

Possibly 25 die in shootings

By Robert Weller
The Associated Press

LITTLETON, Colo. — Two students in black trench coats swept through their suburban high school with guns and explosives in a horrifying suicide attack Tuesday that left as many as 25 people dead. Several students said the killers were gunning for minorities and athletes.

It was by far the bloodiest in a string of school shootings that have rocked U.S. communities over the past few years.

"They were laughing after they shot," said student Aaron Cohen. "It was like they were having the time of their life."

The gunmen — both juniors at Columbine High School in this Denver suburb — were found dead in the school library with self-inflicted gunshot wounds and bombs around their bodies, sheriff's spokesman Steve Davis said.

"It appears to be a suicide mission," Sheriff John Stone said.

Police refused to identify the killers, but classmates and Denver media identified them as Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold.

Students said the killers apparently belonged to a clique of outcasts called the "Trench Coat Mafia" who wore long black coats, boasted of owning guns and disliked blacks, Hispanics and football players.

Andrew Beard, a student, said Harris and Klebold often said they "hated the jocks" "because they thought they could do anything they wanted, walk through life smoothly."

Josh Nielsen, a junior, added: "They liked playing war games. That's all they could talk about. They played war games and they liked to re-enact World War II battles."

Davis said that the motive for

the attack was unknown and that school officials had not heard reports of trouble from the students.

Davis said 20 to 25 people were killed, students and teachers alike. But officers did not plan to remove bodies — which were in rooms throughout the school — until Wednesday because of the danger of explosives and the need to preserve evidence.

FBI agents and police SWAT teams slowly made their way through the building, and a bomb set on a timer exploded just before 11 p.m. No one was hurt. At least 12 other bombs were found, some set up as booby traps, Stone said. "It's like walking through a minefield," he said.

Explosives also were found in two cars in the school parking lot, with one bomb rigged to blow up a gas tank, Stone said. Also, the gunmen's homes were being searched, and a bomb was found in one.

Shooting

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swer the question of why this happened, Smith said. Many questions will surface about what the school could have done to prevent it, he said.

At the University, many students have shown concern about the rising number of school shootings across the country.

Joe Allen and Phillip Wolfe are environmental studies majors who said they thought of the Thurston shooting as soon as they heard about the tragedy in Colorado.

"It's a very similar situation," said Allen, a senior. "But this sounds like it's more organized."

Kirsten Schmiedling, a junior psychology major, said she first heard about Tuesday's shooting from a television in the University Bookstore.

"At first I just saw it was about

Denver, then I thought, 'Oh God, it's happened again,'" she said. "It just made my guts turn."

University research associate Geoff Colvin studies behavioral disorders and has been involved in school safety issues. He said he feels hurt by this year's shooting in Colorado, whereas he was more shocked with the Thurston shooting last year.

Colvin said an organization formed to deal with school shootings should be modeled after Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

"For a long time, drunk driving was the norm," he said. "I think we're almost at the same point with this."

MADD started because of outrage, Colvin said. That organization began education for both parents and youths.

"We've got to do something like that with this shooting epidemic," he said.

Colvin said no single entity can be blamed for the rash of school shootings, but the media and violent cartoons are contributors.

"There are so many levels," he said. "MADD was able to attack it at every level, and that's what we need to do."

To stop this trend, Colvin suggested early intervention programs for troubled youths.

"It's a necessary way to go," he said. "But if that's all we do, it's not enough."

Antisocial kids can be identified at an early age, and they can be targeted at that level before they can get hold of guns, he said.

"The picture is very complex but it is multi-solutional," he said. "We're not going to stop until its done."

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Benefits of fully funding higher ed budget touted

Senate President Brady Adams wants to reduce the budget \$16 million

By Teri Meeuwesen
Oregon Daily Emerald

Members of the education subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee listened in Salem on Tuesday to how a fully funded budget model would make Oregon more productive in engineering and technology.

A business panel talked about how the model would help with the training of people for Oregon's economy, said Ed Dennis, Oregon Student Association spokesman.

Higher education advocates asked for \$116 million to fully fund the new budget model. The model will help keep student money on campus and make Universities more responsible for their funding.

Senate President Brady Adams has proposed an even \$100 million instead.

The presidents from Oregon State University and Southern Oregon State University and Oregon Institute of Technology gave testimonies that pushed for Brady's \$100 million proposal. The reason cited for supporting the lower amount was that even that much would be better than suffering further cuts.

"They are the ones that would be most hurt by any cut, so they were really pushing for it," Dennis said.

Paul Risser, Oregon State University president, said that the committee should take the increased need for bachelor's degrees into consideration when making funding decisions.

"Unless students complete a bachelor's degree, they will not have an opportunity to compete for many of the best jobs," he said.

Most of the best jobs will be in high technology fields, he said. The new budget model will help educate students in those fields if it is fully funded.

"Oregon cannot count on hiring out-of-state employees," Risser said. "We will be at an increasing

competitive disadvantage for educated employees."

Rep. Barbara Ross (D-Corvallis), a member of the subcommittee, said she commends these universities

for highlighting the need for education in highly technical fields.

The subcommittee will go into a work session where it could pass the budget through to the full Ways and Means Committee, Ross said.

The budget may receive approval as soon as Thursday, Dennis added. However, he said he doesn't expect the budget to be finalized until later in the legislative session.

"The committee has been listening to stuff about higher ed for the past two weeks, so I think this committee is getting tired of listening to higher education, and frankly, so am I," Dennis said.

Ross said she has been impressed with the testimonies, especially those of students.

"They have been tremendous," she said.



Today's Events

Wednesday, April 21

- Joe Fracchia, an associate professor in the Robert Donald Clark Honors College, will give a gallery talk, "Embodied Culture," at 6 p.m. during the free MusEvenings! weekly program at the Museum of Art.
- The Career Center is hosting the Career Fair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom.
- The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered Alliance is showing a film for Pride Week in 180 PLC at 7 p.m.

- "The Riverfront Research Park: Efforts to Preserve the Willamette Greenway," a discussion on preserving the last open space along the Willamette River in Eugene, takes place at noon at the EMU Amphitheater.
- "Bicycles for Appropriate Transportation," demonstrations, 2 p.m. at the EMU Amphitheater.
- East European Folk Ensemble followed by the Eugene Highlanders, 5-7 p.m. at the EMU Amphitheater.
- Ecofeminism Now/Baraka, 7:30 p.m. at 100 Willamette Hall.

Nader

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funds to practice democracy," he said.

Nader said OSPIRG had "used its own money" to fight for its causes.

Nader said the PIRGs have fought for issues such as prison reform, worked against increased bank charges and studied pesticide use.

"All of this is founded on a principle called community," he said. "Corporate interests don't like community. They want to break down bonds in every direction."

Nader said corporations want to eliminate unions and close off telecommunications access to grassroots public interests.

He blamed corporations for many other problems, including the unequal distribution of wealth, pushing legislation to limit class action lawsuits and playing down student activism.

"They would love you to be trivialized, to look at the University as

a trade school to learn computer programming so you can work at Microsoft," he said.

Nader said OSPIRG would help students to organize their sense of priorities.

"This is a student group that is universally accessible," he said. "It doesn't matter where you're coming from. It's open to all students."

After praising OSPIRG for working on high profile cases such as the Trojan nuclear power plant, Nader held up a copy of The Other Paper, an alternative newspaper that published an article written by "anonymous Eugene anarchists" in its April 1999 issue.

"We should never have to use the word 'alternative' to describe us," he said.

Nader criticized a "gee-whizz" analysis of the information age and wanted students to turn information into knowledge and wisdom.

"What human purpose is this information to be dedicated to?" he said.

Nader said OSPIRG would help students break the "harmony ideology" of political agreement on college campuses and get them to start debating more.

"So students don't say: 'What's the difference between ignorance and apathy? We don't know and we don't care,'" he said.

Some University students who attended Nader's speech said they were inspired.

"It's good to get the fight back in everybody," said Scott Boyes, a sophomore fine arts major.

Annie Bruce, a senior in history, said she was encouraged by Nader's talk about building community.

Jonathan Collegio, publisher of The Oregon Commentator, a self-described conservative journal of opinion, described Nader's speech as "strongly leftist." He said Nader had only come to campus because money for OSPIRG was involved.

"It was a rally with a political cause," he said.

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