

An eBook Short That Asks the Tough Questions

The Sandy Hook School Shooting: A Sobering Reality

*How Mass Shootings
Have Shaped Our Society*

by **J.A. JUNIOR**

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Considering the developments in this case since it happened in December of 2012, I wanted to add a quick entry to this eBook Short. Much of the developments surround the strange behavior of everyone involved on that horrible morning. I am not going to debate or offer my opinion on these matters in this publication. However, I believe this eBook is relevant to all people, regardless of what details come to light down the road.

“Twenty-Six”

J must admit, when I first heard of the horrific mass murder of 20 young children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School last Friday, it did not surprise me. Adam Lanza, a 20-year old young man with Asperger’s syndrome (a form of autism), went on a murderous rampage with his mother’s Bushmaster AR-15 assault rifle, which happens to be the same model gun that the D.C. sniper used. There are articles and posts discussing gun control, mental health, bullying, and even divorce. By all means, those are serious issues, and undoubtedly need to be addressed on a federal level. Aside from all of that, I cannot help but think that many of us are missing the bigger picture.

The Family Unit

Our young people are us. They represent the future of our species. Kids need role models, and parents should fill that spot. Sadly, many parents lack the money, time, or interest in raising their children appropriately. Instead, the kids turn to other avenues for respect, guidance, protection, and economic pursuits. Unfortunately, only dead-ends await them. Gangs, drugs, and crime are attractive options for a vulnerable, naive youngster.

Once children immerse themselves in these cliques, they rarely get out. The obvious answer is to ensure that the child has enough coping skills, confidence, love, and support of his family to make his own positive decisions. Therefore, the family unit is the soil from which all other behaviors grow. Let's talk about why and how the family unit suffered significant setbacks in the last decade or so.

Divorce

*J*f you have any school-age children, ask them how many of their friends have divorced parents. I bet you'll be dismayed by their answer. Our young people today don't consider marriage a sacred union. They treat it like an extended warranty purchase:

Joey wants to be with Jane for the rest of his life, but he hates the thought of "tying the knot." He tries to avoid the topic as much as possible, but Jane gives him an ultimatum: marry her or walk. Now, Joey has to make a business decision. He likes the idea of steady sex with Jane. However, what if he realizes afterwards that the whole transaction is not paying him any more dividends and wants to cancel his contract to become a free agent?

Maybe I exaggerated the above circumstance, but not by much. I do see one sad moment over and over with divorced parents when they realize how much their bitterness toward each other negatively affected their children.

This is especially true of nasty divorces: in any divorce, the parents typically use the kids for the following clandestine activities:

- spying
- recording everything on a digital recorder
- interrogations when arriving back from visits
- using the child as a proxy to hurt each other

This creates an angry atmosphere, and an angry child. Experts have linked all kinds of behavioral (and some clinical) problems to divorced households. The child starts out by blaming himself for causing his parents to divorce. Then the anger sets in after he is old enough to figure things out for himself. That is no way to grow up. Whatever happened to “sticking it out for the children?” Did I miss a meeting?

Diminished Sensitivity to Violence

I love video games, horror movies, rap and hip-hop music, R-rated movies, and I even cried during the debut screening of Lion King. I play first-person shooter (FPS) games often. I know violence is part of our culture, but I seriously think that there is just too much of it in our daily lives. Rappers rap about having “street cred,” which means to hurt, kill, or rob someone, so the group accepts them.

They rap about having an “I don’t give a f**k” attitude. They’re willing to do anything; whether it is beating an old lady to death, or stomping a 6-year old, it does not matter because they do not have a conscience.

Do I know that those ideas are mostly an act by the rap artists? Of course; sure, most of them have past problems with the justice system, but most stop all of that nonsense once they start making big money because to do otherwise would be stupid. However, and herein lies the problem, their fans (our kids) don’t understand this. Even if you tell them how things are, they are usually too young and thick-headed to absorb it. As a result, these kids get guns, start gangs, sell drugs, and anything else to align their

own lives with the fake ones their "idols" are living.

If you ever get a chance to watch a homicide reality show, like "The First 48" on the A&E channel, you will see many young kids getting arrested for shooting another kid over something stupid. They do not yet understand the finite nature of human life, until it is too late, and their world comes crashing down.

Like I said earlier, I love video games. Games are so incredibly life-like now, and it is not hard to understand why American parents have big problems with their kids playing some of these games. I am not saying that video games cause kids to go out and emulate what they see; that is too short-sighted. However, if you have a troubled child that has had issues with his temper, would you have any objection to him playing this?



The above video is a scene from the First-Person Shooter (FPS) game Call of Duty 2: Modern Warfare. It is a mission where the player (you) goes through a shopping mall killing everyone in sight.

Why would anyone want to simulate something of that nature, especially in the heyday of mass shootings? I want to be clear, this game was made in 2009, way before the Sandy Hook shooting, but still after many other shootings, such as Columbine and VT. I'm not going to debate the issue surrounding video games and violence, but I think manufacturers and parents could do more to impede the problem.

Do video games make someone go out and shoot people for real? No. People kill people. However, I do think that everything in combination has a desensitizing effect on today's generation. There is no clear answer, but shouldn't we at least ponder it?

Mental Illness

*J*n the world's wealthiest country, millions of people are without medical insurance; including young children. Even those with state-assisted insurance, such as Medicaid, get sub-standard care. Meanwhile, doctors and hospital executives rake in cash by the truckload. Why, in a country so hell-bent on being a free and equal society, is the gap between the haves and the have-nots so monstrously big?

Think of all the money stolen from government medical programs by low-life scumbags like Madoff and Roth, who stole billions from thousands of victims via Ponzi schemes. It is startling how, with the flick of a ball-point pen, crooks like Madoff can rape half the country of their retirement income, but the sick and elderly citizens have to fight tooth-and-nail just to get a \$200.00 check each month. Does that seem balanced to you?

Therefore, it is not surprising how the mentally ill people in America go untreated and over-medicated for years on end. Children take psychoactive medications like SSRIs and MAOIs at progressively younger ages now. The long-term effects children face when taking these drugs are unknown, and doctors do not know what to expect in the patient's adult years.

I believe that when combined with the various designer drugs available today, including MDMA (ecstasy) and bath salts, we will continue to see more cases of young people going insane and committing horrific acts of violence. This is already happening as we speak. Instead of ignoring the problems and doping more kids, we should be fixing the problems.

There are approximately 1,250,000 mentally ill people in the United States Justice System as of 2012. This is an abomination of human ethics. Mentally ill patients need treatment, not reform. The system piles these poor people in the jails and prisons because there is nowhere else to send them.

As long as they commit some criminal offense, the mentally ill inmates go to prison. Why is that? Well, if you know our species well, it should not be too difficult to realize that the bottom-line is all that matters. You see, mentally ill people who are sitting in the ER waiting room with no insurance, and soon to be the recipient of a hospital bill which will likely never be paid, are of no use to those in power. In contrast, a mentally ill patient sent to a private prison is now a valuable asset generating a residual income for the booming prison industry. Yes, the more inmates they pack in, the more money they make. Now do you see a conflict of interest here?

Under Person

I am not a religious man. I am spiritual, though, and I believe whoever or whatever God is, he gave us our emotions purposefully. We are spiritual beings by nature, so I think the concepts of the afterlife and accountability, even if they are not real, make us think before we act and keep us a little civilized. In our time, people have become so intoxicated with their own imaginations and supremintellect that the idea of God is of no use to them.

In essence, we have been systematically eradicating the idea of God everywhere. Schools, TV, and the media have all been scrubbed with the anti-God sponge. There are countless arguments on this topic, and I am not interested in debating anyone, but once we fully drain our minds of anything faith-based, and extinguish the idea of reward and punishment in an afterlife, what is left, our morals?

When a 20-year old executes 26 women and children, there could be no clearer signal that our society needs to change. We need to change how we treat people, how we help people, and how we love each other.