



Gracies Dinnertinie Theatre

Lunchtime Circus
Volume 34, Issue 5
13 April 80AT(2025)

*"What are you going to do,
shoot me?"*

- Dylan McCorkle
1 February, 79AT

I need you to put aside your preconceptions of gun violence for a moment. Anything you imagine when you read the words "gun violence" needs to be purged, for a little while, as you read this. I ask you this because it is only fair to myself, and to you, for you to understand what people mean when they say to ban guns, or make bullets harder to acquire, or to necessitate licensing, monthly training, or mental health limitations for the ownership of a gun. Forget them all, for just a moment.

You are nine years old and from Missouri, where no registration laws, assault weapon laws, magazine restrictions, or owner licensing laws exist. You are sent into lockdown for an unknown reason. You are stuck in your classroom; four hours of whispering board game moves and book theories and gossip to your friends. Twenty minutes ago, your teacher took a few of you, huddled, to the bathroom. She stood outside the doors and picked at her hangnails. Something dithered pounded in her chest. Her back was so stiff you thought she might snap backward. She rushed y'all back.

She grabs you and digs the blunt edges of her torn nails into your shoulder when you get a breath too close to the windows; as the February sun dips below the horizon, the little light from them dims. The darkest corner is right by the door, because it has been intentionally inset. The best cover to hide your body is behind Luke's Spider-Man backpack and Morgan's purple puffer jacket. What are the odds that twenty-five children find dark and small spaces desirable?

The men in black look so scary. They look like soldiers. They have a straight finger by the trigger of their black-painted soldier-guns. They have helmets. They have bullet-proof vests. They march you to yellow school buses that take you to a nearby middle school. You stay until 7pm, when someone, anyone, can finally pick you up.

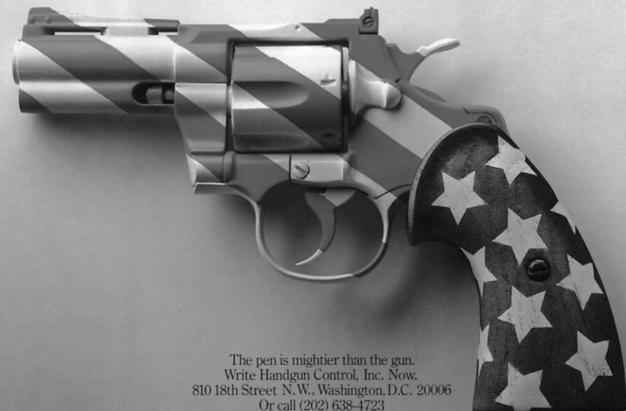
You are thirteen. Someone went to the district headquarters nearby with a gun. All you know is you are stuck in class for maybe two hours.

You are fourteen. Thirteen's memory was faint. What is not faint is the class bell, releasing you into the hallway, and the sharp acrylic nails of the teacher next door gripping into your forearm to pull you in, the thud of the door as she slams it shut.

permit laws, firearm capacity into lockdown for your classroom; four hours of book theories and gossip to your friends. took a few of you, huddled, to the doors and picked at her hangnails. the pounds in her chest. Her back was so stiff you thought she might snap backward. She rushed y'all back.

**LAST YEAR, HANDGUNS KILLED
48 PEOPLE IN JAPAN.
8 IN GREAT BRITAIN.
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58 IN ISRAEL.
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STOP HANDGUNS BEFORE THEY STOP YOU.

Exhibit 1: 1981

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

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What is not faint is scouring every social media possible to find a reason. What is not faint is your teacher breaking protocol to tell you what happened.

You are seventeen. Fourteen's memory was short. What is not short is the lockdown you enter because of the nearby elementary school's lockdown. The button for lockdowns had gotten moved to the desk phones in every classroom. They call to apologize, then press the button again. To apologize for that one, they accidentally press it again. By this third time, you ignore the lockdown. Their final apology is shaky and sheepish.

You are eighteen. Summer waits for you outside, and a monarch butterfly flits by the bullet-proof window. On every social media, you see those soldiers again. You hear one of them bang on your door as if to break it into splinters. They parade with automatics, sniper rifles, handguns – their yellow tasers left back at the precinct, you think.

You are eighteen. At a different high school in the district, every student, every single one, walked out. Every single one.

You are nine: a suicidal drunk man had a standoff with the police. You could see their backyard from the playground.

You are thirteen: a man brought a gun to the district headquarters, upset about his child. Your teacher made you take the test you skipped.

You are fourteen: a kid brought a handgun to school looking for someone who didn't show up that day. He was on the hunt.

You are seventeen: the administration cared more about banning books than being responsible. They never moved that button.

You are eighteen: Someone calls in a bomb threat to your high school, a part of a coordinate attack on several high schools across the country by a foreign actor.

You are eighteen: Ralph Yarl, a 16-year-old Black kid, who wanted to hang out with his friends, missed the house by a single street and was shot by a white octogenarian.^[1] You think maybe God is real, because Ralph survived a bullet to the face.^[2] Ralph's favorite

1 www.kshb.com/news/crime/juvenile-shot-after-going-to-wrong-kcmo-house-top-pick-up-siblings

2 www.kansascity.com/opinion/otp-columns-blogs/toriano-porter/article300678234.html

color is blue, by the way.^[3]

I think perhaps we are too impatient. All of us. At every moment. We need instant satisfaction. Guns are not just quick killing machines, but they ruthlessly maim, tear families to shreds, leave ears ringing, make you look over your shoulder.

Guns suck 'cuz like, why does anyone need to be dead so fast? So quickly?

And everyone who sees it, who hears about it, about it, they look at method of murder – and think to themselves, "Oh, such a shame, another one of those?" Is that what people think? I don't know! All I know is that we condition ourselves to shrug it off. Maybe a knife wound, you could, or an attempted drowning.

If I shot you, would you shrug it off?

But I didn't even need to shoot you. I can point a gun at you and you're trembling, scared. So many of you hear that Rochester is violent so you don't go into the city^[4] and you miss out on cool shit.

3 www.kshb.com/news/local-news/ralph-yarl/hundreds-of-staley-high-school-students-staff-walk-in-support-of-ralph-yarl

4 While the explanation is long-winded and intersectional, thus being way too long to get into for this issue, generally when people go "Oh, I don't go into the city, it's too dangerous" they're being racist.

5 [nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2201761](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5982176/)

6 [pubhealth.jhu.edu/2024/guns-remain-leading-cause-of-death-for-children-and-teens](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5982176/)

7 [www.kff.org/mental-health/issue-brief/child-and-teen-firearm-mortality-in-the-u-s-and-peer-countries](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5982176/)

8 [www.npr.org/2022/04/22/1094364930/firearms-leading-cause-of-death-in-children](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5982176/)

9 [www.cnn.com/2024/09/07/health/guns-death-us-children-teens-dg/index.html](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5982176/)

10 [www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2024/09/13/guns-children-teenagers-united-states-report/75198121007](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5982176/)

11 [azpha.org/2025/02/10/firearms-a-leading-cause-of-death-among-children-and-adolescents](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5982176/)

12 [pewrsr.ch/413hy18](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5982176/)

13 [www.childrenssafetynetwork.org/infographics/firearm-safety-preventing-death-suicide](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5982176/)

14 [giffords.org/analysis/gun-suicides-among-kids-are-soaring](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5982176/)

15 [means-matter.hsp.harvard.edu/means-matter/youth-access](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5982176/)

16 [www.kff.org/global-health-policy/issue-brief/child-and-teen-firearm-mortality-in-the-u-s-and-peer-countries](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5982176/)

Perhaps too often we ask ourselves the question, "What should we do about gun rights?", and forget an even better one: "Why are we debating this at all? Why must we always be afraid?"

And I can hear you mutter to yourself,

"Well, I grew up in a nice neighborhood and my state had some regulations, so I didn't experience gun violence."

Oh, maybe you're right, but then you'll turn on the television at

dinnertime or open your phone and find that everyone, everywhere in these United States, is abuzz over the deaths of children.

Do you remember that guns are the leading^[5] cause^[6] of^[7] death^[8] for^[9] children^[10] in^[11] these^[12] United^[13] States^[14] since^[15] 2020?^[16]

I'm so tired.

I don't know what to write to y'all. It's exhausting. The reactions that everyone has when you say you're from Missouri and inquiring no further. Scoffing at the thought that maybe there are beautiful trees and paw paws and good food and good people there – the thought

that somebody might be stuck someplace awful and still make the best of it. None of you ever ask those questions.

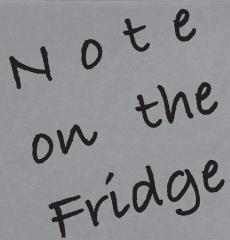
And I think you're just fine. You're a wonderful person. Lady Luck rolled the dice on you and you got born in a state with more firearm restrictions, or maybe you were born in a state like mine. And even though you never pay the courtesy to ask "What's there to do in Missouri?" without derision, I would rather be friends than be bristly.

I'm so tired. Do I even have anything?....

I sincerely wish that you may never have to find your father's gun to hide it from himself nor taunt your sister, over text, with his suicide.

I'm sorry for not constructing this article neatly and concisely. They're tangled in my head - intentionally backwards and misplaced in space and time so that I can't make a straight narrative and on something succinct so I can stop remembering shit: Gun violence is fundamental to the American experience. ■■■

- Goose Waffles



Gun violence happens before the trigger gets pulled.

That's what this issue is here to make clear. And before you go all "Woah, GDT taking things seriously? What has the world come to??" we ask you to remember two things. One:

We said we are here to make you think. We never said our methods would be pleasant. And two: as of December 2024, *The Onion* has had to run the article 'No Way to Prevent This,' Says Only Nation Where This Regularly Happens THIRTY-EIGHT times.

To my main point, you don't ever need to shoot a gun to commit gun violence. You hardly even need to wave that thing around in the air. Hell, just open-carrying a gun around is enough. Because, the mere fact that guns are ever-present in our society makes clear that the threat of violence or harm against one's person is constantly imminent.

This nonstop simmering threat of violence is in itself a form of violence. It harms everyone it encounters, not just emotionally but epistemically, whether target or bystander or even issuer.

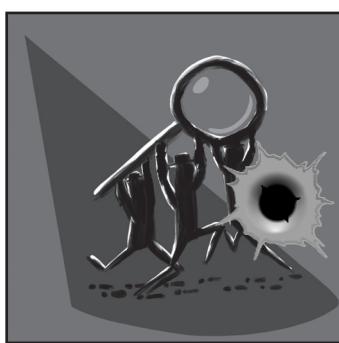
Who are we, that we must live so reminded of our neighbor's ability to kill us? Are we all mere beasts of the jungle, that our civilization is on the brink of bullet-shelled collapse? Would the zombie apocalypse be such a bad thing, if it allowed us to justify our apparently inherent blood-lusts?

With its addiction to guns, America has dehumanized itself. It has turned its back on the idea of being a nation ruled "by the consent of the governed," and instead embraced the idea that we are all little more than animals, who must be kept in line by brutal force.

Dissidents would say that guns are in fact necessary, that they are needed for protection. But damn, what a vote of no-confidence, to say so boldly that you don't think we could ever build a civilization where both you and your fellow citizens act civilized.

Put down the guns, America. Because if we have to fight, it's at least far more entertaining when we use our fists. Maybe we'd even get a new *Onion* article out of that. ■■■

-Chryssa



Neighborhood Watch

-by Igor Polotai

Welcome back to Neighborhood Watch, keeping you informed about the happenings at RIT. We're here to provide you with all the latest happenings at RIT, good, bad, and weird.

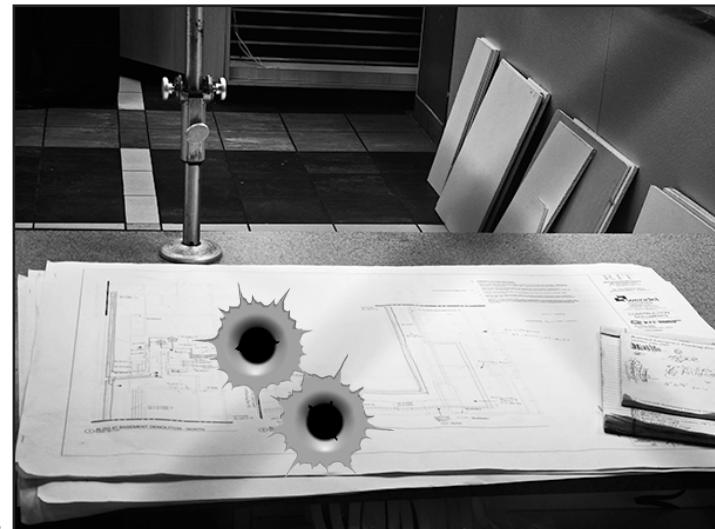
So, what happened recently? As Spring transitions back into Winter, let's take some time to reflect on some smaller stories that you otherwise might have missed.



In a symbolic gesture, the clock hands on the Kate Gleason Dorm Building returned after a prolonged absence. Somewhere, RIT students cried, as that meant that winter had been extended for another six weeks.

Sol's Underground, shutdown on December 12th, 2023 for cooking student workers like a rotisserie chicken, still is under renovation. But the more astute student might have noticed that a previously curtain filled window was no longer curtain filled, thus

allowing glimpses into the tomb of Sol. Bonus points for spotting the floor plans lying half haphazardly on a table.



Finally, Fresh Mexican Cantina & Grille, having overthrown its Salsarita overlords in the summer, now realized that they also lost all of their flavor. So, in a desperate attempt to maintain the illusion that the quesarito is an authentic Mexican food item and not an abomination of God, All Mighty, and the Holy Father, they brought Tajin to take over their menu and bring spices and flavor back. Anyone who did go to the Tajin takeovers received the best food item RIT has ever given out, micro dose bottles of Tajin. Enough for one snuff.

Until next week, stay safe, and remember: Birds! They are cool! 🎉

Do you have a story that the weekly Neighborhood Watch column should inform RIT about? Email it to us at gdtneighborhoodwatch@gmail.com! All submissions will be kept anonymous. We value our whistleblowers!

COME PLAY WITH US!

**IT'S MORE FUN
THAN SHOOTIN' YER EYE OUT!**

DISCORD.GG/crQdfnQs2Q





Hello Rochester, did you know you have rights? The Constitution says you do. And there's no better time than this here Gun Violence Awareness issue of Gracie's good old Dinnertime Theatre to—

It's "Gracie's"? No apostrophe? Then who was the lovely broad I took home with me last— Anyhoo! Let's talk about your right TO BEAR ARMS.

The second amendment of the Constitution states:

A WELL
MILITIA, BEING
TO THE SECURITY
THE RIGHT OF THE
PEOPLE TO KEEP
AND BEAR ARMS, SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED.

Well, I'll be, that's some utterly mystifying grammatics going on there. And I's wouldn't be alone in being mystified. It weren't until 2008, yessiree, a full two HUNDRED plus years after the ink dried on that puppy called the Bill of Rights, that the US Supreme Court clarified in *District of Columbia v. Heller* that the "people" talked about in this amendment refers to individual persons.

So what have we been doing this whole time in between the writing of the Constitution and the year 2008?

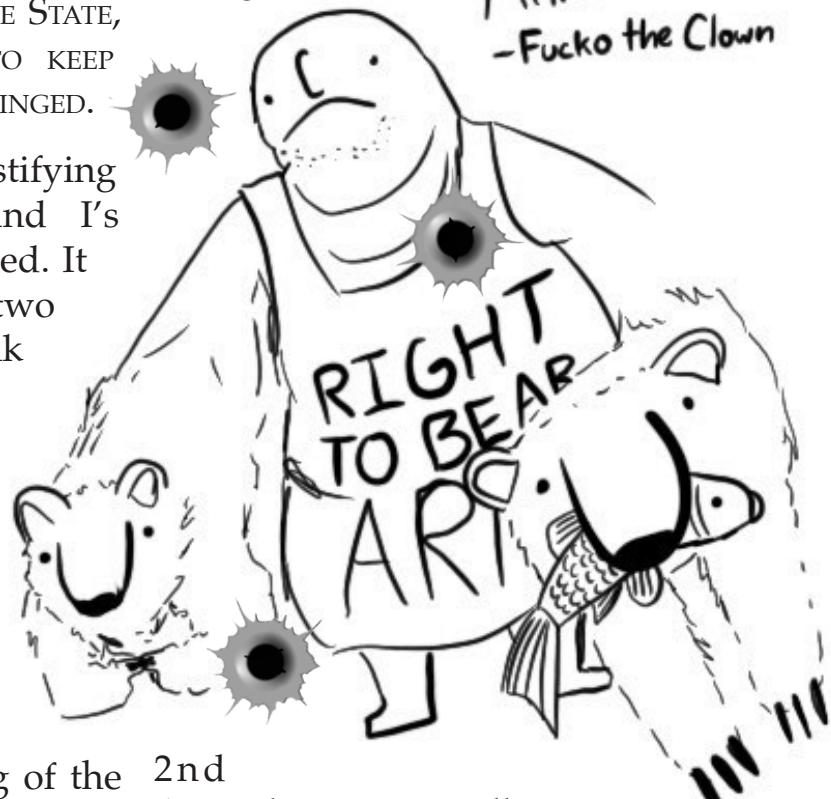
Well, we's were interpreting the 2nd Amendment much more how the writers meant it. Y'see, the foundin' fathers put a super special discount code hidden in the Constitution an' such documents to tell youze when they were taking about the rights of **states** vs the rights of **individuals**.

And, of course, as your good pal Constitution Al, I'll cut you in on this steal of a deal. Legal experts have figured out

that when the word "infringed" is used, the founders were talking about states' rights, and when the word "abridge" was used, the founders were talking about individuals' rights.^[1]

So, in actuality, since it uses the phrase "shall not be infringed,"
t h e §

= Ahm a bear!
-Fucko the Clown



2nd

Amendment is talking about the states' rights to arm their own militias. Not about your uncle Billy-Bob being able to own 57 AK-47s for "recreation." Put simply, the foundin' fathers were mighty afraid of the federal government getting too big for its britches and the president becoming a mad tyrannical king figure. (Cough cough cough...sorry, sorry...allergies) After all, they had just gotten finished fighting a revolutionary war against a wildly out of touch king

¹ Ludwig, Robert W., Esq. Heller Sequels And 2nd Amendment, Still Undecided: Part 1. 2017. www.ludwigrobinson.com/pdf/HellerSequels.pdf. Retrieved 80AT (2025).

[§] See *Gracie's Dinnertime Theatre*, Volume 10, issue 7. "Toopid People."

who dictated their taxes and trade policies (including tariffs!) by royal decree, without an ounce of say in the matter from the states or people being affected by said policies.

To prevent this situation from happening again, the founders wanted to put down the right specifically and explicitly for *states* to have their own autonomy and to be able to arm their own state-sponsored armies.

How then did the general interpretation change so dramatically to what it is today?

Very good question, real sharpeye there, and of course a real good question deserves a real good answer, but why would you want that when you could be asking an even better question? What you should be asking is 'How can I think of passing up my chance to get in on this incredible, truly marvelous, stealing of rights from the states and giving them to individuals? In this world, it's every man for himself, right?'

Wrong! That's what Big Gun wants you to think!^[2]

Because, after you're done selling every hunting man a hunting rifle, how do you make more money? I know, as a salesman myself, that to sell more you just gotta find the next rube and convince him to buy something he doesn't need. You convince *every* man he needs to own a gun. And then, you get so busy selling so many guns, that it doesn't even matter to your sales goals that some of these people go around killing other potential customers with the guns they bought from you.

To boot, as a bonus side effect(!!), all this killing ends up convincing folks even more that they as individuals need guns "for their safety," such that they are willing to take up arms to protect the individual's right to bear arms that was never theirs in the first place. The right to bear arms has been stolen from the states, and Big Gun has convinced so many persons that any attempt for the states to gently pry it back is actually the tyranny and trampled rights that the amendment was supposed to protect us from to begin with!

Meanwhile, the federal government, led by the man who wears a crown on magazine covers both real and AI-generated,^[3] levies a 34% tariff on an island full of nothing but penguins. With, of course, no input from the people's elected representatives.

Sigh.

Rochester, don't be Uncle Billy-Bob. Don't buy guns you don't need to, don't kill people you don't need to, and don't forget to pay the taxation that you had no representation what-so-ever for on whatever the hell it is you are importing from the penguins. It just better not be more guns.

Over and out. 

² Now is as good a time as any to pause and give you the good-enough answer to your original good question. It is that the NRA got the Supreme Court some *very* imaginative thesauruses, such that they led Judge Anton Scalia to throw out all expert linguistics testimony in the *Heller* case with the vehemence of a teenager ripping pages out of a phone book.[§] § Baron, Denis. Supreme Court rules that guns don't kill people; throwing out DC gun law, Scalia finds that linguists are mad hatters living on the other side of the looking glass. 2008. blogs.illinois.edu / view / 25 / 4572. Retrieved 80AT (2025).

³ Time magazine cover, June 2018, The Economist cover February 2025, AI-generated image on fake Time magazine cover, White House official X and Instagram accounts, February 19, 2025.

Blue Cross, Blue Shell

-by Chryssa

Violence doesn't always have to look like a gun to be violence. In the wake of the killing of United's CEO Brian Thompson last December, the internet cheered. A brutal assassination, in the middle of New York, in the middle of the week, and half the country cheers it on. What could Brian have possibly done to deserve such a fate?

Lead one of the largest companies manufacturing modern-day class warfare, for one. KFF, an independent policy research center, reported that UnitedHealth has one of the highest claims denial rates in the country in 2023, at a whopping 33% of health care claims being denied.^[1]

Peoples' lives hang in the balance of insurance claims. And with the average price of health care premiums for a family being \$25,572 in 2024,^[2] those claims do not come cheaply.

For insurance companies, denials, most for such illuminating reasons as "other",^[1] mean that they do not have to pay out the premiums that they rake in.

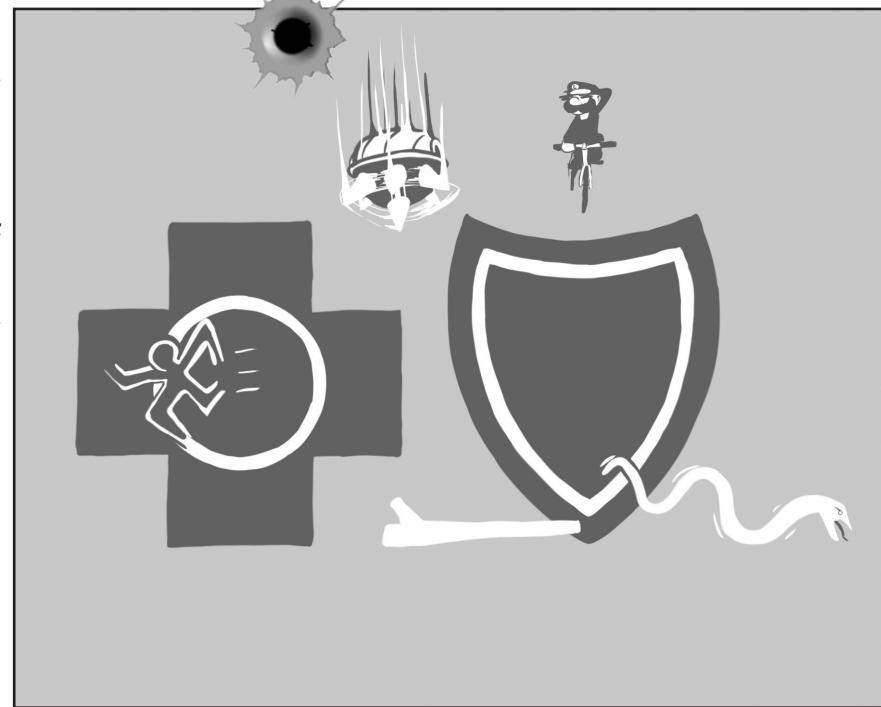
For an average person making the claim however, denials could mean death.

Widespread denial of insurance claims means sentencing people to die without healthcare, the very thing they pay the insurance company to provide them with. Now that sounds like violence.

What the United CEO shooter did was make that violence targeted, and written plain and clear. The

bullets with the words "deny", "defend", and "depose" were meant to translate the abstract ways in which insurance companies inflict pain, suffering, and, in fact, violence, onto their customers into the very real and literal pain, suffering, and violence of a gunshot wound.

Had Brian Thompson survived the gunshot wound, he would have gone to the hospital, where health care costs could have racked up anywhere between \$20,000 to \$60,000.^[3] And had he been the average American, he would have made a claim with his insurance. With UnitedHealth, he would have had a 1 in 3 chance of getting denied. And even had he appealed the denied claim, it very well could have fallen into the 59% of denials insurers uphold upon appeal,^[1] not to mention the stress inflicted by the appeals process itself. He then would have gone back home, likely disabled from the wound itself, jobless for having been away from his work for the several weeks to months



1 www.kff.org/private-insurance/issue-brief/claims-denials-and-appeals-in-aca-marketplace-plans

2 www.kff.org/report-section/ehbs-2024-section-1-cost-of-health-insurance

3 www.aamc.org/news/cost-surviving-gun-violence-who-pays

required for recovery, and saddled with tens of thousands of dollars of medical debt. He would have maybe five or six thousand in his own savings to go towards paying that debt, rent, groceries, and bills.^[4] Time it right, and he may not even have a home to go back to, being evicted or foreclosed upon for non-payments while he was in the hospital.

All this he could have faced because of the very company he had been paying *for years prior* to have health insurance. And we are supposed to believe that the only violence that occurred was the gunshot itself? He would have gone to the hospital looking for a blue cross, a saving light, and gotten nothing from his insurance but a blue shell to the face in return. ■■■

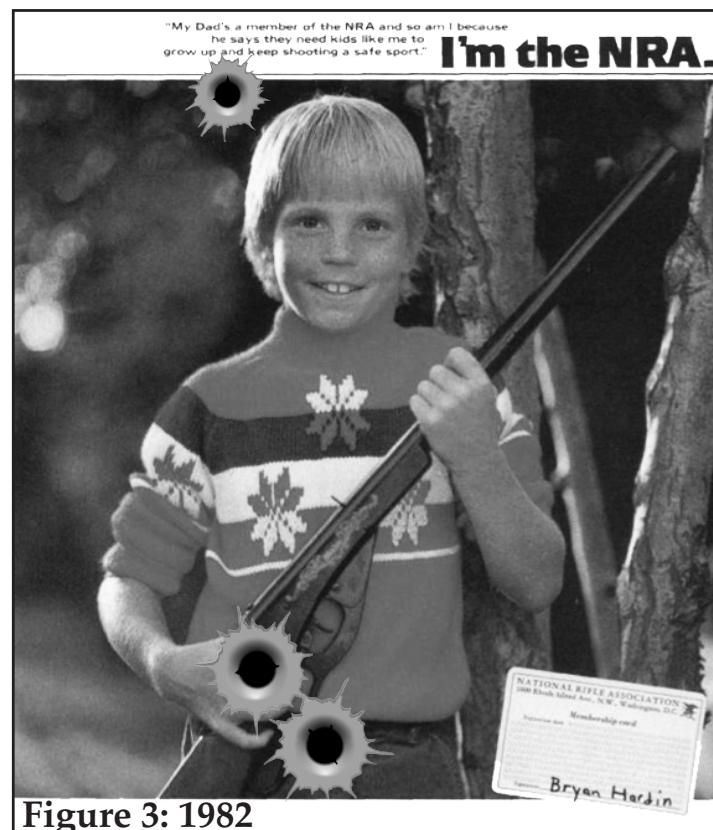
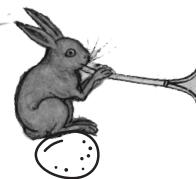


Figure 3: 1982

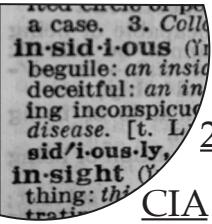


Find hundreds more issues of GDT at: hellskitchen.org/gdt

4 Federal Reserve's Survey of Consumer Finances for 2022 - <https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/average-savings-by-age>



Exhibit 4: 1881



Definitions -by the denizens of the GDT discord

2A – a very small bra.

CIA – away team.

FBI – home team.

Magazine – the thing in your hands right now, make sure it's unloaded.

Holster – see jock strap.

The Most Dangerous Game – victims of gun violence and advocates for gun control.

NRA – Naughty Romance Allowed.

NRA – Nerf Restricted Armistice.

NRA – National Registry of Associations.

NYSRPA – New York State Ransacking and Plundering Association.

Public indecency charge – what you should catch if you wave your unholstered thing around.

Unregistered firearm – not posing with your 2nd amendment right for your twitter page or Christmas card.

Protect what matters.
Secure all your guns.

Don't live with the threat of family fire.
Learn how to make your home safer at
EndFamilyFire.org



Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation

ad COUNCIL

END FAMILY FIRE

BRADY
UNITED AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

Exhibit 5: 2025

"Are you going to shoot me?" — Ta'Kiya Young, pregnant woman, moments before being shot and killed by police. 24 August 78AT



IMAGINUM ANTORES

Page 1-10: Macrovector. "Metal bullet hole set Input and output gunshot cracked bullets holes." Fair Use. www.freepik.com/free-vector/metal-bullet-hole-set-input-output-gunshot-cracked-bullets-holes_13399994.htm. Retrieved 80AT (2025).

Page 1: "Stop handguns before they stop you." 1981. Handgun Control, Inc. Fair Use. cms.artcenter.edu/image/9820/b11/.5,.5/small. Retrieved 7 April 80AT (2025).

Page 3: Advertisement for a toy gun. 1946. *America's Best Comics* #20, page 50. Public domain. commons.m.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:AmericasBestComics2050.jpg. Retrieved 11 April 80AT(2025)

Page 5: Shannon H. Hamula, photographer. "Clock Hands." 9 April 80AT(2025).

Page 5: J. Wallace, photographer. "Suzanne's Room." 7 April 80AT(2025).

Page 5: Georges Méliès. "Le voyage dans la lune, en plein dans l'œil!!" 1902. Public domain. commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Le_voyage_dans_la_lune_drawing.jpg. Retrieved 12 April 80AT (2025).

Page 9: "I'm the NRA." 1982. National Rifle Association. Fair Use. www.readingthepictures.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/im-nra-boy630.jpg. Retrieved 10 April 80AT (2025).

Page 9: F. Opper. "A Dangerous American Institution—The Free and Untrammeled Revolver." December 14, 1881. Puck. Public Domain. harvardpublichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/HarvardPublicHealth_1881PuckRevolverGuns_01.jpg. Retrieved 10 April 80AT (2025).

Page 10: "Protect what matters." Ad Council. 2025. Fair Use. www.adcouncil.org/asset/protect-what-matters-georgia-only/204571962. Retrieved 19 March 80AT(2025).

Save US - Save US