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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Bills Reduce ATF's Oversight
- 1 Question of the Day
- 2 1000 Dead Everyday
- 2 Where's Your Head At?
- 2 Did You Know?

BRADY CAMPAIGN GETS A NEW PRESIDENT

Paul Helmke, the former three-term Republican Mayor of Fort Wayne, Indiana, has been selected to lead the organization as President, replacing Michael D. Barnes.

For more information, go to:
www.bradycampaign.org/press/release.php?release=739

19 MILLION ARE ASKING, ARE YOU?

A simple question, 'Is there a gun in the home?', can save your child's life. June 21 was National ASK day. To learn more about this program and how you can spread the word, go to our website, www.mmmdenver.org.

Bills Reduce ATF's Oversight

The NRA is supporting three bills waiting action in Congress. H.R. 5092 would gut ATF's power to revoke the federal firearms licenses of corrupt gun dealers. H.R. 5005 would weaken ATF enforcement power, limit access to crime gun trace data, and loosen restrictions on the importation of non-sporting firearms. H.R. 1384 would ease restrictions on interstate handgun sales by dealers. Our chapter opposes these bills.

Could this be the reason for the NRA's support of H.R.5092 and 5005? Third term board member, Sanford Abram, owns Valley Gun in Baltimore which had 483 firearms traced to crime from 1996 to 2000. In 2003, his gun store had over nine hundred violations of federal law. When Mr. Abrams finally had his firearms license revoked, the NRA came to his legal defense by loaning him one of the organization's lobbyists to be his attorney.

To read more about Mr. Abram's gun store, visit:
www.bradycenter.org/xshare/pdf/reports/death-valley.pdf

Question of the Day

Do most guns used in crimes come from the non-regulated market?

No

This information has been extracted from the East Bay Express article, *Dealing in Death*, about the worst gun dealer in the US, Trader Sports of San Leandro, California and the ATF's 36 year battle to shut him down. www.eastbayexpress.com/issues/2006-07-05/news/feature_full.html

When a crime is committed, local law enforcement works with the ATF to trace its path from manufacturer to distributor, dealer, and first retail purchaser. This information is entered into a massive database which can be searched to provide answers to the following questions: What weapons and buying patterns are most frequently linked to crime, and who makes, sells, and buys the weapons.

The Clinton administration encouraged the ATF to publicly release gun-trace data. ATF data analysis proved that most crime guns come from licensed gun dealers. In fact, only 1.2 percent of dealers account for nearly 60 percent of all crime guns in 2000. "Virtually every crime gun in the United States starts off as a legal firearm," the ATF's director wrote that year. "Unlike narcotics or other contraband, the criminals' supply of guns does not begin in clandestine factories or with illegal smuggling."

This highlighted the firearms industry's role in supplying the weapons used by criminals. Daniel Vice, staff attorney for the Brady Center explains manufacturers and distributors have known all along which shops are selling large numbers of crime guns, because they are contacted each time the ATF traces a weapon to those stores. We pose the question: Is profit more important than life?

The gun lobby reacted by getting Congress to grant them immunity from lawsuits and by their repeated, successful attempts to weaken the ATF. Read the article for more info.

1000 Dead Everyday

1,000 people die each day from small arms violence. The UN world conference on small arms held from June 26 thru July 7 has ended without agreement, despite the majority of governments, backing tougher controls on the international trade in small arms and light weapons. A small number of states, most prominently the United States along with Cuba, India, Iran, Israel and Pakistan, blocked key issues so consistently that no agreement was possible. The goal of the conference was not to negotiate a global gun ban or to deny law-abiding citizens their right to bear arms in accordance with their national laws. According to Kofi Annan, their targets are unscrupulous arm brokers, corrupt officials, drug trafficking syndicates, criminals and others who bring death and mayhem into their communities.

80% of crime guns in Mexico originate outside of the country and 50% of crime guns in Canada are smuggled from the outside. To learn the impacts of small arms on the world's countries:

www.iansa.org/documents/2006/factsheets/SAWG_Small_Arms_Fact_Sheets_2006.pdf and
<http://www.un.org/events/smallarms2006/press-kit.html>

Where's Your Head At?

This feature has proved so popular in our April newsletter, that we might make it permanent! Ever wonder what our elected officials are thinking when they introduce laws? Read below for a real head scratcher provided by our own Colorado Representatives.

Marilyn Musgrave (R) proposed an amendment that passed the House prohibiting any funds from the Science, State, Justice and Commerce Appropriations Act for FY 2007 from being used to enforce the trigger lock law that went into effect on April 24. The Child Safety Lock Act of 2005 states that all licensed manufacturers, importers and dealers must provide a trigger lock with every handgun they sell. Rep. Hefley (R), Rep. Tancredo (R), Rep. Beauprez (R) and Rep. Salazar (D) voted for this amendment. Rep. DeGette (D) and Rep. Udall (D) voted against it. Now it goes to the Senate for approval. Will our Senators show some sense?

What do these representatives have against a child's safety? Why do they support unsafe storage of a firearm? This act did not require the gun owner to even USE the lock but was seen as an encouragement toward safe storage. This extreme position has everything to do with protecting the gun industry over our children. Even the NRA recommends safe storage of a firearm. And the National Shooting Sports Foundation provides gunlocks to police departments to give away. Many gun manufacturers already supply a lock with a handgun. At the Colorado Police Chiefs Conference in Fort Collins in June, while the Beretta representative was explaining safety features of their pistols, he also mentioned they provide a gunlock with each pistol. What's the big deal with requiring adults and companies to show a little responsibility?

In the millions of American homes where children and firearms are present, 40 percent had at least one unlocked firearm.

Did You Know?

The ATF has released the names of the five worst gun dealers in the nation during a lawsuit by one of those dealers to prevent the revoking of their dealer's license. According to the report on WTHR-Indianapolis, each of the five dealers had an average of more than one gun recovered in crime every day of the year in 2005. In a typical year, 86 percent of gun dealers in America have no crime guns traced to their stores. In Denver-Aurora, 4 gun dealers supplied 27% of the guns used in crime. Who are they? Don't know. The ATF is prohibited from releasing this information to the public by our elected officials in Washington, DC. To learn more:

www.bradycampaign.org/action/trafficking/

New data released by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) shows that 97 rogue gun dealers had 11,840 guns "disappear" from their shops in fiscal year 2005. These dealers accounted for an astonishing 96 percent of all guns that ATF identified as missing from 3,083 federal firearms licensees that ATF inspected in 2005. The remaining 2,986 gun dealers inspected in 2005 had less than 500 missing guns. Read the entire Brady Campaign press release: www.bradycampaign.org/press/release.php?release=740

Denver Mayor Hickenlooper has joined NY Mayor Bloomberg's fight against illegal guns. Check out their goals and principles: www.nyc.gov/html/om/pdf/summit_principles.pdf