

largest mass shooting in US history:

49 killed in Orlando

deadliest year in 2 decades:

228 killed in Chicago

police officers:

5 killed in Dallas

3 killed in Baton Rouge

one event-huge impact:

1 killed in Minneapolis

Overwhelming numbers --
now imagine a face for each one.

In this special section, *Tribal Tribune* delves into the causes and effects of a violent summer.

months

‘An ongoing struggle’

Black Lives Matter continues the fight for equal rights 50 years after the Civil Rights Movement started it

Alessia Boland
copy editor

Aug. 28, 1963. Martin Luther King Jr. stands on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and delivers one of the most iconic speeches in American history. “I have a dream today...”

In 2016, people still stand on steps, calling for equality. And people still march, no matter how small the group. In 2016, the battle for civil rights is still ongoing. Black Lives Matter is the forefront of that battle.

“Think of the Black Lives Matter movement as an extension of the Civil Rights Movement,” said Jon Hale, College of Charleston professor and author of Freedom Schools, by Skype interview. “There are so many similarities and so much continuity between the Civil Rights Movement and Black Lives Matter that activists are in many ways demanding and asking for the same things that people were during the Civil Rights Movement. And before that, the Abolitionist Movement.

“This is really just an ongoing struggle that, in my research and my understanding of it, you can trace back to slavery,” he continued. “People think it’s a new movement because there’s a hashtag on it, and that Black Lives Matter started after the death of Trayvon Martin, but in many ways it is just a continuation of things that we’ve observed and witnessed and experienced in American history. So never forget that.”

It’s misunderstood. It’s not a call for the punishment of all policeman or a movement to undermine the value of anyone who isn’t black. It’s not focused on hatred -- it’s focused on peace.

“They automatically assume that we’re saying only black lives matter,” said Tribe Talk teacher Shawntell Pace, who was the president of Auburn’s Black Student Union, Media and Press Chair for the Alabama youth and college division NAACP and College of Charleston Black Student Union advisor. “But if you really take the time to research what the organization is, or research just history in general about racial inequality and injustices, we’re not saying only black lives matter. There’s a silent ‘too’ at the end.”

That’s what the rallies and protests are about -- bringing awareness and fixing misconceptions. “It’s not saying that cops’ lives don’t matter. It’s saying that our

country and our laws and our policies don’t value black lives the same as they do white lives,” Hale said. “Every given day in America white lives and blue lives always matter.”

Hale said prisons are an example of how the system works against minorities.

“There’s disproportionate amounts of black and Latino in jails. It’s not representative of the American population. That’s not because blacks and Latinos

are more violent, it’s because there’s just a system in place against blacks and Latinos,” he continued. “So black lives matter is saying ‘y’know what? Things aren’t fair, laws treat us unfairly, more unfairly than they do white people.’ So it’s not saying that white lives don’t matter -- it’s just saying that as a society all lives aren’t equal until we recognize that African Americans are being treated differently.”

“There’s a silent ‘too’ at the end”
Shawntell Pace

Pace relates her own experience with Black Lives Matter to her daily life. “So it’s not like I could wake up one day and take my skin off, right?” she said. “People I would always talk about race, but love not talk about race everything be equal, but I’m constantly reminded everyday that I’m a person of color.”

Her jaw is set and her fists are clenched as she sits in the Tribe Talk studio. “We have to have these talks in our commu-

nity,” she said. “Like: ‘you’re black, and people are going to treat you different because you’re black.’ We don’t wanna have these conversations but we have to. I remember mine verbatim. I was seven years old going to go get ice cream and the man behind the counter told my uncle that don’t serve black children. seven, and now my mom has this conversation with me.”

conversation no one wants and is still a struggle today, said. friend texted me and was like ‘How am I supposed to raise my son in this?’ she said. “What do you say to that?”

Historically, Hale said, there are underlying reasons why groups like the NAACP -- as well as Black Lives Matter -- exist. “Whenever we learn what the NAACP is, there’s always someone who says where’s the association for people?” he said. “Well, Congress, and that’s the and the House of Representatives, and the media, newspapers and even Everywhere you see white in control of everything, so implicitly says white lives matter. You don’t even have to say it, it just exists... And until we stop police brutality and mass incarceration of black and brown people, until we fix that, all lives do not matter because the system is telling us something different.”

But progress and change has happened in Charleston before, Hale said. “Charleston is a home to activism and it always has been,” he said. “It can in fact change things. Sometimes people just give up and say ‘oh, this place is terribly backwards and racist and nothing’s going to happen,’ but no. Not at all. We’ve had a lot of civil rights success here, we’ve had a lot of successful challenges to the law. The Brown decision [Brown vs. the Board of Education] started in Charleston, the first court case for desegregation.”

Bringing people together is one of the goals of Leshae Marton, a member of Black Lives Matter Charleston since July, when she held what she called a “Family Night” Sept. 10. “It’s just about the bonding and strengthening of the families and communities in North Charleston. We feel like everything starts at home...” she said. “We’re just trying to come together and give the children something to do and then the parents do activities, [we did] an invasion activity and it’s basically just a simple activity with paper, scissors, glue and we take magazine clippings and put them on a folder: like what you see for your family in the future and what types of visions you have and then we just get up and share. It’s an empowering thing.”

Pace said working together is an important first step. She points

to when she attended a protest in Columbia to call attention to this; the continuous deaths of black people at the hands of police. “I actually took a student from the Citadel because he was all ‘all lives matter’ and ‘I was like put your money where your mouth is,’” she said. “I’m going to the black lives matter protest. You say you care about our lives, so come and get educated.”

Hale agreed that unification and support are important. “On June 17, 2015 after [the nine parishioners] were killed at the church, we had put out a call for prayer, and we just went down to the park,” he said. “People were saying that the police were still looking for the killer but we went there anyways, and there were probably 25 of us. Just to have that, because we were so close to the church, you could just feel something so tragic in the air... When you’re in a space with people who have suffered and who are working for change, it really changes your worldview to participate in that.”

Pace said that it’s a matter of perspective. “If only you knew,” she said. “If only you knew that we’re just trying to make the world a better place. We’re not trying to be against you. Maybe you would be here too. Maybe you would be marching with us.”



Francesca Mathewews // photo



Lettie Lundy // photo

Pace said even when Barack Obama was elected president in 2008, the reaction from some was negative.

“People at Auburn University threw beer bottles at us as they drove past and called us n-words,” she said. “It’s so blatant and also systematic.”

Black Lives Matter received even more attention after events over the summer, including when Philando Castile was fatally shot by a police officer in St. Anthony, Minn. on July 6. His girlfriend filmed the aftermath on Facebook Live.

“I watched that video of Philando being shot live,” Pace said. “I didn’t even know what I was watching. I remember watching it,” she paused. “And I remember all of a sudden it just clicked to me and I was so traumatized.”

So many things happening over so little time -- the death of Castile, the shooting of Anton Sterling in Baton Rouge, an attack by a gunman where five police officers were killed in Dallas after a Black Lives Matter march.

“It was just rapid fire succession of tragic events that constantly make people think that progress is not being made...” Hale said. “Both the police and the Black Lives Matter movement are experiencing a lot of frustration and a lot of fear. It’s hard to point to a lot of progress right now.”



Lettie Lundy // photo

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Francesca Mathewews // photo

(Left) College of Charleston sophomore presenting her name tag which represents that she was more than just her race at a Black Lives Matter family night on Sept. 10 in North Charleston. (Bottom Left) A child participant in the Black Lives Matter family night playing the keyboard during their music session of the night. (Bottom Middle) Another child participant playing the drum in the music session of the family night. (Bottom Right) During the family night child participant making a vision board to express what he is looking for in the future for his family.

Building a brighter future

A pastor. A police officer. A mayor. Three influential community leaders weigh in on how to work past a violence-saturated summer and create a more positive future.

Francesca Mathewes

co-editor in chief

Mass shooting here. Protest turned violent there. Innocent bystanders killed.

In a church. In a school. In a club, a movie theater, a neighborhood street.

Nine, 20, 50 people.

Mothers, fathers, daughters and sons.

Lives lost.

Flowers are laid, memorials erected. Family photos, baby pictures and sentiments of lives cut short are scattered across the sidewalks and walls that have witnessed horror in the truest form.

But eventually, the sting of tragedy subsides.

The tears dry, the flowers wilt and people begin moving again, rather unchanged.

It's all too routine.

Over the last three years there have been over 1,000 mass shootings and acts of violence. Some of these acts have divided the nation while others have brought people together, but the reality remains the same: not much has changed, and the violence roars on.

In June of 2015, Charleston was in the national headlines as news of the Emanuel 9 shooting at Emanuel AME Church broke.

However, Charleston was revered nationally for the city's unity and outward expressions of compassion in the days and weeks following this tragedy rather than its divisiveness. Since then, over a year has passed and the question must be asked:

How has Charleston recovered, learned and progressed from this experience?

"I think dialogue is happening in our community and I think that when we talk to each other, it's always in our best interest, because we begin to understand just how much we have in common," Rev. Dr. William Swinton of Ebenezer AME Church said.

Swinton and Ebenezer AME are closely tied to Emanuel AME, and have been involved in the recovery from the Emanuel 9 shooting from day one, continuing to be involved in progressing forward from that event.

"When we talk, we realize that we're all humans, and that we're all worthy of respect," he continued. "What we say and what we hope our community will be is important to all of us. So are we totally healed from [the Emanuel 9 shooting]? No.

But I would say we've come a long way, and I'm still seeing very positive responses from the larger community as well as people in our own church."

But it's not just about Charleston, and it's not just about Emanuel 9. The hate-motivated violence of the past few years is a national and international epidemic.

However, change starts small, and taking notes on Charleston's reaction to such tragedy could be a start on the path to change.

"I've been fortunate that my parents taught me how to conduct myself as an officer, but also helped increase my understanding and awareness on how to deal with other cultures and individuals when I deal with them," Mount Pleasant Police Lt. Craig Harris said. "It's a very simple tool -- we're all humans, we make mistakes, don't let the badge and this uniform make you feel that you're higher than anyone else.

"Your words and actions are pretty much all you have when you're out there in the community. I live by those values that were passed to me from my parents," he continued. "I'm not in this job for the money, but the value of life. Being a role model isn't about having a million dollars or being able to jump higher or run faster, it's trying to help steer someone in the right path and to help them excel.

And it's not all just about one moment, one action committed by a person, according to Harris. Violence or misconduct of any sort has an origin, and there's a history behind every breaking headline that often falls to the wayside in favor of an emotionally explosive video, and this lack of understanding is part of senseless violence.

"When you're talking about 'all the things going on right now,' you also have to look at the things that surround all of the issues," Harris said. "A lot of things that are going on are related to other issues -- your education is somewhat defected, a lot of people are still pretty much bouncing back from the economy, and especially in our area, you still have people bouncing back from 20 years ago when the base closed down.

"So when you look at all these things going on, it's a lot bigger than what the media has portrayed it to be," he said. "Sometimes it can be so much about the gratification of a video versus the whole big picture, and a lot of things that we see runs on emotions, but we still have to understand those emotions and help the people feeling those emotions."

And for Harris, creating a more positive and compassionate future doesn't necessarily happen in grand, sweeping gestures or big policy decisions. It's about putting forth the effort every day in small acts, and building a relationship with the commu-

nity he serves.

"It's being accountable for our officers actions and be accountable for our community. We have to do the same thing in our community. If you see a negative trend in your community, act against it. That's what we do in Mt. Pleasant, we jump on it right away. When you jump on the small things, that closes the gap, and builds trust with people," Harris said. "So if it does increase to the next level, you already have that commitment with the community, and keeping them involved with your strategy and the way you're dealing with it."

But when tragedy strikes, the people a community looks to for guidance extends beyond men and women in uniform.

"I continue to be proud of the leaders in this region for not using [Emanuel 9 and other acts of violence] as a divide for our differences, but we have used it to gather together in prayer and uplift each other," Mt. Pleasant Mayor Linda Page said. "I just continue to be amazed at the leaders we have here and their values."

Values. Arguably one of the things at the core of what one could call the epidemic of violence that has swept the nation over the past summer. Value of life, each other and the community around us.

"They're values that I think we're raised with here in Charleston. It's what you learn coming up in Sunday School," said Page, who has been the Mt. Pleasant mayor since 2013. "I think it's that people who were raised in this region are raised to respect each other, and I think those are the values you see in the leadership here."

In terms of how Charleston can continue to improve internally and also serve as somewhat of a model for national progression forward from the violence of the past several years, the answer lies in thoughtfulness.

"Pause and reflect on what happened. Reflect on the tragedy, and be mindful with your first steps and your leadership style," Page said. "I think that's what we had here [after the Emanuel 9]. It wasn't a knee-jerk reaction, it wasn't hastily decided what the path forward would be. I believe our leaders approached it mindfully and differently to hopefully not cause the divisiveness that we've seen in other areas."

But the true measure of progress is not held in the response of current leaders, Swinton said. Progression is determined by the youth, whose hands will eventually grow and craft the community.

"Learn. Be open to studying and reading and understanding other cultures and races," Swinton said. "I think it's important that we understand what we share in common, and that we are all human. The outward appearance has its place, but that's not really who we are. These are just bodies we live in, but the inner person is where what is to be really felt and experienced and understood."



Lucy Johnson // photo



Lettie Lundy // photo



Lydia Gardner // photo

(Top) Lt. Craig Harris stands in front of the Mount Pleasant Police Department before a meeting. (Middle) Rev. Dr. William Swinton of Ebenezer AME Church smiles while talking about the community. (Bottom) Mount Pleasant Mayor Linda Page places her hand on her reserved parking sign just outside the mayor's office.

months



Misty
LeClerc

The topic of gun restriction is a controversial one, almost more so after events of this summer. There are questions being raised and some being answered, but one question still remains.

What can we do?

"I have no idea. I have no idea what can be done at the community level," government teacher Misty LeClerc said. "I'm serious: I don't know what can happen. I don't know what the next steps are. I know that police are militarized and we need to evaluate that. But people want to be safe, so they want it to be militarized. I just don't know."

It isn't easy to answer.

"I think after 9/11 we gave local authority too much power," she said. "I think people demanded that police do whatever it takes to keep us safe, and that has taken away our freedoms, that's taken away our security on a basic level."

LeClerc can't reach a conclusion.

"Yesterday in Chicago, a little boy pulls out a BB gun. He still pulled out a gun. I don't know. I'm just a school teacher, I'm not qualified to make that... I have no idea what can be done at the community level, other than the fact that people need to take responsibility for their actions," she said.

--Alessia Boland and Francesca Mathewes

What can we do?



Charles
Johnson

Community action in response to a violent country. Student Resource Officer Charles Johnson advocates togetherness and kind acts in the face of calamity.

"In the community, we need to show a little more caring, compassion. You know, sometimes the violence is coming out of a cry for help," he said.

As a student resource officer, Johnson understands the impact a fact such as this may have on a young study body.

"Things like this could really put a divide in the student body, you know kids not wanting to be bothered, some may not want to be involved," he said. "They retract back into their own little corner of the world and say, 'Hey it's not bothering me, so I don't care.'"

Awareness is one aspect of it, but person-to-person relationships is Johnson's idea of truly resolving community strife. "Students need to be more aware by looking out for each other, treating each other as they would want to be treated," he said. "And I think having a whole lot of compassion goes a long way."

--Ryan Rothkopf



Morgan
Monty

Gun violence is a topic that has been a skyrocketing issue in the past years. The government's process for everyday citizens trying to acquire a gun is fairly simple. A form of the person's information and a questionnaire with a variety of "yes or no" questions and, of course, payment makes up the majority of the process.

Is this too little?

"The process to getting it [a gun] should be increased.

It's more of a privilege than a right to have a weapon that is so deadly. I think that everyone should be allowed to apply to have one, but there should definitely be parameters and background checks that are way stricter than they currently are," said senior Morgan Monty.

Although there are signs of positive change, Monty believes not enough is being done to make sure guns are not placed into the wrong hands.

--Einah Park



Rebecca
Mitchell

In the wake of violent events, it has led some to question of what to do about gun violence.

"It's not about the laws of who can purchase a weapon. It's the intent of the person who purchases that weapon and how that intent is formed in their head," English teacher Rebecca Mitchell said.

Social media has its disadvantages and could be playing a part in the underlying causes of recent violence, according to Mitchell. "People don't sit down and talk face to face. They text and you're looking at a screen," she said. "You're viewing everything through a screen, and you aren't connected one on one."

In terms of specific action, Mitchell believes that the key to working past the violence of the past summer lies in connection and a revival of "family values. But I think as a whole culture and society we need to get back to monitoring ourselves and our people instead of our cellphones and our social media."

--Francesca Mathewes

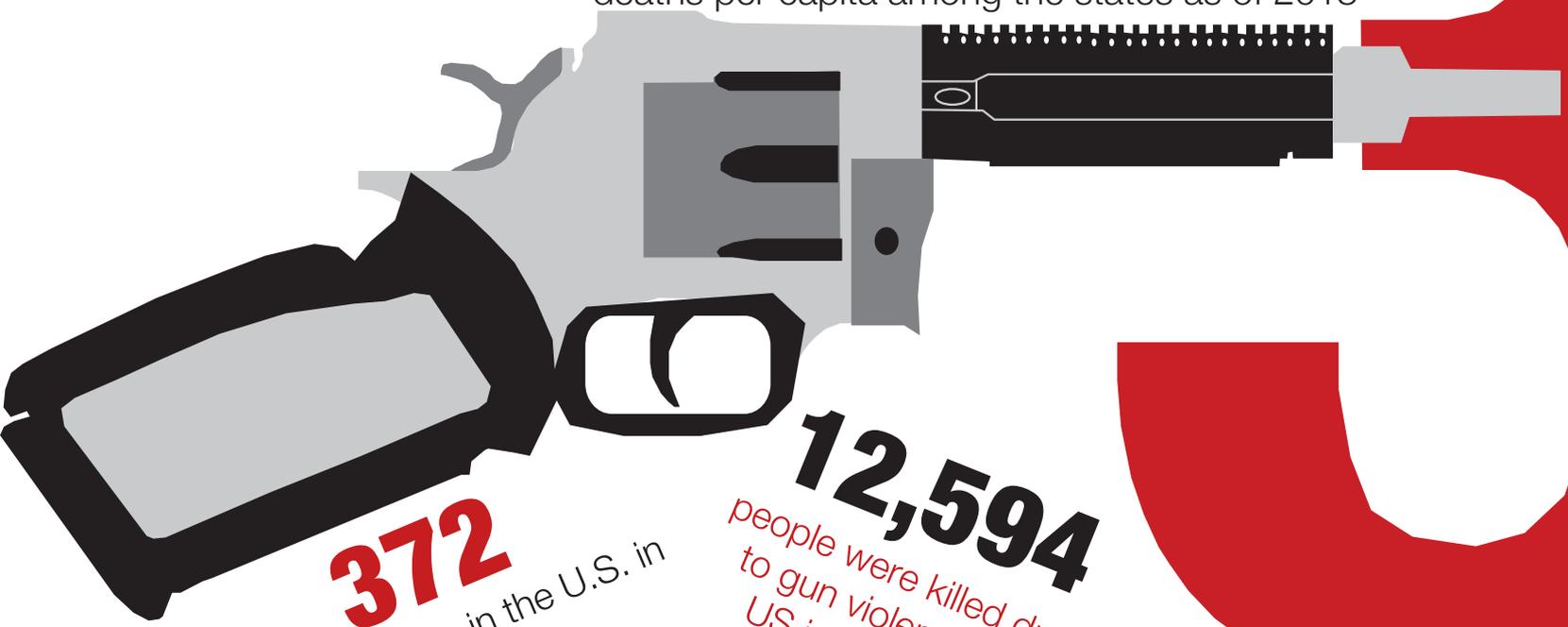
270,000,000
to
310,000,000
 estimated total number of guns
 (both legal and illicit) held by civilians
 in the United States

42.3%

People in the The United States who own guns.

11

South Carolina has the 11th highest number of gun deaths per capita among the states as of 2013



372

mass shootings in the U.S. in 2015

12,594

people were killed due to gun violence in the US in 2014

13,471

people were killed in 2015

1,870

were wounded in 2015

38%

of households in the South own guns

27%

of Northeast households own guns

information found from:
www.smartgunlaws.org
www.gunpolicy.org
www.cbc.ca
www.pbs.org
www.people-press.org

...And beyond

Terrorism springs from varied sources,
but citizens can fight the fear

Liz Hipes

column editor

Brussels. Paris. San Bernardino. Aleppo. Orlando.

In the mind of a terrorist, there is an irrational rationality that leads to mass deaths.

In the mind of a typical citizen, it seems simple -- it's murder.

Dr. Carl Jensen, a professor in the Department of Intelligence and Security Studies at The Citadel and a former FBI agent, said terrorism in the United States has become more significant in the past 60 years.

"Terrorism is a weapon of a little guy... and groups like ISIS have taken it to a new level because they're kind of in that grey area," said Jensen in a telephone interview. "They're sort of like a state, not a state that we would recognize but they do the same things that a state does... And yet at the same time, they engage in terrorist activities....They're kind of a hybrid at this point."

Terrorists do not see themselves as murderers or as vigilantes, Jensen said.

"[The terrorists] would see themselves as freedom fighters," he said. "They are engaged in some greater cause...It's not a whole lot different from why somebody would join a military organization, for example because they believe they are engaging in a struggle for the greater good."

Jensen points to research done by his former colleague Jerry Post, an ex-CIA psychiatrist that negative violent actions do not result in a positive outcome.

In his research, Post found that some individuals are attracted to the terror organizations because of the excitement, Jensen said. Personal gratification -- the oxymoronic

irrational reality.

Studies show consistent factors and qualities, such as environment, have been spotted in individuals who are terrorists, Jensen added.

"If you grow up in an area where there's a lot of terrorism going on, and your parents or people you know are engaged in it..." he said. "And so if you join one of the groups that's associated with terrorism that your father was a member of...then you're acting as a good son or a good daughter. So you're just kind of following in their footsteps."

Some of these factors do not apply to all potential terrorists, creating a possible second stereotype.

"On the other hand, if you take the Weather Underground [an American militant group]... for example, most of them came from rich, upper class families and they were basically rebelling against a society that their parents had created," Jensen said.

The man behind 9/11, Osama Bin Laden, fits into one of these categories.

"He came from a well-to-do Egyptian family, he was an engineer so he was well educated. He went over to Europe, became radicalized over there and carried out his activities," he said.

Intelligence theories about these organizations have been published, like Carlos Marighella's book *Minimanual of the Urban Guerrilla*, helping publicize the strategies a terrorist group to follow in order to be successful, Jensen said.

"They need to carry out some action that will cause the government to impose repressive means on the rest of the population... that will

cause certain members of the population that hate the government and come over to the side of the revolutionaries," he said. "So that would basically be the way to grow, in his opinion at least, the way to grow a revolutionary group was to carry out acts of terror in the hopes that the government is going to be repressive and then once that happens, you're gonna attract more people to your side."

Another one of Jensen's colleague's, Kevin Gilmartin, studied in his theory how isolation is crucial to convincing an individual to join a cause.

The continuation of isolation allows the individual to be manipulated by these organizations.

"They keep repeating that message over and over...So once you do that, then you're engaged on projection and you project all authority on the leader," Jensen explains. "Then you project all bad things on the enemy so you basically divide the world into an us versus them.... people hear that, they internalize that, that becomes their way of looking at the world."

Today, terrorist groups are largely associated with increasing amounts of fear about how these situations should be handled, the general public and terrorists perceive the enemy in two very different ways.

Through active and observant citizens, these terrorist situations can be stopped before they occur.

"If you look at the number of terrorists plots that have been stopped in the United States, since 9/11 and the numbers are pretty significant," Jensen said.