

Repeal of gun ban ill-advised

Editorial

On July 28, the Village of Morton Grove repealed a 27-year-old law that has previously banned the possession of handguns. According to the *Chicago Tribune*, the village board discussed and voted on the issue as a response to a recent United States Supreme Court case that repealed a similar law in Washington D. C., where the gun ban was sparking conflict over its constitutionality. Lobbyists from the National Rifle Association also added to the pressure on reevaluating the law.

Although protecting oneself and one's family should be a major concern for any American citizen, allowing guns in the suburb of Morton Grove seems extremely unnecessary.

Morton Grove consists mainly of elderly, retired residents and upper middle-class families with young children. The neighborhoods consist of generally stable households and secure environments for kids. In August of 2007, *Family Circle* magazine voted the Village of Morton Grove as one of the "10 Best Towns for Families." This area has always had an irrefutable reputation for being a sound and stable environment for raising a family.

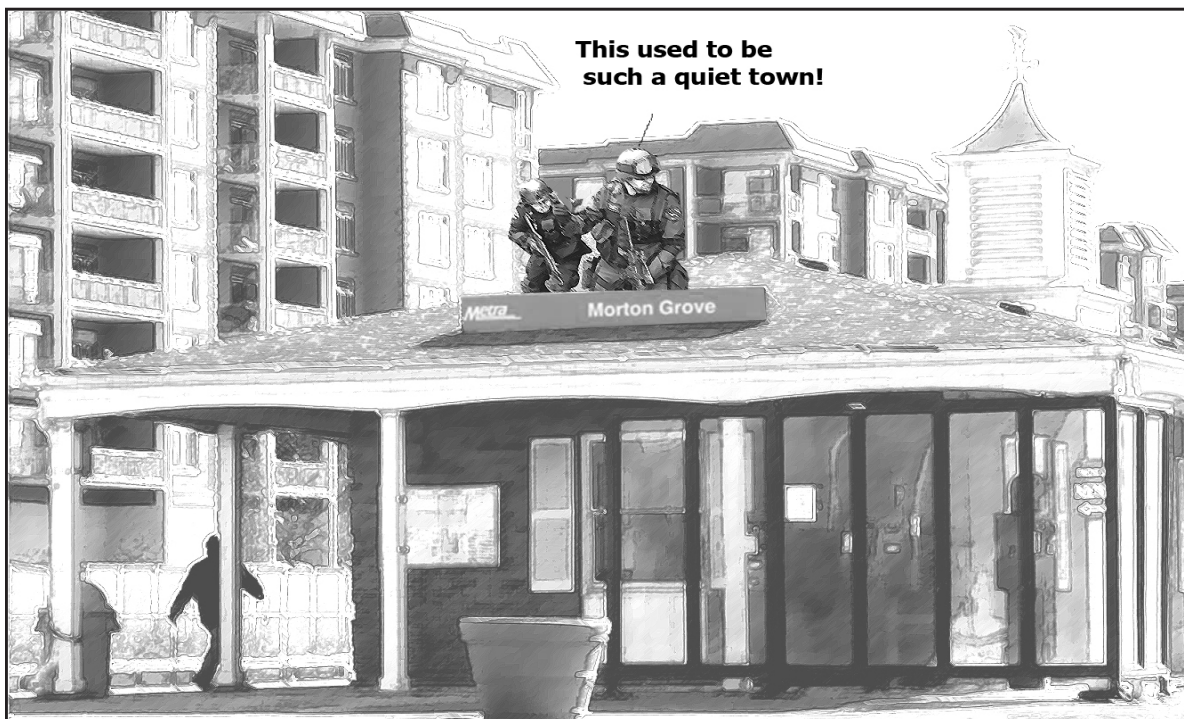
Apart from this, Morton Grove has consistently maintained an extremely low crime rate throughout previous years. It is important, when debating over the gun law, to remember that Morton Grove is not the Bronx or Detroit. Theft, vandalism, shootings and other forms of crime and violence are kept to a minimum. Morton Grove police spend most of their time praying for a minivan to speed by so that they can fulfill their quota of

traffic tickets.

Georgianne Brunner, a trustee on the Morton Grove Board, is also against the repeal. She told the *Chicago Tribune* that the board "may be acting a little bit in haste. I'm just grateful for what [the board] did in 1981, and I wish [the board] could just take a step back and wait it out."

Although many may argue that restricting the public from the right to possess handguns is unconstitutional based on the second amendment of the Bill of Rights, allowing guns in this suburb is creating a problem that may take a greater toll on the citizens than will any arguments on constitutional rights. Unnecessarily introducing handguns may have an extremely negative effect on the young children who inhabit this type of environment. Making guns increasingly prevalent creates potential for both intentional and accidental crimes, while the need for self-defense in the village is almost nonexistent. Furthermore, children will quickly become more desensitized towards the use of guns and will have much easier access to them.

For those who feel threatened and, with substantial evidence, can prove that it is absolutely necessary for them to possess a handgun for the immediate protection of themselves and their family, perhaps the law could grant them special permission to do so. However, the permitting of handguns is undoubtedly unessential and unfavorable for the future of the Morton Grove community. It is vital that the repeal of the gun ban be reconsidered.



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WestWord

west opinions

Should individual municipalities be allowed to ban guns?

Faculty



Brad Wilson

"I believe the local municipality should meet the needs and wants of its citizens."

Senior



Rebecca Marohn

"Yes, but only if there is a local incident that makes it necessary."

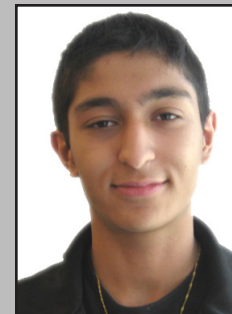
Junior



Ned McElfresh

"No, because the Bill of Rights makes it our right to bear arms."

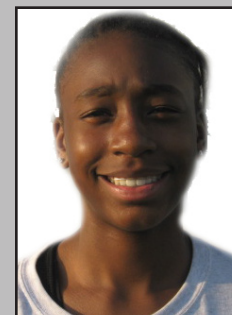
Sophomore



Anjam Gulati

"Yes, because too many people are getting killed."

Freshman



Jewell Lloyd

"No, because they aren't the federal government."