

Letters to the Editor: A new era for Special Ed in Lowell

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By [Letters to the Editor](#)

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No such thing as ‘gun violence,’ only ‘violence’

Your recent front page article about the vigil entitled “The consequences of gun violence last forever” makes a classic mistake that all but guarantees this violence will continue: actually calling it “gun violence.” There is no such thing. There is only violence.

Violence is defined as “Behavior in which physical force is exerted for the purpose of causing damage or injury.” Guns are incapable of behavior. They are inanimate objects. Place one on a table, and sit there and watch it as long as you like. Nothing can or will happen, until a person touches it.

Despite not wanting to admit this, the local officials who attended the vigil couldn’t help but acknowledge this inconvenient truth. [Middlesex County] District Attorney Marian Ryan, who in the past has said the state is “awash in guns”, instead made this statement. “We can make it unacceptable to settle an argument over nonsense – scooters, a girl, a text message – with a gun.” The gun didn’t do the “settling,” a person did.

Ms. Ryan went on to say, “[We] can start by making it completely unacceptable that people would drive around the city shooting out of car windows.” There it is. People.

But despite this reality, we get nonsensical rhetoric about guns. Somehow the guns are to blame. The reality is that going after criminals is hard. Blanket and useless statements about guns are easy.

And at the end of the day, Massachusetts is a study in the complete failure of gun control and how it relates to violence reduction. State Rep. Rodney Elliott stated this without admitting it when he unwittingly said, “... every day there’s a senseless act of gun violence...in Massachusetts...and Massachusetts has some of the strongest and toughest gun laws in the nation.”

Well said sir.

Al Prescott

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