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EDITORIAL

Most people can remember where they were when they heard about 9/11. But as mass violence becomes more and more prevalent, it gets easier to forget. Can you remember where you were when Sandy Hook happened? When the Boston Marathon bombing happened? What about the most recent attack on New York? Or the shooting in Texas?

The Charleston church shooting, which hit uncomfortably close to home, was the last place that an act of extreme violence was expected to take place. So it was even more surprising when 26 people were killed in the Sutherland Springs church shooting. It gets infinitely harder to stay safe when the safest places become the biggest targets. Schools have also seen a rise in gun violence in recent years. The Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund reports that between 2013 and 2015 there were 160 school shootings across 38 states. The recent high school shooting in Kentucky and middle school shooting in California hardly even seemed to make headlines. As a society, it feels as if we're becoming desensitized to the ways violence manifests itself. It may be easy to dismiss gun violence by saying "it is what it is," but it's been shown that there are solutions to the problem. The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence reports that states with weaker gun laws have more gun deaths per capita

and that South Carolina is one of ten states with the worst gun death rates. The Law Center additionally reported that background checks invariably lower the gun death rate. It seems, for the most part, that people agree there is an epidemic of gun violence and that it needs to be, and can be, addressed.

But terrorism at home and abroad is also extensive. Although, the solution to terrorism is perhaps more elusive than gun control. When immigrants perpetrate acts of terrorism, it only adds fuel to the fire and gives those who purport that having open borders puts America at risk more cannon fodder. The answer to limiting terrorism is not nearly as straightforward as preventing immigration. This solution runs the risk of keeping out deserving, hard-working men and women in exchange for preventing terrorism that may not happen anyway or that may happen regardless.

In the meantime, it's essential that fear doesn't dictate our choices. We should be conscious of the fact that safety isn't always guaranteed, but we should also be conscious of the fact that a terrorist's goal is to make people feel vulnerable. While it's important to be aware of the risks that come with going to a large, public venue like a concert or an airport, the possibility of violence shouldn't prevent anyone from living the way they want. ✂

THE CAVALIER

The purpose of The Cavalier is to inform the students and faculty of Richland Northeast of events and issues which affect them. The paper also serves as a communication link between the students at Richland Northeast and the community. Unsigned editorials reflect the opinions of the staff and do not represent the views of the faculty or administration. The Editorial Board, consisting of editors and adviser, make publication decisions. Two selected teachers will be added to the board should controversies arise that need school-wide representation for arbitration.

The Cavalier is a member of the South Carolina Scholastic Press Association, the Southern Interscholastic Press Association, the National Scholastic Press Association and the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

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