

TOM EADS

Gun control goes out of control

What does the recent passage of anti-assault rifle legislation mean to the millions of legitimate gun owners in America? A lot more than anti-gun supporters bargained for.

Along with the signing into law of the Brady Gun-Control Bill, the successful banning of nineteen types of assault rifles shows just how successful the anti-gun lobby can be when they focus all of their efforts toward small-scale, specific objectives.

Previous to the above two relative successes, such groups as Handgun Control, Inc., and the Coalition to Ban Handgun Violence, have envisioned rather superfluous goals of sweeping bans of handguns. Their new (and much more successful) stratagem of utilizing the sycophantic mainstream media in the targeting of only the "weapons of choice" — of criminals — should serve as a wake-up call to all Americans who enjoy firearms ownership.

Don't be fooled, folks. The anti-gun crowd has as its primary objective the complete abolition of ALL firearms ownership by the general populous, irrespective of the type of firearm in question. They, of course, will deny this. But a careful consideration of anti-gun organizational activities since the ill-conceived Gun Control Act of 1968, incontrovertibly proves my point.

No less than one day after the passage of this most recent assault rifle legislation, I watched in amazement as the media referred to a new "weapon of choice" — of criminals. No, it wasn't the AK-47. It was the Glock-17, 9mm handgun. Hmmm. Then, of course, there stood Handgun Control, Inc., explaining how their next goal would be the attempted banning of specific types of handguns, including the Glock. I wonder if that will be nineteen types of handguns...or will they round up this time?

I'm sure many of you out there see the banning of anything that starts with the term "assault" as being OK in your book. Certainly, according to recent public opinion polls, Ameri-



The anti-gun crowd has as its primary objective the complete abolition of ALL firearms ownership by the general populous, irrespective of the type of firearm in question.

cans in large numbers agreed that banning "assault" rifles was a good idea. After all, who needs a Russian AK-47 or Chinese SKS? Our very own President, when told that the overwhelming majority of people own these guns purely for target practice, suggested that they find a better use for their time. He used reading a good book as an example. I couldn't help but think that an astrofurfed El Camino bed was first to enter his mind.

Seriously though, let us not overlook the fact that "assault" rifles are used in only a tiny fraction of one percent of all gun-related crimes in America. In fact, according to FBI Uniform Crime Report statistics, far more people are killed annually with either fists or knives than with all "assault" rifles combined. What this means is that, unless you are a complete imbecile, in this country "assault" rifles do not characterize the "weapons of choice" — of anybody — except perhaps gun collectors.

Also, let's remember that the guns affected by this ban are no more or no less deadly than just about any other type of semi-automatic rifle. And those guns not affected by this legislation number in the thousands. So just exactly how is this ban going to do anything in reducing violent crime? The answer is simple: It won't. The fact that even the supporters of this ban admit that their actions were predominantly cosmetic politicking and concede that crime rates won't be affected to any measurable degree is just more icing on the cake.

Why, you may ask, do gun owners get so wound up about this whole gun banning issue? Well, if you look at

who gun owners are, you will discover a patriotic group of individuals who hold in the highest reverence the Constitution of the United States. And you will find these individuals in numbers that far exceed the gun-banning crowd. For example, Handgun Control, Inc., memberships number just over fifty thousand, while the National Rifle Association memberships exceed three million.

Gun owners see the attempt at limiting gun ownership by the law-abiding private citizenry as a blatant violation of their Constitutional rights.

More importantly, they see this as an invasion of their privacy, a purposeful attempt at limiting their personal safety, and an utter and nefarious attempt by the government to obtain omnipotent powers without the checks and balances specifically accounted for by the Founding Fathers, of which private gun ownership is one.

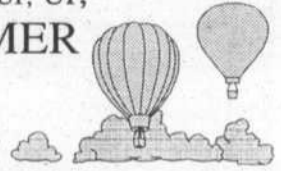
If you thought the NRA wielded a heavy political ax before Bill and Hillary took over as co-Commanders-In-Chief, just sit back and watch as this newest round of legislation catapults their membership to nearly eight figures.

Handgun Control, Inc., and other organizations of their ilk, have truly done gun owners a favor, I think. Each successive ban of guns only serves to direct NRA membership skyward, and to strengthen — indeed cement — the resolve of all legitimate gun owners. They have, in all likelihood, awakened a sleeping giant.

Eades is senior political science major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

DON'T LET YOUR ORAL HYGIENE GO UP, UP, AND AWAY THIS SUMMER

Call 472-7495 to schedule your summer appointment.



University Health Center Dental Office 15th & U Street



UNL is a nondiscriminatory institution.



Summer Fitness Classes

Session II of the 1994 Summer Fitness Class Schedule begins June 13. Four week sessions are scheduled in areas including: step, step forward, total body conditioning, progressive/low impact, extended step, power step, and Spanish combo.

Session III of the 1994 Summer Fitness Class Schedule begins July 18.

Class schedules are available at the Office of Campus Recreation. For more information, call 472-3467.



Financial and Insurance Services



The Financial and Insurance Services profession could be your ticket to the future. If you would like to attend a short informational meeting, please call Cindy at 483-4457 for a reservation and meeting time.

Two recent UNL graduates have earned over \$50,000 during the past 12 months! This is a high profile profession for the right person.

Woodmen Accident and Life Company
Mike Fardella, CLU, Agency Manager
1500 S. 70th Street, Suite 201
Lincoln, NE 68506

Information graphic on new textbook prices courtesy of Nebraska Bookstore

Where the New Textbook Dollar Goes*

