

South Carolina's Concealed Carry Newsletter  
**Grass Roots South Carolina**

P.O. Box 1181  
Sumter, South Carolina 29151  
Fax 803-791-1981

Summer, 1998

Vol.2 No.2

**These Merchants have removed their signs in response to the efforts of GRSC and other Pro Right to Carry Organizations. To them we say,**

***"Welcome Back!"***

**Piggy Wiggly of  
Chesterfield**

**Systems Plus  
Computers**

**Greenville Carmike  
Cinemas**

**Gloriosa Florists**

**Blythewood Feed  
and Hardware**

**If It's Paper**

**Hiller Hardware**

**Denny's Restaurants**

**Ace Parker Tires  
of Sumter**

**McDuffie's Home  
Furnishings**

**Burlington Coat  
Factory**

**Hot Spot  
Convenience Store  
of Camden**

**Lowe's Hardware  
All Columbia Locations**

**Collins Jewelry**

**Rush's Restaurants**

**Wal-Mart #2214  
of Columbia**

**Office Max  
All Columbia Locations**

**Little Pigs Barbecue  
Thyme Out Exxon**

**Lee's Grocery**

***Inside:***

**Letters from the Editor's Desk:**

- *To The State Newspaper - What has Joan Beck Been Smoking Lately?*
- *E-Mail from The Web*
- *Memorial Day Essay - We Have a Job to Do!*

**Found on the Internet:**

- *Blaming the Gun*

**GRSC Grass Roots:**

- *Join a Winning Team!*

**Welcome Back List:**

- *Bringing the Bucks Back to Businesses*

**Articles of the Month:**

- *Annie, Get Your Gun?*
- *Caught in the Crossfire: African Americans and Gun Control*

**The GRSC Don't Carry-Don't Shop List**

- *Where NOT to Carry!*

**South Carolina Grass Roots Activists  
Throughout the State:**

- *Be a Part of Our Organization*

**In Our Next Issue:**

- *Why Guns?*
- *Step by Step Guide to Obtaining Your CWP*
- *Book Review: More Guns, Less Crime*

## GRSC Advisory Committee

Ralph Baker  
Tom Burkizer  
Robert D. Butler  
Linda Chico  
Larry Coble  
Lonnie Currey  
Rick Daniel  
John Hutchins  
Charlie Robinette  
Roger Thorndike  
Jeffery M. Wells

Over 15,000 SC CWP Holders

## Who We Are and Our Purpose

Modeled after similar organizations in other states, Grass Roots South Carolina is a joint project of **Mid-Carolina Rifle Club** and **Gun Owners of South Carolina**. Our mission is to educate and promote acceptance of responsible firearms ownership within the State of South Carolina and to protect the rights of law abiding citizens who have chosen to obtain concealed weapons permits.

Our main effort is in educating merchants who post against concealed weapons. Our operating protocol is available upon request and explains how our organization works. Briefly, we initially contact merchants who have posted signs against concealed weapons and attempt to educate them. Afterwards, we hope that they will either remove their signs or post an alternative sign which we provide. If they do neither we distribute the name of the business to thousands of South Carolinians via gun clubs, hunt clubs, shooting sports associations, business supporters, wildlife groups, the Internet, and any other available means encouraging CWP holders and others to not shop where they are in jeopardy of violating the law.

We have had cards printed for those of you who want to report businesses that are posting signs against concealed carry permit holders. If you are interested in being a part of this effort and would like more information regarding this grass roots effort please contact us and we will place you on the supporter list. With your help we can succeed.

We currently meet the second Monday of each month at Joe's Crab Shack in Cayce, SC at 6:30 PM.

## Support Those That Support You!



Wilbur Jeffcoat, owner of Jeffcoat Photography at 1224 Alice Drive, Sumter believes posting against concealed carry would be a bad idea for his business. Wilbur recognizes that those with permits are "State Approved" honest citizens with above average disposable incomes. These are the very people Wilbur tries to attract because he knows they will be repeat, valued customers for his quality photographic work business. Contact Wilbur for your next photographic needs and see what he means!

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### Fact:

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Agency is directed to coordinate with other states issues of concealed weapons permit reciprocity. As of April 9, 1998 S.L.E.D. has completed reciprocity agreements with: Arkansas, Utah, Wyoming, and Tennessee.

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## Our Current Wallet Card

### Grass Roots South Carolina Wallet Card

The Following Business Posts Against CWP:

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner/Manager Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: GRSC, P.O. Box 1181, Sumter, SC 29151  
or Fax to: (803) 791-1981

**Get Your Wallet Card by Sending in the back page of this newsletter. (psst, Get some for your friends too!)**

### Fact:

As of July 24, 1998 there have been 16,200 CWPs issued and 1064 pending approval. The revocation rate is .0018 with no incidents being reported of any crime committed by a CWP holder involving a gun.

## We Need Your Continued Support!

Grass Roots South Carolina is supported solely by contributions from interested groups, clubs, businesses, and individuals like you. We have no dues, no fees, and no services or products to sell. We exist to serve the concealed weapon permit holder and merchants interested in obtaining more information regarding The Law Abiding Citizens Act of 1996. We would like to acknowledge the following businesses and individuals for their generous assistance. Write us to be included in this list!

## Currey Training Enterprises

CURREY  
TRAINING  
ENTERPRISES



LONNIE (LON) E. CURREY, CEO  
Training Programs Design and Development  
e-mail: traine29@mail.idt.net

Concealed Weapon Permit Instructor  
Certificate #1996-00027  
1013 Broad River Road #60-122  
Columbia, S.C. 29210

Phone (803) 318-5600  
Fax (803) 798-7444  
Home (803) 731-0230

\*\*\*\*\*

**Second Amendment Sales**  
**Your Source for Quality Firearms**  
**and Accessories**

803-796-8858

Look for Us at the Next Gun Show!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mid-Carolina Rifle Club**  
**South Congaree, SC**  
**803-796-1009**

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**Gun Owners of South Carolina**  
**P.O. Box 12658**  
**Columbia, SC**  
**29211-2658**

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**FSC Educational Resources**  
CPR and CWP Instruction

1732 Terrace View Drive  
West Columbia, SC 29169

Phone (803) 791-1988  
Fax (803) 791-1981

# **Grass Roots South Carolina**

**P.O. Box 1181**

**Sumter, South Carolina 29151-1181**

**Fax: 803-791-1981**

**August 31, 1998**

## **Open Letter to the Merchants of South Carolina**

**Dear Merchant:**

**It has come to our attention that information regarding The Law Abiding Citizens Self Defense Act of 1996 has been misrepresented to merchants located throughout the State of South Carolina. Please be advised that you are NOT required to post signs prohibiting law abiding citizens with concealed carry permits from entering your store. In fact, the law specifically exempts from liability merchants who DO NOT POST. The law does not exempt from liability those merchants who choose to post and therefore assume responsibility for their customer's safety.**

**We know that most businesses do not want to discourage the citizens of their communities with flawless records from shopping in their stores. We also know that most merchants are not in the "political statement" business. This is why major corporations such as Lowes Hardware, OfficeMax, and Wal-Mart have chosen to remove similar signs at their stores.**

**Upon request, we will gladly send you more information regarding the issue of posting no concealed weapons signs, not posting, or posting our alternative sign. In the meantime please feel free to contact us by mail or fax. We have representatives throughout the state and are more than happy to answer any questions you might have.**

**Grass Roots South Carolina**

# GRSC Letters from the Editor's Desk

By Ralph Wieneke

To The Editor:  
The State Newspaper

What has Joan Beck been smoking lately (The State, 6/13/98)? She's trying to blame the NRA for the school shootings!

No one, but NO ONE in this country does more to educate children about the dangers of firearms, through the Eddie Eagle program, which teaches them if they find a firearm to not touch it, go find an adult, and report it.

As far as the heinous shootings of innocents by airheaded, copycatting imbecilic adolescents in our schools, "It's not the guns, stupid!," to paraphrase a political slogan. If it were, why aren't the streets of Switzerland running with blood? In every home there a fully-loaded, fully automatic real military assault weapon stands at the ready, available to anyone within easy reach. Maybe it's the culture, stupid! Maybe their values haven't been destroyed by decades of violence and mayhem spewed forth by the so-called "entertainment" media in this country.

As a combat infantry veteran of three major campaigns in Europe in WWII, I saw enough blood and gore to last for several lifetimes. But even I got a gutwrenching feeling back in the 50s from an early portrayal of graphic violence in the movie, "Quo Vadis" with Tyrone Power; by today's standards it was rather tame. With kids growing up seeing 200,000 acts of graphic violence on TV and in the movies by the time they are teens, is it any wonder they are inured and insensitive to real violence? Don't blame the NRA!

Joan Beck and dozens of like-unthinking robots in the press and TV media think that crime would go away and we could all live peacefully and happily if we could just get the guns out of the hands of the people. Wrong! There would be 2.5 million MORE violent crime incidents every year; crimes now prevented by honest, law-abiding citizens exercising their constitutional right to defend themselves, without having to fire a shot in 86% of cases (Source: Gary Kleck).

As heartwrenching as the recent terrible shootings by kids have been, they are a trifling percentage of the crimes prevented! And we could slow down the copycatting by doing a little public caning A La Singapore!

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## E-mail from the Web:

From: Alan Johnson, Anderson, SC  
Subject: Keep up the Good Work!!

Hello,

My name is Alan Johnson and I have been a member of the NRA for years. I have always been a pro gun person and am happy to see an organization as yours actively working to protect all of our rights to carry concealed weapons. I am in the process of getting my permit now. I have seen stores in my area with these signs up and it just really bothers me. I think they would have a safer store with good, wholesome, honest, hardworking, law abiding armed citizens in their stores. I know that with all the terrible shootings that have gone on in the past, there would probably have been a some different outcomes if a brave armed citizen could have come to the aid of these people.

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From The Champaign County  
Gun News  
a Monthly Newsletter, May 1998 Issue

## How Far Behind We Have Fallen Essay by John Naese

On Memorial Day, May 25, 1998, I attended a commemoration sponsored by the Sidney American Legion Post, at the Sidney, IL, cemetery. The local Boy Scout troop assisted by raising the flag, and the Cub Scouts led the assembled crowd of over 100 people in the Pledge of Allegiance. Sounds good, right? Sounds like what America needs more of, right? But in the midst of this reaffirmation of what it means to be an American, a clanging, gonging warning bell sounded.

It came in the form of a 9 or 10 year old boy, a Cub Scout, waiting to participate.

As he watched, the American Legionaries practiced their manual of arms at the far end of the cemetery, shouldering their 1903 Springfield ceremonial rifles. None of the men were younger than 50; several were World War II and Korean War veterans in their 70's. The young Cub Scout, on witnessing this display, turned to his leader and said, "We'd better be careful; there's men with guns over there." In other words, HE WAS AFRAID. The young man didn't have any concept that these men had been trained with guns; that these men had fought with guns to defend this country and the very flag that the Cub Scouts were pledging allegiance to; or that it was OK for these men, or anyone else except a cop, to even HAVE a gun.

How many other young people, who will sooner than you know be old enough to vote, think this way, and make the connection "Guns = Fear"? How many young people will grow up in today's society, thinking that ANYONE who has a gun, even a white haired military veteran, is by definition someone to be feared? How far behind have we fallen in educating our young people? We, each one of us, WE have to take the lead, and teach our young people what freedom means; we MUST teach them that there are many more "good guys" with guns than "bad guys" with guns. WE have a responsibility to raise our children and guide our grandchildren, to make sure they are raised and taught by US, not parked in front of a TV to be raised by the dominant media culture, that hates guns and thinks YOU, as a gunowner, are the bad guy.

The warning bell is clanging; if this boy and others like him make it just 8 more years, to voting age, without being taught the proper role of the armed citizen, THEN WE WILL LOSE. We will lose our freedom, and we will lose our country to the statists of the left, who will tell us what we can and can't do, can and can't have, all for our own good, of course. This one comment by a 10 year old is a stark reminder of the job we have to do, if we are to preserve our guns, our rights, and our country.

# These Merchants Don't Want CWP Holders To Carry Firearms In Their Stores

## LIST 7/98 COPY & DISTRIBUTE

### Statewide:

Security Finance, All Locations  
Waffle Houses, All Locations Statewide

### Midlands:

CVI - Cablevision Industries, Ms. Mary Barnes, General Manager, 1125 B Avenue,  
West Columbia, SC 29169-6772  
First Citizens Banks, All Midlands Locations  
Hardee's Restaurants, Some Midlands Locations  
Kroger's Sav-On Food Stores, 7467 Woodrow St., Irmo, SC 29063, 803-732-0423  
SMI Steel, Mr. Avery Hilton, VP of Operations, 310 New State Rd., Cayce, SC 29033  
Taco Bell Restaurants, All Midlands Locations, Mexican Restaurant Ventures, P.O.  
Box 24709, Columbia, SC 29224  
The Factory Outlets, Mr. Keith Mink, Corporate Manager, Corporate Headquarters,  
5244 Festival Trail Rd., Salley, SC 29137, 803-258-3426  
Wendy's Restaurant, 1410 Lake Murray Blvd., Irmo, SC 29063, 803-732-9999

### Columbia:

Thomas & Howard Co., Mr. John White, President, 209 Flintlake Road, Columbia  
South Carolina Merchants Association, 1735 St. Julians Pl., Columbia, SC  
Eckerd Drug #2744, Two Notch & Polo Rd., Columbia, SC 29223  
St. Andrews Multi-Cinemas, 527 St. Andrews Rd., Columbia, SC  
Hancock Motor Company, Mr. Bill Hancock, Owner, 3905 West Beltline Blvd,  
Columbia, SC 29250, 803-252-7271  
Bojangles, 542 St. Andrews Rd., Columbia, SC 29210, 803 772-7720  
Custom Pizza Company, Quail Valley Plaza, 6801-3 St. Andrews Rd., Columbia, SC  
Hair We Are, 9810 Two Notch Rd., Columbia, SC 29223  
Fashion Florists, 9810 Two Notch Rd., Columbia, SC 29223  
Ed's Paint Center, Inc., 9810 Two Notch Rd., Columbia, SC 29223  
Exxon / Blimbie's of St. Andrews, 800 St. Andrews Rd., Columbia, SC 29210  
Tiger Express #8, 418 Piney Grove Rd., I-26 & Piney Grove Rd., Columbia, SC  
BC&BS of South Carolina, Mr. Ed Sellers, President, I20 & Alpine Rd., Columbia  
State Farm Insurance Claims, I20 & Bush River Rd., Columbia, SC 803-731-3000  
Gaz-Bah Mini Shops, Mr. Bill Keenan, President, 2923 W. Beltline Blvd., Columbia  
Carolina Convenience Amoco and Citgo Stations, Mr. Madhu Shrivastava,  
President, 209 Stoneridge Dr., Columbia

### Charleston:

First Federal of Charleston, All Locations

### Camden:

Camden Gas & Oil, Phillip and Gill Reames, Owners, State Hwy. 521 South,  
Camden, SC 29020

### Sumter:

Regional Acceptance Corp., 678 Bultman Dr., Sumter, SC 29150, 803-773-1007  
H & S Wholesale, Inc., Anhauser Busch Distributor, Mr. David Shaw, Owner, 200 S.  
Harvin St., Sumter, SC 29150 803-773-6923  
Spee Dee Cash, 1171 Broad St., Sumter, SC 29150, 803-469-5495  
Hill Plumbing & Electric, 438 N. Main St., Sumter, SC 29150, 803-773-6689  
Kwik-Fare, 1768 Pinewood Rd., Sumter, SC 29150  
Cellular One, Owned by GTE, 317 Wesmark Blvd., Sumter, SC 29150 803-469-2345  
Save Mart, Mr. Bill Patel, Owner, 378A Manning Avenue, Sumter, SC 29150  
SAFE Federal Credit Unions, 180 Wesmark Blvd. Exten., Sumter, SC 29150  
Nilson Van and Storage, 16 South Pike Rd., Sumter, SC 29150  
Sumter Check Casher, 1084A Broad St., Sumter, SC 29150  
Gerry's & Things, 130 W. Liberty St., Sumter, SC 29150  
Atlas Transmission, Mr. Jerry McCoy, Owner, 301 W. Liberty St., Sumter, SC

Time Finance Company, 31 Liberty Street, Sumter, SC 29150

### Sumter (cont.)

Spann's Market, Mr. Eugene Spann, Owner, 4140 Wedgefield Road, Sumter, SC  
Hodge Auto/Truck Service, Mr. Charles Hodge, Owner, 491 E. Liberty St., Sumter  
CP & L, 180 Wesmark Blvd., Sumter, SC 29150  
Time Finance Company, 31 Liberty Street, Sumter, SC 29150

### Blythewood:

Blythewood Pharmacy, 420-B McNulty Road, Blythewood, SC 29016  
Plum's Ice Cream Factory, Wilson Rd., Blythewood, SC  
Jim Hall's Auto Service, 421 McNulty Rd., Blythewood, SC  
JR's United Convenience, 10447 Wilson Rd., Blythewood, SC 29206  
Blythewood Oil Company, Sharpe Exxon #1, Mr. Larry Sharpe, President, Highway  
21, Blythewood, SC 29016  
Vision Quest Video of Blythewood, 420-D McNulty Road, Blythewood, SC 29016  
Becknell Cleaners, Mr. Kevin Becknell, Owner, 157-A Wilson Road, Blythewood,  
SC  
Blythewood IGA Camden IGA, c/o FLOCO Foods Company, Lake City, SC  
Blythewood McDonalds, 250 Blythewood Road, Blythewood, SC 29016

### Lexington:

Piggly Wiggly Food Stores, 4360 Augusta Rd., Lexington, SC  
First Community Bank, 5455 Sunset Blvd., Lexington, SC 29072  
BB&T All Locations, Mr. Max Crowe, Regional President, 309 Columbia Avenue,  
Lexington, SC 803-359-5111  
Cooper Power Tools, 670 Industrial Dr., Lexington, SC, 803 359-1200

### Greenville:

Sam's Club, 2519 Laurens Rd., Greenville, SC

### Greenwood:

Burger King, c/o Southwind Enterprises, P.O. Box 8130, Greenwood, SC 29649

### Bishopville:

Logan's Appliance Center, 139 N. Main St., Bishopville, SC  
Mr. Travis Windham, R. Travis Windham Insurance Agency, 204 N. Main St.,  
Bishopville, SC 29010

### Seneca:

Carquest Auto Parts, Mr. Jerry Prince, Owner, 507 N. First St., Seneca, SC 29678

### Latta:

Dilmar Oil, Latta, SC

### Swansea:

Shelton's Rainbow BP, Mr. Steve Shelton, Owner, 100 West First Street, Swansea,  
SC 29160

### Batesburg/Leesville:

Owner/Agent State Farm, Mr. Larry Brigham, Agent, 605 W. Church St., Batesburg,  
SC 29006, 803-532-4485

### Ridgeway:

Bank of Ridgeway, Blythewood Branch, Mr. William A. Harwell, President, P.O.  
Box 8, Ridgeway, SC 29130

Merchants, if your business is no longer posted against Law Abiding Citizens please notify GRSC for removal from this list.

This list maintained by GRSC volunteers. Please report corrections to:

Grass Roots South Carolina, P.O. Box 1181, Sumter, South Carolina 29151

### **Caught in the Cross Fire: African Americans and Gun Control** by **Kenneth VF Blanchard**

There are many sides to the gun control issue in the United States. One which is missing from many forums is that of Black America. Contrary to popular opinion, African Americans hunt and participate in all aspects of the shooting sports. Collectively they are caught in the crossfire of gun control politics, mistrust and survival. I view the battle for the Second Amendment from the viewpoint of an urban African-American male. I struggle everyday to defend all of my constitutional rights from people who perceive me as a dangerous threat to their safety. The issues of rights, guns ,and freedom have a hard time filtering through this daily barrage of indecency still prevalent in our society.

Proponents of gun control and those African Americans who support them do a disservice to all people of color. Leaders in the black community promoting the surrender of the right to keep and bear arms represent no collective interest but their own. Savvy business people dupe these leaders into sponsoring "gun-amnesty days" or "toys for guns" for their own monetary gains. Elitists who fear the thought of firearms being owned by the average citizen use targeted advertising to persuade the mothers of Black America that disarmament of law abiding African American citizens is the solution to crime.

When an African American goes into a shoe store, a police station, or a church to turn in a firearm for cash, gifts, or clothing, that individual is selling himself or herself short. On a psychological level, African Americans who participate in these events trade in their dignity and possibly even their destiny by surrendering the only tools enabling them to protect themselves and their loved ones.

By making firearms and ammunition illegal or prohibitively expensive through legislation, the government is repeating ineffective and racist gun laws that were once designed to keep African Americans from obtaining firearms. Thus the infamous "Crime Bill" is reminiscent of those laws of the 1870s which were instituted to discourage the purchase of firearms by newly emancipated Africans and by poor whites.

In the 1870s small pistols selling for as little as 50 cents became available. These firearms constituted a threat to the Southern establishment's interest in maintaining the traditional class structure. Tennessee banned selling any handgun except Army and Navy models, far too expensive for most working class people to buy. In 1881 Arkansas enacted a similar ban on the sale of cheap handguns. In 1902 South Carolina banned the sale of handguns to all but sheriffs and their special deputies. In 1893 and 1907 respectively, Alabama and Texas attempted to keep

handguns out of the hands of African Americans and poor whites by imposing heavy taxes on their sale. Gun Control laws like these have been added to the lawbooks almost like clockwork every twenty five years since the 1600's.

The continued assault on the ownership of firearms is a poor attempt to correct the problems of society. The ever increasing population of poor,unemployed, uneducated and drug dependent people is the problem. The salvaging of these Americans should be addressed with as much fervor as the attacks on the Second Amendment. There will be no improvement until the consciousness of America changes, the judicial system is overhauled, and family morality is restored.

If our legislators at every level add to the already abundant number of ineffective laws, it will only increase our mistrust of them while doing little to save lives in an increasingly violent society. African Americans and other people of color are ultimately set up to lose the most if the current trend to disarm law abiding citizens continues.

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Kenneth VF Blanchard is a former law enforcement firearms instructor and is the president of African American Arms & Instruction, Inc., a firearms safety and protective services consulting firm. He is the founder of the Tenth Cavalry Gun Club. Mr. Blanchard spoke before the South Carolina Legislature's Sub Committee prior to passage of the Law Abiding Citizens Self Defense Act of 1996.

# GRSC - Found on the Internet

## Blaming the Guns

Timothy Wheeler, M.D.

In Springfield, Oregon this past week fifteen year-old Kip Kinkel was arraigned in court, charged with murdering two classmates and wounding twenty others in a cafeteria shooting rampage. It appears likely that the young man had murdered his parents as well.

This is the latest in a string of a half dozen similar nightmares that have taken place across the nation during the 1997-98 school year, including Edinboro, Pennsylvania; Jonesboro, Arkansas; West Paducah, Kentucky; and Pearl, Mississippi. All involved young killers with guns and without self restraint. Nearly everyone agrees that we have moved beyond the realm of mere coincidence, that there is some connection between these horrible events. But that's where the agreement ends.

As parents grieved last month in Jonesboro, television commentator Katie Couric suggested that the shootings were rooted in a gun and hunting culture. She was not alone in this, and it's easy to see why. Each of this year's tragedies took place in regions where legal gun ownership is commonplace, and where youngsters are often taught about firearms.

But if the blame lay solely with "gun culture," one should expect this sort of violence to have happened all along in American history. Generations of American youths have grown up around guns without feeling at all compelled to commit multiple murder. To the contrary, most young people who train today in the shooting sports learn excellence and discipline as they do in any sport. Kim Rhode of El Monte, California has practiced with firearms since she was in grade school. If guns really do cause violence, Kim should be in serious trouble with the law by now. Instead, at seventeen she became the youngest woman in Olympic history to win a gold medal in a shooting sport.

If guns themselves don't cause criminal behavior, another popular explanation is the long-term effects of violent television,

movies, and video games. In his May 23 radio address, President Clinton said the recent shootings are "symptoms of a changing culture that desensitizes our children to violence, where most teenagers have seen hundreds or even thousands of murders on television and in movies and in video games before they graduate from high school, where too many young people seem unable or unwilling to take responsibility for their actions, and where all too often everyday conflicts are resolved not with words but with weapons, which, even when illegal to possess by children, are all too easy to get."

But however debased our popular culture might have become (and debased it certainly is) this explanation is as unsatisfying as the first: Only a tiny fraction of the millions of children exposed to TV violence go on to imitate the mayhem they have seen portrayed by Hollywood actors.

Both explanations fail because they try to pin the blame for violence on something outside the individual (they deny that a young man is ultimately responsible for his own actions). Blaming anything or anyone but the perpetrator himself has become the order of the day. Perhaps the most extreme example of this was the infamous "twinkie defense" employed by the murderer of San Francisco Mayor Moscone. The accused could not be held responsible, his attorney argued, because he had consumed junk food. Since that trial we have grown used to hearing that every action, good or evil, is not based on free will, but is the result of some exterior cause, whether too much TV, a bad family life, or access to a weapon. This is the result of a long-term philosophical shift away from the idea of human free will, and the results of that shift have now come home to roost with the children of the baby boom generation.

The good news is that we are finally recognizing the terrible consequences of this philosophy, as we see firsthand the results of a generation of moral neglect of our young people. Appalled by the lack of standards in public schools, parents are increasingly placing their children in private academies or church-sponsored schools where responsibility and morality can legally be taught. Some small colleges

are quietly pursuing curricula which pay homage to the classics, politically correct or not. It took us a generation to trash the truth, and we will struggle just as long in coming to our moral senses as a nation.

In the meantime we can pass a law to ban more guns, or place new ratings codes on TV, movies, and video games. But the former will only serve to redefine as criminals millions of previously law-abiding citizens, and the latter will do nothing to change what consumers want to buy. What law can remedy fatal character defects? By banning the culture of guns and hunting we will not stop teen murderers. But by rebuilding a culture of loving, moral guidance for our children we will.

Timothy Wheeler, M.D. is the Director of Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership, a Project of The Claremont Institute

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## GRSC Wants You!

Our mission is to educate and promote acceptance of responsible firearms ownership within the State of South Carolina. We make change because we operate at a personal level with affiliated clubs, merchants, and supporters.

We welcome input from anyone within the State of South Carolina. In fact, unlike big organizations or politicians, we are seeking your input and your help! Currently we are looking for people throughout the state who can help us increase our contact and information flow to various like-minded clubs, organizations, and groups. If you belong to such a club consider acting as a liaison between GRSC and your club.

Write, E-mail, or Fax us and let us know how you'd like to help. There is no need to attend one of our meetings to actively participate, however if you'd like we typically meet once a month on the second Monday at 6:30pm at Joe's Crab Shack in Cayce, SC

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## GRSC Internet Site:

We can be found on the Internet at:  
<http://www.logicsouth.com/~lcoble/grsc>

## GRSC Article of the Month

### Annie, Get Your Gun?

by Phill Jackson

Annie is worried; she has reason to be. A few days ago, two men broke into the apartment of her friend Alexia, a young drama student, who was beaten, raped, strangled with her own phone cord and left for dead. Fortunately Alexia didn't die but she did suffer severe physical and psychological trauma and possible brain damage.

This morning Annie stood for a long while in the back bedroom of her ground floor apartment, staring at Alexia's shattered window, just five feet away across the passageway between their buildings. She's tired of being afraid; she's tired of being a potential victim flinching at every unknown sound from the streets outside her windows; she's thinking of buying a handgun.

Over lunch she confesses her intentions to her friend Michael who is horrified. "My god!", he protests, "Don't you know they've proved that a handgun in the home is 43 times more likely to kill a family member or acquaintance than an intruder?"

Poor Annie, caught between her fear of modern city crime and the "fact" that it's even more dangerous to own a defensive weapon to provide the protection that the law can't.

Perhaps before trusting her life to luck, 9-1-1, and the rare mercy of human predators, she should examine that famous statistic, the 43 to 1 that has appeared in a Street Stories segment on CBS, in editorials in the Los Angeles Times and on the tongue of anyone who belongs to Handgun Control Inc. (HCI).

In 1986 two doctors in King County, Washington, (an area that includes Seattle and Bellingham with a combined population of 1,270,000), concerned by the number of gunshot victims who passed through the hospital, began a research project. They counted deaths that took place in the homes of gun owners during a six year period and assigned each victim to one of two categories; deaths that were

ruled as justifiable homicide (self defense shootings) and those that were not.

They found just 9 deaths designated as justifiable homicides and 387 that were accidental, criminal or suicidal homicides. 387 divided by 9 equals 43, our frightening statistic. The report was published in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) and has become famous in the past few years as organizations such as Handgun Control Incorporated have adopted, and distorted, the results to imply that anyone who arms herself for the purposes of self-defense is a greater threat to the public welfare and her own family and friends than the criminals she would defend herself against.

But is that true? To decide, Anne should ask herself a few questions.

The first question that Annie should ask is if she is suicidal, prone to deep depressions and wistful thoughts of easeful death. If so, she probably shouldn't buy that gun, (or cook with gas, buy blades for her razor, swim in oceans or lakes, or drive on mountain roads), because 333 of those 387 deaths were suicides.

While our first thought might be that if there hadn't been a gun available to them, those 333 folks would be alive to dance in the streets today, we would be wrong. Professor Gary Kleck, author of Point Blank: Guns and Violence in America, cites numerous studies which found that when any particular form of self destruction, gun or gas or pills, isn't available, other means are usually substituted and the suicide rate remains constant.

If we remove those 333 deaths from the tally, we are left with 54, 12 accidental deaths and 42 criminal homicides over the 6 year period. Now the "43 times more likely...." has become "6 times more likely.....", still a very serious consideration but not quite the bloodbath the original figure suggested.

Fatal accidents are both tragic, and highly avoidable. Despite the growing American population and an increasing inventory of guns, the rate of fatal gun accidents is declining and can be reduced even further

by taking precautions, no more demanding than those we automatically and unthinkingly exercise when driving that most dangerous of domestic missiles, the family auto. If Annie does buy a gun, she should also invest in an inexpensive course of firearms safety instruction at her local range and in a fast opening gun case to protect her loaded gun from thieves, curious children and heedless adolescents while allowing her to reach it in seconds.

Who were the killers of those 42 "Family and acquaintances" who died in King County and why did they kill? Were they just ordinary people like Annie?

Perhaps Michael has read one of the pamphlets distributed by various organizations that seek to outlaw the ownership of firearms by Americans.

"...each year thousands of gun murders are done by law-abiding citizens who might have stayed law abiding if they had not possessed firearms" and "...most murders are committed by previously law-abiding citizens where the killer and the victim are related or acquainted."

Certainly when this issue is discussed in the press, that impression is often reinforced. If Annie gets her gun, the editorials chide, she is liable to blow away her boyfriend during a lovers' quarrel.

But in a Senate subcommittee report to the Congress, it was shown that a study of murderers in Washington DC found that most killers had 6 prior arrests, including 2 for felonies; one of those for a crime of violence. The FBI in a special data run for the Eisenhower Commission found that over 74% of murder arrestees nationally had prior arrests for violent felonies or burglaries. Hardly "previously law-abiding."

We don't know about these particular 42; the good doctors didn't tell us the gory details. But police reports of typical shootings indicate that a probable scenario could involve an abused wife, in fear of her life, shooting a violent husband during the course of a beating. Such killings are often charged as criminal homicides and only later resolved to be self defense by jury or the justice system.

(continued next page)



## GRSC Article of the Month

(The King County study only used the original charges as the basis for assignment.)

Or a dope dealer and one of his associates have a discussion across the kitchen table about inventory control and dissolve their partnership with a 9mm. Even professional criminals have homes and acquaintances.

So if Annie is a felon, given to violent rages, criminal conduct, or a reckless disregard for the lives and welfare of others, she should not get a gun, a decision which would be heartily endorsed by her boyfriend, me, and the NRA.

In real life, the "average Joe or Annie" who kills on the spur of the moment because a gun is handy is rare. Most killers live in dysfunctional homes where violence, crime, gang activity, police interventions, and arrests are common. For those like Annie who don't indulge in such high risk amusements as self destruction, family abuse, gangs, drugs, or aggressive alcoholism, the risks of handgun ownership are considerably less.

When we compare the number of handgun owners in the US (21,428,000) with the number of handgun suicides (13,475), we see that the chance of any given owner killing herself is 1 in 1,591. There are 11,025 deaths classified as homicides, (justifiable and criminal) . That means that 1 owner in 1,944 kills someone. And those deaths include shootings by police and justifiable homicides by civilians. (I might point out that I have spent most of my life around people who owned guns and people who smoked. I have never lost a friend to a gun but have lost three to cigarettes.)

The final, and greatest failing of the NEJM study is that the only measure of defensive use of a handgun is "intruders killed". As the doctors themselves say:

"...studies such as ours do not include cases in which burglars or intruders are wounded or frightened away by the use or display of a firearm. Cases in which would-be-intruders may have purposely avoided a house known to be armed are also not identified."

Yet the goal of armed defense is to protect one's own life; not to take that of another. Killing an intruder is the least satisfactory and least common outcome.

The American Rifleman prints a monthly column called "The Armed Citizen". This consists of summaries of newspaper reports of armed self defense situations. A recent issue contains the accounts of twelve incidents; only three of which ended in the death of the intruder. The others resulted in:

"...One would-be burglar fled, but the store owner held the other till police came"

"...Riley held them at gunpoint for police."

"...Halting the robbery and driving the man from the store."

"...Mrs Brown, 73, fired a warning shot from her gun, and together with her husband, held the three for the police"

"...prompting the criminal to flee..."

"...put the man to flight..."

"...thief ran downstairs and dove through a window..."

"...pulled her revolver. Her assailant wisely decided to flee..."

"...captured the stranger...who was wanted for the throat-slashing murder of a woman..."

Dr. Kleck's calculations, derived from national surveys (some sponsored by anti-gun organizations) show that defensive use of guns outnumbers criminal use by more than 100,000 occurrences a year at the most conservative estimate.

Returning to our eavesdropping we hear: "Anyway", macho Michael adds, "If you had a gun he'd just take it away from you and use it against you."

It could happen; we've seen the movie a thousand times,

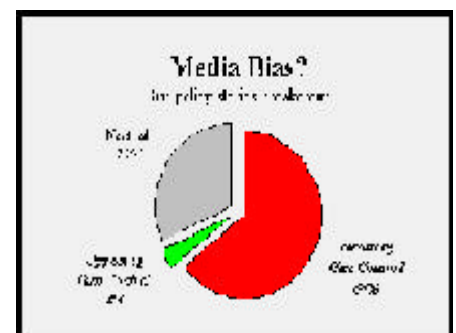
"You won't shoot", he sneers, stalking across the room toward the terrified Annie, the light glinting along the length of knife

in his hand, "give me that gun, you foolish little woman!".

Well, maybe. But many of the women I know , including my librarian wife, would probably have given him a second navel before he took the third step. However, if Annie is indeed too tenderly aware of the infinite value of her attacker's life, then by all means, she should not own a gun; a burial plot would be a wiser use of her money.

So should Annie get a gun? I don't know, because I don't know Annie. But I do know that her decision should not be based on an incomplete research project that has little use outside of its value as propaganda in the gun control war.

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