

MY TURN

■ Wayne Chan



A time to laugh, but no, not today

To be honest, I'd rather be writing about how the laundry detergent pods keep disappearing from our laundry room.

I've been staring, off and on, at a blank computer screen, trying to think of something funny to type. The objective, at least of my writing, is to try and lighten someone's day, usually by retelling something embarrassing that happened, more often than not, about me.

But the latest wave of mass shootings has left me with a loss of words. All the normal topics I can come up with just ring hollow. So instead of trying to fight the inclination, I'm following my heart.

I have an auntie. She's my aunt Lucy. Since I lost my mom a few years ago, I see aunt Lucy as my second mom. She does all the "mom things" a mother would do. She calls me to see how I'm doing. She introduces me to people she thinks I should know. Every time we meet, she tells me I need to lose weight. And then, throughout the day, she reminds me that I need to lose weight.

She lives in the Laguna Hills area, around Orange County. She lives with my uncle Tom in a modest home and has lots of friends. She takes long, slow walks, sometimes with a cane, and occasionally does water aerobics at a local pool.

A 68-year-old man who lived in Las Vegas and worked as a security guard drove down from Vegas and allegedly started a shooting rampage at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Laguna Woods, which houses a predominantly Taiwanese congregation. In the process of the attack, Dr. John Cheng was killed while trying to subdue the attacker. Dr. Cheng was 52 years old. The other 5 victims shot were between 66 and 92 years old.

From all accounts, the shooter was driven by a deep-seated, politically motivated hatred of Taiwan and its people.

I'm hesitant to even mention a motive. One typically asks about someone's reason for doing something to better understand why something happened. There's no sane explanation that can help anyone under-

stand this.

My first reaction when I heard the news was, "Where is aunt Lucy?" She lives in

Laguna Woods and is part of a Taiwanese church in the area. Sometimes she goes there to volunteer or to pick up some fresh groceries they provide for local seniors.

My first thought was, "Please tell me she didn't need any groceries this week."

We talked to aunt Lucy. She was fine. She typically goes to a different Taiwanese church.

Because of Dr. Cheng's sacrifice, the other members of the congregation were able to subdue the attacker until the police showed up.

Along with this heinous attack, I'm sure everyone is also aware of what happened at the Tops supermarket in Buffalo, New York, and of course, the massacre at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

The reality is, we are living at a time in which you need to be aware of the potential dangers of going to a grocery store, a classroom, or a local church.

I don't claim to have all the answers. It's a politically fraught topic. But I tend to boil it down to a simple analogy.

When my wife and I became parents, we made sure to remove anything that could be dangerous to the children or the family. We locked sharp knives away in the pantry. We put locks on cabinets to be sure the kids couldn't access items that might be dangerous — things like lighters, lighter fluid, matches, etc.

To me, it seems like the more sound strategy to keep everyone safe is to keep a fire from happening, instead of ignoring it and trying to be sure everything in the house is fireproof.

I know this column may not add anything new to the conversation, and it doesn't even really try to entertain. But when writing a humor column, the first order of business is that people need to feel safe before they can laugh. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Humor writer Wayne Chan lives in the San Diego area; cartoonist Wayne Chan is based in the Bay Area.



Justices to rule in gun case with U.S. raw from mass shootings

By Jessica Gresko
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With mass shootings in Texas, New York, and California fresh in Americans' mind, the Supreme Court will soon issue its biggest gun ruling in more than a decade, one expected to make it easier to carry guns in public in some of the largest cities.

Already in an uncomfortable spotlight over a leaked draft opinion that would overrule Roe v. Wade's nationwide right to abortion, the justices also are facing a possible backlash from the guns case. In both cases the court could issue decisions that polls say would be unpopular with the majority of people in the United States.

"I think the court is heading into uncharted waters. I can't recall the last time the Supreme Court ruled in so many cases likely to spark a strong political backlash," said UCLA law professor Adam Winkler, an expert on the court and gun policy.

Winkler predicted the recent shootings would not do anything to change the outcome in the guns case, where the court's conservative majority has been expected to strike down a New York gun law. "Pro-gun justices are pro-gun," he said, adding it is not likely that recent mass shootings have done anything to change that.

The decisions in both the abortion and guns cases are expected to be released sometime in the next month before the justices take their summer break.

The reaction to the decisions could add to criticism the court has faced recently over the disclosure that conservative political activist Virginia "Ginni" Thomas, the wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, urged the White House and Republican politicians in Arizona to work to overturn Joe Biden's presidential victory and keep Trump in office.

A poll released in late May found public approval of the court has fallen to 44%, down from 54% in March. The poll was conducted after the leak of the draft abortion decision, which has sparked protests and round-the-clock security at justices' homes, demonstrations at the court, and concerns about violence following the court's ultimate decision. The court itself has been ringed in a tall security fence for weeks in anticipation of the abortion ruling.

In 2020, AP VoteCast, an expansive survey of the electorate, showed 69% of voters in the presidential election said the



JUDGEMENT TO COME. A photo of Dr. John Cheng, a 52-year-old victim who was killed in the mass shooting at Geneva Presbyterian Church, is displayed outside his office in Aliso Viejo, California, on May 16, 2022. Authorities say a gunman in a deadly attack at the church was motivated by hatred for Taiwanese people. With this and other shootings fresh in people's minds, the Supreme Court will soon issue its biggest gun ruling in more than a decade. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

Supreme Court should leave the Roe v. Wade decision as is, while 29% said the court should overturn the decision.

In the leaked decision overturning Roe, Justice Samuel Alito wrote that the court should not be swayed by public opinion. "We do not pretend to know how our political system or society will respond to today's decision. ... And even if we could foresee what will happen, we would have no authority to let that knowledge influence our decision," he wrote.

Still, the justices do not live in a bubble, and New York University scholar Barry Friedman has argued that the court's decisions are never too far out of step with public opinion.

"You know we don't have an army. We don't have any money. The only way we can get people to do what we think they should do is because people respect us," Justice Elena Kagan said in 2018.

Eric Tirschwell, the legal director at Everytown for Gun Safety, said it is "hard not to think that what's going on in the country doesn't impact to some degree" how the justices go about their work. The recent violence, he said, underscores that "interpreting the Second Amendment is not an abstract exercise. It has life or death consequences."

About half of voters in the 2020 presidential election said gun laws in the U.S. should be made more strict, according to AP VoteCast. An additional one-third said gun laws should be kept as they are, while about 1 in 10 said gun laws should be

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Cleaning Product Safety

- Regular cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces can reduce and prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Always read the product's label before using and follow the instructions for use.
- Call poison control if cleaning products are swallowed or splashed in someone's eyes or face.
- Keep products out of reach of children.

Questions? Poison control can help.

If you suspect a poisoning, don't take a chance.
Call 1-800-222-1222.



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Avoiding counterfeit at-home COVID-19 tests

The FDA has identified two counterfeit tests that are **made to look like** Flowflex COVID-19 Test Kits and iHealth Antigen Rapid Test Kits.

If you have either of these tests, **look for these signs that they may be counterfeit.** Note: iHealth tests distributed by OHA are **not** counterfeit.

- ✗ **Poor print quality** of text or images
- ✗ **Missing information** on the outside box label, such as lot number, expiration date, barcode or QR code
- ✗ **Grammar or spelling errors** on the product label
- ✗ **Kit components don't match** box description

Health

