

Colorado Girlfriend May Have Had Guns

By STEVEN K. PAULSON
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LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) — The 18-year-old girlfriend of Columbine High School gunman Dylan Klebold apparently bought at least two of the weapons used in the attack at a Denver-area gun show, authorities said.

Investigators also were checking a report from a Colorado Springs gun dealer that the other gunman, Eric Harris, was among five teens who tried to buy a machine gun and another weapon last month.

The Denver Post reported today that investigators believe the girlfriend, Robyn K. Anderson, bought three weapons not long after her 18th birthday in November. The Denver Rocky Mountain News said she was believed to have bought two guns.

Harris, 18, and Klebold, 17, committed suicide after bursting into Columbine High School with guns and bombs a week ago today, killing 12 fellow students and one teacher. Four guns were found in the school.

Ms. Anderson was questioned Monday and authorities describe her as a witness, not a suspect. District Attorney Dave Thomas said she was cooperating with investigators.

Prosecutors said the weapons may have been purchased legally.

"We think three of them were provided by the girlfriend of Klebold," Mark Paulter, a Jefferson County chief district attorney, told the Post. "She bought them because she was older. She was 18 at the time. She bought them in November or December."

"We're not sure she committed a crime under Colorado statute. If you provide a handgun to a person under 18, that's a violation of the statute. If you provide a shotgun or a rifle, that's not a violation."

The operator of the Tanner Gun Show, which holds shows in the Denver area several times a year, said the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms asked on Monday for a list of all of the show's exhibitors.

Prosecutors think Ms. Anderson bought two shotguns and a rifle. District Attorney Dave Thomas said prosecutors are not sure what

knowledge she had about how the guns would be used. But Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone acknowledged it was possible that she did know how Klebold and Harris planned to use the guns.

"She's not going to use those for pheasant hunting," Stone told the News.

A man who was at Ms. Anderson's home declined to comment, saying the family was terrorized by reporters, the Post said.

Meanwhile, Mel Bernstein, owner of Dragon Arms, a gun shop in Colorado Springs, told investigators that four teen-age boys dressed in trench coats — including Harris — and a young woman came to his store in early March. They tried to buy an M-60 machine gun and a pistol equipped with a silencer. He said he declined to sell the guns to Harris because he was too young. When the young woman in the group tried to buy the guns, saying she was 18, he escorted them from the store.

Bernstein said the incident was captured on a surveillance videotape that he turned over to federal authorities.

"They were real mopey, like punk kids with the makeup on, like punk rockers," Bernstein said. "To me, it was just another bunch of kids who wished they could own everything they see on the wall here. This is like Toys R Us to them."

Bernstein said Harris "was doing all the talking."

Investigators still believe that someone other than Klebold and Harris was aware of their plans in the days and weeks leading up to the attack.

"There's a lot of munitions there," Stone said. "Either somebody else brought it in or they brought it in and stored it. ... It's hard to get that in under your raincoat and not be noticed."

Stone said three boys who were arrested near Columbine on the day of the attack have not been cleared in the case.

"I'm suspicious of their story," Stone said. "They are not out of the woods in this one yet."

Also Monday, authorities said Klebold and Harris had aimed for an even bigger bloodbath, plotting to kill hundreds of students, and then to hijack a plane and crash it

into New York City. Investigators cited a diary they found that was kept by Harris.

The attack's bold, bizarre nature led to speculation that the gunmen might have been taking drugs, but toxicology tests revealed no drugs or alcohol in their bodies, the county coroner's office said.

"It makes it a little more frightening to me that they were of sound mind and not under the influence of alcohol and drugs," Thomas told MSNBC.

Columbine's campus remained closed to everyone except bomb squads and investigators. Columbine teachers reported for duty today at nearby Chatfield High School, where armed sheriff's deputies and parents had been assigned to guard the doors. Columbine's students will begin classes at Chatfield on Thursday.

Teachers haven't been allowed to pick up their books and other belongings since the bloodshed at Columbine.

"If they need anything and we can find it, we'll get it for them," sheriff's Sgt. Jim Parr said Monday. "But I think they're going to be operating on a shoestring for a while."

Chatfield Principal Sally Blanchard said her staff would try to make Columbine teachers feel welcome on campus as they prepare their lessons in hopes of finishing out the school year.

"We want them to feel honored. We want them to feel safe," she said.

Funerals were held Monday for three students and Dave Sanders, the only teacher killed in the rampage. The emotionally exhausted community faced two more funerals today and planned a moment of silence at 11:21 a.m., the time the attack began a week ago.

Mourners, including students by the hundreds, turned out Monday to remember Lauren Townsend, an 18-year-old honor student and captain of the girls' volleyball team; Daniel Rohrbough, the 15-year-old boy shot while holding an exit door open for fleeing students; and Cassie Bernall, the 17-year-old girl who professed her love of God just before she was shot.

"Cassie died a martyr's death," Pastor George Kirsten told mourners. "She went to the martyrs' hall of fame."

President Gets 12 Years for Robberies

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PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The former student body president of Grant High School, who fled robbery charges and spent three months on the run in Mexico and the Southwest, will spend the next 12 years in prison.

Thomas G. Curtis, 19, pleaded guilty Wednesday in Multnomah County Circuit Court to 19 counts of robbery and attempted robbery in exchange for the sentence. With time off for good behavior, he could serve 11 years and one month. He also must pay more than \$8,000 in restitution.

Curtis apologized but offered no explanation for what he did.

"I am truly sorry for what I've done, and I never intended to hurt anyone," he told Judge Linda Bergman. "And I hope we can all move on from this. And I would like

to thank my parents and friends for still continuing to support me. I'm just really sorry for what I've done. Thank you."

Curtis wanted to say more but was too emotional, said his attorney, Larry Matasar. Curtis' motivation for the robberies remains a mystery.

"I don't know the answer," Matasar said. "I wish I knew the answer."

The plea ends a case that has grabbed national attention for the past year. Four Grant students and two other friends — most from affluent families — participated in a total of 20 violent robberies. The case generated further outcry after Curtis, running from the law, parted with 37 fellow seniors in Mazatlan, Mexico. No one told police until they returned to Portland.

Police arrested an accomplice, Ethan Thrower, at Grant High on April 16, 1998. However, Curtis

slipped away, showing up in Mexico before moving to a Phoenix suburb and working at a cafe. When his case appeared on TV's "America's Most Wanted," he fled to Las Vegas, where he was arrested July 29.

Norm Frink, a chief deputy district attorney, said the sentences for the six friends, ranging from 2½ years for one getaway driver to Curtis' 12 years, reflected their roles.

"In my mind, they've been appropriately punished," Frink said.

But Joe Kassab, an owner of a jewelry store that Curtis robbed with Thrower, thinks Curtis should have been sentenced to 20 years — about one year for each robbery he committed. When Kassab thinks of Curtis, it's with the memory of a gun pointed in his face and a masked robber yelling, "Back off! Back off!"

"I hope he rots in jail, actually," Kassab said. "I don't feel for him."

Clinton Urges Gun Law Changes

By David Espo
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WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton pressed for new controls on guns Tuesday, and top Republicans proposed a hard look at the nation's violence-tinged culture as the two parties offered differing responses to last week's Colorado high school shootings.

"People's lives are at stake here," Clinton declared at the White House. He urged the GOP-controlled Congress to raise from 18 to 21 the legal age for handgun possession and to hold negligent parents liable when their children use guns to commit crimes.

By day's end, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., had agreed to give Democrats an opportunity for a debate and vote on firearms proposals in about two

weeks. Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois pronounced Lott's decision "a breakthrough" toward passage of legislation, and several advocates of tougher gun laws said they thought they could prevail.

First at the White House, and then in the Capitol, the nation's political leaders paused during the day to observe a moment of silence for the victims of the shooting rampage. It was a week ago that 12 students and a teacher died at the hands of two heavily armed students, who ended the carnage by turning their weapons on themselves.

The brief silence since then was an interlude to the political jockeying that broke out Tuesday on an issue that had faded into the background in recent years. Republicans, heavily funded by the National Rifle Association, have

traditionally opposed gun control legislation. Democrats have shied away from forcing votes on the question in recent years, in part to spare members of their rank and file from Western and Southern states from having to make politically unpalatable choices.

"It is criminal how easy it is for children in America to obtain guns," added first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, weighing a Senate candidacy in New York.

"We as parents have a responsibility to monitor what they watch, what they listen to and what they hold, not after the fact, but always. Our communities must be active in returning America to a society based on values, morals and discipline. And most importantly, we must stress faith in God and instill hope in our children."

Students Initially Think it's Happening Again

By AMALIE YOUNG
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SPRINGFIELD, Ore. (AP) — Minutes after gunmen opened fire in a Colorado high school, Thurston High School principal Larry Bentz broadcast the news over his school's intercom: "I'd rather they hear it from me than from rumors," he said.

But still reeling from their own school rampage 11 months earlier, several students mistakenly thought the nightmare was happening again at Thurston. They bolted for the door.

"A whole bunch of people started to get scared and stuff. Some people started going toward the door thinking it was happening here," said Thurston student Willie Kumle. "A girl that sits next to me started crying."

The Littleton, Colo., shooting has been a violent reminder to this small town of last May's tragedy, when student Kip Kinkel allegedly walked into the school's cafeteria and opened fire, killing two students and wounding more than 20. He is also accused of fatally shooting his parents a day earlier.

"Everybody here kind of really understands what they're going through," said Tony Case, who was shot in the leg in the Springfield shooting.

"You know, I saw one student interviewed in Colorado who said she didn't think it would happen there," he told The Oregonian. "Everybody still thinks it can't happen to 'our school,' until it happens."

"It's creepy really," said James Ready, 17, a junior at Thurston. "I honestly thought ours would be the last one, that people would have grown up by now."

Once again, journalists have descended upon the high school, only to be vilified by students, parents and neighbors. Some threw rocks at the media, hurled obscenities and made obscene gestures.

"Go away!" one student yelled to reporters. "It's like you guys are here just to make money off what's happening!" He declined to give his name.

Robert Ryker, whose two sons helped subdue the Thurston gunman, said he first learned of the Colorado shooting from a reporter who called his home.

"I went up to the high school right away just to warn my kids about the reporters who would be all over the high school," he told The Register-Guard. "But when I got there, they (the reporters) were already there."

Ryker said both his sons were disturbed by the latest shooting.

"It's very tragic," he said. "We were hoping that Thurston would have been the last. But then, being realistic, we knew it probably wouldn't be the last."

The deja vu has hit hard throughout the community.

Vicki Simpson, whose daughter Kristy Whittington, 17, is a senior at Thurston, said she immediately called the school to check on her daughter, who was shaken but fine.

"It was like the whole thing

started all over again," she said. "They're trying to put it behind them, but for some of the kids, it's like re-living it all over again."

After the initial news was broadcast over the intercom, students were allowed to go to a special room to watch CNN for the rest of the day.

"The first thing I thought was, 'Oh God, not again,'" said Devon LaSalle, a 16-year-old sophomore.

After realizing the violence was hundreds of miles away, "I kind of had this sense of relief," she said. "I wasn't really scared but I was nervous for the lives of all those people," LaSalle said. "When we see the news media, it's kind of like a flashback. We get the same feeling we had last year."

Knowing what will come in the next few days, the Springfield community is already reaching out to the Colorado town.

Fire Chief Dennis Murphy, who heads an organization called Ribbon of Promise that lobbies to keep firearms away from young people, said he will send a slew of blue ribbons to the city's fire chief.

Just two weeks ago, Murphy said he tried to take his campaign to Denver, only to be rebuffed.

"They basically told me to go back to Oregon. Your message is not welcome here," Murphy told KGW-TV in Portland.

He said he will reach out again, despite the initial rejection.

"Make a resolve. Help us to turn this into a national campaign," he said. "Enough is enough is enough."



Just think: Your son is bright, healthy and headed for college one day. You love the direction your career has taken. You're doing a lot of the things you planned and even a few you didn't. Living life to the fullest is easy when you have family behind you. American Family Mutual Insurance. Call and talk to one of our helpful, friendly agents. You'll find out why we're consistently rated A+ (Superior) by A.M. Best, the insurance rating authority. Then, go on. Dream. Plan. What you do next is up to you and we'll be here to help you.

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