

On a sunny spring day in April 1999, a suburban high school in Jefferson County, Colorado, found itself under attack by two of its own. In less than fifteen minutes of the first-lunch period on that Tuesday, two student gunmen killed 13 and wounded 21 before they turned the guns on themselves – the most devastating school shooting in U.S. history.

The two student gunmen -were Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold.

(The sheriff's report on the rampage, at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado).

TEXT 1

Dr Carl Taylor

Youth Culture and Youth Violence

Defining youth culture may vary. For my studies, we talk about youth culture as consisting of young people from the ages of seven to 23. Different scholars will give different definitions, but I will tell you this: What is very consistent is that youth culture is global. Some have thought that youth violence was confined to certain communities. They felt clear-minded that violence would not take place "in my backyard." Clearly, we see now by the tragedy of Littleton, Colorado, that youth violence penetrates rural, urban and suburban communities.

I need not point out that the family is not easily equipped today to battle what is taking place in a global context. So when we talk about youth culture, it is very difficult to separate youth culture from youth violence because of videos. For those of you who have not looked, you should look. You should look at the research, but you should also turn on MTV. I had a very disturbing conversation last week with an executive at MTV about its responsibility.

They were declaring that they weren't encouraging violence, and yet there is a normalization of violence in our society and it is carried through the media. So when you start talking about stopping young people from being violent or influenced from violence, you have to look at the entertainment industry. You have to look at the video games, you have to look at the music. And yet I would be very much off road if I said that if we did away with the entertainment industry we would solve our problems. It's just not that simple, but unfortunately many Americans want it to be that simple. They think if we remove the video games and the music, we wouldn't have anymore problems. Not so!

TEXT 2

William F. Jasper

Lessons From Columbine High

It is unquestionably true that for the past three decades access to all types of firearms has been getting not easier, but more and more difficult. It is an irrefutable fact that no amount of spin by Rosie O'Donnell¹, Hillary², or HCI³ can change. Allow me to illustrate this vitally important point from personal experience. Like tens of millions of American youngsters growing up in the 1950s and '60s, this writer (along with my five brothers and five sisters) had easy access to firearms. My father, a World War II veteran and avid hunter, had several rifles, shotguns, and pistols. This "arsenal", together with hundreds of rounds of ammunition, was stored in a closet without any trigger locks. The same was true in the homes of most of my neighborhood friends. This was normal not only in rural communities, but throughout much of urban and suburban America as well. As young children, we were taught not to touch these weapons except under adult supervision. When we did handle firearms, safety was a prime concern.

Like most boys, my brothers and I had an interest in (not an "obsession" with) guns and looked forward to the times when we could go target shooting and hunting.

Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold were not products of the "gun culture"; they were the twisted products of the nihilist-hedonist-narcissist death culture that has been foisted on our society by the liberal soul mates of Rosie O'Donnell and the Clintons. It was not the cowboy gun culture of the wild west or "right-wing, religious bigotry" that produced the cold-blooded killers who calmly strolled through the halls of Columbine High joking, laughing, and cackling as they methodically slaughtered their fellow students, indifferent to their pleas and screams.

1) *Rosie O'Donnell*, a liberal comedienne.

2) *Hillary*, Hillary Clinton, married to former president Bill Clinton.

3) *HCI*, Handgun Control Inc.

30 The young killers were immersed in a grotesque youth subculture that has been promoted, nurtured, praised, and defended by the self-anointed arbiters of today's decadent fashion and culture. They are the products of the self-indulgent, pagan gospel of "sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll". Harris and Klebold were devotees of the
35 hideous, Satanic "Goth rocker"⁴ Marilyn Manson (a stage pseudonym meant to pay homage to Marilyn Monroe⁵ and Charles Manson⁶), an androgynous creature who works at being as repulsive as possible (and succeeds wildly!), and who is a self-proclaimed, ordained "minister" in the Church of Satan. His "music"
40 revels in nihilistic rebellion, rage, alienation, death, and despair. His "Anti-Christ Superstar" rock tour was banned in some cities. According to this "star" entertainer, "America needs that Antichrist figure, that anti-hero to save these kids from the oppression of right wing morality." Tell that to the kids who
45 watched their classmates murdered by Manson's anti-hero followers Harris and Klebold.

4) *Goth rock*, a dark and gloomy kind of rock music.

5) *Marilyn Monroe*, a famous American actress.

6) *Charles Manson*, a charismatic psychopathic killer.

TEXT 3

*Marilyn Manson***Columbine: Whose Fault Is It?**

It is sad to think that the first few people on earth needed no books, movies, games or music to inspire cold-blooded murder. The day that Cain bashed his brother Abel's brains in, the only motivation he needed was his own human disposition to violence. 5 Whether you interpret the Bible as literature or as the final word of whatever God may be, Christianity has given us an image of death and sexuality that we have based our culture around. A half-naked dead man hangs in most homes and around our necks, and we have just taken that for granted all our lives. Is it a symbol of 10 hope or hopelessness? The world's most famous murder-suicide was also the birth of the death icon – the blueprint for celebrity. Unfortunately, for all of their inspiring morality, nowhere in the Gospels is intelligence praised as a virtue.

A lot of people forget or never realize that I started my band as 15 a criticism of these very issues of despair and hypocrisy. The name Marilyn Manson has never celebrated the sad fact that America puts killers on the cover of *Time* magazine, giving them as much notoriety as our favorite movie stars. From Jesse James to Charles Manson, the media, since their inception, have turned 20 criminals into folk heroes. They just created two new ones when they plastered those dipshits Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris' pictures on the front of every newspaper. Don't be surprised if every kid who gets pushed around has two new idols.

Man's greatest fear is chaos. It was unthinkable that these kids 25 did not have a simple black-and-white reason for their actions. And so a scapegoat was needed. I remember hearing the initial reports from Littleton, that Harris and Klebold were wearing makeup and were dressed like Marilyn Manson, whom they obviously must worship, since they were dressed in black. Of course, 30 speculation snowballed into making me the poster boy for everything that is bad in the world.

These two idiots weren't wearing makeup, and they weren't dressed like me or like goths.

Responsible journalists have reported with less publicity that Harris and Klebold were not Marilyn Manson fans – that they even
35 disliked my music. Even if they were fans, that gives them no excuse, nor does it mean that music is to blame. If a kid is old enough to drive a car or buy a gun, isn't he old enough to be held personally responsible for what he does with his car or gun? Or if
40 he's a teenager, should someone else be blamed because he isn't as enlightened as an eighteen-year-old?

America loves to find an icon to hang its guilt on. But, admittedly, I have assumed the role of Antichrist; I am the Nineties' voice of individuality, and people tend to associate anyone who
45 looks and behaves differently with illegal or immoral activity. I wrote a song called "Lunchbox," and some journalists have interpreted it as a song about guns. Ironically, the song is about being picked on and fighting back with my Kiss lunch box, which I used as a weapon on the playground. In 1979, metal lunch boxes were
50 banned because they were considered dangerous weapons in the hands of delinquents. I also wrote a song called "Get Your Gunn." The title is spelled with two n's because the song was a reaction to the murder of Dr. David Gunn, who was killed in Florida by pro-life⁷ activists while I was living there. That was the ultimate
55 hypocrisy I witnessed growing up: that these people killed someone in the name of being "pro-life."

The somewhat positive messages of these songs are usually the ones that sensationalists misinterpret as promoting the very things I am decrying. Right now, everyone is thinking of how they
60 can prevent things like Littleton. How do you prevent AIDS, world war, depression, car crashes? We live in a free country, but with that freedom there is a burden of personal responsibility. Rather than teaching a child what is moral and immoral, right and wrong, we first and foremost can establish what the laws that
65 govern us are. You can always escape hell by not believing in it, but you cannot escape death and you cannot escape prison.

It is no wonder that kids are growing up more cynical; they have a lot of information in front of them. They can see that they are living in a world that's made of bullshit. In the past, there was
70 always the idea that you could turn and run and start something better. But now America has become one big mall, and because of

7) *pro-life*, an anti-abortion movement.

the Internet and all of the technology we have, there's nowhere to run.

I chose not to jump into the media frenzy and defend myself, though I was begged to be on every single TV show in existence. I didn't want to contribute to these fame-seeking journalists and opportunists looking to fill their churches or to get elected because of their self-righteous finger-pointing. They want to blame entertainment? Isn't religion the first real entertainment? People dress up in costumes, sing songs and dedicate themselves in eternal fandom. Everyone will agree that nothing was more entertaining than Clinton shooting off his prick and then his bombs in true political form. And the news – that's obvious. So is entertainment to blame?

I'm a controversial artist, one who dares to have an opinion and bothers to create music and videos that challenge people's ideas in a world that is watered-down and hollow. In my work I examine the America we live in, and I've always tried to show people that the devil we blame our atrocities on is really just each one of us. So don't expect the end of the world to come one day out of the blue – it's been happening every day for a long time.



Marilyn Manson

TEXT 4

*Marilyn Manson***GET YOUR GUNN**

Goddamn your righteous hand
 I eat innocent meat
 The housewife I will beat
 The prolife I will kill
 5 What you don't do I will
 I bash myself to sleep
 What you sow I will reap
 I scar myself you see
 I wish I wasn't me
 10 I am the little stick
 You stir me into shit
 I hate therefore I am
 Goddamn your righteous hand
 Goddamn, goddamn
 15 Goddamn, goddamn
 Pseudo-morals work real well
 On the talk shows for the weak
 But your selective judgements
 And goodguy badges
 20 Don't mean a fuck to me
 I throw a little fit
 I slit my teenage wrist
 The most that I can learn
 Is in records that you burn
 25 Get your gunn, get your gunn
 Get your gunn, get your gunn
 Pseudo-morals work real well
 On the talk shows for the weak
 But your selective judgements
 30 And goodguy badges
 Don't mean a fuck to me
 Tam the VHS
 Record me with your fist
 You want me to save the world

Section 1

35 I'm just a little girl
Pseudo-morals work real well
On the talk shows for the weak
But your selective judgements.
And goodguy badges
40 Don't mean a fuck to me
Get your gunn, get your gunn
Get your gunn, get your
Gunn
Get!