

The Firearms Rights Newsletter for All South Carolinians!

GrassRoots South Carolina

P.O. Box 6383
Columbia, South Carolina 29260
Internet: www.scfirearms.org



Winter, 2000-2001

Vol.4 No.4

GrassRoots Legislative Efforts Recognized by Gun Owners of America

GrassRoots was honored to be recognized as a major player in the fight to protect our God given, Constitutionally guaranteed Second Amendment rights. Gun Owners of America vouched for the integrity of the GrassRoots leadership and thus made it possible for the GrassRoots leadership to attend a very special legislative strategy seminar. The week long seminar was taught by expert political consultants who work at the national level. The experts taught GrassRoots how to get good legislation passed, or bad legislation killed. GrassRoots was one of only three pro gun organizations allowed to attend this seminar.

GrassRoots was recognized because of our recent successful legislative efforts in (1) changing a horrible so-called Range Protection Bill into a good Range Protection Bill, (2) getting pro gun law reforms passed, and (3) killing anti-gun bills.

Inside This Issue:

**Self-Defense in
Restaurants is Your
God Given Right**

**What Can We Do
After Wakefield?**

**State Farm Insurance
Under Fire**

**Are Your Public
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than Originally
Thought**

More! See Page Two!

WE ARE IN A WAR

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY!!

Mobilization of troops is the first step to winning a war. Make no mistake, we are in a very real war against the anti self-defense, anti-gun, anti-Constitution, Big Brother crowd. Our God given rights are the spoils in this war, and to the victor belong the spoils. We must be victorious!

YOU are the troops in this war against our constitutionally guaranteed rights! We need you, and we need you to be ready when needed! If our troops are still sitting at home when the other side puts their troops on the front line, then we lose the Bill of Rights war. Do you want to apologize to your grandchildren about how you sat in front of the TV while the war to protect our Bill of Rights was lost? Or, do you want to brag to them about the role you played in winning back our God given, Constitutionally protected rights? Its your choice, and the time to make it is NOW!

The most effective way to influence legislators is to show them you care intensely about an issue. You must care enough to let that issue determine how you will vote in the next election. If you don't care enough about an issue to make that issue the deciding factor in how your vote will be cast at the next election, then the politician will ignore you. When your issue determines how you will vote, then the politician knows he must listen to you or else face an angry voter at the polls. Politicians do not like angry voters at the polls.

We Are In a War - GrassRoots Legislative Efforts Recognized by Gun Owners of America

(Cont. from page 1)

WE ARE IN A WAR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY!

For far too long, gun owners have failed to vote to protect the Bill of Rights, especially the Second Amendment. Thus, gun owners have taught politicians they can vote against our rights and gun owners will still vote for the politician. Other smaller special interest groups have more political sway than gun owners because they vote against any politician that votes against their issue. We must let politicians know now that we will remember in November, even if that November is two years away.

... gun owners have failed to vote to protect ... the Second Amendment. Thus, gun owners have taught politicians they can vote against our rights and gun owners will still vote for the politician.

The best way to show legislators how you feel is to send them postcards. Don't bother with a long well thought out letter because they don't get read by anyone other than you. Save your time and send a postcard because all that matters is how many people write, not how well they write. Politicians do not have time to read all the mail they get. All they do is keep track of the numbers.

If you don't care enough ... to make [gun rights] the deciding factor in ... the next election, then the politician will ignore you.

Be a good Boy Scout or Girl Scout. Be prepared. Today, or maybe tomorrow, go to the post office and buy a dozen pre-stamped postcards. Put these

We **There once were four people named
Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.**

postcards in your desk or sock drawer so you will know where they are when you need them. Then, when GrassRoots asks you to send a postcard, you will be able to do so immediately. All too often people say they will get around to it, but things come up and things don't get done. Get your postcards NOW.

... he must listen to you or else face an angry voter at the polls. Politicians do not like angry voters at the polls.

It is time we take back that which is rightfully ours. It is time we take the offensive and pass legislation to restore our God given constitutionally guaranteed rights. WE MUST PLAY TO WIN! GrassRoots is not willing to die the death of a thousand cuts by allowing one gun rights concession after another to take place until we have nothing more to concede. Most of the current GrassRoots gun law reforms have been introduced. We will let you know what you need to do when the proper time comes. Proper timing is vitally important. You must be ready to act when needed, so get your postcards today.

(cont. from page 1)

GrassRoots Legislative Efforts Recognized by

Gun Owners of America

The original Range Protection bill would have forced gun clubs to cap off membership and not allow any new members to join until existing members left. While in the short term this would have created a certain country club atmosphere around gun clubs (which was

appealing to some of those already in the clubs), in the long term it would have been the death knell for the shooting sports and our gun rights. We do not best protect our gun rights by excluding more people from the shooting sports. We best protect our gun rights by recruiting more people into the shooting sports. The original bill would have only protected politically correct shotgun ranges and given NO PROTECTION to outdoor pistol or rifle ranges. The long list of horrors contained in the original Range Protection bill are detailed on the GrassRoots web site.

GrassRoots ... recognized as a major player in the fight to protect our God given, Constitutionally guaranteed Second Amendment rights.

GrassRoots stood firm on principle and refused to allow our enemies to divide and conquer us. GrassRoots fought to protect ALL gun owners and ALL shooting sports. GrassRoots provided legislators with a list of reasons why the original Range Protection bill was a bad bill and would hurt all citizens in South Carolina. GrassRoots wrote almost a dozen amendments to change the horrible bill into a good Range Protection bill. The Senate adopted virtually every GrassRoots amendment and then passed the

We Are In a War - GrassRoots Legislative Efforts Recognized by Gun Owners of America

bill. GrassRoots saved shooting ranges, the future of the shooting sports, and our gun rights by standing up for principle and refusing to give up without a fight.

GrassRoots is the only pro gun organization in South Carolina to take the position that the best defense is a good offense. GrassRoots got tired of watching other so called pro gun organizations just sitting around waiting for more anti-gun legislation to be introduced. GrassRoots wrote pro gun legislation and found legislative sponsors for these pro gun law reforms in 2000. The GrassRoots pro gun law reforms passed the House.

GrassRoots leadership [attended] a very special legislative strategy seminar ... taught by expert political consultants [working] at the national level. The experts taught GrassRoots how to get good legislation passed, or bad legislation killed.

The legislative strategy training that GrassRoots leadership received at the seminar will allow GrassRoots to be even more successful in the future. GrassRoots is currently making suggested changes to become a better political force in South Carolina.

The first step GrassRoots is taking is to change how we communicate with our members. We have relied upon email and newsletters to get our messages out to you. Unfortunately, most of you do not have email, so this option is not as effective as we need it to be. Our quarterly newsletter does not allow GrassRoots leadership to rally the troops when immediately needed. So, GrassRoots is going to start

sending out letters to keep you advised as to how things are going at the SC Statehouse. These letters will be sent on an as needed basis, and you must be ready to take immediate action when you get one of these letters.

There are both good and bad sides to more frequent mailings. The good side is that we can keep you more up to date and we can rally the troops effectively when needed. The bad side is that it costs more money. To help cover the increased costs of these letters, we will ask for contributions. Not everyone can contribute each and every time, but give what you can afford when you can afford it and we will be able to better serve you.

The second step GrassRoots is taking is to form the GrassRoots GunRights Gorillas. The GrassRoots GunRights Gorillas will attend every subcommittee, committee, and General Assembly meeting where our gun rights are being threatened. The GunRights Gorillas will have pictures of each legislator at the subcommittee and committee meeting. Scorecards will be provided to our GunRights Gorillas to make it easy for them keep track of each legislator's actions, comments, and votes. We will keep track of what each legislator does to help or hinder the legislation in which GrassRoots is interested. Then, come next election, GrassRoots will be able to publish a report on each legislator.

GrassRoots GunRights Gorillas will attend every subcommittee, committee, and General Assembly meeting where our gun rights are being threatened.

To make the GunRights Gorillas a reality, we need volunteers. GunRights Gorillas will be observers wearing name tags and taking notes. You will not be asked to speak at these meetings, so even the shy and bashful can help and have something to brag about to their grandchildren. Remember, many hands make light work. Please contact Rob Butler at 803.957.3959 or to volunteer to be a GunRights Gorilla.

Gun owners have the power to win.

GrassRoots has a legislative agenda that all gun owners can be proud to support. Working together, we can get the GrassRoots gun law reforms passed. Gun owners have the power to win. GrassRoots is willing to lead the way to victory. Come join the winning team!

GrassRoots - the only pro gun rights organization in SC working and fighting to make things better!



CWP decal. 3 inches diameter - blue. Laminated for long outdoor life. Mounts to bumper or outside of window, etc. \$2 each or 6 for \$10. CWP embroidered patch for cap \$5 each, 6 for \$25. Ed Howell, PO Box 73, Folly Beach, SC 29439-0073

**Grass Roots
of South Carolina, Inc.
P.O. Box 6383
Columbia, SC 29260
Fax: 803-755-1201**

www.scfirearms.org

GrassRoots South Carolina is a South Carolina 501(c)4 non-profit corporation. 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 gun owners. Our objectives are to improve all aspects of lawful ownership and carrying of firearms in South Carolina.

GrassRoots South Carolina, Inc. is registered as a Lobbyist's Principal in South Carolina and employs lobbyists to promote or oppose legislation concerning all gun owners and issues surrounding the Right to Keep and Bear Arms South Carolina.

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Note: The GrassRoots South Carolina Newsletter is distributed quarterly to the membership of GrassRoots. Publication is in January, April, July, and October with articles for publication due by the 15th of the preceding month.

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- *Are Your Public Schools Anti-Gun?*
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- *Gun Laws and the Heretic*
- *S&W Sell-out Worse than Originally Reported*
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- *When the Truth Gets in the Way...Just Say Nothing!*
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GrassRoots Instructors':

- *A Place to Shoot*
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- *Our GrassRoots Instructors*

Visit GrassRoots' Internet Site:

www.scfirearms.org

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GrassRoots Updates

Newsletter Distribution

Thanks to you we successfully distributed 10,000 Summer 2000 newsletters throughout South Carolina. Many thanks to those who distributed the newsletters to Gun Shops, Club Meetings, and elsewhere! Here's where they went:

Abbeville - 20
Aiken - 220
Anderson - 130
Augusta, North - 70
Aynor - 20 WLA
Barnwell - 70
Batesburg - 70
Beaufort - 70
Burton - 20
Camden - 70
Chapin - 50
Charleston - 20
Cleveland - 20
Cleveland - 70
Columbia - 20 WLA
Columbia - 75
Conway - 1200
Cross - 20 WLA
Denmark - 45
Duncan - 70
Fairforest - 200
Florence - 20 WLA
Florence - 465
Florence - 70
Georgetown - 20 WLA
Great Falls - 65
Greenville - 20
Greenville - 70
Greenwood - 70
Hartsville - 20
Hilton Head - 70
Kiawah Island - 65
Ladson - 50
Laurens - 70
Little River - 65
Moore - 70
Mt. Pleasant - 50
Mullins - 20 WLA
Pageland - 20 WLA
Pamplico - 200
Pickens - 70
Richburg - 70
Simpsonville - 200
Spartanburg - 20 WLA
Spartanburg - 220
Summerville - 20
Sumter - 50
Swansea - 70
Traveler's Rest - 70
Union - 70
West Columbia - 20
Whitmire - 6 Woodruff - 20

Additionally, approximately 3,000 were mailed via postal service!

That took the work of many but it showed what we can do if we work together.

The Fall newsletter was also distributed throughout South Carolina but in a different manner. We mailed out 10,000 newsletters to a targeted market!

We are very hopeful that as we spread the good news that South Carolina has a pro-gun organization fighting for the rights of all gun owners, we will also gather more members to help reverse poorly written gun laws.

Gun Shows

GrassRoots continues to get the word out at gun shows throughout South Carolina!

Merchants That Post Updated on the Internet

Our "Merchant's That Post" webpage has been revised thanks to Melissa Seaman (Web Mistress) and the work done by John Ponti (GrassRoots Merchant Program).

The web page is more user friendly, easier to read, and now has e-mail links to the merchants to enable easier contact by you. Check it out at:

<http://www.scfirearms.org/boycott1.html>

Also, many thanks to John Ponti for all of his hard work on reviving the merchant program! Folks, for many reasons this is one of the most difficult jobs GrassRoots has to offer and John has been doing a great job getting us back on track with our merchant program. John article in the Fall 2000 newsletter, "Guide for Merchant Contact," gives all members a blueprint for merchant contact. It answers many of your most frequently asked questions regarding merchant contact.

Newsletter Article and Notice Submissions

It seems like someone always comes forward with a notice of a great pro-gun event, offering, or article a few weeks after the deadline. It's a bummer when we

get these notices after the newsletter is at the printers!

Please take a few minutes to look over your calendar pages for the next few months and see if there is anything that you'd like to submit.

If you are wondering if your idea for an article is acceptable for inclusion in the GrassRoots newsletter please feel free to contact us at:

GrassRoots South Carolina
P.O. Box 6383
Columbia, SC 29260

Or e-mail me for questions at
lcoble@netside.com

We're More Than CWP!

GrassRoots is more than a CWP organization - We're the number ONE Pro-Firearms, Pro-Second Amendment Organization in South Carolina! Still, we'd like every one of our members to have a Concealed Weapons Permit. If you don't have yours yet we recommend a visit to the GrassRoots CWP Instructors Home Page! These are SLED approved CWP Instructors committed to staying up to date with CWP and firearms issues in South Carolina. Sign up for a class today and tell them GrassRoots sent you!
http://www.scfirearms.org/cwp_inst.htm

If you don't have Internet access write us for a list of GrassRoots Instructors in your area. We'll be glad to get you in touch with one of our instructors.

What Legislative Changes Would You Like to See in South Carolina?

With over 3212 selections chosen, here's the results of our most recent GrassRoots Poll:

- Allow firearms in rest areas. (453) 14%
- Make SC a Class III state. (258) 8%
- Remove the one handgun per 30 days restriction. (334) 10%
- Allow visitors to SC permission to carry. (365) 11%

GrassRoots Updates

- Remove restrictions on new residents to SC. (318) 9%
- Remove most restrictions in current CWP law. (416) 12%
- Allow CWP on school property. (319) 9%
- Decriminalize and lower penalties in current CWP law. (308) 9%
- Allow CWP in parks and recreation areas.(441) 13%

Poll available at the top of our webpage at: <http://www.scfirearms.org>

More on CWP Renewals

From our mailbox we continue to receive inquiries about the hurdles of CWP renewal.

Here's the GrassRoots response:

Point #1: Since fingerprints do not change, we do not understand why they are required either. We are told they do indeed run the prints again. One might wonder, if my fingerprints are on file, if I was to commit a crime where fingerprints were found, why have they not already found me?

Point #2: The LAW requires 3 pictures. GrassRoots is proposing legislation to change it to one picture and a size from 1X1 to 3X5.

Point #3: Rep. Jake Knotts proposed retraining last year. GrassRoots pointed out to Rep. Knotts that SC would lose reciprocity with every state we now have reciprocity with if a retraining requirement was added. Rep. Knotts dropped that proposal.

Point #4: Renewal hurdles mean more people will not renew. Reductions in the numbers of CWP holders will hurt us tremendously. The only way we will prevail is to have power in numbers. Small numbers means no power. We need to actively reduce barriers to the renewal process.

Point #5: Why should we limit ourselves to only one project such as renewal? GrassRoots wants to make a number of changes this legislative session, not just

one. Renewal issues are one of the changes we want to make.

Point #6: GrassRoots is a WE organization. WE - i.e., you, me, and lots of others can work for improvements. GrassRoots leadership only does what the GrassRoots members want us to do, AND what the members are willing to work for, too. If the members will not work, we can get nothing done. Our power comes from our members. We do not have money to influence legislators, so we have to rely upon our numbers of members. Contact your legislators every time we ask you to do so, then you will be doing all of us a large service. Regarding some of the requirements for renewal, remember that SLED isn't making this stuff up. It's the law. Unfortunately many requirements such as fingerprints and photos (which they don't use on your permit) are required by law. GrassRoots is working to change this. Hassling the folks at SLED won't remove these requirements. Joining GrassRoots will. So, join us in our efforts to make our CWP law a better law for you.

GrassRoots Online Firearms Information News Service Added

GrassRoots now has added more automatically updating Firearms News articles to our webpage at: <http://www.scfirearms.org/index.html#AA>

The articles and headlines change daily so you can stay up to date with what's happening in the news!

Also, thanks to Melissa Seaman for her tireless work in making a links page for GrassRoots which, in fact, is much more than a links page - it's a mega resource directory! You'll want to bookmark this one folks! Also, be sure to travel to the other links pages she has linked to from the Main Links Page.

GrassRoots Main Links Page:
<http://www.scfirearms.org/links2.html>

Pro-Second Organizations Other States:
<http://www.scfirearms.org/links2states.html>

Products and Services Links:
<http://www.scfirearms.org/links2products.html>

Thanks to webmistress Melissa for helping Grassroots have the best weblinks available anywhere!

Merchant Leaflet

Paul Peters has been busy developing a brochure for use in contacting merchants. He has laid it out as a tri-fold brochure. There are some graphics interspersed in the text. Below is a short sample of the first bit of text.

<begin>

We are the Good Guys, and we want to be your customers.

Okay, so we don't wear white hats and ride palomino horses, but we're still good guys. Who are we? We are professional men and women. We are family members. We are single men and women. We are young adults and senior citizens. Some of us are ex-military, and some of us are ex-police officers. We are many different types of people, but we all are law-abiding citizens. Some of us want to be your customers.

Unfortunately, something at your place of business stands between you and us. What is that? It is a sign at your business or at the outer perimeter of your mall or property that says: "No Concealable Weapons Allowed." You see, another thing we have in common is a permit to carry a concealed handgun. In order to obtain this permit, we all have had special training in the use of firearms and in the law. We have undergone criminal history checks by the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Many of us have this permit so that we can protect ourselves should the need arise. That need could arise almost anywhere. Women are often victimized as they go to their cars in parking lots or on the street.

Here are 6 things to think about:
<much deleted>

You can e-mail Paul at: [pape-
ters@email.msn.com](mailto:pape-
ters@email.msn.com) for the rest of the text should you want to see the rest of the brochure. We hope to soon have plenty of these printed and ready to distribute to merchants as well as GrassRoots members wanting some additional ammo to

GrassRoots Updates

combat those posted merchants in your area.

GrassRoots Merchant Advertising

Goal: To add value and increase the benefits of being a GrassRoots member by offering GrassRoots members discounts with pro-gun merchants. Also, to provide pro-gun merchants free advertising to those interested in their products and services.

GrassRoots will be offering free advertising in this newsletter! Hopefully this will begin to be a regular feature with each newsletter.

Here's the deal:

1) We will accept business card sized ads that you must provide to us in hardcopy format. We have a limited amount of space available so respond ASAP if you are an interested merchant! Send your business card or ad to GrassRoots South Carolina, P.O. Box 6383, Columbia, SC 29260.

2) The ads will be listed on a page in our newsletter which will have the following statement: "Merchants listed on this page offer GrassRoots members a minimum 5% discount on all products and services. Merchants reserve the option of requesting proof of GrassRoots membership."

3) The ads will most likely be printed on the next to the last page of the newsletter such that an individual will be able to tear off and use the back page (with mailing label and member expiration date) as proof of membership.

4) Since we are offering this service free of charge, we will not be doing any ad layout whatsoever. Also, realize that the statement listed above, "Merchants listed on this page offer GrassRoots members a minimum 5% discount on all products and services," means exactly that - please do not complicate things with selected products or services. We're trying to keep this very, very simple. GrassRoots members who are merchants will get first preference if more ads are received than we can use. Also, I should add that products and services related to Firearms, Personal Protection, CWP, etc. will be also be given first opt. Finally, due to

restrictions on the use of our Non-Profit Org. Bulk Rate Postage we can not offer this advertising to Realtors, Credit Card Merchants, or Insurance Products.

Typically we're always knocking merchants around here. Let's be positive! Hopefully a 5% discount here and there will make your GrassRoots membership worth more than your annual \$15 membership dues!

Tip!

You can effectively double our circulation by leaving your GrassRoots Newsletter in a waiting room, repair shop, gun shop, or almost anywhere.

Recycle and watch GrassRoots grow!

Staying in Touch with GrassRoots

GrassRoots now has multiple layers of communication with its members and other gun owners in South Carolina. I'll review a few of those layers here:

We have printed and distributed 20,000 copies of our newsletters since this summer, servicing our members, gun shops throughout the state, as well as a one time mailing to 6,000 Guns and Ammo subscribers. Our quarterly newsletter is mailed out every January, April, July, and October.

We continue to send out monthly e-mail updates as needed to keep all subscribing South Carolinians (members and not) up to date with what we are doing. Our current e-mail send list is over 1,600. The last monthly update can also be found online at:
http://www.scfirearms.org/grscnews12_00.htm

We also maintain close communication via the web with our webpage at <http://www.scfirearms.org> which now has daily automatic updating firearms newsfeeds at:
<http://www.scfirearms.org/index.html#AA>

We have established three e-groups to facilitate communication with South Carolinians and GrassRoots

members as follows:

[scfirearms] is Public communication for GrassRoots and non-GrassRoots members. Chitchat allowed. Subscribe by visiting
<http://www.egroups.com/subscribe/scfirearms>

[grassroots_leadership] is for GrassRoots Officers, Leaders, Volunteers, and Members interested in becoming active in Second Amendment issues throughout South Carolina. No Chitchat please. Subscribe by visiting
http://www.egroups.com/subscribe/grassroots_leadership

[grassroots_bod] is for GrassRoots Board of Directors only.

Also, GrassRoots continues to put out Special alerts as necessary. Here's a recent alert on self-defense at Nice Restaurants:
<http://www.scfirearms.org/16-23-4651.htm>

Our links pages are turning into a huge resource. A special area for Women's Resources is included.
<http://www.scfirearms.org/links2.html>

Recent discussions at our staff meetings have indicated we need to expand communication with our members not currently on the Internet. Members can expect an increased number of alerts and updates via postal service delivery in the future.

GrassRoots has grown beyond CWP issues and now serves all firearms owners in South Carolina. We will be active in all areas of firearms legislation in the future. <end>



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What We Can Do After Wakefield?

What We Can Do After Wakefield?

By John R. Lott Jr.

WITH A GUNMAN'S attack that killed seven people at a Wakefield Internet company on Tuesday, the question is simple: What can be done to stop similar shootings in the future?

For many the answer is more government regulation. The creation of gun-free zones, waiting periods, background checks, and safe storage regulations are just a few of the laws typically proposed. Yet, Massachusetts already has these restrictions and many more.

Surely the intentions of these laws are noble. The goal of preventing concealed handguns or creating gun-free zones is to protect people. But what might appear to be the most obvious policy may actually cost lives.

When gun control laws are passed, it is law-abiding citizens, not would-be criminals, who obey them. Unfortunately, the police cannot be everywhere, so these laws risk creating situations in which the good guys cannot defend themselves from the bad ones.

This point was driven home to me when I received an e-mail from a friend recently, telling me that he had just dropped off his kids at a public school and outside the school was a sign that said "This is a gun-free zone." I couldn't help think, if I put up a sign on my home that said, "This home is a gun-free zone," would it make it more attractive or less attractive to criminals entering my home and attacking myself or my family?

While horrible crimes like the one in Wakefield get the attention they deserve, rarely mentioned are the many attacks that are stopped by citizens who are able to defend themselves. About two million times a year people use guns defensively. Few realize that some of the public school shootings were stopped by citizens with guns.

For example, in the first public shooting spree at a high school, in Pearl, Miss., in October 1997 that left two dead, an assistant principal retrieved a gun from his car and physically immobilized the

shooter for more than five minutes before police arrived.

A school-related shooting in Edinboro, Pa., in spring 1998 that left one dead, was stopped after a bystander pointed a shotgun at the shooter when he started to reload his gun. The police did not arrive for another 11 minutes.

But anecdotal stories cannot resolve this debate. A study at the University of Chicago by a colleague and myself compiled data on all of the multiple-victim public shootings that occurred in the United States from 1977 to 1999. Included were incidents in which at least two people were killed or injured in a public place; to focus on the type of shooting seen in Wakefield, we excluded gang wars or shootings that were the byproduct of another crime, such as robbery. The United States averaged more than 20 such shootings annually, with an average of 1.5 people killed and 2.5 wounded in each one.

So what can stop these attacks? We have examined a range of different gun laws, such as waiting periods, as well the frequency and level of punishment. However, while arrest and conviction rates, prison sentences, and the death penalty reduce murders generally, they do not consistently deter public shootings.

The reason is simple: Those who commit these crimes usually die. They are either killed in the attack or commit suicide. The normal penalties rarely apply.

To be effective, policies must deal with what motivates these criminals, which is to kill and injure as many people as pos-



sible. Some appear to do it for the publicity, which is itself related to the amount of harm they inflict.

The best way to stop these attacks is to enact policies that can limit the carnage. We found only one policy that effectively accomplishes this: the passage of right-to-carry laws.

With Michigan's adoption this month, 32 states now give adults the right to carry concealed handguns as long as they do not have a criminal record or a history of significant mental illness. When states passed such laws during the 23 years we studied, the number of multiple-victim public shootings declined by a dramatic 67 percent. Deaths and injuries from these shootings fell on average by 78 percent.

To the extent that attacks still occur in states after these laws are enacted, they disproportionately occur in areas in which concealed handguns are forbidden. The people who get these permits are extremely law-abiding and rarely lose their permits for any reason. Without letting law-abiding citizens defend themselves, we risk leaving victims as sitting ducks.

John R. Lott Jr. is a senior research scholar at Yale University Law School and the author of More Guns, Less Crime.

South Carolina Activists in Action

Subject: SIGNAGE IN ALL WAL-MART STORES

Dear GrassRoots:

You will never see a sign against "no conceal carry" in any Wal-Mart store in South Carolina again - including the Greer, SC store. The signs are down in the Greer store and the District Loss Prevention Director is making sure that no other store has signs posted. He is not only sending out an order to this effect but he personally is going to check on the stores to make sure there are no slip ups. He also upon my suggestion, is taking our sign to the head office to get approval on them to put them up in all the stores. DONE DEAL!

Neal Seaman

GrassRoots Response:

Thanks Neal,

We have received official word and verification by Grassroots members that the Wal-Mart Supercenter in Greer is no longer posted. A very special thanks to those who worked to see the signs come down, and special thanks to Neal Seaman, who didn't take "no" for an answer and took his views to Wal-Mart's top management after he was jacked around by the store's general manager.

No Weapons

From the Herald-Journal, Spartanburg, SC November 19th 2000

Ken Cunningham of Spartanburg, a concealed weapons instructor, says he wants to make sure everyone knows that WestGate Mall does not allow the "legal carrying" of concealed weapons by the 30,000 honest citizens who have state approved concealed weapons permits. "So everyone can now shop there without worrying about any honest citizens shooting them," he says. "Now only the criminals can carry them there, so beware."

C.A.P.E.

Citizens Against Posted Establishments

C.A.P.E. is planning their coming out with an action against the Murrells Inlet Square Mall. If you are interested in be-



C.A.P.E.

Citizens Against Posted Establishments

Neal & Melissa Seaman, Conway, South Carolina, 843-488-5311
Email: cape@cape-sc.org, Web: <http://www.cape-sc.org>

coming an active member and getting posted signs down then please contact:

Neal and Melissa Seaman

843-488-5311

paix@sccost.net or

skypod@keepandbeararms.com

GrassRoots PAC

The GrassRoots non-profit rules limit our ability to spend money for political purposes. After much discussion at the GrassRoots monthly meetings, it was decided to form the GrassRoots PAC. On October 4, 2000, the PAC was officially formed. The first contributions were deposited in Wachovia Bank.

Prior to elections, a mail out was made to registered voters in Rep. Ron Fleming's District 42 in Union County. He had blocked passage of the CWP reform bill that was up for a vote in the SC House of Representatives. This led in turn to several other representatives also blocking this highly desirable bill.

A mail out was also made to Rep. Margaret Gamble's District 89 in Lexington County. This was in support of her re-election bid as a reward for her support of the CWP reform bill and her promise to introduce the entire GrassRoots gun law reform package in 2001.

The account balance is high enough so there is no monthly fee to reduce our

funds. We urge those who can to contribute to this PAC so we can influence the legislature in its deliberations on proposed bills that affect our 2nd Amendment rights. Send your contributions to: Ervin R. Wagner, Sr., Chairman/Treasurer, 114 Morse Street, Whitmire, SC 29178-1109
803-694-2755
ervin1@mindspring.com

HOPE FOR MERCY FROM PREDATORS
OR COUNT ON HER OWN STRENGTH?

Should she
be allowed a choice?



Pocket HOLSTERS
For
POCKET GUNS

rjhedley@gte.net

<http://homepages.go.com/~hedley57/>

Are Public Schools Brainwashing Our Children?

Are Public Schools Brainwashing Our Children? Teaching People with Guns are Bad !

By Neal Seaman

Do you know what your children are being taught in their classrooms about guns? If they attend Greenville County Public Schools they are being taught that ALL GUNS, no matter who has or uses them should be feared. Even worse, our children are being taught that any people using these tools are not socially acceptable. The anti-gun groups are so determined to push their political agenda that they have stooped to brainwashing your children into believing that anyone with a gun is a bad person. The school teachings include hunters, target shooters, and even those people who have passed SLED and FBI background checks to get concealed weapons permits. It is especially troubling that the schools make no exception for, or mention of, parents and others using guns for self-defense.

"The philosophy in the school room of one generation becomes the philosophy of government in the next." Abraham Lincoln

The Meeks-Heit Totally Awesome Health Book used in the Greenville, SC public school district contains this anti-gun propaganda. The book is used from kindergarten through grade 12 in all the district's schools. The book was accepted by the school board based on the recommendation of Brenda Mays, the district Sex Education Advisor. School board member Ann Sutherlin objected, and urged the school board mem-

bers to look at the books, especially the sections that deal with controversial political issues. But, the school board chose to accept the books without review or discussion.

A Greenville newspaper (The Times Examiner) reviewed the book and found it emphasizes a "politically correct" position on gun ownership, stressing it to a point of indoctrination. Mays, the district Sex Education Advisor, said Meeks-Heit "builds from kindergarten through high school." Each year the message gets stronger than the previous years. First graders are told: "Stay away from anyone who carries a gun." There is no distinction made between policemen, parents who hunt, or criminals. Also, the book never informs the students that the Constitution of the United States guarantees the right of citizens to keep and bear arms.

Linda Meeks' and Philip Heit's college-level text *Totally Awesome Strategies for Teaching Health* is the most widely used book for teacher training in colleges, universities, state departments of education, school districts in the United States, and a dozen foreign countries. Also, "thousands of teachers throughout the world have participated in their teacher training workshops and wellness conferences," according to their promotional material. Their indoctrination and brainwashing begins with the teachers and continues on to include our children. This cancer must be removed.

Abraham Lincoln said it best when he stated "The philosophy in the school room of one generation becomes the philosophy of government in the next." If we do not stop the brainwashing of our children now, they will grow up to be the Charles Schumer's and Hillary Clinton's of tomorrow. Or worse, they will be under the control of those brainwashed into believing the unconstitutional anti-gun teachings of the public schools.

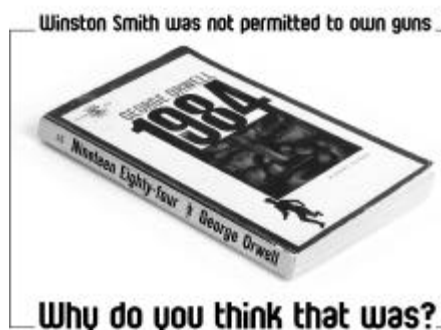
If we do not stop the brainwashing of our children now, they will grow up to be the Charles Schumer's and Hillary Clinton's of tomorrow.

I have found this book is being used throughout South Carolina. I am trying to get it reviewed and removed from our schools. We must not allow our children to be brainwashed. I have started the ball rolling in Horry County and I am looking for volunteers in the other counties to help me rid South Carolina of this cancer. If you are interested in stopping this

brainwashing of our children, please contact me so we can work together. Our hopes and aspirations are in our children. We must unite and fight to protect our children from

the brainwashing techniques of the Meeks-Heit *Totally Awesome Health Book*.

Neal Seaman has been actively fighting for American rights since 1964. He is the Horry County volunteer for GrassRoots SC. He can be reached at paix@sccoast.net or 843-488-5311. You can also visit his website at www.guncontrolvictories.com.



Warning! These Merchants and Businesses Prohibit Firearms on their Premises

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Statewide:

Angler's Mini Marts
BB&T
Carolina Bank & Trust
Carolina First!
Carolina Tire
Central Carolina Bank
Coastal Federal Bank
First Citizens Bank
Gaz-Bah Mini Shops
Hot Spot Convenience Stores (Jordan Oil Co)
One Price Clothing
Santee-Wateree Regional Transportation Authority (all vehicles posted "NO CWP")
Security Finance
South Carolina Federal Credit Union
Suburban Propane
Thomas and Howard Cash and Carry
Tiger Mart (Rogers Oil Co)
United Parcel Service Customer Service Centers
Will-Mart Convenience Stores

Aiken:

Aiken Mall 2441 Whiskey Rd
Belk Department Store
Captain D's Seafood 1907 Whiskey Rd
McDonald's 1902-A Whiskey Rd
Shoney's Restaurants 1909 Whiskey Rd
The Aiken Standard 326 Rutland Drive

Anderson:

Anderson Yamaha/Honda 110 Miracle Mile Plaza
Perpetual Bank 907 Main St

Andrews:

H&S Oil Co

Barnwell:

Rainbow Gas Garden 1109 Dunbarton Blvd

Batesburg/Leesville:

B & L Sports 514 W Railroad Ave
Huddle House 327 E Columbia Ave
State Farm Insurance 605 W Church St
Wiz's Eatery 110 West Church St Suite A

Bishopville:

Holland Enterprises, Feed and Seed
R Travis Windham Insurance 204 N Main St

Blythewood:

Bank of Ridgeway 115 McNulty St
Blythewood Oil Co /Sharpe Exxon #1 Hwy 21

IGA McNulty St

JR's United Convenience 10447 Wilson Rd

McDonald's 250 Blythewood Rd

Plum's Ice Cream Factory Wilson Rd

Vision Quest Video 420-D McNulty Rd

Camden:

Food Chief 433 Sumter Hwy

IGA 1816 Jefferson Davis Hwy

Charleston:

Belk Department Stores

Charleston Steel & Metal 107 Brigade St

Check Care Systems 4790-A Trade St

Citadel Mall 2064 Sam Rittenburg Blvd

CPM Federal Credit Union 5600 Virginia Ave

Evening Post Publishing Co 134 Columbus St

Gallman Personnel Services 3175 W Montague Ave

Goodwill Industries of Lower SC 5640 Rivers Ave

Henry's Sporting Goods 1662 Hwy 17 N

James Island Cleaners 1739 Maybank Hwy

Kaufman Mobile Home Supply 6842 Rivers Ave

Lenz Dry Cleaners 2665 Ashley Phosphate Rd

Lenz Dry Cleaners Greenridge Road, N. Charleston

Northwoods Mall 2222 Northwoods Blvd

Pagemart of South Carolina

Piggly Wiggly 1005 Harborview Rd

State Farm Insurance 8300 Dorchester Road

Tuesday Morning 8780 Rivers Avenue N. Charleston

Columbia:

Alpine Road Amoco 8404 Two Notch Rd

Arch Paging 1724 Broad River Rd

Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SC I-20 & Alpine Rd

Bojangle's 542 St Andrews Rd

Builders FirstSource (was Pelican Cos) 919 S Edisto Ave

Carolina Collegiate Federal Credit Union 710 Pulaski St

Carolina Convenience Corp 209 Stoneridge Dr Suite 102

Chipco Computer Distributors 122-F Old Mill Rd

Colonial Life & Accident Ins (Unum) 1200 W Colonial Life

Columbia Mall 7201 Two Notch Rd

Columbia Steel and Metal 1148 Shop Rd

Crowon-Stone Printing Co 819 Main St

Custom Pizza Co 6801-3 St. Andrews Rd

Eckerd Drug #2744 9810 Two Notch Rd

Express Personnel Services 4464 Devine, Suite L

Exxon / Blimpie's of St. Andrews 800 St. Andrews Rd

Frankie's Fun Park 140 Parkridge Dr

Goodwill Industries 555 St. Andrews Rd

Hair Cuttery 9710 Two Notch Rd

Hair We Are 9810 Two Notch Rd

Hancock Motor Co 3905 W Beltline Blvd

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

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Columbia (cont'd.)

Movies at Polo Road 9700 Two Notch Road
National Tax Service 3707 Main St
RBMG 7909 Parklane Rd
Richland Fashion Mall 3400 Forest Dr
South Carolina Merchants Assoc 1735 St Julien Pl
St. Andrews Mult-Cinemas 527 St. Andrews Rd
Star Music 1322 Assembly St
Star Music 9810 Two Notch Rd
Tuesday Morning 282 St. Andrews Rd
United Oil Marketers Garners Ferry Rd
United Oil Marketers N Main & I-20
Western Steer Steakhouse St. Andrews Rd
Youngs True Value Hardware 7734 Two Notch Road

Conway:

Belk Department Store
Rod's Pawn & Jewelry 2298 Hwy 544

Cottageville:

Main Street Diner 10716 Cottageville Hwy

Midlands Area:

#1 Flea Market Hwy 1
Allstate Insurance Claims 172 McSwain Dr
Cooper Power Tools, 670 Industrial Dr, Lexington
Cooper's Corner Exxon/Hardee's/Laundromat/Car Wash
1910 S Lake Dr, Lexington
CVI-Cablevision Industries 1125 B Ave, W Cola
First Community Bank 5455 Sunset Blvd, Lexington
Hair Cattery 3028 Charleston Hwy
Kroger's Sav-On Food Stores 7467 Woodrow St, Irmo
Old Cherokee Amoco 1104 N Lake Dr, Lexington
Ramada Inn West I-26 & US Hwy 378, W Columbia
SC Farm Bureau 724 Knox Abbot Dr, Cayce
Sansbury Eye Center 205 Columbia Ave
SMI Steel 310 New State Rd, Cayce
Taco Bell - All Midlands Locations
The Factory Outlets - All Midlands Locations
Wendy's 1410 Lake Murray Blvd, Irmo

Darlington:

Henry's Pantry 438 N Main St

Easley:

Goodwill of Upper SC 5155 Calhoun Memorial Hwy

Florence:

Rack Room Shoes Florence Commons Center

Fountain Inn:

Burger King 1101 N Main St

Georgetown:

Beverage Depot 254 St Delight Rd
Edward Jones Investments 936 Front St
Georgetown Art Gallery Inc 732 Front St
Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce 1001 Front St

Georgetown (cont'd.)

Georgetown Seafood 1902 Highmarket St
Law Firm of Hinds, Cowan, Strange, & Greer 604 Front St
Nightingale's Professional Apparel 924 Front St
Piggly Wiggly 1620 Highmarket St
Prince George Framing & Gallery 805 Front St
Thomas Cafe 703 Front St

Georgetown (cont'd.)

Tomlinson's Department Store 806 Front St

Gilbert:

First Community Bank of Gilbert 4325 Augusta Hwy

Greenville:

AAA Supply 203 Haywood Rd
Burger King 1513 Poinsett Hwy
Comfort Inn 545 N Pleasantburg Dr
Rogers Stereo 525 Woodruff Rd
Spinx Oil Convenience Store
UPS Customer Counter 291 Fairforest Way

Greenwood:

Burger King
Cross Creek Mall
Dixie Drive-In 600 Montague Ave
Greenwood Bank & Trust

Hartsville

Belk Department Store

Hilton Head:

Belk Department Store

Hollywood:

Piggly Wiggly

Jefferson:

B&M Grocery Hwy 151 South

Lugoff:

Food Chief 840 Hwy 1 S

Manning:

Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce 19 N Brooks St
Freedom Finance, Inc 14 N Mill St

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Marion:
Donut Hole

Mauldin:
Golden Strip Mirror and Glass 343 Miller Rd

Monck's Corner:
Scotsman Conv. Store 1446 South Live Oak
The Berkeley Independent 320 E. Main Street

Mt. Pleasant:
Pantry Pride 2171G Hwy 17 N

Mullins:
Pee Dee Office Systems Main St

Murrells Inlet:
Inlet Square Mall 10125 Hwy 17 Bypass & Tadlock Rd
Old House Memories Antiques

Myrtle Beach:
Advantage Realty 9622 N Kings Hwy
Dixie Discount Beverage S Kings Hwy
Federal Express 1600 Stockholder Ave
Galleria Liquors 9658 N Kings Hwy
Klig's Kites 4824 Hwy 17 S, N Myrtle Beach
Klig's Kites Kings Hwy, Surfside
Myrtle Beach (cont'd)
Myrtle Beach (cont'd.)
Schlotzsky's Deli 812 S Kings Hwy
Shell Lamp Outlet 9600 F3 North Kings Hwy.
Surfwood Office Supply 809 2nd Avenue N Myrtle Beach
Time Warner Cable 1901 Oak St
VPS Geo. Bishop Parkway
White Realty, Inc. 210 17th Ave. South N. Myrtle Beach

Pacolet:
Pacolet Express 441 N Hwy 150

Pawley's Island:
Tuesday Morning 364 Hwy 17 N

Pickens:
AAA Marine

Rock Hill:
Three Bells Beauty Salon 803 Willowbrook Ave

Saluda:
Saluda Farm and Garden Supply 508 N Main St

Seneca:
Carquest Auto Parts 507 N First St

Hometown Food Store N Walnut St

Spartanburg:
Progress Lighting 101 Corporate Dr
Westgate Mall 205 W Blackstock Rd

Summerville:
Maxway Boon Hill Rd
North Main Market 1301 N Main St
The Consignment Gallery N Cedar St

Sumter:
Belk Department Store
Black River Electric Cooperative 1121 N Pike Rd W
Boykin Air Conditioning Services 845 S Guignard Dr
CP & L 180 Wesmark Blvd
Dixon's Grocery State Hwy 261
Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce 32 E Calhoun St
H & S Wholesale 200 S Harvin St
Hill Plumbing & Electric 438 N Main St
Hodge Auto/Truck Service 491 E Liberty St
Jessamine Mall 1057 Broad St
Kwik-Fare 1768 Pinewood Rd
Manchester Farms 3525 Old Hwy 521 N. Dalzell
Neal's Cafeteria 16 E Liberty St
SAFE Federal Credit Union 180 Wesmark Blvd
Sportsman's Shop and Stop 2810 Hwy 15 S
Sumter Check Casher 1084A Broad St
Time Finance Co. 31 Liberty St
Tri Star Storage II/Cash Advance 2220 Peach Orchard Hwy

Swansea:
Shelton's Rainbow BP 100 W First St

Taylors:
Spinx Oil Convenience Store 3226 Wade Hampton Blvd

Walterboro:
Allied Department Store 205 E Washington St
Carpet Country
Carpets of Walterboro 601 Bells Hwy
Clearvision Optical 501A Bells Hwy
Coastal Electric Cooperative 2269 Jefferies Blvd
Gold Collection 501 Bells Hwy
Hunan Chinese Restaurant 339 N Jefferies Blvd
Jus Sports 253D Bells Hwy
Low Country Marine 903 Green Pond Hwy
Parks Auto Parts 555 Bells Hwy
Seigler Brothers One Hour Photo 501 Bells Hwy
Wholesale Bedding Outlet 111 Eddie Chasteen Dr

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Welcome Back!

The Following Merchants Have **REMOVED** Signs Which Discourage Law Abiding CWP Holders from Entering Their Stores!

B-Mart Manning
Piggly Wiggly of Chesterfield
Gloriosa Florists
Hiller Hardware
Ace Parker Tires of Sumter
Office Max - All Locations
Special Effects Hair Salon
System Plus Computers
Blythewood Feed and Hardware
McDuffie's Home Furnishings
Lowe's Hardware - All Locations
Rush's Restaurants
McCall's Supply
Little Pigs Barbecue
Chamber of Commerce Walterboro
Discount Auto Parts
Domino's Pizza on Two Notch
Cost Cutter's Barber Shop
Dixie Furniture in Walterboro
Walterboro Chamber of Commerce
Wayne's Sporting Goods and Trophies
Walterboro McDonalds
Burger King Walterboro
Warshaws Mens Shop
Perkin's Family Restaurant
Food Chief Store #22
Crosby Herndon Music
Thyme Out Exxon
Greenville Carmike Cinemas
If It's Paper
Best Stop Stores (pending)
Denny's Restaurants
Burlington Coat Factory
Collins Jewelry
Wal-Mart, Columbia & Greer
Lee's Grocery
Spann's Store
Becknell Cleaners
Camden Gas and Oil
Granger in Columbia

Food Lion of Ravenel
Ed's Paint Center
Jim Hall's Auto Service
Central True Value Hardware
Gerry's & Things
Ben Satcher Motors
Wicker World, Myrtle Beach
Jones Department Stores
Pro-Glo Body Shop, Sumter
Granny's Cafe, Walterboro
Blythewood Pharmacy
Sav-Way Convenience Stores
Grady Miller's Honda
Circle K/Smile Gas in Sumter
Logan's Appliance Center, Bishopville
Wal-Mart 2245 Ashley Crossing, N. Charleston
B and D Grocery, Rembert
Spee Dee Cash, Sumter
Piggly Wiggly, Lexington
Lube Express, Surfside Beach
Horry Telephone Cooperative
Piggly Wiggly, Ladson
Heavenly Ham #B2 Myrtle Beach
H and R Block Manning
Beach Ford Myrtle Beach
Freedom Finance Sumter
Food Chief Johnsonville
Food Chief Pamplico
Frankie's Fun Park Lexington
Buddy's Pizza and Subs Pelion
Custom Pizza Co. Chapin
Dick's Pawn Shop N. Myrtle Beach
Hay Tire Co., Charleston
New Country Corner, Manning
Caper House, Saluda
Bi Rite, Swansea
Sub Terminal, Aiken
Low Country Ford, Summerville
Hair Cattery, Harbison Blvd, Columbia
Dick's Pawn Shops, Myrtle Beach

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Email jrponti@yahoo.com

South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructors Information

A Place To Shoot in South Carolina

Gunowner's Rights Association Shooting Scenarios By Dennis Crocker

Johnny Rowland host of The Shooting Show (T.V.), The Thinking Right (radio) and inventor of the awesome .460 Rowland cartridge has a new shooting discipline. Mr. Rowland has been in Guns & Ammo, Shooting Times, Gun World and American Hand Gunner.

A few years ago, Johnny started a group known as the Gunner's Rights Association. After awhile he got to thinking it might be good for these people to do a little shooting. Out of this thought was born G.R.A.S.S. (Gunner's Rights Association Shooting Scenarios)

The primary goal of G.R.A.S.S. is to teach safe gun handling and safe shooting techniques, along with the proper tactics to solve self-defense scenarios. The shooter, who uses a more powerful handgun is rewarded with a better scoring factor. We want everyone to have fun and train safely. Everyone from a novice to a master shooter, young or old, man, woman or child is welcome to participate. There are no losers in G.R.A.S.S. When you learn safe gun handling and increase your gun handling skills everyone wins.

I will go over some of the rules - they are simple. Any firearm that is deemed practical for personal protection is most likely O.K. Ask yourself this, would I really carry this for self defense? Holsters should be practical for personal carry. Because of safety concerns, shoulder or cross draw holsters will not be allowed at most ranges. All equipment used is to be approved by the local match director.

There are four power classes. They are determined by bullet weight times velocity divided by 1000. Mouse class is from 0 to 125. Minor is more than 125 to 170. Medium is more than 170 to 200. Major is more than 200. There are four scoring zones A, B, C, D. Mouse is 1,2,3 and 6. Minor is 2, 4, 6, and 9.

Medium 4, 6, 8, and 10. Major is 5,7,9 and 10. The target used is a U.S. Customs (cat1) Any target engaged requires at least six points to neutralize. If will have .5 second to your raw shooting time for every point less than ten.

Every course of fire should simulate a possible real life scenario. Targets are to be engaged in tactical order unless stated. Some shooters will not like G.R.A.S.S. If winning a game is high on list this may not be for you. If learning gun skills that may save your life sounds good to you give us a try. It is a proven fact that you will default to your level of training when under stress. You will do what you have practiced.

The G.R.A.S.S. shooting game is being played in the Spartanburg area. For a complete copy of the rules or to shoot the next match call me at 864-587-8722 or e-mail me at crocker@logicsouth.com. Shooting G.R.A.S.S. it's a blast!

IDPA by Charles Ferree IDPA Match Director

Okay, you have taken the class, filled out your application, and finally received your Concealed Weapons Permit. Now, how do you know which skills you need to practice? Which skills you have mastered and which skills still need to be fine tuned. There is a way to evaluate your defensive shooting skills. The International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) sanctions handgun matches that give competitors a forum to isolate their strengths and weaknesses.

IDPA stresses guns suitable for CWP, holsters, and ammo carriers. There are four divisions for handguns. All double action semi-autos shoot in one division. Single action autos are divided into two divisions based on caliber. All revolvers shoot together in one division. The playing field is further leveled by only allowing a minimum number of modifications to your handgun. These include modifications to improved reliability and cosmetic changes. Also, due to the limited availability and cost of high capacity magazines, pistols are limited to eight or ten rounds depending upon the division.

If this sounds interesting, there are several clubs around the state where you can give IDPA a try. Mid Carolina Rifle Club in West Columbia shoots IDPA on the first Sunday of every month. Spartanburg Practical Pistol shoots on the third Saturday and Anderson Practical Pistol shoots on the forth Sunday of the month. For more information go to IDPA's website: www.idpa.com or contact me at ferreec@bellsouth.com.

I would like to thank Grass Roots SC for their continued support of IDPA.

Ask an Instructor By Inst. Paul Peters

Q: What can be construed as brandishing?

A: I could not find a definition for "brandish" in Black's Law Dictionary. Below are some other dictionary definitions, plus two for "flourish."

Several other sections of the Code besides the CWP section refer to the brandishing of a firearm or other weapon. The law also addresses pointing and presenting a firearm. I'm not a LEO, but I was. I have always been of the opinion that by using the word "brandish" the law was addressing the waving or wielding of a weapon in some threatening manner. However, I can see how displaying or presenting a weapon in public in a non-threatening manner could get someone in trouble also.

The permit is for carrying concealed, not displaying or carrying openly. Certainly, pointing, waving, or wielding a firearm in a threatening manner for reasons other than legitimate defensive purposes would be taken the most seriously.

If the wind blows back your jacket, that shouldn't be a problem, nor should a brief, inadvertent display when reaching for a product on a top shelf in the supermarket. However, we should try to avoid those inadvertent displays. The law says the

South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructors Information

weapon "must be carried in a manner that is hidden from public view in normal wear of clothing except when needed for self-defense, defense of others, and the protection of real or personal property." The law doesn't stipulate exceptions for inadvertent displays, but we are all human beings. LEOs and judges know that.

Some people do over-react to the sight of a gun, but most don't, especially if it is simply being carried in a holster. Personally, I think most people would assume that anyone carrying a holstered gun had some legitimate authorization for carrying it.

As was mentioned, intent is part of it. If you take reasonable care to keep it concealed, it will almost never be revealed and you should be all right. However, anyone who has repeated instances of inadvertent displays brings into question his efforts to comply with the concealment requirement.

American Heritage Dictionary:

brandish (bràn'dîsh) verb, transitive

1. To wave or flourish (a weapon, for example) menacingly. 2. To display ostentatiously. Noun: A menacing or defiant wave or flourish.

flourish, verb, transitive

To wield, wave, or exhibit dramatically.

Webster's Unabridged Dictionary:

bran-dish, v.t.

1. to shake or wave, as a weapon; flourish: Brandishing his sword, he rode into battle.

—n.

2. a flourish or waving, as of a weapon.

—Syn. 1. swing, flaunt, wield, display.

flourish, v.t.

to brandish dramatically; gesticulate with: a conductor flourishing his baton for the crescendo.

Contact GrassRoots for a CWP Instructor Nearest You!

About Concealed Weapons Instruction in South Carolina

By South Carolina State law, to meet the requirements for obtaining a concealed weapons permit applicants must attend an eight-hour course of instruction. This course must be taught by a S.L.E.D. approved instructor and includes a specific body of information as well as a live fire qualification and written exam. GrassRoots Concealed Weapons Permit Instructors provide full instruction, firearms, and materials to meet these requirements and complete the necessary form for you to submit with your Concealed Weapons Permit application. Bring a positive attitude and prepare for a day of education and fun!

GrassRoots CWP Instructors

Instructor members of the Grass Roots South Carolina have demonstrated dedication to seeing that the quality of firearms instruction in South Carolina exceeds that required by current state law. All GrassRoots Instructors are NRA and S.L.E.D. certified to teach firearms instruction. Furthermore, members of GrassRoots are dedicated to staying up-to-date on firearms issues, self-defense, and firearms training in South Carolina.

Finding an Instructor

The following instructors are currently actively teaching S.L.E.D. approved courses meeting the requirements for obtaining your CWP Permit in South Carolina:

Inst. Dennis Crocker
Inst. William Grammer
Inst. William V. Meyer
Inst. Norman Lee Price
Inst. Broadus Floyd
Inst. Charles W. Johnson
Inst. John Arceneaux
Inst. D Scott & Associates
Inst. George G Livingston
Inst. Patrick D. Nolan
Inst. Warren J. Sanders
Inst. Hank T. Wooten
Inst. Allan L. Lawson
Inst. Larry M. McLaughlin
Inst. Robert B. Timmons

Inst. Bob J. Oberst
Inst. Eddie Wilcox
Inst. George S. Parsons
Inst. Johnnie Nash
Inst. Joseph S. Barnes
Inst. Bob Krause
Inst. William Osborne
Inst. James R. Hornsby
Inst. Robert A. Marcello
Inst. Ronald T. Hope
Inst. William (Bill) Griffin
Inst. Frank Headley
Inst. Stephen J. Samples
Inst. Kenneth A. Cunningham
Inst. Peter W. Angelakos
Totem Pole, Inc.
Inst. Marc Greer
Inst. Frank Lee Linder
Insts. Maurice & Virginia
Pruitt
Inst. Timothy E. Finley
Inst. Guy A. Jenkins
Inst. Joe Gebbia
Inst. William C. Long
Inst. Robert J. Brewer
Inst. Elbert C. Jackson
Inst. Des Darazs
Inst. C. Kevin Hood
Inst. David Churilla
Inst. Frank Murphy
Inst. Jimmy Walton
Inst. James M. Clardy
Inst. Paul Peters
Inst. Pat Griffith
Inst. R. Brian Ashley
Inst. Jason T. Wigington
Inst. Tommy H. Hayden
Inst. Travis Sims
Inst. John C. Grey
Inst. C. Steve Rudd
Inst. Larry Coble

Benefits of becoming a GrassRoots Instructor

Instructor Members of GrassRoots enjoy the following benefits of membership:

- Free Web Space Advertising
- Free Posting of Special Class Offerings in the GrassRoots South Carolina Newsletter
- Subscription to GrassRoots South Carolina Newsletter
- Full Membership Privileges in GrassRoots South Carolina
- On Request, Additional GrassRoots Newsletters for Distribution to Students

South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructors Information

Instructors Teach Others to Learn "For the Children"

Julie, the only female student in our first Home Firearm Safety class on Dec 9th, was overheard this weekend telling a large group of women that they needed to learn gun safety because of the kids! She told them that "kids are taught that when they find a gun they should stop, don't touch, leave the area, and tell an adult.

Are YOU ready?

Do you have the knowledge to make the gun safe? You have to be responsible; it's for the kids' sakes. Find a gun safety class and take it.

I AM NOT MAKING THIS UP!

Teaching Idea

Here is an idea that you might want to incorporate into some of your classes.

I do several malfunction and stoppage scenarios in my RSO and Pistol Fundamentals classes where students have to diagnose and solve various problems with handguns. Situation (this really happened to me): while firing a .38 Spl I heard a "pop" rather than a bang and new I had fired a squib load. I tried to open the cylinder and found that it was stuck. Also, the cylinder would not rotate to the next round (a blessing, really). I surmised that the bullet was stuck between the forcing cone and the cylinder. I removed it by pushing a cleaning rod through from the muzzle end and then rotating the cylinder out of the frame.

Here's how I replicate this in class: I use a spent .38 Spl case, a new bullet, and a spring from a ballpoint pen. While students are not present I load the case into a chamber, then drop in the spring from the barrel end of the chamber, and then push the bullet in just far enough that I can rotate the cylinder into place. The spring pushes the bullet into the forcing cone just enough to lock up the cylinder.

When the students are introduced to this particular scenario (this is done at an indoor range, on the firing line under

"hot" conditions, with no live ammo present) I pick a student and tell him to pick up the gun. I tell him that he has just fired and the gun went "pop" instead of "bang" and he needs to analyze and solve the problem. If he gets stuck the other students can make suggestions.

C. Michael Jones
Chief Range Safety Officer
Douglas Ridge Rifle Club
Boring, Oregon

Ask an Instructor By Larry Coble

Q: One of the local Concealed Weapons Instructors asked me to pass this question to GrassRoots. SLED was recently asked what states we had reciprocal agreements with and they said Utah, Wyoming, Tenn. and Arkansas. The instructor told me the GrassRoots letter stated more than that and SLED said those are the only states they have a written agreement with. Please check it out and provide clarification for all of us. Thanks.

A: There is no discrepancy. SLED lists all states with which we have reciprocity.

GrassRoots lists all states we have reciprocity with, as well as all states in which you may lawfully carry.

Regarding CWP Reciprocity...

As of December 28, 2000: South Carolina recognizes permits from AR, WY, UT, and TN. South Carolina CWP holders may legally carry in AK, AR, TN, ID, IN, KY, MI, WY, OK, UT, and VT. Remember to contact these states prior to visiting to determine their laws regarding CWP.

GrassRoots Members and Instructors Assist in Second Amendment and Firearms Education

I'm sure in singling out some folks; I will invariably skip some. If I do, please accept my apologies. I wanted to especially thank Melissa Seaman, Tim Finley, Ed

Kelleher and Larry Coble. My daughter, Melissa Cunningham, is a senior at Columbia College, and chose as her topic for her final speech, "Guns are Tools". She had only about 10 minutes to make all her points, and the aforementioned folks REALLY helped to focus her thinking. She also sat at my computer and drew a great deal of guidance and support from many more of you (You just didn't realize how much you were helping.)

I might add that her class held frequent discussions (all anti gun) and an anti-gun professor supported the class. Growing up around guns, and taught at an early age, like her sister and brother, to shoot them (AND to respect them), she really took offence to the assumption that guns are evil and owned only by wackos.

She began her speech describing a criminal at the high school in Pearl, Mississippi, who broke the law by having a gun on school property, going to his truck to get it during class hours, loading it, bringing it into the building and then pointing it at a student ready to kill him. She got all the expected knowing glances from many of the students in her class. Then she went on to describe a hero at the same school, the principal who prevented his rampaging student from taking any more lives. Imagine the surprise when the students learned the "criminal" was that same principal.

The speech went on to emphasize that guns are neither inherently good nor bad, just inanimate objects in the control of people to do with them what they please. Her chief visual aid was a bar chart showing deaths from handguns vs. swimming pools, cars, falls, etc.

She also tied in the Second Amendment and the need for training, as well as quotes from "More Guns, Less Crime" and how women in particular, with PROPER TRAINING and practice, can protect themselves with firearms.

My apologies if all this sounded boastful---NEVER meant it that way.... Just proud of a young woman with the courage to pick a controversial topic and speak with conviction to a "hostile" audience.

South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructors Information

She is STILL getting calls at home and having people stop her at class asking for more information. Two students AND HER PROFEESOR have asked her to invite them to the range with her Dad next time we go there. You can bet I'll be sure to bring them along!

I was encouraged to pass this along to the group. It was your efforts as well that provided her with the ammunition for her talk. And again, special thanks to Melissa, Tim, Larry and Ed for their guidance and help.

More on CWP Renewals

I just came from SLED's Regulatory Services Department at Broad River Road. I picked up the renewal forms (which were readily available). To my question about time required for renewal, the nice lady at the desk advised that SLED likes to receive the packages 30 days prior to expiration date and will have them back in the mail within a week. Sending in the renewals far in advance will not result in your renewal being processed earlier than if you simply wait until 30 days before the expiration date.

Gary

Ask an Instructor

By Bill Griffin

Q: I have a CWP Permit that is going to expire in the middle of February, (have had it for nearly 3 years), and was wondering if you had any tentative class dates set up for the next month or so.... January 2001.

A: You do not need another class for renewals. Also the SC CWP is good for 4 years. When renewal nears you need to call SLED and ask for a renewal package. It will require new fingerprints and photos, form filled out and another \$50 to SCLED. But as the law stands now -- no class.

Good luck and log onto GrassRoots of SC at <http://www.scfirearms.org> for current info on concealed carry. I am a member - you should be too.

Why Not License Ovens?

By Thomas P. McHugh

It was a day like any other day. My wife had just completed baking a fresh batch of cookies and breads. Our three children and I were looking forward to enjoying those delicious treats. Before she went upstairs to tidy up the bedrooms, my wife warned us that the oven was still hot.

It all happened so fast. Even if I could slow things down, I would not have been able to prevent that painful, nerve-rattling accident.

Mary, our middle child, had entered the bathroom adjacent to the kitchen. She called out for my assistance while washing her hands. As I entered the bathroom, Margaret, our oldest, called out; "Daddy, James (our youngest) is opening the oven door!" What followed was a shriek of pain from James. He had given himself a third-degree burn on the palm of his right hand. I slammed the oven door shut. Then, I ran cold water over James' hand while my wife prepared an ice pack. James' condition was quickly stabilized.

At once, I thought of how our village could protect other children from the obvious neglect of oven manufacturers. There would be plenty of time to organize the data and victims required for a class action lawsuit. More immediately, though, I envisioned a grand range of feel-good legislation that would help protect our children from the life-threatening oven.

First, mandatory oven door locks would be required on all new ovens. This may hinder production and drive up costs but our children would be safer. Second, a cap on the maximum temperature allowed on every oven. Although I know nothing about cooking, 300 degrees sounds like a good starting point for a maximum temperature limit. Third, a

"cooling off period" that would lock the oven door (after the food is removed) and keep the oven door locked until the oven reached room temperature. This may pose a problem for people who like to cook multi-course meals.... consider the microwave and an alternate way to prepare your meals.

After daydreaming, briefly, about the wonderful things our legislative village could do to make our kitchens safe for our children, I had

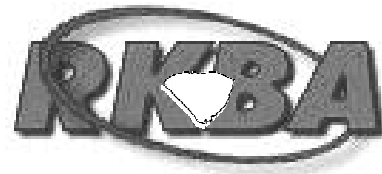
to take my wife to task for wanting an oven in the first place. "What do you need an oven for?", I asked. "There are professionals who are trained to cook meals for people! Restaurant owners have government permits! We can eat cereals, sandwiches and salads at home. We can cook some food in the Microwave. But an oven? I say leave that to the professionals!"

Note from the author:

This sarcastic story is based on fact. My son did burn his hand in our oven.

Thomas P McHugh is the Chairman of the Richland County Constitution Party. He can be reached at: mchugh01@juno.com





SELF-DEFENSE AT NICE RESTAURANTS IS OUR GOD GIVEN RIGHT

One of the most frequent complaints GrassRoots hears is that the concealed weapons permit (CWP) law prohibits CWP holders from carrying into nice restaurants. Most people go to nice restaurants when it is dark and they have money, exactly the elements criminals seek when looking for victims. GrassRoots has studied the law and found that current law DOES NOT prohibit CWP holders from carrying into nice restaurants. Unfortunately, SLED has a different opinion, or maybe we should say had.

Most people go to nice restaurants when it is dark and they have money, exactly the elements criminals seek when looking for victims.

GrassRoots presented GrassRoots' interpretation of the law to Capt. Joe Dorton, head of SLED Regulatory. Capt. Dorton could not find a way to legally refute the GrassRoots analysis of the law, so he sent the GrassRoots analysis to Capt. Mark Keel, head of SLED Legal Affairs. Capt. Keel could not find a way to legally refute the GrassRoots analysis, either. Thus, SLED was forced to make a decision. SLED either had to change their interpretation of the law, or punt. SLED did not want to take responsibility for such a political hot potato as CWP holders carrying in nice restaurants, so they punted it to the Attorney General's office. The GrassRoots analysis of the law was sent by SLED to Attorney General Charlie Condon for his opinion.

SLED Legal Affairs ... could not find a way to legally refute the GrassRoots analysis ...

The GrassRoots analysis proving that current law DOES NOT prohibit CWP holders from carrying into nice restaurants follows this logical sequence:

1. SLED claims Section 16-23-465 prohibits CWP holders under the new law from carrying into nice restaurants, but admits Section 16-23-465 did not prohibit CWP holders under the old law from doing so.
2. The Law Abiding Citizen's Self-Defense Act of 1996 added an additional penalty for CWP holders for violating Section 16-23-465, but no additional prohibitions were added.
3. The Law Abiding Citizen's Self-Defense Act of 1996 stated "[n]othing contained herein may be construed to alter or affect the provisions of Sections ... 16-23-465"
4. Thus, since it was legal for CWP holders to carry into nice restaurants before the new CWP law was passed, and no prohibitions were added to the restaurant law, it should still be legal for CWP holders to carry into nice restaurants now.

... it was legal for CWP holders to carry into nice restaurants before the new CWP law was passed, ... it should still be legal for CWP holders to carry into nice restaurants now.

Just by coincidence, AG Condon was a guest on WVOC talk radio in Columbia on December 19, 2000. GrassRoots leadership called in and read the four step logical sequence to AG Condon on the air. GrassRoots leadership then asked AG Condon this question: "When will you support the rights of the law abiding citizens and issue your opinion acknowledging that GrassRoots' analysis of

the law is correct?" AG Condon said that he could get it done the next morning. The issue now is whether AG Condon will support our God given right of self-defense, or take the "politically correct" position and deny our God given right to self-defense. We are waiting for AG Condon's opinion.

UPDATE! UPDATE! UPDATE!

Wednesday, December 20, 2000. It has just been discovered that SLED failed to get the GrassRoots analysis to the AG's office. SLED was trying to send three different gun rights issues together to the AG's office so that the legal research could be done simultaneously. SLED has agreed to send the GrassRoots analysis to the AG's office by December 22, 2000. GrassRoots will keep everyone advised as to what action the AG's office takes.

The full GrassRoots analysis (the one provided to SLED, and thus the AG's office) proving that current law DOES NOT prohibit CWP holders from carrying into nice restaurants is provided for your reading enjoyment.

GrassRoots' ANALYSIS of the LAW:

Section 16-23-20 of the South Carolina Code makes it illegal for a person to carry a pistol unless a person meets the criteria of a particular exception. Section 16-23-20 states

It is unlawful for anyone to carry about the person any pistol, whether concealed or not, except as follows:

(1) Regular, salaried law enforcement officers and reserve police officers of a municipality or county of the State, uncompensated Governor's constables, law enforcement officers of the federal government or other states when they are carrying out official duties while in this State, deputy enforcement officers of the Natural Resources Enforcement Division of the Department of Natural Resources, and retired commissioned law enforcement officers employed as private detectives or private investigators.

...

(12) Any person who is granted a permit under provision of law by the State Law Enforcement Division to carry a pistol about his person, under conditions set forth in the permit.

Further, Section 16-23-20 states "persons authorized to carry weapons pursuant to [exception 12] may exercise this privilege only after acquiring a permit from [SLED] as provided for in Article 4 of Chapter 31 of Title 23."

Section 16-23-20 excepts a law enforcement officer (LEO) from the prohibition of carrying "about the person any pistol, whether concealed or not." This exception applies under all circumstances except where expressly stated by law. This exception has been recognized by SLED to apply to an officer's carrying a concealable weapon onto the premises of a business which sells alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption, even if he is off duty. The penalty prescribed by §16-23-465 would not apply to a LEO as long as the officer is law abiding and does not violate §§ 16-11-330 or 16-23-460). Therefore, § 16-23-20, the same section that excepts LEO's, must also except CWP holders from the prohibitions contained in § 16-23-465, as long as the CWP holder is carrying "under conditions set forth in the permit" as required by § 16-23-20(12). Article 4 of Chapter 31 of Title 23 sets forth the conditions under which a CWP holder can carry, and it does not prohibit carrying onto the premises of a business which sells alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption. Thus, both LEO's and CWP holder's are not prohibited from carrying a concealable weapon onto the premises of a business which sells alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption by § 16-23-465 because § 16-23-20 excepts both LEO's and CWP holders from Section 16-23-465.

The statutory language of § 16-23-465 does not prohibit either a LEO or a CWP holder from carrying a concealable weapon onto the premises of a business which sells alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption. Section 16-23-465 assesses additional penalties only for one who has violated other specified laws in a location that has an on-premises license. Section 16-23-465 does not create a new crime in and of itself. Section 16-23-465 reads:

In addition to the penalties provided for by Sections 16-11-330 and 16-23-460 and by Article 1 of Chapter 23 of Title 16, a person convicted of carrying a pistol or firearm onto the premises of a business which sells alcoholic liquor, beer, or wine for consumption on the premises is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than two thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.

In addition to the penalties described above, a person who violates this section while carrying a concealable weapon pursuant to Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23 must have his concealed weapon permit revoked.

Section 16-23-465 requires a conviction for a violation of § 16-11-330, § 16-23-460, or Article 1 of Chapter 23 of Title 16 as a condition precedent to a violation of § 16-23-465; otherwise, the words "in addition to the penalties provided for by Sections 16-11-330 and 16-23-460 and by Article 1 of Chapter 23 of Title 16" would be superfluous. Rules of judicial interpretation dictate an interpretation which makes some of the statutory language superfluous should be rejected when another interpretation would give full meaning to all of the statute's words. The only interpretation which does not make some of the statutory language of §16-23-465 superfluous is the one that acknowledges a person must first be in violation of §16-11-330, §16-23-460, or Article 1 of Chapter 23 of Title 16 in order to run afoul of §16-23-465. Significantly, this was how SLED interpreted Section 16-23-465 prior to passage of The Law Abiding Citizen's Self Defense Act of 1996.

Section 16-11-330 addresses the issue of armed robbery. With regards to this section, unless the CWP holder is committing armed robbery while on the premises of a business which sells alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption, § 16-23-465 can impose no additional penalty upon a CWP holder for the lawful carrying of a concealable weapon onto the premises of such business because no initial penalty could be imposed due to § 16-11-330.

Section 16-23-460 addresses the issue of the concealed carrying of deadly weapon. Section 16-23-460 specifically excepts CWP holders lawfully carrying with the words "nothing herein contained may be construed to apply to (1) persons carrying concealed weapons upon their own premises or pursuant to and in compliance with Article 4 of Chapter 31 of Title 23" As pointed out above, Article 4 of Chapter 31 of Title 23 does not prohibit the carrying of concealable weapons onto the premises of a business which sells alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption. Section 16-23-460 does not apply to a CWP holder unless the CWP holder is not in compliance with some provision of the CWP law (e.g., failure to present one's CWP identification when asked for identification by a law enforcement officer and failure to have the CWP on one's person would both constitute violations of Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23). A CWP holder not in compliance with Article 4 of Chapter 31 of Title 23 who carried a concealable weapon onto the premises of a business which sells alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption could "have his concealed weapon permit revoked," but there is no statutory authority for revoking a CWP due to a CWP holder merely entering onto the premises. Thus, § 16-23-465 can impose no additional penalty upon a CWP holder for the lawful carrying of a concealable weapon onto the premises of a business which sells alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption because no initial penalty could be imposed due to § 16-23-460.

Section 16-23-465 states "in addition to the penalties described above, a person who violates this section while carrying a concealable weapon pursuant to Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23 must have his concealed weapon permit revoked." This language imposes an additional penalty upon CWP holders for violating § 16-23-465. But, there must still be a violation of § 16-23-465 prior to the additional penalty of revocation being imposed, and a violation of §16-23-465 requires a

contemporaneous, appurtenant violation of § 16-11-330, § 16-23-460, or Article 1 of Chapter 23 of Title 16.

It is significant that prior to the passage of The Law Abiding Citizen's Self Defense Act of 1996, it was SLED's interpretation that § 16-23-465 did not prohibit a CWP holder from carrying a concealable weapon onto the premises of a business which sold alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption. Thus, if § 16-23-465 is to be the basis for denying the right of a CWP holder to carry onto the premises of a business which sells alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption, then a change in the applicability of § 16-23-465 must be found in either The Law Abiding Citizen's Self Defense Act of 1996 or a statute enacted or revised subsequent to The Law Abiding Citizen's Self Defense Act of 1996. There have been no statutes enacted or revised subsequent to The Law Abiding Citizen's Self Defense Act of 1996 which so altered the applicability of § 16-23-465, nor does The Law Abiding Citizen's Self Defense Act of 1996 contain any provision for altering the applicability of §16-23-465.

The Law Abiding Citizen's Self Defense Act of 1996 contained § 23-31-215(M), which specifically states "[n]othing contained herein may be construed to alter or affect the provisions of Sections ... 16-23-465" Clearly, The Law Abiding Citizen's Self Defense Act of 1996 states the provisions of § 16-23-465 were not altered or affected by the enactment of The Law Abiding Citizen's Self Defense Act of 1996. The only change to § 16-23-465 made by The Law Abiding Citizen's Self Defense Act of 1996 added the following language to § 16-23-465: "In addition to the penalties described above, a person who violates this section while carrying a concealable weapon pursuant to Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23 must have his concealed weapon permit revoked." But as discussed above, this is merely an additional penalty for violating § 16-23-465 (which requires a contemporaneous, appurtenant violation of §16-11-330, §16-23-460, or Article 1 of Chapter 23 of Title 16), not a prohibition of the carrying of a concealable weapon onto the premises of a business which sells alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption. Thus, The Law Abiding Citizen's Self Defense Act of 1996 not only does not give any valid justification for changing SLED's prior interpretation of § 16-23-465, it specifically prohibits doing such based upon The Law Abiding Citizen's Self Defense Act of 1996.

The above analysis establishes that carrying a concealable weapon onto the premises of a business which sells alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption is not illegal per se. There must be a contemporaneous, appurtenant violation of § 16-11-330, § 16-23-460, or Article 1 of Chapter 23 of Title 16 as a condition precedent prior to invoking § 16-23-465. SLED's current interpretation of § 16-23-465 requires: (1) some statutory language of § 16-23-465 be considered as superfluous, (2) is inconsistent with SLED's interpretation of § 16-23-20 with respect to law enforcement officers and § 16-23-465, (3) is inconsistent with SLED's prior interpretation of § 16-23-465 with respect to CWP holders prior to enactment of The Law Abiding Citizen's Self Defense Act of 1996, and (4) violates the express language of § 23-31-215(M) and § 16-23-465. The GrassRoots interpretation of § 16-23-465 (1) embraces all of the statutory language of § 16-23-465, (2) is consistent with SLED's interpretation of § 16-23-20 with respect to law enforcement officers and § 16-23-465, (3) is consistent with SLED's prior interpretation of § 16-23-465 with respect to concealed weapons permit holders prior to enactment of The Law Abiding Citizen's Self Defense Act of 1996, and (4) embraces the express language of § 23-31-215(M) and § 16-23-465.

<END>



When the Truth Gets in the Way...

Just Say NOTHING

By Dave Kopel

What if you've just been arrested for something which shouldn't be a crime? For instance, if a burglar breaks into your home, attacks your children and you shoot him. Should you talk to the police? In a word, "No." Shut up, call the best lawyer you can find, and then continue to shut up. If you talk to the police, you will only make things worse for yourself.

Sociologist Richard Leo has written several articles which detail the deliberately deceptive techniques which police use to extract a confession.

First of all, since 1986 the United States Supreme Court has required that all persons under arrest be given the Miranda warnings, so that they will know that they have a right to remain silent, and the right to a lawyer. So how do police convince a suspect to talk, even after the Miranda warning?

Professor Leo explains that "police routinely deliver Miranda warnings in a perfunctory tone of voice and ritualistic behavioral manner, effectively conveying that these warnings are little more than a bureaucratic triviality." Of course, the Miranda warnings are not trivial; your liberty may hinge on heeding those warnings.

No matter how strong the other evidence against you, a confession will make things much worse. A confession often makes the major difference in the district attorney's willingness to prosecute the case, and his willingness to accept a plea bargain. If your confession gets before a jury, your prospects of acquittal are virtually nil.

If you are foolish enough to reject the Miranda warnings, simply put, the police interrogators will attempt to deceive you into confessing. As a result of increased judicial supervision of the police, deception, rather than coercion ("the third degree") has become the norm for interrogation.

First of all, you will be kept in a physical environment designed to make you want to waive your rights and talk. You will most likely be kept in isolation, in a small, soundproof area. By isolating you,

the interrogator attempts to instill feelings of anxiety, restlessness and self-doubt on your part. Left alone for long periods, you may think you are being ignored, and will therefore be happy to see the interrogator return.

Ideally, from the interrogator's viewpoint, you will begin to develop the "Stockholm syndrome," in which persons held captive under total control begin to identify and empathize with their captors. This can occur after as few as ten minutes of isolation in captivity.

While increasing your dependence, the interrogator works to build your trust by pretending that he cares about you, that he wants to hear your story, and that he understands how difficult it may be for you to talk. The interrogator works to become your only source of social reinforcement.

There is no law against outright lies or other deceptions on the part of police during an interrogation. Almost certainly, you will be told that the prosecutor and the judge will be more lenient if you confess. This is a complete lie. The district attorney will be more lenient if you don't confess and he can't make a strong case against you, and therefore has to settle for a plea bargain. Nothing the police promise in the interrogation room is binding on the police, much less on the district attorney.

There are five "techniques of neutralization" which the interrogator may use in order to make you feel that the crime really wasn't so bad, and that it is therefore all right for you to confess. Of course the interrogator's pretense that he doesn't think the crime was serious will last only as long as necessary to obtain the confession.

The first technique is called "denial of responsibility," allowing the subject to blame someone else for the offense. For example, "it was really the burglar's fault for breaking in; he's the one to blame for getting shot." (That's true, but it's you, after all, that the police are interrogating.)

Another technique is "denial of injury." For example, "The burglar wasn't really hurt; he walked out of the hospital two hours ago." Maybe true, maybe not. In truth, the burglar could be in intensive

care and the interrogator could be laying the groundwork for a murder case against you.

In the "denial of the victim" technique, the interrogator will suggest that the victim deserved what he got.

"Condemnation of the condemners" is always popular. For instance, "the real problem is all those anti-gun nuts who let criminals run loose, but don't want guys like you to defend themselves." True enough, but when the policeman saying this is holding you prisoner, take his sincere expression with a large grain of salt.

Finally, there's the "appeal to higher loyalties" such as "What you did is a common sense thing. Regardless of some legal technicality, the most important thing is for you to protect your family. Your family comes first, right?" True again, but the man saying this wants you to confess to violating the legal technicality, so you can be prosecuted for it.

A close cousin to the denial strategies are the "normalizing" techniques, in which the interrogator claims to understand that the crime was not typical behavior for the subject; "I can see that you're not a violent person. You're not a criminal. You're a tax-paying, home-owning, regular kind of guy. What happened tonight was really unusual for you, wasn't it?"

You have nothing to gain, and everything to lose by talking. You are not going to outsmart the interrogator. Even if you don't end up producing a full confession, you may reveal details which will help build a case against you.

Most violent criminals are too stupid to read, and too lazy to pursue a time-consuming, high-precision hobby like handloading. So I'm not worried that a violent criminal will read this column, and avoid confessing to a serious crime. Too often in America, good citizens are arrested for victimless "crimes," including unjustifiable (and unconstitutional) gun regulations. The routine use of deception in order to trick good citizens into confessions is something that deserves more scrutiny than it has thus far received.

When the Truth Gets in the Way...

In the long run, routine deception by the police tears at our social fabric, and undermines the law enforcement system. The more police lie, the more skeptical juries are going to be, even when police are telling the truth.

Moreover, there are about 6,000 false confessions for felonies every year in the United States. (Huff et al., "Guilty Until Proven Innocent," *Crime & Delinquency*, vol. 32, pages 518-44, 1986). False confessions are one of the major reasons for the conviction of innocent persons.

Sources: Richard Leo, "Police Interrogation and Social Control," *Social and Legal Studies*, vol. 3, pages 93-120 (1994); "From Coercion to Deception: The Changing Nature of Police Interrogation in America," *Law and Social Change*, vol. 18, pages 35-39 (1992); Jerome Skolnick and Richard Leo, "The Ethics of Deceptive Interrogation," *Criminal Justice Ethics*, vol. 11, pages 3-12 (1992).

Dave Kopel is Research Director at Independence Institute, <http://i2i.org>. His most recent book is "No More Wacos: What's Wrong with Federal Law Enforcement and How to Fix It."

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Project Gestapo in Action

By Ari Armstrong

The NRA wants federal agents to "enforce the gun laws on the books." All 20-plus-thousand of them. As if the feds needed more encouragement to harass peaceable citizens. Two recent cases illustrate the moral bankruptcy of the NRA's position.

A December 21 Associated Press article published in the Rocky Mountain News states:

CHICAGO -- A gun shop owner was sentenced to 2.5 years in federal prison [December 20] in a crackdown on dealers who arm gangs. A sales clerk received 15 months behind bars.

Chicago police officers testi-

fied they bought 25 guns from the B&H gun shop in Oak Lawn while posing as gang members... The two men were found guilty of selling guns to straw purchasers...

In other words, the gun sellers were entrapped by the police for the "crime" of not being able to read minds. The problem is that people don't tend to walk around with a sign on their foreheads saying, "Straw purchaser." Instead, "straw purchasers" tend to claim they are buying a gun for their own use. It's disgusting that the feds would trump up charges against licensed gun dealers on these grounds. If straw purchasing is a crime, then isn't it common sense to go after the straw purchaser? But nothing's common sense about "Project Exile." Instead, the purpose of that program is to put innocent gun owners behind bars, disrupt honest businesses, and stigmatize gun ownership. Oh, and to increase the power and budgets of federal agencies.

The second case involves a man who sold a gun without filing the state-mandated paperwork. The gun was resold an unknown number of times over a period of years. The latest owner of the gun used it to murder a police officer. So the original owner is being charged with involuntary manslaughter. (See the page 2A article in the December 22 issue of the Rocky Mountain News, reprinted from the New York Times article by Dirk Johnson.)

So in supporting "Project Exile," the NRA supports the registration of guns and gun owners with the government. Both "criminal" cases demonstrate the police-state tactics now employed by our federal government.

What's really sad is that an organization that claims to support civil rights helps fund Project Gestapo.

Ari Armstrong is our Liberty Ally and editor of the Colorado Freedom Report, seen at <http://www.co-freedom.com>.



GrassRoots Comments on Project Exile and its clones such as South Carolina's Palmetto Exile:

Charles Schumer supports Project Exile, and we all know what a strong 2nd Amendment supporter he is. Why should a crime be considered more heinous just because a gun was used? Is murder committed with a gun worse than murder committed by burning someone to death in a gasoline fire, or stabbed to death with a pitchfork, or poisoned? We should be concerned with the act of murder, not the tool employed to commit the murder.

When will the NRA learn that it is not in the best interests of freedom to stigmatize guns as inherently bad? We are poisoning the well, so to speak, when we agree that criminals possessing guns are deserving of greater punishment than criminals possessing other instruments. Let's NOT teach the world that we agree that possessors of guns are more evil than non-possessors of guns whenever both commit the same crime. This is NOT the message we want to send? Remember,

It's not the Guns!



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GrassRoots GunRights!

State Farm Insurance Under Fire

INSURER UNDER FIRE FOR CANCELING HOME POLICY BECAUSE OF SHOOTING RANGE

By PAT ROBERTSON, Out-
doors Writer THE STATE
Sunday, October 15, 2000

It's hard for anyone born and bred to roam the woods and wade the swamps in search of wild game with a hunting weapon on his shoulder to understand what's happening with the modern day gun-phobia.

Kids in South Carolina traditionally have grown up hunting. And it was nothing to spend an afternoon plinking at tin cans with a .22 rifle in the big gully behind the barn.

Now if you enjoy those kinds of activities, you need to check with your homeowners insurance to make sure you are covered.

Gary Atkinson, a Chapin resident, had his homeowners policy canceled by State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company when he mentioned to his agent that he had a private shooting range on the back side of his 13 acres.

Atkinson, who had been a State Farm policy-holder for 34 years, said there was nothing written in his policy that prohibited his range or shooting on the property. He considers what happened an attack on his Second Amendment rights.

That position is also taken by GrassRoots South Carolina, an organization that works to protect the rights of law-abiding gun



owners. Both say the issue has the potential to affect the ability of landowners to maintain insurance coverage if they hunt on their rural properties.

State Farm takes a different view of the situation. While not able to speak directly about Atkinson's case because of privacy and confidentiality requirements, a State Farm spokesman said the company made a business decision based on liability and risk, not a political decision.

"This is not an anti-gun issue," said Rob Lowenthal of Atlanta, State Farm regional public affairs officer for Georgia and South Carolina. "State Farm does not have a political stance on guns or gun ownership."

Gary Atkinson of Chapin had his insurance revoked because of this shooting range on his property.

In fact, Lowenthal said, the company insures "millions of gun owners" and many of its employ-

ees and agents are gun owners and shooters.

Here, according to Atkinson, is what happened when he was renewing his homeowners insurance several months ago.

He casually mentioned he had built a shooting range on the back side of his rural property. He took the agent back to view the range, which has been graded out of the side of a hill. Most of the impact area has a 12-foot or higher berm protecting against bullet ricochets and Atkinson plans to build up the rest of the area to insure no errant round can escape.

Dense woods surround the range and there are no houses in the direction of the shooting. A table and bench at the side of the road leading into the range area allows for sighting in a rifle at 100 yards, and pistol shooting is provided at a table and bench within the circular area.

Even though the range is located on his private property, signs are

State Farm Insurance Under Fire

posted all around the area warning: "Firearms in Use. Keep Out."

"My range is 100 percent in compliance with all local, state and S.C. Department of Natural Resources regulations. It is absolutely private, not commercial," Atkinson said.

He said he even offered to protect State Farm from liability if they would just insure the part of the property where his house is located and exclude all shooting activities. He said the agent rejected the offer.

Then he turned to the National Rifle Association and to GrassRoots S.C. for help. NRA helped him get coverage and GrassRoots has launched a public campaign to warn gun owners about what they consider a potential anti-gun position by State Farm.

"Our concern is simply that State Farm, being one of the largest, if not the largest insurance company, sets policy that states that people are not allowed to use firearms on their property, then that is going to have a seriously chilling effect on the people's use of firearms," said Rob Butler GrassRoots legislative director.

Butler said that while the company may say it covers firearms under fire and theft, "it is not the same as being an insurance company that recognizes the safe use of firearms."

He said the organization is afraid that a policy that restricts shooting on private property to the homeowner himself would prevent shooting enthusiasts who have safe range areas from teaching

proper shooting skills to those who don't have a place to shoot.

"And that in the long run is going to hurt gun owners," Butler said.

Butler said another concern is that if a company considers a safe shooting range uninsurable, it's only a short step to consider firearms in the home an unreasonable risk and a potential liability.

Atkinson, who is improving his range and continues to shoot there, said all he wants now from State Farm is for the company to produce a written policy on "legal, safe, non-commercial hunting and shooting activities on a policy holder's property."

State Farm said those concerns are unfounded.

"We do allow for normal recreational shooting activities, but we have to look at each case specifically and make a coverage decision based on our best understanding of the risk involved. If the risk goes beyond what we consider normal recreational

shooting, we have to stop coverage," Lowenthal said.

"This is not an anti-gun issue," he said. "It is a business decision. We take it very seriously when we have to end a relationship with a customer."

Atkinson and Butler say they just want State Farm to make its policy on gun ownership and activities public.

"It makes no particular difference to me whether State Farm's written policy is pro or con towards our sports and the Second Amendment," Atkinson said.

That way, he said, shooters and hunters can decide which company they want to buy coverage from.

"We will simply let our free enterprise system sort this matter out in the market place," he said.

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Smith & Wesson Sell-out worse than originally reported! BOYCOTT!

Smith & Wesson Sell-out: Boycott! GOA Announces Boycott of Clinton & Wesson - Sell-out worse than originally reported.

(Tuesday, March 21, 2000) -- Last week's "agreement" between Smith & Wesson and the Clinton Administration will undoubtedly be remembered as one of the most regretful episodes in the modern Right to Keep and Bear Arms movement. The firearms manufacturer's lamentable decision to "settle" with the most anti-gun Administration in history cannot go without a pointed response by all those who seriously cherish and believe in the God-given right of individual self defense.

The so-called settlement between Smith & Wesson and the Departments of Treasury, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and local and state governments is more a nationalization of the British-owned firm which now, for the sake of accuracy, should be renamed the "The Clinton & Wesson Corporation." (More on this in just a moment.) The Clinton Administration has achieved nearly every outrageous demand in its original lawsuit without having to prove its case in a court of law. This sellout agreement creates an "Oversight Commission" that will include four government officials (one from the BATF) and a Smith & Wesson executive.

The Clinton & Wesson commission will have the power of law to enforce gun control upon any gun dealer that sells S&W products and upon any gun owner that buys from such a dealer! This is European fascism at its best, and is much more draconian than what has been reported in the media. Consider just some of the highlights:

Restrictions on Individual Gun Owners

Gun rationing. Any gun dealer that carries S&W products can NOT sell you two handguns on the same day... or during the same week! (No more than one handgun during a 14-day period.)

So let's get this straight: a total gun ban in England has neither stopped 3 million illegal guns from getting into criminal hands nor stopped their crime rate from exceeding ours. But somehow gun rationing here is going to keep criminals from getting guns.

Mandatory gun owner registration. A S&W dealer will not be able to sell any of his guns at a gun show unless ALL of the sales at the show -- including private sales -- are run through a registration background check. Why does the Clinton administration want to know who every gun buyer is?

Mandatory training requirements. You will not be able to buy a gun from a S&W dealer unless you have put your rights on hold for however long it takes to complete a certified training course. Hopefully, someone you know will never try to buy their first gun to protect themselves from a stalker or abusive spouse. Because now, dealers carrying S&W products cannot sell that person a self-defense gun until that person jumps through the Clinton & Wesson hoops.

Restrictions on Gun Dealers

Mandatory employee training. This would require all employees of dealers and distributors to attend mandatory ATF approved training. Thus, dealers who have had a business for 20 years will now need to send their employees to the federal government for indoctrination.

Dealer entrapment. The agreement requires persons under 18 to be accompanied by adults either in gun stores covered by this agreement or in the gun sections of those stores. So the next time Wal-Mart lets those pesky 17-year-olds walk near the gun section of its store, look out! An ATF agent may jump out from behind the camo rack and bust the employees for not carding the juveniles and keeping them out.

BATF harassment provision. This agreement gives the new Oversight Commission (including its BATF representative) unfettered access into gun dealers' stores -- more so than is currently allowed by federal law. Any time it wants the BATF can reach its dirty hand into the dealer's records and gain "access to documents necessary to determine compliance." According to the official summary found on HUD's website, this agreement is "enforceable as a court order and as a contract." You may have heard on the news about some of the "anti-safety" devices that S&W has agreed to include on their weapons -- trigger locks, smart gun technology, etc. These are anti-safety devices that will cost innocent lives if they are imposed upon the public. After all, if they truly were safety devices, then why does the

Clinton and Wesson agreement exempt law enforcement and the military from having these items on their guns? For these reasons and more, Gun Owners of America is urging its near quarter of a million members and all those committed to a NO COMPROMISE position in regard to the Second Amendment to disassociate themselves from the firearms manufacturer and BOYCOTT all Smith & Wesson products.

This is a serious and dramatic step and one which we had never envisioned taking. We are aware of the "extortionary" pressure that Smith & Wesson was under from the maniacal Clinton-Gore Administration and the costly legal struggle that it faced. However, to defeat such a vicious and cunning opponent requires courage and perseverance, not capitulation. In taking this step, we are adopting our forefathers' example, who also boycotted those merchants who willfully collaborated with British authorities against the interests of their fellow Americans. In fact, Smith & Wesson's decision is not that altogether surprising coming from a foreign country that has been so hostile to the private ownership of firearms.

In sum, Smith & Wesson has done serious and irrevocable damage to the entire 2nd Amendment movement. Such action is no longer worthy of gun owners' support or patronage. We hope our loyal and patriotic membership concurs. Just as important, it is hoped that this action will dissuade other firearms manufacturers and related industries from abandoning the struggle against the assaults by the Clinton Administration on our unalienable rights.

ACTION - GOA urges all of those who are deeply troubled with Smith & Wesson's decision to voice their protests and concerns directly to them. Their customer service department can be reached at 1-800-331-0852; and their public relations department can be reached by phone at (413) 781-8300 ext. 299 or by e-mail (ceo@smith-wesson.com), (qa@smith-wesson.com). You can fax them at (413) 747-3317. The postal address is Smith & Wesson, 2100 Roosevelt Avenue, Springfield, MA 01104.

GOA also urges people to ask their gun dealerships they frequent to STOP carrying Smith & Wesson products.

Gun Laws and the Heretic

Gun Laws and the Heretic

By F. Paul Valone

"Galileo has ventured to meddle with things he ought not and with the most grave and dangerous subjects that can be stirred up these days!"

Pope Urban VIII



When Galileo dared insist the earth was not the center of our universe, he was denounced for heresy and locked away. Lest you assume 367 intervening years have enlightened us, consider the experiences of Professor John Lott.

A former chief economist for the United States Sentencing Commission and a fellow at the University of Chicago, Lott conducted the first comprehensive study of concealed handgun laws.

Far from relying on mere correlation, he used a sophisticated multiple regression analysis to control for variables such as demographics, arrest and conviction rates, and changes in gun laws. While previous researchers relied on data from cherry-picked areas and time periods, Lott studied 18 years of data from all 3,054 counties in the United States.

Being politically naive, however, he failed to anticipate the firestorm he ignited when he announced that not only do concealed handgun laws deter murder, rape, and aggravated assault, but that allowing licensed concealed handguns in all states could prevent 1,570 murders, 4,177 rapes and more than 60,000 aggravated assaults each year.

He should have seen it coming. Prior to publishing his paper in the Journal of Legal Studies, he solicited critiques from no less than twenty-two gun control re-

searchers. One replied.

Although Susan Glick of the Violence Policy Center refused (saying she didn't want to "give any publicity to the paper"), never having actually read it didn't stop her from pronouncing it "flawed" when USA Today broke the news of Lott's findings.

Kicking off a monumental slander campaign, Congressman Charles Schumer claimed Lott was "funded by the firearms industry." Never mind that the John M. Olin

Foundation, which provided Lott's fellowship, is not subsidized by arms manufacturer Olin Corporation; or that the Olin Foundation selected neither its grant recipients nor their topics; or even that Lott told no one what he planned to study. As a Chicago Tribune columnist sympathized, "Conspiracy theories are easy to spin and hard to refute."

Mobilizing its propaganda arm, the "Center to Prevent Handgun Violence," Handgun Control, Inc. arranged a debate on CSPAN to discredit the paper. Unfortunately (and quite innocently), Lott made buffoons of HCI's minions.

You see, the good professor stumbled into a debate where gun control supporters camouflage themselves as scholars to leverage public policy; a debate in which anti-gun advocates like Stephen Teret of Johns Hopkins University decry "serious fundamental flaws" in uncongenial research without bothering to specify the flaws; a debate in which researchers like Daniel Black and Daniel Nagin set out to repudiate Lott's results by selectively eliminating 85 percent of U.S. counties from the data.

Lott's detractors are best exemplified by Arthur Kellerman, a researcher so notorious for, in the words of one review, "validating pre-ordained political conclusions" that Congress voted to yank his funding. Kellerman apparently learned little from congressional sanction; al-

though his conclusions fueled gun control for ten years, he refused to release his raw data until first "cleaning it up." While his name is obscure, his conclusions are not; you've probably heard his 1993 claim that "a gun in the home is 43 times more likely to kill a family member than an intruder."

The "43 times" fallacy is based on a biased sample of subjects with extraordinary rates of arrest, drug abuse, and other dysfunction. One researcher noted Kellerman and his associates "acknowledged that a true risk-benefit consideration of guns in the home *should* (but did *not* in their 'calculations') include cases in which intruders are wounded or frightened away by the use or display of a firearm!"

Although even Kellerman eventually disavowed his original results, groups like North Carolinians Against Gun Violence continue to pummel his propaganda into the public consciousness.

Guessing that disingenuous critics rely on the fact that most people will never read his book ("More Guns, Less Crime"), Lott laments: "in your normal academic debate, where there are 10 people involved and they've all read the paper, if somebody says, 'Professor X didn't account for other gun laws,' everybody else in the room would laugh, because they would know it was an absurd claim."

I suppose society has made progress. Like Galileo, Lott's ideas-heretical as they are to the dogma of political correctness-have been branded "dangerous." Unlike Galileo, Lott has thus far eluded prison. Indeed, while concealed handgun opponents are loath to mention it, John Lott is now a senior research scholar at prestigious Yale Law School gun industry slander, "flawed" methodology, and all.

Special To The Observer
<http://www.charlotte.com/observer>

Observer community columnist Paul Valone is president of Grass Roots North Carolina, an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving constitutional freedoms. You can reach him at P.O. Box 10684, Raleigh, NC 27605 or by e-mail at pres@grnc.org.

Give It to Them Straight

Give It to Them Straight By John Ross, Author, Unintended Consequences

The biggest mistake we make is failing to take the moral high ground on our issue, and letting our enemies define the terms.

THEY SAY: "We'd be better off if no one had guns."

WE SAY: "You can never succeed at that, criminals will always get guns." (FLAW: The implication here is that if you COULD succeed, it would be a reasonable plan.)

WE SHOULD SAY: "So, you want to institute a system where the weak and elderly are at the mercy of the strong, the lone are at the mercy of the gang. You want to give violent criminals a government guarantee that citizens are disarmed. Sorry, that's unacceptable. Better that we should require every citizen to carry a gun."

THEY SAY: "Those assault rifles have no sporting purpose. You don't need a 30-round magazine for hunting deer -- they're only for killing people."

WE SAY: "I compete in DCM High Power with my AR-15. You need a large-capacity magazine for their course of fire. My SKS is a fine deer rifle, and I've never done anything to give my government reason not to trust me, blah, blah, blah."

(FLAW: You have implicitly conceded that it is OK to ban any gun with no sporting use. And eventually they can replace your sporting arms with arcade-game substitutes.)

WE SHOULD SAY: "Your claim that 'they're only for killing people' is imprecise. A gas chamber or

electric chair is designed for killing people, and these devices obviously serve different functions than guns. To be precise, a high capacity military-type rifle or handgun is designed for CONFLICT. When I need to protect myself and my freedom, I want the most reliable, most durable, highest capacity weapon possible. The only thing hunting and target shooting have to do with freedom is that they're good practice."

THEY SAY: "If we pass this CCW law, it will be like the Wild West, with shoot-outs all the time for fender-benders, in bars, etc. We need to keep guns off the streets. If doing so saves just one life, it will be worth it."

WE SAY: "Studies have shown blah blah blah." (flaw: You have implied that if studies showed CCW laws equaled more heat-of-passion shooting, CCW should be illegal.

WE SHOULD SAY: "Although no state has experienced what you are describing, that's not important. What is important is our freedom. If saving lives is more important than anything else, why don't we throw out the Fifth amendment? We have the technology to administer an annual truth serum session to the entire population. We'd catch the criminals and mistaken arrest would be a thing of the past. How

does that sound?"

THEY SAY: "I don't see what the big deal is about a five day waiting period."

WE SAY: "It doesn't do any good, criminals don't wait five days, it's a waste of resources blah blah blah." (FLAW: You have implied that if waiting periods DID reduce crime, they would be a good idea.)

WE SHOULD SAY: "How about a 24-hour cooling-off period with a government review board before the news is reported? Wouldn't that prevent lives from being ruined, e.g. Richard Jewell? And the fact that this law applies to people who ALREADY own a handgun tells me that it's not about crime prevention, it's about harassment. Personally, I want to live in a free society, not a 'safe' one with the government as chief nanny."

THEY SAY: "In 1776, citizens had muskets. No one ever envisioned these deadly AK-47s. I suppose you think we should all have atomic bombs."

WE SAY: "Uh, well, uh . . ."

WE SHOULD SAY: "Actually, the Founders discussed this very issue - it's in the Federalist Papers. They wanted the citizens to have the same guns as were the issue weapons of soldiers in a modern infantry. Soldiers in 1776 were each issued muskets, but not the large field pieces with exploding shells. In 1996, soldiers are issued M16s, M249s, etc. but not howitzers and atomic bombs. Furthermore, according to your logic, the laws governing freedom of the press are only valid for newspapers whose presses are hand-operated and use fixed type. After all, no one in 1776 foresaw offset printing or electricity, let alone TV and satellite transmission."

THEY SAY: "We require licenses on cars, but the powerful NRA screams bloody murder if anyone ever suggests licensing these weapons of mass destruction."

WE SAY: Nothing, usually, and just sit there looking dumb.

WE SHOULD SAY: "You know, driving is a luxury, where firearms ownership is a right secured by the Constitution. But let's put that aside



Give It to Them Straight

for a moment. It's interesting you compared guns and vehicles. Here in the U.S. you can AT ANY AGE go into any state and buy as many motorcycles, cars, or trucks of any size as you want, and you don't need to do anything if you don't use them on public property. If you DO want to use them on public property, you can get a license at age 16. This license is good in all 50 states. NO waiting periods, no background checks, nothing. If we treated guns like cars, a fourteen-year-old could go into any state and legally buy handguns, machine guns, cannons, whatever, cash and carry, and shoot them all with complete legality on private property. And at age 16 he could get a state license good anywhere in the country to shoot these guns on public property."

Final comment, useful with most all arguments:

YOU SAY: "You know, I'm amazed at how little you care about your grandchildren. I would have thought they meant more to you than anything."

THEY SAY: "Huh?"

YOU SAY: "Well, passing this proposal won't have a big immediate effect. I mean, in the next couple of years, neither Bill Clinton nor Newt Gingrich is going to open up internment camps like Roosevelt did fifty-odd years ago. But think of your worst nightmare of a political leader. Isn't it POSSIBLE that a person like that MIGHT be in control here some time in the next 30, 40, or 50 years, with 51% of the Congress and 51% of the Senate behind him? If that does happen, do you REALLY want your grandchildren to have been stripped of their final guarantee of freedom? And do you really want them to have been stripped of it BY YOU?"

To Keep and Bear Arms

By Walter Williams

Whenever there's a tragedy involving gun use, Bill Clinton, Al Gore, the gun-control lobby and the news media seize it as another opportunity to exploit the

emotions of uninformed American people for political gain. Unfortunately, most Americans don't have the foggiest notion of why the Framers of the Constitution, through the Second Amendment, guaranteed our right to keep and bear arms. Our leftist establishment would like us to believe the Second Amendment was written to protect our duck- and deer-hunting rights. Don't take my word - read what was actually said during the constitutional debates.

Thomas Jefferson said: "No man shall ever be debarred the use of arms. The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government." Tench Coxe, assistant secretary of the treasury (1789), said, "The unlimited power of the sword is not in the hands of either the federal or state governments, but, where I trust in God it will ever remain, in the hands of the people."

Noah Webster said, "The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword, because the whole body of the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops."

In Federalist Paper No. 46, James Madison said the Constitution "preserves the advantage of being armed which Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation, the existence of subordinate governments, to which the people are attached ... forms a barrier against the enterprises of ambition. ..."

Numerous sentiments like these were expressed during the constitutional debates. Here's my question to you: Which one of those statements sounds like the Framers had deer- and duck-hunting in mind when they wrote the Second Amendment? The Framers gave us the Second Amendment so we could have at least a last-ditch fighting chance against government encroachment on our liberties.

Who are the people who desperately want to disarm law-abiding Americans? The answer doesn't require rocket science to figure that one out. The strongest advocates of gun control are the very people who seek greater and greater control over our lives. They're the people who want to take away our rights to

property, freedom of speech and religion, and other liberties. They're cowards and want to feel safe doing so. They figure if we're first disarmed they can trample over our liberties with impunity.

If these people had guts and a modicum of respect for the Constitution, they'd seek repeal of the Second Amendment. Instead, they pursue an agenda to repeal it by stealth. The latest attempts are the suits against arms manufacturers for crimes committed with guns.

Last week, gun manufacturer Smith & Wesson caved in to this pressure by signing a voluntary gun-control agreement with the Clinton-Gore administration. That "voluntary" agreement seeks to force arms manufacturers to do what today's laws do not require and create an "oversight commission" to ensure compliance.

Arms manufacturers Glock Inc. and Browning refused to sign the agreement. In response, New York's Attorney General Eliot Spitzer told them, "If you do not sign, your bankruptcy lawyers will be knocking at your door." That kind of official threat is an indication of just how bold and emboldened America's tyrants have become in the wake of our acquiescence - threatening destruction of people who refuse to go along with "voluntary" agreements.

We Americans have set dangerous precedents. We can rest assured that those pushing for gun control have no intention of stopping short of total gun confiscation. At some point, we who cherish liberty must summon the courage of our forefathers and tell America's tyrants, "Give me liberty, or give me death!" The longer we wait, the greater the ultimate bloodshed.

Courtesy NewsMax.com

Walter Williams is the John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics at George Mason University. He has also written books and articles for journals, sits on advisory boards and has won awards all too numerous to count.



Great Britain and Gun Control: With Neither Liberty nor Safety

Great Britain and Gun Control: With Neither Liberty nor Safety

By Miguel A. Faria Jr., M.D.

Great Britain, which gave birth to the great political philosophy of classic liberalism and to America, the flowering of Western civilization, is in moral decline.

Not content with holding Gen. Augusto Pinochet hostage, Britain now holds its own citizens hostage like an authoritarian nation that distrusts its own citizens with firearms. (1)

And while robberies rose 81 percent in England and Wales, they fell 28 percent in the United States. Likewise, assaults increased 53 percent in England and Wales but declined 27 percent in the United States. Burglaries doubled in England but fell by half in the United States. And while motor vehicle theft rose 51 percent in England, it remained the same in America.

To make matters worse for England – and this is also true for Canada – in those countries where citizens are disarmed in their own homes, day burglary is commonplace and dangerous because criminals know they will not be shot at if

Writing in the May/June 2000 issue of the Medical Sentinel of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS), Dr. Michael S. Brown writes that while the British laws have disarmed law-abiding citizens, "a black market has flourished, as usual with prohibitions, to supply criminal elements. Up to 3 million illegal guns are in circulation in Britain, leading to a rise in drive-by shootings and gangland-style executions."

Dr. Brown continues, "Young criminals (ages 15 to 25 with prior convictions), according to the Sunday Times, 'own or have access to guns ranging from Beretta

submachine guns to Luger pistols, which can be bought from underworld dealers for as little as £200 (\$320 U.S.).'"(4) In the U.S., ordinary citizens shoot three times as many criminals in self-defense as do the police.

Recent work by professor John R. Lott Jr. at the University of Chicago

has shown that allowing people to carry concealed weapons deters violent crime - without any apparent increase in accidental death or suicide. While neither state waiting periods nor the federal Brady Law is associated with a reduction in crime rates, adopting concealed-carry gun laws cuts death rates from public, multiple shootings like those in Littleton, Colo., this year or Dunblane, Scotland in 1996.

Professor Lott found that when concealed-carry laws went into effect in a given county, murders fell by 8 percent, rapes by 5 percent and aggravated assaults by 7 percent. For each additional year concealed-carry gun laws have been in effect, the murder rate declines by 3 percent, robberies by more than 2 percent and rape by 1 percent.(5)

Women Using Guns for Self-Defense

Moreover, studies in the U.S. have shown that guns are the great equalizer



Since 1996, when a madman went on a rampage killing 16 children and their teacher in Dunblane, Scotland, Great Britain has tightened to strangulation its already draconian gun control laws so that only certified members of approved target-shooting clubs are allowed to own guns. These must be .22 caliber or smaller and must be kept locked up at the club at all times.

Guns have been virtually banned, and the God-given right to self-defense has been virtually abrogated in England.

Dramatic Increase in Robberies and Other Crime

And yet, crime has steadily risen in Britain in the last several years. The U.S. Department of Justice says a person is nearly twice as likely to be robbed, assaulted or have a vehicle stolen in Britain as in the United States. Although the U.S. remains ahead of Britain in rates of murder and rape, the gap is rapidly narrowing.

caught flagrante delicto. Not so in the U.S., where burglars not only prefer night burglaries but try to make sure homeowners are not in to avoid being shot at by the intended victim.

The rising tide of thievery and burglaries in England has dubbed Britain "a nation of thieves," wrote the London Sunday Times, which noted: "More than one in three British men has a criminal record by the age of 40. While America has cut its crime rate dramatically Britain remains the crime capital of the West. Where have we gone wrong?"(2) Perhaps England should look introspectively.

The most drastic ascendancy of crimes in Britain was found in those types of felonies where recent studies in the U.S. have shown that guns in the hands of law-abiding citizens not only save lives but also protect private property, reduce injuries to good people, and crime is generally deterred.(3)

Great Britain and Gun Control: With Neither Liberty nor Safety

for females when accosted in the streets or assaulted in their homes.

When a woman is armed with a gun, up to 83 percent of the time she will be successful at preventing rape, and only half as likely of being injured in the process.(3) These figures should be good news in the U.S. for the 17 million American women estimated to carry guns, but not for those in Great Britain who have been proscribed from keeping guns for self-protection.

While the number of rapes in the U.S. is still higher than in Great Britain, it is falling, whereas the rate of sex crimes and violent assaults in England and Wales is increasing rapidly because of their permissive criminal justice system and even greater tendency than the U.S. to rehabilitate rather than punish criminals - and, of course, the stringent policy of citizen disarmament.

This pusillanimous policy advertises to sex criminals that they have nothing to fear not only from their criminal justice system but also from their intended victims.

Will the British require another American Revolution to come to their moral senses? Or, instead, will we Americans reject our Second Amendment, the palladium of our liberties and our legacy of freedom?

Article Courtesy Newsmax.com

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Here's a GrassRoots

South Carolina

"TOLD YA SO"

Prudential Denies

Coverage to Gun Owner-

Says Policeman's Firearms

Ownership Makes Insuring

Home Too Risky!

By Jon E. Dougherty

The Prudential Insurance Company has denied homeowner's coverage to a Connecticut police officer because of his gun collection, which includes -- the company said -- firearms that make insuring the household too risky. According to Frank Del Bruno, he and his girlfriend recently bought a condo and, after "shopping around" for homeowner's insurance, settled on Prudential because of the lower premium.

During the course of taking out the policy, Del Bruno said he mentioned to the Prudential agent that he had guns. The agent asked him to send the company a list of the guns he owned, along with their serial numbers.

Del Bruno said he complied but, a few weeks later, he received a cancellation notice from Prudential, citing the types and number of guns he owned as the reason the company decided to drop his coverage.

According to a Dec. 14 letter to Del Bruno, signed by Dennis H. Brookover of Prudential, Del Bruno's current homeowner policy -- which took effect Nov. 28 -- is now set to expire Jan. 19, 2001.

"We consider many factors when determining whether or not an individual is eligible for insurance," Brookover said in his letter. "While reviewing your ap-

plication, I noted the following circumstance(s). There is a measurable increase in liability exposure based on the types and number of guns that you own."

Specifically, Del Bruno said Prudential officials told him a Mossberg 500 shotgun he owned was instrumental in disqualifying his coverage -- even though the woman at Prudential he spoke with didn't know anything about that particular firearm.

Del Bruno then asked to speak with the woman's supervisor, who told him that Prudential's regulations have to comply with mandates issued by Connecticut and, consequently, "they couldn't budge."

Del Bruno said the Prudential supervisor -- whom he did not name -- told him the state and Prudential feel insurance liabilities increase when insured persons own semi-automatic weapons.

WorldNetDaily asked Del Bruno why he thought Prudential may have singled him out. "The gave no specifics," he replied.

Repeated attempts to solicit comments from Prudential officials were unsuccessful.

Ironically, Brookover -- in his letter -- said Del Bruno "may be eligible for insurance through the Connecticut Insurance Placement Facility," which is administered by the state of Connecticut's Insurance Department.

Del Bruno's case mimics an earlier incident involving firearms and a major U.S. financial corporation.

In February, WorldNetDaily reported that Citibank had adopted a new policy prohibiting its banking branches from "maintaining accounts for businesses that deal in weapons."

However, by March 16, due to intense pressure brought to bear by concerned citizens, Citibank reversed its policy and began taking accounts from firearms-related businesses.

Reprinted Courtesy of WorldNetDaily.com

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Gun maker stands up to Clinton

Gun Maker stands up to Clinton

Geoff Metcalf interviews

Bob Morrison, Executive VP of Taurus International

By Geoff Metcalf

Unable to push its hard-core gun control agenda through Congress, the Clinton administration has taken to using the threat of massive lawsuits to force gun manufacturers to do its bidding. Smith and Wesson recently gave in to the administration's demands to avoid legal harassment.

But not all manufacturers are caving in. Among those standing firm is Miami-based Taurus International, which makes pistols, revolvers and rifles. WorldNet-Daily reporter Geoff Metcalf interviewed Taurus Executive Vice President / Chief Operating Officer Bob Morrison about threats and offers of bribery Morrison claims his company has received from public officials. Morrison further describes the extraordinary means government personnel have employed in attempting to punish gun manufacturers that hold their ground.

Question: Bob, you were incorrectly quoted in the Wall Street Journal on March 21, 2000. What did the Journal say you said?

Answer: They said we were going to go along with the same thing that Smith and Wesson had signed, and that we were ready to sign on and that we echoed their concerns. That was a complete misquote.

Q: So what did you do?

A: We came back with a statement that said they had really gotten it wrong and we restated our position: We sell only to federally licensed distributors who sell only to federally licensed dealers and we couldn't find any reason for us to make any more prohibitions on their sales after all that has already been placed there by the federal government.

Q: One thing I was not aware of until I checked out your website was this locking device deal. You offered your locking device to Smith and Wesson, didn't you?

A: Yes we did. In fact, we have had an integral locking device on all our firearms since 1997. Over a year ago, we sent the entire industry a letter, including Smith and Wesson, in which we offered to sell them those locks for their firearms -- which would be perfectly acceptable and become integral to their firearms -- at our cost. There would be no profit to us. We re-reminded Smith and Wesson of that offer in a letter (in late March) offering them the same devices. This is what they promised the government they would develop within the next two years.

Q: What was their response to you?

A: We have had no response.

Q: So what they are telling the government they will develop within two years, you are willing to give them at your cost?

A: That is exactly correct. We don't understand it. We have been putting gun locks on all our firearms since 1998. We just simply didn't understand why Smith and Wesson would have done that. In addition, they have said they would start shipping all their guns with locks within 60 days, but they have been doing that for over a year.

Q: Now the government is talking anti-trust because, apparently you, Glock, Browning and some others have said, "No, we don't want to do what you want us to do."

A: That is absolutely correct. We made an independent decision when we found out we had been offered the same deal as Smith and Wesson. We independently said we wouldn't be interested.

Q: And then the phone rang. Who called?

A: Strangely enough, I got a call from HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo in which he furthered this conspiracy by offering to bribe us. If we would come with S&W, he would absolutely make us favored with lush government contracts to buy more firearms from us.

Q: Hold on a moment. If you as the chief operating officer of Taurus were to offer a similar kind of coercive deal to someone else, you'd get in trouble, wouldn't you?

A: I think it's called a bribe. And, that is certainly illegal.

Q: What was kid Cuomo's response when you said, "Thanks, but no thanks."?

A: He was frustrated that we wouldn't go along with it. He even offered to tailor the deal to our particular needs. When we said we would never abrogate the fiduciary responsibility of a branch of a publicly owned company to a committee of five people -- only one of those being from our company -- he seemed perplexed and wondered why we wouldn't want to do that.

Q: I try not to laugh, because this is serious. However, this is abuse of power under the color of authority.

A: I have a letter from New York Attorney General Elliot Spitzer, addressed to the Honorable Bill Pryor, attorney general of the state of Alabama. I believe Pryor is the president of the Attorneys General Association. The letter, dated March 16, 2000, starts out, "Dear Attorney General Pryor: I would like to request your participation in a nationwide coalition of state and local governments using the power of their purse strings to encourage gun manufacturers to operate..." Basically, he wants us to cave in to all of their untoward demands. He says, "Law enforcement purchases constitute a substantial portion of the gun industry's business. Together, we're in a unique position to dictate the terms of that business and to make it safer for our constituents." And it goes on and on. He's asking them to join a coalition of governments that will "award firearm contract only to those entities willing to abide by the principles that we enunciated in this new code."

Q: Now that sounds like an antitrust violation. You guys are faced with the potential threat of an antitrust suit because a number of gun manufacturers have refused to "abide by the principles ... enunciated in" the government's blackmail deal. Yet, the government seems to be involved in the same kind of reverse attack by saying we are only going to buy from people who do what we want them to do the way we want them to do it.

Gun maker stands up to Clinton

A: We were confused by the same thing. We looked at it and said, if there is anybody using antitrust against anyone, it is the government against us. We have the right to make a business decision not to do anything that would injure our business. Like I said, I exercise fiduciary responsibility for a corporate branch. I would never give up the control of this company to four dissident people and one regulatory agency. I just couldn't do that, yet, that is what the other company has apparently wanted to do with their company.

Q: That used to be called fascism. One of the questions is, given the government's threat of the antitrust deal against those folks who won't tow their line, is there any kind of reciprocal legal recourse in which you guys can bring suit against the government?

A: Well, that's certainly being looked into. I can't comment on it more than that. I am part of the Heritage Fund. (Editor's note: Hunting and Shooting Sports Heritage Foundation Fund, unrelated to the mutual fund or the think tank.) We are looking into any avenues that are open to us to retaliate against this abuse of power. I guess I could call it tyranny. When I looked it up it seems to fit all the definitions. At this point, as an American citizen, I am totally taken aback by all that is happening here. I will say we have had some support from Congress. We have had letters.

Q: Bob Barr wrote you, didn't he?

A: Yeah. He stiffened my backbone a bit by complimenting us and thanking us for standing up to protect Second Amendment rights and has offered to do everything possible to prevent the administration from what he says is following through with its threats to punish Taurus for not capitulating to its illegal pressures. I really do thank him for that.

Q: What other support have you received?

A: We have had thousands of e-mails and hundreds and hundreds of faxes supporting our position and I do appreciate that. It gets pretty lonely out here on the battle lines. If you could, ask your readers to talk to their congressmen and write to their senators and ask them what is going on with this thing. They are abus-

ing their power with aplomb. They don't seem to get prosecuted or hurt on this. So we are looking into legal remedies, but at this point, I am not at liberty to go into those.

Q: Actually, Thomas Jefferson said what you alluded to. He said, "When governments fear the people, there is liberty; but when the people fear the government," which is where we are at right now, Jefferson called that tyranny.

A: It is tyranny. We are looking at probably the most burdensome standards that have ever been imposed on a retailer right now by just having to pass through the grids of getting a firearm.

Q: You are the most regulated manufactured product in the country now.

A: And the customers are already subjected to the most invasive background checks ever imposed on an American consumer. They have to pass an FBI screening to be able to buy our products. And the fact that we rely on those regulatory agencies to do their assigned jobs is enough of a litmus test than we could ever imagine imposing on anybody. What more could they want us to do?

Q: One of the frustrating things must be the complicity of the mainstream media. You are a southern Florida company. When this S&W thing happened, the Miami Herald never even spoke to you, did they?

A: They did not. And we asked them to do that. I'll step that up one level and speak about my face-to-face conversation with Mayor Pinellis.

We had been discussing with him the lawsuit and what we would have to do in order to be relieved from this lawsuit and many of the things they proposed to us were very close to what our competitor has signed away. We decided we didn't want to do that. However, in my face-to-face confrontation with him, I said, "Please Mayor Pirellis, won't you, for the sake of the children and for the sake of the safety of this community, allow the Heritage Fund to put Project Home Safe -- that's where we give away free gun locks without any limit on the number -- and do that in Miami? If you have a heart, do that."

And not unlike your fellow in Bellevue, Wash., he said, "Not unless you go all the way with us." It's all or nothing at all, basically. And we pleaded with him again. I sat and looked him right in the eye and said, "You have to have a bigger heart than this. You've got to care about the people." And, at this point, they have turned us down. We have been in this plea position for 10 months. We did do it ourselves in Broward County, which is the adjoining county to Miami / Dade, but we live in Miami / Dade County. This is the same Mayor Pinellis who said that if there were a riot in the streets in this city, he would blame it on the president and Janet Reno. That has to do with the Elian Gonzales thing that has made all the news.

Q: Bob, I want you to know you are not the Lone Ranger. I recently spoke with the owner of a Bay Area gun shop and he told me he had made the decision not to carry your competitor's product anymore. He tried to get some local radio, television or newspaper to talk to him. They wouldn't touch the story.

A: It is unfortunate. We have had a lot of dealers who have come to us and asked us to ramp up our production because they are going to look for substitutes for some of the other firearms that are out there. We appreciate that and want those dealers to know we will be right there by their side and have no intention of veering off this course we have taken.

Q: Not too long ago, Citibank had a little flap where there was some internal policy dictating they would not do business with people who dealt with firearms. Well, in the wake of an overwhelming crush of people who were tearing up cards and canceling accounts, they changed their position. Although the government is now saying it will buy only from people who are going to do what they want, the way they want it, the other side of that coin is consumers. The rest of the buying public is doing the same thing. They are saying, "Hey, I'm not going to buy that product."

A: That's a choice that the consumer has, just as a business has; we all have choices we can make. In no way would I ever try to influence anybody not to make a legal choice. The thing that most people don't realize is this is the most legal business of all legal businesses.

Gun maker stands up to Clinton

There has never been a business like this that has had such overwhelming government scrutiny. We simply don't understand why this has taken place.

Q: The fact of the matter is, this long list of things the government is requiring is not going to reduce crime an iota.

A: We are at an all time low. In 1998, we had an all time low of 900 fatalities that were associated with firearms. That is in comparison to over 40,000 deaths by motor vehicles, almost 17,000 by falls, 9,000 by poisoning. What is going on is the administration has found a target that is weak, that is rather indefensible and is a hot button they can push -- and they are furthering their political agenda by attacking a very, very legal industry -- something I would never have imagined in this country.

Q: I've heard from a lot of folks wanting to know if they can contribute to any kind of legal defense fund.

A: Right now, our preliminary explorations are being funded by all the members of the Heritage Fund. That fund is taking one percent of all our gross profits. There is no place right now where the public can contribute, but I'll look into that for you.

Q: What is this trigger-locking device you have and have offered to Smith and Wesson and others?

A: What we have is a mechanical device that blocks the action of the gun being used at all. It is a very simple device. A quarter of a turn clockwise turns it on and a quarter of a turn counterclockwise turns it off.

Q: Is this just a hammer block?

A: It is a hammer or an action block, depending on the firearm.

Q: I used to have an old Walther and it had a little bar safety thing where the hammer just wouldn't go past the bar.

A: It's very much like that. But this is a patented device that we have developed and offered to share with everyone in the industry at our cost.

Q: Since Miami's mayor has rejected your offer of gun locks, why not just

make them available to the individual retailer?

A: We did that in Broward County. However, we don't want to put the gunshop owner in the position of being sued if somebody doesn't use it properly, so we wanted to do it through the cities. We have done that in over 100 cities in the United States at this point. Project Home Safe is probably the most successful program we have at this point.

Q: In light of the tobacco companies' problems and the fact they have always complied with the requirement for the Surgeon General's warning labels, has the government offered to in any way immunize you from liability should you fully comply with their new restrictions?

A: No, they haven't offered very much of anything other than the opportunity to turn our companies over to their committees.

Q: Yeah, but haven't they offered to have the cities that are suing gun manufacturers to back off?

A: They offered that in the other case but they failed to come through. Some of the cities that were suing Smith and Wesson have left the scene but not all. The problem they have is our guns are safe. The people who use them may choose not to use them in a very safe manner, but they don't want to look at it that way. The beat goes on.

Courtesy of WorldNetDaily.com

Geoff Metcalf is a staff reporter for WorldNetDaily. He can be reached by e-mail at: gmetcalf@worldnetdaily.com

Dear Merchants that Post Against Law Abiding Citizens with Concealed Weapons Permits:

I just wanted to take a minute to thank you for making my job easier. Every time you make it harder for my victims to defend themselves against me, my job as a criminal gets less risky. When I know my women don't have a gun, I

get what I want with almost no resistance.

Those local ordinances all these great American cities keep enacting after I commit one of my crimes---you know, the ones that tell law-abiding citizens they can't carry a gun---well, they are Wonderful! Gives new meaning to the phrase "The Land of Opportunity." Just about every week, my ability to commit violent crime gets smoother, and I owe it all to the great work you're doing to disarm my prey.

Oh, that licensing and registration thing---love it. Fewer people will buy guns once again, for sure. Heck, I can get my guns on the street cheaper than the ones in the gun store anyway, so licensing and registration won't phase me a bit. You've even helped me enlist some buddies into my gang because they aren't afraid of getting caught any more, so thanks for that, as well.

Please keep up the great work for gun control measures which disarm law-abiding people. I'm really proud of the work you're doing. You have my full support.

Sincerely,

Armed Bandit

PS. Though I've raped a couple of women, I've never actually committed armed robbery because--I just never knew if they had a gun or not. But now, I'm thinking of expanding my business!

Make-a Wish Falters – Hunt of a Lifetime Continues to Honor Children with Terminal Illnesses

"Make-a-Wish" Shoots Down Dreams By Michelle Malkin

Four years ago, I wrote a check to the Make-A-Wish Foundation to honor an extraordinary kid diagnosed with brain cancer. Now, the charity has dishonored him by caving in to political correctness and abandoning other terminally ill children who share this boy's passions.



Erik Ness was 17 years old at the time, and he had a simple dream: to hunt a brown bear in Alaska with his dad. The Make-A-Wish Foundation's Minnesota chapter made arrangements for Erik with voluntary assistance from Safari Club International, a hunters' association. Over 500 Safari Club members attended a fund-raising dinner in Erik's honor; they raised \$4,000 for gear, clothing and travel.

Both organizations came under attack by anti-hunting extremists, as did Erik and his family. "We're going to hit the streets with signs and pamphlets and bloody their noses, and they won't recover," threatened Leslie Davis, president of the Minneapolis-based Earth Protector. Despite the harassment, Erik and his supporters held fast.

As long as a doctor approved the wish and it was within the law, the foundation had pledged "never to deny a wish to an eligible child." Make-A-Wish declared that it would not bend to what it rightly dubbed animal-rights "terrorists."

Thanks to that courageous stand, Erik and his dad made the trip to Kodiak Island. They didn't get their bear on a spring 1996 outing, but the Minnesota Safari Club and Make-A-Wish coordinated a second autumn hunt that was successful. In a letter to the magazine Outdoor Life last year, Erik's mother, Diane, described the opportunities that blossomed as a result of his Make-A-Wish-sponsored adventure:

"The International Safari Club heard of Erik and decided to honor him at a banquet. They arranged for him to travel to Las Vegas, where he met former President George Bush, former Vice President Dan Quayle and Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, among others. He met and made lots of friends at the convention. The International Safari Club also presented him with a fall elk hunt in Colorado.

"While at the convention, Erik met David Van der Mullen from Sporting Out of Africa, who offered him a summer job in Africa working as a helper and guide. Erik was able to go on five hunts himself. It was a great learning experience, and a lot of fun...

"That fall, Erik also got involved with the United Foundation for Disabled Archers, with whom he has volunteered as a guide for the past two years, taking disabled sportsmen hunting in northern Minnesota for whitetails. He has also duck-hunted in Canada, fished at Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territory, pheasant hunted in North Dakota, and hunted deer in northern Minnesota.

Erik plans on graduating from Vermilion Community College in Ely, Minn., in May. He will have a degree in Wilderness Management. He goes to school during the week, has chemo on Saturdays, and enjoys hunting and fishing whenever he can (almost every day). Erik lives every day to the fullest..."

Two months after the letter was published, Erik died of brain cancer at age 21.

Now that he is gone, Make-A-Wish has decided "it is not in the best interests of the children we serve for us to continue considering wishes that involve firearms, hunting bows or other hunting or sport-shooting equipment."

The foundation's CEO, Paula Van Ness, said in a recent open letter to donors that the new policy is not a "value judgment" but a "safety" measure. Yet, Van Ness acknowledges that "accident statistics show fewer youngsters are hurt in hunting and sport shooting each year than in activities as common as high school sports."

The foundation's timid policy change is not just a "value judgment," but also a slap in the face to Erik's memory, to hunters, and to other sick children and their families who participate in doctor-approved, lawfully bound sporting activities. The charity may have preserved its political viability with corporate and left-wing donors. But by shooting down dreams, Make-A-Wish has shot itself in the foot.

Malkin is a nationally syndicated columnist based in North Bethesda, Md. She can be reached at: malkin1@ix.netcom.com
Source: conservativehq.com

Group Grants Hunting Trips to Kids with Fatal Diseases

By Jeffrey Bair

The Make-A-Wish Foundation has granted thousands of requests from children with life-threatening illnesses, sending youngsters to Walt Disney World or introducing them to their favorite pop stars.

But the foundation won't grant all wishes. For the past year, Make-A-Wish has refused to arrange hunting trips.

That's where Hunt of a Lifetime has come in. Formed to grant hunting requests no longer met by Make-A-Wish, the organization has arranged several trips, including a safari with rock 'n' roll wild man and ardent hunter Ted Nugent.

Nugent takes a dim view of the Make-A-Wish Foundation's position.

"What could be more pure than the last wishes of a young child?" he said. "And to deny that because of political correctness? That's just outrageous."

The Motor City Madman will travel to South Africa in July with Zachary Martin, a 16-year-old from Yreka, Calif., with bone cancer.

"Jeez, going hunting in Africa, and with Ted Nugent. It has been a dream of mine to hunt with him ever since I started watching his shows," Zachary said.

Make-a Wish Falters – Hunt of a Lifetime Continues to Honor Children with Terminal Illnesses

Nugent, the singer of "Cat Scratch Fever," said he and the teenager will go bowhunting for zebra, warthogs and impalas.

"Let me tell you, when you go hunting with Ted Nugent, there is no Janet Reno around to stop you. There is nothing more beautiful than that," Nugent said this week.

Make-A-Wish has granted 83,000 wishes but put a stop to hunting outings, said Jim Maggio, a spokesman for the charity.

"It's a safety concern, basically with exposing the kids and other participants to the potential for danger from a weapon being handled by someone who is in a weakened state from a life-threatening disease," Maggio said.

Animal rights groups had criticized hunting trips arranged by Phoenix-based Make-A-Wish.

"We see something ironic here," said Heidi Prescott, director of the Fund for Animals. "They're teaching a child to kill and cause another living being to suffer at a time when that child, we would figure, would be empathetic about . . . life."

Hunt of a Lifetime was founded by Tina Pattison, a bus driver from suburban Erie, Pa., whose stepson, Matt, died last year during chemotherapy for lymph node cancer.

Before Matt's death, Pattison tried to raise money to send him hunting--Make-A-Wish still allowed such trips but wouldn't help because he was too old at 19. The people of the little town of Nordegg in Canada heard his story and raised money for Matt to fly to a hunting camp by helicopter. He shot a moose whose antlers were 4 1/2 feet across.

Cash donations made at Matt's funeral were used to start Hunt of a Lifetime, which runs mostly on contributions.

So far, five youths have hunted for free through arrangements made by Hunt of a Lifetime.

<end>

Terry Hicks



Terry L. Hicks was born in Florence, SC and raised in Columbia, SC. Terry spent ten years active duty with the US Navy and is currently a SFC in the South Carolina State Guard

Reserve. He attended Trinidad State College Gunsmithing School. Terry is a Life member of both Gun Owners of America and the NRA. He is also a member of Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership, The Second Amendment Foundation, Single Action Shooting Association, AGA, and Mid Carolina Rifle Club. Terry has been active with GrassRoots South Carolina for over two years.

John Ponti, Merchant Contact Program Coordinator

John moved to the Sumter area in 1993 from Asheville, NC upon completing his



education and holds a degree in marketing. As a petty officer in the United States Navy, he served aboard the submarine tender USS L.Y. Spear (AS-36) and was also sta-

tioned at Miramar Naval Air Station. In addition to being a staff member of Grassroots South Carolina, John is a member of Mid-Carolina Rifle Club, the National Rifle Association, and competes in the Sharpshooter division of the International Defensive Pistol Association.

Outside of his interests in RKBA issues and the shooting sports, John's interests include artisan bread baking and home

brewing of craft beer. As time allows, he also enjoys flying an extensive collection of stunt kites. John is also a member of the Order of Sons of Italy in America.

Larry Coble, Communications



Larry became active in GrassRoots shortly after it began four years ago. He has served in various capacities, as needed, during those years. Currently, he coordinates the various communications mediums utilized by GrassRoots - newsletter, website, e-mail.

Larry began shooting approximately 35 years ago when he acquired his first Crossman BB gun which he shot until he could literally write sentences on the target with the bb's. He got his first .22 LR shortly thereafter, and was a relatively latecomer to shotgunning, purchasing his first shotgun at the advanced age of eighteen. He has corrected his "late start" for his 4-year-old daughter through purchases held in trust for her since she was born. She has already acquired her first .22 Chipmunk, single shot .410, and a high power rifle.

He enjoys both pistol and rifle shooting. While he prefers informal shooting, he has attended and competed in the National Service Rifle Matches at Camp Perry.

Larry is a member of Gun Owners of America, Palmetto State Marksman's Association, Mid Carolina Rifle Club, and a Life Member of the NRA. He is also an NRA Pistol Instructor and a South Carolina CWP Instructor.

(article continued next newsletter) <end>

Your GrassRoots South Carolina Leadership for 2001

Ed Kelleher, President



Ed has been President of the Mid Carolina Rifle Club for 7 years in which membership has tripled during his tenure. He's a member of the NRA (Life), Gun Owners of South Carolina, and Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership.

Ed believes firearms ownership, though not everyone's cup of tea, is an important, necessary, and beneficial part of a free society. Consequently, he sells firearms as a "Public Service" activity.

Ed's day job is as President of MACRO Incorporated, a business he founded in 1979. Macro Inc. develops computer systems and special electronic equipment used in the manufacture of nuclear fuel. His company is also a federally licensed FIREARMS dealer, and a South Carolina Retail Pistol Dealer.

Ed attended the University of Maryland and studied Astronautical Engineering (rocket science). He enlisted in US NAVY 1970 when he turned 19, his draft number came up under 50 and his grades were even lower (but his party index was real good).

He spent 6 years on active duty serving aboard US nuclear submarines (boomers). He was homeported in Charleston, SC. He got out of the Navy there in 1976 and went to work for Henry Finch, brother of Raymon Finch, 1978 Republican SC gubernatorial candidate.

He married Janet Sheppard of West Columbia in 1977 to whom he is still

pleasantly married. They have 3 children.

Ed attends West Columbia church of Christ where he leads singing (a capella), teaches adult Sunday bible class and preaches when the regular minister is away. Spent 3 weeks in RUSSIA in 1992 teaching English to Russian high school students in Siberia.

Tends to vote Republican, although he feels "Republicans want pretty much what the Democrats do, only cheaper". Was a Republican precinct President 1987-1988 and polling place manager.

Ed is active in target shooting but not much of a hunter. When he gets a chance, Ed shoots in Cowboy matches as "El Presidente" and also in IPSC, IDPA and NRA High Power Rifle and 2700 pistol matches. He's not very good in any of them but always enjoys himself.

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Paul Peters

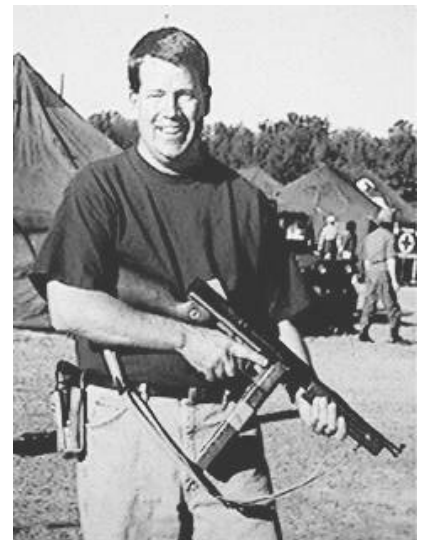


My first year at camp, I had the great experience of taking a course in riflery. The little marksmanship pin I received on the last day of camp was a true prize. I was eight. The opportunity to shoot didn't come again until I was twelve. When my family moved to the country, hunting and shooting became regular activities.

From USC I received a B.S. in Criminal Justice and a Master's Degree in Public Administration. For nine years I worked as a police officer. I served four years on the Lexington County Council. Now self-employed, I sell life and health insurance and do freelance writing, editing, and photography.

I've been firmly committed to the right to keep and bear arms since I was a teenager and learned what the Second Amendment meant. Not all firearms owners are equally aware of the threats to take away that right. So it falls to organizations like GrassRoots to take up the challenge to defend that right and to support the interests of gun owners. In order to help more people obtain permits, I became a certified Concealed Weapon Permit instructor. As the numbers of CWP holders increase, our voice will become stronger. I joined GrassRoots about a year ago and have been helping out wherever I could. I gladly to serve GrassRoots as a member of the board.

Tom Burkizer, Secretary



Tom has been a member of the gun culture for more than 40 years, and enjoys shooting both pistols and rifles. He is a member of Gun Owners of America, Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership, the Palmetto State Marksman's Association, and the Mid-Carolina Rifle Club. Tom has been involved with GrassRoots since it was started, and believes that the Second Amendment was not put in the Bill of Rights merely to ensure that hunters and sportsmen could keep their guns.

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