

Tekst 4

LETTERS

MAIL CALL

We Are Not Blameless

Our May 3 report on the Littleton school killings¹⁾ prompted our readers to search for answers. Many blamed the easy availability of guns in America. "We would also have mass killers if we could buy weapons as easily as we buy chewing gum," said one. Another added, "Guns do not kill people, but they do make it easier."



BEFORE EVEN OPENING THE MAY 3 ISSUE OF NEWSWEEK, I want to say thank you to the editors of the magazine. You wisely decided not to glorify the mass murderers in this sad drama by putting them on the cover—unlike some of your competitors. As a high-school teacher, I strongly believe it's the students and faculty who endured the agony who should receive any media credit, including national-magazine covers, for their bravery.

PETER T. BURNASH
WATERTOWN, NEW YORK

AMERICANS, PLEASE STOP FOOLING YOURSELVES about who is to blame for the Littleton mass killers. We would have mass killers, too, if we could buy weapons as easily as we buy chewing gum. Remember, we all have videogames, the Internet and violent music. Blaming the media will not help anyone tackling the real issue or save any lives in the future.

PEDRO ALVES
CASCAIS, PORTUGAL

GROWING UP IN RURAL NEW ENGLAND, I'VE been exposed to guns my whole life. I support the right to bear arms (but I do support tougher gun laws). I see violent movies. I listen to violent songs. But I have never shot anyone. The media have forgotten something in reporting this story. Properly raised children do not commit these types of crimes—this is not normal behavior. The problem is not guns, movies, music or media. The problem is the people who didn't take notice or do anything to stop this behavior.

RAYMOND TURNER
POZNAN, POLAND

REGARDING THE TERRIBLE TRAGEDY THAT occurred in Littleton: as long as we adults insist on trying to solve the world's problems with guns and bombs, our troubled youth will want to do the same. And some will cross the line from fantasy to reality.

MARY F. SEAVER
ESTES PARK, COLORADO

YOUR ANALYSIS OF THE COLORADO high-school shooting was interesting ("Why the Young Kill," SPECIAL REPORT, May 3). Looking for the psychological makeup of killers and the influence of economic and social deprivation makes fascinating reading, yet it is not central to the spate of school killings in the United States. All countries have a small number of disturbed, crazy or plain evil teenagers, yet we do not hear many similar stories from other countries. The key factor is the availability of guns in America. Since 18-year-olds can easily buy guns, it is not surprising that some of these weapons fall into the wrong hands. The NRA, which has a great influence on politicians, has a lot to answer for.

BRIAN SAVAGE
CHIANG MAI, THAILAND

IN YOUR ARTICLE, "WHY THE YOUNG KILL," you stressed the fact that we should not look for a simple answer. But computer games make too easy a scapegoat. The demand for violent entertainment is a *result* of our youth's present attitudes—not a *cause*. It is futile to remove the supply, in the hope that the demand will disappear. We must get to the root of our youth's discontent.

SUKHI BARBER
KATHMANDU, NEPAL

Newsweek

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On 20 April 1999 Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold killed twelve fellow pupils and a teacher of Columbine High School in Littleton and then committed suicide.

■ Tekst 4 We Are Not Blameless

“Our May 3 report on the Littleton school killings prompted our readers to search for answers.” (inleiding)

Hieronder staat (in alfabetische volgorde) een aantal mogelijke oorzaken van tragedies zoals die in Littleton:

1 Bepaalde soorten films en muziek zetten kinderen aan tot gewelddadig gedrag.

2 Gewelddadig gedrag komt voort uit een gebrekkige opvoeding.

3 Het is in de V.S. veel te gemakkelijk om aan wapens te komen.

4 Sommige jongeren plegen geweld om in het nieuws te komen.

5p **21** □ Geef van elke oorzaak aan of deze wel of niet overeenkomt met de hoofdgedachte van een of meer brieven.

Indien niet, noteer “nee”. Indien wel, noteer de naam of namen van de briefschrijver(s).

Noteer voor elk antwoord het nummer van de oorzaak.