

Gunmen planned to head to N.Y.

By Robert Weller
The Associated Press

LITTLETON, Colo. — The two students who carried out the attack at Columbine High dreamed of an even bigger bloodbath, plotting to kill hundreds of neighbors then hijack a plane and crash it into New York City, investigators said Monday.

Authorities also questioned an 18-year-old girlfriend of Dylan Klebold about whether she bought two of the guns used in the rampage.

A diary kept by gunman Eric Harris described his and Klebold's plans for continuing their murderous rampage through the school's neighborhood, sheriff's spokesman Steve Davis said.

"They wanted to kill 500 people, hijack a plane and take it to New York City," Davis said. He speculated that they chose New York because of the high population density.

He credited the quick response

of sheriff's deputies with keeping the gunmen confined to the school. "Perhaps some major, major catastrophes were averted," Davis said.

On NBC's "Today" show, District Attorney Dave Thomas said of the plot to attack New York: "I suppose when you first hear it, you think that it's some horrible fantasy. But we now know that at least the first portion of those planned activities were, in fact, carried out."

Meanwhile, funerals were held Monday for the teacher and three of the students slain.

Less than a half-mile from the school, 2,700 mourners at the Trinity Christian Center wiped tears as friends and family remembered William "Dave" Sanders, 47, who was shot twice in the chest as he shepherded students down a hallway to safety.

"He was and always will be a hero in my heart," said his niece,

Kim Sanders.

Funerals also were held for Lauren Townsend, 18, the captain of the girls' varsity volleyball team and a candidate for valedictorian; Daniel Rohrbough, 15, who was shot while holding an exit door open for fleeing students; and Cassie Bernall, 17, who became a born-again Christian two years ago. Witnesses have said that when one of the gunmen asked Ms. Bernall if she believed in God, she answered "Yes." Then he shot her.

The attack's bold, bizarre nature led to early speculation that the gunmen might have been on drugs. But toxicology tests revealed no drugs or alcohol in their bodies, the county coroner's office said. Investigators said they found no drugs at the teens' homes.

The pair also passed repeated drug and alcohol tests during the previous year as part of a probation program for a car burglary.

'Matrix' is No. 1 box office hit

By Jeff Wilson
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The futuristic Keanu Reeves thriller "The Matrix" returned to No. 1 a month after its release as the pre-summer box office doldrums set in with the most anemic industry performance of the year.

The \$66 million in North American ticket sales by the Top 10 was down 28 percent from a week earlier but about even with this time last year, according to industry figures released Monday. It's known as clearinghouse season for studios prior to the summer blockbuster releases.

Most of movies in theaters now represent the lull before the release of the "Star Wars" prequel, the "Austin Powers" sequel, the Will Smith action movie "Wild, Wild West" and Stanley Kubrick's last movie, "Eyes Wide Shut."

"The Matrix" returned to the top with a \$12.6 million take and the Eddie Murphy-Martin Lawrence prison comedy "Life" fell to second place with \$11.3 million in receipts, a 45 percent drop from its previous weekend opening.

The Drew Barrymore high school comedy "Never Been Kissed" was a bright spot in the box office lineup, placing third with \$6 million. It has earned \$31 million in three weeks.

Two weekend newcomers were a disappointment.

"Pushing Tin," the John Cusack-Billy Bob Thornton comedy about a rivalry between two frantic air traffic controllers, opened with \$3.6 million for fourth place. "Lost & Found," featuring David Spade as a smarmy dog-napper who falls in love with a beautiful neighbor, opened in sixth place with \$3 million.

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