

Documentarian Michael Moore takes on gun-control

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Rider News
Movie Review

On the morning of April 20, 1999, the United States government executed its most devastating attack to date on Kosovo. But television cameras had a more frightening story to capture.

A story that hit closer to home. A story that instilled fear in people across America; a story of two outcasts taking vengeance against a school in Littleton, Colorado.

Forever resolving to supply what sells, news channels showed surveillance camera footage taken from inside the high school, interviews with students who survived the ordeal, and aired testimony from students witnessing the carnage live. Experts were quick to point the finger at possible influences causing the violence, and stations were even quicker to air these opinions, but who could answer why this (a story with a fraction of the bloodshed occurring Kosovo) story was thrown at us?

Enter filmmaker Michael Moore (*Roger & Me*) who, in his latest documentary called *Bowling for Columbine*, scours our nation and our neighbor to the north for answers concerning our nation's fear, love for firearms and lust for violence. Searching for these answers, Moore finds himself in contact with commoners and celebrities alike who have contributed to or have been affected by firearm casualties.

From a backstage interview with Marilyn Manson discussing the continual circle of fear and consumption

that has come to arguably brainwash the American people to a discussion with a producer of *Cops*, Moore looks to discover which medium fuels the more than 11 thousand deaths caused by firearms in the U.S. each year.

On a more personal level, Moore meets with faculty from an elementary school where the youngest account of a school shooting by a six-year-old took place and questions the father of a Columbine victim at a rally primarily protesting the National Rifle Association (NRA). Intentionally or not (as a later interview with NRA president Charlton Heston might suggest), the NRA was soon in cities near both locations holding rallies in support of the constitutional right to bear arms.

Moore has an uncanny sense of juxtaposing scenes to grasp the viewer's attention and invoke high degrees of emotion.

For example, after almost a minute of watching surveillance videos of the Columbine shootings Moore immediately cuts to Heston proudly declaring "From my cold dead hands!" as he raises a rifle in the Colorado Convention Center.

Such scenes may lead viewers to believe the obvious: that Moore is a typical Hollywood Democrat bent on putting down pro-gun Republicans. However, such theories are put aside within the first 15 minutes of the film, as Moore reflects on his gun-loving past and the fact that he is still a member of the NRA.



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Filmmaker Michael Moore, who spoke at Rider in 1999, touches a missile from Littleton, Colorado in *Bowling for Columbine*. The documentary can be seen in limited release at the Princeton Garden Theater on Nassau St.

Bowling for Columbine may seem one-sided at times because of its stand for gun control. However, there is no discounting the facts that reveal themselves throughout the film: homicide deaths in the U.S. total to over 11 times more than that of Germany, the United Kingdom, Australia, Japan, France, and Canada combined.

Excluding Japan, our one year military budget increase of \$48 billion is larger than any one country's entire military budget. Canada, a country with a similar gun to person ratio found in the U.S., has experienced less than one and a half percent of the homicide deaths America has.

Startling statistics such as these are the backbone of *Bowling for Columbine*

as the film, in its purest form, is not a piece of anti-gun propaganda but an effort to find out why, as a citizen of Canada put it: Americans' "first reaction is [to] pull the gun out."

From the first scene where he visits a bank that distributes free guns to specified account holders, to his interview with Heston, who hints at America's diversity being the cause of violence and soon walks away as Moore shows him the picture of the six-year-old girl killed mere days before his pro-gun rally, Moore delivers both humor and sorrow only found in the context of real life.

Bowling for Columbine is a journey through the heartland and down those dark alleys of American pride designed by a constitutional right.

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Narrow opening
- 5 Doe's mate
- 9 Military muddle
- 14 Turner of Hollywood
- 15 Follow secretly
- 16 Sugar portions
- 17 That hurt!
- 18 "Paper Lion" star Alan
- 19 Bewildered
- 20 Pathfinders
- 23 "___ la vista, baby!"
- 24 Cast a spell upon
- 28 River of Pakistan
- 32 Playground ride
- 33 Mr. Ziegfeld
- 36 Blood passage
- 38 Cash in Como, formerly
- 39 Starting point
- 43 Spoken
- 44 Blooper
- 45 Incline one's head
- 46 Go over again
- 49 Plucky courage
- 51 Extreme
- 53 Make merry
- 57 Devices for tailors
- 61 Mary's flock
- 64 Small arrow
- 65 Dang!
- 66 Wisdom unit?
- 67 Moreover
- 68 Comfort
- 69 Cheer up
- 70 McNally play, with "The"
- 71 Wood and nil

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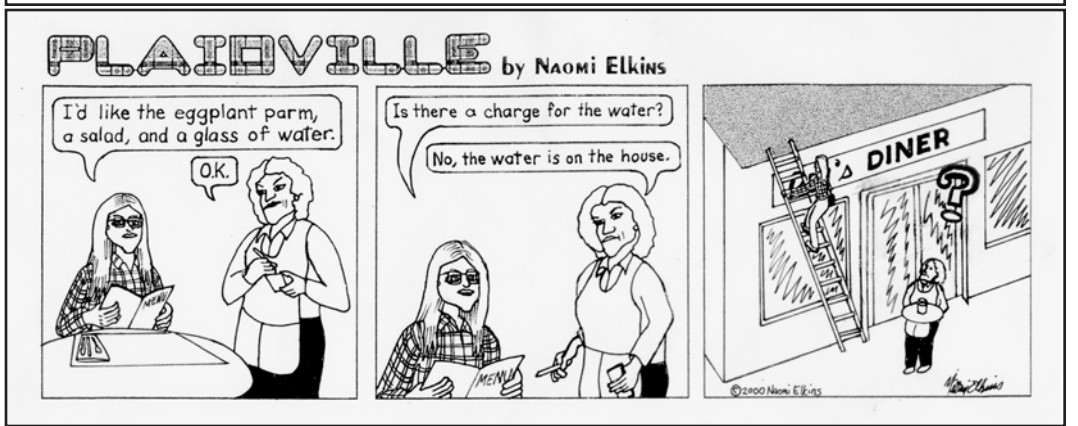
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Solutions

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S	E	B	O	C	T	I	V	L	V	N	V	T	
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DOWN

- 1 Arboreal mammal
- 2 Preminger film
- 3 Old Peruvians
- 4 Gauguin location
- 5 Wild try
- 6 Statuesque
- 7 Opera set in Egypt
- 8 Thin, shiny coating
- 9 Rare
- 10 Almond housing
- 11 Tummy muscles
- 12 Service charge
- 13 Dos Passos work
- 21 Hawaiian veranda
- 22 USNA grad
- 25 Man from Manchuria
- 26 Stupor: pref.
- 27 Twill weave
- 29 Ameche or Johnson
- 30 Exhort
- 31 Violent outburst
- 33 Norwegian inlet
- 34 Decoy
- 35 WWII beach
- 37 Frizzy do
- 40 Defeats decisively
- 41 4th network
- 42 Uses a crowbar
- 47 Major commodity
- 48 Cool or groovy
- 50 Dodged
- 52 Fragrant conifer
- 54 Deck in finery
- 55 Toy with
- 56 Photorealist painter
- 58 Timbuktu's
- country
- 59 Before, before
- 60 All-inclusive breadth
- 61 Health haven
- 62 Skirt border
- 63 Water of France



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The Rider News staff would like to wish all of Rider's students a safe and happy Halloween!