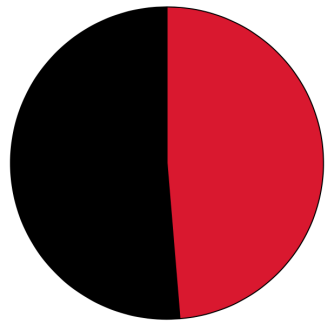


What's Your Opinion?

Should parents of school shooters face legal consequences for their children's actions?

Out of 76 responses:
Yes -- 37
No -- 39



• Yes • No

Next Poll:

New Technology

Is new technology like the Apple Vision Pro an overall good or bad thing?

Students can answer the poll on The Herald's Instagram page, [@astateherald](#). Instagram polls are posted on Mondays. Previous poll results can be found on [astatetheherald.com](#). Have an idea for a poll? Send your ideas to heraldopinion1921@gmail.com.

These and future articles can be found on the Opinion section of The Herald's website.

The role of the parents of mass shooters

ELIJAH TEMPLETON
OPINION EDITOR



Elijah Templeton is a junior creative media production major from Jonesboro.

This past week, Jennifer Crumbley, the mother of a school shooter, was convicted of involuntary manslaughter for her role in her son's actions, the first such conviction in U.S. history.

Parents of shooters have faced legal consequences before, with neglect and firearms charges not being uncommon.

This has sparked a conversation about parent's involvement in school shootings and if more of them should be held accountable for their children's actions.

This is an extremely nuanced situation, but I do believe there is an answer.

In the case of Ethan Crumbley, the 15-year-old Michigan student who opened fire at his high school and killed

four people and injured seven others, his parents played a direct role in the tragedy.

Ethan texted his mother about "a ghost or devil in the house" and texted a friend that he told his mother about his hallucinations but that she "just laughed at him".

"Hours later, Ethan opened fire in his school."

She later attended a school meeting in November 2021 on the day of the shooting in which a teacher showed her one of her son's drawings depicting a gun and a person bleeding along with the phrases "the thoughts won't stop help me," "blood everywhere" and "my life is useless."

The school had recommended Jennifer take Ethan out of school for immediate mental health treatment, but the Crumbleys declined to do so and left. Hours later, Ethan opened fire in his school.

In cases like these where there is sufficient evidence of neglect, both of firearms and the parental variety, parents should 100% be held at fault at least partially when their children commit such atrocities.

This is not a blanket statement

though. Not every parent is as responsible as the Crumbleys were.

Plenty of kids keep things from their parents and are not open about their struggles. There may be warning signs, but you could be excused for not foreseeing your child committing a massacre as a result of declining mental health.

Parents have noticed these signs and sought help and their children have still gone on to do whatever it was that they were planning to do anyway.

The fault is always primarily with the one holding the gun, but there are steps along the way that can be neglected and ignored that make the process of acquiring the gun and carrying out the shooting much easier.

It is within these early steps that the fault can be shared among the parents who should be involved with their children's mental state and be cognizant of warning signs to prevent these tragedies.

Parents have a responsibility to monitor their kids when times are at their darkest, when they try to hide the truth and especially when they are opening up to them and expressing what it is that they are going through.

It is a good thing Jennifer Crumbley was held responsible and overall it will set a positive precedent that can hopefully strengthen the conversation

around gun violence in this country and continue to move us in the direction of meaningful change so that these tragedies do not happen so frequently.

Once we start to analyze all of the factors that lead up to these tragedies, we will have a greater chance at stopping them from happening again.

But of course, that's just one man's opinion.



GRAPHIC BY ADRIENNE ALLS
Depiction of Jennifer Crumbley being sentenced.

Valentine's Day has lost its heart

ELIJAH TEMPLETON
OPINION EDITOR

In an ever-growing commercialized world, everything from sports games to holidays are filled to the brim with companies trying to convince you to spend money, with Valentine's Day being no exception.

Valentine's Day has lost its heart, becoming just another day in the year that obligates those in relationships to spend money on specific things to show how much they care.

Rather than prioritizing the actual relationships, the focus has shifted to cards, candy and flowers that are only



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATE MARLETT
Department store display of Valentine's Day themed items.

rolled out for one month a year and then rolled away again.

This was not always the case, back in the 14th century when the day first became associated with romance, it was a day of meaningful acts of affection and 'Valentines' that were hand-written, unique messages between partners and suitors to express their love.

The commercialization of Valentine's Day is not a new thing, starting as far back as 1868 when Cadbury introduced their heart shaped chocolate box onto the market.

It has been a gradual process since then of new companies introducing new products that would soon become synonymous with the holiday.

Things like Hallmark's Valentine's Day cards and the estimated 224 million roses that are grown every year for Valentine's Day have made almost every couple's celebration tainted by consumerism.

This increase in commercialization has also increased the pressure around the day while simultaneously decreasing the meaning.

You feel obligated to purchase your partner something for Valentine's Day because you are often expected to, but you also do not have to put much thought into it as everywhere you look

there are plenty of options that will do just fine.

Acts of genuine care are few and far between though because of the incessant advertising and marketing surrounding the holiday that has completely taken over.

This Valentine's Day, skip the roses and heart-shaped chocolate boxes and try your best to do something original and unique for the one you care about.

It will mean far more than any Hallmark card ever could.

But of course, that's just one man's opinion.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF SARAH ALLAM
Artist's depiction of the focus on money while giving Valentine's gifts.

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STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The Herald is printed every Wednesday during the semester, except during finals and holidays. Copies of The Herald are free.

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