



# Horrors Made Visible

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Nearly all major Democratic elected officials publicly expressed their sorrow over the death of Charlie Kirk, who was assassinated on Wednesday. They condemned the shooting and declared that political violence has no place in a democracy.

But to anyone who's looked online at the cruel comments, jubilation, and sick jokes about the murder and about Mr. Kirk, the idea that Democrats are of one mind about the corrosiveness and injustice of killing ideological opponents just because you disagree with them falls to pieces. One popular thread included jokes of the sound the victim made after being shot in the neck, a lot of talk about Kirk's gun control opposition (and the "irony" of him being shot), and the like—but when I went back to look, the posts

had been taken down.

Thankfully (?), the UK's *Daily Mail* [collected](#) some of the most egregious:

One wrote: 'I don't know I think getting killed by your favorite thing in the world is sweet. It [is] a nice gesture.'

Others mocked Mr. Kirk's steadfast commitment to open debate and exchange of ideas: 'Why didn't Charlie Kirk just debate the bullet? he would have easily deflected.'

'Hollow Point USA,' said another, parodying the organization Kirk devoted his life to.

People have always been like this, I remind myself: partisan hatred and mockery are as old as politics. Yet, on the Internet folks too often don't even hesitate to shout their darkest thoughts as if they were gems of wit and righteousness. This leads to ... well, "Violence leads to more violence," as respectable Democrats said.

Too many activists and "influencers" seem heedless of the consequences of ideological brinksmanship, of taking the nastiness in their minds and spewing it to the masses.

It's horrific, but maybe we, as individuals in a culture at a perilous moment in history, should acknowledge what horrors *always* hide in the dark. Now made visible.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.