

FIVE FAMOUS PEOPLE WHO DIED OF

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Each year, more than 400 Americans die from carbon monoxide poisoning.¹ Here are five famous people killed by this toxic gas.

Sylvia Plath

1932-1963

Sylvia Plath was an American poet best known for her novel "The Bell Jar."² Born in Boston, she became interested in writing at an early age, which helped her earn a scholarship to Smith College in 1950.

Plath is believed to have struggled with mental illness most of her life. After her husband – fellow poet Ted Hughes – left her for another woman in 1962, she fell into a deep depression and took her own life by sticking her head in a gas oven.





Brad Delp

1932-1963

Brad Delp was the lead singer of 1970s rock band Boston. He first rose to fame in 1975, when Boston released its self-titled debut album, which sold more than 17 million copies in the U.S.³ He later went on to form the band RTZ with fellow Boston member Barry Goudreau.⁴

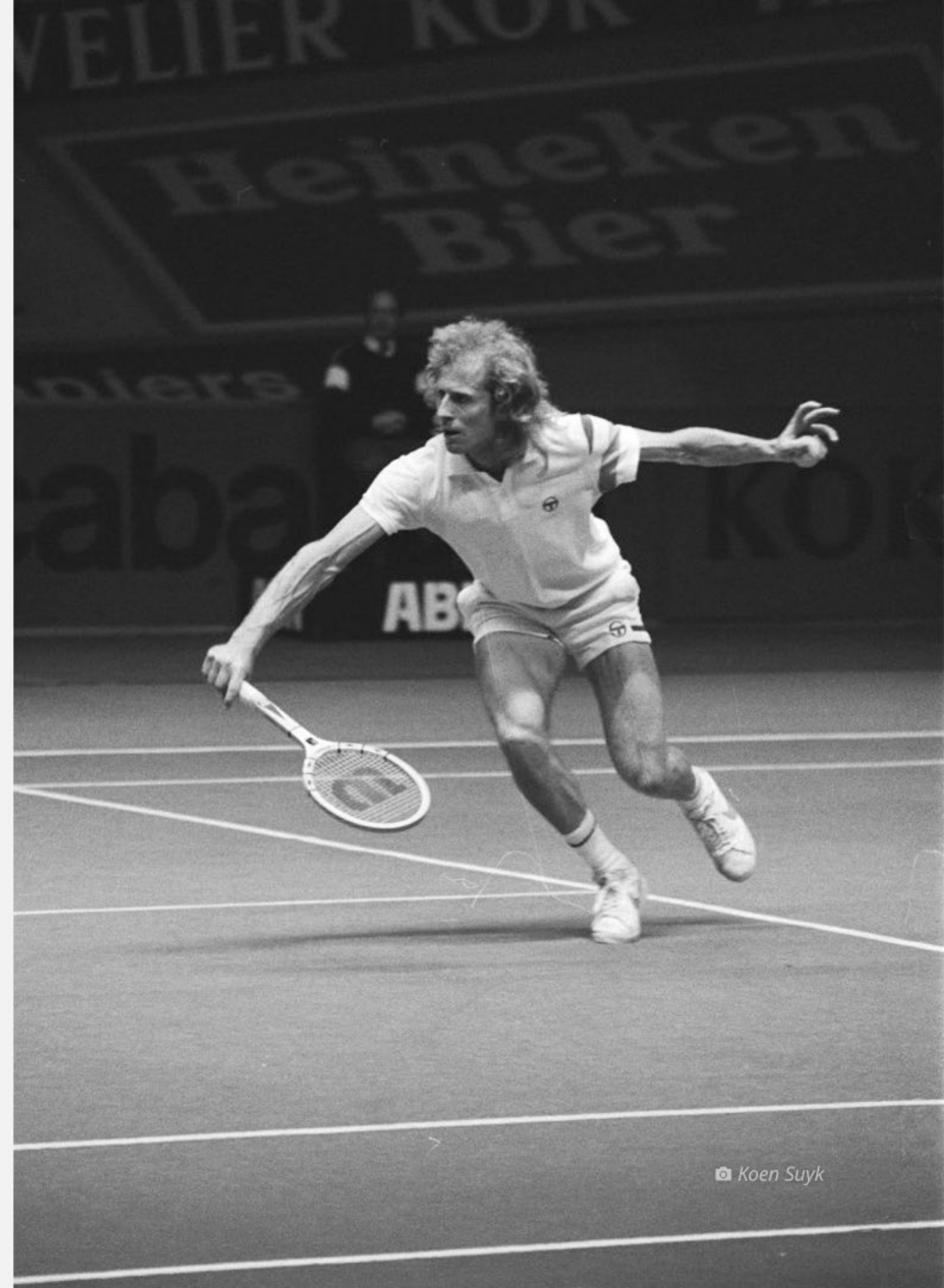
Delp was found dead in his home in March 2007. His fiancée, Pamela Sullivan, discovered his car in the garage with the dryer hose attached and called police. Once they arrived, they found Delp's body in the master bathroom with two charcoal grills burning.⁵

Vitas Gerulaitis

1954-1994

Vitas Gerulaitis was a Lithuanian American professional tennis player who won multiple titles over his career, including men's doubles at Wimbledon in 1975 and men's singles at one of the two Australian Open tournaments held in 1977.⁶

Gerulaitis was staying in a friend's guest house when a poorly installed plastic exhaust pipe from a pool heater caused carbon monoxide to seep into his room, killing him.⁷ The pool mechanic who installed the pipe was acquitted of criminally negligent homicide in 1996.⁸





Thelma Todd

1906-1935

Thelma Todd was an American actress who appeared in nearly 120 movies. She is best remembered for her comedic roles in the Marx Brothers' "Monkey Business" and "Horse Feathers" and for co-starring in "Speak Easily" with Buster Keaton and Jimmy Durante.⁹

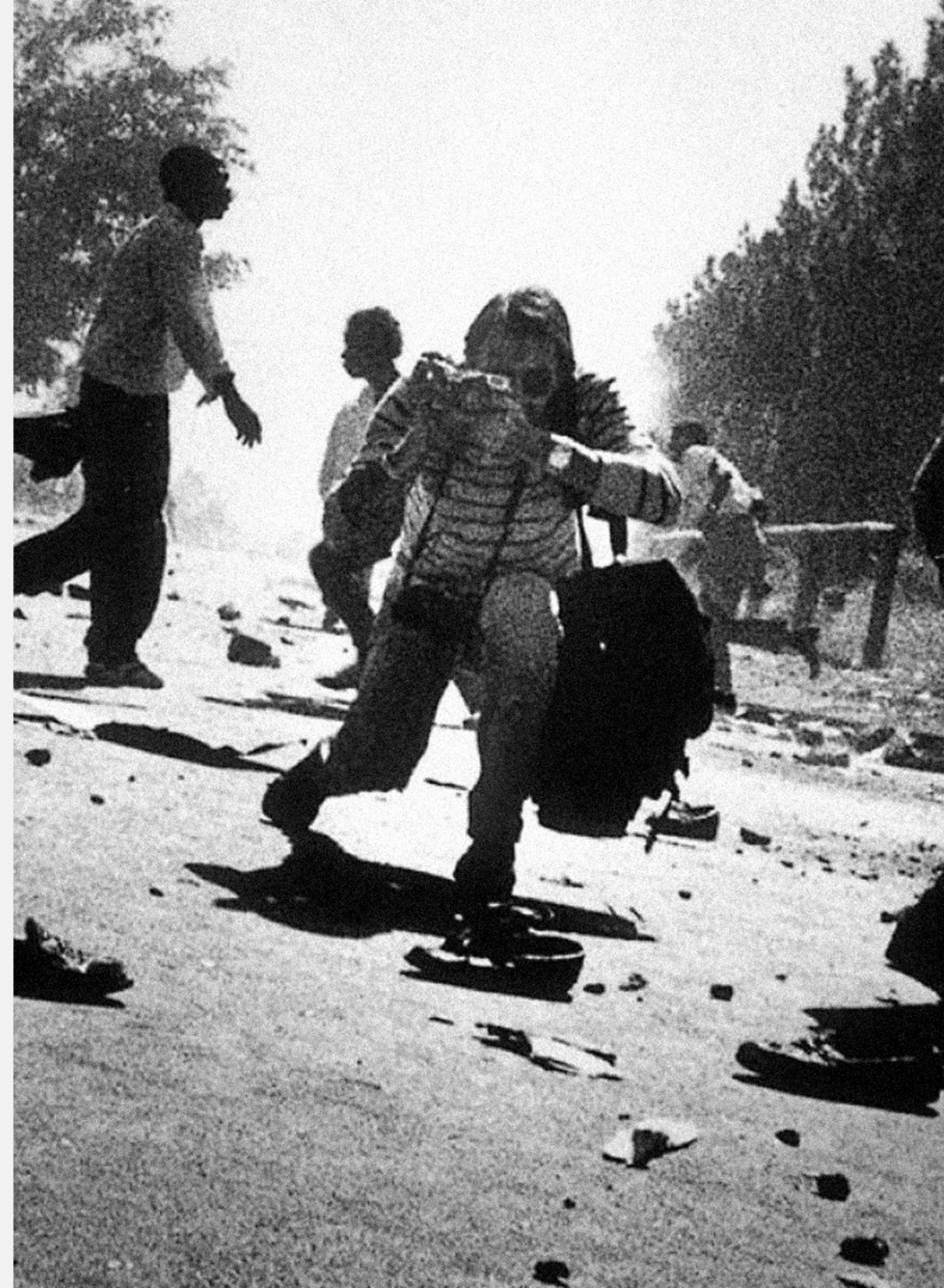
Todd's death is considered suspicious. Her body was found in her car in the garage of Jewel Carmen, the former wife of Todd's lover – Hollywood director Roland West.¹⁰ A grand jury investigation was held to determine whether Todd was murdered, but her cause of death was ultimately ruled accidental carbon monoxide poisoning.

Kevin Carter

1960-1994

Kevin Carter was a South African photojournalist and member of the Bang-Bang Club – a group of photographers who captured images of South Africa's transition from apartheid in the early 1990s.¹¹ He won a Pulitzer Prize for his photographs of Sudan's famine.¹²

Carter killed himself by taping one end of a hose to his pickup truck's exhaust pipe and running the other end through the driver's side window.¹³



Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention

There are steps you can take to protect your family from CO poisoning, including:¹⁴

- ▶ Never leave a vehicle running in an enclosed space, such as a garage
- ▶ Never use charcoal grills, lanterns or camping stove inside a home, tent or camper
- ▶ Never run a gasoline-powered engine in a basement, garage or enclosed space even if the doors or windows are open
- ▶ Change the batteries in your CO detector every six months
- ▶ If you suspect CO poisoning, call 911 immediately



PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS IN TEXAS

If you believe you or a loved one were injured by exposure to carbon monoxide due to faulty installation, improper maintenance or malicious intent, it's important to work with trusted personal injury attorneys who can help you get the justice you deserve.

The Weycer Law Firm has more than 35 years of experience handling serious injury and death cases, and we are committed to fighting for you.

**CALL (713) 668-4545 OR CONTACT US ONLINE
TO DISCUSS YOUR CASE FOR FREE.**

SOURCES

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⁷www.nytimes.com/1995/05/24/nyregion/gerulaitis-death-attributed-to-short-pipe.html

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¹⁰www.latimes.com/local/obituaries/archives/la-me-thelma-todd-19351217-story.html

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¹²www.pulitzer.org/winners/kevin-carter-free-lance-photographer

¹³www.content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,981431,00.html

¹⁴www.cdc.gov/features/copoisoning/index.html