

Hand gun control debate continues

By DIANE HUBEL
Would the prohibition of hand guns be an effective deterrent to homicides or is it a simplistic answer to a complex problem? On Thursday June 20 a debate was held at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Farmington which examined this problem.

A petition drive is being conducted which would attempt to place a proposed constitutional amendment advocating hand gun control on the November ballot.

Dwight Walker, chairman of the Citizens United to Save Lives Organization and Dr. Emanuel Tanay, spoke in favor of the gun control and the proposed amendment.

RONALD ELWELL of Farmington and Hubert Nintz opposed the proposed amendment.

Although the panel itself did not reach any conclusions one thing was evident, the subject is a very emotional one which will not be settled with-

out a great deal of controversy. The audience which was comprised primarily of anti-amendment, pro-gun people was often hostile toward the proponents of the amendment.

Both sides presented figures and statistics which they said substantiated their view point.

THE MAIN THRUST of the pro-legislation argument was that the easy availability of guns increases the probability of a homicide. They presented statistics which showed that 70-80 percent of all homicides are committed in the heat of an argument by people who know their victims.

The anti-legislation, pro-gun people called the proposed amendment "a simplistic solution to the complex problem of crime." They presented a five-point plan to curb homicides which included suggestions for stricter enforcement of existing laws and an improvement of the penal system. Walker said that the homicide rate

in Michigan has risen by 370 percent between 1963 and 1973. He attributed this rise to the increase in gun sales, particularly after the Detroit riots of 1967.

NINTZ DISPUTED the statement that the availability of guns increases the probability of a homicide. He presented figures which showed that many rural areas had no homicides at all. He said that there is a high concentration of guns which people use for hunting and target shooting in many of those areas.

Dr. Tanay said the victims of homicides are usually wives or girlfriends of the person doing the shooting. He said that an intense relationship, an argument, and the availability of a gun are three factors which often lead to homicides.

"Any person who owns a gun is a potential killer he said. "It is an undisputed and irrefutable fact that between 70 and 80 percent of all homicides are committed by people who are not criminals, and who have no previous criminal record."

WALKER DISAGREED with Tanay's findings stating, "The people proposing gun control legislation are ignoring the real problem. That problem is crime."

"There are laws in existence now which are not obeyed and which are

not enforced. How do the proponents of gun control laws propose to make the unregistered gun owner and the criminal abide by new laws when they can't make them abide by the old ones?"

He proposed a five-point plan which he said would effectively curb the homicide rate.

The plan would call for:

- Increasing the education of the police so they could present an effective case in court against the illegal gun use.

- Judges who will recognize the problem and effectively administer the laws.

- Using more money to update and create new rehabilitation programs which would take care of the criminals.

- Administering those rehabilitation programs effectively.

• Enlisting the aid of concerned responsible citizens to help the criminal get back on his feet after he has been rehabilitated.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL amendment, if passed, would prohibit the sale and possession of hand guns by private individuals. The exceptions would be police officers, military personnel and the armed security guards.

It would fall for stricter enforcement of existing laws. It would allow

for a grace period of one year during which people could turn in their hand guns and be paid a fair market price for them.

Walker said it would also provide for the sportsman and collector. The sportsman could own a gun but would have to keep it locked up in the local police station when it was not being used.

The collector would be required to have any gun manufactured after 1846 made permanently inoperative.

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Temple Beth El elects its officers

At the 124th annual meeting of Temple Beth El, Jay W. Allen was elected president.

Other officers elected were: Merton J. Segal, first vice president; David K. Page, second vice president; Marvin Novick, treasurer; and Robert N. Canvasser, honorary president.

The following were elected to

the board of trustees: Jerome M. Ash, Milton H. Dresner, Paul Handelman, Marvin A. Frenkel, Dr. Alfred M. Kreindler and Harvey E. Schatz.

Allen was confirmed from the religious school of Temple Beth El and is a lifelong member of the temple. His late father, Sidney J. Allen, served as vice president of the temple and his mother, Phyllis Zuckerman Allen, is a confirmand from his religious school.

ALLEN WAS chairman of leadership gifts of the building fund campaign and served as a member of the board of trustees for many years as an officer and as chairman of various committees.

He serves on the boards of Sinai Hospital, Jewish Home for the Aged, University-Liggett School, United Foundation, Detroit Men's ORT and Travelers Aid Society of Detroit.

A graduate of the University of Michigan and a member of the President's Club, he is the owner of Premium Equity Co.

He is married to the former Helen Shulman of Dayton, Ohio, and they are the parents of Lisa Diane and Paula Jo, both confirmands from temple's religious school.



JAY W. ALLEN

Residents to perform

An "Honor America" concert to be held at 8 p.m. Saturday at the First Church of the Nazarene in Detroit will feature several area residents.

The 120-voice interdenominational choir which will perform includes Troy residents John

Simpson, Yvonne Spencer and Joe Wooten.

Other area residents who will participate are Nona, Bobbe and Dee Kelley, and Wes Dahlberg, all of West Bloomfield; Gene and Michelle Younger of Bloomfield Township and Dean and Joann Spencer of Birmingham.

Bar Mitzvah set Friday

The Bar Mitzvah of Jeffrey Zolkower, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Zolkower of Southfield, will be observed at 8:30 p.m. services of Temple Kol Ami Friday at the Birmingham Unitarian Church, Lone Pine at Woodward, Bloomfield Hills.

Jeffrey, assisted by his family, will conduct the service, read from the Torah and deliver a brief message.

Rabbi Ernst Conrad will comment on the weekly scriptural portion. The family will host a reception in Jeffrey's honor following the service.



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