

## Guest Column

# Crime: What goes around, comes around

OMISSION, THE DOG THAT DOESN'T BARK, is a powerful indicator in public policy. And so it was for a recent shooting in the food court of my city's premier mall, once the largest and most popular in the state. Officialdom uttered not so much as a whimper.

The shooting was not statistically significant. Still, it was the third at the mall in recent months, including a murder. There was more than one parent saying a silent prayer of gratitude that they had not taken a child shopping as planned this last Saturday afternoon.

Not too long ago the mall was a destination point for shoppers from three states with its intersecting promenades, carousel and ice rink, all crowded with families.

That is gone, or soon to be gone. It has been made clear that it is unreasonable, even unfair, to expect to be safe. You know that by how the media and authorities are treating any unfortunate incidents. A shooting? Nothing special. Get used to it.

The police chief sounded no alarm about what was treated as little more than an item on the police blotter. Indeed, 24 hours later we didn't have even a sketchy descriptions of those involved. Coulter's law was in effect, i.e., that the longer you don't know the race or sexual preference of the suspects the more likely they belong to a protected identity.

So our new mayor, selected by the DEI wing of the Democrat Party, was especially silent. Nor did the GOP leadership have anything to say. Keep in mind that only hours earlier shoppers (citizens, constituents) had fled screaming and 8-year-old girls had sheltered in place for long, terrifying minutes with no help in sight.

Here is what could not be said out loud: If there are shootings in certain neighborhoods, you should not complain when there are shootings in your neighborhood. Again, get used to it or be racist.

This insanity is the result of a woke taboo. It holds that profiling is never, ever permitted no matter the danger to public safety. One day it was okay for police to pull over a suspicious motorist or confront menacing youths, the next day it was not okay.

The late Walter Williams was asked what he thought about that. Williams, an economist at George Mason University and a product of the Philadelphia housing projects, said he was ashamed to be a member of a group whose actions begged profiling.

That sounds about right. Please know that none of this is Sherlock Holmes material. Any cognizant person, let alone an experienced police officer, can spot those in a crowd or on the road who need careful watching. Absent that standard, law-abiding visitors are going to be sparse. Few parents will accept even the longest odds that a child will be felled by hot lead on a shopping trip.

And it's going to get worse. The economist John R. Lott Jr. is one who will say it: Law enforcement in cities is collapsing. He argued in the April 24 Wall Street Journal that contrary to election-year narrative and official claims, crime is headed for record levels. The reported decline is a function of less reporting, he says, not less crime:

"While the rate of reported violent crime fell 2.1% between 2021 and 2022 (why report a crime if nobody is going to get charged?), the National Crime Victimization Survey shows that total violent crime — reported and non-reported — rose from 16.5 incidents to 23.5 per 1,000 people. Non-reported violent crime in 2022, exceeded the 2015-19 average by more than 17%"

The cost? It is ironic or perhaps just sad that our economic-development wizards are now leveraging tens of millions of local tax dollars to create a new "destination point" in a district even more vulnerable to the disruption of crime and its enabling political influences.

Buckle up for life in the 24th year of the 21st century of the 3rd millennium. — tcl

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## Letter to the Editor

### Indoctrinating America into acceptance of homosexuality

To the Editor:

Marshall Kirk, a neuropsychologist, and Hunter Madsen, an advertising executive, published a book in 1989 titled "After the Ball: How America Will Conquer its Fear and Hatred of Gays in the 1990s".

This book laid out strategies for indoctrinating America into acceptance of homosexuality. Their plan involved a three-step program of desensitization, jamming, and conversion.

The strategies were designed for gay activism. The same concepts are employed by the larger LGBT community today.

Desensitization is the first step. Desensitization involves flooding society through mainstream media and Hollywood with positive images of the LGBT lifestyle. LGBT practices are portrayed as normal as heterosexuality.

Drag queen story hours and colorful, LGBT affirming flags, stickers and posters displayed or distributed to children in classrooms, libraries and other public spaces are part of the propaganda efforts to portray the lifestyle in a fun, child-friendly manner and to connect it with positive emotions.

The reality is different.

Sexual encounters are often promiscuous and predatory toward youths.

Sexually transmissible diseases are common. Some are fatal, like HIV/AIDS. Others, like genital warts, are grotesquely disfiguring.

Predatory behavior and sexually transmissible diseases are not unique to

the LGBT lifestyle, but the frequency is much higher due to much greater promiscuity and the nature of the sexual acts themselves.

Inconvenient truths are obscured. One such truth is the fact that surgical gender transition results in sterilized individuals who will likely never experience an orgasm or the rewards of natural parenting.

Jamming is the second step.

Blocking critics is the goal of jamming.

Jamming is accomplished by the massive bandwidth of corporate media. Wealthy allies have resources to fund media campaigns.

Critics including Christians who warn about the temporal and eternal consequences are portrayed as oppressors to be ignored as hateful bigots.

LGBT activists are portrayed as marginalized, oppressed individuals deserving of protection, not aggressive challengers of the moral order.

Rejection of the biblical worldview and the creation mandate accompanies jamming.

God designed human sexuality as the means of reproduction and a covenantal expression of the exclusive marital union between the man and his wife.

Humankind was commanded in Genesis 1-2 to multiply and fill the earth.

Cultural Marxism (wokeness) places rejection of the LGBT lifestyle on the same moral level as racism through the concept of intersectionality.

Affirmation and celebration of the LGBT lifestyle is demanded. Silence is violence in their worldview. Criticism is viewed as "hate speech".

Those who do not submit to demands of LGBT activists are subject to societal cancellation. Cancellation involves harassment such as pressuring an employer to fire a critic or providing his private information to malevolent allies. Fear of cancellation silences many critics into self-censoring.

Conversion is the final step. Conversion is the acceptance of the worldview by the average citizen.

Conversion is facilitated through indoctrination by the educational system and legislation that categorizes criticism as hate speech.

The Biden administration and Democrat leadership has not been successful at legislating leftist demands into law due to the slim Republican majority in the House of Representatives.

Instead, executive orders and bureaucratic rules issued by federal agencies circumvent Congress.

Title IX has been re-interpreted by the Biden administration to include LGBT gender identities. This means public schools will be required in the coming academic year to allow "trans women" to use the girls' restrooms and changing rooms and to participate in girls' sports.

A post with related materials is available on my blog, [christiannewsjunkie.com](http://christiannewsjunkie.com) (no hyphens). This includes a well-written article by Concerned Women for America called "Unmasking the Gay Agenda: The Truth About the Movement Destroying America From Within" by Concerned Women for America.

**Robert Sparkman**  
Rome City

# Children who deserve more is troubling tale

BY KATHRYN JEAN LOPEZ

At 10 years old, Rob Henderson reached the following conclusion: "As far as I was concerned, adults were unreliable liars. With each new family, new parent and new rejection, grief, anger and loneliness accrued within me."

Henderson writes of the upbringing that led to this despairing insight in his powerful new book, "Troubled: A Memoir of Foster Care, Family, and Social Class."

After being taken from his birth mother and placed in seven homes in seven years, Henderson finally had a moment of stability — but a moment was all it was. He had been enrolled in six different elementary schools before the third grade. When he was finally adopted, his parents were talking up his December birthday in anticipation. "But," he writes, "I'd never done anything for my birthday before — never had a cake or gotten any birthday presents — so in my mind, I didn't have much to be excited about."

When he experienced his first proper birthday party, Henderson was stunned. He writes: "It was overwhelming. I didn't know what to play with

first. I thanked everyone many times."

Henderson had finally attained the kind of normalcy every child deserves and that so many of us take for granted. Then his adoptive parents broke it to him that they were getting divorced. He had already predicted that it was all too good to last. He knew adults too well.

Henderson was a voracious reader as a child. In his younger years, it was "Goosebumps." In middle school, he found himself "reading biographies of boxers and martial artists like Muhammad Ali, Rocky Marciano and Bruce Lee." He learned about Jake LaMotta, a Bronx boxer whose father forced him to fight other kids for change. "His dad would then take the coins for himself and leave nothing for his son." These glimpses at the cruelties of the world made him grateful. "My life wasn't as bad as what some of them had gone through."

He eventually began taking boxing classes, funding them with yard work jobs. In these lessons, the instructor stressed that violence was for the gym only; if they fought outside of the ring, they would be kicked out of class. It was this principle

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that helped Henderson get hold of his emotions and start to get on a better path. And these classes provided Henderson with the first inkling that perhaps some adults could be trusted.

Henderson's "Troubled" is an inspiring story of someone who found the strength to overcome adversity and the mental fortitude to find inner peace. He's a man who has experienced the miracle of gratitude, and he wants to pass on that experience to others.

I wish he could speak to every inner-city schoolboy.

Also, in a highly polarized election year, "Troubled" provides a reminder of the need for radical hospitality for scared moms, dads and children, especially those who are already outside the womb and in limbo.

Henderson was adopted before he became a teenager. The odds get worse the older you get. Whatever your politics — and your disgust with politics — you need to read "Troubled." And let it prompt questions about what we can do to help children who deserve more than being subject to adults' issues.

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