

Bang!

**Your on the
Street Reporter**



Uyless Black

Don't Take your Gun to School, Son

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Tucson, Arizona---“The Tucson Unified School District is offering free gunlocks to any family that requests one. Superintendent Gabriel Trujillo said that ‘far too often’ students in the district had brought firearms to school, having found them unsecured at home.”

It is unclear if the school district’s motivation is to prevent shootings at homes or in schools. Either way, it would appear to be a win-win situation for both homes and schools. ...Except for the possibility that a student taking a gun to school might very well have the intention of using it and would know how to operate a gunlock.

But this offering is a nothing-to-lose situation by trying to stem gun related violence in Tucson schools.

Imagine what is happening to our society. The very idea of giving away gunlocks in an attempt to reduce killings. Not on the mean streets of urban America, but in a school, a bastion of safety and security. ...Make that last clause: *in the past*, a bastion of safety and security. No more. Killings in schools are becoming so common they often do not even make the front pages of newspapers.

I’m reminded of that Johnny Cash song, “Don’t Take your Guns to Town, Son.” It’s about times in America’s frontier days when carrying guns was part of everyday life. Its refrain (chorus) goes as follows:

Don't take your guns to town, son.
Leave your guns at home, Bill.
Don't take your guns to town.

Those gun-toting times faded away as the country evolved into a more peaceful place to live. That is, until the last few decades. Guns and gun-related deaths have increased. So has the open carrying of guns. Recently, while shopping at a mall where I live in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, I came across two men, also shopping, and who had pistols with holsters strapped around their waists. If, by chance, they were in the store to visit the complaint department, I’ll wager their gripes were quickly resolved.

As I have written before, the advocates of strict gun control in America have long since lost this battle. As another example, the state legislature up here in Idaho recently passed laws dealing with allowing and training teachers to carry and use guns.

Still, parental concern has not gone away from those past times that were sung by Johnny Cash...with these changes, reflecting today’s culture:

¹ *The Week*, December 22, 2023, 6.

Don't take your gun to school, son.
Leave your gun at home, Bill.
Don't take your gun to school.

But if you take your gun to school, son,
don't forget the lock.
Then when you point it at your friends, Bill,
you will scare them with it cocked.²

Superintendent Trujillo said the distribution of gunlocks could reduce the “number of injuries and deaths community-wide from ‘firearms that are loose and available in the home.’” That is good news. We can rest easy now, at least if we live in Tucson.

But really? ...A reality check: No more killings in schools? All parents in the district will install locks on their guns to prevent a malevolent Billy from shooting classmates?

In America? I'll give you odds and wager nothing of consequence will come of this sincere gesture.

² Guns vary on how a cocking mechanism works. Check with your local school for details.