

When we as a community deal with issues of violence, we must address the fact it is happening in our cities, neighborhoods, and in many of the homes we drive by everyday. The violence is here and now, and is happening everywhere. I believe people have the illusion this can't happen in Rock Island, Moline, East Moline, Davenport and Bettendorf and if it does, it's not in my neighborhood; I am safe.



The violence mainly happens behind closed doors; in most cases is a family secret, a taboo of discussion. Violence doesn't always happen when a bullet is fired from someone's gun. We must be open to discussing this illness, and try to come to common ground regarding these questions of violence. Why violence occurs, where it occurs, and what pushes human beings to hurt another human being?

We as the Quad-Cities, we as a nation, should visualize a non-violent community, with a whole-hearted approach in communicating the human reaction to violence. The common affirmation of faith in people we should be saying to ourselves, "One act of violence to anyone is an act against us all "

We in the Quad-Cities should be willing to reach deep down inside ourselves and find concrete reasons why acts of violence are unacceptable and many times ignored. We must no longer be numb to the death of any man or woman because of their color, neighborhood, city or economic status. We must believe in respecting people as people and feel their despair. Let us remember and believe: Respect is knowing that violence isn't the answer.

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