

Dear Editor:

Would anybody think the Panorama Heights jogger was wrong for defending himself?

On March 29th, the Tri-City News reported that an 18-year old runner deliberately punched a would-be robber after the robber slashed him on the face in an effort to extort the jogger's wallet.

Perhaps this is an exception to the rule that violence never solves anything. It looks like in this case a little bit of violence prevented a robbery. Canadians do have the right to protect themselves from rape or robbery.

This case is instructive. Just think what would have happened if an older person had been attacked at knife-point. Or a woman. What could he or she have been able to do to keep from being raped or robbed? Such people typically aren't as strong as 18-year olds. They probably wouldn't be as successful in repelling such an attack.

Is calling 9-1-1 and waiting for the police to arrive all that society will allow most people to do to protect themselves? Why are we willing to sacrifice weaker people to violent criminals?

If we accept the principle of self-defence, why not allow people the tools they need?

Cordially,

Gary Mauser