

UNCHECKED VIOLENCE

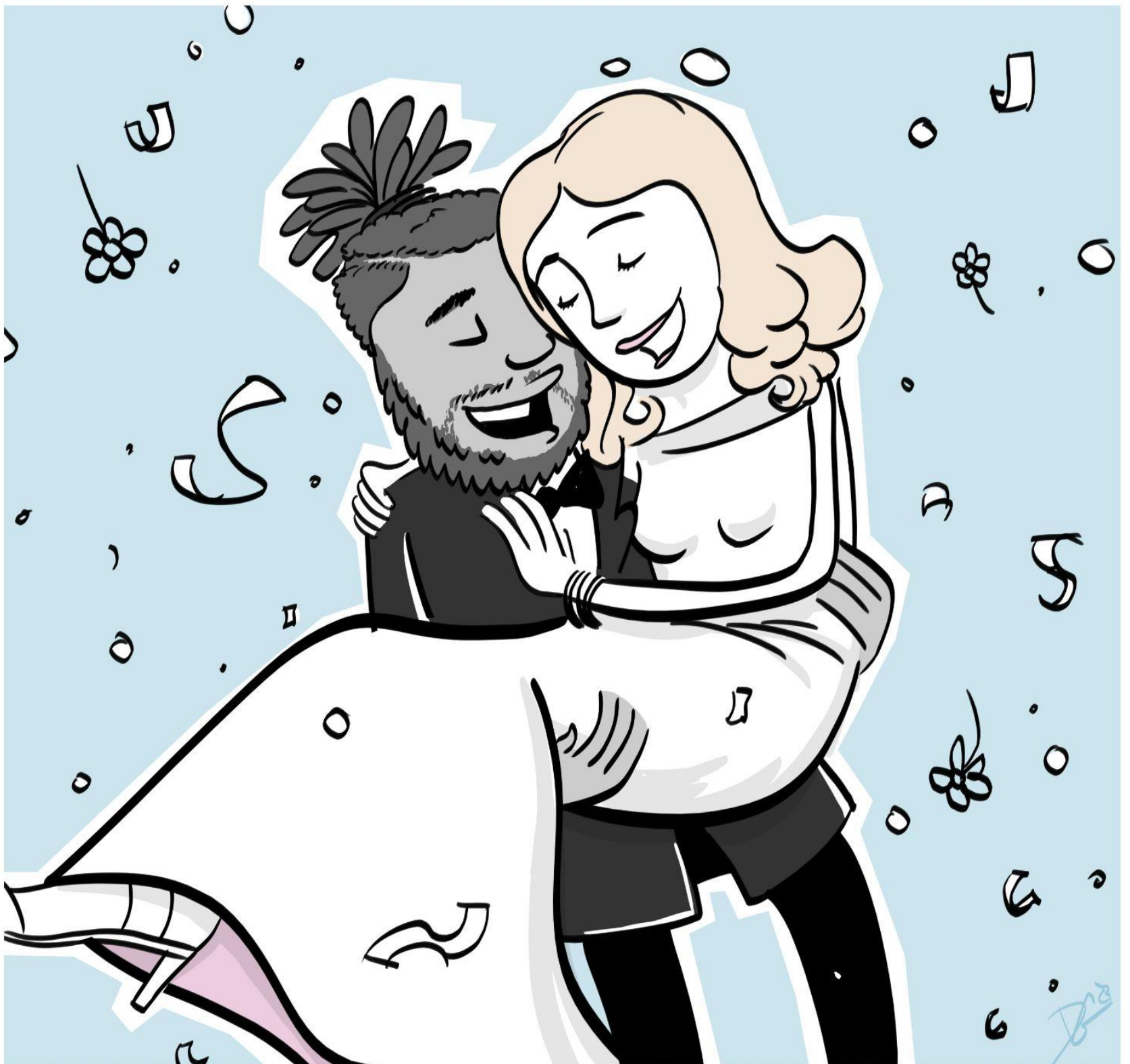
John Sawchak

1970 -



written & illustrated by desire grover

DAVIS AND CAROLINE MOTURI MOVED INTO THEIR NEW HOME STARTING A LIFE TOGETHER AS **NEWLYWEDS** BUT THEY WERE NOT PREPARED FOR THE HORROR TO COME.



THEY WOULD SOON REALIZE THAT THEIR NEIGHBOR JOHN **SAWCHAK** WAS NOT WELL. HE WOULD “OMINOUSLY” STAND IN THE WINDOW ON HIS SECOND FLOOR, LOOKING DOWN AT THEM ANGRILY, WHILE **BRANDISHING A KNIFE**.



HE WOULD OFTEN YELL THREATS AT THEM. ONE DAY THEY WOULD FIND HUMAN FECES IN THEIR MAILBOX.



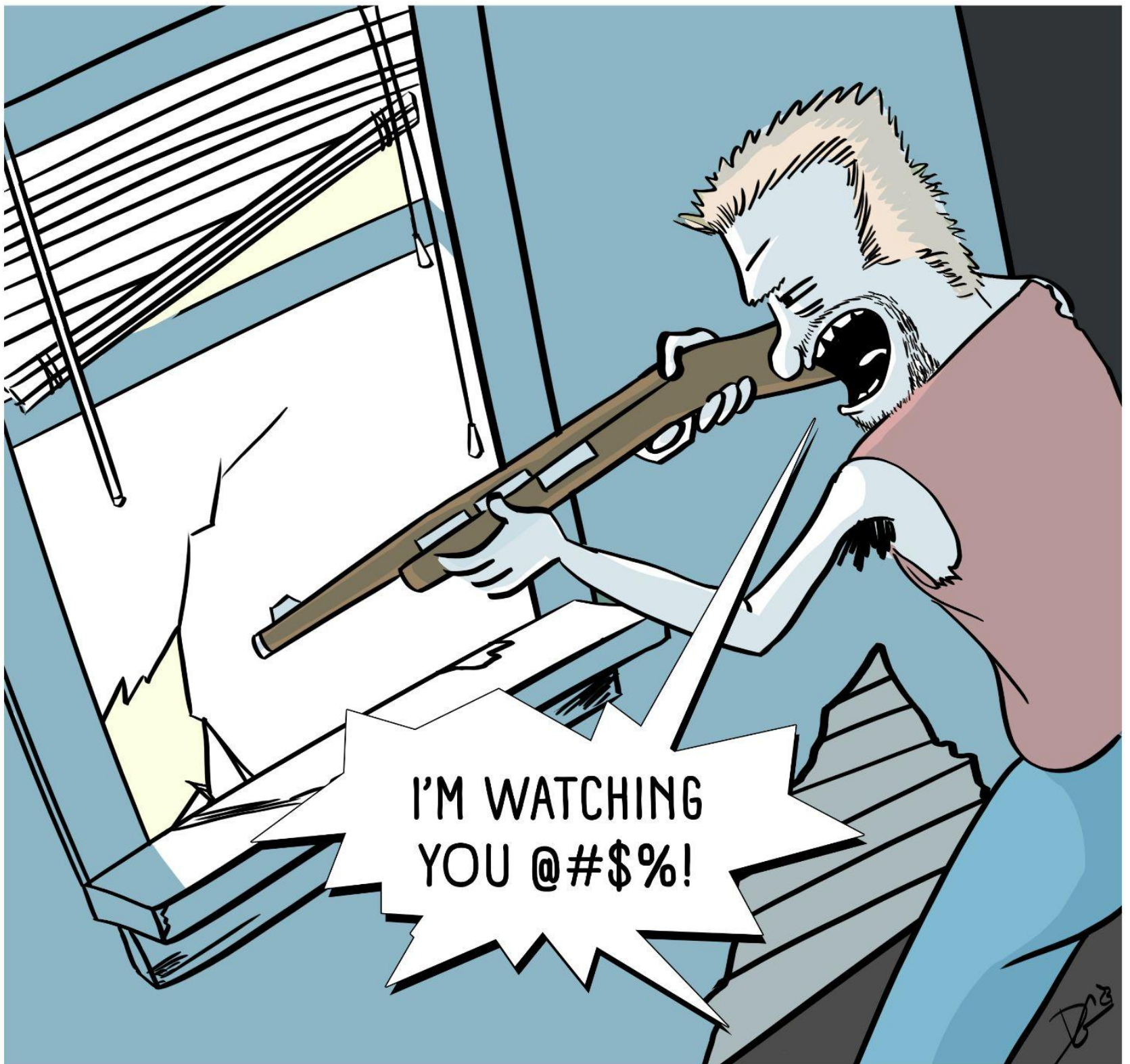
WITHIN A TWO YEAR SPAN, THEY WOULD END UP CALLING THE POLICE **"AT LEAST 19"** TIMES DUE TO THE THREATENING ACTIONS OF **SAWCHAK**.



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A WEEK BEFORE THE WORST INCIDENT, **SAWCHAK** WOULD
POINT A GUN AT DAVIS FROM HIS WINDOW.



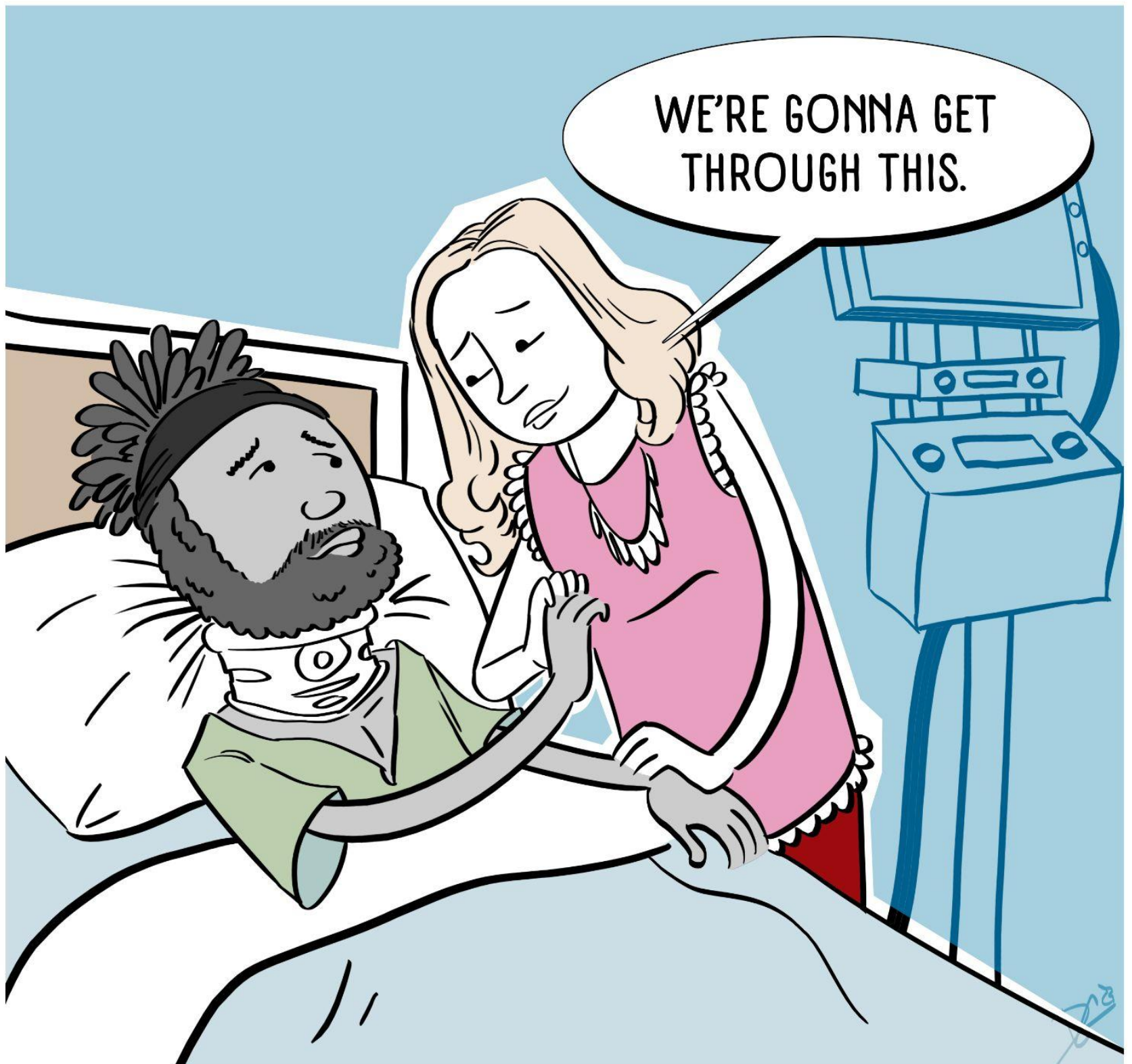
POLICE WERE CALLED ABOUT **SAWCHAK** BY OTHER NEIGHBORS BUT HE WAS **NEVER ARRESTED** BECAUSE HE REFUSED TO COME TO THE DOOR WHEN THE COPS KNOCKED.



THINGS CONTINUED TO ESCALATE UNTIL FINALLY ON OCT 23, 2024 DAVIS WAS SHOT IN THE NECK BY SAWCHAK WHILE CUTTING A TREE THAT THEY HAD A DISPUTE OVER.



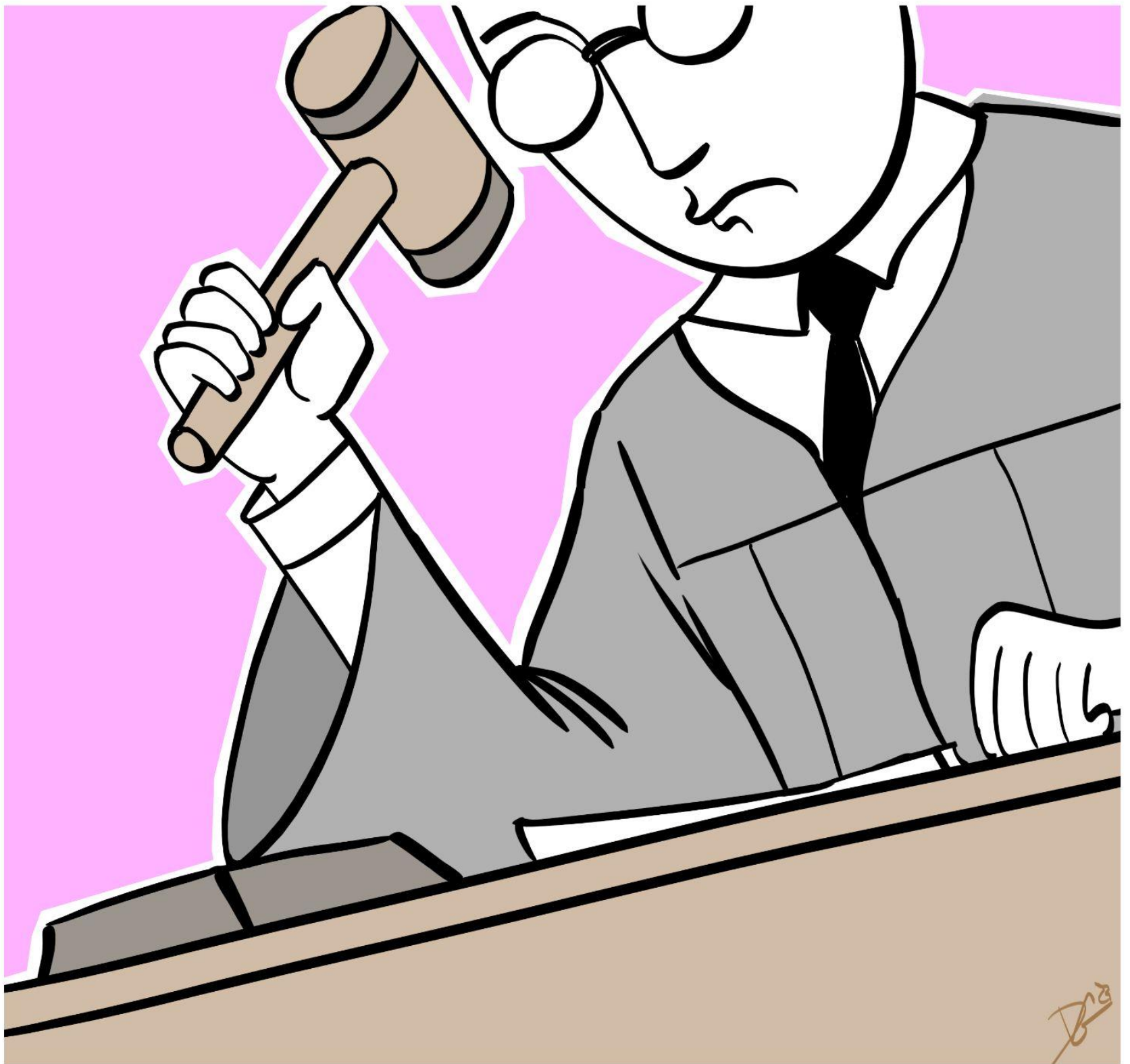
MIRACULOUSLY **DAVIS** WOULD **SURVIVE** AND THE SHOOTING WOULD MAKE THE NEWS! HIS NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS BLAMED THE POLICE FOR LETTING THINGS **ESCALATE TO VIOLENCE**.



IT WOULD BE REVEALED THAT DESPITE **SAWCHAK'S** HISTORY OF DANGEROUS BEHAVIOR, POLICE REFUSED TO CONFISCATE **HIS WEAPONS** OUT OF FEAR FOR **THEIR PERSONAL SAFETY**.



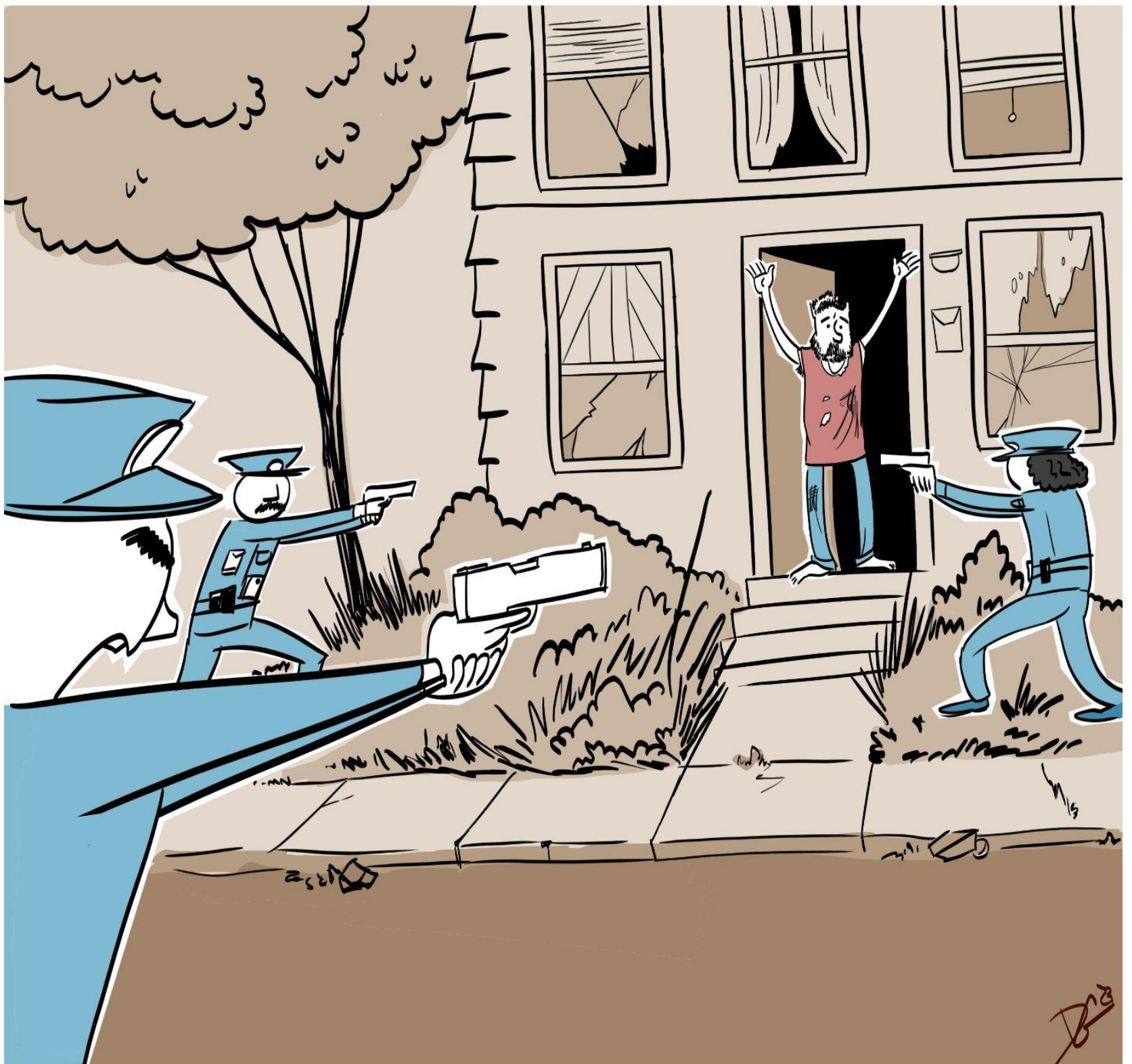
THE POLICE WERE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO FAILED TO HOLD **SAWCHAK** TO ACCOUNT. YEARS BEFORE IN 2016, A HENNEPIN COUNTY JUDGE **RULED HIM TO BE "MENTALLY ILL AND DANGEROUS..."**



...AND ALTHOUGH HE WAS TEMPORARILY PLACED UNDER CIVIL COMMITMENT, HIS ACCESS TO “FIREARMS WAS NOT RESTRICTED” AS THE LAW REQUIRED.



AFTER THE SHOOTING, IT WOULD TAKE THE POLICE ABOUT **FIVE DAYS TO ARREST SAWCHAK**. HE WOULD BE CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER, STALKING & FELONY ASSAULT.



FINALLY, A JUDGE GRANTED AN **EMERGENCY RISK PROTECTION ORDER** AND **HIS WEAPONS WERE CONFISCATED!** SAWCHAK REMAINS IN CUSTODY ALTHOUGH HE HAS BEEN DEEMED TOO "INCOMPETENT" TO STAND TRIAL.



Ali, Ubah, and Aki Nace. 2025. “Minneapolis man charged with attempted murder for shooting neighbor will not stand trial after second competency hearing.” CBS News.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/minneapolis-neighbor-shooting-incompetency-hearing-update/>.

Alonso, Melissa. 2024. “[Amid mounting community pressure, Minneapolis Police arrest man accused of shooting his neighbor.](#)” CNN.

Bailey, Chelsea. 2024. “[Police knew John Sawchak was terrorizing his neighborhood and did not arrest him, court records show. Then he shot a neighbor, police say.](#)” CNN.

Glover, Maury. 2024. “Mpls man shot by neighbor: MN's Red Flag law designed to prevent violence like this.” FOX9 KMSP.
<https://www.fox9.com/news/mps-man-shot-neighbor-mns-red-flag-law-designed-prevent-shootings-like>.

Spencer, Cari. 2025. “[Prosecution paused for man accused of shooting neighbor.](#)” MPR News.



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