

Local

Friday, July 15, 2016



LETTERS

Bill Becker, *Ventura*

Gun violence limits

Re: Julia Brownley's column July 3, "Reasoning behind the House sit-in":

Julia Brownley's impassioned account of the sit-in by congressional Democrats, in protest of

Republican opposition to any form of gun control whatsoever, recalled to mind my own recent email discussion of the subject with several of my high school classmates.

One opponent of gun control proposed a somewhat more humane variant of the standard trope, "Guns do not kill people, people kill people." Only human beings with fragile minds kill people, he said.

I then proposed that each of my classmates ask themselves the following question:

"Is there an upper limit to the number of innocent children or adults who must be killed by human beings with fragile minds — fragile human beings are currently able to buy, without restriction, any sort of weapon that may legally appear on the market — before I will accept both background checks on gun-purchasers and prohibition of the ownership of assault weapons by citizens outside of the military or law enforcement?"

There were, of course, no responses to that question, but four of us in the conversation had already made it clear that there is an upper limit, and that limit is pretty low. For the remaining six, it was not clear that there is an upper limit at all.