold.

"These subjects were not only on a killing rampage, but they were going to destroy the school," Sheriff John Stone said.

The number of bombs found — and the size of the latest discovery — strengthened authorities' suspicion that more than two were involved in the assault.

"I think it would have been difficult, maybe not impossible, for two

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people to have gotten all that in the school," Thomas said.

Investigators were considering two scenarios: Either Harris and Klebold had help, or they planted some of the explosives long before their assault began Tuesday.

Some witnesses suggested that more people were involved.

A construction worker said that about 10:40 a.m. Tuesday — 40 minutes before the gunfire erupted — he saw an older-model black BMW carrying four teen-agers about a block from the school.

The driver made a U-turn and drove off, followed closely by a tan sedan carrying two more teen-agers.

"It's unusual to see four young kids in a BMW," construction worker Roger Anderson said.

The next day, as he watched television footage of the tragedy, he saw the BMW.

One student insisted that a third teen was part of the attack.

The student, whose mother asked that he not be identified, said he was in the parking lot and saw two people wearing trench coats — Harris and Klebold — and a third teen-ager in a white T-shirt.

"The kid in the white T-shirt, he threw what looked like a grenade on top of the school, and then he turned and kind of smiled at the other two guys," the student said.

But Davis said evidence gathered so far does not point to a third gunman.

Police officials continued to endure criticism that they were slow to storm the school.

Nick Foss, an 18-year-old senior who at one point fell through a ceiling as he tried to flee, said he told officers to move faster.

"They're dying left and right in there," he said he told one officer. "Every time you wait another five minutes, another kid is dead. Go in there, man."

Davis said the criticism wasn't fair.

"There were at least seven or eight officers in that school within just a very few minutes, trying to find out where victims were, trying to find out which victims were injured and get them out of there, trying to look for someone they could identify as a suspect or suspects," he said.

The call for help came at 11:19 a.m. A deputy stationed at the school fired on one of the gunmen, and the first patrol car arrived at 11:21 a.m.

About 20 minutes after the first call for help, a makeshift SWAT

team rushed into the school.

"They brought out several victims," Davis said. "They had no idea in a sea of 2,000 students whom they were looking for. I think it was very heroic of those officers."

Some students said they couldn't figure out why SWAT officers weren't able to get a teacher, Dave Sanders, to safety. He'd survived gunshot wounds to the chest for several hours and was still alive when officers got to him, some students said, but apparently died moments later.

"They were trying to do the best they could as quickly as they could under the circumstances," sheriff's Sgt. Jim Parr said. "Do we wish we could have got him out of there sooner? Of course we do."

Investigators have talked to the parents of Harris and Klebold. Both families have refused numerous requests for interviews.

"The family is trying to come to grips with the enormity of this," said Gary Lozow, an attorney for the Klebolds.

Dylan Klebold's parents offered help in the first hours of the ordeal. But they were told it was too late — a SWAT team was already in the school.

"The family wanted to see what it could do to help in any way, shape or form," Lozow said. "I think the district attorney listened to that and decided the circumstances didn't allow for it."

As investigators worked, U.S. and Colorado flags flopped at half-staff under gray, drizzly skies outside the main entrance on Columbine's northeast entrance. Plywood covered three windows shattered by gunfire.

In Clement Park on the school's north side, a somber procession continued.

Scores of students — some from other high schools — brought flowers, teddy bears and candles as memorials to the victims grew. Some parents came with young children.

The procession reduced the soaked ground to mud.

A huge circle of teens formed in the midst of the commotion.

As they sang and prayed, a voice rang out:

"God, Heal these people.
"Heal the people of Oregon, of Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Kentucky ... and Colorado, anywhere that's had a shooting."

News staff writers Karen Abbott, Charley Able, Carla Crowder, Hector Gutierrez, and Katie Kerwin McCrimmon contributed to this report.

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Trench Coat Mafia shocked by violence

By Lou Kilzer and Lynn Bartels

News Staff Writers

Joe Stair heard Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold talk of getting revenge against athletes at Columbine High School.

But Stair, one of the founding members of the Trench Coat Mafia, said they always expressed it in terms of "getting into a rumble."

"Nothing like this," Stair said Thursday.

Members of the group insisted that they had no reason to suspect their two friends would turn to violence.

"We are all completely sick," said Kristen Thiebault. "We honestly did not think that anyone could do this that we know."

Stair said he last saw Harris and Klebold six months ago and had no reason to suspect they were up to anything.

But revenge turned to mass murder Tuesday.

The Trench Coat Mafia is a nickname

See **TRENCH COAT** on 76A

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Group formed to protect outcasts

TRENCH COAT from 2A

for a group of students who hang around together at the high school.

Harris and Klebold have been linked to the group, but members insist they were just acquaintances. Neither is in a picture of the group that appeared in last year's yearbook.

Stair, who graduated in 1998, said the group formed about four years ago to protect its outcast members from harassment by

other students because of the long coats members wore. Instead of rejecting the name, he said, the group wore it like a badge of honor.

"Nobody really knew who we were," he said.

Said Thiebault: "We're computer geeks."

Stair said members were not "gothic" and not into Nazi symbols, although some members had checked out books on Adolf Hitler.

They listened to music by German bands, "but so do a lot of people."

He said there were never more than 12 members.

The name was given to them by

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Area schools tighten security, ban trench coats

By Cate Terwilliger
Denver Post Staff Writer

While area schools strive for normalcy after this week's deadly violence, students are noticing at least one conspicuous change: more police uniforms and no black trench coats.

Many districts have limited the access to buildings, beefed up security and banned the type of long coat worn by two gunmen in Tuesday's murderous rampage at Columbine High School. Fifteen people — including the shooters — died.

"We felt a need to heighten our security in the aftermath of what

happened at Columbine," said Douglas County School District spokesman Bruce Caughey. "It's primarily to create a sense of calm as we continue with our normal school operations."

Many high schools already have one uniformed officer — called a school resource officer — on-site. Now, students are seeing as many as three to five. In addition, local police departments have increased their visibility around campuses.

"We're making every effort to stay in very close touch on a daily basis," said Aurora Police Department spokesman Mark

Hellenschmidt. "We're very aware of everybody's heightened anxiety."

That's also why trench coats are banned.

"At this moment in time, a student in a trench coat would be seen by some students as highly intimidating and fearful," said Terry Conley, a spokesman for the Cherry Creek School District. "And we have a level of concern for those students; we don't want them to suffer any wrath as a result of what occurred."

Officials hope such measures will thwart possible copycat crimes and soothe students. Many

kids have found additional solace in delivering flowers and messages to makeshift memorials near the scene of the tragedy.

"At first when the kids came in, they just had a lot of questions," said Stacy VanHercke, whose fifth-grade class at Trails West Elementary School in Aurora wrote cards and a poem. "When they were able to get it out, express themselves, I saw their spirits rise a bit."

Students at Centaurus High School in Lafayette signed a big banner for their peers at Columbine, then took a step to

bring the message home: They wrote the names of each Centaurus student on a paper heart and posted them around their student center.

"It sent the message that everybody's important, everybody counts," said Boulder Valley School District spokesman Bill Van Howe.

But there's a long path of healing ahead.

"The level of anxiety and fear and concern that high school students are feeling escalates daily," Conley said. "I wouldn't even predict how long it's going to take to move forward."

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Pair got glowing DA report

By Howard Pankratz and Kirk Mitchell
Denver Post Staff Writers

Two months before they killed 13 people and then themselves inside Columbine High School, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold were described as "bright young men with limitless potential by the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office.

Klebold "is intelligent enough to make any dream a reality," a report by the DA's juvenile diversion program said.

Klebold, 17, and Harris, 18, were in the program, designed to straighten out nonviolent youthful offenders, from March 1998 to February for breaking into a car.

But while Harris and Klebold, seniors at Columbine, were impressing their diversion officers, they wore swastikas and worshiped Adolf Hitler, produced violent videos depicting shootouts, hung out with the Trench Coat Mafia, pledged to kill fellow students, and wrote essays about death and mayhem, students say. They carried out their massacre Tuesday with at least four guns, leaving up to 30 homemade bombs strewn in and around the school.

At least one teacher at Columbine who had the pair in her creative-writing class said she should have been told about the teens' brush with the law.

"I absolutely knew nothing about either one of the boys," Judith M. Kelly, a creative-writing instructor at Columbine, said Thursday.

On Feb. 3, Harris and Klebold were allowed to complete the diversion program early because they had done so well, in the opinion of the diversion officers.

The officers said the "prognosis" for both was "good."

Harris especially enjoyed an anger-management course which dovetailed with the individual counseling he was receiving. The report also said he was excelling in school.

His diversion officer, whose name was jacked out in the report, recommended that Harris "seek out more education at higher levels. He impressed me as being very articulate and intelligent."

Harris' life described as 'in shambles'

A former member of the Trench Coat Mafia told a national TV audience Thursday that Eric Harris' life was in a shambles and that he was depressed over not getting into college.

"We know that Eric wasn't very happy with everything that was going on in his life," Pat McDuffee, 17, said on the "Leeza" talk show. "He might have just dragged Dylan (Klebold) into it."

Harris "didn't get accepted to a college, even though he had a 3.8 grade-point average. He didn't have a girlfriend. I don't think he was getting along with his parents. I think he just got fired from his job. . . . His life was pretty much in a shambles, and I think he conned Dylan into going in with him."

He said Jefferson County authorities knew Harris was "making bombs in his basement" and had threatened to blow up another student's house.

Law officers and "the school knew

that he'd made some threats."

That coincides with what another Columbine High School student told The Denver Post after Tuesday's rampage. Brooks Brown said Harris had threatened to kill him a year ago and posted the death threats on the Internet.

McDuffee said "most people" his age know how to make bombs "because it's just something to do."

Harris and Klebold had joked about blowing up the school. But "they never said it seriously, so none of us ever took them seriously."

Though the massacre happened on Adolf Hitler's birthday, McDuffee said there is no connection to the Nazi leader or hate for racial minorities. But the Trench Coat Mafia members did listen to German music groups like Rammstein and KMFDM.

"Eric is a very bright young man who is likely to succeed in life," his termination report said. "He is intelligent enough to achieve lofty goals as long as he stays on task and remains motivated."

As for Klebold, "Dylan is a bright young man who has a great deal of potential. If he is able to tap his potential and become self-motivated he should do well in life."

Both had pleaded guilty March 25, 1998, to first-degree criminal trespass, theft and criminal mischief. They admitted that on Jan. 30, 1998, they broke into a car and stole tools and other items and caused substantial damage.

At the time of their pleas, they entered an agreement called a deferred adjudication and sentence.

Millie Gee, the assistant director of the division, said young offenders have strong incentive to complete the program.

At the outset, they plead guilty to the charges against them. But if they

successfully complete the program, the charges are dropped and their records wiped clean.

She said juveniles are in the program for six to 18 months. Harris and Klebold were to be in the program 12 months but were let out a month early because of their success.

Gee agreed with Kelly that Columbine officials should have been aware of the pair's enrollment in the program. Principals are normally notified when a student enters the diversion program.

"I think it is helpful to know there is a potential situation," Kelly said. "So you can watch out for certain behaviors."

She declined to say whether the two dwelled on violent themes in their papers.

But numerous students have said they did. And if diversion officers knew that the classwork of Klebold and Harris indicated trouble, it would have been a red flag, Gee said.

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1633

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mystery how team players became loners

Friends remember two suspects as bashful, ordinary children

By Kevin Simpson and Jason Blevins
Denver Post Staff Writers

Just a few years ago, they were kids immersed in the national pastime — one a reluctant right fielder, the other a fireballing pitcher who hated to lose.

But earlier this week, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold set a grisly record for school violence, targeting athletes, devout Christians and people of color at Columbine High School and wreaking bloody havoc that left 15 bodies — including their own — as testament to a mystifying metamorphosis.

Harris, 18, played Little League baseball six years ago in Plattsburgh, N.Y. Childhood acquaintances remembered him Thursday as a player whose shyness crippled his ability.

"He was the shyest out of everybody when it came to just talking. And baseball is all about communicating," said Brenden LaPier, an 18-year-old senior at Plattsburgh High School and teammate of Harris in 1993.

A quiet boy

Another teammate remembered Harris as a reclusive 12-year-old who struggled to make friends while his father, decorated Air Force Maj. Wayne Harris, worked at the now-closed Plattsburgh Air Force Base from 1993-96.

But the quiet boy in right field didn't match the chilling, televised description of a killer apparently motivated in part by race.

"That's not the kid I remember," said Mike Condo, 18, who played with Harris on Plattsburgh's Sun Foods Little League team. "I couldn't believe it when I heard it because his best friends back then were ... an Asian kid and ... a black kid. It's crazy."

Klebold, 17, also left a sporting legacy that puzzled those who knew him as a younger child.

"He was a pitcher and he threw harder than everybody on the team," said Rich Hoover, a Columbine sophomore who played baseball with Klebold in elementary and middle school. "He used to be pretty good. It was kind of weird when he quit, though. It was just, boom. Dylan's not playing any more."

"He's the kind of kid that, when he played, he had to win. Whenever he got pulled from a game, he'd come off and he'd actually cry."

Hoover, among the first to safely flee Columbine at the start of Tuesday's violence, said he didn't know Harris. But he said that during the high school's video announcements last Friday, Harris was shown acting in a skit in which he and other students engaged in a mock fight with a student from Columbine's chief sports rival, Chatfield High School.

At the skit's close, Harris feigned one last kick to his adversary, said Hoover, who now finds it a strange display of comic school spirit for someone who would days later seek out and kill Columbine athletes.

The Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold who roamed the halls on Tuesday, executing 12 students and one teacher and setting off many explosives, had been transformed. Once described as utterly normal, perhaps a little awkward, but mostly personable and intelligent, Harris and Klebold burst into the school cafeteria as vengeful representatives of a clique called the Trench Coat Mafia.

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

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In the ensuing days, classmates have struggled to understand such stark changes in the two young men, part-time cooks at a neighborhood Blackjack Pizza who at once embraced the image of outcasts and, ultimately, railed against those who put them down.

Eighteen-year-old Tiffany Typher dated Harris briefly four years ago, when the two were freshmen at Columbine, and he took her to homecoming. But he left her with one bizarre and lingering impression after she broke up with him.

A mutual friend asked her to stop by the Harris house, where Typher remembers stepping into the backyard and seeing Harris sprawled on the ground by a large rock with blood splattered everywhere — as if he had bashed his head on the rock in a lovesick suicide.

"I knew it wasn't real, I could tell it was fake blood," she said. "I yelled, 'You guys are stupid!' and started running to a friend's house and crying, because it shook me up. He was doing that so maybe I'd come back to him and say I'm sorry."

They became friends again last year, but Typher says she already had seen a change in Harris. He'd started dressing differently, in all black. Harris seemed increasingly agitated by the abuse and disrespect from the school's athletes toward the Trench Coat Mafia.

"They hassled him, definitely," Typher said. "Everywhere they went, they were taunted and teased about how they dressed, about being gay. You could tell he'd get upset by it. Most of the people in that group, when people teased them, they walked off and didn't say anything."

FBI/DOJ

1634

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Germany a passion

"But he seemed really fired up when he talked about the jocks. I had no idea his hate would drive him this far."

Typher said most of her contact with Harris was in German class from their freshman through junior years. Harris developed a preoccupation with a techno-rock group called Rammstein, whose lyrics he studied devoutly, and immersed himself in all things German.

"He said he felt he learned more from Rammstein than he did from the teacher," Typher said.

The Harrises moved to unincorporated Jefferson County in 1996 when Maj. Harris retired from the military. He had been stationed at bases in New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Michigan and Kansas.

Bill Konen, who lives next door to the Harris home on South Reed Street, remembers seeing Dylan Klebold's black BMW parked in front of the house all last weekend, including most of the day Monday. That afternoon, Konen heard a conversation coming over his fence.

"It sounded like two, maybe three people in the garage," he said. "Someone asked for a metal baseball bat. Then I heard repeated sounds of somebody breaking glass. I really didn't give it much thought then. I thought they were working on a class assignment or something."

Denver Post staff writer Jim Hughes contributed to this report.



Special to The Denver Post

Former teammates remember Eric Harris, shown here in a 1993 Little League team photo, as a shy boy whose bashfulness made playing right field tough.

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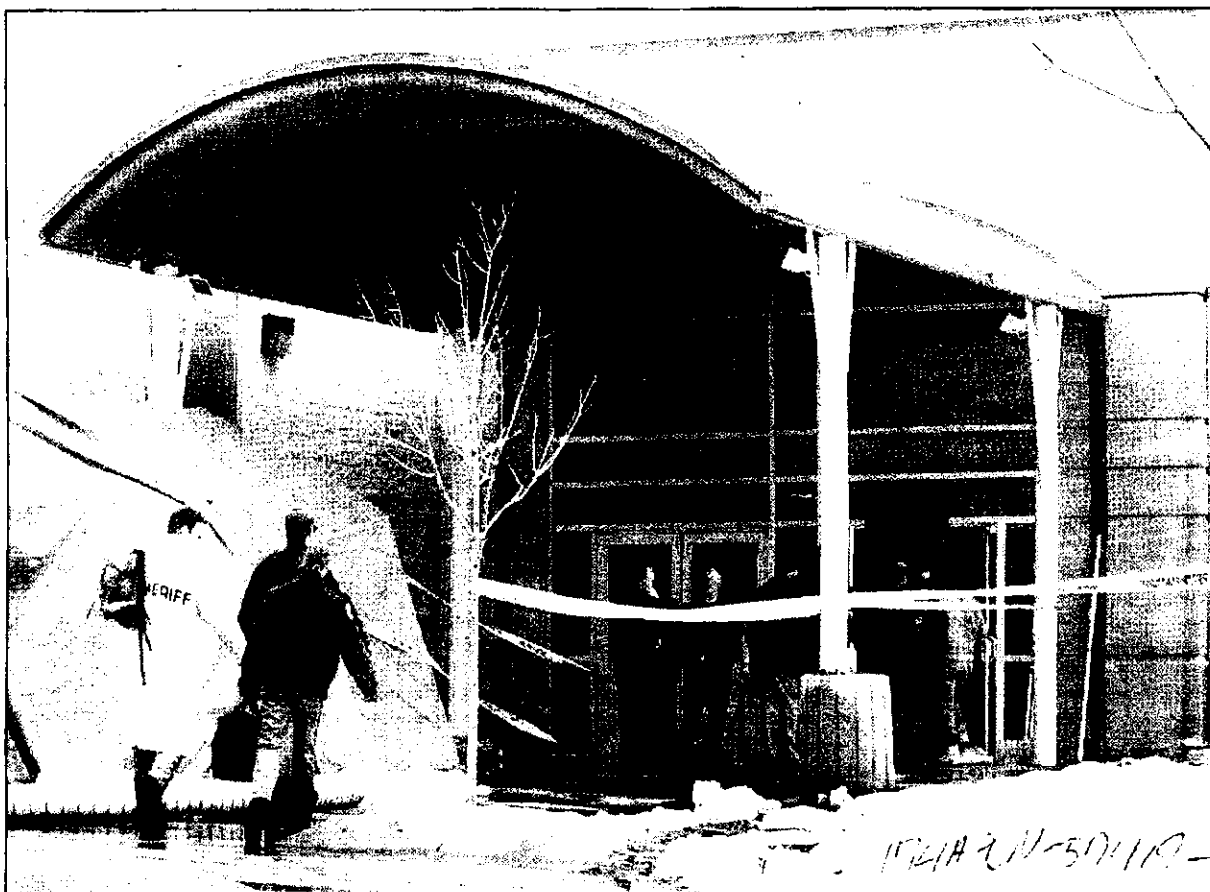
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A SCHOOL WITHOUT CHILDREN

Above, investigators gather at the front entrance of Columbine High School on Thursday. Inside, authorities continued their work, finding another explosive device Thursday morning. Left, bicycles sit in racks behind police crime-scene tape at the school. School officials say Columbine will re-open in the fall, but alternative arrangements will have to be made so students can finish this school year.

Jeff Haynes
Associated Press



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1636

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Parent's report on threatened son never reached DA

By Mark Eddy
Denver Post Staff Writer

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Department was told a year ago that Eric Harris, one of two suspects in the Columbine High School massacre, threatened to kill a classmate but the report never was forwarded to the District Attorney's office.

The report, labeled a "suspicious incident" by the department, was filed by Randall Brown, the father of Columbine student Brooks Brown, Sheriff's Lt. Dave Taylor said.

"Right now it is part of the ongoing investigation, so we can't comment any further on that," Taylor said Thursday.

The department also would not say what action was taken on the complaint, but no charges ever were filed, District Attorney Dave Thomas said.

"Nothing has been filed in my office," Thomas said. "I've been told there was a complaint filed. We will investigate that because it is relevant to the incident."

Brooks Brown told The Denver Post that Harris threatened to kill him a year ago. The threat came after Brown had complained to Harris' parents that their son had broken the windshield of Brown's car with a chunk of ice.

Harris then posted a message on an Internet Web site he'd built urging others to kill Brooks, said a Brown family member who did not

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want to be identified.

The phrase, "If anybody wants to kill someone, why not Brooks Brown?" was posted on Harris' Web site, according to the family member. It also boasted of wanting to kill others and of making bombs.

"It was really messed up. It had that he wanted to kill Brooks, that he wanted to kill other people, that he had made pipe bombs, that he had blown up pipe bombs," he said.

"We confronted the police three times and to my knowledge they did nothing," he said. "We did give the whole Web page to the cops and showed it to them and a week afterwards it was deleted."

Harris, 18, and his alleged accomplice in the rampage, 17-year-old Dylan Klebold, had at

least one run-in with the law, sheriff's department records show. Last year, the two broke into a car. They were caught and sentenced to the department's Juvenile Diversion Program, which they completed in February.

If Harris made a death threat as the Brown family alleges, he violated state law, Deputy Wayne Halverson said.

"In a harassment situation a summons would be issued to the suspect and he would go to court and explain to the judge why he made the threat. And then you're looking at some type of a fine," Halverson said.

State law also allows for a six-month jail term, but since threats are listed as

misdemeanors, they aren't given a high priority, Denver District Attorney Bill Ritter said.

Complaints of threats are common and most of the time it's up to the officer taking the report to decide if it's serious or not, said Ari Zavaras, executive director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety.

"One of the things you do try to do is evaluate (the report) with other information you have, see how real you think the threat is, whether there'd be the possibility of prosecution of the threat, that sort of thing," said Zavaras, who stressed he had no information about the Jefferson County report.

Also Thursday, Superintendent Jane Hammond said district

officials weren't aware of information about impending violence at the school or of death threats against students.

While some have said the boy's parents or school counselors should have realized something was dreadfully wrong, there wasn't much they could do if police would not step in, said Patrice Hall, executive director of student services for Denver Public Schools.

"There's not a lot out there if the parent is saying my kid is out of control, if the kid has not violated the law," she said.

"It's very depressing." Denver Post staff writers Michael Booth, Peggy Lowe and Ginny McKibben contributed to this report.

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1637

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Killer's brother was 'jock'

By Jason Blevins
Denver Post Staff Writer

Eric Harris roamed Columbine High School on Tuesday on a search-and-destroy mission, aiming to kill all the "jocks."

But in a twist seen in other school shootings by alienated teens, Harris' own brother was once a star athlete at Columbine.

Kevin Harris, 20, was a gregarious athlete who built lasting relationships as a backup tight end for the Columbine Rebels football team. Before graduating in 1996, Kevin was on the special-teams squad and was the team's kicker.

Kevin now attends the University of Colorado but often returns to Columbine to work out with the football team, said coach Andy Lowry.

Eric himself once played Little League baseball.

"Eric was kind of the total opposite of his brother," said Brenden LaPier, who knew the family when they lived in upstate New York from 1993 to 1996. "I don't really think he wanted to play baseball all that much. . . . I had a feeling that his dad wanted him to play to kind of get out and meet people."

Experts say teenage killers often grow up under the shadow of a successful, more popular sibling. Kip Kinkel's older sister was once a popular cheerleader at the same Springfield, Ore., high school where he allegedly killed two students and wounded 20 more after slaying his parents.

And slightly built 14-year-old Michael Adam Carneal, who opened fire at a prayer circle at his West Paducah, Ky., high school, killing three students, also had a popular older sister.

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Goth-fashion crackdown seen by some as fascism

By Susan Greene
Denver Post Staff Writer

Authorities are cracking down on students sporting Goth fashions like those worn by Tuesday's Columbine High School killers.

Police ticketed an Englewood high-schooler Thursday for wearing a Goth-style leather collar, while a student attending the Denver School of the Arts said a teacher there confiscated her black trench coat.

Officials said such measures were meant to ward against insensitivity and intimidation in the aftermath of Tuesday's tragedy — the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history.

But the sweep has outraged students and their parents, who say it's ironic that authorities are responding to atrocities by purported neo-Nazis in what they see as a fascist manner.

"What is this, the Gestapo?" said Brett Haselton, whose son, Neil, was slapped with a ticket for prohibited use of a weapon Thursday at Englewood High School.

Neil Haselton, 15, is a self-proclaimed Goth who wears black clothes and a black trench coat like the ones worn by Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, Columbine's masked gunmen who were part of a clique called the Trench Coat Mafia. For the past few weeks, Neil has taken to donning a metal-studded, faux-leather choke collar and bracelet his dad recently bought him.

Englewood police patrolling the high school Wednesday forced Neil to hand over his accessories, saying they're considered weapons and are illegal under city law.

Neil's dad, Brett Haselton, complained to police that they were harassing his son. Neil then was called out of class Thursday and ticketed for possessing the accessories.

Englewood officials acknowledge the

law has seldom been enforced.

"But obviously we had to take action because of the situation at Columbine," said Chris Olson, the city's director of safety services. "If this is considered an overreaction, then that's exactly what this is. But this is not the time to take minor steps. A lot of people are living in fear because of what happened Tuesday."

Neil, for his part, said, "I should be able to express myself however I want, to wear whatever I want, as long as it's not hurting anybody."

In Denver, Rebecca Andrews, a 17-year-old senior at Denver School of the Arts, wore a black trench coat to school Thursday, which she said a band teacher confiscated.

The trench coat is the only outerwear she owns. By taking it from her, she complained, school officials "violated my privacy and personal space."

The school's student adviser, Ian Kester, said the coat "wasn't confiscated" because it was returned at the end of the day.

Denver, Adams and Douglas county schools began banning trench coats on Thursday to avoid insensitivity and to protect the students who wear them from backlash by other kids. Students in the Cherry Creek School District are being "encouraged" not to wear trench coats. The Jefferson County School District — working on perhaps more pressing concerns this week — has not set such a ban.

Still, an attorney for Denver's American Civil Liberties Union chapter said he received similar complaints Thursday and will examine the recent trench-coat bans.

"I think it's very important in the days and weeks and months ahead that we not overreact to appropriate, even if insensitive, expressions by students," lawyer Ed Ramey said.



The Denver Post / John Leyba

Neil Haselton, a student at Englewood High School, was ticketed Thursday for wearing a leather collar and leather bracelets with spikes to school.

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TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

Evaluations: Killers 'likely to succeed,' had 'potential'

Reports were glowing after two had finished diversion programs

By Sue Lindsay

News Staff Writer

Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold received glowing reports two months ago for completing juvenile diversion programs in Jefferson County.

Both were charged with first-degree criminal trespass, theft and criminal mischief March 25, 1998, for breaking into a car. Diversion officers rated their prognoses as "good" when their programs were finished in February.

Harris "did enjoy completing the anger management (class) which seemed to fit nicely with the individual counseling he was involved with," his officer wrote.

Noting that Harris "excelled in school," the officer said, "Eric is a very bright young man who is likely to succeed in life. He is intelligent enough to achieve lofty goals as long as he stays on task and remains motivated."

"He impressed me as being very articulate and intelligent. These are skills that he should grow and use as frequently as pos-

sible," the officer wrote.

The officer described Klebold's attitude as "solid" and "motivated."

"Dylan is a bright young man who has a great deal of potential," the officer wrote. "If he is able to tap his potential and become self-motivated, he should do well in life."

The officer said Klebold needed to motivate himself "so he can remain on a positive path. He is intelligent enough to make any dream a reality, but he needs to understand hard work is part of it."

Although Klebold struggled with school, the officer said he brought his grades up and was set to graduate this spring.

Both teen-agers completed 45 hours of community service. "Dylan felt like this was the most effective piece of diversion. He learned a lot from having to give up free time to work for no money," the officer said.

It's not clear from court records what kind of mental health evaluation Harris and Klebold had. Harris' program included individual counseling. Klebold's records didn't list that requirement.

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1640

Officers defend response

Gunmen introduced unforeseen threats

By Jeffrey Leib, Kieran Nicholson
and Kirk Mitchell
Denver Post Staff Writers

Reports that some victims of the Columbine High School shootings may have lain mortally wounded for hours inside the building have raised questions about whether police could have taken control more quickly.

But Jefferson County Sheriff's Department spokesman Steve Davis said dispatch got its first call at 11:19 a.m. Tuesday, and his department had a second deputy at the school two minutes later to assist. Columbine's resource officer — an armed deputy routinely posted at the school.

Within minutes, seven or eight officers were inside, Davis said, and three of them, including the resource officer, exchanged gunfire with the suspects. They also pulled students to safety, he said.

Chaotic scene

Other department officials say the scene was chaotic for the first contingent of officers; they were confronted with gunfire and bomb explosions while trying to provide cover for evacuating students.

Only minutes into the incident, Davis said, officers regrouped outside the school after determining they did not know who they were looking for in a sea of students.

One deputy said that within 30 minutes of the first shots, officers formed a "makeshift" tactical unit to enter the school in advance of official SWAT teams on their way to Columbine.

Police officials, in briefings with the media, have been questioned repeatedly about the quickness of their response.

Englewood SWAT team member Brian Mueller said he had a special incentive to go inside Columbine in a quick rescue — his mother-in-law, Lois Kean, is a librarian in the school, and reports came back that shooting was heavy in the library.

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Tactics altered

"Believe me, yes, I did want to go inside," he said. "To a certain point, it obviously calls for going in after the suspects."

But he said he thought other SWAT team officers had entered the building as soon as 20 minutes after the shooting began and that they were tracking the suspects down.

Some police experts across the country said the armed assault by two Columbine students introduced new threats that altered the tactics available to the police.

With recent shootings at schools, experts said, police appear to be facing more threats from what they call "active shooters" who are indiscriminately killing people, and not merely a barricaded gunman who might be talked out of using a weapon.

In situations where "there are active shooters and a lot of innocent people around," most SWAT teams rely on "rapid deployment" techniques that call for officers to get to the suspects as quickly as possible and remove their threat, said Larry Glick, executive director of the National Tactical Officers Association.

The association provides a communications link between SWAT units across the country and serves as a clearinghouse on tactics and training techniques.

At times, that rapid response can mean racing past wounded victims in the effort to secure the area, Glick said.

Yet when Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold brought bombs and other devices into Columbine, they dramatically altered the SWAT teams' ability to respond, Glick said.

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1641

Killers' pistol akin to banned model

By Peter G. Chrontz
and David Olinger
Denver Post Staff Writers

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One of the weapons carried by two teenage gunmen during their rampage at Columbine High School was a modified version of the banned TEC-9 semiautomatic handgun, sources close to the investigation told The Denver Post on Thursday.

The notorious TEC-9, made by Intratec

of Miami, Fla., has figured in several high-profile crimes and is favored by street gangs. It also starred in the movie "RoboCop" and matched the gun reportedly drawn on a Web-site page by Eric Harris.

Harris and Dylan Klebold, who killed 13 people and wounded 22 others before taking their own lives Tuesday, also carried a Hi-Point 9mm semiautomatic carbine, made by MKS Supply Inc. of Dayton, Ohio.

Both guns were purchased from a li-

censed Colorado gun dealer, according to a law-enforcement source. Neither Klebold nor Harris could legally purchase a handgun from a licensed dealer. But Harris, who was 18, could have legally purchased the rifle.

Additionally, the pair carried two older sawed-off American-made shotguns.

One was a pump-action shotgun. The other was a traditional double-barreled shotgun, "shortened about as much as you

possibly could," said Special Agent Larry Bettendorf of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Sawing off a shotgun, a federal crime, allows the buckshot to disperse across a wider area and do more damage.

During 1993, the TEC-9, which bears a menacing resemblance to a machine pistol, was among the top 10 firearms traced

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Gun akin to banned TEC-9

GUNS from Page 1A

by the ATF in connection with crimes.

That was the year a TEC-9 was used by Gian Luigi Ferri to mow down eight people in a San Francisco law office.

In 1994, Benny Lee Lawson used a TEC-9 to kill two FBI agents and a police detective at police headquarters in the nation's capital.

In 1996, a TEC-9 was used to assassinate Francisco Ruiz Massieu, the No. 2 official of Mexico's ruling party.

Oklahoma City bomber Tim McVeigh bought a TEC-9 after the disastrous Waco battle between federal agents and the Branch Davidian religious sect.

"The assault gun that won't die" is what the Miami Herald called the TEC-9 in a front-page headline in 1997.

Intratec once advertised that the finish on its TEC-9 had "excellent resistance to fingerprints" and also boasted that its weapons "are as tough as your toughest customer."

"Intratec, the manufacturer of the gun, is one of the bottom feeders of the gun industry," said Kristen Rand, policy director of the Violence Policy Center, a Washington, D.C., gun-control group. "They make guns that really appeal to the criminal element."

Attempts to reach Intratec in Miami for comment were unsuccessful.

Although further manufacture of the TEC-9 was banned under the Brady Act in 1994, Intratec began manufacturing a modified version that complied with federal restrictions. The new AB-10 model is sold with a 32-round magazine made before the ban.

The TEC-9 is horribly inaccurate, its chief appeal being a high volume of deadly fire.

Its popularity with crooks is undiminished, said Detective Dave Metzler of the Denver Police Department. "We still come across it in drive-by shootings or drug busts."

The Hi-Point 9mm semiauto rifle was designed as a so-called "camp carbine" for use by outdoor enthusiasts, according to MKS market-

Gunmen's weapons

Two of the guns used in Tuesday's shooting rampage, a Hi-Point 9mm Carbine and an Intratec AB-10 (a modified version of the banned Intratec TEC 9), were purchased from a licensed Colorado gun dealer.

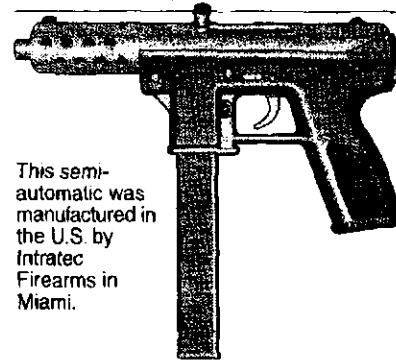
Hi-Point 9mm carbine



- 10-shot magazine
- 16.5" barrel length
- 31.5" overall length
- Approximate weight: 4.5 pounds
- Retail price: \$179.
- Used price: \$85-\$100.
- Legal and available for sale in Colorado.

This semiautomatic weapon was introduced to the U.S. market in 1994. It is manufactured in the U.S. by MKS Supply Inc. in Dayton, Ohio.

Intratec AB-10 (modified version of the TEC 9)



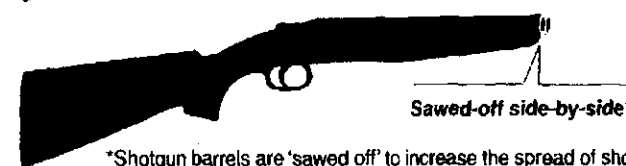
This semi-automatic was manufactured in the U.S. by Intratec Firearms in Miami.

- 9mm paramilitary style
- 36-shot magazine
- 5" barrel length
- 12.5" overall length
- Approximate weight: 4.2 pounds
- Retail price: \$248.
- Used price: \$100-\$150.
- Guns are readily available in Colorado outside Denver.

Two American-made 12-gauge shotguns



Sawed-off pump action*



Sawed-off side-by-side*

*Shotgun barrels are "sawed off" to increase the spread of shot at a close shooting distance.

Sources: Gun Digest and staff reports

The Denver Post

ing executive Charles Brown.

Manufacture of the carbine, which has a black polymer stock, began in 1994 after the Brady Act took effect. The carbine is "completely Brady-compliant," Brown said.

The 9mm carbine uses a magazine that holds 10 rounds, and each gun is sold with a child-safety lock, he added.

The Ohio company already has been contacted by the ATF about the Columbine shootings, Brown

confirmed. "What an incredible tragedy," he said.

The carbine lists for \$179, making it a relatively inexpensive firearm. Bettendorf said all of the guns found at the school were low-priced. He estimated the combined cost of the four guns at less than a thousand dollars.

The ATF has sent the serial numbers of all the guns to its national tracing center in Falling Waters, W.Va., to produce a "life of the gun" history.

The work required to trace that history varies greatly from gun to gun. The ATF can easily trace guns from their manufacturers to distributors and retail dealers, but tracing private sales among gun owners depends entirely upon the sellers' memories or personal records.

Nevertheless, the ATF manages to trace about 75 percent of all guns used in crimes.

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

The Denver Post

10/25/94

Metz

Gunshot Dist. akin
to banned Model

face:

1742-DN-59017

1643

Homemade bombs cheap, easy to build

By David Olinger
Denver Post Staff Writer

The crude bombs that Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris carried into Columbine High School could have been assembled in an afternoon with less than \$200 worth of materials, according to a federal official at the crime scene.

"These were very simple devices," said Larry Bettendorf, a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent assigned to the case. "If you had all of your components all ready, you could probably assemble these in a couple of hours."

One more explosive device was discovered at Columbine High on Thursday, fashioned from a gasoline can wired to a propane barbecue tank. The bomb weighed more than 20 pounds and raised fresh questions about whether Harris and Klebold had accomplices or managed to plant some bombs in advance.

Other bombs much smaller

One possibility under investigation is that the youths stowed these bombs in the duffel bags they reportedly carried into the school.

Columbine High senior Shannon Johnson, 18, reported that just before the tragedy, she was leaving the school and saw Harris standing "kind of by the library. . . . There was this black bag at his feet. I didn't think much of it."

According to Bettendorf, all the other bombs found inside the school were much smaller — encased either in CO2 cylinders, which are sold at sporting goods stores, or in short sections of galvanized steel pipe, sold at hardware stores. The galvanized pipes, about 6 inches long, "are already threaded on both ends, and you can buy the end caps" at a hardware store as well, he said.

Their fuses were "just simple cannon fuse" sold by the roll at sporting goods and hobby stores, and set to explode with ease, he said. "Strike-anywhere-type of matches were already taped to the

fuses."

Nails, tacks and BBs were attached with duct tape to make the bombs more lethal.

The one regulated item in these bombs was the gunpowder that filled them. It can be bought at almost any gun store, but the purchaser must be at least 18.

Harris had turned 18 weeks before the Columbine High massacre that left 15 people dead and more than 20 wounded. Klebold was 17.

No reporting requirement

There is no restriction on the quantity of gunpowder an 18-year-old can buy, nor any requirement to record or report gunpowder transactions. But if a licensed gun dealer has reason to believe a purchaser intends to put gunpowder to criminal use, "I would hope they would call law enforcement and notify them of a suspicious sale," Bettendorf said.

Jefferson County authorities Wednesday questioned whether Klebold and Harris could have hauled so many bombs into the school by themselves.

Aside from the newly discovered propane bombs, Bettendorf says the teens could have stuffed all of the bombs into their clothing.

They wore pants "with cargo-type pockets," he said. "You'd want to have a belt on; your pants might be sagging a bit."

Bettendorf said information on building such crude bombs is available from several sources, including the Internet and books sold at gun shows and "spy" stores. And the materials are cheap.

"I'm saying you could probably do all this for less than \$200," he said.

While some injuries at the high school were attributed to bomb shrapnel, authorities say the fatal wounds were inflicted by the four guns Harris and Klebold carried. They say the two ended a four-hour killing spree by shooting themselves in the head.

Denver Post staff writer Peter G. Chronis contributed to this report.

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

Killings Post
Denver CO

Date: 4/23/99

Edition: Mille

Title: Homemade bombs cheap, easy to build

Character:

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Classification:

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Indexing:

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#934178

G. J. [Signature]

FBI/DOJ

174A-DM-57417-321

11044

Bomb evidence points to plot to destroy school

A 'good chance' of a conspiracy, law officials say

By Mark Obmascik
Denver Post Staff Writer

The 20-pound bomb found inside the Columbine High School kitchen suggests the two teenage suspects were aided by others in their plot to blow up the school, police said Thursday.

Packed inside a duffle bag with a wired gasoline can — and surrounded with nails and BBs for maximum killing power — the propane barbecue tank-bomb points to a wider conspiracy, police said. Investigators said they also may learn more about the killings of 12 students and a teacher from security cameras in the school library.

"These subjects were not only on a killing rampage, but they were going to destroy the school. They were going to burn the school up," said Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone. "We feel like there's an extremely good chance that there are more than two people involved," said sheriff department spokesman Steve Davis. Still, authorities said they had no other suspects.

An estimated 300 students were eating in the cafeteria next to the hidden 20-pound bomb. "It could have been devastating," said sheriff's Sgt. Jim Parr.

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

Date: 4/24/99
Edition:

Title: Bomb to destroy school

174A DN-59419

On their rampage Tuesday, the two suicide killers, Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, packed two sawed-off shotguns with dozens of shells, a semiautomatic handgun and a 9mm semiautomatic carbine with at least eight ammunition clips, each carrying at least 10 bullets, police said.

In addition to the bomb found Thursday, police earlier defused at least 30 bombs, including 13 pipe bombs in the school, at least eight more bombs inside one killer's car and several other bombs and explosive material at Harris' home. Several bombs were attached to timers. It's unknown how many bombs were detonated by Harris and Klebold inside the school, though some witnesses said they heard as many as 15 blasts.

Investigators confirmed that they found a journal, written by Eric Harris, inside the teenager's suburban home. District Attorney Dave Thomas declined to reveal the journal's contents, saying the printed writings had been sealed by a judge. The journal was not a suicide note, Thomas said.

Harris had maintained a Web site, now withdrawn by America Online, that contained a message paraphrased by police as saying, "Do not blame anyone else. This is the way we wanted to go out."

Broadening the investigation of the crime, the Colorado Attorney General's Office obtained a search warrant Wednesday for a home in the 10300 block of West 69th Avenue in Arvada. Law enforcement officials declined comment.

The 30 or so bombs used by the two teenage killers could have been assembled in an afternoon with less than \$200 of materials, a federal agent said. All components can be purchased legally and easily at many hardware, sporting goods and gun stores, and instructions are available from the Inter-

Please see BOMB on 16A

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DATE 1/24/02 BY SP5TC/AE
#934178

FBI/DOJ

1645

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

BOMB from Page 1A

net, as well as books sold at gun shows and "spy" stores.

"These were very simple devices," said Larry Bettendorf, a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent assigned to the case. "If you had all of your components all ready, you could probably assemble these in a couple of hours."

Meanwhile, Jefferson County schools Superintendent Jane Hammond announced Thursday that students will be attending classes in the same Columbine High School building next fall. Though some students have said the structure is full of painful memories, shutting the school's doors permanently was "absolutely never" considered, she said.

"I don't think the community would want us to waste our resources," Hammond said, noting that a \$13.4 million school renovation was completed in 1995.

Jefferson County school officials are considering several options to allow students to finish this school year, Hammond said. One possibility is for Columbine and Chatfield High students to spend half days at the Chatfield campus.

"The students are saying, 'We want to be back in school,'" Hammond said.

Most attention Thursday focused on the discovery of the large bomb, which was found during a continuing sweep of the school by crime investigators. Police missed the bomb on their first sweep. It took so long to find the extra explosive, police said, because they're checking hundreds of backpacks left behind mainly by students running for their lives.

Police said there's a chance the school still contains other explosives planted by the two killers. When the other live bomb was found, 60 investigators were working inside the school.

Authorities also said they have recovered a videotape from a

school security system, which includes the library where most of the teens were killed. The tape has not yet been reviewed by investigators, Davis said.

The parents of both killers have hired lawyers and been interviewed by police.

Medical examiners are testing the blood of the two dead killers, who apparently died of self-inflicted gunshot wounds to the head, for drugs and any other substances.

Police bristled at suggestions that they acted too slowly to rescue victims inside the school. Trapped students worked for three hours to keep one shot teacher, Dave Sanders, from bleeding to death.

After students frantically tried

to keep Sanders conscious by showing him wallet photos of his daughters, the teacher died.

"Do we wish we could have gotten him out of there sooner? Of course we do," said sheriff's department spokesman Sgt. Jim Parr.

Police noted that an armed deputy, stationed inside the school, traded gunfire with one killer at the beginning of the rampage. Within two minutes of the first 911 call for help, the first of seven law enforcement officers from Jefferson County, Littleton, Denver and Arapahoe County arrived at the school and began chasing the killers.

Two officers shot at the killers but missed.

"They had no knowledge of who the suspects were, what they looked like, or how many there were," said Davis, the Jefferson County spokesman. "They brought many injured students out. . . . I think it was very heroic of those officers."

By 1 p.m., about 90 minutes after the first call for help, SWAT teams entered the school again to free survivors and chase the suspects. At 3:30 p.m., police found 12 bodies in the school library, including the two dead killers.

"We were trying to get everybody out as quickly as we could,

under the circumstances," Parr said.

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno met Thursday with investigators on the massacre and came away impressed.

"It has been a textbook case of how to conduct an investigation, of how to do it the right way," Reno said after meeting with state and local law enforcement officials. She pledged federal help in the investigation.

On Thursday, the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office released juvenile crime reports that were written after the killers completed court-ordered probation for breaking into a car in January 1998 and stealing tools.

On Feb. 3 of this year, both Harris and Klebold were allowed to complete the diversion program early because the two had done so well. Diversion officers wrote that the "prognosis" for both was "good."

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

Page 24-3
The Denver Post
Denver, CODate: 4/13/99
Edition:Title: Bomb at Columbine High School
Subject: shootingCharacter: school
orClassification:
Submitting Office:Indexing:
1144-10-577-10

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

"Eric is a very bright young man who is likely to succeed in life," said the termination report on Harris. "He is intelligent enough to achieve lofty goals as long as he stays on task and remains motivated."

"Dylan is a bright young man who has a great deal of potential," said Klebold's prognosis. "If he is able to tap his potential and become self motivated he should do well in life." But the father of one murdered student questioned the upbringing of two killers.

"I'm very upset with the parents (of the two gunmen)," said Mike Shoels, whose son, Isaiah, 18, was one of 12 slain students. "They should have watched their children. If my child had had six butane tanks in my garage, don't you think I'd ask him about it?" he said, referring to barbecue-type propane bottles turned into bombs by the two killers. "If I didn't, it would suggest that I don't give a damn about him."

Meanwhile, mourners continued to stream to the high school.

Fifteen-year-old Kacey Revis made 15 2-foot-high, wooden crosses Thursday morning — nine blue, four pink and two black.

"The black is for the gunmen and they have been placed separately from the others," Revis said. "Only the black crosses were not driven into the ground." A dozen Westminster High School students, clad in blue-and-white letter jackets, carried a 25-foot long banner signed by their school's student body and placed it amid the growing memorial of flowers, balloons, teddy bears and other items.

"I didn't know anyone personally, but we can definitely feel it," said Mike Bredenberg, senior and student president at Westminster. "It hurts us too."

Denver Post staff writers Peter Chronis, Peggy Lowe, Ginny McKibben, Kirk Mitchell, Kieran Nicholson, David Olinger, Marilyn Robinson and Ann Schrader contributed to this report.

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

The Denver Post
Denver, CO

Date: 6/12/99
Edition:

Title: *11th grade evidence pointed to
Plot to blow up school*

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:

Indexing:

11th grade DN 57417

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

14A

MASSACRE AT COLUMBINE HIGH

Jeffco DA plants idea for healing

By Ginny McKibben
Denver Post Staff Writer

GOLDEN — District Attorney Dave Thomas recognized the body the moment he walked into the school library.

It was the clothes. The clothing matched the description given to him by one of his investigators — the grandfather of the dead child.

"I went and stood by the child," Thomas said, not wanting to identify the student. "Then I went back and talked to my investigator."

It was then an extremely personal sense of sadness and grief washed over Thomas and his investigation into the Columbine High School killings. A secretary in his office also lost a nephew in the rampage.

"I knew the whole family," Thomas said, referring to the secretary.

His sense of purpose in this case has been fueled not only by his professional sense of justice, but by a need to heal the wounds inflicted by the tragedy.

"I have to do some soul searching to see what is my role in this," Thomas said. "It's more than as a prosecutor and investigator in a shocking case of juvenile crime and violence."

"If next week we move on and don't create a solution to the problem, we will make a terrible mistake," Thomas said.

Thomas and his wife Shirley want the community to create a Columbine Project — a community decision to plant the columbine, the state flower of Colorado, at every school, public or private.

It would become a statement that schools must be a safe harbor for children, Thomas said.

Thomas said the Columbine Project would also address concerns of his grown children, who graduated with pride from Columbine High School only to see the name linked with a tragedy.

"They don't want it to be remembered as the place where the students were killed."

Shirley Thomas and Dave Thomas are not strangers to the pain of violent crime. In 1996, they became victims when Shirley's sister Helen Fuller was slain. The Thomases later adopted Fuller's child, who was 4 years old.

"It kind of brings it all back again," Shirley Thomas said.

Staff writer Ann Schrader contributed to this report.

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

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Edition: Metro

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or
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1648

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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

Oakland Tribune
Alameda

Date: 5/23/94

Edition: Daily

Title: Wounded Student
Back Home

Character:

or

Classification:

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174A-28-57411

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#934178

14A

THE DEN

MASSACRE AT COLUMBINE HIGH

Wounded student back home

By William Brand
Oakland Tribune

She has four bullets permanently lodged in her abdomen, and her many bullet and shrapnel wounds are painful, but Valeen Schnurr is home again.

A week after she and a friend were shot inside the Columbine High School library, the 18-year-old senior is back in her own bed, surrounded by her family — and the heartfelt best wishes of people around the world.

The first thing she wants to do is say thanks for the outpouring of support, her father and mother, Mark and Shari Schnurr, said Tuesday at the family's southern Jefferson County home.

"She really cares for the other families who lost their children," her dad said, "and the victims she

left behind in Swedish Medical Center. It bothered her a lot to leave them. She gave each of them a rose before she left Tuesday and promised to do anything she could."

Her parents said they always knew they had an amazing, incredible daughter — but her courage under the fire of the two killers, bent on annihilation, leaves them in awe.

"She really did a testimonial (to God and her Roman Catholic faith)," Mark Schnurr said. "It wasn't like what they've been saying that somebody pointed a gun in her face and said, 'Do you believe in God?'"

"First, they shot her, and she said, 'Oh my God!' She was on the floor under the library table and one of them looked back and said — 'Do you believe in God?'"

"She said, 'Yes, my mom and dad brought me up that way.' They were reloading a gun and she crawled back under the table and they went away," Schnurr said.

"She said that, what went through her mind when they asked that was, 'If I say no, what will they do? And if I say no and die — that's a problem.'"

"So she gave her testimonial to her faith. Did it save her? Was it a sign (from God)?" her dad asked. "If it was — it's a heck of a deal. It means she's here for a reason."

"Val has always been there for people," Shari Schnurr said. "She's always shared and been a good friend. She's been very active in her church, St. Francis Cabrini. We have raised her and her younger sisters Christian."

"We're very proud of her."

CTJ/KK

174A-28-57411-324

1649

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Dave Sanders Coach, teacher hailed as hero

By Curtis L. Esquibel
Special to The Denver Post

Coach and teacher Dave Sanders brought out the best in people.

"He knew how to motivate you and make you want to play for him," said Susanne Miller, 19, a former Columbine High School athlete who now plays college softball at Georgia Tech. "He always knew just the right things to say."

Sanders, 47, is being hailed as a hero for the effort he made to lead other students to safety during Tuesday's shooting rampage. He never made it out of the school building.

"Here's a man who has given to students for 20 years and his life was taken by two kids who didn't know the meaning of giving," said Kerri Held, 20, a former Columbine softball and basketball player. "They just took."

Held said Sanders "believed in me when I didn't believe in me. For any player, he would do anything. He was intimidating enough to make you want to improve but he didn't have the



heart to yell at anyone."

Like every coach, Sanders had his own way of conducting practices and preparing his teams for games, former players said Thursday. His greatest talent wasn't in teaching business courses or diagramming X's and O's. It was relating to students.

"He was concerned not just with players and students, but individually he cared to know how things were going with your personal life and future," Held said.

Miller first heard the news of Sanders' being shot while she was in her Atlanta dorm room. She returned home to Littleton as soon as she could.

"He always wanted us to come back and see him," Miller said. "During winter break, I came home and watched him coach a basketball practice just because I wanted to see him coach."

For 25 years, Sanders taught business courses and coached men's and women's athletics at Columbine. Gerry Difford, Columbine's first principal, hired Sanders in 1974. The school opened in 1973.

"He was just a kid from Nebraska back then," Difford said. "He was always willing to take anything on. He didn't try to be the head coach of things necessarily, or be spectacular. He just loved to work with the kids."

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

The Denver Post
Denver, Co

Date: 4/23/99
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Metz
Title: Coach, teacher hailed as hero
Character: Sanders family to quiz SWAT team
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DATE 11/11/00 BY SP5JTC/KE

Thursday, April 29, 1999

Sanders family to quiz SWAT team

News Staff

The family of teacher Dave Sanders will meet with SWAT team representatives this weekend to find out why it took hours to reach the dying teacher.

"We realize it took a long time," Melody Smith, sister-in-law of the Columbine teacher, said Wednesday. "We want to find out what went into their thinking before we make a lot of comment."

Hundreds of students, credit Sanders with saving their lives by warning them of the gunmen.

Sanders was shot, and students tried to stop his bleeding. SWAT teams didn't reach the room Sanders was in for several hours.

174 A-DN-57077-325 FBI/DOJ

1650

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Columbine mayhem worse than war, ex-GI says

Man witnessed rescues from armored truck on loan from his company

By John Rebchook

News Staff Writer

Joe Couch saw soldiers die during Desert Storm and participated in the capture of former Panama dictator Manuel Noriega in 1989.

But nothing in his 24 years of Army service prepared the Loomis Fargo & Co. manager for the mayhem he witnessed Tuesday at Columbine High School from the back of an armored truck on loan

from his company.

"This is unlike anything I've ever seen," he said.

Loomis Fargo offered police the use of one of its armored trucks to assist in the rescue of Columbine victims. Fleet manager Ronald Corzon drove the vehicle, and Couch sat in the back. Lakewood SWAT team members in the vehicle rescued several students and a substitute teacher, Couch said.

The most dramatic rescue was that of the bloodied teen who escaped through a second-floor window of the library. The boy fell about seven feet onto the truck.

Corzon drove the vehicle over a

curb to get as close to the school roof as possible, so that Lakewood senior agent Donn Kraemer and Sgt. John Ramoniec could jump from the truck to the roof and try to grab the injured youth.

"The boy could not have moved on his own; he was half-unconscious," Corzon said. "He was covered with blood. Really scared. They tried to get him in the cab with me, and he just grabbed hold of the door and wouldn't let go."

The teen-ager was moved to the back of the vehicle, where SWAT members made small talk with him, to calm him down and help keep him conscious.

"He seemed to be in shock," Couch said.

The rescue team then picked up another boy and a substitute teacher — who told Couch that it was his first day on the job.

But the image that won't go away for Corzon is the sight of a boy sprawled on a sidewalk 20 feet from the bulletproof truck.

"I started yelling something like, 'There's one down, there's one down,'" Corzon said. "One of the SWAT team members outside, I think he was a sheriff's deputy, said he was DOA. I wanted to go back and get him. I kept thinking he could have been my son."

After breaking down at work on Wednesday, Corzon talked to counselors, which he said was a tremendous help. He also attended a vigil at the Light of the World Catholic Church, where he worships.

Both Corzon and Couch said the SWAT members in the back of the truck and running alongside it were itching to get into the school.

But Lakewood Sgt. George Hinkle, who commanded the operation, reminded them that the Denver SWAT team already was in the building and that he didn't want his men caught in cross fire, Corzon said.

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

Date: 10/23/99
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6757/
KRM

FBI/DOJ

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1651

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

4A

WRITINGS OF DEATH AND MISSIONS



Harris

Postings
on Eric Harris' Web page
contain pro-
fanity, dis-
turb-
ing
images and
violent
threats. A
Columbine
parent says
he copied the postings and gave
them to the Jefferson County
Sheriff's Department one year ago.
Here are excerpts:

My belief is that if I say some-
thing, it goes. I am the law, if you
don't like it, you die. If I don't like
you or I don't like what you want
me to do, you die.

Dead people can't do many
things, like argue, whine, bitch,
complain, narc, rat out, criticize or
even . . . talk. So that the only way
to solve arguments with all you . . .
out there, I just kill!

God, I can't wait till I can kill you
people. I'll just go to some down-
town area in some big . . . city and
blow up and shoot everything I
can. Feel no remorse, no sense of
shame. . . . I will rig up explosives
all over a town and detonate each
one of them at will after I mow
down a whole . . . area full of you.

. . . I don't care if I live or die in
the shootout. All I want to do is kill
and injure as many of you . . . as I
can.

I live in Denver, and . . . I would
love to kill almost all of its resi-
dents. . . . People with their rich
snobby attitude, thinkin they are
all high and mighty and can just
come up and tell me what to do
and then people I see in the
streets, lying . . . about them-
selves.

. . . And then there is all you fit-
ness (people) . . . saying . . .

"Yeah, do 50 situps and 25
pushups each morning and run a
mile every day and go to the gym
and work out and just push your-
self to be better, and you can
achieve anything and set high
goals and have great expectations
and be happy and be kind and
treat everyone equal and give to
charity and help the poor and stop
violence and drive safely and don't
pollute and don't litter and take
shorter showers and don't waste
water and eat right food and don't
smoke or drink and don't sell guns
and don't be a bad person."

Phew. I say . . . shutup and die"
. . . YOU KNOW WHAT I LOVE!!!?

SCHOOL!

YOU KNOW WHAT I HATE!!!!?

SCHOOLWORK!

. . . YOU KNOW WHAT I
HATE!!!!?

RACISM!!!

Don't let me catch you making
fun of someone just because they
are (a) different color, because I
will come in and break your . . .
legs with a plastic spoon. I don't
care how long it takes! and that's
both legs, mind you.

. . . As for the next mission, we
haven't decided what to do or
where to do it. I had some
thoughts about hiding in some
large bushes or trees and shooting
stuff. Or maybe some more aerial
attacks. But we need to go to
Wyoming and load up on that
stuff. We are running low. . . . We
still need to get the fuses, too.

. . . Aww, yeya. This mission
was so . . . fun, man. OK, first of
all, my dad was the only parent
home, so it was much easier get-
ting out. . . .

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

Keeny Mountain News

Date: 4/23/99

Edition:

Title: Writings of Death
and Missions

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

Indexing:

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GWAKRM

FBI/DOJ

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1652

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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

Denver Post
 Date: 4/23/99
 Edition: Metro

Title: Massacre impact on gun sales slight

Character:
 or
 Classification:
 Submitting Office:

Indexing:

144 A-DN-57419

SP5JC/AE

#934178

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

THE DENVER POST

Massacre impact on gun sales slight

By Matthew B. Stannard
 Oakland Tribune

The massacre at Columbine High School seems to have had little impact on the bottom line at gun shops across the state.

In fact, some local firearm retailers say business is booming in the wake of the worst school shooting in the nation's history.

"For about three days (after the shooting) we were slow. Now we're back up to where we were," said Dale Peterson, manager of Firing Line Indoor Shooting Range in Aurora. If anything, Peterson said, business is up in the wake of the shooting, as anti-gun rhetoric and rallies hit fever pitch.

"When there's a threat of people passing laws making it worse, we actually see an increase in business," he said. "(Buyers) don't want to take a chance on being able to get their guns."

Other gun sellers said they also had seen an increase in business stemming indirectly from the shooting, such as buyers left stranded by the cancellation of a gun show last weekend.

But Tim Donahue, a range officer at Foothills Shooting Center, said he had noticed an even more direct impact from the massacre.

Donahue said he had seen much more interest in Foothill's merchandise and training classes in the past week, including a number of customers he said were responding to the shooting by learning to protect themselves with their own firearms.

"A guy that lives right by the school came in and said those guys had been walking by his house and he was nervous. He had a gun and now he wanted to learn how to use it," Donahue said.

Another handgun buyer told Don-

ahue his son had been shot at by Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold but had managed to escape unscathed.

"He's going to teach his wife and son how to shoot that gun," he said.

This was shaping up to be a flush year in the gun business well before the April 20 Columbine shooting. The Federal Bureau of Investigations performed 17,287 background investigations of potential gun buyers in March alone.

April, with 9,982 investigations performed to date, has been a pretty good month, too, they said.

The FBI has conducted 2,394 investigations of Colorado buyers in the seven days since the Columbine shooting — a 7 percent decline from April's daily average. But local gun stores say they haven't noticed any real slowdown.

Anti-gun activists, busy preparing to rally in Downtown Denver in protest of the National Rifle Association's annual meeting this week-

end, were aghast at the possibility that people are responding to Columbine by fighting fire with fire.

"I think it's certainly startling and scary that people have reacted to this tragedy in this way," said Ted Pascoe of Colorado Coalition Against Gun Violence.

"I am hoping that in the long term, tragedies like this one in Colorado would convince us all that arming ourselves is not the answer."

But to Bob Glass, owner of Paladin Arms in Longmont, arming in response to an incident like the shooting in Littleton is "a very appropriate response."

"The unfortunate reality of the situation is that we are living in a dangerous world," he said. "If there were other people in that (Columbine) situation that had been armed, we might not have had the tragedy that we had."

FBI/DOJ

144 A-DN-57419-328

1653

Bullet just bounced off

By Norm Clarke
News Staff Writer

Brian Anderson, one of Columbine High School's miracles of miracles, has an idea why he survived a bullet to the chest.

"God wanted me there to help others get out of there," Anderson said Thursday.

Anderson, 17, was knocked backward by the impact of a bullet from Eric Harris' gun Tuesday, got up, led friends to a storage-room hideout and later helped six wounded schoolmates.

He later found the bullet that was deflected by his neck chain. It bounced off his sternum, breaking the skin, then lodged in the two layers of clothes he was wearing.

His remarkable story begins moments after the killers, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, started their deadly rampage.

"I was at one of the back exits of the school. I heard a shot and I saw them shooting down the hall. I was about ready to open the door when Eric turned and looked at me and shot at me.

Taking deep breaths as he retells the terrifying experience, he understands why he was one of the early targets. "I was wearing a white Nebraska cap and he thought I was an athlete."

Anderson heard the bang of exploding glass as the bullet hit the double-paned glass door.

"I fell backward. My instinct was to get out of there and take anybody that was with me back inside the school."

Anderson shepherded others up the stairs to the library.

"I was stumbling, panicking. I fell over in the library, trying to run too fast. When we heard the explosion, we ran to a back storage room in the library."

Inside the room, Anderson and three others, including his best friend's girlfriend, Jenny Matthews, 16, and teacher Peggy Dodd, turned off the lights and Dodd locked the door with her keys.

(**Print Clipping in Space Below)

Then they lay on the floor and waited. "I was bleeding, but not very bad."

In a minute or two, they heard gunfire outside their door.

"Jenny was pretty shook. I told her they were shooting computers and not to worry."

But he knew better. "We could hear gunfire and screaming. Then

they (the victims) stopped screaming."

In the terrifying darkness, Anderson felt something burning in his chest.

"I thought it was a painball that hit me. That's when I felt metal and started pulling the bullet out. I had to pull it pretty hard to get it out of my shirts," said Anderson,

who had polo shirt over a T-shirt.

When the shooting stopped, they felt the floor vibrating from the mass exodus of schoolmates running to safety. "Three of us got up and ran out. Peggy stayed."

Once outside, he helped police recover several badly wounded students who needed medical attention.

He still has two reddish welts on his chest — burn marks from the hot lead.

"The bullet broke in two when it hit the glass. I got hit by both fragments."

He didn't save the souvenir of his extraordinary luck.

"I lost it when I was running out."

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

Keeney Media News

Date: 1/23/99

Edition:

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Bullets just bounced off

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Indexing:

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DATE 1/24/02 BY SP5RC/AE

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Col. J. K. Krum

FBI/DOJ

174A DN-57419-329

1654



Brian
Anderson, 17,
a junior at
Columbine
High School,
holds a neck
chain that
helped deflect
a bullet that
struck his
chest. He holds
a copy of last
year's school
yearbook.
R. Mark Campbell/
Pilot Staff
Photographer

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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

Denver Post
Denver, CO

Date: 4/23/1999

Edition:

Title: Wounded face
Uncertain future

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

Indexing: 174A DN-57419

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#934178

Friday, April 23, 1999

THE DENVER POST

MASSACRE AT COLUMBINE HIGH

Wounded face uncertain future

By Julia C. Martinez
Denver Post Staff Writer

Two days after he was felled by five bullets outside Columbine High School, Richard Castaldo lay paralyzed from the shoulder blades down Thursday at Swedish Medical Center. His doctors don't know what will happen.

At Denver Health Medical Center, Lance Kirklin lay in an intensive-care unit, heavily sedated, his jaw nearly blown off. His long-term prognosis is uncertain.

And 17-year-old Anne Marie Hochhalter was suffering from temporary paralysis because the bullet that struck her in the chest landed close to her spinal cord.

For these survivors of the Columbine High School massacre, the future remains uncertain some 48 hours after the worst violence in U.S. school history. For them and others, the recovery could last a lifetime.

Castaldo's father, Rick Castaldo, told reporters Thursday that his son didn't see the gunmen until just before he was shot. The 17-year-old heard gunshots in the distance but thought they were fireworks.

Then came the two gun-wielding assailants. Instantly, five bullets felled Castaldo where he sat eating lunch outdoors, his father said. The bullets penetrated his chest, back and abdomen.

His son "closed his eyes and played dead," hoping he would not be shot again. As he lay where he

THE INJURED

■ Still at Swedish Medical Center:
Richard Castaldo, 17, with five gunshot wounds to chest, back and abdomen. Condition: serious.
Sean Graves, 15, with single gunshot wound to back and abdomen. Condition: fair.
Anne Marie Hochhalter, 17, single gunshot wound to chest. Condition: critical.
Valcen Schnurr, 18, shrapnel wounds to chest and abdomen. Condition: fair.
■ Still at Denver Health Medical Center:
Mark Kintgen, 17, multiple head and neck injuries. Condition: fair.
Lisa Kreutz, 18, multiple gunshot wounds to body. Condition: serious.
Lance Kirklin, 16, multiple gunshot wounds to face, chest and legs. Condition: critical but stable.
Jeanna Park, 18, gunshot wounds to upper and lower body. Condition: fair.
■ Still at Centura St. Anthony Central

Hospital:

Kasey Rueggesser, 17, gunshot wound. Condition: serious.
Unidentified male, 15, gunshot wound. Condition: critical.
Patrick Ireland, 17, gunshot wound. Condition: serious.
Makai Hall, 19, gunshot wound. Condition: fair.
■ Still at University Hospital
Mark Taylor, 16, gunshot wounds in arm, body and legs. Condition: serious but stable.
■ Still at Centura Littleton Adventist
Jennifer Doyle, 17, gunshot wound. Condition: good.
■ Treated and released:
Brian Anderson, Stephen Austin Fubanks, Nicholas Foss, Joyce Jankowski, Adam Kyler, Stephanie Munson, Patricia Nielsen, Nicole Nowien, Danny Steepleton

had fallen for up to an hour, he was aware that something was terribly wrong, the senior Castaldo said.

Dr. William Pfeifer of Swedish Medical Center said Castaldo was returned to surgery late Thursday to repair a bone fracture in his vertebra so doctors could try to determine the extent of spinal damage.

Despite these serious injuries, Castaldo said his son was in good spirits. "He's aware he will have trouble recovering . . .," Castaldo said. He had asked for Led Zeppelin music and wanted to know the names of those who were killed. "He cried," when the list of mur-

dered victims was read to him, his father said.

At Denver Health Medical Center, Kirklin was stable despite his massive wounds. A hospital spokeswoman said the youth was scheduled for more surgery today and possibly this weekend to continue trying to repair massive injuries to his chest and legs as well as his jaw.

A large portion of Kirklin's jaw was blown off in Tuesday's rampage, neighbor Noelle Devore said. The 16-year-old sophomore, who loves fishing, is unable to speak and is communicating with doctors and family members with a

squeeze of his hand, she said.

Kirklin's injuries are so extensive, Devore said, that doctors predicted he would require reconstructive surgery for years.

The shooting was the second tragedy to strike the family in months. Devore said Kirklin's brother died a few months ago.

Everen Securities Inc. of Park Meadows established the Lance Kirklin Support Fund to help the family with future medical bills. Donations can be made to 8005 S. Chester Street, Suite 300, Englewood 80112. Phone numbers are 303-925-8500 or 800-300-9648.

Broker Bret Roberts, who set up the fund, said he also was establishing a Web page on the Internet. "We're very happy to be doing this for him," said Roberts, who learned of Kirklin's plight from Devore, who is his stepsister.

Hochhalter's prognosis has been improving, despite the temporary paralysis, according to Dr. Bill Mallory at Swedish. The bullet that struck the student in the chest landed close to her spinal cord, the physician said. She also suffered a wound to her liver.

Fourteen students remained hospitalized Thursday, among them a 15-year-old unidentified male student in critical condition at St. Anthony Central Hospital with unknown wounds.

One of the 14, Valcen Schnurr, was recovering quickly at Swedish and was expected to be released soon, her doctor said.

1656

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Massacre hints missed

Web site pages in '98
talked of pipe bombs,
mass random killings,
Columbine dad says

By Ann Imse and Lynn Bartels

News Staff Writers

Jefferson County deputies had evidence a year ago that Eric Harris was contemplating mass murder — but did nothing, a Columbine father said.

The father gave printouts of Harris' Web site to a deputy to support his complaint that Harris had threatened his son's life and broken his son's windshield.

"I will rig up explosives all over a town and detonate each one of them at will after I mow down a whole ... area full of you," the printouts say.

One year later, Harris and his friend Dylan Klebold, both Columbine seniors, did just that. But instead of attacking total strangers downtown, they shot dozens of students at Columbine High School, killing 13.

The father, who didn't want to be identified, was horrified by the Web pages, which said the two were beginning to put their anger into action by building and blowing up pipe bombs.

"We were upset that no action was taken so we filed a second complaint in April 1998," the father said. "We continually called back. They never called us, ever."

"I think the cops dropped the ball on that," said the son, now a Columbine senior.

Sheriff's Sgt. Jim Parr said he



Flowers sit at the home of Eric Harris. The father of a Columbine High School student said he had contacted the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department in 1998 about Harris' threats on a Web site.

knew nothing about the complaint. District Attorney Dave Thomas said he never received it.

At about the same time it was filed, Harris and Klebold were getting a break from juvenile felony charges of criminal trespass and theft for breaking into a car and stealing tools. They were offered clean records if they stayed out of trouble and completed a diversion program.

They passed it with flying colors. But they lied.

In contracts with the juvenile diversion program dated March 25, 1998, both of them promised not to possess weapons.

In reality, they were building their first pipe bombs, according to the Web page printouts dated March 18, 1998.

The printouts are full of Harris' plans for mass murder. He said he'd love to kill "almost all" the residents of Denver. He swore he would feel no remorse. "I am the law, and if you don't like it, you die. If I don't like you, you die."

He wrote up his own love-hate list, focusing uncontrollable anger on what most people would consider everyday annoyances. He said he hated liars, people who think television wrestling is real, young smokers, commercials.

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

Keeley Mtn News

Date: 01/26/99

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Title: Massacre Hints Missed

Character:

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1657

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

telemarketers, stupid people and those who cut in line or blocked the hallway.

He didn't want to shrug off such irritants. For someone who accidentally bumped him and apologized, he promised to "rip out 2 of your damn ribs and shove em into your f---ing eye balls!" For someone blocking the hallway, he threatened to blow his head off with a sawed-off shotgun.

He claimed he loved school. He just hated schoolwork.

In sharp contradiction to witness statements that either Harris or Klebold said, "We are going to shoot black people" just before killing a black student, Harris said on the Web page that he hated racism. He said he thought racists should have their arms ripped off.

He also wrote of sneaking out of the house at night without his parents' knowledge to set off strings of firecrackers at the homes of "targets." In some paragraphs, these adventures seem to be innocent teen high jinks.

But elsewhere, Harris boasted of the first four pipe bombs that he built "from scratch" with his friend Vodka, a nickname for Klebold. They extracted the powder from firecrackers they'd bought in Wyoming, where fireworks are sold legally and numerous stands line the highways just across the Colorado border.

They even named their bombs. The largest of that first batch was a 1/4-inch-by-5-inch explosive named Pazzie. Pazzie's blast in a creek bed was "heart-pounding, gut-wrenching brain-twitching ground-moving insanely cool!" according to the printouts.

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

Date: 4/23/1999
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Title: *Manson Hunt*

Character:
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Denver Rocky Mountain News

Eric Harris Home

Friday

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

4/23 PM



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

Date: 10/25/79
Edition:Title: Wounded Teen who
fell from window ID'dCharacter:
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Wounded teen who fell from window ID'd

Patrick Ireland, a junior, took bullets in the head and foot

By Norm Clarke
News Staff Writer

The wounded student whose dramatic second-story rescue riveted a live TV audience worldwide is Patrick Ireland, police and hospital officials said Thursday.

A junior at Columbine High School, Ireland, 17, was in the intensive care unit at St. Anthony Hospital Central, in serious condition with head and foot wounds.



Ireland

He was shot twice in the head.

Limp as a ragdoll, his right arm appearing lifeless, Ireland fell into the arms of two Lakewood SWAT veterans Tuesday during an armored truck rescue outside the window of the school library.

Lakewood senior agent Donn Kraemer, the first to reach Ireland after climbing on the roof of the truck, welcomed the news.

"Great! Now I've got a name to associate

with my prayers," said Kraemer.

"I'd love to meet him, whenever he is fit enough and able and willing — the whole team would like to meet him.

"He showed the ultimate indomitable spirit to live at all costs."

Ireland was trying to climb out the window when the truck, accompanied by a SWAT team headed by Sgt. George Hinkle, moved into position.

Kraemer and Sgt. John Ramoniec hurried to the truck's roof, barely in time to catch the bloody and traumatized student.

Lapsing into shock, the boy gave his name to police as "Rick" or "Rich."

FBI/DOJ

1144-DN-57419-332

1659

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Isaiah Shoels**Son killed by 'hatred,' father says****By Mike McPhee**
Denver Post Staff Writer

Isaiah Shoels was days from becoming one of the few African-Americans ever to graduate from Columbine High School. Then he was shot and killed in Tuesday's carnage.

Now that some of the shock has worn off, the anger is boiling out of his father, Michael.

"I'm not going to sugar-coat anything. We should be watching our children.

Their hatred is taking over our planet," said Shoels, whose fury gathered strength during a 45-minute inter-



view with five reporters in his living room on Thursday, less than 24 hours after he was told of his oldest son's death. His wife, Vonda, hovered in the kitchen, unwilling to face the media.

"I'm very upset with the parents (of the two gunmen). They should have watched their children. If my child had had six butane tanks in my garage, don't you think I'd ask him about it?" he said, referring to barbecue-type propane bottles turned into bombs by the two killers. "If I didn't, it would suggest that I don't give a damn about him."

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

Date: 5/23/94
Edition:Title: Isaiah Shoels
son killed by 'hatred'
Character: father says
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FBI/DOJ

1660

Two words to SWAT officer: 'Thank you'

By Norm Clarke
News Staff Writer

His gripping televised struggle for survival has transformed Patrick Ireland into a symbol of the fighting spirit of Columbine High School.

But his heroic act of self-preservation — despite a paralyzed arm and leg and a bullet in his brain — is only half of Patrick's brave saga.

He was acting as a good Samaritan, ministering to wounded Makai Hall, when one of the killers, after walking away, turned back, spotted Patrick and shot him in the forehead.

"Patrick was holding pressure on Makai's leg wound when one of the killers came back to get him (Patrick)," said a source close to his family.

Almost two hours after being shot, a near-delirious Patrick, 17, summoned the

strength to crawl across the library floor, pull himself up to the window and fall into the arms of two SWAT rescuers.

"Imagine what it took to do that, with one arm, one leg and the head wound," said a doctor at Centura St. Anthony Hospital Central.

None of the sources contacted spoke on the record out of deference to the Ireland family's wishes. The family has yet to confirm Patrick is the student saved in the dramatic SWAT mission.

The news keeps getting better for the determined youth, who remains in serious condition.

His speech, though still halting, has improved enough to allow him to deliver two sweet words to a member of the SWAT unit that arrived in the nick of time to catch him before he fell two stories from the school library.

"Thank ... you," he said in a slow-

motion voice.

Patrick got a souvenir SWAT pin from one of his rescuers, who told him how much his courage meant to them. The visitors included Sgt. George Hinkle, senior agent Donn Kraemer, Sgt. John Ramoniec and Loomis armored car driver Ronald Corzon.

Patrick's parents greeted the SWAT member with emotional embraces.

The mending boy has been seen smiling through tears, said one of dozens of well-wishers who have gone to his flow-er-filled room.

Schoolmate Makai, the student he stopped to help, has visited Patrick.

Patrick could be moved as quickly as Tuesday to a Denver acute care hospital, possibly Craig Hospital, where the likes of superheroes Christopher Reeve, Willie Shoemaker and Deak Walker have gone for rehab.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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

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1661

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

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Poll: Parents deserve blame

NEW YORK — Seventy percent of Americans believe that a lack of parental oversight contributed "a lot" to the Columbine shooting rampage, according to a poll by Newsweek magazine, while 67 percent place that same level of blame on the availability of guns.

About half (49 percent) believe the most effective way to prevent such violent incidents would be paying more attention to kids' anti-social attitudes and behaviors, while 21 percent believe it would be increasing school security, and 14 percent say the same for reducing violence in popular entertainment.

Fifty percent surveyed now favor a law that would ban possession of handguns except by police and other authorized people — the highest percentage recorded for that view since 1982.

The poll will appear in the Newsweek edition hitting newsstands today. For the poll, Princeton Survey Research Associates interviewed 757 adults Thursday and Friday.

The margin of error is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Boy with bomb materials arrested

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, Fla. — A 15-year-old boy was arrested after authorities found napalm and other homemade explosive materials in his bedroom.

Acting on a tip, Clay County sheriff's deputies went to the home of the youth late Saturday. Investigators found chemicals, fuses and bombmaking instructions the boy allegedly got off the Internet.

The teen was charged with possession of destructive devices, a felony. He was being held at a juvenile detention facility in nearby Jacksonville and will be arraigned today.

The youth told deputies he had been detonating homemade pipe bombs in the yard, said Mary Justino, spokeswoman for the sheriff's office. "He said he had a general curiosity and that he's not out to hurt anyone."

Hamilton's arrest comes as police and school officials across Florida are reporting threats of violence following the Columbine shootings.

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1662

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Monday, April 26, 1999

Wounded teen-ager has 'strong will,' father says

Rich Castaldo upgraded to fair condition, visited by friends and celebrities

By Mike Patty
News Staff Writer

Rich Castaldo is a young man with the courage and spirituality to overcome his physical and emotional wounds, and get on with his life, his father said Sunday.

"He's a kid with a lot of intestinal fortitude," Rick Castaldo said at Swedish Medical Center, where 17-year-old Rich continues to recover from five gunshot wounds to the chest, back and arms suffered in the Columbine shootings. "He has a very strong will and is very stubborn about what he believes in. He has the capacity to do anything."

Rich has been upgraded to fair condition and was able to sit up in a chair Sunday. He watched television news reports of the Columbine memorial service, his father said.

"His spirits are good. He's a lot stronger than I am."

Reports that his son is paralyzed are untrue, Castaldo said.

"The surgery went as well as can be expected," he said. "There were no spinal cord tears, although it may have been bruised. Rich asked about the extent of his injuries. We and the doctors have told him the truth."

Doctors have said that it is too early to tell if Rich will suffer permanent problems from his injuries.

In the meantime, Rich is enjoying the visits and good wishes of

his family and friends — even some friends he didn't know he had.

"Members of the Colorado Avalanche dropped by and gave him a hockey puck and some hats," his dad said.

Denver Bronco head coach Mike Shanahan, Colorado first lady Frances Owens and Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers also visited him.

"The first lady told Rich he could call her anytime if he just wanted to talk," Castaldo said.

Those aren't the only celebrities Rich has met in his young life. An active member of PeaceJam, an international peace foundation, Rich in 1997 met the Dalai Lama — the Tibetan spiritual leader of millions of Buddhists.

"The Dalai Lama reached out and took Richard's hands and kissed the tops of them," his father said. "The Dalai Lama told Richard he was special."

And the Columbine junior is special.

"He loves to play the tuba and saxophone," Castaldo said. "He is very active in his church, and likes math and science. He even talked to his chemistry and math teachers and asked them about homework. He is concerned about finishing the school year."

One of Rich's doctors asked the teen-ager the other day what he wants to do with his life.

"He said, 'I think I'll help kids like me,'" Castaldo said.

At 4 p.m. today, 1996 Nobel Peace Laureate Jose Ramos Horta will lead a prayer service in front of the Main Hall building at Regis University. The event is sponsored by PeaceJam and Regis.

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

DN Rocky Mtn News
Denver, CO

Date: 4/26/99

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1 Metro

Title: Wounded teen-ager has strong will

Character: Father says

or

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1663

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Hacker replaces official state Web site with diatribe on evil

By Matthew B. Stannard
Oakland Tribune

As tens of thousands of mourners gathered Sunday to remember the 13 slain at Columbine High School, somebody in cyberspace was planning his or her own perversely personal tribute.

About an hour before the mass memorial in Jefferson County, somebody hacked into the state of Colorado's official site on the World Wide Web, replacing it with

a rambling essay decrying society's evils.

Titled "A Changing World," the replacement message appeared to be a call for individual action in the face of social oppression. The message was signed "Neoptolemus," a hero of the Trojan War whose name is sometimes used to describe a punishment matching the crime of the accused.

The message ended with the words "hacked for freedom" and

"Condoleances (sic) to the people at Columbine High School."

The hacked site was visible for no more than one hour, the amount of time it took for state technicians to notice the vandalism, turn off the state's Internet server and restore the normal home page from a backup, said Dorothy Hall, communications director for General Support Services, which oversees the state's computer system.

"I think it was in very poor

taste," Hall said of the timing of the attack. "It does nobody any good."

Hall said the incident has been reported to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. The bureau's technical specialists, busily analyzing the computer system of Columbine shooter Eric Harris, could not be reached for comment.

Similar attacks happen all the time, said John Vranesevich, founder of the Internet security

Web site AntiOnline. And state and government Web sites seem to be particularly susceptible.

"States don't have the need for the highest-level security administrators that exist in our country, and they're not hiring them, and they don't have the money to pay for them," he said.

But investigators will probably take Sunday's incident seriously, Vranesevich said, if history is any indication. He said authorities tend

to crack down on computer attacks that catch the public eye.

Based on his own analysis of the hacked Colorado site — a copy of which was e-mailed to him before state technicians acted — Vranesevich said he suspects "A Changing World" was little more than the electronic equivalent of roadside graffiti.

"Oftentimes hackers will come up with these grand agendas to justify what they are doing," he said.

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

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FBI/DOJ

1664

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Schools boost security, support for kids

By Sheba R. Wheeler
and Janet Bingham
Denver Post Staff Writers

Jefferson County students returning to the first full week of classes following the Columbine High School shootings can take comfort in increased security as well as the presence of hundreds of parent volunteers.

Superintendent Jane Hammond assured the public Sunday that steps are being taken to guard against another tragedy. A threat of further violence reportedly spread through Internet mail has remained unsubstantiated as a possible hoax, but officials are taking the matter seriously.

Safety measures in schools near Columbine and statewide have included continuous sweeps of buildings for bombs and explosives, as well as reviews of emergency protocols for faculty and staff. Additional security and on-site crisis teams also have been put into place.

"We can't have any threat causing us to close schools," Hammond said. "Our kids need to be in school. We need to be providing them a quality education and a safe learning environment. We've been working hard with parents to assure them of that."

All Jefferson County schools, except Columbine, will be open this week. Columbine students will return to classes Thursday for half-day courses at nearby Chatfield High School.

Operating under a modified schedule, Chatfield students will attend school from 7 a.m. to 12:10 p.m., then Columbine students and teachers will use the classrooms in the afternoon. Graduation will take place May 22 as scheduled.

Many parents have volunteered to be in classrooms today, along with police officers, in hopes that a strong adult presence will help kids feel safer.

"It doesn't need to look like an armed camp," Hammond said. "It needs to look like a place where adults are supporting their children."

In the wake of the tragedy, the district has received thousands of phone calls from people hoping to restore a sense of calm to the community.

Donations have run the gamut from teddy bears to burial plots. Gifts have included money to buy columbine seeds, personally written songs and poems and offers of counseling.

Throughout the weekend, school districts statewide held emergency meetings with local law officials to enlist additional security and fortify their strategies for dealing

with violence.

Cherry Creek schools last week closely monitored their 24-hour security cameras and beefed up security lighting, said Superintendent Bob Tschirki.

Bomb sweeps were held throughout the weekend in Cherry Creek and continued until 5:30 a.m. today. Denver high schools, which were closed immediately following the shooting, also implemented numerous weekend sweeps.

"We have to do everything we can to reassure our parents and children that our schools are a safe place," Tschirki said.

School officials in Denver and Jefferson County said they aren't just focusing on protecting schools from dangerous intruders. Hammond said they also are trying "to improve a culture of acceptance of kids who are different."

Schools must be places where people

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"care about each other and focus on making sure there is no sign of rejection and abuse," said Denver Superintendent Irv Moskowitz.

Hammond said she hoped for community discussions about ways to intervene with troubled children and make sure such violence never happens again.

Some districts last week modified dress code policies to prohibit trench coats like those worn by the gunmen. But Hammond cautioned that, "If you were to say 'No trench coats,' our business community couldn't go into the schools. Many of them wear trench coats. I myself have a black one."

"We have to be very intentional about what we do . . . A year from now, I would hope we would be known not just for the tragedy that occurred here, but for the solutions we have found."

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FBI/DOJ

1665

3 let curiosity get best of them

teens were not acquaintances of Columbine gunmen, says young man arrested on live TV

By Burt Hubbard

News Staff Writer

A riveted nation watched Tuesday as heavily armed police descended on three teens dressed in black coats and boots near Columbine High.

While two gunmen shot students inside the school, the three teens were handcuffed as suspects.

Matthew Christianson and his two friends picked the wrong time to let their curiosity get the best of them.

"We were just three punks with a lot of curiosity," Christianson said.

Christianson, 18, said he and Matt Akard and Jim Branetti were driving around Denver when they heard about the shooting on the radio.

They decided to check it out in person. Christianson of Westminster said he once lived across the street from Columbine.

All three wore black jackets with black combat-style boots.

Christianson's jacket was adorned with swastikas with red lines through them and profane words directed against Nazis as a way to protest racism.

As Christianson and his friends walked across Clement Park toward the school, police cars and a golf cart full of heavily armed SWAT officers pulled out of nowhere and ordered the three to put their hands behind their heads.

"That's the scariest I've ever been," he said.

When they were placed inside the police cars, one of the officers radioed that he had three suspects in custody, Christianson said.

They were driven to the command post where they were questioned for 45 minutes and tested for traces of powder before they were released, Christianson said.

The three were not acquaintances of the suspects, as police initially announced, he said.

He said he now understands why police stopped the three given the circumstances. But he thinks police overreacted and believes they were singled out for their attire and looks.

Christianson's tongue is pierced and he has a pony tail atop closely cropped hair.

But the day wasn't a total loss.

As he was leaving the area, he said a Washington Post reporter shoved \$100 in \$20

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Steve Gane/News Staff Photographer

Matthew Christianson, 18, was questioned by police after he and two friends tried to get close to Columbine High School while the shootings were taking place.

He handed him bills into his hand, asked to buy him a battery for his cellular phone and told him he could keep the change.

The battery cost \$50.

"I figured I might as well make some money."

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1666

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Shops swamped with calls for columbines

Buyers seek blossoms honoring high school rocked by shootings

By Bart Sullivan

News Staff Writer

It's a little too early for columbine.

Colorado's state flower isn't in season in April, but that hasn't stopped people from inundating local flower shops with requests. The dainty buttercup that

"It's a little too early. A lot have asked because it's the flower of Columbine High School."

— Emma Lou Helling, owner of Apricot Halves Flower Shop

blossoms in summer has become something of a symbol for vigilance and nonviolence in the days since the shooting at Columbine High School.

But they're pretty hard to come by.

"It's a little too early," said

Emma Lou Helling, owner of Apricot Halves Flower Shop. "A lot have asked because it's the flower of Columbine High School."

Flower arrangements featuring ribbons in the school's colors, blue and silver, have been a hot item at the shop. But forget columbine.

"Even if we had the plants, they wouldn't be in bloom," said Jeanne Esters, general manager at Veldkamp's Flowers.

But seeds are selling briskly.

"We've had a lot of people call in because of last week," said Cheryl Dixon, office manager at Tagawa Florist and Garden Center. "We are donating (seeds) to the schools."

Packets are available at \$1.29 in several colors. Now is an ideal time for planting.

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Denver, CO

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1667

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Monday, April 26, 1999

Online friend didn't see evil side of Harris

By Burt Hubbard

News Staff Writer

Sarah Davis watched from 1,700 miles away the tragedy unfolding Tuesday at Columbine High School and wondered if her online buddy Eric Harris was one of the students shot.

Or if he was the one doing the shooting.

"Both possibilities crossed my mind. I had a gut feeling about it," Davis, 18, said Sunday. "I tried to call him for a long time, but couldn't get through."

Her parents told her the next day that Harris and Dylan Klebold had killed 13 people and wounded 21 before killing themselves.

Davis and Harris became friends in the sixth grade when Harris lived in Plattsburgh, N.Y. After the Harris family moved to Colorado about four years ago, they kept in touch, first by letters and later by e-mail.

The correspondence was typical teen chatter, Davis said.

He told her he and a friend were planning a road trip this summer and were going to stop in Plattsburgh to see his old friends. There was no mention of bombs or the Trench Coat Mafia, she said.

"Only once did I really get an e-mail that gave me a glimpse of the other side of him," she said. Davis can't remember exactly what was in the e-mail Harris sent about a year ago, only that it disturbed her.

The two grew apart in the past year. The last message was about a month ago. The last telephone call was about a year ago after Harris and Klebold were arrested for breaking into a car.

"I couldn't believe he would do it," Davis said. "He told me it wasn't something they had planned, it was just a spur of the moment thing."

Columbine students saw a more sinister side to Harris, Klebold and other members of the Trench Coat Mafia.

The first time Peter Maher rumbled with the Trench Coat Mafia, one member of the group brandished a shotgun. The second time, a member waved a knife.

Maheer and his friends traded words last Fourth of July with Harris, Klebold and others from the Trench Coat Mafia in a convenience store parking lot.

"As we were driving away, I looked behind and one of them in trench coats had this big pistol-grip shotgun in the air," he said.

The two groups encountered one another later the same day at a fireworks stand. More words were exchanged and another member of the Trench Coat Mafia pulled a knife, Maher said.

At least one member of the group, Columbine student Chris Morris, has hired an attorney.

Staff writers Lynn Bartels and Jeff Kass contributed to this article.

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1668

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Elementary school janitor saw intruder

By Hector Gutierrez

News Staff Writer

Word that Eric Harris or Dylan Klebold may have been seen last week at Stony Creek Elementary School may prevent some parents from sending their children to school today.

A custodian told Jefferson County School District officials that he encountered a suspicious young man last Monday, the day before the shootings at Columbine.

Although law enforcement has not been able to confirm that the teen was Harris or Klebold, bomb squad experts have swept the school in the 7200 block of South Everett Street to make sure no explosives are hidden.

"Our custodian cannot definitely say it was one of the two," Principal Michael Connors said. "Our custodian told him to leave, and he didn't respond. He asked him twice and he didn't respond."

Late Sunday, Connors and several parents were calling families to assure them the campus is safe.

District security and local bomb squads have searched many of the district's schools over the last few days, sheriff's Deputy Troy Gardalen said.

However, administrators are letting parents decide for themselves whether to send their children to school today.

Parents can call (303) 982-9990.

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Da Rocky Mtn News

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1669

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Tens of thousands 'honor these children'

vice president, governor join in remembrance of the slain Columbine High students

By Mike Anton

News Staff Writer

By the tens of thousands they came, clutching flowers and teddy bears, seeking God's guidance under a weeping sky.

They turned a suburban mall's parking lot into their church Sunday — more than 70,000 people, according to the Secret Service, twice the number expected, a crowd that flowed out into the streets and surrounding neighborhood.

A crowd that was utterly silent.

They came to share their suffering, and to lean on one another. To begin the healing, and to celebrate courage. And to pledge that Tuesday's deaths at Columbine High School were not in vain.

"What say we into the open muzzle of this tragedy, cocked and aimed at our hearts?" Vice President Al Gore asked.

"All of us must change our lives to honor these children. Somewhere in the reach of every adult in this country is a child to hold and teach, a child to save. We must teach them right from wrong. We must protect them from the violence and the cruelty in our popular culture.

"The human heart responds to goodness. I believe this. I wouldn't think life worth living if it were not so."

Jonathan and Stephen Cohen opened the memorial service in the Bowles Crossing Shopping Center with a song of hope the Columbine students helped write in the days after the massacre.

*Columbine, friend of mine.
Peace will come to you in time.*

It was a theme repeated again and again, a promise that wounds, fresh and raw now, one day will heal.

"Not only do I mourn with you, the entire nation mourns," the Rev. Franklin Graham said. "We cannot reverse the hand of destruction. But in your grief, I hope you can sense the arms of our nation reaching out to you.

"We ask, why? How can something like this happen? Why does God allow it? I don't have

answers, friends. But I do know this: I do know that there is a God. He loves you. He cares for you. And one day he will bring justice and make all things right."

There were people in suits and ties, sweat-shirts and ball caps, cowboy hats, even black T-shirts, black jeans and combat boots.

They started arriving hours in advance. Volunteers handed out lilies and roses. New Testaments and tissue. Thousands of blue and white balloons that eventually filled the slate gray sky with Columbine's colors.

At one point, a group of students began to chant.

"We are," they shouted, pep-rally style, and another group answered back, "Columbine!"

"We will stand with you shoulder to shoulder as you face your future," Gov. Bill Owens told them. "As we learn more about this, we learn how short of their goal the killers fell. Yes, they took far too many precious lives. But they failed in their goal of killing hundreds more and to burn the school to the ground.

"Behind you, scarred but still standing, is

See COLUMBINE on 42A

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COLUMBINE from 2A

Columbine High School. Through all of the pain, one thing is clear: This community will not be beaten."

At the end of the service, four fighter jets roared overhead. One plane, flown by Capt. Scott Van Beck, a 1986 Columbine graduate and a pilot with the Colorado Air National Guard, peeled away in a salute to the dead.

Thirteen doves fluttered into the sky after them, one for each of

the slaying victims: Cassie and Steven. Corey and Kelly. Matthew, Daniel, Dan and Rachel. Isaiah, John, Lauren and Kyle. And one for Mr. Sanders.

"Coach Sanders, I love you and I will miss you," senior Amber Burgess told the crowd. "I know that each day your memory will push me to become a better person and live my life to its fullest."

Some listened to her, standing alone with dark circles under their eyes. Others formed tight

groups and prayed. Red-eyed couples entwined like strands of rope. Parents hugged their children like they never would again.

So many of them drained and dazed.

"I'm so numb," said Debbie Bowman.

And with that, she spoke for them all.

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1670

Deaths remind Jeffco sheriff of his own loss

By Kt Minicler
Denver Post Staff Writer

Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone wept briefly on television Sunday night for all 35 victims of Tuesday's tragedy at Columbine High School, their friends and family.

"I was shook up. I lost my own son at about that age," Stone said.

"There is so much promise going on at that age. Their future is right there," the veteran law enforcement officer said in an interview with The Denver Post.

"This is a very long, long week . . . in time and emotional commitment."

"It is one thing to deal with crime and criminals. And it something seeing kids slaughtered. It takes a mental toll because it is so senseless," the sheriff said, adding:

"I feel so bad for those parents."

His own son was a freshman at a high school in south Jefferson County when he committed suicide about 10 years ago.

"You have to keep families together. My son is an example. His mother died of cancer, and he had a hard time dealing

with that . . .

"I have a (preteen) daughter now and I spend a lot more time with my daughter. I am much more conscious of parent-child relationships and know we must bond and become part of their lives."

"Sometimes the adults' work gets in the way. Then we have to put the work aside" in preference for the needs of the child, the sheriff said.

The fact that both parents are usually working nowadays helps breed discontent among children, he suggested.

Teenagers are at a most difficult time in their lives anyway, with peer pressure and anxieties.

"They are almost out of their parents' home and have anxieties about what they will do for a living, he said.

Stone, who worked in law enforcement in Lakewood and Palo Alto, Calif., for 19 years, served as a Jefferson County commissioner for 12 years before "going back to my field" of law enforcement.

He's been sheriff for four months.

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2 gunmen planned 500 deaths

By David Otinger
Denver Post Staff Writer

The two students who carried guns and homemade bombs into Columbine High School wanted to kill at least 500 classmates, murder people in the neighborhood and — if they survived — "hijack an airplane and crash it into a major city," Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone said Sunday.

Their intended target was New York City.

In an interview at home, Stone divulged frightening details of the terrorist plans hatched in a suburban bedroom by two high school seniors who felt like outcasts.

Plans were 'cold-blooded'

Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold had been making "calculated and cold-blooded plans for a long time," Stone said. He said they deliberately started shooting at 11:15 a.m., when the maximum number of students would be eating in the high school cafeteria or studying in the library, and hoped the homemade propane bomb they assembled would destroy the school.

"Once they burned the school down, then they were just going to start ravaging the neighborhood, killing as many people as they could."

Many details of their plans were kept in what the sheriff described as a year-long ledger that outlined their daily efforts to acquire guns and make bombs for a suicide mission that they dreamed would climax with a disastrous plane crash.

While some have criticized police for taking four hours to get victims and terrified students out of the high school, Stone contended the first exchange of police gunfire with the suspects forced them to retreat and may have saved many students.

Within 15 minutes there were four or five Jefferson County SWAT team members at the school, who joined with a Denver SWAT team and "made our initial assault and did engage" the shooters, he said. "I think that is what saved the rest of these kids. I firmly believe the killings were done before we got there."

The sheriff also lashed out at gun manufacturers such as Intratec, which made the banned TEC-DC9 assault weapon the pair brought to the school.

Drawing the line

He said he supports the right to own firearms, "but that's not a hunting gun. All that is, is a military type of thing. It's meant to kill people. Most of these cases where we've had drive-by shootings, that seems to be the gun of choice. Where do you draw the line — bazookas?"

While Harris and Klebold's homemade bombs, taped with nails and BBs, injured at least one student seriously, it was their guns that killed people.

Three counties shared autopsy duties. Dr. Michael Doberson, the Arapahoe County coroner, said he understood gunshots killed all 15 people who died at the school. Eleven survivors remained in Denver hospitals Sunday with gunshot wounds.

Stone also verified that at least one other person is under investigation — an 18-year-old female friend of Klebold, who helped acquire one of the guns brought to

Suspects planned 500 deaths

PLOT from Page 1AA

the school. Judging from the ledger, he said, the guns were acquired well before Tuesday's massacre.

A search of their homes turned up explosive devices "in both homes, from what I understand," he said, as well as a silencer, gunpowder and the sawed-off barrel of a shotgun, sticking up in plain view from a container on a bedroom dresser.

At the high school, Harris and Klebold killed 12 students and a teacher and wounded more than 20 others before taking their own lives. Stone described the crime scene as the most sickening thing he has ever seen.

"It just seems like such a waste, when you've got young kids trying in the prime of their life sitting in the library, studying. It's almost incomprehensible that a human being could do that to another human being," he said.

Stone said the evidence accumulated to date does not point to the boys' parents as criminal suspects but added that their civil negligence appears considerable.

Gov. Bill Owens said the parents should not be spared from prosecution if they had any inkling of what their boys planned.

"I think the parents should have known something," Owens said.

On Tuesday, Columbine seniors Harris and Klebold brought four guns, hundreds of rounds of ammunition and more than 30 homemade bombs to their high school.

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In the aftermath of the worst school shooting in U.S. history, a police search of Harris' home found the sawed-off barrel of a shotgun, bomb-making materials and a diary detailing a year-long plot to bomb the high school and kill classmates.

Stone expressed disgust that the parents had not intervened, saying they "should be accountable for their kids' actions."

Owens agreed. He emphasized he had no personal information that any of the parents had an inkling of the murderous preparations carried out in a bedroom and garage at the Harris' suburban home. But "if these parents had prior knowledge, they would bear the same responsibility as potentially indictable as would any other adult or juvenile," he said.

The ledger and computer materials seized from Harris' house repeatedly referred to Adolf Hitler's birthday, the date of the massacre. It also contained German words and Germany-related Internet sites, expressed a hatred of "jocks" and others who would be targeted, and specified the minute they would "rock and roll" at the school.

The parents of the two killers have issued statements of sympathy to the families of all the victims but have not commented publicly.

Susan Klebold did tell her pastor that something in her son's voice spooked her Tuesday morning.

"The goodbye had an edge to it," she said, describing her son's tone to the Rev. Don Marxhausen as "almost fatalistic." "She thought, 'Maybe he's in a bad mood,'" he said. "Maybe he's got a test today or something."

Dylan's father, Thomas Klebold, who runs a mortgage business from his house, told the pastor he had detected "this slight tension" in his son a few days before the attack. Klebold made a mental note of it and thought he would get back to it, the pastor said.

Denver Post staff writers Kit Mipiclier and Marilyn Robinson and The New York Times contributed to this report.

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1672

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Columbine's principal balances anguish, hope

By Sara Rimer

The New York Times

Four days before the shootings, the principal of Columbine High School, Frank DeAngelis, told his students at an emotional pep rally that he did not want to bury another young person. With the prom set for the next night, April 17, he implored them not to drink, or drink and drive, or put themselves at risk in any way.

"I do not want to attend another memorial service," he had said, recalling students who had died in car accidents, including a baseball player he had coached and two girlfriends of his teenage daughter. "I do not want to put up another memorial plaque."

DeAngelis said he told them, "I want to see all your smiling faces here on Monday morning."

And last Monday morning, after a weekend in which not so much as a fender bender was reported, the principal said, "One of the students came up to me and said, 'I think all our smiling faces are here.'"

In the days since the shootings, DeAngelis, 44, has been meeting with faculty and students, paying his respects to the victims' families and, in his few private moments, anguishing over the students and slain teacher Dave Sanders.

Like everyone else, DeAngelis has no explanation

tion for the actions of the two suspects.

DeAngelis faced his faculty the morning after the shooting. He apologized for their trauma and they cried together, he said.

From that meeting, an assistant principal drove DeAngelis to a nearby church to address the community, parents and students.

"I wasn't sure what to expect," he said. "I was concerned that I had let them down. Here I am the leader of this high school, with over 1,900 kids, this fantastic community, a leader in our school district, and I just felt that I had let everyone down, and I wasn't sure if I was going to be accepted. I was worried that I had disappointed people."

He said he was encouraged when two seniors ran up and hugged him. When he got to the podium and was announced, "they gave me a standing ovation," DeAngelis said. "I just broke down." He was so overwhelmed he turned his back to the crowd.

In the interview, he sounded exhausted and grief-stricken, but determinedly hopeful.

"There are times I've said, why were the 15 killed? Why? Life is so unfair. But I've also felt that tough times make us tougher people, tough times challenge us, tough times teach us how to get it done. Somehow I'm getting it done."

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Principal Frank DeAngelis hugs 1997 graduates Lisa Wolff, left, and Ellen Wamster after Sunday's service.

The Denver Post / Crissy Pascual

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1673

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Experts probe a cold-blooded crime

Failure to attach may explain killers' cruelty

By Mike McPhee
Denver Post Staff Writer

Surgeons and soldiers take some time to adapt to the sight of blood and body parts. Yet Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold seemed to delight in the carnage they caused, laughing with glee as they maimed and killed their classmates, survivors and other witnesses said.

Mental health professionals say it's impossible to understand the two teenagers without knowing their backgrounds.

But through their training and work, the professionals can spot red flags, indicators of potential problems, and give some understanding as to how people can kill so cold-bloodedly.

"It's not a human experience to really have no feelings for another human like that," said Paula Tickle, director of the Attachment Center of Evergreen Inc., a nationally recognized organization that studies and treats children who lack normal emotional connections with their parents and friends.

"I find it difficult to believe that they could have a loving relationship in their families and not feel pain for doing this. Children with attachment disorder can hurt others without remorse, without being conscious of what they are doing. They

don't have the basic connections that most of us feel."

Through her 26 years as a mental-health worker, the last 10 of which have focused on attachment disorders, Tickle said she believes there has been a general breakdown of morals in society.

"People are so busy they don't have time to connect with families. We don't pay enough attention to our kids and what they're involved in. And children today play more isolated activities, like Nintendo, rather than group games, like hide-and-seek, tag or softball like we used

to play. We're raising kids that don't care about anybody."

Dr. John Alston, a child psychiatrist for 28 years who focuses on treating disruptive behavioral disorders commonly associated with early abuse or neglect, believes it's possible to enter into a trance, or a form of hypnosis, to commit such atrocities without remorse.

"There can be an emotional disassociation, where you are emotionally removed from your actions. To some degree, that's true with athletes like Michael Jordan, or some golfers who can

go into a zone," said Alston, who has a book coming out on the subject this fall.

He also said people with anti-social tendencies frequently have a distorted perception that they are being victimized or antagonized, a paranoid stance.

Society also underestimates how mental illnesses can contribute to acts like the Columbine shootings, Alston said.

"The media does such a good job of glamorizing violence through movies and music," he said.

"The people who suffer from mental illness buy into this stuff, like Marilyn Manson and German techno-rock. Healthy people know this is a fantasy, they don't personalize the messages."

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Killers may have had school keys

By Jeff Kass
News Staff Writer

JEFFERSON COUNTY —
Jefferson County School District officials are looking into whether the two Columbine High School shooters had keys to the school, the lead investigator said Sunday.

Jefferson County Sheriff's Deputy John Kiebusch said officials have received reports that Eric Harris, 17, and Dylan Klebold, 18, had keys that helped them prepare for Tuesday's shooting.

Kiebusch said school officials are taking the lead on the investigation because police are giving top priority to finding accomplices.

There have been tips that the two had keys to the schools, but Kiebusch did not have details.

He added that the two may not have needed keys to carry out their attack. They could have planted bombs, for example, when the school was open for an after-prom party last weekend.

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'(The Klebolds) accept the fact that their son did this and they know they are going to have to face the world. They think the world hates them.'

Judy Brown, family friend

Klebolds never knew, friend says

By Lynn Bartels

News Staff Writer

No one from Columbine High School ever told the Klebolds their son had a problem.

No one mentioned the dark poems, the outcast behavior, the violent video their son apparently made, showing him and his best friend shooting up the school.

By the time Sue and Tom Klebold knew their son was troubled, the whole world knew, too.

Investigators now say the diabolical plan hatched by Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris had been in the works for a year.

But the Klebolds have told their friends, including Judy Brown, that they didn't have a clue.

"I have been with the Klebolds, and I will tell you they are devastated," Judy Brown said Sunday.

"They accept the fact that their son did this and they know they are going to have to face the world.

"They think the world hates them."

A year ago, Brown gave a Jefferson County sheriff's detective pages filled with violent rantings from Harris' Web site. Harris wrote that he and "Vodka" were setting off pipe bombs.

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

The Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Colo.

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friend says

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Brown said she told the detective that "Vodka" was Dylan, but the detective never followed up.

She didn't tell Sue Klebold because she wanted authorities to handle the situation.

Sue Klebold has since told Brown that no one from the sheriff's office ever called.

Brown has known the family for years. Her sons were friends with Dylan, 17, and his older brother Bryan, 19.

Dylan Klebold was a quiet child who rarely raised his voice, Brown said.

"He was the easy child," she said.

Sue Klebold told Brown that she was shocked at news reports saying some teachers had complained about Harris and her son to the administration.

"She said, 'Why didn't they call me? In grade school, they call you. They let you know when they see these weird poems.' She said the teachers never informed her of this behavior," Brown said.

Brown said her friend is stung that the world perceives her as a rich, Jewish woman who failed as a parent.

"She is not at all like that. She doesn't even wear makeup," Brown said. "This is a woman that is totally unaware of the other side of her son. This is not the son she knew."

Dylan Klebold gave no indication he was on a suicide mission, Brown said. He had visited a college in Arizona he planned to attend in the fall to study computer science. He couldn't wait.

His mother had gone to Columbine with other parents March 30 to get information for graduation night.

Sue Klebold and Brown spent that night catching up and talking about Dylan.

"He said Dylan was pulling everything together," Brown said. "Everything was going great for Dylan."

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Darkness, light coexist on Internet

What makes the Internet both fascinating and frightening is that the nihilism and Nazi imagery on www.violentdeath.com is just a click away from the "Green Eggs and Ham" at www.seussville.com.

In the ever-changing cyberworld, there is perhaps only one lasting truth: There is good, there is bad. A recipe for a pipe bomb could be as easy to find as one for chocolate-chip cookies.

Aficionados of cyberculture herald the Internet as a place for the disconnected to connect, for strangers to become part of a community that shares thoughts, interests, emotions.

At least one of the teens who began a deadly rampage on Columbine High School apparently dabbled in the darker side of computers, with a Web page showing disturbing song lyrics and bomb-making instructions as well as a penchant for the violent video game, Doom.

As a mournful world tries to make sense of a senseless act, we ask, again and again, what contributed to such a horror?

Was the world a safer place before violent imagery and information on explosives were widely available online? Did the kids-turned-killers at Columbine find in the dark crevices of the Internet the malevolence that fed their rage and violence?

In their case, we'll never really know.

There are horrible things on the Internet. Hateful words, violent games, images so awful you wish you could unsee them.

And all that is so easy for young eyes to glimpse.

With its direct, unedited content, the Internet is a limitless haven of free expression.

But that also means it's a place people go to find the "next level of deviancy" — ideas and images too shocking even for Hollywood movies or cable TV, said Steve Watters, Internet research

Please see KOKMEN on 6E

Internet good, bad as people who join online discussions

KOKMEN from Page 1E

analyst with Focus on the Family.

Inside the cocoon of cyberspace, troubled teens seeking affirmation may easily identify with dark, destructive ideas, compounding their sense of alienation from society.

"The Internet definitely does bring out some kind of community deviancy," Watters said. "It really makes things that aren't normal seem normal."

"Parents who think their kids are safe and quiet because they're upstairs on the computer may not know that they're finding the friends and attention that they're not giving them from a very dangerous circle of friends," he added.

But defenders of the Internet caution that it, born of humankind, is simply a mirror held up to the tangible world.

"I would not be willing to say that the Internet brought out the darker themes in the culture that were not already there, that would not be expressed other ways if there were not a World Wide Web," said Mike Godwin, a lawyer with the Electronic Frontier Foundation, which promotes free expression on the Internet.

Others stressed that the Internet is neither the cause of society's ills nor the culprit at Columbine.

"This is about deeply upset

young people who, in their day-in and day-out interaction with people, gave signals of being upset and people either treated it as normal or chose to ignore it," said Jim Dempsey, senior staff counsel for the Center for Democracy and Technology. "Don't blame the Internet."

In fact, Dempsey said, because there are so many voices online, troubled kids might actually find help online in ways they couldn't without the Internet.

"You may find people steeped in your sense of alienation, or people who say, 'Yeah, I hear what you're saying, but here's another perspective,'" he said.

But in the tragedy at Columbine, apparently that didn't happen.

As we remind ourselves how to go on in the wake of a tragedy so awful it seems unreal, perhaps we should remind ourselves too, that the Internet is a tool only as good or bad as those who use it.

Yet if we pay more attention to what we're looking at online — and what our children are looking at — maybe Dr. Seuss can still triumph over violent death.

Leyla Kokmen writes about technology for The Denver Post. Her column appears on the End User pages on Mondays. Reach her at 303-820-1671 or lkokmen@denverpost.com.

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Leyla Kokmen

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1677

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

A trail of frustration

Harris' neighbors repeatedly alerted sheriff's office to his menacing behavior, to no avail

By Lynn Bartels

News Staff Writer

Randy and Judy Brown can't count the times they called the Jefferson County sheriff about Eric Harris. But they know how many times detectives called back:

Zero.

The Browns, who live several blocks from the Harris residence, told detectives that they believed he and his friend, Dylan Klebold, were exploding homemade pipe bombs. They also reported that Harris had threatened mayhem on Internet postings, after which he was seen buying a gun publication.

Nobody followed up, they said.

That was a year ago.

"They knew about it ahead of time and they're on TV blaming the parents and everybody else when they're the ones who dropped the ball," Randy Brown said.

The Browns talked publicly Sunday for the first time about their two-year ordeal with Harris, a young man they alternately described as an "evil genius" and "the Eddie Haskell of Columbine."

Randy Brown, 46, is a real-estate agent. Judy Brown, 49, is a homemaker. Their sons, Brooks, 17, and Aaron, 15, attend Columbine.

The Browns told the *Denver Rocky Mountain News* and Channel 4 that people need to know of their frantic efforts to get Jefferson County to do something about Harris.

The sheriff's office has acknowledged that it received a complaint, but District Attorney Dave Thomas said last week it was never forwarded to his office.

Sheriff John Stone on Saturday said investigators found the sawed-off barrel of a shotgun on a dresser in one gunman's bedroom. They also discovered pipe bombs and bomb-making materials in the room.

"A lot of this stuff was lying out, very visible, in the house," Stone said. "The parents should have been aware of it."

Stone wouldn't identify the parents, but the Klebolds have told the Browns it wasn't their house.

Brooks Brown said Harris had always tried to hide his criminal activity from his parents. He speculated Harris left the evidence on his dresser Tuesday because he knew he was never coming back.

"His parents, they were good with him," he said. "They would have noticed that. Eric is an evil genius. I guess, really conniving but brilliant."

The Browns had earlier complained to Harris' parents, Wayne and Kathy Harris, about their son.

"His dad did talk to him. It's not like his dad just glossed it over. His mother was listening, crying," Judy Brown said. "I think that's important to know. They wanted to make it right."

The Browns said their problems with Harris began in 1997. One night, someone toilet-papered a house in their neighborhood, set a bush on fire and Superglued door handles.

Harris blamed Brooks Brown. Judy Brown knew her son was home that night because he had been grounded.

The Browns told the homeowner and a sheriff's deputy that they suspected Harris.



Klebold



Harris

Judy Brown said deputies told her they had warned the Harrises that their son needed to be watched.

"This made Eric very upset," Judy Brown said.

One day at school — Judy Brown is not certain of the date — Harris began talking about vandalizing Brooks

Brown's car. The same day, Harris threw a chunk of ice at the car, chipping the windshield.

Judy Brown said a student who witnessed the incident saw Harris set his backpack down. The witness brought it to her. She said she drove down the block and confronted Eric, telling him she had his backpack and was going to see his mother.

"He was furious. He grabbed onto the window. He turned bright red. He was crazy," Judy Brown said.

She now wonders what was in the bag.

Judy Brown said Kathy Harris cried when she told her what had happened. Later that day, Brooks Brown told Kathy Harris that her son had been slipping out of the house at night and setting off firecrackers in the neighborhood.

That night, Wayne Harris called.

"He said his son was afraid of me and that's why he was hanging on the door handle," Judy Brown said. "I said, 'Your son's not afraid. Your son is terrifying. Your son is violent.'"

Eric Harris came over to apologize, but Judy Brown thought it was an act.

"I told my husband later that this is the Eddie Haskell of Columbine," she said, referring to the character on *Leave It to Beaver*.

See BROWNS on 42A

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

Page 1 of 2
The Rocky Mtn News

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Monday, April 26, 1999

Denver Rocky Mountain News

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE



Randy and Judy Brown, left to right, and their son, Brooks, talk about details they gave to police a year ago about Eric Harris, one of the gunmen in the Columbine High School shootings. Brooks Brown said Harris had threatened him.

By JUS. McChinnon/News Staff Photographer

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Monday, April 26, 1999

'Evil genius' and 'Eddie Haskell'**BROWNS from 5A***Beaver.*

"He went through this whole spiel, how it was all in fun. I said, 'Eric Harris, you can pull the wool over your dad's eyes, but you're not going to pull the wool over my eyes.'"

She said she told Harris if she ever saw him near her house again she would call police.

"I said, 'Stay away from my kids,'" Brown said. "I just had a feeling about him at this point. The way he was yelling."

Shortly afterward, Brown said, they got a copy of an e-mail from Harris that detailed how he had managed to pull a fast one on his father.

The Browns tried to move on. But then a student at Columbine told Brooks Brown about Harris' Web page. Brown wouldn't tell his mother who had tipped him off.

"He said, 'I can't tell you who it is. Mom, because he's afraid that Eric Harris will harm him,'" Judy Brown said.

The Browns didn't learn until after the shooting the name of the tipster: Dylan Klebold.

"In retrospect, this might have been a cry for help," Randy Brown said.

What the Browns read on the Web page terrified them.

I am the law, if you don't like it, you die. If I don't like you or I don't like what you want me to do, you die. God I can't wait till I can kill you people.

Twelve pages from a lunatic, including a threat against their son.

Harris had created a level of Doom, a computer game, based in the Browns' neighborhood. The target was the Browns' house.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Department sent a deputy after the Browns called, but he told them he didn't know enough about the Internet. He referred them to a detective.

The Browns said they downloaded the information, including the original copy of the e-mail message in which Harris boasts of tricking his father. They took it to sheriff's headquarters in Golden and met with a detective and an officer in the bomb squad.

Then they went home and started sleeping with a baseball bat by their side.

The Browns said when they called to ask about the investigation they were told there was no record of the complaint. It apparently had been lost.

They went to the sheriff's office again, on March 31, 1998. This time they had six additional pages showing that Harris was making and exploding pipe bombs with "Vodka," which they knew was Klebold's nickname. They met with a detective.

"He was telling us this was the worst case he has seen on a computer," Judy Brown said.

But the detective cautioned that he wasn't certain if the postings were protected by the First Amendment or if the teen-ager had broken laws. And because Harris was only 16 years old at the time, the detective said he couldn't discuss much about the boy.

"He said, 'Let me go see if there's a file on this kid,'" Judy Brown recalled. The detective returned with a printout and said someone named Eric Harris had been arrested for breaking into a car; Harris and Klebold had been arrested two months earlier in the break-in and had just gone to court.

The Browns assumed that the personnel handling the break-in would receive copies of their complaint.

That never happened.

Harris and Klebold were prosecuted for the break-in, but the officials handling that case say they knew nothing of the Internet postings.

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The next day, Judy Brown said she was in a supermarket when she saw Harris in line. He was buying *Rifle* magazine. She rushed home and left a frantic phone message for the detective.

"I said, 'This guy is active. Will you call and let me know if you're looking into this?'"

She said she repeatedly called the detective. Her husband also called. They said they never heard back, although they said the dispatcher always sent deputies when they asked for additional patrols in the neighborhood because they were afraid of Harris.

The Browns said they felt powerless. They didn't know where else to turn. Their one comfort, Judy Brown said, was that Harris was best friends with Klebold. She said she didn't think Klebold was capable of violence.

One night this year at the dinner table, Brooks Brown made a startling announcement. He said he and Harris had two classes together and had "buried the hatchet."

"He said, 'He's changed,'" Judy Brown said. "I said, 'Stay away from him. It's a trick.'"

In recent years, the Air Force has awarded several multimillion-dollar contracts to Flight Safety Services for training systems on the C-141, KC-135, and C-5 aircraft.

When the family moved to Colorado, they lived next door to Linda Pollock and her family.

Wayne and Kathy were "very nice people. If I could talk to them I would say 'please don't think you're bad parents.'"

Four years ago, Pollock's daughter, Sarah, would walk with Eric to Ken Caryl Middle School. Eric was new to the area and Sarah wanted to help him make new friends.

Sarah told her mother that Eric was "preppy and a dork," but was otherwise a nice boy.

Pollock said she is alarmed at much of the angry talk aimed at the parents of Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold.

"I don't blame the parents," she said. "If they (children) don't want you to find or see something, you're not going to find or see it."

Having raised five teen-agers, Pollock said, "you cannot always choose what your kid is going to be."

Byline

Ann Imse and Lou Kilzer contributed to this report.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Yearbooks in limbo

The Columbine yearbooks recently were printed in northern Utah and were scheduled to be delivered this week. But in the wake of last week's shootings, Columbine officials are trying to decide what they will do with the books. Indiana-based Herff Jones Yearbooks is keeping the books at their Logan, Utah, plant.

"The school does not know right now what they want to do," said Mark Dossey, Herff Jones' Western regional sales manager. "The book won't be changed, it's printed," he said. "It's my understanding we're going to continue to hold it until they give us a green light where and when to send it."

"What may happen, and this is purely speculation, that they would want some sort of additional supplement or pullout . . . to deal with this topic," Dossey said.

2AA 9**Attack spurs lockdown**

Sheridan Middle School was locked down Monday after a 12-year-old student said she was grabbed by a masked man who hurled a threat at the school shortly after 10 a.m.

The girl, who was outside the school between classes, reported that a tall, thin man wearing a ski mask and black clothing grabbed her and made a threat against the school. The attacker then released the girl and fled on foot from the school grounds, Sheridan Police Chief Ray Sample said.

The girl was unhurt but was "shook up and upset" by the incident, Sample said.

"At this time we don't know if the threat was related to the Columbine High School tragedy," Sample said. "We do not know whether or not the suspect is a student." Sample said he called in Englewood Police to seal off the area and the Arapahoe County Sheriff Department's K-9 unit to help locate the suspect.

Sample also called in off-duty officers to beef up school security. "We are taking this incident very seriously," Sample said. He declined to reveal the wording of the threat, which he called "pretty generic."

— Ginny McKibben

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Attack spurs lockdown

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Coach's valor hailed at service

2,500 pack pews for man who lost life saving others

By Virginia Culver and Sheba R. Wheeler
Denver Post staff writers

More than 2,500 students, teachers and friends paid a tearful farewell Monday to William "Dave" Sanders, the teacher and coach hailed as a hero for his selfless courage during last week's tragedy at Columbine High School.

"He was our strength," said fellow coach Joe Marshall. "He will never be taken from us."

Mourners began streaming into Trinity Christian Center, 6500 W Coal Mine Ave., a full 90 minutes before the 10 a.m. service started. In the end, it took the sanctuary and two overflow rooms to hold everyone who attended.

As gunfire echoed through the school cafeteria during last Tuesday's attack, Sanders shouted out to students

Sanders

and herded them to safety.

"He was running around, and I remember seeing him jumping over the chairs and yelling, 'Everybody get down!'" student Lindsay Dowling told the crowd. "I truly believe he saved my life and many other people's."

Sanders was shot twice in the chest and staggered into a science classroom, where students tore off their T-shirts and pressed them to his wounds.

Students pulled out Sanders' wallet and held it open so he could look at pictures of his family. The dying words of the father of three daughters were: "Tell my girls I love them."

"I have trouble understanding how this could be a part of God's plan," said Rick Bath, a teacher and coach at the church.

He knew that Dave would save the children.

Principal Frank DeAngelis said he and Sanders, 47, discussed recently how much time they spent away from their families tending to kids at Columbine.

"He wanted to spend more time with his own children and grandchildren," DeAngelis said.

"He was like a father to me," said Sandy Palmer, who had Sanders for a coach in the 1980s and now teaches at Columbine herself.

When the poignant guitar strands of Eric Clapton's "Tears in Heaven" filled the quietness of the church, tears flowed freely from those in the pews, which included family members, Columbine staff, paramedics, firefighters and Columbine alumni. More than 15 police officers stoically lined the church on one side.

Many in the crowd wore ribbons of white and blue, the school colors.

"I'll never be at a basketball game with-

out the ribbon," said Chris Macauley, another coach. Sanders coached the girls' basketball team.

Becke Mandel, a business teacher, spoke to Sanders during the service: "You will be holding our hands when we walk back into that building."

Sanders' three daughters spoke, as did two of his four grandchildren. Said one grandson, Austin, son of Angela Sanders, "My granddad made good bedtime snacks."

As family members and friends approached the open coffin, a small group of young people gripped each other's hands. They formed a human chain, each link supporting the other, as they gave Sanders' their final goodbye.

His burial was private, in nearby Chapel Hill Cemetery.

Some weren't able to attend, including Evan and Erica McClagherty. Their mother, Renee, who came to pay her respects, said that Sanders saved Evan's life by yelling at him to hide.

"My kids just couldn't handle coming today," said McClagherty.

A mother who attended Sanders' funeral with her young son planned to attend another funeral later Monday afternoon for a slain student.

"I can't imagine ever in my life attending two funerals in the same day," she said.

— The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Expert differs with kids over video game effects

By Greg Gittlich-
Los Angeles Daily News

Squeezing the trigger of a sawed-off shotgun, 17-year-old Marvin Wilson rocked his body toward the screen of an arcade game in the Aurora Mall and then quickly jerked the pump-action plastic weapon to his side before firing again.

"I'd rather come here and shoot at their ass than shoot up real people," Wilson said, as two of his friends took turns firing from the game's second firearm.

The many bodies that fell at Columbine High School on April 20 are unavoidably real. The bodies that splash electronic blood onto the screens of arcade games like Carn Evil and Revolution-X and the wildly popular home computer games Doom and Quake are purely entertainment, Wilson said.

"If you're a violent person, you're going to be a violent person regardless," he said. "A normal person knows this is just a game."

Lt. Col. David Grossman isn't so sure.

Author of 'On Killing'

A former West Point psychology professor and author of "On Killing," Grossman leads a growing number of military experts and child psychologists who believe violent video games teach kids to kill without a conscience.

"These are not games of fun. These are mass-murder simulators," he said. "Nine-year-olds are practicing killing people in their homes and at a local arcade for hours and hours every day."

"Everyone knows computer flight simulators can teach you how to fly. These mass-murder simulators teach you how to kill. So when a few kids go out and execute what they've been practicing, we should not be surprised."

Columbine High School gunmen Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold were said to be avid players of Doom, in which gun-toting players wind through a maze of corridors shooting two-legged creatures from Mars and undead marines.

Kill Em AALLL!!

A user profile attributed to Harris on American Online lists his hobbies as: "Professional doom and doom2 creator." The profile also includes the personal quotation: "Quit whining, it's just a flesh wound — Kill Em AALLL!"

Grossman said games such as Doom contain the same psychological conditioning techniques used by the Army to eliminate a soldier's resistance to killing. The games also drastically improve the motor skills required to fire a weapon accurately, he said.

"In healthy play, as soon as someone gets hurt, the play stops. You understand people get hurt and you limit your actions," Grossman said. "This is play turned on

its head. It denies the humanity of a human being and gives you the motor skills to kill. You're being rewarded to kill, and you're learning to like it."

More than 15 million copies of Doom have been downloaded, purchased and passed from player to player on disk since its release in 1993. The three-dimensional, first-person perspective game can be played alone or by multiple players over a network or the Internet.

The Columbine shootings aren't the first to focus attention against id Software, the Mesquite, Texas, company that makes Doom. The company recently became one of 18 video-game makers targeted in a \$130 million lawsuit filed by parents whose children were murdered at a Paducah, Ky., high school.

Also naming distributors of the movie "The Basketball Diaries," the lawsuit contends that the violent video games and a graphic scene from the movie contributed to the school shootings.

Like Harris and Klebold, Kentucky killer Michael Adam Carneal regularly played Doom and withdrew from a conventional teenage life for a violent cyberworld.

Carneal, a 14-year-old freshman, fired eight times. He hit eight kids. Five of the shots were to the head and the other three were to the upper torso, Grossman said.

"He had never fired a pistol before in his life, but he knew exactly what to do. He was a master video game player. He stood in the corner, planted his feet and opened fire. He puts a bullet into everything that pops up in his screen."

The FBI says a federal agent typically hits with less than one bullet in five, Grossman said.

Denver Post staff writer Jason Blevins contributed to this report.

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Doom

Gunmen Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold were known to be habitual players of Doom and other violent computer games.

The game: Doom is a three-dimensional, first-person perspective, action computer game. It can be played by a single person or by multiple players over a network or the Internet. There are several versions available, including Doom, Doom II, Ultimate Doom and Final Doom. Shareware versions are available free from numerous Internet sites. An estimated 15 million copies of Doom have been downloaded worldwide.

Manufacturer: id Software of Mesquite, Texas. Other id Software games include Quake, Hexen and Heretic.

Add-ons: The game can be modified to change the environment, weapons, characters and levels through add-ons. Most of these add-ons were written by programmers not working for id Software. The number of add-ons available number in the thousands.

Story line: You are a space marine, sent to Phobos, one of Mars' moons, after it has been attacked by unknown beings. When you get there, the rest of your squad is killed and you are alone, armed only with a pistol. Your mission is to make your way through the facilities and navigate off of the moon. On the way you pick up better weapons to kill mutant demons and undead marines.

Sample screen:

Demons

Player's hand holding weapon



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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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RM

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

'Doom' a grim training ground for vengeful high school killer

By Deborah Frazier
News Staff Writer

The image on the computer screen is a bleak landscape viewed over the muzzle of a shotgun.

It's from the game *Doom*.

And the image appeared several times in the computer files kept under the name Eric Harris of Littleton until investigators emptied the file Wednesday. Buddies have said Harris was obsessed with the game.

Doom, developed in 1993, guides the player through a series of battles against increasingly powerful demons. The reward for survival is larger weapons and even worse demons.

The player has no allies or buddies in the moonscape setting. At the end, the player is returned to Earth, where the same demons have taken over.

"Other computer games have happy endings," said Dr. Jennifer Hagman, medical director of inpatient psychiatry at Children's Hospital. "The character who did

the violence goes on to do something good.

"In *Doom*, the reward is greater violence," Hagman said.

"And the adolescent is literally behind the gun. It is not a big stretch to getting a gun and getting behind it."

There are an estimated 15 million copies of the 3-D game, coveted for gruesome images of shattered bodies, bleeding clumps of flying flesh and disembowelments.

In his online profile, the person who claimed to be Eric Harris and who used the e-mail address REB-DOOMER@aol.com, the hobbies listed were *Doom* and *Doom2*, the sequel.

Hagman said research has confirmed that viewing such materials changes behavior for the worse.

"They become immune to the horror of violence," she said. "They're more likely to see violence as a way to deal with problems, and they're much more likely to imitate the violence they see."

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Trench coats banned

News Staff

Jefferson County is starting to ban trench coats at some schools.

In letters that went home with students at several schools Monday, principals said trench coats provide the chance to conceal weapons and are now linked with events at Columbine High School.

The letters banned black trench coats, like those worn by the two Columbine gunmen, from school buildings, grounds, transportation and events.

The letters stated that trench coats will be considered gang apparel. Punishment for disobeying the ban includes confiscation of the coat, being sent home to change, suspension or expulsion.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Tracing a deadly trail

Officials say girlfriend bought guns

By Mark Obmascik, Marilyn Robinson
and David Olinger
Denver Post Staff Writers

Three guns used in the massacre at Columbine High School were bought last year by Dylan Klebold's girlfriend shortly after her 18th birthday, investigators said Monday.

The woman was interviewed Monday by authorities, but not named as a suspect.

Though police declined to say where she bought the firearms, the manager of the Tanner Gun Show, a weapons market held nine times a year at the Denver Merchandise Mart, confirmed that the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms on Monday asked for a list of recent exhibitors.

The same gun show was the subject of controversy in June when an exhibitor sold an SKS semiautomatic rifle with a 20-round clip to an undercover congressional staffer for \$200 cash. The staffer never was asked for any identification for a background check.

In the case of the Columbine weapons, prosecutors said three of the four guns — the woman bought two shotguns and a rifle — fired in the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history may have been purchased legally.

"We think three of them were provided by the girlfriend of Klebold," said Mark Paulter, a Jefferson County chief deputy district attorney. "She bought them because she was older. She was 18 at the time. She bought them in November or December."

"We're not sure she committed a crime under Colorado statute. If you provide a handgun to a person under 18, that's a violation of the statute. If you provide a shotgun or a rifle, that's not a violation."

District Attorney Dave Thomas said the woman's intent with the weapons was unclear. "I don't know when it happened or what information she had about the purpose for the weapons," Thomas said.

The woman, a National Honor Society member who turned 18 on Nov. 4, could not be reached for comment. At her Jefferson County home Monday, a man who

Please see GUNS on BAA

Officials say girl friend bought 3 guns

GUNS from Page 1AA

drove into the driveway shouted to reporters: "You're terrorizing the mother."

Jefferson County sheriff's Sgt. Jim Parr said the woman was interviewed "as a witness and she is not considered a suspect."

In another development Monday night, a Colorado Springs gunshop owner said he has told authorities that shooting suspect Eric Harris and four other youths in trench coats tried to purchase fully automatic weapons from his store five weeks ago.

Mel Bernstein, who co-owns Dragon Arms with his wife, said in a telephone interview that Harris asked to purchase an M-60 machine gun and an MP-5 automatic rifle, valued at between \$4,500 and \$6,000 each. He said he declined the sale because Harris was too young. Then a blond girl among the group tried to make a buy, he said.

Bernstein said he escorted the group from the store. "We get these guys all the time; they look like a bunch of punk rockers," he said, adding that a videotape of the incident has been turned over to federal authorities. They could not be reached Monday night.

9News, which reported the Bernstein development Monday night, said it suggested that federal agents could be close to answering the question of whether there was a wider conspiracy in last week's shootings.

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

Denver Post - DN CO

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TRACING A DEADLY
trail of weapons
girlfriend bought

on:
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Disclosures about the guns Monday gave the first public hints at the way police are broadening the investigation into last week's rampage that killed 15, hospitalized 23 and shocked the nation. They also focused attention on the way powerful firearms may be bought and sold by teenagers still attending high school.

President Clinton today will call for tighter regulation of gun shows while announcing an anti-crime package today, congressional sources said.

On their April 20 rampage at Columbine High School, Klebold, 17, and Harris, 18, packed an arsenal of an Intratec TEC-DC9 semiautomatic handgun, a Hi-Point 9mm semiautomatic carbine and two sawed-off shotguns. It's illegal for anyone to saw the barrel off shotguns, the weapons that Klebold and Harris apparently used to kill themselves in the school library.

Investigators still don't know how the two killers obtained the TEC-DC9, the DA said.

In addition, police disclosed Monday that the two killers had more bombs than previously reported. Denver Police Detective Alex Woods said, "Bomb squad members handled 67 unexploded

devices at the scene and at Harris' house." Police earlier said the two killers had at least 30 bombs.

But it was the trail of firearms that made the most news from the investigation Monday.

The Tanner Gun Show organizers said the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms requested a list of everyone who exhibited guns at the Tanner show's Nov. 21-22 and Dec.

12-13 sales.

Show organizers said they keep a master list of everyone who exhibits guns at a table, be it a licensed firearms dealer or a private, unlicensed collector.

"The ATF has called me, and they're looking into it," said Carol Blodgett, who coordinates the exhibitors' tables for the Tanner gun shows at the Merchandise Mart.

"They didn't mention any names," she said. "They just wanted to know if I had records of who comes to the show" to sell guns.

Gun show owner Jimmie Tanner said, "That's what I understand, they're zeroing in on November or December." He said the ATF did not specify who it was looking for, but made it clear this was connected with the Columbine High massa-

cre. "I'm sure they have somebody in mind," he said.

ATF spokesman Larry Betten-dorf declined to comment.

Tanner said most gun sellers he knows wouldn't sell firearms to an 18-year-old. "The normal person at a gun show won't deal with juveniles of any kind," he said.

He was upset to hear that Clinton and others are proposing additional gun controls. He also objected to the idea of increased regulation of gun shows. "First of all, it's unconstitutional. Secondly, it identifies a class of people who have been persecuted for a number of years, and it's getting pretty severe."

Asked if he has a problem with overzealous regulation of guns, he said, "I've had that problem for 70 years." Tanner is 72.

The Tanner show, which regularly leases space at the Merchandise Mart, canceled a show there last weekend, just days after the Columbine High massacre. Because the Merchandise Mart is just outside Denver city limits, the gun show doesn't have to comply with the city's stricter gun control laws, which ban several assault weapons, including the TEC-DC9 used at Columbine High School.

In Congress, Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Colorado, who supports more government regulation of

firearms, called it "an eerie coincidence" that weapons from the Columbine High killings apparently were obtained from the Tanner Gun Show.

Last June, one of her staffers purchased the SKS rifle from the same show to demonstrate the ease of obtaining an assault weapon with no record of the purchase.

"They didn't ask for ID. They didn't ask for anything," she said. "They sold it for about \$200 cash, no questions asked. These gun shows are a massive loophole to the Brady bill."

In the wake of the Columbine High tragedy, "I think there are two things we need to do," DeGette said. "First, recognize that this is a very deep societal problem, this problem of youth violence. The second thing that we can do on a legislative level is make it harder, and in my opinion nearly impossible, for kids to get their hands on guns."

The 18-year-old Columbine woman questioned by police Monday lives in the Stony Creek neighborhood.

Also contributing to this report were Denver Post staff writers Howard Pankratz, Peter G. Chronis, Peggy Lowe, Patricia Callaban, Kevin Simpson and Sean Kelly.

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SPEC/AB

'Cassie died a martyr's death'

By Janet Bingham

Denver Post Staff Writer

Cassie Bernall, whose willingness to stand up for her faith made her a martyr at Columbine High School, received a tearful but joyful farewell Monday.

Her loved ones celebrated the courage of Bernall, who was asked by one of the killers if she believed in God. When she said yes, he pulled the trigger.

"Cassie died a martyr's death. She went to the martyr's Hall of Fame," said the Rev. George Kirsten to the more than 2,000 people who packed West Bowles Community Church for Bernall's funeral.

Hundreds of people stood against the walls and filled the overflow room of the church, which normally seats 1,400. Among them were Bernall's teachers and many of the fire department workers, police officers, and paramedics who had been called to the school during the crisis. Gov. Bill Owens also was in the crowd.

At the front of the church, more than 150 members of Bernall's youth group honored her memory by singing a song dedicated to her by her favorite Christian rock group, The Kry.

The Rev. Dave McPherson noted that 47 youth group members were trapped inside Columbine High during the massacre. Four were in the library, where the most deaths occurred. Except for Bernall, all escaped unhurt.

They spent many hours last week with church staff preparing a

'Don't let my daughter's death be for nothing'

Here is the text of a statement released by Cassie Bernall's father, Brad:

"We have not read any papers nor watched much TV since we learned our Cassie was a victim, but I am told that she was the young woman who boldly answered to a gunman, 'YES' when he asked if she believed in God, prompting him to pull the trigger.

Cassie's response does not surprise us. Her life was rightly centered around our Lord Jesus. It was for her strong faith in God and his promise of eternal life that she made her stand. It is clear to me that this tragic incident has been thrown back into the face of Satan and his followers with an impact that is much greater than what was intended for us, God's children.

Misty, Chris, I, all our family and Cassie's youth group are proud of

her. We will painfully miss her every day of our lives. She truly was our 'little buddy' and a terrific friend to her brother Chris.

To all young people who hear this, don't let my daughter's death be for nothing. Make your stand. If you're not in the local church's youth group, try it. They want you and will help support you in doing what is right. It's not easy, you will need one another.

To all the parents across our nation I would say, 'Do you know what your kids are doing? Do you ever verify?' You should. We are the front line in all issues regarding our children.

To everyone, we thank you for your prayers, they are working. Also, deep heartfelt gratitude to our friends, family, church and all others who have given their time, talent, love and resources to help us through this awful time."

video production honoring Bernall, which flashed across a large screen at the front of the church during the service.

The screen was filled with her dazzling smile — the smile many of her friends say could light up a room.

Color photos showed her rock-climbing, practicing with Hula Hoops during a trip to New York City, clowning with her friends, walking arm and arm with them

down high-school hallways. She was 18 and a senior and was to have graduated in just a month.

But in a larger spiritual sense, "We are here today to celebrate the graduation of Cassie — with honors," Kirsten said.

Just a week before she died, Bernall had testified to her faith, and her testimony was captured on video. She had vowed, among other things, to "be a good example to nonbelievers and also to Chris-



Bernall

tians."

The faces of her friends flashed across the screen as they told how she had been just that.

"She's a hero to me because of what she allowed Christ to do through her," said one friend.

"She's taught me to put all my trust in Him."

Notes from her friends were scattered among the flowers, written on posters taped to the church walls, and scrawled on the side of the casket.

"I remember hanging out for hours at after-prom two and a half days earlier. I know you're in a better place and I can't wait to be with you and also to be as lucky as you and meet the maker." — James.

"You are such an inspiration to me. God loved you sooo much he wanted you up there by his side." — Sarah.

"You didn't turn your back. You stood strong. You answered Yes, I believe in God." — Jenn.

And finally, a note on the casket that talked of memories of "bringing bunny to your bed, singing my Good Morning song to you while everyone else was still sleeping. I can't wait until we are reunited in heaven. I am proud of the way you made your stand." — Daddy.

351

1688

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

THE DENVER POST

MASSACRE AT COLUMBINE HIGH**Tragedy cuts deep
for local firefighters****By Andrew Guy Jr.**
Denver Post Staff Writer

Amid the chaos of the Columbine High School emergency — the frantic radio traffic, the scurrying people, the roar of sirens — personal tragedy cut deep last Tuesday for members of the West Metro Fire Rescue.

Six firefighters had kids inside the school. Other employees lived in the neighborhood.

For them, things turned out fine. Their kids were soon accounted for, their prayers were answered.

But for one member of the department, things didn't turn out so well. Dispatcher Cindy Thirovin was off duty when she heard about the shooting. She called the department to report it knowing that her father — teacher and coach Dave Sanders — was one of the victims.

Many of her colleagues attended Sanders' funeral Monday.

"It hit us hard," said Rich Klein, a West Metro paramedic/firefighter. "Some of the guys in our department went to Columbine and had him as a coach. There's a lot of close ties to the school."

West Metro, headquartered in Lakewood, has 310 employees who provide fire, medical and police services to portions of Jefferson, Arapahoe and Adams counties in a 100-square-mile radius around Denver. Many of the agency's

emergency workers were among the first at Columbine last Tuesday.

"Not only were they serving their community, they were serving their own neighborhood," said West Metro Chaplain Bill Guidon. "It's something they try and prepare for, but you really can't prepare for something like this."

Guidon has been the chaplain at West Metro for four years, and said he's coun-

seled the West Metro firefighters through numerous traumatic experiences. This has been the most difficult. As is usually the case after a major incident, the firefighters were debriefed and given a chance to freely express their emotions.

But something of this magnitude could take longer to recover from, Guidon said.

"It's like taking a little incident and multiplying it several times. Some of

their common questions during debriefing (were) 'Could we have done more?'"

Patrick Plamplin, chief of the Roxborough Fire Department, often works with West Metro on major incidents. Plamplin was one of the first firefighters from outside West Metro to respond. He participated in the later debriefing and said it was emotional, with many people talking about Sanders and their other ties to Columbine.

"You kind of get used to it, but you kinda don't," Plamplin said of a firefighter's job. "You go home from work and hug your kids. Then you go back to work the next day. You just kind of keep it inside."

Plamplin said he finally got his release watching the memorial service on television Sunday.

"When they started playing the Irish bagpipes, it brought tears to my eyes and a lump to my throat," he said. "It kinda felt good to finally release that, you know?"

Klein agreed.

Klein, who has three sons — 5-year-old Lee, 9-year-old Ryan and 12-year-old Kevin — said the Columbine tragedy has helped him focus as a parent.

"I guess while you're doing the job, you put on your game face, your battle face," he said. "Then you can come home and decompress a bit. But with this thing, it's been harder."

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

Page 1 of 1
Denver Post
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Tragedy cuts deep for local firefighters

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THE DENVER POST

D Tuesday, April 27, 1999

MASSACRE AT COLUMBINE HIGH

School security officer still stunned

By Jim Kirksey
Denver Post Staff Writer

Neil Gardner found himself caught in a nightmare a week ago today.

A nightmare of kids screaming and crying, gunshots and bomb blasts shaking his reality.

"I couldn't believe it was happening to my school," said the Jefferson County deputy sheriff, who was the first officer on the scene of the mass killing at Columbine High School, where he is the school resource officer and the girls' softball coach.

"It's just a horrible nightmare for me. My quiet, little, peaceful school just turned into a war zone. It was unbelievable."

Gardner, who is in his second year working at the school, was patrolling Clement Park next to Columbine when a school janitor summoned him on the school radio.

The agitated janitor said Gardner was needed in the back parking lot of the high school.

Before Gardner arrived, a sheriff's dispatcher said by radio that a girl was "down"

in the parking lot. When he arrived, a pipe bomb had just exploded, leaving a cloud of smoke, and the dispatcher was telling him there were shots fired in the school.

"As I exited the patrol car, one of the suspects, who I believe to be Eric Harris, stepped out of the southwest doors and he started opening fire with an assault rifle," Gardner said Monday evening.

The deputy ducked inside his patrol car as the gunman fired a volley of about 10 shots before his gun seemed to jam.

"I did a quick peek through the window," said Gardner, who is the father of three. "I could see he was fiddling (with the rifle), either reloading it or his gun was jammed."

"At this point I went to the front of a Chevy Blazer, leaned over the hood and fired four or five times at the suspect," from 60-65 yards away.

The gunman was wearing a vest over a white T-shirt, and Gardner thought at the time it might be a flak jacket.

"I don't know if he was reacting to the bullets going by, but he made a quick jerk to the

right," Gardner said. The suspect then got his rifle back in working order and fired 15-20 more shots in Gardner's direction. The deputy ducked back down behind the engine block and front tire of the Blazer. The vehicle took several hits from the bullets.

"You could hear most of them going over the top . . . I was thinking, 'I can't believe this is happening.'"

The gunman ducked back inside the building as another sheriff's car arrived.

Gardner and deputies Scott Taborsky and Paul Smoker turned their attention to pulling injured students in the parking lot to safety behind the patrol car.

While rescue efforts were under way, bombs were going off in the building and gunmen were shooting out the windows in the library.

Gardner saw the same gunman return to the southwest doors of the school and poke his rifle out, exchanging more shots with the officers in the parking lot.

All total, Gardner fired eight shots in his

two encounters with the gunman, he said. The deputy is left haunted by thoughts of what might have been different if he had hit the gunman during their exchange of gunfire.

"It's in the back of my mind," he said somberly.

"If I had put him down . . . I don't know how many people he may have shot after that. I have to live with that."

The deputy said he knew of Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, the teen identified as Harris' accomplice, but he didn't know them personally. They had never been disrespectful to him, Gardner said.

He was surprised to be exchanging gunshots with Harris.

"There are certainly kids in the school that scare me more than he would have," Gardner said.

Gardner has been on administrative leave since the incident, but he hopes to return to work Thursday.

"I'm hoping to be back at Chatfield (High School) with my kids."

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Still Stunned

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1690

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Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Parents saw final clues from killer

By Ann Carnahan

News Staff Writer

Susan Klebold sensed something strange about her son a few hours before he blasted his fellow classmates to death.

"On the day of the shooting, the mother felt there was sort of a fatalistic or final tone in his saying goodbye and she didn't understand what that meant," said a family pastor, the Rev. Don Marxhausen of St. Philip Lutheran Church in Littleton. "But just saying goodbye. Kids say goodbye differently. Suppose he's got a big test coming up."

Four days before the shooting, Thomas Klebold got an odd feeling about his son, too.

"The father thought the son was stressed. He made a mental note he ought to get back and maybe talk to him about that. ... He didn't get back to that."

But other than those last-minute clues, the Klebolds had virtually no inkling that their son was so deeply troubled, said Marxhausen, who helped conduct a private funeral for the dead boy Saturday. Fifteen people attended.

"As we entered the room, I realized there was just a lot of tension and suggested that we just talk," Marxhausen told CNN's *Larry King Live*.

"So I mostly listened for about 45 to 50 minutes to both tears, expressions of remembrances of joy of Dylan growing up, of talk about another young man who wouldn't fit into this picture at all, of one who did so much destruction."

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1691

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A mourner smells a flower Monday, one of the many left around the parked pickup truck of Columbine High School shooting victim John Tomlin near Clement Park.

The Denver Post : Craig F. Walker

Officer withdraws his criticism

By Marilyn Robinson
Denver Post Staff Writer

WESTMINSTER — A veteran Westminister police officer has withdrawn his criticism of Jefferson County sheriff's officers who responded to the April 20 massacre at Columbine High School, Police Chief Dan Montgomery said Monday.

Officer Randy Patrick told a Denver Post reporter Friday that he thought it was "pathetic" to see SWAT officers stationed outside the school with shields and body armor while Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17,

finished their bloody rampage. "I'd have someone in there. We are trained to do that," Patrick said.

But Montgomery said Patrick changed his mind after an hour-long meeting with the chief and two supervisors Monday.

"Given some additional facts, Randy's feelings now are that Jeffco's actions were appropriate under the circumstances," Montgomery said. "His perceptions are different today than they were Friday."

Montgomery said he asked Patrick to come in to discuss his comments. Patrick was off-duty

Monday and could not be reached for comment.

"I have not instructed him not to talk," Montgomery said. "That's his prerogative."

Patrick, a field training officer, has been with the Westminister Police Department for 12 years.

He previously was with the Greeley Police Department.

He made his remarks when he came to Columbine with 13 roses in memory of the 12 students and one teacher killed there.

He said he was prepared for any backlash his comments might evoke.

Officer withdraws his criticism

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Rocky Mt. News

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Deputy recounts gunfight with killer

'This is the worst nightmare of my life,' school officer says

By Gary Massaro

News Staff Writer

Deputy Sheriff Neil Gardner ducked two volleys of fire from Eric Harris in the opening moments of the killings at Columbine.

"This is the worst nightmare of my life," Gardner told NBC's Dateline Monday.

Gardner, Columbine's in-school deputy for two years, said neither he nor Deputy Paul Smoker, the first officer to respond to Gardner's call for help, retreated but held their ground while Harris shot at them in the Columbine parking lot.

Gardner said he was eating lunch in his

patrol car when a school janitor told him that someone had a gun on campus about 11:20 a.m.

Packing a pistol, Gardner got out of his car and confronted Harris, who opened fire with an automatic or semiautomatic rifle.

"I was shooting as I exited the patrol vehicle," Gardner said. "I'm guessing he fired about 10 volleys."

The bullets "were close enough to where you could hear the zinging sound," Gardner said.

He ducked behind the rear wheel well of a nearby Blazer.

"I was so numb, thinking this is way out of my control," he said. But he moved to the Blazer's front wheel well.

"I shot four or five times," he said. "He made a quick reaction to the right."

Gardner said he isn't sure if the move-

ment came from a slug Harris might have taken or if he was just responding to the direction of Gardner's shots.

Harris ripped off another heavy volley.

"I ducked down. The bullets came closer," Gardner said. "A couple hit the front window. One hit the passenger rear-view mirror. Glass fell on my shoulders. Some bullets were coming up under the car."

Gardner had radioed for help, and Deputy Paul Smoker came soon after.

"I shot three to five rounds," Smoker said. "He disappeared."

It was over in minutes. But Gardner has a lot of time wondering what if.

"With the exchange of fire, it did allow some people fleeing the scene to get out," Gardner said. "If I had dropped him, it might have saved one or two more lives. That I'll never know."

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1693

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Klebold's date bought 2 weapons

Springs gun shop owner says teens in trench coats tried to buy machine gun

Dylan Klebold's prom date bought two of the weapons used in last week's assault on Columbine High School at a Denver-area gun show, authorities said Monday.

Authorities also are investigating a report from the owner of a Colorado Springs gun shop that five teen-agers tried to buy an M-60 machine gun and a silencer-equipped assault pistol in early March. The five were captured on a store surveillance videotape that was turned over to police.

Mel Bernstein, owner of Dragon Arms, told investigators one of the teens was Eric Harris, Klebold's partner in the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history.

Bernstein said the group of teens in his store included four boys in trench coats and one girl.

"They were real mokey, like punk kids with the makeup on, like punk rockers," Bernstein said. "To me, it was just another bunch of kids who wished they could own everything they see on the wall here. This is like Toys R Us to them."

Bernstein said "Harris was doing all the talking."

Klebold and Harris wore black trench coats when they launched their assault last week.

Klebold's prom date, whom Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone identified as 18-year-old Robyn K. Anderson, was questioned by investigators Monday and later released.

Investigators classified her as a witness, not a suspect.

But Stone acknowledged it was possible she knew how Klebold and Harris planned to use the guns.

"She's not going to use those for pheasant hunting," Stone said.

Investigators continue to believe that Harris and Klebold had help in carrying out the assault that killed 12 students and one teacher and wounded 21. The assault ended when Harris and Klebold killed themselves.

It was shortly after 11 a.m. April 20 — a quiet Tuesday morning — that Harris, 18, and Klebold, 17, unleashed an arsenal of bombs and guns on their classmates and teachers at Columbine. Besides their bombs and two sawed-off shotguns, the teens also fired a 9 mm carbine assault rifle and a TEC-DC9 semiautomatic pistol.

The TEC-DC9 is a pistol capable of firing a full clip of rounds in seconds. Clips can carry more than 30 rounds each and be rapidly reloaded.

Also Monday, more chilling details of writings taken from the teen-agers' homes emerged.

A Web site kept by Harris listed names of people he did not like.

Authorities said they believe, however, that none of his enemies was among the dead.

"It looked like a pretty random thing," Stone said of the shootings.

The sheriff also discussed more passages in a diary found in Harris' home. In it, Harris called himself "Rebel" and Klebold "Vodka."

The diary included a detailed timeline of the killers' schedule for April 20. It started with their waking up at 5 a.m., Stone said, and included things such as "go pick up the propane, so-and-so picks up the gasoline."

It also detailed Harris' hope that he and Klebold could kill at least 500 students, attack homes in the neighborhood and hijack a plane they would crash into New York City.

Nearly a week after the assault, Denver was a metro area on edge Monday.

Attendance at schools across the metro area plummeted.

Police in Sheridan searched unsuccessfully for a suspect who reportedly grabbed a 12-year-old girl while she was walking between buildings. The girl was not hurt.

The man or boy in a black ski mask and black clothing apparently shouted a threat at Sheridan Middle School but did not mention Columbine. Police stepped up their presence at the school.

Normandy Elementary School in unincorporated south Jefferson County was evacuated briefly at 10 a.m. Monday, sheriff's Sgt. Jim Parr said, after a backpack that couldn't be accounted for was found. Parr said a bomb squad determined that it was a harmless child's backpack.

Across the country, tributes continued.

Stock trading on Wall Street was halted for a minute of silence in honor of Columbine's victims.

A one-minute blackout also is planned today by dozens of Colorado television and radio stations today. It's scheduled for 11:21 a.m. — the minute the first 911 call came in from the school.

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Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Tests show gunmen not on drugs, booze

SCHOOL from 4A

a week ago today.

And Gov. Bill Owens ordered that American and Colorado flags be flown at half-staff through Thursday — the day the last of the Columbine victims is to be laid to rest.

Determining where Harris and Klebold got their guns remained a top priority of investigators.

Stone said Anderson bought two of the weapons at a Denver-area gun show within the past year. He said "it's a pretty good assumption" she bought them within the past five months because she just turned 18 in November.

Investigators continue to believe strongly that somebody knew something in the days and weeks leading up to the two boys' siege on Adolf Hitler's 110th birthday.

"There's a lot of munitions there," Stone said. "Either somebody else brought it in or they brought it in and stored it. ... It's hard to get that in under your raincoat and not be noticed."

Investigators said they haven't cleared three boot-and black-coat-clad teen-agers detained in the confusion after the shooting.

"I'm suspicious of their story," Stone said, adding that they remain "under investigation."

See SCHOOL on 18A

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"They are not out of the woods in this one yet," he said.

One question was answered Monday.

Toxicology reports showed that the gunmen did not have drugs or alcohol in their systems when they died. Nor did the other 13 who died, Jefferson County coroner Nancy Bodelson said.

But investigators were still grappling with many other questions.

For example, sheriff's deputy Steve Davis said it was possible Harris and Klebold killed themselves only a short time after the shooting began about 11:20 a.m. Police officers didn't find their bodies until about 4 p.m., but a detailed time line is still being prepared.

The gunmen's bombs — in some cases metal fragments and bits of duct tape wrapped around some of the explosives — will be sent for analysis to the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Investigators said the death toll would have been 300 or more if Harris and Klebold had been better bomb makers. When they killed themselves, Davis said, "there was still plenty of ammo with them."

"I have no idea," Davis said when asked how the gunmen picked New York City as their fantasy final target. "Maybe the density of population, for all I know."

He wasn't the only one who remained mystified by the attack.

Linda Pollock, a former next-door neighbor of the Harris family, said Eric's parents, Wayne and Kathy Harris, were "very nice people."

"If I could talk to them I would say, 'Please don't think you're bad parents,'" she said.

"I don't blame the parents. If they (children) don't want you to find or see something, you're not going to find or see it."

Staff writers Lynn Bartels, Kevin Flynn, Jeff Kass, Lou Kilzer and Dan Luzzadder contributed to this report.

Portraits of the Columbine killers



Hellicorn Fine Portraits 1998

Eric Harris, left, and Dylan Klebold, above, used weapons purchased by Klebold's prom date in the shootings at Columbine High School. Investigators said the death toll could have been 300 or more except for the fact that some of the explosives carried by the two young men failed to detonate. They also had plenty of ammunition left when they killed themselves.



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Parental ignorance of plot not a crime

Some attorneys fear 'witch hunt' will seek wrong target for blame

By Sue Lindsay

News Staff Writer

Outraged Coloradans may think the parents of Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold should have known what their kids were doing, but it takes more than that to file criminal charges.

In the aftermath of the Columbine High School slayings,

lawyers assessed possible charges and civil suits that may surface.

"It's a question of what somebody knew concretely and what assistance they knowingly gave," said Larry Pozner, president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. "It is still not a crime in America to associate with someone who does evil, and I hope this doesn't become a witch hunt for friends who wear trench coats."

Gov. Bill Owens and Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone, among others, have said the parents should have known what Harris

and Klebold were doing.

"I think parents should be able to tell if a child is capable of this sort of violence," Owens said.

Pipe bombs and a cut-off shotgun barrel were found in Harris' bedroom, although it's not clear when they were left there.

Jefferson County Sgt. Jim Parr said there was no reason to believe the parents had direct knowledge of their sons' plans.

Jefferson County District Attorney Dave Thomas said people can only be charged if they aided or encouraged a crime.

"This general notion that par-

ents ought to have known is absurd and unrealistic," Pozner said. "We're not a nation of snitches where parents are supposed to spend their lives spying on their kids."

Those who helped supply the killers with weapons didn't necessarily commit a crime, lawyers said.

"Mere knowledge of a crime is not a crime," said defense attorney Craig Silverman.

"You have to know and you have to intend to help," Pozner said.

"This is a horrible, unspeakable tragedy but you do not make it

better by finding and rounding up a few teen-agers and parents and prosecuting them as if they had done it."

Parents of wounded and slain children may contemplate lawsuits, but the chances of sizable awards are slim, said defense attorney Scott Robinson.

"I know that many may want to do something in the belief that it will help prevent something like this from happening again. That's fantasy," Robinson said.

"My hope is that they will not go down that road. These parents have suffered enough."

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Internet abuzz with talk of tragedy

By Matthew B. Stannard
Oakland Tribune

A week after the massacre at Columbine High School, the tragedy continues to hold a seemingly unshakable grip on the collective consciousness of the on-line community.

The Internet has been part of the story since early reports that shooter Eric Harris had placed a site on the World Wide Web filled with violent images, angry essays and instructions for creating pipe bombs. America Online removed the Web page in question the day after the rampage, preserving its contents for possible investigation.

But that hasn't stopped AOL members from sounding off on Harris, fellow gunman Dylan Klebold or the crimes they committed, said AOL spokeswoman Kim McCreery.

A chat room dedicated to the tragedy attracted 200,000 visits between Tuesday and Friday, McCreery said. On Saturday, a chance to chat with survivors of the attack brought in another 150,000 visitors, she said.

AOL's "Digital City Denver" site has seen more than 11,000 messages posted to its main message board since the shooting, McCreery said, and counted 16,000 votes in on-line polls. The next largest event for the site, the Denver Broncos' repeat Super Bowl victory, included just 4,000 message posts and 3,000 votes.

"It's an absolutely huge number," McCreery said. "Whether it's students grieving or people posting memories or photographs, things like that, it's just a real sign of community. They're just re-

Columbine story grips online community

ally sharing."

Similarly high levels of interest exist outside the AOL system. Traffic at The Denver Post Online has been running at five times normal levels since the story broke, and more than 1,500 messages have been posted to the site's online discussion area.

A Columbine bulletin board at the portal site Yahoo! has gathered more than 11,000 messages since the shooting, ranking it among the site's most popular boards along with older issues such as the murder of JonBenet Ramsey and President Clinton's impeachment. Late Monday afternoon, the site was still accumulating several messages each minute.

Elsewhere on the Web, the Columbine tragedy has triggered a kind of electronic turf warfare, as individuals snap up site addresses containing words reflecting the tragedy, such as the killers' names or the name of their clique, the Trench Coat Mafia.

Some of those registering the Internet domains say they plan to create memorial sites or simply prevent the names from being used for a commercial purpose.

But at least one such site, filled with images of guns and bomb-making instructions, was offered for sale to the highest bidder on eBay, an online auction. Those offering the site for sale couldn't be reached for comment, but

eBay spokesman Kevin Purselove confirmed that the domain had been listed for sale — briefly.

"When we became aware of it, we took it down immediately," he said. "It is totally inappropriate."

The tragedy has fascinated readers on Usenet newsgroups, too. A quick search of online bulletin boards revealed more than 10,000 messages containing the word "Columbine," ranging from groups devoted to crime and punishment to less predictable venues, such as wrestling and quilting.

"You want to do something. This is a way of combating the helpless feeling and showing the families of the mourners that society is behind them," said Carolyn Lanzkron, whose proposal to create a quilt commemorating the tragedy, posted to rec.crafts.textiles.quilting, has attracted dozens of volunteers from her home state of Massachusetts to the Netherlands.

Howard Rheingold, author of "The Virtual Community," said that Lanzkron's observation explains the wealth of tragedy-related discussion in the on-line community. It is, he said, reminiscent of the way fledgling online services reacted to the 1989 earthquake in San Francisco. The far larger reaction to the Columbine tragedy, Rheingold said, reflects today's far larger and more mainstream online community.

"There is a huge amount of discussion going on that's instantly available when something happens in the world," he said. "It may or may not do some good, but it makes you feel better to do something."

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Wary Jeffco parents keep kids at home

By Carlos Ilescas
Denver Post Staff Writer

Flora Lawrence sat anxiously in her car for what seemed like hours Monday morning outside Stony Creek Elementary School in Jefferson County.

With her son securely in his seat belt, Lawrence watched as other parents dropped off their children at the school.

When the school bell rang for the start of classes, Lawrence had seen enough.

"Let's go home," she told her son. "I don't feel good about leaving (you) here."

The school near Columbine High School had been swept for bombs over the weekend after rumors of possible trouble, heightening fears among parents there.

But Stony Creek parents weren't alone in their anxiety.

Absentee rates were about five times higher than normal at schools in south Jeffco, district officials said, and about two to three times higher in other parts of the county.

At Deer Creek Middle School, close to Columbine, about a third of the school's 1,110 students were missing Monday.

Administrators at Chatfield High School, also near Columbine, reported about half the students attended Monday.

"There's an anxiety level because of some of the reports. People are concerned and rightfully so," said Rick Kaufman, spokesman for Jefferson County schools.

School officials contacted parents of most of Stony Creek's 500 students Sunday to assure them that the school was safe.

Dozens of parents volunteered to be at

the school Monday.

School officials and parents hoped the presence would ease the fears of the kindergarten through fifth-grade students there.

"We need to reclaim our schools," said parent Tish Moore, who volunteered to spend the day at the school.

"Parents need to get involved."

Meanwhile, other schools were coping with unnerving incidents and adjusting to increased security.

The Seventh-day Adventist School in Brighton sent its students home for the day after a potentially threatening handwritten letter was left at the school's front door.

The letter said the school isn't exempt from violence because of its religious philosophies, said Brighton Police Capt. Bob White.

The school was evacuated, but nothing was found.

Most school districts increased police patrols outside school buildings and added more officers inside. Students in Denver Public Schools were off Monday for a teacher-training day.

Stony Creek parents who took their children back to school said it was important for morale, and to get some sense of normalcy back in their lives.

"I'm a little apprehensive, but we've got to do it," said Mary Gnadt, a parent of a first-grade girl. "I talked about it with her over dinner (Sunday) and we felt the school is a safe place."

Staff writers Marilyn Robinson and J. Sebastian Sinisi contributed to this report.

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50% absent in Jeffco schools

Attendance also lower in other metro-area classrooms Monday

By Manny Gonzales
News Staff Writer

Half the students at Jefferson County schools were absent Monday, district spokesman Rick Kaufman said.

And attendance elsewhere in the metro area was dramatically lower as the threat of more school violence loomed in parents' minds.

Jeffco officials sampled 14 of the 17 high schools in the district and found the absence rate five times higher than normal at schools

nearest Columbine High.

Many of those who didn't go to school were grieving, but others were fear-stricken because of threats that more school violence would occur by Monday.

The threat was contained in an e-mail transmission purportedly left by Columbine gunman Eric Harris. But police concluded Saturday that the Internet message probably was not written by Harris.

"There is just a general fear of being in school," said Bruce Caughey, spokesman for the Douglas County School District.

Some Douglas County secondary schools had 30 percent more absences than usual Monday.

Two incidents at Douglas Coun-

ty high schools caused concern.

In one, a former student and a Highlands Ranch High School student face felony charges of placing a fake bomb in front of the school April 20 as a "senior prank." Police said they don't believe there is a connection with the Columbine shootings.

In the other, a Douglas County High School student and a former student face felony charges of phoning in a bomb threat Wednesday. No bombs were found.

Despite heightened security and alerts at schools across the metro area, districts in Cherry Creek, Littleton, Englewood and Adams County experienced more absences than usual at middle and high schools.

"We're doing everything humanly possible to make our schools safe," said Karla Langton, spokeswoman for Littleton Public Schools, where absences were up 27 percent.

In an effort to control rumors, district officials set up an information hotline, (303) 347-3325.

Clayton Elementary and Sinclair Middle School, both in the Englewood district, each had about 30 absences due to parent concern for safety, said Joan Dietrich, executive director of student services.

"There's the concern that today was mentioned as a day of more violence, and apparently Friday is another day of concern," Dietrich said.

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Shootings fuel debate

Athletes say stories exaggerated; others tell of harassment

By Randy Holtz

News Staff Writer

Athletes and others at Columbine High School agree there's a rift among the jocks and other factions.

But they don't agree how much of a problem it is.

A former student says a genuine dislike long has existed. A father says his son was terrorized because he was Jewish. Dozens watched jocks pick on members of the Trench Coat Mafia.

But several students and the football coach insist the idea of a Columbine athletic aristocracy has been overblown since two seniors associated with the Trench Coat

Mafia went on a killing rampage at the school.

"If they were targeting athletes, why did they go to the library? Why didn't they wait until after school and go to the gym or the locker room?" football coach Andy Lowry said.

"There's no explanation for this other than these were two sick kids who hated themselves and hated everyone else."

One of the gunmen's friends agreed.

"Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold were my friends, and I'm telling you they were not targeting jocks," said senior Dustin Gorton. "When you really look at it, they were targeting everybody."

But witnesses to the shootings heard otherwise.

"They said, 'All jocks are dead. All jocks stand up. Any jock wearing a white baseball cap stand up!'"

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over 'jock elitism' at Columbine

said sophomore Joshua Lapp, who was in the library.

Harris and Klebold killed 12 students and a teacher and wounded 21 students before killing themselves.

Only eight of their victims were members of Columbine's athletic teams.

But the tragedy has intensified debate about whether Columbine coddled its jocks and whether the administration looked the other way as they picked on less popular kids.

Athletes don't think so.

"I'm sure there were some jocks who might have made fun of (the Trench Coat Mafia)," sophomore wrestler Jason Greer said.

"But I wouldn't say there was a real dislike for each other. Most of the people everybody calls jocks do a lot of other different things besides sports. It's not like every athlete looks at being a jock as his whole identity."

But former Columbine student Eric Quintana described a "jock elitism."

"The athletes rule this school," Quintana said. "When I was a sophomore, I was at Chatfield. There wasn't nearly as much animosity between cliques there. The athletes (at Columbine) feel they can do anything they want, say anything they want. I'm sure that was going through those guys' minds when they shot people."

Columbine parent Steve Greene complained to school officials that athletes at the school intimidated and physically abused his son, Jonathan, daily.

But Greene said his complaints were ignored because the school protects jocks.

Greene, who is Jewish, told the *Intermountain Jewish news* that many of the taunts were anti-Semitic.

Joe Stair, one of the original members of the Trench Coat Mafia, said the group formed about four years ago to protect its members from harassment by jocks.

Stair last talked to Harris and Klebold about six months ago. They joked about getting revenge against Columbine athletes but in terms of "getting into a rumble," not of shooting people.

Senior Adam Foss said that since the tragedy, the cliques seem to have disappeared.

"All the barriers are gone," he said. "People come up to you and throw their arms around you and tell you how they love you — students you never even thought you could talk to before."

Staff writers Lynn Bartels, Manny Gonzales and Lou Kilzer contributed to this report.

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