

OPINION

Don't publicize Virginia Tech killer

By WILLIAM OSBORNE JR.

Opinion Columnist



What creates a mass murderer? Is a mass murderer the same thing as a terrorist? Is a terrorist any different than an average domestic killer, or do his motives make all the difference?

These are just a few of the questions being asked in the aftermath of the latest school shooting at Virginia Tech.

Once again we have a severely unbalanced young person, angry and isolated, grasping for 15 famous minutes...or infamous minutes. It happens again and again.

Do we create monsters?

Cho Seung Hui's multimedia manifesto that he mailed to NBC during his rampage rails out against rich kids with Mercedes's and gold necklaces. "You made me do this," he cries.

Blah, blah, blah. Because of his parents' hard work, this Korean transplant gets to attend an elite

university in the United States.

It could have been so easy to enjoy life and be a productive citizen here in the land of the free. Cho simply did not choose to grasp the American dream, but instead succumb violently to the pressures that any well-balanced person would simply overcome.

What's a shame is that he stole the lives of so many promising young people through his senseless, selfish act.

Just as a terrorist is nothing more than a blatant murderer, Cho is nothing more than a terrorist. However, his crime should not have been judged any differently than if he was a native citizen.

It's the same old story of resentment for American ideals and institutions. In his incoherent rambling videos, he mentions getting even, but cannot come up with enough of a complete thought to even outline who he's trying to get even with.

Yahoo News has posted the latest headline that describes Cho as being teased throughout his life from primary school to college.

It seems that the best way to

overcome teasing bullies would be to grow a spine and fight back, but I suppose for some spineless individuals retaliation has to manifest itself in the form of cowardice.

An example would be gunning down unarmed, defenseless men and women who had perpetrated no wrong to the subject. The fact that national news networks are airing Cho's videos of himself brandishing guns and blabbing about the awfulness of America is a disgrace in itself.

In the quest for a sensational story, NBC News and others are giving this idiot exactly what he wanted. Attention. They want to know him. They want to get inside his head.

News flash: an insane person has no motives and no real objective, so any further analysis of their crime is more than likely futile. The best anyone can do is determine the need to be medicated or the need to be institutionalized.

Cho showed all the signs of a mentally ill person. His creative writing was littered with violence and profanity. He stalked women. He talked to no one.

Cho also praised Columbine killers

Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold as martyrs.

Harris and Klebold drew their bloody inspiration from David Koresh and Tim McVeigh.

It's a vicious copycat cycle that seems to have no end. How can ultimate death be an adequate compensation for anger and loneliness?

Marilyn Manson has often been blamed in school shootings because of his violent lyrics. The finger pointing towards him reached a climax after Columbine, though neither Harris nor Klebold listened to his music.

On his 2000 album, "Holy Wood," Manson included a song written for the Columbine killers entitled "The Nobodies."

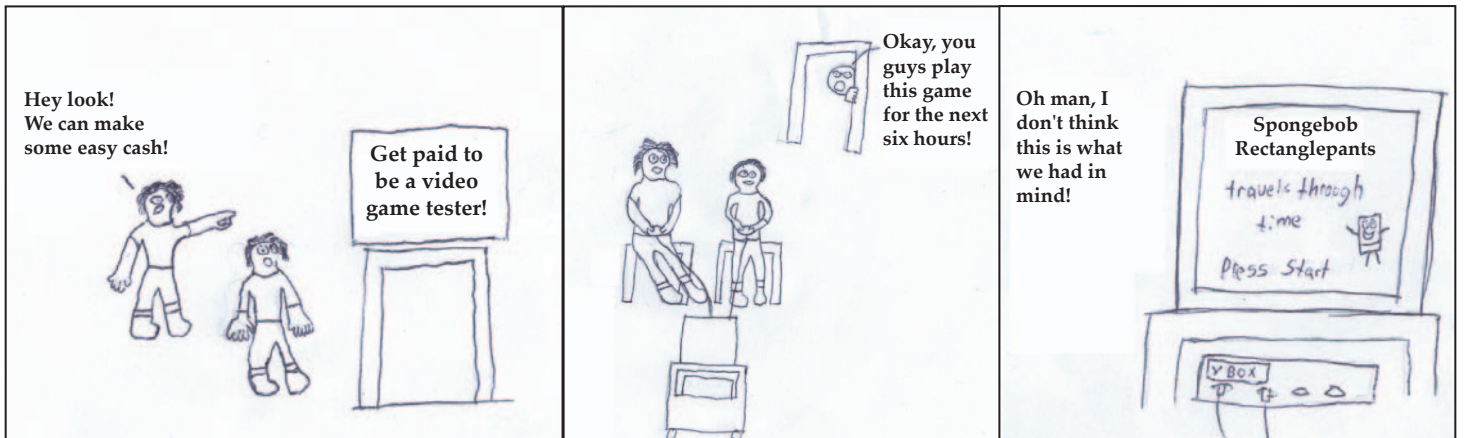
"Fear the nobodies. Wanna be somebodies. We're dead, we know just who we are," the lyrics state.

Though the lyrics are less than profound, they are agonizingly factual. Cho Seung Hui, Eric Harris, Dylan Klebold and countless others left this world as nobodies.

Their biggest mistake was thinking that their crimes would make them somebodies.

Adventures in the world of video gaming

By Brian Estes



Would you like to "voice" your opinion?
Join the Vol State speech team!

Register now for COM 296-P. Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-3 p.m.