

Mental Health

The baseless recommendations of gun control enthusiasts with regard to the recent—and not so recent—high school and college shootings remind me of the erroneous conclusion drawn in a fictitious study of houseflies.

A scientist placed into the palm of his hand 25 houseflies and beseeched them “Fly away!” They all flew away. Then he removed the wings from 25 houseflies, and bade them “Fly away!” None of them flew, so he concluded that houseflies without wings cannot hear.

My suggestion to help us understand, and perhaps avert such senseless killings is annual or semi-annual psychiatric examinations of our school children. Why do we insist on regular physical exams yet neglect our mental health? Surely one is as important as the other. Let’s not give knee-jerk, thoughtless advice in our attempts to prevent these massacres. Let’s go right to the source of the problem and examine it regularly, before it goes out of control.

Ted Scott, October 2006