

Time to Put a Ban on Handguns

By Jenica McRae
Ink Contributor

Imagine yourself sitting in the driveway of a friend's home. You drive out only to find that you've driven into a shoot-out.

Sounds of firecrackers whizz in your ears, and the fire from the guns lights up the blackness around you.

Would this terrify you?

Many feel it is their constitutional right to keep and bear arms. But just how far should this right go when thousands die each year because of these machines?

Is it fair for innocent people to be gunned down for senseless reasons or because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time?

Although it is the constitutional right of every

American to own almost any type of gun, we must decide on the consequences of having such a right today.

If posing your family, your property or yourself is the sole reason we have

so many guns on the streets, then why are gun-related deaths so hostile and so tragic? And why are they killing so many of our black youths?

I do not support the use of handguns because they lead to violence on top of violence.

In particular, young black

males seem to be the target of the kind of violence caused by guns being on the streets.

Many of the males who carry

males in the news everyday this summer.

This activity is not helping the black race at all. Instead, it is another anecdote used to help our people kill themselves.

I would gladly give up the right to keep and bear arms to ease some of the violence in the United States, however, I support the banning of handguns to keep the black race alive and thriving.

Adolescents, especially, need their peace of mind back to educate themselves with knowledge and not with violence.

If you have ever been shot, lost a loved one as a result of a gun, or have been plain out terrorized with a gun, think about the situation one more time.

Now, would you give up your right to bear arms to help save the life of the black future?

"... Young black males seem to be the target of the kind of violence caused by guns being on the streets."

guns are under the age of 18, and a vast majority of them do not think before they shoot.

In addition, incidents like the shoot-out I personally experienced, fist fights that end in shoot outs and the slaying of other young men represent just a few of the cases that kept black

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Letters to the Editor

We Need BCC....

While sitting on the wall in front of the Undergrad not too long ago, I remember an article, which appeared in the *Daily Tar Heel* on Sept. 7, titled "Whites Owe Blacks Public Recognition of Racism" that a girl brought up in my Afam 40 class. After reading the article myself, I found that it wasn't as interesting as she made it out to be. Being totally unsatisfied because I got my hopes up too high, I started flipping through the paper to find a more appealing article.

Then I came across an editorial written by a guest columnist, Joel Tolliver. The title of his piece, "Blacks Deserve Proper Place in American History," immediately caught my attention. This is the message that Blacks have been trying to get across for centuries. Curious about what he was going to say, I began to read the article. The more I read, the more I found myself agreeing with everything Tolliver was saying. He talked

about a need to have a free-standing black cultural center (BCC) and the reasons why he felt this way.

Tolliver's article made me think about a lot of things. I thought about being a black student on a predominantly white campus, my need to find out who I am, and I thought about why this institution needs a free-standing black cultural center.

In his article, Tolliver wrote: "A free-standing black cultural center is required on this campus for the simple fact that it is an institution of higher learning. Being such, here of all places, a black student should be able to find himself. I say this because today the black man and woman is lost in America." This is very true. Tell me, did you know that when it comes to black history the month of August is very significant?

For instance, would you have learned in a history class that both the March on Washington and the Watts riots took place in

August? Or that Nat Turner rode in August? Or would you have learned about Dr. Louis T. Wright, inventor of the neck brace used for the transporting and handling of patients in Physical Education 86? How about your Drama 16 class? Did your professor bother to mention the name Paul Robeson? And if so, did he or she tell you that Robeson was the first black actor to play "Othello"?

The answer is probably no. These important and famous blacks are usually overlooked in our history, PE and drama classes, despite the fact that they are very relevant to the subjects we are studying. And why? Is it because you were taught that it was whites who really did these things? Or was it because you were never able to find a place that had these extraordinary facts on file? Or both?

A free-standing black cultural center is a necessity on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and other

predominantly white universities. It should be a place where blacks, in particular, can go and awe over the hundreds of accomplishments that blacks and others have contributed to American society, history and development.

By planning, developing and building a free-standing BCC, we and other races, can see the real truth of how this country came to be. *Anissa Harris is a freshman Physical Ed major from Mebane.*

My Brothers and Sisters...

My years at Carolina were filled with classes, exams, parties and trying to fit into the "in-crowd." I would like to know who is in the "in-crowd." Is it the people in fraternities or sororities, or is it the guys on the football team? Maybe I am mistaken, but since when does having Greek letters or playing a sport make you part of the "in-crowd?" Does any of these things give you an identity or define who you are?

I came to this university to

receive an education, not a reputation. Don't get me wrong. I am not disrespecting anyone who is involved in any of these, but have you ever asked yourself why you became a part of these organizations? Was it to give yourself an identity, or was it to give you a sense of belonging in the "in-crowd" because you had no idea of who you were or what you stood for?

For those of you out there who did this to belong to something and to take on an identity, you need to check yourself. Being a part of something may look good on the outside, but what do you look like on the inside? Do you know who you are, or are you still trying to figure it out?

My advice to you—get to know who you are and what you're all about, so that you won't have to become a part of these things to have an identity in the end. You will appreciate yourself and not what you've become a part of.

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