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4-20-99

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

STATEMENT ON

COLORADO SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

THE WHITE HOUSE

April 20, 1999

captioned

Josh Gottelman

*wdd, gbt, jure, lael,
josh.*

4-20-99

~~Good evening.~~ Hillary and I are profoundly shocked and saddened by the tragedy that occurred today at a high school in Littleton, Colorado, where two students opened fire on their classmates before turning their guns on themselves.

I have spoken ^{with Gov. Ben Davis} to County Commission Chair Patricia Holloway, and expressed my ~~deep~~ concern for the people of her community. I have spoken to ^{Dep. Atty. Gen. David} Attorney ~~General~~ ^{who, with Atty. Gen. Riley,} ~~Reno~~, and ~~she~~ is closely monitoring the situation. I have asked the Attorney General and

Education Secretary Riley to stand ready to assist local law enforcement ^{the schools,} and the entire community during this time of crisis and sorrow. A crisis response team stands ready to travel to Colorado ~~at a moment's notice.~~

We may never know all the details of this tragedy.

We may never know what dark forces drove these young people to commit such horrific acts of violence. Such evil is, ultimately, incomprehensible. And the sorrow it brings can be almost unendurable.

But whatever the causes and consequences of this incident, a shooting at any school impels us to redouble our efforts to make all our schools safe and to protect all our children from violence. Too many children have been taken from us too soon -- in Pearl and Jonesboro, in Edinboro and West Paducah and Springfield.

4-20-99

We do not yet know all the whys & hows of this tragedy.
We may never fully understand it. St Paul

② We ~~must~~ all do more to reach out to our children
~~do know us more~~

and teach them ^{express anger and} to resolve conflicts with words, not ~~with~~

weapons. ③ ~~And~~ we must all do more to recognize the

early warning signs that children send before they act in

violence.

To the families who have lost their loved ones, to

the parents who have ^{lost their beloved children, to the wounded} endured the most awful loss of all,
^{understand their families, to the people of bitterness - the people of the Am people as}
~~we can only say that our prayers are with you. Nothing~~ ^{wrong}

^① ~~we say tonight can ease your sorrow.~~ (Saint Paul reminds

us that we all see things in this life through a ~~dark~~ ^{darkly} glass --

that we only partly understand what is happening to us.)

~~But one day, face to face with God, we will see all things,~~

~~even as he sees us.~~

I know I join with all Americans in praying for the children who have been wounded, for their families, and for all the people of Littleton.

1782-5w
—

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 20, 1999
As of: 11:58 AM

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: THURGOOD MARSHALL, JR. *TM*
KRIS M. BALDERSTON *KMB*

SUBJECT: Agency Efforts on behalf of Littleton, Colorado School Shootings

INCIDENT UPDATE

According to Sheriff Steve Davis, there are fifteen (15) confirmed fatalities; two of which include the suspects. Of the fifteen, eleven (11) are male and four (4) are female. One of the victims is reported to be an adult. In addition, thirty (30) explosive devices were found in the school, one suspect's vehicle in the school parking lot, and in the suspects' residence. Investigators will enter the school this morning and early afternoon to conduct a search and to take photos. After the photos and first search is complete, local officials will commence a major investigation involving agents from several jurisdictions. Sheriff Davis also reported that he will update the press every hour on the half hour. His last statement was at 10:30a.m.

AGENCY EFFORTS

The Department of Education

Secretary Riley called the Jefferson County School Superintendent this morning to offer any assistance to the community. Specifically, the Secretary outlined joint efforts between the Department of Education, Justice, and HHS to provide crisis counselors and any other assistance that is needed. Additionally, Secretary Riley and the Department of Education (DOEd) provided local officials with contact names and numbers for those officials seeking federal assistance. The DOEd has made the following contacts:

- William Molonoy, Chief State School Officer, Colorado: Judith Johnson called Mr. Molonoy and offered assistance; DOEd will follow-up this afternoon.
- Susan Goren, President, National Association of School Psychologists: Susan offered help of NASP in providing assistance to the school system.
- Jenelle Kruger, Safe and Drug Free Schools Program Coordinator, Colorado: State Education Agency: Assistance of SDFS Program was offered.

- Marleen Wong, Director of Mental Health, Los Angeles Public Schools: Marleen has been instrumental in helping various communities that have experienced crisis similar to Colorado. Marleen offered her help in this effort.

- Kathryn Thurman, Director, Office for Victims of Crime, Department of Justice. OVC and SDFS have joint agreement with National Office for Victims of Crime to form crisis response teams and send those teams where they are needed. Kathryn has been working with community victim advocates and feels that the community is very well prepared to deal with this crisis.

Throughout this afternoon, DOEd is in contact with the Superintendent of Jefferson County schools and find out what assistance is needed. DOEd can offer the following:

- Identification of persons who can provide crisis counseling assistance and payment to get those persons to Colorado.
- Identification of persons who have experienced similar tragedies to provide "hands on" help in days immediately following incident. We can pay for travel and per diem of these persons.
- Identification of persons who can help the school district plan a long-term recovery effort which DOEd is currently working on in Springfield, Oregon. DOEd will pay the costs of getting people to Colorado.
- Identification of Security Experts. Often after such a shooting a school district wants to do a thorough review of its school safety plans, policies, etc. DOEd can help identify a person(s) to conduct such a review and will pay costs of getting person to Colorado.

The Department of Treasury

According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), 13 ATF investigators are on the scene in addition to two (2) canine handlers and two (2) explosive enforcement officers. ATF was asked by the County Sheriff to assist in clearing the scene of explosive devices and was concluded at 1:30am Denver time. Seven (7) destructive devices were found in the trunk of one suspect's vehicle and 12 small devices were found inside the school. ATF's crime scene mapping system has also been requested by the County Sheriff. ATF will also be involved in tracing firearms described as two (2) sawed-off shotguns, one handgun and one carbine. In addition, ATF will help canvass explosive licenses in an effort to determine who purchased explosives related to this incident. ATF will send a peer support team, including two chaplains, to provide services to the victims, witnesses and investigators.

The Department of Justice

Along with the ATF, FBI agents are on the ground providing technical assistance to local law enforcement officials. They are not active in the investigation as it is considered a local effort at this point. Additionally, these agents may provide added security to the local hospitals and funerals if requested and needed.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency

The FEMA State Director is contacting the local officials to assess needs in dealing with the ongoing community relations initiatives. FEMA officials involved in the Jonesboro incident have been put in contact with the county sheriff in Littleton. These FEMA personnel will provide guidance and expertise to those in Littleton. Two (2) FEMA Public Affairs officials will travel to Colorado to work with state and county officials.

The Department of Health and Human Services

HHS' Center for Mental Health Services has contacted the Colorado State Mental Health Director to offer assistance with crisis counseling if requested. In addition, the Surgeon General stands ready to provide assistance.

NOTE:

Secretary's Herman, Richardson and Glickman will be speaking to the Conference of Black Mayors tomorrow in Denver, Colorado.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date: 4-20-99ACTION / CONCURRENCE / COMMENT DUE BY: ASAPSubject: Austin StatementSW

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	MOORE	☐	☐
PODESTA	☒	☐	NASH	☐	☐
ECHAVESTE	☒	☐	REED	☒	☐
RICCHETTI	☒	☐	RUFF	☐	☐
LEW	☐	☐	SOSNIK	☒	☐
BERGER	☒	☐	SPERLING	☒	☐
BLUMENTHAL	☐	☐	STEIN	☒	☐
CAHILL	☐	☐	STERN	☐	☐
FRAMPTON	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
IBARRA	☒	☐	TRAMONTANO	☒	☐
JOHNSON	☒	☐	UCELLI	☒	☐
KLAIN	☒	☐	VERVEER	☐	☐
LANE	☐	☐	WALDMAN →	☒	☐
LEWIS	☒	☐	YELLEN	☐	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐	<u>Robyn</u>	☒	☐
LOCKHART	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐
MARSHALL	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐

REMARKS:

Comments to Kris Balderston

RESPONSE:

To the Austin community:

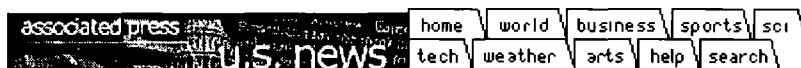
Today we are a nation in mourning. All Americans are shocked and saddened by the tragedy at Columbine High School. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have lost beloved children, siblings and friends and with the entire community of Littleton, Colorado.

While yesterday's tragic events keep me from joining you this morning, I do want to send my congratulations to all of you on this magnificent new airport. Six years ago, I pledged that the communities who won the Cold War would never be left out in the cold. The Austin-Bergstrom International Airport built from the closed Bergstrom Air Force Base is powerful proof that we have kept this pledge. It is the Texas Hill Country's gateway to a prosperous 21st Century.

This airport is not only a testament to the promise of your economic future. It is a testament to the commitment, vision and energy of the people of Austin. You saw that the loss of your air base did not have to be an economic setback for your community, it could be a precious opportunity to move forward, to create even more jobs and promote even more growth in Austin. From the moment Bergstrom was placed on the base closure list, you worked to build support for a new airport and never wavered. I applaud your faith and hard work. And I am proud that the federal government has been a partner in your efforts.

This facility pays tribute to several of Texans who helped shape the course of history in our century: To Capt. Earl Bergstrom, the first Austinite to give his life in World War II. To President Lyndon B. Johnson. To Congressman Jake Pickle. And to the late great Congresswoman Barbara Jordan. Your honorees are well chosen. May every visitor to this airport and to this community be inspired by Captain Bergstrom's courage and sacrifice, by President Johnson's bold vision and commitment to progress, by Congressman Pickle's life of service, by Barbara Jordan's voice for justice and search for common ground. And may God Bless all the people of Austin.

President Bill Clinton



APRIL 20, 14:31 EDT

Shots Fired at Colorado High School

By ROBERT WELLER
Associated Press Writer

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) — At least one youth fired shots today inside a suburban high school, and an undetermined number of people were injured. There also were reports of an explosion and fire.

Steve Davis, a spokesman for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, said, "We do have injuries."

"Right now all I've got is there have been several shots fired, some explosions heard and some fire in the school," Davis said.

Ambulances and police cars were arriving at the Columbine High School around lunchtime.

Some witnesses saw two attackers. A girl identified only as Janine said told KCNC-TV she saw two students in black trench coats open fire.

"We saw three people get shot," she said. "They were just shooting. They didn't care who they shot. They were just shooting."

"We didn't think it was real and then we saw blood," she said. Her voice broke with anguish as she spoke.

Jonathon Ladd said he was leaving a technology laboratory when he saw students running and heard shots ricocheting off lockers.

He said he ran to a nearby park to escape the gunfire.

Columbine High is in the middle-class suburb of Littleton, population 35,000, southwest of Denver. It opened in 1973 and has an enrollment of about 1,800.

Last school year, a series of school shootings at schools in Pearl, Miss., Jonesboro, Ark., West Paducah, Ky., and Springfield, Ore., shocked the nation and led for calls for tighter security.



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Asked what possible motive the killers had, Stone only shook his head and replied, "I wish I had an answer."

USA TODAY, April 21, 1999

But Stone said it "appears to be a suicide mission. There's been a lot of media attention to these types of incidents around the country."

Asking why

"This is just insane," said Chris Hooker, 18, whose food class was just sitting down to sample a French dessert they'd made themselves when the shooting began.

As a student shouted, "There's someone with a gun downstairs!" Hooker and many others ran for their lives. But in a school with about 1,800 students, an estimated 900 found themselves pinned down as the pop-pop-pop of gunfire and homemade bombs echoed through the halls.

As many as 60 choir members, practicing for a planned performance Tuesday at an elementary school, hid in a teachers' office area just off their classroom.

Using a cellular phone, one of them called for help, whispering, "I'm hiding!" Police advised them to barricade the doors, which

USA TODAY, April 21, 1999

they blocked with desks.

For three hours, they waited in cramped quarters for a chance at freedom.

Josh Ortwein, 18, was one of them.

"Three hours, lights off, barricaded door," Ortwein said. Students with asthma had trouble breathing. "It was hot, it smelled bad, and it was scary."

He saw two bodies, a boy and a girl, as police led his group out of the building.

In the school office, Matt Cornwell and Jake Cram, both 18, helped keep dozens of other hiding students calm. "He was doing a great job. I'm real proud of him," said Matt's father, Scott Cornwell,

*Student
hero*

who was outside behind police lines, keeping in touch with his son on a cellular phone.

Outside, the words "Trench Coat Mafia" were on everyone's lips -- or as students like Braden Pesusich knew them, "TCM" for
USA TODAY, April 21, 1999

short.

Hooker described the group, which wore black, duster-style trench coats to school, as loners who kept to themselves but didn't seem to be a problem.

"They all hung out together. They didn't have many friends. They got made fun of a lot," added Jonathan Vandemark, 16, one of about 60 students who hid in a biology classroom until police SWAT commandos led them out, past three lifeless bodies on a stairway.

With the awful confusion inside the high school walls, SWAT team members took no chances. Students being evacuated were frisked and marched with hands behind heads as they made their dash for freedom.

"They patted us down like three times," Vandemark said.

Heroes emerge Within hours, the first stories of heroism in the face of death began to emerge. Rick Kaufman, a spokesman for the Jefferson County Public Schools, said Columbine Principal Frank DeAngelis "saw one of the gunmen and was able to push students
USA TODAY, April 21, 1999

into another location and protect those students." The principal survived as well.

When panicked students started running blindly down a hallway to escape, a teacher they knew only as Mrs. Miller stopped them and herded them into the school's choir room.

Cram was one of them. He told reporters how she calmed terrified students as the two gunmen roamed the corridors outside, shooting at will.

"What she did was awesome. She is a hero. She saved our lives," Cram said.

Heroes
Principal
Miller

Down the street, the public library, also called Columbine, became a place where stunned students and worried parents kept vigil.

At nearby Leawood Elementary School, the official reunion point for families and students, a list posted on an outside wall tallied student names and where loved ones could find them. Others who had fled earlier huddled together in houses in this quiet suburban neighborhood about a dozen miles south of downtown Denver.

USA TODAY, April 21, 1999

Over the next three hours, groups of students and teachers scrambled to freedom in fits and spurts.

Frantic parents such as Kristi and Dale Vest stood behind the police barrier, craning their necks for a glimpse of their daughter, Kami, and niece, Kendra Curry, both 18. Like many others, they'd spoken with their daughter by cellular phone.

"She said they were OK and they were hiding, whispering and not saying a lot," Kristi Vest said.

She paused to reflect on her daughter's graduation from high school, just weeks away.

"I thought, you know, scot free," she said, thinking her daughter had sailed through some of the hardest years of adolescence intact.

Another hour and a half later, the two girls emerged with dozens of others from their hiding place in the choir storage room and office. They hugged and walked arm in arm, TV camera crews swirling around them, to municipal buses waiting to take the students to tearful reunions.

USA TODAY, April 21, 1999

Within a few blocks of the school Tuesday night, students clung together in tears in the pews of a Catholic church. It was the first of what will be many grief-filled vigils for a heartbroken city and its children.

GRAPHIC: Led away: Police lead away a young man in handcuffs outside Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. , Tuesday.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 21, 1999

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

Embargoed For Release
Until 10:06 A.M. EST
Saturday, December 6, 1997

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Yesterday the community of West Paducah, Kentucky came together to remember the three young girls struck down at school in a terrifying act of violence. Our entire nation has been shaken by this tragedy. West Paducah, on the southern shore of the Ohio River, is at the center of our circle of prayers. America has lost three beautiful daughters. We mourn deeply with the Steger, James, and Hadley families, with those students who were wounded and their families, and with all those whose lives were changed forever by a 14-year-old with a stolen gun.

We may never know what drove the son of a respected church elder to extinguish the lives of classmates bowed in prayer. But in the aftermath we've seen great heroism, generosity and love: a courageous act by a classmate to head off more violence; an outpouring of understanding for the sister of the alleged killer; the donation of organs for patients desperately in need; an entire nation reaching out in support. One terrible act could not poison the deep well of goodness West Paducah has drawn upon in this moment of grief.

Now the rest of us must do everything in our power to prevent such things from happening again. At a time when we're trying to prepare our children for the opportunities of the 21st century, high school seniors are more likely to take weapons to school than to take calculus in school. This is unacceptable. We simply cannot educate our children, and they cannot learn and live up to their full potential, when violence and drugs threaten their safety in school.

One thing we must do right away is to gain a much clearer view of the problem. Sadly, our national picture of school violence is neither complete, nor up to date. We know more about the overall patterns of car theft in America than we do about the harm that comes to our children at school.

So today I'm directing Attorney General Reno and Education Secretary Riley to launch a major initiative to produce for the first time an annual report card on school violence. This report card will contain the data we all need in order to boost efforts to prevent violence from happening in the first place.

School safety is a challenge not only for police and

parents, teachers and school officials; the scourge of young violence poses a challenge to every American. It demands that we do everything possible to find safe places for our children to learn and play and grow. It demands that schools follow a policy of zero tolerance for guns. It demands that we teach our children basic values, the unblinking distinction between right and wrong. It demands that we exercise responsibility when we create images for our children to see. Most urgently, it demands that whenever possible, we reach out to those who may be troubled, angry or alone -- before they do something destructive and perhaps irreversible to themselves or others.

Youth violence represents an insistent, angry wake-up call to every parent, every teacher, every religious leader, every

student. If we answer that call, we can ensure that the memory of Kayce, Nicole and Jessica, will help us to prevent other such tragedies. In the words of the girls' final prayer, we can ensure that their light will shine forever more.

Thanks for listening.

END

202

Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren (53) to dwell together in unity.
cxxxiii. 1.

Old Testament.

	GO Kids	GO Family	GO Money	GO Sports	GO Home
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It's 4pm...			4:00	CLICK
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WIRE:April 20, 9:19 p.m. ET

Teacher lauded as hero in Colorado school shooting

REUTERS 

**RAW
NEWS**

LITTLETON, Colo., April 20 (Reuters) - A teacher was credited with saving the lives of about 60 students at a suburban high school where more than 20 people were killed on Tuesday in a rampage of revenge and suicide.

As students at Columbine High School panicked when they heard gunshots ringing out and started running blindly down a hallway to escape the hail of bullets, a teacher they knew only as Mrs. Miller stopped them and herded them into the school's choir room.

Jake Cram, an 18-year-old senior told reporters how Miller calmed the terrified youngsters. "She ran up to us and said 'Don't go that way. Go into the choir room and hide.'

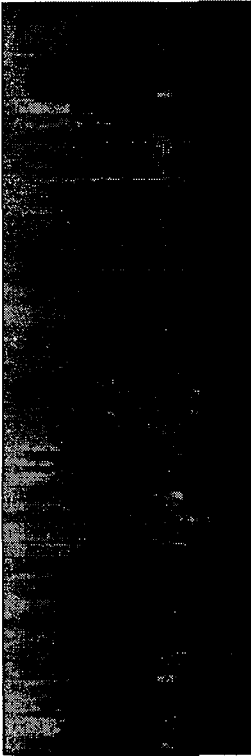
"What she did was awesome. She is a hero. She saved our lives," Cram said.

The students huddled in the choir room as the two gunmen, fellow-students identified as members of an anti-social "gothic" clique known as the "Trench Coat Mafia" roamed the corridors outside, shooting at will.

For the most part, the frightened students sat in silence, trying desperately not to let the gunmen know where they were, Cram said. Some whispered feverishly into cellular phones, calling police and family to let them know they were trapped and in danger. Other sobbed silently.

Cram said some of the girls in the room began to hyperventilate and other students removed ceiling tiles to let in more air.

Their ordeal ended four hours after the shooting began, when they were freed from the school by a police SWAT team and ran for their lives to safety.



Police said the two gunmen were found dead in the school library, where they had taken their own lives, along with at least another dozen victims. Other bodies were scattered elsewhere in the sprawling school that has 1,800 students.

In addition to those killed, about 18 students and teachers were taken to hospital suffering from bullet and shrapnel wounds. About half were described as being in critical condition.

Jefferson County Sheriff's Department spokesman Steve Davis said teams of counsellors from all over the country, including those who counselled families of the victims from the bombing of the 1995 Oklahoma City Federal Building, were travelling to Littleton to counsel relatives and students.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Kampala, Uganda)

For Immediate Release March 25, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
UPON DEPARTURE

Entebbe Airport
Entebbe, Uganda

11:05 A.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Just before I left the hotel this morning, I talked to the Governor of Arkansas and extended my personal condolences and sorrow about the terrible incident in Jonesboro yesterday. I attempted to call the mayor, who is an old friend of mine, but I haven't reached him yet.

I just want to say again how profoundly sad I am and how disturbed I am. I've been thinking about this for the last several hours. This is the third incident in the last few months involving young children and violence in schools, and I'm going to ask the Attorney General to find whatever experts there are in our country on this and try to analyze this terrible tragedy to see whether there are any common elements in this incident and the other two, and whether it indicates any further action on our part.

Today the people in my home state and a town I know very well are grieving. They're suffering losses. And we should focus on that. But I do think in the weeks to come we have to analyze these incidents and see whether or not we can learn anything that will tell us what we can do to prevent further ones.

Q Do you have any thoughts about how to stop this? I mean, if you've been thinking about it, anything come to mind, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't want to say too much until we have a chance to analyze them. I don't know enough about the facts of this incident. The facts of this incident are just now coming out. I've read, obviously, all the latest wire reports I can get, and frankly I'm not sure I know enough about the other two to draw any conclusions.

I don't want the American people to jump to any conclusions, but when three horrible tragedies like this involving young people who take other people's lives and then in the process destroy their own, we have to see if there are some common elements. And we'll look and do our best to do the right thing.

Q Do you suspect that there are some common elements, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the circumstances certainly seem to have a lot in common. What we need to know is what's behind the circumstances. As I said, I think that the American people today should send their thoughts, their prayers, their hopes to the people in Jonesboro. But in the weeks ahead we need to look into this very closely and see what, if anything, we can find. And then if we do find some patterns, we ought to take whatever action seems appropriate.

Q Your trip to Rwanda, could you give us just a little advance word of what you hope to accomplish there, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Obviously, I hope that my trip there will help to avoid further killing along the ethnic lines, and bring the attention of the world to this in a way that will have an impact on ethnic conflicts in other parts of the world. And then I'm going to come back here to the regional meeting that President Museveni has agreed to host, and I hope we'll come out with a statement there that will allow us to make further progress.

Thank you.

END11:08 A.M. (L)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Cape Town, South Africa)

For Immediate Release March 27, 1998

PRESS CONFERENCE BY PRESIDENT CLINTON
AND PRESIDENT MANDELA

Garden of Tuynhuis
Cape Town, South Africa

12:08 P.M. (L)

PRESIDENT MANDELA: Thank you. Please sit down.

President Clinton, a visit by a foreign head of state to a country is, broadly speaking, one of the most significant developments in entrenched strong political and economic relations between the countries concerned. During this last four years, we have received a record number of heads of states and heads of government. They have come from all continents and practically from every country. They have come from the industrial nations; they have come from the developing world. Some have advanced democratic institutions; in others, such institutions are just developing, are only just developing; in others, there are none at all.

We have received all of them, and we have welcomed those visitors because that they have taught us things which we have not known before. We have democratic countries, but where poverty of the masses of the people is rife. We have had countries where there are no popular institutions at all, but they are able to look after their people better than the so-called democratic countries.

I have visited one which is a creditor nation, which has got one of the highest standards of living in the world, which is tax-free, which has got one of the best schemes of subsidy for housing, for medical services, and where education is free and compulsory. And yet, the people in that country have no votes, they have no parliament. And yet they are looked after better than in so called democratic countries. We insist that even in those countries that people must have votes. Even though they may enjoy all the things which the masses of the people in other countries don't enjoy, democratic institutions are still critical.

MORE

So we have received heads of states and heads of government from all those countries. But the visit our country by President Clinton is the high-water mark. And I hope that the response of our parliamentarians yesterday has indicated that very clearly.

Our people have welcomed President Clinton with open arms. (Applause.) And it is correct that that should be so, because President Clinton, as well as the First Lady, Hillary, they have the correct instincts on the major international questions facing the world today. Whatever mistakes that they may have made -- and we have made many -- but there is one thing that you cannot be accused of -- of not having the right instincts. And for that reason, I hold him, and almost every South African, in high respect. (Applause.)

The fact that we have high respect for him does not mean that we have no differences. But I would like to declare that when we have differed on an issue, at the end of that, my respect for him is enhanced because I fully accept his integrity and his bona fides, but such differences are unavoidable.

One of the first heads of state I invited to this country was Fidel Castro. I have received in this country ex-President Rafsanjani of Iran. I have also invited the brother leader Qaddafi to this country. And I do that because our moral authority dictates that we should not abandon those who helped us in the darkest hour in the history of this country. Not only did they support us in rhetoric, they gave us the resources for us to conduct the struggle and the will. And those South Africans who have berated me for being loyal to our friends, literally, they can go and throw themselves into a pool. (Laughter and applause.) I am not going to betray the trust of those who helped us.

The United States is acknowledged far and wide as the world leader, and it is correct, that should be so. And we have, today, a leader, as I have said, whose instincts are always correct. I would like to draw attention to a very important provision in the United Nation's Charter, that provision which enjoins, which calls upon all member states to try and settle their differences by peaceful methods. That is the correct position which has influenced our own approach towards problems.

We had a government which had slaughtered our people, massacred them like flies, and we had a black organization which we used for that purpose. It was very repugnant to think that we could sit down and talk with these people, but we had to subject our blood to our brains, and to say without these enemies of ours, we can never bring about a peaceful transformation in this country. And that is what we did.

The reason why the world has opened its arms to South Africans is because we're able to sit down with our enemies and to say let us stop slaughtering one another -- let's talk peace. (Applause.) We were complying with the provisions of the United

Nations Charter. And the United States as the leader of the world should set an example to all of us to help eliminating tensions throughout the world. And one of the best way of doing so is to call upon its enemies to say let's sit down and talk peace. I have no doubt that the role of the United States as the world leader will be tremendously enhanced.

I must also point out that we are far advanced in are relations with the United States as a result of the efforts of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Vice President Al Gore. That Biennial Commission has achieved, has had a high rate of performance far beyond our dreams. And today America has become the largest investor in our country. (Applause.) Trade between us has increased by 11 percent.

And we have the president of the ANC, who carefully pushed me out of this position -- (laughter) -- and took it over -- the president of the ANC and the Deputy President of this country is one of those who, more than anybody else in this country, is committed to the improvement of relations between South Africa and the United States. I hope that when he succeeds in pushing me to step down from the presidency, that the country will put him in that position so that he can be in a position further to improve relations between us. And I have no doubt that we have no better person than him to complete this job.

President Clinton, you are welcome. This is one of our proudest moments, to be able to welcome you. You helped us long before you became President and you have continued with that help now as the President of the greatest country in the world. Again, welcome. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Thank you and all the people of South Africa for the wonderful welcome you have given to Hillary and me, and to our entire delegation. We have felt very much at home here.

As I have said yesterday in my address to the Parliament, I was very honored to be the first American President to visit South Africa on a mission to Africa to establish a new partnership between the United States and the nations of Africa, and to show the people of America the new Africa that is emerging -- an Africa where the number of democratic governments has quadrupled since 1990; where economies are beginning to grow; where deep-seated problems, to be sure, continue to exist, but where hope for the future is stronger than it has been in a generation.

It is in our profound interest to support the positive changes in Africa's life. Nowhere is this more evident than in the miracle you have wrought here in South Africa.

The partnership between our nations is only four years old, but already we are laying the foundation for a greater future. And I think everyone knows that the most important reason for our success is President Mandela. (Applause.)

His emergence from his many years on Robben Island is one of the true heroic stories of the 20th century. And more importantly, he emerged not in anger, but in hope, passion, determination to put things right in a spirit of reconciliation and harmony. Not only here, but all over the world, people, especially young people, have been moved by the power of his example.

Yesterday Mr. Mandela said that the only thing that disappointed him about our trip was that Hillary and I did not bring our daughter. (Laughter.) Last night our daughter called us and said the only reason she was really sorry not to have made her second trip to Africa was that she didn't get to see President Mandela.

I think that the impact he has had on the children of the world who see that fundamental goodness and courage and largeness of spirit can prevail over power lust, division, and obsessive smallness in politics, is a lesson that everybody can learn every day from. And we thank you, Mr. President, for that. (Applause.)

Today we talked about how the United States and South Africa can move into the future together. We have reaffirmed our commitment to increasing our mutual trade and investment, to bringing the advantages of the global economy to all our people. South Africa is already our largest trading partner in Africa, and, as the President said, America is the largest foreign investor in South Africa. And we want to do more.

The presence here of our Commerce Secretary and leaders from our business community underscores, Mr. President, how important these ties are to us, and our determination to do better. Our Overseas Private Investment Corporation is creating three new investment funds for Africa which will total more than three-quarters of a billion dollars. The first of these, the Africa Opportunity Fund, is already supporting transportation and telecommunications projects here in South Africa. The largest of the funds, worth \$500 million, will help to build the roads, the bridges, the communication networks Africa need to fulfill its economic potential.

Increasing trade does not mean ending aid. I am proud that we have provided almost \$1 billion in assistance to South Africa since 1991. I am committed to working with Congress to return our aid for all of Africa to its historic high levels. We will target our assistance to investing in the future of the Africa people. If people lack the fundamentals of a decent life, like education or shelter, they won't be able to seize opportunity.

I announced in Uganda a new \$120-million initiative to train teachers, increase exchanges, bring technology into classrooms throughout Africa. We're also working to help provide better housing for those who have never had it. Yesterday Hillary, with me in tow, went back a year later to visit the Victoria

Mxenge housing project in Guguletu, where women are building their own houses and living in decent homes for the first time. I'm proud that through our aid projects and our Binational Commission with Mr. Mbeki and Vice President Gore we are providing seed money and technical assistance for this effort. And I want to do more of that throughout this country and throughout the continent.

President Mandela was also kind enough to speak with me at some length about other nations in Africa and our common goals for Africa in the future. We are determined to help countries as they work to strengthen their democracies. We agree human rights are the universal birthright of all people. I also had a great chance to talk to President Mandela about the progress we made at the regional summit in Entebbe. And he had read the communique we put out, and I think that we both agree it was a remarkable document. And if we can make it real, it will change things in a profound way in all the countries that signed off on the statement.

We're also working on security issues, and let me just mention a couple. We are committed to preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction, to strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention, because we both believe disease must never be used as a weapon of war. We are both at the forefront of the effort to eliminate the scourge of land mines. And now we are joining together to speed this work.

As I said yesterday, and I'd like to emphasize again, I am very pleased that our Department of Defense has decided to purchase new South Africa de-mining vehicles, called the Chubbies. The vehicles will help us to remove mines more quickly, more safely, and more effectively. And I might say, that's been a terrible problem the world over. Even in Bosnia where there are so many people, we're not taking enough mines out of the land every week. And the new South African technology will help us immensely.

Mr. President, for centuries the winds that blow around the Cape of Good Hope have been known for strength and danger. Today the winds blowing through Cape Town and South Africa, and indeed much of this continent, are winds of change and good fortune. I thank you for being so much the cause of the good that is occurring not only in your own country, but throughout this continent.

I am deeply pleased that we're committed to harnessing the winds of change together. And as we meet in your nation, which has seen such remarkable hope arise from the ashes of terrible tragedy, let me again thank you. **And let me ask your indulgence as I close just to make a few personal remarks about the terrible tragedy we had in the United States, in my home state, where four children and a school teacher were killed and many others were wounded in a horrible shooting incident.**

First of all, I have called the Governor, the Mayor, and last night I had quite a long conversation with the school principal, to tell them that the thoughts of prayers of people not only in our country, but indeed throughout the world we're with them. I hope, as I have said before, that all of us, including the federal authorities and the members of the press corps will give the people in Jonesboro the chance to grieve and bury those who have died.

And then after a decent period, after I return home, the Attorney General, I, and others have got to compare this incident with the other two that have occurred in the last few months in America to try to determine what they have in common and whether there are other things we should do to prevent this kind of thing from happening. There is nothing more tragic, for whatever reason, than a child robbed of the opportunity to grow up.

Thank you, and thank you again, Mr. President, for everything.
(Applause.)

Q Mr. President, you expressed regret the other day that the United States supported authoritarian regimes in Africa during the Cold War. Today, we buy about 50 percent of the oil from Nigeria, propping up a regime the United States says is one of the most oppressive in Africa. -- what will the United States do --

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, first of all, let me restate what I said because I think it's worth saying again. I said that I did not believe the United States had ever been as good a partner to the African nations and the African people as we could have been, and that during the Cold War, when we and the Soviets were worried about the standoff that we had between us, we tended to evaluate governments in Africa and to pick and chose among them and to give aid to them based far more on how they stood in the fight of the Cold War than how they stood toward the welfare of their people. I stand by that. And I think now we're free to take a different course.

President Mandela and I actually talked at some length about this today, and I, frankly, asked for his advice. And Nigeria is the largest country in Africa in terms of population. It does have vast oil resources. It has a large army. It is capable of making a significant contribution to regional security, as we have seen in the last several months. My policy is to do all that we can to persuade General Abacha to move toward general democracy and respect for human rights -- release of the political prisoners; the holding of elections. If he stands for election, we hope he will stand as a civilian.

There are many military leaders who have taken over chaotic situations in African countries, but have moved toward

democracy. And that can happen in Nigeria; that is, purely and simply, what we want to happen. Sooner, rather than later, I hope.

Q President Clinton, I wonder was the Dow Chemical dispute discussed anywhere, and if so, has there been a resolution of the problem that affects South Africa in particular?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: We only discussed it very briefly. You know what American law is. It was passed by our Congress by almost 90 percent in both Houses, after two American planes with American citizens were illegally shot down in international waters by the Cuban Air Force, and basically says American companies can't do business there.

We are -- the Pope's recent visit to Cuba gave us the hope that we might do more to help the welfare of the Cuban people and to promote alternative institutions, like the church in Cuba, that would move the country toward freedom. And I hope that will happen. But the law is what it is.

Q On regret again, sir, why are you resisting those who are seeking a formal apology from the United States for America's own shameless behavior?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, let me say, first of all, there are two different issues here on the slavery issue. Most of the members of the African American community with whom I talk at home advise me to keep our race initiative focused on the future. (Applause.)

I don't think anybody believes that there is a living American -- I don't think that anyone believes that any living American today would defend, feel proud of, or in any way stand up for the years where we had slavery or the awful legacy which it left in its wake. But we have moved through now in the last 130, almost 140 years, the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments, a spate of civil rights legislation. We're now focused on what still needs to be done, and it's considerable.

So at home we're looking to the future -- to closing the opportunity gap, to dealing with the discrimination that still exists, trying to lift up those communities that have done better than others, as we become not primarily just a divided society between blacks and whites, but increasingly multiracial, not only with our large Hispanic and Native American populations, but with people from all over the world.

Now, in addition to that, what I tried to do the other day in Uganda is to recognize that the role of Americans in buying slaves, which were taken out of Africa by European slave traders, had a destructive impact in Africa, as well as for the people who were enslaved and taken to America. And I think that was an appropriate thing to do. I don't think anybody would

defend what we did in terms of its destructive impact in Africa. No American President had ever been here before, had a chance to say that.

And I think we want more and more African leaders to do what President Museveni did the other day when we were in Entebbe, and he said, I am not one of those leaders that blames everybody else for our problems. I think we've got -- you know, you've got to quit going back to the colonial era, we've got to look to the future.

If you want more Africa leaders to do that, which I do, then it seems to me that we have to come to terms with our past. And stating the facts, it seems to me, is helpful. If we're going to be a good partner with people who are taking responsibility for their own future, we can't be blind to the truths of the past.

That's what -- I think Mr. Mandela has done a remarkable job of balancing those two things here in South Africa. That's why I made the statement I did in Uganda, and I'm glad I did it. (Applause.)

Q President Clinton, I wonder whether you could tell us whether debt relief for Africa has been a topic in your discussions with President Mandela, and whether you will be taking South Africa's views on the subject back into the G-7 and into other international arenas to argue for such debt relief.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, the answer to that question is, we discussed debt relief. I've also discussed debt relief with all the other leaders with whom I have met. We have -- there is presently a proposal, as I think you're aware, that includes not only bilateral debt, but debt to the international institutions, which would permit African countries that are pursuing economic reform to get debt relief to up to 80 percent of their debt.

And I think it's a sound proposal in the sense that -- if it's properly administered by the international authorities -- for this reason. We supported the idea that people should be eligible for debt relief -- more debt relief -- if they were moving toward economic reform, but not saying that everybody had to reach the same point, because people start from -- they start from different places, different countries do -- different per capita incomes, different economic systems, different real possibilities.

So I think that the framework is there. Now, what I pledged to do after talking to all the people with whom I have met -- President Mandela and the other leaders that I saw on the way down here -- is to take a look at how this thing is going to work in fact, and see what I could do to make sure that we give as much aid as we possibly can under this proposal. But I do think it is legitimate to say -- if you want debt relief to unleash the economic potential country so you take the burden

off of it, then when it's all said and done there has to be -- two things have to exist. Number one, you've got to have a set of policies that will produce better results in the future than you had in the past, in any country. And number two, the country has to be able to attract investment, both private and public investment, in the future.

So, for example, if you just had uncritical 100 percent debt relief, you wouldn't guarantee that there would be better policies, number one -- now, that doesn't apply to South Africa, where you do have a good strong economic policy, but generally. Number two, if we did that, other people would be reluctant to loan money in the future because they would think they would never get any of their money back.

So I think the trick is to get enough debt relief to countries to get the debt burden down so they can grow and they're not just crushed and kept from making any progress, but to do it in a way so that the debt relief produces longer-term prosperity. And that's my goal. And, yes, we're going to talk about it at the G-8 meeting in Great Britain. And I will stay on top of this to make sure that what we're trying to get done is actually accomplished. Everybody talked to me about it.

Q Mr. President, during this trip you've spoken out about genocidal violence in Africa, but the sort of random killings you referred to in the Jonesboro killings has terrified people in the United States with alarming frequency. How do you explain that? What can you say now and what can you do now as America's leader to root out such violence from the culture?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, we worked on it very hard for five years, and the crime rates gone down for five years -- the violent crime rate has gone down for five years quite dramatically in many cities.

And I saw an analysis, actually, just before I left home in the documents that I read every Sunday -- I saw an analysis of the declining crime rate which essentially said that, obviously, the improving American economy contributed to the crime rate going down because more people had jobs -- and particularly with regard to property crimes it was more attractive to work than to steal -- but the other reason was that policing and law enforcement and prevention is better now than it was five years ago. And crime is a problem that many societies, especially many more urbanized societies have.

And all I can tell you is that the violent crime rate is going down in our country -- it's still way too high. What I'm concerned about in the Jonesboro case or in the Paducah case or in the case of Mississippi issue is whether we are doing enough to deal with the question of violence by juveniles and is there something else we can do to get it down even more.

Ask President Mandela a question. I'm tired. (Laughter.)

PRESIDENT MANDELA: No personal questions. (Laughter.)

Q Not today; Mr. President. Mr. President, have you raised with President Clinton the question of the United States-Africa growth and opportunity -- and the large number of conditionality clauses in that, and pointed out to him that this would appear to be in conflict with the United States' commitment to free trade?

PRESIDENT MANDELA: Well, this matter has been fully discussed between President Clinton and our Deputy President Thabo Mbeki. And I fully endorse the point of view that was placed before the President by the Deputy President. These matters are the subject of discussions and they are very sensitive matters. And I appreciate the curiosity of the media, but it is better sometimes merely to say this is a matter over which we have serious reservations, this legislation. To us, it is not acceptable. But nevertheless, we accept each other's integrity and we are discussing that matter in that spirit. Yes, we are taking it up.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: If I could just say one thing about it, though. If you all actually go read the bill, I think you will find two things. First, and the most important thing is, if the bill becomes law, it will increase the access of all African nations to the American market, without conditionality. The bill opens up more of the American market to all African trade. The bill then says, for countries that make greater strides toward democracy, human rights and economic reform, there will be greater access still.

But since we are not imposing new burdens on anybody or picking and choosing winners among countries, and instead saying, okay, we're going to unilaterally make an effort to give more access to all Africa countries, but will do even better for the countries that are trying harder on democracy, human rights and economic reform, it seemed to me to strike the right kind of balance.

I, myself, would not have supported it if it had gone in reverse, if it had imposed new burdens on some countries while giving new benefits to others.

Q -- genocide in Rwanda, and you said that the United States should have acted sooner to stop the killing. Do you think that American racism, or what you described as American apathy toward Africa played a role in its inaction? How have you grappled personally with that experience two days ago? And have you considered any specific policy changes, given that this isn't the first time in this century America has been slow to act, that would compel a faster American response in the

future, besides early-warning systems?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Let me say, first of all, I do not believe that there was any -- I don't believe there was any racial element in our slow response. I think that -- keep in mind, I don't think anybody on the outside was prepared for somewhere between 800,000 and a million people to die in 90 days. And look how long it took the United States and Europe through NATO and then through the U.N. to put together the machinery to go in and deal with the Bosnia problem.

So I would just say to you, I think that -- the point I was trying to make is I do believe that generally America has been -- and the whole American policy apparatus has been less responsive and less involved in Africa than was warranted. I think that's a general problem.

But I think in the case of Rwanda, what I believe we have got to do is to establish a system, hopefully through the United Nations, which gives us an early-warning system, that gives us the means to go in and try to stop these things from happening before they start, and then, if it looks like a lot of people are going to die in a hurry, that kicks in motion some sort of preventive mechanism before hundreds of thousands of people die.

I mean, if you look at the shear -- the military challenge presented by those who were engaging in the genocide, most of it was done with very elemental weapons. If there had been some sort of multinational response available, some sort of multinational force available, to go in pretty quickly, most of those lives probably could have been saved. And we're going to have to work this out through the U.N. and then figure out how to staff it and how to run and whether it should be permanent or something you can call up in a hurry, how such people would be trained, what should be done. But my own view is, if we think that that sort of thing is going to happen, it would be better if the U.N. has a means to deal with it in a hurry. And I would be prepared to support the development of such a mechanism.

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Q That brings up the subject of the African Crisis Response Team, who is responsible, and I wondered how your discussions, both of you, went on that.

PRESIDENT MANDELA: We had a long program of very important matters to discuss and, unfortunately, we did not discuss that one. Our attitude toward this question is very clear. We support the initiative very fully. All that South Africa is saying is that a force which is intended to deal with problems in Africa must not be commanded by somebody outside this continent. I certainly would never put my troops under somebody who does not belong to Africa. That is the only reservation I've had. Otherwise, I fully accept the idea. It's a measure of the interest which the United States takes in the problems of Africa, and the only difference is this one about the command of that force.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END12:50 P.M. (L)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Cape Town, South Africa)

Embargoed For Release

Until 10:06 A.M. EST
Saturday, March 28, 1998

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

Cape Town, South Africa

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning.. In the storefronts and shop windows of Jonesboro, Arkansas, there are signs that read, "Our hearts are with West Side Middle School." Even though Hillary and I are far away from our home state, our hearts, too, are with West Side, and with the grieving families whose loved ones were killed or injured in that tragic incident just four days ago.

This is the third time in recent months that a quiet town, and our nation, have been shaken by the awful specter of the families of Jonesboro and all America in mourning this terrible loss of young like -- life so full of promise and hope so cruelly cut short.

We mourn the loss of Natalie Brooke, of Paige Ann Herring, of Stephanie Johnson, of Brittany Varner, and of a heroic teacher, Shannon Wright, who sacrificed her own life to save a child. These five names will be etched in our memories forever, and linked forever with the names of Nicole Hadley, Jessica James, and Casey Steger, of Paducah, Kentucky; and Lydia Kaye Dew and Christian Menefee of Pearl, Mississippi. Our thoughts and our prayers are with all their families today.

We do not understand what drives children, whether in small towns or big cities, to pick up guns and take the lives of others. We may never make sense of the senseless, but we have to try. We have seen a community come together in grief and compassion for one another, and in the determination that terrible acts like these must no longer threaten our nation's children.

Parents across America should welcome the news reported just this month by Attorney General Reno and Education Secretary Riley that the vast majority of our schools are safe and free of violent crime. We've worked hard to make our schools places of learning, not fear; places where children can worry about math and science, not guns, drugs, and gangs. But

when a terrible tragedy like this occurs, it reminds us there is work yet to be done.

I have directed Attorney General Reno to bring together experts on school violence to analyze these incidents to determine what they have in common and whether there are further steps we can take to reduce the likelihood of something so terrible reoccurring.

Already we've seen the remarkable difference community policing has made in our nation's streets. Now we have to apply that same energy and resolve to our schools to make the safer places for children to learn, play, and grow. At school there must be full compliance with our policy of zero tolerance toward guns, and at home there should be no easy access to weapons that kill.

Protecting our children from school violence is more than a matter of law or policy, at heart, it is a matter of basic values, of conscience and community. We must teach our children to respect others. We must instill in them a deep, abiding sense of right and wrong. And to children who are troubled, angry, or alone, we must extend a hand before they destroy the lives of others and destroy their own in the process.

We have to understand that young children may not fully appreciate the consequences of actions that are destructive, but may be able to be romanticized at a twisted moment. And we have to make sure that they don't fall into that trap.

Three towns: Jonesboro, Pearl, Paducah -- too many precious lives lost. The white ribbons that flutter today in my home state of Arkansas are a poignant and powerful challenge to all of us -- a challenge to come together for the sake of our children and for the future of our nation.

Thanks for listening.

END

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Gaborone, Botswana)

For Immediate Release

March 31, 1998

VIDEOTAPED REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
FOR THE MEMORIAL SERVICE IN
JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

THE PRESIDENT: Hillary and I wish we could be with you all as you remember and give thanks for the lives of Natalie Brooks, Paige Ann Herring, Stephanie Johnson, Brittany Varner, and Shannon Wright.

Our prayers have been with their families and with all of you over these last few days. Every one of them made Jonesboro a better place. Every one of them had much to live for and much still to give. For now, you must all be thankful for the cherished memories you have.

Like all of you, I do not understand what dark force could have driven young people to do this terrible thing. As President, I have seen many children killed by political fanatics, but in some ways, this is even harder to grasp. For now, all we can do is to pray for peace and healing for their families, and for Jonesboro. And, indeed, we should pray for the families of the two young suspects, for their suffering, too, must be grievous.

Saint Paul reminds us that we all see things in this life through a dark glass, that we only partly understand what is happening to us. But one day, face to face with God, we will see all things, even as He sees us.

For four fine young girls and an outstanding teacher, that day has come. May God bless them, their families, and all of you.

END

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Dakar, Senegal)

For Immediate Release

April 1, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN INTERVIEW WITH ABC

Le Meridien President Hotel
Dakar, Senegal

8:48 P.M. (L)

Q Mr. President, thanks very much for coming. Why do you think it happened the other day in Jonesboro? I mean, the police have taken into custody two young boys, 13 and 11, and that's just stunning.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know why it happened. And I think we're going to have to wait until we hear something from those young men or their spokespeople, their lawyers or their parents or somebody, to know more than we now know.

But it is troubling that this has happened, this school-related violence now, three times in three states, resulting in the deaths of children in the last few months. For me, this was especially hard because I spent a lot of time in my life in Jonesboro, Arkansas, and the people there have been very good to me, and we've done a lot of things together.

I could barely look at that service in the convocation center, because that convocation center was built as a place of joy and celebration. When I was Governor, it was one of the biggest issues in my campaign in 1982 that I would build that convocation center. And to see it housing all those people in all their grief, it was very sad.

But I think we have to work on two things. I think we have to first of all support the people there, moving from their heartbreak to healing and to getting their hope back. And then I think the Attorney General and the Secretary of Education have got to get all the available information on these three incidents and any others like it, and then see if there is a pattern and whether, from that pattern, we can draw some conclusions about what we should do.

Q When I was a little kid I can remember I'd get angry, and maybe you did too, in the schoolyard or something, but it never occurred to me to plan something like that.

THE PRESIDENT: No. That's why I think we can't know. I mean, there is all kinds of speculation. I think it's just too early to assign blame, but I think everyone should examine the issues. I think every parent should redouble his or her efforts to teach their children right from wrong and to warn them about the dangers of guns, I think not only in the South but throughout the country where there are a lot of guns because people like to hunt and enjoy it and regularly teach their children at a fairly early age -- I think I was 12 the first time I fired a .22.

Q And you're a hunter.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I don't do it much anymore, but I think I was about 12 years old. But, you know, there has to be some extra care taken, where children are hunting, to make sure they understand gun safety and also the profound dangers of it.

And finally I think all this effort that's been made in the last few years to get the television ratings on violence and have movies evaluated for violence, I think we maybe even need to go underneath that and examine whether, in scenes of violence in movies and television, we have to be very careful not to either glorify it or minimize it, make it look almost cartoon-like.

I'll never forget what the principal at Jonesboro told me when we talked after I called her. She said, you know, when I went out there and I - -

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saw those children lying on the ground and I saw one of them horribly disfigured and all those people gushing blood, it was very different from what I see in the movies, she said.

Q Well, we have movies that are violent and L.A. Confidential has won a lot of awards, remember a few years ago Fargo, and television programs on the networks are violent. Do you think there would be something to just saying to Hollywood and to everybody involved, guys, cut it out, or at least cut it down?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what I think about the violence is -- and again, I'm not an expert, which is one reason I'd like to see them review all the literature -- I think the sheer volume of things to which children at an early age are exposed tends to numb their feelings about it. We do have studies on that. So maybe cutting it down is one good thing.

The other thing, I think, is if -- a lot of these stories require the presentation of some violence and it is a part of life. It's a part of a lot of the stories. If a story line requires the presentation of violence, then I think it ought not to either be glorified or cartoonized, if you will. People need to understand it's a serious thing with horrible consequences, because one of the problems with children, of course, and one of

the reasons we assign different levels of responsibility to people as they get older, for their actions, is they can't often fully understand the consequences of their actions.

So you have to bend over backwards to make sure -- we adults do -- that we've done everything we can to make sure they do understand the consequences of certain actions as we present those consequences to them.

Q On that point, it's said that one of these little boys is just now devastated, frightened, said to be frightened, calling for his mother. It's as if suddenly his eyes came open and he was horrified with what he saw.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, as I said, we don't know enough about that. That may well be true. But these children that have been arrested, there will have to be psychological profiles done on them. We'll have to have a lot more facts before we can draw any conclusions. I've tried to be real careful about that. I think all Americans should.

But we know generally we need to make sure there are no guns in schools. We need to enforce the Youth Handgun Act we passed in 1994. And we need to do everything we can to teach the kids right from wrong. And in the places where hunting is a part of the culture and where there are guns around the house, those of us who have been a part of that culture, and those who are, have a special responsibility to make sure that the guns are kept out of reach of people who shouldn't have them. And we need to get these child safety locks on all these handguns and other guns that we can. And we need to support constant drilling about safe use and what the consequences are, because this is a tragedy that will take a long time to get over.

Q You know, in Arkansas as well as several other states, these two young boys, if in fact they happened to have been, as the police believe, involved in this, and are charged, cannot be tried as adults, which would mean that they will get out, if they're incarcerated, at age 18 or 21 at the latest. And already some of the relatives are saying that wouldn't be justice. What do you say?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's something of course we'll have to review. But most states have lowered the age at which people at least can be tried as adults. In our state, in Arkansas, the way it works is a determination can be made -- the prosecutor can ask and then a court can decide that a young person under the age of 18, but 14 or over, could be tried as adults if the circumstances warranted.

It looks to me like one of the things this case will do is probably launch a debate in America about whether there should be some intermediate step. That is, okay, maybe people below a certain age shouldn't be tried as adults, but should there be some means of keeping them incarcerated after their 18th or

their 20th birthday if the circumstances warrant that, either the severity of the crime or concern about their mental condition and stability should they be released.

Again, I'll make no judgment on the facts of this case, but I think that there will be a serious debate about that.

But the real thing is, I'll say again, is to try to prevent things like this from happening in the first place. You just have to -- we have to work very, very hard at hammering home to our children what the consequences of using guns are. We have to keep the guns out of the hands of the kids that shouldn't -- when they shouldn't have them. We need to make sure that the gun safety practices are very strong. They need to be kept out of the hands of kids. The child safety locks ought to be on them wherever possible.

And then, again, I'm hopeful that the Attorney General and the Secretary of Education, when they get all the facts of the these three cases and, as I said, any others, if there are others out there, that they will show a pattern --practice maybe that will tell us something else we can do, if not legislation, then practice, that will reduce the chances that this will happen.

Q What is your hunch? Do you think we're in for an epidemic? I mean, there are copycat crimes, as you know. Until these three incidents that you referred to, I don't recall another one.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know. I hope they're -- I hope not. I think, actually, that the kind of publicity that this incident is getting, and the fact that it's now kind of -- America is now aware that this is the third of three such incidents may break whatever spell there might be out there for copycats.

I know we were concerned several years ago, when I was Governor of Arkansas, when we had some children commit suicide in a small community like Jonesboro, deeply religious, hard-working community. And there seemed to be a little rash around America at the time of children killing themselves. So everybody got together and worked on it, tried to highlight it.

I would be surprised if there is a rash of this, but I would also be surprised if there is not a real effort now on the part of individuals and communities and schools to take actions that will reduce the chance that it will happen again.

I also think that in the community at large and in our schoolrooms, in our churches, in our homes now, everybody is going to be a little more sensitive for children that seem to be withdrawing, seem to be troubled, that seem to be confused.

Again I say, the only really satisfactory response to all this is to try to do those things which will prevent these things

from happening in the first place. Once they happen, you do the best you can to do justice in the particular case, but that's not nearly as good as trying to do those things which will keep them from happening again.

Q You're on a very important trip, as you see it, to Africa, and a lot of other people agree with you, but did you consider at all perhaps going back for the service?

THE PRESIDENT: I thought about it. But when I realized that they -- when I understood that they were willing to -- wanted me to present a videotape, I thought it was the responsible thing to do, because I thought I could do more good for the country by finishing this trip, and I think that was the right decision.

I wanted to be there, not only because it was in my home state and it was a heartbreaking, mammoth, awful thing, but I have spent an inordinate amount of time in that part of Arkansas. The mayor in the town has been my friend a long time -- the county judge and all these people that I've known forever. I just -- it was an awful thing for me personally, and I just grieve for those people.

Q What can you say to them? What do you say to parents who have lost a child this way, or to the relatives of the teacher who was killed? Is there anything that can be said?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't have anything to say other than what I said in my message to them right now. I think that their friends need to hold them close and they need to just -- it takes a long time to heal. And one of the things that I have learned even more since I've been President is that a lot of things happen in this life that cannot be explained or justified, and a lot of living is overcoming the unjustifiable, the madness, and somehow going on.

I would say that I believe the children who perished and the teacher who perished, from all reports, had lived extremely good lives and were extremely good people, and they would want their parents, their siblings, the spouses -- the young teacher's husband -- they would want them to go on living, to look for positive things to live for, to be grateful for the time they had with the children and the teacher.

And at some point you have to lay down the loss. You can never give it up. You can never stop hurting. You can never stop missing. But a choice has to be made to go on and to make the most of whatever is left in life. And I think that's what most people -- most good people who die too young in an unfair way, if they could speak across space and time to their loved ones, would try to lift them up and ease their pain. They wouldn't want them to stay in the grip of hatred. They wouldn't want them to be paralyzed by grief. So I hope they'll be able to find peace and healing and go on.

Q Finally, Mr. President, are you happy to be going tomorrow?

- -

MORE

THE PRESIDENT: You bet. I'm really glad -- I'm getting tired now. We've worked very hard on this trip. But it's been a good thing for our country, I think. It certainly has been an enlightening experience, I believe, for everyone on this trip. I've been immensely impressed by the energy, the intelligence, the passion of the people I've met in positions of power and in the small villages in the countryside.

And I think that we can make a strong partnership with people in Africa that we will need in the 21st century. Among other things, I think most Americans were surprised to learn that American investment in Africa earns a return of 30 percent a year, which is higher than investment on any other continent. We can do well for ourselves by making a good partnership with Africa, and I hope as we go home there will be broad bipartisan support for continuing to deepen this partnership. And I hope it will be followed by a lot of private citizens, business people, and others coming over here and getting involved.

There is a lot to be done here, and a great future here, and I want us to be a part of it.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Thanks for sitting down with us.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Sam.

END 9:03 P.M. (L)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 21, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON RATIFICATION OF NATO ENLARGEMENT

The Rose Garden

1:35 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. I suppose I should begin with an apology for having to dash off and pick up the paper, but I would hate to lose this document after all the effort we put into getting to this point. (Laughter.)

Mr. Vice President, thank you for your leadership on this issue. Senator Roth, Senator Biden, Secretary Albright, Secretary Cohen, General Ralston, Mr. Berger, to the ambassadors of Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and the other members of the diplomatic corps who are here, to Senators Levin and Lieberman and Lugar, Mikulski, and Smith, I thank all of you so much.

Ladies and gentlemen, before we begin I would like to make a couple of brief comments. First of all, let me say I know that all Americans are heartbroken by the terrible shooting at the school in Springfield, Oregon, today. And I would just like to say on behalf of the American people that our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the people who were killed and wounded, and with that entire fine community.

Next let me say that I welcome the wise decision made less than 24 hours ago by President Suharto in Indonesia. It now gives the Indonesian people a chance to come together to build a stable democracy for the 21st century. I hope that the leaders will now move forward promptly, with an open and peaceful transition that enjoys broad public support.

Indonesia is a very great nation -- populous, wide ranging, diverse -- with remarkable accomplishments to its credit in the last few decades. It has a great future. The United States stands ready to work, as we have with other nations in the past, to support Indonesia's leaders and people as they pursue democratic reform.

Finally, by way of introduction, let me say, since we're here to talk about Europe today, I'd like to put in one last plug for the vote in Ireland and Northern Ireland tomorrow. And I suspect all

of you agree with me. And I hope that those fine people will lift the burden of the last 30 years from their shoulders and embrace a common future in peace. (Applause.)

Let me say notwithstanding my good friend Senator Biden's overly generous remarks, we are here today because of the efforts of a lot of people who supported this effort: members of Congress and former members of Congress, present and former national security officials, present and former military leaders, representatives of our veterans, business unions, religious groups, ethnic communities. I especially thank Senators Lott and Daschle, Senators Helms and Biden, and you, Senator Roth, the chairman of our NATO observer group.

You behaved in the great tradition of Truman and Marshall and Vandenberg, uniting our country across party for common values, common interests, and a common future.

It's really amazing, isn't it, that Bill Roth and Joe Biden come from Delaware. I want you to know there is no truth to the rumor that I agreed to move the NATO headquarters to Wilmington in return for this vote. (Laughter.) However, it does say a lot for those small states that these two remarkable men have made such an indispensable contribution to this effort. I thank the other senators who are here for their passionate commitments.

I'd also like to mention one other person, my advisor on NATO enlargement who managed the ratification process for the White House, Jeremy Rosner. Thank you, Jeremy. You did a great job, too, and we thank you. (Applause.)

I see so many people here that -- and I don't want to get into calling names, but I thank Mr. Brzezinski, Ambassador Kirkpatrick, General Joulwan and so many others who are here who have been a part of America's effort over the last 50 years to make sure that after World War II freedom triumphs.

We learned at great cost in this century that if we wanted America to be secure at home we had to stand up for our interests, our ideals, and our friends around the world. Because of the alliances we've built and the work that our people have been able to do here, we near the end of this great century at a remarkable pinnacle of peace, with prosperity and declining social problems at home, and for the very first time ever a majority of the world's people living under governments of their own choosing.

Since World War II, no alliance for freedom has been more important or enduring than NATO. And as we look ahead to the next 50 years, we have to imagine what the world will be like and what it is we expect to do and, in particular, in this case, what about NATO. Today we welcome Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, finally erasing the boundary line the Cold War artificially imposed on the continent of Europe, strengthening an alliance that now,

clearly, is better preserved to keep the peace and preserve our security into the 21st century.

For the 16 of us already in NATO, enlarging our alliance will create three new allies ready to contribute troops and technology and ingenuity to protecting our territory, defending our security and pursuing our vital interest. The 60 million people who live in Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic, they now know that what they build in peace they will be able to keep in security. And America now knows that we have new allies to help us meet the new security challenges of the 21st century -- something that our partnership in Bosnia so clearly demonstrates.

I would say also to the nations who have joined with us in the Partnership for Peace, and others who have considered doing so, and those who hope still someday to become NATO members, we are in the process of adapting this organization to the security challenges of the 21st century, and those who are with us in the Partnership for Peace, those who have been part of our endeavors in Bosnia, we appreciate you as well. We respect your aspirations for security; we share your devotion to your freedom; and we hope this is a day which you can celebrate as well.

We come to this day, thanks to many acts of courage -- courage that toppled the Berlin Wall, ended the Cold War; the sacrifices by those who raised freedom's banner in Budapest in 1956, in Prague in 1968, in Gdansk in 1980; people like Lech Walesa, Vaclav Havel, Arpad Goncz, so many others. The selfless investment of blood and treasure the American people made in freedom in the 20th century

is also something we ought to stop and remember here today. There are so many people whose families gave so much in two world wars and the Cold War who should feel a personal sense of satisfaction and triumph because of this day. And I hope they do.

As we look ahead to the 21st century, again I say, we have to see what we're doing in NATO in the larger context of preparing for a different era. Our goal is to help to build a Europe that is undivided, free, democratic, at peace, and secure; a Europe in which Russia, Ukraine, and other states of the former Soviet Union join with us to make common cause; a dynamic new Europe with partnership for commerce and cooperation.

Therefore, we have supported the expansion of NATO and the Partnership for Peace. We have also supported all efforts at European integration and the expansion of European institutions to welcome new democracies. And we will continue to do so.

We want to imagine a future in which our children will be much less likely to cross the Atlantic to fight and die in a war, but much more likely to find partners in security, in cultural and commercial and educational endeavors. The expansion of NATO and the Partnership for Peace make the positive outcome much more probable.

This is a day for celebration, but also a day for looking ahead. Our work to adapt all our institutions to the challenges of the new century is far from done. On Monday I had the opportunity to go to Geneva to lay out a seven-point plan for the changes I believe the world trading system must embrace in order to fully and faithfully serve free people in the 21st century.

And just very briefly before I close, let me mention the things that I believe we still have to do with NATO. We have to build closer ties with the Partnership for Peace members. We have to reinforce the practical cooperation between NATO and Russia, and NATO and Ukraine. We have to see through our efforts to secure a lasting peace in the Balkans, and we cannot walk away until the job is done. (Applause.) We must achieve deeper reductions in our nuclear forces and lower the limits on conventional arms across the European continent.

Yes, we have more work to do, but for today, we remind the people of Europe that in the efforts that lie ahead, they can continue to count on the United States. And we remind the world that tomorrow, as yesterday, America will defend its values, protect its interests, and stand by its friends. So that years from now another generation may gather in this place and bask in the warm glow of liberty's light, because in our time we fulfilled America's eternal mission: to deepen the meaning of freedom, to widen the circle of opportunity, to strengthen the bonds of our union among ourselves and with others who believe in the primary importance of liberty and human dignity.

Thank you and God bless you all.

END

1:48 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 22, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON TRANSPORTATION

The Rose Garden

3:00 P.M. EDT

[EXCERPT]

Q Mr. President, what will you do about these school shootings? Will you demand, perhaps, a federal age limit? This child actually owned the rifle he used.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, let me say I'm going to address that in my radio address tomorrow. And then, after that I'll be available to answer more questions about it.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

Embargoed For Release
Until 10:06 A.M. EDT
Saturday, May 23, 1998

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

The Oval Office

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This weekend marks the time when we honor the brave men and women who gave their lives to serve our country, and we thank the hundreds of thousands of Americans in uniform who protect and defend us every day all around the world. But this Memorial Day Weekend, Americans are also praying for the people who lost their lives and for those who were wounded when a 15-year-old boy with semi-automatic weapons opened fire in Springfield, Oregon, this Thursday.

Like all Americans, I am deeply shocked and saddened by this tragedy, and my thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families. Like all Americans, I am struggling to make sense of the senseless, and to understand what could drive a teenager to commit such a terrible act. And like all Americans, I am profoundly troubled by the startling similarity of this crime to the other tragic incidents that have stunned America in less than a year's time -- in Paducah, Kentucky; Jonesboro, Arkansas; Pearl, Mississippi; and Edinboro, Pennsylvania.

We must face up to the fact that these are more than isolated incidents. They are symptoms of a changing culture that desensitizes our children to violence; where most teenagers have seen hundreds or even thousands of murders on television, in movies, and in video games before they graduate from high school; where too many young people seem unable or unwilling to take responsibility for their actions; and where all too often, everyday conflicts are resolved not with words, but with weapons, which, even when illegal to possess by children, are all too easy to get.

We cannot afford to ignore these conditions. Whether it's gang members taking their deadly quarrels into our schools, or inexplicable eruptions of violence in otherwise peaceful communities, when our children's safety is at stake we must take action -- and each of us must do our part.

For more than five years we have worked hard here in our administration to give parents and communities the tools they need to protect our children and to make our schools safe -- from tighter

security to more police to better prevention. To promote discipline and maintain order, we are encouraging and have worked hard to spread curfews, school uniforms, tough truancy policies. We instituted a zero tolerance for guns in schools policy. It is now the law in all our 50 states. And we'll work hard to make it a reality in all our communities to keep deadly weapons out of the hands of our children and out of our schools. And we will continue to demand responsibility from our young people with strong punishments when they break the law.

This year, Congress has an opportunity to protect our children in our schools and on our streets by passing my juvenile crime bill, which will ban violent juveniles from buying guns for

life, and take other important steps. We shouldn't let this chance pass us by.

But protecting our children and preventing youth violence is not a job that government can, or should, do alone. We must all do more -- as parents, as teachers, as community leaders --to teach our children the unblinking distinction between right and wrong, to teach them to turn away from violence, to shield them from violent images that warp their perceptions of the consequences of violence.

We must all do more to show our children, by the power of our own example, how to resolve conflicts peacefully. And we must all do more to recognize and look for the early warning signals that deeply troubled young people send before they explode into violence. Surely, more of them can be saved and more tragedies avoided if we work at it in an organized way with sensitivity and firm discipline.

This weekend, we grieve with the families of Springfield, Oregon. We may never understand the dark forces that drive young people to commit such terrible crimes, but we must honor the memories of the victims by doing everything we possibly can to prevent such tragedies from occurring in the future, and to build a stronger, safer future for all of our children.

Thanks for listening.

END

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 22, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON TRANSPORTATION

The Rose Garden

3:00 P.M. EDT

[EXCERPT]

Q Mr. President, what will you do about these school shootings? Will you demand, perhaps, a federal age limit? This child actually owned the rifle he used.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, let me say I'm going to address that in my radio address tomorrow. And then, after that I'll be available to answer more questions about it.

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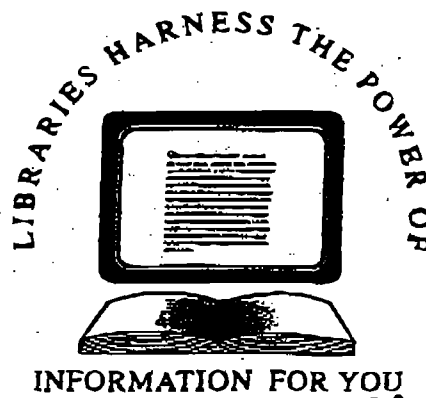
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COMMENTS:



will be neither true nor they have fresh meaning for situation.

ss at the University of Pennsylvania [September 20, 1940]

n talking to you mothers and u one more assurance. I have but I shall say it again and : Your boys are not going to foreign wars.

Campaign speech in Boston [October 30, 1940]

the great arsenal of democ-

Chat [December 29, 1940]

rd to a world founded upon human freedoms. The first is ch and expression—every-ld. The second is freedom of worship God in his own way the world. The third is free- everywhere in the a is freedom from fear . . . world.³

age to Congress [January 6, 1941]

o freedom, and believing in ng to fight to maintain free- others who believe as deeply rather die on our feet than

iving the degree of Doctor of aw from Oxford University

p, 1941]

ember 7, 1941—a date nfamy—the United States ddenly and deliberately at- and air forces of the Empire

War Message to Congress [December 8, 1941]

ve we had so little time in ch.⁵

Chat [February 23, 1942]

killed by fire. People die. No man and no force can . . . In this war, we know

to the American Booksell- ocation [April 23, 1942]

out a tax relief bill provid- needy but for the greedy.

I veto message [February 22, 1944]

urchill, 781:8.

I think I have a right to resent, to object to libelous statements about my dog.¹

Speech at the Teamsters' Dinner, Washington [September 23, 1944]

All of our people all over the country—except the pure-blooded Indians—are immigrants or descendants of immigrants, including even those who came over here on the *Mayflower*.

Campaign speech in Boston [November 4, 1944]

The American people are quite competent to judge a political party that works both sides of a street. *Ib.*

Perfectionism, no less than isolationism or imperialism or power politics, may obstruct the paths to international peace.

State of the Union Message [January 6, 1945]

We have learned that we cannot live alone, at peace; that our own well-being is dependent on the well-being of other nations, far away. We have learned that we must live as men, and not as ostriches, nor as dogs in the manger. We have learned to be citizens of the world,² members of the human community.

Fourth Inaugural Address [January 20, 1945]

More than an end to war, we want an end to the beginnings of all wars.

Address written for Jefferson Day broadcast [April 13, 1945]³

Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Winston Churchill

First, their countries seek no aggrandizement, territorial or other.

Second, they desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned.

Atlantic Charter, drawn up aboard the U.S.S. *Augusta* in Argentina Harbor, Newfoundland [issued August 14, 1941]

Sixth, after the final destruction of the Nazi tyranny, they hope to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries, and which will afford assurance that all the men in all the lands may live

It had been charged that the President's Scottie, Fala, allegedly stranded in the Aleutian Islands, had been brought home by a destroyer at a cost of millions.

See: Socrates, 79:7; Bacon, 180:13; Paine, 385:2; and Garrison, 505:10.

President Roosevelt died on April 12, at Warm Springs, Georgia.

out their lives in freedom from fear and want.⁴ *Ib.*

9 Eighth, they believe that all of the nations of the world, for realistic as well as spiritual reasons, must come to the abandonment of the use of force. Since no future peace can be maintained if land, sea or air armaments continue to be employed by nations which threaten, or may threaten, aggression outside of their frontiers, they believe, pending the establishment of a wider and permanent system of general security, that the disarmament of such nations is essential. *Ib.*

James Stephens

1882–1950

10 I hear a sudden cry of pain!
There is a rabbit in a snare.

The Snare

11 Forgive us all our trespasses,
Little creatures, everywhere!

Little Things, st. 5

12 In cloud and clod to sing
Of everything and anything.

The Pit of Bliss

13 They fell out over pigs, let them fall in over pigs.

In the Land of Youth [1924]

14 Women are wiser than men because they know less and understand more.

The Crock of Gold [1930], ch. 2

Virginia Woolf⁵

1882–1941

15 In people's eyes, in the swing, tramp, and trudge; in the bellow and uproar; the carriages, motor cars, omnibuses, vans, sandwich men shuffling and swinging; brass bands; barrel organs; in the triumph and the jingle and the strange high singing of some aeroplane overhead was what she loved; life; London; this moment in June.

Mrs. Dalloway [1925]

16 Those comfortably padded lunatic asylums which are known, euphemistically, as the stately homes of England.⁶

The Common Reader [1925].

Lady Dorothy Nevill

17 Trivial personalities decomposing in the eternity of print.

Ib. The Modern Essay

¹See Roosevelt, 780:13.

²The talent of this generation which is most certain of survival.—REBECCA WEST, *Ending in Earnest* [1931]

³See Felicia D. Hemans, 470:13.

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USA TODAY

April 21, 1999, Wednesday, CHASE EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 1339 words

HEADLINE: Killers leave massive crime scene

BYLINE: Patrick O'Driscoll

DATELINE: LITTLETON, Colo.

BODY:

LITTLETON, Colo. -- It was three days after the prom, 19 school days from the end of the year. Magic time was upon Columbine High School, a bustling place named after the state wildflower.

But in a senseless spasm of violence Tuesday morning, all the promise and possibility went up in gunsmoke, blood and homemade explosives. A pair of heavily armed students dressed in black, apparently members of a militia-style clique of campus outcasts known as the "Trench Coat Mafia," shot and bombed their way through the halls of the huge school.

When a nightmare hour had passed, they had killed about 25 people before apparently killing themselves in the school library as a massive police siege unfolded outside.

A number of their victims already lay around them, schoolmates executed at point-blank range as they huddled beneath library tables, praying for their lives. Others were spared to tell the horrifying tale.

Bree Pasquale, weeping from shock and terror, told TV cameras that she was in the library when one of the gunmen came in and shot people around her, including a girl who was shot in the head and a student whom Pasquale said was shot because he was black. She said she begged the gunman not to shoot her.

"He put a gun in my face and said, 'I'm doing this because people made fun of me last year,' " she sobbed. She escaped unharmed

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but smeared with blood.

Whatever the reason, the nation must now add another quiet community to its crazy, tragic litany of schoolyard murder and mayhem. Paducah, Ky. Springfield, Ore. Jonesboro, Ark. And now the Denver suburb of Littleton.

The madness began at 11:30 a.m. as some students headed for lunch and others headed to class. Hours later, as darkness fell, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and an armada of other agencies from local police to the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms were still picking slowly through the school.

The killers apparently had rigged their cars in the parking lot outside with some kind of explosives. Strewn throughout the school grounds and halls were more possible bombs.

Waiting for news

As the nation watched on live TV, parents, students, teachers and media pressed against the yellow police tape more than a block away in a chaotic scene of anguish, fear and hope.

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The street outside the school was a virtual parking lot of emergency response: bomb squad trucks, an armored car, dozens of police squad cars, and a fleet of ambulances. Droning overhead were five TV helicopters, watching the hours-long drama unfold on the strangely quiet campus below.

The killers left a chaotic and bloody crime scene so vast that it will take sheriff's and police investigators days to unravel and piece together.

"We've got a massive crime scene here," said Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone.

He lamented that students could have as much firepower as the killers carried.

"The fact that you've got kids with automatic weapons is a concern," Stone told reporters. "What are these parents doing that their kids have automatic weapons?"

Asked what possible motive the killers had, Stone only shook his head and replied, "I wish I had an answer."

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But Stone said it "appears to be a suicide mission. There's been a lot of media attention to these types of incidents around the country."

Asking why

"This is just insane," said Chris Hooker, 18, whose food class was just sitting down to sample a French dessert they'd made themselves when the shooting began.

As a student shouted, "There's someone with a gun downstairs!" Hooker and many others ran for their lives. But in a school with about 1,800 students, an estimated 900 found themselves pinned down as the pop-pop-pop of gunfire and homemade bombs echoed through the halls.

As many as 60 choir members, practicing for a planned performance Tuesday at an elementary school, hid in a teachers' office area just off their classroom.

Using a cellular phone, one of them called for help, whispering, "I'm hiding!" Police advised them to barricade the doors, which

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they blocked with desks.

For three hours, they waited in cramped quarters for a chance at freedom.

Josh Ortwein, 18, was one of them.

"Three hours, lights off, barricaded door," Ortwein said. Students with asthma had trouble breathing. "It was hot, it smelled bad, and it was scary."

He saw two bodies, a boy and a girl, as police led his group out of the building.

In the school office, Matt Cornwell and Jake Cram, both 18, helped keep dozens of other hiding students calm. "He was doing a great job. I'm real proud of him," said Matt's father, Scott Cornwell,

who was outside behind police lines, keeping in touch with his son on a cellular phone.

Outside, the words "Trench Coat Mafia" were on everyone's lips -- or as students like Braden Pesusich knew them, "TCM" for
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short.

Hooker described the group, which wore black, duster-style trench coats to school, as loners who kept to themselves but didn't seem to be a problem.

"They all hung out together. They didn't have many friends. They got made fun of a lot," added Jonathan Vandemark, 16, one of about 60 students who hid in a biology classroom until police SWAT commandos led them out, past three lifeless bodies on a stairway.

With the awful confusion inside the high school walls, SWAT team members took no chances. Students being evacuated were frisked and marched with hands behind heads as they made their dash for freedom.

"They patted us down like three times," Vandemark said.

Heroes emerge Within hours, the first stories of heroism in the face of death began to emerge. Rick Kaufman, a spokesman for the Jefferson County Public Schools, said Columbine Principal Frank DeAngelis "saw one of the gunmen and was able to push students
USA TODAY, April 21, 1999

into another location and protect those students." The principal survived as well.

When panicked students started running blindly down a hallway to escape, a teacher they knew only as Mrs. Miller stopped them and herded them into the school's choir room.

Cram was one of them. He told reporters how she calmed terrified students as the two gunmen roamed the corridors outside, shooting at will.

"What she did was awesome. She is a hero. She saved our lives," Cram said.

Down the street, the public library, also called Columbine, became a place where stunned students and worried parents kept vigil.

At nearby Leawood Elementary School, the official reunion point for families and students, a list posted on an outside wall tallied student names and where loved ones could find them. Others who had fled earlier huddled together in houses in this quiet suburban neighborhood about a dozen miles south of downtown Denver.

USA TODAY, April 21, 1999

Over the next three hours, groups of students and teachers scrambled to freedom in fits and spurts.

Frantic parents such as Kristi and Dale Vest stood behind the police barrier, craning their necks for a glimpse of their daughter, Kami, and niece, Kendra Curry, both 18. Like many others, they'd spoken with their daughter by cellular phone.

"She said they were OK and they were hiding, whispering and not saying a lot," Kristi Vest said.

She paused to reflect on her daughter's graduation from high school, just weeks away.

"I thought, you know, scot free," she said, thinking her daughter had sailed through some of the hardest years of adolescence intact.

Another hour and a half later, the two girls emerged with dozens of others from their hiding place in the choir storage room and office. They hugged and walked arm in arm, TV camera crews swirling around them, to municipal buses waiting to take the students to tearful reunions.

USA TODAY, April 21, 1999

Within a few blocks of the school Tuesday night, students clung together in tears in the pews of a Catholic church. It was the first of what will be many grief-filled vigils for a heartbroken city and its children.

GRAPHIC: Led away: Police lead away a young man in handcuffs outside Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. , Tuesday.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 21, 1999

CNN BREAKING NEWS, April 20, 1999

Anybody -- looks like they're going to stop these guys because they're wearing black. But we don't see any guns there. And so we believe these guys were just in the area and they were stopping them just as a precaution. Are we as lucky to have these three guys locked up here?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: They've got them at gunpoint.

WALSH: One is going down right now on to the ground. There's a gentleman you can see, an officer in a yellow shirt. He's probably -- he's between the two cars. I just saw him take one down on the ground. The other two are still standing there with their hands behind their heads.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And are there other police now on the way there or along with you at that scene Kathy, can you tell us?

WALSH: There are a lot of paramedics at this scene. There are other officers in different areas. Actually, all eyes are, believe it or not, not on that particular scene. There are still people working with some students and helping out other people. I'm not sure that anybody can tell me exactly what's going on out there. Now people here behind me are shaking their heads, and they're telling me that they're just checking everybody out and these guys might have been in the wrong place at the wrong time, correct? That may well be the situation. Here comes another police car, as you can see, and somebody jumping out of that. Somebody from the front seat there, on the right.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Obviously, the officer there, the Jefferson County Deputy that is over the vehicle, he's having some kind of communications with the two guys that we see here on the screen, asking them to back up toward the vehicle. It looks like they put the one guy down on the ground and possibly put handcuffs on him.

WALSH: He's up now. Like you said, he may have had handcuffs. It looks like he's up now. And maybe he's going to end up in the car, I'm not sure. As I've said, we're pretty far away. Photographer -- Photojournalist Dale Acheson (ph) probably has a better view than I do through the camera lens.

But the situation is tense, there's no question. And as one of the gentleman here told me here, one of the paramedics, he said, you know, they are stopping anybody. And here you can see, one of the officers taking the one you said, who has the handcuffs on or is somehow restrained, it appears that he is moving that person into the car.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Kathy, where are you right now?

WALSH: We are at Kaylee (ph). We are at South Yukon Court and West Kaylee Drive. This is the same spot that we have been at where I told you they had the triage. This was sort of the make shift emergency room, from the time all of this happened. This was where students were running and carrying their friends who were bleeding. This is where the first person who showed up on the scene who told me who was a hospice nurse who happened to be working in the neighborhood with someone. And this is where all of the ambulances have converged, or at least many ambulances have converged. We saw at least nine -- at least nine, I'd say -- people transported from this area, some with very severe wounds. Some superficial. We even talked with one man who had some wounds in his chest.

CNN BREAKING NEWS, April 20, 1999

All right, now you see SWAT team members, it appears to be, coming from the right, heading over. And this is Clement Park I'm told; this is the name of this park? And they are headed over, guns drawn. Weapons drawn.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: How close are you to the high school?

WALSH: That's a good question. I -- you know, I can't even see the high school from here. I can see the park. How far away are we from the high school, anybody.

About a quarter of a mile, I'm hearing. It's up over the hill. There's a big berm, sort of a hill over there, so we can't even see the high school. But this has been a very active spot. I think it was, you know, like, let's get people out of there, and they came right into this neighborhood, where I guess they had communications and telephones and streets to get in with they'd be far away from the school to work with the wounded.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Can you tell us, Cathy, before we came to you, we saw -- the first picture with the young men with their hands up in the air. Can you tell us before that, did these young men have any sort of weapons that would be visible to you?

WALSH: I have to tell you I saw them probably about the same time you did. I said, Dale, shoot, and we looked over and there they were. So, I don't know that they had any kind of weapon.

KAGAN: We continue to bring our live coverage of the situation just outside of Denver. Right now we're seeing an aerial shot from a helicopter from our affiliate KMGH, this situation taking place very close to Columbine High School. Police apparently have three men -- young men, boys -- taking them into custody. Whether they're suspects in this case is not really clear. Let's just go ahead and listen in to the coverage.

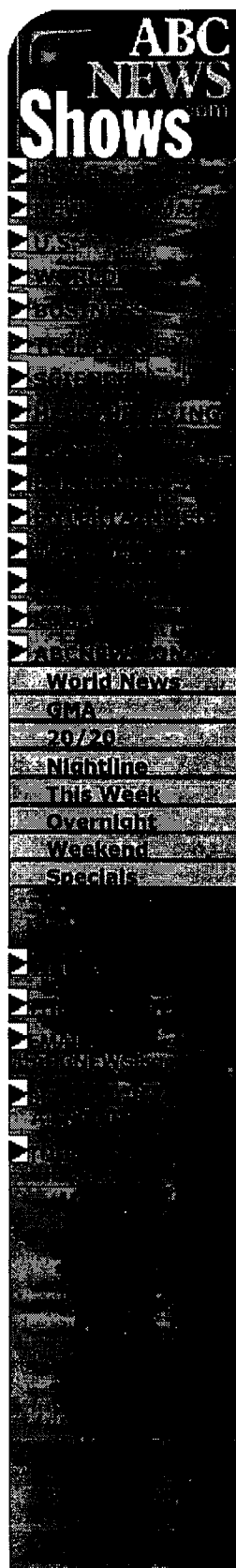
UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: So we're going on a couple of hours now. A little over two hours.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: As Gina mentioned just to look at this as we are looking at it live with you. It certainly appears that these two people are dressed in a fashion that many of the students we have talked to this afternoon have mentioned, dressed in black clothing. A couple of them we were told were seen in masks earlier, and a couple of the witnesses, students also told us that they didn't have masks on, and they recognized them at that point. One of the men being handcuffed and taken into custody right there as you look at it live.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You can see that they're checking inside their jackets, inside their shirts for weapons, as we have had many of the students describe the suspects dressed all in black who were carrying several weapons -- armed to the nines, basically -- and as they take them into custody now you can see that they were checking to make sure they weren't armed or at least did not have any weapons on them that they could use at the time.

KAGAN: This is Daryn Kagan at CNN in Atlanta. We are going to go ahead and switch over pictures to our affiliate KUSA also out of Denver, Colorado. The situation we've been following here for a couple of hours.

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And Now Littleton

Nightline

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

(This is an unedited, uncorrected transcript.)

TED KOPPEL Think about this—in four weeks of air action against Serbian targets in Yugoslavia and Kosovo, the US military has yet to suffer a single casualty. In a few hours of mindless violence today at a suburban high school outside Denver, two kids are believed to have killed and wounded about 50 of their classmates and then killed themselves.

As we all begin to process what happened and begin to wonder why, consider this. According to one of the students from Columbine High School, who will be joining us in a few minutes, the shooters may have belonged to a group that was known as the Trench Coat Mafia. There were about eight or 10 of them who wore black trench coats to school every day no matter what the weather and some of them used to draw swastikas on their body. It may or may not be relevant, but today, April 20th, would have been Adolph Hitler's 110th birthday. When you're trying to explain why high school students would blow away 25 or more of their classmates, wounding a similar number, one theory seems to be as good as the next. So what did happen today in Littleton, Colorado, this place that most of us had never heard of until today? Here's ABC Correspondent Judy Muller.

JUDY MULLER, ABCNEWS (VO) Shortly after 11:15 Mountain Time, the first signs of trouble. Outside Columbine High School in the parking lot, students hear the sound of gunfire.

JAKE APODACA, SHOOTING EYEWITNESS

And we looked over and we saw some guys peeking around the corner with guns and we saw them shoot three people in the parking lot and we—they looked ...

CHRIS WISHER That's when we knew it was real.

JAKE APODACA Yeah.

JUDY MULLER (VO) They saw the gunmen throw

SUMMARY

Two students went on a killing spree at a school in Littleton, Colorado.

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Two students went on a killing spree at a school in Littleton, Colorado.
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grenades or pipe bombs on top of the school roof. A number of witnesses recognized the two as members of a group called the Trench Coat Mafia.

2ND STUDENT They, like, wear trench coats every day to school and wear makeup and like paint their nails and stuff. They were just like, you know, I don't know everyone kind of thinks of them as different and they always just hang out with themselves only, like kind of associate themselves with like death and violence.

JAKE APODACA They always wear black clothing or dark clothing, glasses, berets.

CHRIS WISHER They get made fun of.

JAKE APODACA A lot.

CHRIS WISHER Not a lot of kids like them.

JAKE APODACA Yeah.

JUDY MULLER They get made fun of a lot?

CHRIS WISHER Yeah.

JAKE APODACA By other students all the time.

JUDY MULLER (VO) 11:30, the fire alarm was sounded. School teacher Paula Reed hustled her students out.

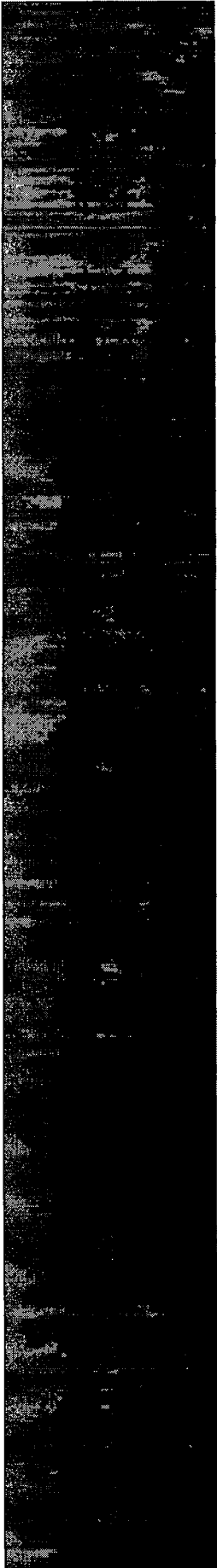
PAULA REED, TEACHER As I got outside the building, right outside the building, teachers and administrators were yelling to the kids, get them out of here, get them out of here, get them all the way to the park.

JUDY MULLER (VO) At first, she said, there was no panic.

PAULA REED Kids started to run out of the gymnasium saying there's people in there with guns. But the general reaction from most of the people around me was yeah, right, because there are no guns to speak of at Columbine. At least that's our perception of things.

JUDY MULLER (VO) But many students were trapped inside the building. For the next hour and a half, the two gunmen made their lives hell as they roamed the hallways, classrooms and cafeteria, firing in every direction.

NICK FOSSE (PH) I heard people pray for their husbands, their children, you name it. And at that



point these guys were killing just to kill.

JUDY MULLER (VO) Senior Nick Fosse witnessed the horror before he managed to escape.

NICK FOSSE I've never seen so many dead people in my life, and some of my friends are dead. You know, I've never seen someone's face shot off in front of me. It's not cool, not pretty. I can't get it out of my head.

JUDY MULLER (VO) Some of the worst carnage was in the library.

3RD STUDENT There was a guy at a table right next to us, right next to me and her and they just shot him and then walked away and then he was just sitting there in a pool of blood.

4TH STUDENT We all got under the desk and then they just started coming in the library and opening fire and shooting off bombs.

5TH STUDENT Bombs.

JUDY MULLER (VO) By noon, police SWAT teams had surrounded the building. They pulled students out whenever and however they could. One student who had been wounded was pulled through a second floor window. At a time when students would normally be finishing their lunch and returning to class, they were still fleeing, many taking refuge in nearby houses. The scene was chaos as paramedics tried to treat the wounded and parents tried to locate their children. Some of them were reunited at a nearby school, all the while inside the Columbine High School the shooting continued. At 12:15, the first of the wounded were taken to nearby hospitals. At approximately 1:00 PM, nearly one and a half hours after the shooting began, the SWAT team entered. Dozens of students ran out with their hands in the air. Police were wary that the gunmen might try to escape by blending in with the crowd. (on camera) As the afternoon wore on, the wait became excruciating for those parents who had still had no word of their children. Many of them gathered here at a local public library near the school where lists had been posted of names of children who had called in to let their parents know they were all right. For those who could not find the name on the list they were looking for, it was a very, very long day. (VO) Between 2:00 and 4:00 PM, the scene in this neighborhood was one of extremes—joy when families were reunited and despair when the minutes ticked by with no news. Every now and then an official would read off an updated list of those found. Then, at 4:16 PM, the sheriff held a news briefing to deliver the news

everyone feared.

JOHN STONE, JEFFERSON COUNTY

SHERIFF Well, we've transferred initially 14 to local area hospitals with gunshot wounds and we've had, from what I understand, 25 additional victims that were deceased.

JUDY MULLER (VO) 7:00 PM, parents, students, teachers and neighbors gather at the Light of the World Catholic Church, just a few blocks from the high school and throughout this stunned community people were repeating the same thing that too many other communities have said in recent years.

PAULA REED I just keep thinking that this does not happen at our school and that I'm going to wake up and this is going to be over. Because, God, not at Columbine, you know? It happens in some other school somewhere else. It doesn't happen here.

JUDY MULLER (on camera) Now that it has happened here, the gruesome but all too familiar denouement begins—the search for a motivation, the calls for tighter gun control, the counseling sessions at school and the endless, endless grief. In Denver, I'm Judy Muller for *Nightline*.

TED KOPPEL Tomorrow morning's "Denver Post" identifies the two suspects as 18-year-old Eric Harris and 17-year-old Dylan Klebold (ph). Both reportedly died of self-inflicted gunshot wounds. Joining us now from outside the scene of today's tragedy, John Stone, the Jefferson County sheriff. Rough day, huh sheriff?

JOHN STONE Rough day. Sad day for Colorado.

TED KOPPEL A sad day for the country. What is it that you can tell us about the situation inside that building now, because I gather you still haven't been able to remove the bodies?

JOHN STONE That's correct. We have an unsafe situation due to the amount of bombs we found in the school. We've removed 12 of them out of there so far. We're running into booby traps at different locations and due to the late hour here right now we're going to secure the site for the night. We can't even go in and remove bodies or do any of that identification because of the massive amount of ordinance that we run into in the building. It makes it an unsafe situation right now.

TED KOPPEL When you talk about bombs, what are you talking about, pipe bombs or grenades? What ...

JOHN STONE I haven't seen any of the devices yet but a lot of them are handmade devices. We've exploded several of them. We found them both outside in the parking lot of the school, outside of the school area and so far a dozen of them in the school.

TED KOPPEL When you find them, and you've referred to booby traps, in what way are they set up to explode?

JOHN STONE Well, we found one device on one of the suspect's cars. It was set to detonate the gas tank as our offices were trying to secure it. We've got ordinance on the bodies of the suspects that needs to be deactivated before we can move those bodies.

TED KOPPEL So in other words, if I hear you correctly, before they killed themselves they booby trapped their own bodies?

JOHN STONE That, there's evidence of some of that on those bodies.

TED KOPPEL I did say before they killed themselves and I think I have heard that, but I'd like to hear you confirm it. Are you satisfied that they committed suicide or did they shoot one another or what happened?

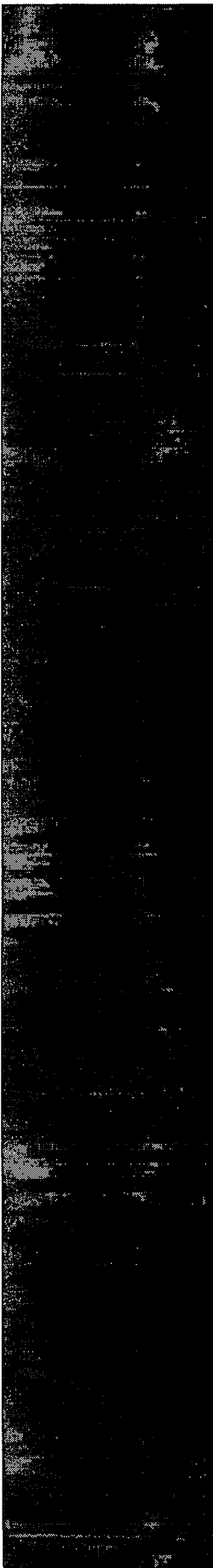
JOHN STONE We suspect, we suspect that they probably killed themselves.

TED KOPPEL What is, have you been inside the building yourself or has that been ...

JOHN STONE No. No, the only people we've got in the building were the SWAT units that went in and did the initial sweep, which took several hours. We've had five SWAT teams operating in there, including the Denver Police Department, the FBI's, our SWAT team, the Rapaho County (ph), and it took us a considerable amount of time to do it because of the things we were running into we weren't expecting, like those bombs. We had explosions in the school upon our initial entry. We had our officers, the school resource officer and one of the motorcycle units on the initial entry exchange gunfire with the, one of the suspects. It was a very unsafe situation here.

TED KOPPEL Has anybody been hurt by any of the bomb explosions or have, in fact, any of the bombs exploded?

JOHN STONE We have had bomb explosions in the school and as far as the scene, we have not been able to examine the bodies well enough to know whether



they were hit by bomb fragments or by weapons fire. But there was considerable weapons fire as well as the bombs detonated in the school.

TED KOPPEL You've obviously got, Sheriff, a really terrible human tragedy on your hands there, but particularly tonight in the sense that all the parents whose children have not yet been identified, they can't know yet. I mean they don't know for sure one way or the other. What's being done to help these folks through the night?

JOHN STONE Well, we had all of the victims' families and things over at one of the neighboring schools right now and we've been briefing them as much as we possibly can on what's going on. We want to get this identification process done as soon as possible but we want to do it safely. We don't need anymore tragedies out here.

TED KOPPEL No, absolutely not. But when I say there's still this level of uncertainty, in other words, you don't know for sure who is dead in there and all you've been able to do is, in a sense, identify people by process of elimination, I guess.

JOHN STONE That's correct.

TED KOPPEL And are the parents, I don't even know what word to use, are they satisfied with that? Are they able to put up with that for now?

JOHN STONE Well, I think because of all that we've encountered here tonight and the fact that there's been people here when we've been detonating the bombs, the community considers this a very real threat. We had another bomb that apparently went off as a diversion in another part of this neighborhood down here prior to our arrival that could have been maybe to draw cars or something into, over to that scene.

TED KOPPEL You've had a couple of other arrests, I gather. Is it just because you feel these are people who were associated with the suspects or that they themselves may be suspected of participating?

JOHN STONE Well, we had three individuals we picked up that were dressed paramilitary trying to go on to the school scene at the same time this was going on. From the information we gathered, they are associated with these suspects, but whether they were part of this plot today still is to be determined. There's a lot of investigation to be done on this.

TED KOPPEL They're under arrest at the moment or are they being held at the moment?

JOHN STONE They were being held earlier. I haven't had a chance to check on the status of what exactly they're—is going on with them right now.

TED KOPPEL All right, Sheriff Stone, it's good of you to have taken the time. Thank you very much.

JOHN STONE OK, thank you.

TED KOPPEL When we come back, we'll meet three of the students who witnessed today's horrific events.

(Commercial Break)

TED KOPPEL The two students believed to have done the shooting clearly belong to a larger group. Tonight, Tom Foreman reports a lot of questions are being asked about the students with the black coats.

TOM FOREMAN, ABCNEWS (VO) While SWAT teams were still trying to find the gunmen inside the school, police outside were stopping several other students who were allegedly trying to get in. Witnesses say those students who were detained were also members of the gang known as the Trench Coat Mafia. Nicole and Amanda Wiggin (ph) knew the gang members.

NICOLE WIGGIN So they just kind of walk around with big black trench coats and ...

AMANDA WIGGIN Yeah. They play war in the school all the time.

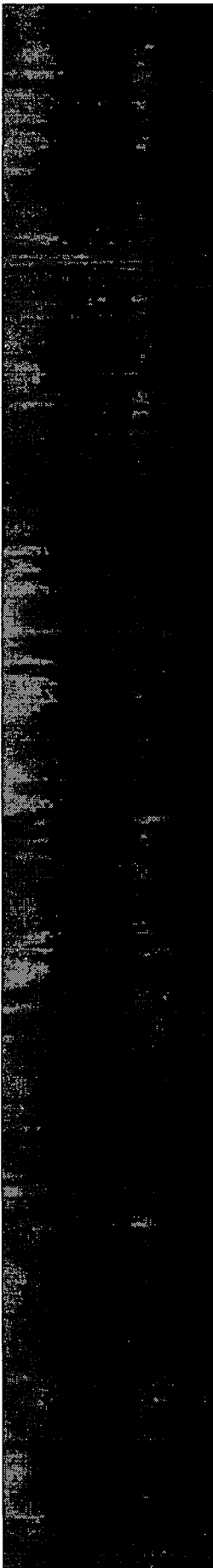
TOM FOREMAN What do you mean they play war?

AMANDA WIGGIN They just pretend that they're in war. They usually have like just regular like small play guns or whatever and pretend that they're playing.

TOM FOREMAN (VO) Columbine students say the gang was comprised of about a dozen teenagers. They were known to talk about violence and death and often threaten people, taking a particular dislike to minorities and athletes. But almost no one took the threats seriously.

CHRIS WISHER We were just joking that they started a war.

JAKE APODACA Yeah. I'd always say that they'd do that but I was just joking. I never actually thought they'd really do it.



TOM FOREMAN (VO) Indeed, some students say even when gang members bragged about getting new guns and made a video about their guns in a class, they were largely considered a joke. The two students believed to be the gunmen were teased and ridiculed. Teachers say in that regard this school was like any other.

PAULA REED Yeah, I could say that there would be some kids who feel very disassociated from the school and that's hard for kids, especially at this age. But boy, if you had asked me yesterday if any of our kids would come in and shoot people —

TOM FOREMAN (VO) Police say they never heard of the gang before today.

UNIDENTIFIED POLICE OFFICIAL You know, I talked to some school officials and they informed me that they hadn't had any problems with these two and that there were no real disciplinary problems at all with them.

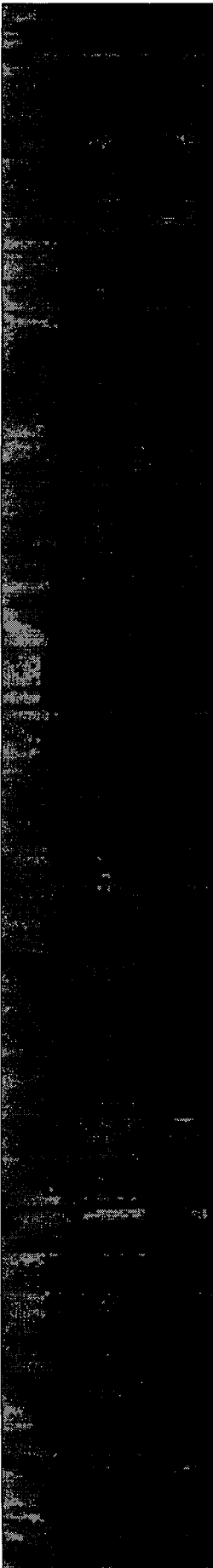
TOM FOREMAN (VO) Tonight, police are searching the homes of the two young men they say were the gunmen, hoping to find some clue as to what triggered this extraordinary and terrible burst of violence. (on camera) There has been so much confusion here today, it's difficult to tell what all happened. But one young girl I spoke to said during the shooting she heard the gunmen shouting at some of their victims as loud as they could, this is what you get for the way you've treated us.
Ted?

TED KOPPEL Tom, I gather you know this neighborhood particularly well.

TOM FOREMAN Yeah, Ted, I live just a few miles away from here. I know a lot of the people who work in the school. I know some of the students who went to school there. I don't know any of the victims. But this is a neighborhood that's always had a very active school community. It's a park where people play with their kids right behind the school. It's been the kind of place that an awful lot of people moved to, in fact, thinking that they were getting away from this kind of violence in other areas and people are very, very shocked and stunned tonight.

TED KOPPEL I mean, can you think of any acts of violence that have taken place there at all over the past year or so?

TOM FOREMAN None that were large enough that they would attract particular community interest. The high schools down here certainly have had some



problems, as any high schools would in large areas. They're big high schools. But there haven't been any particular violent episodes right at that high school. There were a couple of shootings at the mall not terribly far from there over the past, I'd say year and a half, but those seem to be isolated and seem to involve different gang members, as gang shootings seem to go. But nothing at the high school itself. And in fact, that's part of what has stunned so many people here is they thought it was a good high school without these kind of problems and of course it was a good high school and nobody expected this to happen there.

TED KOPPEL Tom Foreman, thanks very much. Joining us now live, three of the students who attend Columbine High School, all sophomores. Joshua Lapp was in the library doing his math homework when the shooting began. Chris Wisher and Jake Apodaca were in the back of the school in the parking lot when they heard what they thought were gunshots. So guys, let me begin with the two of you. Tell me when you realized they were gunshots. Either one of you.

CHRIS WISHER Yeah, well, we were in back of the school and at first we heard, we heard what sounded like some kind of fireworks or firecrackers going off. So we, I, we just didn't act, think much of it. And we came back up closer to the school and we looked up and we heard shots going everywhere and we noticed a kid in a trench coat and a kid in a white shirt stand—the kid in the trench coat was, had a gun drawn and he was shooting just everywhere. It was some kind of shotgun. The kid in the white was just standing there and I think there was some kind of other, I think there was another one with a gun somewhere else cause I could hear shots from a different kind of gun coming from somewhere else. We saw three people get shot and we didn't really know what was going on. Then we looked up and one of the gunmen turned towards us and started shooting. So we just fell down to the ground and just sat there for a while covering our heads. And once we knew that they were done shooting, we stood back up and we saw the kid in the white on the side of the school start throwing some kind of bomb on top of the school. It was a grenade or some kind of bomb. And at that time we just ran.

TED KOPPEL Jake, do you know either of these kids? I mean even now when you hear their names, do you know who they are? Do those names mean anything to you?

JAKE APODACA I knew one of the kids, the kid that was shooting at us. I recognized him and I'd seen him around school a lot. But I wasn't like friends with

him or anything.

TED KOPPEL What do you know, what do you know about him? Tell me, as a matter of fact, tell me what you know about the Trench Coat Mafia? I mean that's, did anybody take those kids seriously?

JAKE APODACA Not really. Everybody just kind of makes fun of them a lot and they're just, they're just the kids that stick out a lot and kind of the freaks of the school.

TED KOPPEL Josh, did you know any of those kids?

JOSHUA LAPP I'd seen them in the halls before. I'd never really talked with them. I've seen them in the halls and that's about it.

TED KOPPEL Now, you know, the group, the gang, when I say did anybody take them seriously, I mean, what, what was the assumption about them? I hear that some of them were actually, in fact, the two guys who appear to have done this were known as really smart guys. Did you know anything about them?

JOSHUA LAPP Yeah, they were both very smart, computer wise. They were very intelligent towards computers. Other than that, people kind of stayed away from them because they didn't know what they'd do. A lot of times they'd react in the halls to somebody saying hi to them and just get up in their face and get mad at them for nothing and it was just, nobody really knew what to expect from them.

TED KOPPEL I'd like to hear a little more about that, but we're just going to take a short break. We'll be back with more from the students in a moment.

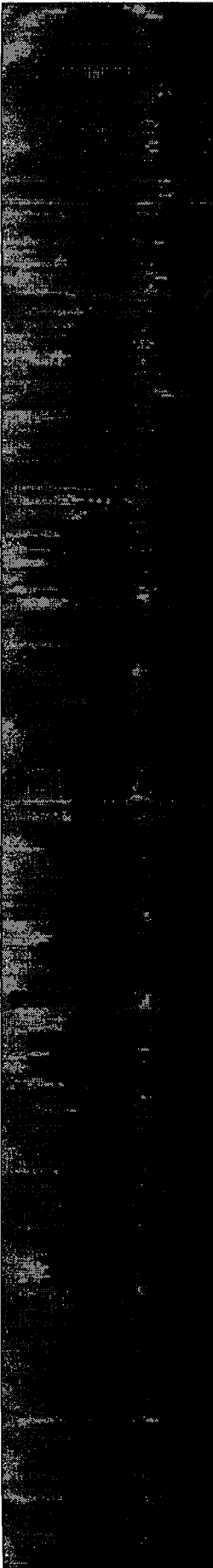
(Commercial Break)

TED KOPPEL And we're back with Joshua Lapp, Chris Wisher and Jake Apodaca, three students at Columbine High School.

Josh, I'd like to go back to you and back to the issue of the kids were really smart, you say, with computers, so smart, I gather, that sometimes even the teachers would come to them?

JOSHUA LAPP Yeah. From what I knew they would have trouble in the tech lab with computers and sometimes they would call several students from what we called the Trench Coat Mafia in to see what they thought of the situation.

TED KOPPEL Let me take you back to earlier today because you were, I gather, right in the middle of it



and at one point quite literally came face to face with these two guys. Just talk about what led up to that and how and why you think you made it out of there.

JOSHUA LAPP Why I made it out of there, I just say that it was the luck of where I sat or the luck of where god sat me. The reason why they did it, I have no clue other than maybe cause they were ridiculed so much by what we considered the jocks.

TED KOPPEL Now, I wanted you to explain, if you, would, Josh, cause you were right in the middle of what happened, just explain what did happen.

JOSHUA LAPP We were sitting, everybody was sitting there doing their homework. A teacher that was in on hall duty came running in yelling that there was students with guns. At the time that she said that I didn't believe her. I thought it was some kind of prank or some sort of thing like that. So I started to go out into the hall. I didn't make it very far before I heard gunshots and decided that that wasn't very smart. So I ran and hid back underneath my desk as the teacher had told us.

TED KOPPEL They came into the classroom then?

JOSHUA LAPP It was the library and it took them about five minutes to get into the library while we were underneath the desk.

TED KOPPEL Now, there was one African—American kid that I gather they seemed to seek out.

JOSHUA LAPP Yeah. They were on the, over close to the windows that saw the outside and I know there's a row of desks. While they were over there, they said, "Look, there's that little nigger." Three shots were fired. Then after that one of them said, "Is he dead?" There was a pause and the other one said, "Yes, he's dead."

TED KOPPEL And then?

JOSHUA LAPP And then they just proceeded on going around the library looking under desks and shooting the people that were underneath the desks.

TED KOPPEL Now, did you have the sense that they were looking for anyone in particular?

JOSHUA LAPP Well, when they first came in they said is there, if all the jocks would stand up. And then nobody stood up. And they said, "If you're a jock, you're dead. If you're in here, you're dead." So I took that as they were seeking for jocks. And then when

they said what they said about the African—American kid, it just seemed to me that they were after a certain sort of people.

TED KOPPEL Now, Chris, I gather that you at one time or another had seen some of these, these kids, the Trench Coat Mafia kids, with swastikas on their bodies. Talk about that for a minute, tattoos or they just sort of drew them on their bodies?

CHRIS WISHER I didn't really see any tattooed on them. They would draw it on their clothes a lot and their bodies. They would just draw it. I haven't seen any tattoos.

TED KOPPEL I don't know if you heard me mention at the top of the program, today is Adolph Hitler's birthday. Do you think that has anything whatsoever, I mean do you think that means anything to these guys?

CHRIS WISHER Oh, I don't know.

TED KOPPEL Jake, I've also heard that some kids seem to feel there is something about the date 4/20, April 20. Can you help me with that? What's that about?

JAKE APODACA Well, 4/20 is another word for marijuana and it's the fourth month and the 20th day so they just kind of take that as kind of a holiday, I guess.

TED KOPPEL When you say a holiday and who's they? Who are you talking about?

JAKE APODACA Well, like everybody that smokes weed or does drugs, I guess.

TED KOPPEL Any reason to believe that these kids were into drugs?

JAKE APODACA Well, if you'd look at them, I'd guess you could say they did. They kind of look like they do.

TED KOPPEL Guys, it's been a, it's been a terrible, terrible day for all of you, I know, and I know you had to go through this story a number of times. So thank you. I apologize for putting you all through it again but you're good to have stayed up late and to have done this with us. I appreciate it very much. When we come back, we'll check with a trauma surgeon and the Littleton fire chief.

(Commercial Break)



TED KOPPEL And joining us now live from Denver, Littleton Fire Chief William Pessemier, his department got the first call to respond, and Dr William Pfeiffer, who was on the scene, on a team, rather, of six trauma surgeons from Swedish Medical Center who operated on four of the students today. Doctor, how are they doing?

DR WILLIAM PFEIFFER, TRAUMA SURGEON Everybody's out of the OR Two of them are up on the floor and two of them are in the intensive care still in critical condition.

TED KOPPEL Talk for a moment about what happens when you get word of an event even similar to this in the sense that you have numerous casualties or some people who are in grave danger. How does the hospital respond?

DR WILLIAM PFEIFFER Well, we have a trauma team in the hospital at all times comprised of not only an emergency room physician, but also a trauma surgeon and they're there actually physically in the house 24 hours a day. Both of them have backups. There is a second surgeon very quickly available. Frequently, depending on the shift, there's a second and a third emergency physician there at all times and then we go into our depth. In, on a situation like today, when they put the call out we had six trauma surgeons there within about 25 minutes.

TED KOPPEL And how quickly were you able to take care of everyone? Almost immediately, then, I take it?

DR WILLIAM PFEIFFER As they came in the door they were seen by a team of an emergency room physician, a trauma surgeon and we had several neurosurgeons there and several orthopedic surgeons there at the time already.

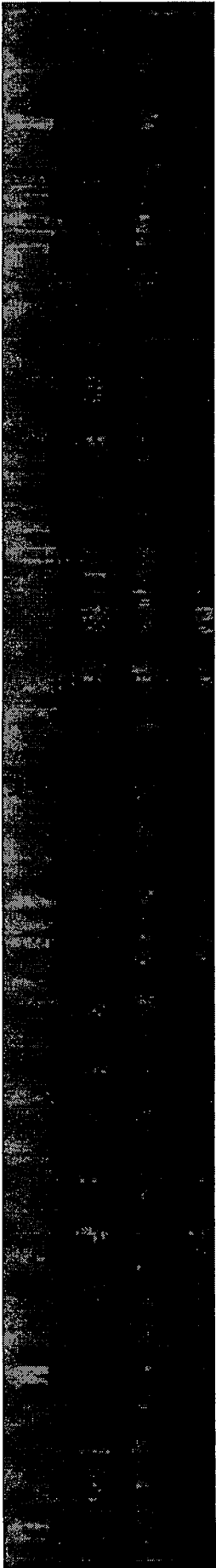
TED KOPPEL Now, you've got somewhere in the neighborhood of 20 to 25 people who were injured. How many different hospitals are there in the region and how are the decisions made as to where to take them?

DR WILLIAM PFEIFFER I can't tell you how many there are in the region. I really don't know.

TED KOPPEL Well, maybe that's a good question ...

DR WILLIAM PFEIFFER But there are certain ...

TED KOPPEL Maybe that's a good question to put to Mr Pessemier. Do you know?



CHIEF WILLIAM PESSEMIER, LITTLETON FIRE DEPARTMENT (Denver) Well, actually, we transported, I believe, about 22 patients from the scene of the incident to seven different hospitals throughout the metro Denver area.

TED KOPPEL How do you make the decision as to where to take them?

CHIEF WILLIAM PESSEMIER Well, actually, we had an EMS officer that coordinated that decision with the local hospitals and the local hospitals did a very good job of talking to each other to determine how many patients and how critical of a patient they could take. So that all went very smoothly in coordination with the EMS people on the scene and the seven different hospitals that were used to transport patients to.

TED KOPPEL You and your unit were actually not just among the first, you were the first on the scene, weren't you?

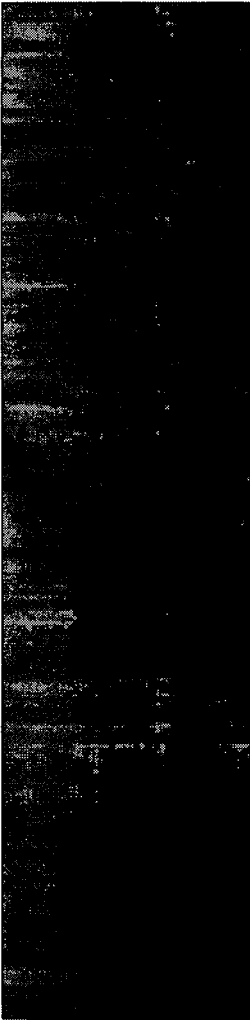
CHIEF WILLIAM PESSEMIER Well, one of our rescue units was, I believe, was the first fire or EMS unit on the scene. They actually transported, I believe it was three of the initial patients that they found at the scene, I believe one of which was critical and two were serious even as the police were exchanging gunfire with the shooters inside the building.

TED KOPPEL What did they think they were going to? I mean what was the first word they got?

CHIEF WILLIAM PESSEMIER Well, the initial dispatch came in as a dispatch to shots fire and explosions at Columbine High School. So I think they had a pretty good idea of what they were getting into and of course police units were at the scene the same time they were.

TED KOPPEL Now, at a time like that, do your folks wait on the outside until the police bring out whoever is injured or do they actually go into the building?

CHIEF WILLIAM PESSEMIER Well, they don't go into the building. In fact, that was one of our biggest concerns throughout the course of this incident was coordinating the operations of the police SWAT teams with our fire and EMS personnel to make sure that the fire department personnel and the paramedics were always safe. We tried to do that as much as we could. But initially during the very first stages of the incident, there were three students who desperately needed help and our paramedic rescue



crews went in and got them out.

TED KOPPEL As best you know, and then I'll go back to Dr Pfeiffer for a last word, but as best you know, are any of the people who are in the hospital now in critical condition?

CHIEF WILLIAM PESSEMIER As far as I know some of the patients are in critical condition. At the time we transported the, I believe, again, it was 22 patients from the scene, I believe six of them were initially, at least, listed as critical.

TED KOPPEL Dr Pfeiffer, the four patients that you have at your hospital, again, what kind of shape are they in now?

DR WILLIAM PFEIFFER All of them are out of the OR All four of them were in the OR at one point. Two of them have gone up to our multi—trauma unit, which is a trauma specific unit, but it is generally considered a floor unit. It is not an intensive care unit. They are l

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ization.

"Identity Crisis" in *Autobiographic Perspective* (1970) 1975:43.

9. Psychohistory... is the study of individual and collective life with the combined methods of psychoanalysis and history. In spite of, or because of, the very special and conflicting demands made on the practitioners of these two fields, bridgeheads must be built on each side in order to make a true span possible. But the completed bridge should permit unimpeded two-way traffic; and once this is done, history will simply be history again, but now a history aware of the fact that it has always indulged in a covert and circuitous traffic with psychology which can now be direct, overt, and aware. By the same token, psychoanalysis will have become conscious of its own historical determinants, and *case history* and *life history* will no longer be manners of speaking. The way you "take history" is also a way of "making history."

Dimensions of a New Identity 1974:13.

Kai T. Erikson 1931–
U.S. sociologist

1. It is the *community* that cushions pain, the *community* that provides a context for intimacy, the *community* that represents morality and serves as the repository for old traditions.

Everything in Its Path 1976:193–194.

Euripides c. 484–406 B.C.
Greek playwright

1. [Menelaus]: As with sailing,
so with politics: make your cloth too taut,
and your ship will dip and keel, but slacken off
and trim your sails, and things head up again.
The gods, you know, resent being importuned
too much; in the same way the people dislike
being pushed or hustled. Too much zeal offends
where indirection works.

Orestes:232.

E. E. Evans-Pritchard 1902–1973
British anthropologist

1. If Pareto for civilized peoples, and Lévy-Bruhl for savages, had given us a detailed account of their real life during an ordinary day we would be able to judge whether their non-logical behaviour is as qualitatively and quantitatively important as the writers' selective methods would lead us to suppose. Actually, I would con-

2. Just as the linguist does not merely learn to understand, speak and translate a native language but seeks to reveal its phonological and grammatical systems, so the social anthropologist is not content merely to observe and describe the social life of a primitive people but seeks to reveal its underlying structural order, the patterns which, once established, enable him to see it as a whole, as a set of interrelated abstractions.

Social Anthropology (1948) 1964:61–62.

3. The thesis I have put before you, that social anthropology is a kind of historiography, and therefore ultimately of philosophy or art, implies that it studies societies as moral systems and not as natural systems, that it is interested in design rather than in process, and that it therefore seeks patterns and not scientific laws, and interprets rather than explains.

Social Anthropology: Past and Present (1950) 1964:152.

4. Just as we can understand the anatomy and physiology of a horse without requiring to know anything about its descent from its five-toed ancestor, so we can understand the structure of a society and the functioning of its institutions without knowing anything about its history. But a society, however defined, in no way resembles a horse, and, mercifully, horses remain horses — or at least they have done so in historic times — and do not turn into elephants or pigs, whereas a society may change from one type to another, sometimes with great suddenness and violence.

Anthropology and History (1961) 1964:181.

5. Any claim to universality demands in the nature of things a historical or psychological, rather than a sociological, explanation, and thereby defeats the sociological purpose, which is to explain differences rather than similarities.

The Comparative Method in Social Anthropology 1963:16.

6. It has sometimes been said that we will be able to establish the laws of social life when we know more and better attested facts, but the contrary appears to be the case. It was easy for anthropologists to speculate about primitive institutions when little was known about them. It is not so easy now, when negative instances, vouched for by competent professional research, crop up everywhere to dispute any general theory.

The Comparative Method in Social Anthropology 1963:25.

Social Science Q.

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USA TODAY

April 21, 1999, Wednesday, CHASE EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 1339 words

HEADLINE: Killers leave massive crime scene

BYLINE: Patrick O'Driscoll

DATELINE: LITTLETON, Colo.

BODY:

LITTLETON, Colo. -- It was three days after the prom, 19 school days from the end of the year. Magic time was upon Columbine High School, a bustling place named after the state wildflower.

But in a senseless spasm of violence Tuesday morning, all the promise and possibility went up in gunsmoke, blood and homemade explosives. A pair of heavily armed students dressed in black, apparently members of a militia-style clique of campus outcasts known as the "Trench Coat Mafia," shot and bombed their way through the halls of the huge school.

When a nightmare hour had passed, they had killed about 25 people before apparently killing themselves in the school library as a massive police siege unfolded outside.

A number of their victims already lay around them, schoolmates executed at point-blank range as they huddled beneath library tables, praying for their lives. Others were spared to tell the horrifying tale.

Bree Pasquale, weeping from shock and terror, told TV cameras that she was in the library when one of the gunmen came in and shot people around her, including a girl who was shot in the head and a student whom Pasquale said was shot because he was black. She said she begged the gunman not to shoot her.

"He put a gun in my face and said, 'I'm doing this because people made fun of me last year,' " she sobbed. She escaped unharmed

USA TODAY, April 21, 1999

but smeared with blood.

Whatever the reason, the nation must now add another quiet community to its crazy, tragic litany of schoolyard murder and mayhem. Paducah, Ky. Springfield, Ore. Jonesboro, Ark. And now the Denver suburb of Littleton.

The madness began at 11:30 a.m. as some students headed for lunch and others headed to class. Hours later, as darkness fell, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and an armada of other agencies from local police to the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms were still picking slowly through the school.

The killers apparently had rigged their cars in the parking lot outside with some kind of explosives. Strewn throughout the school grounds and halls were more possible bombs.

Waiting for news

As the nation watched on live TV, parents, students, teachers and media pressed against the yellow police tape more than a block away in a chaotic scene of anguish, fear and hope.

USA TODAY, April 21, 1999

The street outside the school was a virtual parking lot of emergency response: bomb squad trucks, an armored car, dozens of police squad cars, and a fleet of ambulances. Droning overhead were five TV helicopters, watching the hours-long drama unfold on the strangely quiet campus below.

The killers left a chaotic and bloody crime scene so vast that it will take sheriff's and police investigators days to unravel and piece together.

"We've got a massive crime scene here," said Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone.

He lamented that students could have as much firepower as the killers carried.

"The fact that you've got kids with automatic weapons is a concern," Stone told reporters. "What are these parents doing that their kids have automatic weapons?"