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Subgroup/Office of Origin: Speechwriting

Series/Staff Member: Jeff Shesol

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 19945

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Folder Title:

Columbine HS Jeffco, CO 5/20/99 - Columbine H. S. Facts & Clips 5/20/99 [1]

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

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001. fax cover sheet	Car and Cell Phone Numbers. [partial] (1 page)	05/19/1999	P6/b(6)
002. list	Personal. (1 page)	05/17/1999	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Jeff Shesol
OA/Box Number: 19945

FOLDER TITLE:

Columbine HS Jeffco, CO 5/20/99 - Columbine H.S. Facts & Clips 5/20/99 [1]

2006-0467-F

vz221

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

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- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

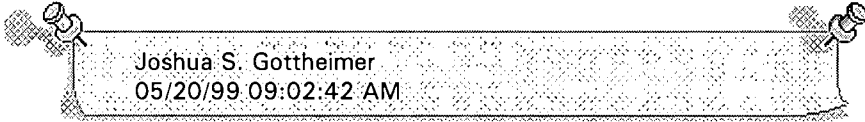
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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]



Joshua S. Gottheimer
05/20/99 09:02:42 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Michael Waldman/WHO/EOP, Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: info off of cnn

Heritage High School, Rockdale County (suburb of Atlanta, due east)

- 1300-1500 students
- new school in Metro Atlanta;
- high-achieving students, like Littleton

7 A students injured. No deaths

Gunperson in custody.

Rockdale County is a fast growing county.



Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: AP article on POTUS visit to Littleton

Clinton Visiting Victims' Families

By SANDRA SOBIERAJ
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) President Clinton's trip today to Littleton, Colo., on the one-month anniversary of the massacre at Columbine High School retraces sadly familiar terrain for the president, who traveled one year ago to Oregon and another high school ravaged by gunfire.

In the Oregon incident, two students were killed and 22 injured during a rampage by a 15-year-old suspect also accused of killing his parents the day before and leaving their home rigged with bombs.

But something about Columbine where 12 students and a teacher were killed and 23 others were injured before students Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold turned their arsenal on themselves made it the last straw for a violence-weary nation, Clinton said Wednesday as he prepared to meet with victims' families and survivors.

"The aftermath of that shooting, I think, has had an even more profound impact on the country than all the school shootings last year did. And you can see it by what is happening in the Congress now," Clinton said, referring to gun control measures working their way through the Senate.

"I think there is finally a feeling that it's time for everybody to stop making excuses, it's time for everybody to stop trying to place blame and instead to basically say, 'I would like to assume whatever my share of responsibility is for giving a safe childhood back to our children.'"

He spoke about the trip at a Democratic National Committee fund-raising event in New York.

The president and his wife, Hillary, were meeting with victims' relatives at Littleton's World Roman Catholic Church, which is about three miles from Columbine and the place where counselors worked with survivors after the shooting.

After those private meetings, which press secretary Joe Lockhart called "a more personal session rather than a sort of policy session," the Clintons travel to Dakota Ridge High School to address Columbine students, rescuers and community leaders, before returning to Washington.

The president, Lockhart said, wants to "articulate how the country shares the grief of the Littleton students and the Littleton community, and highlight the remarkable resilience of these students and of this community."

Randy Lapp said his 16-year-old son, Joshua, who escaped from the Columbine library, will attend the meeting. But he is not sure if the visit will help Joshua recover.

"The only thing that's going to help kids like my son is a lot of counseling," Randy Lapp said. "That's the only way he can deal with this."

Tom Mauser, whose son Daniel was killed, said he was looking forward to meeting with Clinton. Mauser has criticized the National Rifle Association, and formed a gun-control group called Sane Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic.

"Certainly we'll talk about my son," Mauser said. He also plans to give the president some written questions, which he declined to specify.

Marilyn Saltzman, a spokeswoman for the Jefferson County Public Schools District, said the president's visit "is a wonderful opportunity for students to see a visible sign of the caring there is throughout the nation."

"We're hoping it will help the healing process," she said.

(20 May 1999 02:04 EDT)

Message Sent To: _____

Craig Hughes

05/20/99 08:19:07 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP, Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP, Nanda Chitre/WHO/EOP

cc: Minyon Moore/WHO/EOP

Subject: Colorado poll on gun control

From today's *Rocky Mountain News*

Gun-control opinions
unchanged

Columbine shootings had little impact on
Coloradans' attitudes on weapons, poll finds

By Carla Crowder
Denver Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

Coloradans' opinions about several key firearms
issues changed little after the Columbine shootings
where 15 people died from gun violence, according
to polls taken before and after the April tragedy.

The Colorado News Poll, conducted this month for
the Denver Rocky Mountain News and News4,
showed 65 percent of people surveyed favored a
concealed-carry law that would require sheriffs to
issue handgun permits to anyone who passed a
background check and took a firearms training
course.

In a similar survey in February, 66 percent of those
questioned supported such a law. The poll was
conducted by Talmey-Drake Research in Boulder.

"People are not against guns. They're against guns in
the wrong hands," said Paul Talmey, president of
the polling firm. "These numbers scream that."

The poll also found fairly consistent attitudes --
before and after Columbine -- about gun ownership
rights.

In February, 70 percent of people surveyed agreed
that gun ownership is a "basic right of all
Americans."

Only 26 percent disagreed with that statement, according to the poll.

In May, 75 percent said they believed gun ownership was a basic American right, while only 22 percent disagreed.

"I'm a little bit puzzled," said Arnie Grossman, co-founder of Sane Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic, or SAFE, a new Colorado gun-control group launched partly in response to the Columbine violence.

"What really surprises me is we're at ground zero and I would expect our numbers to be higher. I think it means we have a big job ahead of us," Grossman said.

The head of Colorado's largest gun lobby said the poll shows people have given the killings more than just a knee-jerk reaction.

"There might be some hysteria in the first few days. But once people really use some logic, it's clear they realize firearms, and firearms controls, are not the reason this happened," said Dudley Brown, executive director of Rocky Mountain Gun Owners.

"These kids were cunning enough to fashion timed propane bombs. Trigger locks or one more law isn't going to stop them from getting access to guns," Brown said. His group backs more gun freedom than the National Rifle Association, the nation's largest gun lobby.

An NRA spokesman in Washington, D.C., declined comment on the poll.

Since the Columbine killings, Congress has considered a number of new gun-control laws, many designed to plug the channels that criminals and juveniles use to get their hands on firearms. One proposal that has been discussed would make it illegal to purchase more than one handgun a month -- a way to keep unlicensed gun dealers from stockpiling weapons and reselling them.

Support for such a law rose only slightly in Colorado after the mass killings, according to the poll.

In February, 60 percent of people surveyed said they'd support such a measure. In May, that number

rose to 67 percent.

Brown calls the one-handgun-a-month law "gun rationing." It wouldn't have made a dent in stopping Columbine, he said.

"These kids were planning for this attack for a year. That means if they could have only acquired one gun a month, they could have acquired 12 firearms," he said.

In another recent development, firearms opponents have begun to attack the gun industry in court, just as anti-smoking advocates took on the tobacco manufacturers. They claim manufacturers flood the market with firearms they know will fall into criminals' hands and be wrongly used.

Few Coloradans said they believe gun makers should be required to compensate victims of gun violence and their families for pain and suffering caused by the misuse of guns.

In February, 19 percent of people surveyed either strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that gun makers should be held liable, whereas 78 percent disagreed that manufacturers should have to pay when criminals use their product.

Little changed after the Columbine killings. In May, 20 percent of people surveyed said they believed gun makers should be held liable for gun misuse. But 76 percent disagreed, according to the poll.

Some gun-control advocates suggested the poll results don't reflect the outrage over the shootings because the questions were so specific.

John Head, co-founder of SAFE, said the group has had 400 to 500 calls since it formed about a week ago. Most are supporters.

"They say, 'We're Republicans. We're conservative Republicans. We're gun owners. We're NRA members, but something has to be done,'" said Head.

Most callers believe this country needs to find better ways to combat gun violence and keep guns out of the hands of criminals, he said. But opinions vary greatly on exactly how to do that. Some say federal laws are needed. Some say state or municipal laws are.

Joe Sudbay, director of state legislation for Handgun Control Inc., a Washington, D.C.-based gun-control group, said Columbine lit a fire under once-quiet gun opponents and made them more vocal. But polls don't reflect that, he said.

Gun-control advocates "have always been a silent majority," Sudbay said. "Events like this may not change people's minds one way or the other but it changes the intensity of their feelings."

Talmey, the pollster, agreed that events like Columbine solidify people's opinions.

"These are fairly hardened attitudes," Talmey said.

Something like President Clinton's approval rating will fluctuate a lot, but "guns or abortions are discussed so much people tend to harden."



Kris M Balderston

05/19/99 06:55:28 PM



Record Type: Record

To: Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Just a note to tell you that 12 of the 13 families

will be mtg with the POTUS at the church and 11 of the 12 will continue on to the speech at Dakota Ridge.

You may want to note it in the acknowledgements

Joshua S. Gottheimer
05/19/99 06:33:25 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: FINAL - Members Attending Colorado

----- Forwarded by Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP on 05/19/99 06:25 PM -----

Janelle E. Erickson

05/19/99 06:24:36 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: FINAL - Members Attending Colorado

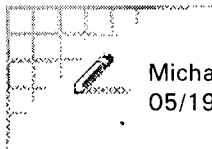
No Members will be attending tomorrow's remarks in Colorado.

EVENT: REMARKS TO COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY
DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1999
TIME: 3:35 PM - 5:05 PM
LOCATION: DAKOTA RIDGE SCHOOL
PARTICIPANTS: THE PRESIDENT
THE FIRST LADY
SUPERINTENDENT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
PRINCIPAL COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL

REGRETS:

Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO)
Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-C O)
Rep Joel Hefley (R-C O)
Rep Bob Schaffer (R-C O)
Rep Tom Tancredo (R-C O)
Rep Mark Udall (D-C O)
Rep Diana DeGette (D-C O)
Rep Scott McInnis (R-C O)

Message Sent To:



Michael Waldman
05/19/99 06:19:19 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP, Richard Socarides/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: fyi - you probably saw this (or did it, for all I know)

CBS Pulls Show on Violence Concerns

By David Bauder
AP Television Writer
Wednesday, May 19, 1999; 2:32 p.m. EDT

NEW YORK (AP) -- CBS left a drama about mobsters off its fall prime-time schedule because of concerns about violent programming in the wake of the Littleton school massacre.

``It's not the right time to have people being whacked on the streets of New York," CBS President Leslie Moonves said Wednesday.

Moonves said he screened the pilot for a new drama, ``Falcone," the week after 13 people at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. were killed by two teen-aged boys who later killed themselves. The massacre happened on April 20.

``It did affect us. It really did," he said.

The hour-long television drama is about a mob war in New York City. The lead character, Joe Falcone, must choose between two rivals trying to take control of organized crime. Moonves said it was similar to the movie, ``Donnie Brasco."

While it's not fair to blame the media for the rampage, Moonves said that ``anyone who thinks the media has nothing to do with this is an idiot."

``We felt a responsibility not to put it on now," he said. ``It just didn't feel right."

CBS announced its prime-time schedule on Wednesday and included six new series. ``Falcone" is still being considered as a midseason replacement, Moonves said.

The WB network is also reportedly considering what to do with its season-ending episode of ``Buffy, the Vampire Slayer" that treads uncomfortably close to Littleton.

In the episode scheduled to air next week, heavily armed students at Buffy's high school try to confront the town's mayor, who has been turned into a monster. WB officials didn't return calls for comment Wednesday.

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About the Columbine ribbons

- Silver and blue are the Columbine school colors.
- Shortly after the tragedy, students and others began wearing homemade, intertwined blue and silver ribbons. These kinds of ribbons are a traditional sign of support (e.g., pink ribbon for breast cancer; red ribbon for AIDS).
- Soon, organizations like the PTA and private organizations began making more permanent ribbons, some of cloth and some of metal.
- When Columbine students went back to school at Chatfield, they each received a triple ribbon with silver, blue and burgundy strands intertwined. Silver and blue are the Columbine colors; silver and burgundy are the Chatfield colors.
- Students as well as parents and people across the community continue to wear their ribbons as a symbol of support for Columbine.

Success stories from Columbine High School

1998-99

- Colorado Math League Regional Champions
- Three National Merit Finalists
- Two National Forensic Speech Qualifiers
- 18 Valedictorians
- 44 honor graduates
- League championships in girls softball, boys and girls soccer, boys basketball, wrestling
- Student Amber Burgess chosen for Junior Olympic Softball team and All American
- 22 state Distributive Education Clubs of America awards
- Seven students selected to All-State Choir
- AP English class traveled to England and saw the Queen
- Many heroes of April 20, including custodians Jay and John, who saved many lives.

Welcome + introduction

Today as I look into the faces of you who have endured so much in this month of pain, I am assured of one clear fact. That for everyone who goes wrong, a thousand do not. For all those who would claim that our parents and our public schools are failing, I would say, "Look at Jefferson County's Columbine." We are not failing, and we are learning through our tears to grow in courage and strength and wisdom.

No one can control the future, but we can do much to control our reaction to what happens. As the world has reeled from our tragedy, it watches, and will watch, at what we do. No, it will never be the same here, and yes, ugly scars remain and questions unanswered.

And to the families who lost their most treasured possessions forever, the burden lies heaviest on you. It has been nine years since the police came to our door to tell us our daughter had been killed. We still grieve but learned early the power of celebrating her life.

They tell me that some of the brightest stars we see at night have been dead for thousands of years. Let us not let the light from those bright stars lost on April 20 go out. It is for us, the loving, to ensure that they did not die in vain.

I have seen in recent days the most amazing acts of love and giving and unity. To those who say America has lost its way, I say, "Come look at the faces of Columbine students and staff and I will show you an America strong enough to prevail against the evil which has always been among us."

To those who say schools don't teach absolute values deeply embedded in American culture, I say tell that to Dave Sanders widow and to this group of dedicated staff sitting in front of me who everyday model the values of honesty, industry, respect for differences, caring and courage.

I am so proud to stand here as your superintendent. Yes, the challenges we face today are far greater than ever, but so are the opportunities.

left -
- don't
- know if
- should
- by this
- or not

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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Jefferson County School District R-1

1829 Denver West Drive
Golden, Colorado 80401-0001
Phone (303) 982-6800
Fax (303) 982-6806

Superintendent's Office

FAX

Date: 5-19 Pages including cover 2

To: Jeff Shesol

Fax #: 202-456-5709

From: Helen Neal 982-6801

MESSAGE

Jane's proposed speaking points

To reach her today:

office until 1:30 pm (MST)

w/ Seth 2:30-4 pm

in car or mobile other times

car:

mobile:

P6(b)(6)

[001]

THX - Helen



columbine - tragedy and recovery

Clinton arrives Thursday

By Janet Bingham
Denver Post Education Writer

May 18 - When President Clinton comes to Jefferson County on Thursday - the one-month anniversary of the Columbine High School massacre - he will meet with victims' families, students and teachers at a local church and a nearby high school.

"The president wants the opportunity to show his concern in the least intrusive way and by people's choice," Jefferson County schools Superintendent Jane Hammond said Monday.

Families of the one teacher and 12 students killed in the April 20 rampage have been invited to an early afternoon private meeting with the president at Light of the World Catholic Church in Littleton.

Later in the afternoon, all Columbine High students and faculty members can meet with the president at Dakota Ridge High School on West Coal Mine Road at C-470.

"We're very honored that he is visiting," said school board President Jon DeStefano. The board had invited Clinton to visit soon after the Columbine tragedy.

Students who wish to participate will be able to take buses from Chatfield High to Dakota Ridge for the meeting.

Both Clinton appearances will be closed to the public, though limited media coverage is planned for the Dakota Ridge event.

The meeting at Dakota Ridge will take place after its students are dismissed. Dakota Ridge and Chatfield each will be invited to send 17 to 20 representatives to the session.

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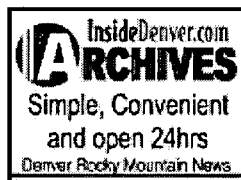


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Clinton to visit Columbine victims

By Michael Romano

Denver Rocky Mountain News Washington Bureau



Lift from a
stranger

65 ideas
submitted for
Columbine tribute

JEFFERSON COUNTY -- President Clinton will visit the Columbine High School community May 20, one month to the day after the tragedy at the school.

Details of the president's visit, rumored for weeks, remain sketchy. But Clinton is expected to meet with families, injured victims and faculty, White House spokeswoman Elizabeth Newman said.

In the days after the shootings, Clinton spoke often and emotionally about the tragedy. He decided against an immediate visit because of concerns it would distract from the grief of the victims.

Saying he would seek an appropriate time and way to show his sympathy and support, Clinton finally decided to accept a standing invitation from the Jefferson County School Board.

"All we have heard from the White House is that he wants to visit with students and families of the victims and keep it fairly private," schools spokeswoman Marilyn Saltzman said. "We just found out about it this morning."

The invitation was extended just two days after the killings, when the president returned a telephone call placed to the White House by Jeffco School Board president Jon DeStefano.

DeStefano said he had called the White House earlier that day to express his appreciation for Clinton's "genuine concern for the entire community" and the "great comfort he provided."

Clinton's return call was placed when most members of the board were at a tribute to slain

teacher Dave Sanders. DeStefano put the president on a speaker phone.

"The first time I called, I just wanted to say, 'Thank you,'" DeStefano said. "It meant an awful lot to me and others that he returned the call and said he wanted to make contact with the parents, and then asked what I thought was an appropriate time.

"He did say he didn't know when he would be able to get here, but that he would do whatever he could. I let him know he was always welcome. He said he didn't want to seem intrusive. I'm very pleased that he cares enough to come out."

May 7, 1999

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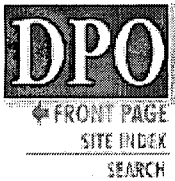
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columbine - tragedy and recovery

Columbine students address House panel**By Charles Davant
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May 19 - WASHINGTON - Students from Columbine High School and other schools where teenagers have shot classmates told a House panel Tuesday that their lives have been permanently scarred by what they witnessed, and they urged the government to take forceful action to prevent future shootings.

While the Senate voted on a series of amendments designed to prevent teen violence, House members focused instead on trying to understand its root causes, and they spent much of the afternoon quizzing students from Jefferson County; Paducah, Ky.; and Springfield, Ore., all sites of school shootings over the past year and a half.

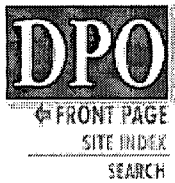
The teens told the panel that factors adult experts have pointed to in the recent shootings - violent video games and movies, parental apathy, easy access to guns and cruel teasing - have become part of the experience of many ordinary teenagers today. And for a few on the fringe, it's enough to push them over the edge.

"I see good students wanting to be popular," Adam Campbell, a Columbine senior, told the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth and Families. "They (assailants Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, who killed 13 people before committing suicide) were weird and not accepted by the other students. Last year, some of the jocks did a lot of putting them down because of their unusual dress, which identified them as the Trench Coat Mafia. They hated everyone, and hate will cause wrong choices."

Although the students all tried to diagnose what ails U.S. high schools, most were reluctant to prescribe specific legal remedies. Ryan Atteberry, a student who was nearly paralyzed by gunfire in Springfield, said students need to communicate better with one another, to "use words, not weapons."

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columbine - tragedy and recovery

Charities ready to distribute funds

By **Beth DeFalco**
Special to The Denver Post

May 18 - Organizers have decided how to distribute \$2.3 million in donations from the biggest fund aiding victims of the Columbine High School massacre.

Priority for use of the Healing Fund will go to the 13 dead, the 23 injured and the other students, faculty and staff of Columbine.

Donations then will go to other agencies that provided services or helped with the tragedy, with \$150,000 set aside for establishment of a new community counseling and resource center aimed at preventing similar violence in the future.

The fund, overseen by United Way, operates independently of 14 other groups that are collecting money for scholarships, memorials and other victim relief.

And that worries a lawyer for two of the injured students, who said those who face continuing medical bills should have priority.

"I am concerned about siphoning funds into scholarships and memorial funds when one month after it happened there are still kids in need, still kids hospitalized," said Anthony Sturniolo, attorney for injured Columbine students Lance Kirklin and Mark Taylor.

"Families who lost children in the tragedy, while they have suffered a great loss, don't have as many bills as those who were injured," Sturniolo said. "The injured can expect to be paying these bills for many more years to come."

The 16-year-old Kirklin was shot in the face and neck. He and four other students remain hospitalized. Kirklin's medical bills have topped \$1 million, and he has no medical insurance, his lawyer said. He still faces five to six surgeries and years of rehabilitation.

Money raised by The Healing Fund, including \$500,000 from the McCormick Tribune Foundation, will be distributed first to the so-called primary victims included those killed and injured and other Columbine students, staff and faculty. Altogether, that could number 2,000 people Thomas said.

Requests for less than \$1,000 can be filled within one business day, Thomas said. Qualifying expenses include lost wages, temporary housing, child care, food, utility or rent assistance and insurance deductibles.

Requests for more than \$1,000 must be reviewed by an advisory committee before approval but can be completed within a week.

"We plan to use the funds in a way that respects the wishes of the

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donors," said Thomas.

And the \$2.3 million raised so far won't be enough to meet needs, he said.

"Even though \$2.3 million sounds like a lot of money, it's the beginning of our fund-raising process, not the end," Thomas said.

After those directly affected by the shooting receive contributions, the Columbine community and metro-area agencies, including counseling centers, can apply for funding.

"The need for counseling will continue," said Harriet Hall, chief executive director for the Jefferson County Center for Mental Health. "Mental health services provided early on helps prevent problems in the future."

The fund, established within hours of the shooting, already has spent nearly \$150,000 on travel expenses for victims' families, Thomas said.

The Healing Fund has also set aside \$150,000 for a resource and drop-in center for the Columbine community and high school students.

Students contend that they need a place to feel safe both inside and outside of school.

"The center will be a positive place where we can gather outside of school and be supported by kids our own age," said Columbine junior Don Bush. The center, to open in early June, will be in the complex that houses the old Ascot Theatre on Bowles Avenue.

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1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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May 18, 1999; Tuesday 18:07 Eastern Time

SECTION: Washington - general news

LENGTH: 599 words

HEADLINE: School Victims Address Lawmakers

BYLINE: JOHN HUGHES

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Students who experienced school violence firsthand spoke in quiet, nervous tones Tuesday of shootings and bomb threats that left them scared and feeling helpless and they urged House lawmakers to work to prevent such tragedies.

The teen-agers made several suggestions to a House subcommittee, ranging from more parental involvement to more opportunities for troubled students to get counseling.

They also sparked a discussion of gun control, with one student saying parents should not have a gun when there are young people in the house. "There's no reason why a young person should have a gun, period," said Carla Williams, a student from Sandy Spring, Md.

Ryan Atteberry, a student from Thurston High School in Springfield, Ore., told how May 21, 1998, started like any normal school day when he was visiting with friends as he headed to his first class.

"The next thing I know I'm laying down on the ground, paralyzed, my head filled by a deafening ringing sound," Atteberry said. "I realized something terrible had happened when I saw the blood coming out of my side."

Atteberry, who spent five days in the hospital, said he still has a bullet lodged near his spine because doctors feel it would be too dangerous to remove it.

Thurston High student Kip Kinkel has been charged in the shootings that killed two and injured more than 20.

Stephen Keene, a senior at Heath High School in Paducah, Ky., said he still feels fear, anxiety and depression from the December 1997 shooting by fellow student Michael Carneal that killed three students and injured five others as they ended an informal prayer meeting in the school's lobby.

"The pain never leaves," Keene said. "You can hardly control yourself sometimes because you're crying so bad."

Carneal pleaded guilty but mentally ill to murder and was sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 25 years.

AP Online, May 18, 1999

The students had suggestions for the lawmakers. For instance, Brigid Moriarty of Olney, Md., said children need a place to "vent their anger."

But at other times, they met lawmakers' queries with silence and shoulder shrugs.

"If a person has a bad heart, you cannot change it; only God can change a bad heart," said Adam Campbell of Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. That's where two fellow students, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, fired guns and set off homemade bombs, killing 12 students and a teacher before killing themselves last month.

"I feel our schools have done as well as they can because you cannot change or control teen behavior," added Campbell, a senior.

Rep. Mark Souder, R-Ind., said Atteberry and Campbell seemed to be saying, "'Hey, there's not much you can do.' You don't give much hope that you can reach these high-risk kids."

Lawmakers had other suggestions regarding school violence, such as introducing more moral teachings into schools and gun control.

Rep. Donald Payne, D-N.J., said that when he was in school and students got angry, "The best you did was have a fist fight."

But Rep. David McIntosh, R-Ind., said, "Gun control laws didn't work in Columbine, sadly."

Others wondered aloud about the causes of school violence, and still others said they wanted to do something, but they weren't sure what.

"The thing we can't do is give in to the feeling of helplessness about this wave that is sweeping across the country," said Rep. David Wu, D-Ore.

The students testified before the Education and the Workforce Committee's early childhood, youth and families subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Michael Castle, R-Del.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Map of the Columbine High School area in Colorado



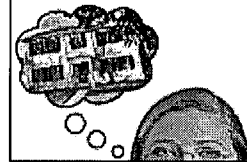
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Columbine High named for state flower

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) - Columbine High School, scene of Tuesday's deadly school shooting, is named after the resilient mountain blossom that is Colorado's state flower.

It's a perennial that grows about 18 inches high in moist soil, and it withstands cold, windy conditions on mountain slopes. Its silky, bell-shaped blossoms come in shades of blue, white, yellow and pink, making it a popular native plant for alpine gardens.

The columbine was documented on July 10, 1820, by Edwin James prior to climbing Pikes Peak. Colorado students chose it as the state's flower in 1891.

In 1925, state lawmakers voted to protect the columbine. It is illegal to pick more than 25 columbine buds in one day, or to uproot the plant.

The state song is "Where the Columbine Grows."

More than 100 businesses, organizations and public buildings use the flower in their names.

- BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

by dividing it.

Columbines are suitable for both borders and rock gardens. They bloom from late spring into summer, bearing distinctively spurred one- or two-colored flowers up to 4 inches across. Rocky Mountain columbine has 2- to 3-inch blue-and-white flowers on stems up to 2 1/2 feet tall. American columbine, parent to many modern hybrids, can tolerate dry, sandy soil. It bears flowers with yellow petals and red spurs on 3- to 4-inch stems. Of the numerous hybrids, which produce 3- to 4-inch flowers in a wide color range, the McKana hybrids are favorites; they produce long-spurred flowers on plants up to 3 feet tall.

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STATE FLOWER



The white and lavender Columbine, *Aquilegia caerulea*, was adopted as the official state flower on April 4, 1899 by an act of the General Assembly. In 1925, the General Assembly made it the duty of all citizens to protect this rare species from needless destruction or waste. To further protect this fragile flower, the law prohibits digging or uprooting the flower on public lands and limits the gathering of buds, blossoms and one day. It is unlawful to pick the columbine on private land without consent of the land owner. Citation: Senate Bill 261, 1899, Bill, 1925; Colorado Revised Statutes 24-80-905 through 24-80-908.

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State Folk Dance

The Square Dance was adopted as the official state folk dance on March 16, 1992 by an act of the General Assembly. Square dancing is the American folk dance which traces its ancestry to the English country dance and the French ballroom dance, and which is called, cued, or prompted to the dancers and includes squares, rounds, clogging, contra, line, the Virginia Reel, and heritage dances. Citation: House Bill 1058, 1992; Colorado Revised Statute 24-80-909.5.

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State Fossil



The Stegosaurus was designated as the official state fossil on April 28, 1982 by executive order of Governor Richard D. Lamm. The Stegosaurus lived in the area we now know as Colorado one hundred and fifty million years ago during the Mesozoic era in the Jurassic period. It is believed that a typical Stegosaurus weighed ten tons though its brain weighed only two and one-half ounces. There are only 6 skeletons of the Stegosaurus on public display in the United States, one of which may be viewed at the Museum of Natural History in Denver. This skeleton was discovered by a teacher and students from Canon City High School.

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State Gemstone

The aquamarine was adopted as the official state gemstone on April 30, 1971, by an act of the General Assembly. The mountain peaks of Mount Antero and White Mountain in Colorado are among the finest quality localities known for gem aquamarine. They are also among the highest in elevation, located at 14,000 feet. The granite rock of these peaks contains pegmatite bodies that are characterized by large miarolitic cavities containing the gem quality aquamarine crystals. The cavities are found through a vertical area of a mere 500 feet. The crystals in these cavities range in color from light blue to pale and deep aquamarine green, and in size from very small to 6 cm in length. Citation: House Bill 1104, 1971; Colorado Revised Statute 24-80-912.

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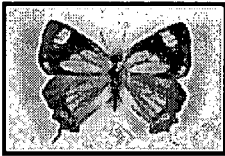
State Grass



Blue Grama grass was adopted as the official state grass on May 20, 1987, by a resolution of the General Assembly. Blue Grama is a grass native to the state of Colorado, growing throughout many of the state's life zones on both sides of the Continental Divide. Grasslands are an important resource to the State of Colorado with considerable economic and conservation significance. A state grass was designated to help inform and educate citizens and tourists about this resource. Citation: Senate Joint Resolution 13, 1987.

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State Insect



The Colorado Hairstreak Butterfly *Hypaurotis cysalus* was adopted as the official state insect on April 17, 1996. The butterfly is two inches in width and has purple wings with black borders, orange accents in the corners and blue on the underside. It may be found on both sides of the Continental Divide at elevations of 6,500 to 7,500 feet, in its usual habitat of scrub oak ecosystems. Citation: Senate Bill 122, 1996; Colorado

Revised Statute 24-80-913.

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State Song



"Where the Columbines Grow" was adopted as the official state song on May 8, 1915, by an act of the General Assembly. The words were written and the music composed by A.J. Fynn. If you have audio, [listen to the state song](#).

"Where the Columbines Grow" by A.J. Fynn, 1915

Verse One

Where the snowy peaks gleam in the moonlight,
Above the dark forests of pine,
And the wild foaming waters dash onward,
Toward lands where the tropic stars shine;
Where the scream of the bold mountain eagle
Responds to the notes of the dove
Is the purple robed West, the land that is best,
The pioneer land that we love.

Chorus

Tis the land where the columbines grow,
Overlooking the plains far below,
While the cool summer breeze in the evergreen trees
Softly sings where the columbines grow.

Verse Two

The bison is gone from the upland,
The deer from the canyon has fled,
The home of the wolf is deserted,
The antelope moans for his dead,

The war whoop re-echoes no longer,
The Indian's only a name,
And the nymphs of the grove in their loneliness rove,
But the columbine blooms just the same.

Verse Three

Let the violet brighten the brookside,
In sunlight of earlier spring,
Let the fair clover bedeck the green meadow,
In days when the orioles sing,
Let the golden rod herald the autumn,
But, under the midsummer sky,
In its fair Western home, may the columbine bloom
Till our great mountain rivers run dry.

Sheet music may be ordered through retail sheet music stores. It is not available from the State of Colorado. Citation: Senate Bill 308, 1915; Colorado Revised Statute 24-80-909.

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State Tartan

The Colorado General Assembly passed a resolution adopting an official state tartan on March 3, 1997. The tartan is comprised of a pattern and colors that symbolize Colorado's splendor and history. The pattern or sett consists of primary blocks of forest green and cerulean blue separated by broad dividing bands of black, with the forest green checks containing two pairs of tram tracks consisting of lavender and white and with the cerulean blue checks containing a gold stripe with red guard lines. The official state tartan is a Celtic and a "district" tartan that may be worn by any resident or friend of Colorado whether or not of Celtic heritage. July 1st is designated as "Tartan Day" in Colorado under House Joint Resolution 96-1014. An image of the tartan will be available on this site after the tartan is registered with the International Association of Tartan Studies. Citation: [House Joint Resolution 97-1016](#).

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State Tree

The Colorado Blue Spruce, *Picea pungens*, was adopted as the official state tree on March 7, 1939, by a resolution of the General Assembly. The Colorado Blue Spruce was first discovered on Pikes Peak in 1862 and named by botanist C.C. Parry. This tree is known for its stately, majestic, symmetrical form and its beautiful silver-blue color. In Colorado, it grows in small, scattered groves or singly among ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, alpine fir and Englemann spruce. In the northern parts of its range it grows at the 6,000 to 9,000 feet elevation while in the southern parts of its range at 8,000 to 11,000 feet. Its color ranges from green to blue to silver, and is sometimes called the silver spruce. Colorado school children voted on Arbor Day in 1892 to name the blue spruce as the state tree, however it was not until 1939 that the Colorado Blue Spruce was officially designated. Citation: House Joint Resolution 7, 1939.

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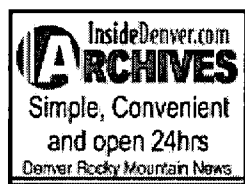
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Lessons learned, lives changed

Some have discovered a fear they never had. Some were moved to re-examine their faith, or their tolerance toward others. Some looked deep inside and asked a hard question: What can I do to prevent it from happening again?

Interviews were conducted by these reporters: Karen Abbott, Charley Able, Tustin Amole, Mike Anton, Charlie Brennan, Carla Crowder, Marlys Duran, John Ensslin, Tillie Fong, Dick Foster, Deborah Frazier, Joe Garner, Gary Gerhardt, Manny Gonzales, Tina Griego, Hector Gutierrez, Burt Hubbard, Ann Imse, Bob Jackson, Sue Lindsay, Gary Massaro, Kevin McCullen, Mike Patty, M.E. Sprengelmeyer, Jean Torkelson, Kevin Vaughan and Brian Weber.



Lift from a
 stranger

65 ideas
 submitted for
 Columbine tribute

And many simply hugged their children harder.

In the wake of last month's killings at Columbine High School, the *Denver Rocky Mountain News* asked 100 people how the massacre has changed their lives.

One theme that comes up again and again is a desire to connect with children.

"The first thing I've learned is you can't be too involved in your child's life," one man said.

Today. And tomorrow, too.

"I just hope," another said, "we don't forget this soon."

This begins an ongoing examination of a community searching for solutions.

Here is a selection of the responses.

Nancy Bachlet, 35, is a reporter for the *Westminster Window*.

"The day after it happened, when I put my 6-year-old son on the school bus -- something I really didn't want to do -- I promised up one side and down the other that his school was safe.

"When he got to school, the first thing his teacher told the kids was what to do if an armed

gunman comes into the classroom.

"He came home so mad at me. He felt I had lied to him and sent him someplace that wasn't safe. In essence, what Harris and Klebold did was destroy a level of trust between my son and myself.

"I have reinforced and re-emphasized what I had already been trying to teach him about violence and how to treat others. And I just try to talk to him more, and listen more."

Jeremy Smith, 28, of Englewood, is a disc jockey for KRFX-FM radio and a ticket salesman for Ticketmaster.

"The first thing I've learned is you can't be too involved in your child's life. With me working two jobs, it makes it rough.

"With Cassie Bernall (the student who was killed after acknowledging her faith in God), I couldn't say the same thing about my belief. Since then, I've been seeking the advice of friends who believe in God, and reconsidering religion."

Michelle Graf, 36, is a therapist at Craig Hospital. Columbine is less than a mile from her home -- the school her two boys, 3 and 6, may one day attend.

"I just ran home and grabbed my kids and hugged them. It made me more appreciative of my kids.

"It also made me aware of my community, more attuned to our neighborhood. It made me want to become more involved -- not just with the needs of our kids but with the needs of all the kids in the neighborhood."

Donna Legaard, 35, director of the LoDo Learning Center in Denver, is the mother of three children ages 3, 5 and 7.

"They were so worried. My 5-year-old said, 'Mommy, I hope when I go to high school somebody doesn't come in the school and hurt someone.'

"I always knew you had to talk to your kids about drugs and alcohol and sex and stuff like that. Now, I realize you also have to talk to them about guns and violence and that they could possibly be hurt at school.

"I'm going to tell them that they have to be careful. That you have to be nicer to people. The ultimate motive, I guess, is that you don't want people who could hurt them to get mad at them. Isn't that sad?"

John Dunning, 59, of Aurora, is the author of *The Bookman's Wake*.

He worries about the proliferation of pornography and violence on the Internet and the role that played in the shootings.

"Columbine has changed me in darker ways than I like. I've always believed in the Bill of Rights and in the freedoms that we have. But we have become such an ugly, nasty civilization that I really have begun to wonder whether we are worthy of things like freedom of speech. I hate to see myself going that way, but sometimes I feel like I can't help it.

"I think we're becoming an insane society. I don't know what we can do. I read a lot of stuff in the paper about how we have to listen to kids. That's just a platitude. They've got to get these awful weapons out of the hands of these kinds of people."

Amy Hovland, 28, is director of the before-school and after-school care program at Kyffin Elementary School in Golden.

"On the Thursday after it happened, we put out paper, stickers, color, clay and let the kids express themselves however they wanted. Most of them chose to create something for the Columbine memorial. Some of them took an hour to get it just perfect. I remember one little kid asking me, 'How do you spell tragedy?'"

"That day will be one of the fondest memories that I will take with me -- the day those kids showed their true feelings of love and compassion for people they didn't even know."

Jeannie Vanvelkinburgh, 38, of Denver, was shot and paralyzed when she came to the aid of an African immigrant in downtown Denver.

"The shootings just scared me very deeply. If my child was in that school, I would have found a way to get in there.

"It's going to be hard for some of those who were injured. It's going to be a different way of life, but it's life.

"I know I'm going to keep on going and I'm going to get better. I'm going to get a job and I'm going to make myself a better person. We can overcome anything if we can keep a strong heart."

Julie Mecham, 18, of Aurora is a junior at Smoky Hill High School.

She looks for "signs" now.

"I look more towards people. Like, would they? Could they do that? I've kind of lost trust. School's kind of uncomfortable."

She has become more cautious, more courteous.

"I watch more what I say. It's maybe nothing to you but it might really hurt someone else on the inside."

Still, she's cautious on her terms.

"I'm going to live. I'm not going to stay inside and hide. You have to live your life."

Shannon Clark, 30, of Littleton, is a senior account executive with MGA Communications.

Clark's big, quick smile gives her away.

"I really enjoy helping people."

Now more than ever.

"I've tried to be more helpful to other people and be kinder. It's so easy to get caught up with the trivial things of life, parking problems, traffic jams.

"That's not what it's all about. I definitely look at life differently. It's more precious. You never know when it's taken away."

Lance Burkett, 29, of Highlands Ranch, is a financial examiner with the National Association of Security Dealers. He's also a member of the Columbine Class of '88.

"The thing I've seen mostly is it really brought our class together. As soon as this happened I got hundreds of e-mails from people I hadn't talked to in 10 years.

The shootings changed his outlook.

"It makes you more open to all people. It makes

you more tolerant of everyone. That's the best thing I can pass on to anyone, to my unborn kids. We should be more tolerant and accept other people's differences."

Megan Zepeda, 35, of Denver, offers day care for children in her east Denver home. She has four children of her own.

She's at home -- days and nights -- to feed, comfort, discipline, teach and guide her children in her Catholic beliefs.

Her life makes more sense since the killings.

"It's validated what I'm doing. I think family has really gone by the wayside. I think religion is really important and that's a big problem. We've lost a lot of religion and that's hard on people."

She will do more of what she's been doing: keeping an eye on her kids and loving them.

"I think people allow their kids to have too much privacy and autonomy in their homes. Then they blame schools, but that's not fair."

Diana Davis, 48, of Lakewood, is a caterer, college student and mother of three.

"You don't feel as secure. You feel more vulnerable. It's like the weight of the world, every so often it knocks you around a little to remind you things aren't always fair or just or even understandable.

"We have talked a lot more with our kids about people being so angry and how it isn't good."

Billie Furuichi, 55, Lakewood, is youth ministries director at Mile High Church of Religious Science.

"When I realized it was affecting me deeply was the first time they (TV) showed the pictures of the people who had died. That's when I started to get real weepy. I realized that all of the kids in that school were really representative of the kids who go to our teen church.

"That was when I knew I really had to do something. We are opening the doors to our teen center every afternoon from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. We had almost a mad-house rush to get some volunteers to help us and we got about 40 people on a list.

"We were motivated by the disaster to really do

something positive, to pull together an afternoon program for kids."

Laurie Clark, 49, Northglenn, is public relations manager for Cenikor Foundation Inc. and a volunteer victims advocate.

She worked with relatives of the Columbine students that Tuesday. The next day, she had to notify one family that their child had died.

"I'm still not over it. I'm so, so saddened by this.

"I make sure that everyone that I care about knows how important they are to me. To try to live my life to the fullest and to stop caring about petty little things. To do my best in every aspect of my life.

"Because that's what matters when you get to the end of the line. It's not who has the best car or the most toys, but whether you've made a difference."

Lisa Gonzales, 35, Lakewood, is a group leader at a Lakewood day-care center and the mother of Jimmy, a Jefferson County high school freshman.

"It really scared me. We are talking more to Jimmy about his feelings about it and the anxiety he has felt since it happened. He is real nervous about going to school now and worries about 'What if it happens at my school.'

"The parents have been talking about it a lot more and expressing their feelings about what they would like to see happen.

"One of the things that came up is maybe it would be a good idea for all high school students to have parenting classes so they would understand what is involved in raising a child."

She plans to suggest the classes to her son's principal as well as the Jefferson County school board.

Margaret Carpenter, 68, a retired teacher and assistant school superintendent, is mayor of Thornton.

"Something has definitely changed in our society in the past 20 or 30 years to allow this kind of thing to happen. I don't mean to place blame. I am just wondering if there is anything I could have done, or anyone could have done.

"All of us need to take a long hard look at whether we are doing all we can for our young people."

Lori Hernandez, 33, of Arvada, runs her own company, which helps parents find quality child care. She and her husband have two sons in Jefferson County schools, one 14 and one 8.

"We've had real lengthy discussions on rock music. We went to a church service about rock music and video games."

"My 14-year-old feels everyone has some anger and rage about things that happen during the day, and for him the music is a release."

Dr. Jeffrey Hurst, 43, a dentist who lives in Golden and owns a practice in Lakewood, has two children in Jefferson County schools.

"The biggest way this has affected me is the impact it has had on my kids, their feeling that no matter what they do they will never be safe."

"Eight days after Columbine, Pomona had a bomb threat. It panicked everyone. I explained to my son that there can't be that many crazy people in the world who would actually do something like that. But that very night a kid got shot in a school up in Canada."

"I don't want to see our schools become like a prison under lockdown. I also don't want my kids to be afraid of everyone who looks different."

"I don't want a world where we sacrifice individuality for a false sense of security. I have just tried to talk to my kids and listen to their concerns."

Bill Whitfield, 38, of Denver, is a security guard supervisor.

"I'm leaving Colorado for one, as soon as possible. Because I do not think Colorado is a good place to raise children. I'm moving to rural Tennessee."

"I'm also going to work harder for the legalization of marijuana, because if kids had access to soft drugs they'd be less stressed out."

"And I'm getting rid of all my weapons. I used to go to gun shows, and believed in basic NRA philosophy, but from now on if I have anything in my house it'll be a baseball bat in case of an

intruder."

Susan Rosser, 49, is a geologist who lives in unincorporated Arapahoe County.

She and her husband have stopped letting their 17-year-old son, Drew, play paintball, a war game using paint instead of bullets. They also refuse to let him watch *The Matrix*, a violent sci-fi movie, even though some of his friends have seen it several times.

"It has made our family look in the mirror and really analyze some of the things we haven't questioned before. Things that maybe we allowed before, we're not allowing now."

Derek Passarelli, 36, of south Jefferson County, is an attorney. He also coaches a soccer team of girls from Leewood and Powderhorn elementary schools.

He moved his family back home to Colorado from Washington, D.C., because he thought it was a safer place for his 9-year-old daughter. Then came Columbine.

"Boy, did that destroy some basic beliefs that I held to be true.

"I guess the one thing that it woke me up to is that I better start being more aware of other people's children and helping them out.

"One of the first things I did was fill out my volunteer form for the Children's Legal Center again."

Ellen Glover, 45, is a Web editor at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Glover and her husband, Kent, are active in a Boy Scout troop that includes many students who were in Columbine when the terror erupted.

"They've been traumatized by it," she said. "We made a commitment as a family to stay the course and support our friends.

"We're going to try to get more families involved and show them that scouting has something to offer the community."

Michele Skinrood, 47, of Westminster, is a clerical assistant with a daughter at Northglenn High.

"Your concerns and priorities change. Lisa came

home and sat in front of the TV and watched it. She later told me that two fliers were found at her school saying the Trench Coat Mafia would hit Northglenn next.

"I feel like I'd like to move to Utah, but I know I wouldn't be any safer there.

"The real fault lies with the parents. You see all this road rage in adults who are teaching their children it's all right to take out their anger in this manner."

49, public relations director of the American Numismatic Association in Colorado Springs.

"This makes me wonder even more why there are so many guns. It just brought that home to me. You want to know what guns look like in school? That's what guns look like in school."

Mike Salardino, 49, a stockbroker, is a board member of the Pueblo Boys and Girls Clubs and vice president of the Child Advocacy Center in Pueblo.

"I plan to be much more vocal as an advocate of discipline in schools -- and I'm talking about everything from dress codes to the way they treat one another -- reduction of violence in television, movies and video games, curtailment of accessibility to automatic weapons.

"I think there should be more parental responsibility. We have too many spoiled-brat yuppie parents that don't want to raise their children. I couldn't have hid a pack of cigarettes from my parents, let alone assault weapons and bombs.

"I don't think parents are paying attention to their children, and if they're not going to, then society has to start paying attention."

John Yee, 78, of Denver, is a retired teacher and head of the Denver-Kunming Sister City Committee. He serves on a Denver Rotary Club committee on youth.

"We really need to take stock of where we're going, if we really want to have a happier life in this world and more security.

"Are we willing to make some sacrifices to do the right thing? Maybe we need to pay more attention to other people, to learn to give more of our time, and share our feelings to help other people.

"I will try to find kids who need guidance and help. And I would like to see this society have the gumption to repeal the Second Amendment and get rid of the guns.

"The reason evil (prevails) is because good people don't do anything."

Jim Casperson, 51, is a business consultant from Littleton. His twin daughters, Kelly and Kerry, are juniors at Columbine High School.

"It changes your perspective on life. I consider myself very lucky, and I just absolutely hurt for those families (whose children were killed).

"It scared the crud out of me, but after it was all over, the support of friends and family and people I didn't know was absolutely incredible. When I went to King Soopers Wednesday morning, I got hugs from all the checkers.

"I hug my kids more, and I called other people in the community to see if they needed help. I went to a member of the SWAT team and thanked him.

Casperson is volunteering as treasurer of Art for the Heart Foundation, a non-profit group.

"My job is to make sure we go down the right path and we spend the money that's raised the right way. We do it from the heart."

Lou Lopez, 67, of Denver, is a retired police lieutenant and former commander of the gang unit.

"It made me sick and ill. You have to be cold-blooded son of a gun not to have some emotional trauma as a result of it."

He renewed his commitment to keep working with youth. But it also hit home how tough it is to come to grips with youth violence.

"There are experts that have far greater knowledge than a lot of us do, but even they have not been able to come up with a solution."

Jessica Busick, 15, attends a Jefferson County high school and works part time at a Taco Bell.

She bought a blue and silver teddy bear and left it at the Clement Park memorial site. And she has stopped kidding around about violence --
"Saying things like 'Oh my God, he's going to

kill me!" You can't joke like that any more because somebody might actually think that there's something going wrong.

"I don't think we'll ever be able to do it again, that joking. I don't mind."

Sumiko Hennessey, 61, of Aurora, is executive director of the Asia Pacific Development Center.

"When I was 7 years old in Japan, we were coming back from the rural area. One stray American plane came over, saw a group of children going home, and he dived at us and shot at us. We all ran for cover. I was not injured but whenever I hear a plane, I sweat. And children being shot at -- that's an image that I always carry with me.

"The majority of our programs at the center are aimed at adults, but we're shifting to youth, especially to develop peer counselors among kids.

"Adults don't have any relationships with some of these kids. Maybe through (peer counselors) we can have entree to these students. In our training for peer counselors, up to now, we looked at trying to avoid alcohol and drugs, but now we will refocus on violence and alienation."

Sharon Docherty, 30, of Lafayette, is an elementary school music teacher.

"As a teacher, it makes me realize that there is a lot more that's expected of us than just dealing in academics.

"Somehow, because of the Columbine incident, the role of teacher is now spotlighted as being multifaceted. I feel that there's this expectation now for teachers to be protectors as well as educators, psychologists as well as teachers."

Bill Howard, 44, is a consultant who lives in Boulder.

"I think that, if there was any innocence left in the world, it certainly took a hit right in the heart.

"You could hear it ripping your soul out, your innocence, your faith. It just trashed them. The challenge is to somehow rekindle the hope.

"You have to work through other people to help young people in some ways, through service activities. Because obviously, kids these days

have more going on than we ever did when I was that age."

Howard did one thing right away.

"It made me change my prayers. It made me pray for those families."

Nancee Martin-Coffey, 45, is a seminarian in Boulder.

"It has encouraged me to be more thoughtful about people who are marginalized. And, in conversing with my (four) children, it has caused me to talk about befriending all sorts of people, to enter into conversations with them about people who are usually pushed aside, to be more thoughtful about who is in and who is out."

Grace Brock, 41, of Lakewood, is a jazz singer and composer. She was so moved by the killings that she wrote *The Strangling Weed*.

"It asks questions like how does this happen.

"We have all committed acts of anger. Now, I'm more aware of it. Whatever seed you plant, it's going to grow. It starts in ways that seem subtle, but if left unchecked, it grows into a searing hatred, a strangling weed."

Sister Elizabeth Bornhoft, 77, Denver, is a Roman Catholic nun. She runs a program called Quest for Peace to help young people respect and love themselves, others and God.

"It has made me more determined to reach our young people with the truth, and let them know that God loves them.

"I'm more determined to further the family pledge of non-violence."

Diana Barnhill, 46, of Castle Rock, is a business administrator in a Lakewood dental office.

"People are so cruel to each other. If they just would bite their tongue and allow other people to be who they are, some of the anger wouldn't happen.

"I hope it makes people more ready to reach out, as opposed to hiding in their houses and isolating themselves in fear and suspicion.

"Trust is a hard thing. You have to believe in

your fellow man."

Cody Stephenson, 17, attends a Jefferson County high school.

"I kept thinking how sad it was. And I was kind of confused about why they would do that.

"Now, I'm more aware of who's around and what they're doing -- at school, and just anywhere, I guess. And I'm careful not to criticize people -- especially people who are, like, secluded. I'm more careful not to criticize people just because they're different from me."

Pedro Saenz, 44, is a senior software engineer who lives in Aurora.

"What if this had happened at my granddaughter's elementary? That child is my life.

"I turn the TV off a little more. We sit around together and we play board games a little more. You enjoy every minute a little more."

Dee Wisor, 47, is an attorney who lives in Arapahoe County.

"I happen to have two weapons in my house left over from hunting with my father as a young man, and I guess I see no reason to keep them anymore.

"I kept them for sentimental reasons, but now I'm looking for a way to get rid of them. That's my little contribution."

Barb Vogel, 48, of Denver, is an elementary school teacher.

"It makes me even more determined to teach children to balance their minds and their hearts. It makes me even more determined to teach models of tolerance.

"I plan to continue my daily fight, a mission to awaken children to their social consciousness.

"I live under the philosophy of 'Do small things with great love.'"

Toni Lopez, 25, of Thornton, works as a data entry processor. She has two daughters, 4 and 1.

"It will affect me as far as sending my children to public school. I'm thinking twice about that.

"I would do it basically for their safety and knowing at least in a private school, even though they have to wear uniforms and stuff, it'll be safer and it'll cut teasing and all that other stuff back."

Calixto Ortiz, 48, of Denver, who works as a food distributor, is the father of four, ages 21, 15, and 5-year-old twins.

"We probably will be closer and appreciate our kids more and spend more time with them, because you don't realize that kind of thing can happen."

"Sometimes you get so busy with your jobs and you don't spend enough time with your kids and you don't talk to them about their lives."

Viviana Carbajal, 14, of Denver, is a freshman at West High School.

"It already affected my school as soon as it happened. I was shocked along with everyone else. We didn't even have school the next day."

"When we finally returned to school, we were like in a prison. Every time you had to go into the building you had to show your identification. There was one entrance and everybody had to go through there. Security was at all the doors. No trench coats. You had to be in class, no passes."

"I pray when I go to church every Sunday, and during the week I prayed. It's like you can't really avoid anything like that. All you can do is be careful and hope for the best."

Sally Hopper, 64, former state senator from Golden and grandmother of five.

"I was absolutely out of commission for a couple of days, like a loss in the family."

Since, Hopper has been "maybe living each day a little fuller. I called a friend, an old friend in Tennessee, who has been diagnosed with cancer. You realize you don't want to lose track of friends or let time pass you by. All of a sudden, you realize how fragile life is."

Lontine Chavez, 59, of Denver, co-owns Hair People, a hair salon in Cherry Creek North.

He said the shootings "make me a much stronger advocate for gun control."

"I just hope we don't forget this soon."

Jon Caldara, 34, of Boulder, is president of the Independence Institute, a free-market think tank in Golden, and a talk show host on 850 KOA.

The political impact, which halted relaxation of concealed-weapons laws in Colorado, was "absolutely devastating," he said. "It was unreasonable."

"In the world of public policy, people use tragedies like this to promote emotional political causes. Chasing out the NRA because of this shooting was an emotional reaction, not a reasonable response."

Colline Owens, 36, of Aurora, manages a dry cleaning store and has a 3-year-old.

"I'm going to be paranoid to let my child go to school by himself. If it's this violent now, how is it going to be by the time my child goes to school? I just think it's going to be a cold, cold world we live in."

Kendra Kitashima, 18, is a senior at Highlands Ranch High School.

"I'm more scared that the way I look at a person may be taken wrong. I'm careful of what I say to people. Going back to school the next day felt different. You look at people and think, 'What if?' The ones who did this looked normal, too."

"I'm trying to be extra nice to everybody. I used to talk about people all the time but now I'll keep my opinions to myself. I'm careful how I look at a person."

Jerry Lewis, 71, Cherry Hills, works in the oil industry.

"Primarily, it's made me aware of how precious our families are. And I go along with the observation that when spiritual values and God were taken out of the schools, what replaced them was violence and immoral behavior."

Lewis and his wife do volunteer work for a group called Young Life, which shares the Gospel with school-aged children.

"I've been motivated to put more efforts into that. I will certainly try to get more Young Life alumni involved again in helping kids."

Beth Pfalmer, 50, of Denver, is director of Work and Family Resource Center, a state

agency that provides support to families and children.

"I will never, ever again, take lightly the comment that parenting is a really hard job. I will offer support and understanding and, hopefully, help. In the elevators, in the parking lots, in casual encounters.

"And one more thing, I live near a junior high and an elementary school and I'm the goofy lady who speaks to every child I see. I ask questions like, 'How are you doing?' 'How's school?' 'Are you hanging in there?' I will continue to speak to every child I see.

"Most of us ignore children and half of us are afraid of them, and, you know what? They are just great kids who need our attention, every single one of them."

Marilynn Force, mid-40s, of Wheat Ridge, is director of the Small Business Development Center at the Boulder Chamber of Commerce.

"The thing that strikes me the most is that in our culture there is no forgiveness. We are a real driven culture. People are so busy and so driven that they have forgotten that people need to learn and make mistakes and be forgiven for them."

Michelle McInturf, 37, of Aurora, is a sales clerk.

"Sometimes we take our kids for granted. I usually give both my kids a kiss goodbye. Now I make sure I do it every day.

"I kiss them and I hug them and I tell them I love them."

Jon Huddleston, 28, of Castle Rock, co-owns Douglas County Guns in Castle Rock.

"It does cause you to look at kids that come in just looking. It causes you to look at them maybe a little more suspicious.

"There have been kids that come in and say, 'Why can't you sell it to me?' I've said, 'You could give me a million dollars and there's no way I'm going to sell you the firearm.'"

Jim Wallendorf, 58, of Castle Rock, is principal of ThunderRidge High School in Highlands Ranch.

"I am being a lot more observant of students in a positive way. I'm looking at kids who may be lonely or sad or by themselves and I'm trying to be a friend to them.

"There was a lot of horror that happened, but it also started pointing out that there are a lot of lonely people out there.

"Most and most and most won't do anything to harm another person, but they're in a lot of pain."

John De la Hoz, 32, of Denver, runs an Internet marketing business.

He has been saying extra prayers for victims, their families and friends. And he volunteered to create a web site for the group Family Support Networks, which supports fire and law enforcement personnel facing their own emotions from what they saw at Columbine.

"I figured it was something I could do to help out. You see all these people hurt and you wish you could help them."

Chris Walter, 39, of Lakewood, is a home day care provider.

"I'm a Brownie leader and one of my moms asked me what to do about it. I said I didn't know, that there's just no way to control it, no easy answers.

"I don't know what to do with my own kids except pray for them to make it through school. My first thought was home school. Just pull them out.

"But I really think it comes down to respect. I think we're losing respect for ourselves, our parents, our elders, everything around us in general.

"I'm going to help my children learn to respect the people and things that are around them by my example and taking more time with them, working with them, being more patient with them."

Larry Weisberg, 55, of Boulder, is leaving CU, where he taught advertising for six years, to return to the advertising business in the East.

He contacted 15 people in the advertising industry to set up a medical account for one of the injured Columbine students.

"I'm trying to look at things in a more tolerant fashion. The Dali Lama came to Boulder a few years ago and I read the text of his speech in the paper. He talked about tolerance and respect for other people. That's what is missing.

"I know some people who say they aren't going to change or others who think the media is covering this too much, but I'm trying to do something that is right for me."

Lush B. Lofton, 77, is a retired construction worker who lives in Denver.

When Lofton was growing up, people weren't shy about getting after youngsters who got into trouble.

"People -- your neighbors -- if your dad or mother wasn't there, and they saw you doing something wrong, they would speak to you."

Lofton plans to be more vigilant with the youngsters around him, and with his four grandchildren.

Janet Ruli, 31, of Denver, is a cocktail waitress.

The Columbine shootings reinforced a decision Ruli had already made: She won't have children.

It also reminded the native of New Orleans that she can't escape violence, no matter where she goes.

Barbara Allen, 61, a Navajo Indian, is a retired teacher who lives in Aurora.

"I'm not one that cries. But this brought tears to my eyes. I thought about my two grown daughters who live in California with their husbands and my three grandchildren.

"I decided that I will visit with them more than I have in the past because the way things are today, tomorrow is not promised.

"Being a retired school teacher also made me want to volunteer more of my time with youth organizations."

Randy Cravens, 34, of Denver, is program manager for the Cole-Beacon Program at Cole Middle School, an after-school program for youth.

"We used to have stereotypes of what kind of

kids were the most dangerous. And now I have reorganized my thoughts about what kind of kids are capable of being as destructive as the gang-bangers.

"I'm doing a double take with these white kids with their ears pierced and tattoos. I'm now doing the same thing when I see white kids walking down the street as whites do when they see black kids. I cross the street because they might snap. I look at them in the grocery store like 'Is he one?'"

"I don't look at them like punks anymore. I look at them as potential Columbine students walking around, because you just don't know. Their incomes didn't matter and their skin colors didn't matter."

Jeff Martinez, 29 of Aurora, is a public affairs representative at Kaiser Permanente.

"My brother Matthew will be 13 soon. It underscores the importance of being involved in his life. Being there for him when he has concerns or questions. Play a more active role in his life, be his support and help build his foundation.

"The incident also made me think, 'Am I tolerant of people? Am I going out of my way to make people feel comfortable and feel valued daily? Am I reaching out to kids or reaching out in my community?'"

"Those are the kinds of things that we only look at when there is a tragedy. We need to build a spirit of selflessness and uplift people when they fall down."

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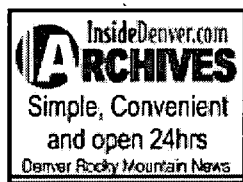


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Fear, hope fill graduation day for Columbine

By Brian Weber

Denver Rocky Mountain News Education Writer



Lift from a
stranger

65 ideas
submitted for
Columbine tribute

This time next week they're graduates, former Columbine High students.

Reluctantly.

Some in the Class of '99 want another year to rewrite their final days.

They want all the fun seniors traditionally enjoy at the end of the year: pranks, classes with no consequences, powderpuff football games, senior cut day, yearbook signings in the commons on the last day of school, a party at Chatfield Reservoir.

Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold stole all that when they killed 12 students, one teacher and themselves April 20. The two killers would have graduated, too. So would two of their victims: Isaiah Shoels and Lauren Townsend.

"We've missed a lot," Michele Fox said. "Even though we're bitter toward Eric and Dylan, it's sad that two murderers were in our class. "This whole thing just seems like a dream and I'm going to wake up soon."

Most seniors dream of graduation and later fondly remember the ceremony. The killings make Saturday's graduation all the more significant and necessary, experts say.

The 440 seniors faced a trauma that forever distinguishes them and their school. They suffered together. Now they need to celebrate their individual and collective accomplishments together, said Fred Denny, professor of religious studies at the University of Colorado.

"It will have healing value," he said.

Grad will
have
"healing
value"



Their ceremony points out how our culture's rituals help make sense of life, said Denny, who has studied myths and rituals. They distinguish the mundane from the moving, they congratulate and offer time to reflect and forgive.

These students need that.

"Ceremonies like this are very important to reaffirm our civic values and things we hold important in our society," Denny said.

Students will gain closure as the day opens the first major passage of their young lives. "It's saying: 'We're not giving up. We're not going to quit,'" Denny said.

There is fear. Congregating under the sun at Fiddler's Green Amphitheatre may stir bad memories.

"I'm kind of paranoid about graduating," Fox said. "I think a lot of people are afraid that something's going to happen. It's in the back of your mind.

"The ceremony will be real hard for each of us."

Columbine students appreciate that people care about them, want to know how they are. They wish theirs could be a routine graduation, but they doubt that will happen.

"We just want it to be normal," Krissa Eggert said. "We don't want any media there. We don't want anyone except family."

Actually, plans call for calm coverage compared with the media onslaught that followed for weeks after the tragedy. Representatives of print, radio and television will form a "pool" to greatly reduce the number of journalists at the ceremony.

However, President Clinton is scheduled to visit Thursday, which will heighten interest.

Principal Frank DeAngelis will speak at graduation, as will various students who tried out for the honor before the tragedy. Students want a remembrance of the dead and words for the living.

"We'll get encouragement out of it," Laurel Seaholm said. "Kids deserve the time spent on them."

They are more than ready to leave Chatfield

High, where they had to go after the rampage. Security is so tight it feels like a prison, students said. They spend little time on academics. Some classes play board games. Some respond to letters from well-wishers around the world.

"School is pretty much stupid," Eggert said.
"We tie-dyed shirts in my physics class."

She also created her own time capsule, a letter about herself and her times to future generations of her family.

"I'll give it to them on their graduation day," she said."

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Shooting victim vows to rejoin marching band next year

By Katie Kerwin McCrimmon
Denver Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

Richard Castaldo plans to play his tuba in
Columbine's marching band again next year.

"We'll find a way for you to march," Castaldo's father, Rick Castaldo, has told his son.

Castaldo, 17, is fighting back from at least four gunshot wounds in his chest, back and left arm. One of the bullets bruised his spinal cord, leaving him with no feeling below the chest.

He remains in fair condition at Swedish Medical Center.

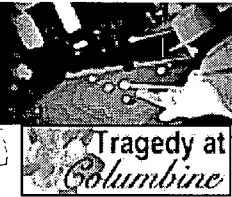
On Saturday he hoped to meet with participants at a PeaceJam seminar at Regis University, but a minor lung infection kept him in his hospital bed.

Castaldo has been active in PeaceJam and had his picture taken with the Dalai Lama, the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize winner. When the two met, the Dalai Lama kissed Castaldo's hands and told him he was special. Castaldo relishes that moment and keeps the photo in his hospital room.

Rick Castaldo came to the PeaceJam event in his son's place. He said Richard is recovering well and remains committed to the group's goal of nonviolence.

"When he's better, he'll continue to be a part of PeaceJam. He believes in the importance of pulling the community together for healing and stopping violence," Rick Castaldo said.

As Richard Castaldo heals, his father is preparing to mount attacks on the violence and pornography that kids can access on the Internet.



Lift from a
stranger

65 ideas
submitted for
Columbine tribute

In about a week, Richard Castaldo is expected to be transferred to Craig Rehabilitation Center, where he will begin months of intensive therapy.

For now, Castaldo's spirits are high despite his injuries. He has been having some muscle spasms in his lower body, which gives his family hope that someday he may walk again.

A steady stream of sports stars and rock singers has boosted Castaldo's will to recover. He's been invited to jam on his saxophone with the Allman Brothers when they play Red Rocks on June 12, if he's well enough.

"I think that's done wonders for his spirits," Rick Castaldo said of all the well-wishers.

Castaldo sometimes talks about the horror of being shot at Columbine High School. He was one of 21 people injured April 20, when Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold killed 12 fellow students and one teacher.

Richard Castaldo remembers being shot and playing dead. Then, when he thought it was safe, he raised one of his arms in a bid for help. As SWAT officers moved in to rescue him, Castaldo recalls the sound of a pipe bomb exploding nearby.

He is not bitter or angry. But he has wondered how kids could commit such an evil act.

Castaldo transferred to Columbine this year after attending Machebeuf for his first two years of high school. He wanted to be with friends at Columbine and play in their band. He loves music and while he's shy, friends say he has a great personality. That spirit is showing through now.

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Teen shot five times reports he feels 'great'

By Rebecca Jones
Denver Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

Sixteen-year-old Columbine High School shooting victim Lance Kirklin walked into a news conference Friday to announce to the world, "I feel great."

Lance has been at Denver Health Medical Center since April 20, when he was shot five times, including a shotgun blast that destroyed much of the lower left side of his face.

He has undergone nearly 30 hours of surgery for wounds on his face, leg and chest. Repairing his jaw will take possibly six more surgeries. But doctors call his recovery "amazing" and predict he will be able to go home within a week.

"Lance is a uniquely courageous man," said Dr. Ernest Moore, chief of surgery and trauma services at the hospital.

He still speaks with difficulty, sometimes touching the bandage over the hole surgeons opened in his throat to help him breath, but doctors say they expect him to regain full speaking ability.

Lance asked for the press conference because he wants the community to know he's feeling fine and he wants to encourage the other Columbine students who remain hospitalized.

On the morning of the shooting, he was leaving the cafeteria to go outside for a cigarette, followed by his friends Dan Rohrbough and Sean Graves, when he was hit. They were among the first to be shot. Dan did not survive. Sean remains at Craig Hospital, partially paralyzed.

"At first, I thought it was a senior prank," Lance said.



Lift from a stranger

65 ideas submitted for Columbine tribute

He said he did not know the shooters, and he remembers seeing only their shadows. He says he was about 50 feet from them when he was hit. Afterward, he said, he remained fully conscious for about 10 minutes, then slipped in and out of consciousness until rescuers reached him.

In addition to the shotgun wound in his face, Kirklin's left thigh bone was shattered by a bullet. He also sustained bullet wounds in his right chest, his right groin and left foot. Doctors say he was shot by three guns.

One of the pellets from the shotgun blast has migrated into his heart, and two remain in his lungs, but doctors don't believe they pose a risk.

"His sheer survival is a miracle in itself," said Dr. Stephen Batuello, a surgeon who oversaw the reconstruction of Lance's face. Doctors took some bone and tissue from his leg to rebuild his jaw.

A hospital spokeswoman says Lance's medical bills are now close to \$1 million, but thanks to widespread donations, she doesn't expect the Kirklin family will be forced to pay any of that.

He continues to be fed through a gastric tube, but he's anxiously awaiting the day -- which may come in about two weeks -- when he can swallow normally. "I want a drink," he said. "Apple juice."

Flanked by his parents, Dawn and Mike Kirklin, Lance described his typical day: Nurses change the bandages on his face early in the morning, then he spends time with his family and visitors, then he heads to grueling physical therapy session twice a day. In the late afternoon and evening, he sees more visitors.

His father offered thanks for all the love and support the family has received.

"I hope this tragedy can get the world to focus on love and family," Mike Kirklin said. "Get to know your kids, and what they're doing," he urged parents.

May 15, 1999



columbine - tragedy and recovery

Tragedy rewrites speech

By **Janet Bingham**
Denver Post Education Writer

May 17 - From the time she first heard it, Sara Martin was struck by the story of the chapel and the stained glass.

But it wasn't until the tragedy at Columbine High that the 18-year-old senior, slated to speak to the Columbine Class of 1999, realized what it meant.

Now the stained glass will be a central metaphor of her speech at graduation ceremonies Saturday. Martin, who will head to St. John's College in Annapolis, Md., in the fall, is one of several students selected to speak at the event at Fiddler's Green.

She first heard the story last March when she and Lauren Townsend and other members of their Advanced Placement English class visited England as part of a class trip.

At King's College Chapel in Cambridge, Martin heard how the people of the town had wanted to preserve the chapel's centuries-old stained glass from the heavy bombing that took place during World War II.

Citizens came together and decided that each person would take home one piece of the precious glass and hide it so it would be safe if the Germans invaded.

After the war, they reunited and put all the pieces back together. Light pouring into the chapel once again illuminates the stories told in the glass. It is still possible to see the lines where the pieces were taken apart.

Now, following the shootings at Columbine that took the lives of Martin's classmate Townsend and her good friend Cassie Bernall, Martin said she has come to realize deeper meanings in that story. Townsend and Bernall were among 12 students and a teacher gunned down on April 20 by two students who then took their own lives.

"We are the stained glass," she will tell the members of the Columbine Class of 1999.

"We are the windows, and through each of us is reflected our experience and what we make of that."

When all the pieces are brought together, it is then that the whole picture is seen. "It is up to everyone what they do with this experience, where they go from here," she said.

She also sees a metaphor for community. Like the people in England who came together to preserve the historic stained glass from the ravages of war, "so our community has to come together. We all add to each other and support each other."

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Martin still is re-working her speech, still polishing it, changing the wording.

Certainly the focus has changed a lot since early April, before the shooting, when Martin was chosen as a graduation speaker.

As she told a reporter at Time Magazine shortly after the shooting, she had wanted to write about all the people and good times she had loved at Columbine High. "I have loved oysters at 7 in the morning in the teachers' lounge with Mme. Lutz and the halls that smelled like rotting Easter eggs," she had written. "I have loved fire drills and Tai Chi on the lawn with Mr. Kritzer's philosophy class. I have loved you and our moments of folly together... We're all looking for passion, for something, anything in our lives..."

But then came April 20. Martin was in the choir room, and was among the students who made it out early. Townsend and Bernall died in the library. A gunman asked Bernall if she believed in God. When she said "yes," the gunman shot her.

Martin's first reaction when she heard of the death of her friends was despair. As she told the Time reporter, "When those guys walked into the hallways in their trench coats and their bombs, they brought in fear and hate and pushed out everything else - every ounce of life." But her perspective has changed since, partly because of the positive changes she's seen in people's lives because of her friend's stand. The story of Bernall's strong commitment to her faith has circled the globe. Dave McPherson, Martin's pastor at West Bowles Community Church, told the congregation Sunday how even in a tiny village called Mayan Abun in the Sudan, villagers have built a memorial in their church to Bernall. Bernall's family has received thousands of letters from throughout the country. Opening one at random, McPherson read how Bernall's stand had changed a man's life.

Bernall's mother, Misty, approached Martin in church Sunday, gave her a joyous hug, and invited her and other members of the church youth group over for something to eat a little later. Inspired by the faith of her friend and her friend's mother, Martin is developing the metaphor of the stained glass. She wants to talk more, she said, about one of the chapel windows, "the window of death and resurrection."

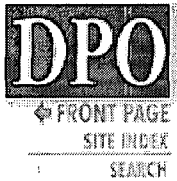
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columbine - tragedy and recovery

Consensus sought on donations

By **Jim Hughes**
Denver Post Staff Writer

May 16 - How do you finance the healing of a broken-hearted community?

It's a question that has been answered often in recent years, and the answers are the same as those to the question of financing a high school band trip: car washes, not mill levies; donations, not municipal bonds.

In Springfield, Ore., Paducah, Ky., Jonesboro, Ark., and other communities where children have been slain by armed classmates, donating money in the aftermath is recognized as a vital part of moving on from such time-stopping tragedy.

The emotional havoc rendered by the shootings at Columbine High School on April 20, when two students fatally shot a teacher and 12 of their classmates and injured 23 others with bombs and bullets before apparently killing themselves, defies the balm of simple compensation. But still, cash donations best manifest the desire of a community to help heal those whose lives have been so publicly broken.

With the violence at Columbine the first of its kind in a major American metropolitan area, the fund-raising stakes, like the body count, have gone up. Where Springfield relief funds reached \$450,000 and Jonesboro citizens mustered \$400,000, the coffers of Colorado's post-Columbine charities already are pushing the \$2.5 million mark. So on what exactly should that money be spent? Victims' funeral expenses and hospital bills? Scholarships for victims who lived? Memorials? Violence-prevention curricula? Repairs to the ravaged school itself?

\$2.5 m

These expenses and others have been paid by nonprofit groups in other American communities now forever linked to the Columbine neighborhood. The disbursement of funds has been the cause of some acrimony in these towns, though; who qualifies for funds and for what purposes have been questions hotly debated elsewhere.

Links to other communities

The only way the post-Columbine effort can transcend that contentiousness, relief workers said, is if the atmosphere of good faith that has coalesced in Colorado these past weeks persists.

Columbine fund administrators met last week to discuss how best to move into the long-term phase of distributing money. They are expected to announce their plan Monday.

"This is a very complicated matter," warned Cindy Brown, director of Ribbon of Promise. The group, a national organization dedicated to preventing youth violence, was formed after the May 1998 shootings at Thurston High School in Springfield, Ore.

"Nobody's ever written a how-to book on something like this," Brown

said. "Our position is that the communities have been through a lot. Everybody is a victim and needs to just work together and see the goodness that most people are trying to give. That's what we encourage. It's certainly not something communities need to disagree over."

But they have. Disagreements over how funds should be spent, who should manage them and who should qualify to receive them will probably strike the relief effort in Colorado, as they have elsewhere, said John Lively, chairman of the committee administering the Thurston Healing Fund.

"Don't rush it," Lively said. "At least consider all of the opinions before you start rushing into making emotional decisions. Early on (in Springfield), it was not clear what we should do. The emotions of the day would have been just to write the checks and worry about it later. We could have written some really big checks. But the further you get from the event, the more those long-term needs become known, and the less sources (for more funding) there are."

More than a year after the Springfield shootings, psychological counseling, extended physical therapy and medical care and transportation expenses remain as important expenditures for the Thurston Healing Fund, he said.

On Thursday, Jefferson County District Attorney Dave Thomas met with representatives from about 15 funds aiding the Columbine community.

"It was a pretty good conversation," said Danielle Corriveau of Mile High United Way, which through its Healing Fund has collected \$2 million. "In the end, it seemed that the conversation kind of went around that a collaboration of efforts would be a very good idea. But how that specifically is going to work has yet to be determined."

*Mile High
United Way*

The groups represented at that meeting control the bulk of what has been raised, but an exact accounting of Columbine charity may never be possible. In-kind donations of goods and services have flooded the community since the day of the attack. And entities from radio stations to neighborhood groups are soliciting donations. The sheer volume of donations has impressed those collecting the funds.

"The response has been very gratifying," said Safeway spokesman Jeff Stroh, whose stores have been collecting Columbine donations in six states. "I would say that people have been just as generous in Scottsbluff, Neb., and Rapid City, S.D., and Tucson, Ariz., as they have been in the Denver area. This tragedy seems to have touched people equally, no matter where they live."

*people
elsewhere
giving
equally*

To Jason Hickman, who lives in the Columbine neighborhood and produced the "Friend of Mine" CD being sold as a fund-raiser, the public response is perhaps as valuable as the money itself. He estimated that about 35,000 copies of the song, composed by Columbine students Stephen and Jonathan Cohen, have been sold. At \$9.95 apiece, the CD has proven to be a very successful venture. But the impact of the widespread support behind the dollars has helped even before the money has been counted, Hickman said.

*"Friend of
mine"
song*

"I get weepy at times, you know?" he said. "Sometimes it really gets to me, just seeing it all. Everybody has just jumped in. It's just incredible the way people are trying to help out here."

Those who have survived school shootings said they found a few diamonds in the rubble made of their lives: scattered realizations that they were not alone.



In Paducah in December 1997, as she dealt with the schoolyard murder of her 15-year-old daughter, Kayce, Sabrina Steger was suddenly unable to function beyond grief. How do you pay bills in such a time? How do you even go to work? Without her even asking, Steger was relieved of most of those daily obstacles. Bills stopped showing up in her mailbox. Funeral expenses just went away.

Looking back now, the community's help was a key factor in her getting through those dark days, she said.

"It was very helpful," she said.

"At the time that you're going through that state of shock, it's hard to make a lot of decisions. We would get things in the mail saying not to worry about this bill, or something like that. I never got a hospital bill for my daughter. Honestly, I can't say for sure how many of the bills were just forgiven and how many were paid by the fund. No one has ever really talked about the money to us."

In a time when neighborliness is often cast as a crumbling anachronism, it's possible Columbine families will come to realize, as Steger's family did, that they live in a caring society willing to help them return to something like peace, she said.

"The thought never occurred to me that people would do that at the time," she said.

"Seventeen months later, though, knowing what this community does any time anybody's in need, it's not surprising. It's a pretty good community."

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SPORTS

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BRONCOS REPORT

Columbine benefit nets \$50,000

By Adam Scheffer
Denver Post Sports Writer

May 14 - Enough bad came out of the April 20 tragedy at Columbine High School. Now there's some good.

Denver Broncos defensive end Harald Hasselbach, cornerback Ray Crockett and their respective wives Aundrea and April hosted a dinner and auction at the Inverness Hotel and Golf Club on Friday night that raised more than \$50,000 for a Columbine scholarship fund.

Most of the money was raised by the auction. An autographed Wayne Gretzky jersey went for \$4,500, an autographed John Elway jersey fetched the same price, and an autographed Terrell Davis jersey went for \$2,100.

Yet it was a nonsports item that commanded the most interest, the highest bid, and the event's most memorable moment.

Brandi Vitez, a 14-year-old Columbine student, donated her personal collection of dozens of Beanie Babies.

The bidding for the basket opened at \$1,000, quickly jumped to \$2,000, then to \$3,000 and \$4,000 until it finally was sold for \$5,000. The winning bidder was Pro Bowl guard Mark Schlereth of the Broncos.

When he collected his basket of Beanie Babies, Schlereth turned around and walked over to Vitez's table. He handed it back to her with a hug and a kiss.

"I don't know what the big deal was," a grinning, shrugging Schlereth said after receiving a standing ovation. "It was my wife's money."

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commentary Columbine accentuates the positive

*Girls'
Soccer*

By Neil H. Devlin
Denver Post High School Sports Editor

May 16 - ENGLEWOOD - They have become quite the story, these Columbine Rebels girls' soccer players.

Indeed, as survivors of the tragedy at the school April 20, they have dealt with unbelievable heartache for some so young, they have been hounded by worldwide media, their school still remains severely damaged and a crime scene, they are sharing classrooms with Chatfield in order to finish the school year and they are, well, trying to get on with their lives.

That's a lot for a bunch of teenagers.

Oh, by the way, they are just plain good soccer players, too.

That was evident Saturday in the Class 5A state semifinals. The Rebels dispatched Northglenn 2-0 at Pirate Stadium to advance to Tuesday night's Class 5A championship game.

This is a special group, which now stands ~~16-1-1~~. How much so? Just ask Frank DeAngelis. The school principal, himself a former Rebels baseball coach who guided them to two state championships, senses something about these particular girls.

"Absolutely," DeAngelis said when asked if the team is using the unique circumstances as a rallying point. "We want to accentuate the positive. They want good things to happen."

DeAngelis realizes the Rebels girls' soccer players were the first Columbine team to get back into their season after the incident. They handled it well then and have gotten better each time - all victories.

*1st to
get back -
all
victories*

Therefore they appear to be the main symbol of the Rebels re-emerging as a Colorado sports power, which they have been for years, despite the fact the rest of the school's sports teams this spring had to go through the same thing.

But these girls seem to be handling it best.

"They could do it," DeAngelis said about the possibility of the Rebels girls winning it all in big-school soccer. "They were the first ones to get back playing. There's something about them."

Columbine officials continue to be cautious when seeing their sports kids get interviewed. Either DeAngelis, athletic director Kevin Land or coach Peter Horvath like to be right there when players are asked questions.

Who can blame them?

Horvath is a veteran on the Colorado coaching scene for both schoolboys and schoolgirls. You might have seen on television April

20. He was out front on Pearce Street in Littleton, walkie-talkie in hand, working with officials at the scene.

He knows his kids winning it all will make a nice story, yes, but the loss of lives certainly won't be the main reason.

"We're doing what we set out to do back in February, really after we lost to Arapahoe (in the finale) last year," Horvath said.

After all, the coach insisted, "we returned eight starters . . . (making the championship game) has been planned. Everything that has happened leading up to Tuesday has been in the works."

Look at Green Mountain, Horvath said, the Rebels' Jefferson County League rival and foe in Tuesday's title game. "It's no surprise they're here," he said. "You could have seen that two months ago."

Many Rebels soccer players agree. And they have their work cut out for them - Green Mountain and Columbine tied (1-1 and 0-0) the last two times they played.

Saturday, the Rebels generally controlled play throughout the contest against Northglenn, which knocked off defending champion Arapahoe earlier last week. But Columbine played a lot of the game in the Norse's end, cut off scoring chances to them and made enough rushes to keep Northglenn on its heels.

"Defensively, we were strong," Horvath said. "We missed some of our own scoring chances but I thought we played well."

Kerri Weaver made it 1-0 on a header off a nice pass by Pam Karakusis in the 11th minute, then Layne Newton sealed it in the second half on a penalty kick.

Said Newton: "I love taking PKs . . . I know I'm going to score."

She did and the Rebels can score really big against the Rams on Tuesday.

"We have very similar styles," Horvath said. "It should be a structured game, using the midfield players, built on skill and tackling. It should be a game that people will want to watch, I think."

Horvath also noted that the Green Mountain staff and players "have been very helpful and very supportive of everything we've been through."

Obviously, a Columbine victory in two days will make a lot of newscasts - and rightfully so.

Win or lose, however, a certain group of Rebels girls already have come out winners.

And they will have done it with everybody watching.

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columbine - tragedy and recovery

Columbine victim on long road back

By Ann Schrader
Denver Post Medical/Science Writer

May 15 - Two "shadows" on top of a hill shot at Lance Kirklin, Sean Graves and Dan Rohrbough as they walked out of Columbine High School's cafeteria door on April 20.

Kirklin, fighting the pain of a massive shotgun blast to his jaw and neck, figures he was conscious for about 2 minutes after the shooting.

"At first, I thought it was a senior prank," Kirklin said Friday, speaking quietly and occasionally touching the bandage over the tracheotomy hole that remains in his throat. "But I was already shot."

Aside from the life-threatening blast to his face, Kirklin also was hit by 9mm bullets to his chest, right leg, left knee and left foot. Doctors said that if he hadn't gotten to the hospital when he did, he would have bled to death.

"It looks like he may have been shot by three different weapons," although that will be determined by law enforcement authorities, said Dr. Gene Moore, chief of trauma surgery at Denver Health Medical Center.

Moore called Kirklin's injuries "very complex." The 16-year-old could be ready for discharge from the hospital within a week, but recovery could take two years. His hospital bill already is estimated at \$1 million. He is not covered by insurance.

Kirklin's recovery is a "miracle," said Moore, who added, "The people who deserve credit here are Lance and his family."

Kirklin has undergone 30 hours of surgery and only Tuesday was moved from Denver Health's intensive-care unit. Moore said three shotgun pellets migrated from his face to his heart. Two of the pellets have been pumped out to his lungs, and the third remains in the right chamber of his heart. "They don't pose any significant risk," Moore said.

Maxiofacial surgeon Stephen Batuello said Kirklin will have "at least" six more surgeries to repair and reconstruct his jaw and neck. "It's a tough road," Batuello predicted, with years of physical and psychiatric therapy ahead.

Bone and skin from his leg have been grafted to fill in his jaw wound, which Batuello called "a crater." A hole hasn't filled in yet, so Kirklin is being fed through a tube.

Kirklin wants nothing more than to be able to drink apple juice, since "there's a hole in my face, so it just drips out."

Still, Kirklin said he decided to speak publicly for the first time Friday

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because he wanted people to know "I'm doing really good." He added that he had to relearn to walk, adding, "I'm walking good now."

Kirklin said he headed outside to smoke that day, and his buddies Rohrbough and Graves went with him. "We were outside the commons area, the cafeteria, at the bottom of the hill," Kirklin said.

The shooters were at the top of the hill. The three friends were shot from about 15 feet away, Kirklin estimated.

Rohrbough, hit in the leg and back, died.

Graves was hit in the abdomen and back and has been hospitalized at Swedish Medical Center. He has suffered bruising and swelling to his spine and has lost sensation in his lower body. He has complained, though, about pain in his foot, a good sign, though doctors still don't know the full extent of the damage.

Kirklin doesn't remember anything about his heroic rescue by Littleton Fire Department paramedics, but they have since become friends.

Monte Fleming, Jerry LoSasso and John Aylward, who braved gunfire to rescue Kirklin and Graves, have visited Kirklin. The teen wore a Littleton Fire Department T-shirt to Friday's news conference.

Kirklin vowed to return to Columbine, where he'll be a junior in the fall.

"I'll be back," he said.

And he had a message for Graves: "I know it's hard, but you've just got to push yourself and work hard to get back to normal."

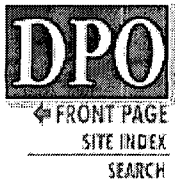
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columbine - tragedy and recovery

Foley's gift boosts Sanders scholarship

By Beth DeFalco
Special to The Denver Post

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May 14 - The Foley's department store chain announced Thursday it has donated \$50,000 to a business scholarship fund in the name of Dave Sanders, the Columbine High business teacher and coach killed in the April 20 massacre at the school.

"We want to do everything we can to uphold the testament of his life," said James Griesemer, dean of the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business. "Dave Sanders will leave the enormous legacy of ideals for which he stands."

Starting next school year, the scholarship will be awarded annually to a Columbine High School graduating senior who plans to major in business at DU. Recipients, chosen by Columbine educators and DU's business dean, will receive \$6,000 per year for four years.

The department store also will match up to \$50,000 in donations from employees and associates made through the end of this year.

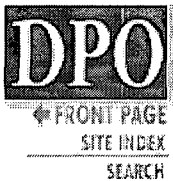
"The outpouring of support makes me proud to be a member of this community," said Columbine Principal Frank DeAngelis. "This will help put us on the road to recovery."

"This is exactly the kind of memorial that Dave would appreciate," said Sanders' widow, Linda. She selected the DU College of Business for the scholarship and was on hand Thursday to receive several gifts from Columbine students on the Foley's Teen Board.

"Dave had two families - his own children and all the students at Columbine High School," she said. "There were so many times he used the term 'my kids' when referring to the students in his classroom and the athletes on his many teams."

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columbine - tragedy and recovery

'We are strong, united'

By **Mark Eddy**
Denver Post Staff Writer

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May 3 - It's time to heal. Bathed in intermittent sunlight, the students, teachers and staff of Columbine High School promised to emerge from the darkness of the recent massacre and take back their school as well as their shattered lives.

"Turn around for something better. Children give up don't you ever ... Take the light into your room. Cast a candle on your doom," Todd Park Mohr, of Big Head Todd and the Monsters, sang as he and his band opened Sunday's memorial event. All three band members graduated from Columbine and Mohr's words set the tone for a memorial that was a celebration of life and future.

Song inspires cheers

And in words heard often the past two weeks, Columbine student Jonathan Cohen sang, "Columbine, flower blue. Columbine, there's hope for you." When he finished the song he'd written with his brother, Steven, the estimated 3,000 participants jumped to their feet, cheering and clapping.

Tom Johnson, a teacher at the high school and close friend of slain co-worker Dave Sanders, told the crowd he had a picture of Sanders in his head. Arms wide and hands gesturing emphatically, Sanders was sending a message to the friends and students for whom he'd given his life.

"OK, it's time to let the healing begin," Sanders was telling them in Johnson's vision.

It had been just 12 days since Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold walked into their school armed with two shotguns, a pistol and pipe bombs and murdered 12 students and one teacher before killing themselves.

But standing on a stage bordered by 200 columbine plants and surrounded by the majestic red rock formations of this natural amphitheater, students and teachers, their voices strong and unwavering, promised they would not let the massacre define their lives.

"I will not allow this tragedy to erase the 27 years of excellence that Columbine High School represents," Principal Frank DeAngelis vowed. "We will continue to live by our motto of 'Stretch for Excellence.'"

DeAngelis promised a bright future. "Columbine will be even stronger. We survived, we prevailed and we have hope to carry forward.... We will be an even stronger Columbine from this day forward." The horror of the massacre has bound students and faculty together and in that bond, there is strength, said Jon DeStefano, Jefferson County Board of

Education president. "Together we will heal because we are strong, we are united and we are all Columbine," he said to the crowd's cheers.

There was frequent laughter as students shared stories about their their classmates.

Matt Houck talked of sneaking out for a cigar with his best friend, Dan Rohrbough. The novice smokers used an entire book of matches before they finally got a few puffs out of the stogie. Even though his brother spotted them as they were walking down the street, and the cigar sent tendrils of smoke into the air as they hid it behind their backs, they never did get caught, Houck said, laughing at the memory. "We had a lot of crazy times together and this is the Dan I will always miss," Houck said.

Steve Trujillo remembered the first time he saw Isaiah Shoels. The two juniors were at football practice and Shoels definitely made an impression.

"He was quite possibly the smallest person I'd ever seen in my life," Trujillo said. "He was small in stature but big in heart." Nick Baumgart informed the audience that he had been given just one minute to tell them of Rachel Scott.

"I wanted to start with what she wasn't. She was never intrusive, never assuming, never cruel, never insincere ...," he said, wasting no time. "This has been the one minute version of Rachel Scott. And believe me, the 17-year version is a heckuva lot better." Student after student drew laughter from the crowd as they recounted a special story or kindness or attribute of a lost friend. The dead will be missed, they said, but they will live in the hearts of their friends.

Wishes for healing also went out to the 23 students who were injured in the shootings. And administrators promised they will do everything in their power to make sure their schools are safe. "We will establish a school safety task force to make our schools safer," DeStefano said. "And students, as we go about making our schools safer, I promise we will not make them prisons." Columbine teachers and students will go back to the classroom today for the first time since the shootings. Their school, which is still a crime scene and was heavily damaged by bullets, bombs and water from fire sprinklers, is closed. They'll finish the school year at Chatfield High.

"It's time to get back up on the horse," DeStefano said, trying to ease their fears. "I promise you, you will be safe. We will be there with you."

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Craig Hughes
.....

05/17/99 06:42:08 PM
.....

Record Type: Record

To: Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Columbine

As a former Colorado resident, I offer you the following unsolicited and probably unhelpful local knowledge:

Columbine's mascot is the Rebels. Not the rebels of the south in the Civil War, but Rebels of the Revolutionary War. Big difference to Columbine students.

Chatfield, where the Columbine students are now attending classes, is Columbine's big rival. Even though Chatfield has been incredibly supportive, some good nature humor my go over well with the Columbine students.

As I said in the meeting, the girls soccer team will play in the state finals on Tuesday night.

Contrary to reports in the news media, Columbine is not in the city of Littleton. Columbine is in unincorporated Jefferson County. They have no mayor, city council, etc, are are happy about that. Littleton is actually in Arapahoe County, but it is the nearest city.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. list	Personal. (1 page)	05/17/1999	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Jeff Shesol
OA/Box Number: 19945

FOLDER TITLE:

Columbine HS Jeffco, CO 5/20/99 - Columbine H.S. Facts & Clips 5/20/99 [1]

2006-0467-F
vz221

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

TRAGEDY

IN OUR TOWN

Friends of Mine

Teens, teacher had dreams for a bright future

Cassie Bernall, 17

Two years ago became a born-again Christian. Was active in church youth programs and Bible study groups. Hung out with a nihilistic group in middle school. Recently visited Britain. Favorite movie was Mel Gibson's "Braveheart."



Cassie Bernall

Matthew Kechter, 18

A junior, had hoped to start for the football team. Lifted weights. Played on offensive and defensive lines. Maintained a B average.



Matthew Kechter

Five grandchildren. Shot twice in chest while directing students down hallway to safety. Survived at least three hours until students were rescued.

Bench-pressed twice his weight. Shot in the head because he was black and an athlete, witnesses said.

John Tomlin, 16

Enjoyed driving off-road in his beat-up Chevy pickup. Worked after-school in a gardening store and



John Tomlin

belonged to a church youth group. Went on missionary trip to Mexico with family last year and built a house for poor people. Planned to enlist in the Army in two years.

Steven Curnow, 14

A freshman, dreamed of being a Navy top gun and piloting an F-16. Watched the "Star Wars" movies so often he could recite dialogue. Played soccer as a boy; learned to referee to earn pocket money.



Curnow

Daniel Mauser, 15

A sophomore, excelled in math and science, and earned straight A's on last report card. Ran cross country and joined debate team. Recently returned from two-week trip to Paris with French club.



Daniel Mauser

Never in our wildest dreams did we ever imagine we would be here to mourn so many young, innocent victims.

Patricia Holloway
Jefferson County Commissioner

Corey DePooter, 17

Loved to golf, hunt and fish. Former wrestler. Recently took maintenance job at a golf club to save up for a boat with a friend. Good student. Had wisdom teeth removed this year and was frustrated that it forced him to miss school.



Corey DePooter

Daniel Rohrbaugh, 15

Helped in his father's electronics business and worked on family farms in Kansas during the summer. Enjoyed computer games, stereo and home theater systems. Shot while holding exit door open for fleeing students.



Daniel Rohrbaugh

Rachel Scott, 17

Played lead in a student-written school play, "Smoke in the Room." Active in Celebration Christian Fellowship church. Liked photography. During rampage, younger brother Craig, 16, played dead in library and helped lead others to safety.



Rachel Scott

Lauren Townsend, 18

The senior was captain of girls' varsity volleyball team, coached by her mother. Other players said she was "consumed" by the sport. Member of the National Honor Society and candidate for valedictorian. Wanted to major in biology in college.



Lauren Townsend

Kyle Velasquez, 18

A sophomore, Kyle idolized his 21-year-old brother, Daniel. Kyle hung out with his mom, Phyllis, dad, Al, and brother. He dreamed of being either a firefighter or a pilot in the Navy. He spent Sundays in the fall watching the Denver Broncos play.



Velasquez

The Injured

Conditions as of Monday noon:

Volann Schnurr, 18, who received shrapnel and bullet wounds to the chest, is in fair condition in the multi trauma unit at Swedish Medical Center. A hospital spokesperson said doctors were hopeful she would be able to return home early this week.

Ten other victims of the school shootings still remain in the hospital. Their conditions are as follows:

Swedish Medical Center
Anne Marie Hochhalter, 17, who sustained a gunshot wound in the chest, remains in serious condition in the critical care unit. A hospital spokesperson said Hochhalter had a restless night Sunday.

Richard Casinolo, 17, is in fair condition, and is improving in the critical care unit. He suffered five gunshot wounds to the chest, back and arm.

Sean Graves, 16, who received a gunshot wound to the back, and three wounds to the abdomen, is in fair condition in the multi trauma unit.

Denver Health Medical Center
Lisa Kreutz, 10, has been upgraded to fair condition. She received multiple gunshot wounds.

Lance Kirklind, 18, who received multiple gunshot wounds to the face, chest and legs, is in critical condition. He underwent 16 hours of surgery on his face on Saturday. A spokesperson said Kirklind is doing relatively well after the surgery.

Jeanna Park, 18, remains in fair condition. She suffered gunshot wounds to the legs and shoulder.

Centura St. Anthony Central Hospital

Kassey Rungsgogger, 17, who suffered a gunshot wound, was transferred to Presbyterian St. Lukes Hospital for further treatment.

Patrick Ireland, 17, who suffered a gunshot wound, is in fair condition.

A 15-year-old unidentified male remains in critical condition.

University Hospital

Sixteen-year-old Mark Taylor is in fair condition. He suffered gunshot wounds to the arm, body and legs.

Released victims

Jennifer Doyle, Mekhi Hall, Mark Klinglen, Nicole Nowlen, Danny Steppleton, Brian Anderson, Stephen Austin Eubanks, Nicholas Foss, Joyce Jankowski, Adam Kyles, Stephanie Munson, and Patricia Nielsen.

Kelly Fleming, 18

Aspiring songwriter and author. Wrote scores of poems and short stories based on her life experiences. Was learning to play guitar. Moved from Phoenix 10 months ago. Was eager to get her driver's license and part-time job.



Kelly Fleming

William "Dave" Sanders, 47

Computer and business teacher for 24 years. Coached girls' basketball and softball; basketball team posted winning record in his first year, 1997-98 after finishing next to last the year before. Married with at least two daughters and



Dave Sanders

Isaiah Shoels, 18

Due to graduate in May. Suffered health problems as a child and had heart surgery twice. Wanted to attend an arts college and become a music executive. Small in stature, but lifted weights and played football and wrestled.



Isaiah Shoels

Compiled by the Associated Press

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

Together in prayer



Columbine High students Andy McDonald, left, and Kent Kochsmeier kneel in prayer Thursday at a snow-covered memorial near the school. Hundreds of students have taken time to remember those killed and wounded in Tuesday's shootings.

Freshman hoped aviation would take him higher

By Steve Caulk
News Staff Writer

Steven Curnow, a 14-year-old freshman who loved aviation and soccer, was one of those who died at Columbine High School at the hands of gunmen Tuesday.

"His dream was to join the Navy and become a pilot of an F-16," his family said in a statement Thursday. "He loved anything that had to do with flying and the military."

He also had a passion for the *Star Wars* movies, reciting the actors' lines after multiple viewings.

He collected books about the movies and reread them regularly.

The new *Star Wars* movie is due to debut May 19, and he was anticipating it eagerly, his family said.

He also enjoyed soccer and worked part-time as a soccer referee.

"He played from the time he was five, through the YMCA and later for Club Columbine, now the Rush," the family's statement said. "When he kicked the ball it was like a rocket coming at you. Other players would duck or fall to the ground if hit by the ball."

The family thanked the community for its support, saying it was especially helpful during the family's wait for news about their son.

"It wasn't the news we wanted to hear, but all of the volunteers from the various agencies and the community were a wealth of support for us," they said.

They added, "He was a great kid and it's hard to imagine life without him in it."

Family members were not available for further comment.

There was no word about funeral services.



Football player was sweet, shy, friends recall

By Sue Lindsay
News Staff Writer

Friends described Matthew Kechler as a sweet, shy guy who played football.

He was in the library with friends at Columbine High School when he was gunned down Tuesday.

"He's just a really nice kid," said classmate Alayna Muscolino. "He's not an outspoken jock kind of guy. He's really subdued. He's just a really sweet guy, kind of shy."

Muscolino said Kechler, a sophomore, was well-liked, was close friends with members of the football team and worked at a pizza place.

"He's a wonderful, wonderful young man. One of the best," said a neighbor who asked that her name not be used. "You couldn't have asked for a nicer child."

Neighbors frequently saw Matthew and his younger brother playing basketball in their driveway.

"I understand he was a straight-A student," the neighbor said. "His parents had nothing but good words to say about him. This is just a horrible, horrible loss."



KILLED AT COLUMBINE

■ Chasle Bernall, 17. A junior, she often studied during the noon hour in the school library — site of the worst violence.

■ Steven Curnow, 14. The freshman wanted to be a pilot and was looking forward to seeing the new *Star Wars* movie.

■ Corey DePooter, 17. An All-American boy, his 15-year-old sister fled from the massacre unharmed. He was a junior.

■ Kelly Fleming, 16. She was an aspiring songwriter and author who wrote scores of poems and short stories.

■ Matthew Kechler, age unavailable. The sophomore had good grades, played football and "everyone loved him."

■ Dierri Nuldrbaugh, 15. The freshman was shot down outside the school as the two gunmen began their rampage.

■ Dave Sanders, 42. The longtime coach and teacher put himself in the line of fire while shepherding at least 100 students to safety.

■ Rachel Scott, 17. A junior, her red Acure Legend parka outside the school was covered with flowers and balloons as a memorial.

■ Isaiah Shuels, 18. The wise-cracking senior was a bodybuilder who dreamed of becoming a music executive like his dad.

■ John Tomlin, 16. The sophomore was described by his father as "a perfect son."

■ Lauren Townsend, 18. A senior, she loved animals, Shakespeare and volleyball.

■ Kyle Velasquez, 15. Information about Kyle was unavailable Thursday.

■ Ush Mause, 15. A sophomore, the straight-A student ran track and wasn't shy about hugging his mother.

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

Shrine of MEMORIES

At Columbine High, impromptu memorial gives expression to community's grief

By Tina Griego
News Staff Writer

At Columbine High School, the memorial grows.

Toucans and stuffed animals lie in mounds. The snow has been trampled into brown mush by hundreds who have come because they don't know what else to do or where else to go. And on the memorial wall, the ink of written prayers has run together in an incomprehensible wall.

Hundreds of thousands of words have been written about these deaths. None are adequate. Nothing can prepare the people who come here for the sucker punch of grief. For the finality that greets them.

"I can't change anything. I can't do anything for them," a weeping woman who never knew the dead children says.

"There is nothing I can say."

Some come here because they know what lies ahead for the families of these children. They know what it's like to walk into their child's room and find nothing but silence. They know what it is to scoop

pajamas from the floor, to bury their faces in the folds of cotton, to breathe deep.

To say that Kelly Fleming loved to write poetry cannot begin to convey the sudden beauty of her bashful smile. To say that Dan Rohrbough was a good son, that Steve Curnow loved *Star Wars* and that Cassie Bernall loved God cannot capture the sweetness of their laughter or the realization they will never again hug their parents and know that, in that place and for that moment, they are safe. In the collection of facts, in the black-and-white yearbook photos are only glimpses of the adults they never had a chance to become.

Someone named Matthew Phillips wrote a long poem about the students and the teacher who died trying to save them. He mounted it on Day-Glo orange paper and carefully sealed it in plastic. It lies at the foot of the memorial wall.

"They dance across your memories," he wrote. "They leave footprints in your thoughts."

And they always will.

CASSIE BERNALL

'The most beautiful blue-eyed ... angel in heaven'



Cassie Bernall, with friend Kristal Mallookie, during a trip with their youth group.

Class: junior
Age: 17

She will forever be remembered as the girl who died for her faith, the one who looked her killer in the eye and said, "Yes, I believe in God."

She never said another word. In the days that have followed her death, dozens of young Christians have taken strength from Cassie's strength.

Her parents, also devout Christians, say they truly believe that God had a purpose in taking Cassie from them.

"We are proud of her, and we will painfully miss her," Brad Bernall said in a statement. "She was truly our little buddy."

A few years ago, Cassie might not have been able to answer "yes" to the killer's question. She was fascinated by witchcraft,

involved "in the dark side of things," her friend Crystal Woodman said.

"Then she started getting into church and then her whole life was God and Jesus," she said. "She was amazing."

Her friends remember her long blond hair, how beautiful she looked in her favorite blue shirt with the flowers across the front, the cloth bracelet she wore with the letters "WWJD" — What Would Jesus Do?

"God spoke to her mum and told her she was so glad she was with him in heaven," Crystal said. "She is just smiling, and she's so happy."

"I want you to write this, I want you to say that Cassie is the most beautiful blue-eyed, blond-haired angel in heaven."

— Tina Griego

STEVEN CURNOW

'Star Wars' fans plan ticket tribute for one of their own

Class: freshman
Age: 14

The only thing they know about Steven is that he was a *Star Wars* fan, but that's enough. Steven's death has prompted *Star Wars* fans across the country to try to do something in his memory. On one Internet bulletin board, fans are planning to buy an extra ticket to *Episode I: The Phantom Menace* in Steven's name and give it to someone standing in line.

"May the Force be with Steven," one person wrote. "May God be there to comfort him and his parents."

Steven wasn't even old enough to drive, but he was looking forward to the day he would fly.

He loved all things airborne, from *Star Wars* to Stealth fighters.

He loved Luke Skywalker and Han Solo. He was collecting *Star Wars* books. He couldn't wait until the new *Star Wars* movie came out so he could memorize it just like the others.

He wanted to become a Navy pilot — F-14s were his bird of choice. He also loved a good game of soccer. He had played the game since he was 5 and had developed a kick so powerful he could send his opponents sprawling with the speeding ball.

He had just become a soccer referee to learn the game a little better and pocket some spending money.

"Steve was a delight to know," his family said in a statement. "He was so good with younger children. He had a smile that touched everyone who knew him. It's hard to imagine life without him in it."

— Tina Griego



Steven Robert Curnow posed for a picture recently with sister Nancy. *Star Wars* fans plan a tribute to the 14-year-old Columbine High freshman.

COREY DePOOTER

'He was not one to step back from confrontation'

Class: junior
Age: 17

Corey would have made a good Marine. When the two gunmen entered the library and opened fire, he never panicked. His family and friends believe he died trying to shield someone else from gunfire.

"He was brave," his father, Neal, said. "Even for that age. Sometimes kids are foolishly brave, but he was not one to step back from confrontation."

Neal DePooter thinks his son was happy the day he died. For months, Corey had worked part time at a golf course, saving his money to buy his first car, a Mustang. He even had one picked out from the classified ads.

"The day he died was the day we were going to get the loan," Neal DePooter said.

Corey was not a shy kid. He liked to talk, he loved adventure. He and his best friend traveled all the way to Oklahoma to fish. Bass fishing was his latest passion.



Corey DePooter showed off his catch from a recent fishing excursion.

He was hoping to talk his grandfather into buying a boat so the two of them could go fishing.

He also liked to hunt and golf. He worked at the Raccoon Creek Golf Course, operating the mower and raking bunkers.

"He's left an awful big hole in our lives," his father said. "But we have come to the conclusion that since he lived a big life, he had no regrets. He lived life to its fullest."

— Tina Griego

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

KELLY FLEMING

*'Angel on Earth' had just begun writing her life story*Class: sophomore
Age: 18

Kelly Fleming was working on her autobiography. She had started with her birth and had gotten to age 5.

Then, two gunmen felled her, creating a tragic postscript to her life story.

A 16-year-old sophomore, Kelly loved to write poems and short stories.

Her parents said she often shared her work with them and dreamed of getting something published.

They have saved it all on her home computer.

She still speaks to them in the words she so carefully crafted.

Writing was more than a passion for Kelly. It was a way for a shy girl to express herself.

She was especially close to her math teacher, Jud Blatchford, who will be a pallbearer at her funeral today.

"She was one of the kindest students I've ever had," Blatchford said.

A shrine to Kelly at her vigil revealed parts of her personality. There was a rainbow Beanie Baby, a small baby doll, a large



Kelly Fleming, a 16-year-old sophomore, loved to write poems and short stories and was working on her autobiography.

teddy bear with a red stocking cap and scarf, and a video of the movie *Titanic*. Kelly yearned to own a car, and every time she earned money into her car fund. She couldn't wait to take road trips across the country. A yellow Corvette would have been the ideal wheels, but she liked Mustangs, too.

Her uncle, Ray Fleming, recalled that Kelly's wants were simple. On his last visit with her, he asked whether she wanted to go skiing or to Coors Field or to a Broncos game.

The zoo would be perfect, she said. They had a wonderful time.

Kelly is survived by her parents, Don and DeeDee Fleming, and her 18-year-old sister, Erin. Her mother described her as an "angel on Earth."

She was a sweet Irish girl with an innocent heart.

Her family and friends send her into the next life with the

famous Irish blessing that begins: "May the road rise to greet you. May the wind be always at your back."

— Katie Kerwin McCrimmon

MATT KECHTER

A big guy with big goals who 'always had a smile'

Straight-A student Matt Kechter was a reserve lineman on the Columbine High School team who had his eye on a starting spot.

Class: sophomore
Age: 18

Matt Kechter was a big guy with big goals. He was a junior varsity lineman on the Columbine football team but had his eye on the varsity spot. He was a straight-A student who was studying in the library the last day of his life.

He worked hard, studied hard, played hard.

"He always had a smile," one of his football teammates said at a memorial vigil Friday.

During a team photo session, the coach asked all the players to put on their "mean game faces."

"Matt couldn't."

"He tried," the teammate said. "He

loved to smile."

Football coach Andy Lowry called Matt "the neatest kid in the world."

"He wasn't the type of kid that would come out and say things, but his actions brought out the best in people."

"Maybe God had a plan. He only took the kids that could handle it, the great kids."

At the vigil, one of his family members said she had told Matt she loved him on the morning of the day he died.

"And he answered back, 'I love you, too.'"

"I knew that he always loved me, but I was really shocked. He doesn't say, 'I love you,' except on holidays and on my birthday. And now he's gone."

— Tina Grigo and Tillie Fung

DAN ROHRBOUGH

*'There are so many things he wanted to do with his life'*Class: freshman
Age: 18

Dan Rohrbough was a typical teen-ager. He wasn't in any hurry to give his mother his school photos.

They had been taken in the fall. For months, Sue Petrone asked her only son whether she could see the pictures.

For months, Dan forgot to bring them home from his school locker.

Until Tuesday.

Before Dan left for school that morning, he pulled the pictures from his backpack.

Now that school portrait is the centerpiece of a heartbreaking shrine to a boy who died as a freshman in high school.

Dan was just 15.

Even so, he had already become a genius with electronics. Every day after school, he worked with his dad, Brian Rohrbough, at his shop, Excalibur Sound.

Dan could design a magnificent home theater, and he couldn't wait to get a car someday so he could install a fabulous car stereo.

"He just turned 15 on March 2. I'm so sad that he'll never drive," Sue Petrone said. "There are so many things that he wanted to do with his life."

After graduating from Columbine High School, Dan hoped to work full time with his dad.

A quiet, happy kid, Dan had a wry sense of humor. He wore shorts in winter. He and his buddies played street hockey until their sticks broke, but then one another in fifteen

do games for hours and overdosed on



Dan Rohrbough, who turned 15 last month, helped in his father's sound business.

Orange Julius drinks while they pretended to do their homework. Every summer he visited his grandparents at their Kansas farm.

Dan was probably one of the first victims. He was walking outside to have lunch in the park when the gunmen loaded in. They shot Dan in the back as he tried to run away.

His death was the most public. As helicopters hovered overhead, he lay crumpled on the pavement.

"I just wanted to go pick him up and hug him and say, 'You did nothing to deserve this,'" Petrone said.

Now she can only pray for Dan and all the other families experiencing such anguish.

"I'm just focusing on the love that I have for my son," she said. "Love can move a world."

— Katie Kerwin McCrimmon

DAVE SANDERS

25-year business teacher, coach was 'something special'

Columbine business teacher Dave Sanders poses with his wife, Linda, in a Christmas Eve photo. Sanders was a 25-year veteran of Columbine.

Business teacher, girls basketball, softball
Age: 47

All Dave Sanders ever wanted to do was teach.

That's what he did from the moment he walked into Columbine 25 years ago to the moment he rushed from the faculty lounge yelling for students to run from the gunmen who hunted them. He continued warning students even as he was shot, shooing them from the cafeteria before stumbling into a nearby room.

Sanders died on a classroom floor, surrounded by the students he loved, gazing at a picture of the family he adored.

Sanders spent more than half his life at Columbine, teaching there his entire career. If he wasn't in the classroom, he was on the court. If he wasn't on the court, he was on the field.

"That was something special," former Columbine principal Gerry Difford said. "Most people burn out and say they can't do it anymore. Dave never did."

Sanders had three daughters, 10 grandchildren and had been married to his wife, Linda, for eight years.

"Linda's birthday is today," said Sanders' nephew, Rich Jerman. "He told her not to make any plans, because he was planning something special."

"They used to tell us on many occasions that when they first saw each other, they knew that was it. They just seemed to glow around each other. It really gave you hope."

"If he wasn't with his wife and kids, he was with the kids at high school. That was his life. And he enjoyed it."

— Tina Grigo and Tillie Fung

Sunday, April 25, 1999

Denver Rocky Mountain News

13AA

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

RACHEL SCOTT

'She was never, ever afraid of being her own person'



Allisha Basore, right, keeps this picture of her and Rachel Scott in her photo album. It was taken in January in the school cafeteria.

Class: Junior
Age: 17

Rachel Joy Scott was the life in the funny hat. She wore hats with gusto, a reflection of her dramatic streak and her zest for life. No shrinking violet, Rachel. The diminutive 17-year-old felt equally at home at a speech meet or a Christian youth group, center stage or reaching out to someone who lacked the confidence she always had.

"She had this fun, full-of-life

girl of her," said a youth pastor at her church, Trinity Christian. "She was never, ever afraid of being her own person."

The voice-mail message on her family phone was pure Rachel.

"You have reached the home of Queen Rachel and her servants," says the girl who called herself the "people's princess."

She once offered to pay her sister's boyfriend \$25 if he would hurry up and marry her sister so Rachel could have

her room. Photos show a girl with laughing eyes and a sly smile. Music, dance, poetry and photography were among her many passions. She was the kind of person you could confide in about anything without fear of judgment, her brothers and sisters say. Her younger brother, Craig, escaped the library uninjured and then prayed for Rachel.

"She was a joy to be around," said her friend, Alexis Bentley, 15. "She was incredible -- her outlook on life, her charm, her love for God."

Among Rachel's dreams: to become a missionary or a youth counselor; to help kids in trouble; to spread God's word.

"She will be speaking to more people in her death," said her father, Darrell Scott. "Until she ever would have alive."

— Lisa Lovitt Ryckman

ISAIAH SHOELS

'He was probably the coolest guy in the school'

Class: senior
Age: 18

For a little guy, Isaiah was hard to miss. He was the one who always said "hi" when you passed him in the hall, who seemed to bounce when he walked, whose 4-foot-11-inch frame brimmed with life.

He died asking for his mother.

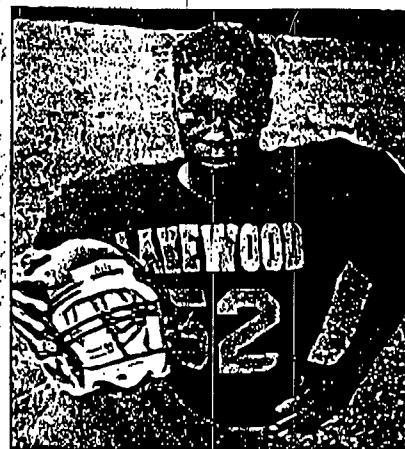
Isaiah would have graduated this year. He wanted to attend the Colorado Institute of Art and become a music executive, like his father, Michael. He was quick to make fun of his own height and quick to prove that his height would never hold him back. He lifted weights. His friends say he was one of the strongest guys in school, always trying to lift people right off their feet.

Just about everybody liked him.

"He was probably the coolest guy in the school," sophomore Brian Zimpfer said.

"He rode the bus with me every morning, and everyone would want to sit with Isaiah because he made people laugh. He always said something funny."

Isaiah was one of the few black students at Columbine High School. His killer cornered him in the library, said they didn't like blacks, then shot him.



On the bus, "everyone would want to sit with Isaiah because he made people laugh," sophomore Brian Zimpfer says. "He always said something funny."

That Isaiah was killed because he was black haunts Michael Shoels. He moved his family to Denver 23 years ago to keep them from experiencing the same racism he experienced growing up in Texas.

What killed Isaiah? Hate, Michael Shoels says.

Hate killed a boy everyone loved.

— Tina Griego

JOHN TOMLIN

'Fun-loving guy' had driving ambition, sense of humor

Class: sophomore
Age: 18

These are the things John Tomlin loved: baseball caps and Bible study; Chevy trucks and four-wheeling driving through the mud.

He was a rarity among teenagers, a 16-year-old kid who enjoyed being a 16-year-old kid.

"He was high on life," said the Rev. Lloyd Evans, the youth pastor at Riverside Baptist Church South, where John was a regular at the youth program.

His memorial service was held Friday. He will be buried in Wisconsin next week.

"He was a fun-loving guy," Evans said. "He enjoyed driving his truck in the mud. That excited him. But John was pretty quiet. He had the good-old-boy veneer, but he was a teddy bear inside."

He was a jokester with a big wide grin. A hard worker. A kid who could not be swayed once he set his mind to something.

"Part of the reason he started working as early as he did at 14 was to save up enough money for a four-wheel drive Chevy pickup," said Wayne Anderson, owner of Arapahoe Acres nursery, where big, burly John helped haul trees and load bags of soil.

Last year, John traveled to Juarez, Mexico, where he helped build houses for the poor.

He planned to join the Army when he graduated.

His father, John, called him the perfect son.

"He was just good," he said. "You'd call him to wash your car and he'd wash both."

— Tina Griego



John Tomlin started working at 14 with hopes of saving up for a pickup truck. He traveled to Mexico to help build houses for the poor and planned to join the Army.

LAUREN TOWNSEND

Animal lover dreamed of becoming a wildlife biologist

Class: senior
Age: 18

She was the beauty with brains, a girl who could spike a volleyball one minute and quote Shakespeare the next.

Lauren was a senior a step away from college when she was killed. And while she helped tend to cats and dogs at a local animal shelter, her real dream was to work with the big animals as a wildlife biologist.

She was the baby of her family, with two older brothers and an older sister.

"I'll remember her as a beautiful soul," said Catherine Block, sister-in-law of Lauren's stepfather, Bruce Block. "And her beautiful smile, and her intelligence."

Lauren was a college recruiter's dream. Captain of the volleyball team, winner of President Clinton's Excellence in Education award, member of the National Honor Society. Her friends say she was well on her way to becoming valedictorian of the school.

Her English teacher, Carol Samson, called her a "thin, beautiful girl with a delicate beauty."

"Last Saturday night, my husband and I chaperoned a dance," Samson recalled. "From out of this maze came a beautiful girl in a light brown dress to greet us."

Isaiah disappeared into the darkness. I'll be with you forever.

— Tina Griego



Lauren Townsend, before the high school prom April 17.

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

KYLE VELASQUEZ

Boy lowered over parents and embraced them with love

Class: sophomore
Age: 16

Kyle Velasquez was a gentle giant. At nearly 6 feet tall, he towered over his mom, dad and brother and loved them with a heart as big as he was tall.

Just before he left home Tuesday morning, he told his mom what he always told her: "I love you, Mom."

Then he left forever.

A ruthless spray of gunfire killed the 16-year-old sophomore while he was in the school library, working on the computer during his lunch break.

Now Kyle's parents, Phyllis and Al Velasquez, and his large, loving, extended family are left with broken hearts and memories of Kyle.

There's the picture of him when he was just 5 with a boyish John Elway. There are the photos of Kyle's grandparents that he always kept in his room. After they died, Kyle told his mom he "needed" their pictures. "Then he found small gold frames that didn't quite fit and mounted the photos his way."

There's also the message board, where he left his final note to his dad and signed it in his sweet fashion: "Love, Kyle, XOXOXO."

Kyle didn't hang out with friends much. He idolized his big brother, Daniel, 21. And now that Daniel had moved out, he was always with his folks.

"We traveled in threes," Al Velasquez said, tears rushing down his face as he realized anew that his threesome is no longer complete.

Kyle was so thoughtful that when his dad was busy working the swing shift at Coors, he would tape all the sports events his dad



Kyle Velasquez, a sophomore, enjoyed spending time with his parents and his 21-year-old brother, Daniel.

was missing.

"If I liked something, he liked it," Al Velasquez said.

Every evening, he would keep his mother company.

"He's always been kind and gentle and loving. This child had more hugs than any child I've ever known," Phyllis Velasquez said.

Kyle loved his teachers and his cats and his Aunt Rose's homemade tortillas. He dreamed of someday being a firefighter or a pilot in the U.S. Navy, in which his father served.

Now, every time a jet flies overhead or a firetruck races by or a Broncos game is on, the Velasquez family will be thinking of Kyle.

— Katie Kervin McCrimmon

DAN MAUSER

'Sweet and gentle' student lived by Ten Commandments



Daniel Mauser, 15, was a straight-A student who wasn't afraid to hug his parents and raked leaves for a neighbor who'd had a heart attack.

Class: sophomore
Age: 15

What kind of kid was Daniel Mauser? At St. Francis of Cabrini Catholic Church, there's a picture of him posing with four trophies. Nearby lies a spelling-bee certificate, an award from the Golden Piano Studio for composition, a certificate for the National Science Olympiad, his favorite Nintendo games.

He was the kind of kid who wasn't afraid to hug his parents, who earned straight A's in the past two quarters of school, who was just as comfortable with a microscope as he was on skis.

The kind of kid who told his parents he was worried about the growing number of guns in the country.

"He was very pure in his heart," said his

mother, Linda.

Daniel grew up in a tree-lined neighborhood where he played soccer with the other kids on the block.

"I had a heart attack a few years ago, and he used to come down and help me," neighbor Ken Greenlaw said. "He used to come and rake the leaves because he knew I couldn't."

His fourth-grade religious-education teacher, Diane Rakowski, said Daniel knew the Ten Commandments and lived by them.

She said that her daughter was in Daniel's class and that she prayed her daughter would find someone like "sweet and gentle" Daniel.

"What I wanted for my daughter was a Daniel Mauser," Rakowski said.

— Tina Griego

INJURED



Anderson



Doyle



Ebanks



Foss



Graves



Hall



Hochhalter



Ireland



Jankowski



Kintgen



Kreutz



Kyle



Nelson



Park



Schnorr



Steepleton

Richard Costello, 17, who was hospitalized with five gunshot wounds in the chest, back and arm, was upgraded to fair condition Saturday.

Though he's paralyzed from the chest down, his doctors and family are optimistic that he'll walk again. He underwent surgery last week. Two other victims showed improvement Saturday.

Mark Taylor, 16, was upgraded to fair condition with gunshot wounds in the chest, arms and leg. A 15-year-old boy, who has not been identified, was upgraded to serious condition at St. Anthony Hospital Central.

Eight other students remained hospitalized Saturday from injuries suffered in Tuesday's

shooting at Columbine High School:

Denver Health Medical Center

■ Lance Kirklin, 16, critical but stable condition with multiple gunshot wounds; intensive care.

■ Lisa Kreutz, 18, serious condition with multiple gunshot wounds.

■ Joanne Park, 18, fair condition with gunshot wounds in lower extremities.

Swedish Medical Center

■ Valene Schurr, 18, fair condition with nine shrapnel and bullet wounds in the chest, abdomen and arm; may be released within a few days.

■ Anne Marie Hochhalter, 17, serious condition

with gunshot wounds in chest and liver.

■ Sean Graves, 15, fair condition with a gunshot wound in the back and three in the abdomen.

St. Anthony Hospital Central

■ Kasey Ruesgesser, 17, serious condition with gunshot wounds.

■ Patrick Ireland, 17, serious condition with gunshot wounds.

Eight students who were shot have been released from hospitals. They are:

■ Jennifer Doyle, 17, treated for chest wound.

■ Michael Hall, 16

- Dan Steepleton, 17
- Mark Kintgen, 17
- Nicole Nowlin, 18
- Stephen Austin Ebanks, 17
- Stephanie Munson, 17
- Brian Anderson, 17

Four people who suffered other injuries have been released:

- Nick Foss, 18, treated for injuries in a 15-foot fall.
- Adam Kyle, 16, treated for abdominal pain.
- Patricia Nelson, 35, teacher, treated for a chest wound.
- Joyce Jankowski, 45, teacher, treated for anxiety.

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

Park continues to draw mourners

Flowers, messages pour in from across country

By Gary Massaro
News Staff Writer

The crowds keep coming to Clement Park, leaving behind a teardrop for every petal, a broken heart for each link in a paper chain.

Old and young, healthy and infirm walk to and stop at the 3-foot-high mounds of red roses, white lilies, yellow daisies, stuffed teddy bears and rabbits, placards proclaiming scripture, poems and prayers.

Messages have poured in from all over.

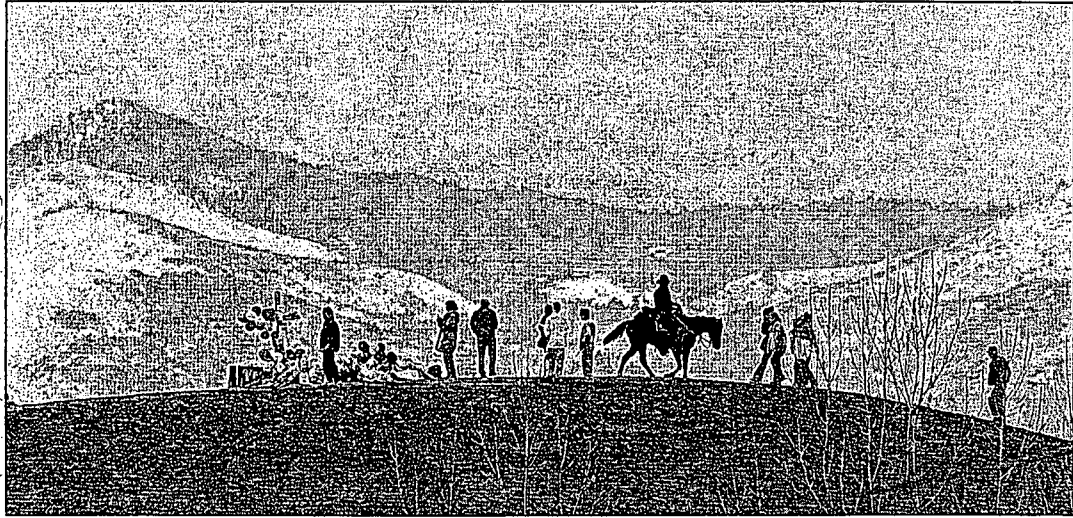
Students in Maui, Hawaii, sent a 2-foot-square laminated sympathy card. Oregon students wrote messages on a plastic banner about 5 feet tall, 7 feet wide.

Each link of a paper chain strung on saplings contains a message of sympathy.

"I'm keeping my prayers for you in my heart," someone named Sarah wrote.

On a banner from Cherry Creek High School, student Eddie Har-mousti wrote: "I can't say much, just sorry."

Dana Campos of Dora Moore School of Denver wrote this on the banner from her classmates: "Don't stop going on with your life. You still have a long way to



Ken Papaleo/News Staff Photographer

A Jefferson County sheriff rides his horse on a hill Monday at Clement Park, where people gather to pay their respects.

go."

Jefferson County Parks workers scattered wood chips and straw on the ground soggy from snowmelt.

A snow angel melted under the spring sun at yet another mound of flowers and messages and stuffed animals.

Snow and wind have faded

some messages.

But there are plenty more coming each day with each person who comes to the shrine to light a votive candle, lay a bouquet or tack up a message.

At one mound, someone put up white plastic fencepost crosses with the names of the 12 students and one teacher who were mur-

dered a week ago.

Behind is a broken stake stuck in the ground and this message written on a scrap of paper: "The killers had a soul, too. Their families need our love. We are all human."

At the base of the stake were two wilted, moldy bouquets of white daisies.

To this place Monday came Darryl Williams, 37, and his 10-year-old son, Byris.

Williams' wife, Philista, knows Michael Shoels, father of Isaiah Shoels, who was killed last week.

Williams said God is at work here, in the shrine of Columbine. "He is drawing people closer together," he said.

Groundskeepers tend the graves and memories of Columbine teens

Pair's preparations provide sad welcome to a quiet community

By Carla Crowder
News Staff Writer

There are two fresh graves in section 34.

Roman Alvarado and Alfonso Romero have been busy. Digging them. Stepping aside for the burials and the crowds. Covering them back up with fill dirt and top soil. Trying not to think about who's inside.

"I've done covering. I've done tapping (dirt down) on the graves. I've set the sod. I've made the vaults," said Alvarado, 51, recalling his 13 years at Mount Olivet cemetery just outside Wheat Ridge.

This week, he's been busy. Alvarado is a beefy man with salt-and-pepper stubble, and he's leaning on the yellow handle of his weathered shovel.

The shovel just finished covering up the grave of Kelly Fleming. She was 16, a quiet poet, killed like 12 others at Columbine High School.

One row over, the rugged shovelers also covered up the grave of Daniel Mauser, a 15-year-old boy who knew the Ten Command-

ments by heart.

And Wednesday, they'll place 16-year-old Matthew Kechter's grave in a plot a few sections over, by a lake.

These men are the last to see the vaults before they go underground. They're the ones who wander past them everyday, sometimes talking to the headstones when no one else is around.

"I just wonder what happened to you," Alvarado will ask them, tiptoeing over the cemetery's silent sod.

They know secrets of the dead that few others know.

There's the man whose family tossed packets of marijuana over his casket. The woman whose family insisted her wheelchair go in on top of the casket.

For Romero, there's his nephew, beaten to death at 36.

"At first I was undecided if I was going to dig it or not. But at the last moment I did," Romero said.

Vic Vigil has a daughter the same age as Kelly Fleming. He, too, toils in the cemetery as the grounds supervisor. In fact, he was only a year older than Kelly when

he started working part-time at Mount Olivet. He still remembers the drag of the push mower over all those graves.

"We take each one as a location and that's how we handle it. We don't say let's go take care of

Fleming, let's take care of Mauser. If you get too close, you might as well leave," Vigil said.

Oh, but some he knows by name.

Sena. That's the one. Section 34.

"A couple. They were coming down from a mountain and they died in an auto accident. She was pregnant. ... Just across the street, we have three

friends who were in a plane trip who crashed. ... There are three children out there in section 23. They were burned in the back of a car, playing with matches."

"These sort of stay with you."

Alvarado and Romero are called away to another site. Their dump-truck lumbers between rows of flowers and fresh dirt. Off to another section, another number.

Kelly Fleming. Daniel Mauser. Matthew Kechter.

"I know I'll remember these forever," their boss said.

Songwriters credit God

By Tillie Fong
News Staff Writer

Friend of Mine came from the heart and from God.

"I think God is using our talents at this time to help people," said Stephen Cohen, 18, a Columbine senior.

Two weeks ago, Cohen and his brother, Jonathan, 17, sent three tunes to Andy Millar, associate pastor at Living Fellowship Church, where the boys are members.

Millar wrote lyrics to two, but had nothing for the third.

"Then Tuesday happened," Millar said. "The word Columbine matched the rhythm of the first line of the tune."

He scribbled some lyrics, and asked the brothers if they would add words and sing the song that night for a church service.

"I was pretty freaked, and I couldn't think of any lyrics," Jonathan recalls.

So Millar came up with the rest of the lyrics in 45 minutes.

In the meantime, the brothers learned a friend, Cassie Bernall, was among the victims.

That night, when they sang the song, "Cassie was definitely in the forefront of our thoughts," Stephen said.

Jason Hickman, a church member, has a music studio and suggested they record the song. Hickman also got the Cohens on the program for the Sunday memorial service.

The two brothers heard from Cassie's father that it helped him cope, and their mother told them a woman called about the song's effect on her daughter, also a Columbine student.

"She wasn't able to talk to anyone about what happened," Jonathan said. "But she got a copy of the song, went into a room and listened to it about eight times, and she started opening up after that."

Proceeds go to victims' families. Information: (303) 797-6474.



Jonathan Cohen



Stephen Cohen

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

Clement Park shrine draws crash survivor and others paying homage to victims

Mourners share pain and faith

By Norm Clarke
News Staff Writer

Ryan McLean, a survivor of her own personal crucible, came in a wheelchair, a bouquet in her lap.

The Smoky Hill girls lacrosse team, their game with Columbine High canceled, came bearing flowers and sympathy.

Marriane Klassen, a transplanted Canadian, came because she said she just *couldn't* stay away.

From near and far, young and old, they arrived at Clement Park to pay homage to the victims of Tuesday's shootings at nearby Columbine High School.

McLean, 18, survived a head-on crash on C-470 two years ago that left her paralyzed and scarred — physically and emotionally.

But whatever pain this visit would create was worth it.

"I'm glad I came, but it's very hard to be here," said McLean, after laboring to push her wheelchair the final few uphill yards. At the edge of a white tent, she leaned over and placed flowers next to a small wooden blue cross, near two candles flickering in a cinder block.

"It just inakes you all the more aware how precious life is," said the former Cherry Creek High School swimmer. Two male friends, also carrying flowers, drove her down from Fort Collins, where she is a freshman at Colorado State University.

McLean was in a GMC Suburban that veered across the median into oncoming traffic and slammed into a

Ford van. Two died and seven were injured in the crash. One of the victims, her boyfriend Jeremy Bottoms, an Arapahoe High football player, was seated next to McLean.

Her heart goes out to the grieving families and the survivors.

"No matter how hard it seems, I have to say it does get better," she said. "People have to keep their faith, whether it is in God or themselves."

The lacrosse team came to Clement Park en masse, some with single yellow and red roses, others with placards carrying notes of condolence.

"It's the right thing to do," said Kristen Sunstrom, 18. "It shouldn't have happened to any school."

"It really would have been inappropriate to stay away," said Jenny Cavnar, 16.

Erin Tullis, 17, agreed. "They're our lacrosse sisters."

Klassen, who moved to Denver from Calgary, Alberta, said she had watched so much TV coverage that "it really hurts."

"I don't have children," said Klassen, 31, "but I feel empathy for the families."

She approached the ever-growing shrine and placed a bundle of pink flowers among the others.

Tears streamed down her face as she read the many touching messages.

"This would never happen in Canada," she said, "because we have such strong gun laws. I'm not bad-mouthing the States, because I love it here, but..."



Patrick Davidson/News Staff Photographer

Ryan McLean, 18, pays her respects to the victims of the Columbine High School massacre at a makeshift shrine in Clement Park on Friday. McLean was paralyzed in a car crash last year.

School episodes mirror concerns found in poll

Associated Press

Offhand comments about school violence that once might have been ignored now are being regarded with vastly increased seriousness in the aftermath of the shootings at Columbine High School.

The escalation in intensity comes amid a new CNN/USA Today/Gallup telephone poll this week in which 79 percent of respondents said the shootings are a sign of a serious national problem.

During the past two days, arrests, suspensions and investigations of students have occurred at schools nationwide by nervous administrators taking no chances.

"Things that previously were

taken lightly or ignored will now be re-examined," said Ian Halperin of the Mesquite (Texas) Independent School District, which suspended a seventh-grader after she showed classmates a list of 35 students she wished were dead.

"We have no tolerance whatsoever for threats," said Police Chief Thomas Bauer of Oak Creek, Wis., where two 16-year-old boys were arrested, one for mentioning the Colorado shootings while the other one held his hand in the shape of a gun and yelled, "Pow!"

Ashley Guris, 12, of Jacksonville, Fla., was arrested Thursday on a felony charge of threatening to blow up her school. "I didn't mean it at all. The words just kind of fell out," she said Friday.

But in other cases, the reasons for discipline were more solid:

■ In Jackson, Wyo., a 17-year-old student was charged Thursday with bringing a "suspected improvised explosive device" to high school. Two similar devices were removed from his home.

■ In Pennsylvania, a high school was closed Thursday after authorities found and detonated a package that appeared to be a pipe bomb hidden on a campus roof.

In most cases, though, words alone were enough to bring suspensions and police action.

■ In Gillette, Wyo., a 15-year-old junior high school student was suspended after the principal said he heard the boy say he was going to bring a gun to school and "kill

them all," police said.

■ In Prosser, Wash., a 14-year-old high school student was arrested after telling another student he "would like to position... anti-personnel mines in every class, set them off simultaneously and kill everyone in the school."

■ In Cherry Hills, N.J., three teens were suspended from their high school for standing in a hallway clad in black trench coats and pantomiming gunfire.

■ In Palmdale, Calif., two high school students who made references to the Trench Coat Mafia were arrested after one threatened another student and the other talked about bomb-making.

The poll results suggest that Americans place a "great deal" of

the blame for the Columbine shootings on the availability of guns, followed by parents; television programs, movies and music; and social pressures on youth. Media coverage of similar episodes, the Internet and schools were blamed the least.

The poll indicated that stopping school violence will require imposing stricter gun controls on teen-agers, enacting tougher regulations on TV and movie violence, placing more metal detectors in schools, increasing available counseling for teens and restricting what's available to teens on the Internet.

The poll of 659 adults was taken Wednesday and has an error margin of 4 percentage points.

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

SONG OF
HOPE

Photos by Patrick Davis/News Staff Photographer

Two brothers who survived the Columbine High School shooting, Jonathan Cohen, 17, a junior, left, and Stephen Cohen, 18, a senior, sing *Friend of Mine*, a song they wrote, during Sunday's memorial service in Jefferson County.

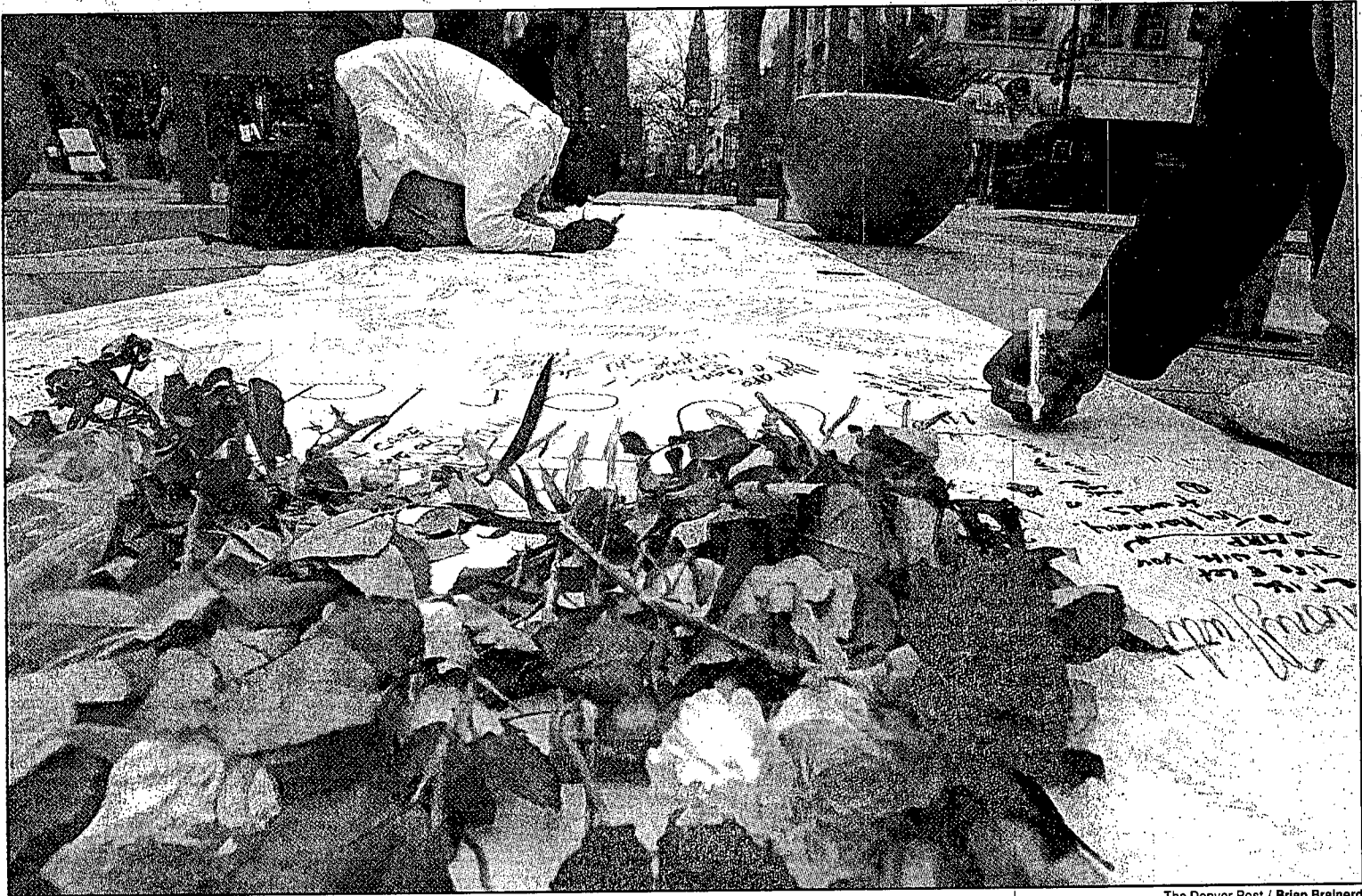
The brothers said proceeds from sales of their CD will go to the victims' families.

*Columbine, flower bloom, tenderly I sing to you.
Columbine, roseblood red, heartbreak overflow my head.
Columbine, flower bloom.
Columbine there's hope for you.
Columbine, friend of mine.
To your gain, on the mark.
With your love, love again.
Comfort, peace and sweet release come from you.
Where, it's true, I hide myself in you.
Can you still hear raging guns ending dreams of precious ones?
In God's sun, hope will come, his red stain will take our pain.
Columbine, friend of mine.
Peace will come to you in time.
Columbine, friend of mine.
Turn a page, to your gain.
Keep your heart on the mark.
Comfort us with your love.
Love again.
Christ of grace attend this place we look to you.
Honor you.
Fix you in our view.
Columbine, flower bloom.
Tenderly I sing to you.
Columbine, roseblood red, heartbreak overflows my head.
Columbine, friend of mine.
Peace will come to you in time.
Columbine, friend of mine.*

A white dove soars into the slate-gray sky as Gov. Bill Owens reads the names of the 13 people slain at Columbine High School. An estimated 70,000 people attended Sunday's memorial service at the Bowles Crossing Shopping Center.



Firms respond to tragedy



The Denver Post / Brian Brainerd

Passers-by on the 16th Street Mall stop to sign a 30-foot-long banner offering condolences to students, staff and faculty at Columbine High School.

An outpouring of financial, logistical support from state businesses

By Steve Raabe / C 4-22-99
Denver Post Business Writer

Colorado businesses responded Wednesday to the massacre at Columbine High School first with shock and grief, then with an outpouring of support — financial, logistical and emotional.

As news helicopters hovered incessantly above the crime scene, nearby stores opened for business, unsure if there would be any commerce to conduct in a neighborhood still reeling with images of bloody bodies.

Yet by Wednesday afternoon, business in some locations was brisk, aided in part by the presence of thousands of bystanders, students, reporters, grief counselors and law enforcement officials.

Meanwhile, businesses in Jefferson

■ **HELP:** A list of memorial funds and other ways to help victims of the Columbine High massacre. /2A

County and throughout Colorado took actions to deal with the aftermath of the killing spree.

Telephone companies supplied free cell phones to crowds near the crime scene.

Retailers donated money to victims and launched fund-raising drives.

Discounted airline tickets were offered to family members, students and faculty affected by the incident.

Local restaurants opened their doors to scores of reporters, who sought both a quick bite to eat and a place to write stories on laptop computers.

And everywhere, business owners said sales and profits were far overshadowed by concern and sympathy for victims.

"My wife didn't even think we should open today," said Randy Becker, owner of Music-Go-Round, a music equipment store in the Bowles Crossing shopping center near Columbine High School.

"We feel deeply about this," Becker said. "A lot of those kids are our customers. We just can't imagine the grief they must be experiencing."

Becker said that as a gesture to the victims, he withdrew his normal radio advertising and replaced it this week with a sympathy message.

At the nearby International House of Pancakes on Bowles Avenue, co-owner Mark Shirvan said he'll make do without

at least five Columbine student employees who were taking time off to deal with grief.

"I told them to take as much time as they need," he said. "That's much more important than coming to work."

Telephone service providers reported extremely high use of both conventional and wireless phone service.

On Tuesday, U.S. West posted several technicians at the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department in the event there was a problem with the emergency 911 system.

"We didn't want to take the chance that there would be any 911 problem," said spokesman David Beigle.

The wireless phone networks were

Please see REACTION on 10C

Businesses respond to tragedy at Columbine

REACTION from Page 1C

overloaded, making it tougher for police and others to communicate.

So U S West strung additional phone lines at the request of law-enforcement authorities, giving authorities dedicated lines for their use.

In addition, the company rerouted phone calls away from the area to ease traffic on the network. "Everything that didn't need to run through there we sent it in another direction," Beigie said.

The company also handed out several dozen wireless phones to authorities and family members.

As of Wednesday, the company had set up two tents at Columbine High School and was loaning wireless phones to authorities, family members and the media. The company had about 50 available and was bringing in more.

The company also had to prepare for the deluge of reporters and others from the media.

"We have what amounts to the Oklahoma City bombing trial from a media coverage standpoint," Beigie said.

U S West also is setting up a matching program for employees and retirees who want to make a donation to people connected with the crisis. The company, through its U S West Foundation, will match up to \$150,000 in donations



The Denver Post / Andy Cross

A Good Times Drive Thru sign at Evans Avenue and South Broadway shows support for the victims of the tragedy.

— meaning that a total of \$300,000 could be raised.

Gathered around TV

At JohnstonWells Public Relations in Writer Square, the staff quickly gathered around the television set around noon Tuesday in one of the conference rooms.

Employees were torn between their heartsick feelings toward the victims of the tragedy, and their trained reactions as crisis communications experts, said Bob Threlkeld, a crisis communications ex-

pert at JohnstonWells.

Threlkeld was eating lunch at the Denver Press Club when the news broke. When he returned to the office, he joined the rest of the staff huddled in the conference room.

Not much work got done Tuesday afternoon, Threlkeld said.

"It was such a compelling story that it was difficult to remove yourself from it," he said. "It was the first such calamity that a number of our younger staff members were exposed to. It was pretty impactful, no question about it."

From a crisis communication perspective, Threlkeld said he was "frankly impressed with what I saw with how they handled the situation."

"They did a lot of things right. The (Jefferson County) sheriff's department had the same spokesperson, so the same messages were getting out," Threlkeld said. "Their main focus was to communicate with the parents first, and the media was secondary. You can have crisis plans, but you can never really plan for something of that magnitude."

Psychological help

Health insurers offered psychological and financial help.

United Healthcare has set up a crisis line so people affected by the shooting can speak with a Master's

level counselor or a registered nurse free of charge. The line (800-340-4219) will be operational until May 20, spokeswoman Donna Rigg said. It is open to all, not just United Healthcare members.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Colorado said it was contributing \$25,000 to a fund set up by United Way.

Anthem Inc., the Indiana company that is in talks to buy Blue Cross, also will contribute \$25,000, company spokesman Neil Westergaard said. In addition, Blue Cross will match employees' contributions up to a total of \$10,000.

And Aurora ambulance provider American Medical Response said it may waive fees for transports it provided from the crime scene and will donate \$5,000 to victims' services.

Paul Tamburello, residential managing broker for Hanover Erlich, a Downtown-Denver real estate firm, was swept back to his past Tuesday when he heard the radio and TV reports of the shootings at Columbine. The wounded and hurting were his old parishioners.

Before joining the real estate industry five years ago, Tamburello for three years was a youth minister at the former Columbine Catholic Church, now St. Frances Cabrini on Chatfield Avenue, near the high school.

He rushed to the church Tuesday

afternoon to console and counsel the old friends who had gathered there. He stayed nine hours.

Yet Tamburello was back at work managing six brokers in his Downtown office on Wednesday. But there would be no showings Wednesday afternoon or evening. He was going back to St. Frances.

Victoria Quintana, vice president of Excel Professional Services in the Denver Tech Center, said none of her company's employees was directly related to any of the victims of the high school shootings, but employees collected money for them anyway.

Collection drive opens

Safeway Stores Inc. said it has started a collection drive for victims with a \$10,000 corporate donation. Customers can make contributions at any of the 120 Safeway stores in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska and New Mexico.

King Soopers established a support fund for the Columbine community and will begin taking donations at all 77 of its store locations today.

New Century Energies Inc., through its New Century Energies Foundation, made a donation to the United Way "healing fund." The parent of Public Service Company of Colorado also encouraged employees to make their own contri-

butions.

The Chicago Board of Trade halted trading in its futures exchange pits for a minute in honor of those killed at Columbine.

Hangout for students

Southwest Plaza mall is a hangout for Columbine High School students.

Some work there, many shop there.

"We're their community mall," said Pat Bunyard, general manager for the shopping center just a little more than a mile from the high school.

Starting Friday, Southwest Plaza visitors can donate \$5 for the Mile High United Way Community Healing Fund and receive a paper hand that they can customize with a message or their name. Southwest Plaza will hang the hands throughout the mall.

Kinko's donated the printing of hands in a variety of colors.

"We used different color hands to help support the fact that we all need to work together and unite to get rid of the racism issue," Pruitt said.

This report was compiled by Denver Post business writers Donald Blount, Bob Diddlebock, Roger Fillion, Eric Hubler, Don Knox, Jeffrey Leib, Dan Meyers, Penny Parker, Steve Raabe and Robert Schwab.

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

EDITORIALS

We remember them

We pause today to pay tribute to those slain at Columbine High School.

David Sanders died a hero — a term that's often overused these days but that in Sanders' case is resoundingly true.

As two gunmen approached the cafeteria last Tuesday, the Columbine teacher and coach rushed inside to warn hundreds of students of the impending danger, and was soon shot while shepherding some of them out of harm's way.

Witnesses said Sanders could have escaped more than once, but chose to remain in the danger zone so long as others still required warning or assistance. Wounded badly, he sought refuge in a science room, where students struggled to stop his bleeding and to keep him alive.

"Tell my girls I love them," he asked the students when he realized he might not survive.

Such a message would hardly be necessary. His daughters two will surely remember his love, just as the rest of us will recall this man's utter selflessness and bravery in a moment of fatal peril.

The 12 student victims of Tuesday's rampage exemplified in so many ways the bright promise of their years.

They were creative and ambitious, athletic and devout, hard-working and public-spirited. One was a possible valedictorian, another a budding playwright, a third a would-be pilot. Their interests ran the gamut of youthful pursuits, from drama and music to soccer and football, from the outdoor life to the inner life of the soul.

They were all, in their way, shining lights in the lives of their parents, families and friends.

Let us remember each of them.

Cassie Bernall, 17, lived and died in the Christian faith that prompted her to volunteer to serve the homeless.

"Do you believe in God?" her killer asked. Looking straight at death, Cassie refused to deny her faith. "Yes, I believe in God," she replied, an answer that prompted her execution.

Cassie was a member of the youth group at West Bowles Community Church, and she had hoped to go to medical school.

Steven Curnow, 14, dreamed of soaring as a Navy pilot. He cherished the *Star Wars* movies, sagas of the eternal battle between the forces of good and evil in a galaxy far, far away, not knowing he would fall in just such a battle much too close to home. He'd played soccer since age 5, and worked as a part-time referee.

Corey DePooter "was the friendliest one," said a student who remembered how Corey welcomed him when he was a newcomer at Columbine. Corey, 17, liked golf and worked on the Raccoon Creek Country maintenance crew to earn money for golf and fishing trips. He'd been on the team but gave it up to spend more time on schoolwork. "An all-Ameri-

can boy," said his father.

Kelly Fleming, 16, had moved to Colorado from Arizona in 1997. She found her expression in art, writing both poetry and short stories, and had been working on her autobiography on her home computer. She wanted to travel, was learning to drive, and looked forward to owning her own car.

Matthew Kechter, 16, was an A student and a football player. The sophomore set high goals for himself, friends said, and always had a positive attitude. "Just a really sweet guy, kind of shy," said one classmate.

Daniel Mauser was "just a delightful young man," in the words of a neighbor, and a first-rate student as well. The 15-year-old sophomore was an affectionate son who ran cross-country and was a member of the debate team. When a neighbor had a heart attack, Daniel volunteered his help.

"He used to come and rake the leaves because he knew I couldn't do it," said the neighbor.

Dan Rohrbough, a 15-year-old freshman, was quiet but happy, with a rare sense of humor, a boy who helped his father at his electronics store. Tuesday morning, he presented photos of himself to his mother — and later that day would die, a witness said, calling out for his mom.

Rachel Scott was a talented actress with a love for music, drama and photography, who had written her own play, produced videos and, said her friends, dreamed of becoming a movie producer. The 17-year-old also possessed a deep Christian faith. She wanted to travel abroad, her family said, "to share her faith and love for Jesus Christ."

Isaiah Shoels hoped to produce music like his father. Strong, athletic and well-liked, the 18-year-old had survived open-heart surgery as a boy and was poised to graduate within weeks. But he died because he was African-American.

John Tomlin had gone to Mexico last year with his father and others from Missions Ministries to build a house for poor people. The 16-year-old sophomore liked to go four-wheeling in his battered Chevy pickup, and liked his weightlifting class. "He was a perfect son," remembered his father. "You'd ask him to wash a car, and he'd wash both cars."

Lauren Townsend was a candidate for high school valedictorian, captain of the girls' volleyball team and a recipient of President Clinton's Award for Education Excellence. The 18-year-old loved nature, and had worked at an animal shelter.

Kyle Velasquez, 15, was a freshman who transferred to the school a few weeks ago. A former teacher described him as a "really loving kid."

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

City's pro teams band to plan Columbine aid

'Being bundled together, our impact can be bigger,' Rockies' McMorris says

By Sam Adams
News Staff Writer

Denver's professional sports franchises are joining forces to help with relief efforts in the aftermath of the Columbine High School shootings.

On Friday, representatives from the Denver Broncos, Denver Nuggets, Colorado Avalanche and Colorado Rockies met to discuss ways of making a substantial financial contribution to the cause.

Whatever financial contributions the teams make are likely to be matched by outside groups like the McCormick Tribune Foundation, team officials said.

"It was very spontaneous," Rockies owner Jerry McMorris said Monday. "We're reaching out to see what we can do. We feel being bundled together, our impact

can be bigger.

"I feel as things settle down it will become more obvious as to the things we can do."

The Avalanche and Rockies have been wearing patches with the letters CHS in support of Columbine High, while the Nuggets are wearing a black patch.

The Broncos have contacted the NFL offices to see what they can wear during the season to honor the Columbine victims.

Most likely, the Broncos will wear a spe-

cial decal on their helmets.

"We, as an organization, No. 1 feel affected by it," Broncos owner Pat Bowlen said. "So how do we do something that will have the greatest positive impact? That's what we're talking about."

"We have to know a few more details and what all of us feel are going to make the most positive impact on what is basically a disastrous situation. This is a community issue, and the Broncos are a big part of the community because of their visibility."

Blanket campaign warms hearts

By Shelley Gonzales
News Staff Writer

Joni Crane of Douglas County was horrified by the shootings at Columbine High School. She knew she had to help.

Since moving to Colorado last year, Crane has been active with Project Linus, an Elbert County-based nonprofit organization that provides homemade blankets to seriously ill or traumatized children around the world.

"I thought of how much these blankets mean to all the kids who have received them and thought they could bring the students at Columbine comfort, too," she said.

So last Tuesday, just hours after the rampage, she and Project Linus founder Karen Loucks-Baker packed up 25 quilts and headed to the Columbine-area Morning Church, where a prayer meeting was being conducted.

"They were pretty skeptical," Crane said.

The pair also brought some blankets to Light of the World Catholic Church, where they were met with the same skepticism.

But Columbine students snatched them up in droves.

Within a few days, 300 blankets were distributed with pleas for more.

To answer the call, Project Linus plans a community quilting bee 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. today and tomorrow.

Volunteers are needed to make blankets. No experience is needed. The group also is asking for donations of materials, all tax-deductible.

The students' reaction to the blankets doesn't surprise Loucks-Baker.

"People need support in one way or another. Some do it through songs, prayer or art. Blankets just happen to be our way to help," she said.



Joni Crane of Project Linus labels a quilt at her home on Monday. Crane helped organize a quilting bee today and Wednesday to make quilts for Columbine High students.

Public invited to make quilts

Project Linus' community quilting bee will be 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. today and Wednesday at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 6705 S. Webster St. at the corner of Coal Mine Road and Webster Street. For more information, call (303) 840-1321.

Guilt feelings are common in survivors

By James B. Meadow
News Staff Writer

Jean McAllister has looked into the eyes of the innocent and found overwhelming guilt.

"It's very common in a trauma situation to find that victims feel guilty about not being able to stop what happened; they feel that they should have done something to prevent it, or helped save someone," said McAllister, who has been providing crisis-intervention counseling in the wake of the Columbine High School tragedy.

Unshakable feelings of guilt are attached to virtually all of the 75-plus people McAllister has ministered to, either in groups or individually, ages 13 to 70. Some of the people she has spoken with were in the school at the time of the carnage; others could only wait in speechless terror to learn the fate of loved ones. Each has been branded.

"It runs from people who weren't in the building at the time and feel guilty for not being there, all the way to people who did incredibly heroic acts to help save others but still feel guilty because they believe they should have done more," said McAllister, who has counseled victims of trauma and violence for the past eight years and has 18 years' experience in victims therapy.

Additionally, "People feel guilty for feeling glad that their loved ones are alive when others are dead," she said. "It's important for people to know that it's OK to feel grateful that you or someone you love survived; it doesn't diminish your level of care or concern for those who were killed or hurt."

But as the shock waves of grief and trauma continue to roll over a horrified community, there are other immediate effects of the destruction, said McAllister, noting that "everyone is feeling so massively vulnerable."

Because of "strict confidentiality" she refused to talk about any specific experiences of those she has counseled. She was willing to talk about some of the short-term — and possibly long-term — effects on the victims.

Chief among them is an overpowering sense of "anger and rage. There was no way to misinterpret what happened: What those boys (Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold) did was horrific."

A common thread in the stories McAllister has heard is that no one is trying to blame anyone other than the killers.

"Many people are consciously aware that no one could have really known this kind of horror would happen."

She attributes this reluctance to point fingers to "a sign of the community's health; the people I've spoken with feel the trust and faith of others in their community."

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

Companies, citizens giving generously to Columbine

By Lisa Greim Everitt

News Staff Writer

From doughnuts to dollars, flowers to phone lines, Colorado businesses have risen to meet the community's needs after Tuesday's violence at Columbine High School.

The *Denver Rocky Mountain News'* Columbine Memorial Fund has raised nearly \$100,000 from readers and advertisers, vice president Linda Sease said Monday.

On Monday, more than 30,000 Microsoft Corp. employees around the world received an appeal for donations in the software company's daily e-mail newsletter. Microsoft will match contributions from employees to Mile High United Way's Healing Fund, said John Meyer, marketing manager for the Rocky Mountain region.

The Healing Fund has raised more than \$500,000 in donations ranging from \$100,000 from JC Penney to \$500 by credit card from someone in Peru to single dollars from high school students in Longmont. Its DonorNet Web site has garnered more than \$6,000.

"They are knee-deep in envelopes," said spokeswoman Danielle Corriveau.

Families of those killed or seriously injured during the tragedy are receiving \$5,000 grants,

the fund's first disbursements, said Mike Durkin, executive director of Mile High United Way. How the rest of the funds are used will be determined as the weeks unfold.

Addressing the unmet needs that led to the shooting — rather than its aftermath — is the impetus behind the LMC Community Foundation's Jeffco Safe Students Fund, said President Ken Eggeman.

"Something has to be done, systemically, to change how we live as a community," said Eggeman, whose foundation is associated with Exemplar Healthcare, parent company of Lutheran Medical Center in Wheat Ridge. "We invite any funding group and any other interested party to come to the table with us."

In a 1995 study co-sponsored by the foundation, young people and senior citizens in Jefferson County reported feeling disconnected from their community, Eggeman said. "Now we know what happens."

About \$20,000 has been committed. All funds will be matched by the foundation.

Labor's Community Agency, a nonprofit arm of the Colorado AFL-CIO, also established an emergency fund, said union secretary/treasurer Ellen Golombek. The fund is aimed at unspecified needs of working people touched by the tragedy.

Shane Co. pulls radio advertising over Stern's remarks on shooting

By Dina Bunn

News Staff Writer

The Shane Co. yanked its advertising from radio station KXPB-FM (96.5) Monday, objecting to comments "shock jock" Howard Stern made last week about the Columbine High School shooting.

Other advertisers also complained, and the station was inundated with calls. The telephone number for its studio was disconnected Monday.

The Shane Co. had not advertised during Stern's morning show but purchases other time spots on the PEAK.

"Tom Shane and (Chief Executive Officer) Chris Riggs were both very upset about Howard Stern," spokesman Price Blanchard said. "Right now, Denver is a family, and this is personal."

Neither Bob Visotcky, general manager of the station, nor a spokesman for station owner Chancellor Media Corp., based in Dallas, would comment on loss of advertising revenue or the number of angry calls because of Stern's show.

Stern made comments about the two teen gunmen having sex with female students at the school before killing them.

"I spoke to Howard Stern for over 20 minutes," Visotcky said. "He felt his comments were taken out of context and he will set the record straight in the morning."

Other businesses denounced the show but did not pull all advertising.

Foley's has purchased spots on the PEAK, but not during Stern's show, spokeswoman Pricilla Thorn said.

"Due to its distasteful nature, Foley's has never advertised in the past, nor would we advertise in the future on the Howard Stern show," she said.

Employees at the PEAK also were offended by Stern's comments, Chancellor spokesman Joseph Jaffoni said.

"They are as upset as anyone else in the community. The mere nature of that broadcast is it's controversial and it didn't take into account the sensitive goings-on in that market."

The PEAK organized blood drives and helped raise more than \$13,000 for survivors and their families, Jaffoni said.