

## Mom Convicted of Starving Her Boy

By BETH GARDINER  
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NEW YORK (AP) — A young mother who blamed breast-feeding problems for the death of her emaciated 2-month-old son wept as she was convicted of criminally negligent homicide.

Tabitha Walrond, 21, faces up to four years in prison when she is sentenced. She was acquitted Wednesday of the more serious charge of manslaughter, which could have brought her a 15-year sentence.

Prosecutors said Ms. Walrond starved 2-month-old Tyler in 1997 to spite his father, who left her shortly after she got pregnant — or, at the very least, ignored signs that the baby was starving.

The defense said she was a dotting mother who didn't realize that her surgically reduced breasts were failing to nourish her child. Defense attorney Susan Tipograph said Tyler may have suffered from an adrenal gland disorder — not malnutrition.

But autopsy photographs showed the boy was emaciated, having dropped from his birth

weight of nearly 8 pounds to about 5 pounds.

"I think a child of that size, with skin folds creasing over the legs and the arms, would have been hard to not notice," juror Anthony Bosco, 24, said outside the courthouse.

Ms. Walrond testified that she never noticed Tyler's weight loss. She said she took natural-childbirth classes, went to night school to finish high school before Tyler was born and chose to breast-feed because doctors and family told her "breast is best."

All those actions, Ms. Tipograph said, demonstrated motherly love. She said Ms. Walrond brought Tyler to a clinic for a checkup but was turned away because she did not have a Medicaid card for him.

Ms. Walrond sobbed on the witness stand as she described how she found Tyler looking lifeless and foaming at the mouth and rushed him to the hospital in a taxi.

"I said 'Faster, faster! ... Something's wrong with my baby!'" she said. "He left me, he died in the cab. I felt him leave."

## Hate Crimes Bill Fails in Texas

By MICHAEL HOLMES  
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AUSTIN, Texas — Texas lawmakers have abandoned a hate crimes bill designed to protect homosexuals, with Democrats blaming Gov. George W. Bush for its failure and accusing the Republican presidential prospect of showing no leadership.

The bill named for James Byrd Jr., the black man dragged to death behind a pickup truck in East Texas, had the backing of President Clinton and Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley.

It would have toughened the state's hate crimes law by increasing the criminal penalties. It would also would have specifically included homosexuals for the first time.

Asked repeatedly about the bill, Bush has said only: "I will look at the bill when it makes it to my desk, if it makes it to my desk."

Sen. Rodney Ellis, a Houston Democrat, suggested that presidential politics is playing a role, with the sexual orientation provision a sticking point.

"Since our governor is a leading presidential hopeful, the eyes of the world are on Texas," Ellis said. "Everything we do now takes on national implications."

## School Attack Is Troubling President, First Lady to Visit Columbine, Colo.

By SANDRA SOBIERAJ  
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With blood spilled today at yet another American high school, President Clinton urged Congress to press forward with gun control legislation and asked all Americans to "come together in the face of these events to protect our children from violence."

Moments before leaving for Littleton, Colo., where 12 students and a teacher were killed a month ago, the president said, "The news this morning of another school shooting ... in suburban Atlanta is deeply troubling to me as it is to all Americans."

"This incident again should underscore how profoundly important it is that all Americans come together in the face of these events to protect our children from violence," he said.

With the Senate debating gun control legislation 20 blocks away from the sun-dappled Rose Garden, Clinton referred to the debate and said American must "press ahead again with the national campaign."

Clinton, who traveled a year ago to Oregon and another high school ravaged by gunfire, was headed with his

The bill sailed through the Democratic-controlled House but languished for weeks in a committee of the Republican-controlled Senate. It was abandoned late Friday, a day after two failed attempts by Democrats to force a full Senate vote. The Legislature adjourns May 31.

"James Byrd Jr. is probably turning in his grave tonight," said Sen. Royce West, a Dallas Democrat. "He cannot rest, and we should not rest, until Byrd and his family can bring closure to this issue."

Bush spokeswoman Karen Hughes said the governor's office offered ideas in an effort to break the stalemate, but critics weren't convinced of his support.

"He wants the world to believe that he is a 'compassionate conservative.' We want the world to know that his compassion does not extend to all the citizens of Texas," said the Rev. Michael Piazza of Dallas' Cathedral of Hope, which claims the world's largest homosexual congregation.

Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, attacked Bush's neutrality. "His unconscionable, immoral lack of leadership on this issue is both tragic and exasperating," she said.

Hillary, to meet with victims' relatives at Littleton's World Roman Catholic Church. The church is about three miles from Columbine and the place where counselors worked with survivors after the shooting.

The president, Lockhart said, wants to "articulate how the country shares the grief of the Littleton students and the Littleton community, and highlight the remarkable resilience of these students and of this community."

Randy Lapp said his 16-year-old son, Joshua, who escaped from the Columbine library, will attend the meeting. But he is not sure if the visit will help Joshua recover.

Tom Mauser, whose son Daniel was killed, said he was looking forward to meeting with Clinton. Mauser has criticized the National Rifle Association, and formed a gun-control group called Sane Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic.

"Certainly we'll talk about my son," Mauser said. He also plans to give the president some written questions, which he declined to specify.

"We're hoping it will help the healing process," she said.

## Six Georgia High School Students Shot

### 15-Year-Old Sophomore Taken Into Custody

By JAMES PILCHER  
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CONYERS, Ga. — A student with two guns opened fire at his high school today, shooting six schoolmates exactly one month after the Colorado massacre, authorities said. The suspect tearfully surrendered after putting a gun into his own mouth.

The most seriously wounded student was listed as stable after surgery for a gunshot wound to the intestines.

Hours after today's shooting, the U.S. Senate approved a Democratic proposal — with Vice President Al Gore casting a tie-breaking vote — to place fresh restrictions on gun transactions. The proposal would require mandatory background checks for all transactions at gun shows and for anyone seeking to reclaim a weapon at a pawn shop.

The suspect was described as a 15-year-old sophomore at Heritage High School who according to a friend had recently broken up with his girlfriend. The gunman had two weapons, a .22-caliber rifle and a .22-caliber revolver, District Attorney Richard Read said.

"I looked to my left and saw this guy in front of the girls bathroom," said Jessie McCumber, a 15-year-old freshman. "He started running sideways and shooting his gun at no particular person. Everyone's screaming, 'Oh, my God, he's got a gun!'"

The shootings happened about 7:55 a.m., or about 20 minutes before classes were to begin in this middle-class suburb 20 miles east of Atlanta. Today was the final day of classes for seniors at Heritage.

"I thought it was firecrackers until I saw the kids running toward me," math teacher Tony Gray said.

Senior Joe Watts said the gunman dropped the rifle as he fled. Once outside, he pulled out a revolver, dropped to his knees and put it in his mouth, Watts said.

An assistant principal embraced the gunman, who began crying and said, "Oh, my God, I'm so scared," Watts said.

It was "complete pandemonium," senior Michael Ramos said. Nathaniel Deeter, 15, said the gunman had broken up with his girlfriend three days ago and since then had told Deeter, "I have no reason to live anymore."

"I told him he was crazy," Deeter said. "I thought he was just feeling sorry for himself because a lot of kids feel like that."

Chris Dunn, a sophomore and friend of the suspect, said he had seen guns at his friend's home but never heard him mention plans to shoot anyone at school. He did notice the boy's grades had been falling. "He wasn't even trying anymore, which I was kind of concerned about," Dunn said.

The most seriously wounded, a 15-year-old girl, was airlifted to Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta where she underwent surgery for a shot that had pierced her intestines. The hospital gave no detail on her condition other than that it was stable. The others injured had superficial wounds: Three were held for observation at Rockdale Hospital in Conyers and two were treated and released.

Students gathered outside the school on a track after the shooting, then began boarding buses to head home. Classes were canceled for the rest of the week, but school officials said graduation would go

on as scheduled May 28.

On April 20, two students with guns and bombs killed 13 people before taking their own lives at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo.


President Clinton was preparing to leave for Littleton today when he received news of the Rockdale County shooting. The news "is deeply troubling to me, as it is to all Americans. We thank God that the injuries to the students do not seem to be life-threatening," Clinton said.

Michael Shoels, the father of Littleton victim Isaiah Shoels, expressed dismay.

"I have said since this thing happened that they better beware because it's going to happen again and again," Shoels said.

Heritage High, which has about 1,300 students, has no metal detectors but does employ a campus policeman and has surveillance cameras.


The injured were identified as: 15-year-old Stephanie Laster, in stable condition at Grady Memorial Hospital; Brian Barnhardt, 16, Jason Cheek, 17, and Cania Collins, 15, all admitted to Rockdale Hospital for evaluation with superficial wounds; and Drake Hoy and Ryan Rosa, both 18, treated and released.



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## Diabetes & High Blood Pressure: What Every Person with Diabetes Needs to Know

Saturday, June 5, 1999  
9:30-11:30 a.m.

Legacy Emanuel Hospital & Health Center  
2801 N. Gantenbein, Portland  
Lorenzen Conference Center Auditorium

FREE—Preregistration is required.  
Call (503) 335-3500 to register.

Many people with diabetes have high blood pressure. Even mild elevations in blood pressure can increase the risk of heart disease, stroke, and eye and kidney disease.

Please join David Wakeling, DO, Julie Goodwin, PA-C, MHS, CDE, Chris Blem, PharmD, and Melissa Jacobson, RD, as they discuss:

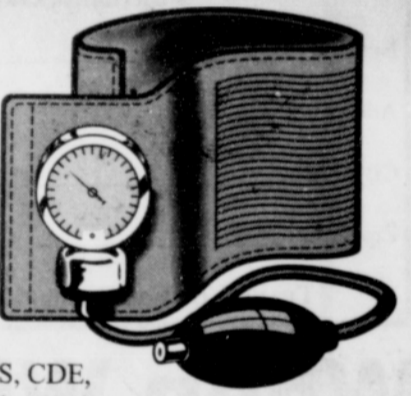

- ♥ what is it? what do the numbers mean?
- ♥ diabetes & high blood pressure: special risks & considerations

- ♥ how to lower blood pressure
- ♥ role of the diet
- ♥ medications

FREE blood pressure screening will follow the program. Refreshments will be served.

This program is co-sponsored by Legacy Diabetes Services and Legacy Heart Institute.

Legacy Health System includes Emanuel Hospital & Health Center, Good Samaritan Hospital & Medical Center, Meridian Park Hospital, Mount Hood Medical Center, Visiting Nurse Association, and CareMark/Managed HealthCare Northwest PPO. ©1999

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### Open House and Community Appreciation Celebration

(Street Party—shuttle buses to program sites)

On June 4, 1999 Volunteers of America Oregon is having an old fashioned "street party" to celebrate the successful completion of the second year of their 5-year strategic plan and to thank volunteers, donors, and community partners, for their continued support. From 9 am until 4 pm, SE 6<sup>th</sup>, (between SE Alder and Washington) will be alive with live music, food, beverage, guest MC's giveaways, and much, much more. Adding to the excitement will be a silent auction of a late model car. Shuttle buses, leaving every half-hour, will offer transportation to program facilities and offer attendees a chance to meet their staff and learn more about their programs.

Everything is Free to the public. And everyone is welcome. For more information call Ron Sumner at 503-230-1125.