

**Moral perspectives**

# Hand gun control necessary

By REV. DAVID T. STRONG

I was riding in an elevator of a suburban hospital when I overheard a young man talking to a woman about a recent experience. He told her with some excitement about going to a bar on Nine Mile Road where the whole front door was riddled with 45 caliber bullet holes.

His apparent excitement around this adventure aroused some memories of a similar conversation years ago. I recalled stories that I had heard from two young suburban men who said they used to venture into Detroit to beat up people on the street.

This was a form of excitement and a way of proving how tough they were. Apparently for many men in the suburbs, playing around with the whole idea of guns and the dangers of the big city is a big male adventure.

In my opinion it is this kind of tough male role image in our society and particularly in the suburban male which effectively blocks hand gun control.

Hand gun control is necessary if we are going to reduce the increasing number of murders and the fear of violence that grows in our society. A man can be an adequate male without owning or carrying a hand gun.

I grew up with hunting and target guns in the family. Learning how to safely handle them in a country setting was a natural part of my youth. Now I see times have changed so that fathers and men need to face the moral issue of hand gun control as a social rather than a personal safety issue. It is the sanity and survival of our whole society which is at stake in the issue of hand gun control. The issue behind, it is really the male "tough guy" role.

I call for concerned citizens to continue to push for hand gun control in the State of Michigan. This push for gun control is necessary not only because of the tragic consequences of murder and armed robbery but by the increasing emphasis on violence by guns in films and on TV. Current films such as "Freebie and the Bean" emphasize the violence of the hand gun as an exciting, playful male thing to do. The message seems to be it is adventuresome and even fun to carry a gun.

Changes in suburban male thinking and in our laws must take place.

**Resident gets national honor**

Mrs. Shelley Nygaard of West Bloomfield received a special Camp Fire National Award from the Kitanniwa Council Tuesday. The Sebago Award, which she received, recognized outstanding contributions in the total field of camping and outdoor programming.

Mrs. Nygaard made a compass course for the council camp, initiated compass instruction for the council and supervised waterfront for a Weekend-in-the-Woods. She is also active in Redemer Lutheran Church, Birmingham, and has served as instructor for Detroit Area Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Councils.

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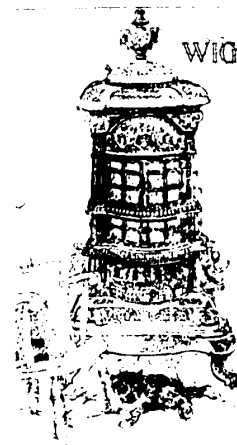
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