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Rocky Mountain
News

Perhaps officials will
now take serious look

As I watched the Columbine High School tragedy unfold, my sadness and horror intensified. Could this tragedy have been averted if our schools had only been more attentive to students who had problems, who were consumed with hatred, prejudice and intolerance?

My family and I live in the Columbine area. Unfortunately, incidents of prejudice and intolerance have occurred periodically in our area schools. Six and a half years ago it was necessary to transfer our daughter from Ken Caryl Middle School, which feeds into Columbine, to a private school because she was harassed because of her religion. She was pushed, had rocks thrown at her, greeted

with "Heil Hitler" and told she should have died in the gas chambers with her relatives.

The principal's response was that students come to school with these attitudes and there is little the school can do about it. The area superintendent cited district policies, saying that "the public schools can and will take every reasonable action to address issues of prejudice," and doubted that the principal said that little could be done. Less than three years ago, a similar incident of targeting was reported at Columbine High School.

It is tragic that it takes this kind of horrific event to spur school administrators to look beyond their shield of words and policies. Perhaps, finally they will take a serious look at what our educational community can do to educate and help students who are so filled with hatred that they can destroy so many lives.

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