

[MUSIC IN]

UNFORTUNATELY, CHILDREN AS WELL AS ADULTS, I THINK IT'S JUST GOING TO BE THE NORM, FOR US TO WAKE UP ONE MORNING AND SEE THERE'S BEEN ANOTHER MASS SHOOTING.

YOU'RE LISTENING TO SOCIALLY AWKWARD, THIS WEEK'S EPISODE IS ABOUT GUN CONTROL.

[MUSIC OUT]

AFTER THE DEADLIEST MASS SHOOTING IN AMERICA ONLY A MONTH AGO, IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE THE ISSUE OF GUN CONTROL. A RECENT STUDY FOUND THAT THERE ARE MORE MASS SHOOTINGS IN AMERICA THAN IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS BUTT HEADS ON WHAT THE RIGHT COURSE OF ACTION IS, WHICH ULTIMATELY RESULTS IN NOTHING. IN A COUNTRY WHERE MASS SHOOTINGS ARE SO FREQUENT, HOW DO YOU REASSURE CHILDREN WHO HAVE GROWN ACCUSTOM TO THE VIOLENCE THAT THEY ARE SAFE, AND THAT THESE EVENTS ARE SIMPLY OUTLIERS?

I THINK WE NEED TO, STARTING AT A REALLY YOUNG AGE, LET KIDS KNOW ABOUT THE DANGER OF GUNS. AND THAT IT SHOULDN'T BE ACCEPTABLE IN OUR SOCIETY.

THIS IS OFFICER SCOTTY MOORE, WHO HAS BEEN WORKING AS A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

UNFORTUNATELY IT'S JUST GOING TO BE THE NORMAL FOR US, IN THIS COUNTRY. I DON'T THINK THE LAWS ARE GOING TO HAVE AN EFFECT

WHATSOEVER ON THE MASS SHOOTINGS. A PERSON WITH A MENTAL ISSUE, DETERMINED ENOUGH, WILL FIND A WAY TO GET A FIREARM.

SO HOW DO SUCH DETERMINED PEOPLE GET AHOLD OF GUNS? AMERICANS OWN AT LEAST 265 MILLION FIREARMS, WHICH GIVES THEM THE HIGHEST RATE OF GUN OWNERSHIP IN THE WORLD. HOWEVER, GUN OWNERSHIP IS EXTREMELY CONCENTRATED IN AMERICA, WITH JUST THREE PERCENT OF AMERICANS OWNING A TOTAL OF 133 MILLION GUNS. THIS MEANS THAT THAT THREE PERCENT OF PEOPLE HAVE FROM EIGHT TO 140 FIREARMS. WITH IT BEING RELATIVELY SIMPLE TO GET AHOLD OF MANY GUNS, WHAT WOULD ENCOURAGE A PERSON TO DO SO, AND THEN USE THESE GUNS ON INNOCENT CIVILIANS?

VIOLENCE IN OUR COUNTRY IS AT AN ALL TIME HIGH. I THINK IT STARTS WITH THE WAY YOU WERE RAISED AND BROUGHT UP. A LOT OF PEOPLE BLAME BROKEN HOMES. I GREW UP IN INDIANAPOLIS IN A REAL BAD AREA. I'VE GOT TWO BROTHERS, ONE'S A POLICEMAN AND MY OLDER BROTHER'S PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN WATERS IN IOWA, SO WE MADE IT OUT OF A BAD NEIGHBORHOOD IN A BAD AREA, BEING RAISED BY ONE MOM, WHO CARED. TWO PARENTS ARE GREAT, BUT IF YOU'VE GOT ONE PARENT WHO CARES YOU CAN MAKE IT. SO A LOT OF THESE PROBLEMS THAT WE HAVE IN OUR SOCIETY NOW I THINK ALL COME FROM THE HOME, AND A LACK OF GOOD PARENTING. I THINK PEOPLE THAT ARE RESPONSIBLE ALWAYS GO BACK TO BEING RESPONSIBLE THAT ARE OF AGE, AND GET THE PROPER TRAINING, SHOULD PROTECT THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH A FIREARM. AGAIN, I THINK BAD GUYS CONFRONTING A

GOOD GUY WITH A GUN IS THE LAST THING THAT THEY WANT. I WOULD SAY ARM YOURSELVES THE RIGHT WAY, LEGALLY, AND IF YOU HAVE A WEAPON AT HOME MAKE SURE IT'S SECURED AT HOME. I HAVE MANY AT MY HOME, AS MANY OFFICERS DO, AND THEY'RE SECURE. MY DAUGHTER KNOWS, MY SON'S ALREADY MOVED OUT HE'S OLDER, THE DANGERS OF HAVING A FIREARM IN A HOME. BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT THAT FIREARM IS THERE TOO TO PROTECT YOU AND EVERY PERSON IN THAT HOME.

ONE QUESTION THAT REMAINS IN THE WAKE OF THESE MASS SHOOTINGS IS THE IMPACT THEY HAVE ON CHILDREN. ARE KIDS SCARED, OR HAVE THEY BEEN DESENSITIZED? IN AN EFFORT TO FIND THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION, I INTERVIEWED A MEMBER OF THE SENIOR CLASS, WHO HAS CHOSEN TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS, ON THE INFLUENCE OF GUN VIOLENCE ON STUDENTS.

I MEAN WE CAN'T NOT TALK ABOUT IT, I FEEL LIKE NOT TALKING ABOUT IT IS ACTING LIKE IT'S NOT HAPPENING, SO THEY SHOULD BE AWARE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD. HOWEVER, LIKE I SAID BEFORE, JUST STRONGER LEGISLATION, I'M NOT NECESSARILY SURE IF IT DEFINITELY WILL SOLVE THE ISSUE, BUT I THINK THAT BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T MADE ANY CHANGES AND THEY CONTINUE TO OCCUR WE NEED TO TRY TO DO SOMETHING. I THINK THAT THE ACCESS TO GUNS IS DEFINITELY A LITTLE TOO RELAXED AT THE MOMENT, SO IF THERE ARE MORE RESTRICTIONS THAT ARE ADDED ON TOP OF THAT THEN THAT WOULD DEFINITELY HELP WHAT WAS HAPPENING. BUT IT'S NOT EVERYONE'S FAULT NECESSARILY, IT'S JUST SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR AMERICANS WHO ARE FEELING UNSAFE  
RIGHT NOW?

FOR AMERICANS WHO ARE FEELING, IT'S KIND OF DIFFICULT BECAUSE THERE'S  
NOTHING YOU CAN NECESSARILY DO TO AVOID GETTING INTO A SITUATION  
LIKE THAT, BUT THEY'RE PRETTY RARE. WELL, NOT RARE, BUT THE LIKELIHOOD  
THAT YOU'LL BE CAUGHT IN A SITUATION LIKE THAT ISN'T NECESSARILY  
SUPER HIGH SO I DON'T THINK IT'S A CONCERN THAT YOU SHOULD PREOCCUPY  
YOURSELF WITH NECESSARILY. JUST TRY TO BE SAFE, BE SMART ABOUT THE  
PLACES YOU'RE GOING, AND BE SMART.

THAT'S IT FOR THIS EPISODE OF SOCIALLY AWKWARD. IF YOU REALLY LIKED  
THE MUSIC IN THIS PODCAST, ALL OF IT IS PLAYED BY LEE ROSEVERE. FROM 91.3  
WHJE, I'M MADDIE HARDEN.