



SAVE THE DATE
CAGV Celebrates its
10th Anniversary
Saturday, February 27.
Please join us!

Coalition Against Gun Violence is a non-profit coalition united against gun violence and committed to creating a safer community for Santa Barbara County residents.

COALITION AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE
1187 Coast Village Road, Ste. 1 - 121
Santa Barbara, CA 93108-2794
(805) 564-6803 • Fax (805) 568-0466

Website: www.sbcoalition.org

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BUSH IS SILENT

The 10-year-old assault weapon ban expired on September 13, 2004. While the CAGV is non-partisan, it is apparent to all, Republicans and Democrats alike, that a word from President Bush would have stimulated a renewal before Congress; but the president was silent. When Bush became president, the NRA said it now had access to the Oval Office. Bush's silence lends credence to their boast. Four past presidents have supported a ban on this military weapon: Presidents Ford, Carter, Reagan and Clinton. One president blocked renewal, Bush.

When President Bush addressed the United Nations in November 2001, he stated, "We have a responsibility to deny weapons to terrorists and to actively prevent private citizens from providing them." Yet, gun trafficking has always been President Bush's blind spot in the war on terror. The inherent danger from the 4,000 gun shows held annually in the America, where terrorists and criminals can load their vans with countless weapons – no questions asked-may actually grow worse. A manual found in the rubble in Kabul, Afghanistan after a U.S.-led assault there, entitled, "How Can I train Myself for Jihad," singles out the U.S. for its easy availability of firearms and stipulates that Al Qaeda members living in America "obtain an assault weapon legally, preferably AK-47 or variations." Criminals in the U.S. and abroad have long known what is doctrine to Al Qaeda: the United States is the Great Gun Bazaar.

Most people, including most gun owners, are properly alarmed. A survey released last month by the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center found that 71% of those surveyed and 64% of gun owners wanted Congress to extend the ban. Every law enforcement group strongly supported renewing the ban. Even half of NRA member households support banning assault weapons.

Congressional leaders accustomed to taking orders from the NRA stymied the re-authorization bill that Sens.



Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), John W. Warner (R-VA) and Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) introduced last year, and Bush put no pressure on Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) or House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-IL) to put the gun ban before their colleagues for a vote. The consensus view is that while Bush paid lip service to renewing the ban, he also wanted the NRA's political endorsement which the group withheld until the ban expired.



Assault weapons are not hunting weapons; what they do best is mow down humans, which is why Los Angeles Police Chief and his colleagues in other cities supported renewing the ban. While the ban's expiration does not void state bans on such weapons, including California's, there would be no ban against buying such guns in Nevada or elsewhere, where a state ban does not exist and transporting them into our state illegally.

Bush says his top priority is to keep Americans safe. In 2000, Bush pledged to support the Assault Weapon Ban, saying, "It makes no sense for assault weapons to be around our society." Is the president playing politics with our safety because the NRA withheld its endorsement of Bush until after the ban expired?

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BUSH IS SILENT

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“By Congress and President Bush caving into the NRA and not renewing the assault weapon ban, the gun lobby has succeeded in making gun control an issue in this election.”

In a personal letter to Congress, Mayor Bloomberg of New York and Mayor Daley of Chicago urged Congress to do all that is necessary to bring about the reauthorization of the assault weapon ban. In their letter, they state that under the ban the proportion of assault weapons traced to crimes had dropped by 65.8% since 1995. Moreover, in 1995, the first year the ban went into effect, these weapons represented 3.57% of all crime guns recovered from crimes. By 2002, that had dropped to only 1.22%, according to the Department of Justice. These mayors know that this ban has reduced the number of military-style weapons and high-capacity magazines in their cities.

U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert misled the American public, stating the House would not vote on renewing the assault weapons ban because “the Senate had defeated it already.” In reality, the Senate renewed the ban on March 2 on a bipartisan 52-47 vote. It was passed as an amendment to a bill that would grant unprecedented legal immunity to the gun industry. The Senate voted down the entire package. Hastert’s remarks are highly misleading as the Senate voted to renew the ban, pure and simple. Bush repeatedly stated support for the ban and, according to a spokesman was “waiting for the House to act” on the measure.

Senator Bill Frist, Republican Majority leader (and a physician), after the March 2nd defeat of the immunity bill, prevented the Senate from solely voting on renewing the ban by blocking it even though a majority of Senators are on record as supporting the renewal. Like Hastert, Frist misled the people stating, “I think the will of the American people is consistent with letting it expire, and so it will expire.”

Asked why Congress wanted to legalize the military-style weapons again when public opinion polls found broad public support for keeping them illegal, House Majority leader Tom Delay (R-TX) said, “We don’t do things by polls.” Politically, killing the ban is a top NRA priority and some lawmakers are fearful of crossing the NRA weeks before congressional elections.

Derrick Jackson, a writer for the *Boston Globe*, said, “Two days after the nation noted the third anniversary of Sept. 11 and the murders of nearly 3,000 Americans by a foreign terrorist network, Congress turned right around and invited an increase in local terror.” He states that both political parties “let the NRA do all it could to destroy the ban in a nation where nearly 30,000 lives a year are destroyed by guns, 10 times more than Sept. 11.” *Fortune* magazine named the NRA the most powerful lobby in Washington in 2002.

Here in Santa Barbara gun storeowners reported a large number of customers coming in to inquire about when they could purchase an assault weapon. The answer is never in California. California has a far stricter law than the federal ban. It bans 75 types of firearms in addition to a host of features on guns instead of specific makes and models.

It also remains illegal for a California resident to buy or transport any of the banned assault weapons – even when they travel to other states. But as L.A. Police Chief Bratton said, “The problem is when you don’t have a national law, it makes it easier for people to bring those weapons here. There are just too many loopholes and too many people who are willing to sell them illegally, and that’s the issue.”

Nationally gun makers have been taking orders for semi-automatic rifles and high-capacity ammunition magazines for months and offering discounts and specials. Beretta plans to offer two free 15-round magazines with the purchase of two of its weapons. Dave Anver, of Dave’s Guns in Denver, CO said his store has already seen “a huge spike” in sales. By midday of September 13, he had 15 to 20 walk-in customers asking about buying new assault rifles and numerous inquiries by phone and email.

As Tom Diaz discussed in his book, *Making a Killing: The Business of Guns in America*, gun makers are in the business of selling their product; making weapons more lethal makes them more appealing. Offering illegal features like bayonets and flash suppressors, is going to sell more firearms and that increases the bottom line.

On Sept. 15, many states began renewing efforts to pass their own ban on the military-style firearms. Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Pennsylvania stalled in passing bans but their efforts have intensified following the decision by the U.S. Congress not to renew the ban. California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York are the only states that now ban assault weapons. Maryland and Hawaii ban assault pistols only.

On September 9, 2004 Penn, Schoen and Berland Associates released the results of a new poll showing conclusively that voters in three election swing states view President Bush’s blocking of the federal Assault Weapon Ban as a pivotal indicator of his lack of leadership on homeland security. Voters make a clear distinction between generic “gun control” issues and a ban on assault weapons.

Nationally - 72% make a distinction

Florida - 66% make a distinction

Ohio - 70% make a distinction

Pennsylvania - 67% make a distinction

In Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania, President Bush loses ground on being “best equipped to handle terrorism” because he chose not to push Congress to reauthorize the ban.

Nationally— 74% support renewing the ban

Florida— 64% support renewing the ban

Ohio— 56% support renewing the ban

Pennsylvania— 61% renewing the ban

Therefore, by Congress and President Bush caving into the NRA and not renewing the assault weapon ban, the gun lobby has succeeded in making gun control an issue in this election.



“Juvies” Documentary:

A Huge Success



SBCAGV Co-founder Ilene Pritikin(l), “Juvies” Documentary Director Leslie Neale, SBCAGV Co-founder, Chair & newsletter editor Toni Wellen, “Juvies” panelist Dr. Aaron Kipnis, SBCAGV Coalition Member Jina Carvalho from Glendon Association, and “Juvies” Documentary Producer Traci Odom.

The documentary film, “Juvies,” was shown under the auspices of CAGV at a well-attended event at the Marjorie Luke Theater on May 16, 2004. The director, **Leslie Neale**, was honored at a reception held in her honor prior to the showing. A lively panel discussion following the film included considerable audience participation. Moderator **Judge George Eskin** fielded 3 dozen questions among the panelists, including representatives of the Santa Barbara juvenile justice system as well as the **Teen Legal Clinic** and **Teen Court**.

Questions ranged from wanting to learn about juvenile facilities and rehabilitation in Santa Barbara to wanting to know how kids in Santa Barbara schools can see this film.

Because today’s youth are confronted with easy access to firearms and a world of increasing violence, the information in this film is important to parents and all professionals working with teens and children. Adjudicating minors as adults and imprisoning them in adult prisons creates hopelessness beyond description.

If you were unable to attend the May event and you or your group would like to see this excellent film, the Coalition is maintaining a lending library for that purpose. Contact Chris Silverstein at 898-2217.

Interview with Dr. Aaron Kipnis, Guest “Juvies” Panelist

Dr. Aaron Kipnis, now a highly regarded professor of psychology at the Pacifica Graduate Institute in Carpinteria, spent his youth, from age 11 to 23 in foster care or in the California Youth Authority.

A CAYA officer helped him get into Los Angeles City College even though Aaron had only an 8th grade education. The fact that this person believed he could make it in college meant a great deal, and he also did not want to return to the CAYA. With excellent performance and student loans, he was able to transfer to the University of California eventually obtaining a doctorate in psychology.

Dr. Kipnis agreed to a personal interview because he hopes to send a message to adults in our community that it isn’t sufficient to just open doorways to our youth: we must reach out and invite them in and become their mentors. He believes he was fortunate because at that time guns were not proliferating in our society. Today kids don’t get a break; they get sentence enhancements due to the presence of a firearm. Dr. Kipnis said when youth are alienated and disenfranchised, our job as responsible adults is to provide arenas to create a sense of inclusion. He believes that violence is a product of one’s inability to see another person as part of yourself, i.e., another human being.

He emphasized these points as essential for kids: education is the major key; stop the flow of guns; reduce gun user demand; work toward inclusion; and teach that you don’t need to use violence when you feel included in the system.

NO PLACE FOR HATE To Honor CAGV

No Place For Hate has announced they will be honoring the work of CAGV for creating a safe and welcoming community in Santa Barbara County. This will take place on **October 6th at 5:30 p.m. at the S.B. Foundation Building, 15 E. Carrillo Street**. CAGV was recognized for: 1) Showing of the movie “Juvies” in May 2004 at the Marjorie Luke Theater, with a discussion led by several judicial and juvenal justice

system leaders; 2) Outreach to the Latino Community, including Spanish language videos/PSAs stressing the need for gun owner responsibility; and 3) Legislative education/advocacy: Legislative alerts published on critical issues regarding gun ownership/control issues; were successful in encouraging Santa Barbara City Council to pass a resolution in support of State legislation to ban ownership of .50 Caliber rifles.



More Concealed Weapons In California: Are You Safer?

“The question is how does keeping a loaded gun around to keep you safe from a possible criminal attack weigh against a family tragedy that results from the unintentional use of that weapon?”

(Los Angeles Times 7-19-04)

By the end of 2003, California sheriffs and police chiefs had issued more than 45,000 concealed weapon permits, up about 10,000 (or 28%) in three years. Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura Counties experienced steep increases.

There was a big spike in gun sales and requests for permits after 9/11, when people assumed they required a weapon to protect themselves. California law allows police agencies to grant concealed weapon permits for “good cause” if residents have clean criminal and mental health records and pass a basic firearm course. “Good cause” is determined by the police agencies.

The rate of people who legally carry weapons was generally lower in big cities, where police chiefs want the streets free of firearms. However, it was high in the state’s rural north and east, where the closest law enforcement office is often many miles away.

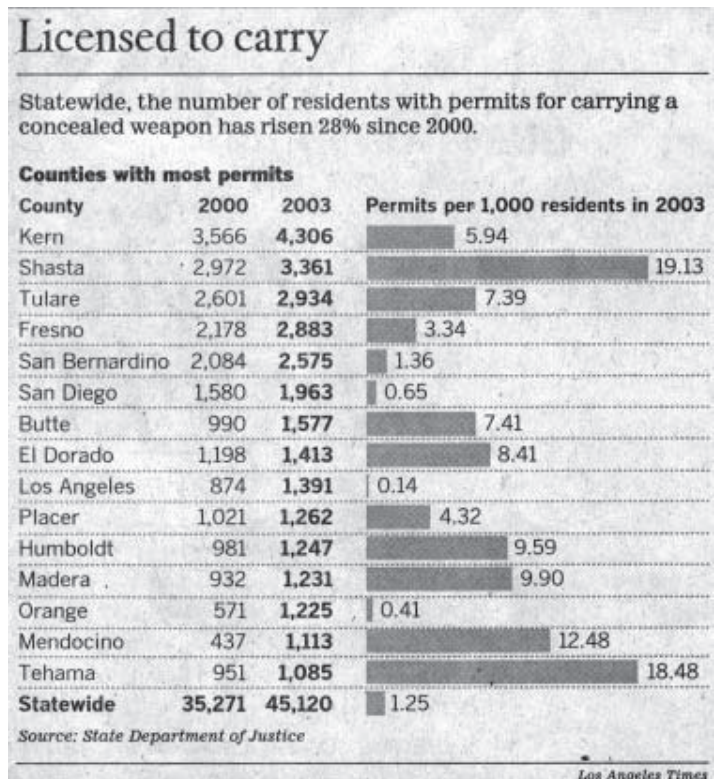
In an increasing trend, 35 states have passed “shall carry” or “right-to-carry” laws that allow most residents to get weapon permits, although only a fraction of those who qualify apply.

Recent academic studies have reached contradictory findings on whether violent crime falls when more people are allowed to carry weapons. Some concluded it did, others say it did not. Law enforcement officials in California are split along the same lines.

In Los Angeles, Sheriff Baca and Police Chief Bratton require applicants to prove a severe potential danger to themselves or their families that police cannot adequately address that would be lessened by carrying a gun. Spokesman Lt. Art Miller said, “Anything that puts guns on the street is not something he (Bratton) would support.”

In Ventura County, which had 348 permits when Sheriff Bob Brooks took office in 1998, licensees had increased to 715 by last year. Brooks believes extra permits make his county safer because only upstanding residents receive permits.

It appears that the philosophy of each individual law enforcement sheriff or chief is the determining factor for their jurisdiction regarding the issuance of concealed weapon



permits. In prior discussions with Santa Barbara Police Chief Cam Sanchez, he stated that he has a more conservative and restrictive policy regarding the issuing of concealed weapon permits.

The Santa Barbara Coalition Against Gun Violence believes that loaded and unlocked weapons could be potentially dangerous to the owners of these weapons and their families. The mere presence of a gun in the home may cause a teen to contemplate suicide, and adult suicides and the presence of a firearm are strongly linked. Domestic disputes, often compounded by the use of drugs and alcohol, may also lead to firearms injuries and death. If there are curious young children in the home, there is the additional possibility of accidental injury or death to the child or a child’s playmate. Every day across the nation there are numerous tragedies that are the direct consequence of the presence of a gun. The question is how does keeping a loaded gun around to keep you safe from a possible criminal attack weigh against a family tragedy that results from the unintentional use of that weapon?



CALIFORNIA FIRST IN NATION TO BAN .50 CALIBER SNIPER RIFLES

On the same day (9-13-04) the 10-year old federal assault weapon ban was allowed to expire in Washington, DC, California became the first state in the nation to ban .50 caliber sniper rifles. The bill, AB 50, was signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The Coalition sent a letter to the governor thanking him for signing this important bill and we encourage our supporters to do the same. (State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814).

This action in our State stands in contrast to the refusal by Republicans in Congress and President Bush to take actions for renewal of the Assault Weapons ban. The California Legislature also stood up for the Assault Weapons Ban renewal. Both the State Senate and State Assembly approved a resolution urging President Bush and Congress to save the federal assault weapon ban.

The threat posed by .50 caliber sniper rifles, and their purchase in the U.S. by terrorists, was first reported by the Violence Policy Center (VPC) in its 2001 publication *Voting From the Rooftops: How the Gun Industry Armed Osama bin Laden, Other Foreign and Domestic Terrorists, and Common Criminals With .50 Caliber Sniper Rifles*. Subsequent VPC studies have exposed the ability of these armor-piercing rifles – which are accurate over a mile – to attack bulk fuel tanks and other high-value targets from a distance, as well as their ability to destroy commercial aircraft. The VPC has also detailed their criminal use in the U.S.

VPC Senior Policy Analyst and study author Tom Diaz (key-note speaker at CAGV's 8th Annual Dinner), states "California has once again confirmed its status as a bellwether state in preventing gun violence. Today's action not only protects the police and public, but also stops the sale of a confirmed tool of terrorists. We look forward to other states, and eventually the U.S. Congress, following its lead." Under federal law, .50 caliber rifles are as easy to buy as hunting rifles, and less restricted than handguns.

The effort to ban .50 caliber sniper rifles was led by Assemblyman Paul Koretz and other gun violence prevention leaders in the California Assembly and Senate, as well as the San Francisco-based Trauma Foundation and the Los Angeles-based Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles.

The Coalition was successful in encouraging the Santa Barbara City Council to support this legislation and they unanimously approved sending a letter of support to Governor Schwarzenegger urging that he sign AB 50, the .50 caliber sniper rifle ban.

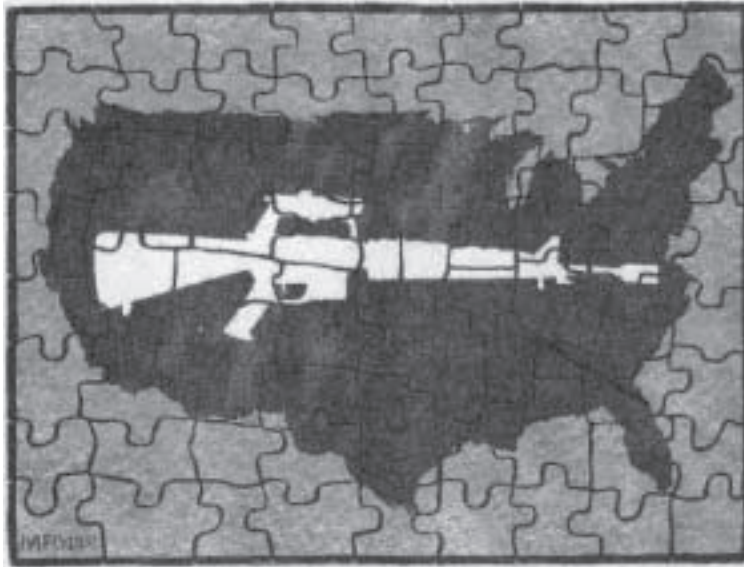
Other California Legislation Pending:

Gun control advocates in the California legislature continue working for public safety and recently sent a package of strong, new sensible gun laws to Governor Schwarzenegger:

SB 1152— Helps prevent criminals and juveniles from buying handgun ammunition by requiring gun dealers to check the identity of handgun ammunition buyers, keep a record of the sale, and obtain the buyer's thumbprint.

SB 1140—Holds gun owners accountable if they leave guns and ammunition easily accessible to children.

In addition, the package includes a bill that will ensure that domestic violence abusers receive official notice that they are forbidden from possessing firearms and must relinquish any firearms in their possession. The bill will help enforce the prohibition against domestic abusers having guns.



M. RYDER Tribune Media Service

Firearms Legislation in Other States:

South Dakota – A bill that would allow hidden handguns in cars without a permit was passed in the House and killed in the Senate. Pedestrians are safe for now.

However, a resolution praising gun shows was passed in both houses.

Kansas – CAP law (Child Access Prevention) which would allow prosecution of adults who leave loaded guns around children under 14 has been held in committee.

Idaho – Are there any gun laws in this state?

No limit on number of gun purchases, no CAP laws, no consumer safety standard laws, no license or permit required, no limits on junk guns, no limits on assault weapons, no concealed weapon limits, no safety training required, no state background checks, no child safety locks required. Children under 18 can't possess handguns without parental permission, but there is no restriction on rifles and shotguns, including semi-automatic assault weapons.

There are a number of states like Idaho with no gun control laws. We hope our supporters understand how legislators and grassroots organizations like CAGV help California to lead the nation in gun control laws.



GOOD IDEAS FROM KIDZ

Gov. Schwarzenegger has sadly vetoed SB 1177, a bill that would have encouraged California high schools to consider adding gun violence prevention education to the curriculum of health classes. This bill was personally lobbied by Niko and Theo Milonopoulos, co-founders of Kidz Voice-LA, a nonprofit group run by kids for kids to provide them a voice in the political process. (*Los Angeles Times* 8-28-04) To learn more about this innovative organization see: www.jointogether.org, July 9, 2002 edition.

Current health courses routinely teach about the dangers of drugs, tobacco and sexually-transmitted diseases. The curriculum rarely addresses gun violence, which is a leading cause of death among American teenagers.

California law encourages schools to adopt a school safety plan; it does not suggest that gun violence prevention education be made available. State Sen. Jack Scott (D-Altadena) authored the bill which was endorsed by medical professionals, including Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Schwarzenegger said he vetoed SB 1177 because “the health curriculum framework adopted by the state Board of Education already addresses gun safety and violence prevention instruction.” However, Kidz Voice maintains that framework is only a blueprint. SB 1177 would have specifically asked high schools to consider adding it to the health curriculum each time school safety plans were reviewed.

Gunshot injuries in California cost millions of dollars each year. The Trauma Foundation reports that in about 80% of the cases the taxpayers of California bear the cost.

Kidz Voice has asked that the governor re-examine his veto; we should join our voices to theirs.

Oakland Raiders’ Star Joins High School Football Camp Against Gun Violence

Tyrone Wheatly, Raiders’ running back, is teaming up with the Oakland Police Department and the Coaches Against Gun Violence campaign to host a free football camp for high school students. The camp will also include lessons on gun violence prevention. It is open to boys and girls ages 14 to 18. Coaches Against Gun Violence is a project of the Alliance for Justice.

After a football coach in Washington, DC lost over 20 players to gun violence in the course of the 25 years he coached, eight high school coaches launched a campaign to dedicate one of their games to violence prevention. Each dedication included remarks from coaches, city officials, students and players who urged everyone to take a stand against gun violence.

For information, visit: www.CoachesAgainstGunViolence.org or call (866) 347-7866.

Teen Suicide Rates Decline

Teen suicide rates have declined modestly as states have passed laws requiring that firearms be stored safely. A new study from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health concluded that as many as 300 suicides may have been prevented because 18 states have passed safe-storage laws.

Which Headline Is More Shocking: “Four Marines Killed in Baghdad Ambush” or “Four Killed in Drive-By Shootings?”

—From an article by Curt Bormann, *Los Angeles Times* 7-31-04

Every day “gangs of mass destruction” terrorize the L.A. homeland. We have our own mini-Baghdad massacres every weekend in L.A., but we’ve almost come to accept it. Besides there are no good pictures of the actual drive-by shootings to play on the local news. Now Curt Bormann, a Los Angeles writer has a modest proposal to start a program to give low-cost video cameras to hardcore gang members and ask them to record every drive-by shooting. Why would gang members consider such a crazy idea? Why not? Isn’t it crazy to kill somebody because he painted over your gang’s tagging? Isn’t it all about territory and recognition? What better way to publicize your territory and be recognized than seeing your latest drive-by murder on the 11 o’clock news?

Maybe seeing the pictures of our kids actually killing each other will shock us so much that we’ll finally do something to get us out of this murderous cycle.



GUN MANUFACTURERS AIM TO INCREASE SALES AND LETHALITY

Washington, DC – The Violence Policy Center (VPC) June 2, 2004 released a new study, *Vest Buster: The .500 Smith & Wesson Magnum – The Gun Industry's Latest Challenge to Law Enforcement Body Armor*, warning that standard ammunition fired by the recently introduced .500 Smith & Wesson Magnum revolver, (promoted as “the most powerful handgun in the world”) can penetrate the highest level of body armor worn by the nation’s police while on patrol.

Police body armor is designed to protect against handgun threats. The new Smith & Wesson .500 Magnum revolver, however, develops a striking force exceeding the power of many rifles. Only special external body armor, designed for use by SWAT teams and other high-risk units, can withstand rifle fire. The .500 Magnum thus brings a new level of handgun threat to the nation’s streets.

“This vest-busting 50-caliber handgun draws a bead on every law enforcement officer in America,” said Tom Diaz, VPC senior policy analyst and study author. “It is unfortunately only the latest example of dangerously reckless marketing by America’s virtually unregulated gun industry.” Diaz further noted that the .500 Magnum handgun, first introduced in February 2003, is already appearing at gun shows, notorious as sources of criminal gun trafficking. In addition, he pointed out, at least one shoulder holster is being sold for the Magnum revolver, thus making it easy for criminals to carry the gun concealed.

The .500 Magnum follows a Smith & Wesson tradition of designing extremely powerful handguns. *Vest Buster* points out that 27 out of 144 (nearly one out of every five) law enforcement officers slain with a handgun from 1998 through 2000 were killed with one of three types of handgun and cartridge combinations originally designed and introduced by Smith & Wesson: the .357 Magnum, the .44 Magnum, and the .40 S&W.

GUN CONTROL LOBBYISTS FINALLY ENJOY A SUCCESS IN CONGRESS

July, 2004—The U.S. Senate defeated efforts to protect product manufacturers – including gun manufacturers – from class action lawsuits (S. 2062). The input from activists contacting their legislators was a critical factor in defeating this bill, according to Josh Sugarman of the Violence Policy Center. The bill went down to defeat when proponents were unable to muster the votes to cut off a filibuster. Class actions are often the only option for consumers harmed by defective firearms to seek relief. And since guns are virtually the last unregulated category of consumer products, access to the courts is particularly important for victims of defective firearms.

AND COINCIDENTLY— Sept. 10, 04—The company that made the Bushmaster rifle used in the sniper killings around Washington, DC, and a gun shop from which it was stolen agreed to pay \$2.5 million to victims. The payout for eight victims of the October 2002 shootings was **the first of its kind by a gun manufacturer accused of negligent distribution of firearms.**

The Graying of Gun Owners



A woman checks out a rifle at a show in Orlando, Fla., for gun enthusiasts

Eighty-year old John McCormack, said “Old people feel like sheep, because they’re so helpless.” John is the unofficial president of “Senior Militia” a group of about 20 gunslingers, who meet twice weekly in Las Vegas to shoot the breeze and their firearms.

This group is part of a growing population of Americans older than 65 who feel they are targets. Some older adults are afraid they won’t be able to protect themselves against home invasions, muggings, robberies or carjacking. Seniors with guns are increasingly applying for concealed weapon permits that allow them to carry their guns concealed in public.

The reality is that assault rate of seniors remains low. In Las Vegas, home of the “Senior Militia,” since January 2004, nine percent of robberies were committed against citizens older than 60 and three percent of assault and battery victims were older than 60, according to police.

There has been a shift upward in the age of gun owners, partly because Americans who reported having guns two decades ago moved into the older age group and also because younger generations have lost interest in hunting. Eighty percent of gun owners own rifles and shotguns, and 60 percent own handguns, stated Tim Smith of the National Opinion Research Center in Chicago. Almost half of gun owners possess both.

Gun control groups emphasize that gun ownership isn’t risk-free. Quick judgment in a crisis is difficult for a person at any age and could become more so with age; and there are fears that some older adults may be incapable of handling a gun responsibly in a critical situation.

It is also important to realize that gun-related suicides among senior citizens are a major concern. In 2002, the most recent year for which statistics are available, the National Center for Health Statistics reported that 16,882 Americans committed suicide with a gun, 36 percent of whom were older than age 55.



CAGV Coalition Member NEWS

The Glendon Association observed Suicide Prevention Week on September 16th at its 10th Annual Community Forum in Santa Barbara. CAGV provided information and support.

The Family Service Agency provides the only 24-hour suicide prevention hotline in Santa Barbara County. For crisis intervention services and information or referrals, please call 1-800-400-1572 or see www.fsacares.org.

Rape Crisis Center offers self defense classes on October 23, November 20, and December 11—all Saturdays from 10am-2pm. The course will cover awareness, assertive, and physical self-defense techniques and is taught in a fun, supportive, and empowering environment. The cost is \$30 per participant, always offered on a sliding-scale. Space is limited, so you must call to pre-register for the course. To learn more, please contact Alena Donovan at (805) 963-6832, ext. 29 or alena@sbrcrc.net.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS • A GROWING COALITION

American Association of University Women, Goleta Valley • American Association of University Women, Santa Barbara
American Association of University Women, Santa Maria • Anti-Defamation League, Santa Barbara • Building Bridges
CALM (Child Abuse Listening Mediation) • CASA • Casa de la Raza • Community Mediation Program
Conflict Management Institute • Congregation B'nai B'rith • Congregation B'nai B'rith Temple Sisterhood
Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse • Democratic League • Democratic Women • Domestic Violence Solutions for SB County
Everyday Gandhis • Families Against Violence Advocacy Network • Family Service Agency of Santa Barbara • Glendon Association
Green Party • Hadassah, S.B. Chapter • Junior League of Santa Barbara • Latinos for Better Government • League of Women Voters
Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Social Concerns Committee • NAACP, Santa Barbara Chapter • Pacific Pride Foundation
Peace Education Project • Physicians for Social Responsibility • Santa Barbara Area Council of PTAs • Santa Barbara Friends (Quakers)
Santa Barbara Jewish Community Relations Council • Santa Barbara Pro Youth Coalition • Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center
Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics • Santa Barbara Women Lawyers • Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee
Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara Social Concerns Commission
United Methodist Women of the First United Methodist Church of Santa Barbara • United Nations Association, SB Chapter
Us Foundation • Women's International League for Peace and Freedom • Zona Seca

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E-mail Action Alerts: Sue Broidy • **Desktop Publisher:** Laura Lynch.

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
COALITION AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE
a Santa Barbara County Coalition
1187 Coast Village Rd., Ste. 1 - 121
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