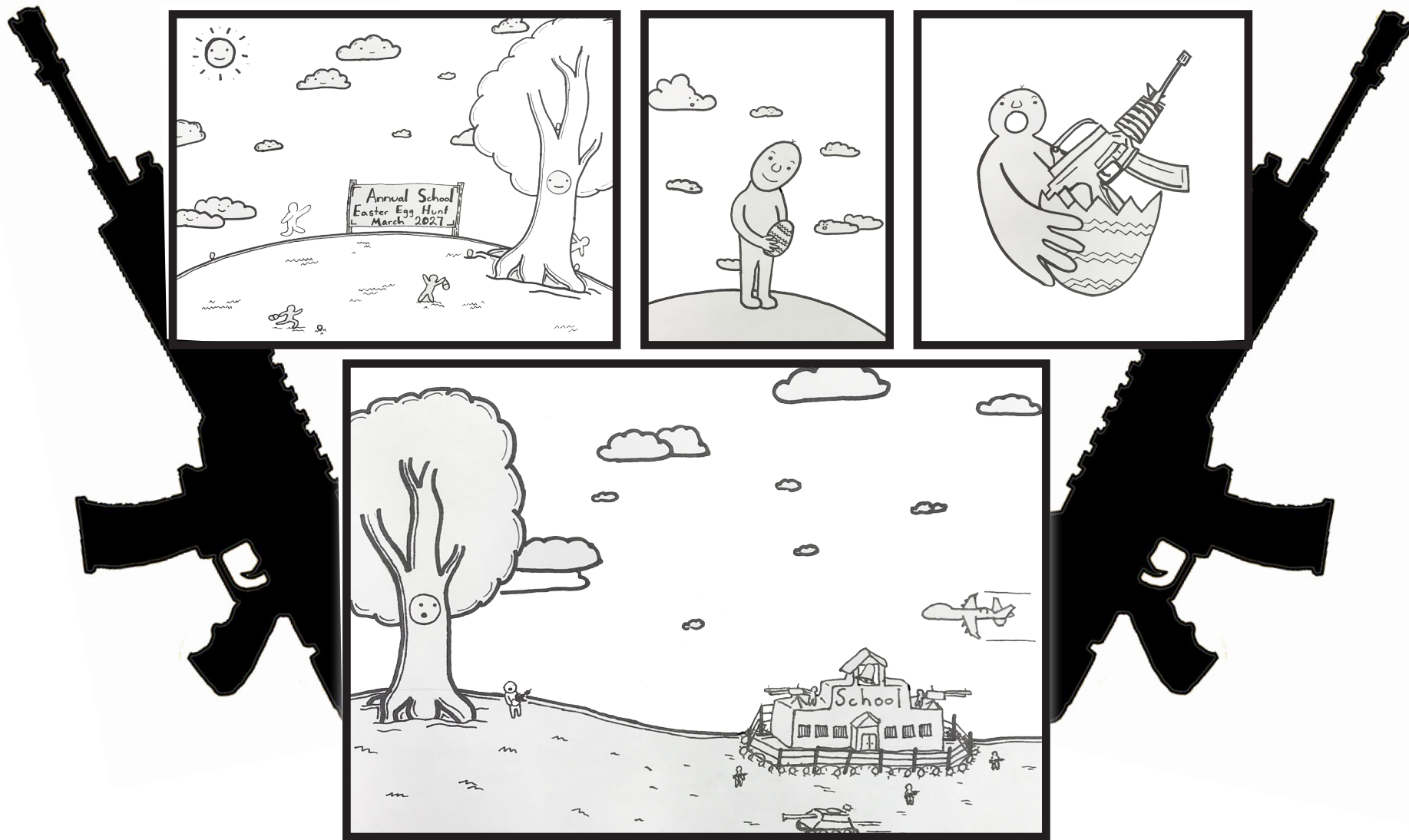


Shooting For the Truth

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In 2018, there has been an average of one school shooting a week, over 17 shootings in the country in March alone, two of which occurred in Mississippi. Though no one died in the two Mississippi shootings, the incidents show our state is in the same place as it was in 1997 when the Pearl High School shooting took place. Though the cartoon is an exaggerated joke, it depicts the arming of schools as a possible solution to prevent any more attacks. The pros of arming teachers may provide more protection from outside shooters, but the cons, the possibility of accidental shootings and nervous teachers distracted by a weapon in the room might be more alarming and detrimental. Would arming our classrooms make students, parents, and faculty feel safer?

Q & A with MR. BUCKLEY

- Q** • How have the increases in school shootings made you feel?

More saddened than anything, but I am more prone to sadness than anger.
- Q** • Are you satisfied with America's gun laws?

No. There seem to be a myriad of laws that should be considered that might improve the situation. For example, universal background checks, having all gun sales go through a national data bank, banning sales to selected groups – those on the terrorist watch list, those convicted of violent crime, etc., limiting the frequency of purchase, banning “assault style” guns, etc. I also believe that there are many facets to this problem, and such things as the proliferation of violence video games, violent television programming, increased funding for mental health, etc. should be considered as well.
- Q** • How do you feel about Trump's past proposal to train and arm teachers?

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- Q** • What do you see as pros and cons of arming teachers?

It seems that arming a very limited number of specially-trained school personnel might could be considered, but VERY limited. The great majority of teachers need to only concerned with the focus of their calling – teaching children. Increasing the number of guns in schools would only increase the likelihood of such guns getting into the wrong hands and being used for ill purposes.

Q & A with MS. PEREZ

- Q** • How have the increases in school shootings made you feel?

Unsafe and Worried
- Q** • Are you satisfied with America's gun laws?

As an European citizen, I don't understand the actual America's gun laws situation and I don't feel safe which I think should be the main goal for any government representatives on Earth: provide security to citizens first.
- Q** • How do you feel about Trump's past proposal to train and arm teachers?

Violence can't be fought with more violence, that's my opinion about the proposal.
- Q** • What do you see as pros and cons of arming teachers?

I only see cons, I believe schools should be always gun-free spaces.
- Q** • Would you want to have a weapon concealed nearby or carry it during school hours?

No, never.
- Q** • Do you feel safe at St. Andrew's?

Yes.
- Q** • How do you feel about the new school shooting “lockdowns” and plans that have been implemented?

I feel sad, I think they are necessary nowadays but I wish nobody would need to get trained for that instead. I think getting guns should be more restricted in general.

Q & A with MRS. DOUGLAS

- Q** • How have the increase in school shootings made you feel?

School shootings happen with such frequency that it doesn't even really surprise me anymore to see it on the front page of the news... These [attacks] could have been my students... but honestly, they are my students. When you're a teacher and dedicate your life to helping young people learn and grow, it doesn't matter if a student is enrolled at your school or another. You care for them as your own. I always think about the quote “They were all my sons” from All My Sons by Arthur Miller.
- Q** • How do you feel about Trump's past proposal to train and arm teachers?

My parents called me after it was first in the news and asked if I would quit if I were required to carry a gun. The answer is of course. As teachers, we go through training at least once a year on how to defend ourselves and our students if there were an armed shooter on campus. We spend a lot of time caring for you all and worrying over your safety. If there were a shooter on campus, it would likely be someone I know and care for... a student, a parent, or a fellow faculty member. How would I be able to go from spending so much time and energy caring for you and then point a gun at you and take your life? Can't do it.
- Q** • Do you feel safe at St. Andrew's?

I do.
- Q** • Do you have any ideas that would expand on the safety measures we already have?

Hire more counselors and take steps to drastically reduce the stress and anxiety levels of our students.