

# Intelligence Bulletin

## Evergreen High School Shooting

September 22, 2025

### Executive Summary

- On September 10, 2025, at approximately 12:30 p.m. local time, an individual carried out a mass shooting at Evergreen High School in Evergreen, Colorado, critically wounding two students.
  - The shooter died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.
- Media reporting has identified the shooter as Desmond Holly, a 16-year-old white male individual.
- Authorities stated that Holly was “radicalized by ‘some extremist network.’”
  - ICDE has identified that network as being linked to nihilistic violent extremism (NVE), which the Department of Justice describes as a network of individuals with shared “goals of destroying civilized society through the corruption and exploitation of vulnerable populations, which often include minors.”
- ICDE’s and Darksight Analytics’ analysis of the attacker’s digital footprint and targeted violence manifesto highlighted the following:
  - As with other recent school shooters, there is no clear ideological motivation that appears to have motivated Holly to carry out the attack. Fixation on mass shooter culture, specifically the Columbine glorification sect of the True Crime Community, is the key theme.
    - Unlike prior school shootings, which frequently leverage rifles and shotguns in the cultural script of Columbine, Holly used a revolver.
  - Across Holly’s content, strong elements of militant accelerationism and references to NVE are present.
  - Review of a TikTok account associated with Holly demonstrates connections to the NVE network known by the numerical designation 141.
  - Little is known about 141, though it represents one of the many tactical variations within NVE networks that advocates for “in real life” or IRL violence, such as beatings, stabbings, or mass attacks like school shootings.
- Holly represents a growing trend within targeted violence wherein individuals attack what appears to be a symbolic target with little to no specific ideological motivation for the attack nor the target selection. Attackers are still, overall, more likely to be driven by personal grievance with a specific target.

### Overview

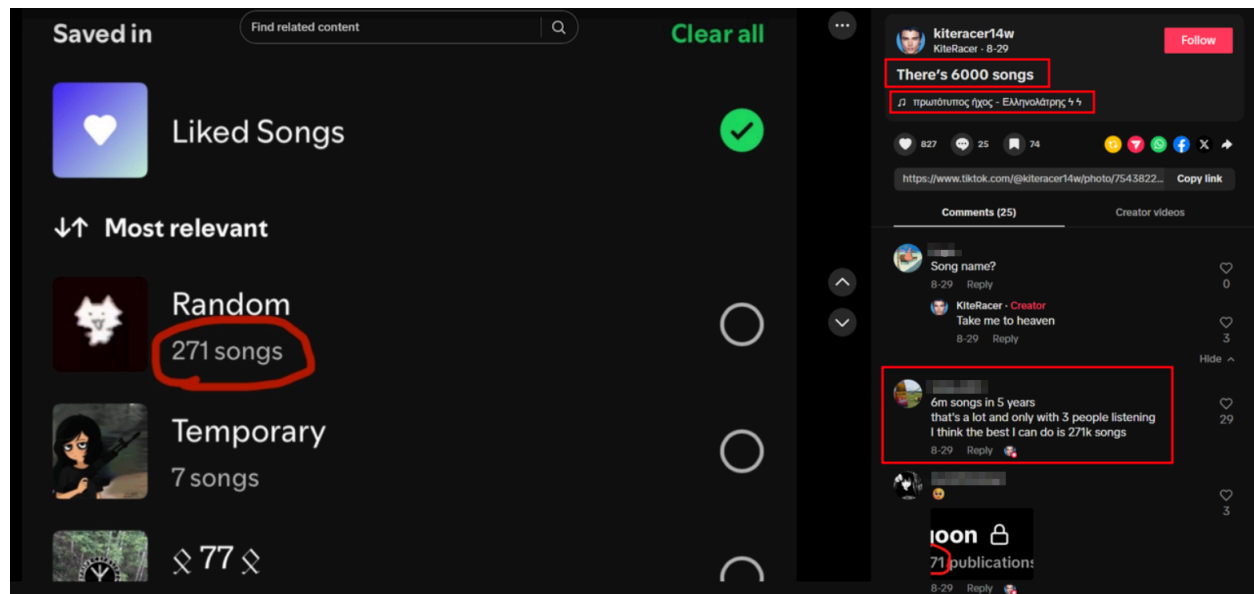
On Wednesday, September 10, 2025, 16-year-old Desmond Holly conducted a shooting at Evergreen High School in Evergreen, Colorado. The incident took place at approximately 12:30 p.m. local time and resulted in two students being critically injured. Holly died by suicide on scene. ICDE and Darksight Analytics will continue to analyze all identified content and additional details as authorities and media reporting makes available.

ICDE and Darksight Analytics have reviewed social media activity from multiple social media presences, including what is believed to have been the shooter’s TikTok account before the account was shut down. There does not appear to be a singular, coherent ideological framework within Holly’s digital footprint, though far-right and neofascist accelerationism are readily identifiable. It is from the TikTok

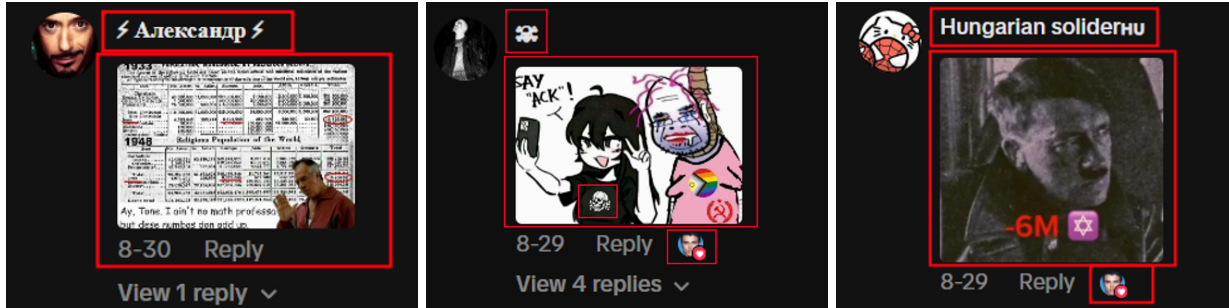
that connections to the 141 network within the nihilistic violent extremism (NVE) ecosystem were identified.

The most notable element present in the primary TikTok account of concern is references to “141,” a known NVE network that among other tactics prioritizes and promotes “in real life,” or IRL, terrorism. These actions are often a set of progressively violent activities that range from assault to arson to mass murder, such as school shootings.

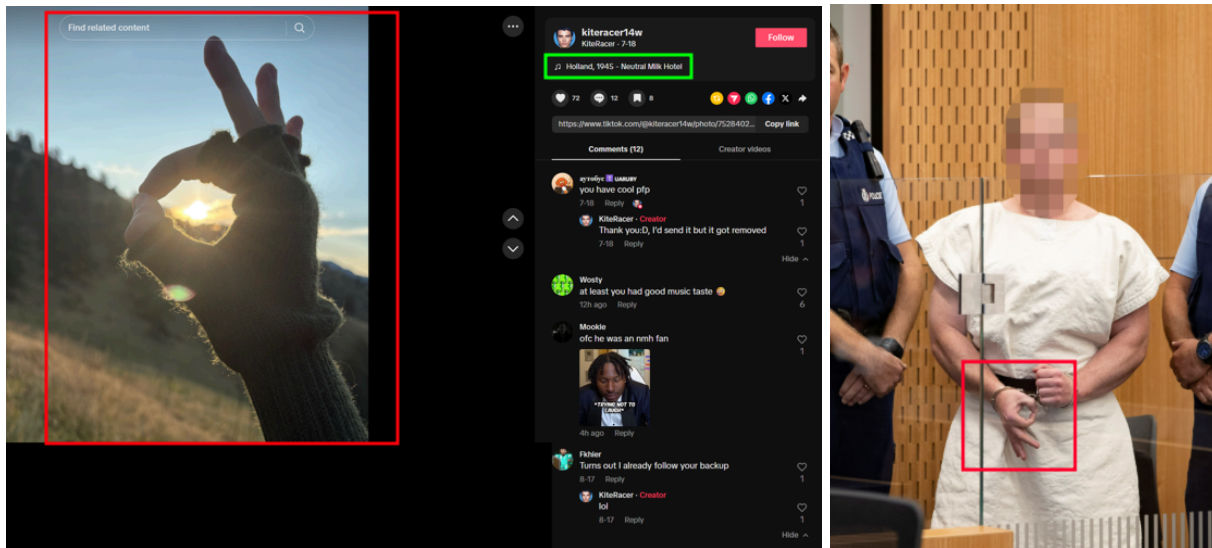
Additionally, ICDE noted a considerable volume of signals and indicators associated with neofascist accelerationism and general white supremacy within the social media accounts associated with Holly. For example, on August 29, 2025 (12 days prior to the attack), Holly posted content on TikTok that contained far-right extremist dog whistles such as strong indications of Holocaust denial:



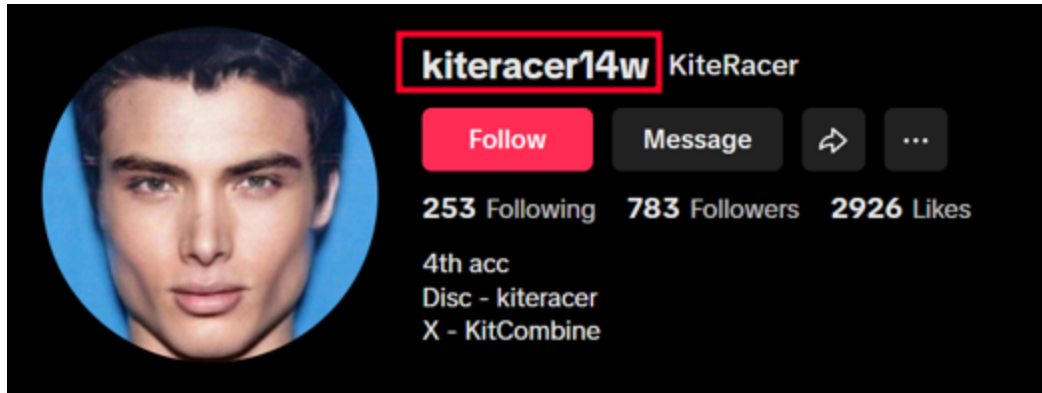
In the above post's text Holly wrote "There's 6000 songs" and the 'Random' playlist on the left is comprised of 271 songs. When both present, these references combine into the antisemitic conspiratorial claims that the number of Holocaust victims is vastly overstated and that the real number is closer to 271,000 victims. The below comments extracted from Holly's TikTok post provide further insights into his followers and their capacity to associate its intended implicit message with Holocaust denial and white supremacist worldviews, as evidenced by their continued affirmation of the post. Additionally, clear indications of neo-fascist accelerationist symbolism are evident in several usernames and choice of memes. In the first image, there is a meme featuring a census-style table, where an individual compares the Jewish population in Europe before and after the Second World War. This represents another antisemitic conspiratorial claim suggesting that the number of Holocaust victims has been overstated. In the second image, a female anime character with the far-right symbol of the totenkopf (a skull and crossbones favored by neo-Nazis) is posing for a selfie with an individual in a noose. The individual is portrayed negatively and as a transgender individual and a communist based on the logos superimposed over the shirt. And the third image displays an historic image of Adolf Hitler with the superimposed text "-6M" and the Star of David emoji—a stand-in for Jewish individuals or Judaism online. The clear implication of this meme being that the consensus of six million Jewish victims of the holocaust is untrue.



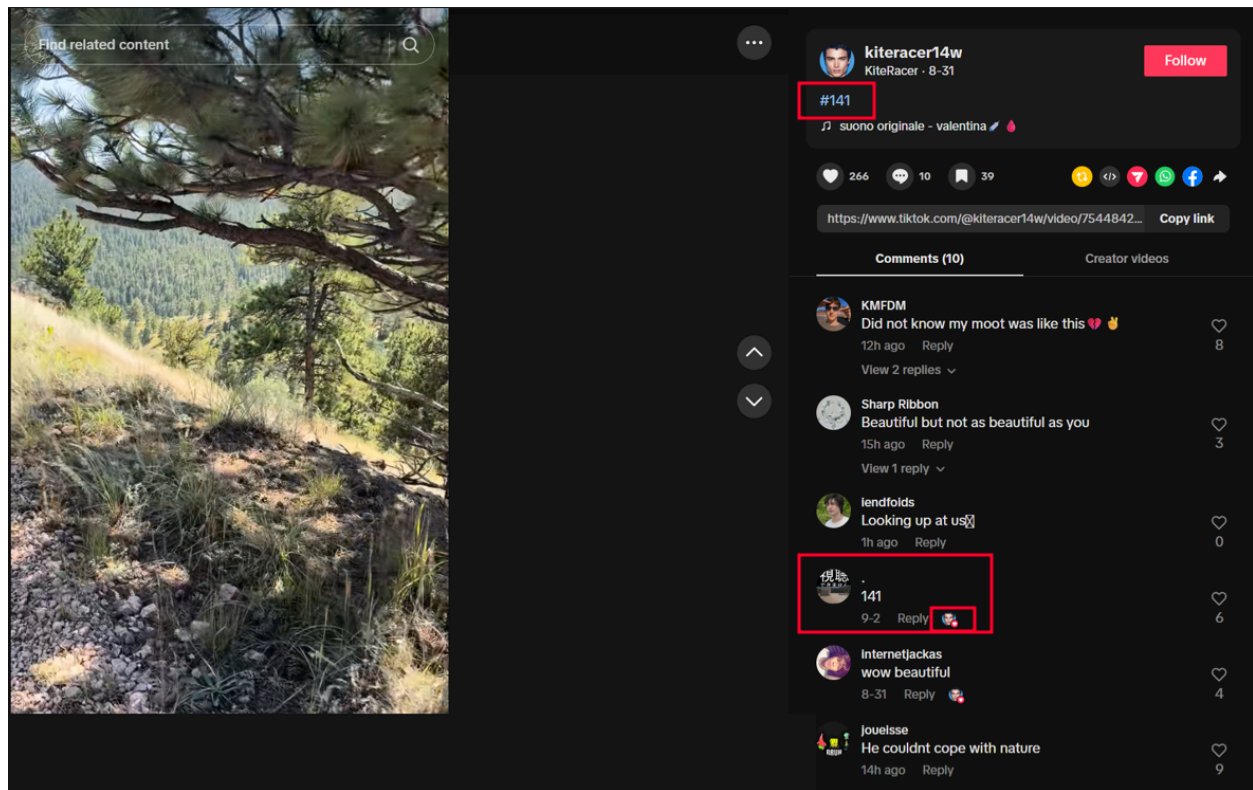
Furthermore, on July 18, 2025, Holly published a picture featuring the “OK” hand gesture, which serves as another indication of white supremacist sentiment. The gesture represents the letters “W” and “P”, an abbreviation of the white supremacist slogan “White Power.” Most notably, this hand sign was also used by Brenton Tarrant, the Christchurch terrorist, during his court appearance (see below picture on the right). Additionally, as can be seen in the green square, Holly references to the song “Holland, 1945” by Neutral Milk Hotel, which is a song about the Holocaust—particularly about the life and death of Anne Frank:



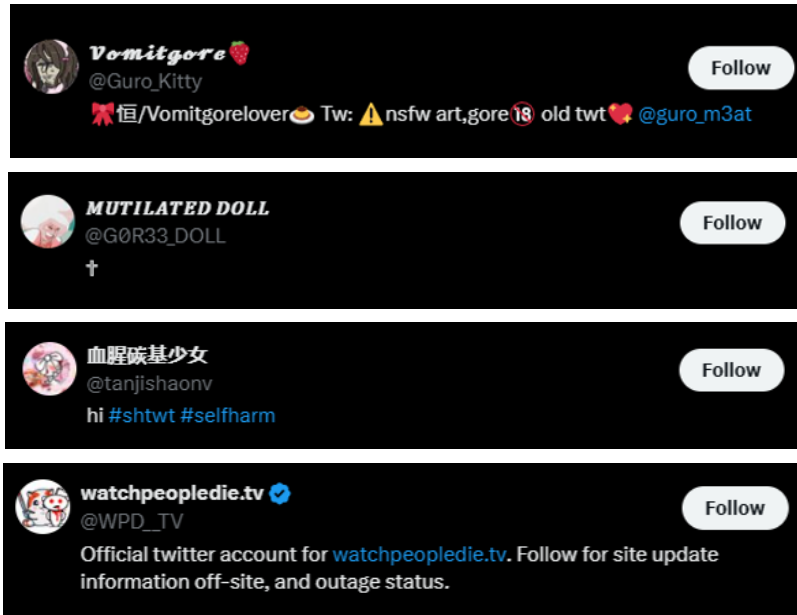
Another indication of far-right extremist affiliation is Holly's TikTok username - Kiteracer14w. The final part of his username, “14w”, likely refers to the well-known slogan, “the 14 words”, which stands for “we must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children,” and is widely used in far-right and neofascist accelerationist networks online. Additionally, Holly utilized Elliot Roger's mugshot as his profile picture, but the picture has been doctored with what appears to be the “Chad” filter, adding a more pronounced jaw line and less rounded cheeks. This type of alteration to images of known mass killers is a common tendency among highly online users engaged in glorification and radicalizing within the mass killer sub-sect of the True Crime Community (TCC).



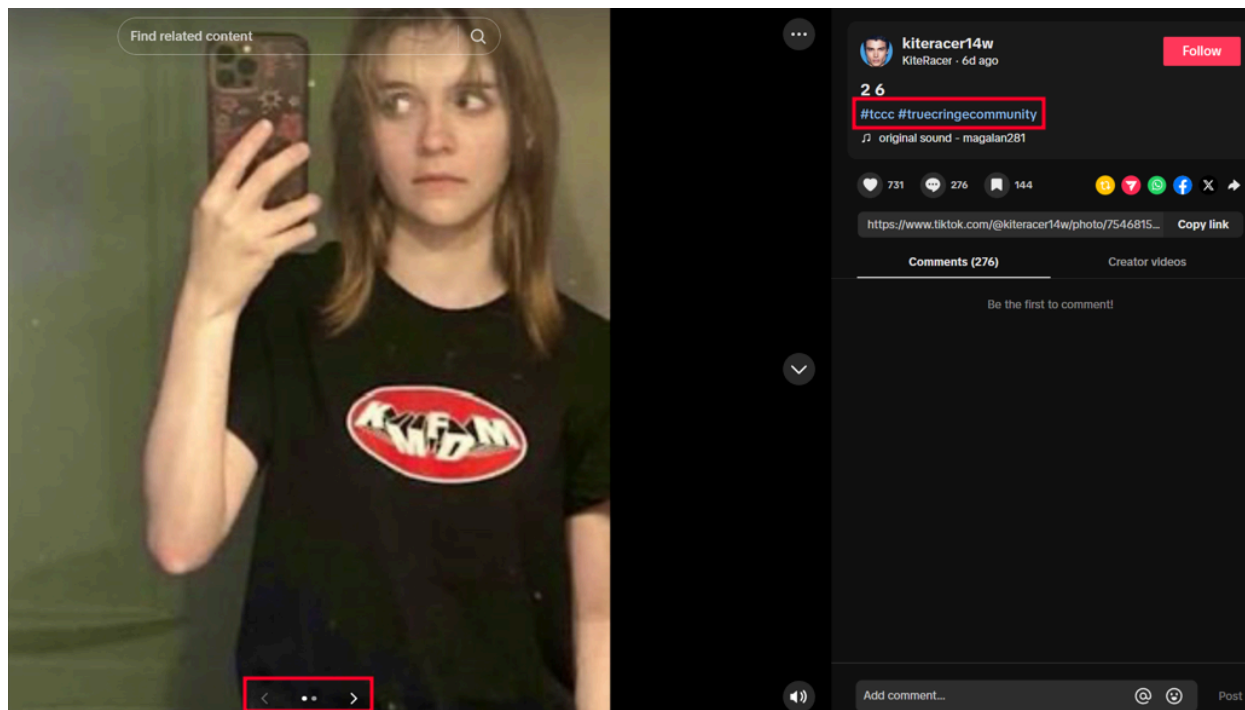
As outlined above, our investigation has identified that Holly is strongly associated with accelerationist symbolism while also displaying indications of group affiliation and interests in groups linked to NVE. On August 31, 2025, Holly posted a video showing a view over a mountain ridge on TikTok, accompanied by the hashtag “#141.” Another user reaffirmed the posts by commenting “141,” as can be seen below:



As can be seen in the above post, Holly may claim affiliation with the NVE group “141.” However, little is known about 141, though it represents one of the many NVE networks which advocate for “in real life” or IRL violence, such as beatings, stabbings, or mass attacks like school shootings. Additionally, our investigation into Holly’s online conduct on X has identified further indications of interests in NVE. For example, Holly follows accounts which has clear NVE connotations, such as profiles sharing self-harm, satanic symbolism, and gore material, as can be seen below:



Holly's online conduct reveals insights into his admiration of mass-killers who emerged from the NVE ecosystem, specifically school shooter Natalie Rupnow, who killed six at Abundant Life Christian School in Wisconsin in 2024. Holly posted a picture of Natalie Rupnow along with a picture of himself on TikTok with hashtags referring to the True Crime Community (TCC), as can be seen below:

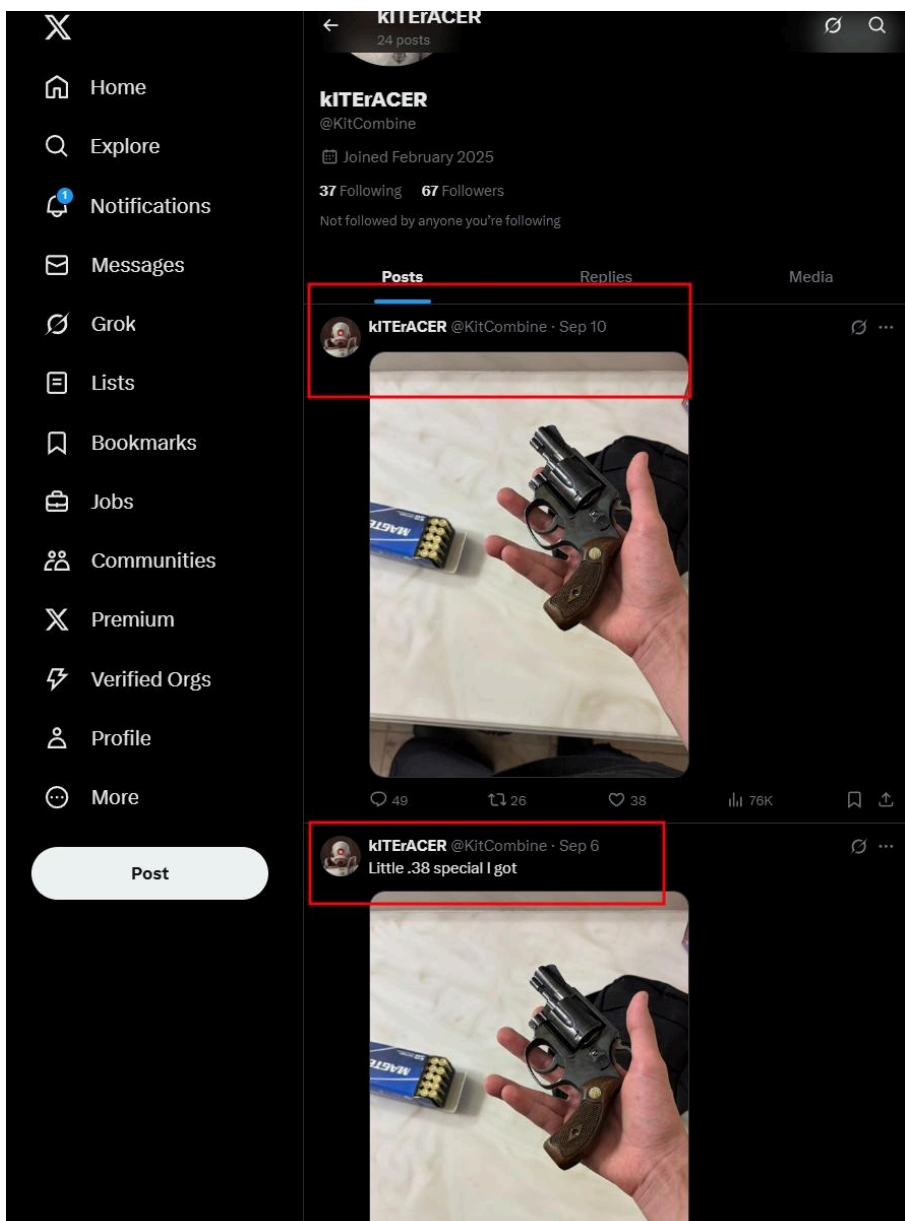


In a pattern that has become all too familiar with mass shooters and recent school shootings in the United States, Holly also posted selfies of himself partially recreating Rupnow's post. See images below.





Holly posted the following pictures on X featuring a revolver which is described as a “Little .38 special lite.” The first picture, bottom, was published on September 6, 2025, and the second, top, was published on the day of the attack September 10, 2025:



## Implications of Attacker's Profile

While there is a considerable amount of additional information and evidence to glean from Holly's confirmed social media accounts, the above data and evidence is sufficient to make a strong inference on his digital footprint. It is likely that Holly, similar to previous school shooting perpetrators Rupnow and Henderson, did not have explicit group affiliation, but was nonetheless associated with a known NVE network and had thorough knowledge of militant accelerationism and mass shooter cultures. The uptake of these cultural scripts suggest a growing trend line within the "kitchen sink" dynamic of individuals' radicalization to violence in a highly online manner: Instead of cherry picking elements of existing and established political ideologies, "kitchen sink" radicalization is best characterized by a throw everything into the mix approach to converting violent ideations and into violent actions.

Ultimately, Holly's attack, like many other recent NVE and militant accelerationist attackers, was likely more about satisfying a targeted audience than achieving a personal political goal. This stands in stark

contrast to other attackers such as Anders Breivik and Brenton Tarrant who had clear political ambitions, which can be easily identified in their associated online conduct and manifestos.