



High profile shooting crimes are on the rise

There seems to be an increase in large scale, high profile shooting crimes.

Since 1980, there have been 60 mass shootings carried out in the United States that weren't gang or other crime related.

On Friday there was a shooting outside the Empire State Building in New York. The shooter and one other person were killed and many more injured.

Last month 12 people died in Aurora, Colo., when a masked gunman opened fire in a crowded theater. Earlier this month, another gunman killed seven people at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin.

Also last week Norwegian shooter Anders Breivik was found guilty and sentenced to 21 years in prison. Norway does not allow the death penalty, nor a life in prison sentence, however if Breivik is still deemed a threat to society in the future, he can be held indefinitely.

In a reversal of the usual courtroom tactics, it was the prosecution who asked that Breivik be acquitted, which would result in him being held in a secure mental health unit. The defense was pushing for a guilty verdict.

The upshot of all of this is that the Norwegian court has effectively found Breivik to be sane. How can he be sane when he killed more than 70 people?

The politically extreme are often not insane, they just hold different views from the majority of society. To be sure, there are those that have mental disorders, but most are simply possessed of a determination to carry whatever they believe in to its extreme conclusion.

It is important that we separate political extremism from genuine medical insanity. It forces society to deal with their beliefs and take steps to strengthen our culture against

such things. If a tragedy is regarded as simply the work of a "madman" it is all too easy to dismiss it and go on with our lives without making any changes. With this verdict, Norway and possibly all of Europe will have to take a hard look at the right-wing extremism that has been on the rise since the formation of the European Union.

The case is not so different from some here in America. In the 1990s, Ted Kaczynski and Timothy McVeigh carried out bombings in support of their political beliefs. For Kaczynski, it was a belief that human freedom was being eroded by technological advancement. For McVeigh, it was revenge for perceived FBI injustices at Waco, Texas. Though a general consensus from the public is that they were "crazy," neither was found medically insane.

The lessons we learn from those cases and from Norway will be vital in our treatment of suspected Aurora shooter James Holmes.

The cases are radically different. No one shooting incident is ever completely the same. The information that has been released in the Aurora case points to someone with a medical problem, rather than a political agenda. Juxtapose this with the Wisconsin shooting, which was more politically motivated, but in which the suspect died.

In every case of these mass shootings, we must separate the truly insane from the political extremists, so that we may get the former the help they need, and deal with the latter for the betterment of society. You can't deal with them the same way. In either case, the courts must act to keep society safe from both types of killers.

-Kevin Bottrell



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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Losing the first man on the moon is like watching another portion of my past crumble away.

I was nine-years-old and recall how the family was gathered around our television set at the home on Carmel Drive in Lakewood, Colo., on that July day in 1969. The impact of the event has never left our country's collective conscience.

Younger generations can only imagine what it was like during the Cold War years that followed

the Second World War. You had to experience the ever present fear of a nuclear attack to understand. So there was more than just the "space race" going on between Communist Russia and the U.S.A.

By seeing Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and the American flag on the surface of the moon seemed to verify that we would always be the ones on top.

So much has changed since those times.

Communism has largely failed.

Although the U.S. won the space race and made great progress with the shuttle program, that too is a thing of the past. Now Neil Armstrong is gone at the age of 82.

Maybe it is the simplicity of my youth that has left me along with the man who made, "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



Parade Day 2012

The day of the fair parade finally got here. It meant several things to Kurt and I. First it is a time that Gannie Camp is coming to an end. Second it meant that Darrin and Dina come for the weekend and third, we always go to Doug and Marla's for a potluck lunch with family and friends.

Since Kurt retired he is around more to help me and that is great. On Friday as I was making some desserts and a salad to take to the potluck, he asked if he could help. I told him "yes," so I handed him the brownie mix and told him to get that in the oven.

A little later he asked me again and I told him the brownies were cool now and I needed him to make the layer of the puddings that went on top. (It was a new recipe I was trying) He asked me how and I told him you put the chocolate and vanilla instant pudding in the bowl and to add 3 1/2 cups of water and mix it up. A little later he asked me if he had beaten it enough and I told him he had. In my mind I was thinking he has beaten it to death.

I went over to pour it on top and it was really runny. I checked both

boxes of pudding and it was instant so I just poured it in. Put the whipped cream on top and put it in the refrigerator.

Later I checked on it and it was still just runny as could be so I stuck my finger in it and tasted it. Yuck, it tasted like it was made with water instead of milk. I really hated to tell Kurt he had made a mistake so I just waited till bed time and tried it again.

I asked the kids if they wanted a small piece and of course everyone did. It didn't taste too bad with

the brownie and cream cheese all mixed together so I decided to take the rest of it to the picnic.

There I said, "I don't know what happened to this but it tastes like it was made with water instead of milk. That is when Kurt told me that I told him to put in 3 1/2 cups of water.

You would think he would have known to question what I said instead of just taking it as the real thing.

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Reader disagrees with editorial

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the opinion column "Congress must act to save Social Security" by Steve Haynes. Mr. Haynes quoted Senator Bernie Sanders about Social Security, indicating that the Senator had no plans to save Social Security. This is not true.

Senator Sanders has proposed to strengthen Social Security by introducing legislation to apply the payroll tax to incomes above \$250,000 a year. Under current law, only earnings up to \$110,000 are taxed. The Center

for Economic Policy and Research has estimated that applying the Social Security payroll tax on income above \$250,000 would only impact the wealthiest 1.4 percent of wage earners.

Before Social Security existed about half of America's senior citizens lived in poverty. Today less than 10 percent live in poverty.

Another thing that would help Social Security would be to raise the minimum wage to \$10 an

hour. The more money people make the more they pay into Social Security to help fund the system.

Also if the Republican controlled Congress would pass a real jobs bill to put the unemployed Americans back to work, these Americans would be drawing a paycheck, paying into Social Security instead of drawing unemployment.

Sincerely,
Diana Brunswig-Bosso

Citizens concerned about doctor

To the Editor:

We thought the rumor of losing one of our doctors was over and everything was OK. Then we hear more rumors of her still not being offered a new contract, we could still be losing our doctor. Did someone's toes get stepped on? Does someone have a grudge?

We were under the impression that all the doctors, nurses and staff worked together as a team for the good of the patients. We now hear a doctor's contract might not be renewed because of one or two people with a personal conflict and it is at the sole discretion of Great Plains. Why do we have a hospital board if they have no power? Does

the community not have any say? What about the County Commissioners. Maybe it's Great Plains that should be under review. If a doctor chooses to leave, it's their choice, if they are pushed out the community should step up and be heard.

Concerned citizens,
Gaylen and Dorothy Weeden



GOD SAYS

But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Romans 14:10-12

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