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ANOTHER DAY IN AMERICA—ANOTHER SCHOOL SHOOTING

14 year-old kills self and injures 4 others at Cleveland High School.

Columbine-style plot foiled in PA. Mother bought 14-year old, three guns: 22-caliber handgun, a .22-caliber rifle and a 9 mm semiautomatic rifle.

10 MYTHS ABOUT SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

MSNBC had published 10 myths about school shootings, compiled by MSNBC.com from a 2002 study by the U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Department of Education.

Here are a few:

- He just snapped.
- He never touched a gun.
- He didn't fit the profile.

For a complete listing of all ten myths go to
www.msnbc.msn.com/id/1511143
8/

Recommendations to Keep Us Safe

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has released a report with nearly 40 recommendations for making our communities safer by reducing gun violence. Such **common sense** recommendations include:

- Remove guns from situations of domestic violence, as well as from people whose adjudicated mental illness, drug use, or previous criminal record suggests the possibility of violence
- Require that all gun sales take place through Federal Firearms License (FFL) holders with mandatory background checks
- Enact an effective ban on military-style assault weapons, armor-piercing handgun ammunition, .50 caliber sniper rifles and other weapons that enable criminals to outgun law enforcement
- Restore COPS funding to provide vital resources to state, local and tribal law enforcement
- Repeal the Tiahrt Amendment, which hinders investigation of illegal gun trafficking
- Destroy guns that come into police possession once their law enforcement use has ended
- Improve officer training in debriefing suspects and handling crime guns, including tracing all guns
- Train police officers in tactics that can lessen the possibility that a hostile situation will erupt in violence
- Mandate safe storage of firearms by private citizens and providing safe facilities where gun owners can store their weapons
- Mandate reporting of lost and stolen firearms

To read more: www.freedomstatesalliance.com/docs/Embargoed_IACP_Report.pdf

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

According to the Brady Campaign, more than four times as many women are murdered with a gun by their husbands or intimate acquaintances than are killed by strangers' guns, knives or other weapons combined.

In a 2003 study, researchers found that access to firearms increases the risk of intimate partner homicide five times more than in instances where there are no weapons. In addition, abusers who possess guns tend to inflict the most severe abuse on their partners. Research shows that family and intimate partner assaults involving firearms are 12 times more likely to result in death than those that do not involve firearms

The Violence Policy Center (VPC) released *When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2005 Homicide Data*. This annual report details national and state-by-state information on female homicides involving one female murder victim and one male offender.

For more information: www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2007.pdf

Question of the Day

So gun violence can't happen to you? It happened to my middle-class, white family three times. It happened to my neighbor. It happened to a co-worker. It happened to my friends.

An excerpt from Paul Helmke's Blog concerning the shooting of a fellow activist's son on www.bradycampaign.org follows:

"America suffers over 10,000 gun murders and 17,000 gun suicides every year. Hundreds of thousands of regular Americans are victims of violent gun crime annually, and the country has now suffered the first two-year national violent crime increase in over a decade. Every day we see or hear or read about another senseless gun injury or death. We can no longer assume that it can't happen to us. ...

It is time for us to ask ourselves why we let this slaughter continue, and what we are going to do to stop it.

To begin, we can remember our traditional obligations to one another, and choose to be our brother's and our sister's keeper. We have to realize that when gun tragedy strikes one of the Daren Dieters of the world, it affects us all. ...

Common-sense gun laws are favored by **a vast majority of Americans** and would do much to alleviate the real-life threat of illegal guns in this country. It is up to all of us to push to get those laws enacted, in spite of the gun lobby's most strident efforts. This was Lance Haver's fight long before his son was shot, and it's even more his fight now.

It's our fight, too." (our emphasis)

Where's Your Head At?

What can we say? We're struck silent in disbelief. It's been six months since the Virginia Tech Shooting. Several months ago, the House passed a bill to strengthen the Brady background check and make it harder for criminals and other prohibited people to buy firearms. (Refer to April, 2007 Newsletter) This bill had bipartisan support and was unopposed by the NRA.

The Senate has tried to move this bill to the Senate floor for a vote. But one Senator, Tom Coburn (R-OK), blocked consideration of the bill and this critical measure remains "on hold" in the Senate.

What can you do? Call you Senators and also Senate leadership and urge them to take action. For more information on the bill: www.bradycampaign.org/issues/nics/nics_details.pdf

How many more of our children have to die, Senators?

Did You Know?

The FBI has announced, 'For the second consecutive year, the estimated number of violent crimes in the nation increased, and for the fourth year in a row, the estimated number of property crimes decreased.'
<http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel07/cius092407.htm>

In September, The International Association of Chiefs of Police--20,000 police administrators from the US and 88 countries--asked Congress to renew the federal assault rifles ban which expired in 2004.

The California condor is near extinction because of poisoning from lead ammunition. Condors are scavengers and feast on what hunters leave behind. Their fatal exposure comes from fragments of lead ammunition lodged in the remains of an animal carcass. The NRA opposes a law in the California legislature to ban lead ammunition in condor habitats. To read more: www.salon.com/news/feature/2007/09/22/condors/print.html

A report, Small Arms Survey, 2007, reports the United States has 90 guns for every 100 citizens, making us the most heavily armed society in the world. Of 8 million firearms manufactured each year, 4.5 million are purchased in the US.
today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=topNews&storyid=2007-08-28T174254Z_01_L28348938_RTRUKOC_0_US-WORLD-FIREARMS.xml&src=rss&rpc=22&sp=true

The Federal District Court in Tulsa, Oklahoma rejected the gun lobby's effort to force guns into America's workplaces. Notably, the court's opinion cited the Brady Center report on this critical subject – *Forced Entry: The National Rifle Association's Campaign To Force Businesses To Accept Guns At Work* – no fewer than five times.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger of California signed the Crime Gun Identification Act of 2007 into law. This bill requires that, by 2010, all semi-automatic handguns sold in the state of California be fitted with a technology to help police officers solve gun crimes faster – even when the gun is unavailable.