

Do You Believe In Gun Control?

On Saturday, December 4, a Grimsley High sophomore was shot to death. Do you believe in gun control?

This is the question that enters my mind every time I hear of a death or injury caused by firearms. I've contemplated, discussed -- I've even done research on gun control -- and I have decided to support it.

In my opinion, the way to limit the criminal use of hand guns is not to take guns away from law-abiding citizens but to impose mandatory sentences for crimes in which a gun is used. Also, for the betterment of the community, we should make it more difficult to obtain cheap guns for criminal purposes. The sale or manufacture of concealable (pistol less than 8½ inches, revolvers less than 5-3/4 inches and barrels less than 4 inches) guns should be banned.

A Federal study, in which 7,815 hand guns were taken by police over a 32-month period, found that "Saturday night specials" are used in 45 percent of street crimes involving guns because they are cheap and easily concealed. The study also showed that only 67 percent of the guns had been reported stolen to the FBI while a far higher percentage had been purchased from pawn shops. Many guns used in northern cities were found to have come from states with weak controls on the sale of guns. Seventy one percent of the guns had barrels no longer than three

inches. My conclusion from this is if control of guns were strong in all states, then criminals would not be able to travel to a different area to easily obtain firearms.

In the United States, more people have been killed by privately owned guns since 1900 than have died in all the wars in the nation's history. Today, half the families in this country own at least one gun. The Federal government and some states have gun control laws. These laws prohibit alcoholics, drug addicts, mentally unbalanced persons or persons with criminal records from owning guns. Still, the existing gun control laws are difficult to enforce because of the enormous number of weapons already in private hands.

There is one drawback from enforcing gun control laws. The manufacture and sale of guns in the "under world" could possibly increase. I cannot assume this as a fact, but I wouldn't be surprised if, unfortunately, this situation is already taking place. Please do not misunderstand me -- I believe everyone should have the right to protect himself but I just cannot see letting someone purchase a firearm (whether legally or illegally) to possibly do harm against someone else.

If you want to try to change existing situations concerning gun control or would perhaps want more information, I suggest you write your congressman. Remember -- someone may be shot tomorrow ... Do you believe in gun control?

Christmas Season Brings Out Best

"City sidewalks, busy sidewalks, dressed in holiday style. In the air, there's that feeling of Christmas". Once again, it is the time of year when people cast away their inhibitions to celebrate this joyous season. Love abounds on every street corner and each person is filled with the spirit of living.

The shopping, eating and visiting tend to blot out the cruel world for a short time. People depend upon this season to provide a new hope and a temporary happiness for them. America needs the Christmas season to improve her outlook.

Christmas brings about parties for friends to gather and share their good times and fond memories. Families are reunited each year at this time out of an annual tradition. The love of a family is rekindled at this time in much the same fashion as the fires which are burning in the people's homes.

The trees, houses, landscapes and the places of business take on that attractive Christmas look which brings excitement to each person's heart. All things look beautiful again. The cold and the snow which were a nuisance in October are now adding to the season's atmosphere. The lights of shopping centers and businesses remind us of the commercialism that has come to be associated with Christmas. But, even in this, there can be found a glimmer of good. The often criticized commercialism does subtract from the true meaning of Christmas, however, it does add to the spirit and happiness of each individual. A Christian will always remember the true meaning but the non-Christian is caught up in the advertising and commercialism and is enticed to

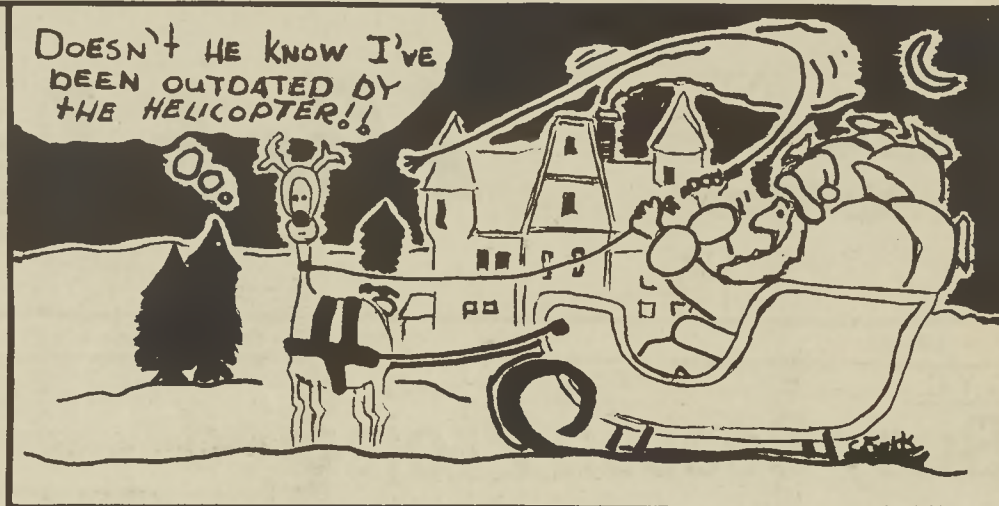
give to others. This action brings about his feeling of happiness. If each man finds peace and happiness this season in his own way, be he Christian or not, isn't that what Christmas is all about?

Many charities also mark this season. They are all working towards making the Christmas more pleasant for those who are less fortunate. People pour their hearts and money into these services, which are a prime example of the spirit of each individual this jolly season. One can hardly pass a Salvation Army stand without dropping something into the can.

If man were to carry this spirit of Christmas throughout the entire year, the world would be a much nicer place to live. Men would learn to give and greed would be a thing of the past. Men would come together and learn to love one another. The spirit of Christmas should be a year-round feeling. People should not wait for one time each year to sow their charity and giving ability.

Of course, something so simple and enjoyable as Christmas should not be looked into so deeply. The season should be kept as simple and sacred as possible. This is a deeper look into the results and feelings which are drawn forth. Not all may agree with the assumptions made here but it is hoped that this writing will be helpful to some in gaining a new perspective of Christmas.

In closing, it is hoped that everyone will remember to give of themselves and their resources to those who can't celebrate as happily as others. It is also important for people to keep this spirit of Christmas throughout the entire year.



To The Editor

To the Editor:

This editorial is concerning the article in the last issue of "High Life" entitled "An Alternate Choice For Happiness".

In the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of the United States it says that every American has the freedom of religion as one of his inalienable rights. This means that he has the right to choose for himself his beliefs and not for others to force it upon him.

In the past several months there has been quite an uproar at Grimsley about finding "life" in Jesus. This is fine for those who choose to accept that life, but those who don't should not be condemned for their beliefs, nor should they be forced or conned into believing that they are eternally doomed.

In my opinion, being a "good Christian" means respecting other people's religion as well as one's own. It seems to me that all non-believing Christians have been given the vivid impression that they are missing out on something and unless they "find it" there is no purpose to their life.

One of the main reasons we have so much talk about religion in school is because of Young Life. This organization has been a big part of Grimsley for many years. Their advisors are well-trained, well-organized, and very well Christian-oriented -- and that's what's wrong with it. Since when have religion and schools been allowed to be in the same bracket? The separation of Church and State was established decades ago. So why do they advertise? Why are they allowed to put their posters up all over school? Sure, Young Life is fun. It's a great way for people to get together and meet each other. But I have yet, and I know I never will, hear someone tell me that it has nothing to do with religion -- because that's what it's all about.

Everyone knows how commercial Christmas has become. Are these people trying to make their entire religion commercial? How can this be? Religion is personal. It's a person's feelings and thoughts on a one-to-one basis with G-d; and that G-d can be whomever or whatever that person wants it to be. Now, how

can something that personal be commercialized? So the next time you tell someone "you found it", just think twice, and keep it to yourself.

Lisa Wainer

To the Editor:

I would like to express an opinion I have on the article "An Alternate Choice For Happiness" written by Jimmy Carpenter. I would just like to say that at my first glance at his article I thought he was giving us all a sermon. But as I analyze it -- that's not what he wanted to convey to us at all. His ideas were expressed well, but,

most of us here at Grimsley have not found ourselves. And in order for us to find ourselves we must first find Jesus Christ. As we go on living each day, I fully realize how right he is. Think about what my "brother" has said, but more importantly -- take his advice.

Richard Spurlin 207

Faulty P.A. Confuses Students

Are you lost as to what is going on in the school, because you never hear the morning or afternoon announcements? The new P.A. system hopes to solve this problem encountered not only by students, but teachers as well and bring them out of the dark.

There is no question that the new system is expensive, but the services provided by it will certainly override the cost of it. It will not only offer the classes in the new science building, the

home-economics building and the gym a way of hearing the announcements but a better overall system of communication.

Although the new system is being installed because of faults in the present one, it could also offer a solution to some of the disciplinary problems. With a direct link-up between each classroom and the offices provided by this service, if a problem should arise, it could be handled faster and more efficiently than sending the

student or a note to the office.

Will the new P.A. system do away with the --

"Are we having practice?"

"Where do we meet?"

"When do these forms need to be in?" and various other questions asked by uninformed students and teachers. Probably not, for there always will be those who will not listen. But for the most part it will provide a better and more practical way of communication for the students and faculty of our school.

In Memorium

Joe Wilson, a sophomore, was killed Saturday night December 4. It's felt by all, that Grimsley has suffered a great loss because of his tragic death. Joe was a shy, quiet student, a good worker, who was quite responsible. His death snaps us back to the harsh reality of life in this season of fantasy. A collection was taken by the Executive Council in an effort to help his family. During the holiday while you're enjoying pleasant times with your family, think of Joe's family and the heartaches they're going through. It's hoped that each and every student will remember this death and be saddened by this tragedy. It is senseless for one so young to die before he has yet lived. Maybe something will be done about the unrestricted ownership of guns in our lifetime. Grimsley will miss Joe Wilson but his memory will remain with us.

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