

Is it time to repeal the Second Amendment? Guns are not sacred, children are

OPEN FORUM

By Tom H. Hastings

It is now long, long past time to repeal the Second Amendment. It serves evil, not good, violence, not peace, hatred, not love.

The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution is a relic of a time when the citizens accepted their general powerlessness and seemed to live without imagination, just fear.

Still, it will likely take independent-minded gun owners to lead the overdue effort to rid our society of this curse.

We need gun owners with conscience to finally, at long last, face morality, face the truth, face the irrefutable terrible facts on the ground, in the ground, that perfectly innocent children are victims again and again and again to the lack of backbone of gun owners.

I'm a peace person, as are my friends. I am striving to be nonviolent and have

tried to learn nonviolence for years. I can point to alternatives to guns, I can argue against them, and that's about it.

What we need--what would dramatically change our national discourse on this--is for gun owners to stand up and tell the rest of us, "We no longer want our possessions to be regarded under our Constitution as sacred and above the law. We reject the kneejerk response from the NRA and the gun industry every time there is a tragedy."

Not once--never, not even one single time--have they admitted that guns can ever be a problem and are just things that should be subjected to laws like anything else.

When I worked on high-rise construction projects in my 20s and 30s I was very glad for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). They inspected just often

enough to help us stay relatively safe, even 300+ feet off the ground in the Minnesota winter.

We didn't have company owners lobbying to declare scaffolding or tie-ropes or other safety devices somehow related to near sacralization. The OSHA inspectors would pick up a faulty extension cord, pull out their wire snips, and cut it into short, unusable pieces, and would then write up a fine. Did that cost our companies? Only once--then they told the foremen to be careful to keep it all legal.

We regulate cars, motorcycles, boats, and much, much more. Some things are simply outlawed. People cannot have a marijuana brownie but they can have a handgun?

The lives of children are sacred; guns are just objects. We choose guns over children every day that we do not get rid of that long-antiquated Second Amendment.



Am I suggesting that ridding ourselves of the Second Amendment would solve everything? Obviously not; guns haven't solved much either. We need to learn new ways.

Learn nonviolence. Work to end poverty. Share. Support candidates who will reduce military expenditures and increase subsidies to all the many new ways to manage conflict that do not involve violence and the threat of violence.

Learn about Gandhi. Learn about mediation. Learn about de-escalation. These are how we negate the "need" for guns. Are they foolproof? Nothing is. But the Second Amendment is not serving us well, not at all. Time for change.

Editor's Note: Tom H. Hastings of Portland directs PeaceVoice, a program of the Oregon Peace Institute. Hastings can be reached via email at pctom@gmail.com. Due to the December tragedies at Clackamas Town Center and at Newtown, Connecticut, we felt this opinion piece was particularly appropriate. The Post welcomes reader response.

Candlelight vigil held for pedestrian killed on Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Don Snedecor
The Southwest Portland Post

A candlelight vigil was held on December 20 for 27-year-old Mara Forsythe-Crane who was struck and killed by a truck the morning of December 18 while attempting to cross Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway at Shattuck Road.

Family, friends and neighbors met at the Muchas Gracias restaurant park-

ing lot on the southeast corner of the intersection.

"Mara had the promise of a full life," said one neighbor. "This is a great loss for all of us."

Some 30 people stood in the cold night air during the evening rush hour and watched the traffic speed by as they remembered Forsythe-Crane, who lived nearby in the Bridlemile neighborhood.

Many folks wore reflective clothing, carried glow sticks, flashlights and candles. Ann Beruton, a Bridlemile neighbor, brought her basset hound named Maverick.

Janet Hawkins of Hayhurst was among the speakers who needed a megaphone to be heard above the traffic noise.

"We want to remind all drivers that pedestrians and bicyclists are present at all times during the year, day and night," said Hawkins. "This means that drivers should use extra caution at intersections, especially during the stormy and dark Oregon winter."

Roger Averbeck, chairman of the Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. Transportation Committee, was among the speakers.


"We are very saddened by this tragedy. This is the 14th pedestrian fatality in the City of Portland this year," said Averbeck.

"Each of us wants to do our part to prevent these tragic fatalities from hap-
(Continued on Page 3)

Deeper Sedation Dentistry...
Dr. Little at West Hills Family Dental Center now offers
DEEP SEDATION DENTISTRY.
It's **MORE EFFECTIVE** than just a pill.




.....
Call and find out why West Hills Family Dental Center is different.
503-291-0000 • www.fearfreedental.com



MARQUIS CARE
AUTUMN HILLS
Residential & Intermediate
Alzheimer's Care

Its about what we can do,
not what we can't.



(503) 292-7874
6630 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy.
Portland, Oregon 97225
www.marquiscompanies.com



GOOD NEIGHBOR PHARMACY

be well ...
and well informed

Bowman's Hillsdale Pharmacy
6256 SW Capitol Hwy.
503-244-7582 • email: hdxr@pcez.com

- Walk-In Adult Immunizations
- Flu Shots Available
- Experienced Compounding Pharmacists

www.mygnp.com

The Southwest Portland Post

4207 SE Woodstock Blvd #509
Portland, OR 97206

Phone: (503) 244-6933; Fax: (866) 727-5336
general email: news@multnomahpost.com
web address: www.swportlandpost.com

Editor & Publisher: Don Snedecor
Reporters/Writers: Jillian Daley, Lee Perlman, Erik Vidstrand
Retail Advertising Manager: Harry Blythe
Graphic Design: Leslie Baird Design
Printing: Oregon Lithoprint





© 2012 by The Southwest Portland Post. All rights reserved. The opinions of the artists and authors contained herein are not necessarily shared by the publisher.
Deadline for news and advertising is generally the 20th of the month prior to publication. Please call for current deadline information. Advertising rates are available upon request.

The Post has a circulation of 7,000 in Multnomah Village and the surrounding neighborhood business districts including Burlingame, Capitol Hill, Garden Home, Glen Cullen, Hillsdale, South Portland, Raleigh Hills, West Portland and Vermont Hills. The Post is published on or about the 1st of every month. Subscriptions are \$14 per year. Back issues are \$2.50 each when available. All major credit cards accepted.




The Post is printed on recycled newsprint using soy-based inks. 




We Deliver! Mail subscriptions are available at the following rates:
One year (12 monthly issues)..... \$14
Two years (24 monthly issues) \$24
Three years (36 monthly issues) \$34

This is a NEW subscription This is a RENEWAL
 This is an ADDRESS change This is a GIFT subscription

Please send check or money order to:
Southwest Portland Post, 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd #509, Portland, OR 97206
Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____