



Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence

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HCGV NEWSLETTER, SPRING 2012

Let's not kid ourselves about youth violence — it IS the guns!

BY STEVE DUNLOP
HCGV BOARD MEMBER

Nearly all of the recent commentary on youth violence has been blind to the major reason the violence is so tragic, frightening, and disruptive.

We are arming our children with weapons of phenomenal destructive power. They are so armed because we do not demand that gun owners, gun makers, and gun sellers accept reasonable regulation.

Gun owners should be required to keep their guns safe from children and pay penalties if they don't. Many adolescents get the guns they use to kill themselves and others from family, relatives, or friends. If an adolescent has regular access to your house, then your guns and ammunition should be locked up if you are not there to supervise access. If they aren't, and he or she uses them to

shoot someone or themselves, you should face a felony charge.

Y-Press (The Youth Arm of the Indianapolis Star) recently completed a series on WFYI on guns and teens with repeated reports by incarcerated teens that they can buy a handgun with no problem on the street in Indianapolis. Even if recovered by police, it is almost impossible to hold anyone responsible.

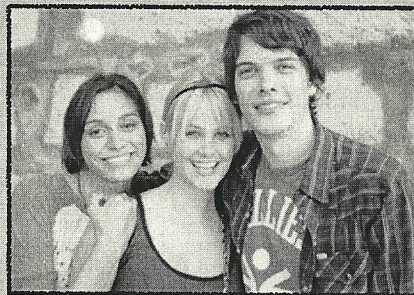
They may identify the original owner, but if the buyer reports the gun was lost or stolen last week or last year, the trail goes cold. Even if the shooter is willing to make an identification of the seller, there would be scant likelihood of a prosecution. The gun market needs regulation. Handguns should be registered and gun owners should be required to promptly report lost or stolen guns. Sales should be re-

stricted to one gun a month. Recipients in private sales and transfers should be required to pass an instant background check.

The United States is the world leader by a factor of ten among high income countries in the murder and suicide of its children and young adults by firearms. We not only have the most guns in public hands, we also have the weakest safeguards for their inherent safety, storage, and sale. We should be saying that we need to take steps to keep guns from kids and join the rest of the world in recognizing that a consumer product of such destructive power needs to be controlled.

Stephen R. Dunlop is a psychiatrist and past president of HCGV.

DR. DUNLOP recently was interviewed by the Y-Press, the Youth Press which appears occasionally in the Indianapolis Star. If you know of anyone who you think might be interested in becoming a member of Hoosiers Concerned, please contact HCGV at 3535 Kessler Boulevard North, Indianapolis, IN 46222, or call Bob Friedly at 357-5550. Leave your phone number if the number is busy or no one answers.



YOUNG LEADERS WANTED Special opportunities for training and leadership in Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence await young people. Call Bob Friedly at 357-5550.

WOMAN POWER . 57% of the membership of Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence is female. Marian Towne, Presbyterian author, has served as secretary of HCGV for 20 years, but has now retired from that position. Joyce Bowman, Quaker and a retired registered nurse, also has served as a board member. Other women, however, are needed in leadership. If interested, respond by phone to Bob Friedly at 357-5550.

THE GUNS OF APRIL

Apr. 2 suicidal man suffers fatal gunshot

Apr. 3 seven killed in gun violence at tiny college

Apr. 6 gun standoff at church ends.

Apr. 9 one dead, one hurt in Easter shooting

Apr. 11 Indy man arrested in shooting

Apr. 12 love affair with guns seen as problem

Apr. 13 Martin shooter appears in court

Apr. 14 teen kicking in door before being shot, police say

Apr. 16 Cosby: Martin case is about guns

Apr. 17 two charged in armed robberies

Apr. 19 police shoot man during chase; woman, 23, killed in shooting

Apr. 21 robbers confine employees in cooler

Apr. 24 man paralyzed in shooting dies

Apr. 25 hours later, man realizes he was shot

Apr. 26 man shoots brother during turkey hunt

Apr. 27 Feds investigate stray gunfire

(Continued next page)

The top rated handgun in use in the U.S. is the Glock 17



THIS IS THE WEAPON THAT WAS USED IN THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF CONGRESSWOMAN GABBY GIFFORDS.

Six other people were killed in that attempted assassination. The shooter received the gun by mail order. You can buy the weapon for \$539 or less.

The Glock was the invention of an Austrian named Gaston Glock who had absolutely no experience with firearm design or manufacture at the time. He did have experience, however, with advanced synthetic polymers, which have special strength and are long-lasting.

The firearms industry resisted for a time the idea of accepting a "plastic gun" due to durability and reliability concerns. However, the Glock now has captured 65 percent of the market share of handguns for United States law enforcement agencies, as well as supplying numerous national armed forces, security agencies, and law enforcement agencies in 48 countries.

There were 10 million guns sold in the U.S. in 2011, 8.7 million sold in 2010, 8.9 million in 2009, 8.4 million in 2008, 7.5 million in 2007, 7.3 million in 2006, 6.9 million in 2005, 6.5 million in 2004, and 6.3 million in 2003.

NUMBERS

You can get a new one for \$539

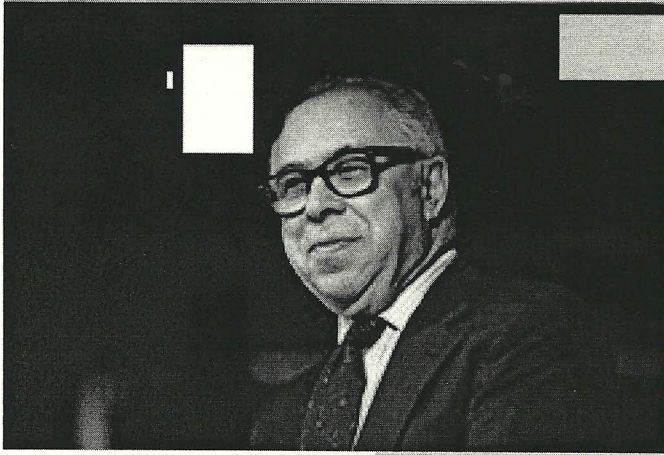
A used one for less, of course

The number of Glock handguns in use now in its various varieties totals

more than two and a half million world wide

Apr. 28 gun shop owners gets 4 years in plea deal

Apr. 30 ex-TV employee held in shooting incident.



BUCHWALD ON GUNS

The following is from the Commencement Address of the late humorist Art Buchwald to the Law School at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., in 1977: "I discovered that the most uptight organization in this country right now is the National Rifle Association. Now, before you get to like me, I am for gun registration, and it is very personal with me. My neighbor has a gun, and he can't even water his lawn straight. But every time I do an article for gun registration, I get hundreds of letters, all neatly typewritten, telling me I am trying to destroy the Constitution. And I discovered that everybody in this country who owns a gun also owns a typewriter. So my solution to the gun registration problem is to make everybody register his typewriter."

Nazi leaders Hermann Goering and Paul Goebbels in 1936 on guns and butter —
Goering: "Guns will make us powerful; butter will only make us fat." **Goebbels:** "We could do without butter, but despite all our love of peace, not without arms. We cannot

shoot with butter, but with guns."

MOURDOCK: NRA PATSIE?

The National Rifle Association, for the first time, supported a challenger to a Republican Senate incumbent. NRA Executive Director Chris Cox claims that Richard Mourdock, who defeated Richard Lugar for Lugar's seat, has agreed to vote the NRA position on all measures relating to guns and to vote the way the NRA wants him to on all U.S. Supreme Court nominations.

According to NPR books: America's weapon of choice is the Glock pistol, both for criminals and law enforcement in the United States. It was created in 1982 by curtain-rod manufacturer Gaston Glock.

He asked gun experts in his native Austria how to improve the handgun.

The answer: larger ammo capacity, easy to fire, easy to learn to use.

Me and the 'Baptists south of God'

by the Rev. Bob Sanders

I began my sacred journey in the faith community with what Carlyle Marney, tongue in cheek, called "Baptists south of God."

It was a gentle, non-abrasive, fundamentalism. Early in life I saw a glass half-full, not half-empty. This basic optimism has been called into question in recent years.

The tragedy of the shooting of Trayvon Martin by George Zimmerman has propelled the "hoodie" into a symbol of solidarity against institutional racism. What an indictment of guns as "protection!"

I read the following recently: "The gun culture portrays itself as locked in a cosmic struggle to protect America's most cherished value — freedom. As the executive vice-president of the National Rifle Association said in a recent speech, 'Freedom is nothing but dust in the wind until it is guarded by the blue and steel and dry powder of a free and armed people. Our founding fathers understood that freedom always rides with a firearm at its side.'"

While religion doesn't claim that humanity will find a utopia of peace and security and a lessening of gun violence by the simple injection of love, there is a word to be said for that injection. The biblical faith

portrays a fallen world in which there will always be a need for laws concerning violence with guns, and the justice that goes with it. To believe in the power of religion isn't to abandon all forms of restraint — and gun control.

What biblical faith does is push us to discover the deepest roots of human violence, to the lurking suspicions and hatreds in the hearts of all of us. That means for me the support for every practical effort to reduce violence in any form, to prevent any continuing actions that lead to violent conflict.

At the same time, I am determined to expose my life to the grace that roots out the darkness of the human spirit and the use of guns to resolve differences.

In spite of all the violence in the world, I still believe there is a word of hope. It is a hard and frightening way, making every one of us vulnerable to this culture of violence. I yearn for the courage to hold a stance of non-violence.

I yearn to remain human without getting sucked into the whirl of violence. Isn't that the mission of Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence?

1. U. S. 698 billion
2. China 119 billion
3. U.K. 59 billion
4. France 59 billion
5. Russia 58 billion
6. Japan 54 billion
7. Germany 45 billion
8. Saudi Arabia 45 billion
9. India 41 billion
10. Italy 36 billion

FROM THE EDITORS

Listed above are the world's largest defense budgets in billions of dollars. The United States conducts 42 percent of the total world arms trade. The AK series of weapons has been produced in greater numbers than any other firearm. It has been used in conflicts all over the world.

Bob Sanders and Bob Friedly

MEMBERS

Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence has 155 members. A total of 70% of the membership is located in Indianapolis, but there also are members from Anderson, Avon, Bloomington, Carmel, Chicago, Claypool, Elkhart, Fort Wayne, Frankfort (KY), Greencastle, Greenfield, Hobart, Lafayette, Laporte, Lebanon, Muncie, Noblesville, N. Manchester, Schererville, Seymour, South Bend, and Zionsville.

OFFICERS

President: Vacant
Vice-President: Loring Prosser
Treasurer: David Mason
Secretary: Robert Friedly

HOOSIERS CONCERNED

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This newsletter is produced quarterly on behalf of Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence. Becoming a member of the organization requires payment of an annual dues of \$25.