

TURN TO TRIGGER FINGERS

National school shooting count continues to rise due to loose gun control policy

By Ajla Selimovic
Co-Editor in Chief

By now, most of us should be familiar with the saying “guns don’t kill people, people kill people,” told often by gun advocates. This second Amendment to the Constitution that guarantees citizens the right to bear arms has brought great debate regarding the regulation of firearms into our society.

According to the Gun Violence Archive, 9,956 people have been killed by firearms so far this year and more than 20,000 have been injured.

One particular great suffrage of loose gun policies in the United States is frequent school shootings. According to Everytown for Gun Safety, there have been 142 school shootings in the United States since 2013, an average of one per week.

The U.S., by far, is the only industrialized country with this great

gun control issue. A Harvard Politics study found that between 1991 and 2013, the U.S. had 55 school shootings with at least one fatality and more than one intended victim, while no other country in the world had more than three.

Now, everyone asks why there are so many shootings in the U.S. Not only are the loose gun control laws an important factor to analyze, but also the consideration of mental illnesses, culture and poverty. With the help of our lax gun laws, individuals with a history of violence, substance abuse, or serious mental illness can access firearms, leading to lethal violence in this country.

“A school shooter could be someone who had been brutally abused by the world or someone who imagined that the world brutally abused him or someone who wanted to brutally abuse the world himself,” journalist Malcom Gladwell said in a *New Yorker* article.

The 47 school shootings we’ve seen so far this year have brought in great grief and pointless injuries and lives lost due to those sick individuals. Honestly,

how mad do you have to be to wake up one day and decide to shoot your classmates and teachers?

We have yet to implement a meaningful gun control policy at the federal level. Over the course of his presidency, Barack Obama has attempted to make an act of mass gun violence and the laws that allowed it to happen. Unfortunately, all that’s been accomplished is the weakening of our already-weak gun control laws, thanks to Congress.

According to a *New Republic* article, comprehensive gun sale regulations that set stricter rules for who can own a gun, establish more comprehensive background checks and require permits would reduce the diversion of gun sales to criminals.

Guns don’t kill people. People do. Shallow, disturbed, firearm-ready individuals do. And the increasing number of school shootings won’t drop until we improve gun regulation, until we reform the mental health system, until we fix our economy. Until then, innocent lives lost from meaningless violence will remain.

By the numbers:

47 school shootings in 2015

51 mass shootings (more than four people killed) since 1997

33,636 US deaths by gun in 2013 compared to 3,380 US deaths by terrorism

By the numbers:

60% of students are mildly to severely stressed

40% of teens feel irritable or angry when stressed about school

29% of high school students feel sad or hopeless every day for two weeks or more during the school year

The saber-tooth tiger reaction

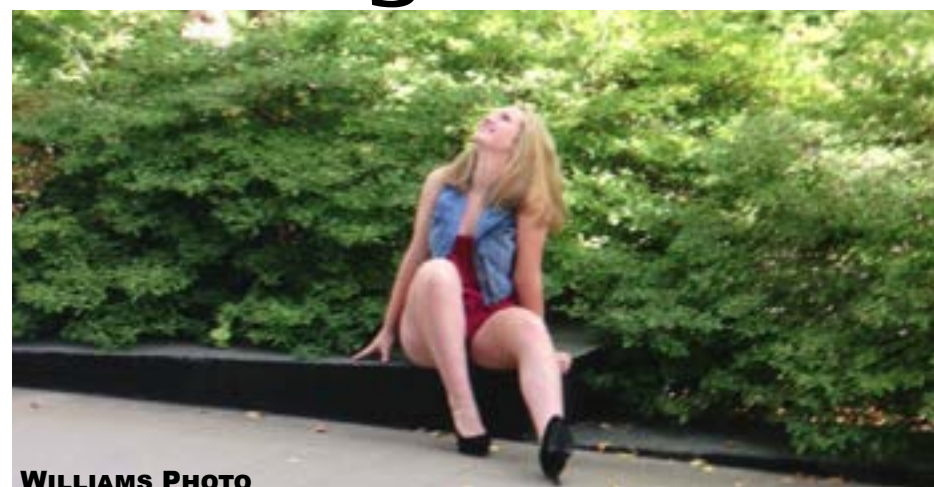
Balancing heavy school workload with other responsibilities causes a lot of stress on sports editor

By Colby Williams
Sports Editor

It always starts off small, I get assigned homework from my AP Environmental Science class. Then as my day continues, I receive homework from AP Government, and then from newspaper. I get a start on my assignments after school, but then my time gets cut short because I have to go to volleyball practice at 5:30 p.m. When I get home at 8:30 p.m., I get a little more of my homework done, but not all of it.

The next day, I receive an assignment for College Accounting, then for AP Literature I have an essay, and then I get 30 homework problems for AP Calculus. That night, I have no time for homework because I have a volleyball game, and I do not get home until 9:30 p.m. or 10:00 p.m. I know I have to finish my assignments for the next day, but I can’t even start on the homework I received that day. At this point I feel like I am trying to run forward but there is something holding on to my ankles, so I can’t move.

The next morning I go to AP Environmental Science and Ms. Leverich tells us to clear our desks and



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Sports editor Colby Williams relaxes in the fresh air.

get out a pencil. My face fills with confusion, our assignment sheet did not say we had a quiz today, but then I look at the sheet again. It turns out I did the homework and reading for the next block I had her, not the one I was in. She hands out the quiz and I only know the answer to one of the questions, I leave the rest blank.

My body will react to this poor test score the same way my body would react to being attacked by a saber-toothed tiger. The nerve and hormone patterns are the same, according to Dr. Henry Emmons, of the Penny George Institute for Health and Healing in Minneapolis. Much of my life is lived under this great amount of stress. As are many of the student body’s lives. According to a recent poll, more than 60% of the student body is mildly to

severely stressed.

Trying to juggle too many activities, moving from activity to activity too quickly, and being overwhelmed with life overall, are all factors that cause stress.

Humans are not designed to escape from predators for 8 to 10 hours at a time, which is essentially what stress makes our bodies do. Stress can be relieved in many ways, the most preferred ways by the student body were listening to music, playing sports or exercising.

No matter what you do to relieve stress, the next time you feel overwhelmed, think to yourself, it’s this or being attacked by a saber-toothed tiger, maybe that will make you realize that you may not have it as bad as you think you do.