OMNI NEWSLETTER #7 ON VIOLENCE USA, NOVEMBER 7, 2013. Compiled by Dick Bennett, OMNI BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE AND JUSTICE.

(#1 Feb. 25, 2008; #2 August 20, 2011; #3 April 8, 2012; #4 July 26, 2012; #5 Aug. 22, 2012; #6 June 8, 2013)

See OMNI Newsletters on International DAY to End Violence Against Women, part of OMNI’s National/International DAYS Project.

“Violence has become the nation’s leading industry….” J. William Fulbright, The Crippled Giant (1972).

Here is the link to all OMNI newsletters:

http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/  Here is the link to the Index:

http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/  Many of OMNI’s topical newsletters confront different kinds of violence: battering, bullying, causes of wars, consequences of wars, death penalty, empire, hatred, individual wars, International DAY to End Violence Against Women, militarism, torture, women, etc. Also see the newsletters on resistance to violence: Gandhi, MLK,Jr., Peace Churches, Peace Organizations, Dept. of Peace (proposed), nonviolence, conflict resolution, diplomacy, negotiation, peacemakers, UN, compassion, etc.

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US Regional Violence
BRADY CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE
(Washington, DC) --- Today, The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence and The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence welcome Will Villota as Chief Marketing Officer (CMO). As CMO, Villota will
oversee marketing, communications and media relations for the Brady Campaign and Brady Center.

- Read more about Will Villota Named Chief Marketing Officer for Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence

**Brady Campaign calls on Senate Judiciary Committee to vote in favor of B. Todd Jones as Permanent Director of ATF**

Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence
For Immediate Release
June 10, 2013
Contact: Media@BradyNetwork.org

- Read more about Brady Campaign calls on Senate Judiciary Committee to vote in favor of B. Todd Jones as Permanent Director of ATF

**Brady Campaign Statement on Shooting at Santa Monica College**

For Immediate Release, June 8, 2013

Washington, DC – The following statement was released today by Dan Gross, President of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence on the shooting at Santa Monica College: “Right now our thoughts and prayers are with the community of Santa Monica and Santa Monica College. The heartbreaking sight of people fleeing from gunfire on our streets and in our schools is becoming an all too familiar scene. The American public has made it clear that we deserve better than this.”

- Read more about Brady Campaign Statement on Shooting at Santa Monica College

A new posting on Gunsense regarding The Second Amendment Foundation's [decision?] not to celebrate guns on the one year anniversary of Newtown.

You'll find it here: http://bit.ly/18mxGNc
Since the horrendous massacre of children and teachers in Newtown, CT last year, gun control and the second amendment have been frequent topics of the national conversation. *Point of Inquiry* would be remiss if we didn't add our signature long-form interview style to the discussion. To that end, we interviewed Steven Pinker whose recent book suggests that we are, contrary to popular belief, living in the most peaceful time in humanity's existence.

*Steven Pinker* is professor of psychology at Harvard University. He is the author of eight books, including *How the Mind Works, The Blank Slate, The Language Instinct* and most recently *The Better Angels of our Nature: Why Violence has Declined*. He is a two-time Pulitzer-prize finalist, one of *Time's* 100 Most Influential People and one of Foreign Policy's top 100 Global Thinkers.

This episode was recorded live at the 2013 AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston and was produced by Adam Isaak. The event was sponsored by the Center for Inquiry and the National Science Foundation.
Books Mentioned in This Episode:

The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined
Steven Pinker

The Blank Slate: The Modern Denial of Human Nature
Steven Pinker

End Pinker

Sign up for our newsletter today.

Mission

MVFR is a community led by family members of murder victims and the executed that
advocates for the repeal of the death penalty.

Understanding that victim families are on a spectrum of recovery, MVFR identifies, engages and mobilizes its members to build communities of support that educate the public on the harms of the death penalty, the true needs of the victim families and the transformative power of restorative justice to promote a more compassionate and just society.

MVFR works with a variety of individuals and organizations that share our commitments to build a safer society and heal the damage caused by violence

- **Family Stories**
  - Videos
  - Stories
  - Remembrance Project

- **Announcements**
  - MVFR Press Statement
    - Posted on: May 22nd, 2013
    - For Immediate Release Wednesday May…
  - Statement on Victims’ Needs, Capital Punishment and Racial Bias in Death Sentencing in Response to North Carolina Bill SB306
    - Posted on: Apr 3rd, 2013
    - North Carolina can do better for…

- Read more

MVFR’s magazine is *Lifting Our Voices.*

Dear Folks:

Amidst all the stress and strain and violence, I thought it might be helpful to pause and recognize **some good news** on Gunsense. You can read it [here](http://readwrite.typepad.com/gunsense/2013/07/compassion-gunsense-kidnapping.html).

SIDNEY BURRIS, GUNSENSE, “ANTOINETTE TUFF, COMPASSION IN ACTION”

Sonny San Juan
Jul 19, 2013

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2013

Extrajudicial killings of Black Americans

Every 28 Hours 2012 Report: Extrajudicial Killings of 313 Black People *Kali Akuno: Study shows that every 28 hours a Black person is killed in the USA and that only 13 percent were actually involved in an activity that threatened someone's life

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Pgz4iCaiNEM#at=37

Reader Supported News | 28 July 13
Reader Supported News

FOCUS | The "Spectacularly Unhelpful" Second Amendment
Garrett Epps, Salon
Epps writes: "While some parts of the Constitution are as dry as the English law's ancient Statute of Frauds, others are as delicate and suggestive as a poem by Emily Dickinson, offering empty spaces we are invited to fill."
READ MORE
POLICE VIOLENCE

Mon Aug 19, 2013 at 10:17 AM PDT (forwarded by David D)

**NYPD assaults judge trying to protect handcuffed homeless man from beating, judge sues**

by Horace Boothroyd III Follow for Police Accountability Group

Hearing someone cry out in distress is difficult for many to endure. When the distress is caused by a gang with badges accountable to no one it is difficult to protect anyone. A judge made an effort to calm a situation that should not have happened.

A homeless man already in restraints was being attacked by police.

The police response, hide the evidence and lie to the district attorney. Shop owners were threatened not to show security footage of the man being attacked. Responsible citizens gathering evidence with their cameras were pushed out of range to hide the misdeeds of the NYPD.

A seventy year old judge was struck in the neck by an officer intent on hiding the criminality of his peers. The ER told the judge he had a crushed larynx. The police who have no medical license told the DA the judge had a sore throat from yelling.

And from what appears to be standard, the video evidence of the misdeeds was not even considered when the NYPD investigated themselves and found no wrongdoing.

Columnist Frank Rich. (photo: NYT)
America Is Soft on Domestic Terrorism

By Frank Rich, New York Magazine

19 September 13

Every week, New York Magazine writer-at-large Frank Rich talks with Reader Supported News contributor Eric Benson about a big story. This week: Congress shrugs off a murderous rampage in D.C.

After Monday's slaughter at the Washington, D.C., Navy Yard, members of Congress made it very clear that they had no desire to touch the new third-rail of American politics, gun control. Since that's off the table at a federal level, is there any political step that can be taken - even a small, imperfect one - to stop mass shootings?

Essentially, no. Perhaps the best thing we can do is at least call out the problem for what it is: state-sponsored terrorism. The American people and their elected representatives allow our own homegrown equivalent of suicide bombers - suicide shooters - legal access to weapons with which they can mow down innocents almost anywhere they please. Bloomberg's money can't solve this (indeed his political contributions on behalf of gun-law reformers may have backfired) and neither can the blather of a thousand moralizing talking heads. So now, as always happens after these bloodbaths, the real problem is put on hold again and we are back to talking about side issues. Many are calling for keeping a closer watch on government contractors, for instance, but where were they when government contractors at Blackwater, et al, were wreaking havoc on civilians during the Iraq War? That horse is long out of the barn; we have an increasingly privatized government, cheered on by the same anti-government political party that is most in thrall to the NRA.

That old hobbyhorse of violent entertainment is also back for another run: Hosts at Fox & Friends at Fox News (Elizabeth Hasselbeck) and Morning Joe at MSNBC (Mika Brzezinski) are united in angrily decrying violent video games. No doubt this makes them feel righteous, but if they really believe this is the crux of the matter, and had guts, they'd start by publicly demanding that their own parent companies dump any and all media products trading in violence. Somehow I don't think that's going to happen. Nor are we going to get better mental-health treatment for psychopaths like Aaron Alexis if the opponents of Obamacare (or any national health-care alternative) have anything to say about it. But let's do talk about it. I remain convinced that the issue of guns in American culture, as hard-wired to our national origins as slavery was, will take every bit as long to rectify as slavery, and can only happen if Americans want it to happen, which most of them don't now. So let's at least acknowledge the truth: This country is soft on domestic terrorism.
Dear Folks:

A new posting up on Gunsense regarding Eddie Vedder (of the band Pearl Jam), George Orwell, and American gun-violence. You can find it here:

http://readwrite.typepad.com/gunsense/2013/10/nra-guncontrol-obama-socialmedia.html

Thanks for your support. Sidney Burris

GunSense, “Transformation.” Sidney’s practical advice for sustaining our attachment to other human beings in a world of violence and sorrow. Title:


Up in Arms

THE BATTLE LINES OF TODAY’S DEBATES OVER GUN CONTROL, STAND-YOUR-GROUND LAWS, AND OTHER VIOLENCE-RELATED ISSUES WERE DRAWN CENTURIES AGO BY AMERICA’S EARLY SETTLERS

BY COLIN WOODARD
ILLUSTRATION BY BRIAN STAUFFER

. . . . Such episodes remind Americans that our country as a whole is marked by staggering levels of deadly violence. Our death rate from assault is many times higher than that of most other countries, whether highly urbanized or sparsely populated. State-sponsored violence, too—in the form of capital punishment—sets our country apart. Last year we executed more than ten times as many prisoners as other advanced industrialized nations combined—not surprising given that Japan is the only other such country that allows the practice. Our violent streak has become almost a part of our national identity.

What’s less well appreciated is how much the incidence of violence, like so many salient issues in American life, varies by region. Beyond a vague awareness that supporters of violent retaliation and easy access to guns are concentrated in the states of the former Confederacy and, to a lesser extent, the western interior, most people cannot tell you much about regional differences on such matters. Our conventional way of defining regions—dividing the country along state boundaries into a Northeast, Midwest, Southeast, Southwest, and Northwest—masks the cultural lines along which attitudes toward violence fall. These lines don’t respect state boundaries. To understand violence or practically any other divisive issue, you need to understand historical settlement patterns and the lasting cultural fissures they established.
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END VIOLENCE NEWSLETTER #7
Dick Bennett

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