

**BLOOD DRIVE**

The next blood drive is on Nov. 17. The last day to sign up is Nov. 13. See Annette Montgomery in room 13.205 or any Senior Class officer



**DO YOU THINK WE NEED GUN CONTROL LAWS?**

Yes because people use guns to hurt people and I don't think that's right. Zoe Gonzalez, freshman

# Hot topic sends SHOTS nationwide

Two writers debate the validity of gun control

A controversial topic of gun control laws has been headlining in the news. Debate between the right to bear arms versus a safer society has sparked recent debate over if U.S. citizens should have the right to possess guns.

People are committing the crimes, not the weapons

By **CARSTON CARASELLA**

The right to bear arms has been imbedded in the subconscious of the American people since its creation in 1789 along with the other nine amendments listed in the Bill of Rights. The American people have a right to not only defend themselves from each other, but their government

as well. By stripping Americans of their right to own a firearm, the government would be limiting American citizens' ability to defend themselves and the land they are meant to protect. Gun Control is not only factually questionable and unfounded, but also unconstitutional. A true patriot of America will support the constitutional rights granted to them, and fight Gun Control until it is a forgotten policy from a socially turbulent time in America's history.

Discussion of this topic can become touchy due to how sensitive people can be in regards to the kind of gun violence that has occurred in the past few years. However, based on estimates of 2.5 million defensive gun uses per year, guns are being used 80 times more to protect someone than consciously take a life, according to a CDC Report from 2010. This shows us that people are not only properly defending themselves, but also committing less heinous

acts, such as murder and suicide. The fact remains that limiting the availability of guns for the common folk would increase their chances of being robbed, raped or murdered because they wouldn't be able to properly defend themselves.

Gun control was born from the idea that keeping guns out of the hands of U.S. citizens would protect them not only on the streets but off them as well. The fear is that a gun owner might mishandle the weapons in his own home, or worse, a child might think the weapon was a toy. While this is a legitimate worry, the number of unintentional fatalities due to firearms has decreased by 58 percent from 1991 to 2011, according to infowars.

Americans are becoming smarter in how they handle their weapons. Parents and gun owners can take simple measures to prevent their children or any unwanted individuals from tampering with their weapons by locking them away in a secure, discreet location in the household. This prevents the owner's children from accidentally finding the gun and playing with it, and doesn't give the owner a chance to use the weapon to take his own life, or the life of another in a fit of rage; safes would increase the amount of work he would have to do to find the gun.

Gun ownership has become a staple of American culture and a way of life. That is why the limitation of American's gun rights would not only lead to an increased crime rate, but also the destruction of one of America's oldest traditions.

Guns make an unsafe community

By **JACK RUMMLER**

Gun ownership has been a traditional right of the Constitution. However, seeing a high increase in gun violence has caused a debate over the need for gun control laws. Gun control laws would cause everyone to live in a secured society.

When society enables guns, they risk safety. Out of 23 developed countries in the world, gun-related murders are 20 times more likely to occur in the United States, according to "A Land Without Guns" from The Atlantic in July 2012.

In Japan where the 1958 Act states "no person shall possess a firearm or firearms or a sword or swords," the rate of gun-related murders is substantially low. In 2008, Japan experienced 11 gun-related murders, and in 2006, they had two. In Australia, after a mass shooting in 1996, strict laws enacting gun control led to a 59 percent decrease of gun-related murders within a decade. As a result of stricter laws, countries have safer communities and see less mass murders. In the past year the United States had 247 school shootings. In 2013, 33,636 deaths were caused by firearms. Controlling guns would cause less deaths, contributing to a safer society.

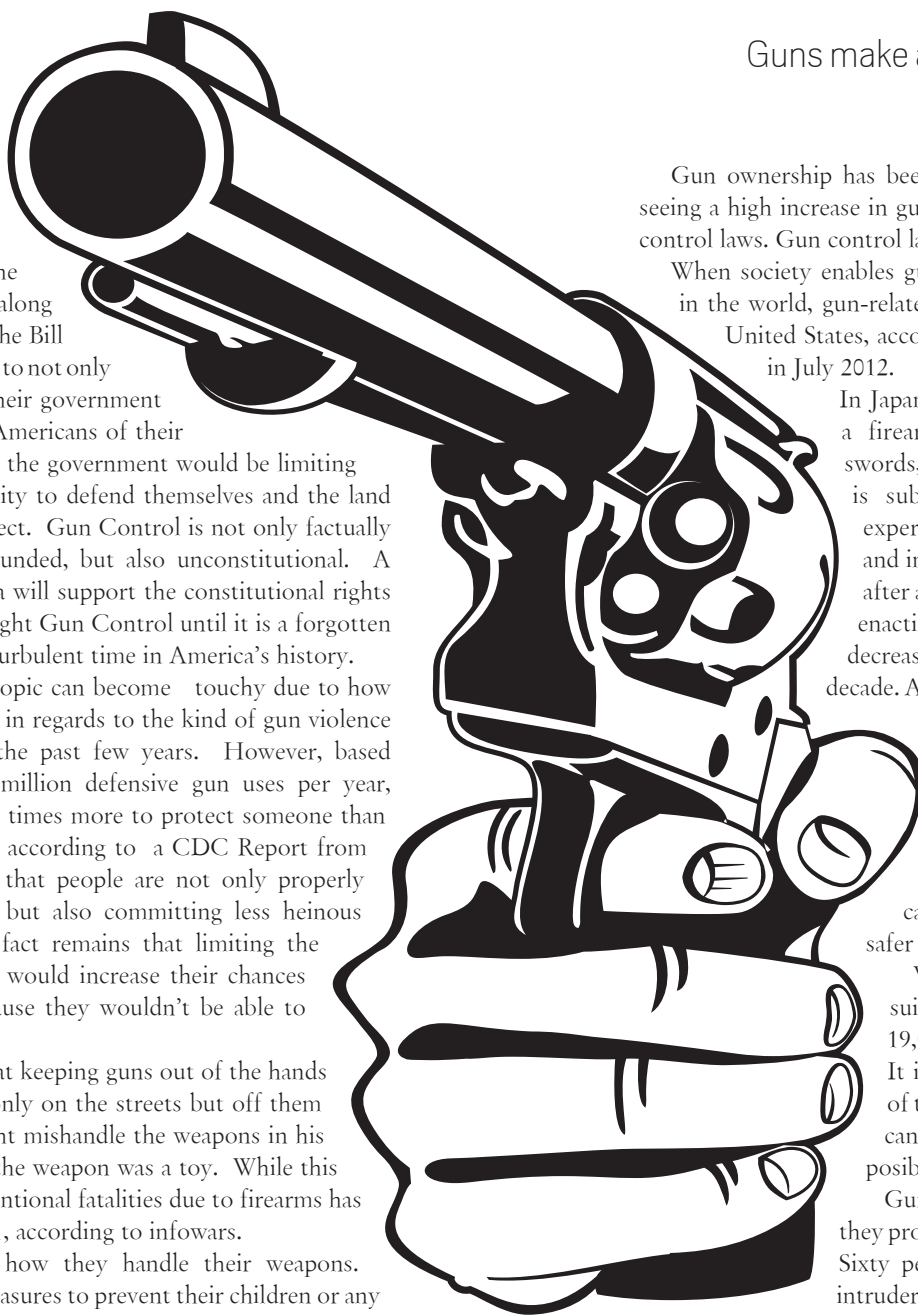
With a 1:1 gun ratio in U.S. households, the risk of suicide is higher in those home. Of the suicides in 2010, 19,000 people used a gun, according to a Harvard study. It is important to address this issue, as taking away one of the most successful killers from households, more lives can be saved. Establishing gun laws can help remove the possibility of mentally ill persons making a lasting decision.

Gun control laws should be put in place not just because they promote safety, but because they are deemed unnecessary. Sixty percent of Americans purchase guns for safety from intruders, according to Gallup in Oct. 2013; however, only 1 percent of cases involving guns use them for self-defense, proving they are not necessary. Even if hunting and recreational shooting don't harm humans, gun control laws altogether would promote the need of a secure community over people's recreational desires.

Protecting American lives needs to be prioritized before people's desire to own a gun. Regardless of how it's justified, guns are a massive killer and equate to more damage than good in society. While the right to bear arms is a granted freedom in the Constitution, the right to life is far more important.

300 students polled Nov. 6

24 percent of students believe that everyone should be able to own a gun.



80

percent of students polled believe automatic weapons should not be street legal.

**viewpoint** Gun control would only limit Americans' ability to protect themselves.

**viewpoint** Gun control laws will help promote a safer society.

40 percent of students polled say there is a gun in their household.

52 percent of students say that bladed weapons should be considered a consealed weapon.

24 percent of students believe that everyone should be able to own a gun.

300 students polled Nov. 6

## hilights newspaper

**EDITORIAL BOARD**

Editor-In-Chief Natalie Disla  
Copy Editor Cameron Toperzer  
Design Editor Jessie Jalca  
Business Manager Bridget Hartig  
Digital Media Manager Tyler Rispoli

**STAFFERS**

Carston Carasella, Julia Condes, Camille Kalis, Carly Meyer, Marisa Muhart, Cassady Quintana, Jack Rummler

**OTHER**

Adviser Renée Burke Principal Dusty Johns

**Editorial Policy**

**POLICY STATEMENT**

Hilights is a student publication of William R. Boone High School, 1000 E. Kaley Ave., Orlando, Florida, 32806. The ideas and views of the aforementioned students and faculty are not those of Boone or the Orange County School Board. Opinions expressed in unsigned editorials are those of the editorial board, who determine the content. Opinions expressed in columns are those of the authors.

Comments, letters, stories and ideas are welcome and encouraged under the following:

1. The material is not obscene or libelous
2. The material is signed

The staff reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, length, punctuation, accuracy, invasion of privacy and potential disruption of the school.

**SCHOLASTIC ASSOCIATIONS**

Hilights is associated with Florida Scholastic, Columbia Scholastic and National Scholastic Press Associations and Quill and Scroll.

**OUR MISSION**

This paper is a quality product whose sole purpose is to pursue the truth, and to provide information and factual news pertaining to Boone and the community around it. Any questions or comments can be directed to 407-893-7200, extension 6012614 or Room 224, as well as by email to editor at boonepubs@gmail.com. If you find any errors, please call our offices or visit us.

**SEE MORE**

Check out boonepubs.com for up-to-date news and information.