

Columbine 'Boy in the Window' OK

By SANDY SHORE
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LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) — Pat Ireland doesn't remember everything that happened the day he was shot three times and crawled out a second-story window. He does recall thinking someone would catch him.

People around the world watched on live television as the 17-year-old student escaped the Columbine High School rampage by tumbling out of a library window and into the arms of police.

"It was the shortest way down, out," Ireland said Friday, sitting in a wheelchair between his parents. "I felt confident that there'd be someone there to catch me."

It was the first time he has spoken publicly since the April 20 massacre that left 15 dead, including the two student gunmen, and 22 others injured.

"We know that everyone has been wondering what happened to the boy in the window, and he's doing really, really well," said Ireland's mother, Kathy.

Ireland knew of gunmen Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, but was not acquainted with them. When they

opened fire, "I closed my eyes," he said.

Ireland was shot once in the right foot and twice on the left side of his head, suffering neurological damage that mimics a stroke. The extent of permanent damage isn't known.

"This is a very remarkable, brave young man," said Dr. Alan Weintraub, adding that Ireland is making a steady recovery.

Ireland occasionally has muscle spasms in his leg. The most difficult aspect of his therapy is speech and reading because "the words get mixed up in my head sometimes and I'm not sure of all of the meanings," he said.

During a hospital news conference, Ireland stopped occasionally to confer with his parents before he answered questions in a strong, clear voice.

"I don't really remember all of it," he said. "I'm still trying to piece together the events that happened."

He admitted he feels a "little bit" of anger, but has not given it much thought. And he is eager to return to school, yet unsure how he will react.

Mrs. Ireland said she and her husband, John, didn't realize the boy in the window was Patrick until they saw a video of the rescue three days

after the attack.

"I felt, and I think John did too, that there wasn't any reason to consider that might be Patrick because we knew he was paralyzed and we couldn't imagine that," she said. "I didn't picture it happening that way. When we did see it, we knew immediately it was him."

Four other students remained hospitalized Friday, two in serious condition and one in fair condition. The fourth was undergoing rehabilitation.

Meanwhile, 13 wooden crosses erected at Clement Park in memory of the victims will have to come down again. Religious symbols aren't allowed in such a public space, said Edie Hylton, manager of the Foothills Park and Recreation District.

Illinois carpenter Greg Zanis initially erected 15 crosses, including two for the gunmen. Those were torn down and Zanis removed the rest.

He put them back up this week after the controversy died down, but park managers say they will have to be removed — a declaration that "shocked" Zanis.

"I've gotten 80 letters from people saying how important the crosses are to the healing process," he said.

Amy Fisher Gets Parole After 7 Years

By MARC HUMBERT
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ALBANY, N.Y. (May 6) - Amy Fisher, who at 16 became the tabloid headline "Long Island Lolita" after shooting her lover's wife in the head, was granted parole today after nearly seven years in prison.

Officials said she would be released within one week from the western New York prison where she is being held.

"She's been served (with the decision) this morning and granted release," state Parole Board spokesman Thomas Grant said.

The three-member parole panel, which interviewed Ms. Fisher on Tuesday, voted 2-1 to free her, according to Grant. He said the board has ordered her release by a week from today from Albion state prison.

She could be let out sooner, Grant said. Ms. Fisher shot Mary Jo Buttafuoco, then 37, in the head at the front door of the Buttafuoco home on New York's Long Island in 1992. She had been having sex with Mrs. Buttafuoco's husband, Joey, a 38-year-old businessman who later served six months in jail for statutory rape for the affair.

The teen was sentenced to five to 15 years in prison for first-degree assault.

A judge last month agreed to give her a shorter prison sentence, making her eligible for release if the parole

board agreed. Ms. Fisher had argued she was denied effective legal counsel when she initially pleaded guilty.

During a court appearance last month, Ms. Fisher took responsibility for the shooting and apologized to Mrs. Buttafuoco.

"What happened to you - it wasn't your husband's fault ... It wasn't my father's fault. It was my fault and I'm sorry," she said.

Mrs. Buttafuoco said her faith in God allowed her to forgive the woman who seriously wounded her. The two

corresponded for several months.

The Buttafuocos now live in Los Angeles, where Buttafuoco has been a cable television talk show host. The case inspired several television movies.

In a statement, Ms. Fisher's mother, Rose Fisher, said she had "prayed and waited for this moment to arrive. Knowing my daughter is coming home is the best Mother's Day gift I could wish for."

"I am looking forward to holding her in my arms, telling her I love her, and getting started on the rest of our lives together," Mrs. Fisher added.

Mother Charged in Daughter's Death

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ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A woman who said she was enraged that her 8-year-old daughter wet her pants was charged Sunday with beating the girl to death with a baseball bat.

Anita Simmons, 36, told investigators she hit the girl eight or nine times on the head and shoulders Saturday morning. Six siblings also were home at the time.

"The mother indicated to the investigators that the child was wetting

her pants at the age of 8, and that infuriated her," said Orange County Sheriff's Sgt. Bernard Presha.

Simmons' boyfriend, Darryl Thomas, 31, called for help when he got home shortly before midnight, at least 13 hours later, authorities said.

The girl, Causla Nicole Glover, was pronounced dead early Sunday, Presha said.

Ms. Simmons faced a bail hearing Monday on a second-degree murder charge.

No Charges for Police Shooters

By ANTHONY BREZNICAN
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RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP) — Four police officers acted in haste and in error, but were justified in shooting an unresponsive, armed young black woman found sitting in a car, the district attorney said.

The death of Tyisha Miller, 19, in December led to allegations that the officers — three whites and a Hispanic — were racists. Religious leaders, civil rights activists and residents of Riverside, 60 miles east of Los Angeles, protested the shooting at town hall meetings, vigils and marches.

District Attorney Grover Trask said Thursday the officers may have acted hastily and made mistakes in judgment, but they did not act criminally.

Miller's relatives were angry with the decision.

"It is sickening and it is sad," said the Rev. Bernell Butler, a cousin. "Police officers are able to murder and get away with it."

Ms. Miller had pulled into a gas station parking lot with a flat tire. Relatives who arrived to help her said they called police after Ms. Miller appeared to be having a seizure and was foaming at the mouth.

The officers found the car still running, with the radio and lights on. Inside, Ms. Miller was unresponsive, lying on the fully reclined driver's seat with a gun in her lap. The officers were unable to awaken her by banging on the windows, shining lights or shaking the car, Trask said.

When an officer tried to break the driver's side window with a baton and reach for the gun, Ms. Miller sat up, lifted a pager and stared at the cop, who backed away, Trask said.

One officer yelled at the others to hold their fire, and the woman lay down again, Trask said. When she rose up again and appeared to reach for the gun, the officers all fired, the prosecutor said.

Family members contend she re-

mained unconscious throughout and never reached for the gun.

A coroner's report indicated all the bullets entered her body from the back, proving that she was not lying down when she was shot, Trask said. Her loaded gun was never fired. Ms. Miller was hit by 12 of the 23 bullets. Four struck her in the head.

Toxicology tests showed Ms. Miller had a blood-alcohol level of .13 percent. A driver in California is legally intoxicated at .08 percent. Tests also detected marijuana residue.

The officers' plan to break in the window of her locked car to get the gun out of her lap may have been a mistake, but did not reach the level of criminal conduct, Trask said. "It was a judgment call and it was probably a mistake in their judgment," he said.

In Sacramento, Attorney General Bill Lockyer endorsed Trask's decision, but said he would investigate reports of "racial insensitivity and even racial hostility" within the Riverside Police Department.

Volunteers to Help Tornado Victims

HOOD RIVER, OREGON — A Red Cross volunteer on her way to Oklahoma City to help tornado victims says she expects it'll take a while for the loss to sink in. Susan Hoffman from

the town of Hood River says victims are in shock after powerful winds flattened sections of Oklahoma. Hoffman has volunteered at several disaster sites, and says she knows "they really haven't

come to realize exactly what all they've lost or what all that they still face." And in spite of her experience, she says from what she's seen on TV, this one looks overwhelming.

Crime Dip Credited On Tough Sentences

SALEM, OREGON — The sponsor of Oregon's tough crime sentencing law say the law has caused a healthy drop in Oregon's crime rate. Salem Republican Rep-

resentative Kevin Mannix says overall crime is down more than six-percent from a year ago. Statistics from the Law Enforcement Data System also show that crimes

against people have dropped more than three-percent while crimes against property have shown an eight-percent decrease.

More Hurdles for Background Checks

SALEM, OREGON — Gun-buyers in Oregon can currently avoid a background-check if they buy firearms at a gun-show, but that could change. Backers of a bill to extend background checks to gun shows managed to push it

through a committee over the objections of a reluctant chairman. Committee member Representative Lynn Lundquist supports the bill — saying he thinks the bill would lessen the potential to have guns in criminal hands. But oppo-

nents, including the Oregon Gun-Owners Association, say the bill goes too far. The bill's opponents could send it to another committee — reducing the chance that it would even get to the full House of Representatives.

Psychologist Recounts Balkan Trauma

PORTLAND, OREGON — A psychologist just returned from Albania where he helped refugees in the warring Balkans get mental health counselling. The emotional trauma for the refugees was so clear that a group of Portland-

based medical doctors took a psychologist for the first time on one of its missions to a disaster area. Dr. John Fazio (FAY-zee-oh) says it'll get more difficult for the refugees emotionally as they realize that they might never return to the

life they knew. Dr. Fazio says there's so much suffering in the refugee camps that it takes work to keep from becoming so cold to it that it doesn't register. Dr. Fazio is a social science professor at Warner Pacific College.

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