

THE BLUE BANNER

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The Blue Banner is UNC Asheville's student newspaper. We publish each Tuesday except during summer sessions, finals week and holiday breaks. Our office is located in Karpen Hall 019.

The Blue Banner is a designated forum for free speech and welcomes letters to the editor, considering them on basis of interest, space and timeliness. Letters and articles should be emailed to the editor-in-chief or the appropriate section editor. Letters should include the writer's name, year in school, and major or other relationship to UNCA. Include a phone number to aid in verification. All articles are subject to editing.

EDITORIAL

School shootings are avoidable disasters

School shootings as a whole have crippled the country for decades and now in 2018, we are seeing the numbers rise at an alarming rate. Recently, in Benton, Kentucky, two students were killed and 18 were injured in the eleventh American shooting of 2018.

It seems we have become numb to the perpetual news of innocent people losing their lives simply because they showed up to school, as the subject is a frequent fixture of mainstream American media.

This is the reality of living in the current-day United States, a country where we are inundated by violent media, our politicians impose gridlocks on any conversation about proper gun control and a specter lurks in the back of our minds that maybe one day our school may appear in a headline behind the

glare of a computer screen.

It is a scary thought but one that everyone should take into consideration upon evaluating what needs to be done to reform gun violence in the US of A. This issue does not have an easy answer. Looking to countries like Australia, where gun control implemented in 1996 curbed mass shootings, could be an answer. Looking to countries like Switzerland, where gun ownership is extremely high yet gun violence is nearly non-existent, is also another avenue.

Gun violence is a nuanced issue and one that is not going to go away anytime soon. In order to begin to develop some kind of resolution, we need to look at cultural, economic and political components specific to the U.S. and devise some kind of solution based on these factors.

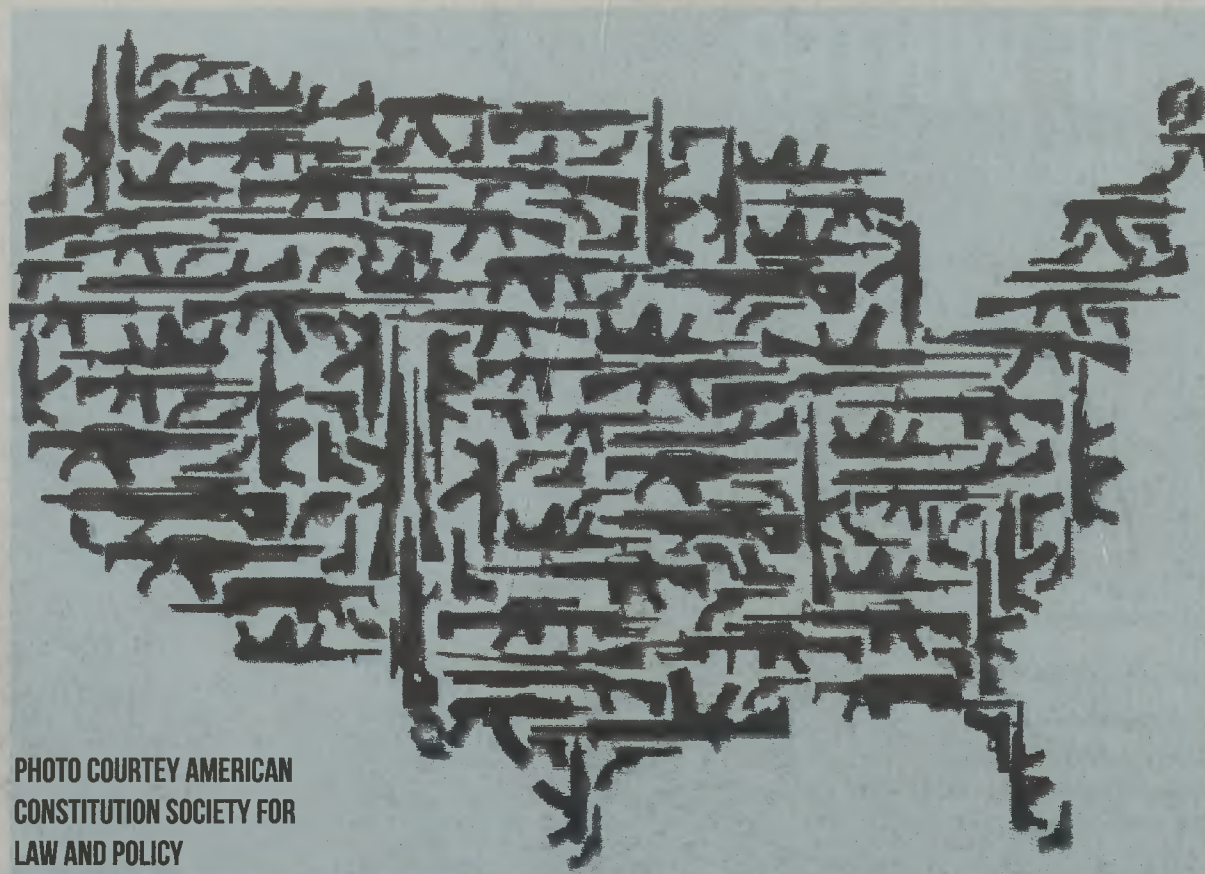


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