

# Shooting survivors realize what they've lost

by Elisabeth Wright  
Associated Press

LITTLETON, Colo. — Weeks, maybe months from now, little moments will remind them of what two misfit boys armed with very adult weapons stole from them.

A Kansas farmer won't harvest wheat with his grandson for the first summer in 12 years. A best friend won't be buying a fishing boat with his buddy.

Empty chairs in Bible study. Lighter grocery sacks and smaller laundry piles. Unfinished plays and shuttered piano keyboards.

Remove one person from the fabric of this world, and it leaves a gap. Remove 15, and the void is enormous. But it is in the discovery of the little absences — the small holes — that heart-break awaits the friends and families of the victims of Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold.

For Columbine football coach Andy Lowry, it might be next August when it's time to hand lineman Matt Kechter his extra-large uniform.

For Kechter's kid brother, it might be this week, when he steps off the school bus and finds nobody there to shoot hoops in the driveway.

"Matt always waited by the mailbox for his little brother to come home

from school," said Greg Barnes, a sophomore basketball player. "He was the most innocent person I knew."

For the parents of Steven Curnow, there will be a hollowness May 19, when the latest installment of the "Star Wars" saga is to open in movie theaters with inescapable hype.

Curnow, 14, wanted to become a Navy top gun and pilot his own plane. But in a recliner armed with a remote control, he was transported to "Star Wars" mythical world "a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away."

They could hear their son rewinding the trilogy's videos and precisely mimicking the characters' dialogue.

Obi-Wan Kenobi: "Use the force, Luke."

Darth Vader: "I find your lack of faith ... disturbing."

For Michelle Oetter, it will come on May 1. She had looked forward to wearing her new silver drop earrings and matching twisty necklace to the prom at Ponderosa High School.

In her dreams, she danced with her boyfriend, John Tomlin. "He treated me like I was queen of the world," she blurted through tears.

Instead, somebody will return his rented tux — black with a white vest and silver trim to match her jewelry — while his remains return to his native Wisconsin.

# Apparent suicide note from gunman Harris

DENVER — The following is the text of an apparent suicide note signed by gunman Eric Harris and dated April 19, one day before the rampage at Columbine High School. Authorities say they haven't confirmed the note's authenticity.

It was obtained by the Denver Rocky Mountain News.

By now it's over. If you are reading this my mission is complete. I have finished revolutionizing the neoeuphoric infliction of my internal terror. Your children who have ridiculed (sic) me, who have chosen not to accept me, who have treated me like I am not worth their time are dead. THEY ARE (expletive) DEAD. Surely you will try to blame it on the clothes I wear, the music I listen to, or the way I choose to present myself — but no. Do not hide behind my choices. You need to face the fact that this comes

as a result of YOUR CHOICES. Parents and Teachers, YOU (expletive) UP. You have taught these kids to be gears and sheep. To think and act like those who came before them, to not accept what is different. YOU ARE IN THE WRONG.

I may have taken their lives and my own — but it was your doing. Teachers, Parents, LET THIS MASSACRE BE ON YOUR SHOULDERS UNTIL THE DAY YOU DIE. Am I insane? Maybe. Is it my fault? No. I did not choose this life, but I have indeed chosen to exit it. You may think the horror ends with the bullet in my head — but you wouldn't be so lucky. All that I can leave you with to decipher what more extensive death is to come is "12Skizto." You have until April 26th. Goodbye.

Eric Harris, April 19th.

# Littleton, nation continue to mourn deaths of Columbine students

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For some, after absorbing continuous media coverage since Tuesday, it was a wrenching experience just to walk a few blocks from the heavily damaged high school. Tim and Donna Weitzel drove 250 miles from Grand Junction to attend. They left their children, ages 11, 5 and 3, at home on Colorado's West-

ern Slope. Amid Littleton's strip malls and subdivisions, the Weitzels looked a little out of place wearing cowboy hats and ranching coveralls. They said they didn't know any students at Columbine or their families, but their reaction to the violence was common to parents everywhere. "It's something that can help us personally by coming and seeing and sharing the hurt and the pain,"

Weitzel said as his wife hugged him. "It's just something that struck my heart." The service shifts the physical and emotional focus away from the school, where classmates Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold killed 12 students and one teacher before committing suicide. Deputies suspended their investigation and media briefings for the day,

concentrating instead on directing traffic for the service.

Police found a diary detailing the plot over the past year, as well as bomb-making materials and weapons in plain view in the bedroom of one of the dead suspects. Later Sunday, the families of victims Daniel Mauser and Kelly Fleming planned a joint funeral for their children.

I gotta go visit NABI when we get back!

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