

In Loving Memory
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Class of
'99
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Survivors'
stories
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throughout

the

COURIER

Columbine High School
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"Given a choice between a government without a newspaper, or a newspaper without a government, I should unhesitatingly choose the latter." —Thomas Jefferson

WE ARE . . .

COLUMBINE

CHATFIELD
CHARGERS
REBELS
OUR THOUGHTS
ARE WITH YOU

AND WE
WILL

SURVIVE!

The real CHS holds legacy of excellence



Photo by Christine Markert

When reporting the terrible tragedy at Columbine High School, some people seem to have forgotten the true essence of what CHS was, is and always will be. Despite some people's impression, expensive cars do not fill the student lots and students do not sport designer clothes every day.

A typical student records his or her homework assignments and responsibilities for the day in a student planner with the CHS Rebel mascot displayed on the cover. Many students scribble an agenda of club activities. CHS sponsors numerous clubs including the Art Club, Key Club, National Honor Society, Unity in Action and Future Business Leaders of America.

The music program at CHS continually draws huge numbers of students to participate not only in choir classes, but the annual musical. This year, students performed *Oklahoma!* in two casts because so many wished to participate. Younger students from neighboring elementary schools and the local middle school joined the Concert Choir in an area music festival. The band travels to other states and competes, representing CHS with dignity and pride.

The forensics team had an exceptional showing in competitions this year and some members represented CHS in the national competition. The debate team also demonstrates great discussion and rhetorical skills as the members strive to represent CHS well in all competitions.

The publications groups regularly bring words of advice, hope, laughter, news and comfort to everyone. The newspaper staff works the entire year to produce a quality depiction of the students, faculty and the year's events. The literary magazine publishes heartfelt, humorous and thoughtful poems, short stories and artwork written and created by students.

The vast majority is hard-working and students motivate themselves to dedicate hours of energy to schoolwork, school-related and extracurricular activities. Many students manage to complete assignments while working at an after-school job where they earn money for car upkeep, insurance, clothes and school dances.

Even in the hustle of a busy teenage life, many students earn extremely high grades. There are many candidates for valedictorian and a number of other seniors in high academic standing. This year CHS boasted three National Merit Finalists and at least one became a National Merit Scholar.

The athletic talent at CHS is amazing. The sports teams exhibited great sportsmanship and skill at

all of the events around the state. Many teams presented the school with trophies and banners for their triumphs in league and state tournaments.

There is strength both inside the walls of CHS and outside in the community, where CHS students make a big impact on others. Many students volunteer at local hospitals and charities to help strengthen and better the community, state, country and even the world.

The faculty and administration provides leadership, understanding, counsel and support to students. Teachers attend concerts and events, and spend hours helping students in need of extra assistance. Some faculty members sponsor clubs and others coach athletics. Some teachers even give students their home telephone numbers to call if they get into trouble and they need help. The hearts of the faculty members hold deep compassion for students.

Besides all of these wonderful achievements, the main theme that runs through the halls of CHS is unity. As in any high school, there are groups of people who mainly spend time with particular sets of friends. However, general camaraderie in classes and in extracurricular activities is prevalent. Often students say "hello" to people with whom they normally would not spend extra time. Students meet new people and make friends every time they sit near another person in

a class or at an event.

At pep rallies and assemblies the different classes unite in good-natured contests to try to prove their class is the best by shouting their pride. Then the student body as a whole proclaims its unity by responding to "We are" with the word "Columbine." This often brings tears to many because the family feeling between nearly 2,000 students surfaces through the chant.

Principal Frank DeAngelis always says to his students that he believes CHS to be the finest high school in the state of Colorado. His students continually exemplify this and will for years to come. In this terrible tragedy, CHS as a whole united even more. CHS will remember this horrific event, but CHS will also survive.

— Pam Glazner
Class of 1999



Photo by Christine Markert

News media: The two sides of the media's cameras



Photo by Christine Markert

Throughout the events that unfolded since April 20, 1999, the media has been covering all aspects of the crisis. The reporters, satellite trucks, cameras and microphones camped out in Clement Park for days, almost weeks. From the first news of the events at Columbine to the day students went back to school for the first time in almost two weeks, and even still as the investigation continues, the media has been trying to get information from this community to the rest of the world.

I, as a writer for this newspaper, feel that I can feel both sides of the camera, from both the students and the reporters' point of view. The sides can be very different at times.

We as students, from the first, saw reporters as annoyances. They tried to interview any student or teacher they could get their hands on. They took pictures of the wounded, both physically and emotionally, seemingly without regard to the subject's feelings. In the days just after the 20th of April,

they wanted pictures of Rachel Scott's car, a place where students had laid flowers and letters, but also a place where students were consoling each other and crying. The students there were very adamant about keeping cameras off of them, for good reason. That was one of the few places they wished to be in private. Cameramen tried to get pictures, but there were students asking if not forcing them to back off.

The media seemed everywhere until just about the day after we started back to school. They were at the churches for memorials, at Red Rocks, everywhere. There were even satellite trucks on Simms the day we started back to school, and as students walked from Chatfield to their cars in the neighborhoods across the street, reporters tried to ask questions. The media saw this differently. This was an event that was a huge shock to the whole nation if not the world. People outside the area wanted, even needed, to know what happened, what caused this, what can be done and how can they help. I was taught that in literature from around the world, one of the biggest themes is the way people recover from traumatic events. Many stories have this same theme of physical and emotional survival. This is what the media is trying to get at. People want to know how we are surviving.

A representative of the National Public Radio interviewed me. She caught me outside of Red Rocks on Sunday and asked my feelings on going back to school that next day. I thought 'Oh great, another reporter.' My family and I answered a few questions there and she was very nice about it. On Monday morning she called me at home, asking if she could ask a few more questions just before I went to school. I said I would not mind, and she joined me at my house just before I left. She was very interested in my being a writer for the school newspaper, because we happen to be in the same field. I answered more questions, mostly about my opinions and views of the whole situation.

As we started to wrap things up she mentioned that her editors in Washington, D.C. were trying to get a somewhat happy ending to the whole tragedy. She stated she's received calls asking how the students are dealing with the pain, and really how this is all going to be resolved in the near future.

I stopped myself, and thought that this is really more than 'Just the facts.' This story she was putting together was more about how we as students and as victims of this tragedy were going to go on with our lives after such an event. This was something people needed to hear to more or less close things up for

themselves. If the story or any of those types of stories were not aired, there could have been more questions, more worrying and more unrest in the world. If they could not find out how we are dealing with it, how would they know we even are? How will they know how to deal with some tragic event such as this in the future?

As it happened, the story was aired on Tuesday morning, around the nation. People from Ohio and Washington called me telling that they heard me on the radio. They were happy to hear a nice story such as that. And it really proved my point. It's not that we should forget any of the happenings. Far from it, but people have to move on to new things, and get this wrapped up for them.

The media is not so much a product of itself, but a product of the information society we live in. People want to know whatever they can know, and they look to newspaper, the radio, the television and, increasingly often, the Internet for their information.

— Justin Hart
Class of 2000

Front page:
Designed by Carly Witt and Justin Hart

Photographs by Mollie Wehler, and courtesy of CHS photographers Jessica Confield, Brittany McCormack, and Brandon Spector

Cassie Bernall



"Cassie has changed the world with her death, but she changed me with her life."
— Junior Amanda Meyer

- Birthday: November 6, 1981
- Grade: Junior
- Interesting facts: went to youth group four or five times a week
- Hobbies and interests: Columbine Bible club, youth group and Bible study activities at West Bowles Community Church, photography

Cassie Bernall is described as a beautiful, patient, loyal and kind person by friends and family. Junior Amanda Meyer only has praise for her friend when she acknowledges, "Cassie was the most beautiful person I've ever known. Sure, she always looked beautiful with her big, beautiful smile and her long blonde hair. But Cassie was more. On the inside she was so loving, so patient, so caring and kind. She was selfless and loyal."

Cassie wanted to cut her long hair to donate to make wigs for children undergoing chemotherapy. This is just one example of Cassie's kindness and love for others.

Her father, Brad Bernall, reminisces, "The day she was born, the day I saw her come into this world that second I was a changed man." Her mother, Misty Bernall, praises, "Her bravery, her compassion, her loyalty, her heart, her faith is my hope."

Meyer describes Cassie's faith when she comments, [Cassie] loved Jesus, her Savior, with all her heart, and she was willing to do anything for Him."

Cassie's positive attitude and enduring faith live on. Meyer proves this when she says, "Cassie has changed the world with her death, but she changed me with her life."

Steven Curnow



"Steve Curnow had a huge heart, big smile, and tons of friends."
— Freshman Kara Barnstable

- Birthday: August 28, 1984
- Grade: Freshman
- Interesting facts: memorized the Star Wars movies, his father helped train him for a soccer referee position
- Hobbies and interests: soccer, wanted to fly Navy F-16s, anything to do with Star Wars

Freshman Kara Barnstable describes Steve Curnow as having "a huge heart, big smile, and tons of friends." She adds that he "showed kindness towards others." Barnstable remembers one special story about Steve from their sixth grade days together. One day Steve brought a glow-in-the-dark lizard to school and let Barnstable borrow the toy for about a week. When he saw how much she liked the lizard, he gave the toy to her as a gift. Barnstable admits that she still has "that lizard to this day."

People writes that Steve was a huge fan of Star Wars and was excited about the latest movie in the series, *Episode I—The Phantom Menace*. Steve had memorized and could recite the lines from all of the previous Star Wars movies.

Steve's uncle, Richard Brandenburger, commented in People that Steve collected the Star Wars "books, watched all the movies and had all the video games."

Soccer was a pastime that Steve enjoyed and Barnstable explains that Steve wanted to play for the Columbine team and eventually go to the World Cup.

Corey DePooter



"[Corey] loved life, and he loved others. Corey put other people above himself. . ."
— Junior Brandon Little

- Birthday: March 3, 1982
- Grade: Junior
- Interesting facts: member of the Columbine cross country team
- Hobbies: hiking, hunting, camping and fishing

Junior Brandon Little has known Corey since they were in kindergarten. He states that "he [Corey] was a great person, hard worker, and kind at heart." Little adds that Corey "loved life, and he loved others. Corey put other people above himself, and would go out of his way to cheer someone up when they were down."

Corey enjoyed outdoor activities, and Little describes him as "a true outdoorsman." His adventures included hiking, hunting, camping and fishing. Little comments, "I was lucky enough to go on some of those trips with him, and even luckier to have him as a friend."

Language arts teacher Kiki Leyba recalls, "I will always remember the glimmer in his eye and smile on his face and that white hat pushed up on his head."

People writes that Corey was planning to go to the bank on April 20 to get a loan for a used car he wanted. He was in the library that day to keep up his grades which was a stipulation his dad, Neal DePooter, put on him for getting his car.

Kelly Fleming



"She was an angel on Earth."
— Don Fleming

- Birthday: January 6, 1983
- Grade: Sophomore
- Interesting facts: in the process of writing her autobiography, author of many stories, poems and songs, recently overcame her shyness
- Hobbies and interests: writing

"She was an angel on Earth," exclaims Didi Fleming, Kelly's mother in the *Rocky Mountain News*. Kelly was an angel at Columbine, and she will remain an angel of Columbine for the rest of time. Don Fleming, Kelly's father, states in a recent *Oprah* interview, "She was just a beautiful little girl with a heart of gold and loved everybody."

One of Kelly's favorite things was writing. Her works, which she often shared with her parents, varied from stories to poems and songs. Her goals included getting one of these works published so she could share a piece of herself with the world.

Kelly and her family moved to Littleton only a year and a half ago. She met new friends, which changed her. "Kelly was always kind of shy and reserved and to herself and a small group of friends," explains Don Fleming. "And then one day, a couple months ago, she came home and said, Mom and Dad, I just want you to know I'm not shy anymore."

Although Kelly was shy for sometime, she was a girl of true kindness. Her math teacher, Jud Blatchford, adds in the *Rocky Mountain News*, "She was one of the kindest students I ever had." Kelly was kind to all of Columbine, and all of Columbine will remember her forever.

Matthew Kechter

Sophomore Matthew Kechter was, as Sophomore Lindsey Smith recalls, "a really big sweetheart." Friend and fellow sophomore Daniel Gonzalez remembers Matt, saying, "he never took anything for granted." As the overwhelming majority of Matt's friends and classmates recount memories, he was truly a man of integrity.

According to Gonzalez and Zach Rouzi, Matt had many hobbies and passions. Matt was a sports fan and enjoyed baseball, wrestling and football, his favorite sport. Ken Griffey, Jr. and "Stone Cold Steve Austin" were some of his favorite sports-stars. The New England Patriots and the Denver Broncos were his two favorite football teams. Matt also enjoyed skiing and working on his car.

He held a job at Nick 'N' Willy's Pizza and "every dollar he earned," according to Gonzalez "he spent on his car." Matt loved Chevy trucks but did not like Fords.

As his friends recount his extraordinary personality, Matt is remembered as an extremely well rounded student. He was very smart and often earned straight-A's while he held position as an offensive lineman on the varsity football team, but these impressive traits were not the most important to his friends.

"He was very polite to everybody," Gonzalez and Rouzi agree. Smith concurs, stating, "he treated people with respect." Sophomore John Husband agrees that Matt was a caring, diligent person when he comments, "[Matt] was a good friend who always did his work and was never mean to anyone."

Sophomore Craig Scott comments, "[Matt] was real kind and no matter what you said to him he would laugh." He adds, "He was like a great big teddy bear."

Matt's classmates, friends and teachers all agree that his integrity was completely intact, on and off the field. Gonzalez says that Matt aspired to be an engineer.

"He never took anything for granted."
— Sophomore Greg Gonzalez



- Birthday: February 19, 1983
- Grade: Sophomore
- Interesting facts: high grades, well rounded student
- Hobbies and interests: was an offensive lineman on the Columbine varsity football team

Daniel Mauser



"[Daniel] loved to sit and discuss debate rounds and cases with a smile and twinkle in his eye."
— Junior Sergio Gonzales

- Birthday: June 25, 1983
- Grade: Sophomore
- Interesting facts: postponed getting his learner's permit to focus on his school work
- Hobbies and interests: ran for the Columbine cross country team, debate, hiking, skiing

Junior Sergio Gonzales remembers Daniel Mauser stating that he appeared confused when he walked into debate class on his first day of school his freshman year. The two got to know each other as they spent many Saturdays together for forensic tournaments. Gonzales states, "He always was interested in general. He loved to sit and discuss debate rounds and cases with a smile and twinkle in his eye."

Daniel was also on the cross country team, and this year he traveled to France with his classmates. He also enjoyed hiking and skiing.

Language arts teacher Tommie Nykannen had Daniel in her fifth hour sophomore American Literature class. When students returned to classes at Chatfield Senior High, she organized a project to show the love people have for Daniel. People who knew Daniel participated in creating a special memorial in honor of Daniel. Posterboards with the title *100 Wonderful Things About Our Dan Mauser!* were filled with special memories, condolences and expressions of love. The posters were presented to Daniel's father, Tom Mauser when he visited the school.

People writes that Daniel had postponed getting his learner's permit in order to work on his school studies. He was also a peacemaker and was worried about the increasing guns in the United States. Tom Mauser tells People, "He was the mediator. The other kids would get upset, and he would be the in-between guy."

Sophomore classmate Emily Stewart remembers, "Dan was really sweet. He always had a smile on his face, and he was eager to learn." Sophomore Christine Markert chimes in, "He was always smiling. He'd be running a cross-country meet, which is three miles long, and he wouldn't be the fastest, but he'd just keep on smiling. We'd cheer him on, and he'd start running a little faster. He'd just make me smile to see the joy he obtained from running."

People Magazine labels Daniel Rohrbough as "one of those rare teenagers who obviously enjoyed spending time with his parents." However, to Freshman Matt Houck he was so much more. "He was a really great guy, great kid," Houck states, adding that "he was quiet, but if you did get to know him he was very outgoing."

Daniel was a student with many passions and aspirations. His favorite movies included *Liar, Liar*, *Goofy Movie*, *Porky's* and *Billy Madison*. Houck believes that Daniel's favorite class was most likely woods. His favorite color was green. Some of Daniel's hobbies included playing *Nintendo 64*, street hockey and soccer, his favorite sport.

"His job," Houck recounts, "he loved that, he loved his dad. He loved being with him and working with him." At his dad's electronics store, Daniel could be seen frequently. Houck recollects that he worked there almost every day. The *Denver Rocky Mountain News* writes that Daniel helped his father and grandfather during the summers harvesting wheat on a farm in near Colby, Kansas.

His friends say that he was a hard worker, and an overwhelming consensus of his friends agree that he was an all around great guy.

One display of Daniel's caring spirit was written about in *People*. On April 20, Daniel held the door open for other students to flee from the school. Another example of his generous soul is the fact that he spent all of his money of gifts for his family. One friend comments that Daniel never spent his money on himself.

Daniel was legally eligible to get his driver's permit on September 2 of this year, and Houck states that he was really looking forward to that date. He was also excited about inheriting his grandfather's old pick-up truck.

Daniel Rohrbough

"...he loved his dad. He loved being with him and working with him."
— Freshman Matt Houck



- Birthday: March 2, 1984
- Grade: Freshman
- Interesting facts: spent his afternoons working with his dad
- Hobbies and interests: playing frisbee, riding bicycles, and playing roller hockey with friends, playing *Nintendo 64*

Dave Sanders is called a hero because of the incident on April 20, but those who knew him before know that he was always a hero. Dave changed people's lives through his coaching and teaching.

Former Columbine student Kerri Held tells the *Denver Post* that Dave was "intimidating enough to make you want to improve, but he didn't have the heart to yell at anyone."

Dave taught business classes and coached various sports at Columbine for 25 years. This year he coached softball and women's basketball. Four varsity women basketball players and physical education teacher Kris Macauley presented his family with a signed basketball at his funeral. Macauley voiced the respect and admiration the athletes feel for their coach and how much they love him.

Students who were with Dave on April 20 say that he asked them to remove his wallet from his pocket so he could look at his daughters. Dave had four daughters and five grandchildren. His family reminisced about his wonderful characteristics and raved about his position as a father and grandfather at his funeral service.

Many Columbine students consider Dave a personal hero and credit him with saving their lives on that tragic Tuesday.

Dave's friend, Greg Lighty, tells *People*, "As soon as I heard one of the teachers went to protect the kids, I knew it was Dave. He always did the right thing."

Friend and co-worker Rick Bath praises, "Dave Sanders was the type of teacher, coach, and friend that made everyone he talked to or associated with feel important. Because to him, they were."

At the annual track awards banquet on May 19, Coach Ivory Moore reminisced about Dave's coaching and friendship. Dave did not coach track this year, so he could concentrate on coaching basketball.

Dave Sanders

"Dave Sanders was the type of teacher, coach, and friend that made everyone he talked to or associated with feel important."

— Rick Bath



- Birthday: October 22, 1951
- Position: Business teacher and coach
- Interesting facts: born in Newton, Indiana, Columbine was his only teaching job
- Hobbies and interests: working with kids, coaching

Rachel Scott



Angel of Mine
Looking down seeing the despair, only leaving a soul searching for air. Feeling the warmth, seeing the light, reaching for wings, for the eternal flight...
Angel of mine, your face will make the heavens so bright, with your beauty, grace, and loving spirit. Only God knows why you were shot, but I know for sure I'll never forget my beloved friend and cousin Rachel Joy Scott.

In loving memory of Rachel Scott by Sarah Scott

- Birthday: August 5, 1981
- Grade: Junior
- Interesting facts: earned 138 NFL points in her first year of competition in Forensics. She also starred as Val in this year's spring play *The Smoke in the Room*
- Hobbies and interests: enjoyed laughing, loving and being the best friend anybody could hope for

Columbine High School Junior Rachel Joy Scott has been the centerpiece in many students' lives for the past three years. Her smiling face has lighted the hallways on dark days and, according to Senior Chris Beets, "Her outgoing attitude and her view on life exuded a positive glow for everyone around her." Her faith in her God and in herself showed in everything she did, whether it be organizing the youth group at her church or reciting her lines in front of hundreds at school plays. Rachel led her life with strong morals and a powerful self-confidence.

Rachel filled up her available time with many various activities including forensics, her youth group, school plays, and managed to hold a job at Subway. Throughout it all though, she kept her dry, witty sense of humor and her positive attitude. Rachel always had the good graces to smile things off and to never let people get under her skin. Junior Samantha Haviland recalls a moment at a forensics tournament when, "She was doing a proponent speech in Congress to stop using animals to make clothing. What she didn't realize is that when she gave her speech she forgot to take off her leather jacket and one of the other students asked her about it. She told them to 'Be quiet!' and sat back down for the rest of the session. It was one of the funniest things I have ever seen."

Rachel was unique. She had her own personal way of doing things. Senior Nick Baumgart remembers a time when he and Rachel went to the mall together. "We walked into Victoria's Secret pretending that I was her gay brother and we pretended that we were picking something out for our 'sister'. We were very loud." She demanded attention and, probably for the better, got all that she wanted. Rachel was never afraid to express her feelings or to pass up a fun experience for appearances, or even common sense. "Brittney Pastine, Rachel, and I were driving through the snow with the windows down. Rachel was up front and she got soaked when we went through a puddle of slush," recalls Senior Kim Cornell. "Both of us got in the back of the car so that we got splashed every time a car drove by. It was almost 3:00 a.m. so we were dead tired." Rachel lived her life for every moment. She squeezed the last drop of life out of every minute she lived.

Rachel was a beautiful, willful, caring young woman who lived her life in harmony with herself and those around her. Paula Reed, the Forensics and Debate teacher at CHS says, "On any other face, it would be an oxymoron, but she had the most beautiful smirk..." Rachel, your smiling face will always live on in our hearts.

Isaiah Shoels is called a caring, constructive person by those close to him. His father, Michael Shoels, tells the *Denver Post* that Isaiah could "take negative energy and make it into something constructive." His dad adds that he never complained.

As a baby, Isaiah underwent heart surgery for a malformed valve, and doctors feared that he would not survive past his fifth birthday. Isaiah proved to be a fighter, and not only survived, but also participated in many activities. He was in a youth football league and wrestled for Columbine's team.

Isaiah was built small but strong and enjoyed lifting weights. Senior Steve Trujillo says that Isaiah was able to "bench and squat more than twice his weight, and able to military press more than his weight. I'd always make Isaiah flex his muscles for me." Trujillo adds, "I would always tell him to carry me and he'd tell me I was too heavy."

Isaiah used to visit classes during the school day, and people were always excited to see him. Government and economics teacher Tom Tonelli had Isaiah in his class this semester. Tonelli remembers the funny side of Isaiah and the joy he brought to the classroom. He says that Isaiah was the only person he could tease for being shorter than himself. One day Isaiah wore a Cordell Stuart jersey to school, and Tonelli told Isaiah that he thought Isaiah was really Cordell. Someone in the class responded by joking that maybe Tonelli had seen the action figure.

Trujillo has so many memories of Isaiah. He comments that he called him "Itty Bitty Isaiah," and he teased him about still wearing kids' sizes. Trujillo remembers that Isaiah teased him back and said that "it was alright he still wore kids' sizes because it was cheaper that way."

Another memory Trujillo has is running up behind Isaiah and swinging him around and saying, "Ah Isaiah, you love me."

Isaiah Shoels

Isaiah could "take negative energy and make it into something constructive."

— Michael Shoels



- Birthday: August 4, 1980
- Grade: Junior
- Interesting facts: survived heart surgery when he was a baby
- Hobbies and interests: football, wrestling, planting flowers, doing yardwork

John Tomlin

John Tomlin moved to Littleton four years ago with his family. He loved outdoor activities when he was a child. As a teenager he loved his pick-up truck, which was the first vehicle he owned.

He started working at Arapahoe Acres Nursery when he was fourteen years old to earn \$3,000 to buy the truck. He was working up to thirty hours a week to pay for his truck.

Sophomore Suzanne Meyers reminisces that John "loved his truck and he would try to fit a whole bunch of people in his truck every weekend" to go bowling.

Michelle Oetter, John's girlfriend, reminisces, "You couldn't see John smile and not smile back at him and you couldn't hear him laugh and not laugh with him." She tells *People* that "He never let me pay for a thing. . . He treated me like a queen."

John's mother, Doreen Tomlin, comments in *People* that she wants people to remember her eldest child for the fact that "he loved the Lord, that he wanted to live his life for Christ."

The *Denver Rocky Mountain News* (RMN) writes that John also enjoyed Bible study, driving through the mud and going to his youth group. He was an active member of Riverside Baptist Church, and he traveled with youth group members to Mexico to build houses for the poor last summer.

John planned to join the army after graduation and had planned to take Oetter to prom on May 1. She tells *People* that he "never let me pay for a thing." She adds, "He treated me like a queen."

"You couldn't see John smile and not smile and you couldn't hear him laugh and not laugh with him."

— Michelle Oetter



- Birthday: September 1, 1982
- Grade: Sophomore
- Interesting facts: went with his youth group to Mexico last summer to build houses for the poor
- Hobbies and interests: his Chevy pick-up truck, held an after school job, spent free time in the library studying

Lauren Townsend



"Lauren taught me to love everyone. Lauren was the greatest person I knew. No matter who you were or where you came from, she loved you."

— Junior Cora Lininger

"Lauren taught me to love everyone. Lauren was the greatest person I knew. No matter who you were or where you came from, she loved you," sobs Junior Cora Lininger at Lauren Townsend's funeral. Lauren was known as a very loving person and touched the lives of many. Lauren had so many friends and was liked by all of her teachers. In the *Rocky Mountain News*, Carol Samson describes Lauren as a "thin, beautiful girl with a delicate beauty."

Lauren was also a very athletic girl. She held the position of co-captain of the varsity volleyball team this year. Lauren has been a volleyball letterman since her sophomore year and enjoyed playing on the team which was coached by her mother, Dawn Anna.

Lauren definitely demonstrated her academic talent throughout all her years at Columbine. She managed to maintain a 4.0 grade point average, keeping her in the running for valedictorian. Lauren was also an outstanding student in AP English. Her essays were of such excellence that the teachers would read them aloud to the classes, demonstrating what a well written essay sounded like.

Finally, Lauren was a lover of all animals. She adored animals so much, she held down a job at a local animal shelter. Lauren was planning on attending Colorado State University (CSU) next fall and majoring in biology. After attending college for at least four years, her goal was to become a wildlife biologist.

Lauren will definitely be missed by everyone who knew her. Her best friend since kindergarten, Jessica Holliday, will always remember Lauren as a great friend. Jessica states at Lauren's funeral, "I will miss her so much. I just want her to know that she was my hero and she will always be my hero."

Lauren has touched many and will hopefully never be forgotten.

- Birthday: January 17, 1981
- Grade: Senior
- Interesting facts: Varsity volleyball grades 10-12, volleyball captain grade 12, winner of President Clinton's Excellence in Education award, NHS member, and in the running for valedictorian
- Hobbies and interests: volleyball, Shakespeare, biology, animals

Kyle Velasquez

Kyle Velasquez is described as loving, kind and gentle by those who were close to him. One of his teachers, Tim Capra, comments, "[Kyle] would always leave riddles on the board in fourth hour, and they would be so hard to figure out, we would only have time to do ten problems instead of thirty." Kyle's father, Al Velasquez tells *People* that he calls Kyle "our gentle giant" because of his almost six-foot stature and 220 weight.

Phyllis Velasquez, Kyle's mother, remembers, "[Daniel's] always been kind and gentle and loving. This child had more hugs than any child I've ever known." He admired his 21 year old brother, Daniel, and he loved his teachers.

Some other things that Kyle liked were cats and his Aunt Rose's homemade tortillas. He enjoyed washing cars, mowing lawns and building shelves with his dad.

Kyle came to Columbine from a Denver High School three months before the incident on April 20. The night before the tragedy, Kyle had been working on his resume to apply for a job at a supermarket.

Future plans for Kyle included dreams of a career in law enforcement or the military.

Money can be sent to:

Kyle A. Velasquez Memorial Fund
C/O Drinkwine Family Mortuary
P.O. Box 650
Littleton, CO 80160-0650

"Daniel's always been kind and gentle and loving. This child had more hugs than any child I've ever known."

— Phyllis Velasquez



- Birthday: May 5, 1982
- Grade: Sophomore
- Interesting facts: father called him "our gentle giant"
- Hobbies and interests: riddles, working on computers, washing cars, mowing lawns, building shelves with his dad

Memorial pages compiled by:
Peter Henderson, Michelle Markert, Stephen Partridge, Melanie Thorsen, Carly Witt and Elisa Zahn.
*Photos courtesy of People Magazine

Many groups offer support First day elicits mixed emotions

by Ross Lambert
Editor

As this school year comes to an end, a number of groups are doing things to benefit the students, faculty and community of Columbine as well as other high schools. Some of the efforts to help students include:

•Jeffco Public Schools has created "The Spirit of Columbine Tribute Center" which is meant to centralize donations, memorials and special events related to the recent tragedy. Former Area Administrator Carol DeLockroy came out of retirement to become Executive Director of the tribute fund. Many people from across the state and nation are calling to volunteer services and time, and to donate for and create memor-

als, according to a Jeffco representative.



photo by Christine Markert
The Denver Broncos and the Colorado Rockies share time with CHS students at Heritage High School.

•The sociology students from Green Mountain High School recently initiated a new program called the "I Will" campaign. This program was originally initiated at Hillsboro High School in

Nashville, Tennessee. Sociology teacher Heather Beck says the "I Will" pledge can help students everywhere actively support non-violence in schools and make students aware of how they treat one another. A large number of students at GMHS have responded well and are reminding others of the pledge.

•A traveling "Healing Bear" that was originally sent to the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing and later to a high school affected by the TWA Flight 800 crash is now residing with Columbine victims.

The bear will reside at Chatfield High School until the school year is over and then return to CHS with the students in the fall.

There was a lot of sadness among the students and teachers as we all returned back to school Monday, but everyone was also really happy to see each other again after all we have been through.

The students missed their classmates. I did. There were empty desks in a few of my classes. It was sad seeing them, but it was hopeful, too, because some of the seats would be filled next year.

On Monday, you could walk up to someone you didn't know and just give them a big hug and say, "I'm glad you're OK. How are you?" And "where were you?"

At our first day of classes at Chatfield Senior High School, I saw the memorials they dedicated to us. It was comforting, knowing that we have been rivals for so many years and that they care so much.

"I'm really nervous to be back at school, but I'm glad that we all have come together like we have," comments Junior Sarah Slater. "To have that reassurance will get me through the rest of the year."

"Even though the homework will be stacking up again, I'm anxious to see my classmates," adds Junior Melinda Fenimore as we were getting ready for a special assembly in the gym.

No one did any lessons on Monday. We'll start that today. Some of the teachers talked about how they didn't know what we were going to do the rest of the semester. They said that our grades probably will be determined from the last report card we got a few weeks before the incident.

The teachers also talked to us about their feelings, and how if we ever needed them, their doors would be open for us. Other teachers talked about the students that were injured and weren't in class that day. Still, before classes began, the students greeted each other with smiles and many embraced. They laughed and talked about not being in school for so long.

There was a lot of pride, too. A majority of the students and faculty wore their "We Are...Columbine" T-shirts that were given to us when we picked up our schedules Friday.

It's a brand new school for us, but there were banners and posters throughout. Many said, "CSH (Chatfield Senior High) and CHS (Columbine High School) unite."

Another said, "With helping hands and open hearts, we welcome you."

At the assembly, students gave Principal Frank DeAngelis a standing ovation because he has shown a lot of strength and leadership. We wanted to thank him for that.

He has always been there for us.

Students meandered through the halls, searching for their classes, for much of the day. But it was good seeing everybody back in school. And nobody wore a trench coat.

— Kim Blair
Class of 2000

The best in Columbine will triumph

"We are Columbine!" When people outside of Columbine hear this chant they think it is merely a school cheer to be said at assemblies or sporting events. However, when any member of Columbine High School shouts, hears or reads this statement, they feel a connection with every other person in Columbine.

I have become very upset while watching programs on TV or listening to some programs on the radio over the past few weeks. Many people seem to be focusing on what they see as the negative aspects of Columbine. Talk shows try to analyze what they think may have gone wrong. I feel that anyone who is not part of the Columbine family should respect the fact that they don't know what our school was like before, during or after this tragedy.

Columbine is not a school full

of people that ridicule each other. It is a group of kind and caring individuals that can overcome anything together. Since April 20, our school has grown closer than any group of people ever could.

The assembly we had on the day that we returned to school exemplified the spirit of Columbine. Everyone moved over to make room for the students and faculty that were trying to fit into the crowded gym. Every speaker received at least a full minute of applause and Mr. DeAngelis was overwhelmed by a standing ovation.

At the party at Heritage High School, there was yet again another outpouring of love. It was not the professional sports players in attendance that received the most applause, but the recovering students there from the hospital or rehab.

We've witnessed the very worst of what people are capable of but also the very best. We hope the outside world can begin to see the real spirit of Columbine and realize that we have a great school. Columbine will always be remembered for the tragedy that occurred, but maybe we can also be remembered for how we overcame the negativity that was placed upon us. It is time that everyone learns of the good that is Columbine.

— Ellen Prommersberger
Class of 2001



photo courtesy of Ellen

The Courier

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Comments?— The Courier welcomes any appropriate suggestions or comments. As the intent of the paper is to be an expression of the students, the editorial staff values outside opinion.

Letters policy

The Courier will gladly accept any letters to the editor; however, names must be included on the original document to be considered for publishing, but will be held upon request. We reserve the right to edit all letters for clarity and brevity.

The Courier is published monthly by the student newspaper staff at Columbine High School. Expression made by the students is not an expression of board policy, and the school district and its employees are immune from any civil or criminal action based on any expression made or published by students.

How should security be handled in the future years at Columbine?



"I think that the school needs to be an open campus to help kids move on. If they add a lot of security it will be hard for students to move on."

— Katie Vleck (10)



"I do think that they should have more security cameras so we can see who was involved and better understand any crime that happens in or outside of the school."

— Gary Morris (11)



"I think we should still have an open campus and security should not change very much. Metal detectors or more campus cops are not going to stop things like this from happening."

— Sarah Fiscaro (11)



"1. I would like to see ID's visible all the time, 2. No metal detectors, we're not running a prison, 3. Safety hotline for students to call is they have any anonymous tips, 4. No closed campus. It wouldn't solve anything." — Sydney Keating (campus supervisor)

How would you like the memorial to look for CHS?

"The memorial should be placed on Rebel Hill with 13 crosses surrounded by a bed of Columbine flowers." — Veronica Bowie (10)

— Stephanie Muller (11)

"You would have to incorporate all of the stuff we have done including recognizing the students of Columbine and honoring the 13 victims."

— Lindsay Williams (12)

"I think it should be peaceful and I also think there should be stuff that reminds us of good times."

— Kayla Katha (10)

"I think they should choose from the best designs."

— Brian Sullivan (12)



photo by Mallie Weksler

"Lots of pictures of all the victims and injured people and a small separate room to look at all the pictures."

— Matt Davis (9)

"I would like some sort of plaque or stone memorial that has a poem or some sort of statement and the names of the victims and their birthdates."

— Heidi Munger (12)

"They should hang some of the posters and signs around and they should put some of the gifts like the bears and other stuff there."

— Regina Evans (10)

"I think there should be a painting of the ribbon just like the mural by the stairs."

— Ryan Bigley (9)

"I think we should have some kind of picture collage of the thirteen victims with special quotes from their family and friends."

— Michelle Markert (12)

How should the floor plan and remodeling of Columbine High School be handled?

"I think that they should try to keep the school as similar as possible and maybe just change around the library and commons."

— Beth Barnes (11)

"I think it should be very similar, except change the commons and rebuild the library in a different area, so the present library can be used as a memorial."

— Noel Schneider (10)

"Columbine has a great floor plan as it is. The library and commons should be changed a little but the rest should be left the same."

— Brent Sessions (11)

"I hate to see it look like a fortress. I think they need to talk to Liz Keating. The commons need to be bigger, but they've always needed to be bigger."

— Mr. Bill Biskup (faculty)

"I think we should just remodel places damaged a lot, but we should make it look as close to what it used to be— it was our school."

— Shawn Roberts (11)

"The best thing to do with the space would be to completely remove the library, so that the commons is completely open, and then turn that space into an atrium, or a memorial of what

happened."

Jocelyn Heckler (10)

"I think we should tear down the commons and library and make a memorial where they used to be. Then put the library and commons somewhere else."

— Valerie Peterson (10)

"Keep everything the same—move around some furniture and repaint. Don't tear down anything."

— Jill Kamens (10)

"A committee of people should make the decision. If I were on the committee, I would suggest that the commons and library be remodeled completely."

— Mr. Ivory Moore (faculty)

"After four years I believe the lay-out of Columbine to be very well laid out. I believe the lay-out should be left alone, but plaques should be hung to designate the fallen comrades."

— Dustin Gorton (12)

"I personally think that they should keep the basic areas where they are but in a different arrangement. But for some students I think they should build a new wing in honor of Mr. Sanders and victims."

— Jake Anderson (10)

Photos courtesy of Rebelations. Speak outs compiled by Carly Witt, Jen Pierce, and Christine Markert

PHOTOGRAPH BY MALLIE WEKSLER

«Kelly Adragna» Lori Allen» Sarah Allison» Lucille Alpers» Semih Altinay» Andrew Anderson» Joshua
 Anderson» Nicholas Anderson» Robyn Anderson» Erik Andreand» Amy Arapkiles» Sara Arbogast» Ana Julia
 Ayala» Nicholas Baker» Rachel Baker» Gregory Barnes» Kyle Barnes» Denise Barrett» Alisha Basore» John
 Batchelder» Chris Bates» Eric Bates» Nicholas Baumgart» Andrew Beard» Jill Becerra» Tina Becerra» Kelly
 Beer» Christopher Beets» Janelle Behan» Christopher Behner» Jonathan Behunin» Daniel Bell» Aaron
 Belliston» Tina Bernacchi» Michael Bierman» Christopher Bingel» James Bisgard» Erin Boortz» Brian
 Bornhoeft» Denise Bowers» Elaine Bowie» Nicholas Boyes» Douglas Brace» Crystal Bragazzi» Catherine Brantz»
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 Held» Kari Hendricks» Karen Henry» Evan Hensley» Autumn Hettinger» Joshua Hevert» Christina
 Hildebrandt» Manish Hingorani» Gregory Hofer» Kevin Hofstra» Jessica Holliday» Daniel Holsey» Christopher
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 Bucky Koch» Ryan Koenigsfeld» Gwen Kolacny» Katherine Kompinski» Megan Kotter» Lisa Kreutz» Thomas
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 Winger» Carly Witt» Everett Wolfe» Philip Wolfe» Nicholas Wolff» Kimberly Wollenberg» Clint Woodman»
 Nicholas Zupancic»



Words of Wisdom from the class of '99

To Emily Stewart and Chantle Downs:

The right to act like a freshman
whenever the need arises.

*Carey Cecil

To my brother James Stewart:

I leave my job of driving into
curbs and mailboxes on the
way

home from school.

*Laura Stewart

To Anna

I leave the clarinet section, and may you
have all the wonderful times I did. Play
great!

*Jenny Wallick

To Justin Hart:

I leave my bad attitude and
a couple of my ghetto lenses,
er, doorstops—don't
let the
old man walk on you
too much!

*Joe

To Jolene & Thea

I'll leave my cowboy
dance!

*Mollie Weksler

To all my senior friends,

I leave you all the happiness in the
world!

*Pam

To Alise

I leave my metronome on a
string, the freedom to drink your
own water and use your own
chapstick during band camp, and
most importantly, the courage,
strength, and love that it takes to
lead your peers have a great
year!

*Love Always,
Carly

To my little sister Colleen:

May you always bring joy and hap-
piness
to others' hearts. I hope your next
three

years are magical!

*Love always,
Your big sister Tammy

To my not so little anymore
brother Brian:

May you get all the happiness
and joy

I've had throughout my high
school career.

I wish you happy times and
many friends!

I hope your next 3 years are
wonderful!

*Love Your Big Sister Lindsay

To next year's newspaper staff:

Good luck in everything you do next
year. We know you will make the
Courier great next year. We look for-
ward to seeing your work. Enjoy
your time in high school.

*Love,
Pam and Michelle

To Adam Thompson,

I leave to you the great

responsibility

of carrying on the legend of the

**Class song: Green Day—
Good Riddance (I hope you had
the time of your life)
Class flower: tiger lily
Class colors: purple and yellow**

Posse.

Good luck.

*Dave Malone

Brave 400 runners,

Have fun with 400 Mondays,
the Mountain, and spinning
classes. Try not to get your
butts kicked too hard. Stay
strong and keep jogging!

*Love,
Carly and Michelle

To little Blasko

I leave you food and a knowl-
edge that all girls
are moody just bite your lip and
do whatever it takes
to please them.

To Macen

I leave you my sense of when to
party when to study
and when to listen. I give you all
the strength to carry on
and lots of the ladies.

*Love you both
Autumn Hettinger

Segunda hora familia (Second Hour Family),
Being a part of this family has been great.
Have fun in Spanish next year. Make sure
you play lots of games and sing lots of
songs. Señora, queremos un partido! We'll
miss you all.

*Love,
Emilia, Mandy y Michelle

To Kristin Brown

I leave my Cyrano project and long
winding roads with bright lights.
Turn on your brights and look to the
future—it will be wonderful.

*Jenny Wallick

To Penny Burton:

My sunglasses, if she ever
finds them.

*Carey Cecil

To Jeremy Thompson

I leave him the nick name
of "T" for the rest of his
schooling at Columbine, or
until I deem worthy.

*From Jason Thompson "T"

To All Columbine Students—

Never say never. never
appreciate yourself too much,
or bury yourself either. To the
shy guys trying to be "cool"—
Try not to be a dork.

Otherwise you can never be
"cool." To the freshmen girls: If you get
asked for prom, do not be a "stock-up."

*Semih "The Stud" Altinay

To Katie and Stacey

I leave the decision of what to wear,
a team with questions and com-
plaints, exciting Captains' Meetings,
and a coach that likes to ignore you.

*Kim Wollenberg

To Elisa

I leave Land of the Dragons and the Sky
Mall Magazine. Name that dog!

*Jenny Wallick

Craig,

Keep up the faith.

*From: Carey Cecil

Christine,

I leave you the desire to follow
Jesus with all your heart and the
right to wear the shoes I don't
take to college.

*Love forever,
Michelle

Students anxious for normal return

by Crystalann Keesecker
Staff Reporter

Columbine High School students will return to the CHS building for school this August.

As the school year comes to a close, students and staff will look ahead to the next school year. Despite the many rumors of another split session with Chatfield, Columbine students will be back at CHS in August.

Principal Frank DeAngelis explains that as soon as the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department releases the building to Jefferson County Schools, the restoration will begin.

Jefferson County School district officials and DeAngelis will meet May 12 to start the process of restoring the building. DeAngelis comments that construction crews need to get into the school as soon as possible.

DeAngelis explains that currently Jefferson County is planning to start school at CHS on time this August. "Unless school was delayed two to three months, we will go to CHS," DeAngelis adds.

If delays in beginning the renovation occur, school may start a little later, pushing back the date when school gets out in the

spring. However, DeAngelis states, "We are planning on opening on time. The only way this would change is if we can't get into the building."

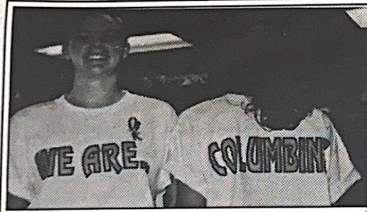
While not all students want to return to CHS this fall, many do. Junior Beth Marzoni says, "In order for me to have closure for the whole ordeal on the twentieth, I have to go back into the school."

DeAngelis comments, "I think CHS has had a very strong tradition. We will build upon that tradition and CHS will be even stronger in the future."

Prior to April 20, the gymnasium was scheduled to be remodeled. This renovation will include a new floor and bleachers that will bring fans closer to the action. Due to this, sports teams have scheduled to have summer activities elsewhere.

Construction workers will be going into the gym May 24 to make measurements. The remodeling will follow soon after.

Athletic activities will not be affected by renovation this summer. While CHS is indeed going to an eight period day in the fall, a decision has not been reached on whether the campus will be opened or closed.



Students continue showing their school spirit with the now well-known saying, "We are Columbine."

Columbine News in Brief

by Michelle Markert
Co-Editor in Chief

Jefferson County teachers gave up some of their salaries so their class sizes will not have to increase. Superintendent Jane Hammond comments in the Denver Rocky Mountain News (RMN) that "they sacrificed." The district looked at cutting \$3 to \$12 million dollars from the budget next year but will cut up to \$4 million after negotiations.

The agreement, which is for 4 years, gives teachers their raise on September 1 and will cost the district \$4.6 million dollars. The teachers' raises depending on their experience and education will be put on

hold for one year unless a mill levy override is passed. Info taken from Denver Rocky Mountain News

Six Columbine teachers

and staff members are retiring at the end of the 1998-99 school year. Those faculty members are Ray Bundy, Anna Cabrera, Al Cram, Joe Cunningham, Cathie Lutz and Joe Marshall. A retirement reception was held on Monday, May 17 to honor these faculty members.

The CHS band and choir groups performed their last concerts in May. The choir performed at a local church, and the bands performed at Chatfield with the Chatfield bands.

Senior Steve Cohen and Junior Jon Cohen's CD, Friend of Mine, is on sale at local stores. Proceeds go to the families of the victims.

Class Day was held on May 21 and graduation took place at Fiddler's Green on May 22.

Security cautions debated

—Administrators worry about students

by Stephen Partridge
Staff Writer

The School Board remains undecided on security issues at Columbine next year. There isn't a set District policy for how to enforce security at Jefferson County schools. Decisions are to be made before the end of the school year. The only definite change in security issues at Columbine will be the implementation of a new dress code.

Trenchcoats will be banned and so will clothes depicting or promoting violence.

According to Principal Frank DeAngelis, a Safety Task Force has been created so that members of the community can voice their opinions on how to handle the security at CHS. Some students at Columbine have heard rumors that President Clinton was going to implement White House security levels at CHS.

Principal DeAngelis remarks, "If that's true the students obviously know more than I do."

The large question on most students' minds is whether or not CHS will be a closed campus for the following year. Principal DeAngelis responds, "I think that having an open campus saved students' lives. I wouldn't count on a closed campus next year." Security next year remains a discussion for the faculty and the Board.

Some new security devices needed

Imagine entering a building and being frisked by men in uniform, walking through a metal detector, and being sent to your assigned room where the door is locked behind you, and not one person is allowed in or out until the correct time. It may sound like you are walking into prison, but actually you have just stepped into Columbine High School for the 1999-2000 school year.

School is not presumed to be a place where you feel entrapped, frightened and worried, but a place where you feel safe, have fun and feel free, within a certain limit. High school is supposed to be when you only worry about the test you failed to study for, going out to lunch with your friends, and being able to reenter the building and a time when you are allowed to go home during your free hours, if you choose to do so. Most importantly, high school should be a place where you feel safe, not because it took ten minutes to get through security, but because it truly is a safe place.

On the issue of having closed campus, I ask why? I agree that people would not be coming and going as they please, but what would that do, besides taking the fun out of being a high school student? For freshmen, they have been waiting for a long time to be able to leave school grounds and not get in trouble for doing so. As for seniors, their final year of high school is supposed to be a time where they learn to make decisions on their own and to act like adults. How is added security helping them achieve this? I say it only hinders this process. If administrators have to constantly tell students where to be and what they can and cannot do, then students will not learn responsibilities.

Before April 20, I was determined that I would pay for a parking spot so I could go out to lunch, or take off

during my free periods and go home. If CHS has a closed campus next year, my 100 dollars has gone to waste. With my schedule I cannot have the last two periods off or first period. Where do I go to study then, if I cannot go home? I guarantee that I am not the only one who will not want to go to the library to study during free time.

I agree that security should be added and I know that right now I too doubt the safety of schools, seeing that CHS was one of the safest schools I knew of. I don't believe that students will feel much safer once a plethora of security is added. When I walk into a building that has metal detectors and other security measures, such as Denver International Airport, I only feel more scared, worried and trapped.

After what occurred on April 20, 1999, security should and will be heightened, but to what extent? This is a question I encourage everyone to think about. If your goal is to live your life in constant fear and worry, then I say go ahead and make CHS into Columbine International Airport (CIA). If you would rather not let fear get the best of you, do what you must to ensure the safety of students, but think before you turn CHS into CIA.

—Becki Tripp
Class of 2000



Photo by Christine Markert

Columbine thanks everyone for their support and love.

Hope survives for Columbine High School after tragedy



photo courtesy of Janssen

Tuesday, April twentieth, 1999 was the largest school tragedy in American History. Unfortunately it was at my school with my classmates, my teachers, and many others. Since then I have cried, felt angry and vengeful, been in denial, confused, and yes even happy now and then. So much has come out of this and I can say that I grew up very fast. I, among others, have gone through something that most people will never experience. I still wake up some mornings and refuse to believe that it is true but there is always something to remind me that it is. There is nothing that I can do except hope for the future and what it may bring.

As bad as it sounds, perhaps a couple good things have come out of this. This whole thing has brought not only the students and the community together, but the country and maybe even parts of the world together as well. I can say that I have talked to more people that I ever have or ever expected to. It gives a feeling of

pride knowing that everyone is so generous and kind to others in a time of need. However, what will prove this kindness is if it continues into the future and has a lasting effect.

Of course we will never forget those who will not ever see the future with the rest of us. Our memories and thoughts of them will never die and they will never be forgotten. It has been hard for all of us to just let go of our friends and it may not ever get easier. We must remember that although they may never be here physically, they will always be with us in our own special ways. In addition, we must not forget those who are in the hospital and continuing to stay strong and survive. They may not ever be as physically able as once before, but their strength and courage is an inspiration to me and I am sure many others. As for the rest of us, we have each other as well as families to help us heal and cope with this tragedy.

So now I guess the big question is what does the future hold for me and the rest of the school? As a senior, I myself am going to college at the University of Northern Colorado. I really have mixed feelings about leaving. In a way I want to just leave and get away from it but on the other hand I wish I could stay forever. It

is funny how they say you never love something until it is gone. My last two weeks of high school I will not be able to spend at Columbine which deeply saddens me. However, as with everything else, I must just try to do the best with what life gives me.

I could go on forever about how I feel, but to me it seems selfish. I am not alone in this and there are nearly two thousand others. Overall, I can say that I have loved high school very much and I try to look past the shooting but I find it hard. I will never forget all the good things that Columbine has done for me as I am sure with many other as well. All the great teachers that have cared for me and spent countless hours working to make me a better person. Also, all the friends that have been there through thick and thin and have always made me laugh. Columbine will always live on in my heart and spirit forever and I will never look back in a negative way. To everyone, I want to say that I love you all and will never forget the great times. Columbine Rebel Pride forever!!!

— Brett O'Neill
Class of 1999

Columbine students must look to future with love, acceptance

In this time of tragedy and desperation, everybody is searching for answers to unanswerable questions. Why didn't anybody see this coming? What turned two young men with only three weeks of school left to attack their fellow schoolmates. As we ask these questions to ourselves, to our leaders, and to each other, the answers we all seek have not been forthcoming.

Unfortunately, I believe that the only way to find these answers will be for each person at the school to take a good look inside of their souls and figure out if they had a part to play in what occurred on Tuesday, April, 20. Too often we are willing to let other people or things to take the blame for problems that stem from within ourselves. I ask this question of everybody: How many times a day do you judge people based on their ethnicity, color, or their physical appearance? What kind of choices have you made because you didn't have the courage or the strength to walk up to somebody you didn't know and introduce yourself? I don't believe there is one person at our school that can honestly say that they have never pre-judged somebody before they got to know them. I myself have realized the kind of judgments I have passed on people before I got to know them. In light of the recent tragedy at our school, we need to change.

The anger and the total lack of regard for life that Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris felt does not stem from a desensitization to violence from video games or movies, but rather from a lack of understanding of how to deal with the many types of prejudice felt at Columbine. Class differences and people's sense of self-superiority have kept Columbine from becoming a truly unified school. Every time that we yell "We are Columbine!" we give the people the false

impression that Columbine students stand together and are one group. I believe this:

Columbine is not a bad place and does not have bad people, but unless we breach the walls between the cliques, more incidents like the tragedy on April 20 have the potential to occur. Little do we realized how some people are going to respond to pressure and teasing. But what have we learned? Has there been a lessening of the snide remarks, useless clique hatred, or peer pressure at the school? Not that I've seen. As soon as the shock of the situation wore off people reverted to their normal states as if nothing had happened. The old hatreds flow just as strong as they did before, if not stronger. The lesson I would like people to learn from this tragedy is that hatred is a cycle without an end. The more we let ourselves hate, the more hate we bring into this world. Challenge yourselves. Walk up to a person you don't know, that doesn't look like you, that doesn't act like you, and say hello. There is no harm in being nice to the people you share the halls with. Only time will tell if we, the students at Columbine, have learned the lessons that were taught to us from Tuesday's events, but I have faith that we are intelligent adults and will realize that the future of Columbine High School rests in our hands.



photo by Christine Markert

— Stephen Partridge
Class of 2000

What is Columbine?

What is Columbine?

To some it was a building.
To some it was a school.
To some it was a prison.
To some it was their home.

We are all made fun of once and awhile.

Some make more fun than others.
Sometimes behind their back.
Sometimes to their face.
Sometimes to your friends.
Sometimes to your foes.
For what reason? Who knows? Maybe human nature.

Some groups had power.

Most groups did not.

A lot of groups wouldn't accept you.

Unless you fit into their guidelines.

Unfortunately it took an incident like this one to bring us all together.

But fortunately it did.

Deep down we are all friends.

There is no reason we shouldn't be.

So be there for each other, many people's lives have been changed and many people won't recover completely. So respect the opinions of others, whether you think they are right or wrong. Remember, some are willing to forgive while most are not. Don't be judgmental over an opinion and don't turn it into a fight. Be sure to stay busy, and remember, it is never wrong to cry. Get help if you need it and let everyone you love know that you love them.

Be kind to people, everyone is different. You never know, a new friend could end up being your best friend. It is really important for some people to be recognized. Feelings get hurt for little reasons. So remember, it never hurts to say hello.

The Answer: What is Columbine?

Columbine is a school, a building, to some a prison, and a home.

Columbine is alive, but not well.

Columbine is yearning for the answer why.

Columbine is really the lives and opinions of the students, faculty, and employees that Columbine has and always will cherish for years to come.

—Tim Kastle
Class of 1999

"But You are a shield around me, O Lord; You bestow glory on me and lift up my head."

— Psalm 3:3



Carly Marie Witt
Editor

What could I possibly say or write to capture the enormous range of emotions that I have experienced these last four weeks? I honestly believe that I would not have made it through this trying time if it had not been for the relationships that I have made with others previous to April 20, 1999. My

strong relationship with my family, friends and especially God, have continually encouraged me to face each new day, while, if I had been by myself, I'm sure that I would have faltered.

These things I thank God for every day:

1. I am so thankful that God gave me such a loving family. I am so amazed at the strength that my parents and younger brother have displayed. I cannot even begin to imagine what they were going through while God's angels securely tucked me away in a Physics storage room for three hours and they ran frantically around trying to find anyone who knew were I was. While my parents waited for what must have seemed like an eternity at Leewood

Elementary, my brother, a Ken Caryl Middle School seventh grader, calmly had the presence of mind to call my relatives in Texas when they found out that I had made it out of the school unharmed. My family showed so much courage. Since April 20, I have learned so much from them. I have learned that my family is the most important and essential part of my existence. No one knows me as well as they do. I have learned that the tears of my mother are more painful than my own. It hurts me more to see her cry than anyone else. And finally, I have learned that no matter how hard they try to be strong for my sake, my parents are as frightened and unsure of the future as I am, and sometimes more so.

2. I thank God every day for the wonderful friends and teachers that are with me at Columbine High School. I have always known that our school was special, but now we have proven that to the world. Every minute I spend in my teachers' classes is precious. The bonds that I have made with them are immeasurable. It hurts me so much everyday to witness my teachers' tears as they struggle with the reality that some of their students are missing in their classes. However, I realize that the courage that my teachers show every day by coming to their classes is an obvious indication of their love for their students. I also value the strong relationships with my friends even more than I did before this horrible event. I wish that none

of my friends ever had to go through what we have been through the last four weeks, but I also know that God will never allow any experience to happen to us that He knows we cannot handle. There is no truer statement right now than: We are Columbine... and we will survive!

3. Lastly, I thank God for His love and protection every day of my life. I also thank Him especially for giving His only Son on the cross for my sins. Enough Said.

His Promise

One night a man dreamed
He was walking on the beach with the Lord.
While scenes from his life flashed across the sky,
He noticed two sets of footprints--
One belonging to him, the other to the Lord.
Looking back as the last scene passed by him,
He noticed that many times along the path
There was only one set of prints--
Always at his life's lowest, saddest times.
Dismayed, he asked, "Why Lord?
You promised that once I decided to follow You,
You'd with me all the way."
Why, at the troublesome times of my life,
Is there only one set of footprints?
Why, in the times I needed you most
Would You leave me?"
The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child,
I love you and I would never leave you.
During your times of trial and suffering,
When you see only one set of footprints--
That was when I carried you."

— Anonymous

— Carly Witt
Class of 1999

Chicks chirp into Columbine

Biology II is an advanced class offered to seniors at Columbine High School. The class is two periods first semester and one period the second. Students apply in their junior year to be accepted into this class. Four teachers split this class and teach their area of specialty. The subjects that are covered in depth are human anatomy, microbiology, botany and animal behavior. During the microbiology unit, students study bacteria and learn the physical and behavioral characteristics of certain bacteria. For the last two weeks of the unit, the students are given an unknown sample containing 3 bacteria which they must determine through various experiments. The animal behavior section is a favorite with many of the students throughout the school. During the spring, the students receive chicks which they experiment on. Some are injected with sesame oil, others receive testosterone injections and the rest are not injected with anything. The experiments do not harm the chicks, and the unit is very fun for the students in the class and people in the school who enjoy playing with the baby chickens. All of the chicks were saved from the school to the relief of the students who were raising them and those who enjoyed playing with them.

photo by Christine Markert



"A friend loves at all times."

Proverbs 17:17

The media: it influences our lives, thoughts and decisions. As part of the newspaper staff, I also have an influence on people. Through the past few weeks, the media has surrounded us. I have learned that although something might be legal to report, it is not necessarily moral.

I appreciated having the media at Leewood Elementary School on Tuesday so I could find my friends, teachers and loved ones. It was wonderful to see people on the television that I recognized; it calmed my fears knowing of their safety.

Although the media excelled in broadcasting the happy tales of reunited loved ones, many media members were inconsiderate during the time of grief and despair. Even though some media members respected the pain Columbine students were feeling, one photographer in particular refused to leave students in peace when politely asked him for privacy: He commented, "This isn't just for you, this is for the rest of the world, too." Later, I pondered what he said. I appreciate the fact that the rest of the world is scared and hurting for us, but no matter what people say or how much they care, they won't understand what we are going through.

On the Wednesday after the shooting, I went to Clement Park to search for friends and start the healing and grieving process. When I learned that one of my friends had stood up for her faith, and not made it out of the school, I broke down. I had trouble standing up and I started sobbing. Immediately, cameras surrounded me, trying to broadcast our sorrow and pain to the world. While I appreciate the global concern for the community, I am pained to see classmates on the cover of familiar newspapers and magazines.

I have learned that to just be with people, pray for them and cry with them is the best thing that can be done for grieving friends. Another lesson learned is that if I do not know what someone is going through, I should tell them that although I don't understand, I do care and I love them; it is better to be honest about ignorance than pretend to understand an inexplicable event.

— Christine Markert
Class of 2001



Christine
Markert
photographer

To my Soccer Rebels...

photo courtesy of Revelations



To my Soccer Rebels, I would like to say a thing or two to every soccer member on the women's varsity soccer team. I'll just start numerically. To the funniest person, Ericka Jennings, I want to say thanks for always making me laugh and teaching how to forget about the bad things and just have fun. Crystal, my little McFly, you've always been so nice to me and I do appreciate it, even though it may not seem like it. To one of my best friends, Angie, I look up to you in so many ways and I wish I was more like you. Thanks for being my best friend, my mom, and my sister. Mere-Bear, you've always been there when I need someone to listen to me and my problems. I love you and your clothes. To my twin Jamie Norwood and also my partner in crime. I love you so much. *you are just like me which makes us the friends we are.* Weaver you are also my best friend and you bring out the good in me everyday with your

weird ways. I will cherish our friendship forever. To Doddie, I didn't really get the chance to play with you but I've never seen someone with so much speed and muscle. To my poops, Erin, you are so much fun to be around and to play soccer with. We have so much in common, (you know what I mean). Sabes, the coolest member of the Sabey family. I'm so glad we got the chance to play together and thanks for being my warm-up partner. I'm so glad we have become such good friends. Layne—my centermid, it was a blast playing in the center with you, I must admit, we worked the center very nicely together. You have the best penalty kicks (Stone cold Layne Newton). Laura, to think that we used to pretty much hate one another. I love you and I love talking about certain things with you, especially talking about your long nights with Dain. To the coolest freshman ALIVE. It took a lot of guts to not be afraid of us. I think you are the cutest and I'll hook you up with the "J" dawg. Howdy cow, now to Jules, I am so scared of you and the way you tackle. You are such a proplayer and I don't know how you have the strength of handling more

than 3 guys at once, high five. Scooter, what can I say? I'm sometimes nice and sometimes mean but the reasons were probably because you deceived it. I think you are a great soccer player and you have a lot going for you. Winks, you are the coolest sophomore, I've ever played soccer with, even though I give you my looks, I love ya. To the player that always smiled, Marcie. You must have the hugest heart and the best work effort I've ever seen anyone have. you kept the defense alive sometimes when you needed to. You stepped up and gave it your all. Now to the coolest coach. Pete, thank you for being cool and saving me when times got rough. I love you and I will never forget you. Davey, how do you understand how I feel? Thank you for being my dad and giving me advice when I needed it. To everyone, I love you all and no matter what happens on May 18th I will never quit bleeding navy blue for everyone of you.

—Shelby Vossbrink #8
Class of 1999

Blame not answer

photo courtesy of Beth Ratay



Blame. It's something we are all thinking about. Who do we blame for all that has happened to us? The obvious answer is Eric and Dylan, but some people are not satisfied with the most obvious answer because the two gunmen are dead. So some people are blaming the parents,

the administration, video games, and even students at Columbine. It doesn't matter. It's a waste of time to be thinking about it. Blame causes pain and doesn't resolve anything.

Three and a half years ago, my grandmother died. She left my grandfather behind. My grandfather is still bitter about her death. He's still bitter because he wants to blame someone or something for her death. He has blamed himself. He has blamed the doctors. He has blamed God. He has even blamed my grandmother. All that he needs to do is to accept what has happened to him and move on with his life. Instead he is still dwelling on blame, and as a result is a very unhappy person.

We don't need to find out who is to blame for all of this. What all of us need to do is to evaluate our own lives and see what we could do better. The way I deal with tragedy is to evaluate my life. I want to live life to the fullest. Blame is not the way to live a full and happy life. We can't spend our lives blaming others for our misfortunes. We need to take what we are given and make the best of it. Blame will not help us enjoy our lives. Every person is responsible for their own happiness.

—Beth Ratay
Class of 2000

To All Columbine Survivors...

photo courtesy of Revelations



I am a survivor of the tragedy that occurred at Columbine, and changed our lives too quickly. Where my name might be unknown to many, my feelings are shared with you. We may feel scared and saddened, but together we find comfort. Look to the good in numerous loving hearts as we deal with the pain. Look to the good from our school as well. We have come together in numerous situations 1,900 strong... and we will again.

Our girls soccer team won the league championship a few nights ago. They

accomplished this during a time of great suffering. If this does not demonstrate the strength in our fellow classmates, nothing can. It shows that we can overcome even during the worst of times. Senior Stephen Cohen and Jon Cohen wrote and performed a song of hope and inspiration. We listen to the words, and know that all will be okay. Everyday we hear their song across the state, and are thankful for the strength that they provide so that others may be strong. Heroes from this sadness emerge everyday, though they deny their true heroism. People who did not even know those whom they saved, fought the terror around them to save the lives of fellow students. countless other lives may have been lost unnecessarily had it not been for their

goodness, and bravery. Deny what you have done, but we will always know of the difference you made, and remember you as heroes in our hearts. As we pray for our loved ones lost, or fighting a terrible battle in the hospital, we are together praying as one. This is the strength that everyone has shown. We had the opportunity to fall in spirit and run from the challenges that face us, instead we choose to go on. Columbine is still our school, and we are still Columbine. That realization will pull us through these hard times ahead. As each day passes and we rebuild more and more, we will again show our strength as we once again become whole.

It's long hours of not knowing or understanding situations like this, that tear us down. When tens of

thousands of people come together to show their support for a seemingly hopeless cause, that is when we know we can go on. In time the understanding will come. Together, as fellow Columbine survivors we will go on. We will not fade into the trenches of despair, that is our choice. 1,900 strong we will again come together as one. In this time we will rebuild our broken school, and as we do, fellow Columbine survivors, always remember...

WE ARE COLUMBINE!

And that will never change.

—Jillian Hart '01
—Fellow Columbine Survivor, 1999

We Are...
We are Columbine...
We are strength, love and hope
From lost comes found
I have lost my fellow classmates and a teacher
I have found strength, hope and love
We are Columbine...
Let us ring our name into every heart
Let them see our love and strength
We...
We means all of us
Even those that are no longer gracing this earth
With their light
We will fight!
We will win this battle
They will not succeed in destroying our pride
Love and souls
We will prevail
For only WE ARE COLUMBINE!!!
Your fellow Rebel,
—Kim Blair
Class of 2000

April 20, 1999—The End of Innocence
I was in the cafeteria that day,
I watched as innocence went away.
The janitor told us all to get down,
And we did so with hardly a frown.
For at that time, no one knew the extent
Of the plan on which those two boys were bent.
They went through the school, shooting without regard.
Watching it on television was very hard.
For I had already escaped that place,
I had fled after staring death in the face.
But I knew that some of my friends were still inside,
And I prayed that they all had someplace to hide.
Many of them got out, thirteen of them stayed,
Because of two boys on an insane raid.
To this day, I still ask myself why,
Why did innocence have to die?

—David Schulte
Class of 2002

Yes, I go to Columbine

"Yes, I go to Columbine," I used to proudly say,
"I'm on the honor roll, in sports and clubs, and in the band I play.
You have not heard of my school and all the things we do?
We learn our lessons, win our games, we are silver, we are blue."

"Our teachers care and love our school,
(For teachers they're quite cool).
Our friends are short, our friends are tall,
Our friends are anyone in the hall."

"I can't believe you have not heard of Columbine
when it's such a wonderful school."

"There is so much school spirit, and you'll see this as we show,
In bandanna, glitter and sparkly ribbon, to the games we go."

"Why haven't you hear of us at all?
We've accomplished great and small,
We win debates,
Send our musicians to state,
And help those to whom we don't relate."

"Do you go to Columbine?" people now ask me,
"Were you there on that day, from which you had to flee?"

"Yes, I go to Columbine,
I'm proud this school is mine,
I only wish that you could have known it,
The way we've always known it."

"Our school is more than news broadcasts and pain and sorrow and hate,
Our school is a community with life and love—a special part of our state."

*Too bad they did not know our name,
Before our woeful day of fame,
But you and I do know,
That this school to which we go,
Is full of wonderful and beautiful things,
Because of the love that the students bring.*

*So to all my friends and teachers and to those I do not know,
I love you and I'm glad that to my school you go.
And from now on when they ask you, I beg that you proudly say,
"Yes, I go to Columbine, I cherish everyday."*

*And even though our pain is strong here at Columbine,
I love this blessed school for it is yours and it is mine.*
—Christine Markert
Class of 2000

Students look past April 20

Columbine, the school that is known for being the worst school shooting in the history of the U.S. When I look in the newspaper, I see High School Massacre as the headline. Sadly, this is the image that most people have of our school, CHS. When I think of CHS, I think past that Tuesday. I think of the prom assembly that we had, the classes, and the friends. I think of how my friends and I walk up the stairs on our way to yet another class. I think of the good times in band where we laugh and talk when we aren't supposed to. I think past the tragedy and destruction to good times at CHS. And there are good times. When we go back to CHS, it will be hard, but we will prevail. I want to thank everyone who has provided us with materials for school, blankets

and endless amounts of free stuff that will most likely never use. Everyone has been so supportive to us, but they must remember that we are Columbine, and we can get through this. Keep looking back and remembering past that Tuesday. Let others know that we aren't about violence. We are about healing and togetherness. We will let others know that we are the best and we will always be because we are Columbine.



photo by Christine Markert

— Emily Stewart
Class of 2001

Thank you for the computers!



photo by Christine Markert

Computer Crazy— Newspaper staff members, Elisa Zahn and Crystalann Keesecker work on the final issue of the Courier.

Thanks to the help of employees of CompUSA at Park Meadows, Keith Ajayan, Quark XPress, Julie Bailey and Apple Corporation. Five loaner computers were set up in a home and, the staff of the Courier was able to publish the final issue of the year. The Courier is published monthly by a group of students who take newspaper as a class. Editors and staff members spend many hours during and after school editing the paper. The Courier is distributed to about 2,000 people.

Helping others starts the healing



photo by Christine Markert

and the minds of others of Columbine High School for the rest of our lives. It will forever be remembered as the day that changed our lives. All of us lost a friend, a classmate, a teacher, a lot of hope and our school, undoubtedly, lost its innocence.

In all of our minds there lies a sea of questions, but there are definitely three that cross my mind the most frequently: Why did this happen, whom can we turn to for comfort and counseling and how can this horrible event help others? I know there are no right answers to any of these questions, but I have searched high and low for answers and want to share what I came up with.

Why did all of this happen? Many people say it is all part of God's plan. I have to agree with this to a certain extent. I believe it is part of God's plan for us to learn how to treat others in a kind manner and perhaps prevent this from happening again, but not part of his

plan for us to learn kindness from this horrible, morbid and sick way. I also believe He wants us to know that any school and community, including Columbine High School and the Columbine area, has the strength to come together in times of trouble and need. Nobody will ever be able to face a problem like this alone, and should it ever arise again, those of us who have faced it would become the ones to turn to for support and counseling.

Then we find ourselves pondering the question, who can we turn to now while we are suffering. Everyone has his or her own personal frightening experience and whom we turn to definitely depends on the problem we personally face. Fortunately for me, I found people who really cared and who tried so hard to understand what I was going through.

The weekend after the trauma of April 20, 1999, I was scheduled to attend a leadership seminar. The Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) leadership seminar is held statewide every year over a weekend and one sophomore from every school is chosen to attend each year. I was honored to be representing Columbine High School, and I had been looking forward to going to this seminar for months. Unfortunately, all the excitement was taken out of attending the seminar after the fateful Tuesday when too many members of Columbine High School were taken from us.

At first, I was dreading the

thought of leaving my friends and family at a time of crisis, but attending the seminar only changed me for the better. The minute I arrived, in tears of course, people knew I was from Columbine and only wanted to help. They opened their hearts to me and shared their love, kindness and all the goodies someone like me could use.

The person I remember most from HOBY was Marc, a student from Arapahoe High School. Marc, very cheerful, funny, smart, and overly happy, had been at HOBY the previous year and already learned how to be a better leader in his school and community. Marc and I did not actually meet until Saturday, two days into the seminar. When we began talking for the first time, he said that he would never be able to understand what I was going through. I know this is true, but God bless him for trying.

Marc told me that in the last three years, three students at his school had committed suicide. This scenario was different than what I was going through, but I think through talking to one another and sharing what we had learned, we could only help each other. That brings us to the final question: whom can we help.

On the final day of the seminar, HOBY hugs were given out. HOBY hugs are little notes accompanied by a Hershey's candy Hug. People would buy

them and then send them to the new friends they made, wishing them luck and telling them to keep in touch. I had received many from all the people I met, but one truly stuck out in my mind. It was the one from Marc.

I had never expected to get a HOBY hug from him because he was there as an assistant, not as a student, but I became extremely delighted by the little note. Marc had helped me so much, but I never even thought that I could have helped him. In my HOBY hug note, Marc states "You really helped me to realize how to deal out love during every moment in our lives." I was so touched by knowing I had helped someone, I had tears rolling down my face by the time I finished the short five-sentence note. I read the note every morning and every night as a reminder that we can help others even though we also need to be helped.

This truly must have been part of God's plan. Teaching others what we have learned is only one of the small things that can be learned from a horrible tragedy. God knew we would turn our pain into something good, and that is why we are all in God's plan.

I just want to say thank you to Marc. Thank you for helping me understand that all of us affected by this tragedy can help others to learn to love all the time, even when there is pain in our lives.

— Elisa Zahn
Class of 2001

Innocence Faded

We are stripped of what little innocence we have left.
 Forced into an early adulthood we resist.
 Running, screaming, and hiding our eyes.
 But our efforts are futile.
 So now we stand.
 As adults.
 Some of us much older.
 But others as young as 14.
 At such a young age,
 Dealing with problems some adults don't even have to face.
 All of our illusions gone.
 We are left with our tears,
 Anger,
 Depression,
 Anxiety,
 And fear.
 Now to look at the world
 Through different eyes.
 Troubled eyes.
 Scared eyes.
 But when all these emotions fade...
 We move on.
 There is only one thing to do...
 Forgive.

— Monica M. Schuster
 Class of 2000

A life shaping experience

photo by Christine Markert



My head wasn't ready to receive August when it came. Getting out of the plane after more than twenty-four hours flying. Mary, Christine, Michelle, and Carly were waiting for me at the airport. In their hands were a lot of balloons and a teddy bear with a note: Welcome to Colorado!

I didn't know them and fortunately, they didn't know me either, because I was everything but a person. My head was everywhere but in Earth.

My past life in Spain left me a lot of pain and a much smaller amount of wisdom to live with. "I'll never make it here for ten months," I cried as a baby every day, since I woke up until I went to bed.

It's really difficult to explain the way the Markerts have made me feel this time together. It would be impossible to find

words beautiful enough to tell what my life has turned in since they decided to have me as a new member of their family.

Everyday was a working time to get to know each other better. They tried to do things with me and take me places, all to get my head out of my constant crying. We all were exhausted because my English was really poor and I wasn't able to communicate with anyone.

Waking up every morning and getting ready to go to school with the girls was being a wonderful thing and a learning experience thanks to both of my sisters.

Christine and Michelle taught me to see the beauty of the sun shining in the morning, of a flower blooming in the back yard, of a smile and a hug when you are sad and crying thinking that you don't have anyone to lean on.

Then they are leading me to the light and helping me to leave darkness behind.

Laughter filled our days. Making fun of ourselves, singing and getting excited talking in Spanish. Both of them have been my

sister and no one could change that my family grew bigger forever.

Bob has been more than my dad. He's been my best friend since the first day I got to talk to him. He trusted me and I trusted him. He's been supporting me in every single decision I've made in my life, and he's helped me with his own experiences in life. He has been really sincere with me. I really appreciate it.

Finally, my mom.

Mary and me didn't connect very well at the beginning, probably because I wasn't really open to new people, and I was scared for her to get to know what an awful person I was. She's been treating me just like one of her girls, taking care of every single thing and situation I've had to go through. She suffered as much as I did, and maybe more.

I really wish to express the happiness they brought into my life. Now I look back to August and I have to thank them a million of times for making a person out of the monster I was before. I wouldn't be alive if

they wouldn't have taken me in their family. I only would have liked to be close as good as they have been with me. I still have a lot to learn, but no one could ever teach me all these things they taught me. There is no fortune big enough to pay them for all the happiness they put in my heart.

I would also like to thank some people for making my experience a wonderful part of my life. For giving me security and truly smile every morning. People who shaped me for the rest of my life. Thanks from the bottom of my heart to Mrs. Hoffman, Senora Birch-Sterling, Sara Slater, Mr. Peterson, and Mrs. Asbury.

In two weeks tears are going to visit my face. I'll go back to the airport as a new and much better human than when I came, but with a painful feeling in my breast because I have to leave all of those who put a new fantastic piece in the puzzle of my soul.

— Maria Torrejon
 Class of 2000

Students participate in prayer, fellowship



photo by Christine Markert

Prayer Time—CHS' Bible club met at 6:30 am for worship and 7:00 am for Bible study on Thursday mornings. A prayer session was also held everyday at 7:10 am for students to pray for the school and any other issues.

The group also has parties and fun activities throughout the year. Because sponsor Tom Tonelli will be leaving the school for one year, teacher Ivory Moore will sponsor the club next year. The leaders for next year are Seniors Jon Cohen and Caitlin Whitney and Juniors Peter Henderson and Hannah Sheely.

*Pictured above: Sophomore Peter Henderson and Senior Steve Cohen laugh together at one of the extra activities.

Emotions have run the gauntlet over the past month

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, and even though most of us have never read the book, we identify all too much with the meaning.

I have attended Columbine for all four years of my high school career. I have met some of the nicest people and best friends that I have ever had, and I cannot articulate my respect and appreciation for my caring teachers. However, my emotions have stretched beyond a healthy spectrum in the last month.

On one side, I am emotionally torn apart by what has happened. Never would I imagine, nor could I, that my friends, peers and teachers could be taken from the world so abruptly and violently. I cannot remember one night since April 20 that I have gone to bed at a normal time and slept without trouble. I get scared when I am alone in the dark, when I see a strange new shape out of the corner of my eyes and when I think I see someone that, unfortunately, is no longer

with me.

Also unfortunate is the presence of detrimental repercussions of this event. Families and groups start paying lawyers to legally prove who is to blame, and hopefully receive closure therein. And those who have no person to sue still find it within themselves to find someone, anyone, to take the blame and make sense of a senseless tragedy.

For Newt Gingrich to ignorantly blame decades of liberal politics for something so unrelated, all to further his personal agenda, we have more moral problems to consider than liberalism. To breed and nurture the hatred that causes similar tragedies on a regular basis, no matter where the focus of that hatred, is harmful as well. Society and the Columbine community are certainly no better off with hatred, allegations, blame and ignorance than they would be without any attention whatsoever.

Standing on the hill across from those who choose to further hurt

the community are the acts of kindness and true caring that somehow drive me to continue, day by day.

Of course Columbine is not and will never be perfect, nor homogeneous, but that is not to say that there have not been improvements. I am closer to my friends than I have ever been at Columbine. I respect my friends, I love my friends, I appreciate the impact that they have on my life so that if some day they too are taken from me, I will have already let them know how they impact my life.

Also important are the little acts of kindness which warm our hearts. I believe that we all feel a little better when we are greeted at school with a bag of things or some flowers. It cannot make us forget, but it can help us heal and trust again.

I think one could even argue that this is probably the best time in recent history when it comes to the unity of our nation. Between the thousands of cards and posters

that cover Chatfield with wishes of hope and all of the constant thoughts from other Americans, I do not remember another time of such love and consideration from the entire country.

So, as many of us return to Columbine next year, others move on from their senior year, and some choose to change schools, we have a common link that shows two peculiar faces. We have to triumph over the pain, viciousness, hatred and blame arising from different aspects of society; but we all know that Columbine is stronger than this, and with the help of those who care, we are all know stronger than anything that we will face in the future.



— Ross Lambert
 Class of 1999

Thank you for your support!