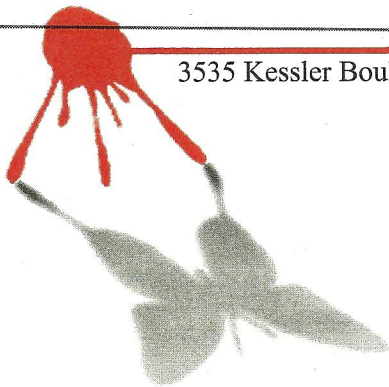


Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence

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<p>Women as gun owners <i>The number of women gun owners in 2011 is up to 23%, according to the Gallup Crime Survey, an increase from 15% the previous year..</i></p>	<p>Turning on each other <i>Without a clear 'devil' to rally against, Americans tend to turn on each other (as in politics), according to an article in USA Today. Dualism has a history.</i></p>	<p>Brady Campaign says: <i>The easy access to guns is not a political issue, but a moral issue, according to Dennis Henigan of the Brady Campaign against gun violence.</i></p>	<p>Campus accident <i>A Weber State University student, carrying a concealed handgun, accidentally shot himself while walking across campus, says Gun Violence Report.</i></p>
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY KEEPS GUN PERMIT RECORDS SECRET

When will we declare war on an enemy that has us under full occupation? The eulogies to courage and devotion, the vows to rain righteousness down on fiends who would shoot policemen or mothers holding babies, are well and good. The pleas to hormone-addled teenagers to keep peace in the streets can't do any harm.

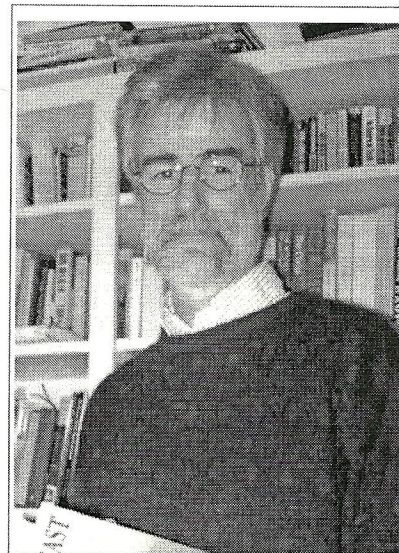
But when do the politicians, the police brass and the prosecutors raise and join their voices in indictment of the common denominator: in this nation, and in particular this state, when you're angry, desperate, drug-crazed, clinically paranoid or just plain committed to a criminal career, you don't have just your fists and your wits.

You have a gun, because countless people will sell you everything from purse pistols to military firepower; and there's not much to get in their way or yours. Stores have limited background checks; private sellers at gun shows don't have to perform any. If push comes to shove, you can buy a Glock in the alley from a guy with a clean record who stocked up at the store, taking advantage of Indiana's lack of limits on purchases.

The market, legit and black, is flourishing, right along with the homicide rate. Bad news seems to have all the dampening effect of a sprinkle of water on a grill fire, both in industry and government.

After the Tucson massacre, Glock sales boomed as our president ignored the gun control issue in a State of the Union speech attended by Tucson survivors. After The Star revealed a couple of years ago that persons with histories of violence were wrongly being given carry

(continued on the next page)



This column by Dan Carpenter appeared in the Indianapolis Star last year and is reprinted here because of its continuing timeliness in the struggle to bring some effective control over the proliferation of guns in Indiana.

(continued from page 1)

permits, the Indiana General Assembly took action — to keep the permit records secret.

On and on.

In Indiana, as in Arizona and Washington, gun laws do nothing but loosen while the gun lobby and the tea party cry for more “rights” to “self-defense.”

Who will stand up to them? The National Rifle Association finds itself crosswise with police chiefs and some mayors. But the outcry rarely reaches a roar, and you won't hear it in this city or state.

When he arrived from sensible New York, Public Safety Director Frank Straub made the sensible observation that too many people in this town were carrying guns.

The backlash was instantaneous and ballistic.

Around here, it is not guns, but rather gun control rhetoric, that is regulated.

Meanwhile, we record about 100 homicides a year (in Indianapolis) and many times that number in non-fatal gunshot wounds.

The authorities cite many causes, including the abundance of illegal firearms.

They will not demand that the legislature and governor, much less Congress, take on the cornucopia of legal weaponry as well.

People kill people.

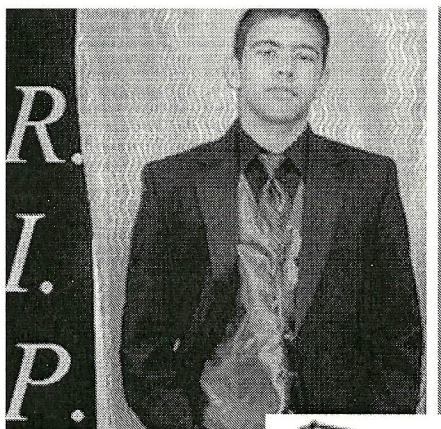
Guns make it easier and easier. Why is it so hard for those who know it best to call the enemy out?



The Tucson dead: One year after



Resigned Congresswoman Giffords



Jaime Gonzales



Guns, not necessarily criminals, kill

A Texas death offers a grim reminder that gun replicas can be as dangerous as guns themselves. In Brownsville, a 15-year-old eighth grader named Jaime Gonzales was shot to death by police when he pointed a BB gun that resembled a Glock handgun at the officers, according to States United to Prevent Gun Violence.

In Phoenix, Arizona, Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms Agent John Capano of Seaford, N.Y., age 51, was mistakenly shot and killed while trying to stop a robbery during his off duty hours. Capano leaves behind a wife and two children, ages 15 and 18.

A month in Indianapolis' gun life

Jan 1—A central Indiana man shot and killed a 17-year-old boy he thought was a coyote on his property.

Jan 2—A police officer shot and critically wounded an armed robbery suspect in an on-foot pursuit.

Jan 3—Homicide detectives questioned 200 customers outside a Far Eastside bar after a 28-year-old was shot to death outside the bar entrance.

Jan 4—A man, 42, and a woman, 21, were shot to death in separate incidents at Northwest side and Westside apartments.

Jan 5—A 22-year-old man and a girl, 9, were wounded when someone shot into a residence on Indy's Eastside.

Jan 9—Police say they shot and critically wounded a man who fired a shot at them.

Jan 10—A 14-year-old was critically wounded on the far east side of the city when another youth found a handgun and gave it to someone else who accidentally fired it

Jan 13—A suburban Indianapolis couple were justified in shooting at burglary suspects, according to the prosecutor, after they had been burglarized in an earlier attempt just a few days before the shooting.

Jan 15—Two people were hospitalized after a shooting at a Westside apartment.

Jan 18—A 22-year-old was arrested after shots were fired outside Lafayette Square Mall in an incident that police say was prompted by a Facebook dispute.

Jan 20—A 53-year-old man shot to death his girlfriend, 41, in a dispute at her home.

Jan 29—A man who had been on medication, but had neglected to take the medicine for several days, shot to death two people he thought were going to kill him.

Bills introduced in Legislature

(2012 Second Regular Session)

Senate Bill 0180 — Makes possession of a firearm on school property a Class A Misdemeanor instead of a Class D Felony. Makes the law against firearms not apply to legal firearms owned by non-students and locked in a car trunk, or in a glove compartment of a locked vehicle, or stored out of sight in a locked vehicle. Filed by Sen. Jim Banks (R) — *died without hearing.*

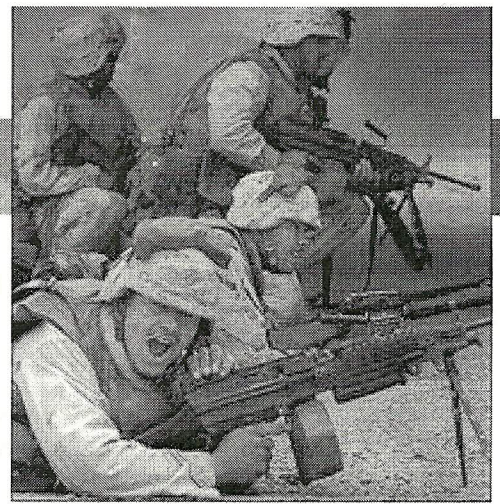
Senate Bill 0377 — Permits a person allowed to possess, manufacture or sell a sawed-off shotgun under federal law to do so in Indiana. Filed by Sens. Banks, Dennis Kruse (R) — *died without hearing.*

Senate Bill 0181 — Prohibits state agencies, including state-supported colleges or universities, from regulating possession or transportation of firearms, in buildings owned by the state. Filed by Sens. Banks, Kruse — *died without hearing.*

Senate Bill 0006 — Removes a provision that makes it a Class B misdemeanor for a person to manufacture, possess, display, offer, sell, lend, give away, or purchase switchblade knives. Filed by Sens. John Nugent (R), Jim Tomes (R), Banks, Lindel Hume (D) — *Passed Senate, referred to House Committee on Public Policy.*

Senate Bill 0243 — Repeals the law that prohibits the possession or use of a silencer while hunting. Filed by Sens. Ron Grooms (R), Travis Holdman (R), John Waterman (R) — *Passed Senate, sent to House.*

— From Steve Dunlop



The Noblest ‘Sport’

By the Rev. Bob Sanders

The plaque on Donald Rumsfeld’s desk during the Iraq war was absolutely chilling. It read, ‘Aggressive fighting for the right is the noblest *sport* the world affords.’ Some Americans may consider gun violence sport and that may be the reason that our wars never end. Theologians Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan say that war always is followed by “lull” and then escalation — a renewed violence, worse than before.

If you think our society is not gun crazy, consider our myriad of common expressions related to guns: big shot, bite the bullet, shot down, gun shy, trigger happy, don’t jump the gun, he shot his mouth off, trouble shooter, she’s a pistol, stick to your guns, I dodged a bullet, he went ballistic, sure shot, shoot for the

moon, hot shot, on his hit list, jump the gun, stick to your guns, grace under fire, he’s getting flak, shooting down an argument, and so on.

Chris Hedges, a war correspondent, wrote a scary book within the last few years called *War is a Force That Gives Us Meaning*, in which his premise was that people need war as a noble cause to help them find meaning in hum-drum lives, to discover purpose for their existence.

One never wins by defeating violence with greater violence but by finding a way to peace through other means.

I am committed to the biblical perspective that God is at work in the world, bringing it to wholeness and fulfillment.

God has invited human beings to become “junior partners” in the

unfinished universe. But sometimes my basic optimism is shaken in favor of the view that some apocalyptic holocaust is imminent. There are times when it seems God’s ultimate purpose isn’t making progress.

Christians, however, are hopeful people. God’s will can be accomplished in history, though God’s time may be a tad longer than our time.

I need to remember that God hasn’t given up on the world and I must not. Violence, guns and bombs aren’t God’s way and it must not be my way.

No end justifies a means that makes another war possible. We cannot succumb to the temptation to fight fire with fire. It is a cliché but “as we act, we must not become the evil we deplore.”

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