

editorial opinion  
 Marksman takes aim at guns

By CARL STODDARD  
 I always liked guns. When I was a Boy Scout I earned a merit badge for marksmanship. I even got a safe hunter shoulder patch from the National Rifle Association.  
 With the patch on my hunting jacket, I would wander the fields with a borrowed shotgun. I hunted for pheasants and rabbits, but I never shot any.  
 During the summers at my grandparents' cottage, my brother and I would take his small bore rifle down to the old gravel pit and take pot shots at tin cans floating in the water.  
 GUNS were fun. You just loaded them, took aim and POW, the bullet would blast from the gun and travel through just about anything.  
 In the Army, during basic training, I was given a gun. Of course the Army doesn't believe in calling anything by its right name. That is too un-lucky. So guns are called weapons, or firearms or pieces. Not guns. I learned that lesson after doing 50 push-ups in the Missouri mud.  
 But despite what they called it, they gave me a gun. And I have some fun with it. On the target range I was able to flip the switch to rock and roll and square off a dozen shots faster than you can count.  
 I had never fired an automatic weapon before and I thought it was rather amusing. Of course, I might have changed my mind if I had been asked to use my gun in a war. But the army didn't ask that of me.  
 BUT THE ARMY taught me one important principle. The purpose of a gun is to kill. That's why guns were invented. That's why the Army carries guns. That's why Lee Harvey Oswald carried in gun to Dallas. Knowing that took a lot of fun out of playing with guns.  
 Today, I don't own a gun. I don't think guns are safe. In fact, statistics are showing lately that more often than not, if your home is burglarized, the burglar goes to your gun before you.  
 And you really can't trust burglars with your guns. Burglars tend to be untrustworthy.  
 from your summer job to pay your own personal expenses, such as clothes and general spending money, during the school year.  
 At least 75-80 per cent of your take-home pay should be set aside for this purpose and you must be prepared to provide proof that you are doing this.  
 If the first two rules above are being followed, you will not be required to pay room and board while living at home for the summer.  
 LIVING ELSEWHERE FOR SUMMER, BUT PLANNING TO ATTEND SCHOOL IN FALL, AT OUR EXPENSE:  
 1. There will be no house privileges as such and you will not be provided with a house key.  
 2. You will be expected to save enough money to provide clothes and spending money for the school year. Proof that this money has been saved will be required before payment of tuition.  
 3. Any evidence of any illegal activity, such as drug use, excessive drinking, etc. will mean loss of our college support.  
 TO SOME, the plan may seem somewhat formidable, but for parents, it has obvious advantages.  
 Foremost, it provides a clearly-written reference point for disputes and discussions on support responsibilities.  
 On a smaller scale, adherence to these rules insures a free telephone line, and on a larger one, helps promote respect and perhaps understanding for other family members.  
 The information was outlined in a newsletter by the Flint School, aboard schoolships to Vega and to Quest.  
 The school, based in Sarasota, Fla., has approximately 40 students who live and learn while sailing to European, African and South American ports.  
 I also don't like guns anymore because I saw them kill people. I've watched emergency rooms fill on Friday nights with people full of bloody little holes. And I've read more police reports than I care to remember of robberies committed with guns, murders committed with guns and people accidentally killed by guns.  
 The National Rifle Association very cleverly points out that guns don't kill people, people kill people.  
 Strictly speaking, this is true. But the sad fact is that an awful lot of those people killing people are doing it with guns. Guns make killing very easy.  
 IF YOU get the impression I don't like guns anymore—you're right. If you get the impression I think it's time for tighter controls on guns—you're right. And if you disagree with me, well, that's your right.  
 But if you're tired of guns, tell somebody. Tell your president, your congressmen, your senators, your city councilmen and your friends. Tell them it's time this country grew up.

Rules for living with teens  
 Childhood and youth are unjelled substance, molten spiritual mettle, waiting for the cool, firm mold of parental guidance to provide shape and form.  
 Quicksilver in moods and methods, the young are never quite sure which way to go, which road in travel or which direction is "up."  
 Parents are there to explain the directions and provide a road map. When they themselves don't know the way—one no teaches you to be a parent—the task becomes incalculably difficult.  
 In my recent reading, I came across a scheme developed by a set of inventive parents, intended to inculcate a sense of responsibility in their high school grads.  
 They are general house rules, and I would like to include them here.  
 GENERAL HOUSE RULES:  
 1. You must have a full-time job or be attending school full-time.  
 2. You must get a minimum of seven hours sleep on nights prior to working days or school days.  
 3. You will maintain a proper degree of consideration for and obedience to your parent's wishes. This includes such common sense items of general behavior as avoidance of production of unpleasant sounds (such as music that you know is irritating to others in the family).  
 4. Beer or wine may be provided at times during meals "on the house." Any beer or wine served to your personal guests or used by you at any other time must be provided by you. Such usage will, of course, be subject to common sense rules of moderation. No "hard liquor" allowed.  
 5. No marijuana or other similar drugs are to be used at any time. Any evidence of such usage in or out of the house will be grounds for immediate eviction.  
 6. There will be no car privileges.  
 7. The telephone must not be tied up for more than fifteen minutes at a time and the total number of calls should be reasonable.  
 LIVING AT HOME WITHOUT PLANS TO ATTEND SCHOOL:  
 1. All general house rules will be observed.  
 2. You must pay for room and board as well as your own personal expenses. The amount required for room and board will be \$35 or more per week, depending upon economic conditions at the time.  
 GENERAL RULES IF ATTENDING SCHOOL:  
 1. You are expected to maintain at least a 2.8 average to qualify for continued support.  
 2. We will provide the following: tuition, room and board on campus, books and supplies payments based on receipts, and transportation to school and back home at the end of the school year. Holidays are negotiable.  
 3. If you decide to live off campus and not at home while attending school, you must provide your own room and board in addition to personal expenses.  
 4. If living at home while attending school locally, the general house rules must be observed, while in addition Sunday through Thursday nights are study nights and you will be expected to stay at home and study; phone calls on the study nights will be limited to five minutes duration with a maximum of two calls allowed.  
 LIVING AT HOME, ATTENDING SCHOOL IN FALL:  
 1. All general house rules are to be observed.  
 2. You must save enough money

Dreaming of a green Christmas  
 By JACKIE KLEIN  
 I'm dreaming of a green Christmas just like the one we spent in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands (with the accent on SPENT).  
 Christmas on St. Thomas in steel drums instead of jingle bells. A sea-lilies blooming in tropical gardens, stars burning brighter in the midnight sky, evergreen trees flown in from Canada, shining white sands instead of snow and guava berry wine instead of egg nog.  
 But I'm getting ahead of my story. It all began when I started to throw up while packing. It's really not the flying I mind, it's the crashing.  
 My husband loves planes because I never talk to them. I'm too busy chanting four hours of silent prayer and wondering how you work the life jacket the stewardess models like it was an Oleg Cassini original.  
 WE WERE FLYING over the Bahama Islands and the pilot was describing all 333 of them individually in English and Spanish.  
 He told everyone to look out of the windows on the left and right of the plane. I was sitting in the middle staring at the "Life vest under seat" sign and hoping the Spanish speaking pilot could read the instrument panel in English.  
 It wasn't too bad until they brought lunch. I'm not too crazy about turkey croquettes with cheese sauce, noodles and succotash. But at an altitude of 300,000 feet, forget it.  
 We landed in San Juan, Puerto Rico, at night and had to take a Prinair to St. Thomas. Prinair is a 10-passenger flying coffin with a propeller. It crams in 19 people and punctures 38 ear drums.  
 The pilot whistles shrilly through his fingers, yells "varnouse" to anything that happens to be in his way and roller coasters you to the romantic Caribbean.  
 We finally arrived at our vacation paradise and waited for our luggage through five Prinair flights. The suitcase with all my husband's clothes in it failed to arrive. But it was promised to be delivered to our hotel early the next morning.  
 THE NEXT DAY I arose and my husband was gone. He left this note: "Good morning. No luggage. All power in rooms off. Don't use water. Use glass of ice cubes. No elevators. Look outside, it's magnificent. Dial 333 and I'll come and get you."  
 I went into the bathroom and a memorial candle was burning for light. I thought it was for me and I had died during the night. The water came out

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