

A Hollywood Story Line!

By Sam Paredes

Executive Director of Gun Owners of California

California bought a Hollywood story line: the evil Everything's For Sale Davis horde had laid waste state finances, the townsfolk recruited a handy Action Hero looking for a new adventure to clean up the mess, lots of noisy fireworks ensued, the bad guys were trounced and the Hero firmly installed as sheriff. Cue credits, end music, and the cheering crowd departs glowing with "they all lived happily ever after" contentment.

But Sacramento isn't Hollywood. In politics, your reward for winning isn't peace, it's war redoubled. The Action Hero, still in celluloid mode, tried to make peace with the bad guys he'd just trounced, but said bad guys, ignoring the script, refused to stay trounced. Instead they laid long-term plans to recapture control of state politics. They understood what a lot of voters and the Action Hero did not: that holding office is merely step one; victory depends on follow through, perseverance, on knowing, as Thomas Jefferson said, "that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance".

While the Hero set out to charm and woo and negotiate, his enemies accepted (without thanks) his peace offering (like the nonsensical .50 BMG firearm ban), planned quietly their counter-attack, and awaited their chance. The fans, also still in celluloid mode, went along with this disappointing sequel mainly because they loved the original so much.

Then: the second sequel. Our Hero sees he is in deep kimchee. Rather than end California's financial woes, his bonds merely bail out the structural forces driving the state into the red. He tries half-heartedly (till nearly the end) to reignite the fire of the recall that his first sequel deliberately extinguished. The people, having lost track of the convoluted plot line, boo his special Election showdown scene. Suddenly the Hero sees his reform movement has been "terminated"!

So what does a good action hero do after a flop? Change directors and create a new character. Enter Susan Kennedy who, unlike our Hero, has long known

that Sacramento isn't Hollywood. And the people whose recall votes called for John Ford to direct? Alas, they end up with Michael Moore.



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New Firearms to be Added to List of Banned Assault Weapons

By Gwen Friesen and Sam Paredes

(Editor's note: The following notice was recently released by radical anti-gun California Attorney General Bill Lockyer's Department of Justice regarding new firearms that will be added to the "Series" list of banned so-called assault weapons. We are sharing this information with our members not because we agree with it (as a matter of fact we believe that the DOJ is overstepping its legislative authority with this) but because we want you to know what they are up to. This is an issue that most assuredly will be challenged in the court by the gun owning community. Under any circumstances we encourage all of our members and friends to be very cautious until this matter is resolved.)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

California Department of Justice Information Regarding the Sale/Possession of Newly Identified AR-15/AK 47 "Series" Firearms

The Department of Justice (hereafter "the Department") has received numerous contacts from the public and firearms industry personnel regarding the legality of various AR-15/AK 47 "series" style firearms that have not yet been identified as "series" assault weapons by the Department. The Department is also aware of the recent high volume of sales of these firearms.

The Department has the statutory authority to identify "series" assault weapons. In 2000, the California Supreme Court upheld that authority in *Kasler v. Lockyer* (2000) 23 Cal. 4th 472. The Department updated the list of "series" weapons in 2000 (as "Category 2" assault weapons), shortly after the *Kasler* decision.

The California Supreme Court reiterated in 2001 that "the Attorney General has the

authority to determine that certain semiautomatic firearms are assault weapons by simply identifying them as such in the list published by the Attorney General in the California Code of Regulations...two types of firearms defined in Penal Code (PC) section 12276 by the use of the term series, namely the AK-47 series and the Colt AR-15 series." *Harrott v. County of Kings* (2001) 25 Cal. 4th 1138, 1155.

Accordingly, the Department is currently in the process of identifying those firearms in the state that are variations, with minor differences, of AR-15/AK 47 "series" weapons. Once this process is complete, the Department will promulgate a list and file it with the Secretary of State's office. Concurrently, the Department will begin updating the Assault Weapon Identification Guide which is currently available via the Department's website at <http://ag.ca.gov/firearms/forms/index.html>. Once the list of newly identified "series" weapons is filed with the Secretary of State, citizens who possess those weapons

will have 90 days to register them with the Department of Justice.

Newly identified "series" weapons cannot legally have the features listed in PC section 12276.1 when they are registered. Those features cannot legally be added after the firearms are registered as assault weapons. The PC section 12276.1 features have been banned since January 1, 2000, when Senate Bill 23 went into effect. The public was notified of the prohibition on the specified features many years ago.

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Legislative Report

2006

By Gwen Friesen

New bills introduced this year so far address the issues of employees with firearms in their vehicles, street gangs carrying firearms, personal identifying information when purchasing a firearm, and a call for a study to be done by the University at Sacramento.

AB 1912 is authored by Assemblyman Bill Maze as a protection of the employee who stores legally a firearm in their vehicle. The bill prohibits an employer from firing an employee or refusing to hire an applicant because that employee or applicant has a firearm in their vehicle at the work place.

SB 1222 adds a variety of crimes specifically addressing criminal street gangs. The law already defines criminal gang activity. This bill changes the definition by adding prohibitions for possessing, carrying concealed, and carrying loaded firearms. It is authored by Republican Senator Dick Ackerman

Senator Dennis Hollingsworth has introduced two bills so far. SB 1239 speaks to the transfer process in protecting personal identity information. SB 1192 calls for an impact study of firearm laws regarding violence and crime when involving firearms.

Bills from last year that were turned into "two year bills" are residing in committees or houses and can be dealt with any time during the year up to August. These bills include the micro-stamping (AB 352) and bullet serialization bills (SB 357), as well as the vetoed bill AB 996. The Governor did well by vetoing the Ammunition Storage bill, but the legislature can take a vote to overturn the veto. Everything hinges on whether the anti-gun radicals feel they have the votes to proceed.

Cover Story cont . . .

The registration period for assault weapons with those characteristics (Category 3 assault weapons) ended on December 31, 2000. Because *non-series* assault weapons with PC section 12276.1 features may not be offered for sale, manufactured, imported, or possessed in California, it follows that newly registered "*series*" weapons may not have the features listed in PC section 12276.1, either.

The prohibition on the features listed in PC section 12276.1 is consistent with current DOJ policy that named "*series*" weapons are illegal, unless registered, regardless of whether they have the PC section 12276.1 features. It is also consistent with the intent of the California state legislature to ban assault weapons, expressed in 1991 when PC section 12276(f) was enacted.

This section is declaratory of existing law, as amended, and a clarification of the law and the Legislature's intent which bans the weapons enumerated in this section, the weapons included in Section 12276.5, and any other models which are only minor variations of those weapons with minor differences, regardless of the manufacturer [emphasis added].

It should be noted that individuals who timely registered "Category 1" and "Category 2" assault weapons were allowed to keep or add the PC section 12276.1 features on their firearms. Those generic features were not illegal during the registration period for Category 1 assault weapons. In August of 2000, when the Department identified the Category 2 "*series*" weapons, it was legal to register weapons with those characteristics as Category 3 assault weapons. Firearms with those features could no longer be registered as of January 1, 2001.

Therefore, newly identified "*series*" (Category 4) weapons likewise cannot have those features.

Registrants of newly identified series weapons cannot legally add PC section 12276.1 features to those firearms. The Department intends to enforce this restriction through the assault weapon registration process. Registration acknowledgment letters will include an admonition to registrants that adding prohibited features to newly registered assault weapons will invalidate the registration. The basis for valid registration will rest solely on the fact that the Department identifies the receivers for these firearms as variations, with minor differences, of already controlled AR-15/AK 47 "*series*" weapons. All additional features of the newly identified "*series*" weapons must conform with current California law.

Firearm manufacturers, wholesalers and dealers who misinform the public about the ability to legally add prohibited features to these newly listed firearms risk criminal prosecution. They could also face civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per violation under the state's Unfair Practices Act (California Business & Professions Code section 17000 et seq.).

This information will be distributed to criminal justice agencies throughout the state, as well as to firearm dealers listed on the Department's Centralized List, via the formal Information Bulletin process.

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Washington Report

By John Velleco
Gun Owners of America

Sen. McCain introduces bill to keep gun owners in the dark

(Washington, D.C.) – Sen. John McCain is at it again.

The senior senator from Arizona has worked hard to earn an F-rating from Gun Owners of America.

Although at one time McCain voted pro-gun (he voted against the Brady bill in 1993 and Clinton's semi-auto ban in 1994), he has since become one of the most outspoken leaders of the anti-gun movement.

Sen. McCain has in recent years joined forces with notoriously anti-gun senators Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and Chuck Schumer (D-NY) to regulate private sales of firearms at gun shows.

The supporters of McCain's 2003 gun show bill included the who's who of the anti-gun movement because they understand the significance of empowering the federal government to grant permission before two private citizens can buy or sell a legal product.

McCain came close to having his bill pass into law when it was added as an amendment to a larger bill in 2004, but the underlying bill was ultimately defeated.

McCain also supported a measure last year requiring gun dealers to provide a trigger lock with every handgun sold. This amounts to a 'gun tax' on all handgun purchases and pushes gun owners ever closer to being required to 'lock-up-their-safety' in their own homes.

During his 2000 presidential bid, McCain also came out in favor of an outright ban on small, inexpensive handguns.

With such an anti-gun record in his wake, it is little wonder, then, that Sen. McCain's number one legislative priority is to silence groups like Gun Owners of America and, more importantly, to keep GOA's grass roots members in the dark.

In 2002, Sen. McCain teamed up with anti-gun Sen. Russ Feingold (D-WI) to squelch the First Amendment rights of gun owners and other Americans.

Their 'Incumbent Protection Act' stifles the ability of organizations like GOA to criticize elected officials within a certain timeframe before an election. Ironically, while the First Amendment has been interpreted to protect child pornography, political speech is under a congressionally mandated and obviously self-serving gag order.

This suits Sen. McCain just fine since he knows the media is unlikely to make an issue of his gun control record during his upcoming bid for president in 2008.

While it's no surprise that the mainstream media ignores the big government tendencies of candidates like McCain, it's imperative for watchdog organizations like Gun Owners of America to be able to freely communicate with the American people.

GOA has already been hampered in its ability to communicate to the public, but McCain, not content with the damage he has already inflicted upon the First Amendment, has struck again with another bill to shield politicians from the electorate.

In an effort to reap political advantage from the current controversies in Washington, McCain has introduced S. 2128 – the so-called Lobbying Transparency and

Accountability Act.

In this bill, McCain again targets his wrath on groups like GOA, requiring them to register with the federal government "grassroots" communications to its membership and forces groups to file twice as many frivolous reports.

Sen. McCain would rather shine the spotlight on GOA and YOU, rather than shine the spotlight on himself.

John McCain knows that in each session of Congress, there are some 8,000 bills introduced in both the House and Senate. The major media reports on only a miniscule number of these. Radio talk show hosts and Internet news services do a little better, but no one source covers everything that might be of interest to gun owners.

The concerned gun owner relies on groups like GOA to report to them what's being introduced, what's moving, how are their elected officials voting and what can they do about it.

This is the very type of communications Sen. McCain wants to eliminate. He would rather be the one to tell you how he is voting and why. He doesn't want the accountability of the 'watchdog' group.

The American people are going to hear a lot more in the months leading up to the next election about so-called campaign finance reform, and Sen. McCain will be leading the charge.

Gun Owners of America will be keeping a watchful eye on S. 2128 and, much to the chagrin of John McCain, communicating with millions of American gun owners on ways they can help defeat this atrocity.



POLITICS AND POLICY

Van Tran Views on Crime and Guns...

By Assemblyman Van Tran, 68th District



Nina Sloan was alone in her East St. Louis, IL home on a Wednesday evening. 87 years old and suffering from arthritis, Sloan must have appeared an easy target. Around 10pm, intruders attempted to invade her home by breaking down the door. Sloan pulled out her .38 special and fired two shots, scaring off the intruders.

Shortly before midnight Pakistani immigrant Uzair Khan was closing up his convenience store in Macon, GA. That morning's local headlines included a story about a convenience store owner gunned down at work the night before. Suddenly, a 17 year-old barges in waving a gun and demanding money. Khan quickly handed over the cash drawer, but the intruder was unsatisfied and wouldn't leave. With the burglar acting increasingly erratic and Khan in fear for his safety, he pulled his own gun out and shot the intruder, who ran off.

You've heard these stories many times, but they are more than mere anecdotes.

Guns are used over 2 million times a year to stop crimes. More than five times as often as used to commit crimes (Los Angeles Times, 3/30/01).

The Left is relentless in their efforts to restrict, ban, and confiscate guns from law-abiding citizens. Travesties are highlighted to coerce public opinion and force action from legislatures. It seems every night, local news highlights a case of gun-crime.

When they're not banning a gun, they are

taxing ammunition. Suing manufacturers is the newest strategy. Any tactic is acceptable if it advances their radical agenda to limit firearms.

What this does is leave law abiding citizens defenseless. The home-alone grandma and the convenience store employee.

Compare two dramatically different examples from Europe. In 1997, the United Kingdom enacted a strict gun control law banning handguns. Instead of a decrease in the number of gun-crimes, there was a dramatic increase of almost 40% in the first 3 years. In Switzerland, all men age 20 to 42 are required to keep firearms at home, weapons are carried openly and children are frequently involved in shooting competitions. Crime rates are incredibly low, and almost half the crime is committed by non-resident foreigners ('criminal tourists').

The record of U.S. states like Vermont (with common gun ownership) and nations like Switzerland is clear, possession does not create violence.

Fighting crime is an important task of government, one of its highest priorities. Criminals who use guns should receive tough penalties including mandatory sentencing. But it is a mistake to scapegoat law-abiding citizens by trying to limit their Constitutional rights to bear arms. Government should not punish the rest of us for the sins of the few.

Too long has America tried to shift blame. Negligent parents. Drug addiction. Peer pressure.

This is a society based in individual

responsibility. The opportunity to succeed must be tied to the possibility of failure. Removing blame is a failed attempt to exercise responsibility. When somebody uses a gun to commit a crime, the criminal deserves to be punished. Punishing everybody by taking away their rights only serves to limit the culpability of the criminal.

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BILL SIMON

Good Guys - Bad Guys

FREE'DOM, n.

A state of exemption from the power or control of another; liberty; exemption from slavery, servitude or confinement. Freedom is personal, civil, political, and religious.

Webster's 1787 Dictionary

Are we free or are we slaves?

If the state can control guns, then it controls freedom. Thus, we are not free at all -- we actually are subject to a present day form of slavery. The danger of this occurring was evident to our founding fathers, to such a degree that both Federalists and the anti-Federalists included the protection of unfettered ownership and use of firearms in the U.S. Constitution. Wise beyond all measure - to prevent future tyrants from stealing the freedom that they won with their blood and the blood of their families the Second Amendment became our nation's first protection against a government gone awry.

215 years later, many have forgotten the intent of our founding fathers. In fact, I

have witnessed this first hand, face to face when testifying before members of the legislature. Their eyes all but glaze over when I mention the guarantees provided by our Constitution. Believing it is a "living, breathing document," they simply explain that our founding fathers have little relevance today, and besides, today's elected officials just "know better."

With all due respect, I know that many of our past and present legislators have an undying love for our founders and the big three - the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, but there have been but a few standouts who deeply understand the minds and thoughts of our founders and who could reduce any political argument down to the simplest of terms - freedom or slavery. Some might

argue that the liberals actually get this point, although from the flip side - they don't seem to mind if we are slaves to the government, whether it is in the form of gun control, bondage to taxation and the degradation of our individual rights. Scary thought having these people with a stranglehold on the State Legislature.

To those who truly understand the concept of freedom, I am profoundly grateful. One present day beacon is Senator Tom McClintock. A statesman, he is uniquely placed in a position where he may become Lt. Governor...we who believe in freedom should be so fortunate...

Sam Paredes is Executive Director of Gun Owners of California. For more information go to www.gunownersca.com.

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The Richardson Report cont . . .

Actions have consequences, particularly when scalps are taken in elections.

That brings us to where we now are. The liberals are out for Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum's scalp. If they get it who will speak for us again? If Santorum prevails and the Republicans can make gains to offset their losses in the Senate and the House it may break the back of the left. Already the Democrats have been divided over the Alito nomination – they are being faced with the choice of pleasing the left-wing groups which finance their elections, and alienating middle America or angering the liberal groups. Some of those Democrats in middle America have voted for Alito to preserve their Senate seats. What is done between now and 2006 will determine what happens in the 2006 elections – and beyond. Will the Democrats make gains and move toward taking power and stop the next Supreme Court nominee and stop conservative initiatives altogether or can we break their backs and move forward?

The Democrats and the left are looking toward history to regain power. Their example is Newt Gingrich. They think that Gingrich is the model to sweep back into power. It is true that Newt went after Speaker James C. Wright on ethics charges in the 1980's and that Jim Wright reluctantly resigned. Ironically, it was not the ethics charge that did him in but rather he was forced by outside groups not to permit a pay raise for his colleagues. There was not a huge gain in seats by the Republicans as a result of the Wright resignation. Rather this came about in 1994 later on because the people were afraid of radical change in health care and the atmosphere. The time was ripe, the public was looking for change. The difference between now and then is the Republicans developed a positive policy agenda in 1994 to offer the public while the Democrats of today do not offer an agenda at all. They are banking their whole future in 2006 upon the accusation of the Republicans that Republicans have created "a culture of corruption." This may help them. The Republicans need to produce ethics and

lobbying reforms that makes sense – to keep their eye on the ball and enact more legislation in which the public is interested and which will affect people's lives.

So what is to be done in 2006? First, we must define the terms of the debate and get votes on issues that will motivate the base, including the three pillars of social policy, economic policy and foreign and defense policy. We began that process on January 27, 2006 with our sponsorship of the first Conservative State of the Union held in our offices. The three pillars of the coalition were represented by Tony Perkins, President of the Family Research Council; former Governor John M. Engler of Michigan, President of the National Association of Manufacturers; and Frank J. Gaffney, Jr., President of the Center for Security Policy. The discussion was moderated by yours truly and televised on C-SPAN. This is just the beginning. We must prod our leaders to make sure they bring up issues of vital concern to the social, economic and foreign policy constituencies so that they will be motivated to get out and vote in 2006.

Secondly, we must communicate effectively to our three pillars of constituency the accomplishments and critical importance of re-electing those incumbents who champion our causes, most importantly, Senator Santorum. The left is gunning for him and if we let them prevail it will set back the cause immeasurably because others will become reluctant to lead.

Third, we must start now to punish and take scalps from those who voted against Justice Alito for the Supreme Court. The more we do now and the more effective we are the better President Bush will be able to move another conservative to the Supreme Court before or after November 2006. We need to prepare now in case there is another vacancy. Deaths or retirements can occur at any time, as we have seen in recent months.

The other day I had reached the point where

I thought what is the purpose of continuing the fight in Washington when the Republicans have not kept so many promises from 1994 to change the Washington way. Then I went to the White House for the swearing in of Justice Alito and felt we have made a difference.

I have swallowed hard over the Republican lack of spending control and neglect of the immigration problem, among other issues. I am not satisfied with the situation. Ever since I came to Washington I have felt it was my role and duty to prod our nation's leaders to do what was right for the country. I have been doing so from President Nixon's time in office to the present. I pledge to you in 2006 to get the Republicans to keep the promises that they made when they asked the American people to give them the power to govern. As I have said, 2006 comes down to who will win the battle for power. What ever issue is paramount to you as a conservative will go forward or backward depending on what happens in November, so the focus must start now. *End of Weyrich letter.*

I agree with Paul that 2006 is a pivotal year. This year's election is critical to the gun movement. The left-wing, anti-gun, Democrat leadership are dumping verbal, lying bilge upon pro-gun conservative Republicans. They're desperate and will use any tactic to regain office---the truth be damned! We gunners are used to being attacked and we know how to fight back. Let's pray and work so others may share our strength! This can be a great year for us, it is the time that we can beak the political backs of our opponents. It's a time to fight.



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The Richardson Report

By Senator H.L. Richardson (ret.)

GOC's Founder and Chairman

A Letter from Paul Weyrich

In the mid 1980's, one of the top conservative leaders in the nation said to me, "Bill, if all the top conservative leadership in America were in a jet airliner whose jets had just flamed out and only one parachute was available—I know we would all give it to Paul." I, without hesitation, agreed. Paul Weyrich is a great friend to the gun movement, a true friend to the Constitution and a good friend of mine. He also is a knowledgeable insider on what daily happens in Washington. He just recently sent me this informative letter on the 2006 elections. I immediately called him and asked permission to share it with my fellow gun owners. He graciously agreed.

February 3, 2006

Dear Bill:

Forty years ago I was hired to come to Washington, D.C. by former Senator Gordon Allott of Colorado. Many things have changed since 1966. In 1966 President Johnson and Congress were enacting his "Great Society" program. The Senate and House of Representatives were overwhelmingly dominated by Democrats and liberals. The Warren Court was inflicting its social revolution on the country. It was a lonely time for conservatives.

We have worked hard and made much progress since that time. Today, 2006, we have a Republican President in George W. Bush – 55 Republicans in the Senate and a narrow Republican majority in the House of Representatives. There has been some measure of accomplishment in moving the conservative agenda forward with economic growth policies reducing taxation, the confirmation of John Roberts and Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court, and going after the radical Islamic terrorists who want to

destroy our way of life. Of course, much more needs to be done.

I believe 2006 represents a pivotal year in our country's history. As the past two Presidential elections have demonstrated, the country remains divided in the direction that we should take. The stakes in Washington for the direction are exceptionally high. The liberals have lost the Presidency, the Senate and the House of Representatives. While they no longer have control, the margins are not great and along with the liberal media and some liberal Republicans you have a stand-off in power in many cases. The liberals cannot stand the present situation. With the elevation of Justices Roberts and Alito to the Supreme Court, liberals now are on the verge of losing the courts as well. That is why there will be an enormous struggle for power in 2006. The left is determined to take back power. They know one more Supreme Court Justice on the Court would create a conservative majority. They also know how to use power to advance their agenda and they are going to throw everything at the Republicans to take back the House and the Senate in 2006 and lay the ground work for 2008. If they succeed in taking one or both Houses of Congress you would see investigations to destroy their opposition and retake total control of power in 2008. If liberals gain a sufficient number of seats, and particularly if they take over the House of Representatives, they will move to impeach President Bush. Already Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, liberal bloggers, and leftwing Members of Congress are calling for impeachment. As much as I may disagree with the President on some issues, he does not deserve that treatment and it would be a disaster for America. It would tear our country apart and destroy what we have accomplished. Even if the liberals do not succeed in taking control of the House and the Senate, but are able to gain seats in both bodies it would have

significant consequences for the foreseeable future.

Let's say in 2006 the Democrats gain eight to ten seats in the House of Representatives and have a net gain of two to three seats in the Senate. What will that mean? It will mean in the House of Representative almost all the conservative initiatives will be stopped in their tracks by the Democrats and the 20 moderate to liberal Republicans who will represent this balance of power in the House. You will have actual gridlock in the House, with an ungovernable majority. Let's say there are 52 Republican Senators after 2006. The liberals will become even more emboldened than they are today. Let's say President Bush has another Supreme Court vacancy. In these circumstances the left will not allow any conservatives to be affirmatively voted for – with a majority of Democrats and a few liberal Republicans denying that opportunity. And they will not hesitate to use the filibuster if that is what it takes to defeat a conservative nominee. It all will come down to power and who takes scalps and who is punished for their behavior.

Let's be specific. The work that has been done over the past few years has had an impact. In 2004 a number of conservative organizations went after Senator Tom Daschle in his re-election bid. They made a difference in Daschle's defeat. That has had a major impact on today's events. It is not an accident that Senator Tim Johnson of South Dakota and Kent Conrad of North Dakota voted to confirm Justice Alito. It is because they know the same thing that happened to Daschle could happen to them. Furthermore, because Republicans have taken West Virginia in the last two presidential elections, Senator Robert Byrd decided to vote to confirm Justice Alito for the Supreme Court.

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