



# Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Legislative Committee Report

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ALLEGHENY COUNTY SPORTSMEN LEAGUE ON THE INTERNET <http://www.acslpa.org>

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## PA Legislative Battles Over Gun Control Continue (November)

Last month we reported on potential developments with certain bills being advanced that presented moderate gun control concepts to appease certain more radical legislator elements within the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. On October 31 the Pennsylvania Judiciary Committee voted two bills out of committee.

**The first bill was House Bill 784** which in its original form was unacceptable and as a result of request to rewrite the legislation put to the prime sponsor of the bill, Representative Scott Petri, Harry Schneider in Kim Stolfer were able to successfully correct defects in this legislation with the cooperation of several volunteer attorneys, notably Mike McCormick, to put together a more refined and polish language that will focus the intent of the bill.

**The other bill that was passed out of the Judiciary Committee was House Bill 1744.** As a result of earlier testimony before the Judiciary Committee this Bill was deemed by sportsmen and gun owner representatives as unacceptable in its current form. Our complaints generated a number of amendments that were to supposedly moderate our concerns. Unfortunately the process leading up to this vote did not allow for an open exchange of ideas even though the offer was made with Representative Tom Caltagirone to assist in determining what could be done to improve this legislation and to remove our concerns. In fact several of the amendments were not even available for review until the morning of the committee vote which is an unacceptable situation.

One of the amendments amounts to, in my view, a political payoff for support by giving the NRA taxpayer subsidies to establish 'Eddie Eagle' in Pennsylvania school districts. **What is worse yet** is that this 'Firearms Education Fund' does not mandate the use of 'Eddie Eagle' by use of the language "**such as**" to describe the entity doing the training so now we are opening up the entire PA school system to proselytizing at the expense of the PA taxpayers. For instance the Brady group uses a program called 'Star' that is 90% political advocacy for kids to lobby legislators to support gun control. **This is a stupid, stupid move and the long term consequences could be disastrous.**

This legislation is scheduled for a vote next week and **we are asking ALL gun owners to notify their legislators to SUPPORT House Bill 784 and to OPPOSE House Bill 1744.** We are going to be asking the statewide gun owner and sportsmen's groups to join with us in this effort. If you would like copies of the legislation and the votes in the Judiciary Committee please e-mail your request. Also, please forward any comment that your legislator makes on this legislation to us so that we can respond properly. **More to come!**

## **Election 2008**

*Firearms Owners Against Crime*

Unofficial early election returns are extremely promising! Of the statewide candidates in races that FOAC is involved in all but one appear to be victorious. In the **Supreme Court** races Judge **Seamus McCaffery** was the top vote getter in the state with a very tight race being waged between **Debra Todd** and **Maureen Lally Green**. Unfortunately it appears that the revisionist **Debra Todd** is going to win the election by a very slim

margin of less than 2%. In the **Superior Court** races the two candidates **endorsed by FOAC, Jackie Shogan and Cheryl Allen**, have both won their respective seats for the **Superior Court**. In the **retention elections for Supreme Court and Superior Court** both **Tom Saylor and Joan Orié Melvin** handily won reelection.

In the County races it appears that fortune has again shown on gun owners in a number of counties with FOAC candidates either winning by a slim majority or surprisingly trumping incumbent candidates. For instance the race for **Berks County Sheriff** resulted in a narrow victory for FOAC endorsed **Eric Weaknecht**. In both **Butler and Washington** counties **FOAC candidates** won surprising victories over the **incumbent district attorney's** with pro-gun candidates, Richard Goldinger and Steve Toprani respectively, winning in both races. These types of returns are coming in from many counties although results will have to be finalized and certified.

Perhaps the most troubling outcome of this election is that participation by citizens has fallen even more to what many observers are reporting a level of only 15% turnout. While this does allow gun owners to increase their impact on elections throughout the Commonwealth it does not bode well for the future of our republic if weather and other mundane issues deter citizens from exercising this franchise and responsibility.

### **Federal Legislative Update:**

#### **HR 2640 -- NICS Update Bill**

The bill which provides for an update of mental health records available to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) is being blocked in the Senate by a single lawmaker who says the provisions of the so-called "NICS Improvement Act" will cost too much and interfere with Second Amendment rights.

The bill, which has passed the House on a voice vote, has bipartisan backing and support from both the National Rifle Association and the Brady Campaign Against Gun Violence. It is designed to improve the federal system for checking gun buyers' mental health history in order to block purchases by those diagnosed as mentally ill.

The lawmaker who put the hold on the bill, Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK), contends that the bill would create "a pathway by which individuals can lose their Second Amendment rights but no pathway through which they can gain them back if they're stable. I believe individual rights should be guaranteed," Coburn said.

Coburn is even more concerned about the cost, which he contends would run to \$2 billion over the next several years. Such legislation "is growing the government without decreasing it somewhere else," he said. He is backed by the American Legion, whose leadership said in a statement that the law "could have the unintended consequence of denying gun rights to any

veteran, especially wartime veterans, without the benefit of due process." Gun Owners of America is also against the bill. [The New GUN WEEK](#), November 15, 2007

### **Bishop Provision Protects Firearms**

The US House of Representatives on Oct. 24 passed by a 344-71 vote an amendment sponsored by Congressman Rob Bishop (R-UT) that will ensure there will be no federal infringement of Second Amendment rights on certain public lands.

The provision, which came in the form of the Republican motion to recommit on **HR-1483**, a bill to expand and create certain **National Heritage Areas**, stipulates that all designated lands within these areas would be exclusively governed by state and local laws regarding hunting, fishing, and the possession or use of a weapon, trap, or net. The bill now heads to the US Senate. [The New GUN WEEK](#), November 15, 2007

### **NEWS RELEASES:**

#### **Senate Considering Treaty That Could Affect Gun Rights**

*Ask your Senators to support the "Second Amendment Protection" Amendment*

Gun Owners of America -- E-Mail Alert

8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102,

Springfield, VA 22151

Phone: 703-321-8585 / FAX: 703-321-8408

<http://www.gunowners.org> -- **Tuesday, October 30, 2007**

It turns out that Washington might soon be giving an arm of the United Nations jurisdiction over the import, export, and oceanic transport of GUNS and AMMUNITION.

You would think that even Washington politicians would not be so stupid as to give people like Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Burma's despotic military junta, the Sudan's genocidal strongmen, or Cuba's Fidel Castro the right to interfere with our Second Amendment rights on American soil, right?

Well, what makes sense to the common person isn't always the reality in Washington.

The Senate Foreign Relations committee will soon be debating the ratification of a treaty that bears the appropriate acronym of LOST (Law of the Sea Treaty). LOST would put the ocean's resources in the hands of the UN's International Seabed Authority -- and yes, that spells trouble for our Second Amendment rights.

First, there are concerns that the International Seabed Authority might close firing ranges based on the bogus argument that runoff from these ranges pollutes the world's oceans.

This battle over lead run-off is one that gun owners have already fought in this country. We shudder to think that we could one day find ourselves fighting this battle at the global level as well!

But, even more frightening, Article 88 of the treaty stipulates that the high seas are "reserved" for peaceful purposes. And this provision would be enforced by the Tribunal on the Law of the Sea.

**What does this mean?** It clearly doesn't mean that the U.S. or any other country is going to shut down its navy. But, on the other hand, it would be foolish to assume that the UN will not eventually try to use this provision to prohibit the oceanic transport of all firearms and ammunition -- except, of course, for guns and ammo bound for murderous dictators. Make no mistake: The United Nations is composed of hoards of heavily-armed genocidal tyrants. And the last thing these people want is for firearms and ammunition to fall into the hands of "peons" like you and me.

And the UN has shown no reluctance to try to strip the U.S. of its sovereignty and interfere with our Second Amendment rights. Just consider the several attempts they have made over the last decade to sucker the United States into a binding treaty that would call for greater gun control restrictions inside our own country.

Peter Leitner, who was the Representative to the Law of the Sea negotiations in Geneva during the 1970s and a key witness at the hearing before the Environment and Public Works Committee, is not only an authority on the LOST treaty, he is concerned about the danger it poses to individual rights.

He says, "The inherent danger in this Treaty is the fact that nothing is set in stone and broad matters of interpretation will be the province of the 'one-nation/one-vote' Assembly. We will have no leverage, veto-power, etc., in that forum." And then there's the term "Peaceful Purposes" in the treaty. Leitner says that this is "one of those extraordinarily vague terms that lend themselves to political manipulation."

If the US can claim that LOST allows US ships to board foreign ships and look for weapons of mass destruction, he argues, "then other nations can interdict cargoes they find offensive as well. I think the [Second Amendment] gun guys have a very legitimate concern!"

Another opponent of this treaty is John Bolton, the former US Ambassador to the United Nations. Bolton almost single-handedly kept the US from signing onto anti-gun treaties sponsored by the UN. Now he is making the rounds on Capitol Hill, reportedly lobbying conservative senators against LOST.

**ACTION:** Write your senator. Tell him not to vote to ratify the Law of the Sea Treaty until the following amendment is adopted:

*Article 88 is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:*

*"Notwithstanding anything in this treaty to the contrary, no action shall be taken under this treaty which would impede the export, transport, or import of small arms and ammunition into the United States for the lawful exercise of Second Amendment rights under the Constitution of the United States."*

You can use the pre-written message and send it as an e-mail by visiting the GOA Legislative Action Center at <http://www.gunowners.org/activism.htm> (where phone and fax numbers are also available).

## ***CCRKBA: Hillary Wants Drivers Licenses For Illegals, Opposes Carry Licenses For American Citizens***

BELLEVUE, WA – Nov. 2, 2007 – New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton supports giving drivers' licenses to illegal aliens, but she opposes right-to-carry statutes that provide concealed carry licenses for law-abiding American citizens and others who are here legally, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms said today.

"Based on her comments during Tuesday night's debate," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb, "Sen. Clinton must think people in this country illegally are entitled to greater rights than citizens and others who are here legally. Maybe it's because she knows that illegal aliens would vote for her, while law-abiding American gun owners won't."

Gottlieb noted that Mrs. Clinton was the only presidential candidate, either Republican or Democrat, who ignored an invitation to appear at the recent Gun Rights Policy Conference in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky, near Cincinnati. The annual conference is co-sponsored by CCRKBA and the Second Amendment Foundation.

"Every other candidate, both Republican and Democrat, either attended, called or sent their regrets that they could not attend," Gottlieb said, "but Mrs. Clinton simply blew off the opportunity to speak to a representative cross-section of America's 80 million gun-owning voters. Is it possible she doesn't think she may need some of those 80 million votes, if she gets her party's nomination?"

"It is clear she wants special privileges for illegal immigrants, yet she opposes allowing American citizens to carry firearms to protect themselves from illegal aliens and others who commit violent crimes," he said.

"Since Hillary Clinton moved out of the White House early, so she could run for the Senate from New York as an obvious stepping stone toward her own run for the Oval Office," Gottlieb stated, "she has supported every gun control measure to come along. She supports registration and licensing, she supports banning sport-utility rifles and magazine restrictions and she opposed legislation to prevent junk harassment lawsuits against the firearms industry.

"Hillary Clinton, like too many of her Democrat colleagues, has given mere lip service to gun owners with vague claims that she 'supports' the Second Amendment," Gottlieb said. "It now appears that she is more interested in the welfare of people who don't belong in this country, than in the civil rights of people who do belong here."

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## **News Briefs:**

### ***College 'Empty Holster Protest' Hits Campuses, Draws Attention***

*by Gun Week Staff*

When Students for Concealed Carry on Campus (SCCC) announced their plans for a nationwide "Empty Holster Protest" on over 100 college and university campuses across the country, it

was largely intended to focus public attention on the danger and futility posed by the "gun free zones" campus policy that pervades the academic community in almost every state except Utah.

Coming almost exactly six months after the massacre of defenseless students and faculty at Virginia Tech University, the grassroots student effort was intended to stir a public dialog about legalizing guns on campus for students, teachers and administrators who have been trained and legally licensed to carry concealed.

The protest spread across the campuses of America quietly during the third week of October, and from all indications, the "Empty Holster Protest" aimed at bringing awareness to the general public but particularly students and teachers about their vulnerability in so-called "gun free zones." Organizers say it is just the first step in an aggressive campaign to bring concealed carry to higher education.

SCCC is an independent grassroots organization that formed just days after the Virginia Tech massacre in April—the protest involved students at universities, colleges and community colleges all over the country. Pro-self-defense students carried empty holsters in Florida, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Ohio and Washington state for example.

And it created waves just about everywhere, although many local news organizations seemed to ignore the protest, some major news outlets covered it in depth, including *The Washington Times*, the Fox News network and *USA Today*.

For example, the Oct. 23 edition of *US News & World Report* noted that "A number of university administrators disagree (with the protest), saying guns can't possibly make campuses safer, even wondering whether the protest itself is disruptive or insensitive so soon after the Virginia Tech incident."

And Peter Hamm, a spokesman for the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, absurdly remarked, "You don't like the fact that you can't have a gun on your college campus? Drop out of school." Hamm's remarks only seemed to fuel further media coverage for the students concerned about campus safety.

But on the other side of the argument, Mark Taff, executive director of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms (CCRKBA), and coincidentally a part-time student at Bellevue Community College (BCC) in Washington state, threw his full support to the effort. He even strolled around the BCC campus with an empty holster, wearing a T-shirt that said "Signs Can't Stop Acts of Violence" with a silhouette of a pistol covered by a red circle with a slash mark, depicting a "No Guns" sign, pockmarked by fake bullet holes. Taff went one step further, though, and posted signs at several spots around the campus that read "This Is A Gun Free Zone. If you were planning on shooting a bunch of innocent people and then yourself, we're sorry, but that is not allowed here."

The sign then explained to readers that they could learn about the empty holster protest by visiting [ConcealedCampus.com](http://ConcealedCampus.com).

"It is absurd to disarm legally-licensed citizens just because they happen to be on a university campus," Taff told *Gun Week*. "These are the very citizens who have demonstrated their clean background, and in many cases gone through mandatory training, to qualify for a concealed carry license. They are not the people who perpetrate outrages like Virginia Tech. Indeed, they are the kind of people most likely to stop such incidents before they become massacres."

That sentiment was shared by Michael Flitcraft, a student at the University of Cincinnati, OH. He spoke during the recent Gun Rights Policy Conference, and was quoted by WKRC News in Cincinnati noting, "Obviously criminals don't pay attention to laws; that's why they're criminals. So, taking innocent people and disarming them, leaves them no effective means of resistance to see their family at the end of the day."

Some other students disagreed, including sophomore Wes Kayser, who also attends the University of Cincinnati. He told the television news reporter, "It doesn't seem like the place where guns are needed, on campus ... that's what campus security is for in my opinion."

## Campus Security Failed

Taff quickly observed that campus security did not stop the Virginia Tech rampage in which 32 students and teachers were killed, nor did it prevent a murder-suicide earlier this year at the University of Washington campus in Seattle. However, recalling the multiple shooting a few years ago at the Appalachian Law School in Virginia, Taff noted that the gunman in that incident was stopped and detained by two students who had rushed to their cars, retrieved handguns and confronted the suspect.

"The time has long since passed when the term 'gun-free school zone' should have been erased from the national vocabulary," Taff observed. "Such areas amount to victim disarmament zones where would-be killers enjoy a target-rich environment in which they have no fear of an intended victim shooting back."

He was working on organizing a chapter of Students for Concealed Carry on Campus at BCC.

Meanwhile, Internet gun rights activists have suggested that the Empty Holster Protest become an annual event.

"CCRKBA believes the National Empty Holster Protest will bring attention to a situation that anti-gun university administrators want to ignore," Taff said. "So-called gun free zones' have been complete failures and everyone knows it. It is time for a different approach, one that restores the right of every student and faculty member to fight back. That's why we support this student-led effort to create responsible, sensible policies where there is now a moral and rational void. Students and teachers at higher institutions deserve better than to continue living in the deadly environment of political correctness."

In related news, at least one university, Weber State University in Ogden, UT, a class in the school's Continuing Education Program is specifically aimed at getting people on and off campus to carry guns.

According to KSL, the NBC affiliate in Salt Lake City, classroom instructions are given by a professor of anthropology, who doubles as a concealed weapons instructor. Ron Holt says, "I see carrying a concealed weapon as a kind of life insurance policy: 99.99 times you'll never need it, but if you ever do need it, you'll probably really need it."

The Beehive State is the only one at present that allows carry on campus by students or instructors who have been legally licensed to carry in the state. The Weber State class is not for credit, and it's open to off-campus folks too, as long as they're at least 21 years old and meet legal requirements for a gun permit. *The New GUN WEEK*, November 15, 2007

## ***Indicted Indiana Police Linked to 2004 Cop Shooting***

Reporters at The South Bend Tribune in Indiana discovered that serial numbers on guns involved in a complicated drug, fraud and firearms case against a local police officer and two former sheriff's deputies matched the serial numbers of guns mentioned in federal documents related to the shooting of a South Bend officer in 2004.

The revelation came in late October as news coverage intensified over the arrests of former St. Joseph County Deputies Andy Taghon and Ryan Huston, and South Bend Officer Jamie Buford on Oct. 22. Huston, Taghon and Buford face drug and fraud charges, according to WSBT news in South Bend, and Taghon also faces a charge of selling a stolen gun and selling a firearm to a felon.

In 2004, Police Cpl. Rick Ruskowski was shot, and in connection with that case, a man named Willard King pleaded guilty to federal gun charges. The television station said the shooting occurred about the same time that Taghon apparently sold the firearms in question.

The three indicted lawmen allegedly targeted trailers containing cocaine and stolen goods between July 2004 and March 2005, while the owner of the trailers was in jail. The cops allegedly sold many of the stolen items on eBay, and got a convicted felon to peddle the cocaine.

Huston and Taghon were fired in July 2006 and Buford is on paid leave from the police department.

Also arrested in the case was a man identified as Daniel Alvarez, a convicted felon. He was allegedly solicited to sell the cocaine. [The New GUN WEEK](#), November 15, 2007

## ***Gunowners Face New UN Treaty Fight***

by Joseph P. Tartaro Executive Editor

Britain, Japan, Australia and others are pushing for an unprecedented treaty regulating the arms trade worldwide, in a campaign sure to last years and to pit them against a determined foe: American gunowners, shooters organizations worldwide, and, at present, the United States government.

The Associated Press (AP) noted at the end of September, that in what United Nations (UN) officials say is an "overwhelming" response, almost 100 governments have submitted ideas for such a treaty, to be reviewed over the next year. There's an "extremely urgent" need for controls on the international gun trade, says Kenya, echoing the sentiment in much of guns-besieged Africa.

But in the US, according to AP, the National Rifle Association (NRA) and other firearms civil rights groups say they see a creeping attempt to limit civilian gun ownership within nations—even though the focus now is on setting standards for arms exports and imports.

The UN's First Committee (Disarmament and International Security), in an organizational meeting on Oct. 8, adopted its program of work and agenda for the 62nd session of the General Assembly. The work program is split into three phases, with the first phase, from Oct. 8

16, being a general debate on all disarmament and international security agenda items. The second phase, from Oct. 17-26, will be thematic discussions on all items, along with the introduction and consideration of draft resolutions and decisions. The final phase, lasting from Oct. 29-Nov. 2, will involve action on all draft texts.

Just before the First Committee began its meeting, leaders of the World Forum on the Future of Shooting Sports Activities (WFSA) held a strategy meeting in Italy regarding the new global gun control effort.

Earlier, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon moved to revitalize the international disarmament agenda and the UN effectiveness in that area through the creation of a new Office for Disarmament Affairs and the appointment of Sergio Duarte as High Representative to lead it. That disarmament agenda covers everything from nuclear missiles to small arms including rifles and shotguns and pistols. He and others in the international community are pointed toward a binding treaty on regulating and policing global traffic in small arms by the year 2010.

The international issues "necessarily will come to involve at some point domestic laws and policies regarding firearms," said former Congressman Bob Barr (R-GA), a leading NRA voice on the subject, according to AP.

The NRA and other US gun lobbyists have helped blunt earlier efforts at the UN to rein in the weapons trade. Last December, the US delegation appointed by the Bush Administration cast the lone negative vote when 153 nations approved a General Assembly resolution initiating this new treaty process. If the November 2008 presidential election produce a new administration disposed to support the UN treaty, gunowners may find themselves struggling to retain their firearms civil rights.

Now, alone among the world's top 10 arms suppliers, the US—by far the biggest, with almost \$13 billion in arms export agreements in 2005 has not filed a requested report to the UN with its views on a treaty.

"The United States has not yet decided whether it will or will not participate in (the review), and thus we will have no submission at this time," Richard Kidd, a deputy assistant secretary of state, told Associated Press.

The treaty campaign may encounter resistance beyond Washington as well. The reports from Russia and China, two other big arms exporters, offered only lukewarm endorsement for stricter controls.

The United States and other industrialized countries generally keep close oversight on arms sales, but dozens of nations have no regulations specific to weapons exports and imports. Only 37 nations, for example, have laws governing the operations of private arms brokers. [The New GUN WEEK](#), November 1, 2007

## ***Schwarzenegger Signs Microstamp, Lead Ban Measures***

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger R) signed the Crime Gun Identification Act over the Oct. 12-14 weekend, and that means gun sellers by 2010—if there are any left in the state by that time—will have to use "microstamping" technology on very semi-automatic pistol they sell, 'INSNews.com reported.

The new law, AB-1471, requires information about a pistol's make, model and identification number to be laser engraved onto

the gun's firing pin. Theoretically, the information would transfer itself onto the Spent cartridge case when the pistol is fired, allowing police to match bullet casings found at crime scenes with the gun that fired the bullet.

Gun control groups say the new law will help police solve crimes.

"We applaud Gov. Schwarzenegger for taking a bold step to solve gun murders in California," said Brady Campaign President Paul Helmke. "This ground-breaking law gives police officers a powerful tool to apprehend armed criminals and gang members before they strike again," he added.

According to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, Schwarzenegger has set a new national standard for the rest of the country to follow. Those accolades mean that the Brady Campaign will now be using California's "microstamping" law as a model for other state legislatures.

Critics say the bill is back door gun control. The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the trade association of the firearms industry, accused Schwarzenegger of betraying law-abiding gunowners, retailers and hunters by signing the bill.

First of all the "microstamping" technology is "flawed," as indicated by multiple studies, the NSSF said in a news release. Among those negative studies were reports issued by California universities.

NSSF also said criminals will be able to remove the laser engraving in moments, using common household tools. And it would be easy for criminals to scatter microstamped cartridges from other guns at crime scenes to confuse police, critics say.

Some say the new law will dry up gun sales in California-and that may be the point:

"By signing the microstamping legislation, Governor Schwarzenegger chose to disregard warnings that major firearms manufacturers would be forced to abandon the California market altogether rather than bear the astronomical costs associated with reconfiguring the manufacturing and assembly processes necessary for microstamping," NSSF said, according to CNSNews.

NSSF also noted that according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), firearms used in crimes are mostly old guns-beyond the reach of microstamping legislation.

In another blow to Second Amendment supporters, Schwarzenegger also signed AB-821, a bill banning lead ammunition in certain hunting areas of the state.

Backed by "anti-hunting extremists," the measure is intended to save the California condor from lead poisoning-despite the fact that there is no conclusive scientific evidence that the birds are getting sick from ingesting ammunition fragments, NSSF said. [The New GUN WEEK](#), November 1, 2007

## ***Albany Cops Got Machineguns, Some Reportedly Still Missing***

From the 'Only Cops Should Have Guns' comes the news story out of Albany, NY, involving several automatic firearms obtained by officers-apparently "improperly" according to The Albany Times Union-and now it appears some of the guns are missing, despite a claim by the police chief that they had all been rounded up and destroyed.

The guns in question were acquired by Albany police and at least one private citizen in the early 1990s, the newspaper said. Police Chief James W. Tuffey said last month that dozens of guns had been secretly purchased by officers in the department, but they had been gathered up and destroyed. Sources at the newspaper reportedly disputed that statement.

The chief reportedly apologized to the city council's Public Safety Committee in September when he acknowledged the purchases.

The guns were originally confiscated in 2001 and 2002 after an investigation, and at least 42 of the weapons were destroyed. But that didn't satisfy committee Chairman James Scalzo, who told the newspaper, "Those weapons could only have been purchased by a police department. No individual officer or civilian could purchase those guns. They weren't used for police; they were used, it's my understanding, for gun enthusiasts who belonged to the police department. He stated to us that they had all been recovered and destroyed."

The guns had apparently never been used in the line of duty. Now Albany officials are wondering just what they were used for. When the newspaper asked for information under the Freedom of Information Act, the city argued that discussing what kinds of firearms officers used might put them in danger.

One of the missing guns allegedly had been purchased by a sitting judge, and another was bought by a judge who is now retired. Both judges denied having ever received the guns, the newspaper said, and apparently the police chief is satisfied they didn't. Another of the guns was reportedly obtained by Albany County Assistant District Attorney Brian Farley, but he turned it in four years ago.

The guns were purchased in 1993 and 1994 during the first Clinton Administration.

One of the guns was found during an investigation of a local gun store, B&J Guns. Another of the guns was found at a gun store in Texas. Other guns disappeared, and some reportedly were taken home by individual officers, including some who had retired. [The New GUN WEEK](#), November 1, 2007

## ***Some Criticize States, Cities Issuing ID Cards to Illegals***

Illegal immigrants are getting driver's licenses and identification cards in cities and states that are bucking the national trend to take official documents and public benefits away from them, according to USA Today.

New Haven, CT, began issuing municipal ID cards in July to all residents, including illegal immigrants. New York will join eight other states in giving driver's licenses to illegal immigrants, starting in December.

Gov. Eliot Spitzer "believes it's important to bring a significant population in New York state out of the shadows ... (and) allow them to participate in the economy," Motor Vehicles Commissioner David Swarts says.

"It is totally contrary to the trend in most other states," says Oklahoma state Rep. Randy Terrill, author of a new law that denies illegal immigrants any government ID. It takes effect next month.

"There are huge security concerns when it comes to somebody who is a foreign national in this country possessing official, government-issued" ID, he says.

Swartz counters that safety will improve because illegal immigrants will purchase car insurance and hit-and-run accidents will decrease.

New Haven has issued 3,700 municipal IDs. The card can be used to open a bank account, as a library card and as a debit card at some stores. As many as 15,000 illegal immigrants live in the city.

Laura Perez, 28, opened a checking account with her card. An illegal immigrant from Guatemala, Perez used to keep her money under her pillow. "I feel safe now," she says. "If we are working so hard, if we are paying our taxes, the cards are a fair thing."

Tom Fitton, president of the conservative Judicial Watch, says the cards "raise the specter of local governments conspiring with illegals to help them stay here." "In the least, they undermine federal law," he says, "and at worst, they violate the law."

However, as FoxNews reported, New York State's county clerks say they want the governor to reconsider a plan to take away the requirement to have a social security number to get a driver's license.

It's the latest development in the controversy over making driver's licenses available to undocumented immigrants.

The County Clerks' Association of New York held an emergency meeting in Albany, the New York Capital, hearing again from the state DMV about the proposal which some say will strengthen security around driver's licenses, and others say makes New York vulnerable to terrorism.

In the end, some of the clerks made it clear they will not take any chances. Swartz, formerly a county clerk in Erie County, met with the clerks from over 50 other Empire State counties. Speaking at their meeting, Swartz said: "Will the anti-fraud procedures that are being put in place enhance the New York state licensing system? Will it be better with those procedures in place? Most definitely."

But many of the 54 county clerks who conduct DMV business in their offices disagree.

They say they are upset and concerned they were not consulted in the process and as a group, asked the governor to reconsider doing away with the requirement of a social security number.

Spitzer, however, is standing his ground. He claims his proposed system will fill in a gap created by the delays in implementing a better system at the federal level. [The New GUN WEEK](#), November 1, 2007

## ***Gallup Finds Less Support For Gun Control***

A new Gallup poll says the gap is closing between people in the United States who support stricter gun laws and those opposed to new laws, United Press International reported.

A survey in early October found that 51% support stricter laws governing the sale of firearms. Those who said

the laws should either be kept as they are or made less strict was 47%. Between 1990 and 2000, 60% of Americans favored stricter laws, Gallup said in an Oct. 11 news release.

The poll found that a majority of residents in the East and West favor stricter laws, while about half of those in the Midwest and South are opposed. Two-thirds of Democrats favor stricter gun laws, while a majority of Republicans and independents would rather laws remain as they are or become less strict.

The survey result, based on telephone interviews with 1,010 adults, has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3%.

Other recent surveys have tended to reflect the same shift in the American public's attitude toward stricter gun laws. [The New GUN WEEK](#), November 1, 2007

## ***Long Beach, CA, Crafting Ammo Registration Law***

The city of Long Beach, CA, is in the preliminary stages of crafting an ordinance requiring ammunition sales to be logged by all federal firearm licensees (FFLs) and electronically sent to law enforcement.

Under this possible ordinance, it is likely that purchasers will be forced to present identification and submit to ~fingerprinting simply to purchase a box of ammunition to hunt or go to the range. It has been transferred to the Public Safety Advisory Commission and the Public Safety Committees. Thus far, according to the National Rifle Association, the Public Safety Advisory Commission has withheld judgment on the issue at two consecutive meetings and the Public Safety Committee is waiting for input and recommendation from the Public Safety Advisory Committee.

The federal law requiring ammunition purchasers to present ID was repealed by the Firearms Owners Protection Act of 1986 because it was found to be ineffective in reducing crime. [The New GUN WEEK](#), November 1, 2007

## ***Reports on WI Cop's Rampage Show Media Bias, Gunnies Say***

by Dave Workman Senior Editor

Were it a story about any other shooting rampage, the gun used in the slaying of six Wisconsin teens Oct. 6 would have been simply described as an "assault rifle."

But this case was different on one significant point. The gunman was an off duty police officer, and there was no swift, perhaps "knee-jerk" call for such firearms to be limited only to law enforcement and the military. One newspaper clearly noted that the murder weapon was department issued.

When 20-year-old Tyler Peterson reportedly "lost it" and opened fire on a group of acquaintances at a pizza party in Crandon, WI, after being called a "worthless pig," it may have given gun control proponents pause, because he was one of the people that anti-gunnies have said should have sole control over semi-automatic firearms like the AR-15 he used in the killings.

Indeed, the anti-gun *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and Associated Press specifically alluded to the rifle as an "AR-15" rather than an "assault rifle" in much of the reporting, though the Milwaukee newspaper did report in at least one story that he showed up at the home of a friend carrying the "work-issued assault rifle." He had reportedly unleashed a 30-round volley into the group that killed all but one of the persons there.

Peterson later died in an exchange of gunfire with other officers in a neighboring town.

Killed by Peterson in the rampage were Jordanne Murray, Katrina McCorkle, and Leanna Thomas, all 18, Bradley Schultz and Aaron Smith, both 20 and Lindsey Stahl, 14. According to published reports, Murray was Peterson's former girlfriend, with whom he broke up earlier this year. The attack took place at her home in Crandon, where she lived with her father. The newspaper said he showed up at the party and argued with Murray. He left briefly but returned with the rifle, which was in his truck, and started shooting. He then reportedly fired at a patrol car driven by another Crandon police officer identified as Greg Carter.

The only survivor was identified as 21-year-old Charlie Neitzel, who was in serious condition at a hospital.

Peterson was a sheriff's deputy in Forest County and part-time police officer in Crandon. He reportedly turned up hours after the shooting at the home of a friend, packing not only the rifle used in the killings, but a concealed handgun. Wisconsin is only one of two states in the country that does not provide for some form of concealed carry for private citizens.

On KeepAndBearArms.com, activists complained not only that newspapers avoided calling the murder weapon an "assault rifle," but also noted that Peterson, despite being a police officer, had not undergone a psychological evaluation when obtaining the job. Local law enforcement officials reportedly confirmed that.

Noted one post on the KABA website, "Peterson was given no psychological evaluation, but they want one for civilian gun buyers and even people who already own one." [The New GUN WEEK](#), November 1, 2007

## ***Federal Judge Claims Safety Trumps Oklahoma Work Law***

A federal judge in Tulsa, OK, has blocked an Oklahoma law allowing employees to keep guns in their locked cars on company property.

In a written order issued Oct. 11, US District Judge Terence Kern issued a permanent injunction against the law that was passed in 2004, according to CNSNews.com.

According to *The Tulsa World*, Kern said the law (a series of amendments to the Oklahoma Firearms Act and the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act) conflicted with the federal Occupational Health and Safety Act, which is intended to protect employees in the workplace.

Parties to the federal lawsuit included (at various times) Whirlpool, the Williams Cos., and Conoco Phillips, all of which objected to the Oklahoma law on the grounds that it violated their private property rights and interfered with corporate policies intended to protect workers.

According to the National Rifle Association (NRA), the issue arose in 2002 in Oklahoma, when the Weyerhaeuser Company fired eight employees for having guns in their cars on company property.

In response, the Oklahoma legislature passed a law unanimously in the House and by a 92-4 vote in the Senate prohibiting "any policy or rule" that barring law-abiding people from "transporting and storing firearms in a locked vehicle on any property set aside for any vehicle."

"The judge made the right decision in this case," said Paul Helmke, president of the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence. "The safety of American workplaces should take precedence over allowing individuals to rapidly arm themselves with dangerous weapons."

The Brady Center said similar laws should be repealed in other states, "based on Judge Kern's clear findings in this case." (Similar laws have been passed in Alaska, Minnesota, Kentucky and Kansas; 13 other states have rejected such laws.)

The Brady Center issued a report in November 2005 arguing against "the NRA's campaign to force businesses to accept guns at work," and that report was cited prominently in the judge's decision, the Brady Center said in a news release.

The NRA supported the Oklahoma law, arguing that most gun-related crimes in the workplace are committed by non-employees. It also noted that people bent on violence will not be prevented from opening fire by a company policy against having guns in cars.

*The Tulsa World* earlier quoted the Oklahoma bill's sponsor, Democratic state Rep Jerry Ellis, as saying that Kern's ruling will do nothing to protect workers, but will erode employees' self-defense capabilities.

Ellis said the judge's decision increases the chances that a disgruntled person will be able to kill a lot of people at their workplace before police can respond to a 911 call.

"I guess federal judges can do anything they want. They don't have to worry about the voters," the newspaper quoted Ellis as saying. [The New GUN WEEK](#), November 1, 2007

## ***Swiss Anti-Gunners Crowing Over Parliament's Ammo Vote***

The Swiss Parliament handed anti-gunners in that country, and across Europe, a victory Sept. 27 when the lower house voted to rescind a law dating back to the 1940s that required every Swiss citizen soldier to keep 50 rounds of ammunition at home for their militia weapons.

According to Bloomberg News, this move came four years after a despondent Swiss man committed suicide with his militia-issued pistol after losing his job. This effort was led by the widow of that man, Tanja Vollenweider, who announced that their next effort will be to tighten restrictions on firearms ownership and possession.

Switzerland is often used as an example by pro-gun rights activists as a heavily armed nation where there is very little crime and firearms abuse is almost unheard of. But there are exceptions, including a highly-publicized killing last year in which the husband of a former alpine skier, Corinne Rey-Bellet, shot and killed her with his military weapon. At the time she was three months

pregnant. Gerold Stadler was quickly identified as the suspect. He also killed her brother, Alain.

About four days later, authorities found Stadler's body in a forest area. He had committed suicide with the same gun. That tragedy and the one involving Vollenweider's husband have led to the campaign to tighten Swiss gun laws.

Henceforth, Swiss militia members will still keep their guns at home, but the ammunition will be stored at an armory.

Defense Minister Samuel Schmid was not happy about the new law. He told reporters, "The militia concept and personal responsibility are among the foundations of our country. If a state considers it necessary to take responsibility away from its citizens and doesn't trust them to handle a personal gun responsibly, it ultimately weakens itself."

During WWII when Hitler's Third Reich occupied the nations of mainland Europe, they did not invade Switzerland, which is protected by mountain ranges and a heavily-armed citizenry. During the war, Switzerland remained neutral, but appeared willing to back that up with force.

Switzerland has the fourth highest rate of gun ownership by private citizens after the United States, Yemen and Finland, according to Bloomberg, which quoted the Small Arms Survey recently release from Geneva. Fewer than one-fourth of the suicides recorded in Switzerland between 1969 and 2000 involved firearms. Bloomberg reported that an average of 1,428 Swiss commit suicide every year, and about 343 of those—an average of 24% use firearms. There are about 5.5 suicides for every million persons in Switzerland, the report said.

However, it appears that the number of domestic violence killings is high. The report also noted that most Swiss men serve in the militia after undergoing training at about age 20. They then keep their militia weapons at home, and when their service is finished, they have the option of purchasing those guns. [The New GUN WEEK](#), November 1, 2007

## ***Wyoming Law on Expungement Gains Attention during Appeal***

National groups on both sides of the gun control debate are training their sights on Wyoming, according to Associated Press (AP).

The state has been waging a legal fight to uphold a 2004 state law that allows people convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to regain their right to own firearms by having their records expunged.

Although all states have the authority to restore gun rights, the federal government objected to the Wyoming law. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) said it would not recognize the state's law, arguing convictions were not being truly expunged because they can be used to enhance sentences in subsequent cases.

Gun control advocates have joined the fray, arguing that, because the record isn't wiped clean, Wyoming is violating federal law by allowing people convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to obtain guns.

For Wyoming and gun-rights supporters, the issue is whether the federal government can dictate to states who can have guns.

"The (ATF) simply does not agree, on a policy basis, with the Wyoming legislature's decision and has self-appointed itself the

omnipotent role of deciding who should, and should not, possess firearms," attorneys on behalf of Wyoming argued in court papers this Summer.

The federal agency told the state that if its law stayed on the books, they would no longer recognize more than 10,000 Wyoming concealed carry licenses as a substitute for federal background checks for firearms purchases. Such background checks are required under the federal Brady Act.

The state sued the federal agency last year. This Summer, US District Judge Alan Johnson ruled in favor of the agency, and Wyoming has appealed the case to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver.

In early October, ATF filed its response to the appeal.

"As the district court explained, the term 'expungement' is ordinarily understood to refer to the removal of all consequences of a conviction," federal lawyers wrote.

The Wyoming law specifies that in order for a conviction to be expunged, it must not have involved the use of a firearm. Offenders also may only expunge their records once. Prosecutors and the petitioners' original victims must be notified when the expungement petitions are filed in court.

The NRA and the Gun Owners Foundation filed briefs in support of the state's position in the trial court. The foundation has filed a brief in the appeals court, but a spokeswoman for the NRA said that her group hasn't decided whether it would do so.

So far this year, 23 convictions have been expunged under the Wyoming law, according to Attorney General Bruce Salzburg. That compares with 27 in 2005 and 13 in 2006. Salzburg said the state has granted one concealed carry license to a person whose record was expunged under the law and is awaiting a decision in the federal appeal to see whether the state will have to revoke that permit.

Salzburg declined to comment on the appeal, citing ongoing litigation.

House Speaker Roy Cohee (R-Casper) said he believes some people convicted of abuse should be barred from gun ownership, but that the state law was appropriate in giving courts latitude to weigh each individual case.

The Wyoming Coalition against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault supported the expungement bill when it passed a few years ago.

"We were optimistic that if this would give judges a little room to take away more firearms, that's what we were hoping for," said Suzan Pauling, public policy director for the coalition.

Herbert W Titus, lawyer for the Gun Owners Foundation, said the Wyoming case is significant because the issue of whether restoration of gun rights is defined by federal regulations or state law is pending in trial courts around the country. [The New GUN WEEK](#), November 1, 2007

## ***Knives, Not Guns, Have Been Weapon of Choice in Campus Crimes, Study Finds***

By [Ian Shapira](#), Washington Post Staff Writer  
Friday, November 2, 2007; Page A09

More than 3 percent of 17 million crimes reported from 2000 through 2004 occurred at schools, colleges and universities, with knives being the most commonly used weapon, according to an [FBI](#) study released yesterday.

The Crime in Schools and Colleges study, which gathered data from about a third of the nation's law enforcement agencies, showed that the most commonly used weapon in more than 558,000 campus-related crimes over the five-year span was a knife -- not counting fists and feet, which accounted for most of the incidents.

Almost 11,000 incidents included a blade, and more than 3,400 included a firearm.

"I didn't realize how significant that discrepancy was" between knives and guns, said Dave Resch, the FBI's unit chief of behavior analysis. He said that finding surprised him the most. "These kids aren't building these knives in shop class. . . . These knives are coming from somewhere."

The bureau's first study of crime at schools offers a rough portrait of threats facing the country's education staff and students, from those in elementary school to those in college. About 96 percent of the crimes in which an arrest was made were assaults (simple or aggravated) or acts of intimidation.

The largest group arrested for crimes at school for which age was known was 13- to 15-year-olds, accounting for 38 percent of those arrested. More than 76 percent, or 313,556, of those arrested were males. Year after year, October was the month in which the most crimes occurred.

More than half of all campus crimes involved acquaintances. About 7.5 percent involved an attack by a stranger. There were reports of 3,700 such random assaults in 2004, up from 2,301 in 2000.

FBI officials cautioned against drawing conclusions about trends. Although the study shows the number and type of crimes that occurred annually over a five-year period, officials said that the number of law enforcement agencies that participated fluctuated from year to year. The agencies that gave data reflect about 22 percent of the country's population, officials said.

Still, Resch said that attacks by strangers -- such as the shooting rampage at [Virginia Tech](#) in April -- are alarming, in part because schools are growing more crowded each year, which can easily fuel tension.

"You get bumped in the hallway 20 years ago, and you kind of know the guy," Resch said. "Now, schools are so much bigger than they used to be."

## ***Maybe He Sang Wrong Song?***

Proof positive that anyone who listens to karaoke needs hearing protection is the story out of Uniondale, NY, about a 64-year-old man who was attacked and beaten with a karaoke machine, before his attacker bit off his ear.

The story was picked up by *The Edmonton* (Alberta, Canada) *Sun* newspaper, and it reported that the 27-year-old suspect apparently selected his victim at random. The story did not name either the victim or the attacker. However, the story did say that doctors were not able to reattach the older man's ear.

When the cops arrived, they found the younger man crouching in a hallway of his victim's home. It was not explained why the younger man attacked the older guy, or why he was hungry for the man's ear. [The New GUN WEEK](#), November 15, 2007

## ***Parrot Gives Burglar 'Last Hello'***

Who says you need a dog as a burglar alarm; other pets can do the job, too.

As proof, check this story from *The Dallas Morning News*. Dennis Baker's home security system includes three cameras that feed video to 42-inch screens in his living room and bedroom. But it was his pet parrot, he says, that alerted him to a burglar he shot and killed early on Oct. 16.

The 59-year-old locksmith keeps several pet birds in his northwest Dallas home, including a Mexican Red-headed parrot named Salvador. The bird says "hello" whenever he sees someone. When someone passed by a window about 2 a.m., Salvador squawked the greeting.

"It woke me up," Baker said. "I guess you could call him a stool pigeon."

Police say it appears that Baker was within his rights to shoot the burglar, but as is routine in such cases, they will turn the facts to a grand jury for review.

Baker killed 46-year-old John Woodson, whose criminal record includes charges of burglary, theft and possession of a controlled substance.

This burglary, police say, was the fourth on Baker's property within a month. Investigators say preliminary information indicates Woodson may have been responsible for some or all of them. [The New GUN WEEK](#), November 15, 2007

## ***Capt. America Rattles Antis***

Come January, expect the comic book hero Captain America to be getting school boys in trouble all over the country, courtesy of "zero tolerance" policies and the wails of anti-gun extremists.

The word is out, courtesy *The Washington Post*, that the new Captain America character will be packing heat. He'll make activists in Virginia and Washington state happy, because he'll be openly carrying.

The newspaper quoted comic book writer Ed Brubaker of Seattle, who said "This isn't the same Cap you've been reading about."

Oh, heavens no!

Steve Rogers, the true identity of the Captain America character, was gunned down earlier this year. It was a headline-grabber for comic aficionados, because killing a super hero is-as The Godfather might have put it-a delicate matter. But Captain America's slaying was anything but delicate. He was plugged multiple times en route, to the courthouse, where he was about to reveal his identity. Reads like the plotline of a professional wrestling saga, right?

Well, return with us now to "those days of yesteryear" when Captain America was a gat-packing hero of the 1940s war effort. The Post recalled that in those days, the Captain was armed.

But according to The Post, John Hefner with Big Planet Comics in Washington, DC, doesn't care for the Cap with a cannon on his hip.

"It's not true to the spirit of the character," Hefner was quoted as stating, "and it's a rather cynical and shocking idea to have it be this way to represent the times we live in."

Evidently this guy doesn't know about OpenCarry.org. [The New GUN WEEK](#), November 15, 2007

## ***Robber Needed Painkillers***

A Wichita, KS would-be pharmacy robber who marched in with a handgun and demanded painkillers got something quite different. His pain is gone forever, because pharmacist Tom Lundberg came up with a shotgun and fired one round into robbery suspect Alexander R. Meis.

According to *The Wichita Eagle*, the shooting was justified because Lundberg had no way of knowing that the handgun Meis had drawn was not loaded. Relatives have told the newspaper that Meis became hooked on painkillers as a result of multiple surgeries.

Following an investigation of the Aug. 25 shooting, the district attorney ruled the shooting justified in mid-September.

Meis' problems began with high school football injuries, according to an uncle.

According to the newspaper, Lundberg had actually given Meis an opportunity to drop the gun before he fired. Instead, Meis swung the muzzle toward another pharmacist, and that was when Lundberg fired. [The New GUN WEEK](#), November 1, 2007

## ***Drugs at Day Care Center***

The owner of a Los Angeles, CA, day care center has some explaining to do, and it better be good, after cops raided the place and found what the Associated Press described as "a stash of guns, cocaine and cash" that were tucked away with some toys.

In case anybody was wondering, we're not talking just a small amount of dope here, but 14 kilograms (almost 31 pounds) of cocaine, and 50 pounds of marijuana.

Police found the stash, along with three handguns and a loaded semi-automatic rifle, and \$300,000 in cash at the day care in late September. A police department spokesman said the dope stash was the cornerstone of a Skid Row drug operation that catered to drug addicts and homeless persons. [The New GUN WEEK](#), November 1, 2007

## ***Cop Charged in Murder Plot***

From the "Only Cops Should Have Guns" file comes the story of a Chicago policeman who may not have been one of the city's finest, as he has been charged in a plot to hire a gunman to kill a former officer thought to have been helping a joint federal-state probe of the Chicago Police Department.

According to *The Chicago Tribune*, Jerome A. Finnigan was arrested by FBI agents at his home Sept. 26. He allegedly was recorded talking about hiring a professional hit man or even a street gang banger to do the hit. The conversation was recorded by a fellow officer who is reportedly now cooperating with authorities in the probe.

This isn't Finnigan's only problem, the newspaper reported. He already faces charges relating to alleged robberies and kidnappings as part of a unit originally designated to deal with drug trafficking and gang violence.

Meanwhile, the Associated Press reported that the Chicago Police Department may have other dirty laundry, with a report of an investigation by federal prosecutors that homicide detectives gained murder confessions by torturing suspects in the 1980s. [The New GUN WEEK](#), November 1, 2007

## ***WI Duck Hunter Bag Gator***

Ed Long, 31, of Greenfield, WI thought he was shooting at a snapping turtle, but got a surprise when he pulled his trophy from the Milwaukee River, a 40-inch-long alligator, according to The Canadian Press.

Long had been in the river Sept. 29 hunting for ducks. "At first, I thought it was a turtle tail," he said. "Then it turned and came back at me. I seen the eyes come out of the water, but my brain didn't click. This is Wisconsin. There's not supposed to be gators in Wisconsin."

When the reptile submerged again, Long fired and stunned it. He called to his cousin, who prodded the 25 pound animal with a stick and then ran when it moved.

"We both thought nobody is going to believe us," Long said. "We made a decision to bring it back dead or alive, and more likely dead." The animal appeared to have died from a shot to the head. The cousins dragged it to a field and then went to their uncle's home for help bringing it in.

A Department of Natural Resources warden said they had broken no law in removing the invasive species.

Long is calling taxidermy shops about preserving the alligator.

[The New GUN WEEK](#), November 1, 2007

## **News Links:**

### **07/11/01 NY DMV chief: Illegal immigrants could buy guns with licenses.**

ALBANY - Motor Vehicles Commissioner David Swarts added yet another confusing twist to the hot-button issue of driver's licenses for illegal immigrants Wednesday, suggesting the licenses could be used to buy guns.

Sources in Gov. Spitzer's office insisted Swarts was wrong but gave no immediate explanation for his comments.

Swarts appeared to give Spitzer critics new ammunition at a Senate panel hearing on the governor's plan to let illegal immigrants get driver's licenses.

When state Senate Homeland Security Committee Chairman Vincent Leibel (R-Brewster) asked flatly if the licenses could be used to buy guns, Swarts appeared to have been caught off-guard. He started to answer, stopped, then said, "Yeah, I guess it proves who they are." But Spitzer's office explained that potential gun buyers must complete a form that calls for a valid Social Security number or Citizenship and Immigration Services number.

If the numbers aren't provided - or are bogus - dealers are supposed to kill the sale and notify authorities immediately.

This new controversy arose as more than 30 Assembly Republicans declared they have no choice but to haul Spitzer into court. The lawsuit, set to be filed today in Albany Supreme Court, accuses Spitzer and Swarts of ramrodding through the new policy in an "arbitrary and capricious manner."

"Someone needs to remind this guy he was elected governor - not emperor," said Assemblyman Tom Kirwan (R-Newburgh), a former state trooper who branded the new license rules "unlawful and dangerous."

[http://www.nydailynews.com/news/2007/11/01/2007-11-01\\_dmv\\_chief\\_illegal\\_immigrants\\_could\\_buy\\_g-1.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/2007/11/01/2007-11-01_dmv_chief_illegal_immigrants_could_buy_g-1.html)

### **07/11/01 Bloomberg Backs Anti-Gun Candidate In Virginia**

In a rare move, Mayor Bloomberg will make an endorsement today in an out-of-state, local election, throwing his support behind Jeanne Marie Devolites Davis, an anti-gun state senator from Fairfax whose husband is Rep. Tom Davis, the former chairman of the House Government Reform Committee.

<http://www.nysun.com/article/65633>

#### **07/10/31 Ruminations of a (former) gun lobbyist**

Former NRA executive Richard Feldman on the right way to combat gun violence (hint: it's not more stringent gun control laws).

The people who were running the political operation were people who'd already had careers. They came to Washington to solve the problem and go home. That was their game plan. Fix it, protect America's gun rights. And they've come a long way. I think part of the problem today is they refuse to admit that they've won, because they'd rather fight than win. Fighting's good for membership development, recruitment, fundraising. Winning isn't good for any of those things. The worst thing that happened to NRA at that level was George Bush getting elected. Had Gore won back in 2000, NRA's membership might well be pushing 7 million today.

There's nothing specific to NRA about that. It's true for the environmental movement. It's true for any group. The best thing that can happen to your movement is for the enemy to win because boy, you can raise money. That's true across the board. I don't mean to suggest NRA is peculiar in this regard. They're not. [Sarah Brady](#) needs Wayne LaPierre just as badly as Wayne LaPierre needs Sarah Brady. They both need dragons to slay. And absent those dragons, they're no longer that wedge issue in American politics. And it's in their interests to have that crisis du jour going on, whatever it may be. And if one isn't going on, they'll create one.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-ow-feldmanps31oct31,0,6580261.story?coll=la-opinion-center>

#### **07/10/31 2nd suspect arrested in Wilkinsburg robbery attempt**

A second suspect has been apprehended in the robbery Oct. 6 of a man who shot and wounded two of the suspects.

Tyree Allen, 23, of White Oak, was to be arraigned today on charges of robbery, reckless endangerment, conspiracy and a weapons violation.

He was taken into custody when he appeared for a meeting with a parole officer to submit to a urine test, Allegheny County police said.

Mr. Allen, police said, was one of three people who tried to rob a Wilkinsburg man at gunpoint.

The victim and the suspected dealer began firing their weapons, police said.

Mr. Allen and a woman police said helped him in the robbery fled, although the woman, Lolitta Irvin, 20, also was wounded.

The third suspect, identified by police as Lamont Frazier, 20, of Garfield, also was wounded in the fracas. However, before he had been identified as a suspect, he was treated at a hospital and disappeared.

Mr. Frazier still is being sought, police said.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/07304/830095-100.stm>

#### **07/10/30 Criminals stealing guns from police in Palm Beach County**

Criminals are going after cops — for their guns.

In the past year, gang members, thieves and drug dealers in Palm Beach County have broken into at least six police cars and stolen handguns and shotguns, officials say.

"This shows how brazen they are," Sheriff Ric Bradshaw said.

Realizing they, too, can be victims, the Sheriff's Office and other agencies are fighting back by adding burglar alarms to marked and unmarked cruisers, installing extra gun locks in cars and enforcing rules that bar off-duty storage of handguns, shotguns and assault rifles in cars.

The Sheriff's Office plans to spend about \$200,000 for the alarms and about \$80,000 for locks in more than 2,000 cruisers assigned to deputies and commanders.

Despite the risk, criminals are hitting police cruisers in South Florida and across the country for a reason: Most police cars are mini-armories on wheels. Cars store not only high-powered guns but also bullet-resistant jackets, "stop sticks" to pierce tires of fleeing cars and other devices to combat the firepower of dangerous career criminals.

Driving with so much equipment allows officers to respond quickly from home to emergency calls and to defend themselves in a firefight.

"All the criminals want guns these days to protect themselves and retaliate against others," Bradshaw said.

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/palmbeach/sfl-flpguns1030pnoct30,0,4299219.story>

#### **07/10/30 Lawsuit against state gun makers advances**

Connecticut gun makers Sturm Ruger & Co. and Colt are among 16 firearms manufacturers facing a lawsuit by the city of Gary, Ind.

The Indiana Court of Appeals rejected the argument Monday that the 2005 federal Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act could shield the gun makers from the 1999 lawsuit Gary filed against them.

Gun makers appealed Gary's lawsuit after the PLCAA was passed and a lower Indiana court ruled the federal law was unconstitutional, setting up this appeals court decision, which will allow the trial to begin in 2009.

Gary was among several cities in the nation that launched lawsuits against gun makers in the 1990s, charging them with providing weapons to criminals who used them to kill or maim citizens, according to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

The Newtown, Conn.-based National Shooting Sports Foundation, a lobby for gun makers, called the decision "extremely disappointing." It said in a press release, the ruling defies logic and would be like blaming carmakers for drunk driving accidents.

The organization said it expects the case to go to the Indiana Supreme Court for review.

[http://www.connpst.com/breakingnews/ci\\_7321033](http://www.connpst.com/breakingnews/ci_7321033)

**07/10/30 Philadelphia cops hunt gunman who shot officer** A police officer walked into a doughnut shop Wednesday while it was being robbed and was shot in the head, authorities said, becoming the third officer in four days to be wounded by gunfire in this city. The 54-year-old officer, Charles Cassidy, was checking on a Dunkin' Donuts shop around 10 a.m., Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson said. The robber shot him almost immediately after the officer walked in. "He actually walks into a robbery, a holdup, unbeknownst to him," Johnson said.

[http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/10/31/officers.shot.ap/index.html?eref=ib\\_topstories](http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/10/31/officers.shot.ap/index.html?eref=ib_topstories)

**07/10/30 Richard Feldman is a rarity -- a former gun lobbyist who is publicly taking a shot at the National Rifle Association.**

In his new book, "Ricochet: Confessions of a Gun Lobbyist," Feldman accuses the powerful NRA of being in business primarily to raise money for itself and its executives, and of using self-defeating scare tactics to keep its coffers full. The NRA's "financial blood-sucking" and "deceitful appeals" for cash, he writes, have sustained the organization financially but have undermined its ability to work with natural allies such as law enforcement officials and moderate Republicans and Democrats.

Feldman came to this conclusion by watching from the inside. He worked for several years as a state-level lobbyist for the NRA and then, in the 1990s, went on to represent the firearms industry as executive director of the American Shooting Sports Council.

Along the way he was transformed from a young man eager to help the cause to a disheartened, embittered veteran. "Ricochet" is Feldman's memoir of his career and his vehicle for charging the NRA with becoming a bomb-throwing, self-serving impediment to what he considers the legitimate right of gun ownership.

Feldman was the man behind one of the few acts of compromise between gun lobbyists and gun-control supporters. In the mid-1990s, he was instrumental in persuading weapons manufacturers to voluntarily place locks on handguns, at the request of the Clinton administration. But it was that small example of conciliation that put a target on his back.

When he later failed to unite the industry to stop a deluge of lawsuits by cities against gunmakers, he was ousted from the American Shooting Sports Council -- at the insistence, he says, of the NRA and its then-top lobbyist, James Jay Baker. Feldman says he had gotten too close to what the NRA thought of as "the enemy," and that was unforgivable.

"Drawing nice clean lines with 'us' and 'them' to battle over makes for far more successful direct mail solicitations than actually solving problems," Feldman writes. "Protracted campaigns brought in new members and contributions."

And that, Feldman asserts, is what the NRA really wants. Feldman's critique is not new. Ever since the NRA in 1995 called the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms a bunch of "jack-booted government thugs" and former president George H. W. Bush resigned from the organization in protest, the lobby has

widely been seen as wild-eyed, even radical, mostly for the sake of keeping its membership large and energized.

At the same time, however, not even its boldest detractors have been able to credibly claim that the NRA is ineffective. Its ability to mobilize pro-gun voters was key to defeating Al Gore in the 2000 presidential race. Rarely does gun-control legislation even come up in Congress these days, so feared is the NRA.

Feldman undercuts his credentials as a critic by admitting his disdain for the group and resorting to petty personal attacks. Of Wayne LaPierre, the NRA's longtime chief executive, Feldman writes: "Wayne's chipmunk cheeks had expanded, so that he now reminded me of a well-groomed, well-fed beaver who had salted away plenty of leaves and branches for the winter."

The NRA so far has ignored the book. Spokesman Andrew Arulanandam said, "We don't comment on works of fiction." But the group will have a hard time parrying Feldman's central attack -- that the NRA is actually thrilled to have its adversaries in power because that is what keeps the money spigot open. After the Democrats' sweep of congressional elections last year, Feldman writes, "The National Rifle Association had enemies again, clearly delineated opponents in the endless struggle . . . and as always, it was better to fight than win."

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/29/AR2007102902121\\_2.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/29/AR2007102902121_2.html)

**07/10/30 VOLUSIA COUNTY, Fla. -- Orlando-Sanford International Airport President Larry Dale is facing up to six felony charges.** He's accused of confronting and then disarming three people at a Volusia County gun range.

In the charging affidavit, Jerry Autry said he was shooting pistols there with his son and son's girlfriend when Dale jumped out of his truck, pointed a handgun at them and ordered the trio to drop their weapons and put their hands up while he patted them down. Dale, a sworn police officer, is the commander of the Orlando-Sanford International Airport's police department.

<http://www.wftv.com/news/14459464/detail.html>

**07/10/29 17-year-old disciplined for shotgun shells at school** District overreacted in punishing athlete for ammo in SUV, family says

Surprise high-school senior Kim Peters carries an Olympic identification badge and an Arizona skeet-shooting members' card, but neither got her out of a four-day suspension for bringing shotgun shells onto school grounds.

The 17-year-old started competitive clay shooting her freshman year at the urging of her mom and stepfather.

She has since won several trophies in the male-dominated sport and in August was one of 18 athletes across the nation to attend this year's Junior Olympic shooting camp in Colorado Springs, Colo

But the hobby got Peters into trouble last week. Willow Canyon High School administrators disciplined Peters after a security guard noticed two unopened boxes of the shells sitting in the back seat of the student's white sport utility vehicle. There was no gun. Peters said her 12-hours-a-week practice schedule got so hectic that she forgot to unload the ammunition from her vehicle as she was running late for school Tuesday morning.

To beat the bell, she said she took a shortcut and parked in a visitors-only lot closest to the school. The guard spotted the shells while ticketing her for parking in the non-student area. Now, Peters fears the resulting punishment will cloud her permanent record as she applies to colleges. Her family is fighting the Dysart Unified School District to get the offense, possession of a "dangerous instrument," expunged. They searched me and they searched my car," she said. Searchers discovered that Peters had cigarettes in the car, an offense also punishable by suspension. Though Peters technically violated three school rules, she was punished only for the shells, according to a Dysart disciplinary-incident form sent home with Peters.

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/1029shoot1029.html>

**07/10/29 Police seek robbery suspects, 1 wounded by victim** Allegheny County police are searching for two of the three suspects whose robbery earlier this month was interrupted by a gun-toting victim.

Detectives already have arrested one of the suspects, Lolitta Irvin, 20, of Wilkinsburg.

Detectives said she and two men accosted a Wilkinsburg man at 9:41 p.m. Oct. 6 on Rebecca Street in Wilkinsburg.

The victim, whose name has not been released, broke free from the bandits and pulled a pistol. He and the suspects fired at each other.

The robbery target was not injured, though an undisclosed amount of money was taken.

However, two of the suspects, including Ms. Irvin, were wounded.

The two men have not yet been apprehended, police said.

No charges have been filed against the victim, who was licensed to carry the gun, which was registered, police said.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/07302/829440-100.stm>

**07/10/26 GAINESVILLE, Fla.** -- A Gainesville man's lack of sight didn't stop him from defending his home from an intruder. According to police, Cevaughn Curtis Jr., 28, broke into Arthur Williams' house in Gainesville at around 3 a.m.

Curtis, police said, knocked on the door, asked to be let inside but Williams refused. Curtis then tried to force his way into the home. The 75-year-old retired taxi dispatcher, who's been legally blind for the past 61 years, opened fire on the would-be-thief who kicked down his door, police said. Police said Williams shot Curtis, who tried to flee but collapsed on the front porch, in the left side of the neck. He was taken to a hospital in stable condition. Police said Curtis was charged with burglary of an occupied residence and battery on a person over the age of 65.

Officials are praising Williams for protecting himself.

<http://www.wesh.com/news/14437963/detail.html>

**07/10/26 Second Amendment Guarantees Right to All Americans**

As you may know, on March 9, 2007, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled that the District of Columbia's gun ban is unconstitutional. Read the EXCELLENT article by United States Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite of Florida on her website.

<http://brown-waite.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=77241>

**07/10/26 BATF rebuked for attacks on gun dealers** by Congress for its aggressive attacks on firearms dealers who may have paperwork errors in their record-keeping.

**Agency tried to revoke licenses for paperwork mistakes**

"What was of particular interest to me was that the NFRTR [BATFE's bound book of machineguns, etc] was off by four machineguns," Len Savage, of Historic Arms LLC, said. "It is so bad [the BATFE own record keeping] that the inspectors have a form for correcting it using dealers records," he said. He submitted a Freedom of Information Act request and discovered that the federal agency "is very quietly trying to fix their own inept record keeping by using our [store and business] records to fill in the gaps."

An ATF inspector, Herbert Blount, told Savage that when the agency moved to a new building, officials "lost/misplaced" records for more than 500 businesses and replacements were being sought.

"As we are all human and errors do occur, I was more than happy to help him out. What really bothered me was that seven days later he called and explain he 'misplaced' the records I had just sent him a week previous," Savage said.

[http://www.wnd.com/news/printer-friendly.asp?ARTICLE\\_ID=58353](http://www.wnd.com/news/printer-friendly.asp?ARTICLE_ID=58353)

**07/10/25 A fair forum on 2nd Amendment**

The recent Second Amendment symposium at the George Mason University School of Law brought scholars and activists on both sides of the gun debate together to talk about what will happen to gun rights in the next few years. The consensus was that while no one knows exactly what will happen, it may well be historic.

There were three panels, each covering a different topic. One panel discussed whether the Second Amendment guarantees to private citizens like you and me the right to own and possess firearms – the collective vs. individual rights debate. The issue was discussed in the context of the widespread gun confiscation by the city of New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Another panel focused on government prohibition of firearm possession on public property. A third panel examined the D.C. gun ban case that is being offered to the Supreme Court, District of Columbia v. Heller, in which the District's 30-year-old prohibition against having a handgun in your home for self-defense is being challenged.

[http://worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE\\_ID=58325](http://worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=58325)

**07/10/24 Miami TV Reporter Arrested for Entering School Property With Gun**

A television reporter investigating a story on school violence was arrested after carrying a loaded gun onto school property, authorities said.

Jeffrey Weinsier of WPLG-TV, an ABC network, was taken into custody Tuesday at Miami Central High School after ignoring several warnings not to walk on school property, Miami-Dade schools police said.

"Kindly go across the street now," an officer is shown telling Weinsier during the videotaped encounter.

"I'm not," Weinsier replied. The officer then handcuffed him. Weinsier, 40, was charged with possession of a firearm on school grounds, trespassing on school property with a weapon and resisting officers without violence.

The photographer working with Weinsier, Frank Debesa, said afterward: "Jeff did have a gun on him."

Weinsier began carrying a gun after he received death threats stemming from a series he did about unsanitary conditions at restaurants, according to the station.

"At this point, Channel 10 is still reviewing the circumstances surrounding today's arrest," said Dave Boylan, the station's vice president and general manager.

Weinsier has a concealed weapons permit, but state law prohibits anyone from being armed at schools, police Detective Ed Torrens said.

Weinsier was released from jail on \$11,000 bond.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0.2933.304636.00.html>

#### 07/10/24 Compromising Your Beliefs

California - 2003: Governor Gray Davis was on the verge of being foisted out of office pending results of the special recall election. Since the recall was partly due to the **Governor's anti-gun position, California gun owners were in a prime position to elect then-Senator Tom McClintock, an openly pro-gun legislator with the track record to prove it. Unfortunately, many gun owners lacking conviction in their beliefs**, cast their vote for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger -- a candidate whose position on the Second Amendment was vague at best. The National Rifle Association did not endorse McClintock for the special election leaving gun owners to speculate about whether it is better to vote for a questionable Republican or an anti-gun Democrat. Since winning the Governor's seat, Mr. Schwarzenegger has banned .50 caliber rifles and passed the microstamping bill. I guess now we have our answer.

<http://www.libertybelles.org/articles/compromise.htm>

#### 07/10/23 Terror watch list swells to more than 755,000 names

The government's terrorist watch list has swelled to more than 755,000 names, according to a new government report that has raised worries about the list's effectiveness.

The size of the list, typically used to check people entering the country through land border crossings, airports and sea ports, has been growing by 200,000 names a year since 2004. Some lawmakers, security experts and civil rights advocates warn that it will become useless if it includes too many people.

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-10-23-Watchlist\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-10-23-Watchlist_N.htm)

#### 07/10/23 Second-Grader Kyle Walker Suspended For Drawing a Gun

Still, a School District's 'Zero Tolerance' Gun Policy Could Be Tougher

Residents of Dennis, N.J., can sleep better knowing that second-grader Kyle Walker was kept out of school last Thursday. While on the school bus, the seven-year-old reportedly drew a picture

of a person pointing a pistol, which he then gave to a fellow passenger. When that child's parents saw the offending image, they called school officials and swift action was taken.

Conceivably, then, this innocent drawing is actually an artful death threat.

Kyle claimed that the image was of a water pistol and not a real gun, but as the district noted, that's no excuse. After all, today's water pistols could be tomorrow's water balloons -- or even water cannons. And there are precedents for his punishment, such as a 2000 suspension of kindergarteners who used their hands as guns while playing cops and robbers.

The question is, does his punishment go far enough? While some parents and civil libertarians may not agree, the safety of our children mandates living up to our zero-tolerance policies -- not 0.2-tolerance or 0.1-tolerance, but 0.0-tolerance. Rules are rules, and that means suspending children for pretending to have guns, talking about guns or drawing guns. In fact, if it were possible, why not punish our second-graders for thinking about guns? By monitoring and correcting those whose minds stray into inappropriate areas, we not only ensure a safe and fair learning environment, but a better future for America.

[http://blog.washingtonpost.com/offbeat/2007/10/2nd\\_grader\\_kyle\\_mcdevitt\\_suspe\\_1.html](http://blog.washingtonpost.com/offbeat/2007/10/2nd_grader_kyle_mcdevitt_suspe_1.html)

#### 07/10/23 Resurrected Captain America will be toting a gun with his shield

When Captain America returns to the pages of his comic book in January, it won't be his star-spangled new duds getting all the attention.

Instead it will be what he's wielding in his right hand, the one once reserved for pummeling the jaws of evil. Come next year he'll be gripping cold, hard steel.

That's right. Captain America will be packing heat.

With a few mainstream comic book exceptions — the Punisher, for instance — it's usually the bad guys who have the guns. Bullets bounce off Superman's chest. Batman swears never to use a gun. The only thing Spider-Man keeps in his suit is a camera. And protecting himself from enemy fire is the whole reason Captain America has a shield, right?

<http://www.kansascity.com/238/story/329240.html>

#### 07/10/23 Guns Found In Abandoned Del. Co. Home

UPPER DARBY (CBS 3) —

The discovery of a cache of weapons inside an abandoned Delaware County home has led to a search for the home's former renter.

Officers confiscated 12 weapons from a home on the 800 block of Windermere Road Monday night.

Police Superintendent Michael Chitwood said several powerful guns, including a .223 assault rifle, a .45 caliber machine gun, shotguns and handguns, were found along with ammunition in a storage closet.

Authorities believe the man who had been living in the home left for Ireland within the past two weeks.

"Whoever owns the guns are not getting them back," Chitwood said. "It looks like he's going to war."

Upper Darby authorities are reaching out to the F.B.I. and others to aid in the investigation

<http://cbs3.com/local/weapons.cache.upper.2.411497.html>

#### **07/10/22 Man killed in E. Liberty home invasion**

An armed man was shot and killed early this morning after he and another man broke into a residence in East Liberty, police said. Shawn Davis, 18, of Duquesne, died of a shotgun blast to the head inside an apartment at 300 North Negley Avenue. He was shot at 3:15 a.m. and pronounced dead at the scene 10 minutes later. Police said he and his accomplice, Rashawn Gibson, 20, of Garfield, tried to rob the occupants of the apartment.

"It was definitely a home invasion," said Cmdr. Thomas Stangrecki, head of Major Crimes. "We're still sorting it out."

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/07295/827483-100.stm>

**07/10/22 Empty Handgun Holster Protest On Campus Teaches Educators And Students** October 22 thru the 26th, you might see students around campus **wearing empty handgun holsters on their belts**. Don't be alarmed – it's part of a harmless Rights Awareness protest. You'll probably see Ladies and Gentlemen both.

The thing non-gun owner students can do is to inquire. The gun owner is usually well informed on U.S History, sovereign rights, personal authority, personal liberty, and tactics - and is a superb source of information on how it relates to heads of household who would like to learn more about household safety planning and security considerations.

"Though households may plan for chemical poisoning, illness, traffic accident, root canal, or even unemployment, just how the family will meet, answer and even survive violent crime is the most neglected area of household management," notes John Longenecker, CEO of the Good For The Country Foundation, a patriotic think tank.

<http://www.transworldnews.com/NewsStory.aspx?id=25883&cat=15>

#### **07/10/16 Homeowner Fatally Shoots Intruder**

DALLAS -- Police said they don't expect to file charges against a homeowner who fatally shot a burglar.

Police said a man broke into a home in the 3600 block of Cortez Drive, north of Bachman Lake, at about 2 a.m. Tuesday.

The homeowner was awakened by his pet and saw the intruder on a surveillance system. He shot the intruder inside the home's detached garage, police said. The intruder was taken to Parkland Hospital in critical condition. He died a short time later.

People had burglarized the home several times in the last month, according to police.

<http://www.nbc5i.com/news/14348860/detail.html>

#### **07/10/11 14-Year-Old Who Felt Bullied Amassed Guns, Knives And Grenades For Possible School Attack**

CBS/AP) A home-schooled teenager amassed a cache of guns, knives and explosive devices and tried to recruit another boy for a possible school attack, authorities said Thursday.

The 14-year-old was taken into custody after police searched his bedroom in a Philadelphia suburb Wednesday evening. He had

talked about mounting a Columbine-type attack at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School, authorities said.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/10/11/national/main3358114.shtml>

#### **07/10/11 76-Year-Old Woman Takes Gun From Girl, Thwarts Robbery**

A 76-year-old storeowner in Washington County said she was having a bad day when a young woman tried to rob her on Monday. Police said Virginia Hart was behind the counter of the Lone Pine Market in Marianna when a young girl came in and demanded money. Police said when Hart refused, the woman pulled a gun and again demanded money.

Once again, police said, Hart refused and then grabbed the gun, picked up a stool and chased the woman out the door. The girl is described as blond, in her 20s and was wearing a blue sweatshirt.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police.

<http://www.claytoncramer.com/gundefenseblog/blogger.html>

#### **07/10/10 Guns Don't Kill Kids, Irresponsible Adults With Guns Do**

Should your doctor ask your child if you own a gun? Guidelines issued by the American Academy of Pediatric say "yes." They warn that "Children are curious even if they've had some sort of firearm training. That's why parents taking responsibility for safe gun storage is so essential." Doctors across the United States are being advised to interrogate children about mom and dad's "bad" behavior. It sounds simple enough, but the problem is that the advice ignores the benefits and exaggerates the costs of gun ownership.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,301040,00.html>

#### **07/10/10 Grad student suspended after pro gun rights e-mail**

A Minnesota university has suspended one of its graduate students who sent two e-mail messages to school officials supporting gun rights. Hamline University also said that master's student Troy Scheffler, who owns a firearm, would be barred from campus and must receive a mandatory "mental health evaluation" after he sent an e-mail message arguing that law-abiding students should be able to carry firearms on campus for self-defense. [http://www.news.com/8301-13578\\_3-9795510-38.html](http://www.news.com/8301-13578_3-9795510-38.html)

#### **07/10/10 PROBLEM: Ammunition storage has Falls couple ready to fire**

What's Your Problem? That Wal-Mart sells ammunition is no surprise. The ease with which it can be obtained is what shocked Ryan and Julie Miller during a recent shopping trip. The Niagara Falls couple went to the Wal-Mart on Porter Road the evening of Sept. 29 to purchase a few items. When browsing the snack aisle with their sons — ages 3 and 11 — they found a box of 100 Winchester shotgun shells mixed in with the potato chips... "Too many crazy things happen nowadays," he said, referring to someone who might use the easily accessible rounds in a mass shooting. "There's no reason that type of item needs to be laying around the store where my child literally could have picked them up." That was also a concern for Julie, who noted that her younger son likes to inspect what he sees in stores. "God forbid if someone had left the box open. He could have grabbed one and thrown it on the ground or just hit it the wrong way," she said. [http://www.niagara-gazette.com/local/local\\_story\\_283175849.html](http://www.niagara-gazette.com/local/local_story_283175849.html)

**07/10/10 High rate of shootings by Philly cops** Steven "Butter" Miller was waving around a loaded gun, apparently high on drugs, back in July when he was shot dead by police in the Point Breeze section of South Philadelphia. The next day, a cop shot at Malik Jones in Southwest Philadelphia, believing the black object in his hand was a gun. No gun was recovered, Jones was not hit, and he was not charged with a crime. Nearly a month later, cops fatally shot Jason Henry, saying he had lunged at them with a 14-inch butcher knife; witnesses said he was only trying to regain his composure after being stunned with a Taser gun. Police officers in Philadelphia increasingly are faced with the split-second decision of when to use deadly force. And even before cops fatally shot 15-year-old Ronald Timbers on Monday afternoon in Crescentville as he brandished a household iron, these kinds of incidents had been on a steady rise.  
[http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news\\_update/20071010\\_High\\_rate\\_of\\_shootings\\_by\\_Philly\\_cops.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news_update/20071010_High_rate_of_shootings_by_Philly_cops.html)

**07/10/10 Police: Broomfield Intruder Shot After Door Kicked In BROOMFIELD, Colo.** -- Police are investigating an early-morning shooting involving a man armed with a pool cue and a renter trying to get some sleep. According to police, the renter was sleeping at about 2:30 a.m. when the female owner of the house showed up with a friend and didn't have her keys. She woke the renter to be let in. Police said the renter asked the woman's friend to leave around 4 a.m. because they were being loud and he was trying to sleep. The man left, but returned a few minutes later, and police said he was carrying a pool cue.  
<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/14307017/detail.html?rs=den&psp=news>

**07/10/09 Policeman threatens to arrest boy for toy gun** A policeman was criticised yesterday after he ordered an eight-year-old boy to smash up his toy gun – because it was an "imitation firearm". The officer confronted Samuel England, of Pinehurst, Swindon, Wilts, as he played with the black and orange plastic toy outside his home. He told the boy to destroy the "weapon" or he would be arrested. Samuel's stepfather, John Standen, 34, came to his aid but was warned it was an offence to have an imitation firearm in public.  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/10/09/ntoy109.xml>

07/10/09 State police to get new guns  
Pennsylvania State Police are phasing out their old firearms and getting new, higher-caliber weapons.

State police in Erie's Troop E are being trained with a new pistol, the .45-caliber Glock Model 37, through the end of October, troop spokesman Cpl. Mark Zaleski said.

The change is necessary after Gov. Ed Rendell approved an increase in the size of the state police force in May 2006, said Sgt. David Pallone, supervisor of planning and analysis in the State Police Bureau of Research and Development who oversaw the selection of the new weapon

The previous weapon, the .40-caliber Beretta Grenadier

96D, was out of production, and the state police needed a uniform weapon, Pallone said. The Berettas were near the end of their commission, Pallone said.

"We were able to facilitate it pretty quickly because our firearms were aging and we were looking at what was available in the market and testing some weapons," Pallone said.  
<http://www.goerie.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071009/NEWS02/710090349/0/NEWS05>

**07/10/09 LOUISVILLE, Ky.** -- A driver shot in a Stony Brook shopping center parking lot continues to improve. Police said Darren Pickerill was shot during a "road-rage" incident in June. The gunman who shot him: recently retired Jeffersontown Police Officer Richard Koenig who claimed he fired in self-defense.  
<http://www.wlky.com/news/14300965/detail.html>

**07/10/09 Man Kicked Out Of Home, Returns With Gun, Is Shot Dead PITTSBURGH** -- A young man was wounded by gunfire while he shot and killed an intruder at a home in Pittsburgh's Homewood area Tuesday morning, according to homicide detectives.  
<http://www.thepittsburghchannel.com/news/14299024/detail.html?rss=pit&psp=news>

**07/10/09 Investigation continues after Hillsborough home invasion** Hillsborough County Deputies are searching for four men involved in an armed [home invasion](#) overnight. Deputies say the men broke into a home on Citrus Village Drive late last night and removed a laptop computer and cell phone before fleeing. At least one of the men is said to be armed, and investigators say they got away on foot.  
[http://www.abcactionnews.com/content/news/breakingnews/story.aspx?content\\_id=ed3f59b6-46d1-4d2f-a46b-f2f28e684764](http://www.abcactionnews.com/content/news/breakingnews/story.aspx?content_id=ed3f59b6-46d1-4d2f-a46b-f2f28e684764)

**07/10/09 No charges filed in homicide** *Does the Castle Doctrine play a role?* AMARILLO, TEXAS -- A deadly shooting in the 6800 block of Cleon on Sunday afternoon has many of you asking questions. According to police, Calvin Farmer was shot and killed after confronting a homeowner on that homeowner's property. As of right now, no charges have been filed in the case.  
[http://www.kvii.com/news/news\\_story.aspx?id=55932](http://www.kvii.com/news/news_story.aspx?id=55932)

**07/10/08 U.S. ranks number one in gun ownership** Albany--A new report shows that when it comes to gun ownership, the United States is the most heavily armed society in the world. The Small Arms Survey found that there are nine guns for every ten people living in the country, with about 270 million firearms in circulation.  
<http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=7182011>

**07/10/08 Questions in cougar shooting** Jeremy Kocar killed mountain lion that attacked a puppy chained on the property Only stars and the glimmer from a 140-pound mountain lion's fierce gaze provided light in the midnight darkness of Boulder County's foothills for Jeremy Kocar to cock and aim his rifle.

Still, Kocar said his eyes adjusted "quick enough" when the cougar looked up from the puppy in its clutches. "I took the shot, and that was the end of it," said Kocar, 31, who now finds himself facing possible criminal charges for shooting the adult male lion... Wildlife officers in September tried to capture and euthanize a mountain lion after it killed a miniature horse, but traps weren't successful in snagging the cat...Angela Kocar said her neighbors "have been living in terror up here." "So we've had nothing but gratitude," she said. "One woman brought Duke homemade dog treats and a turkey loaf."

<http://www.dailycamera.com/news/2007/oct/08/man-shoots-kills-mountain-lion-near-gross-reservoir/>

#### **07/10/07 Workplace gun ban OK**

TULSA, Okla. – Employers can ban employees from bringing guns to work and leaving them in their vehicles, a federal judge in Tulsa has ruled. U.S. District Judge Terence Kern issued a 93-page order in which he said amendments to the Oklahoma Firearms Act and the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act conflict with a federal law meant to protect employees on the job. Assistant Attorney General Sherry Todd said Friday that Judge Kern's opinion likely will be appealed. The amendments to the laws were made after Weyerhaeuser Corp. fired eight employees in 2002 when guns were found in their cars on company lots in Oklahoma. Federal courts later upheld the firings. Judge Kern, in issuing a permanent injunction, said the amendments "criminally prohibit an effective method of reducing gun-related workplace injuries and cannot co-exist with federal obligations and objectives."

[http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/texasouthwest/stories/DN-ogunlaw\\_07tex.ART.State.Edition1.425ebd2.html](http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/texasouthwest/stories/DN-ogunlaw_07tex.ART.State.Edition1.425ebd2.html)

#### **07/10/07 NY: Woman fights for life after psycho goes on knife rampage**

A shirtless madman wielding stolen knives went on a bloody midtown rampage yesterday - stabbing a restaurant worker and a psychologist walking her dog before being shot by an off-duty cop, authorities said

[http://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime\\_file/2007/10/07/2007-10-07\\_woman\\_fights\\_for\\_life\\_after\\_psycho\\_goes\\_.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime_file/2007/10/07/2007-10-07_woman_fights_for_life_after_psycho_goes_.html)

**07/10/06 Bear in mauling found dead** Game wardens confirmed Sunday that a female grizzly bear shot by a Pennsylvania elk hunter in Tom Miner Basin on Saturday has died of its wounds. Kevin Frey, a bear management specialist for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, said the bear weighed about 300 pounds and was probably between 8 and 10 years old. It attacked a pair of bow hunters early Saturday afternoon. One of them used bear pepper spray and halted a charge within nine feet, but the grizzly turned and charged a second time. That's when the second hunter shot it twice with a .44 magnum pistol.

<http://bozemandailychronicle.com/articles/2007/10/08/news/30bear.txt>

**07/10/05 The Christian Council of Mozambique (CCM), the**

umbrella body for the mainstream Protestant churches, says that it has collected about 700,000 firearms since launching its project to "Transform Guns into Hoes", a modern version of the biblical injunction to turn swords into ploughshares.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200710050956.html>

#### **07/10/05 Danville man shot with Taser in home invasion robbery**

DANVILLE -- Police are searching for suspects in a brutal home invasion robbery in which a man was tied up and shot with a Taser, authorities said Friday. Officers called to a home in the 700 block of El Pintado Road about 11:50 p.m. Thursday found a 50-year-old man who said three people had attacked him. The man told police that the robbers bound his wrists and feet, searched his house and took his belongings. He said his assailants shot him multiple times with a Taser before driving away in his GMC Yukon Denali.

[http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci\\_7096513?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_7096513?nclick_check=1)

**07/10/01 Police forced to give up seized guns** As police try to track up to 120 high-powered, military style weapons which vanished from a Coromandel property, they are reluctantly preparing to give back 200 similar firearms and 600,000 rounds of ammunition to their owner.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/1/story.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=10468018](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/1/story.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10468018)

**07/10/01 Police Forces Upgrading Their Firepower (CBS)** When Broward Sheriff deputy Chris Caldwell patrols the streets of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, he's armed with more than just the standard handgun. His *other* weapon, an AR-15 - the civilian version of rifle carried by soldiers in Iraq. "You have to up the ante a little bit; you don't want to go to a gunfight with a knife," Caldwell told CBS News correspondent Kelly Cobiella. Especially when the gun on the other end of the fight is an AK-47, favored weapon of terrorists and, these days, the common criminal - used to rob grocery stores and donut shops. Last month, one was used to shoot four Miami-Dade police officers during a traffic stop, killing one.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/10/01/eveningnews/main316672.shtml>

#### **07/09/11 OR: Teacher demands to carry gun in school**

A Medford high school teacher is arguing she has the right to carry a concealed semiautomatic pistol to her classes to protect herself from a violent ex-husband in a case certain to set off alarm bells in schools across the state. There is no appellate law in Oregon that would cover this situation. Under Oregon law, people with concealed handgun licenses can carry guns into public buildings. What is murky in the law is whether school districts can stop employees from carrying concealed weapons onto school property. Most Oregon schools have policies against employees - and in some cases the general public -- carrying concealed weapons onto their property.

<http://www.oregonlive.com/printer/printer.ssf?/base/news/118949018187870.xml>

**07/08/20 Armed for first day of school**

Hundreds of thousands of students had their first day of school on Monday. Some of them had to learn to carry guns and be prepared to shoot -- polar bears. Students on the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard aren't allowed to leave their village without a shotgun and ammunition. That's because hungry polar bears can be behind every swing on the island.

Although no one wants to shoot a polar bear, and they're indeed protected by national law, the huge white animals can quickly outrun a human. And humans don't have a chance if confronted by an aggressive bear. So everyone on Svalbard needs to be able to defend him- or herself, and students undergo weapons training every year.

<http://www.aftenposten.no/english/local/article1948234.ece>

#### **07/10/08 Off-duty Wis. deputy sheriff kills 6**

CRANDON, Wis. - The residents of a remote northern Wisconsin community struggled to understand Monday how a sheriff's deputy who killed six young people and critically wounded another could have become a law enforcement officer. Tyler Peterson, 20, was shot to death after opening fire early Sunday on a group of students and recent graduates who had gathered for pizza and movies during their high school's homecoming weekend. Peterson was off-duty from his full-time job as a Forest County deputy sheriff; he also was a part-time Crandon police officer.

"How do they know somebody's background, especially that young? It is disturbing, to say the least."

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071008/ap\\_on\\_re\\_us/wisconsin\\_shooting](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071008/ap_on_re_us/wisconsin_shooting)

**07/10/06 CNN Pushes Gun Control in Philadelphia, Blames Concealed Carry for Crime** On Thursday's "Anderson Cooper 360," CNN's Randi Kaye filed a story in which she

promoted gun control as a solution for Philadelphia's crime problems, as she pushed the argument that the city's high rate of gun violence was the result of Pennsylvania state lawmakers voting to loosen gun laws in the 1990s. And, as if criminals would bother to apply for a permit to legally carry a concealed weapon, Kaye further suggested that the availability of concealed carry permits has contributed to the city's problems. Kaye: "In 1995 there were fewer than 800 applications for concealed weapons here. 'Keeping Them Honest,' we checked, and today there are 29,000 permits to carry. And it's against the law for police to ask anyone why they want one. One law enforcement source told me permits to carry are being passed out like candy."

<http://newsbusters.org/blogs/brad-wilmouth/2007/10/06/cnn-pushes-gun-control-philadelphia-blames-concealed-carry-murder>

#### **07/10/04 Gun Control Doesn't Protect Us -- Guns Do - Orlando Sentinel**

When Florida liberalized permits for concealed weapons in the 1980s, critics predicted a Wild West bloodbath. It never happened. Responsible gun owners don't use guns irresponsibly. Go figure. Until the cops get better at enforcing gun control on those who shouldn't have guns, a better alternative for the rest of us is gun education, gun classes and secure gun storage.

[http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/orl-miket0407oct04,0,3733024.column?coll=orl\\_news\\_util](http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/orl-miket0407oct04,0,3733024.column?coll=orl_news_util)

*"If the federal government should overpass the just bounds of its authority and make a tyrannical use of its powers, the people, whose creature it is, must appeal to the standard they have formed, and take such measures to redress the injury done to the Constitution as the exigency may suggest and prudence justify."*

-- **Alexander Hamilton** (Federalist No. 33, 3 January 1