Link between mass murders, mental illness

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GUEST COLUMNIST


First of all, Mr. Henry may be a little off when he writes that we do not know the mind of the Sandy Hook shooter. Besides having some mental issues, it's now coming out that his mother was looking to commit him for an evaluation.

Guns have their place, "next to Mom and apple pie?" So, I think of my mother on the same pedestal as a Bushmaster? Ridiculous!

Mr. Henry needs to realize that those who use firearms in mass murders are mentally unbalanced and that few, if any, pillars of a community pick up a gun and spray bullets all over a mall, theater or school. I consider myself mentally stable and have never thought about taking anyone's life, whether in a mass killing or an individual case.

The Post-Gazette columnist needs to read the Second Amendment and consider the time it was ratified. It is clear and purposeful. Our founding fathers included many ideas about what could happen in a distant future and the Second Amendment was not excluded at all. Yes, Mr. Henry, our Founding Fathers surely considered future possibilities. The Second Amendment was created to prevent an invasion, and this notion is as viable today as it was 300 years ago. In fact, the second attempt by the British to retake our country back in the early 1800s surely satisfied our fathers then. I doubt they would have rejected the firepower semi-automatic weapons would have provided then.

In conclusion, Mr. Henry needs to realize that there is no such thing as a mentally unstable semi-automatic weapon that can shoot up a school on its own. It cannot pull its own trigger.

It cannot carry other weapons to assist in a repulsive mass shooting. Mr. Henry needs to seek new solutions as the assault ban has not reduced mass killings. It has not stopped juveniles from stealing guns to commit crimes. It has not kept mentally the unbalanced from finding a gun somewhere and deciding to take out revenge on kids or adults. Mr. Henry also needs to help figure out why these tragedies happen and offer suggestions to stop them instead of blaming the legitimate hunter or shooting enthusiast from wanting to use a firearm legally.

There are millions more who respect and appreciate the proper use of guns.

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