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## Death of debt

The glorification of lifelong debt in this country plagues college students. Fifty year-olds who fell for the fantasy of the college experience back in the day continue to pay off college debt now, according to the Education Data Initiative. Up-and-coming students should consider the alternative to crippling debt: community college.

It's no secret the world revolves around money so community college is the best path to take in a capitalist country like the U.S. The tuition is cheaper, the fees are cheaper and living is cheaper.

Unfortunately, deciding which college to attend is not as simple as boiling it down to costs. It's about gaining the college experience with a dorm, roommates, social events and more. Staying at home excludes those experiences, but think about everything gained: better privacy without roommates and a better budget without rent to pay.

Apart from costs, college is also about education. A big college with a big reputation seems like the best choice for receiving the highest level of education possible, but that's just it—they're big. Too big. Students struggle to receive help with their studies at big universities. After all, professors are busy providing an education to possibly 100+ students per class in a giant lecture hall while community college professors devote their time to a more manageable number of students, like 20-30 students per class. Community colleges offer smaller classes better suited for asking questions, according to Education USA. This pushes the focus of community college to helping individuals.

On the contrary, help from professors only goes so far. Community college only offers associates degrees to students, but they have relationships and programs with universities which make their credits transferable, according to Indeed. This is alluring due to the options community college offers. It allows them to experience a smaller school with less costs, and then they can jump into deeper waters when ready.

College feels like a final decision with incredible consequences, but community college opens the door for flexibility.

# Shut down school violence

Staff Editorial

The country lowers flags to half mast to honor more victims of gun violence in schools, again. Nothing changes, again. It's time for change, now.

The country and community needs to do more to protect their kids.

There is no reason students should be scared to go to school. There is no reason kids should be hyper aware of school exits. There is no reason children should be trained to fight for their lives. School should be a safe space. There are common sense laws, procedures and practices that should be put into place to end senseless violence.

The second amendment gives Americans the right to bear arms and many government officials are willing to fight for that right— even if it means sacrificing children. No material item is worth more than a human life. Guns don't need banishment, but they do need regulation at a much greater rate. A weapon of mass destruction shouldn't be easily accessible to anyone— especially children.

In Michigan, people under 18 cannot purchase a gun unless under the supervision of an adult, according to gunpolicy.org. In order to gain a driver's license, teens need to go through extensive training courses because driving an approximately 2,000 or more pound vehicle at high speeds can be potentially dangerous. Along the same lines, owning and using a gun is, too—yet, the same training isn't required across the country. While there are gun laws in Michigan, there are a number of loopholes. It's only required to take a training course if someone is obtaining a gun permit. Oxford High School shooting suspect Ethan Crumbley had access to a gun without a permit because it was gifted to him. Easy access to guns, along with other factors, made this tragedy possible.

If someone's heart is set on destroying communities, then maybe it won't matter what gun restriction laws are in place. If they want a weapon, they will get a weapon. However, if it's impossible to lawfully carry a gun and every gun-owner is legally obligated to keep their firearms locked away, a wannabe murderer won't be able to access the weapon that kills 106 people per day

## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

HAVE A PLAN:

1. RUN
2. HIDE
3. FIGHT

Students, let's practice barricading the door



Graphic illustration Raiha Khan

in America, according to bradyunited.org. Or maybe they will use another weapon instead, say a knife, but the difference is this: any other weapon would not be as efficient and destructive. It would still save a number of lives.

Another prevention tactic is providing mental health help to teenagers and adults, alike. In the United States, over 60 percent of youth with severe depression didn't receive any mental health treatment according to Mental Health America. With a proper diagnosis, medication and therapy, a mental health professional can be the wall between a troubled person and a tragedy.

People are scared. Students didn't come to school in droves after the shooting at nearby Oxford High School because they didn't feel safe once perceived threats started to spread on social media.

While the school administration attempted to resolve the situation by ensuring the threats were looked into and proved false, the statement did not provide the sense of security the community needed after a tragedy struck so close to home. It took less than 24 hours to report an investigation of the threats was concluded and they were deemed false. While UCS felt comfortable bringing students to school the next day, based on the number of absences it's clear students and parents

weren't comfortable. More needs to be done by UCS to make students and faculty feel safe following threats.

One way students can help is if they witness something they want to report, they can contact OK2SAY anonymously. There, any possible threats will be reported to police immediately and investigated.

Aside from police investigations and government reevaluation on gun laws, the community needs to step up. Gun violence has been a problem for a long time and students in school need support at all levels to be and feel safe— starting with the community. People have power in numbers, which is great for petitions and extensive safety plans with volunteers to provide surveillance around schools. Some sort of community or UCS meeting should be organized to address fears and questions following the tragedy to give support. Students, teachers, parents and the community need to know more and feel safe in school.

More can be and should be done following yet another unnecessary school shooting tragedy.

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