

# Themes in the Writings of Eric Harris

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*This document pulls together recurring themes from Eric's writings. The frequency with which they occur suggests the significance they had for him. They are compiled here to facilitate the research of anyone who is seeking an understanding of Eric. The categories of themes are:*

Originality, Influence, and Control  
Natural Selection and the Destruction of Humanity  
Godhood, Grandiosity, and Superiority  
NBK, Revolution, and War  
Dislike of Cops  
Celebration of Instincts  
Rejection of Values, Concepts, and Meaning  
Hatred of Rich, Snotty People  
Hatred of People Who Think They Are Cool

*The numbers preceding the quotations from Eric's writings refer to page numbers of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office documents. There are a few quotes from other sources; these sources are cited in footnotes.*

## Originality, Influence, and Control

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*I discussed Eric's sensitivity to influence and control, and his preoccupation with being original (i.e., not being influenced) in my book, Why Kids Kill: Inside the Minds of School Shooters. Eric made many comments on these issues. He apparently hated trends because they are examples of people being influenced. He also made references to social forces turning people into robots – i.e., people who are so influenced by outside forces that they have no minds of their own. This is the ultimate in control and the elimination of originality.*

**10,412:** "I HATE trends!" [see second quote below from p. 26,784]

**26,004:** "people say it is immoral to follow others, they say be a leader. Well here is a fuckin news flash for you stupid shits, everyone is a follower! Everyone who says they aren't followers and then dresses diff[erent] or acts diff[erent]....they got that from something they saw on TV or in film or in life. No originality. How many Jo MAMMA jokes are there and how many do you think are original and not copied. KEINE [German: none]. It's a fucking filthy place we live in. All these standards and laws and great expectations are making people into robots even though they might "think" they aren't and try to deny it. No matter how hard I try to NOT copy someone I still AM!"

**26,005:** "I always try to be different, but I always end up copying someone else."

**26,006:** "ever wonder why we go to school? Besides getting a so-called education. It's not too obvious to most of you stupid fucks but for those who think a little more and deeper you should realize it. Its society's way of turning all the young people into good little robots."

**26,007:** "I bet most of you fuckers can't even think that deep ... You aren't human. You are a robot."

**26,009:** "I don't want to be like you or anyone which is almost impossible."

- 26,011:** “today I saw a program on the discovery channel about satellites and radar and aircraft and stuff, and at the end of the show the narrator said some things that made me think “damn, we are so advanced, we kick ass, America is awesome, we have so many things in our military, we would kick anyone’s ass.” For a minute I actually had some pride in our nation...then I realized, “hey, this is only the GOOD things that I am seeing here. Only the pros, not the cons. Maybe that’s what people see, only the Pros, and that’s why they are under control, but me, I see all.”
- 26,114:** “Everything others do always will affect us, no matter what we think.”
- 26,189:** “In this day and age, it is almost impossible to be original.”
- 26,204:** “People do act on and believe in what they see, but they are still influenced by others.”
- 26,549:** “My thoughts are the most original and distinctive part of my character.”
- 26,593:** “It can be hard to be original in our generation.”
- 26,593:** “My mind is so full of creative, original ideas that sometimes I have trouble keeping them at bay.”
- 26,593:** “It is hard to describe my creative talents and to be sure that they are original.”
- 26,723:** “Different people influence my life in different ways. Therefore it is important to learn how exactly they influence me.”
- 26,770:** “Zeus and I both like to be powerful and have some control over what is happening. I am always asking questions or double-checking myself to be sure I completely understand something so I am in control.”
- 26,784:** “Why are they [clothes] sooo original!! If it’s made in a factory it’s not very freaking original!!”
- 26,784:** “God damn trends!! Why are they sooo original!! If its made in a factory its not very freakin original!!”
- “Do not think we’re trying to copy anyone. We had the idea before the first one ever happened.”<sup>1</sup>

## Natural Selection and the Destruction of Humanity

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*Eric loved the concept of natural selection. On the day of the attack, he wore a t-shirt that read “Natural Selection.” He also fantasized about eliminating most or all of humanity.*

- 6,776:** “Natural selection needs a boost, like me with a shotgun.”
- 10,411:** “YOU KNOW WHAT I LOVE!!!? Natural SELECTION!!!!!!!!!! God damn it’s the best thing that ever happened to the Earth. Getting rid of all the stupid and weak organisms.....but its all natural!!! YES! I wish the government would just take off every warning label. So then all the dumbasses would either severely hurt themselves or DIE! And boom, no more dumbasses.”
- 10,425:** “You all better fucking hide in your houses because I’m comin for EVERYONE soon, and I WILL be armed to the fuckin teeth and I WILL shoot to kill and I WILL fuckin KILL EVERYTHING!”

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<sup>1</sup> [www.acolumbinesite.com/quotes1.html](http://www.acolumbinesite.com/quotes1.html).

- 26,004:** "NATURAL SELECTION. Kill all retards, people with brain fuck ups, drug addicts, people who can't figure out how to use a fucking lighter. Geeeawd! People spend millions of dollars on saving the lives of retards, and why. I don't buy that shit like "oh, he's my son, though!" so the fuck what, he ain't normal, kill him. Put him out of his misery. He is only a waste of time and money, then people say 'but he is worth the time, he is human too.' No he isn't, if he was then he would swallow a bullet cause he would realize what a fucking [illegible] he was."
- 26,005-26,006:** "NATURAL SELECTION. Fucker should be shot. Same thing with all those rich snotty toadies at my school. Fuckers think they are higher than me and everyone else with all their \$ just because they were born into it? Ich denk NEIN [German: I think not] ... Everyone should be put to a test, an ULTIMATE DOOM test, see who can survive in an environment using only 'smarts' and military skills. Put them in a Doom world, no authority, no refuge, no BS copout excuses. If you can't figure out the area of a triangle or what "cation" means, you die! If you can't take down a demon with a chainsaw or kill a hell prince with a shotgun, you die! Fucking snotty rich fuckheads [apparently a name blacked out] who rely on others or on sympathy or \$ to get them through life should be put to this challenge. Plus it would get rid of all the fat, retarded, crippled, stupid, dumb, ignorant, worthless people of this world. No one is worthy of this planet, only me and who ever I choose ... Everyone should be shot out into space and only those people I say should be left behind."
- 26,007:** "But before I leave this worthless place, I will kill who ever I deem unfit for anything at all. Especially life."
- 26,009:** "The human race isn't worth fighting for, only worth killing."
- 26,010:** "since we have to slap warning labels on nature, then...you die, burn, melt, evaporate, decay. Just go the fuck away. YAAAAAA!!!"
- 26,010:** "If you recall your history the Nazis came up with a "final solution" to the Jewish problem. Kill them all. Well, in case you haven't figured it out yet, I say "KILL MANKIND" no one should survive."
- 26,011:** "If I can wipe a few cities off the map, and even the fuckhead holding the map, then great. Hmm, just thinking if I want all humans dead or maybe just the quote-unquote 'civilized, developed, and known-of' places on Earth, maybe leave little tribes of natives in the rain forest or something. Hmm, I'll think about that."
- 26,012:** "I think we are all a waste of natural resources and should be killed off."
- 26,012:** "I want to kill everyone except about 5 people."
- 26,013:** "If I could nuke the world I would, because so far I hate you all. There are probably around 10 people I wouldn't want to die."
- 26,203:** "What's 35% of 100?"  
1. 35  
2. Germany France Spain Italy  
3. Kansas Wyoming Nebraska Arizona  
I think that this is absolutely ridiculous, people who can't answer questions like that should be shot."
- 26,203:** "I think students today are astonishingly stupid. It never ceases to amaze me how stupid and ignorant people can be. Seems like some try to be dumb. It's a pity natural selection doesn't apply to humans, otherwise I strongly believe the race as a whole would be better off."
- 26,343:** "It would be great if god removed all vaccines and warning labels from everything in the world and let natural selection take its course. All the fat ugly retarded crippled dumbass stupid fuckheads in the world would die... Maybe then the human race can actually be proud of itself...NBK. I love it! sometime in april me and V [Vodka, i.e., Dylan] will get revenge and will kick natural selection up a few notches." [the same text appears in a different format on p. 26,856.]

26,496: “You know what I HATE!!? MANKIND!!!! YeaaAAAAAAAH! Kill everything...kill everything.”

26,573: “i would love to be the judge and say if a person lives or dies...and say ‘you don’t deserve to live, your are worthless, die.”

26,575: “I think I would want us to go extinct.”

26,784: “Retards!!! They are a waste of time and money and effort and energy and space and lots of other stuff too! They need to DIE!!

## Godhood, Grandiosity, and Superiority

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*Eric was preoccupied with the idea that he was superior to others and even godlike.*

960: “Ich bin Gott” [German for “I am God,” written in friend’s yearbook]

2,234: “Ich bin Gott” [written in friend’s yearbook]

10,383: “Harris goes on to film his planning book and describes it as the ‘Writings of God.’”

10,415: “My belief is that if I say something, it goes. I am the law. If you don’t like it, you die.”

10,713: “Ich bin Gott” [written in friend’s yearbook]

26,005: “I feel like God and I wish I was, having everyone being OFFICIALLY lower than me. I already know that I am higher than most anyone in the fucking welt [German: world] in terms of universal Intelligence. And where we stand in the universe compared to the rest of the UNIVERSE.”

26,007: “How dare you think that I and you are part of the same species when we are sooooooo different. You aren’t human. You are a robot.”

26,011: “they are under control, but me, I see all.”

26,013: “It’s ok if I am a hypocrite, but no one else, because I am higher than you people.”

26,016: “I want to grab some weak little freshman and just tear them apart like a wolf, show them who is god.”

26,017: “I am fucking armed. I feel more confident, stronger, more God-like.”

26,087: “Ich bin Gott” [written in his school planner]

26,167: “One looked like a World War II marine propaganda poster, except it read KMFDM [band Eric liked] on the top of it. Another had a pure American bald eagle, another said God-like.” [from short story]

26,203: “I think students today are astonishingly stupid. It never ceases to amaze me how stupid and ignorant people can be ... I am ashamed to be a part of the same species as some of these people.”

26,573: “You and me are the ones who should be running the world.” [internet chat with friend]

26,573: “I would love to be the ultimate judge and say if a person lives or dies – be godlike.”

26,845: “I don’t want to brag about my own sh\*t, but these levels come from the Herrgott of DOOM himself ... Each

level has 4 symbols in it, locate all of them and you are Godlike.”

“Ich bin Gott” [written in friend’s yearbook]<sup>2</sup>

## NBK, Revolution, and War

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*The initials NBK came from the film Natural Born Killers; NBK was the code name Eric and Dylan used for the attack on Columbine High School. Eric made a number of references that suggest he viewed the attack as a war or the beginning of a revolution. This is not a list of every reference to the upcoming attack, but includes his use of the initials NBK and references to war and revolution. The section on “natural selection” contains material related to these themes.*

10,383: most people “will not see the new world.”

10,432: Eric wrote about his activities as taking place in “the pre-war era.”

26,006 – 26,007: “When I go NBK and people say things like, “oh, it was so tragic,” or “oh he is crazy!” or “It was so bloody.” I think, so the fuck what you think that’s a bad thing?”

26,011: “the human race is still indeed doomed. It just needs a few kick starts, like me.”

26,012: “Someone’s bound to say ‘what were they thinking?’ when we go NBK or when we were planning it, so this is what I am thinking. ‘I have a goal to destroy as much as possible.’”

26,013: Once I finally start my killing, keep this in mind, there are probably about 100 people max in the school alone who I don’t want to die, the rest, MUST FUCKING DIE!”

26,016: “THIS is what I am motivated for, THIS is my goal. THIS is what I want ‘to do with my life.’”

26,018: “NBK came quick, why the fuck can’t I get any [sex]? I mean, I’m nice and considerate and all that shit, but nooooo. I think I try to hard. But I kinda need to, considering NBK is closing in.”

26,343: “NBK. I love it! Sometime in april me and V [Vodka, i.e., Dylan] will get revenge and kick natural selection up a few notches...maybe we will even start a little rebellion or revolution to fuck things up as much as we can.”

26,496: “God I can’t wait till they die. I can taste th blood now. NBK und KMFDM.”

“You all need to die! We need to die, too! We need to fucking kick-start the revolution here! ... We need a fucking kick-start. If we have a fucking religious war – or oil – or anything. We need to get a chain reaction going here.”<sup>3</sup>

“Our actions are a two man war against everyone else.”<sup>4</sup>

“I’m really am sorry about all of this ... but war’s war.”<sup>5</sup>

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2 Art Harris, “From Little League to Madness: Portraits of Littleton Shooters,” CNN, April 30, 1999; [www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/1998/schools/they.hid.it.well/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/1998/schools/they.hid.it.well/index.html).

3 <http://columbine.free2host.net/quotes.html>.

4 <http://columbine.free2host.net/quotes.html>.

5 Karen Abbott and Dan Luzadder, “I really am sorry....but war’s war.” Denver Rocky Mountain News, December 13, 1999.

## Dislike of Cops

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*Eric did not like police officers. In general, this may have been because they represented law and order (which he was opposed to), and more specifically, because of his arrest, which he identified as his most embarrassing moment (see p. 26,859).*

- 26,005:** “People (ie, parents, cops, God, teachers) telling me what to [do, think, say, act] makes me not want to fucking do it!”
- 26,012:** “I know I could get shot by a cop after only killing a single person, but hey guess the fuck WHAT! I chose to kill that person.”
- 26,343:** “By that time cops will be all over us and we start to kill them too!”
- 26,784:** “cops! Stupid law enforcing people!!!”
- 26,859:** The ONE person you hate the most: “are cops one person?”

## Celebration of Instincts

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*Eric preferred instinctual life to civilized life – at least as he conceptualized them. For a discussion of the possible influence of Nietzsche on this aspect of Eric’s thinking, see my article, “Influences on the Ideology of Eric Harris.”*

- 10,713:** “Don’t follow your dreams or goals or any of that shit, follow your fucking animal instincts. If it moves, kill it, if it doesn’t, burn it.”
- 26,007:** “Human nature is smothered out by society, job, and work and school. Instincts are deleted by laws.”
- 26,008:** “Society tries to make everyone act the same by burying all human nature and instincts. That’s what schools, laws, jobs, and parents do ... the few who stick to their natural instincts are casted out as psychos or lunatics or strangers or just plain different. Crazy, strange, weird, wild, these words are not bad or degrading. If humans were let to live how we would naturally, it would be chaos and anarchy and the human race wouldn’t probably last that long, but hey guess what, that’s how its supposed to be!!!! Societies and government are only created to have order and calmness, which is exactly the opposite of pure human nature.”
- 26,010:** “Women, you will always be under men. It’s been seen throughout nature, males are almost always doing the dangerous shit while the women stay back. It’s your animal instincts.”

## Rejection of Values, Concepts, Meaning

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*Related to his celebration of instinct was Eric’s rejection of conventional values. This is also discussed in my article, “Influences on the Ideology of Eric Harris.”*

- 10,416:** “I really don’t give a good god damn about what you think is ‘right’ and what is ‘wrong’ and what is acceptable and what isn’t nice, I just don’t fucking CARE! SHUTUP AND DIE! ! ! ! ! !
- 10,425:** “No I am not crazy, crazy is just a word, to me it has no meaning.”
- 26,005:** “Sorry is just a word.”

**26,006:** “There is no such thing as an actual ‘real world.’ Its just another word like justice, sorry, pity, religion, faith, luck and so on.”

**26,007:** “Just because your mumsy and dadsy told you blood and violence is bad, you think it’s a fucking law of nature? Wrong”

**26,009:** “your social words, ‘normal’ or ‘civilized”

**26,010:** “Fuck money, fuck justice, fuck morals, fuck civilized, fuck rules, fuck laws...DIE manmade words ... There’s no such thing as True Good or True evil.”

**26,012:** “‘Morals’ is just another word, and that’s it.”

## **Hatred of Rich, Snotty People**

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*Eric was highly sensitive to issues of status, expressing rage toward people who were higher on the economic ladder than he was.*

**10,411:** “Bloody snotty people think they are god almighty.”

**10,415:** “I will rig up explosives all over a town and detonate each one of them at will after I mow down a whole fucking area of you snotty ass rich mother fucking high strung godlike attitude having worthless pieces of shit whores.”

**26,005:** “All those rich snotty toadies at my school. Fuckers think they are higher than me and everyone else with all their \$ [money] just because they were born into it.”

**26,006:** “Fucking snotty rich fuckheads [apparently a name blacked out] who rely on others or on sympathy or \$ [money] to get them through life.”

## **Hatred of People Who Think They Are Cool**

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*Another aspect of Eric’s sensitivity to status is seen in his hostility to people who thought they were cool. Eric liked to think he was cool, and apparently couldn’t stand anyone else who aspired to coolness.*

**10,412:** “Young smokers! They think they are so god damn cool with their big bad cigarettes and their ‘sooo cool’ attitude.”

**10,412:** “You know what I hate!!!? People who think they can forecast the weather!!! Then they think that everyone else will think that they are cool!”

**10,413:** “People who think they are martial arts experts! They are all cocky and thinking they are all big and bad.”

**10,414:** “You know what I hate!!!? Rappers and their oh so smooth cool suave rapper attitude.”

**26,784:** “People who like SKA [a kind of music] give the rest of the human race a bad name!! They think they are sooooo cool.”

**26,784:** “hanson!!! Stupid little posers [?] who think they are cool!”