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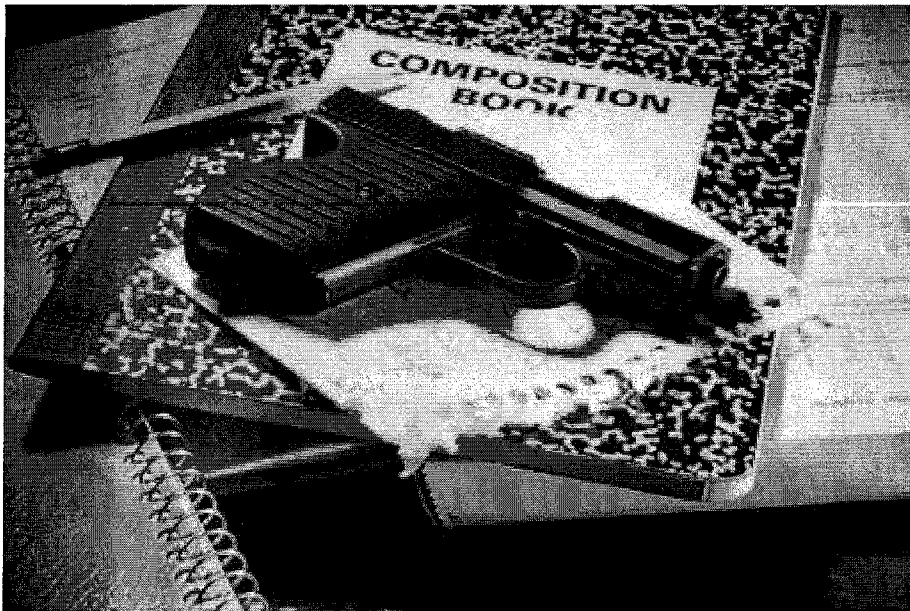
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education

'School Shooter' Video Game to Reenact Columbine, Virginia Tech Killings

By: Kayla Webley

Topics: Checkerboarded Studios, Columbine High School, Dylan Klebold, education, Eric Harris, first-person shooter games, Half-Life 2, Northern Illinois University, School Shooter: North American Tour 2012, Seung-Hui Cho, Virginia Tech



Gary Buss/Getty

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Who exactly thought this was a good idea?

In the yet-to-be-released *School Shooter: North American Tour 2012*, players can reenact school shooting tragedies at Columbine, Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University, among other locations. The goal? "Become the best school shooter, ever," according to the developer's [website](#).

(More on TIME.com: [See a brief history of video-game violence](#))

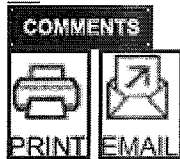
To make the game even more realistic, players can choose to arm themselves with the same weapons used by real-life killers, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, who murdered 12 students and one teacher at Columbine High School in 1999, or Seung-Hui Cho, who killed 32 people at Virginia Tech in 2007. At the end of each level, the player has the option to commit suicide before being captured by law enforcement officials. The developers promise, "[It will be] the most realistic student slaughtering modification (game) ever made."

The game, developed by Checkerboarded Studios, is a modification to an already popular first-person shooter game called *Half-Life 2*. While many first-person shooter games, including *Half-Life 2*, have come under fire for being too violent, a noticeable difference is that in those games players shoot (often armed) "bad guys" and not defenseless students and teachers.

The game has unsurprisingly [garnered public outrage](#), including a bill in the works in the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives that aims to prevent its release. But if previous encounters with overly violent video games have been any measure of what will happen in this case, it's likely little will be done to stop this atrociously realistic and violent game from being released.

(More on TIME.com: [See pictures of evidence of the Columbine shooting](#))

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Sarah

Speaking as a student of Virginia Tech, I find this totally offensive and utterly SICK that anyone would even come up with this idea. To glorify these horrible tragedies takes gruesome video games. I think the developers of this video game need to be stopped immediately!

[2 months ago](#) 32 Likes

[Like](#)



someone

then dont play it, it may be sick but they have a right to do it

[1 month ago](#) [in reply to Sarah](#) 18 Likes

[Like](#)



Sarah

I lost a close friend in the shooting. I'm sorry but if someone made a video game that justifies the actions of these shootings I think they should be stopped. You should also probably get a hobby that doesn't allow you to spend endless hours playing awful video games.

[1 month ago](#) [in reply to someone](#) 16 Likes

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Yerdumb

So what? Americans made video games killing innocent people living in the Middle East and North Korea. I don't see the difference here. If games that are already on the market are about killing people living in other countries, why should this game be censored or banned? All games should be treated equally.

[1 month ago](#) [in reply to Sarah](#) 18 Likes

[Like](#)



Problem

Excuse me, miss, please get off your high horse. You're a nobody on the internet, you do not have any say in what hobbies people should or should not enjoy. Deal with it.

[1 month ago](#) [in reply to Sarah](#) 4 Likes

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gamesrgames

Hey WHY-SO-SERIOUS, you are blind. Just because you do your same morning routine and get your triple latte at starbucks before you go to your lame job doesn't mean HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS of INNOCENT CIVILIANS, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN, aren't being BRUTALLY MURDERED overseas in this so-called WAR ON TERRORISM?! Wake up! Just because they are muslim, brown, and live in sand huts does not mean they are any different from you and me, they are HUMAN BEINGS TOO. Want proof? Check wikileaks. I laugh at the amount of corruption that goes on daily in your life that you turn your head to but come on here to bitch about a stupid video game that noone is going to play. Seriously Half-Life mods are sooo 2004.

Look at Call of Duty, there is a scene in there where you are a Russian blasting through an airport with hundreds of innocent people.

[1 month ago](#) [in reply to Sarah](#) 1 Like

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WHY-SO-SERIOUS

Geuss what Yerdumb? You can go suck it. This is a disgusting game that kills INNOCENT people. Other games that America made details a bad guy, not

innocent school students. Games that show americans killing bad guys over in asia is real but it's also a propoganda to inhance the countries spirit

[1 month ago](#) [in reply to Sarah](#) 1 Like

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A Random Person You Don't Know

Exactly like he said, Americans are like rednecks, they'll do anything and just let it happen, You just have to go with it, Just dont play the game, and hell.. Id like to play it, I have a VERY long history with people at school, so yeah, JUST DONT PLAY IT IF YOU DONT LIKE IT

[1 month ago](#) [in reply to Sarah](#)

Like



hwoodude

"...THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO DO IT?"

If your friends or family members had been brutally and publicly massacred would you want this "event" made into a profit making video game?

You probably wouldn't mind if you got a percentage of the profits, right?
That would include T-shirts and stickers , of course!

Plus, if you had kids that purchsed the game you wouldn't have to worry where they were or what they were doing, right? They'd be having soooooo much fun playing the game they wouldn't have time to get in trouble?

Right?

If you need to play "games" involving killing, violence, carnage and mayhem to have "fun" ...you need help.

[1 month ago](#) [in reply to someone](#) 9 Likes

Like



Tea Partiers are Nazis

They still have the RIGHT to do it.

[1 month ago](#) [in reply to hwoodude](#) 8 Likes

Like



John K.

Go write a blog about it.

[1 month ago](#) [in reply to hwoodude](#)

Like



Jdowg1

You are an example, and a bad one, of the kind of people we do not need in our society, I do not hate anyone in this world but I hope something happens to change your perspective of whats right and wrong, because you sir are wrong. This game is a shameful disgusting piece of work and should be stopped.

[1 month ago](#) [in reply to someone](#) 7 Likes

[Like](#)



Problem

Hahahaha oh man. Who are you to say what is "right" and "wrong?" Both of those are subjective, you pleb.

[1 month ago](#) [in reply to Jdowg1](#) 4 Likes

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Will

I've always been against censorship in many, many forms, but this is one case where enough is enough. As a future educator, I am shocked and deeply saddened to hear that this "game" might be a reality. There are much more useful ways to channel kids' aggression - games that create this type of mindset have the potential to be very destructive and tragic.

[2 months ago](#) 21 Likes

[Like](#)



Brandon

Will: "I've always been against censorship in many, many forms, but this is one case where enough is enough."

And here we go again. Just like the Reichstag Fire, 9/11, or other such events, if you can just have an "incident" big-enough/reported-on-enough/control-the-circumstances-enough, people will HAVE to (just HAVE TO) break longstanding tradition and support things that one would normally be completely unthinkable -indeed, the degrading of our most cherished principles.

Will: "- games that create this type of mindset have the potential to be very destructive and tragic."

First a game, then holding certain opinions or ideas, will have to be regulated. Maybe we can have a whole new ABC agency responsible for ensuring proper thoughts and investigation of ThoughtCrime. Well, I'm sure it sounds outrageous now, but after a few "incidents", hand-tying regulations, and constant media bombardment, even people that have "always been against censorship in many, many forms" will just HAVE TO agree that "enough is enough".

And just guess what the end result of it is? Hhmmm? Thaaaaat's riiiiight:

The very things that they say they would NEVER use such laws or new powers for.. they use the law for that very thing. And the alleged "protection" you were hoping for -and traded your Liberty

for? That will be ignored, unless they can score some "press-points" with it.

Don't any of you here DARE fall for it. It's childish. We know better.

[2 months ago](#) [in reply to Will](#) 12 Likes

[Like](#)



Michael Ball

To all the people, both inside and outside of these comments, who are calling for this game to be cancelled or banned:

If you all weren't so busy raging mindlessly and instead actually went to Checkerboard Studio's website, you'd see that they are an "independent game studio that specializes in SATIRICAL Half-Life 2 modifications". This game is nothing but satire, and do you realize who they are satirizing? YOU, the people who actually believe that censorship is a legitimate solution to speech you find offensive. As evidenced by the recent SCOTUS ruling in favor of Westboro Baptist Church, free speech goes both ways regardless of how much that speech may offend.

Besides, one of their games is titled "Half-Mind 2: Raising the Derp". The word "derp" is a term most often associated with with the internet troll group known as 4chan. Not only is "School Shooter 2012" a work of satire, it is more likely than not simple trollbait. Unfortunately for you all, you fell for it.

[1 month ago](#) 12 Likes

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Anonymous

I value satire, and I would actually agree with others who have posted who say that this game shouldn't be banned by the government - I'm not sure it's constitutionally allowed. But really?? What kind of person says, "Let's satirize school shootings by making a game where you're the school shooter and get points for the number of people you kill! That would be funny!" And then who says, "Yeah, that's a good idea!" I think the creators of the game need to reflect on what kind of message this will send. To many, this will be a disgusting attempt at a humor, or simply and they will lose any reputation, whatever kind of reputation that may be. To a few, this will seem like a fun game...just see "tommy" and "Corey's" comments below. I also believe that games like this make people less sensitive to violence, and insensitivity to something like this could just encourage people to commit violent acts similar to those at Columbine and Virginia Tech. I'm not saying satire is a bad thing, and I'm not saying that this game should be banned (I would, however, be disgusted by anybody who bought it). I am saying that this is - as many people have already pointed out - sick, and that there are more effective ways to criticize shooting violence. But I mean, come on. Do you really think this is funny?

[1 month ago](#) [in reply to Michael Ball](#) 10 Likes

[Like](#)



Anonymouse

Satire isn't meant to be funny, sir. Have you read 1984? Brave New World? Catch-22?

[1 month ago](#) [in reply to Anonymous](#) 3 Likes

[Like](#)



NIURock

<http://kotaku.com/#!5772830/th...>

Satirical in terms of situation, not intent. Apparently it's already got screenshots up online. Time is just now discovering it.

[1 month ago](#) [in reply to Michael Ball](#)

[Like](#)



Enzo

Yes. But to do that we shouldnt have to create a video game. That is taking it over the limit. Killing all these innocent students is a way to honor and remember them? This is crossing the line. This is an example of how screwed up this world is.

[1 month ago](#) [in reply to Michael Ball](#)

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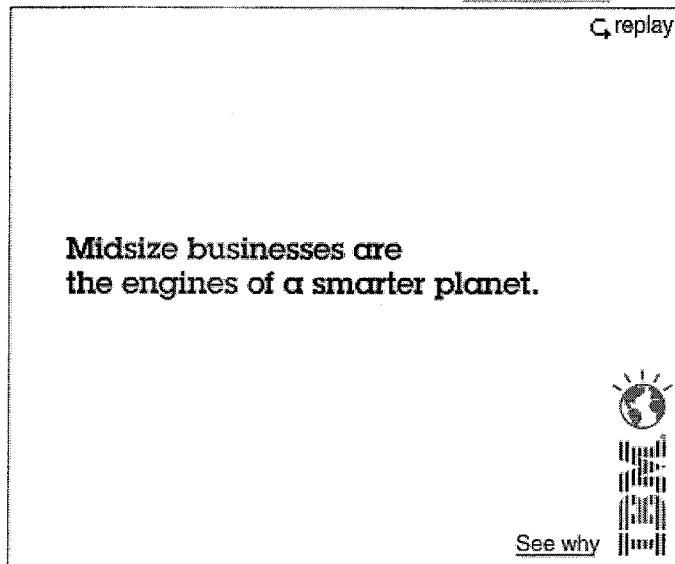
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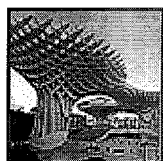
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