
F R I C H

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Well, it's that time of year again – when every publication in America looks back and examines the events of April 20, 1999. We, too, have decided to devote our issue to school shootings, and, though we've avoided the usual cheap laughs, we hope we still provide a unique viewpoint. On a more upbeat note, Frich is, in fact, publishing **Senior Wills** for the class of 2001. The submission deadline to [<submit@frich.zzn.com>](mailto:submit@frich.zzn.com) is **Monday, April 23**.

School Shootings on the Rise?

Our country is in crisis. In recent years, there has been an explosion in school shootings. More and more kids are buying and stealing guns, and shooting their fellow classmates without second thought. This sudden spike in murders by our nation's kids puts every one of us at risk. What could be the cause for so much more senseless violence? Is it the parents' fault? Could it be the horrendous violence kids see on television every day? Today's overly violent song lyrics?

The correct answer is: none of the above. The "explosion" we keep thinking about, hearing about, and worrying about is, in fact, a figment of our mob mentality. It turns out, since 1992, school shootings have actually decreased an amazing 75%. In the 1999-2000 school year, there was a record low of four people killed in school shootings. This is compared to seventeen in the 1992-1993 school year. This is the result of a steady DECLINE in school shootings during the entire course of the last decade.

Now, you may say "What about the whole Columbine thing?" The statistics show that rather than being one of the manifestations of a growing problem in our country, the Columbine incident was actually the exception in a generally downward trend. "But we keep hearing about school shootings happening all over the country!" True. The media has only recently started publicizing school killings to the extent that we see now. In the past, most school shootings have taken place in inner-city and poverty stricken areas. Places which the media simply does not cover to the same extent. In recent years, these types of school shootings have been on the decline. In their place, and to a much lesser degree, we've seen an increase in shootings in white, suburban, middle class neighborhoods — just the audience our modern day mass media caters to.

So, from our point of view, there has been a sudden surge in violence, while the facts argue to the contrary.

Note: All claims made in this article are made after careful research on both statistics and individual incidents. Frich has made several of the studies used, including the The National School Safety Center's Report on School Associated Violent Deaths, which includes specific information on all known school killings, available on it's webpage at:

[<http://frich.flatirons.org/statistics.html>](http://frich.flatirons.org/statistics.html)

π Paul Revere π

Don't Let Hitler Win

Do you remember where you were when you heard about Columbine? I do. I had just come home, turned on the TV, and all I saw was news, pictures of some suburban high school. Then the phone started ringing - relative after relative called to confirm that I did not, in fact, go to Columbine High School. Flipping back to the news, I figured out about the shooting, but I didn't care - how could this affect me?

The next day, a melancholy fog was over Niwot. I got evil looks for telling jokes, everyone was quiet. It was like an airport - people would be about to say "bomb" or "gun" and they'd stop themselves in mid syllable. Columbine was on the cover of Newsweek that week, and the next, and the next. Things were different.

And then it dawned on me - these people had changed my school overnight. My friends and I would talk, and we figured that if those two had any agenda, they hadn't succeeded in it. That's when we started calling Harris and Klebold, "The idiots."

I remember a quote, "The Nazis want to take on the world, write themselves into the history books." I realize now that "the idiots" weren't really that stupid. They were trying to make their mark on us, and they've succeeded beyond their wildest dreams.

There was a saying after World War II, "Don't let Hitler win." By which they meant that even though Hitler was dead, he would still win if he made us question the essential good nature of humanity. I extend this to the killers who chose his birthday to strike. Don't let them win.

Let the administrators install their metal detectors and call their "code blue" drills, we know who sets the tone in this school - the students. If we chose to not fear our fellow students, if we are not afraid to speak openly, if we realize that someone who makes explosives from orange juice concentrate and bleach is a genius and not a threat, then we will have truly survived, not just with our bodies intact, but with our souls as well.

Don't let Hitler win.

π Ben Franklin π

Top Ten Ways You Are More Likely to Die Than in a School Shooting

Note: The following is not a joke. Each is backed by statistical evidence.

1. Killed in a shark attack.
2. Killed by a pig.
3. Die in such an utterly stupid way that you are immortalized as a Darwin Award winner. (See www.darwinawards.com)
4. Rubbed out by the mob.
5. As a minor, you are 150 times more likely to be murdered outside of school than in school. That's fifteen thousand percent more likely.
6. You are 40 times more likely to die in a workplace shooting than in a school shooting.
7. You are 20 times more likely to accidentally shoot yourself.
8. 200 times more likely to be shot by the police.
9. You are more likely to die on your way to school (to be shot) than you are to be involved in a school shooting.
10. Sadly, you are more likely to put a gun to your own head when you get home than you are to be shot at school.

What the Hell Happened?

WTF has happened to society? We linger on things that have happened years ago and we don't see what is in front of our faces. For an analogy we discuss Columbine. What happened at Columbine was, in my opinion, stupid and expected. Those two guys who decided that they needed to kill those students had a reason. Now, I do not sponsor killing people to relieve your troubles, but the people who did die had it coming in the eyes of Harris and Klebold. What I saw as it was happening and especially after it happened told me why it happened. They were tried of being made fun of and ostracized from the social group. They had to let people know that they were tried and it came out as killing them. What we linger on is that the guy in the black trench coat or the "gothic" guy has a gun and is going to kill us, what is in front of our faces is that we bring doom upon ourselves through our own arrogance and inability to accept differences in anything. Had someone else just of been nice or talked to them as a person rather than a snob of higher rank, this may have never of happened. Welcome to the real world, life is not fair and what goes around **does** come around. When you make fun of someone you can hide behind a social façade thinking that you are better than the other person, but when they have a gun to your head there is nothing to hide behind or plead with. Society has gotten this idea that we can do whatever we want and there are no repercussions, well, look at what happened at Columbine, do you still think that you are free to cast slander and throw people under the bus for your personal gains? Take a hint, people do not like to be thrown out and tucked away never to be seen again. People do not like to be made fun of endlessly just because they are different than what you believe is "perfect" or "part of your group". I have sympathy for these people who are picked on, because I'm one of them and I know what it feels like to be thrown out just because I'm different. I will not deny I have truly wanted to kill a particular group of about ten people. I know what goes on in these minds; I have lived in my mind for the better part of six years. And, every day I see what happens around me and feel as if there is no future for our society and no hope for any of the future generations. Please understand that your only hurting yourselves when you throw a person away, they will come back at you and with the vengeance of every person who has ever done what you have done. Be wary, we exist and we are not going away, no matter how far you throw us, we will be back and we will bring backup just to show what you gave us, a vendetta.

π Lord Azreil π

The Reality of It All

Negative energy. That's the answer to all the school shootings, and all the other horrible things in this world. Since energy cannot be created or destroyed, this negative energy has always been here, just perceived in a different way. Hitler, himself, was full of it and passed it through out Europe and most of the world. Today we, in America, seem to be Hitler free, but that doesn't mean that there is not any negative energy. Let's take little ol' Niwot High for an example. How many of us label others by just their appearance and not by who they really are? Here at Niwot we tend to live by the saying, "What you see is what you get." Niwot's population sees you only for what their first judgment of you is and that is not a very positive to one's life, now is it.

The model situation for a school shooting to happen basically says that Niwot is pretty much overdue for one. But don't worry. It's not me who's going to do it, nor is it very likely to be one of my friends. We have a life and honestly don't care about what the majority of the school thinks of us. Nor is it very likely for it to be a person with any one of these labels: skater, goth, or any of those who enjoy wearing a trench coat. Because a lot of those people now have a place to voice their opinion, this pa-

per, and this has made them a less of a threat than they were before. No, it's more likely to be a person labeled as "prep." This prep is on the outer edge of the group and is never totally accepted as a true member of the clique. It is also most likely this "preppie" shooter will be a white male from a middle class family and has about a 3.5 GPA. This is because this person is more likely to be oppressed by his peers to "fit in," and his family to do better in school. He is experiencing enormous amounts of negativity and has no place to vent, because he has no real friends (and being of the male gender is less expected to vent his true feelings anyway). By not sharing all his frustrations with his life, he can never hope to at least cope. So what will he do with all this negative energy caged inside? One of two things: kill himself or lash back at the world. Both will be a tragedy, both could be avoided, but things are unlikely to change in this school because we are all too naïve. If we all could realize that there is more to a person than we will ever know and learn the art of true kindness is "loving people more than they deserve" then there might be hope. Until then, it's just my desire.

π Anthony Barton π

Extended Victims of Columbine

"Where Were You?"

Two years ago on the stoner holiday of April 20th, a gunshot echoed through the hallway of Columbine High School. Now, two years later, people think of this day not as the best excuse to get stoned all day, but as the anniversary of an event that will be something our children ask us as we asked ours, "Where were you when Kennedy was shot?" For our generation it's "Where were you when Columbine happened?" Most of us were at school moving around the halls, oblivious to everything.

Now, I can understand that this might be a little farfetched with all the school shooting that are occurring at an alarming rate. Yet, Columbine was an event that caused grandparents, aunts, uncles, and all the out of state relatives to call asking, "I've saw the news, That not your school it is?" Colorado teens are now either seen as survivors or villains to the rest of the world. Those who say they knew victims or don't wear those "damn trench coats" are survivors of the tragedy. Then there are those who wear/wore those coats and shed them every April 20th as a sign of respect; those students who feared violence from their peers because of their clothes. Those students who stood up and said "It's not the clothing

someone wears, it's the person inside it!" These are the extended victims of the Columbine tragedy. These students had their parents blaming them for the violence because of the coat. These are the students who had rumors spread about them. These are the scapegoats of Columbine, the so-called "gothic" ones.

This scapegoating and stereotyping are uncalled for. Just because someone wears a black trench coat doesn't mean that they're violent, or even that they have the potential to be. I myself was an extended victim of Columbine. I wore the coat at the time, and my mother gave me the death look when the T.V. said, "The perpetrators were described as wearing black trench coats." I was a "goth" type with a vow of non-violence. I still abhor the idea of using violence to solve a problem. The strange thing is, the perpetrators, Harris and Klebold, weren't even a part of the "gothic" subculture. I know. I met one of them at my mother's business Christmas party.

Columbine is an event that is to be remembered with heartache for the lives lost, not anger towards an ar

ticle of clothing. So, this year when the clock strikes the hour when the first shot rang out in the hallway of Columbine, bow your head in silence for those who died, and remember the students in black, who nobody seems to talk to, who cried that night two years ago when their clothes made them hated across the country. Many of these people accepted the hatred and possible violence hoping that their sacrifice would save their friends. This was my solace in the aftermath of Columbine for it was the only thing I could do. "Take your hatred out on me, make your victim my head, you never believed in me, I am your tourniquet." – M.M.

π Cecilia Lisbon π

What to Bring to School

If you wanted to bring a gun to school, you could. If you wanted to bring drugs to school, you could. If you wanted to bring sidewalk chalk to school, you could do that too. All of these things are possible and some do happen (Very few people would bring sidewalk chalk). Drugs are bad for the individual, unless you share (Please do). Sidewalk chalk is only bad if you throw it at someone... or eat it. But, guns are bad in general (Not the hunk of metal, but the killing part). The consequences of bring these items to school and getting caught with them vary.

Drugs will get you expelled, and you will have to go home and get stoned all by yourself. Sidewalk chalk... can you really get in trouble for this? Guns, we hate to say this, but you may have to add a few people to your "list". Still on the gun thing, once you are done with your "business" the cops will take you away to the "Funny Farm" where they will lock you up and ask you psychological questions (That in the end will make you more messed up). So in conclusion, shooting people is bad and so is shooting up. Sidewalk chalk is the only safe way to deal with your "problems."

π Bubbles and King George IV π

The Disclaimer: In this issue, we have attempted to display many differing viewpoints on violence in schools. As always, each article is the opinion of the individual writer, and does not represent the opinion of Frich.

Back issues, submissions to, and information about Frich are available on the website:

<Frich.flatirons.org>.

A Plea to Baby Boomers

"It's almost as big as Kennedy's assassination," was the first thing my mother said to me the afternoon of April 20th. I was parked in front of the TV with nachos and a bag of popcorn when she stepped through the door that afternoon after work. I had spent the last two and a half hours alone watching the action unfold. By the time Mom came home shocked, I was annoyed the shootings monopolized every channel. People die every day. Why not at school? My few hours alone that afternoon colored my view of the Columbine shootings. TV anchors on NBC and ABC spewed possible motives like "depression" and "feeling isolated," which honestly seemed pretty logical. I was pretty sad and alone right then. I microwave myself a bag of popcorn, trying to keep myself busy long enough to avoid loneliness. I've gotten good at creating things to do. I've had plenty of practice.

Frustrated that both Maury Povich and Jerry Springer have been canceled for "special news reports," I pop Mortal Combat in my Super Nintendo. God, not even my 4th grade favorite, Power Rangers, is on. By my book, when school shootings happen a half dozen times a year they don't qualify as "special reports" anymore. Halfway through level 3 (and 12 homicides later), I pause my game to slip Greenday's "Dookie" into my CD player. The house is way too quiet with no one home. Track two, "Having a Blast," is my favorite. "No one's getting out alive. This time I've lost my mind and I don't care. So close your eyes and kiss yourself goodbye. And think about the times you've spent and what they've meant. To me it's nothing..." I sing along. I love Greenday. I microwave another bag of "Theater Style with EXTRA Butter" and a plate of nachos. It's then I replant myself on the couch where Mom will find me when she gets home from work. To my disappointment Columbine still has top billing.

"It's almost as big as Kennedy's assassination," my mother said as she slipped off her high heels after work. I shrugged. "School shootings are a new thing," she told me, "They didn't happen when I was a kid." Then she told me it made her sick. "How could someone so young be so isolated and depressed that this could happen?" my mother muttered.

"Dunno," I shrug. I have a game of Mortal Combat to finish.

π Sam(antha) Adams π