

Skinnler Shot - Assassination attempt on State Governor, four fatally injured



Not Favoured Tremendously. Governor Skinnler's surprise appearance and impromptu speech at a rooftop birthday party at the Diamond Casino, greeted by a cold reception. Taken just moments before the Governor was struck by sniper fire. Photo courtesy of Abel Hawkins

Governor Skinnler's return to San Andreas on Wednesday evening was far from uneventful. What started out as a book signing, turned into a display of displeasure and dismay, and resulted in the death of four.

The Governor hasn't been the most popular of public figures in the last month. Citizens have felt abandoned by the Governor after they "bravely" fled the comfort of their superyacht during the tsunami; after their lack of words or actions during a cost of living crisis, while they were being investigated for tax fraud in Puerto Rico.

People, quite rightly, wanted answers. So when the Governor came out of hiding to promote their new book "Escape: From Riches to Riches"; The Gazette

took the opportunity to approach the Governor for comment, Little did we know that this could have been their final day.

Speaking to the Governor about their decision to leave during the tsunami, they plead "It was hard to leave, but I had to, I had my sub-orbital flight planned for the week after; I didn't want to deal with this.", in an official statement they further defended their actions saying "If there was anything that I could have done, if I had thought of it, I may have tried."

The Governor also gave their "first executive order as returning executive Governor and... omniscient leader" in which they were "immediately disbanding the government." They later rescinded this after uproar from a group of representatives from the Department of Justice amongst others.



City Brawl Objections were not the only thing thrown by the crowd to the answer "Just work harder"

The Governor was also met with ire during their visit to City Hall, their car was towed and punches were thrown from the crowd as they faced a grilling from the citizens of San Andreas.

The Governor and their entourage were then caught attempting to sneak out of the building, screaming "Fuck these people, I hate them".

They then made their way to the casino to attend a birthday party; where they reportedly asked for cocaine, and access to the entire city budget as they were "putting [it all] on red" before taking to the stage.



State Police on scene at Diamond Casino as four hospitalised

PARTY CRASHING AT THE CASINO

While giving an impromptu speech about NFTs at the birthday party; sniper shots rang out from across the rooftop, striking the Governor and causing panic among the party-goers.

Personal bodyguards then attempted to evacuate the Governor, but were caught in an explosion as they tried to escape. All four were rushed to Eclipse Medical Centre for emergency treatment, but their injuries proved fatal, as the Office of the State Governor since confirmed that "Gov. Skinnler passed away early [Thursday] morning".

Our thoughts and condolences go out to the families of Alvin Cush, Jeffrey Spencer, Lance Lapelle and Walter Skinnler.

Four suspects were later apprehended by State Police in connection with the assassination, and have been held in Bolingbroke until trial.

However, these suspects are well known as henchmen for hire; and while not incapable of pulling off such a daring attempt, doing something of this scale doesn't fit their modus operandi; so one big question still remains unanswered, **who gave the order?**

THIS WEEK



Hench Trial
The Court hears about the assassination in The State v The 4 Henchmen
► [More on Page 2 >>](#)



Mount Ghoul-do?
Reports of a ghostly figure being sighted atop Mt. Gordo has people searching cold case files.



Membership Mismanagement
New business strategy at 24-7 sees stock on LCN fall 22 points in a single day.







977030717523709

HELP WANTED

The Gazette is looking to hire photographers, guest writers and feature columnists.
Our inbox is also open for leads and potential advertisers.

If interested, please contact our editor on 555-4686

Keep an eye on our LifeInvader (@SAGazette), as we may be looking for story specific interviews and photos through the week.

Bomb threat at Hench Trial



Red Riot holding a briefcase bomb facing down with State Troopers at State v The 4 Henchment (pt1). Photo courtesy of Evie Akagane

TRIAL PUT ON HOLD THREE HOSPITALISED

On the night of Thursday 13th June, the court was preparing to hear the case of The State v (what are now known as) The 4 Henchmen.

In a surprise turn of events, local ecoterrorist and turtle botherer, Red Riot, made an appearance, after breaking through police cordons and security checkpoints.

Holding a briefcase bomb in one hand, they reportedly made demands to release the four defendants. While we do not know exactly what happened in the room, an explosion was heard coming from the courtroom a couple of minutes later.

Luckily most people were still outside waiting to be searched at the time or were very quickly evacuated from the building, though three people were hospitalised due to their injuries.

Red Riot implied they were responsible for the assassination attempt in a LifeInvader post stating "All chaos is mine", though this has yet to be confirmed.

Once, Twice, Three Times a Hench Trial

Following the bomb threat on 13th June, the trial was rescheduled twice again, finally settling on the morning of Sunday 16th June.

Having been held for a total of seven years until trial and released their previous lawyer, The Four Henchmen stood representing themselves. Three of them facing charges of seven counts of murder, with further counts of battery, hostage taking and a variety of other charges from unserved warrants.

As proceedings were about to get underway, Counsellor Sarissa Markopoulos stepped up to the bar at the last minute to take the case for the four; and within minutes had persuaded Counsellor Rodgers of the District Attorney's Office to drop two of the hostage taking charges, after having only recently taken the case himself.

After a short recess, and discussion on whether pineapple on pizza was legal; Jeremy Kneeps and Bruce Hankman took a plea deal of 30 further months on the condition they were officially categorised as Henchmen. Barry Blanders and Myrna Willow pleaded Not Guilty and the trial finally, after countless delays, got underway.

Counsellor Rodgers goaded the defendants into waiving their fifth amendment right, saying that not taking the stand would be "pretty cringe."

In his opening statement, the prosecution addressed the gallery in a dramatic retelling of events "What should have been a wonderful evening... was instead marred by bloodshed and violence... our beloved Governor who led us during the tsunami in a display of incredible self preservation, assassinated."



The Four Henchmen Awaiting trial (from left to right) Bruce Hankman, Jeremy Kneeps, Barry Blanders and Myrna Willow. Photo courtesy of Evie Akagane

In a bold move the defence rebutted not to the evidence, but to the morality of the alleged crime itself, describing the Governor as "a completely self-absorbed, narcissistic piece of shit" who decided to "flee the state, leaving all of his citizens to die." Finishing with the assertion that "my clients are not guilty, and should not be held accountable for what the will of the people of San Andreas would have seen done!"

The State then retook the floor to stunned silence to read a written testimony into record, in which there were references to a "military grade sniper rifle with a sight."

"The Governor did not deserve to spend a single day alive after leaving millions of people to perish"

Counsellor Sarissa Markopoulos in her opening statement.

In further testimonies it was revealed that police were present at the party due to a call about concerns around "Fake NFTs that might 'blow up'" and that "Myrna and the Governor might have

explosives at the casino."

Trooper Vasquez alleged in their testimony that were "ultimately struck down by a cowardly and weak-chinned suspect without any rizz whatsoever." Something which the defence counsel objected to immediately as "prejudicial" and requested to be "struck from the record."

Trooper Bradshaw of the State Police took to the stand, However, their testimony was objected to on account of being unable to identify who shot them. The State called for an emergency witness to corroborate and tie Trooper Bradshaw's testimony to

the case at hand, but court was quickly called into recess and the courtroom cleared, as we later found out that a bomb had been planted under the floorboards of the courtroom. Though we are unsure what the purpose of the bomb was, and who had planted it there.

The Gazette has since discovered the case was heard in a closed setting; with the vast majority of the warrants dropped due to lack of identifying evidence.

Myrna Willow and Barry Blanders were found guilty of seven counts of murder, and served a further 30 months in Bolingbroke for their crimes.