

ne Violence...



Littleton, Colorado

- ✦ What do you think the issue is?
- ✦ Where do you think the solutions are?

Photos by Sarah Welch and Melissa Leone



"They did it because they weren't in the 'in crowd.' There were definitely mental disturbances involved. If you're going to kill yourself, why kill a bunch of other people?"

"I have no clue."

Sorjen Simantel, 17
student



"I believe a lot of shows on TV have action and gunfire. These kids were looking for publicity... 'Our clique's on TV.'"

"Make it harder to achieve possession of a weapon."

Nathan Clement, 25
student



"I think it's all psychology based with kids and their not attaining family values. They're not attaining acceptance from their peers, so they lash out."

"Solutions are based on the family. As society progresses, two-career households are the norm. Children are put on the back burner."

Jenna Roadman, 17
student

"Humanity has found two godlike powers- to kill and to love.

They make us cheer at the movies and weep in real life."

—Joel Gunderson, student

In a world of darkness where do you fit in?

SHELBI WESCOTT
Associate Copy Editor

A few days ago, I received an e-mail from a friend away at college. It was one of those add-your-name-to-the-bottom-of-this-list-and-send-it-to-every-one-you-know e-mails. This particular chain letter happened to be a list of people wanting to send their prayers to those suffering in Littleton. As I was scanning the accompanying text, a particular sentence caught my eye.

It read: "We all know proper parenting would have prevented this event."

I was livid. Angered, I deleted the message.

These people had the audacity to assume that parenting was the sole factor in this terrible tragedy. I am not dismissing the idea that these parents contributed to the delinquency of their children, but I am amazed at how quick society is to point fingers.

We want it to be the music's fault, the parents' fault- we want so badly to pin the responsibility on something tangible. But I believe the source isn't something we can see, feel, hear or touch. The true source of these inhumane acts is our own moral decay, and the external factors- parents, music, media, propaganda- are only fuel to this raging fire.

I am not a pessimist, but a real-

ist, when I say I don't expect this to get better. As a matter of fact, I think it will only get worse. We are surrounded by deceit, darkness, depression and death. This is the world we live in; this is the world we built for ourselves.

How dare we point fingers? It is our lust, envy, hate, lies, blindness and ignorance that build the foundation society rests upon.

We caused this- we are the guilty party.

When will we admit something is wrong with our world? And when will we see our part in the failure?

There will always be Kinkels, Harrises and Klebolds in the world. And for every one child we stop from committing a heinous crime, we let one more slip through our fingers. These occurrences are not isolated events; they are becoming commonplace. This scares me. It should scare you. Does it? Or do you sit back and watch the world through a 21" screen, forgetting that this is real life?

Surprise- this *is* life. When will you realize that? When your own child or sibling is lying on a cold floor in a pool of blood, riddled with bullets?

Here is an exercise I would like you to try- point a finger at yourself and ask: What kind of world am I building? What am I doing right? What am I doing wrong?

Let those among us without sin be the first to throw the stone (or point a finger, as the case may be).

Recent school violence in America

- ✦ April 20, 1999
Littleton, Colorado
15 dead, 24 injured.
- ✦ April 16, 1999
Caldwell, Idaho
No injuries.
- ✦ May 21, 1998
Springfield, Ore.
2 dead, 20 injured.
- ✦ May 19, 1998
Fayetteville, Tenn.
1 dead.
- ✦ April 24, 1998
Edinboro, Pa.
1 dead.
- ✦ March 24, 1998
Jonesboro, Ark.
5 dead, 10 injured.
- ✦ December 1, 1997
West Paducah, Ky.
3 dead, 5 injured.
- ✦ October 1, 1997
Pearl, Miss.
3 dead, 7 injured.
- ✦ February 19, 1997
Bethel, Alaska
2 dead, 2 injured.
- ✦ February 2, 1996
Moses Lake, Wash.
3 dead.
- ✦ January 18, 1993
Grayson, Ky.
2 dead.
- ✦ May 1, 1992
Olivehurst, Calif.
4 dead, 10 injured.

Emergency safety procedure

and of gunfire. If you are the victim of, involved in or witness any violation of the law, call Public Safety.

Be prepared to give a complete description of the incident to the Public Safety officers when they arrive.

According to Larry Dexheimer, Chief of Public Safety, the first action Public Safety would take would be to

notify Oregon City police and or the Sheriff's department. Those officers would work with public safety in an effort to evacuate the school.

According to George Simms, environmental safety officer, certain steps should be followed in order to ensure student safety.

"Remain calm, and stay where you are," said Simms. "The worst thing to do is to take off running."

Our thoughts go out to each and every student and family, all the teachers and staff of Columbine High School and the community of Littleton, Colorado.

If you would like to show your support:

Send cards, letters and condolences to:

Columbine High School
c/o Jefferson County Public Schools
PO Box 4001
Golden, CO 80401-0001

Please direct all donations to:

Community Healing Fund
c/o Mile High United Way
2505 18th Street
Denver, CO 80211
303/ 433-8383

All funds will be used to directly support victims' families and any other family directly touched by this tragedy.