

Jesse Cox, Retired Tech Writer, Community Member:

I would make two points...1) regarding school shooting, restructure the gun industry, politely but pragmatically. I was living in Australia working in State Department of Education when the Port Arthur mass shooting prompted Australia's first and only encounter with a mass shooting. Australian gun control was prompt and conclusive, *and*, more than a few Australians were then, at that time, when I was there, a macho crew of existentially isolated, white *battlers* who liked their beer, guns and hunting lodges, chasing kangaroos and aborigines through the bush -- they celebrated considerable lethal streaks of bullying racist behavior (old-school Klu Klux Klan perennially making news in Queensland, Darwin and Adelaide, and neo-nazis of several stripes, literally they wore striped athletic trainer outfits of colors that identified the clans and tribes that congregated around ship yards, factories and mines, organizing the working class in decline and distressed by John Howard's alignment with Bush's *privatizing* neo-liberal Global Economy, and making no effort to hide their Nazi and anti-Asian identities or activities.) To impose gun control, the government had to overcome a significant national fear/myth of being overtaken by hostile Asian invasions and wanting strong defenses, in terms of strong borders, regular army and militia. Dominant left-liberal, progressive MP's accomplished a legislative feat for the sake of the safety of children, of social stability and economic security – *and we can too*. 2) Regarding immigration, DACA is an education policy; the wellbeing, safety and stability of young immigrants and their families is an education policy. I have dreams, both waking and sleeping, of being present in Nazi Germany and watching little by little, town by town, as the Jews were '*deported*', families separated and...here the two realities merge... black and brown immigrants and migrants sent to certain procedural deaths in the various and numerous colonies of the USA, and the remainders who are not deported will suffer broken lives capable of hourly wages in single digits and day labor like it was before Cesar Chavez.

Yesterday I saw newsfeed about a black woman killed by a classmate at her desk... it's a non-story about a single-victim within an inundation of school shootings...or because she's

black. https://www.democracynow.org/2018/3/15/remembering_courtlin_arrington_the_victim_of. I saw the Dickey Amendment, NRA's halt of CDC's study of gun violence. <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/no-funds-studies-gun-violence-article-1.1809263>. Tonight as I wrote this I tuned in to NPR and learned of a brain-dead survivor of a school shooting unplugged and allowed to die. And I heard the living sound of an angry assembly chanting and screaming after a 22 year old black man was killed in his Sacramento backyard because he had a cell phone in his hand ...or because he was black. *This is a consequence of the NRA*. Kids who witness violence – domestic violence, gang related, sexual, war related – shut down and stop learning. Violence in America requires an education policy. If we can't

protect children from shooting each other and committing suicide because 'we can't afford it', then we have abandoned ourselves (do a Google search and read Thomas Friedman's op/ed called, "Find My Turkey." Friedman thinks the turkey may be Trump's tax returns; I think the turkey may be the NRA. If language is violence, then maybe the turkey is Trump's introduction of Pussy and Shithole into the official Presidential discourse...will Trump get a memorial library full of foul language and trash after he has taken all of ours filled with literature, history, art and culture.)

Oh, what a tangled web we weave / When first we practice to deceive

'Everything is getting better and better and worse and worse faster and faster.' Joanna Macy, environmental activist, author, scholar of Buddhism, general systems theory, and deep ecology. She is the author of eight books. Macy graduated from Wellesley College in 1950 and received her Ph.D in Religious Studies in 1978 from Syracuse University