

Letter to San Diego Union Tribune on 5/4/12 from Faye Girsh

Two weeks ago the U/T had a front page story in the Sunday paper about the 92 year old woman who made Exit Bags. The article said accusingly that the bags were used in six suicides in the county. An earlier U/T article pointed out that there was more than one suicide a day in San Diego County -- more than 365 a year. Junior Seau was among the 7 or so others this week but this time a firearm was used, which is the way 40% of suicides are done, according to county statistics.

I am wondering where the front page expose of the gun dealer is? How is it a bag was blamed for six suicides when this famous San Diego hero killed himself with a gun, thus joining more than 150 other San Diegans who easily have access to a firearm for suicide every year, and yet the gun wasn't blamed? Somehow the usual violent means of delivering death to oneself are OK, but a gentle, non-violent method brings in the FBI.

Ms. Hydorn will go to court on Monday to be sentenced though she did not commit a crime. Her "victims" have praised her as being a benefactor for providing an insurance policy should they find themselves suffering unbearably and not able to end their lives peacefully with the help of a doctor, as in Oregon and Washington.

Putting her out of the bag business will not reduce the suicide rate in San Diego, but it will increase the number of violent incidents where people drive off cliffs, jump off train platforms, and put a bullet in their bodies to be out of their misery.

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