

EDITORIAL

American college students dying for more gun control



CARLOS MARQUEZ/TM

The United States does not have a gun problem, it has a gun epidemic. It manifests itself in maddening ways including rhetoric in regards to keeping a college campus safe.

In 2015 there was at least one mass shooting on any given day in the US and as many as three shootings. Opponents of gun control have bullets shoved so far into their ears (among other places) to block out the voice of reason.

According to data collected by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, about 92 gun-related deaths occur in a day; about 33% of which are by homicide and a distressing 63% are by suicide.

College campuses are a special case in regards to violence because colleges are meant to be institutions where people of varied beliefs, races, opinions and backgrounds gather, making it an unreasonable location for hate crimes; no matter the reason for crime on campus, it is proven that arms are not remedial.

It is certain that a higher presence of guns on campus would likely cause higher rates of suicide (as if having to take math classes in the morning were not reason enough).

With the facts being so, Talon Marks has elected to take a controversial stance and is coming out of the closet in favor of gun control and restricting gun violence.

It is obvious that if the already vast availability of guns should increase, the amount of danger on campus would increase in response. This is indisputable. If someone sets hundreds of mouse traps in ones hallway, one is likely to step on a mousetrap when one gets up for their midnight poop.

While there is a direct correlation between access to firearms and suicide and homicide rates, about 89 percent of sexual assaults and rapes are committed without any sort of weapon at all. Meaning that illegal firearms are not prominent factors in sexual violence. Arming possible victims is not equalizing.

These possible victims are more likely to commit homicide or suicide. A more effective plan would be more safety briefings and self-defense workshops than whatever silly number we have now; and better publicizing of such events; perhaps having free food there too!

Another viable alternative to arming students and instructors is ASCC actually following through by providing a tram for students who have classes at night.

In the event of mass shootings, police have said time and time again that it would not be helpful for multiple bystanders to pull out concealed weapons and fire at the assailant, especially if their bullets are

not traceable. Keep it in your pants.

What is likely to happen in such an occasion is the police on the scene will confuse the armed bystanders (who likely think this is still the wild west) for the bad guy; it would be safer for all parties involved if bystanders got to safety and let the police do their job.

We need more trained police on campus; and more police protecting safety and not doling out petty fines for parking violations.

Anyone who proposes more guns on campus is uninformed. Please direct them to this editorial.

Anyone who doesn't understand that favoring gun control and owning a gun are not mutually exclusive suffers from cognitive dissonance.

A vocal opponent of gun restriction is the National Rifle Association, a kindly nonprofit that provides firearms to drug cartels and domestic terrorists, which is backed by companies that produce weaponry designed for killing; it also lobbies for less gun restriction, proving once again that the corporate overlords only mean the greatest harm to the American public.

In light of this disease, Talon Marks calls all students, staff and faculty to learn how to defend themselves without a thunder stick and to promote responsible gun regulation.

THE ENVELOPE

Rich gays sacking culture

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"Pink capitalism" is a term used to describe the type of materialism which has constructed the gay male ideal- catering heavily to the cisgender, white and upper-middle class members of a community whose rights have been championed for by more oppressed peoples.

The truth is capitalism is not compatible with any sort of genuine equal rights movement because the idea of acquiring a surplus of goods or luxury goods is irrevocably exclusive to the elite and privileged.

Unfortunately for the general public, it is not common knowledge that socialism has been a propelling factor in the gay rights movement since its very beginning.

As early as the beginning of the nineteenth century, Utopian socialist thinkers including Charles Fourier in France and Robert Owen in England asserted that homosexuality must be considered valid in a classless and egalitarian society.

In the United States Bayard Rustin, who can be praised as a communist, draft-dodger and homosexual, assisted in planning the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom alongside Dr. Martin Luther King.

Despite this long shared history of socialism and gay rights, many members of gay community prefer to trade this elevated heritage for the lies of corporate America.

They do not see how the same companies that cater specifically to white, cisgender gays create massive disparity between genders, races and classes.

When gays participate in pink capitalism by giving their business to luxury brands, they perpetuate

the same sort of capitalism that uses discrimination against race, gender and socio-economic minorities as an instrument of white supremacy, misogyny and class-war to make money.

As a result, within gay culture itself there is a large amount of prejudice against queer people of color- but especially trans and black people.

What white gays should be doing is standing for the rights of other queer people and being an ally in fighting the issues of intersectionality.

Instead they steal other cultures like pirate booty- by wearing bhrinis and headresses and by using Ebonics. Every twink with a bottom lip thinks he can get away with such atrocities!

Trump was elected president, to the dismay of many including undocumented immigrants. As a group who is evidently gaining power in the United States, white gays ought to be overwhelmingly vocal about the need for an easier pathway to citizenship and amnesty, especially for Latino and Muslim members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Gays spend more money partying than they do in donations to institutions that would assist in the battle for equal rights for all such as the American Civil Liberties Union. Obviously white gays are confused as to who they should be allying themselves with, being that the LGBTQ+ right movement was started by poor, black trans women.

They should be standing in alliance with us, their unprivileged brothers and sisters who are not so welcome in the capitalist society. They do not see that they are just cogs in a machine.

Do I want children? No, thanks...

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"How many children are you planning to have?" I plan on having none, EVER! By now I am used to the questions that follow my claim to not have any children of my own in my life.

Here's a list of comments or questions that follow my claim:

- Why? (Why is there a need to explain myself?)
- I'm not going to be a grandma?! (So you're ignoring my wants and needs because you want to feel better?)
- So you hate children? (On the contrary, I love children and thoroughly enjoy not having to interact with one 24/7)
- But you would make a great parent! (I'm a perfectionist, so yes chances are that I'd break my back for the child.)
- Having a child makes you a woman! (Don't even.)

The latter is the most hurtful, disrespectful and stupid reason someone can appeal to me for having children.

If claiming that having a child makes you a woman, then what is your take on those who can't physically create another being, does that bring them down a level in womanhood?

At the age of 15, I have known that I don't want children. I am exhausted of explaining why I chose not to have any. I have learned that saying "I'm selfish" ends the discussion. However, I am tired of identifying myself as selfish.

I am not selfish. I am confident and clear in my decision. When I think about my future I don't imagine the great American home with the white picket fence and children playing in the yard. My ideal future requires extensive traveling, immersing myself in various cultures and gaining an understanding of other humans in this world.

I am intelligent and I know a child wouldn't fit this agenda. Every day I get more discouraged about the future of this world and I con-

sider it unfair to make another human experience a terrible world.

I am determined to not settle for what society expects of me because of my gender. I will not settle for anything less of my goals and aspirations. I refuse!

I am aware that some people have managed to raise children even with a busy agenda and I respect that. PROPS TO YOU!

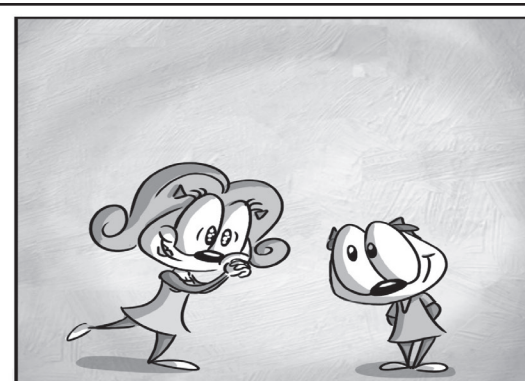
However, I know that when it comes to me I'd be completely overwhelmed and constantly feeling like someone is stopping me from achieving my goals. These negative thoughts shouldn't be projected on a child.

Lastly, for those who claim that I'll someday change my mind let me burst your bubble and say NO. It's not going to happen.

Next time you come across a woman don't just assume that she will have children. Instead of asking when or how many children she's having, ask her about her goals and aspirations. That will allow you to gain insight on what makes her feel worthy.



By: L. A. Bonté



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