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News Item

The Buffalo shooting and the tangled roots of hate | Columbia Journalism Review

By Jon Allsop
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> Kat Massey was a visible figure in Buffalo, New York. A longtime civil rights advocate who was active in various local causes, she also contributed articles to the *Criterion* and the *Challenger*, two Black newspapers in the city, the latter of which was founded in 1963 to, in its own words, offer the African-American community "a real alternative to an otherwise negative and hostile White press." Massey wrote for the *Challenger* about issues including education and drugs. She also wrote about gun policy. A year ago this month, she sent a letter to the *Buffalo News* (something she did frequently) decrying "gut-wrenching" gun violence in the city and urging federal action, including a clampdown that would stop out-of-state gun trafficking.
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> On Saturday, a white gunman clad in combat gear drove for several hours to a Tops supermarket in a predominantly Black Buffalo neighborhood and opened fire, killing ten people—all of them Black—and wounding three others. The victims included Roberta Drury, a thirty-two-year-old woman who had gone out to buy dinner supplies, and Aaron Salter Jr., a fifty-five-year-old retired local cop whose bravery had been hailed on several occasions by the *News*, and who had since taken a job as a security guard at Tops. Their number also included Massey.
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