**Editorial published in *The Patriot-News,* Harrisburg, Pa., on October 11, 2009**

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See second page for Ms. Krebs’ reference to Kirsten (emphasis added)



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**Violence against women leaves too many sad stories**

**By** [**Jeanette Krebs**](http://connect.pennlive.com/user/jakrebs/index.html)

**October 11, 2009, 5:52AM**



This terribly sad story is also so terribly familiar. A man is seething with anger and decides to take it out on a woman. Sometimes it is his wife, his girlfriend or sometimes it is a total stranger.

Far too often, the end result is death. The latest chapter involves [Meleanie Hain of Lebanon](http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2009/10/gun-toting_soccer_mom_is_shot.html). She allegedly was shot to death by her husband, Scott Hain, who then turned the gun on himself. [Meleanie’s tragic story r](http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2009/10/meleanie_hain.html)eceived intense local and then national attention in large part because she was an outspoken gun-rights advocate who carried her gun everywhere she went and ended up dying from gun violence.

It did not receive the attention simply because she was shot by her husband. Sadly, that simple story plays itself out daily with thousands of women dying violently each year at the hands of a man. Here in the state, more than 100 women have died in the last few years from domestic violence. An even higher number were raped and abused. As a nation we seem to have become numb to domestic violence and the singling out of women and girls.

Every once in a while we will be shocked, just as we were in early August when an armed man strolled to the back of a health club in suburban Pittsburgh and started shooting women. Three women died and nine others were wounded before he killed himself.

He boiled with anger and bitterness because he believed women ignored him. We stay disturbed for a while and then we seem to move on. New York Times columnist Bob Herbert put it in perspective in 2006 after Charles Roberts killed five girls aged 6 to 13 in an Amish schoolhouse in Lancaster County before eventually killing himself. The killer let all the boys leave the school before the killing of the girls began.

There would have been thunderous outrage if someone had separated potential victims by race or religion, Herbert wrote. “If you shoot only the girls or only the women, not so much of an uproar.” He’s right. And, at some level it’s not hard to see why. Turn on the television any night and there will be some show or some movie whose theme is a gruesome depiction of women as victims of sexual crimes.

Day in and day out women on the big and not so big screen are raped, maimed and murdered for our viewing pleasure. You could fill a domestic violence shelter and a morgue from “Law and Order” dramas alone. We do live in a violent society and it is particularly violent for one gender. A woman is sexually assaulted every few minutes in our country. A woman is battered even more frequently.

The cases of violence against women are staggering. **Just to name a few, in York County, Kirsten Maurer Taylor died after her husband electrocuted her in 2008 by attaching cables to her body.** In April, Emily Rachel Silverstein was strangled and stabbed in the neck by her 22-year-old ex-boyfriend in Gettysburg. The two dated for more than a year, according to reports, but the victim ended the relationship one week before she was killed. Leslie Kerstetter died in 2007 after the Dauphin County 51-year-old mother of two was beaten over a 48-hour period by her 53-year-old boyfriend in her West Hanover Twp. home.

We must find a way to protect our female family members, friends and neighbors from violence. Certainly one way is to reject the notion that it is good entertainment to watch violence play out on our TVs or at the movies. Another way is simply and honestly admitting it is an issue. Maybe then we can find a path to help troubled men deal with their anger toward women and girls, giving hope to a time when this carnage will end.

As for Meleanie, in life she became a posterchild for those who champion Second Amendment rights. In death, perhaps she can help us all acknowledge we have a big problem with violence on our hands that must be solved.

This editorial was cut and pasted from *The Patriot-News* Web site, pennlive.com, at the following link: <http://www.pennlive.com/editorials/index.ssf/2009/10/violence_against_women_leaves.html>