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# De Anza College Bloodbath Foiled — Photo Clerk Calls Cops <sup>1/31</sup>



**Al Deguzman** was arrested after police were tipped off by a photo lab clerk who developed pictures of an arsenal.

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CHRONICLE STAFF WRITERS

A San Jose man with an arsenal of weapons and a violent grudge against De Anza Community College was arrested hours before he planned to unleash a "Columbine-style" attack on the school, police said yesterday.

Al Deguzman, a 19-year-old De Anza student, intended to wake up yesterday morning, plant bombs throughout the Cupertino campus and detonate the explosives at lunchtime, starting in De

Anza's packed cafeteria, police said.

"There was potential for a lot of death," said San Jose Deputy Police Chief Mike Miceli. "In my 30 years of law enforcement, I can't describe it in any other way. This was an elaborate plan for a mass murder."

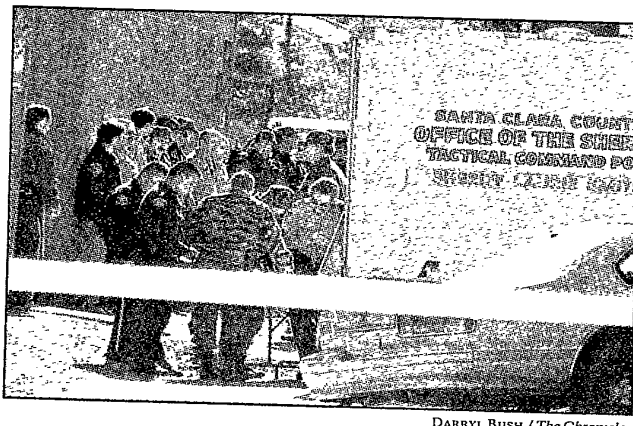
The alleged plot, which investigators said had been in the works for two years, was uncovered Monday when a photo lab clerk developed pictures of the suspect standing with an arsenal and called her father, who is a San Jose,

► **ARSENAL:** Page A13 Col. 1



DARRYL BUSH / The Chronicle

De Anza College students Hannah Hoban (left), Kyoko Fujita and Satomi Amano were told by an officer that the college was closed.



DARRYL BUSH / The Chronicle

Law enforcement officers gathered at the Santa Clara County sheriff's tactical command post truck on the De Anza campus.

# De Anza Student Accused of Plot To Bomb Campus

► **ARSENAL**  
From Page 1

police officer, said Miceli.

Deguzman was arrested Monday evening when he stopped by the photo lab at a Longs drugstore in San Jose to pick up the pictures, police said. The clerk stalled him so police could get there before he left the store. When Deguzman noticed the officers, he unsuccessfully tried to make a quick getaway, authorities said.

Hours later, investigators with search warrants went to the Flickinger Avenue home that Deguzman shares with his parents and discovered what they later described as a "bone-chilling" plan to massacre students at the college, police said.

They found Deguzman's bedroom stacked from top to bottom with sophisticated handmade bombs, some of which were booby-trapped with detonators that would go off if someone handled them, Miceli said.

## Map With Bomb Sites

Police also found a map of De Anza College, marked with locations where bombs would be placed, and a tape recording that investigators believe Deguzman made Monday outlining his plot, Miceli said. Deguzman's voice is heard on the tape apologizing to the press, his family and friends for what he was about to do, Miceli said.

Miceli said Deguzman had specific targets in mind, but he declined to elaborate on the intended victims. And although there was no suicide note, detectives said they believed Deguzman had planned to die during the bloody attack.

Investigators seized two rifles, a sawed-off rifle and a sawed-off shotgun from the house.

Deguzman was being held without bail last night at the Santa Clara County jail on suspicion of possessing weapons and explosives.

Miceli said investigators didn't know what was behind Deguzman's alleged plot to wreak havoc at the school. He has no apparent criminal record.

"He seemed to be sympathetic toward the fellows in Columbine," Miceli said.

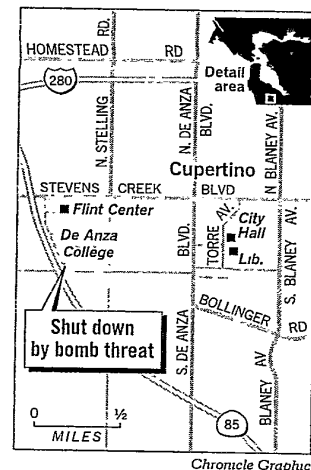
On April 20, 1999, Columbine High School students Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold detonated bombs and sprayed their suburban Littleton, Colo., campus near Denver with gunfire, killing 12 classmates and a teacher before killing themselves.

That same year, Deguzman graduated from Independence High School in San Jose. In his senior year, he was an editor on the award-winning yearbook staff. The group met several times informally to discuss what happened at Columbine, said Paul Ender, the class's adviser, who has since retired.

"I am in total shock," Ender said about Deguzman's arrest. "I never in a million years would have thought he could be involved in anything like this. But you really don't know anybody, do you?"

Ender described Deguzman as bright and articulate. He said he had been a technical editor on staff, in charge of software and computers used to make the yearbook. But the former student also had an artistic side, according to Ender. When there was down time on the yearbook staff, Deguzman would often create free-form sculptures out of tape, markers, rulers and other office odds and ends.

Deguzman's parents seemed to



Chronicle Graphic

*"This was an elaborate plan for a mass murder."*

MIKE MICELI  
San Jose deputy police chief

be the most surprised by the day's discoveries, saying there was nothing to indicate that the 19-year-old was homicidal. His parents told police that they had no idea their son was stockpiling explosives. They said they never went into his room because Deguzman was an adult, and they respected his privacy.

They declined an interview with The Chronicle.

Bobby Playa, an 18-year-old who lives four doors down from the Deguzmans, was also stunned.

"He's a straight schoolboy," said Playa, who described his neighbor as someone likely to be a CEO at a major company. "You don't expect anything stupid to happen in his life."

A man claiming to be a close friend of Deguzman's described him as "the most caring, gentle and polite person you'll ever meet."

## Dislike of Government

But Deguzman has a strong distaste for the government, said the friend, who asked not to be identified. He said Deguzman was interested in anarchy and subscribed to an Internet mailing list on anarchism. Once, he posted the Unabomber manifesto to the list, said the friend.

Authorities ordered De Anza college's 10,000 students and 1,000 staff members off the campus about 9 a.m. yesterday after determining that what they had found was a credible threat, said Santa Clara County Sheriff's Sgt. Doug Rogers.

The Santa Clara County sheriff's bomb squad and federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents used explosive-sniffing dogs to sweep the sprawling campus.

The threatened attack left students and faculty angry.

"This is one of the most terrifying acts an individual can commit," said Martha Kanter, president of the college. "I'm very angry."

Chronicle staff writers Alan Cathright and Bill Workman contributed to this report.

DH20010103 E2