

Letter to the editor, Washington Post – March 18, 2021

## Georgia Tragedy Reported Through a “Woke” Lens

The Washington Post’s March 18 edition dedicated more than half of the [front page](#) and two inside pages to coverage of the mass shootings at Georgia massage parlors characterized as racially motivated attacks on Asians. Yet, details in the reporting tell a more complex story involving a mentally tormented person, easy access to firearms, and the vulnerability of low-paid sex workers.

The 21-year-old man arrested by police said the killings were not racially motivated. The most likely motive was an irrational intent to remove temptation related to “sex addiction.” The victims reportedly included two Caucasians and a Hispanic person.

The Post often does a creditable job exploring the complex issues concerning mental illness, gun control, and hardships faced by low-income workers. But its tabloid-style presentation of this crime reflects a growing tendency to politicize reporting to appeal to a primarily left-leaning, liberal audience. By telling stories through a “woke” lens, the headlines and editorial flavoring in the coverage of these shootings disrespects the individuality of the victims and exploits stereotypes about race rather than addressing complex issues of racism and economic inequality -- and putting them in perspective. Instead throwing gasoline on racial politics, the Post and other media would do better to start with the facts and let the facts guide the narrative.

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