

Letters To The Editor

Hartford Courant

March 18, 2001

The Constitution Is Not The Bible

As I read with sadness the story of yet another high school shooting, I was left thinking about the way many of us misperceive the Constitution as a sacred text that is both God-given and unchanging [letter, March 8, "Repeal 'Silly' Gun-Control Legislation"]. The Constitution is not the Bible, and Charlton Heston is not Moses.

The men who drafted the Constitution were clear about the imperfection of their effort. Amendments address the document's imperfection. That mutability is part of the genius of the Constitution, and explains why it has endured for more than 200 years.

We no longer count African Americans as three-fifths of a human being; we no longer deny the franchise to women and we no longer have a poll tax.

So, why do we lack the courage to change the Constitution, as gun violence claims the lives of young people in our city and in suburban high schools?

We are living in different times than the framers. To be unresponsive to the needs of the people shows ultimate disrespect for the democratic tradition of our nation.

The Rev. Hal Chorpenning

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