

# American Free Press

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## SPLC UNDER FIRE

### Professional hate group's credibility questioned for smear jobs

By John Friend

**T**he Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), an insidious, subversive, anti-free-speech organization masquerading as a legitimate human rights group, is under fire for once again smearing a number of legitimate, professional journalists as “fascists” and “racists” colluding with the Russian government to promote such views.

In a now-redacted article, originally published March 9 under the headline “The multipolar spin: how fascists operationalize left-wing resentment,” the SPLC attempted to portray a number of anti-war, progressive journalists—including Max Blumenthal, a Jewish journalist critical of the Israeli regime and its brutal occupation of Palestine—as pawns of right wingers and a broader campaign involving Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Russian regime.

Following publication of the article, written by Portland State University lecturer Alexander Reid Ross, Blumenthal and others expressed outrage that they were being falsely portrayed as stooges of the “alt-right” and the Russians. Roughly one week after the article was published, the SPLC took the piece down and replaced it with an apology note attempting to clarify the



**Former Rep. Trey Radel** has called on YouTube to terminate its relationship with the SPLC, calling the SPLC “as much of a hate group” as any it tries to smear.

purpose of the report.

“On March 9, 2018, we posted an article on our Hatewatch blog entitled “The multipolar spin: how fascists operationalize left-wing resentment,” the SPLC wrote in its apology clarification note published on March 14. “Shortly after its publication, we received complaints registered by or on behalf of several journalists mentioned in the article that it falsely described one or another of them as white supremacists, fascists, and/or anti-Semites, and falsely accused them of engaging in a conspir-

acy with the Putin regime to promote such views. Because neither we nor the article’s author intended to make any such accusations, we took it down while we re-examined its contents.”

The SPLC went on to apologize to the journalists and researchers they smeared, including Blumenthal, Ben Norton, Tim Pool, Rania Khalek, and Brian Becker.

Following the original article’s publication, Blumenthal and a number of other prominent anti-war journalists and activists, including Glenn Greenwald, criticized the SPLC for their blatantly dishonest and misleading report. Greenwald described the hit piece as a “scummy” attempt to “smear everyone who dissents from the NATO/neocon view of Syria as bigots and tools of Nazis.”

The latest controversy involving the SPLC comes at a time when the treacherous, un-American organization has been revealed to be a part of YouTube and other top Internet and social media companies’ “Trusted Flaggers” team, which polices YouTube, Google, Facebook, and other platforms for “hate speech” and “racism” by “flagging” content for removal and censorship. Given the SPLC’s clearly blatant bias against conservatives and traditionalists, many are calling for an end to their close relationship with YouTube and other Internet giants.

Trey Radel, a former member of Congress who has in the past been smeared by the SPLC as a “dangerous extremist,” called on YouTube to terminate its relationship with the SPLC in a powerful op-ed published on the conservative online outlet “The Daily Caller.”

“The SPLC is not a legitimate source,” Radel correctly averred. “The Southern Poverty Law Center is as much of a hate group as the organizations it claims to out.” ★

#### THE INSIDE SCOOP



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## A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

## Just Like You, Americans Are Fed Up With Fake News

**A**re Americans finally waking up to the fake news media? Every day, we're hearing from readers that their friends and family members are seeing the light and recognizing that the big media exaggerates and, in many cases, even outright fabricates news. Of course, regular readers of AMERICAN FREE PRESS have known about this for as long as we've been publishing, but it looks like the regular man in the street is coming around to our way of thinking as well, and it's only taken the election of Donald Trump to bust it all wide open.

Of course there's a wide partisan divide over what exactly constitutes fake news, but it still doesn't detract from the fact that, slowly but surely, more people are growing suspicious of what they read in the big newspapers and watch on their televisions.

We realize that our personal interactions are only anecdotal, but we're definitely noticing a trend that's been substantiated by national polls, which vindicate what we have been saying since we first opened our doors in August 2001: The big media is the enemy of the American people.

For example, a little over a month ago, the Washington, D.C. news outlet *Politico* published a poll revealing that nearly 50% of Americans believe the media makes up stories about Trump. Whether it is about him feeding fish the wrong way in Japan or his campaign's purported interactions with Russia, some 47% of Americans "believe the news



media fabricate news stories about President Donald Trump and his administration." That's a pretty shocking finding, considering that CNN, NBC News, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and just about every major media company in the United States wants us to believe that the current president of the United States is reviled by everyone.

When you look at the particulars of the survey, it's no surprise that three-quarters of Republicans who were polled said they think the big news media is full of cow droppings. What is shocking, however, is that an incredible one in five Democrats believe this to be true as well.

Trump, who is certainly no dummy, has used this to his advantage. Earlier this month, he told a talk show host, "I thought after I won, the media would become much more

stable and much more honest. They've gone crazy. CNN is a joke. NBC is a total joke. You watch what they report, it bears no relationship to what I'm doing. But the media is absolutely dishonest—and frankly, I've never seen anything quite like it."

From the start, we at AMERICAN FREE PRESS made a promise to our readers that we would always tell the truth no matter who we may offend. Over the years, we've stuck to that guarantee, even when it's meant we have had to face down efforts on the part of billion-dollar banks, tech companies, and activist groups seeking to silence us.

We're optimistic that, for every year we stay in business, more and more Americans will realize that, too, and will come around to our way of thinking. In the meantime, you can help us by just doing what you've been doing so far. Keep subscribing to our newspaper, and, if you have a few extra dollars, buy an extra subscription for a friend or a family member, who you believe could benefit from our brand of news. Also, if you can, please make a donation to support honest news in America.

If there is one thing we are sure of, it is that AMERICAN FREE PRESS is the last of its kind. We are truly America's last real newspaper. ★

—CHRISTOPHER J. PETHERICK  
Executive Editor

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# News You May Have Missed

## Only in California . . .

California state Sen. Kevin de Leon, who is also the Senate president, recently appointed illegal alien Lizbeth Mateo to the Student Opportunity and Access Project Grant Advisory Committee. Ms. Mateo has complained that illegal aliens are “underrepresented in places where decisions that affect them are being made.” De Leon is running for U.S. Senate against incumbent and fellow Democrat Dianne Feinstein. Ms. Mateo is the first illegal alien to hold a state office.



DE LEON

## Open Borders Agenda

Three illegal aliens, who last month managed to avoid capture by federal immigration officers after Oakland, Calif. Mayor Libby Schaaf blew the whistle on a raid, have since been re-arrested for new crimes including robbery and spousal abuse. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials rounded up 232 illegal immigrants during the raid, but it is believed hundreds of others got away. In a visit to California earlier this month, Attorney General Jeff Sessions blasted Schaaf, saying, “How dare you needlessly endanger the lives of our law enforcement officers to promote a radical, open borders agenda.”



SCHAAF

## Cop Saved by Armed Citizen

Corey Walters owes his life to a citizen with a concealed pistol. The officer approached suspect Paul Douglas Anderson after seeing the culprit steal items from a charity donation bin. Anderson refused to take his hands out of his pockets, then viciously attacked the officer, punching him in the face, fracturing his eye socket. Derek Meyer, driving down Main Street, saw the attack, got out of his car, pointed his pistol at the guy and yelled for him to stop hitting the officer. Anderson ran off but was soon arrested. Said Meyer: “I carry a gun to protect me and those around me, but primarily I carry a gun to protect my family first and foremost. Outside of that, if I were to use my gun to protect anyone, it would be law enforcement or military personnel.”

## Forced Vaccinations

Teams of government nurses are roaming Waikiki, Hawaii (and reportedly big mainland cities like Atlanta) looking for people to vaccinate with a flu shot. They are zeroing in on homeless people.

This is shocking enough in itself, considering the dangers of this ineffective shot, but making it worse is that the Aloha State does not typically see flu epidemics like on the mainland, according to the Centers for Disease Control and prevention.

## Self-Driving Car Accident

In Tempe, Ariz., a woman recently died of her injuries after being struck by a self-driving vehicle run by taxi company Uber. As a result, the company said it had suspended its pilot autonomous vehicle program across the United States and Canada. At the time of the accident, the car was in “autonomous mode” but there was a vehicle operator behind the wheel. “The vehicle was traveling northbound . . . when a female walking outside of the crosswalk crossed the road from west to east when she was struck and killed by the Uber vehicle,” police said in a statement.

## Dollar Decline Will Continue

Investment advisors expect the U.S. dollar to continue to depreciate, says Ray Uy of Invesco. He foresees a shift away from U.S. investments as growth overseas outperforms America. Meanwhile Russia’s federal budget is on track to return to surplus this year due to higher than expected oil prices, said Finance Minister Anton Siluanov recently.

## Adios English and History

It’s a sign of the times that the University of Wisconsin is looking to eliminate majors in English, history, and philosophy. The school claims it wants to focus on studies with “clear career paths,” but critics charge that the university is caving to political correctness in favor of multiculturalism. The institution of higher learning will continue to teach its “Problem of Whiteness” course that portrays all white people as being racist.

## ‘Kill All White People’

A black male who threatened, while a student at an alternative school in January 2014, to “kill all white people” and to shoot up a school is being charged in six murders, Fox32 of Chicago reported. Fredrick Demond Scott, 23, faces six counts of first-degree murder and six counts of armed criminal action in a spree that began in August 2016 in the Kansas City, Mo. area. Four of the five male victims were shot while walking on or near trails, and a homeless woman’s decomposing body, also shot, was found in her tent in some woods in Grandview, a suburb of Kansas City. Scott’s mother reports her son is schizophrenic.



SCOTT

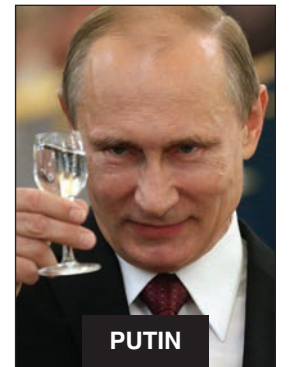


## Exporting Obesity to the World

Kuwait, which has the fourth-highest per capita income in the world, is now one of the fattest nations on the planet, with twice the incidence of diabetes compared with the United States. It’s not hard to see why: Driving down the road in Kuwait you see a welter of McDonalds, Burger Kings, Kentucky Fried Chickens (KFCs), Pizza Huts and even more. The American junk-food peddlers over the past three years have opened more outlets outside the United States than in it.

## Russian Election

Vladimir Putin won the recent presidential election in Russia by a landslide, taking nearly 80% of the popular vote. Critics in the West were quick to blast Putin, claiming rampant vote fraud and ballot-box stuffing. According to Russian news agency RT, U.S. vote monitors had been banned from Russia during the election over allegations of spying. However, monitors from the 57-member Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said “they have general confidence in the accuracy of voter lists.” The OSCE had 420 observers positioned in polling stations around the country. While the OSCE had criticisms regarding the election, overall, it was largely positive about the results, adding, “The voting process was assessed as good or very good in 96% of observations.”



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# Antifa: Really Left Wing Fascists?

- Real goal of “anti-fascist” groups is elimination of free speech, peaceful discourse

By Dr. Kevin Barrett

**O**n March 8, I was informed that my scheduled appearance the next day on Portland’s KBOO community radio had been cancelled by station management—over the strong objections of the host, John Shuck. The reason? Portland’s antifa chapter, led by a graduate student named Alexander Reid Ross, had led a defamation campaign calling me an “anti-Semite,” “holocaust denier,” and “conspiracy theorist” who shouldn’t be allowed to speak. Since when could mindless insults shout down free and fair debate based on logic and evidence? Since when did America become such a fearful place that non-mainstream ideas had to be silenced rather than refuted?

The two biggest factors behind the demise of First Amendment America are the rise of identity politics and the 9/11-launched “war on terror.” Identity politics brought political correctness and the fear of offending this or that “disadvantaged” group. 9/11 and the war on terror destroyed America’s self-confidence, led to the shredding of constitutional liberties, and created a toxic atmosphere of fear and hysteria.

Trump’s “Make America Great Again” (MAGA) agenda was in many respects a reaction against America’s post-9/11 decline. In reaction to the prevailing leftist identity politics, heterosexual, white, working-class males began asserting themselves, often identifying with Trump and MAGA. Trump’s attacks on the U.S. decision to invade Iraq (“the worst decision ever made”) and his incoherent but provocative insinuations questioning

“  
“  
The behavior of the so-called anti-fascists is more fascist than any “fascist” groups.

the official version of 9/11 resonated with a broad segment of the population that vaguely sensed something in America had gone badly wrong.

Many leftists, as well as much of the centrist establishment, view the rise of the Trump-supporting alt-right as a national emergency. The most extreme among them have joined antifa.

Antifa shows little interest in critiquing or debating its opponents in order to explain why they are wrong. It is dedicated to shutting them down, silencing them, making sure they can’t be heard—using slanderous witch hunts, mindless name-calling, and even violence.

At universities all across America, antifa thugs are physically attacking speakers identified with the alt-right, and even brutalizing audiences who come out to hear them.

The *Chicago Tribune* reported on March 14:

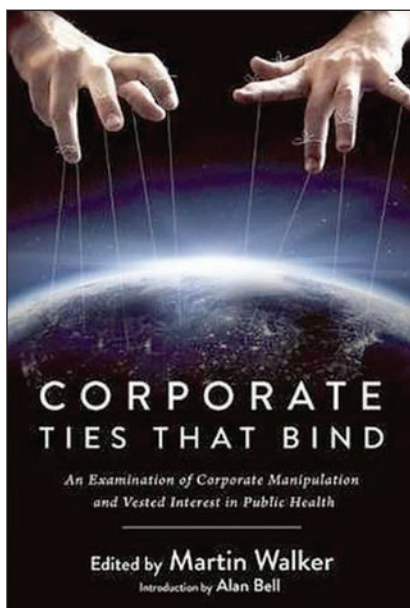
At Michigan State University last week, anti-fascist protesters marched toward the venue where (Richard) Spencer planned to speak, intent on keeping his supporters out. Fights quickly broke out, and people were shoved to



**If you ever wondered** what the true antifa ideology is, it’s communism with a smattering of anarchy. Antifa groups are far more dangerous and violent than any disorganized so-called “neo-Nazi” groups.

the ground, punched, and pelted with sticks and dirt. Some people wanting to attend Spencer’s speech were forced back. More than 20 people were arrested, most of them people protesting Spencer.

This is the dirty little secret that is slowly leaking out to the American public: It is not white



## Corporate Ties That Bind:

*An Examination of Corporate Manipulation and Vested Interest in Public Health*

Edited by Martin J. Walker. In the 21st century, corporations have worked their way into government and, as they become increasingly more powerful, arguments about their danger have become increasingly black and white. With corporations at the center of public health and environmental issues, everything chemical or technological is good, everything natural is bad; scientists who are funded by corporations are right and those who are independent are invariably wrong. Here is a collection of essays written by influential professionals from around the world that address how the growth of corporatism is destroying democracy and personal choice. Whether addressing asbestos, radiation, PCBs, or vaccine regulation, the essays here address the dangers of trusting corporations that put profits before health. Hardback, 592 pages, \$35. Add \$6 S&H inside the U.S. (Outside the U.S. email [Bookstore@americanfreepress.net](mailto:Bookstore@americanfreepress.net) for S&H.) Send request with payment to AFP, 16000 Trade Zone Avenue, Unit 406, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774 or call 1-888-699-6397 toll free to charge. Purchase at [www.AmericanFreePress.net](http://www.AmericanFreePress.net). Call 202-544-5977 for cryptocurrency options from AMERICAN FREE PRESS.



identity advocates who are instigating the violence at these rallies, but their antifa opponents. This was clearly the case at Charlottesville, where the police shut down the pro-Robert E. Lee statue rally, forced ralliers to exit through an antifa mob that had come primed for violence, and then disappeared as the provocateur-driven riot broke out.

How can self-styled anti-fascists be rioting in the street and attacking people to shut down free speech? Isn't their behavior . . . well, *fascist*? After all, fascism is based on using mob violence to shut down opposition and install a tyranny of one party and one opinion that tolerates no dissent.

Antifa's violent, authoritarian attack on free speech exemplifies the core essence of fascism. Other characteristics of historical fascism include extreme glorification of the race or nation, scapegoating of internal and external enemies, militarism, and socialism, including an attempt to replace private bank-issued usury currency with national currency. On all but the last of these counts, Zionism represents by far the biggest and most dangerous fascist movement on Earth. Antifa, a subsidiary of Zionism, carries the Zionists' fascist thuggery into the streets.

As an American loyal to our Constitution, and to our history as a tolerant "melting pot" of different cultures, religions, and worldviews, I am strongly opposed to most aspects of fascism. I loathe intolerance, authoritarianism, censorship, racism, extreme nationalism, militarism, and scapegoating. But I do think some fascists, such as America's greatest 20th-century poet, Ezra Pound, were right in their critique of usury and their support for overthrowing the dictatorship of the international bankers. And I think much of the so-called alt-right consists of patriotic Americans—not fascists—who are gradually waking up to oppose the global Zionist dictatorship in the making, sometimes known as the New World Order.

I have challenged Alexander Reid Ross to debate me on the nature and history of fascism. Please urge him to accept my challenge. Email: [aross@pdx.edu](mailto:aross@pdx.edu) or Tweet <https://twitter.com/areidross>. ★

**Kevin Barrett, Ph.D.**, is an Arabist-Islamologist scholar and one of America's best-known critics of the War on Terror. From 1991 through 2006, Dr. Barrett taught at colleges and universities in San Francisco, Paris, and Wisconsin. In 2006, however, he was attacked by Republican state legislators who called for him to be fired from his job at the University of Wisconsin-Madison due to his political opinions. Since 2007, Dr. Barrett has been informally blacklisted from teaching in American colleges and universities. He currently works as a nonprofit organizer, public speaker, author, and talk radio host.

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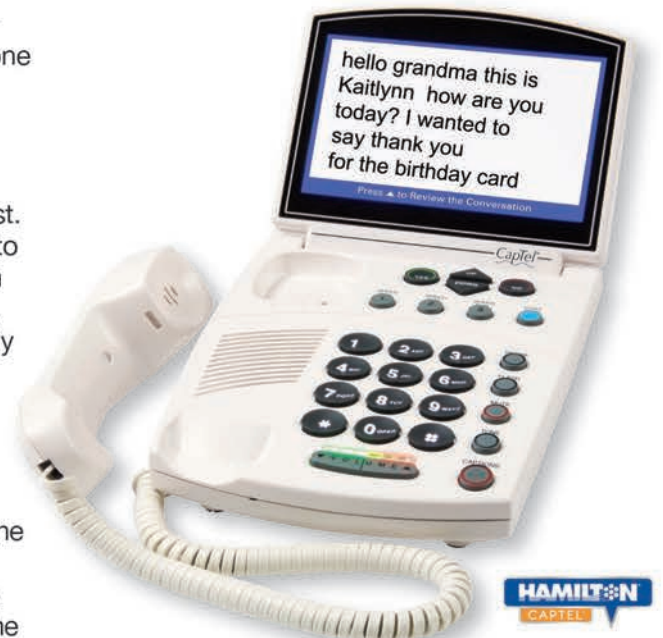
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# U.S. Soldiers Sacrificial Lambs

• Thousands of personnel stationed in Korea and Israel a purposeful provocation

By Philip Giraldi

The current crisis with Pyongyang in part relates to the presence of 30,000 U.S. troops at or near the demilitarized zone that separates North from South Korea. A relic of the Cold War, the Korean “police action” never actually ended with a peace treaty that might have created a *modus vivendi*, allowing the two states to develop without the threat of military intervention coming from either side. The American soldiers continue to serve as a guarantor of the uneasy ceasefire that ended the fighting in that they are, in a sense, hostages to the situation, guaranteeing that there would be massive retaliation if the North were ever to push south in force and kill Americans. Pyongyang knows that and has sought for years a final peace agreement that would remove those hostages and end what it sees as a continuous threat from a nuclear armed and unfriendly United States.

Many observers might well challenge the government-promoted perception that the U.S. military is actually in Korea to guarantee that there be no war, but even they would have to admit that is how the deployment has been successfully sold to the American public and the international audience.

Consider for a moment, however, a somewhat different scenario in which American soldiers are stationed in a foreign country and even integrated with that country’s own military ostensibly for defensive purposes, but the host country, though not



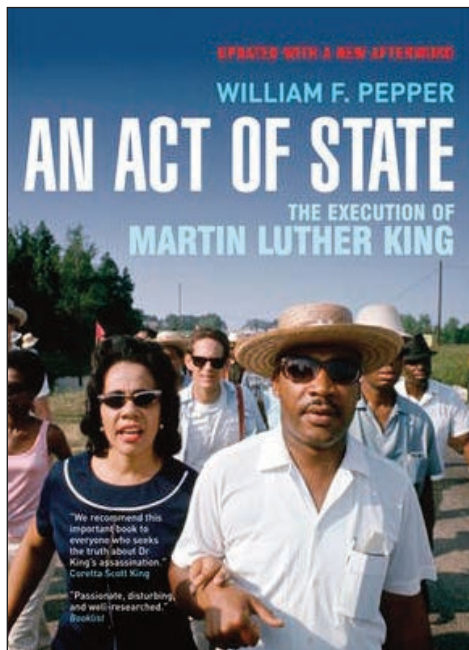
Air Force Lt. Gen. Richard Clark says U.S. servicemen stationed in Israel should be—and are—prepared to fight and die for Israel. He has also indicated that U.S. soldiers and airmen could be under the command of Israeli officers in battle.

pendent on an attack on one partner mandating support from all parties to the agreement. Israel has balked at such an arrangement, because it cannot define its own borders, which are constantly expanding. Without a border it is impossible to maintain that you have been attacked, which means that Israel and the U.S. have no treaty obligation to come to their mutual assistance in case of war. In fact, no Israeli soldier has ever fought by the side of an American soldier and likely never will.

The recent maneuvers featured scenarios in which U.S. troops fought Syrians, Lebanese, and Palestinians to defend Israel. Washington’s vulnerability derives from the recent opening of a U.S. permanent facility at Mashabim Air Base in Israel. It is described as a base within a base, completely contained by an Israeli air force installation and operating “under Israeli military directives,” meaning that if the facility is attacked, Americans will likely die. It has no function in support of U.S. regional interests but is instead a shell facility that can be ramped up considerably if Israel goes to war and calls for American assistance. Together with billions of dollars-worth of U.S. military equipment that is pre-positioned in Israel and can be used by the Israelis as needed, it is all about supporting Israeli war-making and

in fact actually threatened by its neighbors, wants to start a war of aggression. Its plans might include deliberately involving the United States in the conflict, making the Americans *de facto* hostages, with U.S. casualties guaranteeing Washington’s direct and immediate involvement in the fighting. That is exactly what is happening with Israel.

The United States has just completed the largest ever joint military exercises with Israel even though it has no defense agreement or treaty. That is, in part, because military alliances are de-



## AN ACT OF STATE THE EXECUTION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING

On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King was in Memphis supporting a worker strike. By nightfall, army snipers were in position, military officers were on a nearby roof with cameras, and Lloyd Jowers had been paid to remove the gun after the fatal shot was fired. When the dust had settled, King had been hit and a clean-up operation was set in motion—James Earl Ray was framed, the crime scene was destroyed, and witnesses were killed. William Pepper, attorney and friend of King, has conducted a 30-year investigation into his assassination. In 1999, Lloyd Jowers and other co-conspirators were brought to trial in a civil action suit on behalf of the King family. Seventy witnesses set out the details of a conspiracy that involved J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI, Richard Helms and the CIA, the military, Memphis police, and organized crime. The jury took an hour to find for the King family. In *An Act of State*, you finally have the truth before you—how the U.S. government shut down a movement for social change by stopping its leader dead in his tracks. Get the updated version of William F. Pepper’s tour de force (softcover, 350 pages, \$22 plus \$4 S&H inside the U.S.) from AFP BOOKSTORE. Send cash, check, or money order to AFP, 16000 Trade Zone Ave., Unit 406, Upper Marlboro, Md., 20774, or call us toll free at 1-888 699-6397 to order via credit card. To purchase with bitcoin, ethereum, or any major cryptocurrency email AFP at [Bookstore@AmericanFreePress.net](mailto:Bookstore@AmericanFreePress.net).



has nothing to do with American security or defense interests except as a tripwire to bring about U.S. involvement.

For that reason, all of the above is something more than just the latest “we have to support Israel” gimmick. The American soldiers and airmen who are now based in Israel are the sacrificial lambs that will guarantee U.S. entry into a war that Israel intends to start, make no mistake about that statement.

A group of U.S. senators who have just returned from Israel have confirmed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s government is preparing for a major regional war. Their recommendation? Give Israel more money so it can “defend” itself, a proposal that might be well received in the White House, which is also itching to confront both Syria and Iran.

Secretary of Defense James Mattis, National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster, and the president himself have all been particularly ratcheting up the rhetoric against Iran. At the UN, Nikki Haley recently warned that the U.S. is prepared to attack Syria again because “there are times when states are compelled to take their own action.” Wrong, Nikki. Attacking a country that is not threatening to attack you has been recognized as the ultimate war crime since the Nuremberg trials of 1945-1946.

When Israel attacks Syria or Lebanon, as it clearly intends to do, Hezbollah will retaliate with its missiles, some of which will surely be directed towards the Mashabim Air Base, which will be a prime target to inhibit the base’s ability to bomb Lebanese targets. And once Washington is well and truly engaged in what is referred to as “force protection,” Israel will undoubtedly widen the conflict by drawing in Iran through attacks on that country’s identified bases in Syria that are supporting the al-Assad regime. The bigger war will suddenly become America’s responsibility after Israel inevitably proves itself incapable of handling the escalation.

During the recent bilateral military exercises, Air Force Lt. Gen. Richard Clark enthused that American soldiers are “prepared to die for the Jewish state” and also added that they would “probably” be under the command of Israeli Air Force Gen. Zvika Haimovitch, who would decide on the involvement of U.S. personnel. Haimovitch commented, “I am sure . . . we will find U.S. troops on the ground . . . to defend the state of Israel.”

I somehow doubt if Clark would be so sanguine if his own son were told to prepare to die for the Jewish state. And I have to wonder if the good general has considered Article 2 of the Constitution about declaring war, the 1973 War Powers Act, and the issue of national sovereignty itself in allowing another country to declare war for you.

Clark is a perfect example of how we have been sold out by the people we have honored and rewarded to defend our country when it comes to pandering to Israel. He and the other administration hawks clamoring for more war for Israel are a national disgrace. ★

Philip Giraldi is a former CIA counter-terrorism specialist and military intelligence officer and a columnist and television commentator. He is also the executive director of the Council for the National Interest. Other articles by Giraldi can be found on the website of the Unz Review.

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# Russian Financial Predators Quaking

• Deadly attacks on oligarch swindlers have some claiming Russia is out for revenge

By Richard Walker

The recent poisoning of a former KGB double agent and his daughter outside London, and the murder of a Russian oligarch in the British capital, have highlighted an assassination campaign that British intelligence insists has its roots in Moscow.

British Home Secretary Boris Johnson, a politician known for making controversial and sometimes outrageous claims, accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of personally ordering the poisoning of former Russian spy, turned traitor, Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia. Johnson did not offer evidence to link the episode directly to Putin, however.

In light of the poisoning of the Skripals, who were targeted with a lethal nerve agent of Russian origin, Novichok, the British authorities took another look at the mysterious death of Nikolai Glushkov, an oligarch who was being sought by Moscow for stealing \$123 million from the Russian airline Aeroflot. He was found dead in his London home on Monday, March 12, two days after the attempted murder of the Skripals. First signs suggested that he had died of natural causes, but that verdict was discarded when a pathologist found evidence that he had been strangled.

While Scotland Yard saw no links to the Skripal case, it is now likely that there will be a major review of the mysterious deaths of other oligarchs in recent years. In particular, the death of Boris Berezovsky and some of his inner circle who committed suicide in unusual circumstances will be scrutinized. Berezovsky was once a friend of Putin and later became his enemy. Like many oligarchs, some of whom fled to Israel, Berezovsky ripped off Russia during the Yeltsin era and fled to Lon-



NICHOLAI GLUSHKOV

don with his wealth when Putin threatened to take a “cudgel” to oligarchs. Berezovsky later became Glushkov’s mentor. Both their deaths did not initially suggest foul play. Berezovsky was found hanging in his bathroom and the verdict into his death remains open. He died five years after the mysterious passing of another of his friends in Britain, Badri Patarkatsishvili, a Georgian oligarch.

Most of the Russian oligarchs in London live lavish lifestyles. Some, like Berezovsky, were known to hold weekend parties with underage prostitutes flown in from Eastern Europe. Attempts by Russia to have the oligarchs returned to Moscow to face trial have been thwarted by British courts. Their presence in London has made the city an espionage-Russian Mafia hang-out. In 2017, Russia released a wanted list, naming

The recent assassination attempt against Sergei and Yulia Skripal in London has spurred investigators to look into the death of Russian oligarch and financial swindler Nikolai Glushkov, who, it is now believed, was strangled.

22 oligarchs it wanted Britain to give up. The name at the top of the wanted list was Glushkov. One credible theory regarding the mysterious deaths of oligarchs is that the Russian Mafia has been involved or has been franchised by others to do the killing.

Glushkov’s murder has not attracted as much media focus as the attempted murder of the Skripals because that crime has echoes of the assassination of Alexander Litvinenko in 2006 in London. He was a former spy who became part of Berezovsky’s inner circle and was poisoned while having tea with two Russian agents who purportedly laced his tea with a toxic substance called polonium 210. The cause of his death would have remained a mystery but for the fact Britain had the world’s leading forensic experts in chemical warfare on the case.

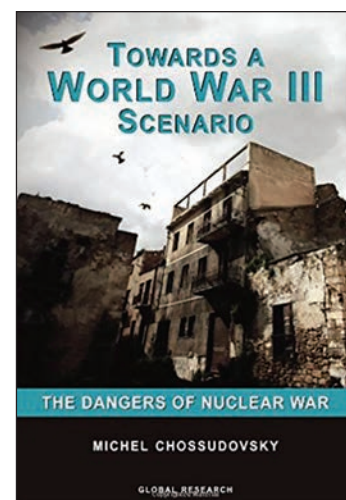
Ironically, Britain’s prime minister, Theresa May, was home secretary in 2006, and her response to the killing of Litvinenko was somewhat muted compared to her expulsion of 23 Russian diplomats in the days after the Skripal poisoning. In 2006, it was said that she was reluctant to damage Russia given the billions Russians were spending in the London property market. Now, she has been unable to ignore the similarities between the Litvinenko assassination and the attack on the Skripals, implying Russia was the culprit in both.

British forensic experts have confirmed that the father-daughter pair, hospitalized since the attack, was targeted with Novichok, another rare Russian chemical weapon. Scotland Yard suspects

## *Towards a World War III Scenario*

By Michel Chossudovsky. America has embarked on a military adventure, “a long war,” which threatens the future of humanity. U.S.-NATO weapons of mass destruction are portrayed as instruments of peace. Mini-nukes are said to be “harmless to the surrounding civilian population.” Preemptive nuclear war is portrayed as a “humanitarian undertaking.” While one can conceptualize the loss of life and destruction resulting from present-day wars including Iraq and Afghanistan, it is impossible to fully comprehend the devastation that might result from a Third World War, using new technologies and advanced weapons, until it becomes a reality. “Making the world safer” is the justification for launching a military operation that could potentially result in a nuclear holocaust. Nuclear war has become a multibillion dollar undertaking, which fills the pockets of U.S. defense contractors. What is at stake is the outright privatization of nuclear

war. The Pentagon’s global military design is one of world conquest. Central to an understanding of this war is the media campaign that grants it legitimacy in the eyes of the public. A good versus evil dichotomy prevails. Breaking the big lie, which upholds war as a humanitarian undertaking, means breaking a criminal project of global destruction, in which the quest for profit is the overriding force. This profit-driven military agenda destroys human values and transforms people into unconscious zombies. The object of this book is to forcefully reverse the tide of war and challenge the war criminals in high office and the powerful corporate lobby groups that support them. Softcover, 102 pages, \$16 plus \$4 S&H inside U.S. (Email bookstore@AmericanFreePress.net if outside U.S.) Mail order to AFP, 16000 Trade Zone Avenue, Unit 406, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774. Call 1-888-699-6397 toll free, Mon.-Thu. 9-5 to charge or to discuss cryptocurrency options.







The presence of escaped Russian oligarchs in London has made the city an espionage-mafia hangout.

the weapon, possibly in powder form, was placed in Yulia Skripal's suitcase in Moscow before she flew to London on March 4 to see her father. This is where the story becomes somewhat bizarre. She had been living in Moscow since 2014 despite the fact that her father, a Russian traitor, was living outside London. He had been released in 2010 by the Russians as part of a spy swap with the U.S. for Russian agents, including Anna Chapman, who had been operating in New York and Washington. After the swap, Sergei Skripal asked to be settled in Britain because he had spied for MI6.

So why kill him now in what appears to be a botched operation? The British tabloid, *The Sun*, has speculated that it was a personal hit on Yulia Skripal ordered by her future mother-in-law, a high-level Russian security officer who was unhappy her son was planning to marry Yulia, the daughter of a Russian traitor.

As news on the story continues to evolve, a new report by Craig Murray from the Strategic Culture Foundation, a Russian-based online watchdog group, casts doubt on Russia's involvement. Murray indicates that scientists in the UK, despite being under extreme pressure to implicate Russia in the poisoning of the Skripals, have been unable "to identify the nerve gas as being of Russian manufacture and have been resentful of the pressure being placed on them to do so."

In truth, the British government has been very careful in its accusations. Adds Murray:

The government has never said the nerve agent was made in Russia, or that it can only be made in Russia. The exact formulation "of a type developed by Russia" was used by Theresa May in parliament, used by the UK at the UN Security Council, used by Boris Johnson on the BBC . . . and, most tellingly of all, "of a type developed by Russia" is the precise phrase used in the joint communique issued by the UK, USA, France and Germany yesterday: "This use of a military-grade nerve agent, of a type developed by Russia, constitutes the first offensive use of a nerve agent in Europe since the Second World War."

In this weird, almost fictional world of espionage, every theory has to be weighed. There has even been speculation that Sergei Skripal had links to Christopher Steele, who produced the controversial Trump-Russia dossier. That theory has been dismissed by British intelligence sources, for what that is worth. ★

Richard Walker is the *nom de plume* of a former New York mainstream news producer who grew tired of seeing his articles censored by his bosses.

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**By John Ellis**

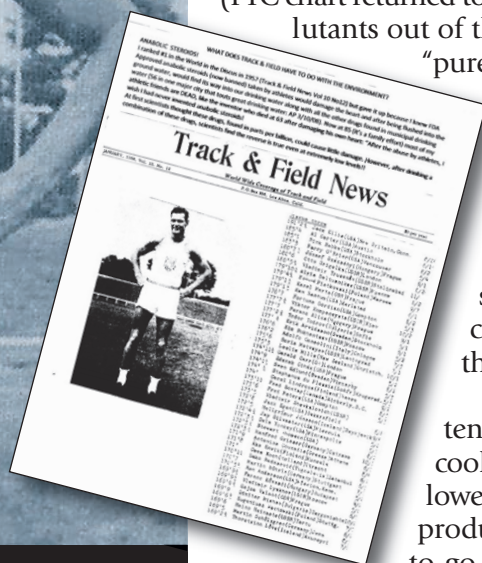
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“purest water” from home filters or distillers that CAN’T make pure water because ordinary distillers (like a covered pot) produce high steam pressure/velocity that carry over some 80,000 chemicals including very light plastic phthalates (below)!

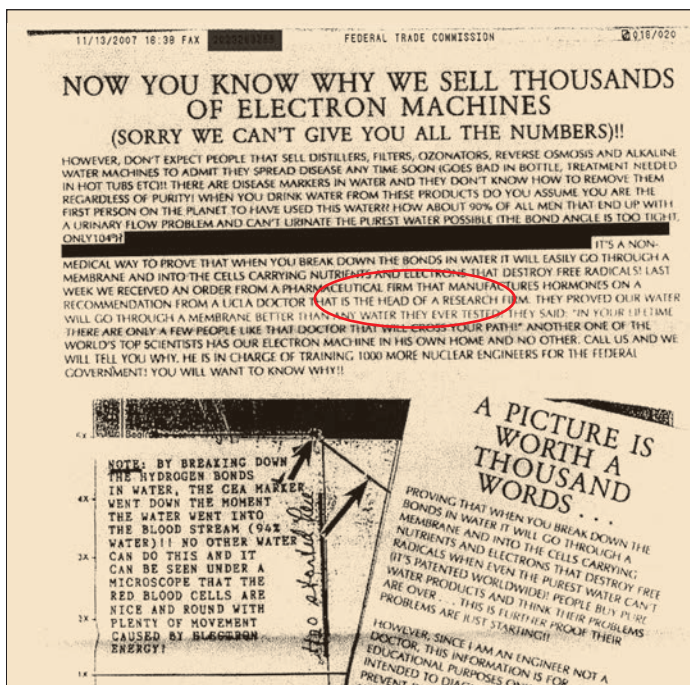
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studies: “Nothing is even close to your water!” See our video at [www.JohnEllis.com](http://www.JohnEllis.com).) Albert Szentgyorgy Nobel Prize Winner said: “Hydrogen is the Fuel of Life!” and yet extra energy is required from your food to split water into Hydrogen and oxygen because **ordinary water has ZERO ENERGY!** PROOF (scroll down/camera on the Ammeter/ Video): Use tap, filtered, ordinary distilled, Deuterium Depleted (\$300/bottle!), “energized” or “hydrogen water” and they ALL require 31 amps to split water into hydrogen-oxygen! Our water requires less than one amp **MAKING THE SAME AMOUNT OF HYDROGEN** adding **ONLY 20 DROPS** to ordinary water!! ... **PROVING** what the Chart says: “**Ordinary water CAN’T stop disease!!**” It’s been repeated thousands of times and you may need this “Body Electric energy” that powers your heart (electric defibrillator to stop a heart attack, pacemaker)! After hydrating, just a **MOUTHFUL** throughout the day **MAINTAINS YOUR ENERGY!!**

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Above, this fax was sent from the Federal Trade Commission back to John Ellis in 2007, showing that they were aware of his scientific claims yet could not refute them!

combines politics (friend of Clinton then Trump) and bad "health advice" profits into an art form with fringe M.D.'s promoting a plastic distiller when the FDA informed mothers NOT to boil plastic baby bottles! This is all part of a "water scam alert" network with the same greed and fraud mindset that sunk our submarines including a delicensed MD (lost 40 lawsuits even using FTC/FDA legitimacy) and a fired Vietnam turncoat professor in Canada that disparages our Vietnam Veterans with NO DEGREES IN THIS FIELD! At 25, I had Top Secret Security Clearance as a Douglas Aerospace Engineer. How about a SECURITY CLEARANCE? On the contrary, Google: Nursing Sisters Port Dover about my grandmother (World War I and World War II) and a JohnEllis.com brochure about her friends that included CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT (19th Amendment: Women's Right to Vote), American Red Cross Founder CLARA BARTON and her cousin SUSAN B. ANTHONY!

This tale of woe had a great ending in spite of the Navy submariners and Air Force members including myself (at 14) who had radium tipped rods inserted into their nasal cavities to treat hearing problems, ear infections, sinus trouble and shrink

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adenoids. However, decades later serious health problems developed including thyroid cancer and head and neck tumors!

As a result, I went to the Choate School Wallingford, Conn. where an old chemistry book inspired me to release the measurable energy in water to 30 TIMES the energy in ordinary water and save my own life (JohnEllis.com videos)! A child in Chemistry class also proved that! Thousands were treated near the submarine base in New London, Conn. I tried to help these people 40 years ago with my health course and free water machine with this new-found energy (13 International Patents, 332 FDA Tests) but after Vietnam, they didn't want to help veterans and it continues today as Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) also discovered as late as 1994 ... even after ONE MILLION CIVILIAN RADIUM TREATMENTS, there was little interest in helping even Agent Orange victims!

Instead of helping them—like a Jan. 27, 1992 *Washington Post* article: "10,000 people per day say this water cures anything including cancer!" (we are allowed to quote)—"News and Health" magazines use fringe MDs to sell products that cause cancer! Editor and Health Pioneer: "I feel wonderful taking 70 vitamins a day!" before dying on TV while another overdosed on iodine (both from Toxic Overload!) like the Anabolic Steroid inventor who died at 63 (below) ... which is why I gave up the discus!

To stem the naysayers: My college engineering professor Dr John Weishampel, gave me the only grade of 100% in 30 years of teaching.

### I'M NOT NEW TO CONTROVERSY

I am not new to controversy: In 1957 I had the best discus throw in the World (*T&F News*, Vol. 10, No. 12) but gave it up because I knew

Anabolic Steroids would cause users heart damage! All the top athletes were told they were safe by doctors. However, their inventor, John Ziegler M.D., said before he died at 63: "I wish I had listened to [John Ellis]. I damaged my heart!"

There is a long list of Olympic friends who are dead because they were "FDA Approved" (now banned). I was right then about anabolic steroids and I am right now about viruses and disease!

### VIOLATING FARADAY'S LAW?

Here's what a man in Zurich said: "I have had your E5 Water Machine for only 24 hours. I had gross swelling in my legs and hadn't worn ordinary shoes in years. Your water immediately destroyed the markers for elephantiasis in my blood stream!! I lost all the water weight in my legs and I bought a pair of shoes size 10 1/2. Also unlike ordinary DDW, using electrolysis (a battery and two thin pieces of stainless steel, anode and cathode, not a stack that negates power) your water produces so much Hydrogen it violates Faraday's Law producing the energy needed to stop disease!!"

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# Incompetence vs. Corruption

• Dems say Rauner responsible for veteran deaths; GOP says Pritzker a crook

By S.T. Patrick

**I**n what has become a race of deceit and corruption versus incompetence, the battle for the Illinois governorship has turned into a contest befitting one of America's most fiscally and ideologically decrepit states.

Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner is a former private equity investor. His leading opponent is Democrat J.B. Pritzker, a billionaire entrepreneur, private equity investor, and heir to the Hyatt hotel fortune. Both have spent millions in their pre-primary campaigns and both intend to outspend their opponent in the general election.

Last May, the *Chicago Tribune* reported that newly released, secretly recorded FBI wiretaps from 2008 had shown that Pritzker had sought political office from now-imprisoned, former Gov. Rod Blagojevich. The FBI was investigating the Illinois governor for public corruption in the fall of 2008. As a result of that investigation, Blagojevich was impeached, convicted, and sentenced to 14 years in federal prison. Part of his 17 convictions pertained to "pay-to-play" attempts in regard to the attempted selling of a Senate appointment. The other convictions were for extortion relating to state funds.

The Senate seat had been vacated by President-elect Barack Obama. It was Blagojevich who would appoint a replacement. Amidst the post-election reorganization, it was also expected that



GOP Gov. Bruce Rauner (left) and Democratic challenger J.B. Pritzker will vie for the Illinois governor seat in November. Both are rich plutocrats.

the office of state treasurer would become vacant. Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias was rumored to join the Obama administration in Washington, D.C.

Blagojevich told Pritzker to consider an appointment as attorney general if he chose then-Attorney General Lisa Madigan as Obama's replacement. Madigan is the daughter of Illinois House Speaker Mike Madigan, with whom Blagojevich had been feuding for years. Blagojevich had suggested to Pritzker that the appointment of Madigan's daughter to the position would be his half of a policy support-for-Senate seat agreement with the speaker.

Blagojevich had started peddling the idea of a

Senate appointment to influential, wealthy politicians around Illinois. Pritzker informed the governor that he was "really not that interested" in the Senate seat. Pritzker was, however, interested in an appointment to the position of state treasurer if Giannoulias vacated the office. Blagojevich, in the recorded conversations from November 2008, responded, "Ooh interesting. Let me think about that. You interested in that?"

Pritzker answered sharply, "Yeah. That's the one I would want."

In another conversation, Blagojevich asked Pritzker for a sizeable campaign contribution as they discussed the potential of a Pritzker appointment to the office of state treasurer.

In an effort to make the idea of Pritzker-as-treasurer more acceptable, the Hyatt heir suggested the idea of having the chief executives of the Chicago commodities exchanges advocate for him publicly.

Pritzker and Blagojevich had discussed the strategy of the Senate appointment in the calls. Both had supported the idea of appointing Obama friend Valerie Jarrett, but Pritzker added a caveat: "The only reason to do it is if (Obama) will appoint you to something."

Blagojevich had also considered Oprah Winfrey, and a group of Indian businessmen had offered him \$6 million in campaign contributions if he appointed Jesse Jackson Jr. to the seat. Former Illinois Attorney General Roland Burris was eventually chosen, but his role as a former Blagojevich campaign manager, the governor's continuing le-

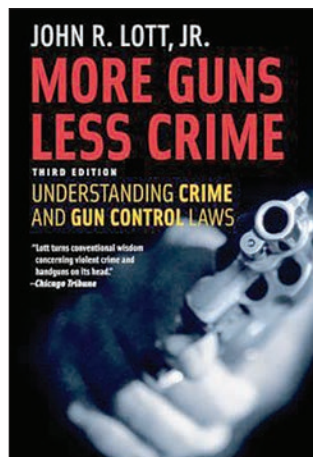
NEW BOOK

## More Guns, Less Crime

NEW BOOK

### Understanding Crime & Gun Control Laws—3rd Edition

**O**n its initial publication in 1998, John R. Lott's *More Guns, Less Crime* drew both lavish praise and heated criticism. More than a decade later, it continues to play a key role in ongoing arguments over gun-control laws: Despite all the attacks by gun-control advocates, no one has ever been able to refute Lott's simple, startling conclusion that more guns mean less crime. Relying on the most rigorously comprehensive data analysis ever conducted on crime statistics and right-to-carry laws, the book directly challenges common perceptions about the relationship of guns, crime, and violence. For this third edition, Lott draws on an additional 10 years of data—including provocative analyses of the effects of gun bans in Chicago and Washington, D.C.—that brings the book fully



up to date and further bolsters its central contention. Contents: How to Test the Effects of Gun Control; Gun Ownership, Gun Laws, and the Data on Crime; Concealed-Handgun Laws and Crime Rates: Empirical Evidence; Victims and Benefits from Protection; What Determines Arrest Rates and the Passage of Concealed-Handgun Laws?; The Political and Academic Debate by 1998; Final Thoughts; Updating the Results in 2000; A Decade Later: Nine More Years of Data; Nine More State Appendices; Bibliography; Index. Softcover, 442 pages, \$18 plus \$4 S&H inside the U.S. from AFP, 16000 Trade Zone Avenue, Unit 406, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774. Call 1-888-699-NEWS toll free to charge. You may also order online at [www.AmericanFreePress.net](http://www.AmericanFreePress.net). Call 202-544-5977 for cryptocurrency options.



Since the *Chicago Tribune* published a bombshell report revealing that Democrat candidate for Illinois governor J.B. Pritzker (far right) actively sought political office from disgraced ex-governor and convicted felon Rod Blagojevich (left) in 2008, the story has been dominating the airwaves in the state, raising serious questions for the billionaire candidate. And despite claims by Pritzker that the story is not a “big deal,” it’s clear that the issue is not going away any time soon, insists the website of the Republican Governors Association.



gal problems, and a lack of key national Democrat support clouded the appointment.

Last month, Rauner’s re-election team began running a one-minute campaign ad based upon the Blagojevich-Pritzker conversations. The tagline is “J.B. Pritzker. A corrupt deal for Illinois.”

Pritzker denied that the conversations were inappropriate or illegal, adding, “It should be unsurprising to people that after 25 years of doing public service in a variety of ways that when an opportunity might have arisen for me to do public service that I would be willing to do that. And that was what the conversation was all about.”

The response of the Pritzker team has been to repeat that their candidate had not been accused of any wrongdoing by the FBI. Their response ad accused Rauner of mishandling an outbreak of Legionnaire’s Disease at a downstate Quincy Veterans Home. The 2015 outbreak caused 13 deaths. Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) supports the ad that includes her voice and the tagline “Bruce

Rauner: Our veterans deserve better.”

While the state of veteran care has been a hotly debated issue in many states, it seems like a desperate attempt to attach Rauner to a scandal that may not exist. There are reasons to criticize Rauner. Illinois is a state that keeps losing potential investment from large corporations, the public pension and public aid expenditures keep skyrocketing, and balanced budgets are as rare as thin crust pizza in Chicago.

Ultimately, the buck stops at the state house in Springfield, despite the difficult legislative and fiscal circumstances embedded in the Illinois political system. Pritzker, however, has a history of tying himself to questionable political figures who sell appointments for contributions.

For Illinoisans, the ballot looks more dismal as the campaign season rolls into spring. ★

S.T. Patrick holds degrees in both journalism and social studies education. He spent ten years as an educator and now hosts the “Midnight Writer News” show. His email is STPatrickAFP@gmail.com.



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# Uprising vs Anti-BDS Laws Grows

• Court rules law punishing people for supporting boycott of Israel is unconstitutional

By Mark Anderson

**P**ro-Zionist churches and politicians in the U.S., as well as Israeli hardliners that lobby state lawmakers, have been on a crusade to get individual state laws passed to prohibit states from doing business with companies that support the growing movement to boycott Israel (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions or BDS). This onslaught has seemed virtually unstoppable, as the anti-boycott-laws list has grown to almost 20 states. Recently, however, Arizona has become a legal battleground, as pushback arises against the anti-BDS crusade. Kansas has become another state resisting the crusade.

Arizona State University (ASU) is being sued in federal court by the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) for the school's apparent violation of Muslim students' rights to free speech and equal protection. ASU is accused of squelching such rights by enforcing a ban on speakers, sponsored by Muslim students, that call for boycotting Israel as a means of peaceful protest against Israel's severe oppression of and aggression against Palestinians.

American Muslims for Palestine (AMP) and its founder, Dr. Hatem Bazian, filed the lawsuit in U.S. district court shortly after ASU's Muslim Students Association invited Dr. Bazian to speak April 3 at an educational event to offer Palestinian perspectives on conflict in the Mideast.

Bazian, a University of California at Berkeley



**Esther Koontz** is a member of the Mennonite Church and has been a math teacher for a decade. But, because of her political views, the state of Kansas decided she couldn't help train other math teachers. A judge has, however, ruled that a law designed to punish those who support boycotting Israel is an unconstitutional assault on freedom of speech.

philosophy professor and lecturer and co-founder of Students for Justice in Palestine, balked at ASU's speaker's contract, due to its "no boycott of Israel" clause. The clause evidently prohibits him and others from participating "solely because they engage in and advocate for economic boycotts of Israel . . . to promote Palestinians' human rights," the lawsuit says.

The lawsuit may test the Trump administration's constitutional fortitude. Attorney General Jeff Sessions—who says protecting free speech at public universities is a top Department of Jus-

tice (DOJ) priority—proclaimed in a Sept. 26, 2017 speech that U.S. colleges have been transformed from academic-freedom havens into "an echo chamber of political correctness and homogeneous thought, a shelter for fragile egos."

"We will enforce federal law, defend free speech, and protect students' free expression from whatever end of the political spectrum it may come," the former U.S. senator from Alabama said while speaking at Georgetown Law School.

Principal Deputy Associate Attorney General Jesse Panuccio said in January that the DOJ wanted to assure aggrieved students and faculty that it would "welcome notifications about pending lawsuits and invitations to get involved."

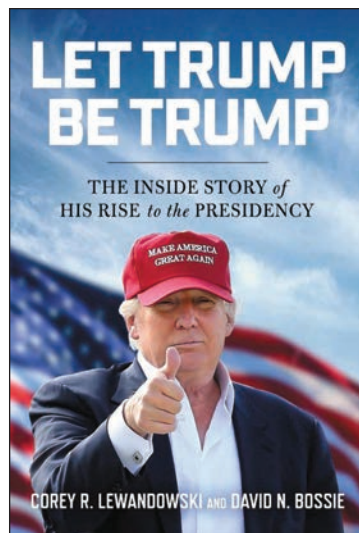
The DOJ intervened on behalf of a Christian evangelist who had been barred from passing out religious materials outside of a circumscribed "free speech zone" at Georgia Gwinnett College.

The DOJ's website shows that, in January, the

## Let Trump Be Trump: The Inside Story of His Rise

**L**et *Trump Be Trump: The Inside Story of His Presidency* is the ultimate behind-the-scenes account of how he became president of the United States. Donald Trump was a candidate—and now a president—like none that have come before. His startling rise to the White House is the most shocking political tale in the history of our republic. Much has been written about this event, but all of those words come from authors outside the orbit of Donald Trump.

Written by the guys in the room—two of Trump's closest campaign advisors—*Let Trump Be Trump* is the eyewitness account of the stories behind the headlines. From the Access Hollywood recording and the Clinton accusers, to one-time campaign manager Paul Manafort, to the last-moment comeback and a victory that reads like something out of a fiction novel, *Let Trump Be Trump* pulls back the curtain on a drama that has mesmerized the whole world—including the palace intrigues of the Mooch, Sean Spicer, Lance Preibus, Steve Bannon, and more.



By turns hilarious and intimate, *Let Trump Be Trump* also offers a view of Donald Trump like you've never seen him, the man whose success in business was built not only on great skill but on loyal relationships and who developed the strongest of bonds with the band of outsiders and idealists who became his team because they believed in him and his message.

Written by Trump's campaign manager, the fiery Corey Lewandowski, and Dave Bossie—the plaintiff in the famous *Citizens United* Supreme Court case—who helped steer the last critical months of the campaign, this riveting book gives us an inside look at the Trump campaign and the presidency, so far. Hardback, 296 pages, \$27 plus \$4 S&H inside the U.S. from AFP BOOKSTORE, 16000 Trade Zone Avenue, Unit 406, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774. Call 1-888-699-6397 toll free, Mon.-Thu. 9-5 ET to charge. Call 202-544-5977 for cryptocurrency options. Order online at [www.AmericanFreePress.net](http://www.AmericanFreePress.net). (Outside U.S. email [Bookstore@americanfreepress.net](mailto:Bookstore@americanfreepress.net) for S&H.)





The Kansas law “is designed to punish people who boycott Israel” and “is an unconstitutional denial of free speech.”

—Glenn Greenwald

department filed a statement of interest in a case filed on behalf of the Young America's Foundation and Berkeley College Republicans. The case argues that UC Berkeley's policies empowered administrators with “unfettered discretion” to implement excessive obstacles to campus appearances by “controversial” [read: conservative, right-wing, pro-Constitution] speakers.

Whether the Muslim-backed legal challenge filed against ASU will also garner the DOJ's involvement remains to be seen. The overriding question is: Can the Trump DOJ, given its largely pro-Israel pronouncements and policies so far, muster the courage and objectivity to support free speech even in cases involving Israel? Even when the aggrieved party is Muslim?

#### VICTORY IN KANSAS

In a key Kansas case, progress has been made against the anti-BDS onslaught. A federal judge on Jan. 30 ruled in favor of Mennonite teacher

Esther Koontz, who had been denied a state contract because she participates in the BDS movement as part of her church's activism.

The judge ruled that the Kansas law, “designed to punish people who boycott Israel, is an unconstitutional denial of free speech,” wrote journalist Glenn Greenwald in “The Intercept” online on Jan. 31.

Greenwald added: “The ruling is a significant victory for free speech rights because the global campaign to criminalize, or otherwise legally outlaw, the [BDS] movement has been spreading rapidly in numerous political and academic centers in the U.S. This judicial decision definitively declares those efforts—when they manifest in the United States—to be a direct infringement of basic First Amendment rights guaranteed by the Constitution.” ★

Mark Anderson is AFP's roving editor. He invites your thoughtful emails at [truthhound2@yahoo.com](mailto:truthhound2@yahoo.com).

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# Totalitarian Government Is Here

- Trump's support for draconian firearms legislation puts Second Amendment in peril

By Chuck Baldwin

In the aftermath of the Las Vegas shooting last year in October, I wrote a column entitled “They Are Coming for Our Guns.” In that column, I listed 16 gun control bills that were working their way through the U.S. House and Senate. (See the facing page for a list of all of those bills.) At the time I wrote that column, the vast majority of conservatives, Republicans, and Christians paid no heed, because they said, “Donald Trump is ‘pro-Second Amendment’ and won’t let any more gun control legislation pass.”

Fast forward just four months later to after the Florida school shootings, and we watched and listened to Trump turn his back on his word to protect the Second Amendment as he enthusiastically picked up the gun control mantra of Dianne Feinstein, Chuck Schumer, and Nancy Pelosi and embraced enacting additional gun control laws.

Please understand: In spite of the mass shootings in Las Vegas and Texas, gun control Democrats in Washington, D.C. were mostly stymied, and the myriad gun control laws they were pushing appeared dead on arrival. Trump had campaigned and won as a fierce defender of the Second Amendment, and everyone (including Democrats) figured that even if some gun control bills passed the Congress, Trump was sure to veto them.

Following the mass shooting in Florida, there was no surge in gun sales (which is not normally



Donald Trump has alienated a huge portion of his voting base by supporting more draconian gun laws.

the case—usually gun sales skyrocket after mass shootings in anticipation of more gun control laws being enacted), as conservatives and gun owners were confident that their constitutional right to keep and bear arms was not in jeopardy: Trump would make sure of that.

But, as I have tried to warn people, Trump has no core convictions; he has no center; he has no moral compass; and he is a dish rag when it comes to the Constitution. Of the 16 gun control bills in Congress that I referenced in my October 2017 column, Trump is now actively supporting at least 10 of them.

In Trump’s highly publicized round-table discussion with members of Congress from both parties (including radical gun control zealots such as Dianne Feinstein), Trump announced that he favors implementing several additional gun control laws, including banning bump stocks (and similar “modifiers”), more background checks for



gun purchases—including adding a variety of “mental health” screenings—and implementing the “Fix NICS” bill (a longtime goal of gun grabbing Democrats like Schumer and Feinstein).

In point of fact, the original “Fix NICS” bill was introduced under Barack Obama and included outlawing private gun sales. Kentucky Rep. Thomas Massie is warning the American people that the Republican leadership in Congress is trying to pass the “Fix NICS” bill. He warns of how devastating the bill will be to America’s veterans and seniors who will be thrown into the “no buy” list for a host of reasons. And will the bill include the original language outlawing the private sale of firearms?

Trump also announced that he supported gun confiscation without due process. He twice said that government should take (confiscate) the guns first and worry about due process later. He then looked at Feinstein and told her he would support her bill. “Her” bill is the “assault-weapons” ban that would outlaw all semi-automatic rifles.

After Trump’s shameless calls for more gun control, the White House has tried to calm Trump’s conservative constituents by walking back several of those comments. That doesn’t change the fact that Trump said them—more than once. And it doesn’t change the fact that Trump is still forging ahead with plans to implement new gun control laws.

Again, until Trump made his stupid Stalinist statements supporting more gun control laws—



Donald Trump speaks before a gathering of National Rifle Association members. Many gunowners thought his election meant the end to talk of gun confiscations and additional, even more stringent gun control laws, but it appears they were wrong. Trump has flip-flopped on the issue and may be more dangerous to private gun ownership than was Barack Obama.





Illinois legislators believe taking legal guns will stop criminal drug dealers from killing people in Chicago.

even gun confiscation—the Democrat-led charge for more gun control was dead. However, after Trump's statements, politicians in both parties have gone into a gun control frenzy.

Already, the Republican house, senate, and governor of Florida have enacted one of the most draconian gun control laws in U.S. history. The law bans the sale of firearms to anyone under the age of 21; it mandates a three-day waiting period for most gun purchases; it adds a "red flag" law that allows law enforcement to confiscate the firearms of individuals who have not committed a crime or have not even threatened to commit a crime—but who might be "suspected" of having "mental health" issues; it adds additional background checks for gun purchases; and it mandates "mental health" screening for all public school students in the state.

Again, these Marxist-inspired gun control laws were passed by a Republican-led House, Senate, and governorship.

Do you think for one minute that Trump's pro-gun control rhetoric had nothing to do with the way those Republicans voted in Florida? Trump is the leader of the Republican Party. The party takes its cues from him. When Trump embraced and promoted the enactment of more gun control, it was a signal to Republicans and Democrats alike to proceed with more gun control. And that's exactly what both parties are doing.

A few days ago, the state of Washington became the first state in the country to enforce its newly enacted "red flag" law and confiscate the firearm of a man who had broken no law and who had not even threatened anyone. His firearm was confiscated on the mere notion that he was "suspected" of having "mental health" issues. I wrote about this Gestapo-style episode last week.

Now, the state of Illinois is about to pass a law that would authorize blanket gun confiscation of everyone under the age of 21. Writing for *American Thinker*, Daniel John Sobieski writes:

It is no longer a conspiracy theory spawned by deplorable bitter clingers, but a creeping reality spawned by shootings law enforcement could have prevented but didn't. The Illinois House has passed legislation requiring 18- to 20-year-olds to give up certain legally purchased and legally owned firearms:

A bill requiring 18- to 20-year-olds to hand over or transfer ownership of heretofore legally possessed "assault weapons" is gaining sponsors in the Illinois Senate after

passing the House last month.

The bill, HB 1465, was sponsored in the state House by state Rep. Michelle Mussman (D-Schaumburg) and passed by a vote of 64-51 on Feb. 28.

After being introduced in the upper House by state Senate President John Cullerton (D-Chicago), the bill has added seven co-sponsors in the last week. Notable among them was state Sen. Jim Oberweis (R-Sugar Grove), the NRA "A" rated 2014 Republican nominee for U.S. Senate.

Gun confiscation is here. First they will come for the young, who can go to war with guns but can no longer go hunting with them or protect their families. If you are a 20-year-old single mom with a restraining order against a violent ex-boyfriend, well, you'll just have to trust your life to 911 as your door is being kicked in. Meanwhile, the government wants you to give it your guns.

Notice that Democrats and Republicans in Illinois are supporting this Marxist bill that confiscates guns from law-abiding people with no due process whatsoever.

Make no mistake about it, this is the beginning of totalitarian government.

As I noted in a recent column, no fewer than 30 states have either already passed gun confiscation laws (Florida makes that number now 31) or are in the process of enacting gun confiscation laws.

Instead of enacting additional gun control laws, what our president, governors, and lawmakers should be doing is expunging existing gun control laws—including eliminating virtually all of America's gun-free zones.

As Mr. Sobieski wrote:

It is typical of gun-control zealots that their answer to the slaughter invited by gun-free zones is to create more gun-free victims. Those who fear an armed citizenry are typically those who believe that all rights are on loan from an all-powerful government. The Founders wisely wrote the Second Amendment to protect the other nine in the Bill of Rights.

Critics of the Second Amendment say they are not going after guns used for legitimate activities such as hunting. But when the Founders wrote the Second Amendment, it was because the British were coming, not because it was the start of deer season.

In the hands of British redcoats, the musket was an assault weapon. In the hands of a law-abiding American, even those between 18 and 20, an AR-15 is what the Second Amendment is all about.

It is time for the American people to forget about which party controls Congress and who is in the White House and start standing *en masse* for the Constitution and Bill of Rights—and against any new gun control laws—or the Second Amendment (and the rest of our liberties) will soon be toast. ★

**Charles "Chuck" Baldwin** is an American politician, radio host, and the founder of Crossroad Baptist Church in Florida. He is currently pastor of Liberty Fellowship in Kalispell, Montana. He was the presidential nominee of the Constitution Party for the 2008 U.S. presidential election and was its nominee for U.S. vice president in 2004. He hosts a daily one-hour radio program "Chuck Baldwin Live," and writes a daily editorial column carried "News with Views," and "VDare."



## Gun Control Bills Pending in Congress

At least 16 gun control bills have been filed in Congress since the shootings in Las Vegas. Following that, Montana Shooting Sports Association President Gary Marbut sent out this summary of current gun control bills in the U.S. House and Senate.

### U.S. HOUSE

H.R. 3947—Bans parts and accessories that increase the rate of fire of a semi-automatic firearm

H.R. 3962—Bans online sales of ammunition

H.R. 3984—Repeals the Lawful Protection in Commerce law that would allow lawsuits against FFLs and manufacturers

H.R. 3986—Would require the placement of tracking ID into all firearms sold in the United States

H.R. 3987—Would require a fee to purchase a firearm through NICS and use these monies to fund the CDC to conduct research on gun violence that was previously found to be biased by Congress

H.R. 3998—Bans firearms for known or 'suspected' terrorists

H.R. 3999—Bans parts that increase the rate of fire of a semi-automatic firearm

H.R. 4018—Institutes a 3-day waiting period nationally for purchase of handgun

H.R. 4025—Expands reporting of multiple firearms sales

H.R. 4052—Would ban possession and transfer of large capacity magazines (more than 10 rounds)

H.R. 4057—Expansion of prohibition for firearms ownership for being on a Terrorist Watch List

### U.S. SENATE

S. 1915—Would require all firearms to be personalized for restricted access and use

S. 1916—Bans parts and accessories that increase the rate of fire of a semi-automatic firearm

S. 1923—Expands background checks of firearms

S. 1939—Repeals the Lawful Protection in Commerce law that would allow lawsuits against FFLs and manufacturers

S. 1945—Would ban possession and transfer of large capacity magazines of more than 10 rounds



# School Shootings Will Continue

- Recent spate of foiled school massacres points to a disturbing trend

By Dave Gahary

**A**lthough there is disagreement among those keeping count of U.S. school shootings, one thing's for certain: It looks like a trend that will continue.

The pro-gun control group Everytown for Gun Safety, online at "Everytown.org," has "an action plan to kick out lawmakers beholden to the gun lobby" and is organizing marches to take guns out of the hands of legal gun owners. According to the group, there have been 305 school shootings in America since 2013, and 32 this year.

Naturally, the activist organization makes no mention of the causes of the school shootings, nor the fact that "a disturbing number of perpetrators of school shootings and similar mass murders in our modern era were either on—or just recently coming off of—psychiatric medications," as David Kupelian writes at online news site "World Net Daily," nor the most obvious fact that guns have always been present in the modern era.

Everytown uses a liberal formula to calculate school shootings, defined as: "any time a firearm discharges a live round inside or into a school building or on or onto a school campus or grounds, as documented by the press [read: fake news]. . . ." So, for our purposes here, this can be viewed as the most extreme analysis of school shootings in the country.

If we're to believe the corrupt media, several recent stories highlight what can only be called a school shooting epidemic.

As reported by CBS News on Feb. 15, another massacre was averted in Washington state when the grandmother of an 18-year-old man called 9-1-1 after discovering "a note in her grandson's journal that read in part: 'I'm preparing myself for a school shooting. I can't wait. My aim has gotten much more accurate.'"

Joshua O'Connor "had a semi-automatic rifle hidden in a guitar case, bomb-making equipment, and 'detailed plans to shoot people at Aces High School' where he was a student."

"I need to get the biggest fatality number I possibly can," the sick individual wrote in his journal.

Less than a week later, *USA Today* reported that another massacre was foiled when a bright 17-year-old New York state high school junior revealed to a school official Facebook messages she received from a friend who was planning "on shooting up" his high school in Vermont, "and had been preparing to do so for two years."

Angela McDevitt met 18-year-old Jack Sawyer at a residential treatment center when they were both "battling behavioral disorders and depression." "I was very conflicted on what to do because



**"Blaming guns for school shootings is like blaming the car for drunken driving."**

. . . he was just a very kind person when I knew him," McDevitt said, "but I knew that I had to (report Sawyer's messages) because it was a matter of lives at hand. It wasn't a matter of just hurting someone's feelings."

On Feb. 20, a 13-year-old Ohio student brought a rifle, a backpack stuffed with ammo, bottle rockets, and batteries to school in preparation for a planned school shooting. Fortunately for his fellow students, he had second thoughts, and, instead, apparently shot himself in the head in the restroom. The town's police chief said Keith Simons "had a memo on his phone expressing admiration for the Columbine shooters," as well as other ominous messages.

"I'm going to die doing it, I hate those people," Simons wrote. "When they interview my parents and ask how they didn't see the signs they should know it's not them, it's me and it's because of how I see the world. I'd hurt and destroy something bigger but my school's an easy target."

On March 7 in Alabama, a high school student accidentally discharged a handgun, which he illegally brought onto campus, in a classroom, killing a 17-year-old female student and injuring himself. He has been charged with manslaughter and, because he is under age 18, unlawful possession of a weapon.

Although the high school was equipped with "more than 43 entry points with a combination of wand and stationary metal detectors," they were inexplicably not in use the day of the shooting.

The slain teen, Courtlin Arrington, who was a senior set to graduate in a few months, had already

**Deranged shooter Dylan Klebold** was caught on security cameras during the massacre at Columbine High School in 1999. Since then, his murderous actions have in part inspired more troubled kids to shoot their classmates.

been accepted into college and had dreams to become a nurse.

On the day of this writing, March 20, a 14-year-old boy and a 16-year-old girl were shot by a 17-year-old at a Maryland high school just before classes began. The suspect, who it is believed was shot by the school resource officer and died shortly afterward, may have had a previous relationship with the female victim, who is in critical condition. The male victim is reportedly now in good condition.

So what is going on in this country? Why do so many school-age kids want to hurt their fellow students? A recent Facebook post making the rounds on the Internet and reposted as a letter to the editor in Naples, Fla. offers some insight.

It points out that at the end of World War II, many soldiers returned with their M1 carbines and many more were sold to civilians for \$20 each. The M1 functions the same as an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle—both hold 30-round magazines, have the same rate of fire, and are available on the civilian market—but the AR-15 is now specifically in the sights of so many gun-control activists.

The letter reads, in part:

So here is the question. How did we have thousands upon thousands of men return home from some of the most horrific fighting the world has even seen, have access to the M1, and didn't go around killing innocents?

Access? No. You could go to Sears and buy an M1 rifle. You didn't even have to be 18 to purchase one in the 1950s. . . .

Well, some say, today's guns have more firepower. No. Is ammo cheaper? No.

The nuclear family is under attack. God has been removed from school. Prayers are forbidden. School administrators are not allowed to punish kids anymore. Defeat is not allowed; everyone gets a trophy. Teasing is now bullying. Girls should not be treated as girls and boys should not be treated as boys. When in doubt, administer drugs. We have video games where you kill people or cops and you get points for it and movies that glorify violence. Fifteen minutes of fame is given out on social media for stupidity.

Have guns changed? Yes, they went from wood to black plastic stocks. Has our society changed?

What do you think? ★

**Dave Gahary**, a former submariner in the U.S. Navy, prevailed in a suit brought by the New York Stock Exchange in an attempt to silence him. Dave is the producer of an upcoming film about the attack on the USS *Liberty*. See the website [erasingtheliberty.com](http://erasingtheliberty.com) or call (850) 677-0344 for more information.



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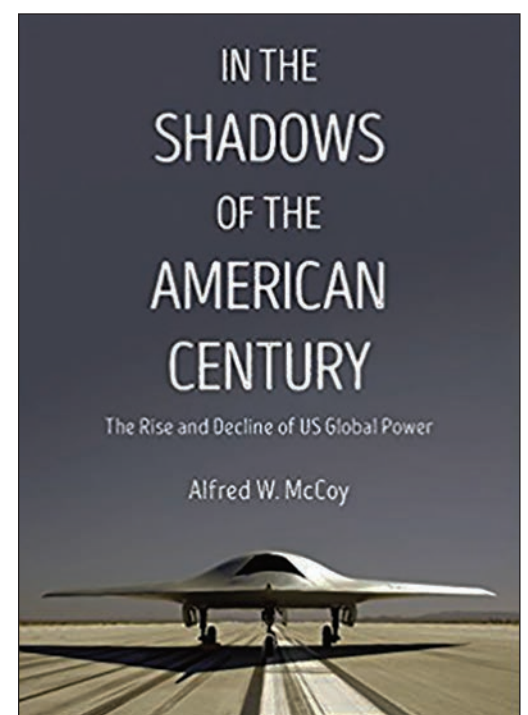
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# Murder Charges Filed Against Cop

• Black policeman who shot Australian woman in Minneapolis will face trial

By John Friend

**M**ohamed Noor, a Somali-American police officer in Minneapolis, has been charged with one count of third-degree murder and one count of second-degree manslaughter in the tragic shooting death of Justine Rusczyk Damond, a 40-year-old life coach and motivational speaker originally from Sydney, Australia. The story of her murder generated national and international headlines last July.

Ms. Damond, an American citizen who was engaged to Don Damond and had taken his name prior to marriage, called police on July 15, 2017 in order to report what she believed was a sexual assault taking place in the alley behind her home. As this newspaper reported at the time, when officers responded to her call, she approached the driver's side of the vehicle to consult with the officers shortly after they arrived. Noor, who was in the passenger seat of the police SUV, inexplicably reached across the driver of the vehicle, Officer Matthew Harry, and fatally shot Ms. Damond through the driver's window. According to the investigation, neither officer had his body camera turned on, and the headlights of their vehicle were turned off. No evidence of a sexual assault or imminent threat in the area was found following an investigation, and Ms. Damond was unarmed.

Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman an-



**OFFICER MOHAMED NOOR**  
Made a tragic mistake.



nounced the charges in a news conference recently and argued that the investigation into Ms. Damond's death had been slowed by "uncooperative" officers in the Minneapolis Police Department—especially Noor, who had essentially refused to cooperate with the criminal investigation. "This would have been done a good deal quicker if we had gotten cooperation," Freeman stated at the news conference. Noor, who has been on paid administrative leave since the shooting, is now in custody awaiting trial.

Freeman praised the various law enforcement agencies involved with investigating the shooting, as well as members of the grand jury and prosecution team, which brought forth the charges against Noor. Expressing confidence in the investigation of the shooting, Freeman explained that he and his team now had a "nearly second-by-second understanding of what happened from the moment Ms. Damond called 911 until she was fatally shot by Officer Noor 13 minutes later."

"Despite the fact that no body-worn cameras were operating at the time of the shooting, we know that less than a minute before firing the fatal shot, Officer Noor was sitting in the passenger seat of the police cruiser," Freeman told the news media and members of the public at the press conference announcing the charges. "Noor had just typed into the squad car's computer 'Code 4.' That message, which went to the police dispatcher, meant that the officers had completed their investigation, were safe, and needed no assistance."

Seconds after Noor typed in the "Code 4" message to dispatch, the officers were startled

**Justine Rusczyk**, shown here with her then-fiance Don Damond, was gunned down for no apparent reason by a Minneapolis police officer who had less than two years of service on the force and had previously been a property manager. State prosecutor Mike Freeman said that there was no evidence that Officer Mohamed Noor should have felt threatened.

when Ms. Damond approached the police SUV.

"In the short time between when Ms. Damond approached the squad car and the time that Noor fired the fatal shot, there is no evidence that Officer Noor encountered a threat, appreciated a threat, investigated a threat, or confirmed a threat that justified his decision to use deadly force," Freeman explained while announcing the charges being brought against Noor. "Instead, Officer Noor intentionally and recklessly fired his handgun from the passenger seat, in disregard for human life. Noor was sitting where he was less able than Officer Harry to see and hear events on the other side of the squad car. Such action violates the criminal law."

The criminal charges brought against Noor were welcomed by Ms. Damond's family members and supporters, who had been fighting for an open criminal investigation into her tragic death.

"While we waited over eight months to come to this point, we are pleased with the way a grand jury and County Attorney Mike Freeman appear to have been diligent and thorough in investigating and ultimately determining that these charges are justified," the Rusczyk family in Australia and her fiancé said in a joint statement following the announcement of charges brought against Noor. ★



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# Southern Flags Are Rising Again!

• Pro-Southern activist group plans to raise 100 mega-flags across Carolinas

By Dr. Ed DeVries

For the last three years Confederate flags, monuments, memorials, and, sadly, even graves have been the target of dogmatic, left-wing activists in their war to cleanse America of everything that makes it, dare I say, “American.” President Donald Trump correctly predicted during the 2016 election that the left would not stop with erasing Confederate heritage—or at least consigning it to obscure museums. Their goal is to eliminate all of the symbols of American history that they find “politically incorrect.”

That is why, in addition to Confederate monuments and flags, efforts are now underway to remove symbols honoring historical figures like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Christopher Columbus. Legislation is pending that would change the words of the state song of Maryland. There is even a movement to do away with the national anthem.

In response, the North Carolina Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans officially began the “Flags Across the Carolinas” program. Their goal is to raise at minimum 100 “mega-sized” Confederate flags so as to have at least one “mega” flag flying prominently in each of the state’s 100 counties. A mega-flag is one that measures larger than 20 feet by 30 feet.

To make this happen, private property owners have either donated or leased tracts of land on which the Sons of Confederate Veterans can erect flag poles for the display of the Confederate flag. This strategy allows the Confederate flags to fly from poles on private property, making them harder for government agencies to remove. The tracts of private land are strategically located so that the flags are easily seen from the state’s highways.

So far, they have placed dozens of flags of various sizes throughout the state, and they have also raised three mega-flags: the first near I-95 in Godwin in Cumberland County, the second off I-40 in Burke County, and the third beside State Highway 16 in Newton in Catawba County. The Burke County flag was raised in honor of Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest. His version of the flag flies without a center star.

Commander R. Kevin Stone (of Sanford) is the leader of the North Carolina Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. He has promised that, “For every Confederate monument that is taken down, a new flag will go up in its place.”

Stone added, “What many citizens fail to understand is that the campaign from the left-wing activists is a never-ending, ideological campaign



The Confederate Sons of America (CSA) has announced an initiative they’re calling “Flags Across the Carolinas,” which will attempt to raise at least 100 mega-sized battle flags across North Carolina. Their goal is to see at least one flying in every county of the state. At left, a mega-flag is raised.

‘We’re still here, we still honor our ancestors, and we remember who we are and have been as a people.’”

to completely re-write our history and selectively cast our ancestors and forefathers as villains, despite the fact they built this country and secured the freedoms that we enjoy today.”

He went on to say, “What we see happening in our country is a frenzied effort to transform our nation. The origins of this fanaticism lie in an ideology that has been termed ‘cultural Marxism’ and its desire to remake America. Accordingly, all of our nation’s historic symbols must be either remade or removed from the public square—and erased from public memory.”

When asked why his group chose to replace the monuments with flags, Stone said, “Confederate flags are an essential part of American history and culture. They remind us of our difficult and painful past, but also of our ancestors, the great majority of whom were not slaveholders, who simply answered the call of their state, left their families and went off to war, to fight and many to die on remote battlefields—the ultimate sacrifice.”

The Flags Across the Carolinas program, according to Stone, is an organized response to this “new reality.” It is, he says, “a simple way that we, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, can say,

purpose for erecting the flags and fighting to keep Confederate symbols before the culture at large is, “to honor our Confederate ancestors. It is our sole motivation, and it is our sacred duty. We honor them by proudly displaying the symbols for which and under which they fought and died. In short, we will not allow their sacrifices to be forgotten.”

Flags Across the Carolinas hopes to soon begin raising Confederate mega-flags in each of the 17 counties that I-40 runs through in North Carolina. The cost to raise a mega-flag is about \$7,000.

The program is always interested in new property sites and encourages anyone with an interest in helping either financially or by donating the use of their land to contact the North Carolina Division through its comprehensive website at [www.ncscv.org](http://www.ncscv.org). ★

A pastor and in-demand traveling speaker, Dr. Edward DeVries is the editor of the Dixie Heritage Newsletter and a contributing editor at THE BARNES REVIEW. He is the author of 30 books including the two-volume *Glory in Grey*. Some of his other titles include *Sacred Honor*, *The Truth About the Confederate Battle Flag*, *Prayer is Simple*, *Every Member a Minister* and *Coaching Youth Baseball the Right Way*. He is also the host of THE BARNES REVIEW RADIO’s “Dixie Heritage Hour.” Please check it out at [www.BarnesReview.com](http://www.BarnesReview.com).



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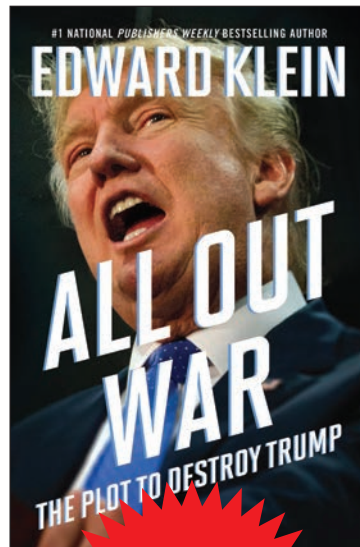


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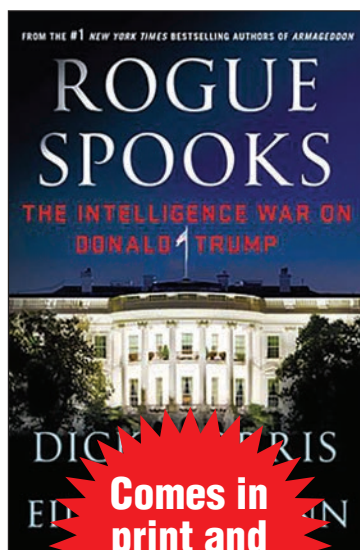
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# Is the GOP Facing Another 1930?

• Future not looking so bright for Republican Party—just take a quick look at history

By Patrick J. Buchanan

After the victory of Donald Trump in 2016, the GOP held the Senate and House, two-thirds of the governorships, and 1,000 more state legislators than they had on the day Barack Obama took office. “The Republican Party has not been this dominant in 90 years,” went the exultant claim. A year later, Republicans lost the governorship of Virginia and almost lost the legislature. Came then the loss of a U.S. Senate seat in ruby-red Alabama.

Recently, Democrats captured a House seat in a Pennsylvania district Trump carried by 20 points, and where Democrats had not even fielded a candidate in 2014 and 2016.

Republicans lately congratulating themselves on a dominance not seen since 1928, might revisit what happened to the Class of 1928.

In 1930, Republicans lost 52 House seats, portending the loss of both houses of Congress and the White House in 1932 to FDR who would go on to win four straight terms. For the GOP, the 1930s were the dreadful decade.

Is the GOP staring at another 1930? Perhaps. Unlike 1930, though, the nation has not endured a Great Crash or gone through year one of a Great Depression where unemployment hit 10% in June, when the Smoot-Hawley tariff was passed.

Today, the economy is moving along smartly. The labor force is larger than it has ever been. Workers are re-entering and seeking jobs. Black and Hispanic unemployment are at record lows. Confidence is high. Our Great Recession is 10 years in the past.

The problem for Republicans may be found in a truism: When the economy is poor, the economy is the issue. When the economy is good, something else is the issue.

A good economy did not save the GOP in the 18th Congressional District of Pennsylvania,

where the party’s tax cut was derided by Democrat Conor Lamb as a wealth transfer to the rich. Nor did Lamb hurt himself by implying Republicans were planning to pay for their tax cut by robbing Social Security and Medicare.

Republican candidate Rick Saccone reportedly stopped using the tax cut as his major issue in his TV ads that ran closest to Election Day.

Other factors point to a bad day for the GOP on Nov. 6. Republican retirees from Congress far outnumber Democrat retirees. Democrat turnout has been reaching record highs, while GOP turnout has been normal. And even in the special elections Democrats have lost, they are outperforming the Democrats who lost in 2016.

Relying upon hostility to Trump to bring out the resistance, savvy Democrats are taking on the political coloration of their districts and states, rather than of the national party of Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, and Bernie Sanders.

There is, however, troubling news from Pennsylvania for Nancy Pelosi. Lamb promised voters of “deerhunter” country he would not support San Francisco Nancy for speaker. Look for Democrats in districts Trump carried to begin talking of the “need for new leaders.”

Trump seems fated to be the primary target of attack this fall, and not only in districts Clinton carried. For an average of national polls shows that disapproval of his presidency is 14 points higher than his approval rating. And this is when the economy is turning up good numbers not seen in this century.

At the national level, Democrats will turn 2018 into a referendum on the Trump persona and Trump presidency. For while the Trump base is loyal and solid, the anti-Trump base is equally so, and appreciably larger.

Lest we forget, Hillary Clinton, not the most charismatic candidate the Democrats have put up in decades, beat Trump by nearly 3 million votes. And while Trump pierced the famous “blue wall”—the 18 states that voted Democrat in every presidential election between 1992 and 2012—



Though Donald Trump seems to have turned the economy around, demographics and history seem to be working against him and his party. Thus, Pat Buchanan expects things to get worse for the GOP.

the demographic trend that created the wall is still working.

White voters, who tend to vote Republican, continue to decline as a share of the population. Peoples of color, who vote 70% to 90% Democratic in presidential elections, are now nearly 40% of the nation. Mass migration into America is re-enforcing that trend. Moreover, millennials, who have many elections ahead of them, are more liberal than seniors, who have fewer elections ahead and are the GOP base.

But if Republicans face problems of demography, the party of “tax and tax, spend and spend, and elect and elect” appears to be reaching the end of its tether. Federal deficits are rising toward trillion-dollar levels.

The five largest items in the budget—Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, defense, interest on the debt—are rising inexorably. And there appears no disposition in either party to cut back on spending for education, college loans, food stamps, housing assistance or infrastructure.

If the Fed did not retain the power to control the money supply, then the fate of New Jersey and Illinois, and beyond, of Greece and Argentina, would become our national destiny. ★

Pat Buchanan is a writer, political commentator and presidential candidate. He is the author of a new book, *Nixon's White House Wars: The Battles That Made and Broke a President and Divided America Forever* and previous titles including *The Greatest Comeback: How Richard Nixon Rose From Defeat to Create the New Majority*. Both are available from AFP Bookstore for \$25 plus \$4 S&H.



Unfortunately for Donald Trump, the media has convinced many people he is a despicable human being.



# Reno Responsible for Waco Massacre

• Deadly fire at Waco started by strategies approved by Janet Reno's Justice Department

On the eve of the 25th anniversary of the massacre at the Branch Davidian Church near Waco, Texas, AFP continues its series of articles looking back on that terrible time when U.S. military and law enforcement waged war against a peaceful group of American citizens. This is part four of that four-part series.

By S.T. Patrick

The plan for the raid on what the mainstream media strategically called a “compound” worked its way up the chain of command to Attorney General Janet Reno on April 12, 1993. It was a two-step plan that the FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (BATF) hoped would end at step one—injecting tear gas into two areas of Mount Carmel, the Branch Davidian home and church complex outside of Waco, Texas. They had hoped that this would drive the men, women, and children out and the engagement would be short-lived. Part two of the plan to lay siege to Mount Carmel involved tearing down the outer walls in an effort to expose those inside.

Reno was not alone in her decisions. She was often consulted not only by the commanders in the



Janet Reno will always be remembered for her key role in the U.S. federal assault against the Branch Davidian church in April 1993, which resulted in the deaths of 80 innocent people, including 21 children. The operations plan approved by Reno called for an escalation of government action if the tanks involved were fired upon.

government officials. A later Justice Department report stated that the FBI convinced Reno that “(Branch Davidian leader David) Koresh was rationing water to ensure discipline.” Reno quickly abandoned the water strategy and instead asked the FBI for a written report on entrance options.

The FBI's report was received by the attorney general on April 17. She quickly gave her approval to an assault plan that would begin on April 19. What was to be a 48-hour plan lasted approximately five minutes.

“It was not law enforcement's intent that this was to be D-Day,” a later Justice Department report claimed.

At 6:02 a.m., M60A1 tanks, modified for demolition, began tearing through the walls of Mount Carmel. The tanks then began firing CS gas into the building. Shortly thereafter, in protection of their home, the residents of Mt. Carmel fired shots at the armored CEVs (combat engineering vehi-

field, but also by FBI Director William Sessions and Assistant Attorney General Webster Hubbell, a Clinton administration appointee tied to the same Arkansas scandals that would trail the president and first lady throughout their tenure in D.C.

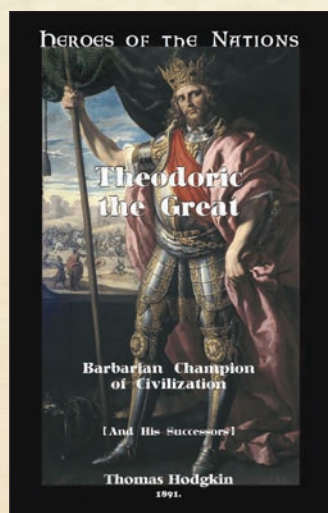
Reno suggested a scheme that would involve waiting until the water supply to the home was so depleted that the inhabitants would be thirsted out of Mount Carmel and into the hands of gov-

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## THEODORIC THE GREAT

### THE BARBARIAN CHAMPION OF CIVILIZATION

Odoacer represented the low point of Italian history. He was a German warrior who became the first king of Italy in 476 after leading the revolt that threw out the last Roman emperor in the West, Romulus Augustus. Then, after assuming total power of the empire, Odoacer did next to nothing with it. There were no grand buildings, no funding of literature, no artistic advancements, no great works of engineering, although he did terrorize his neighbors, one of whom was Theodoric, King of the Goths. After invading Italy and forcing Odoacer into Ravenna and soon thereafter obtaining his surrender, Theodoric slew Odoacer at a reconciliation banquet. Theodoric immediately began restoring ancient monuments in Rome, including the Colosseum and Theater of Pompey. He also built an impressive palace and had a massive mausoleum constructed for himself. He directed the decoration of Saint Apollinare, among



other building projects that transformed Ravenna into a great capital city. Under his rule, Ravenna soon began to look and act like the great capital it was. Theodoric was born in Pannonia in 454, after his tribe had defeated the Huns at the Battle of Nedao. From the age of 10, Theodoric had grown up as a hostage in Constantinople, receiving a privileged imperial Roman education. He succeeded his father as leader of the Pannonian Ostrogoths in 473. And just 15 years later he would find himself the ruler of the remnants of the western Roman empire as well as the Ostrogoths and Visigoths. This is his amazing story. In this classic book, written in 1891, scholar Thomas Hodgkin recounts not only Theodoric's great accomplishments, but also the unraveling of his empire upon his death. **ORDERING INFORMATION:** Softcover, 442 pages, 32 illustrations, six-page table of contents, indexed, #804, \$25 minus 10% plus \$5 S&H inside the U.S. from TBR, P.O. Box 15877, Washington, D.C. 20003



cles). The operations plan, approved by Reno, called for an escalation of government action if the tanks were fired upon. The order of the shots and the identities of the shooters would remain a controversy within the Waco research community.

Regardless of the order of shots, return fire on the part of the Davidians was a certainty. Unlike many Americans, there are those who believe in the literal protection of property rights and the right to exist as a community. When they are threatened and fired upon by others—in an official governmental capacity or not—they will fire back. Self-defense laws protect individuals from other individual intrusions, but it is assumed that individuals are simply supposed to acquiesce when the intruder is a government entity over-aggressively and mortally enforcing its will. The Branch Davidians outside of Waco believed differently.

The Justice Department report detailed Reno's reactions as those of a surprised attorney general and not as the country's leading law enforcement official who had pre-planned for all likely outcomes. In defending Reno, allowing her a human reaction to the commanders' militaristic actions, the report also made the attorney general look incompetent.

Reno "did not read the prepared statement carefully," the report said. "Nor did she read the supporting documentation. She read only a chronology." If that is true, then Reno approved fatal violence against American citizens after reading an outline in lieu of carefully studying the actual plans.

Around 11:40 a.m., after a vapor had formed from the over 400 ferret rounds fired into the home, the building caught fire. Within a half hour, Mount Carmel was destroyed and those inside had died.

Reno, President Bill Clinton, and FBI spokesmen all immediately began claiming that the Branch Davidians had started the fire. The BATF and the FBI made sure that no evidence could be investigated, just as Branch Davidian spokesman Steve Schneider said they would on March 10, over a month before the blaze.

"If anybody wanted to come here and burn the place down, kill all the people, what evidence would be left?" Schneider had asked, a month earlier.

Over the next month, Schneider made multiple

statements predicting that government agents would, indeed, burn Mount Carmel to the ground in an effort to destroy evidence.

Schneider was correct in his predictions, despite an FBI negotiator once telling him, "No, we're not going to do something like that."

In a statement as callous as Hillary Clinton's later comment regarding Muammar Qaddafi ("We came, we saw, he died."), President Clinton summed up the entire horrific tragedy at Waco in one line: "Some religious fanatics murdered themselves."

On a February 2001 episode of "Larry King Live," former White House aide Linda Tripp alleged that it was the first lady who had pressured the late Vince Foster, Mrs. Clinton's partner at Rose Law Firm and Deputy White House Counsel for the Clinton administration, to find a solution to the Waco standoff.

According to author Robert Morrow, "Foster, at Mrs. Clinton's direction, transmitted the order to move on the Branch Davidians' Waco compound, which culminated in a military style attack on the wooden building."

Mike McNulty, producer of the documentary *Waco: Rules of Engagement*, also believed Mrs. Clinton gave the orders from the White House. In 1993, and throughout the Clinton administration, Mrs. Clinton did not have an appointed or elected role in the administration. She had neither been elected, nor had she ever been confirmed by the Senate. She assumed power by proxy, the definition of a shadow government.

Regardless of who gave the orders at the White House level, Reno is on record as having approved the tactics used against the Branch Davidians. She also approved the prosecution of Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols as the only Oklahoma City conspirators, despite evidence that others, including a Middle Eastern man seen with McVeigh, were involved. In 2000, it was Reno who ordered Elian Gonzalez returned to his father's custody in Cuba. Whether or not she made warm speeches for progressive groups before her 2016 death, she is still responsible for the 80-plus lives lost at Mount Carmel, 21 of which were children. For Reno, the first woman to serve as attorney general, this is her legacy. This is her truth. ★

**S.T. Patrick** holds degrees in both journalism and social studies education. He spent ten years as an educator and now hosts the "Midnight Writer News" show. His email is STPatrickAFP@gmail.com.

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# Hearst Kidnapping Was CIA Op

• Author counters CNN propaganda; exposes how U.S. undermines dissident groups

By S.T. Patrick

Political kidnappings are rare in North America. More common in Latin America, South Asia, and Africa, they are most often used to gain political concessions, commodity control, money, notoriety or a combination of the four. Someone who may be valuable to a wealthy and powerful entity is kidnapped in exchange for something that is of value to the kidnappers.

Patricia (Patty) Campbell Hearst was an heir to the publishing fortune of William Randolph Hearst. She was valuable. The Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA) and their leader, Donald DeFreeze, wanted to make a statement that would instantly gain them notoriety through the media, a business the Hearsts knew very well.

When Hearst, a sophomore at the University of California-Berkeley, was kidnapped by members of the SLA on Feb. 4, 1979 there was reason to believe the motives were political and monetary. When no ransom demand was given to California authorities, the media began reporting the story as a political kidnapping. It quickly became the most notorious American kidnapping since the baby of Charles and Anne Lindbergh was taken in 1932. As the story unfolded, the characters, events, and history behind the kidnapping became even more bizarre than what was being reported.

In *Revolution's End: The Patty Hearst Kidnapping, Mind Control, and the Secret History of Donald DeFreeze and the SLA*, author Brad Schreiber boldly challenges what is still the accepted mainstream version of the story. It is the mainstream version that was featured on CNN's recent docuseries, *The Radical Story of Patty Hearst*. In challenging the CNN version of the story with documents and archival interviews that have been available since researcher Dick Russell revealed them in 1976, Schreiber is also challenging the work of CNN's legal analyst, Jeffrey Toobin, on whose work the CNN series was based.

While Toobin's work focuses largely on Hearst, Schreiber's research delves deeper into the history and ideologies of the SLA and DeFreeze, both of which stem from California Gov. Ronald Reagan's attempts at infiltrating left-wing political groups. California's infiltration project was led by Reagan's attorney general, Evelle Younger, as well as the CIA.

Three months before the Hearst kidnapping, the SLA had been responsible for killing Marcus Foster, the first black superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District. The killing baffled journalists and officials. The SLA had come to prominence as a radical left-wing group con-



cerned mainly about the plight of black Americans. The Foster murder created a rift between the SLA and the Black Panthers, which had formed in Oakland in 1966. It is senseless unless you view the rift as an intentionally created one, as Schreiber does.

While DeFreeze was incarcerated at Vacaville Prison, he became associated with the Black Cultural Association (BCA), a group led by UC-Berkeley professor and CIA asset Colston Westbrook. The BCA would bring white, radical students into the prison to help facilitate political and educational discussions with black inmates housed in a wing used and funded by the CIA for mind control and sociological experimentation projects.

It was through the BCA that Hearst first met the incarcerated DeFreeze. Using a fraudulent ID of friend Mary Alice Siem in a time when prison rules were much more lax, she then began sending money to DeFreeze. Hearst and two of Westbrook's other volunteers, Patricia Soltysik and Nancy Ling Perry, also engaged in sexual activity with DeFreeze while at Vacaville. DeFreeze and other prisoners targeted by Westbrook were placed on heavy doses of medication.

DeFreeze was offered a deal by the California Department of Corrections and the CIA. He would be released (portrayed as an escape) in exchange for starting a phony left-wing group—the SLA—and working in chaotic opposition to the goals of the Black Panthers and the New Left. Westbrook would serve as the control agent for DeFreeze, who had previously been used as an informant to set up the Black Panthers for the Los Angeles Police Department.

The saga of Patty Hearst was detailed in a recent CNN docuseries. Unfortunately, CNN left out some important details of the case, including how the CIA infiltrated and undermined dissident groups.

After DeFreeze left prison, he was reunited with Soltysik and Perry, who became SLA members. The group's spurious origins were known by Westbrook and DeFreeze, but not by its white, radical members.

"None of the core 10 white followers of the SLA ever knew that DeFreeze was working for the state," Schreiber said in an interview with this writer. "They believed it was a radical group, and they believed in revolution. They thought America was a racist country . . . and they thought that the Vietnam War was an immoral war. They were following a black prisoner . . . and they had no idea he was setting them up. . . . They were following DeFreeze blindly."

According to Schreiber, the kidnapping of Hearst was undertaken by the SLA because DeFreeze felt abandoned by Hearst and had animus toward her. It was, therefore, a personal kidnapping and was neither political nor random. Schreiber believes that Hearst did not expect the kidnapping, nor did she take a willing part in it.

Aside from DeFreeze, the SLA members treated Hearst well. She was already politically radical. DeFreeze employed the use of drugs, intimidation, and sex with other members to mentally coerce Hearst into participating with the SLA in the Hibernia Bank robbery and other activities.

Schreiber is often indignant at the mainstream's focus on the Hearst angle in the story. Reagan, Younger, and the CIA bear responsibility for the programs by which false left-wing groups were created in California. One of those groups, the SLA, murdered a school superintendent before engaging in a robbery of a San Francisco bank. In a later shootout with the LAPD, six SLA members were killed.

The focus of the story, to Schreiber, is the infiltration of the left, the corruption of the California Department of Corrections, the murder of school superintendent Foster, and the sad deaths of the group's committed believers.

Schreiber's point of view is a reminder that the truth of history can be found through dissecting the story of someone the mainstream media views as a minor character. Schreiber found both the truth and the true tragedy of the story within the biographies of the supposedly extraneous figures that surrounded Patty Hearst in 1974 rather than through biographies of Hearst herself. ★

S.T. Patrick holds degrees in both journalism and social studies education. He spent ten years as an educator and now hosts the "Midnight Writer News" show. His email is STPatrickAFP@gmail.com.



# Miscarriage of Justice

• 35 years in prison and counting for killing man in self-defense

By Mark Anderson

**P.F.** Lazor, 64, who once had a promising career as a singer-guitarist in a Buddy Holly tribute band, has spent the last 35 years in the California state prison system on an evidently bogus second-degree murder charge—even though the maximum sentence for that charge is 17 years.

“Nobody’s ever served that kind of time for second-degree murder,” longtime friend Ken Masat told AFP. “It’s basically life in prison.”

In 1983 in Santa Clara County, Calif., Lazor, who many called “Buddy Holly Jr.,” was in an altercation with a man, resulting in Lazor fatally shooting him in self-defense.

Lazor had his own house, which sat upon someone else’s land. But he allowed the landowner’s nephew, John Allred, to temporarily use a room in the house until Allred found his own place. After several run-ins with Allred, a known drug addict, Lazor contacted police, but they refused to write a report since Allred’s uncle had “connections.”

One day, Allred went too far and kicked in Lazor’s door, clutching a meat cleaver and what appeared to be a handgun. He attacked Lazor, who pulled his pistol and shot Allred. Lazor then called the police and an ambulance, which arrived while Allred was still alive. He died shortly thereafter.

Lazor was arrested. At trial, his lawyer turned out to be a sell-out who refused to call any of the 250 supporters, who wrote letters and offered to testify. Lazor’s best potential witnesses were subpoenaed and put on a witness list but were never called. And due to the “exclusionary rule,” none of his close friends was allowed to even observe the trial proceedings.

At one point, the attorney finally relented and claimed he’d allow Lazor to testify, but only if Lazor would strictly limit his responses to his lawyer’s questions. But Lazor never got to testify in order to show he acted in self-defense. Without an opportunity to tell his full story, Lazor was made to look like the aggressor to the jury.

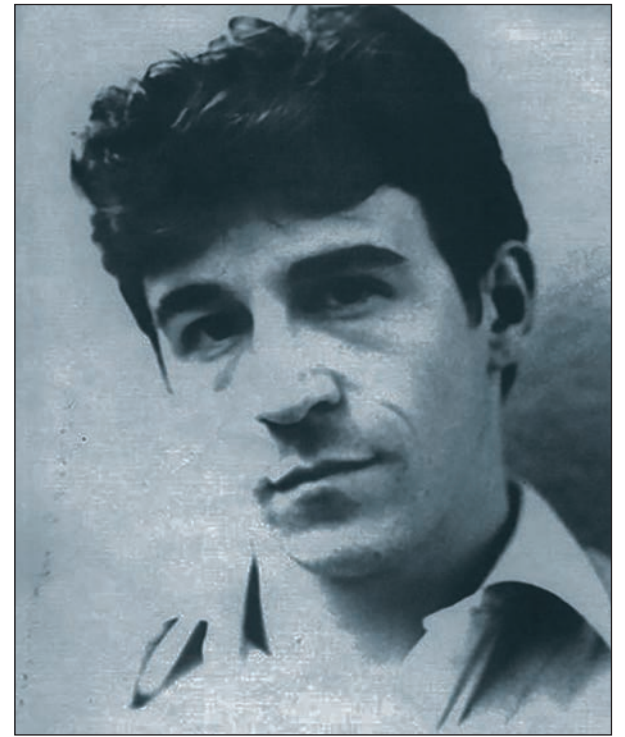
The treatment of Lazor during his three-plus decades in prison is where things have gotten particularly nasty. For instance, in Lazor’s last two parole hearings—June 6 and Nov. 16 of 2017—his parole was denied on spurious grounds, even though Lazor apparently has been a model prisoner, once having saved a fellow inmate from an attack, Masat said.

“Lazor also has a stunning personal success story prior to his incarceration, known not only as a musician but as an inventor and realtor, despite having endured extensive illnesses,” Masat noted.

“On Nov. 16, they put his parole off another five years; it’s unbelievable,” Masat said. He noted the state’s pettiness is evidenced by the fact that Lazor was denied parole last June because of some questionable 11th-hour “rule violations,” such as a disputed claim that he had merely raised his voice to a prison librarian.

So why was Lazor hit with such a draconian sentence, deplorable treatment and repeated parole denials? Masat replied that, while there aren’t any easy answers, Lazor has become something of an activist in prison, a passionate Christian with conservative views, who also happens to be an AMERICAN FREE PRESS subscriber.

“He’s been a whistleblower against the violations of his own rights and those of others,” Masat said. “Lazor’s been moved 54 times, either to a different room or a different prison. Every time he gets moved, they destroy more of his property and legal paperwork—a clear rights violation.”



**P.F. Lazor** was an amazing success story. Born into extreme poverty and battling serious childhood illnesses, by the age of eight he was already working. He later became a musician, published poet, and inventor. That all changed when he killed a man in self-defense and received pathetic legal counsel.

Moreover, several prisoners have written affidavits testifying that prison guards have frequently floated lies that Lazor had been a child molester, a dangerous accusation in any prison environment. One inmate, who’s been in California prisons for 29 years, wrote that he’s never seen anybody treated worse than Lazor has been treated. He’s just one of several inmates who’ve gone on record in Lazor’s defense, despite the personal risk to themselves from prison authorities.

Ironically, “One year after his conviction, California enacted a law (Home Protection Self-Defense Bill, Penal Code section 198.5) which [would have recognized that Lazor’s] act was not a crime, but it cannot be applied retroactively,” states a passage on the website “Free-Lazor.org.”

A ray of hope can be found in a *habeas corpus* motion Lazor recently filed, for which a hearing is pending.

“The judge did order the state to show cause as to why Lazor is being held so long,” Masat said. “Lazor has high hopes the judge will look at this more than anybody else has. It’s a disturbing case of disproportionate sentencing and kidnapping by imprisonment.”

Unless concerned citizens convince state officials of the sheer injustice of this case, it looks like Lazor could hit the 40-year mark in prison.

Write to P.F. Lazor at C73842, A4-103, P.O. Box 1050, Soledad, CA 93960, to Gov. Jerry Brown at State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814 and to Department of Corrections Director Scott Kernan, Sacramento, CA 95814. Gov. Brown’s phone is 916-445-2841 (Fax 916-558-3160); Kernan’s phone is 916-324-7308. ★

**“It’s a disturbing case of disproportionate sentencing & kidnapping by imprisonment.”**



Mark Anderson is AFP’s roving editor. He invites your thoughtful emails at [truthhound2@yahoo.com](mailto:truthhound2@yahoo.com).



# A 'Transgender' World?

American society is quietly accepting the idea that it is a natural occurrence that children born as males could wish to be female and that those born female could wish to be male. To acknowledge this idea, the word "transgender" was coined. As a result, local communities all the way to the state level have begun to write legislation permitting boys, feeling like girls, to utilize female toilets and locker rooms, and girls, feeling like boys, to utilize male toilets and locker rooms.

In Connecticut, high schools are permitting boys to be members of girls' teams, such as outdoor track. With the completion of the Winter Olympics, where every event has a female and a male team taking part, a thought came to mind. What would the International Olympic Committee do if a country wished to field a female team with biological male members? Each country has its own specific uniform, worn by both the male and the female team members; therefore, the different genders would hardly be noticed by the spectators.

The one event where team uniforms are not worn is figure skating. What would the committee do if a male, feeling like a female, wished to take part in the "pairs" event with a male partner? What

if a female, feeling like a male, took to the ice with a female partner?

It will be interesting to see just how long before these requests are made of the Olympics. Will they be pushed through like they are being forced through in the United States?

DR. BRUCE GATHY  
*Connecticut*

## Control Over America

As I remember it, AFP ran an article about an official of a "small country," who boasted that they controlled America. This control of America has been the case for over 50 years, as evident from what happened to the USS *Liberty* and its crew.

EVELYN METZGER  
*Missouri*

## Taking Over

Our Bill of Rights is pretty much gone already, destroyed by the same clowns who destroyed the Christian nation of Russia in 1917 and implemented the atheist-communist country (it never became a nation) called the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Thank goodness that



tyrannical garbage pit has now vanished, and the Russian people are much more free now than we are. Why is that the case? It is because we are being taken down by the same evil clowns that took down Russia, and they are doing it to us the same way they did it to them in 1917.

Thank goodness Hungary has found someone with real courage in Viktor Orban, who is standing up to them in his country. For more on this, read *The Hun-*

*garian Terror*, a 59-page booklet published by The Barnes Review for a first look at the situation in Hungary. David Irving also wrote a great book called *Up-riking* when Hungary rose up to throw the communists out of their country, but Khrushchev sent in the Red Army and put that one down. Orban finally tossed them out in 2011.

BOB BOWEN  
*New Jersey*

# A Possible Solution to Save the Second Amendment

The recent horrific murders in Las Vegas, Texas, and Florida portend major changes in federal legislation concerning Second Amendment issues. Bump stocks may be outlawed. Another possibility is that the age limit may be raised. Another major change will concern the federal background check.

The first point of issue is the constitutionality of such a federal check. It is clear that the original intent of the framers of the Constitution was that, if a background check is deemed desirable, it is to be imposed on the state level and not the federal. As Associate Justice Antonin Scalia noted, the framers would have abhorred the concept of the federal check. But, as a practical matter, until the internal structure of the nine-member Supreme Court alters to consist of Scalia clones, we are stuck with said check. For now, the central question is, how can the federal check be modified and improved?

The federal check is in many ways analogous to the mandatory sentencing guidelines. The operative word here is "mandatory"; the word "guidelines" is just meaningless window dressing. Judges have essentially minimal discretion to bypass the guidelines. These guidelines are surely unconstitutional, but, for now, five of the nine Supreme Court judges have agreed to

uphold them. The central problem of the federal background check is identical to that of the mandatory sentencing rules, that is to say, it is inflexible. The way to solve the problem is to modify federal law to give judges more options.

For example, the federal background check mandates that anyone convicted of any type of felony must forever be prohibited from purchasing a gun. Federal law makes no distinction between violent and non-violent felonies. What happens to an adolescent convicted of a felony after being caught shoplifting minor items worth a few dollars? Such a person is in an entirely different class from that of a criminal who had been convicted of murder or child molestation. However, federal law treats them in exactly the same way. What about Charles Colson, convicted of a non-violent felony due to his peripheral involvement in the Watergate burglary, who, after his release from prison, spent the remainder of his life as a prominent minister? Was he a "dangerous individual"?

The federal background check also prohibits people convicted of domestic violence from purchasing guns. But the law makes no distinction whatsoever between the different levels of domestic violence. Federal law treats former Trump advisor Steve Bannon, arrested on do-

mestic violence charges after being accused of grabbing his then-wife's arm and twisting it, in an identical way as the Texas church gunman, who killed 26 victims after being convicted of beating his one-year-old stepson so severely that his skull was fractured. Under federal law, these two people are treated equally as prohibited individuals.

What about mental illness? One huge problem is that there is no legally accepted definition of exactly what "mental illness" is or even if mental illness exists in the first place. If you believe—as some do—that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated by a massive conspiracy masterminded by the retired chief of the FBI's Chicago office (then living in New Orleans) with the participation of elements of the U.S. Secret Service as well as the CIA and Mafia, does that mean you are mentally ill? If one takes the position that mental illness exists, then, what of it? Eminent forensic psychiatrist Louis Kraus of Chicago's Rush University Medical College states, "the vast majority of gun violence is not attributable to mental illness. . . . The concept that mental illness is a precursor to violent behavior is nonsense." Congress might define "mental illness" in one way; a judge might have a different opinion. But, under existing federal law, the judge does not have the

ability to override the mandatory federal definition.

We would like to suggest a compromise that will provide the basis for future legislation. Retain or even expand the federal background check but with one single addendum: Give federal judges flexibility by giving them the ability to override the prohibition by considering the merits of each individual case. If a citizen, by his or her personal history, is on the federal list of prohibited people and is therefore prevented from purchasing a gun, said citizen should be able to file a lawsuit in federal court to say, "While it is true that I am a member of a prohibited class, there are special circumstances that the court should consider"—and the federal judge would have the option of overriding the prohibition on a case-by-case basis.

It is essential that the National Rifle Association's executive board and its Institute for Legislative Action should immediately propose such reform legislation for its collaborators in Congress. For the moment, both branches of Congress are controlled by Second Amendment supporters, but that will probably change after the forthcoming elections this November. The time to act is now.

JUSTINIAN SELDES & CLIFTON WELLMAN  
*New York*



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Uncle Sam and  
my favorite charity,  
guess who my IRA  
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Your IRA could cost your heirs?**

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There is a charitable alternative that can benefit both your family and AMERICAN FREE PRESS. Make AFP's partner in freedom, the non-profit FOUNDATION TO DEFEND THE FIRST AMENDMENT, the beneficiary of all or part of your retirement plan. Any remaining balance will come to FDFA & AFP tax-free. Then leave other assets like cash, stock or real estate that is not subject to so many taxes to your heirs.

**We will receive a gift, and they will receive more from your estate. It's a good choice to make.**

For a free estate planning newsletter contact:

**Christopher J. Petherick**

**202-544-5977 • 1-888-699-6397**

**Email: [chris@americanfreepress.net](mailto:chris@americanfreepress.net)**

Write:

**FDFA Wills & Trusts Department**

**16000 Trade Zone Avenue, Unit 406**

**Upper Marlboro, MD 20774**

Please leave your name, phone number and a time of day to call. We'd like to make sure the estate planning newsletter arrived.

**THE FINE PRINT:**

This publication is intended to provide general gift planning information. Our organization is not qualified to provide specific legal, tax or investment advice, and this publication should not be looked to or relied upon as a source for such advice. Consult with your own legal and financial advisors before making any gift.

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