

Dear Legislators,

This is the year of Oregon nullifying the 2nd Amendment. First SB 941, the universal background check, which could have been more effective if Sen. Thatcher's unlimited liability amendment had been adopted. Unlimited liability, a lawyer's dream. Or any of the other sensible proposals not given a second thought. Instead another step toward firearms registration, and the eventual banning of all public firearms ownership has been accomplished. The undisputable goal of the far left progressive body politic. Now on to round two, SB945, you can't have quick access to your firearm in an emergency situation. I am closing in fast on my 60th year, greying, I can't stand up to a twenty something tweaker during a home invasion robbery with my empty hands. If I can't easily reach my revolver, I might as well sit down and pray the first couple of blows render me unconscious so I don't have to witness the hurt raining down on my family.

During the hearing on SB941 on April Fool's Day one of those testifying put forth a tale of terror more suited to SB945, the Merced Pitchfork Murders, or Safe Storage Nightmare. Back in 2000 in the town of Merced California, in the leading gun control state, the Carpenter family was nearly decimated by a repeat violent offender who shouldn't have been loose to begin with. The Carpenters were more afraid of the safe storage restrictions in California than they were of a potential home invasion. So the hand gun in the master bedroom was stored high on a shelf, and was kept unloaded. The family included five children, by days end only three would remain, and one of those three grievously wounded.

It began in the morning of 8/23/2000, a normal day, father off to work, mother off to the auto shop for brake repairs on the family car. The eldest, Jessica, age 14, left in charge of the brood. Jessica was well acquainted with firearms, having a CA Hunter's License, and further instructed by her father in gun safety. As the other children slumbered Robert Bruce decided their house was worthy of his bizarre attention. He broke in and was first encountered in the living room. He was nude and brandishing a gardening fork, a pitch fork. The attack commenced. Jessica could not reach the revolver stored out of reach, and unloaded. A disparate melee ensued. Young Ashley, age 9, managed to grab the pitchfork welding nudist assailant by a leg. This bought enough time for three to climb out a window, Anna, age 13, severely wounded, then Vanessa, age 11, unscathed, following Jessica to safety. While Bruce was viciously stabbing young Anna, and her little brother John, age 7, to death, the others ran to a neighbor's home.

The neighbor refused to intercede with his own firearm, but did allow Jessica to call 911. When the police finally arrived they founded a tragic scene. Two innocent children lifeless, covered in wounds, and Bruce, only clothed in his victims' gore, and coming at them pitchfork at the ready. The police riddled him with bullets, thirteen in all. Robert Bruce was a repeat violent drug using offender indulged by California's lenient courts, and so free to spread destruction and horror on a tweaker's whim. What would have been the outcome if Jessica could have retrieved her father's revolver easily, with it loaded, ready to defend hearth and home.

What about that safety instruction Mr. Carpenter gave his children concerning firearms? That should have been enough for the state government. Parents or guardians provide safety instructions to minors concerning a myriad dangers and hazards around the typical home, and is enough for big

brother, I mean big governing entity. (Got to remember to PC those old Orwellian terms from my childhood reading. Saul Alinsky wasn't on my school's reading list, and Bill Ayers was still a terrorist, not a college professor of education theory.) Don't play in the kitchen when we're cooking, don't touch the kitchen knives, don't mess with the colorful bottles of cleaners under the sink, the laundry soap packets aren't candy, stay out of street, don't tease pitbulls, the list goes on. None of these potential dangers require a statute, just common sense, and good parenting. Ignorance is only a lack of education. Accidents resulting from ignorance are easily preventable with education. If the parenting is lacking, perhaps Sen. Boquist's idea should be tried, teach firearms safety in school. The lesson would not be rocket science. Perhaps the hardest aspect would be overcoming the multimedia's penchant for ultra-violence that makes Clockwork Orange look like a Saturday morning kid's show. The basic syllabus, rule number one firearms are deadly, not toys. rule number two always assume the firearm is loaded, number three always assume the firearm is loaded, number four always assume the firearm is loaded, rule number five only with supervision of an informed adult may you touch the firearm. Until further training is undertaken, such as hunter safety, something along those simple guidelines should be sufficient for the majority of children. Unfortunately, from my life time of observation no law can control stupidity. There are always those few who insist on the irrational. With enough ethical bending perhaps genetic tinkering could fix this, but otherwise stupidity will continue to fall into the realm of natural selection. Nor do laws apply in the mind of the mentally ill. They are beyond the law, and playing in their own perverse universe where we are all in danger. Especially when the mental health system just feeds them psychotropic drugs, then calls it good. I thought universal healthcare was going to Cover Oregon alleviating this. Another 300 million tax dollars down the cronyism rat hole. We can just let the police handle them, the current defacto solution. The National Sheriffs Association says law enforcement justifiable homicides of the mentally impaired are up double digits. Neither the insane, nor the cops are happy about that.

So here we are now faced with trying to legislate common sense, SB945, a safe storage bill, keeping firearms out of reach in case of a dire emergency. I safely lock up my hunting rifle along with a couple of antique ones. I guess I finally qualify as a minority, I possess some common sense. However I'd prefer to have my revolver handy, especially here in rural Polk County, with our part time budget constrained police coverage. Safety and security is first and foremost a matter of common sense followed closely by being a personal responsibility. SB 945 will deny me personal security, and safety for my household, or I can let my common sense make me a felon. An interesting social decadence. Progressing into a society of victims. Great legacy for the baby boomers, sure tops the last generation defeating global fascism.

Regards

Harry W Wallace
Sheridan, Polk Cty