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Teen Gets Minimum Sentence

--A teenager who opened fire at a California high school, killing two students and wounding 13 others, gets 50-year term in prison.--

BACKGROUND:

The school shooting incident that left two dead and at least a dozen injured two years ago shocked America, but gun control advocates say it is not unusual for children to bring guns to school. Nancy Hwa, a spokeswoman for the lobbying group Handgun Control, estimated that about one American child a week is caught with a gun at school, and about 800 Americans a year die from guns shot by children under the age of 19.

XMs. Hwa said talk of voluntary safety locks - which Mr. Bush has said he supports - is meaningless without national standards. "Why does the gun industry make guns that a two-year-old can fire?" she asked.

But as of August 2002, gun makers could be held liable for irresponsible marketing and weapons design under a measure passed by the state Senate and backed by gun-control groups. The proposal, AB 496, would overturn a 1983 law that immunizes manufacturers against certain liability claims when their weapons cause harm.

Assemblyman Paul Koretz, D-West Hollywood, author of AB 496, said he intends to prevent manufacturers from blatantly marketing their weapons to murderers, as was alleged of a manufacturer in a 2001 court case.

The deadliest incident of recent years was the shooting at Columbine High School in the suburbs of Denver, Colorado on 20 April 1999. Two masked teenage pupils went on a shooting rampage, killing 12 pupils and a teacher, and injuring 23 others, before killing themselves.

STORY:

A teenager who opened fire at a California high school, killing two students and wounding 13 others, is beginning a 50-year term in prison. Charles Andy Williams, 16, who faced a possible sentence of 425 years, tearfully apologized after he was sentenced on Thursday.

"I'm sorry and I feel horrible about what happened," he said. "If I could go back to that day, I wouldn't have got out of bed." Williams - who pleaded guilty to two charges of murder and 13 charges of attempted murder but was too young to face the death penalty - received the minimum term under California state law.

The shooting occurred on 5 March 2001, just after the start of classes at Santana High School in Santee, about 16 kilometers (10 miles) north-east of San Diego. Eyewitnesses said Williams emerged from the boys' toilet block and started firing his gun in the courtyard. One of the victims died at the scene and the other died later in the hospital. They were Brian Zuckor, 14, and Randy Gordon, 15.

Judge Herbert Exarhos called the attack vicious, but said that Williams had a difficult home life and had no prior history of criminal behavior. The judge also said the question of why Williams went on a shooting spree remains unanswered.

Some of Williams's classmates have said that he was apparently open about his plans to kill, but nobody took him seriously. Josh Stevens, a friend of the boy, said Williams "was joking on and off that he was going to come to school and shoot people". One student, Jessica Moore, said other students picked on him and called him such names as "dork", "freak" and "nerd". Williams's lawyer said the teenager - who had recently moved to Santee - was also feeling lonely.

The attack was the worst episode of school violence since two students at Columbine High School in Colorado killed 13 students and a teacher before taking their own lives, in 1999.

CONCLUSION:

Students, in a study of approximately 2000 children from ages 9-14, show a remarkable level of agreement with professionals and social commentators who have opinioned about this serious national issue. They agree about the revenge motive.° Bullying and mistreatment create a simmering situation in those victimized. In some cases, the hurt, shame, and anger of this victimization boils over into the taking of lives. A sense of aloneness, alienation, and powerlessness set the stage for dramatic repercussions. The interpersonal climates of our schools themselves contribute to the tragedies they fear so much.

We cannot just slough off the verbal, physical, and emotional hostility that students visit upon each other as just being kids. Some of those kids, on the contrary, will come to a point where they see their only course as behaving like the worst of adults, with murderous violence.

And speaking of abuse, the emergence of witnessing and being the target of domestic violence as a cause endorsed by 54 and 61% of students respectively should place even more importance on this already identified destructive disease in our society. We already know that victims and witnesses of domestic violence are at risk of becoming perpetrators themselves as adults. The students in this survey are telling us there are some who do not wait. Some have learned that violence toward others is a way to solve problems. When a student like this needs a solution, they will hurt others as they have been hurt.

But our students also think that this is much more likely when the means for lethal violence are readily available. Ease of obtaining a gun was endorsed by 56% of respondents as a factor in school shootings. Just as many students endorsed the availability of firearms as "mental problems" as a causal factor. Without that easy road to serious violence, these risky students may exhibit aggressive, defiant, or other oppositional behavior, of course. But these behaviors would bring them to the attention of adults in the schools as in need of intervention before tragedy occurs.

While we can be content in the knowledge that schools are essentially safe, we must worry at

what seems to be a recurring phenomenon, all the more for its unpredictability. We can assuage ourselves that it won't happen here. But we really do not know where the next here will be. As long as students are abused by their peers, witness or are themselves abused at home, think there is nowhere to turn, and can easily get a gun, more tragedies will occur. That's what our children are telling us.

**More information on this study can be found at <http://www.alfred.edu/teenviolence> **

NEWS from IRAQ

BACKGROUND:

Iraq has been subjected to United Nations sanctions since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Sanctions ban all exports, except for oil sales under the Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 986 "oil for food" program, and allow imports only of food, medicine, and other humanitarian goods for essential civilian needs. The Government's failure to comply with U.N. Security Council resolutions has resulted in the maintenance of the sanctions.

Under UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 687 (April 1991), which set out the cease-fire terms for ending the Gulf War, Iraq is obliged to: (a) accept the destruction, removal, or rendering harmless of all its - nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and ballistic missiles with a range over 150 kilometers; and - research, development, and manufacturing facilities associated with the above; and (b) undertake not to develop such weapons in the future. The United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) oversees these processes. Iraq must give full cooperation, in particular immediate, unrestricted access to any site UNSCOM needs to inspect.

Iraq has consistently tried to evade its responsibilities. Its required full disclosure document on missiles was not produced until July 1996, five years after it was demanded. It has so far produced three versions on chemical weapons and four on biological weapons, all shown to be seriously inaccurate. In particular, UNSCOM is concerned that Iraq may still have operational SCUD type missiles with chemical and biological warhead, the ability to create anthrax and several hundred tons of munitions. Iraq has consistently denied UNSCOM inspectors the access they need to follow up these and other concerns and locate capabilities and documentation which might reveal more about Iraq's WMD programs. Documents and material have been removed from and destroyed inside sites while UNSCOM inspectors have been held outside prevented from entering. The pattern of defiance has worsened over time.

Iraq has been badly damaged by economic sanctions and previous bombardments, and needs in the neighborhood of \$30 billion / year to meet its current requirements for food, medicine, and infrastructure. Currently, the UN is offering to allow Iraq to sell \$5.26 billion worth of oil every six months. However, Iraq says it cannot pump more than \$4 billion worth of oil because of the deterioration of oil field equipment under sanctions. Public health services are near total collapse - basic medicines, life-saving drugs and essential medical supplies are lacking throughout the country. In December 1995, United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization team members estimated that over a half million children under the age of five had died in Iraq as a

direct result of economic sanctions. There were mechanisms in place meant to address the humanitarian situation, primarily the oil-for-food deal permitted under United Nations Security Council (SC) Resolution.

Iraqi officials repeatedly have stated their hopes that U.N. Resolution will lead to a complete lifting of U.N. sanctions. However, the position of the U.N. Security Council is that sanctions will continue until Iraq complies fully with a number of resolutions. Resolution 687, for instance, stipulates (among other things) that Iraq destroy all of its weapons of mass destruction. Until U.N. sanctions are lifted, Iraq will not be able to attract the foreign investment it wants, or can it?

STORY:

Iraq and Russia are close to signing a \$40 billion economic cooperation plan, Iraq's ambassador said Saturday, a deal that could put Moscow at odds with the United States as it considers a military attack against Baghdad.

The statement by Ambassador Abbas Khalaf came amid indications that Russia, despite its strong support for the post-Sept. 11 antiterrorism coalition, is maintaining or improving ties with Iran and North Korea, which together with Iraq are the countries Pres. Bush has labeled the "axis of evil."

The pending Russia-Iraq economic deal is likely to be seen by Washington as another blow to its efforts to marshal backing for an attack, but there was no immediate comment from the White House or the State Department. The Russian Foreign Ministry also said it had no comment.

The agreement, which envisions new cooperation in the fields of oil, irrigation, agriculture, transportation, railroads and electrical energy, will most likely be signed in Baghdad in the beginning of September.

Moscow has supported lifting United Nations sanctions against Iraq, imposed after Baghdad's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which would allow Baghdad to start paying off its \$7 billion Soviet-era debt and help expand trade.

Khalaf emphasized that the new cooperation deal, which is to include new projects as well as the modernization of some Soviet-built infrastructure, would not violate the sanctions.

CONCLUSION:

Washington is trying to rally support for a possible invasion of Iraq, but many U.S. allies are resisting the push. Russia, a longtime ally of Iraq, has forcefully warned against a possible U.S. invasion.

The U.S. has accused Iraq of trying to rebuild its banned weapons programs and of supporting terrorism. Last week, the Bush administration warned that the Iraqi president could obtain nuclear weapons "in the not too distant future." This week, U.S. officials said they had detected signs that Iraq may be moving material or equipment out of a suspected biological weapons facility near Baghdad.

Opponents argue that an invasion cannot be justified without firm proof that Saddam Hussein is developing nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. The chief United Nations weapons inspector, Hans Blix, said that he can't say with certainty whether Iraq has such weapons. "If we had real evidence that they have weapons of mass destruction, we would bring it to the SC," he said.

In the current standoff with the United States, Iraq is counting on Russia to use its leverage in the U.N. Security Council and other diplomatic channels to deprive Washington of international support for a military operation, Khalaf said. "First of all we need moral, political and diplomatic support. Because Iraq knows how to defend itself," he said. "The main thing for us is that American aggression does not go through the U.N. Security Council and that America does not receive a U.N. mandate... Let America act alone as an aggressor. It will be condemned from all sides."

Khalaf said he saw no contradiction between Russia's friendship with Iraq and its ties with Washington, which have strengthened since the Sept. 11 attacks. "We see friendship among various countries and civilized peoples of the world as a positive step. Any enmity brings harm to a country," he said.

Under Putin, Russian foreign policy has sought to create a network of alliances to counterbalance alleged U.S. domination of international affairs. Last month, Russia announced a 10-year plan for nuclear cooperation with Iran. This week, the Kremlin announced that North Korean leader will visit Russia for the second summer in a row.

SPORTS:

Players Set for Strike Aug. 30

The MLB Players Association has set an Aug. 30 strike date, putting pressure on the pPlayers and owners to reach a new labor agreement or risk the sport's ninth work stoppage since 1972.

Bargainers have just two weeks to avert a strike that could wipe out the final month of the regular season and - in the worst case - mirror the 1994 dispute that vexed fans and caused the cancellation of the World Series.

"It's frustrating for the players, it's frustrating for the owners. You get two highly competitive groups, and they both seem to see the rightness of their side," said Orioles Manager Mike Hargrove last night. "But the one good thing is, at least they're talking.... I'm still very hopeful an agreement will be reached."

If players walk out Aug. 30 for the rest of the year, they would lose 16.9 % of their base salaries. This could mean as much as \$3,557,377 for Texas shortstop Alex Rodriguez or as little as \$33,880], for a player making minimum wage.

The union was expected to set the strike date Monday but postponed that decision after both sides reported progress in the negotiations and guarded optimism about a possible settlement this week. But that brief semblance of conciliation evaporated as the bargaining committees tackled ownership's proposed 50 percent luxury tax on excessive annual payroll.

The union thinks a heavy tax on high-spending teams would put a drag on the growth of player salaries. Owners say a payroll tax/revenue sharing system is needed to address the serious disparity between the larßge and small market clubs.

"Clearly, the luxury tax is a major obstacle, but I think an agreement can be reached," said union head Donald Fehr.

WHO YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Mike Myers

While his humor may be a bit juvenile at times, and perhaps a tad bit ribald, Mike Myers has quickly become a household name in America. Recently, his new movie *Goldmember* was released to theaters packed with people of all ages. His humor crosses age lines, socio-economic barriers, and is down right funny!

The Canadian, born in Scarborough, Ontario on May 25, 1963 has shown that he has what it takes to make us laugh and to like him. When you read interviews or see him on shows, you can't help but feel as though you know him. He seems so normal and certainly self-effacing.

Mike, the youngest of three sons of Eric and Alice Myers grew up in a home where humor was valued. His father was known to say that if a friend wasn't funny then he wasn't welcome at the house. Mike misses his father who died of complications of Alzheimer's disease in 1991, and pays tribute to him in his character Austin Powers.

Twenty minutes after Mike graduated from high school (1981) he was off to join the Toronto Second City Comedy Troupe. There he began to develop the many characters that he portrayed on Saturday Night Live. He infuses his characters with aspects of his life. For example, Linda (who is always ferklept) is based on his mother in law. Mike married Robin Ruzan, in 1993.

Mike has won an Emmy in 1989 for: Outstanding Writing in a Variety or Music Program for Saturday Night Live. Other awards are: Best On Screen Duo (*Wayne's World*), and Best Dance Sequence. But, you get the feeling that Mike is not in it for rewards. He writes, directs and produces because he enjoys what he does and wants to make our lives a little lighter.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:

August 18, 2002

GENGHIS KHAN DIES:

Genghis Khan, the Mongol leader who forged an empire stretching from the east coast of China west to the Aral Sea, dies in camp during a campaign against the Chinese kingdom of Xi Xia. The great Khan, who was over 60 and in failing health, may have succumbed to injuries incurred during a fall from a horse in the previous year.

Genghis Khan was born as Temujin around 1162. His father, a minor Mongol chieftain, died when Temujin was in his early teens. Temujin succeeded him, but the tribe would not obey so young a chief. Temporarily abandoned, Temujin's family was left to fend for themselves in the wilderness of the Steppes.

By his late teens, Temujin had grown into a feared warrior and charismatic figure who began gathering followers and forging alliances with other Mongol leaders. After his wife was

kidnapped by a rival tribe, Temujin organized a military force to defeat the tribe. Successful, he then turned against other clans and tribes and set out to unite the Mongols by force.

Khan promulgated a code of conduct and organized his armies on a system of 10: 10 men to a squad, 10 squads to a company, 10 companies to a regiment, and 10 regiments to a "Tumen," a fearful military unit made up of 10,000 cavalymen. Using an extensive network of spies and scouts, Khan detected weaknesses enemies' defenses. Many warriors voluntarily came to his side, but those who did not were defeated and then offered the choice of obedience or death. The nobility of conquered tribes were generally executed.

By 1206, Temujin was the leader of a great Mongol confederation and was granted the title Genghis Khan, translated as "Oceanic Ruler" or "Universal Ruler." On his deathbed, he ordered that Xi Xia be wiped from the face of the earth.

ENTERTAINMENT:

Peanuts Nuts Rejoice! Snoopy Gets a Museum

SANTA ROSA, CA - Peanuts nuts rejoice! Snoopy, Charlie Brown, Linus and Lucy are now on display at a \$8 million museum in California devoted to the life and work of the legendary cartoonist who created the lovable band of losers.

The Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center officially opens its doors on Saturday, giving Peanuts fans a place where they can explore a replica of the late cartoonist's studio, peruse a collection of original comic strips and learn more about the barber's son from Minnesota whose comics touched the lives of millions of fans.

"The hope is that the museum will send people away with a greater depth of knowledge than they came with," said Schulz's widow Jean at a preview opening of the museum, a mod-est building set back from the road in a leafy residential neighborhood. "We hope this museum is going to be a Mecca for Peanuts fans."

The museum, which officials expect will attract 200,000 visitors annually and boost local tourism, is located steps from the ice rink Schulz built for Santa Rosa. ~ Schulz died Feb. 12, 2000 at age 77 on the evening before his last Peanuts strip was due to run in Sunday newspapers, leaving behind a legacy built over 50 years of drawing the comic that influenced scores of new cartoonists.

FEATURE:

Alcohol Initially Packs Bigger Punch for Some

NEW YORK - People with a family history of alcoholism may respond more intensely to alcohol's initial intoxicating effects and develop a tolerance within a few hours, new study finding suggest.

This may cause them to drink more alcohol so they can get back the initial buzz they were feeling when they first started drinking, explained Dr. Sandra L. Morzorati of the Indiana

University School of Medicine in Indianapolis.

In the current investigation, Morzorati and colleagues wanted to know how people with a family history of alcoholism respond to feelings of intoxication compared to those from families without the drinking disorder. Their study results are published in the August issue of the journal *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*.

To do so, the team looked at 58 adults who had at least two members of their family--be it a parent, sibling, cousin, aunt or uncle--that were alcoholics and compared them with 58 adults from non-alcoholic families. None of the participants were alcoholics themselves.

The researchers administered alcohol directly into the participants' blood and gave them breath tests that measured the amount of alcohol in their system. Blood alcohol levels were held constant at 0.06, slightly below the legal limit of 0.08.

After 20 minutes, those with a family history of alcoholism reported "more intense levels of intoxication" compared to the other group, Morzorati explained. "At 2 hours, when they had adapted to the alcohol, they were not feeling as big of a punch as they were after just 20 minutes," she said.

The experiment, noted the researcher, revealed that people with a greater risk of alcohol dependence appear to have a distinct response to moderate alcohol consumption.

"It's been known for some time that people with a family history of alcohol (abuse) are more likely to have a genetic predisposition for alcoholism. The findings of our study support that further," she said.

SOURCE: *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research* 2002;26:1299-1305.

In Other News:

Robert F. Borckenstein who revolutionized enforcement of drunken driving laws by inventing the Breathalyzer to measure alcohol in blood, died last Saturday at his home in Bloomington, Ind. He was 89.

Before widespread use of this device, police officers investigation an accident or noticing a weaving car looked for symptoms like a flushed face, slurred speech or bloodshot eyes. If a suspect went to sleep in the police station, they might have sufficient basis for arrest. The Breathalyzer producer scientific evidence.

The ratio of breath alcohol to blood alcohol is 2,100 to 1, meaning 2,100 millimeters of exhaled air will contain the same amount of alcohol as 1 milliliter of blood. For many years the legal limit for drunkenness was 0.10, meaning 0.10 grams of alcohol for every milliliter of blood. Now, many states have adopted a 0.08 limit for intoxication.

Quote of the Week:

In time we ha te what we most often fear.

-William Shakespeare

Fact of the Week:

The screwdriver was first used to put on armor.

Word of the Week:

manifest (man'i*fest), n. A list or invoice of a ship's cargo and passengers to be exhibited at customhouses.

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Thank You For Reading And Have a Great Week!