



According To The Voyager...

Gun control legislation raises more questions than answers

The United States has a long history of conflict and perseverance, and from that, a culture of gun ownership was born. The nation’s framers saw the necessity in allowing citizens to own firearms, form their own militias, and ultimately fight back against a government that they found to be oppressive. The Second Amendment protects this right for American citizens.

The Voyager editorial board is in agreement that atrocities committed with firearms are occurring far too often and are heartbreaking. Many Americans see a mass shooting as an opportunity to call upon legislators to increase gun control in the United States. The problem is that many of these individuals are ill-informed on the actual process of buying a gun in the United States.

Currently, to buy a firearm you have to pass the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or NICS. Along with being a long and complicated process, NICS matches your information with the national databases of the Interstate Identification Index, the National Crime Information Center, the NICS Index, and if you are not a US citizen, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. You must not have been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment

for over one year; be a fugitive from justice; be an unlawful user of certain depressant, narcotic, or stimulant drugs; be adjudicated as mentally defective or incompetents or those committed to any mental institution; be an illegal alien; be convicted in any court of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence; or be subject to a restraining order. Practically this means that those with a criminal background are ineligible to purchase a firearm. On top of the background check, there are waiting periods before you receive your firearm of up to 72 hours after purchasing it. The process of buying a firearm is not simple by any means.

So, if the United States strictly controls who can have a firearm, why are there so many gun violence deaths every year? It is hard to pin down the number exactly, but according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), fewer than 2% of gun violence offenders in 2004 had purchased their firearms legally from a gun show or store. It should be known that other studies done by private institutions have seen this number be as high as 11%. With so many offenders purchasing guns illegally, it’s no wonder that we have a gun problem in the United States. People who are

already breaking the law have no interest in following another. Stronger and more complicated processes only push more criminals to get firearms illegally and make it harder for responsible Americans to purchase firearms.

Recently there has been a push to increase regulations or ban “Assault Weapons”, which is essentially an ambiguous made up term by legislators that refers to the cosmetics of a firearm. More often than not, the Assault weapons title includes rifles like the AR-15. But are these types of firearms the United States’ biggest problem? According to the The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), out of the 11,004 firearm homicides in 2016, 7,105 of those were committed by people with handguns. It is important to note that 3,077 of those homicides were committed with a firearm, but the type was not stated. That means that in homicides in which the type of firearm is known, handguns made up 89.6% of the weapons used. While rifles dominate news coverage, handguns are much more likely to be misused. These types of firearms are the most likely to be traded illegally or passed down through a family or from acquaintances. There is good news however. From 1992 to 2011, homicides com-

mitted with firearms have decreased nearly 50% and overall gun violence has also seen a decline. Suicides, which make up a large portion of gun deaths per year, are usually included in the gun violence/gun death statistics.

Some of the most heavily regulated parts of the United States, like Chicago, have a serious issue with gun violence. 4,368 people were victims of gun violence last year in the Chicagoland area. Furthering regulation in Chicago did not seem to solve the issue at hand. Unlike the rest of the United States, gun violence is on the rise in Chicago.

Everyone should be informed on the reality of the gun laws here in America, and understand that sometimes, greater regulation only serves to make it harder for responsible Americans to express their Second Amendment right. Criminals and the mentally estranged will always find a way to possess a firearm, no matter how many background and mental health checks you put into place.

This editorial was written by CJ Larson and reflects the views of the The Voyager editorial board.

BLACK FRIDAY, 364 DAYS IN THE MAKING

An American Classic

Titus Copeland
Reporter

Black Friday has come and gone, and many people were excited for those reduced sales. But there’s a question that people should be asking: Do people consider Black Friday a holiday? Technically, it’s not a federal holiday, but I consider it a public holiday. Many people spend their time lining up for stores like Target or Walmart. What makes Black Friday special is that it’s the day after Thanksgiving and the first of the Christmas shopping season in which businesses and retailers have prices reduced dramatically. It is often described as the busiest shopping day of the year. In the spirit of Black Friday, Cyber Monday became one of the biggest online shopping days of the year since 2005.

It would make sense that some people might consider black Friday a holiday since it is on the first day of Christmas shopping. But it would make more sense if Black Friday was the start of a new type of culture people are used to these days. In 1950, the term Black Friday was used to describe the city of Philadelphia going crazy for a big Army-Navy football game every year on Saturday after Thanksgiving. Years later, it’s now the term for retailers who are able to make a big profit every year.

Black Friday has also been associated with some major crises. Customers have been injured; others have even been shot at, and a few people have actually died.

The authorities created a system to decrease the number of people who have injured or have even died from Black Friday. This system is

called the mass notification that sends alerts or provides instructions for people who are in crisis. It also alerts the police department or fire department if the employees or the public is in danger. So it’s a relief to the customers who want to play it safe knowing that the authorities are able to try to prepare for the disasters of Black Friday. And Black Friday isn’t the only time of year where the authorities have to be involved in serious confrontations or crises. Halloween is one the most dangerous holiday for kids, and St. Patricks Day and the Fourth of July are the two holidays most dangerous to adults. Often on Halloween, there’s a call from parents involving their children in a car accident because of drunk driving or kids not seeing where there going because of their costumes.

Black Friday may have a bad reputation from time to time, but no one can argue against its impact on the American people and our culture.

An American Disgrace

Lauren Bear
Editor-In-Chief

Black Friday is a rare occurrence where the pleasant Midwesterners are transformed into obnoxious, noisy, pushy citizens who call themselves shoppers. Your friend Janet is no longer your friend, but the competitor you must beat to win the five-dollar discount. Neighbors and friendly citizens are transformed into mali-

cious, argumentative foes motivated by materialism.

Holidays are used to commemorate and recognize the most important people and dates in our country’s history and culture. Memorial Day, for example, is a holiday with great worth and admiration to the American people. If we put Black Friday on par with Martin Luther King, Jr. and the veterans who fought for our country, we are degrading our society into a material-based stereotype that has lost any hope of redemption.

Similar to the movie The Purge, U.S. citizens get one day to shop and take advantage of discount prices. Starting as early as 5p.m. on the Thursday of Thanksgiving, doors are opened to a stampede of shoppers. They barge into the store, grabbing anything within arm’s reach, forgetting all civility and societal manner. But what happens if you want the same item as another shopper? All chivalry is lost, turning a usual calm encounter into a fight to the death within the hunger games ... I mean, Black Friday.

The annual sale has turned from discount shopping to a horror scene. Innocent lives are put in harm’s way every year. Since 2006, there have been 10 deaths and 110 documented injuries from Black Friday events. Ranging from being caught in a stampede to being stabbed in relation to shoplifting, no one is safe.

If getting more bang for your buck take the status of an American holiday we are succumbing to the immoral actions of humans and loss of judgement. Black Friday is an atrocity of the human race, bringing out the pure evil and materialism of humanity, most definitely not worthy of holiday status.



People accumulate in crowds in the process of Black Friday shopping. jdnx on Flickr/PHOTO

Voyager Staff 2016-2017				
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“The Voyager strives to inform, inspire, and enlighten its readers. Our goal is to report news about the school and community and to provide an unrestricted forum for the free exchange of ideas and opinions among students. We demand accuracy and hold ourselves to the highest ethical standard.”



DACA: KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

Prycilla Rodriguez
Entertainment Editor

September 5th is a date Dreamers will never forget. On this date, President Donald Trump announced that a beneficial program called DACA would be coming to an end in the month of March in 2018. DACA stands for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival and is a program that helps young undocumented immigrants who were brought into the U.S. illegally as children to further their educational opportunities, avoid deportation, and have access to a work permit. Recipients are still granted status to stay in the U.S., but it is only for another two years.

Former president Barack Obama re-introduced the DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act to Congress in 2011, which failed to pass. In order to stop the deportation of immigrants, he established DACA was

through an executive order. Dreamers, the nickname for the program’s recipients, are able to temporarily live in the U.S. and are granted some benefits that born U.S. citizens have.

In order to be able to apply and be considered as a DACA recipient, there are some requirements. Children must be under 30 years old when they apply and must have a record clean from any felonies. They must be currently enrolled in school, have graduated, or enlisted in the military.

In many ways, DACA has been a sustainable way for young adults to help support their families. Parents often have their child(ren) temporarily live in the U.S. through DACA while they (the parents) remain in their home country. Because of this, the children are able to get a job and send back money to their families in their home countries. Recipients of the program are also able to apply for a social security card, which would give them an identity in the United States. They are allowed access to many health care benefits and even are able to get their driver’s license.

Removing DACA will cause a huge impact on individual state gross domestic product. According to data conducted by the Center for American Progress, Illinois alone would lose over \$2.2 billion annually with the removal of the estimated 36,867 DACA workers. California, the state with the most DACA recipients and workers, will lose over \$11.6 billion annually. Not only would America suffer economically, but families will be torn apart.

Because DACA is only granted to people under the age of 30, most of its recipients are in their teen years or their early twenties. In some cases, parents have legal citizenship but their children are only granted theirs because of the program. If DACA is removed, children and their parents will be separated. Children will be deported back to their home countries, and in most cases parents will stay here in the U.S.

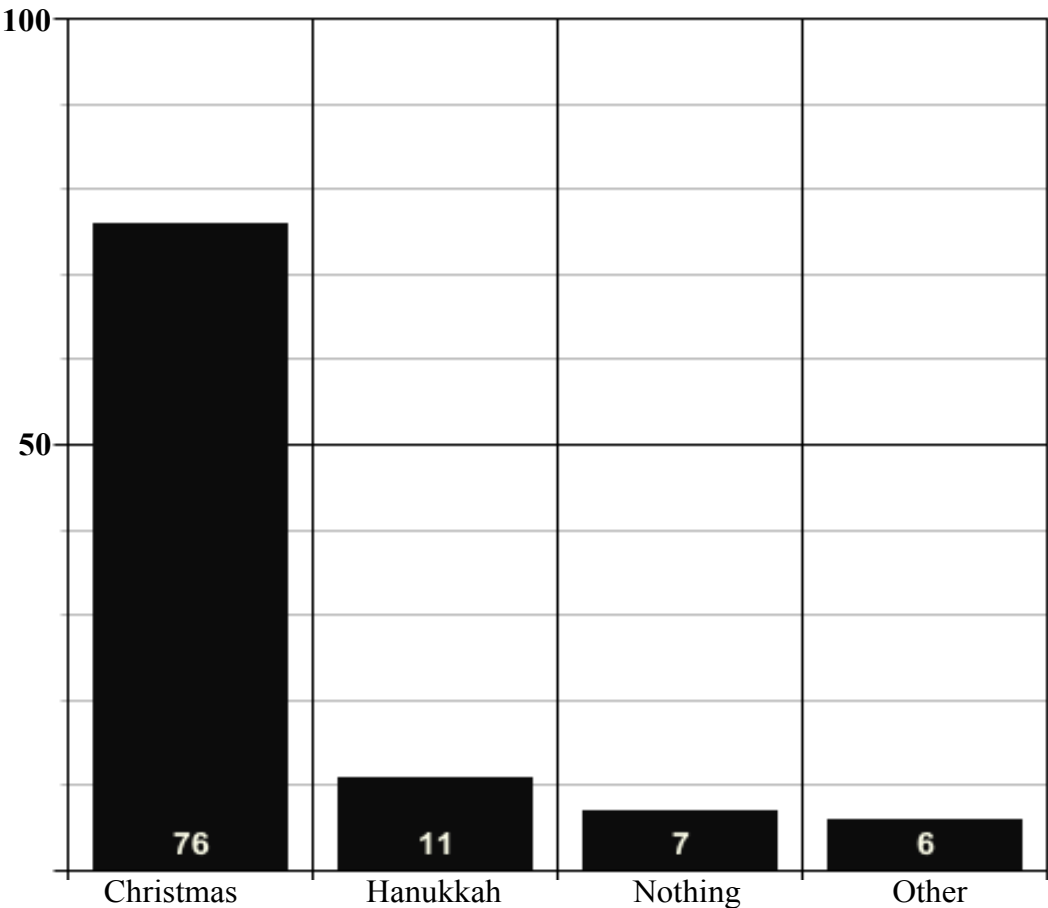
Republican senators have proposed to replace DACA through the Succeed Act, which is supposed to grant legal status in the U.S. to recipients who emigrated

as young, undocumented children. This would be a lot harder, unfortunately, because they would only be granted 10 years of citizenship and the surveillance on the recipients would increase. Nevertheless, this will not stop the fight for permanent citizenship for immigrants. There is still hope for Dreamers.



“With DACA, I was able to get a job and I was able to apply to colleges that required a social security number in their application,” said Maria Pinedo, senior. *Karina Castanon/PHOTO*

What holiday do Guilford students celebrate?



*Total of 100 students polled by Kai Terra Ross

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Where are the thanks for Thanksgiving?

Monika Patel
Reporter

After Halloween is over, you would think that people would start getting ready for Thanksgiving, inviting family members over and getting ready for that big feast; however, some people go straight into Christmas decorating. People will buy their decorations and start putting them outside their houses, even though there are still almost two months until Christmas.

I consider decorating for Christmas before Thanksgiving to be way too early. Thanksgiving is considered a national holiday, but it is almost like the fall holiday is ignored. Christmas decorations are amazing, but fall decorations are marvelous as well; the falling leaves, traditional

scarecrows, fall wreaths, gigantic corn stalks, cornucopias, and pumpkins.

When you go shopping during Halloween and Christmas time, you usually see an entire section of Halloween decorations and Christmas decorations. Where are the fall/Thanksgiving decorations? They are usually displayed at the end of an aisle where people will almost never notice. Those who are enthusiastic about the fall holidays will buy decorations, but others don’t. It is almost like the holiday is completely overlooked.

It is true that Christmas is my most favorite holiday of the year because of the festive music, the bright lights, the amazing trees, and most importantly, all of the presents; but decorating for it two months prior makes it less exciting. Decorating too early decreases the joy of the anticipation of one of the greatest holidays. It is no longer a special part of

the year or cherished as much because the holiday is stretched for two months and takes away the importance to the fall holidays.

It is also weird to have your Christmas tree on display during the Thanksgiving dinner. Thanksgiving is all about the fall season. Having your Christmas tree out and decorated while you’re carving the turkey tends to overpower the feelings of gratefulness. It is true that every holiday should be celebrated to the fullest extent, but it doesn’t mean that you should pay little attention to other holidays. Each holiday needs its own moment and should not be rushed simply because people prefer one holiday over the other.

Decorating too early takes away from Thanksgiving. If you are busy decorating for Christmas during Thanksgiving, then you are not able to celebrate the holiday as well as someone who is not decorat-

ing for Christmas. Christmas decorating should not start until after Thanksgiving. So stop decorating that Christmas tree and focus on that amazing Thanksgiving turkey.

The GHS Voyager staff wishes you a very happy holiday!