

Sept. 9, 1993

C-Span  
400 N. Captial St. NW # 650  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Sir:

I have watched your show for some time now. I am an American who servied his country an a gun owner. It is my right where I have a gun in my home or not accorance to the secound Admenment. I get so mad at the news people that tell only the one side of the story. A few weeks ago you had on the President of HCI who states that the problems with crime is due to guns, and they are the full blame. This is hogwash and it is about time or past time the news people stated the facts not lies.

In Aug. of the TV guild week of 21 - 27 Sarah Brady chairperson of HCI stated inthe story about strapped that a total of 12,090 men, woman, and child died in 1992. Brady goes on then an stated that 65 people die each day. Now lets do a little math, take the total 12,090 divied by 365 days in a year and the total is 33.123287 people die a day. Not the 65 stated by Brady if this number was true the total then would be 23,725 people a year. That taken 365 days times 65 people to arrive at this total.

Also that the fact that any person who holds a federal firearm license would risk prison time in a federal pen as well as his home,faimly, and everything that matters just to sell one gun to a teenager. Brady states that they do and by the truckloads. As well as any one with a gun is a criminal.

Sarah Brady has made a statment that she and HCI will not stop untill each and every gun is removed from every home. But not one word about disarming the criminals that are on the street with a gun that they have gotten from the black market and their drug dealers. Criminals don't buy a gun where you have to go though a police check knowing if they did they would be caught. They are not that stupid!

So why don't the news shows tell both sides of the truth instead of one side and drop the rest.

Thank You,

████████████████████

P.S. Why does Brady fail to state that J. Hinkley brought the gun used in the Ragan attemp in which J. Brady was shot, in Oct. 13 1980 and used on Ragan and Brady in March 30, 1981. Ref: Justice Dept. FBI

# TV and the GUN EPIDEMIC

The TV-movie 'Strapped' brings back memories and determination for a top gun-control advocate

By SARAH BRADY  
Chair, Handgun Control, Inc., and wife of James Brady, former press secretary to President Reagan



When I was a kid, we never had a slang word for carrying a gun. Today, that is what "strapped" means. And that is essentially what HBO's movie "Strapped" is about—guns. The ease with which they are bought. The greed with which they are sold. And the deadly havoc they wreak, particularly on our children.

Twelve years ago, my husband Jim was seriously wounded in the attempted assassination of President Reagan. But what drove me to become involved in the fight for sensible gun-control laws came about a few years after Jim was hurt. We were visiting relatives in Illinois when our son,

◆ HBO's *Showcase Presentation* "Strapped" debuts Saturday, Aug. 21, at 8 P.M. (ET)

who was about 5 at the time, got into a friend's truck to go swimming. As I got in, Scott was waving around what I thought was a toy gun that he had found on the seat. I told him that he should never point a gun at anyone—even if it was just a toy. When I took it from him, I realized it was no toy. It was a fully loaded .22 handgun—the same kind of gun that had been used to shoot my husband.

I knew then that I had to do something. I called Handgun Control, Inc., the nation's largest citizen's group working for gun-control legislation, and I began to learn about the scope of gun violence in this country. Let me offer some perspective: In 1990, handguns were used to murder 13 people in Sweden, 22 in Great Britain, 91 in Switzerland, 87 in Japan, 68 in Canada, 10 in Australia, and 10,567 in the United States. In 1991, the number jumped by more than 14 percent, to 12,090. There are an estimated 67 million handguns in this country—out of an estimated 200 million total firearms. And every day, 65 American men, women, and children are



Craig Wasson, Bokeem Woodbine and Fredro in a scene from *Strapped*

Like the recent theatrical features "Boyz n the Hood" and "Menace II Society," "Strapped" is harsh. Nothing has been sugar-coated here, from the soundtrack's bitter rap, to the profanity-laden dialogue, to the relentlessly brutal landscape of the neighborhood. The realistic depiction of life in the inner city and the difficulty of escaping its burdens points out why people there, especially young people, are vulnerable to the lure of the gun and what it represents for too many of them—wealth, power, control, safety, and, most of all, a way out. And while it's tough to take, the movie is not without its tender moments. At times it could be called a love story. Unfortunately, the love of money and guns wins out.

"Strapped" touches on many of the problems with the gun laws—or the lack of them—in this country: the effortlessness of procuring a federal firearms dealer's license, which allows for the circumvention of tough state laws, for a mere \$10; the license holder's appearance as a "law-abiding citizen"—only because he hasn't been caught selling truckloads of weapons to inner-city teenagers; the issue of straw purchasers—residents of gun-law-free states who buy guns for others. It may be too much for an audience unfamiliar with the subject to absorb, but it is an ambitious and admirable effort to educate the viewing—and voting—public.

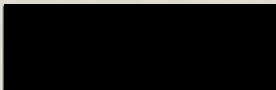
The movie strongly suggests something that I firmly believe: Americans are running out of time. We are in danger of losing the next generation to gunfire. "Strapped" closes with some horrifying statistics—14 children under the age of 19 are killed by gunfire every day in this country; firearm homicide is the leading cause of death for black men between the ages of 15 and 34; a new handgun is produced every 20 seconds.

It is clear that the makers of the movie "get it." We can only hope that members of Congress get the disturbing message of "Strapped." ■

killed with handguns alone.

Which brings us back to "Strapped." Directed by "The Crying Game" star Forest Whitaker, it is not an easy film to watch. In fact, it is painful, from the opening scene of one child killing another to the final death of yet another innocent child. Scenes are punctuated with jarring sounds—prison bars slamming shut, cash registers ringing up sales, primal screams of frustration that clutched at my heart, even as a mother clutches her son's legs, begging him not to go out into the world, where she cannot protect him.

As a parent, I know what it means to be afraid for your child. But I cannot imagine what it must be like in the violent atmosphere of an inner-city housing project. The film's main character, Diquan (played by Bokeem Woodbine with a balance of machismo and loving father-to-be anxiety), can imagine it all too realistically, and is driven to his deadly actions by an overwhelming desire to escape with his pregnant girlfriend to the world of single-family homes and 9-to-5 jobs.



Lebanon, Mo. 65536

002594 SEP 14 93



C-Span  
400 N. Captial St. NW # 650  
Washington, D.C. 20001

