



PROJECT MUSE®

Comprehending Columbine

Larkin, Ralph W.

Published by Temple University Press

Larkin, W..

Comprehending Columbine.

Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2007.

Project MUSE., <https://muse.jhu.edu/>.



➔ For additional information about this book

<https://muse.jhu.edu/book/45929>

INDEX

- adolescent subcultures, 16, 63, 73, 125, 181, 190, 197–198, 234; cheerleaders (cheers), 63, 65–67, 71, 73, 82, 88, 114–115, 157, 161; geeks, 64, 89; goths, 9, 14–15, 35, 46, 55, 59, 64–66, 75, 77–78, 107–108, 134, 141, 145, 156–157, 170, 177, 183, 190–192, 194, 197, 227; jocks, 56, 63–68, 71, 73–74, 76–77, 79–81, 83–84, 86–89, 91, 93–94, 97, 101–103, 107–109, 111–120, 151, 156–162, 174, 181, 183, 187–190, 196–197, 200–201, 206, 216, 226; nerds, 63–64, 72, 74, 78, 82, 97, 144, 147, 149, 229; outcasts, 35, 45, 63–64, 68, 71, 76–81, 83–84, 86, 91, 97, 103, 108, 113–115, 130, 137, 143, 145, 151, 153, 156, 181, 185, 187–188, 190, 192, 194–197, 215, 217, 222, 243; skaters, 74–75, 94, 227; skinheads, 156–161, 168, 183–184, 227; “soches,” 34, 181; stoners, 35, 64–65, 73–75, 119, 227
- African-Americans. *See* ethnicity
- alcohol use, 111, 119, 178, 188–189, 239; by Cassie Bernal, 46
- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), 9
- Anderson, Brian, 4–5, 50
- Anderson, Robyn, 145, 147
- anti-semitism: in Columbine, 13, 67, 106, 140, 157; and Eric Harris, 158; right wing, 167–169
- Arapaho County, 18–19, 185
- Assembly of God. *See* churches
- athletes, 4–5, 13, 33–34, 61, 62–63, 67–68, 78, 85, 87, 91–92, 96, 101, 104–105, 107, 115–116, 119, 139, 153, 167, 175, 186, 188, 192, 197, 200–201, 205–207, 211–212, 216, 219. *See also* adolescent subcultures
- Baptists. *See* churches
- basement videotapes, 39–40, 48, 54, 105, 119, 124, 129, 137, 140, 144, 146, 159, 168–169, 173–174, 188, 194, 199
- Battan, Kate, 47, 62, 138, 149, 175, 232
- Bergenfield High School. *See* schools
- Bernall, Cassie, 229; in the library, 6, 199; as a martyr, 39–40, 105; the myth of her death, 13, 43–49, 54, 204; and Satanism, 80; websites, 194
- Bishop Newman High School. *See* schools
- bombs, 10, 28, 136, 161–162, 171, 175, 193–194, 200, 208; CO₂, 2, 7–8, 156; diversionary, 131; ice, 151; and militias, 167; in music lyrics, 124; pipe, 2–4, 8, 127, 129, 172; propane 1, 8, 62, 63, 172
- Bowling for Columbine, 25
- Brian High School. *See* schools
- Brown, Brooks, 11, 55–58, 77–78, 84, 87, 89, 91–92, 97, 104–106, 112, 124–127,

- Brown, Brooks (*continued*)
 131, 135–136, 139–140, 150, 154, 170, 195,
 201, 214, 232–235
- Brown, Judy, 48, 126, 150, 233, 235
- Brown, Randy, 87, 126, 235
- Bruderhof. *See* churches
- Bullying, 162, 177, 232, 234, 239; as a causal
 factor in shootings, 9–10, 14, 53, 195; at
 Columbine, 15, 33, 37, 68, 81, 84–93, 112,
 117, 210–212; harassment, 13–15, 33, 37,
 53, 56, 60–61, 62–63, 68, 74, 81–83, 85–86,
 88–89, 91–98, 101–103, 106, 108, 111–113,
 120, 125, 129–130, 144, 168, 174, 183, 192,
 197, 201, 204, 212, 215–216, 219, 221, 222,
 227–228, 233; ignorance of, 199–201; inci-
 dences of, 9; intimidation, 10, 15, 54, 60,
 68, 73–74, 82–83, 85, 92–96, 98, 104, 106,
 111, 120, 167, 188, 197, 207, 217, 222,
 227–228; reduction of, 217–222; role of
 adults, 98–104, 115; as a social problem,
 191–192; teasing, 10, 100, 103, 191; visibil-
 ity of, 93–98
- Calvary Chapel. *See* churches
- Calvary Presbyterian Church. *See* churches
- Cameal, Michael, 87
- Castaldo, Richard, 3, 48, 83, 199
- celebrity, 45, 64, 192, 239; culture of, 16,
 177–181, 206; and Klebold and Harris, 147;
 175, 193–195
- Center for the Study and Prevention of Vio-
 lence, 116, 232–235
- Chatfield High School. *See* schools
- cheerleaders (cheers). *See* adolescent subcul-
 tures
- Christian Coalition, 26, 40
- Church of Jesus Christ Christian. *See*
 churches
- Church of the Nazarene. *See* churches
- churches, 117, 203; and Klebolds, 138; and
 students, 66; Assembly of God, 20; Baptists,
 180; Bruderhof, 46; Calvary Chapel, 20;
 Calvary Presbyterian Church, 44; and
 choirs, 65; Christian, 19; Church of Jesus
 Christ Christian, 167; Church of the
 Nazarene, 20; and community cohesion, 37;
 controversy of the crosses, 50–52; defining
 the shootings, 53–54; Disciples of Christ, 20;
 and Evangelical community, 40, 166;
 Footfalls Bible Church, 202; Gospel, 20;
 megachurches, 180; Mormons, 26, 180;
 Pentecostal, 20; Quakers (Society of
 Friends), 219; Southern Gables Evangelical
 Free Church, 12, 42, 202; in Southern Jef-
 ferson County, 26; St. Philip Lutheran
 Church, 43; Trinity Christian Center, 202;
 West Bowles Community Church, 17, 20,
 46, 49, 204, 234; youth groups, 58–60, 126,
 153, 219–220
- Clement Park, 3–4, 20, 26, 52
- Clinton, President Bill, 8, 12, 42, 191, 201
- cliques, 34, 57, 64, 67, 74, 77–78, 84, 93–95,
 200
- coaches, 29, 36, 40, 98–101, 103–106, 111,
 114–118, 124–125, 189, 192, 197, 205–206,
 208–210, 216, 219, 221, 234
- Cohen, Jonathan and Stephen, 12
- Columbine effect, the, 10, 212
- Columbine High School, 42, 45–46, 50, 53,
 55, 61, 159, 174, 195, 198, 203, 214–218,
 221–222, 230; assault on, 1–13, 155, 172,
 193; bullying in, 82–121, 201–202, 211–212
(see also bullying); cafeteria, 1–2, 5, 172;
 description of, 26–38; football, 12, 205,
 208–210 *(see also* football); and Harris and
 Klebold, 123–127, 129–130, 135, 137,
 140–141, 145, 147–149, 151; and hypermas-
 culinity, 209; library, 5–8; moral elitism in,
 196 *(see also* Evangelical Christians); peer
 structure of, 62–81, 185, 188
- Columbine memorial service, 8, 12–13, 33,
 45, 53–54, 58, 60, 67, 105, 115, 204;
 takeover by the Evangelicals, 41–44
- conflict mediation, 102, 213, 219–227, 231, 235
- conflict resolution. *See* conflict mediation
- Dakota Ridge High School. *See* schools
- DeAngelis, Frank: as articulator of community
 spirit, 38, 210; and bullying, 93, 95, 98, 103,
 106, 201, 210–218, 220; and conflict media-
 tion, 222; description of Columbine, 26–29,
 32, 199; and Harris and Klebold, 53, 129,
 150–151; as principal of Columbine, 36, 42,
 109, 115–118, 205–206; as a study partici-
 pant, 232, 234–235
- deAnza College. *See* schools
- DePooter, Cory, 8
- Disciples of Christ. *See* churches
- Doom. *See* videogames
- Doyle, Jennifer, 8
- drugs: Luvox and Eric Harris, 119, 126, 134,
 170; psychedelic, 164; use of at Columbine,
 118–119; Zolof and Eric Harris, 119. *See
 also* alcohol use, marijuana, and steroids
- educational attainment, 23–24
- employers. *See* Southern Jefferson County
- ethnicity: African-Americans, 21; Asians, 20;

- Chinese, 21; Latinos, 20; native born, 21, 22; Whites, 20
- Eubanks, Austin, 8
- Evangelical Christians, 73; clergy, 42, 58; community, 41, 44, 46, 53, 176; and Harris and Klebold, 15, 39–40, 170, 174; and intolerance, 104–106; and liberal Protestants, 13, 53; moral elitism, 58–61; and right-wing politics, 166, 179–180; and *Rocky Mountain News*, 49; and the shootings, 41, 196–205, 218, 231; students, 17, 35, 55, 59–60, 65, 77, 80, 196, 239. *See also* religion
- evil, 12, 35, 41, 51–52, 54, 80, 117–118, 128, 134, 142, 152, 170, 218, 231, 233; versus good at Columbine, 198–205
- Fleming, Kelly, 7, 229
- Focus on the Family, 26, 40
- football 50, 71–72, 74, 100, 103, 124, 229, 234; and bullying, 68, 85–89, 91, 93, 95, 104, 106–113, 123, 149, 177, 187–192, 196, 201, 219; Columbine Rebel team, 12, 30, 36–38, 117, 119–120; and community solidarity, 63–66, 198; and conflict mediation, 227; and high school environments, 205–217; and religion, 40; and sexism, 74, 100; and status, 101, 113–116, 126, 187
- Foothills Bible Church. *See* churches
- Gardner, Neil, 4
- geeks. *See* adolescent subcultures
- Glen Ridge High School. *See* schools
- God, 7, 12, 17, 34, 42–43, 45, 48, 54–57, 60, 62, 100, 130, 133, 134, 136, 141, 159, 161, 180, 194, 199–201, 203–204
- Gore, Vice President Al, 8, 42
- Gospel. *See* churches.
- goth subculture. *See* adolescent subcultures
- goths. *See* adolescent subcultures
- Graham, Franklin, 42, 44
- Granite Hills High School. *See* schools
- Graves, Sean, 3, 9
- Hall, Makai, 6–7
- harassment. *See* bullying
- Harris family, 13
- Harris, Eric: assault, 1–8, 10, 12, 14, 46–47, 50; basement videotapes, 39, 55–56; and Brooks Brown, 11; with Dylan Klebold, 123–137, 144–148, 160–162; and evangelicals, 40, 46, 48–51, 53–54, 59–61; motivation, 11, 15, 58; and Nazism, 10; and peers, 62; public attitude toward, 9, 50; racism, 21, 44; sexual orientation, 146–147; suicide, 8; Trenchcoat Mafia website, 3, 67, 88, 119, 134, 140, 194; weapons, 13, 28; and violence, 13
- Heritage High School (Littleton, Colorado). *See* schools
- Heritage High School (Conyers Georgia). *See* schools
- hit lists, 11
- Hochhalter, Anne Marie, 3, 4
- Hollins Woods Middle School, 9
- homophobia, 14, 120, 129, 141, 144–147, 149, 167–168, 211, 215; name calling, 68, 72, 81, 86–88, 100, 103, 107, 111, 120, 171, 207, 212
- homosexuality, 40, 167, 177; and Dylan Klebold, 146–149
- housing in Columbine, 19–20
- income in Columbine, 22, 23
- injustice, 83, 106–113, 145
- International Center for Cooperation and Conflict Resolution, 224
- intimidation. *See* bullying
- Ireland, Patrick, 6, 7
- Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, 106, 111, 173, 212, 232; and Brown family, 223; and Harris and Klebold vandalism charge, 126–127, 171; investigation, 47, 54, 139, 149, 175; lawsuits against, 23, 52; report, 24; response to shootings, 4–6
- Jesus Christ, 42–43, 45–46, 53–56, 58–60, 132, 167, 203, 229
- Jews: conspiracies of, 14, 158; and Dylan Klebold, 56, 138, 140–141, 144, 149, 169; harassment of, 106, 120; in Columbine, 42–43, 58, 66, 106. *See also* anti-Semitism
- jocks. *See* adolescent subcultures
- Johnson, Michael, 3
- Johnson, Mitchell, 155
- Jonesboro, Arkansas, 84, 96, 155, 191
- justice: and American Students Funding Program, 215; and Charles Manson, 143; and Dylan Klebold, 144; and Eric Harris, 136–137; lack of, 101, 104, 106–113, 144–145, 147, 184, 192, 218
- Kechter, Matthew, 6, 229
- Kintgen, Mark, 7
- Kirklín, Lance, 3
- Klebold, Dylan, 80–81, 122, 137, 210, 217–219, 232–233; assault, 1–10, 12, 14, 45–47, 82, 155–156; basement videotapes, 39, 55–56, 105, 119–121, 159; and celebrity, 193–195; early life, 138–140; with Eric

- Klebold, Dylan (*continued*)
 Harris, 123–137, 144–148, 160–162; and Evangelicals, 40, 46, 48–51, 53–54, 59–61, 198–205, 231; funeral, 43; harassment of, 85, 87–90, 92, 93, 97, 111–112, 205; identity problems, 140–144; motivation, 11, 15, 62–63, 101, 167–176, 196, 232; and peers, 62; and principal DeAngelis, 118, 214; out-cast status, 103, 222; psychological status, 148–154, 228; racism, 44, 67; sexual orientation, 146–147; suicide, 8; weapons, 13, 28
 Kreutz, Lisa, 7
- Latinos. *See* ethnicity
 lawsuits, 13, 106
 Leawood Elementary School. *See* schools
 Leawood Park, 5
 liberal Protestants. *See* religion
 Light Force TV, 51–52
 Littleton, Colorado, 11–12, 17–18, 20, 37, 52, 76, 133, 157, 203
 Loukaitis, Barry, 87
- Manson, Charles, 143–144, 164
 Manson, Marilyn, 9, 156
 marijuana, 46, 73–75, 118–119, 165; “dope,” 105, 164; “weed,” 65
 Marxhausen, Don, 43, 54, 105, 138, 203–204, 234
 Mauzer, Daniel, 7, 229
 media, 97; and Brian Rohrbough, 51, 59; and bullying, 93, 98, 103, 107; and celebrity, 181, 192; coverage, 2, 11–12, 15, 47, 68, 194, 200–201, 231–233; and Klebold and Harris, 123, 152, 168–169, 175; impressions of Columbine, 25; National Public Radio, 9; network news, 8; and postmodern culture, 180, 197, 238–239; and Principal DeAngelis, 117–118, 213; and rampage shootings, 214; television violence, 9, 14, 16; use of by Evangelicals, 45, 46, 52, 61, 204
 Mormons (Church of Latter-Day Saints). *See* churches
 Murry Bergtraum High School. *See* schools
- National Public Radio. *See* media
 native born. *See* ethnicity
 natural born killers, 143, 148
 natural selection: on Harris’s t-shirt, 1, 174; as a belief system, 133, 150, 156–157
 Nelson, Jerry, 12–13, 42, 74
 Nelson, Patti, 4–5
 nerds. *See* adolescent subcultures
- Oklahoma City bombing, 13, 63, 166, 168–169, 194, 196
 outcasts. *See* adolescent subcultures
- paramilitary: attack, 156, 162, 167; culture, 14, 16, 167, 169, 171–176, 196; Klebold and Harris as a cell, 160, 168; video games, 170
 Park, Jeanna, 7
 Pasquale, Bree, 6
 Pentecostal. *See* churches
 Perez, Diwata, 7
 Permian High School. *See* schools
 Porter, Bruce: and memorial service 41; Torch-grab Youth Ministry, 45, 49, 202–203
 postmodern culture, 33, 239; celebrity in, 16, 177–181, 206; and football, 209; and media, 238; origins of, 176
 Predators, the, 68–69, 77, 85–87, 91–92, 95, 103–105, 111, 113, 120, 134, 218
 Promise Keepers, 40, 167
- Quakers (Society of Friends). *See* churches
- rampage shootings, 10, 41, 87, 96, 155, 191, 195, 197, 201, 212, 214–215, 218, 227–228, 234
 religion: beliefs, 48, 197; in Columbine High School, 32, 39, 55–61, 63, 65–66, 77, 199; and Dylan Klebold, 138, 140, 142; and Harris and Klebold, 12, 40; intolerance, 14–15, 104–106, 219; and the media, 180; Protestantism, 201; religious right, 176; sectarian tensions, 13; secular religion, 209; in Southern Jefferson County, 12, 17, 19, 38–41, 50–61, 178, 202–204, 219–220, 234. *See also* churches and Evangelical Christians
 revolution, 9, 143–144, 193, 195, 230; cultural revolution of the 1960s, 176, 178, 237–238; and Torchgrab Youth Ministry, 45, 203
 rock-and-roll music, 9, 14–16, 34, 75, 165; and critique of everyday life, 197; German industrial, 124; heavy metal, 124; goth, 156, 197; punk 182, 190
 Rocky Mountain News, 14, 28, 37, 45, 48–49, 126, 204, 232
 Rocori High School. *See* schools
 Rohrbough, Brian, 51–52
 Rohrbough, Daniel, 3, 51, 229
- Sanders, Dave, 5, 13, 62, 116, 229
 Satan and Satanism, 15, 46, 77, 80, 134, 143, 145, 200–202, 218, 231. *See also* evil

- Savage, John, 7, 87
- Schnurr, Valeen, 7, 45, 47–48, 199
- schools: Bergenfield High School, 187; Bishop Newman High School, 10; Brian High School, 185; Chatfield High School, 18, 33, 36, 93–94, 110; Dakota Ridge High School, 18, 33; deAnza College, 10; Englewood High School, 123; Glen Ridge High School, 187–190, 192, 206–207; Granite Hills High School, 10; Heritage High School (Conyers Georgia), 9; Heritage High School (Cherry Creek, Colorado), 33; Leawood Elementary School, 11, 71; Murry Bergtraum High School, 224–225; Permian High School, 38, 206–209; Rocori High School, 10; W. R. Myers High School, 9
- Scott, Craig, 47
- Scott, Rachel, 3, 39–41, 44–45, 47–49, 83, 105, 194, 199, 202–203, 229
- sex, 59, 64, 68, 73, 77, 100–102, 105, 120, 136, 146, 158, 164, 174, 176–179, 182, 183, 188–189, 202, 228, 237–239; and football, 207–208; in advertising, 206
- sexism, 74, 111, 120, 173, 208, 228; of the new left, 164
- sexual competition, 174, 184
- sexual orientation, 86, 92, 96, 146–147; and the women's liberation movement, 164; of Dylan Klebold (*see* Klebold, Dylan); of Eric Harris (*see* Harris, Eric). *See also* homosexuality
- Sholes, Isaiah, 6–7, 13, 44, 67, 83, 140, 159, 169, 200, 229
- Skaters. *See* adolescent subcultures
- skinheads. *See* adolescent subcultures
- soches. *See* adolescent subcultures
- Southern Gables Evangelical Free Church. *See* churches
- Southern Jefferson County, 12, 17–20, 28, 37–38, 53–54, 67, 120, 123, 138, 144–145, 149, 177, 209, 218–219, 232–233; education in, 114, 152–153; employers in, 25; religion in, 15, 140, 202
- sportsmanship award, 12, 29
- St. Philip Lutheran Church. *See* churches
- Stair, Joe, 78–79, 87
- Steepleton, Daniel, 6, 7
- steroids: alleged use of, 119; identification with athletes, 87, 107. *See also* drugs
- Stone, Sheriff John, 13–14
- stoners. *See* adolescent subcultures
- SWAT Teams, 13
- Taylor, Mark, 3
- Todd, Evan, 6, 47
- Townsend, Lauren, 7, 229
- Trenchcoat Mafia website. *See* Harris, Eric
- Trenchcoat Mafia, 3, 59, 64, 75, 78–80, 91–92, 97, 107–110, 141, 145, 151, 162, 172, 188, 233
- Trinity Christian Center. *See* churches
- upper-middle-class, 20, 24, 28, 38, 64, 120, 140, 165, 179, 183–184, 188–189, 191
- values: capitalist, 178; community, 189; civic, 120; democratic, 223; goth, 156; lack of, 9, 14–15; of the school, 152; personal, 139; religious, 59, 77; transcendent, 238
- Velasquez, Kyle, 6, 44, 229
- video games, 9, 14–16, 55, 143, 146, 148, 153, 161, 169–171, 173–174
- W. R. Myers High School. *See* schools
- West Bowles Community Church. *See* churches
- whites. *See* ethnicity
- Wiese, Jeffrey, 10, 194
- Williams, Charles “Andy,” 9–10, 87
- witchcraft, 80, 103; Wicca, 80, 145
- women: professional, 24
- “wrath,” 1, 174
- Wynant, Emily, 47, 211
- Zanis, Greg, 50–52
- zero tolerance, 9, 211