

Guns and schools are a deadly mix

You just never know when you'll need a gun on school grounds, or so say Olympia-area gun rights advocates.

A measure to bar everyone, not just students, from carrying guns to school is now being considered in Washington. Presently, only elementary and secondary school students cannot bring deadly weapons onto school grounds.

This action was prompted by several incidents where adults and non-enrolled juveniles have brought guns to school to threaten and attack students and teachers.

Gun rights advocates object to the bill, saying it would unnecessarily encroach on the rights of gun carriers, especially those concerned about their safety.

Simple logic holds that if guns are outlawed from school in the first place, there would be no reason for worrying about one's safety. Two plus two equals four; no danger, no need for guns.

Of course, danger will continue to exist in the way of school-ground confrontations and problems, but when guns are taken out of the equation from the beginning, they aren't needed to finish the problem either.

Two plus two equals four; no danger, no need for guns.

When one introduces deadly weapons, or in this case, continues to allow them to be legally carried onto school grounds, he or she is asking for trouble. Why? Because in a playground setting, guns are an accident waiting to happen — a self-fulfilling prophecy of sorts.

If the appearance of guns on campus is the problem here, the answer isn't the continued authorization of more guns, but no guns.

Granted, there will always be people who bring guns to school, regardless of the law, and it's these characters the gun-toting advocates are justifiably concerned about. However, isn't it better to strive for the ideal of no guns at school (where they don't belong in the first place) than to settle for everyone and his or her brother packing their .45 to class?

This no doubt boils down to a rights issue. Threaten to take away an American's rights and expect a fight to the death — even if it doesn't make sense to exercise that right. Part of keeping all our rights intact usually means defending them down to the wire; many of us are afraid that should we lose a segment of those rights, the rest will surely follow.

And so the Second Amendment, the right to bear arms, is defended in this case, no doubt with the intention of protecting the issue on a whole. But examined closer, it's obvious it wouldn't be the best idea to exercise gun carrying rights in this instance. Think about it: Guns and schools just don't mix.



LETTERS

Write a Czech

Our warmest greetings to all of you. There are four of us, I Zdenek am 42, my wife Ria is 39, daughter Barbora is 13 and son Zdenko is 7.

We would like to correspond with people from your lovely country.

Only three months ago we returned back from our five years stay in India. My foreign assignment to Commercial Section of the Czechoslovak Embassy took place in Bombay and Delhi.

I am going to answer every interesting and creative letter. Your enclosed picture will get mine. The door of our home will stay opened to everyone who shall decide to drop a few lines to us.

Zdenek Brlica
Wolkrova 21
851 01 Bratislava, Czechoslovakia

Anatomy 101

Regarding "Big C," by Kronida Adair, (ODE, Feb. 25). I suggest that Big "K.A." study a little more physiology. Castration has nothing to do with a male erection. Erection is caused by the male penis filling with blood and not some testicular fluid. Get real. Get rid of rage.

Bob Barzee
Eugene

Exiled Duck

Emerald headlines announced: "OPS officer handcuffs and arrests University professor...." I thought, what has happened to the tradition of friendliness on this campus?

I too have experienced rudeness, humiliation and intimidation from OPS officers. My sin was to say "Hello" to a student who had been my tenant a short time ago. He complained, and the OPS issued me a letter of trespass. Now I'm in that special subclass of citizens of whom it is required to have OPS permission to be on campus.

How did OPS arrive at that decision? I was not allowed to contest my accuser's testimony. I was kept in the dark about the

nature of his complaints until several months later. After several more months of protesting, I was notified the punishment stands, and I should quit complaining. The process used fits Zaire better than Oregon. I'm chagrined.

After 37 years being a Duck donor and season ticket holder, I'm no longer welcome on campus unless I have pre-arranged permission. Consequently, I'll not donate money or time nor buy season tickets. The four members in my family who also attended the University will do the same. Some friends and former tenants have joined my University boycott.

Security is important, but how was that endangered when I said "Hello" to a student? Once friendliness was an honored tradition here. Hopefully, the budget crunch will necessitate a renewed interest in friendliness and public relations. Then, maybe I'll again consider myself an Oregon Duck.

Jacob Veldhuisen
BS'58; MA'64; Ph.D. '73
Oregon

Hear, hear

Here — here, for Anthony Stumbo's "Not a crime" letter (ODE, Feb. 28)! It takes real "guts" to stand up to such a large majority whose stance is in opposition to your own, especially when the opposition seems to be suffering from tunnel vision and a me-me syndrome.

The problem with Oregon's tax structure and its consequential Measure 5 is not the measure itself, but the way the state so heavily taxes the personal property owner and then frivolously wastes those tax dollars.

Until the state learns to operate efficiently, as those they tax must operate, then the state's unfair and excessive tax system will always be under siege.

What the citizens of this state want is not limiting higher education, park improvements or

improvements to the state's infrastructure, but a state government, which like its private business counterparts, gets the job done with two-thirds the budget and without sacrificing the quality or quantity of services provided.

This is what the citizens of the state have been demanding from their elected officials for years, yet these officials, time and time again, have not taken up the calling. Measure 5 is the unfortunate yet only avenue our citizens have felt they had left. Maybe now our elected officials will accomplish what their constituents have been demanding from them for several years: a fair, accountable and equitable tax system.

Daniel T. Frank
Eugene

Bad example

Dear Myles Brand,
Thank you for your attempts to save higher education in this state from ruin by the consequences of Measure 5.

However, I am not sure that your tactics are going to win the battle. I understand that leaders lead best by example, but your examples leave much to be desired.

Why did you spend so much money on treats for the mayor, his wife and other city officials to go to a football game? Why did you let the sculpture outside the new athletic facility be removed at a cost (by donation) of more than \$30,000?

You should remember students pay significant sums of money to run this university.

Surely as the president of this institution, you should set an example. Show students the sacrifices you will make in order that it is indeed open to all, not just the privileged, wealthy few.

A first step would be to donate a proportion of your salary to programs facing the worst cuts.

Roger Harris
Biology department

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

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