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WELCOME LEGISLATORS!

Welcome new and returning legislators to the 2007 session. We would like to especially welcome and congratulate our long-time supporter, Governor Ritter.

WHEN MEN MURDER WOMEN

The Violence Prevention Center has released their annual report based on the analysis of 2004 crime data.

Most homicides committed against women were by men known to the victims. 92% were killed by men they knew.

Handguns were the most common weapons used by males to murder females.

To read the report, go to:
www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2006.pdf

Gun Lobby Loses in Elections

The following are extracted from the December 2006 Brady Report Online and their email updates following the election.

In the U.S. House, 109 NRA-backed candidates (endorsed or "A" rated) lost their races, as did 18 NRA-backed candidates in the U.S. Senate. On the other hand, Brady Campaign endorsed candidates won in more than 94% of their races, including winning 83% of the races when a Brady-endorsed candidate went head-to-head with an NRA-backed candidate

It was also a bad election for those that were backed by the NRA: Millions of dollars in NRA spending in key races failed to pay off as at least 5 out of the top 6 recipients of NRA spending failed in their bids for the U.S. Senate. In the House of Representatives, it was a similar story as the top 5 recipients of NRA spending on House races also lost their contests.

The gun lobby's spin operation in the wake of its sizable defeats earlier this month is truly unbelievable. The NRA spent over \$1.7 million (80% of their independent expenditures) on losing campaigns this year. In the races where they spent money, the NRA's success rate in the U.S. Senate was only 25% and less than 50% in the U.S. House.

The lesson to be learned from this election is that trying to reduce gun violence through common sense, moderate, approaches like having all gun sales covered by Brady background checks, restricting bulk sales of handguns, and strengthening law enforcement's ability to make sure that the laws on the books are followed, helps, not hurts, candidates in all parts of the country. To view political ads from the November election to go: www.bradycampaign.org/media/?pagename=politicalads

Question of the Day

What is the price of freedom?

Losing a son or daughter to gun violence is just the cost of freedom the NRA believes. During the 1980's, NRA Executive Vice President Harlon Carter wrote, "Nowhere is it said that we may not pay a high price for these rights. It is popularly said that the right to protect one's life, the right to keep and bear arms, costs lives. This is said without an adequate measure that more lives are saved by arms in good hands than are lost by arms in evil hands.... The paramount point to be made is that our 'unalienable rights' may not be infringed by government merely because they suggest difficulties or because they are socially or politically inconvenient or even because they may at times be painful."

No thought to responsibility. No thought to public safety. Price of freedom? A grieving mother or father would beg to disagree. (www.vpc.org)

Check out These Books

One Nation Under Guns: An Essay on an American Epidemic by Arnold Grossman, SAFE Colorado Co-Founder. This eye-opening essay examines the scope of gun violence in this country: its causes, its dangers, and its possible solutions. (from www.fulcrum-books.com)

Gun Show Nation: Gun Culture and American Democracy by Joan Burdick. *Gun Show Nation* examines the lethal politics of gun ownership, uncovering a powerful, conservative political ideology that places the individual citizen armed with a gun at the bulwark of our democracy. (from www.amazon.com)

A Well-Regulated Militia: The Founding Fathers and the Origins of Gun Control in America by Saul Cornell Americans are deeply divided over the Second Amendment. Some passionately assert that the Amendment protects an individual's right to own guns. Others, that it does no more than protect the right of states to maintain militias. Now, in the first and only comprehensive history of this bitter controversy, Saul Cornell proves conclusively that both sides are wrong. (from www.amazon.com)

Where's Your Head At?

This issue we're wondering if the NRA even used their head for thinking prior to designing a new brochure, "Freedom in Peril: Guarding the 2nd Amendment in the 21st Century". It's no hoax. At first the NRA denied making the graphic novel. According to abcnews.com, the NRA confirms that "Freedom in Peril" is the real thing.

News of the draft brochure was broken by the blog, Wonkette. Although beautifully illustrated, the brochure is full of fear, stereotypes and paranoia. The 27-page brochure identifies "threats" to gun ownership in the United States as overzealous activists, frighteningly nonwhite immigrants, and even the police and the media themselves.

Why the brochure? The NRA may be looking for cash.

To view: www.rawprint.com/images/nrf8_perilfinal_fpr.pdf

Did You Know?

The Washington Post reports the NRA has been accused of being out of touch and is being pressured by members to oppose the Bush Administration policies that have opened more public land for oil and gas drilling and limited access to hunters and anglers. In fact, close identification with an unpopular President, his policies and a party that has lost control of Congress may be hurting the NRA. A gun industry executive says, "In the same way the Bush administration has overreached on Iraq, the NRA has overreached on gun rights. We are losing our grip on this green environmental thing." (www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/01/06/AR2007010601300.html?nav=rss_politics)

NRA Board Member Sandy Abrams has resigned from the NRA's Board of Directors after the Brady Center's Gun Industry Watch program issued its report, *Death Valley*, exposing his gun shop as one the leading supplier of crime guns in America.

A report, *A Gathering Storm: Violent Crime in America*, by the Police Executive Research Forum examined murder and robbery statistics in 53 cities during the first six months of 2006 and found that murder was up in 26 of the 53 cities. The FBI reported that in 2005 the violent crime rate increased 2.3 percent. Police say the crime wave has been triggered by a lethal combination of increased gang activity, violent offenders returning from prison and kids who have easy access to guns. (abcnews.go.com/WNT/print?id=2558802)

To prevent criminals in New York from obtaining firearms, Mayor Bloomberg sent investigators down to states like South Carolina and Georgia to monitor gun sales, and then filed suit against a number of gun dealers in the area making straw purchases. The Mayor has settled with about nine gun dealers. For every dealer he gets to settle, one more rogue gun dealer chooses to be held responsible for the firearms they sell. (www.ny1.com/ny1/content/index.jsp?stid=1&aid=65338)

The Brady Center has issued a new report, *The NRA: A Criminal's Best Friend*, showing how the NRA has fought to hamstring and intimidate federal law enforcement. Go to www.bradycenter.org/gunindustrywatch and read all six reports in the Gun Industry Watch series.