



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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Philadelphia Legislators Attack Gun Owners Once More.

On Tuesday, May 6th, Anti-Gun State Senators from the Philadelphia area attempted to hijack SB 1250 for their continuing agenda of destroying the rights of law abiding citizens in Pennsylvania to own firearms by offering 18 pages of gun control to this legislation.

These amendments ranged from controls on the sale of firearms to even the number and type of firearms that could even be possessed

While this legislation was tabled the amendments will continue to be saved for more action by those bent on excusing the actions of criminals and putting the blame on you and I. We will have these available for your review and comment.

Our thanks go out to Senator Regola and his Chief of Staff, Tom Howa, for bringing this to our attention as quickly as possible.

Philadelphia Legislators and AG Candidate Attack Gun Owners AGAIN.

05/07/2008

Morganelli Pushes For Gun Regulation

By: **Bradley Vasoli**, *The Bulletin*

http://www.thebulletin.us/site/index.cfm?newsid=19667340&BRD=2737&PAG=461&dept_id=576361&rfti=8

Philadelphia - Northampton County District Attorney John Morganelli, a Democratic candidate for Pennsylvania attorney general, attacked his incumbent opponent yesterday as too lax on gun regulation.

Mr. Morganelli said that Republican Attorney General Tom Corbett should issue a regulatory order mandating gun owners who discover their weapons lost or stolen to

report them as such within 48 to 72 hours of the losses. He expressed displeasure that Mr. Corbett has not done so.

"One of the most serious public safety issues facing all of our communities, death by gunfire, has been all but ignored by the current attorney general," Mr. Morganelli said. "While the Pennsylvania legislature, Gov. Rendell, mayors of our communities and law enforcement organizations like the Pennsylvania State Police, the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association and individual police departments and officers strive to address this issue, Attorney General Corbett sits on the sidelines conspicuously absent from the debate."

The shooting death of Philadelphia police Sgt. Stephen Liczbinski on Saturday has elicited increased calls for action from gun control advocates. Mr. Morganelli also pointed out that handgun murders involving children occur more often annually in Pennsylvania than in 44 other states and that 1,200 people die annually in Pennsylvania from gunfire.

The Northampton prosecutor said that the state attorney general does not need legislative approval to require Pennsylvania gun owners to report their missing weapons or to mandate gun merchants to inform their customers that they cannot permit their guns' use by anyone not legally authorized to possess a firearm. He believes a Pennsylvania statute stating the "attorney general may adopt, after public hearing, such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the enforcement and administration of the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law (UTPCPL)" gives Mr. Corbett the necessary leeway to impose the aforesaid regulations.

The attorney general disagrees with that interpretation of consumer protection law and expressed, through a spokesman, bewilderment that Mr. Morganelli could accuse him of neglecting gun violence.

"I guess John Morganelli must have been living in another state for the last 17 months," said attorney general spokesman Kevin Harley. He said Mr. Corbett has done more than any past Pennsylvania attorney general to

reduce gun violence, citing his formation of the Philadelphia Gun Violence Task Force, which has aggressively pursued straw purchasers. It has resulted in 158 arrests, more than 200 weapon seizures and over 500 ongoing investigations.

Bradley Vasoli can be reached at bvasoli@thebulletin.us.

LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT

By Sen. Connie Williams (Philadelphia State Senator-D)
(Op-Ed—*Philadelphia Inquirer* – May 2008)

In the Fall of 2004, just prior to the expiration of the federal ban on assault weapons, I introduced legislation in Pennsylvania to ban the sale of these types of weapons in the Commonwealth. Senate Bill 1216 of 2004 died for lack of action, which led to Senate Bill 533 in the 2005-06 Legislative Session (which also died in Committee) and Senate Bill 48 in the 2007-08 Legislative Session (which I'm realistic enough to recognize will never see the light of day).

To date, I've been told that there is no need to ban any type of gun – the gun does not kill, the person using the gun kills; I've been told that this is just a Philadelphia problem; I've been told that banning any gun is an infringement upon people's constitutional right to bear arms. I hear a lot about enforcing the laws that already are on the books, but I also think that we should reinstate some of the laws that used to be on the books; laws that worked.

Not one of the people opposed to passing any type of new gun laws in Pennsylvania have yet to tell me how we can use this Constitutional right to bear arms to protect the innocent victims of these crimes. Paying for more jail time is a bandage that we place on the wound after it is inflicted.

If this is just a Philadelphia problem, then why was the federal ban put in place in 1994? Was that just for Philadelphia?

The federal ban became law in 1994, following a string of mass killings committed by criminals with assault weapons. The law may not have been perfect, but it served as a deterrent. Statistics show that when the federal ban went into effect in 1994, violent crimes declined by 26.5 percent (from 1994 to 2001).

As I said, I am a realist and I understand that Pennsylvania is firmly on the side of gun rights, which explains why efforts in the House of Representatives earlier this year failed. So, I issue a challenge to gun advocates: come up with some responsible ways to keep guns out of the hands of our children and criminals.

In the end, I don't want to hear rhetoric, I want some hard statistics that show less innocent victims and police officers were killed in Pennsylvania. I want to know your plan to keep guns safely and responsibly locked up so they don't fall into the wrong hands. And I'd like you to promise families of police officers everywhere, that your new way of doing things will protect their loved one when he or she is working in the line of duty to protect you.

'Bloody' Chicago: Despite handgun prohibition, shootings rampant

by Dave Workman Senior Editor

While the administration of Chicago Mayor Richard Daley is nervous about a Supreme Court ruling that could threaten his city's handgun ban, which prevents law-abiding citizens from legally owning handguns for personal protection, the mayor has been unable to stem a tide of blood spilled in what appear to be a growing number of gang related shootings.

Over the course of one April weekend, according to the Associated Press, there were 36 shootings in which nine people were killed.

And the question arises, if all of these criminals can so easily get their hands on guns, why are honest citizens being left defenseless in what may become a crossfire?

Daley convened a "gun summit" at city hall at a press conference just days after the bloody weekend, the outcome of which was almost pre-ordained since he was accompanied by anti-gun Rev. Michael Pfleger-the man who suggested "snuffing" suburban gun dealer John Riggio during a demonstration last summer outside of Chuck's Gun Shop in Riverdale.

That summit brought together members of the clergy, neighborhood activists and public officials, according to WBBM radio, the local CBS affiliate. Noticeably absent were representatives of gun rights organizations.

The Chicago Sun-Times editorialized against the violence, demanding that the city "confront the carnage." Chicago Tribune columnist Mary Schmich analyzed the increase in violence, noting that it is largely related to gang turf warfare. She quoted sociology professor Greg Scott, who insisted that "Police need to appreciate that gang members aren't just villains to the neighborhood."

Pfleger, described by the Associated Press as "an activist on the South Side," predicted that trouble will increase when schools let out in June and the temperatures rise into the 80s and 90s this Summer.

Police have said that at least 14 of the shootings were gang-related, according to published reports, and that one involved the use of a semiautomatic rifle to shoot up a plumbing supply store.

Ironically, the surge in violence came within days of the publication of a column by Justin Webb, North American editor for the BBC in Missouri, exclaiming how American citizens are relatively tranquil even with all of their privately-owned firearms. Webb wrote that "Americans- and foreigners who come here-feel that the place is ... safe."

Webb then noted that parts of London seem far more menacing and dangerous than places in America where owning firearms is common.

Chicago's woes also erupted at the same time that the Violence Policy Center alleged in a report that the most violent parts of the country are those with the most lax gun laws. Chicago's ban on handguns is one of the toughest laws in the country, and Illinois firearms owners must have a Firearms Owner's Identification Card to possess a gun.

Perhaps not coincidentally, syndicated columnist Charley Reese wrote in The Florida Sun-Sentinel that much of the violence can be traced to certain ethnic groups.

Noting that "gun violence seems to be more prevalent among blacks and Hispanics than among whites," Reese acknowledged that, "I know that is not a welcomed thing to say, but it happens to be a fact."

In his column, headlined "Let's focus on the people who kill, not the guns," Reese admitted that "I don't know why some groups are more violent than others."

"All I'm saying," he wrote, "is if you want to solve the gun crime problem, that's where you have to go. It won't do a bit of good to prevent some Lutheran kid in Minnesota from buying a gun when the gun violence is concentrated in other areas and among other groups of people." Reese then took the gun control advocates to task because, "I believe most of them know these facts about who's committed a majority of the gun crimes."

"But they don't want to deal with it," Reese lamented. "It's too hot a potato, too politically incorrect. So, as a smoke screen, they rant and rail about guns as if all these tools are possessed by demons that cause the guns to hop off the shelves and force people to use them. That's nonsense. Gun violence is a social problem, not a hardware problem."

But in Chicago, the hardware all seems to be in the wrong hands, and the Daley administration, which has a record of campaigning for increasingly tough restrictions on law-abiding gunowners, appears impotent to change things. [The New GUN WEEK](#), May 15, 2008

Last man standing: *Defiant Georgia gun dealer facing' Bloomberg in court*

by Dave Workman Senior Editor

Other firearms dealers targeted by the questionable private gun "sting" operation mounted by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg have folded against the financial pressure, and one has even announced she will close her doors next month.

But Jay Wallace, president of Adventure Outdoors in Smyrna, GA, is standing firm against what he insists is a false accusation, combined with a deliberate smearing of his reputation. On May 27, in a New York federal court in front of Judge Jack Weinberg, Wallace will defend his honor against the Goliath that is the anti-gun Big Apple mayor and his legal staff.

Wallace is looking forward to the opportunity to vindicate himself.

"It's time that the industry know what's going on with this case," Wallace said in an interview with *Gun Week*. "My position is that I've done nothing wrong...I can prove that I've done nothing wrong."

His New York attorney, John Renzuli, could not agree more.

"We're going to try our case," Renzuli said, "and show that the basis for this lawsuit is, in fact, baseless. They (attorneys for the city) should have done their homework before they went out and said some pretty bad things about Jay and his business."

Cost of Defense

Wallace is bolstered by the fact that he has gotten small contributions from people all over the country, and even from some servicemen and women overseas, to help fight this case, but he is particularly fond of the Second Amendment Foundation,

which has contributed several thousand dollars to his defense, and is "the number one contributor." The National Rifle Association has also kicked in \$1,000, and he has gotten some help from the industry, but it may be small in comparison to what Bloomberg and the city may have spent to push this case.

Contributions are still being accepted at: Bloombergfightbackfund.com.

The issue that frustrates Wallace the most is that, in his opinion, none of this would have been necessary, had only Bloomberg's so-called "private investigators" approached him up front, explained what they felt were alleged shortcomings with his business practices, and then worked with him.

"I would have asked 'what is the problem?'" and then I would have had open discussions with them," Wallace stated, "and they would have discovered we do things quite well in our store."

But instead of cooperation, Wallace said, Bloomberg wanted headlines. Renzuli told *Gun Week* that Bloomberg's office used raw gun trace data obtained from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to make assumptions that simply are not accurate.

This trace data is retained by ATF for use in criminal investigations, but it does not reflect that every gun being traced was involved in the commission of a crime. Even the ATF has disavowed the use of raw data.

The Department of Justice last year warned Bloomberg's office against trying anything like his "gun stings" in the future. Bloomberg went around law enforcement, hired private investigators (one of whom has since been murdered by her mother's boyfriend) and conducted what critics have branded a "vigilante operation." The case so infuriated ATF that the agency investigated to determine whether Bloomberg committed a crime, and ATF sources did acknowledge that the Bloomberg operation jeopardized on-going criminal investigations.

Firing back, Bloomberg criticized ATF for being "asleep at the wheel" in terms of enforcement against alleged "rogue" gun dealers from whose shops firearms somehow wind up in New York.

When the smoke cleared, the Justice Department announced that there was insufficient evidence to prove that any of the gun dealers sued by Bloomberg had committed a prosecutable crime. But the department warned Bloomberg that such "stings" might run afoul of federal law.

Weak Case?

According to Renzuli, the case against his client has some pretty weak spots, not the least of which is the absence of a fully-recorded transaction in the store. By some remarkable coincidence, the attorney said, both recordings made during the transaction at Adventure Outdoor were hampered by malfunctions. This apparently did not happen at any of the other stores visited by Bloomberg's investigators.

There appears to be ample reason for his suspicions. The attorney told *Gun Week* that during a 2007 ATF compliance audit, Adventure Outdoors had essentially "a clean bill of health." There was a single infraction, apparently having to do with stapling a National Instant Check System denial form to a Federal Form 4473 that had been filled out by the denied customer.

Wallace said that he has a good record of cooperating with ATF, and he believes regulating gun stores is the job of that

agency, not the mayor of New York, a jurisdiction more than a thousand miles away in another state.

"We've set up our business to be 100% ATF compliant and then some," he said. There might be a bit of regulation coming at Bloomberg. Wallace has also retained former US Congressman Bob Barr to represent him in a counter-lawsuit against Bloomberg, a lawsuit that will be tried in Georgia despite Bloomberg's best efforts to get it quashed or moved to New York.

Having watched all of the other defendant gun shops in Bloomberg's e lawsuit ultimately fold, Wallace feels the burden of being the only retailer remaining so he is bearing the entire financial burden with the support he's gotten.

"I am 100% committed," he said. "I know how I've run my business. I am proud of the way I run my business." [The New GUN WEEK](#), May 15, 2008

Support Swells For Iowa Pizza Man Fired For Defense Shooting

by Dave Workman Senior Editor

The online advertisement for Pizza Hut delivery drivers explains that "you'll get more: more for your career, your life, your family and your future" by taking a job with the popular pizza chain.

What the ad doesn't say is that if you are robbed, you cannot defend yourself because you are forbidden from being armed, in your own vehicle which is used for deliveries, and if you do fight back, you will be immediately suspended and very likely terminated.

That's the case for a Des Moines, IA, driver identified as James William Spiers III, who shot the thug that tried to rob him Mar. 27 after putting a gun to his head. But instead of having his story disappear into the back pages of a local newspaper, Spiers has gotten support from Iowa state Sen. Brad Zaun, who has issued a public warning to Pizza Hut that there could be a backlash against the chain.

Spiers' story was reported by The Des Moines Register. Almost immediately, messages of support for the single father started flashing across the Internet from gun rights activists all over the country.

Meanwhile, the suspect, identified as 19-year-old Kenneth Jimmerson, was arrested on charges of first-degree robbery. A young woman identified as Melanie Stout, 18, was charged with conspiracy for calling in the pizza order that became a lure to armed robbery.

Des Moines Police Sgt. Vince Valdez told Gun Week that the suspect has an arrest record dating back to when he was a juvenile. Last year, Jimmerson was arrested for carrying a concealed weapon. Valdez could not comment on where the suspect may have gotten the handgun he allegedly used in the incident involving Spiers, but he was hit at least twice in the side, was treated at a hospital and was then transferred to jail.

Spiers is licensed to carry a concealed handgun in Iowa.

But that reportedly isn't good enough for Pizza Hut, whose vice president for human resources, Vonnie Walbert, told the newspaper that delivery drivers are not allowed to carry guns "because we believe that that is the safest for everybody."

Gun rights activists suggest that Walbert tell that to New Jersey pizza delivery drivers Jeremy Giordany and Giorgio Gallara, murdered in 1998 after they were lured to an abandoned cabin and gunned down. Or maybe, they suggest, Walbert should tell that to the families of murdered pizza drivers Kevin Buttry of Farmington, NM,

or Christopher Williams of Swissvale, PA, or Karen Hassan of St. Charles, IL, or Bill Flexon of Sumter, SC. All of these drivers were murdered when their pizza deliveries turned into ambushes.

Some activists were calling for a national boycott of Pizza Hut. Others are just furious.

In a Des Moines Register column, Spiers said he was certain he was about to die when the thug aimed a gun at his head.

After shooting the suspect, Spiers grabbed his gun and when police arrived, he turned both his pistol and the gunman's piece over. At age 19, Jimmerson would be too young to legally carry a handgun. [The New GUN WEEK](#), May 15, 2008

NC High School Officials Block Rifle Team's State Competition

by Dave Workman Senior Editor

A high school policy committee in the Wake school district near Raleigh, NC, will reportedly reconsider a revision in "school policy that barred the school's marksmanship team from competing in a state-sponsored tournament in March. That prohibition prevented East Wake High School senior Robert Lumley from participating in the event, and even if the school does revise its policy for next year, this graduating senior is out of luck.

According to The Charlotte News Observer, Lumley and his teammates were barred from participating in the annual North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission competition, an event that has been going on for decades. The decision to keep the East Wake team out of the district tournament was made by school Principal Sebastian Shipp with the support of Area Superintendent Danny Barnes. Neither of those officials would return calls from Gun Week, and neither did District Superintendent Dr. Adelphos "Del" Burns or Lori Millberg, a school director.

But Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, was not so silent. He publicly called for the firing of both Barnes and Shipp.

The National Rifle Association called the decision an "outrage."

Lumley, 17, reportedly had been practicing for the tournament for months. Shipp reportedly waited until the day before the March 15 tournament to notify Lumley and his teammates that their participation was barred. The News Observer reported that Shipp used as his reason a school policy that bans firearms and other weapons from school grounds and also prohibits students from having guns along on school-related trips.

The tournament is well-supervised and the marksmanship team is part of a school-approved student chapter of the FFA (Future Farmers of America).

But it may have been what the Charlotte newspaper reported that ignited the fury of gun rights activists across the country. The paper reported that school officials said "Ammo and students don't mix."

"This is an outrageous position," Gottlieb said. "Schools are places of learning, but what lesson have Barnes and Shipp taught with this decision: how to practice social bigotry?"

Mindful that Lumley is a senior and this would have been his only chance to participate in the tournament as a member of his school's team, Gottlieb said the school district should apologize, in writing, to the teen and every other member of the team. That

apology, he said, should be signed "especially by Barnes and Shipp."

"The district should find a way to get Robert and his teammates into a tournament of equal standing," Gottlieb said, "and that responsibility should be placed squarely on Barnes and Shipp. Their actions have cheated these students out of a valuable experience, and cheating in school should get these two administrators expelled."

According to WNCN News in Charlotte, the school policy committee was scheduled to meet May 13 to re-examine the school policy.

Other schools around the state apparently have different policies, as some 2,000 high school and middle school students participate in the annual tournament, *The News Observer* reported. A statewide competition was held in late April. [The New GUN WEEK](#), May 15, 2008

'Zero Tolerance' Victimized WV School Principal

A West Virginia middle school principal has been fired because he had two rifles in his car, which was parked on school property, according to WSAZ News in Huntington, WV

Principal James D. Hoover was dismissed on a 3-2 vote by the Wirt County school board last month. He was initially charged with possession of deadly weapons on school grounds last October, but those charges were later dismissed by Circuit Judge Robert Waters, the station reported. The judge ruled that Hoover's case fell under an exemption in state law that covers unloaded firearms in locked vehicles.

However, the school board was less flexible than the circuit judge, so Hoover was fired.

The guns apparently weren't even his. The station said Hoover had retrieved the rifles from the scene of a hunting accident involving a friend who had asked him to get the guns. [The New GUN WEEK](#), May 15, 2008

Obama's Opposition To Licensed Concealed Carry Stirs Backlash

by Dave Workman Senior Editor

Democratic presidential contender Barack Obama already had some credibility problems with American gunowners, despite his repeated pronouncements in support of the Second Amendment, but the Illinois Democrat really kicked a hornet's nest when he declared during a Pennsylvania interview that he opposes concealed carry by private citizens.

Almost immediately, chat boards and gun rights forums lit up with furious criticism of the freshman senator and would-be presidential nominee.

Obama told *The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* that "I am not in favor of concealed weapons. I think that creates a potential atmosphere where more innocent people could (get shot during) altercations."

One of the harshest reactions came from Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. He demanded that Obama apologize to the millions of law-abiding citizens who are legally licensed to carry concealed

handguns. Statistically, such citizens are far less likely to ever get into trouble with the law.

Gottlieb noted that licensed citizens "go through background checks, and in some states complete required training courses."

"They have stopped crimes," he observed. "They have sometimes aided police officers."

Obama, said Gottlieb, "should not confuse legally-armed, law-abiding Americans with inner-city thugs, gang bangers and other criminals who carry guns illegally."

Obama's comments were reported on the day after a story broke about the senator's 1996 legislative questionnaire in Illinois, in which his positions against handgun and sport-utility rifle ownership were revealed. Obama had initially distanced himself from that questionnaire, claiming that he had not even seen it and that an aide had filled it out.

However, that account was discredited when it was revealed by several sources that Obama's handwriting was found on the pages of the questionnaire.

The document also revealed that Obama opposes capital punishment and criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults if they are charged with serious felonies. He is against mandatory sentencing while he supports "alternative sentencing."

"It's clear," Gottlieb said, "that Obama has the good guys confused with the bad guys."

Gottlieb publicly warned Obama that "gunowners are also voters."

"You have outrageously insulted every one of them," he said. "You owe these good citizens an apology."

The firearms civil rights issue was expected to surface again in a Democratic candidate's debate in Philadelphia scheduled for Apr. 16, less than a week before the Keystone State's presidential primary.

Anti-gun leaders in the Philadelphia area have been pledging to force Obama and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton to discuss the gun issue in detail during that debate. [The New GUN WEEK](#), May 1, 2008

Judge Stops Philly Enforcement of 5 Local Gun Laws

by Gun Week staff

Faced with a staggering crime problem and skyrocketing murder rate, Philadelphia, PA, Mayor Michael Nutter signed into law in early April five antigun measures apparently in defiance of state law and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and gun rights organizations moved swiftly in response.

Nutter defended the action, arguing that he and members of the City Council are essentially walking in the footsteps of Americans who launched the Revolutionary War. Veteran Pennsylvania gun rights activists Kim Stolfer with the Firearms Owners Against Crime and Allegheny County Sportsmen's League, called that notion "nonsense."

A day after the mayor signed all five measures, both the National Rifle Association (NRA) and Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) announced they would be taking legal action against the city to force it to comply with state law. Pennsylvania has had state preemption on gun regulation since 1974, and that authority has been upheld by the state's highest court in a 1996

ruling against Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, which had wanted their own gun laws.

On Apr. 17, Common Pleas Judge Jane Cutler Greenspan ordered the city to temporarily halt enforcement of the five gun-control laws passed by City Council a week earlier and signed by Nutter.

The city was ordered to stop writing police rules for enforcing the laws and training officers about them, at least until Apr. 28 or possible May 19, when Greenspan had scheduled a hearing on the NRA's request for a permanent injunction.

District Attorney Lynne Abraham had previously said that the local laws conflict with state laws and she will not enforce them.

The NRA requested a temporary restraining order on behalf of its members in the city, two firearm groups, two gun shops and four firearm owners.

In a harshly-worded statement, SAF Foundation founder Alan Gottlieb nicknamed the city "Killadelphia" and reminded the mayor that he couldn't willfully violate state law and then expect anyone else to obey it.

"How can Mayor Nutter and the council expect anyone else, especially criminals, to obey the law if they don't live up to the same standard," Gottlieb wondered. "Just because the mayor doesn't like the fact that the state legislature retains sole authority over gun laws does not give him or the city council any right to essentially set up their own fiefdom. What kind of example does that set? What does it accomplish?"

The new measures include a limit on handgun purchases to one per month, a ban on so-called assault weapons, a requirement that citizens report lost or stolen guns to police within 24 hours, and a provision allowing police to confiscate firearms from people who allegedly pose "a risk of imminent personal injury."

A fifth ordinance would prohibit people under protection orders from possessing firearms, but that is already against federal law. *The New GUN WEEK*, May 15, 2008

PA House Rejects Handgun Theft Reporting Bill

The Pennsylvania House recently rejected a measure aimed at curbing illegal handgun trafficking, the first substantive gun restriction considered by the full chamber in more than a decade. By a vote of 128-75, the House defeated an amendment, attached to a separate gun crime bill that would have made it mandatory to report lost and stolen handguns. The amendment won overwhelming support from Philadelphia-area lawmakers, where polls show majority support for the reporting requirement. House Speaker Dennis O'Brien, a Republican, was the only representative from Philadelphia to vote against the measure.

O'Brien said he could not support what he called a "flawed bill" and felt it could have "unintended consequences" for legitimate crime victims, such as felony charges for not reporting multiple missing weapons. "It's a difficult vote to explain why you're not for it, but the deficiencies were glaring."

Gun-control proponents hailed the vote itself as a historic achievement for opening floor debate on gun violence and forcing lawmakers to take a formal position on controversial legislation.

The defeat came despite impassioned pleas from Philadelphia and Pittsburgh area lawmakers who argued that the legislation was

critically needed to control the flow of illegal firearms and protect the innocent caught in the crossfire.

But the final vote reflected the dominant pro-gun ideology in a state where divisions over gun control run largely along geographic rather than party lines. *The New GUN WEEK*, May 1, 2008

Pennsylvanians Turn Out For Gun Rights At Harrisburg Rally

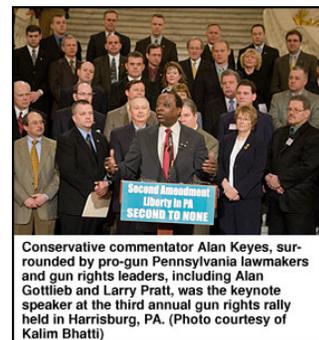
by Dave Workman, Senior Editor

On the same day the Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed on a 200-0 vote a comprehensive gun law package, pro-gun activists and lawmakers gathered in the Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg to rally against attacks on their gun rights.

House Bill 1845 makes it a felony to have a firearm with an altered or erased serial number, adds state penalties for providing false information on a gun purchase form, makes it a crime to falsely report a gun stolen and extends the time from two to five years that charges can be filed against a gun buyer if a gun is traced back to a straw purchase.

Kim Stolfer, chairman of Firearms Owners Against Crime, told Gun Week that the package was the result of pro-gun lobbying to defeat a series of anti-gun amendments a week earlier. He supported the measure that was passed.

But Keystone State gunowners say enough is enough, and they promised to hold anti-gun legislators responsible in November if they push restrictive measures.



Conservative commentator Alan Keyes, surrounded by pro-gun Pennsylvania lawmakers and gun rights leaders, including Alan Gottlieb and Larry Pratt, was the keynote speaker at the third annual gun rights rally held in Harrisburg, PA. (Photo courtesy of Kalim Bhatti)

The Second Amendment Liberty rally saw conservative Alan Keyes deliver the keynote address, and Alan Gottlieb, founder of the Second Amendment Foundation, telling the crowd of more than 500 the importance of political activism and public scrutiny.

Quoted by The Harrisburg Patriot News, Keyes said the battle for gun rights requires "the courage, and the unwillingness to live in the shadow of fear."

This was the third year for the capitol rally, and Stolfer said the strategy developed by Pennsylvania gun activists is to divide lawmakers up and send individual groups of constituent gunowners around to visit each representative individually. Gunowners, he said, are identifiable by the badges that they wear during their visits around the capital.

Other speakers included: state Rep. Daryl Metcalfe, a Cranberry Republican, who helped organize the event in partnership with firearms civil rights groups across the Keystone State. Metcalfe stressed the importance of educating his colleagues who had earlier voted in support of anti-gun amendments to HB-1845 that were defeated.

"A truly safe and liberty-advancing society is an armed society," he observed.

Metcalfe was among some 40 state lawmakers from both parties who turned out for the rally and gathered on the Rotunda steps behind the microphone.

"As citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we do not need the US Supreme Court, the United Nations or even the governor to reaffirm our God-given rights to defend our lives, loved ones and property, Metcalfe said.

Reminding the audience that Pennsylvania is the "birthplace of the Declaration of Independence," Metcalfe noted that Pennsylvania's state constitution contains explicit language on the right of private citizens to bear arms.

In addition, the crowd heard remarks from Jon Mirowitz of the Unified Sportsmen of Pennsylvania, Larry Pratt with Gun Owners of America, Melanie Sellinger, executive director of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and Jeff Knox with the Firearms Coalition.

Keyes held the limelight, however, noting, "You cannot defend your life if you give up the means of that defense. If it is your right to stand in defense of your family and your home, then you have the right and means to enable you to fulfill that obligation."

Gottlieb quipped to Gun Week that Keyes is "a tough act to follow."

Defeating amendments to HB-1845 a week before the rally added momentum to the gathering. One of those amendments would have penalized gunowners for not promptly reporting a stolen firearm to the police. GOA's Pratt told the audience that "the victim (of a theft) should not get punished."

Perhaps what made anti-gunners bristle the most, though, was that Washington, PA, resident Daniel Plovic won a drawing for a new Smith & Wesson semi-automatic pistol at the conclusion of the event.

The Pittsburgh Tribune Review quoted Joe Grace, executive director of CeaseFirePa, asserting that the drawing "sent the wrong message." [The New GUN WEEK, May 1, 2008](#)

PA Family Sues School After Son Gets Detention

A 14-year-old Pennsylvania schoolboy is fighting back after being sent to detention for wearing a T-shirt bearing the image of a gun in honor of his uncle fighting in Iraq, according to Fox News.

Officials at Penn Manor High School in Millersville, PA, gave Donald Miller III two days of detention in December after he refused to turn his shirt inside out. But Donald and his parents say the shirt is a symbol of patriotism, and they've taken the case to federal court.

Donald's shirt showed a military weapon and the words "Volunteer Homeland Security" on the front. The back of the shirt displayed the words "Special Issue-Resident-Lifetime License-United States Terrorist Hunting Permit-Permit No. 91101 Gun Owner-No Bag Limit" over another image of the gun.

Miller said he wore the shirt in honor of his uncle, Brian Souders, who is serving in Iraq and who gave it to Miller as a gift.

Donald and Tina Miller filed a federal freedom of speech lawsuit in January against the school district, saying it violated their son's First Amendment rights.

"Donald Miller wears the T-shirt to make the political and emotional statement that he supports his uncle, and all our armed forces, as they bravely exercise their duty to defend this great

nation," Miller's attorney, Leonard G. Brown III, wrote in the federal complaint cited in March news reports.

The school district is defending its decision, saying it needs to keep students safe during a time of school shootings.

Kevin French, an attorney for Penn Manor, said the school district must create a safe environment, and Miller's T-shirt violated school policy. [The New GUN WEEK, May 15, 2008](#)

CA High Court Sinks SF Ban

The California Supreme Court on Apr. 9 dealt a final blow to San Francisco's voter-approved ban on handguns, rejecting the city's appeal of a lower-court ruling that limited the ability of localities to regulate firearms.

The suit against the ban was filed just days after voters in the city passed Proposition H in November 2005 by the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF), in conjunction with the National Rifle Association, Law Enforcement Alliance of America, California Association of Firearms Retailers and San Francisco residents.

Lower courts had ruled that the measure violated state preemption and the Supreme Court concurred in a unanimous decision that was a clear victory for gunowners in the state. The ordinance, Proposition H, would have forbidden San Francisco residents to possess handguns and would have also prohibited the manufacture, sale or distribution of any type of firearms or ammunition in San Francisco.

"How many times must the courts tell the city of San Francisco that it cannot pass this kind of a Draconian measure," wondered SAF founder Alan M. Gottlieb. "This lawsuit essentially followed the same legal path as SAF's earlier lawsuit against the city and then-Mayor Dianne Feinstein, which also struck down a gun ban. We plowed this legal ground more than 20 years ago, and nothing has changed The fact that the State Supreme Court unanimously decided to reject the city's appeal will hopefully send a message that it cannot place the burden of crime reduction on the backs of law-abiding citizens." [The New GUN WEEK, May 1, 2008](#)

Handguns Okay For SC Youths

South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford signed a bill into law on Mar. 26 that lowers the minimum age from 21 to 18 for people who want to buy and own handguns in the state, according to Associated Press (AP).

"People who are old enough to fight and die in the military should be able to purchase handguns, and the bill will put our laws more in line with those of other states," Sanford spokesman Joel Sawyer said.

The law went into effect immediately. Federal law still prohibits firearm retailers and dealers from selling handguns to people younger than 21. But the state law now allows individuals to sell handguns to anyone 18 or over. [The New GUN WEEK, May 1, 2008](#)

Australian Gun Law Study Shows No Effect On Homicides, Suicides

In the spirit of the 2020 Summit, academics have released startling new evidence about the impact of Australian gun laws, and argue that future public policy must differentiate between what does and does not work.

In a new peer-reviewed study, Dr Samara McPhedran from the School of Psychology, and her colleague, Dr Jeanine Baker, who also hold executive positions in the International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting, show that the accumulated studies on Australia's 1996 gun bans and half billion dollar gun "buy-up" do not point to an impact.

The authors say that this provides a clearer foundation for evidence-based policy development, particularly within the area of suicide prevention.

"This research will enhance the ability of policymakers to build upon inclusive programs that have delivered outcomes, such as the National Suicide Prevention Strategy, rather than pursue measures that do not achieve the stated goals."

The study evaluated whether past published studies on the impact of the 1996 laws on firearm related homicide and suicide are consistent with one another.

"Using different analysis methods and time periods, none of the four studies found evidence for an impact of the laws on the pre-existing decline in firearm homicides," said McPhedran. "The statistical outcomes were in complete agreement, even though the conclusions varied."

According to the new study, disagreement over whether or not the 1996 legislative changes had an impact has not arisen from inconsistent results, but from different ways in which the same results are interpreted.

"We identified a series of interpretive misunderstandings that give the appearance of inconsistency. For example, some studies conclude the laws had an impact on firearm suicides, without realizing that non-firearm suicides also began falling from the late 1990s onwards."

"This coincides with the introduction of comprehensive suicide prevention strategies, and implies that social changes such as greater awareness of mental health influenced suicides across the board."

The overall consistencies revealed in the review, and identification of how the appearance of incongruent findings has been created, show that disagreement can be put to rest.

"Just as one swallow does not make a summer, a single study cannot definitively answer whether or not the laws had an effect. Collectively, though, the research has become a flock of swallows with a very clear direction." *The New GUN WEEK, May 15, 2008*

Gun Rights Group Criticizes Prison Release Proposal Draws

Faced with shrinking budgets and overcrowding in penal institutions, at least eight states are looking at the early release of convicted felons to shrink their prison operating costs, and the idea has one leading gun rights group suggesting that citizens arm themselves.

The Associated Press reported that state lawmakers in California, Kentucky, Mississippi, Michigan, South Carolina, Vermont, New Jersey and Rhode Island are looking at ways to cut prison costs. The common denominator is that prisoners would be released early, and

at least one report indicated that those released would include "drug addicts, thieves and even violent criminals."

Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, suggested that lawmakers who arrived at the prison release option are "raving lunatics."

"This idea is beyond crazy," Gottlieb observed. "It borders on criminal malfeasance. With all the billions of dollars that Americans pay in taxes, it is both alarming and pathetic that legislatures find themselves without the funds to provide basic public safety, and that includes funding prisons to keep criminals where they belong, instead of turning them loose to prey on the public."

The Associated Press (AP) reported that New Jersey, South Carolina and Vermont are looking at putting drug offenders into treatment rather than prison. Mississippi might grant early parole to convicted prescription drug and marijuana dealers. Rhode Island would knock days off sentences for good behavior.

Gottlieb is not the only critic of the proposal. Rhode Island police Officer ToriLynn Heaton was quoted by AP as noting that "You're talking about Victim safety. You're talking about community member safety. You can't balance the budget on the backs of victims of crimes."

She speaks from experience. Her ex-husband is in prison for beating her. Gottlieb said that "now would be a good time to start exercising (the) constitutional right to keep and bear arms." "After all," he said, "the message that this sends to the public seems pretty simple: If you don't own a gun, get one. If you're not licensed to carry, you better apply now because cash-strapped state lawmakers obviously don't care about the crime wave they're about to unleash."

He said all citizens, both gunowners and non-owners alike, should consider this announcement a "wake-up call" that jars the public to start questioning lawmakers about how they spend tax revenues. Gottlieb suggested that lawmakers who cannot hold the budget line ought to be held responsible in November.

"In the meantime," he said, "realizing that local police are already outmanned and stretched to the limit, citizens will have to take a greater responsibility for their own safety, and that includes being armed. The same lawmakers who typically support laws to take our guns are now leaving the public with no alternative but to arm themselves." *The New GUN WEEK, May 1, 2008*

Boston's Voluntary Gun Program Hasn't Turned Up A Single Lead

Boston's much-ballyhooed "safe homes" initiative hasn't received a single call to search a home for guns in the nearly four weeks since the program was launched, The Boston Globe reported on Apr. 23.

Program advocates had hoped parents of at-risk youths who suspect their children of stashing guns would be among the callers to the hotline, 1-888GUNTIPS.

Under the program, aimed at taking the battle against gun violence into teens' bedrooms, anyone can request a voluntary search of homes where guns are thought to be hidden.

Homeowners or parents are required to sign a waiver allowing a search team of clergy and plainclothes Boston Police Department (BPD) officers assigned to the public schools to conduct the search. In exchange, cops promise not to arrest the

offenders for illegal possession, saying the goal is to take as many weapons off the street as possible.

Police Commissioner Edward F. Davis has said, however, that the program won't absolve youths of other charges if the seized weapon is found to have been involved in a crime.

Police have advertised the program with fliers throughout the city and direct mailings sent home to students in the Egleston Square area, where it was thought the program would begin.

Program advocates last month held a press conference with Davis to announce the launch of the hotline at the BromleyHeath public housing project and to counter simmering opposition to the program from city councilors and the community. In addition to the hotline, the program has been set up to take referrals from community members and school officials.

"We received two potential referrals but ultimately decided that they were not appropriate for the program," said BPD spokeswoman Elaine Driscoll. [The New GUN WEEK, May 15, 2008](#)

Oakland, CA, Also Eyes Voluntary Firearm Searches

Bostonians and Washingtonians are not the only city residents in the US being asked to voluntarily admit police to search their homes for guns.

Your home may be your castle, but by summer, if you live in Oakland, CA, you could receive a knock on the door from an Oakland Police officer looking for guns, according to CBS-5 News.

City Councilmember Desley Brooks has proposed something previously unheard of in California, a consent-to search program. Instead of police obtaining a warrant to seek a gun possibly involved in a crime, homeowners would call the cops and voluntarily let them in.

Under the pilot program, the gun is removed. No criminal actions are pursued unless the gun has been involved in a crime. However, as with similar programs on the Eastern Seaboard, you could face other problems, especially if you are a public housing tenant.

The pilot program is not a hard sell to some in Oakland. But others, including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) think Brooks' plan is a slippery slope that violates the spirit if not the letter of the Bill of Rights. [The New GUN WEEK, May 1, 2008](#)

Supreme Court Agrees To Hear Warrantless Search, Gun Cases

The Supreme Court stepped into two criminal cases on Mar. 24, one that will help define the limits of warrantless police searches and the other interpreting a law on guns and domestic violence, Associated Press reported.

In the gun-related case, the court will consider Randy Edward Hayes' argument that the government was wrong to charge him with violating a federal law barring people convicted in domestic violence cases from possessing firearms.

In 1994, Hayes pleaded guilty in Marion County, WV, to the minor crime of battery following an incident in which his wife was the victim.

In 2004, police responded to a domestic violence call from Hayes's home and found a Winchester rifle. They later discovered that he had possessed at least four other rifles following his 1994 guilty plea.

Hayes was indicted on federal charges of possessing firearms following conviction of misdemeanor domestic violence, a reference to the 1994 case.

Last year, the 4th US Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, VA, agreed with

Hayes's argument that the language of the West Virginia law on battery in the 1994 case needed to contain specific wording about a domestic relationship between the offender and the victim.

In the Justice Department brief asking the Supreme Court to hear the case, the solicitor general said nine other appeals courts have rejected the interpretation adopted by the appeals court in Richmond. The case is *US v. Hayes*.

In the second case, five police officers from Utah asked the court to consider whether officers may enter a home without a search warrant when an informant already is inside and sees evidence of a crime.

The case against Afton Callahan of Millard County, UT, will test whether the officers who conducted the warrantless search may be sued by the person they arrest.

The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver said the lawsuit could proceed because the officers should have known that people have a right in their home to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures. Under a 2001 ruling by the Supreme Court, courts first must determine whether an action amounts to a violation of a constitutional right and then decide whether the public official, often a police officer, should be immune from the civil lawsuit.

The case is *Pearson v. Callahan*. [The New GUN WEEK, May 15, 2008](#)

ATF's Prosecution Of Veteran Underscores Need For Reform

by Bob Lesmeister National Correspondent

The famous quote from the Clint Eastwood movie "The Outlaw Josey Wales," "Don't p*** down my back and tell me it's raining," reminds me of the little discussion Michael J. Sullivan, acting director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) had with members of the Firearms Import/Export Roundtable (FAIR trade group during the 2007 SHOT Show in Orlando, FL. Sullivan claimed that he had been a businessman before working in government and that he was in tune with firearms retailers and manufacturers. He didn't mention he was one of the keynote speakers at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Great Lakes States Summit on Gun Violence. Sullivan served on a panel that included such virulent anti-Second Amendment persons as Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, Joyce Foundation President Ellen Alberding, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and Professor David Hemenway.

Other organizations in attendance were the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, New England Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, John Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research, PAX/Real Solutions to Gun Violence and the infamous Violence Policy Center. However, at the SHOT Show, he emphasized that

ATF was there to aid the firearms industry as much as regulate it. Unfortunately, he glossed over the fact that he had been a state and federal prosecutor, not something you want to see in a person in charge of an organization with a history of terrorizing firearms retailers and gunowners. In fact, since his "soothing" speech, ATF agents under his guidance have been just as aggressive and malevolent as they have under the stewardship of past anti-Second Amendment directors. Perhaps he's trying to make up for lost time. According to The Boston Globe, despite his crime fighting reputation, he has brought fewer criminal cases almost every year since he was appointed as US attorney.

Lou Dobbs on CNN

The latest tragedy inflicted by ATF was brought to public attention by none other than CNN's liberal financial guru Lou Dobbs. He expressed his anger at ATF for prosecuting a man because his firearm malfunctioned.

"The conviction of a Wisconsin gunowner on federal weapons charges is raising serious questions underlining the constitutional right to bear arms and bringing disproportionate—the disproportionate weight of the federal government down on one of our citizens?" asked Dobbs. He was referring to the arrest and trial of US Army veteran David Olofson, the father of three. He called ATF's actions "questionable" but in fact the action taken against Olofson was nothing less than an abuse of power. Olofson's offense was nothing more than a misfiring rifle.

Olofson had lent his 20-year-old Olympic Arms AR-15 rifle to someone to use on the local firing range. The rifle misfired. In what is called a hammer-follow the semi-auto rifle fired two multiple rounds with one pull of the trigger and then jammed. In a hammer-follow situation, the hammer follows the bolt as it returns to battery rather than being stopped by the sear, allowing a multiple fire. A person in charge at the range notified the local police that someone was firing a machinegun on the range. The police then notified ATF.

ATF Firearms Technical Branch (FTB) initially examined the rifle and they determined that it was not a machinegun. However, an ATF field agent didn't like the results. He insisted that the rifle be tested again with some ammo that had super sensitive primers. As expected, the rifle fired erratically with intermittent spurts of full auto fire. In the strictest sense of the law, the gun was now a "machinegun." In spite of Acting Director Sullivan's assurances that ATF is there to help, the bureau that has the responsibility of setting firearms standards doesn't even have any written firearm testing standards. They decide the testing criteria on a case-by-case basis. This allows ATF to selectively and subjectively prosecute on a case-by-case basis.

Olofson was charged with illegally transferring a machinegun because ATF figured they couldn't convince a jury that Olofson manufactured a machinegun or converted a semi-auto to a full auto. Unfortunately, the jury found Olofson guilty.

A CNN reporter asked the million dollar question: "What no one can or will explain is why the government brought the full power of the federal authorities down on Olofson, an honorably discharged Army veteran, a man who was serving in the Army Reserves at the time of his conviction, a man who still believes he will be cleared." Olofson's sentencing is set for May 15. He's facing somewhere between 18 months and six years in prison along with a fine of \$250,000.

Day in Court?

ATF's only comment was that Olofson had his day in court and a jury found him guilty. Sounds nice, but is it the truth? Not really. The whole case rested on whether or not Olofson's gun was a machinegun or not. But the only agency that could determine that was also the agency prosecuting Olofson, so the deck was stacked from the outset. ATF provided the prosecutor with a highly edited videotape that showed an ATF tech firing an AR-15 with a cyclic rate twice that of a full functioning M-16. Olofson's firearms expert asked to examine the gun ATF used. But ATF strong-armed the court to disallow any hands-on examination. ATF also had a similar case where a rifle malfunctioned in the same way as Olofson's. In that case, ATF did not label the firearm a machinegun but rather had a recall issued. The judge and jury in Olofson's case was blocked from having this information because the US Attorney and ATF claimed that such information was exempt from disclosure because it involved special tax information. This, of course, was nothing but an ATF lie, but one that sealed Olofson's fate.

It's also not hard to believe that ATF agents aren't above perjury, especially when instructed to do so. You may or may not remember the infamous Busey training video. During an October 1995 ATF Roll Call Training session agents were instructed to perjure themselves in court. Thomas A. Busey, then chief of the National Firearms Act (NFA) branch made a videotaped training presentation to ATF headquarters personnel. It's the NFA branch that handles Title II weapons such as machineguns. Every prosecution and forfeiture in an NFA firearm case requires testimony under oath by a custodian of the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record (NFRTR).

Busey admitted that officials under his supervision routinely perjure themselves when testifying in court about the accuracy of the NFRTR. Busey on tape provided the following instructions: "Let me say that when we testify in court, we testify that the data base is 100 percent accurate. That's what we testify to, and we will always testify to that. As you probably well know, that may not be 100 percent true."

In case his audience didn't get the message the first time, later in the session Busey reiterates, "Like I told you before, we testify in court and, of course, our certifications testify to that, too, when we're not physically there to testify that we are 100 percent accurate. But we have found instances in our records where names have been misspelled, they've been inverted, vowels i-e have been changed, and, of course, computer programs only pull up what you put in." The error rate of NFRTR at the time was 49 to 50%. What that means is that if ATF wanted to, it could have prosecuted and jailed 50% of the people who registered Title II weapons based solely on the fact that the NFRTR was missing paperwork.

It isn't past ATF agents to actually destroy documents. In 1996, John D. LeaSure, a Title II manufacturer was raided by ATF and the attempt to prosecute him didn't go so well thanks to NFA Branch firearms specialist and custodian of the NFRTR Gary Schaible.

Schaible was forced to admit on cross-examination that two NFA Branch examiners had been transferred because they had been caught shredding NFA registration documents in order to avoid having to work on them. There was no disciplinary action taken against the agents; they kept their jobs, and they never

went to criminal court for destroying government documents (and tax documents to boot). This is just one of many cases where ATF will excuse their agents and supervisors of the most egregious acts while destroying the lives of innocent gunowners.

By past and present actions it's clear ATF directors, supervisors and field agents aren't really concerned with civilian safety. Several years ago, a horde of ATF agents raided a St. Louis, MO, area home and held a husband and wife at gunpoint while ransacking their house in search of firearms. The Mueller family didn't own any firearms; never had. The bungling agents had raided the wrong house. Typical of ATF, agents left the house in shambles with family members scared out of their wits with no apologies or restitution. No excuse for abuse.

What the average person doesn't realize is that ATF will go after the little guy in a second, but is scared down to the bone of politicians and major news media. It's been months since New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg got caught sending his goons across state lines to commit illegal straw man sales. ATF won't lay a hand on him or his toadies.

'48 Hours' Conversion

Several years ago reporters for CBS's "48 Hours" program had some guy in his dirty workshop convert a semi-auto AK47 to fire full auto. Incredibly CBS Broadcast Counsel John W Zucker admitted their alleged felonious act. "After the process was completed, the weapon was immediately converted back to a semi-automatic rifle," he claimed.

Under NFA regulations, once a firearm is converted to an NFA weapon, it's always an NFA weapon.

Richard Cook, chief, Firearms Division, responded to requests that CBS be prosecuted for an obvious violation of federal firearms law by stating, "Such a conversion without prior authorization and payment of the appropriate tax would be in violation of Federal law. We have reviewed tapes of the episode in question, and the Special Agent in Charge of our New York District has written CBS, expressing our concern with their actions. Special Agent in Charge Thompson has discussed the incident with the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, and a decision was reached not to seek criminal prosecution. While we agree that the actions of the "48 Hours" reporting staff were inappropriate, we do not feel that further action is warranted."

In other words, reporters are exempt from NFA regulations. ATF did nothing more than "expressing our concern" for a willful illegal conversion while Olofson faces years in the federal pen for a rifle malfunction. ATF directors and supervisors will do what Bloomberg and CBS tell them.

However, all may not be lost for innocent gunowners who possess guns that malfunction. There are efforts underway in Congress to correct the testing irregularities pointed out by Olofson's defense. The bill is known as the **Fairness in Firearms Testing Act or HR-1791**. It would require all firearm testing and examinations to be videotaped by the ATF. [The New GUN WEEK, May 1, 2008](#)

'Oops' doesn't cover It

From the "Only Cops Should Have Guns" file comes a story out of Houston, TX, where an off duty police officer reportedly plugged himself in the backside while at home in his own bathroom.

Identified only as "M. Reyes," the 23-year-old cop was, according to *The Houston Chronicle*, in the john on the night of April 4 when the mishap occurred. The newspaper said Reyes was trying to unholster his pistol when it discharged.

He was treated at the Memorial Hermann Hospital. [The New GUN WEEK, May 15, 2008](#)

Cop nabs would-be thief

Here's a tale of unusual police readiness. An off-duty New Zealand policeman did not let being naked stop him from nabbing a man from trying to steal his wife's car, according to *The New Zealand Herald*.

The Balclutha policeman was woken by his wife early in the morning when she heard noises outside their home. The cop leapt from bed "completely starkers.

He grabbed a flashlight and raced outside to grab the offender, who had managed only to roll the car a short distance out of the carport. The offender bolted with the officer in hot pursuit.

The officer's wife, more suitably attired, came out to help and when the offender ran into her, she grabbed him by the collar. The cop caught up moments later and ordered the man to the ground.

The offender, startled by the sight of a naked constable with just a flashlight, took off into the darkness, dropping two bags he carried. He was picked up soon afterwards by a police patrol in full uniform. [The New GUN WEEK, May 15, 2008](#)

Assault with a hedgehog

There are other zany happenings in Kiwi-land.

Hurling a hedgehog at a teenager landed a New Zealand man a date in court, according to Agence France Presse (AFP). William Singalargh picked up the animal and threw it about five meters (15 feet) at a 15-year-old in the eastern North Island town of Whakatane in February, AFP reported.

"It hit the victim in the leg, causing a large, red welt and several puncture marks," said Senior Sergeant Bruce Jenkins, of the Whakatane police.

Singalargh was arrested shortly afterwards for assault with a weapon, namely-the hedgehog."

Police did not say why the alleged assault took place. [The New GUN WEEK, May 15, 2008](#)

Iraqis weigh toy gun ban

If the Iraqi government can't reduce the deadly toll with IEDs, it apparently feels it can control the world of make believe. Iraqi lawmakers, alarmed at the exceptional levels of violence children are exposed to daily, are about to pass a bill to ban the importation of toy guns, a Member of Parliament said on Apr. 23, according to Agence France Presse (AFP).

"Our children see too much violence on TV, they have it on their video games, they hear their parents talk about violence every day. It is rampant in the streets," parliamentary committee on women and children chairwoman Samira al-Mussawi told AFR. . . . [The New GUN WEEK, May 15, 2008](#)

Transit cop goes wrong way

We've heard that police officers are often underpaid, but there are right ways and wrong ways to increase one's income, and it looks like rookie New York transit cop Christian Torres picked a bad one.

According to Associated Press, Torres took a day off and traveled 120 miles south to rob a bank in Pennsylvania's Muhlenberg Township, making off with \$113,000. He used his personal sidearm, not his department-issued gun for the stickup, so presumably billionaire anti-gun New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg will find out where he bought that pistol and sue the dealer, eh?

Too bad for Christian that he wasn't a little faster on his feet or the gas pedal, because he didn't get very far before some genuinely good cops pulled him over and slapped the bracelets on him. His gun was stuck in his waistband and-proving perhaps that he's not terribly bright-he was carrying his New York Police Department badge and identification card.

The 21-year-old Torres now faces charges including robbery, assault and a weapons violation. [The New GUN WEEK](#), May 15, 2008

Ex-San Diego cop sentenced for illegal guns

A federal judge in Oakland, CA, has sentenced a former San Diego police officer and a second man to prison for trying to buy untraceable guns so they could use them in robberies, according to *The Fresno Bee*.

Former officer Thomas Williams and Rafael Miranda were both sentenced on Mar. 11 to five years in prison after they both pleaded guilty to conspiracy to possess firearms equipped with silencers.

In pleading guilty, the 61-year-old Williams and the 29-year-old Miranda both admitted they had bought the guns and obliterated serial numbers to commit robberies.

Both men were arrested in Crockett last summer by FBI agents after making a deal to buy the guns from a man who turned out to be an informant.

Court documents show that Williams' career as a San Diego police officer came to an end in 1974 after he was convicted of felony grand theft for stealing from the police athletic fund. [The New GUN WEEK](#), May 1, 2008

Man sentenced in alleged Ft. Dix terror plot case

Agron Abdullahu said he was sorry he ever let the Duka brothers use his guns, according to *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. At the time, he thought of them as good guys who only liked to talk big about striking back at the United States for its foreign policy.

Abdullahu, a 25-year-old grocery store baker, was arrested last May along with the three Duka brothers and two other foreign-born Muslims who have been accused of planning an armed attack on Fort Dix in New Jersey.

He was never considered to be part of the plot against the base, but he admitted to bringing guns, which he legally owned, on two trips to a Poconos firing range. During those trips, he allowed the Dukas, who are illegal aliens, to fire them-a violation of federal law.

Although prosecutors had asked that Abdullahu serve the five-year maximum sentence, a judge in Camden on Mar. 31 gave him a 20-month term.

Because he has been locked up since his arrest nearly 11 months ago, Abdullahu could be free by the end of the year. Though he is a

legal immigrant, he then could face deportation. [The New GUN WEEK](#), May 1, 2008

UK armed bobbies mess up

From the "Only Cops Should Have Guns" file comes this report from *The London Daily Mail* in handgun-banning England that "The number of armed police officers accidentally shooting themselves-and other colleagues-has soared in the past five years."

According to the newspaper, British police officers have reported seven incidents in which somebody capped off a round hitting themselves or some other constable "often during bungled training and demonstrations." Well, where have you heard *that* before?

The newspaper said that the statistics have called training into question. There are currently some 6,700 officers who are authorized to carry firearms in all of the 43 police forces in England and Wales. So far, it doesn't appear any of them have popped themselves on video while claiming to be "the only person trained and qualified in this room to carry a gun" or other such nonsense.

But this story gets worse. The newspaper said that between January 2006 and Sept. 13, 2007, "five members of the public were shot dead and two injured by armed police." During that period, five officers or police staff "also suffered bullet wounds." On top of that, *The Daily Mail* revealed, "from January 2003 to September 2007 there were 21 members of the public killed or injured in operational incidents-while a further seven police and staff were wounded in shooting accidents..."

Well, you've got to give it to those British cops, they're certainly not picky about whom they shoot.

Among the victims: a civilian control room operator shot in the abdomen during a "firearms awareness course;" a 48-year-old man was shot at a range at the Gatwick police station, but he was saved from "serious injury" by his body armor, and a police firearms trainee shot a Met instructor in the thigh while he was setting up a target. [The New GUN WEEK](#), May 1, 2008

Canadians 'gopher' it

A war on gophers waged by two Canadian men went amiss, according to a Reuters News Service report, when a device used to blast the rodents in their holes sparked a massive grass fire in a rural area near Calgary, Alberta, causing around \$200,000 in damages.

Despite a ban on fires in the tinder-dry area of Springbank, just northeast of Calgary's city limits, two men went into a field to kill gophers using a device called a Rodenator, fire officials said in late March. The device pumps a mixture of propane and oxygen into gopher holes, which is then ignited, and, according to the manufacturer's website, the resulting blast creates a shock wave that kills the gopher and collapses its tunnel system.

"They did a few holes successfully and then hit a hole that didn't go in very far. When they filled it with propane it overfilled the hole ... and when they ignited it (fire) flashed out of the hole into the grass beside them," Captain Joe Garssi of the municipal district, of Rocky View's fire department said.

The resulting grass fire scorched about 160 acres of surrounding property and destroyed a number of outbuildings. No homes

were damaged. Charges are being considered against one of the two men involved. [The New GUN WEEK](#), May 1, 2008

Woman bites attacking dog

Amy Rice feared for her dog's life when a pit bull jumped over a fence into her yard and attacked her pooch. So she took matters into her own mouth, according to Associated Press. Rice says she bit the pit bull on the nose after trying to pull the dog's jaws off her Labrador retriever, Ella. The dog had jumped a fence to get into Rice's northeast Minneapolis yard, and Rice says she feared the pit bull would kill Ella.

Rice says she drew blood when she bit the dog, and her doctor will have to determine whether she should get shots for rabies. The pit bull was quarantined.

Ella is recovering with staples and stitches to her head and a crushed ear canal. [The New GUN WEEK](#), May 1, 2008

Man in wheelchair robs bank

Palo Alto, CA, police are looking for a bank robber who favors a decidedly slow-speed getaway vehicle—an electric wheelchair, according to [The San Jose Mercury News](#).

Police said a man in his 60s with gray hair and a beard held up the Wachovia Bank branch at the Stanford Shopping Center late on the afternoon Apr. 4 with a black handgun.

After the stickup, he left in his wheelchair and was last seen motoring down a nearby street toward El Camino Real, a major thoroughfare.

Witnesses say the man's legs were wrapped in bandages and his right leg was sticking straight out while he zoomed away. Police are looking for a white Ford van that the suspect may have been hoisted into after the robbery.

Investigators don't know whether the wheelchair was just a prop or whether the suspect was truly disabled. [The New GUN WEEK](#), May 1, 2008

NEWS RELEASES

CCRKBA URGES GUN OWNERS TO COMMENT ON PROPOSED NAT'L PARK RULES CHANGE

05/02/2008 BELLEVUE, WA – American gun owners, especially those licensed to carry concealed handguns, are urged to comment on a proposed Interior Department rules change that would allow concealed carry in national parks and national wildlife refuges.

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms supports this rule change.

“Citizens do not leave their right of self-defense at the gates of a national park or the boundary of a wildlife refuge,” said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb, co-author of *America Fights Back: Armed Self-Defense in a Violent Age*. “Millions of Americans legally carry concealed for personal protection, and contrary to the rhetoric of anti-gunners, parks and refuges are not immune to crime.

“According to National Park Service data,” he continued, “between 2002 and 2007, there were 63 homicides in national

parks, 240 rapes or attempted rapes, 309 robberies, 37 kidnappings and 1,277 aggravated assaults. Opponents of this rule change dismiss those numbers as insignificant, but those crimes are very significant to the victims!”

To comment on-line, simply visit www.regulations.gov and follow the instructions for making public comment.

You can mail comments to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: 1024-AD70; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 222; Arlington, VA 22203.

“Opponents of this sensible rule change are already spreading hysteria with claims that it will lead to poaching and reckless target shooting, and make parks dangerous,” Gottlieb said, “and that is simply a lie. It is the same extremist nonsense that anti-gunners preach when they oppose state right-to-carry laws, and none of their wild predictions have ever come true. Studies indicate that concealed carry actually reduces violent crime.

“Changing the rules to recognize the progressive changes in state laws over the past 25 years is both reasonable and responsible,” he concluded. “Legally armed citizens have just as much right to enjoy national parks as anyone.”

-END-

PFSC Notes: Activity on the national park regulation has increased. The Interior Department's version of proposed regulation to permit lawful concealed carry within national parks and wildlife refuges is posted at http://federalregister.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2008-09606_PI.pdf

While we are happy to finally see action on lifting the ban, the DOI regulation differs significantly from the much simpler Virginia Citizens Defense League proposed regulation. Specifically, **the DOI proposal includes wording that links the proposed regulation to how concealed carry is regulated at the state park level instead of just the state level**, thus still preventing citizens of some states from exercising their Second Amendment rights within national parks in their state.

Senator Mike Crapo and Senator Specter are both examining the regulation and Sen. Crapo's aide commented that the NRA shared some of our concerns and will be posting their own comment at the Federal Register regarding the regulation.

Now's the time to submit comments to the Federal Register!

Attached is a slightly lengthy, but effective, example that Dave Yates of the Virginia Citizens Defense League has composed and that addresses our concerns with the proposed regulation.

Responders can simply copy and paste the text from the enclosed document into the response box at the site or attach the document instead after entering the requested personal information: name, address, email, etc.

To post the response, go to <http://www.regulations.gov/search/index.jsp> and in the

"Comment or Submission" box enter the search term 1024-AD70 and click on Go. Next, click on "Send a Comment or Submission" then enter your personal information and paste your comment in the box below or or attach the document.

If, at a later date, responders wish to change amend their comment, they may do so by entering new information at the same website.

Please forward this to as many individuals and organizations as possible. We need to reaffirm to the Department of the Interior that the original Virginia Citizens Defense League proposed amendment is much more logical and avoids the potential for further regulatory restriction.

Thanks to PFSC member Rick Povich for being our lead person on this issue, and for providing this update and information.

More on the issue:

Interior chief wants to ease gun ban in national parks--- *Houston Chronicle*

Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne proposed new regulations Wednesday that would allow people to carry a concealed weapon in some national parks and wildlife refuges.

[Read More](#)

-END-

Hindsight Column:

The Rights And The Wrongs Of The Gun-On-Campus Issue

by Joseph P. Tartaro, Executive Editor

A tag game using toy guns and plastic balls as ammunition on the campus of Alfred University, about 80 miles southeast of Buffalo, NY, sent police into emergency mode the afternoon of Apr. 8 and triggered a two-hour, campus-wide lockdown.

Local, county and state law enforcement agencies rushed to the campus to aid university officers after the report of a gunman on campus came at 3:33 p.m. By 4:04, police were searching campus buildings. Students, faculty and staff were advised "to remain inside" until further notice.

"We had a staff member—a credible source—making a report of a student carrying a weapon," said Susan C. Goetschius, the university's director of communications, according to The Buffalo News. "We've got to treat it seriously, and we did." Officers at the university immediately contacted Alfred police and the Allegany County Sheriff's Office, and state police responded shortly thereafter.

"We went into lockdown mode while police systematically searched the buildings," Goetschius said. The lockdown lasted until police secured the campus at 5:43.

The Right Way

"They eventually found the student matching the description with the green hooded sweat shirt in a chemistry lab," Goetschius told The News.

Police, according to Goetschius, at that time confirmed that the purported gun was actually a nerf gun being used in a moderated, multi-student game of Humans vs. Zombies, a popular college campus game of tag.

The Zombies win if they tag and convert all the Humans. The Humans win if they survive. Under the rules of the game, no realistic looking weaponry is allowed, and toy guns may not be visible inside of academic buildings or jobs on campus. Darts must not hurt on impact and players may not use cars. Anyone who violates the rules is banned from the game.

Classes at the 2,300-student Alfred, which had been canceled at 5:09 p.m., were reinstated at 6 and proceeded as scheduled the rest of the day and evening.

University officials said the reaction was justified given the information they had. Given the murder of more than 30 students and teachers at Virginia Tech in 2007 and the more recent Northern Illinois University shooting casualties, school officials cannot ignore a "man with a gun" alarm these days. Many years ago, things were simpler and there seemed to be less lunacy loose in the world.

"It would have been irresponsible for us not to take this seriously, given the situations that have occurred on other campuses," Goetschius said.

If anything, Goetschius said, the incident provided university and law enforcement officials an opportunity to test their response to a reported real-life threat. The school, used text messaging and other communications systems to immediately spread the alarm. However, properly handled as it appeared to be at Alfred, the alert and search lasted only 2? hours until classed were resumed at about 6 p.m.

No charges are expected to be filed against the student. However, the university will conduct an internal investigation and decide whether disciplinary action is warranted.

The Wrong Way

But not all university administrators and security personnel handle the threat of potential school mayhem with the same professionalism or sensitivity as at Alfred. Some of them can't even use common sense in their training, as an incident at Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) in Elizabeth City, NC, illustrates.

ECSU is a school of almost the same size as Alfred, but administrators there got no passing grade in a Mar. 6 editorial board commentary in the Indiana Daily Student (IDS), a student newspaper serving the entire Indiana University system that has tens of thousands of students.

The IDS editorial was headlined "You're all gonna die...psych!" Here's the entire editorial:

"Imagine this scenario: You're sitting in a foreign policy discussion section trying to keep your eyes open. Suddenly something happens that wakes you up really fast. A gunman bursts through the door and begins lining you, your classmates and your instructor against the wall.

"Are these the actions of some deranged, bloodthirsty killer? Well, in this case, it's the work of your friendly university administration. They're trying to help you feel safer.

Just eight days after five people were shot to death at Northern Illinois University, the administration of Elizabeth City State University thought it would be a good idea to test university preparedness for an attack by sending a campus police officer with a fake gun to storm into a classroom posing as a random shooter. Neither the students nor the assistant professor instructing the class had any idea that the scenario was only a test. At one point, the 'gunman' threatened to kill the student with the lowest GPA. Students said that they were ready to start jumping out of the windows. People in a nearby classroom reportedly barricaded the door with tables and chairs, and sent text messages to their parents. After ten minutes of horror, campus police arrived to take the man away. Jingbin Wang, the assistant professor of the class, reported that even then they were not told that the event was only a drill. Regardless of whatever benign intentions the administration may have had, this whole episode was just cruel," the IDS editorial offered, before proceeding to tell of just how dangerous such a stunt was.

"Of course there was also the very real possibility that the undercover officer himself could have been attacked. Who could have blamed the students afterwards for harming or even killing the man? And if attacked, the officer would have had to defend himself as well. What if one of the students had been hurt in what was supposed to be a mock attack? This was just a bad idea all around, and the ones responsible for it should lose their jobs. Who would want to attend a university whose leadership was capable of making such bone-headed decisions?

"It's understandable that universities are scrambling to make sure they're not the next Virginia Tech or NIU. Theories abound on the best way to foster a safe learning environment, and ultimately it's the University's administration that has to make the decisions on how to best accomplish that. Anthony Brown, Elizabeth City State's vice chancellor for student affairs, explained, 'The intent was not to frighten them but to test our system and also to test the response of the security that was on campus and the people that were notified.' Well, Mr. Brown, you did frighten them. There has to be a better way to evaluate the readiness of your procedure than to convince your students and staff that they are about to die.

"So we respectfully say to President McRobbie and the rest of the IU administration:

"We know you love us. We know you want us to be safe and well-prepared for emergencies on campus. But you don't have to stage armed intrusions into our classrooms to prove your dedication to campus safety," the editorial concluded.

The Utah Way

If the ill-advised drill from North Carolina had been tried in Utah, the only state where students and faculty with concealed carry licenses are allowed to carry on campus, it might have been the test gunman who would have been the casualty. But Utah administrators know better, as should campus officials in other states. Perhaps, if other states allowed students, faculty and administrators that are licensed to carry the means for defense on campus, the whole issue of campus security would be viewed from a more realistic perspective.

The concept of disarming everyone on campus, including security, started in the 1960s. That was 50 years ago and the

world has changed. So too has our society. But the sky is not falling.

Utah's approach deserves a close examination by lawmakers in other states, by the media and the general public.

News Briefs:

08/04/30 Interior chief wants to ease gun ban in national parks

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The proposal would overturn a 25-year-old regulation that has restricted loaded guns in national parks and wildlife refuges. The regulations require that guns be unloaded and placed somewhere that is not easily accessible, such as in a car trunk.

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/nation/5744099.html>

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"Ultimately, we would like to see the school's policy changed," said John C. Morrison, senior management major and member of SCCC. "We're looking for notoriety."

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<http://theapp.appstate.edu/content/view/3658/1/>

08/04/29 Council backs mayor's bid to ban handguns

Councillors vote 39-3 to ask federal government for action, suggest minimum five-year sentence.

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Mayor David Miller did, however, come up three votes short of the unanimous result he had hoped for in an attempt to put maximum pressure on the Stephen Harper government to act on handguns.

Councillor Michael Thompson, who's been active on law and order issues, was one of three councillors to oppose the request for a ban, saying it won't work. "I think we're providing a false sense of security," Thompson (Ward 37, Scarborough Centre) said. "It hasn't worked anywhere. It's a real empty gesture. That's why I cannot stand here and say to you, 'I think it's great - me too, me too.'"

<http://www.thestar.com/News/GTA/article/419373>

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"The regular citizen in Chicago cannot go anywhere and buy firearms," says Williams, eyebrows raised. "And yet, in one year, in the 1990s, we had more than 19,000 weapons recovered. In one year. We've been averaging 10,000 weapons recovered every year for the last 10 or 12 or 14 years. And that's with a ban."

Toronto Mayor David Miller – who is aggressively pushing the federal government to institute a broad-ranging national handgun ban as gun violence in the city spikes upwards – please take note: The city of Chicago has a broad-ranging firearms ban in place. It has for a long time. It started with handguns in 1981, and then assault weapons in 1992. (It's worth noting that, as Williams explained the litany of recent weapons offences in his jurisdiction, one of them involved three officers being fired on by an AK-47 semi-automatic assault rifle.)

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C. Scott Shields, the Media lawyer who filed the suit for the Fairfax, Va.-based NRA, said the delay was to give lawyers for the city more time to decide if they will challenge "standing" - the legal right of the NRA to file the suit.

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At an April 17 hearing at which Greenspan granted an order temporarily blocking enforcement of the gun-control laws, the judge said she had misgivings about the organizations' standing to sue. Generally, organizations cannot file a constitutional challenge without showing how their members are directly harmed by the law in question

City officials say they hope a legal challenge will convince the state Supreme Court to reexamine its 1996 decision in *Ortiz v. Commonwealth*. That case invalidated a city ordinance regulating assault weapons, with the state's high court ruling that the state legislature in 1994 passed a law that specifically barred municipalities from regulating guns.

Because of the *Ortiz* ruling, District Attorney Lynne Abraham said she cannot legally enforce the new gun laws

<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/local/18242304.html>

08/04/26 Law Should Be Changed to Free Guns - The Nation (Nairobi)

For decades, Kerio Valley and the adjoining areas have been rocked by intermittent ethnic violence but they have never produced an internal refugee. Yet Eldoret, Kericho, Kuresoi, Molo, Nakuru and the surrounding areas produced hundreds of thousands of displaced people after less than six weeks of post-election violence.

What is the difference between these two sets of volatile regions in the Rift Valley? The answer is simple; in Kerio, the communities exercise their constitutional right to self-defence.

In the past, critics of liberalising access to firearms have argued that they would put ordinary people's lives in peril because even squabbles in the streets or the bedroom would be resolved by bullets.

Incidentally, such incidents are few and far between in the Kerio Valley despite the easy accessibility of AK-47s as well as the relatively low levels of education and social sophistication.

Even in the disciplined forces, the cases are so few as to be insignificant. Incidentally, in Kerio Valley, the AK-47 plays a vital role in maintaining social, economic and political equilibriums.

Therefore, easing civilians' access to firearms would not only eradicate internally displaced people, but also boost crop production and avert the looming food shortage that has been aggravated by groups that cherish land more for its ornamental and sentimental value than its production importance.

If Kenya is to achieve long-lasting stability, it ought to borrow a leaf from the US, whose constitution gives the people the right to bear arms and form militias for their own defence should the armed forces fail them, as happened in Kenya after the December elections.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200804251276.html>

08/04/26 Bitter, Clingy Gun Owners of America

Obama, the great healer of America, the hope of our nation, came out last week and whizzed on millions of Christians and firearm fans calling us bitter Cling-Ons to religion and guns. I, personally, wasn't insulted because I really like God and my rifles, and I make a good living off my rage.

Yes, when I heard BHO blast us in front of his sassy San Fran crowd and attempt to put a dig into us plebeians, I thought, finally, this man has spoken the truth, unlike all the rest of the stercore tuari he's been spewing about his dear pastor, his home boy, Bill Ayers, and his audacity of hype.

Matter of fact, I think he's rather spot on describing me because I'm one PO'ed Christian who owns guns—nice guns and very many guns. And, yes, I'm rather clingy with them. I'm not alone either, as there are millions of other brothers, from other mothers, who really, really are endeared to our God-given right to self defense and firearm fun. Can I hear a big amen, my brothers?

Yes, Barack, you may rightly call millions of us men "clingy" because the truth is, when the workday is done, boys just wanna have guns: guns to hunt with, guns to look at, guns for personal defense and a few zany lead spewers should al-Qaeda, or the anti-Christ, or any foreign or domestic threat, or Godzilla ever attack America, we, the clingy ones, will be ready to rock in a hard place, guaranteed

Here are eight factoids I found that also cause backwards little old me to clutch my wood and metal friend called the gun:

1. In 1929, the Soviet Union established gun control. From 1929 to 1953, about 20 million dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.
2. In 1911, Turkey established gun control. From 1915 to 1917, 1.5 million Armenians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.
3. Germany established gun control in 1938, and from 1939 to 1945, a total of 13 million Jews and others who were unable to defend themselves were rounded up and exterminated.
4. China established gun control in 1935. From 1948 to 1952, 20 million political dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.
5. Guatemala established gun control in 1964. From 1964 to 1981, 100,000 Mayan Indians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.
6. Uganda established gun control in 1970. From 1971 to 1979, 300,000 Christians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.
7. Cambodia established gun control in 1956. From 1975 to 1977, one million people, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.
8. Defenseless people rounded up and exterminated in the 20th Century because of gun control: 56 million.

As the old adage goes: "With guns, we are citizens. Without them, we are subjects." Therefore, I'll cling to my gun because I really enjoy being a free bird and truly hate kissing someone else's backside, but that's just me.

http://www.townhall.com/Columnists/DougGiles/2008/04/26/bitter_clingy_gun_owners_of_america?page=1

08/04/25 Pursue reasonable gun laws Requiring licenses and better background checks could mute opposition.

By Walter M. Phillips Jr. is chairman of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

Recent efforts to pass gun-control legislation in Pennsylvania have fallen flat - to no one's surprise, probably. Laws that have passed either will have little effect on reducing gun violence (setting up a registry for lost or stolen handguns) or will likely be declared unconstitutional by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court (the bills passed by Philadelphia City Council).

<http://www.philly.com/inquirer/opinion/pa/18167409.html>

08/04/24 City misfires on gun violence

When a rash of gun murders takes place, it makes sense for the police to do one of two things: renew tactics that have been effective in the past at curbing homicides, or embrace ideas that have not been tried before. But those options don't appeal to Chicago Police Supt. Jody Weis. What he proposes instead is a crackdown on assault weapons.

I'm tempted to say this is the moral equivalent of a placebo—a sugar pill that is irrelevant to the malady at hand. But that would be unfair. Placebos, after all, sometimes have a positive effect. Assault weapons bans, not so much.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/columnists/chicoped0424chapmanapr24,0,5799683.column>

08/04/24 Illinois County residents sign petition supporting the 2nd Amendment

BLOOMINGTON -- A group armed with 2,850 signatures from McLean County residents on a petition supporting the Second Amendment are asking the County Board to stand up for the constitutional right of gun ownership.

A legislative subcommittee voted 3-1 to endorse a modified form of the Pro Second Amendment (Pro2A) Resolution, sending it to the full committee. It could go to the full board on May 20.

The resolution was proposed as part of a county-by-county effort across Illinois.

"Seventy-seven counties have passed the resolution -- (about) 50 counties passed it without changing the wording," John Weaver, Bloomington, one of the organizers, told the committee.

After the meeting, Walter Biesida of Normal, who was a Chicago police officer from 1965 to 1997, said the proposed changes in the resolution were significant.

Before the meeting, Biesida said: "Criminal will be criminals. Every mass shooting you can name happened in a gun-free zone. You're hurting the good guy."

Gun-control laws mean means "I'm gonna take away your self-defense," he said.

<http://www.pantagraph.com/articles/2008/04/24/news/doc48115b96495b5820004167.txt>

08/04/24 (CNN) -- The owner of a company that sold firearm merchandise to both the Virginia Tech University and Northern Illinois University shooters announced Wednesday that he will sell his guns at cost for the next two weeks in hopes that "law-abiding" citizens will buy them to prevent similar tragedies.

"I want to help people save lives," Eric Thompson said Thursday. He was to speak Thursday evening at Virginia Tech University at an event sponsored by Students for Concealed Carry on Campus.

"I feel like I have a special responsibility to show people what guns are, what the laws are, and to allow people to protect themselves," Thompson said. "Initially, I wanted this to be an offer for college students," he said. "But there's no real way to determine whether someone is a college student ... so we opened it up to any legal American."

Thompson said he has a "really emotional and raw feeling" about having links to the attacks. "I feel absolutely terrible for the parents, students and schools."

However, he added, "I'm selling a piece of plastic and a piece of metal ... and I think the media focuses on something different. ... I think they should focus on the murderer and not the weapon."

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/04/24/va.tech.niu/index.html>

08/04/24 Massachusetts Police Get Black Uniforms to Instill Sense of 'Fear'

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Springfield's men in black are returning.

The city's new police commissioner, William Fitchet, says members of the department's Street Crime Unit will again don black, military-style uniforms as part of his strategy to deal with youth violence.

Fitchet's predecessor, Edward Flynn, had ditched the black attire as part of an effort to soften the image of the unit. Flynn left Springfield in January to become the police chief in Milwaukee.

Sgt. John Delaney told a city council hearing Wednesday that the stark uniforms send a message to criminals that officers are serious about making arrests.

Delaney said a sense of "fear" has been missing for the past few years.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0.2933.352471.00.html>

08/04/21 Shot Down: Australian gun law study shows no effect

In the spirit of the 2020 Summit, academics have released startling new evidence about the impact of Australian gun laws, and argue that future public policy must differentiate between what does and does not work.

In a new peer-reviewed study, Dr Samara McPhedran from the School of Psychology, and her colleague Dr Jeanine Baker, who also hold executive positions in the International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting, show that the accumulated studies on Australia's 1996 gun bans and half billion dollar 'buyback' do not point to an impact.

<http://www.usyd.edu.au/news/84.html?newsstoryid=2240>

08/04/18 Judge joins D.A. in rejecting gun laws

Two out of three parts of the Philadelphia criminal-justice system have now rejected the city's latest attempt to regulate guns.

Common Pleas Judge Jane Cutler Greenspan yesterday ordered the city to temporarily halt enforcement of five gun-control laws passed by City Council last week and signed by Mayor Nutter. The city must stop writing police rules for enforcing the laws and training officers about them.

District Attorney Lynne Abraham said Tuesday that the local laws conflict with state laws and she will not enforce them.

Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey last week vowed to have his officers enforce the laws.

http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news_update/17895099.html

08/04/18 In Pennsylvania, Democrats gun for tough crowd

Guns are unusually important in Pennsylvania, which leads the nation in National Rifle Association membership and is home to almost 1 million licensed hunters. As its Democratic presidential primary approaches Tuesday, Clinton and Obama increasingly have cast themselves as sworn defenders of the 2nd Amendment.

"They can say what they want," says David Hinkle, a patron of the gun show from Alburdis. "We don't believe it."

The target market may be larger than it appears. A 2006 Gallup Poll found that about one-third of Americans living in a household with a gun are Democrats, and that includes a lot of union members. Many believe that an anti-gun stance cost Al Gore his home state of Tennessee in 2000, and cost John Kerry West Virginia in 2004.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-guns-campaignapr18,0,7365417.story>

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Incidentally, such incidents are few and far between in the Kerio Valley despite the easy accessibility of AK-47s as well as the relatively low levels of education and social sophistication.

Even in the disciplined forces, the cases are so few as to be insignificant. Incidentally, in Kerio Valley, the AK-47 plays a vital role in maintaining social, economic and political equilibriums.

Therefore, easing civilians' access to firearms would not only eradicate internally displaced people, but also boost crop production and avert the looming food shortage that has been aggravated by groups that cherish land more for its ornamental and sentimental value than its production importance.

If Kenya is to achieve long-lasting stability, it ought to borrow a leaf from the US, whose constitution gives the people the right to bear arms and form militias for their own defence should the armed forces fail them, as happened in Kenya after the December elections.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200804251276.html>

08/04/26 Bitter, Clingy Gun Owners of America

Obama, the great healer of America, the hope of our nation, came out last week and whizzed on millions of Christians and firearm fans calling us bitter Cling-Ons to religion and guns. I, personally, wasn't insulted because I really like God and my rifles, and I make a good living off my rage.

Yes, when I heard BHO blast us in front of his sassy San Fran crowd and attempt to put a dig into us plebeians, I thought, finally, this man has spoken the truth, unlike all the rest of the stercore tuari he's been spewing about his dear pastor, his home boy, Bill Ayers, and his audacity of hype.

Matter of fact, I think he's rather spot on describing me because I'm one PO'ed Christian who owns guns—nice guns and very many guns. And, yes, I'm rather clingy with them. I'm not alone either, as there are millions of other brothers, from other mothers, who really, really are endeared to our God-given right to self defense and firearm fun. Can I hear a big amen, my brothers?

Yes, Barack, you may rightly call millions of us men "clingy" because the truth is, when the workday is done, boys just wanna have guns: guns to hunt with, guns to look at, guns for personal defense and a few zany lead spewers should al-Qaeda, or the anti-Christ, or any foreign or domestic threat, or Godzilla ever attack America, we, the clingy ones, will be ready to rock in a hard place, guaranteed

Here are eight factoids I found that also cause backwards little old me to clutch my wood and metal friend called the gun:

1. In 1929, the Soviet Union established gun control. From 1929 to 1953, about 20 million dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

2. In 1911, Turkey established gun control. From 1915 to 1917, 1.5 million Armenians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

3. Germany established gun control in 1938, and from 1939 to 1945, a total of 13 million Jews and others who were unable to defend themselves were rounded up and exterminated.

4. China established gun control in 1935. From 1948 to 1952, 20 million political dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated

5. Guatemala established gun control in 1964. From 1964 to 1981, 100,000 Mayan Indians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

6. Uganda established gun control in 1970. From 1971 to 1979, 300,000 Christians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

7. Cambodia established gun control in 1956. From 1975 to 1977, one million people, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

8. Defenseless people rounded up and exterminated in the 20th Century because of gun control: 56 million.

As the old adage goes: "With guns, we are citizens. Without them, we are subjects." Therefore, I'll cling to my gun because I really enjoy being a free bird and truly hate kissing someone else's backside, but that's just me.

http://www.townhall.com/Columnists/DougGiles/2008/04/26/bitter_clingy_gun_owners_of_america?page=1

08/04/25 Pursue reasonable gun laws Requiring licenses and better background checks could mute opposition.

By Walter M. Phillips Jr. is chairman of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

Recent efforts to pass gun-control legislation in Pennsylvania have fallen flat - to no one's surprise, probably. Laws that have passed either will have little effect on reducing gun violence (setting up a registry for lost or stolen handguns) or will likely be declared unconstitutional by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court (the bills passed by Philadelphia City Council).

<http://www.philly.com/inquirer/opinion/pa/18167409.html>

08/04/24 City misfires on gun violence

When a rash of gun murders takes place, it makes sense for the police to do one of two things: renew tactics that have been effective in the past at curbing homicides, or embrace ideas that have not been tried before. But those options don't appeal to Chicago Police Supt. Jody Weis. What he proposes instead is a crackdown on assault weapons.

I'm tempted to say this is the moral equivalent of a placebo—a sugar pill that is irrelevant to the malady at hand. But that would be unfair. Placebos, after all, sometimes have a positive effect. Assault weapons bans, not so much.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/columnists/chopped0424chapmanapr24.0.5799683.column>

08/04/24 Illinois County residents sign petition supporting the 2nd Amendment

BLOOMINGTON -- A group armed with 2,850 signatures from McLean County residents on a petition supporting the Second Amendment are asking the County Board to stand up for the

constitutional right of gun ownership.

A legislative subcommittee voted 3-1 to endorse a modified form of the Pro Second Amendment (Pro2A) Resolution, sending it to the full committee. It could go to the full board on May 20.

The resolution was proposed as part of a county-by-county effort across Illinois.

"Seventy-seven counties have passed the resolution -- (about) 50 counties passed it without changing the wording," John Weaver, Bloomington, one of the organizers, told the committee.

After the meeting, Walter Biesida of Normal, who was a Chicago police officer from 1965 to 1997, said the proposed changes in the resolution were significant.

Before the meeting, Biesida said: "Criminal will be criminals. Every mass shooting you can name happened in a gun-free zone. You're hurting the good guy."

Gun-control laws mean means "I'm gonna take away your self-defense," he said.

<http://www.pantagraph.com/articles/2008/04/24/news/doc48115b96495b5820004167.txt>

08/04/24 (CNN) -- The owner of a company that sold firearm merchandise to both the Virginia Tech University and Northern Illinois University shooters announced Wednesday that he will sell his guns at cost for the next two weeks in hopes that "law-abiding" citizens will buy them to prevent similar tragedies.

"I want to help people save lives," Eric Thompson said Thursday. He was to speak Thursday evening at Virginia Tech University at an event sponsored by Students for Concealed Carry on Campus.

"I feel like I have a special responsibility to show people what guns are, what the laws are, and to allow people to protect themselves," Thompson said. "Initially, I wanted this to be an offer for college students," he said. "But there's no real way to determine whether someone is a college student ... so we opened it up to any legal American."

Thompson said he has a "really emotional and raw feeling" about having links to the attacks. "I feel absolutely terrible for the parents, students and schools."

However, he added, "I'm selling a piece of plastic and a piece of metal ... and I think the media focuses on something different. ... I think they should focus on the murderer and not the weapon."

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/04/24/va.tech.niu/index.html>

08/04/24 Massachusetts Police Get Black Uniforms to Instill Sense of 'Fear'

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Springfield's men in black are returning.

The city's new police commissioner, William Fitchet, says members of the department's Street Crime Unit will again don black, military-style uniforms as part of his strategy to deal with youth violence.

Fitchet's predecessor, Edward Flynn, had ditched the black attire as part of an effort to soften the image of the unit. Flynn left Springfield in January to become the police chief in Milwaukee.

Sgt. John Delaney told a city council hearing Wednesday that the stark uniforms send a message to criminals that officers are serious about making arrests.

Delaney said a sense of "fear" has been missing for the past few years.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,352471,00.html>

08/04/24 Long-gun amnesty may be extended - Times & Transcript

Royal Canadian Mounted Police say if the government allows an amnesty on rifle and shotgun ownership to expire, police will have no choice but to fine or jail unregistered long-gun owners. The temporary reprieve ends May 16.

"We follow the rule of law," said Sgt. Derek Strong. "If there's an amnesty, we follow that. With the lack of an amnesty, it's business as usual."

A summary conviction for a first-time offender who fails to register and license a long gun ranges from a fine of up to \$2,000 to six months in prison.

All firearms in Canada must be licensed and registered under one of two classifications: A possession-only licence for gun owners who already own a weapon with no intention to acquire additional guns; or a possession and acquisition licence, which allows gun owners to purchase additional firearms.

<http://timetranscript.canadaeast.com/news/article/276897>

08/04/24 Chicago's Misfire on Gun Violence

When a rash of gun murders takes place, it makes sense for the police to do one of two things: renew tactics that have been effective in the past at curbing homicides, or embrace ideas that have not been tried before. But those options don't appeal to Chicago Police Supt. Jody Weis. What he proposes instead is a crackdown on assault weapons.

I'm tempted to say this is the moral equivalent of a placebo—a sugar pill that is irrelevant to the malady at hand. But that would be unfair. Placebos, after all, sometimes have a positive effect. Assault weapons bans, not so much.

If there are too many guns in Chicago, it's not because of any statutory oversight. The city has long outlawed the sale and possession of handguns. It also forbids assault weapons. If prohibition were the answer, no one would be asking the question.

The recent spate of killings gives a misleading impression. Since the peak years of the early 1990s, the number of murders in Chicago has fallen by more than half. In the first three months of this year, homicides were down by 1.1 percent. No one would describe the current murder rate as acceptable, but the city has made huge progress.

It has done so despite the alleged problem cited by Weis, which is the availability of guns, and particularly one type of gun. "There are just too many weapons here," he declared at a Sunday news conference. "Why in the world do we allow citizens to own assault rifles?"

Actually, in Chicago, "we" don't allow citizens to own assault rifles. Elsewhere, they are allowed for the same reason other firearms are permitted. The gun Weis villainized is a type of semiautomatic that has a fearsome military appearance but is

functionally identical to many legal sporting arms.

And its bark is worse than its bite. As of March 31, there had been 87 homicides in the city. When I asked the Chicago Police Department how many of the murders are known to have involved assault rifles, the answer came back: One.

As it happens, we already have ample experience with laws against these guns. From 1994 to 2004, their manufacture and sale were banned under federal law.

Yet nationwide, the number of murders committed with rifles and shotguns began falling three years before the law was enacted.

It's true those gun homicides also fell while the law was in effect. Does that prove the value of the ban? Not exactly, since stabbing deaths fell even faster, as did murders involving crowbars, baseball bats and other blunt objects. Obviously other factors were behind the improvement.

The irrelevance of the law was plain to see. In 2004, Tom Diaz, an official of the pro-gun-control Violence Policy Center, said, "If the existing assault weapons ban expires, I personally do not believe it will make one whit of difference" in curbing gun violence.

No surprise there. Anyone with criminal intent had plenty of deadly options at hand. The so-called assault weapons, contrary to what you might assume, were no more powerful or lethal than other, permitted guns. Not only that, but criminals, the people most likely to commit violent crimes, were completely unaffected by the ban—for the simple reason that they are not allowed to buy or own guns of any kind.

As Florida State University criminologist Gary Kleck notes, most criminals arm themselves by stealing guns or buying guns stolen by someone else. So new restrictions don't make much difference to them. The federal ban was a classic illustration of how gun control works. Law-abiding people who rarely misuse their guns were deprived of options. Ex-cons went on as before.

Why wouldn't a gun ban dry up the supply of firearms available to criminals? Three reasons: There are more than 200 million guns in private hands in the United States. They have a very long useful life. And it doesn't take many to supply the nation's bad guys with all the ordnance they need.

Gun control hasn't worked as a remedy for crime. So what makes anyone think the answer is more gun control?

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/columnists/chicoped0424chapmanapr24.0,5799683.column>

08/04/23 Gun initiative hasn't turned up a single lead

Boston's much-ballyhooed safe homes initiative hasn't received a single call to search a home for guns in the nearly four weeks since the program was launched.

<http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/general/view.bg?articleid=1088995>

08/04/23 No Bullets, No Shooting!

All gun owners are familiar with the 17th century maxim, "Keep your powder dry. But if we expect to be gun owners in the 21st century, we have to update that to read, Keep your powder and all the rest of your ammunition at all. That's because politicians who

want to ban guns, but who don't have the votes in Congress and state legislatures, are trying to achieve the same effect by banning the manufacture, importation, sale and possession of as much ammunition as possible, and severely restricting the rest. In the last year, so-called "encoded" or "serialized" ammunition bills have been introduced in 13 states—Arizona, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Washington. Their goal: Destroy our Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

All of these bills would prohibit the manufacture and sale of ammunition, unless the bullets and cartridge cases are marked with a code and registered to the owners in a computerized database. Most would also require gun owners to forfeit any non-coded ammunition they possess. For example, Arizona's bill says, "Beginning January 1, 2011, a private citizen or a retail vendor shall dispose of all noncoded ammunition that is owned or held by the citizen or vendor." Tennessee's says, "All non-coded ammunition . . . shall be disposed." And in Pennsylvania, "An owner of ammunition . . . not encoded by the manufacturer . . . shall dispose of the ammunition."

These bills include no compensation for the loss of millions of rounds of privately owned ammunition. But that's not the point. Nor is the fact that ammunition encoding hasn't been tested, let alone proven. Nor is the fact that criminals would easily figure out the numerous, obvious ways to beat ammunition registration.

The point of these bills is to prevent gun owners from having ammunition for defense, practice, sport and hunting. The fact that these bills are not gun bans is a mere technicality because, in practical terms, ammo bans are gun bans.

<http://www.nraila.org/Issues/Articles/Read.aspx?ID=289>

08/04/23 Students lobbying for guns on campus

Students across the country shouldn't be surprised if they see empty gun holsters infiltrating their classes this week. As part of the second "empty holster protest" organized by Students for Concealed Carry on Campus, members are sporting the accessory to symbolize the restrictions institutions place on their right to carry a concealed weapon on campus for self-defense and safety purposes.

Guns to promote safety on campus? While it may seem counterintuitive, growing numbers of students across the country are expressing support for legislation and campus policies that would allow them to carry concealed weapons around their colleges and universities.

SCCC, the largest and most prominent of these groups, is pushing for universities to allow students who have met the proper licensing and registration requirements to carry concealed weapons for personal protection and in order to fight off attackers in campus shootings.

<http://media.www.browndailyherald.com/media/storage/paper472/news/2008/04/23/CampusWatch/Students.Lobbying.For.Guns.On.Campus-3343499.shtml>

08/04/22 Automatic weapons now legal in Kansas

Randy Alfrey likes guns. "Guns have been an American tradition since this country was found," he said. They've been a tradition in his family too. For as long as he can remember, he's owned guns. "I've owned shot guns

and rifles since I was 12 and hunted with my dad and uncles," he said. That's why he supports a new law signed by Governor Kathleen Sebelius allowing Kansans to legally own automatic weapons, sawed-off shotguns, and silencers beginning on July 1st. Kaw Valley Gun Club Owner Kevin Ketter is thrilled just thinking about the money he'll make renting out those new weapons. Even though the law allows you to own automatic weapons, there's a lot of paperwork involved -- for dealers and buyers. So much that Kevin doesn't even know if he's going to sell them at the Kaw Valley Gun Club. Other guns are different. To legally buy, say, a pistol, you can leave the store with it the same day, after answering a few questions and passing a background check. You'll have to do a lot more to get an automatic weapon.

"They have to go through a background check to get the gun," he said. "That goes through the K.B.I. (Kansas Bureau of Investigation) and A.T.F. (The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms), fingerprinted, they're gonna have to get a letter from law enforcement. It's going to be a two to three month ordeal."

http://www.ktka.com/news/2008/apr/22/automatic_weapons_now_legal_kansas/

08/04/22 Shameless example of disregarding law

It's time for Philadelphia leaders to understand that lawlessness by the city government is one of the many factors contributing to the city's culture of crime and violence. The lack of respect city officials have shown for the laws of Pennsylvania by passing illegal gun-control ordinances sets a tone for residents that honoring the rule of law is optional in this city.

When the City Council passed and Mayor Nutter signed a package of gun-control bills that limits the ability of law-abiding citizens to purchase and possess firearms, they brazenly declared themselves independent from the laws of the commonwealth. It didn't take long for the first suburb, Lower Chichester, to follow by unlawfully passing its own arbitrary gun-control laws.

Yet, what baffles me the most is that these leaders wonder where criminals get the idea that laws don't apply to them! Don't they see the example they set so publicly? The willful defiance has made headlines for weeks, reminding residents that the Council, mayor and police commissioner consider themselves to be above state law. Why shouldn't average citizens be as well?

District Attorney Lynne Abraham understands the rule of law, as do many police officers, who have voiced opposition to enforcing these measures they know to be illegal. They have reason to be concerned. If they knowingly enforce laws that have been previously declared illegal, they may be found liable in lawsuits. Those are lawsuits that they don't want to battle and the city can't afford to fight.

However, not to be stopped by the city attorneys, who actually have to stand in front of judges and argue the validity of the laws, Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey is encouraging the Council and mayor to ignore the legal advice against enforcing the ordinances. He was recently quoted arguing in favor of the illegal measures that "as far as I am concerned, the laws are valid, and we will act as if this whole conversation with the D.A. just didn't take place."

When the chief law-enforcement officer so shamelessly

encourages city leaders to pretend they didn't hear legal advice from other officials, advice that could save thousands in taxpayer funds for litigation, it's time to question if he really has the best interest of the city in mind.

Lawful gun owners are not the problem, and our city leaders know it. They are in a better position than most to see the justice system turning criminals out to the streets, rather than putting them in prison. To solve the crime problems in Philadelphia and in other communities, leaders must be willing to embrace the rule of law, not blatantly sacrifice it for political points.

Until our elected officials learn to abide by the law, we gun owners will have to set an example. In what is only the first of many steps, gun-owner groups have filed for a temporary restraining order to prevent enforcement of the Philadelphia gun-control ordinances. Those of us who live in the city will continue to lawfully keep and bear our arms, waiting on the city to follow our lead in respecting the laws and constitution of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

<http://www.philly.com/inquirer/opinion/18000224.html>

08/04/22 Gun laws haven't stopped shootings

In the spirit of the 2020 Summit, academics have released new evidence about the impact of Australian gun laws, and argue that future public policy must differentiate between what does and does not work.

In a new peer-reviewed study, Dr Samara McPhedran from the School of Psychology, and her colleague Dr Jeanine Baker, show that the accumulated studies on Australia's 1996 gun bans and half billion dollar 'buyback' do not point to an impact.

<http://www.sciencealert.com.au/news/20082204-17216-2.html>

08/04/21 Shot Down: Australian gun law study shows no effect

In the spirit of the 2020 Summit, academics have released startling new evidence about the impact of Australian gun laws, and argue that future public policy must differentiate between what does and does not work.

In a new peer-reviewed study, Dr Samara McPhedran from the School of Psychology, and her colleague Dr Jeanine Baker, who also hold executive positions in the International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting, show that the accumulated studies on Australia's 1996 gun bans and half billion dollar 'buyback' do not point to an impact.

<http://www.usyd.edu.au/news/84.html?newsstoryid=2240>

08/04/21 Democrats seek votes in Pennsylvania's unique demographic

Pennsylvania is the sixth largest state and the 41st to vote in this Democratic primary. It has about 4 million registered Democrats, thousands of them added in a recent registration surge. None of the remaining nine states is as big or as rich in delegates. Between the two major cities are 7.7 million acres of farmland, with the kinds of small towns that harbor more conservative voters who, if not Republican, would be more likely to vote for Clinton. The state's steel, coal and railroad industries have atrophied, contributing to the slowest population growth of any major state.

Fifteen percent of the state's population is over the age of 65; only Florida and West Virginia have a higher ratio of seniors. Conversely, 10 percent of state residents are between age 18 and 24, a reliable pro-Obama cohort. Eighty-two percent of the state's population is white, compared with 66 percent for the nation. And 46 percent of the state's voters are gun owners; Clinton has been assiduously courting the subset of that group that votes Democrat.

<http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/nation/elections/presidential/17966589.html>

08/04/21 32 shootings, 6 homicides reported in Chicago over weekend

CHICAGO - An epidemic of gunfire rattled the city during the weekend, with at least 32 people shot and six killed.

Police Superintendent Jody Weis blamed an excess of guns and gangs for the rash of violence.

"There are just too many weapons here," Weis said at a news conference Sunday. "Too many guns, too many gangs."

At the time of that news conference, the toll was 26 separate shootings and four deaths. Later, three more shootings were reported within two hours on the West Side late Sunday and early Monday, resulting in two more deaths and four more people wounded, police said.

The other weekend shootings were scattered all over the city. Police said they included gang shootings, drive-by attacks, and even one case in which someone used an AK-47 to shoot up a plumbing supply store.

Authorities did not immediately say whether any of the shootings were thought to be related.

During the same weekend last year, there were 19 shootings, including four homicides, and 21 shootings were reported during the same weekend in 2006, Chicago police statistics show.

Ironically, on Saturday, the police department issued new statistics showing that the city's murder rate for March was down about 1 percent from March 2007.

http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/nation_world/17973439.html

08/04/21 Two dead in Bethel Township domestic dispute

A domestic dispute left two dead in rural Delaware County yesterday. Police said John Balla approached his estranged wife, Denise, outside her brother's house in Bethel Township.

The couple's 11-year-old son looked on as John Balla pulled a knife and began fatally stabbing Denise Balla in the driveway, authorities said.

A neighbor, Leo Rushton, attempted to intervene. Rushton grabbed his gun after John Balla tried to stab him. "He chased me around my truck a couple of times, and I fired a shot, and he died," Rushton told NBC10.

Police said John Balla stabbed himself several times after he was shot. He died later at a hospital.

Authorities said that they did not know what led to the altercation and that Rushton would not be charged.

<http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/philadelphia/17966099.html>

08/04/20 Wal-Mart, NRA spar over new gun policy

In a move that's sure to be watched for any impact on sales, Wal-Mart announced last week that it will tighten rules for gun purchases, including keeping video of gun transactions. Wal-Mart, with 1,100 stores, is the nation's largest retailer of firearms. The National Rifle Association returned fire after the Wal-Mart announcement, made by a company executive along with New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a gun-control advocate. "I view it as a public relations stunt that stigmatizes law-abiding firearms purchasers exercising their freedom under the Constitution," NRA CEO Wayne LaPierre told the Associated Press.

Among Wal-Mart's plans:

- Keeping the recorded images of gun sales so the images can be viewed by law enforcement as part of an investigation.
- Building a record system so a gun sold at Wal-Mart can be identified if later used in a crime. Should the original purchaser try to buy another gun at Wal-Mart, the system would alert the sales clerk, who could refuse to allow the purchase.
- Expanding background checks of employees who handle guns while expanding inventory controls.

Wal-Mart

restricts its sales in U.S. stores to rifles and shotguns except in Alaska, where handguns also are sold.

http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/sports/stories/2008/04/20/outdoors_notes20.ART_ART_04-20-08_C11_TP9VJG1.html?type=rss&cat=&sid=101

08/04/19 Taser shock triggers fire in man's pants

A Hamilton man Tasered by police is in hospital after the stun gun ignited a "flammable object" in his pants, burning him. The incident is under review by Ontario's Special Investigations Unit, which probes all police-related deaths and serious injuries. According to the SIU, police were called to a Queenston Road apartment in Hamilton's east end around 9 p.m. Thursday.

"Three officers went there in response to a disturbance call," said SIU spokesman Frank Phillips yesterday. "During the interaction, an officer discharged his Taser. A flammable object the man had in the waistband of his pants ignited."

The man, 31, was burned on his hand and thigh. He was taken to Hamilton General Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

<http://www.thespec.com/News/Local/article/356763>

08/04/19 Obama linked to gun control efforts

Barack Obama's presidential campaign has worked to assure uneasy gun owners that he believes the Constitution protects their rights and that he doesn't want to take away their guns. But before he became a national political figure, he sat on the board of a Chicago-based foundation that doled out at least nine grants totaling nearly \$2.7 million to groups that advocated the opposite positions.

The foundation funded legal scholarship advancing the theory that the Second Amendment does not protect individual gun owners' rights, as well as two groups that advocated handgun

bans. And it paid to support a book called "Every Handgun Is Aimed at You: The Case for Banning Handguns."

Obama's eight years on the board of the Joyce Foundation, which paid him more than \$70,000 in directors fees, do not in any way conflict with his campaign-trail support for the rights of gun owners, Ben LaBolt, a spokesman for Obama's presidential campaign, asserted in a statement issued to Politico this week.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/politico/20080419/pl_politico/9722_1

08/04/18 IA: Pink slip delivered to 'Pizza Man'

A Des Moines pizza delivery driver who was suspended after he shot an alleged armed robber said today that he has been fired.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080418/NEWS/80418009>

08/04/18 Judge joins D.A. in rejecting gun laws

Two out of three parts of the Philadelphia criminal-justice system have now rejected the city's latest attempt to regulate guns.

Common Pleas Judge Jane Cutler Greenspan yesterday ordered the city to temporarily halt enforcement of five gun-control laws passed by City Council last week and signed by Mayor Nutter. The city must stop writing police rules for enforcing the laws and training officers about them.

District Attorney Lynne Abraham said Tuesday that the local laws conflict with state laws and she will not enforce them.

Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey last week vowed to have his officers enforce the laws.

http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news_update/17895099.html

08/04/18 In Pennsylvania, Democrats gun for tough crowd

Guns are unusually important in Pennsylvania, which leads the nation in National Rifle Association membership and is home to almost 1 million licensed hunters. As its Democratic presidential primary approaches Tuesday, Clinton and Obama increasingly have cast themselves as sworn defenders of the 2nd Amendment.

"They can say what they want," says David Hinkle, a patron of the gun show from Albury. "We don't believe it."

The target market may be larger than it appears. A 2006 Gallup Poll found that about one-third of Americans living in a household with a gun are Democrats, and that includes a lot of union members. Many believe that an anti-gun stance cost Al Gore his home state of Tennessee in 2000, and cost John Kerry West Virginia in 2004.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-guns-campaignapr18.0.7365417.story>

08/04/18 Bristol DA uses 'dangerousness' law to target gun suspects

NEW BEDFORD - Dane Barros looks down at the floor as he listens to a prosecutor call him a "danger to the community." Barros, barely 21, is not a violent criminal, and in almost any other district, he could be freed on bail to await trial after police found more than 100 grams of cocaine and a loaded handgun in his apartment.

But here, where gun violence plagues hardscrabble cities in southeastern Massachusetts, Bristol District Attorney Samuel Sutter is taking no chances. For every felony gun case, he turns

to a law generally usually aimed at spouse abusers and sex offenders which allows judges to deem suspects too dangerous to be rel.

And in 89 out of 115 cases judges have agreed. Barros' mother sobbed as he was led away in handcuffs. "Dangerous individuals were walking around with illegal firearms _ very often to facilitate their drug-dealing _ and those individuals are being removed from the public," Sutter said. "The message that is going out to the criminal community is, 'If you are arrested with an illegal firearm, your freedom is done'." Sutter's policy has drawn accolades from police chiefs and residents. But defense attorneys say he is misusing the state's "dangerousness" law and punishing suspects before they are convicted of any crime.

<http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/general/view.bg?articleid=1088261&srvc=rss>

08/04/17 Philly Judge blocks city's new gun laws

A Philadelphia judge this morning temporarily blocked enforcement of a package of five gun-control laws enacted last week by City Council.

Common Pleas Court Judge Jane Cutler Greenspan also said that the order would remain in effect pending a further hearing April 28.

C. Scott Shields, the lawyer who filed the lawsuit for the National Rifle Association, said an emergency order was needed to allow city gun shops to know which guns they can sell.

The lawsuit was filed late Tuesday, just hours after District Attorney Lynne M. Abraham told City Council members that she believed the gun-control package was unconstitutional and that she would not enforce it.

Abraham said that as a lawyer and elected official, she was bound to obey the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. In 1996, the court invalidated a city ordinance to regulate assault weapons, ruling that the state legislature in 1994 passed a law specifically barring municipalities from regulating guns.

The state Supreme Court also dismissed on the same ground a 1999 move to hold gun manufacturers liable for Philadelphia's toll of gun violence.

Abraham said she agreed with the intent of the city laws but added, "I know that the ordinances are invalid and unenforceable according to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania."

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/20080417_Judge_blocks_city_s_new_gun_laws.html

08/04/16 MSNBC Won't Run Bloomberg's Gun Law Ad

MSNBC refuses to run an ad created by Mayors Against Illegal Guns. The ad shows clips of all three Presidential candidates declaring their position on changing the loophole that allows unchecked gun sales at gun shows. The ad also includes brief messages by Mayor Mike Bloomberg, Mayor Sheila Dixon of Baltimore (Dem) and Mayor John Peyton of Jacksonville, Fla. (Rep.) and Mayor Tom Menino of Boston (Dem.) all calling for bi-partisan support of the change in the law.

http://www.businessweek.com/the_thread/brandnewday/archives/2008/04/msnbc_wont_run.html

08/04/16 Gun control measure fails in Illinois House

SPRINGFIELD -- An attempt to toughen state gun laws fell two votes short of passage in the Illinois House Wednesday.

The proposal, which failed on a 58-58 vote, would have required the sale of handguns to occur at federally licensed firearm businesses, which can ask Illinois State Police for background checks of customers.

The measure, part of Chicago Mayor Richard Daley's gun control agenda, aimed to close the so-called private-sale loophole.

Under state law, persons buying firearms from private sellers at gun shows must undergo a background check.

But, other private handgun sales are not subject to background checks. Supporters of the change said current law allows guns to get into the hands of criminals who would otherwise not be able to buy firearms.

<http://www.pantagraph.com/articles/2008/04/16/news/doc480676daa2d83486577944.txt>

08/04/16 Ohio Few problems encountered with concealed carry

Four years have passed since the first applicants obtained licenses to carry concealed handguns in Ohio.

Those license holders must now renew their licenses in order to keep them active.

Portage County Sheriff Duane Kaley said the licenses, which were first issued in April 2004, are good for four years from date of issuance.

Anyone wishing to keep their permit active must apply for a renewal, and can do so anytime within 90 days prior to the expiration date listed on the license.

Ravenna Police Chief Randy McCoy said at the time he didn't think allowing citizens to walk around armed was a good idea.

On Feb. 22, he admitted the Ravenna police have not had any major issues. However, he said, he still is not a proponent of the act.

"DO I THINK you should be able to protect your home, your family and your property? Heck yeah. I believe in the Constitution and you should have the right to bear arms in your own home," he said.

A major concern McCoy voiced four years ago remains a concern for him today: Not much training is necessary or required to obtain a concealed carry permit.

"In law enforcement, we're constantly training and reviewing policies. A firearm is a deadly weapon, and we train each year in the proper use of it," McCoy said.

"Once you get a concealed carry license, you're in like Flynn until it expires."

Kaley said about 1,550 CCW licenses have been issued in Portage County since April 2004. Of those, he said, only five have been revoked and eight applicants denied after completion of a background check.

For those needing to renew their license -- the expiration date is printed on it -- an application for renewal can be obtained from the Portage County sheriff's office.

The application asks for all addresses lived at since the age of 18 and verification that the CCW pamphlet has been read, a new passport size color photo taken within 30 days of the renewal

application, the original or renewed training certificate of competency and a valid photo identification.

Upon successful completion of a background check, a new license will be issued with the original license number with a new expiration date that is five years from the date of the renewal.

DURING THE renewal process, the current license will remain valid but must be surrendered to the sheriff's office upon issuance of the renewed license.

The original training certificate of competency is valid for license renewal purposes if the issue date is less than 6 years prior to the renewal application date.

If the original certificate is older than 6 years, then a renewed certificate of competency must be obtained with an issue date prior to the expiration of the original certificate.

If more than 6 years have elapsed since the original certificate issue date, then the entire 12 hour CCW course must be completed, with a new certificate issued, before a new CCW license can be applied for

<http://www.auroraadvocate.com/news/article/3634102>

08/04/16 Glocks, stocks and barrels Ohio gun show crowds secure, courteous

CINCINNATI - As I waited in the parking lot for the doors to open at 9 a.m., two guys pulled up next to me in a black Chevy pickup.

They wore camo ball caps, jeans and sweat shirts. Nothing unusual there - until one slung a rifle over his shoulder as they headed for the door.

Anywhere else, people would grab their cell phones and dial 911. But this was the Pro Gun Show. Dozens of guys were toting shotguns, rifles and handguns, not to mention swords and knives.

It looked like a not-very-well regulated militia from Red Dawn, reporting for duty.

As the line spilled out the door, each gun was carefully inspected and tagged to certify that it was unloaded, and safe to sell or swap.

"No cameras," said a sign. It occurred to me that I could get kicked out for carrying a Kodak, but nobody would blink if I flashed a Glock. Apparently, gun owners and dealers value their privacy.

The rules are stricter, too.

Private gun owners can sell guns to anyone of legal age (18 for long guns, 21 for handguns), without federal regulations or paperwork. The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence wants to close that "gun-show loophole."

But the so-called loophole applies anywhere. You don't need paperwork to sell a gun to your neighbor. And you don't need a gun show to buy a "nine" in Over-The-Rhine.

The notion that gun-control laws can disarm lawbreakers is so irrational there's no place to even begin that conversation. And when I see media stories about outlawing "assault weapons," I just wince.

I'm not a gun expert. But I'm not that ignorant.

Yes, there were guns made to look like military M-16s at the gun show. But they're not automatic. Real automatics are regulated almost to extinction. The ones on sale at the show are no more deadly than any semi-automatic varmint gun. They

might look scary. But a pellet gun in the wrong hands is scary enough.

The truth is, there's probably no way to keep mentally ill or dangerous people from getting a gun. But gun shows do their best.

Gun-show dealers do instant, while-you-wait federal background checks. If there's a wrong answer to any of the 15 questions about mental health, criminal records, drug use and citizenship, the buyer has to walk away empty-handed or find a private seller.

Gun-phobics refuse to believe it, but researcher and author John Lott says state after state has proved that concealed-carry laws reduce shootings by putting more guns in the hands of law-abiding people. The title of his book says it all: "More Guns, Less Crime."

His comment on recent shootings: "At some point the news media might begin to mention the one common feature of these attacks: They keep occurring in gun-free zones. Gun-free zones are a magnet for these attacks."

<http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/daily/opinion/82634.php>

08/04/16 Guns on Campus: Could They Prevent a Repeat?

Guns on Campus: Could They Prevent a Repeat? A year ago today, Americans were united in horror, outrage and sadness at the obscene carnage unfolding before us at Virginia Tech.

We can look at many factors: mental illness, alienation, an inadequate response, and yes, the availability of guns in society. But one thing cannot be denied: Seung Hui Cho's victims were helpless to defend themselves, and university policy mandates they remain that way.

<http://topics.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/04/16/guns-on-campus-could-they-prevent-a-repeat/>

08/04/16 National Rifle Association asks court to block Philly gun laws

The National Rifle Association is asking for a temporary restraining order to stop enforcement of Philadelphia's new gun control laws. The NRA requested the order Tuesday and is asking the Common Pleas Court to consider a permanent injunction against the laws. Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham also says they are unconstitutional. Abraham predicted in a City Council hearing the laws will be successfully challenged when the first person is charged.

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080416/NEWS01/80416012>

08/04/15 USA Shooting's Lones Wigger to be Inducted into U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame

The U.S. Olympic Committee has announced that USA Shooting's Lones W. Wigger Jr. will be inducted into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will take place June 19 in Chicago. Now 75, rifle shooter Wigger is a three-time Olympian, having competed at the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo, 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico and 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, where he won a combined two gold and one silver medals.

Wigger also competed on five Pan American Games teams, where he won five silver and 13 gold medals. During his

shooting career, Wigger won 111 medals and set 29 world records in international competition, more than any other shooter in the world. He is a member of the USA Shooting Hall of Fame and was also honored in 1996 by the USOC as a "Golden Olympian." A retired Army Lt. Col., Wigger is a two-tour Vietnam Veteran and spent 25 years on active duty.

"It's a tremendous honor to be inducted into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame and especially to represent the shooting sports," said Wigger. "I am overwhelmed and can't hardly believe it. I would like to thank everyone who voted for me and supported me."

<http://www.usashooting.com/viewRelease.php?id=124>

08/04/15 Pennsylvania Firearms Retailers Sue Philadelphia

NEWTOWN, Conn. -- Today the Pennsylvania Association of Firearms Retailers (PAFR), the National Shooting Sports Foundation -- the trade association of the firearms industry -- and several individual retailers filed suit against the City of Philadelphia. The aim of the suit is to stop the city from enacting local laws to regulate the lawful commerce of firearms.

After a series of gun-control bills failed to pass out of the state assembly earlier this year, the Philadelphia City Council passed similar legislation that would ban law-abiding citizens from purchasing more than one handgun a month, ban certain firearms based upon cosmetic appearance -- as part of an "assault weapons" ban -- and turn victims of crime into criminals by failing to report a missing or stolen firearm within 24 hours.

This legislation, if allowed to stand, would invalidate the current preemption protections in Pennsylvania. Preemption laws stop localities from passing more stringent gun control laws, ensuring that the state has a uniform system of laws governing firearms and ammunition.

"It is imperative that the court strike down these gun control bills," said Joe Keefer, president of the PAFR. "This legislation will do nothing to curb violent crime and will set a dangerous precedent, allowing municipalities to enact whatever gun-control regulations they see fit."

http://www.nssf.org/news/PR_idx.cfm?PRloc=share/PR/&PR=041508.cfm

08/04/15 Florida Gov. Crist signs guns at work bill

Gov. Charlie Crist has signed a bill into law that allows Florida residents to keep guns locked in their cars at work.

The bill says businesses cannot prohibit employees or customers from keeping a legally owned gun locked inside their cars, as long as the owner has a permit to carry a concealed weapon.

Guns would still be off limits at some sites: schools, prisons, nuclear power plants, military facilities and buildings that store explosives. Supporters of the bill say people have a constitutional right under the Second Amendment to carry firearms and should be able to keep guns in their cars for protection. Business owners have argued they have a constitutional right to set the rules on their own property. They say they should be able to ban guns there if they choose, in order

to protect employees and patrons.

<http://www.bradenton.com/331/story/534080.html>

08/04/15 Dems Gingerly Walk Gun Control Line

Clinton, Obama Struggle To Avoid Alienating Either Side Ahead Of Pennsylvania Primary

(AP) **Barack Obama** and Hillary Rodham Clinton are gingerly threading their way between two of the most politically charged numbers in Pennsylvania: the state's almost 1 million licensed hunters and Philadelphia's nearly one-a-day rate of gun murders.

Gun control arouses deep emotions here. Deadly shootings have earned the state's largest city the ominous nickname: "Killadelphia." One of the strongest opponents of gun control, the National Rifle Association, has 250,000 members in Pennsylvania, more than in any other state. This month the Pennsylvania House soundly defeated a bill to require handgun owners to report the theft or loss of their guns to police. As the state's hotly contested April 22 primary approaches, the Democratic presidential candidates have struggled to avoid alienating either side, to the point of pandering.

Unlike most members of Congress, neither senator has taken a position on the historic case before the U.S. Supreme Court over whether the District of Columbia's ban on handguns violates the Constitution's Second Amendment. Democrats have shied away from gun control since 2000, when they blamed presidential and congressional losses in part on their aggressive stance at the time.

Clinton that year supported far-reaching measures including a federal mandate for state-issued photo gun licenses, as well as a national registry for handgun sales. Obama repeatedly backed tougher state gun controls as an Illinois lawmaker.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/04/15/politics/main4017894.shtml>

08/04/15 City's New Gun Control Laws are Unconstitutional, Says Phila. DA

Philadelphia DA Lynne Abraham says the city's newly enacted gun control laws are unenforceable.

At a hearing on Tuesday before City Council, Abraham said that in her opinion the laws passed last week are illegal and will be challenged as soon as the first person is charged under the new statutes.

And, she added, she thinks any defendant bringing a court challenge to the new laws would be successful.

The new laws include a requirement to report lost or stolen guns, and a one-per-person-per month limit on gun purchases.

Abraham agrees with state lawmakers that state law pre-empts the city in such matters and prevents any city in Pennsylvania from passing any such laws on its own.

When asked point-blank by a city councilmember if her office would enforce the new city gun control laws, she replied, "Nope." She warned that if police began making arrests under the new laws, the city could face a wholesale wave of civil rights lawsuits in response.

In reaction to DA Abraham's remarks before City Council, Mayor Nutter said he hopes to discuss the DA's position further with her, and he hopes that his law department can convince Abraham that the laws are defensible: "Much more conversation

(with the DA) needs to take place about this. I think that these are legitimate pieces of legislation."

And Nutter also hopes to convince Abraham that the legislation is needed: "Clearly we need this kind of help and support, and I'm hopeful that the DA will be a partner with us." <http://www.kyw1060.com/City-s-New-Gun-Laws-are-Illegal--Says-Phila--DA/2006537>

08/04/15 Gun rights, gun deaths divide Pennsylvania voters Harrisburg, Pa. (AP) --

Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton are gingerly threading their way between two of the most politically charged numbers in Pennsylvania: the state's almost 1 million licensed hunters and Philadelphia's nearly one-a-day rate of gun murders. Gun control arouses deep emotions here. Deadly shootings have earned the state's largest city the ominous nickname:

"Killadelphia." One of the strongest opponents of gun control, the National Rifle Association, has 250,000 members in Pennsylvania, more than in any other state. This month the Pennsylvania House soundly defeated a bill to require handgun owners to report the theft or loss of their guns to police. As the state's hotly contested April 22 primary approaches, the Democratic presidential candidates have struggled to avoid alienating either side, to the point of pandering.

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Clinton that year supported far-reaching measures including a federal mandate for state-issued photo gun licenses, as well as a national registry for handgun sales. Obama repeatedly backed tougher state gun controls as an Illinois lawmaker.

Such proposals have been brushed aside in favor of vague talk about "common sense" regulation and assertions by the candidates that they honor the Second Amendment.

Their ability to duck the issue may end Wednesday — the date Clinton and Obama square off in their only Pennsylvania debate. It's also the first anniversary of the Virginia Tech massacre — the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history — in which a lone gunman killed 32 people and himself. "Lie-in" demonstrations to dramatize the need for tougher guns laws are planned in many states, including one near the debate site, Philadelphia's National Constitution Center.

Amrita Grewal, the 24-year-old organizer of the Philadelphia demonstration, is a 2006 Virginia Tech graduate whose best friend and former roommate was killed in the shooting.

"That changed the rest of my life in one day," she said.

So far, the Democratic candidates have carefully crafted their gun control positions to reach voters on both sides.

Obama assures people he has "no intention of taking away folks' guns," but believes in background checks for prospective gun buyers.

Clinton has called for renewing the national ban on assault-type weapons and allowing federal authorities to share gun-tracing information with local police.

Obama has ridiculed the New York senator's attempts to identify with the rural gun culture, joking that "she's talking like she's Annie Oakley." This, as the Illinois senator tries to overcome the furor over his remarks that embittered blue-collar voters "cling to guns and religion" because they trust no politician to relieve their economic plight.

What's lost in this is a precise sense of how they balance gun rights and controls.

"Gun control is divisive, controversial and likely to divide their core support," said Terry Madonna, a professor and pollster at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster.

"They want to delay anything really specific right now until they get more of a feel of where this (court case) is going to go," said Buddy Savage, a Republican who owns a gun shop just outside of Pittsburgh. "They're looking for anything that can help them. ... They want to be with a winner. "

In Pennsylvania's debate over gun control, Philadelphia is ground zero.

In the City of Brotherly Love, police say 343 people were killed by guns in 2006, and 330 more in 2007. The pace is slower so far this year, but five fatal shootings over the weekend pushed the total gunshot deaths to 63.

The Legislature has placed gun regulation under its exclusive control, so Philadelphia is powerless to impose its own restrictions. City officials, legislators and second-term Gov. Ed Rendell — a gun-control advocate who has a home in Philadelphia — perennially push for state laws they say would help police crack down on illegal gun trafficking, but without success.

This month's defeat of the gun theft reporting measure left some wondering whether any gun-control measure can pass.

"This is one of the more simple things that could be done," lamented Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, a Clinton supporter.

Outside Philadelphia and other cities, the traditions of hunting and gun ownership run deep in this mostly rural state.

Between 2002 and 2006, nearly 2 million rifles, shotguns and handguns were legally purchased or transferred in the state, according to the state police.

Last year, the state Game Commission sold 945,000 general hunting licenses, including more than 850,000 purchased by deer hunters.

Even the 232-year-old right-to-bear-arms section of the Pennsylvania Constitution is more straightforward about the rights of individual gun owners than the U.S. Constitution.

The Second Amendment says, "A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." In the D.C. case, the Supreme Court is expected to interpret the amendment for the first time since it was ratified in 1791.

The older Pennsylvania provision declares, "The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State shall not be questioned."

Some pro-gun lawmakers consider any legislation advanced by gun-control forces an attempt to chip away at that right.

"Many of us believe their objective, ultimately, is to disarm American citizens," said Republican state Rep. Daryl Metcalfe.

While there are no state laws restricting the purchase of assault weapons or multiple handguns, the state has required criminal background checks on nearly all firearms purchases since 1998.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2008/04/15/politics/p000444D89.DTL>

08/04/15 The Washington-based Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence ranks Pennsylvania's laws 10th best nationally, even though the state scored only 26 out of 100 points in a survey of whether specific laws are in place.

Paul Helmke, the group's president, said Pennsylvania ranks high because most states do a worse job of regulating firearms, but its weaknesses stand out compared with stronger laws in neighboring New York and New Jersey.

"When Pennsylvania is the weak one in the region," he said, "that's where people go to get their guns."

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/pennsylvania_primary_guns;_ylt=AsJY0YPWmOR76SxdJNCMMidh24cA

08/04/15 Clerk Shot Dead at South Jersey Gas Station

Burlington County, NJ police say a male attendant found dead at a gas station Monday night was shot during an apparent robbery.

Officers responded to the shooting around 11:30pm Monday night. It happened outside of a cashier's booth at US Gas, on Route 541 and Burr's Road. Police say cigarettes were stolen from the booth. There was no immediate word if any money was taken.

<http://www.kyw1060.com/Clerk-Shot-Dead-at-a-South-Jersey-Gas-Station/2004370>

08/04/15 District Attorney Says New Gun Control Laws Unconstitutional

PHILADELPHIA -- The city's district attorney said new gun laws passed by the city of Philadelphia are unconstitutional and she will not prosecute someone who's arrested under the new laws.

"I cannot, as a matter of law, arrest people for illegal possession of guns," Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham said.

Philadelphia City Council passed five tough, new gun-control laws last Thursday. Mayor Michael Nutter even signed them.

But Tuesday, Abraham told a council committee meeting that those laws are unconstitutional since only the state legislature can regulate guns in Pennsylvania, and she urged caution in trying to enforce those laws

"If there are wholesale arrests which turn out to be illegal, this city is going to get its pants sued off them," Abraham said.

The new laws include a requirement to report lost or stolen guns and a one-per-person-per-month limit on gun purchases.

Nutter has given Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey the green light to enforce the new laws.

"We've got to do something. And the mayor's at least got the courage to step up and try to do something. I mean, we've got to end the violence on the streets of this city period. And if Harrisburg won't act, then Philadelphia has ought to act. I don't have a problem with that," Ramsey said.

<http://www.nbc10.com/news/15888179/detail.html>

08/04/15 Mayors and Wal-Mart Back Gun Sales Plan - New York Times

A coalition of mayors in favor of gun control, led by Michael R. Bloomberg of New York and Thomas M. Menino of Boston, said on Monday that it had reached a 10-point agreement with Wal-Mart, the country's largest seller of guns, to track the sale of firearms more closely

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/15/nyregion/15bloomberg.html?_r=1&oref=slogi

08/04/15 Firearms Industry Responds to Mayoral Gun Summit - Centre Daily Times

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, at a meeting of the Mayors Against Illegal Guns coalition he founded, announced today the Responsible Firearms Retail Partnership program with Wal-Mart. Commenting on today's announcement the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) said the partnership's name gives the false impression that federally licensed firearms dealers are somehow irresponsible. "Today's announcement reflects Mayor Bloomberg's troubling ignorance and misunderstanding of what can - and cannot - be gleaned from data of guns recovered by law enforcement and traced from the manufacturer to the first retailer purchaser," said NSSF Senior Vice President and General Counsel Lawrence G. Keane.

<http://www.centredaily.com/business/story/523984.html>

08/04/15 At State Level, More Attempts to Limit Guns

State lawmakers across the country are ramping up efforts to pass new restrictions on guns, following nearly a decade in which state legislative efforts have been dominated by gun advocates.

Much of the proposed legislation — some 38 states are considering gun-related bills — focuses on cutting off gun access to convicted criminals and the mentally ill and on improving methods to trace guns used in crimes.

Underlying many of the proposals is an effort to redefine the gun debate as a law enforcement issue, rather than one that focuses on broad-based gun ownership, to sidestep prickly Second Amendment concerns.

"The key thing is that we want to protect Second Amendment rights," said Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger of California, a Republican who has supported several bills that focus on guns used in crimes but not bills that would curtail ownership rights. "Democrats and Republicans can work together on this."

The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, a prominent gun reform group, has identified 52 bills it considers a priority for passage in 22 states, compared with 30 such bills two years ago.

Debates about the proposed gun laws are taking place in many states not between party members, but rather between residents in rural areas and those in crime-ridden cities. For some states, momentum on any bill that regulates guns is considered unusual.

For instance, last week in Pennsylvania lawmakers debated a bill that would have compelled gun owners to immediately report a lost or stolen gun to law enforcement officials. The bill was defeated, but it was the first time that the state, whose constitution articulates support for individual gun ownership well beyond the federal doctrine, had taken up a significant gun regulation bill in roughly 15 years.

"There are many people who believed that we would never discuss hand gun legislation in this building, let alone have a vote," said Johnna A. Pro, the spokeswoman for Dwight Evans, a Democrat in the Pennsylvania Statehouse, who was behind the bill. The bill came to the floor only after the state's legislative black caucus pulled a parliamentary measure impeding budget votes, and became one of the outgrowths of a resulting special session on crime.

"This bill was a defining moment," said Kate Harper, a Republican lawmaker from the suburbs of Philadelphia who voted for the bill even though many of her colleagues were unhappy with her, she said.

"These are difficult votes for me because it hurts me with my caucus, and it also hurts with really strong Republican voters who don't want government interference," Ms. Harper said. "On the other hand, I've got soccer moms and people who have never fired a gun and are afraid of them."

Many states are also contemplating legislation that would increase gun ownership rights. There are roughly three dozens states that have considered over the last two sessions bills that would allow employees to bring guns to the workplace, leaving them in the cars.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/15/us/15guns.html>

08/04/14 Associated Press Documents Gun Control's Irrelevance

The Associated Press cannot, by any stretch of the imagination, be considered pro-gun or the propaganda arm of the "gun lobby." For example, in 2006 the AP implied that the NRA was responsible for the increase in violent crime begun in 2004.¹

In a recent article, the AP once again to insinuated that machinations by the "gun lobby" to sunset the Clinton gun ban may have resulted in an increased criminal use of "assault weapons"; particularly in their "discussion" of a criminal homicide which occurred last fall: The Sept. 15 killing was remarkable in that it took place in the most innocent of settings - the fifth birthday of twin boys. But it was unremarkable in that one of the guns brandished was an AK-47-type rifle - a powerful, rapid-fire weapon that has long been used in Third World conflicts but is increasingly being used in American street fights.² Associated Press noted that they based this article on firearm trace data:

Figures from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, obtained by The Associated Press through public records requests, show a marked increase in the number of AK-type weapons traced and entered into the agency's computer database because they had been seized or connected to a crime.³ This is a most curious admission by AP, because it runs counter to propaganda from anti-gun organizations. When the Tiahrt Amendment--which restricts gun trace data to police investigations--was being considered by Congress in 2007, the Brady Campaign declared this would stymie police investigations:

Police leaders from across the nation joined the Brady Campaign in urging Congress to repeal legislation that prevents police and local governments from having access to crime gun trace data that would help cities fight illegal gun trafficking in their communities.⁴

Josh Horwitz of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence chided Congress for apparently kowtowing to the NRA: The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence is deeply disappointed by the action of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on the "Tiahrt Amendments" to the FY 2008 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. These amendments, which have been added to the appropriations bill by Rep. Todd Tiahrt (R-KS) every year since 2003 at the behest of the National Rifle Association, block access to comprehensive information on firearms traced to crime scenes at a time when violent gun crime is on the rise in the United States. Law enforcement can only obtain crime gun trace data in their geographic jurisdiction, and requests must be connected to a specific criminal investigation. This makes it extremely difficult for police to identify broader patterns of firearms trafficking.⁵

However, Michael J. Sullivan, then acting director of the ATF, had this to say about these allegations:

Let me be clear: neither the congressional language nor ATF rules prohibit the sharing of trace data with law enforcement conducting criminal investigations, or place any restrictions on the sharing of trace data with other jurisdictions once it is in the hands of state or local law enforcement. In fact, multi-jurisdictional trace data is also utilized by ATF and shared with fellow law-enforcement agencies to identify firearm-trafficking trends and leads. Additionally, nothing prohibits ATF from releasing our own reports that analyze trace-data trends that could be used by law enforcement.⁶

Even more interesting is that anybody with an internet connection can access trace data at the ATF web site. For example, one search found that 20 machine guns were traced in Texas during 2006.⁷

Having addressed the issue of firearm trace data, the AP then took on trends in machine gun traces--assuming the AP is not mixing machine guns with semi-automatic rifles--during and after the Clinton gun ban years:

Since 1993, the year before the ban took affect, ATF has recorded a more than sevenfold increase in 7.62x39mm guns - which includes the original Russian-made AK-47 and a variety of copycats from around the world. The number of AK-type guns rose from 1,140 in 1993 to 8,547 last year.

Since 2005, the first full year after the ban's expiration, ATF has recorded an 11 percent increase in such tracings.

ATF says the increases in the first half of the 1990s are partly the result of wider usage of its weapons database by local law enforcement agencies. But after that point, the numbers reflect a real increase in tracings of AK-type guns, the agency acknowledged.⁸ [Emphasis added]

The AK-47 is a fully automatic firearm, capable of firing up to 600 rounds per minute.⁹ These firearms have been virtually banned from private commerce by the National Firearms Act of 1934. A law-abiding citizen might be able to purchase this type of firearm, but they must go through a lengthy licensing process with the ATF.¹⁰

"Sevenfold" means a 700% increase in these traces. Using trace data as an indicator of the prevalence of such firearms, 689% of the increase in these traces occurred before the end of the ban. Even taking the early 1990s reporting changes into account by cutting the 700% in half, this leaves an estimated 339% increase

in traces prior to the end of the Clinton ban--an average annual increase of 37% for the years 1996-2004--while the annual increase averaged less than 4% for the post-ban years of 2005-2007. While this might indicate that smuggling of these firearms slowed down since the ban ended, *it assuredly rebuts any claims that renewing the ban will reduce the use of these guns by criminals.*

The Associate Press may have started out trying to generate interest in a new ban by blurring the difference between the Clinton ban's cosmetic "assault weapons" and automatic weapons of war, but ends up proving what those who don't subscribe to the illogic touted by the gun banners have been saying all along: Gun control does not deter criminals; it disenfranchises law-abiding citizens. <http://newsbusters.org/blogs/howard-nemerov/2008/04/14/associated-press-documents-gun-control-s-irrelevance>

08/04/14 Mayors Against Illegal Guns

On Monday, April 14 this coalition of Mayors from both parties of cities across the nation met in Washington to discuss a legislative and advocacy agenda. The site offers video access to the Summit itself, and the organization's ads and plans. <http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/html/home/home.shtml>

08/04/13 A loaded gun: Naifeh bases votes on bogus facts; truth is on side of right-to-carry

House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh's recent actions on self-defense votes in the Tennessee General Assembly were hypocritical and ignored the will of tens of thousands of law-abiding Tennesseans.

Here's why. Speaker Naifeh enjoys round-the-clock security detail courtesy of Tennessee taxpayers — even in restaurants and bars. But yet he believes that "regular people" neither deserve, nor need, the God-given right to self-defense in restaurants.

<http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080413/OPINION03/804130374/1008/OPINION01>

08/04/13 UCCS Students Want Right-to-Carry - The Gazette

It's dangerous and absurd, and students at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs want it to change. They want university officials to lift a dangerous ban on guns that makes the campus vulnerable to suicidal mass murderers and other brands of psychotics that are known to prey on college students.

http://www.gazette.com/opinion/guns_35221_article.html/sens_ess_lives.ht

08/04/13 Anti-shooting ordinance driven by fear, not facts

The Proposed Wesley Chapel anti-shooting ordinance is not about safety and it is not about the Second Amendment; it is about an agenda. This Wesley Chapel anti-shooting ordinance is wrong. It is being pursued for the wrong reasons, and I oppose it.

One of the founders of the "Citizens for Safer Neighborhoods," in response to a question, declared, "We do not want to work something out with Dr. Land. We want to shut down his range, whatever it takes. He can move somewhere else to shoot." I heard the statement and so did at least five other people.

Using hype and hyperbole, half truths and misrepresentations is a means to an end. The intent is to incite fear and hysteria to amplify calls to the sheriff, the D.A., to village officials and anyone who will listen, hoping these officials will fall into a trap for which there is no evidence to support the purported fear and hysteria.

<http://www.charlotte.com/union/story/578863.html>

08/04/13 U.S. parks at center of gun debate - Star-Telegram

Federal officials are reviewing gun laws in national parks and planning to announce new rules allowing visitors to carry loaded guns -- if allowed by state law -- by the end of the month.

The proposal would overturn a law restricting loaded guns in national parks -- including Texas' Big Bend -- put in place in the 1930s, and renewed in the Reagan era, to address the growing issue of poaching. Current rules allow guns in national parks, but only if they are unloaded and stowed away.

http://www.star-telegram.com/national_news/story/578871.html

08/04/12 Woman Shoots At, Terrifies Intruder

FRIENDSWOOD, Texas -- Police said a woman shot at an intruder, scaring him directly through a glass door.

Officers with the Friendswood Police Department said they responded to a residence in the 400 block of Regency Court after a homeowner shot at a man that had broken into her home. The woman said that at about 11:15 a.m. on April 12, she awoke to a loud noise followed by her alarm system sounding. She then heard footsteps going up to her second floor.

<http://www.click2houston.com/news/15867233/detail.html>

08/04/12 Corruption In The Anti-Gun Crowd

The National Shooting Sports Foundation here presents a rather long litany of prominent opponents of the individual right to keep and bear arms--and the charges and scandals involving them.

<http://nssf.org/legal/links/corruption.cfm>

08/04/12 Politicians, actors and family members gather for Heston funeral -LOS ANGELES --

Charlton Heston, one of the last lions of Old Hollywood, was remembered at his funeral Saturday as devoutly religious and patriotic - a man who was an imposing figure both in his politics and on the big screen.

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/348/story/330863.html>

08/04/11 Fewer pulling trigger on hunting licenses

Aging hunters fear for the future of their sport --Wildlife management officials say urbanization, sprawling development and competition for free time have resulted in fewer hunters. Not as many boys are taking up a rite of passage that goes back to frontier times, leading to an aging of the hunting population. "Fifteen years ago, you couldn't go into the woods without running into a coon hunter," Ford said, "and now you can hunt three nights a week and never see one."

That concerns those who care about hunting from both a conservation point of view and a cultural one.

“For good or bad, the notion of the boy’s initiation into the adult male world is being lost,” said Ted Ownby, a professor of history and Southern studies at the University of Mississippi.

Moreover, hunters and anglers pay the bulk of the cost of fish and wildlife management and conservation through excise taxes on sporting equipment. When their numbers drop, so does the income for those programs.

The national trend has moved the Carolinas and other states, along with private hunting organizations, to work on reversing the decline by teaching youths about hunting and streamlining often complex hunting laws that vary from county to county. “Years ago, when I was a child hunting, it was such a part of the culture, it was a father or uncle or grandfather that introduced the youngsters to hunting,” said Wes Coltrane, a Quail Unlimited director in North Carolina. “That’s not the case in too many cases today.” <http://www.thestate.com/sports/story/372231.html>

08/04/11 'She's Got a Gun': Every picture tells a story --Nancy Floyd grew up in gun country — small-town south Texas — but didn't buy a gun until 1991, with the onset of the Gulf War. She wanted to connect with her brother Jimmy, a gun lover who died in Vietnam when she was 12. "I remember telling my husband I want to buy a gun to know what it was like for my brother to have a gun," says Floyd, 51, an associate professor of photography at Georgia State University. "And that's how it started."

The result: A years long project photographing women — preteens, grandmothers, cops, Olympic hopefuls — with guns. The series of color portraits, "She's Got a Gun," is on display through May 3 at the Solomon Projects gallery in Midtown. Floyd's book by the same name, which explores the history and images of women with guns, has also been published by Temple University Press. An artist's talk and book signing will be held at the gallery April 23 at 6:30 p.m.

We met with Floyd to talk about her project and her love of guns.

Q: You packin'?

A: I'm not packing. Promise.

Q: Do you carry?

A: I do not carry. Early on when I got a gun, I did carry it sometimes. I felt like, "Now that I got a gun, I should be able to carry it when I want to." [But] one of my dear friends said it: "I don't want to feel like I need to have something to use to make myself safe." I feel that way. Everybody has their own reasons.

Q: Is a gun ever just a gun?

A: No. It's used to kill; that's its main function. It's used to kill to defend something; it's also used to murder, maim, break up families and lives. It's used for pleasure. It's used to lobby the government. It's used to intimidate and scare people. There is the West and the manifest destiny of white people going across the West and conquering the land, and defending themselves against the British. Today, there are over 30,000 deaths a year by firearms.

It's never just a gun.

Q: What did getting a gun help you discover about your brother?

A: I discovered his personality

and mine were very similar. I remember him sitting at his desk and the smell of gun oil and not connecting his behavior with his desire all his young life to be a gunsmith. He did what he loved. Now, I see myself at a desk writing my book, or in the darkroom printing pictures, and you can't distract me when I'm focused.

I was terrified at first about my gun. But once I learned the pleasure of shooting, I understood the allure of it for him.

Q: What's the allure?

A: The ability to control it and shoot it accurately. When I'm shooting at a range and have ear muffs on, I feel like I'm in this tunnel all by myself, even though there might be other people around. You have to grip it in such a way ... that when you squeeze the trigger it doesn't wiggle anywhere. That body posture is the sweet spot.

Q: You don't ever just go to a dump and shoot rats?

A: No. I have to know where the bullet's going. I wouldn't shoot an animal, either, so there's that.

Q: Is the decision to own a gun more complicated for women than for men?

A: Depends on the woman. For some women, it's very complex. For others, it's a no-brainer: my life's in danger; life is scary. I think there is some ambivalence there.

Q: Why are guns so politicized?

A: There's such fear. We're afraid of each other, either because we have guns or we don't have guns. We're afraid of people so we get guns. We're afraid other people might have guns. There's the individualist fear of the government taking guns away. There's the individualist fear that we have choices and we've made the wrong choices and need to remove guns from the hands of even law-abiding people.

I can get really agitated by pro-gun or anti-gun sides. I do have contradictions.

Q: C'mon, grow up, choose a side.

A: I have chosen a side. I have guns. I could hurt someone; I could kill someone; someone could get my gun and hurt someone else. So, yeah, I absolutely have chosen a side.

Q: You belong to the NRA?

A: No. I don't believe in a lot of what they stand for.

Q: But you do believe in a lot of what they stand for.

A: I do. To be taught to shoot by an NRA instructor is a great person to be taught by. The youth things they do to teach gun safety to children, even teaching them how to shoot, is great.

Q: So where do you disagree?

A: I believe in gun control.

Q: Why are liberals so scared of guns?

A: Not all liberals are. A lot of liberals won't admit they have guns. A lot of conservatives are scared of guns.

Q: Why are gun owners so scary?

A: Because they're so self-confident they wouldn't hurt anyone and that they're safe and so guns are safe.

Q: What reaction do you get from the liberal academics you work with?

A: They're curious. They're willing to talk about things, but they're just as likely to say, "I understand what you're saying, but it really bothers me. I wish you didn't have a gun."

Q: Has having so many women in the military during the Iraq war changed the way people look at women with guns?

A: It is our 21st century change: women warriors. It's something that has crossed the line where you didn't quite go before.

Q: Have our pop culture images of women with guns changed?

A: I credit blaxploitation films [in the 1970s] as the point at which everything had been done. In blaxploitation films, women sought revenge and didn't apologize for it. Through most of the history of film, women would pick up a gun when things got bad, then they'd drop it after it's over. Or they'd hold the man at bay until their boyfriend or somebody comes and takes the bad guy away. But Pam Grier and those women, they become gun women, and they seek revenge.

Q: What was common to the women with guns you photographed?

A: One thing I learned doing all this is that, in many cases, the only thing women with guns have in common is their guns.

Q: You a good shot?

A: I can shoot really well slow. I'm very patient. About five years ago I injured my shoulders. But I'm ready to go back and shoot as best I can.

Q: You miss it?

A: I absolutely miss it. Get me on a gun range talking to somebody about guns, I can stay for hours. I love conversations about the mechanics of guns like I like conversations about the mechanics of cameras.

I'm a gun nut.

Q: Is happiness a warm gun?

A: Yes. Happiness can be a warm gun.

http://www.ajc.com/living/content/living/stories/2008/04/11/gun_photos_0411.html

08/04/11 Nutter defiantly signs five gun laws

Council's measures appear to fly in the face of state law and legal precedent

Mayor Nutter likened himself and City Council members yesterday to the band of rebels who formed this country as he signed five new gun-control laws that defy the state legislature and legal precedent.

"Almost 232 years ago, a group of concerned Americans took matters in their own hands and did what they needed to do by declaring that the time had come for a change," Nutter said as he signed the bills in front of a table of confiscated weapons outside the police evidence room in City Hall.

"We are going to make ourselves independent of the violence that's been taking place in this city for far too long," he said.

The five laws - called everything from unconstitutional to criminal by critics - do the following:

Limit handgun purchases to one a month.

Require lost or stolen firearms to be reported to police within 24 hours.

Prohibit individuals under protection-from-abuse orders from possessing guns if ordered by the court.

Allow removal of firearms from "persons posing a risk of imminent personal injury" to themselves or others.

Outlaw the possession and sale of certain assault weapons.

Nutter said he would begin to enforce the laws immediately, with the exception of the one-gun-a-month requirement, which takes effect in six months.

He and Council are in for a fight, however. The city has tried and failed for three decades to buck the 1974 state law that reserves gun regulation to the state legislature. The state's preeminence appeared to be cemented in a 1996 Supreme Court ruling that allowed the legislature to prevent Philadelphia and Pittsburgh from enacting local gun laws.

Recent efforts include a 2005 referendum in which city voters, by a 4-1 ratio, demanded that the state allow the city to pass its own gun laws. Council members Darrell L. Clarke and Donna Reed Miller sponsored a set of gun-control measures bills last year, then sued the legislature to allow them to move forward. That case is pending

National Rifle Association spokesman John Hohenwarter said he expected the organization to sue "within a short time frame."

Kim Stolfer, vice chairman of the Pennsylvania Sportsmen's Association's legislative committee, said the organization was considering its legal options and suggested that the enactment of the laws was a criminal act.

"He's committing five misdemeanor crimes," Stolfer said.

"What kind of message is he sending when he and City Council are willing to commit crimes for issues that are not going to work?"

Nutter and Council are not likely to find a great deal of support in the legislature.

State Representative John M. Perzel (R., Phila.) said through a spokesman that the laws were unconstitutional. House Speaker Dennis M. O'Brien (R. Phila.) did not return a call for comment, and State Sen. Vincent J. Fumo (D., Phila.) declined to comment.

http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news_update/20080411_Nutter_defiantly_signs_five_gun_laws.html

08/04/11 New York City settles with another five gun dealers

NEW YORK (Reuters) - New York City has struck a deal with a further five gun dealers among 27 targeted in its bid to thwart the flow of illegal weapons into the city, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said on Friday.

Bloomberg said that 20 gun dealers named in lawsuits by the city had now reached out-of-court agreements that will allow outside monitoring of sales. In two separate lawsuits, New York sued 27 gun dealers in five states -- Georgia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Virginia -- on the grounds their sales practices allowed criminals to buy guns and then bring them into the city. One dealer from Pennsylvania, one from South Carolina, one from Ohio and two from Georgia are the latest to reach settlements.

Bloomberg's fight against illegal guns has made him into something of a pariah among influential gun-rights groups in the United States. In April, he was portrayed as an octopus on the cover of the National Rifle Association's newsletter.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080411/us_nm/newyork_guns_se_ttlement_dc_1

08/04/11 U of C, Daley join to combat gun violence

"We have two main goals for this project," Ludwig said. "One is to help steer youth toward productive activities like schooling and work, and away from behaviors like crime and gang involvement that put youth at elevated risk for violence victimization or offending. "Our second main goal is motivated by the fact that gun involvement makes youth violence substantially more dangerous. We want to reduce the likelihood that guns are involved in those violent events that do occur," he said.

http://maroon.uchicago.edu/online_edition/article/10163

08/04/10 Urbanites' call for ban on guns hits a deaf ear in Ottawa

More than 16,000 people signed his Internet petition to ban handguns since he first made the appeal on Monday, Mayor David Miller told a Scarborough business audience yesterday. "Letters of support for this long-overdue action have also been pouring into my office from the moment the public became aware of this cause," he added.

The cause also captured attention at Queen's Park, with both Premier Dalton McGuinty and Attorney-General Chris Bentley voicing support.

"We'll take a look at what more we might do," the Premier said. "But obviously, when the feds have got responsibility for criminal law, there are some severe restrictions in terms of how far we can go and what we can do."

Acknowledging the restrictions on provincial authority, Mr. Bentley repeated the demand for a handgun ban that he and Corrections Minister Rick Bartolucci made in Ottawa in March.

"The feds could do it instantly and then we'd have the tools that we need," he said. "In the meantime, we'll do whatever will be effective in promoting community safety."

Toronto MPP Mike Colle added one suggestion with a private member's bill that would empower police to suspend the driver's licences and confiscate the vehicles of Ontarians caught driving with illegal guns. Mr. Miller has promised to introduce similar local measures to suppress gun use this summer.

In the absence of concrete initiatives, the mayor is employing increasingly passionate rhetoric to shame Ottawa into action, denouncing "so-called hobbyists and collectors [who] put innocent lives at risk."

The mayor also attacked the Harper government's claim that handguns are already banned in Canada, using the example of slain Yonge Street bystander John O'Keefe to emphasize the dangers of legal handguns.

"The bullet that killed him came from a legally registered gun," the mayor said. "If handguns were illegal, John O'Keefe would be alive today."

Local and national police report that more than one-third of handguns used in Toronto crimes come from "domestic sources,"

according to the mayor, "stolen from so-called 'legal' gun owners whose storage methods didn't work."

The only voices that have not been heard in the campaign, which began this Monday amid heart-wrenching testimony at city hall from several victims of gun violence, are those in favour of the status quo.

Although some Toronto councillors say they have received private complaints, no handgun enthusiast has had the temerity to join the public debate in Toronto today.

"The rates of homicides of young men in countries that have very strict gun control are significantly lower than those in countries that don't," Mr. Miller said later. "It's that simple. If you want to increase public safety, you get guns out of people's hands."

Banning handguns would not only lessen the violence that has become almost common on city streets, according to the mayor, it would "make an incredibly powerful statement about the kind of city and the kind of country we are."

But that, of course, is precisely why the federal Conservatives are resisting the call. Immune to the pleas of urban widows and orphans, they are acutely sensitive to the potential for emotional distress among rural libertarians.

<http://ago.mobile.globeandmail.com/generated/archive/RTGAM/html/20080410/wbarber10.html>

08/04/10 Manchin signs 'Castle Doctrine' bill

CHARLESTON — Lifetime National Rifle Association member Joe Manchin ceremoniously signed West Virginia's version of the Castle Doctrine with a blunt warning Thursday to would-be home invaders.

"Don't mess with us," the governor cautioned while signing the bill backed strongly by the NRA in its national campaign to put such laws on the books in all 50 states.

For two years running, retiring Sen. Shirley Love, D-Fayette, pushed the measure, varieties of which are law in 20 other states. "This has been a long time in coming," he said as Manchin summoned supporters to a table where he used ceremonial pens to sign the historic measure.

"It's a bill that could affect all West Virginians. Hunting, the right to bear arms, the Second Amendment have been a heritage of West Virginia because our motto says, 'Mountaineers are Always Free.' And it shows the Mountaineer with his rifle." Not only does the law provide that residents may use deadly force to repel an intruder or avert a felony crime in the making on one's property, it allows such actions to be used as a defense in potential litigation.

Love said many residents asked him to push for the legislation because they fear a home invasion. http://www.register-herald.com/local/local_story_101220344.html

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pushed the measure, varieties of which are law in 20 other states. "People want this protection," he said.

Manchin said the bill is common sense and merely codifies what West Virginians have traditionally observed — one has to right to defend hearth and home. http://www.register-herald.com/local/local_story_101220344.html

08/04/10 Nutter Signs 5 Gun Control Laws

Surrounded by lawmakers, police and community activists, and in front of tables loaded down with confiscated weapons, Mayor Michael Nutter Thursday methodically signed into law five new gun control measures, in direct defiance of state law.

"We've had enough," said Nutter. "We've stood for enough, and today we're taking direct steps to make the city safe."

City Council's vote was unanimous, each bill approved by a 17-to-nothing count. Donna Reed Miller, who co-sponsored the legislation, was all smiles. "We want to thank our colleagues for voting for the five weapon bills. We believe this is a step in the right direction," said Miller.

The legislative package includes bills that limit handgun purchases to one-per-month and require the prompt reporting of a lost-or-stolen gun. Those measures are designed to stop so-called straw buyers from putting weapons in the hands of their criminal cronies and so, cutting down on street violence, the vast majority of which, involves gunplay.

"We're now going to another level," says co-sponsor Darrell Clarke. "We're talking about obviously not asking the state to enable us to do these bills- we're talking about doing them on our own."

But the General Assembly has always made clear it will not allow even its biggest city to ignore state law and enact its own.

On "Good Day Philadelphia" Thursday, former House Speaker John Perzel put it bluntly: "If you're looking to get your own gun laws in the city, it is not going to happen. It's never going to happen."

When Fox 29 asked Perzel whether a court challenge against the new city laws would likely succeed, he responded quickly. "It's unconstitutional! The city is going to lose, sure!"

Perhaps but Council seems to believe this issue is worth a fight with Harrisburg.

"We have to move forward on it, and if we sit back and don't do anything, we will never know what they will allow or what they will not allow," says Council President Anna Verna. Darrell Clarke's original legislation included nine gun-control bills. The five that have now passed have been fine-tuned--"tweaked", says Clarke-to withstand an expected court challenge."

Even the staunchest gun control supporters know that challenge will likely come very soon.

http://www.ajc.com/living/content/living/stories/2008/04/11/gun_photos_0411.html

08/04/09 State law, school policy clash over guns

Like districts across the nation, Wake County bans deadly weapons from campuses and prohibits students from carrying them on school trips. But the decision to bar the East Wake team from the tournament extends that prohibition to students participating in an off-campus event sponsored by a state agency and supervised by adults certified in firearms safety.

That call pits school policy against state law that allows firearms education at schools. The decision also runs counter to the efforts of wildlife agencies, hunting organizations and gun groups to recruit youths to replenish the dwindling number of hunters. It also underscores the tension between the fear of school massacres and the traditions of rural Wake, where hunting is still common.

"I can appreciate the fact they may have a policy, but all the government agencies need to remember, they're there to serve the public," said Wes Seegars, chairman of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. "There is something lost in a policy that does not serve the needs of the community."

After representatives of the Wake County (N.C.) School District took administrative action to prevent a high-school-affiliated Future Farmers of America marksmanship team from participating in a government-sponsored shooting competition, because "ammo and students don't mix," NSSF joined with Ducks Unlimited and the International Hunter Education Association to voice their strong objection to the blatantly unconstitutional act.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/education/wake/story/1030367.html>

08/04/08 Duquesne University 2008 Gun-Control Symposium

Sarah Brady hospitalized, so husband Jim is a no-show at national "gun violence" symposium where Alan Korwin is flown in to face 10 gun-control advocates and provide "balance"; complete eyewitness report here:

Can a pro-rights perspective survive at an anti-rights rally?

<http://www.gunlaws.com/DuquesneSpeech.htm>

Duquesne Symposium promo:

<http://www.duq.edu/handgun/speakers.html>

Local Pittsburgh news coverage before symposium:

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08100/871584-85.stm>

Local Pittsburgh news coverage after symposium:

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08101/872081-85.stm>

08/04/08 Pa. sportsmen, hunters oppose more gun legislation

HARRISBURG -- When the subject of handguns arises at the state Capitol, most of the recent attention has focused on Gov. Ed Rendell and other gun-control Democrats from Philadelphia who are trying to reduce the plague of deaths from gun violence in their streets.

They'd like to limit gun purchases to just one per month, and require gun owners to report to police within 72 hours after they discover one of their guns lost or stolen.

But supporters of the Second Amendment's guarantee of the right to have weapons struck back forcefully yesterday,

organizing the third annual Right to Keep and Bear Arms rally at the Capitol.

Several hundred sportsmen, hunters and gun owners from around the state -- both Republicans and Democrats -- demonstrated their political power.

The rally was led by state Rep. Daryl Metcalfe, R-Cranberry, with several dozen lawmakers standing in support behind him. From the Pittsburgh area these included Reps. Marc Gergely, D-White Oak; Joseph Markosek, D-Monroeville; Tim Solobay, D-Washington; Jim Marshall, R-Beaver; Mike Turzai, R-Bradford Woods; and Randy Vulakovich, R-Shaler. <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08099/871342-178.stm>

08/04/08 Miller unveils video, launches petition to ban handguns

Toronto mayor asks for signatures coast to coast to compel Ottawa to legislate the disarming of everyone but the police

Toronto Mayor David Miller is taking his campaign to ban handguns to the Internet, asking people across Canada to sign an online petition.

He unveiled his video, now airing on YouTube and the city's website, after family and friends of those killed by gun violence appeared before the executive committee yesterday making impassioned pleas for action.

In a statement yesterday, Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day noted handguns are already banned in this country except for a few legitimate purposes, a category that includes police officers, target shooters and approved collectors. Miller wants to see the ban extended to target shooters and collectors.

"Our government is focusing on strong laws to combat the gangs who use firearms," Day said in his statement, by adding measures for mandatory jail time for serious gun crimes and tougher bail rules when a gun is used to a commit a crime.

<http://www.thestar.com/News/GTA/article/411255>

08/04/07 Clinton on gun control – 50 sec long video clip

I've been taking on the NRA for a long time, she says.

<http://www.philly.com/inquirer/multimedia/17358954.html>

08/04/07 Ohio Justices to Enter Fray over Gun Laws

"The court must decide whether the state can tell local governments whether they can regulate guns on their own property, the latest battle in the wider war over local home-rule authority."

<http://toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080407/NEWS24/106798952/-1/NEWS>

08/04/03 Guns, Fear, the Constitution, and the Public's Health

"Dr. Wintemute is a professor of emergency medicine and director of the Violence Prevention Research Program at the University of California, Davis, School of Medicine, Sacramento." Dr. Wintemute bewails recent relaxation of some firearms and self defense laws, framing his argument with an incident that happened long ago, in 1992.

<http://tinyurl.com/6j6pdr>

08/04/03 Interpreting the Right to Bear Arms —Gun Regulation and Constitutional Law

"Mr. Tushnet is a professor of law at Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA." Tushnet's article considers the arguments and the consequences of District of Columbia v. Heller if the court decides, as he expects, that the 2nd Amendment does, in fact, ensure an individual right to keep and bear arms.

<http://tinyurl.com/6bt4zs>

08/04/03 Interview with David Hemenway on Gun Violence in the United States and the Likely Effects of the Supreme Court case D.C. v. Heller

"David Hemenway is a professor of health policy at the Harvard School of Public Health, Boston."

<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/NEJMe0802118/DC1>

08/04/03 Handgun Violence, Public Health, and the Law

This 'summary' article mostly hearkens to Dr. Wintemute's appeals and concludes that the Supreme Court "we hope that the justices will consider not only the intricacies and ambiguities of language in the Second Amendment but also the potential public health consequences as outlined by Hemenway in a Journal audio interview, of a decision to uphold the lower court's ruling."

<http://tinyurl.com/5hl5lr>

Founding Fathers Intent:

"A general dissolution of principles and manners will more surely overthrow the liberties of America than the whole force of the common enemy. While the people are virtuous they cannot be subdued; but when once they lose their virtue then will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader." -- *Samuel Adams (letter to James Warren, 12 February 1779)*