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Louisiana Theater Shooting

It's déjà vu all over again. As the Aurora Theater shooting trial continues in its consideration of the death penalty, family members and victims of that horrendous massacre not only are reliving the trauma of that awful night three years ago this week, but now they and the nation are learning that a copy-cat killer likewise chose a theater for his venue of slaughter.

In Lafayette, Louisiana moviegoers settled in to enjoy the romantic comedy "Trainwreck" only to find their evening of entertainment rapidly become a nightmare. The shooter shot and killed two with a semiautomatic handgun before shooting and killing himself. Another nine suffered injuries, some life-threatening.

"For the Aurora victims, the sounds of the gunshots and screams, the sights of a flickering movie and the stampede for safety are all too familiar, noted Eileen McCarron, president of the Colorado Ceasefire Capitol Fund.

"For the nation, the stories of wanton slaughter by firearms in the hands of unhinged people is all too common," she continued.

It all evokes Southern writer William Faulkner's claim that "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

Charleston, Chattanooga, and now Lafayette. It is a summer of violence. Perhaps it can become a summer of awakening.

In his eulogy for the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, murdered with 8 of his parishioners barely one month ago, President Obama stated "For too long, we've been blind to the unique mayhem that gun violence inflicts upon this nation."

Only moments later, he concluded his oration by singing Amazing Grace. "I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see."

May it be so.

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The Colorado Ceasefire Capitol Fund is a statewide organization that works to reduce gun violence through legislation and education.

