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**Folder Title:**

Tuesday, May 18, 1999 [2]

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

5-18-99

99 APR 22 05:44

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1999

*Copied*

*Ibarra*

*Podesta*

RECOMMENDED PHONE CALL

**TO:** Patricia Holloway (R), Jefferson County Commission Chair

303/271-8505 (O)

303/278-2626 (H)

**DATE:** April 22, 1999

**RECOMMENDED BY:** Mickey Ibarra, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

**PURPOSE:** To touch base with County Commissioner Holloway.

**BACKGROUND:** You last spoke to Commissioner Holloway on Tuesday, April 20-  
the day of the shooting.

**TALKING POINTS:** As this tragedy unfolds, I want to thank you for your commitment  
and your service to Jefferson County.

I am working with the Departments of Justice, Education, Treasury  
FEMA and Health and Human Services to determine the  
appropriate response. (See attached)

I have sent Attorney General Reno to Jefferson County today to  
review our response to your needs personally and report to me.

Is there anything more we should be doing to respond to the people  
of Jefferson County?

The Vice President is planning to attend the Memorial Services  
Sunday afternoon.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Mickey Ibarra (6-7060)

April 21, 1999  
As of: 7:20 PM

## **MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION**

**FROM:** THURGOOD MARSHALL, JR.  
KRIS M. BALDERSTON

**SUBJECT:** Agency Efforts on behalf of Littleton, Colorado School Shootings

\* Connotes new information

### **INCIDENT UPDATE**

According to Sheriff Steve Davis, there are fifteen (15) confirmed fatalities; two of which include the suspects. Of the fifteen, eleven (11) are male and four (4) are female. One of the victims is reported to be an adult. In addition, thirty (30) explosive devices were found in the school, one suspect's vehicle in the school parking lot, and in the suspects' residence. Investigators will enter the school this morning and early afternoon to conduct a search and to take photos. After the photos and first search is complete, local officials will commence a major investigation involving agents from several jurisdictions. Sheriff Davis also reported that he will update the press every hour on the half hour. His last statement was at 10:30a.m.

### **AGENCY EFFORTS**

#### **The Department of Education**

\* The Department of Education reiterated their commitment toward helping to fund long term costs associated with counseling services for students and school officials.

Secretary Riley called the Jefferson County School Superintendent this morning to offer any assistance to the community. Specifically, the Secretary outlined joint efforts between the Department of Education, Justice, and HHS to provide crisis counselors and any other assistance that is needed. Additionally, Secretary Riley and the Department of Education (DOEd) provided local officials with contact names and numbers for those officials seeking federal assistance. The DOEd has made the following contacts:

- William Molonoy, Chief State School Officer, Colorado: Judith Johnson called Mr. Molonoy and offered assistance; DOEd will follow-up this afternoon.
- Susan Goren, President, National Association of School Psychologists: Susan offered help of NASP in providing assistance to the school system.

- Jenelle Kruger, Safe and Drug Free Schools Program Coordinator, Colorado: State Education Agency: Assistance of SDFS Program was offered.

- Marleen Wong, Director of Mental Health, Los Angeles Public Schools: Marleen has been instrumental in helping various communities that have experienced crisis similar to Colorado. Marleen offered her help in this effort.

- Kathryn Thurman, Director, Office for Victims of Crime, Department of Justice. OVC and SDFS have joint agreement with National Office for Victims of Crime to form crisis response teams and send those teams where they are needed. Kathryn has been working with community victim advocates and feels that the community is very well prepared to deal with this crisis.

Throughout this afternoon, DOEd is in contact with the Superintendent of Jefferson County schools and find out what assistance is needed. DOEd can offer the following:

- Identification of persons who can provide crisis counseling assistance and payment to get those persons to Colorado.
- Identification of persons who have experienced similar tragedies to provide "hands on" help in days immediately following incident. We can pay for travel and per diem of these persons.
- Identification of persons who can help the school district plan a long-term recovery effort which DOEd is currently working on in Springfield, Oregon. DOEd will pay the costs of getting people to Colorado.
- Identification of Security Experts. Often after such a shooting a school district wants to do a thorough review of its school safety plans, policies, etc. DOEd can help identify a person(s) to conduct such a review and will pay costs of getting person to Colorado.

### **The Department of Treasury**

\* Treasury is sending two (2) chaplains and between 4-5 agents who have specific training and expertise with trauma situations and counseling for law enforcement personnel, specifically ATF and police, and other first responders. These teams have been used during the Waco, Oklahoma City, and TWA crash incidents. These agents will provide peer support based on first hand knowledge and experience in dealing with the stresses that officials will feel immediately and long term. This team's expertise is also available to anyone else needing such counseling

According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), 13 ATF investigators are on the scene in addition to two (2) canine handlers and two (2) explosive enforcement officers. ATF was asked by the County Sheriff to assist in clearing the scene of explosive devices and was concluded at 1:30am Denver time. Seven (7) destructive devices were found in the trunk of one suspect's vehicle and 12 small devices were found inside the school. ATF's crime scene mapping system has also been requested by the County Sheriff. ATF will also be involved in tracing firearms described as two (2) sawed-off shotguns, one handgun and one carbine. In addition, ATF will help canvass explosive licenses in an effort to determine who purchased explosives related to this incident. ATF will send a peer support team, including two chaplains, to provide services to the victims, witnesses and investigators.

## **The Department of Justice**

Along with the ATF, FBI agents are on the ground providing technical assistance to local law enforcement officials. They are not active in the investigation as it is considered a local effort at this point. Additionally, these agents may provide added security to the local hospitals and funerals if requested and needed.

## **The Federal Emergency Management Agency**

The FEMA State Director is contacting the local officials to assess needs in dealing with the ongoing community relations initiatives. FEMA officials involved in the Jonesboro incident have been put in contact with the county sheriff in Littleton. These FEMA personnel will provide guidance and expertise to those in Littleton. Two (2) FEMA Public Affairs officials will travel to Colorado to work with state and county officials.

## **The Department of Health and Human Services**

\* Services are being used quite heavily with hundreds of parents and students receiving counseling in various centers set up throughout the surrounding area. HHS expressed concern from officials in Colorado about the ripple effect on surrounding school students indirectly impacting students. School students in proximity to Columbine are expressing concerns by students with regard to their own safety in their schools. The short-term efforts seem to be proceeding well, but there is concern about long term funding issues with respect to counseling services. DOEd has expressed their commitment toward assisting in the long term efforts.

\* The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): CMHS (Center for Mental Health Services) has been in contact today with Fred Acosta, the Colorado State Disaster Mental Health Program Coordinator, to offer technical assistance if requested by the State. Currently, the state is requesting that counselors and assistance not be sent as they are concerned with the volume of response of numerous mental health professionals wanting to provide services.

HHS' Center for Mental Health Services has contacted the Colorado State Mental Health Director to offer assistance with crisis counseling if requested. In addition, the Surgeon General stands ready to provide assistance.

### **NOTE:**

**Secretary's Herman, Richardson and Glickman will be speaking to the Conference of Black Mayors tomorrow in Denver, Colorado.**

5/18/99

Send to Burkhardt?

Yes ☒

No ☐

Personal -  
Confidential  
3: President Clinton



10-41-00

Dear President Clinton and First Lady Hillary:

May 15, 1999

You both must be doing a lot of soul searching during this "Mother of all Times" for some ways to avoid the unthinkable.... I'm no prophet, but I have been divinely guided since I was 24," and was compelled to share the enclosed with you, with the support of our Native Voices Foundation leaders of both cultures.

As you face the most challenging "Time" of any President and First Lady, we urge you to keep swimming in the "sea of divine wisdom" thru meditation & prayers (AMA proved it works), and take the Ancient prophesies to heart. As spiritual scholars with great heart, you are the perfect leaders for this Transformation Time!

The enclosed "World Peace Day Picnic of children of all races and baby animals on the White House Lawn on June 21st", may be a part of the "soul" ution. You could lead the world in building a "Human Atomic Bond", to diffuse our global threat--a deep molecular bonding to create a generation of Peace Loving Earthlings!

For the prayers part, we are presently identifying 7 of our most respected Native American Prophets or spiritual leaders, who can lead the strongest prayers. Nancy Fowler, from your state, might be able to come. When she channels Mother Mary, pedals come down. You both may have some favorites.

This event isn't about sharing prophesy, unless you want to. Hopefully this will buy us all time. There may be a prophesy conference in August. The Great Spirit gives us catastrophes to wake us up, bring us together to help eachother, and respect Mother Earth, to get us back on track. Isn't it more humane to wake people up with prophesy than from the devastating pain of ignoring the channelers of the Great Spirit?

An Astrologer just coincidentally called and told me that "because the 21st is the Summer Solstice, and the sun is going into Cancer at 3:49 pm EST, (when the prayers should be said), this could be our last great chance to wake up and reinforce the Cancerean rebirth of peace, harmony & love in the world."

If this idea touches your hearts, please let us know right away. Because time is short, we are already talking to airlines about sponsoring the transportation for this. We've done much good already helping eachother! Bill, you greatly empowered us when you wrote that we are "Inspiring Interracial harmony in America." Thanks to you, JFK and Schwarzkopf's respect for Mother Earth's Guardians, the General even got behind Telluride's historic free skiing for the Utes! The Indians also appreciate Hillary helping us insure that the 2002 Salt Lake Olympics will open with our First Americans!

Please let us help you win this (very likely) Superbowl of Life on Planet Earth!  
In Spirit, *Suzy Chaffee*

cc: Native Voices Board

Suzy Chaffee, co-chair Native Voices Foundation

P.S. Congrats on the Sacagawea Cbln, that honors Natives, women and nurturing!

\* I felt compelled to lead the reform the Olympic Rules in the '70's, to bring back the wise ethics of the Ancient Olympics with Rhodes Scholar Bill Bradley, Jack Kelly, Muhammad Ali and his lawyer etc., that saved the Modern Games. America's Olympic Alumni are presently looking at our research of the Ancient Model, to bring back some ethics to IOC leaders, to regain our good name--with the meeting at the Capitol on June 23rd. The "Olympic Elders", who met with athletes prior the Games, to evaluate if they had "body, mind and spirit balance", were themselves important role models, along with athletes, who inspired society to have high ethical standards--"the key to humane civilizations."

Box 3965, Telluride, Co. 81435, 970-7281123



**Proposal for June 21st --**

**WORLD PEACE PICNIC AT THE WHITE HOUSE!**

*Part of WORLD PEACE PRAYER DAY Led by Lakota Prophet Orvil Looking Horse*

**--A Gathering at the White House of 7 Native American Prophets or spiritual leaders from the Hopi, Lakota, Ute, Cherokee, Wabanaki and Navajo Nations, etc., to lead an American prayer for Peace.**

This is insurance toward preventing a possible WWII or "purification" by Mother Earth, that has been prophesied by the Mayans, Hopi, Nostradamus, scientists, psychics, Mother Mary visitations in many countries, including Yugoslavia, today's Native American Prophets guided by the Ancient Elders, and Ben Franklin, "if we do not wake up and honor each other as God's Children, and give back to Mother Earth." Never in the history of our Planet has there been such unanimity.

**--To foster Peace when it truly makes the difference, the First Family could host a Picnic on the White House Lawn, inviting children of all races and baby animals to play and bond with each other. Just as important, an early announcement by the Clintons of this, would inspire joyful picnics in towns across America! In addition to the prayers on the lawn, there'd be Native singing, dancing and drumming. Bonding (which is love) and healing is euphoric!**

If the President and Americans want to create the ultimate in "Interracial Harmony" and love, we might learn, as the Indigenous do, from the animals. A recent "Wild Kingdom" TV Show documented how an African Rehab Sanctuary wanted to create harmony between normally warring animal groups, so they held a picnic under a tree with all the baby animals playing together. It transformed the Park! Game Parks in Texas even found long horned steers bonding with burrows. The award winning "Fly Away Home" was a true story about a flock of geese that bonded with a girl. Riders are now bonding to their horses at birth thru massage and horse whispering them in their first few hours. Even young Israeli and Palestinian teenagers are organizing "get togethers" that are transforming hate into love! If we take the time to get to know someone, we cannot hate them. Think of the heart melting photo ops for this Millennial peace birthing event, that will go on and perhaps be a turning point in history.

With the strife in the Balkans, Iraq, China, and the continuing kids' murders, it behooves our President and country to try something bold. JFK and Martin Luther King made a huge leap for Interracial harmony with us Babyboomers of the 60's, that "USA Today" says "has yielded a generation of children who are nearly colorblind." The son of the Mayor of Ophir, Colorado, said "Dad, I wish I were Black so I could wear those braids." But with world peace so fragile in this Nuclear Age, with "Mother Earth nearly beyond repair" (UN's Maurice Strong), it behooves us to try something new. Indian Elders feel picnics like these would be a very positive step, that would be fun too! We have nothing to lose. The worst, as well as the best that can happen, God willing, if we act from our hearts, is "nothing" (prophesies transformed). This may be decided on your Watch. With America a pivotal global player, now is the time for some divinely inspired leadership, just as Washington, Jefferson & Franklin were divinely inspired!

*Assisted by Native Voices Foundation--tel: 970-7281123*

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

5-18-99

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5-18-99

**PAULA STERN**  
3314 ROSS PLACE, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20008

**May 17, 1999**

**President William Jefferson Clinton**  
**The White House**  
**Washington, DC 20500-2000**

**Dear Mr. President:**

It was really a delight to see you last Thursday night. Following up on our conversation regarding China, I wanted to share with you my thoughts.

NATO's accidental bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade has inevitably altered U.S. policy making vis-a-vis the Jackson-Vanik Amendment and China's membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO). Timing and sequencing of the legislative calendar must be tactically adapted to the diplomatic events as they develop minute by minute. I have hesitated therefore to set down in writing my proposal to facilitate congressional consent to alteration of the terms of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment that will accompany China's receipt of most favored nation (MFN) treatment, as it accedes to the WTO. Nevertheless, a phone message from Congressman Bereuter's office the night before the bombing made me feel that it was incumbent upon me to share my thoughts on a "compromise" or "face saving device" that might convince some congressional skeptics to alter the Jackson-Vanik Amendment by "multilateralizing" it at the WTO. The time for this Congressional debate may be delayed by the bombing accident, but eventually this proposal may be needed. My thought is that the WTO authorities would exercise oversight on whether China adheres to its accession commitments. If China fails to adhere to its WTO commitments during the prescribed transition periods, then the WTO -- and not only the U.S. acting unilaterally -- could sanction China by suspending MFN tariff treatment until China comes into compliance.

This proposal might provide comfort to Congress as it votes to alter Jackson-Vanik that the United States is not totally abandoning its oversight of China as it integrates into the global economic system. Rather, the U.S. would be allying with the 133 other members of the World Trade Organization in exercising such oversight over China.

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Gene Spulins  
Larry Stein  
The President

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What about this?  
BS

President William Jefferson Clinton

May 17, 1999

Page 2

For background, I am attaching some pages from a paper entitled "Future of the WTO" delivered at the Brookings Trade Policy Forum in April by University of Toronto Professor and former Canadian economic and trade official, Sylvia Ostry, which stimulated my proposal. And for your information, I am attaching articles and correspondence with you on China.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula Stern / js". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Paula Stern

Enclosures

## **FUTURE OF THE WTO**

**Sylvia Ostry**  
University of Toronto

March 1999

To be presented at the Brookings Trade Policy Forum on  
"Governing in a Global Economy," April 15-16, 1999 in  
Washington, D.C.

integration of China into the WTO. In both countries full integration requires not only trade liberalization ( la GATT, but major transformation of the regulatory and legal regimes and a restructuring of the domestic economy. The technical assistance should be jointly supplied by the two institutions although this would require an increase in WTO training and legal resources or the dispute settlement mechanism might not survive. In addition the transition accession should be coordinated with financial assistance from the Bank to facilitate the structural change and hence ensure the sustainability of both the domestic reform and the liberalization process.

The access negotiations in Geneva already include the concept of transition periods of varying length for different parts of the liberalization commitments. What is required is to house these specifics in an overall transition framework which would be time-certain; include specified benchmarks for review by a WTO committee (the existing Trade Policy Review Mechanism or TPRM) at designated dates; and would result in full WTO membership at the end of the period when the TPRM certified full adherence to the transition protocol. To ensure the credibility of this mechanism the TPRM would have the right to remove MFN for a given period if China failed to deliver the commitments specified at any of the designated benchmarks. Full membership would require the termination of the MFN sanction.

✓  
China

Because today the main "sanction" which really threatens the Chinese (who in effect are granted MFN by all WTO members) is the U.S. Jackson-Vanik Act, which requires annual review of Chinese MFN, the WTO mechanism should include a suspension of this bilateral arrangement for the transition period. The substitution of a

X

multilateral sanction, in which the U.S. played a full role, would greatly reduce the bilateral confrontation engendered by the annual congressional debate. The Chinese believe -- and so far they have been proven correct -- that no matter what the noise that debate generates, in the end Congress gives in and MFN goes on. Thus the bilateral sanction has virtually no effect on their WTO offers. But a meaningful multilateral sanction could not be dismissed, as it would carry very severe penalties and seriously threaten Chinese growth prospects and internal stability. It would be, in other words, a credible international anchor for domestic reform.

Finally, as a part of the WTO reform, the generic issue of accession could be a "project-as-process" step along the road to coherence and Russia should be next in line. This approach may sound rather modest compared to the grand objective of the Uruguay Round. But on the other hand the current serious external imbalances in the global economy are stimulating interest in a new round and no doubt prominently on the agenda of that round will be institutional reform, perhaps including improved international economic cooperation! And given growing transatlantic trade tensions the globalisation backlash who can tell what might be accomplished in the Millennial Round?

#### VIII. Conclusion

The proposals for WTO reform in this paper are based on my personal judgement of the basic structural weaknesses in the WTO as an institution. These are not intended as an exhaustive list and there are other issues of considerable importance: for example the relationship between regionalism and multilateralism, the

problem of anti-dumping and its relationship with competition policy; the serious divisions among countries about global rules for investment -- to name but a few.

These issues will no doubt form part of the agenda of a new round. Further, I would

argue that in the ongoing discussions about international architecture the need for an

international environment institution should be considered because the current

institutions are too weak and fragmented. Perhaps some existing institutions, such as

UNCTAD, should be merged with the WTO. These are all important concerns but

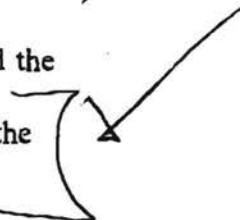
priorities must be established. If the WTO's structural weaknesses are not tackled the

gap between its mandate and capabilities will widen and jeopardize the future of the

rules-based system and the stability of the entire international economic system.

*Environment  
institutions*

*\$*





INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADVISORS

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## FAX TRANSMISSION

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**To:** President Clinton**Date:** April 14, 1999**Fax #:** 456-6703**Pages:** 3**From:** Paula Stern

**Comments:** I thought you would be interested in seeing the attached response that I wrote on your decision to continue negotiations with the Chinese regarding their membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO).

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 26, 1999

Paula Stern  
3314 Ross Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Paula:

Thanks for sharing with me a copy of your response to David Ignatius' opinion column. I appreciate your support of our efforts and your willingness to speak out forthrightly with your views on this important issue.

All the best to you.

Sincerely,



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## THE STERN GROUP INC.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADVISORS

April 14, 1999

David Ignatius' April 11 opinion column, "Clinton's Capitulation on China," misses the bigger picture that President Clinton has to consider in deciding when to consummate a deal for China's entry into the World Trade Organization. Ignatius accuses the President of backing away from the deal for "entirely political" reasons, implying that the President's personal political objectives trumped his concern for the public interest. The truth is that political calculations have to drive this decision, and this one may well save the deal from going down to defeat in Congress.

If this or any agreement were sent to Congress today, it would be dangerously at risk. Anti-Chinese sentiment stemming from that country's human rights record, its alleged role in weapon's proliferation, the ongoing investigation about nuclear weapons espionage, and politics--yes, politics--has reached a fever pitch. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) has been a vocal opponent, saying that he distrusts the Chinese government's willingness to uphold an agreement.

Following their meetings on Friday, President Clinton and Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji both stated that further work is needed before a deal can be wrapped up. A better time for a good and complete agreement to be considered is after China's "normal trade relations" status comes up for renewal this summer. Hopefully, by then the business groups that see so much promise in this agreement will have weighed in, and the Congress will have had time to see how good this deal really is. President Clinton's decision not to rush this deal forward is the right political decision. Working it further and letting it ripen underscores his desire to get China into the WTO. Sure, it makes it tough for Mr. Zhu, but throwing away an agreement that has taken thirteen years to negotiate would be tougher. Come on, Mr. Ignatius, Mr. Zhu and the rest of us would all lose if this agreement was rejected by the Congress.

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Paula Stern, President of The Stern Group, Inc., an international trade advisory firm, is a member of the President's Advisory Committee on Trade Policy and Negotiations (ACTPN). A former Chairwoman of the U.S. International Trade Commission, she presently serves as Co-Chairperson of the International Competition Policy (Antitrust) Advisory Committee to the Department of Justice. She has also advised the Transatlantic Business Dialogue (TABD) since its beginning in 1996.

*The Washington Post* April 11, 1999

David Ignatius

# Clinton's Capitulation on China

President Clinton did something so shortsighted and potentially costly last week in scuttling a trade deal with China that you begin to wonder if the Kosovo policy jinx is spreading to Asia.

Some Clinton insiders just shake their heads in chagrin when asked to explain why the president backed away from a deal that would have opened Chinese markets as a condition for Chinese entry into the World Trade Organization. They concede that the reason for Clinton's last-minute reversal was entirely political: He wanted to appease protectionist congressional Democrats and avoid what might look to critics like an embarrassing concession to visiting Chinese leader Zhu Rongji.

Clinton's flip-flop on the WTO sullies one of the few areas—free trade—where he reasonably can claim to have acted consistently on principle, rather than short-term politics. In that sense, it's a measure of just how weak Clinton has become—that he would sabotage his legacy to gain a few weeks' respite from criticism.

The administration is betting that it can tiptoe back to Beijing and salvage a WTO deal before Labor Day. But that's a risky bet about an issue that Clinton himself has rightly said is crucial to America's economic future. No other country has more to gain from a free and open Chinese economy than we do.

The larger danger of Clinton's WTO decision is that it could exacerbate China's economic troubles just as a fragile recovery is beginning elsewhere in Asia.

Something quite amazing has been happening the past few months in South Korea and Thailand—two of the countries that were hardest hit by the Asian financial crisis: Their economies are beginning to recover, like resilient buds of spring after a brutally nasty winter.

The financial markets already are signaling a turnaround. Stock market indexes in Seoul and Bangkok roughly have doubled from their lows of last year. Meanwhile, interest rates for Korean and Thai debt have fallen—with spreads between their debt and that of Western countries moving toward pre-crisis levels.

"For the countries closest to the crisis, the worst seems to be over," says Tom Byrne, the senior Asia analyst at Moody's Investor Service. Moody's recently upgraded South Korea's bond rating, back to its pre-crisis "investment grade" level; Moody's rates Thai debt one notch below that of Korea.

More important than the simple fact of recovery in Korea and Thailand are the reasons for it. Strong governments have taken first steps to break the stranglehold of "crony capitalism" on those economies. Insolvent banks have been allowed to fail; inefficient companies have been forced to restructure opera-

tions; asset prices have been free to fall to levels where the market can clear—and rebuilding can begin.

These structural changes—as potent in their way as China's transition from communism to capitalism—are encouraging Western investors to lend money again. Analysts caution that there's still much to be done in Korea and Thailand—the process of clearing away corrupt and inefficient business is only beginning. And some worry that the Koreans and Thais will now ease up, dissipating the gains they've made so far.

But Lawrence Summers, deputy Treasury secretary and the administration's chief fireman during the Asian mess, thinks some crisis countries are beginning to turn the corner.

"Where countries have been able to carry through on their reform commitments—as in Korea, Thailand and the Philippines—results are starting to come in the form of lower interest rates, new investment and increased growth," says Summers.

Japan remains mired in a deep recession—clouding prospects for regional recovery. But even in Tokyo, financial markets are signaling hope that a recovery is ahead. The Nikkei index of leading Japanese stocks is up more than 25 percent this year in yen terms, on hopes that the government's huge stimulus package finally will get the economy moving.

The Asian recovery, when it gets rolling, should be as rapid and surprising as the financial typhoon that swamped the region's economies in 1997. The recent news from Korea and Thailand is encouraging—a sign that the harsh medicine prescribed by the Clinton administration and the IMF may be working as intended.

But that recovery is still fragile, and the most delicate factor may be China. A year and a half ago, during the darkest days of the Asian crisis, China was our most reliable economic ally in the region. An important reason the crisis didn't become even worse was that Zhu Rongji kept his promises to maintain economic growth and avoid devaluation.

Now the Chinese economy is looking shakier. China's exports and economic growth are slowing, and foreign investment is shrinking. Some U.S. officials fear the pressures are building for a Chinese devaluation, which could trigger a disastrous wave of competitive devaluations by other Asian economies. The failure of Zhu's visit won't make things any easier. That's a problem for Zhu, but it's also a problem for the United States.

Clinton's political capitulation on the WTO was a sorry example for a supposed superpower. You might almost call it "crony capitalism." Clinton could learn something from the more principled, disciplined leaders whose tough decisions are nurturing a revival in South Korea and Thailand.

Cummings

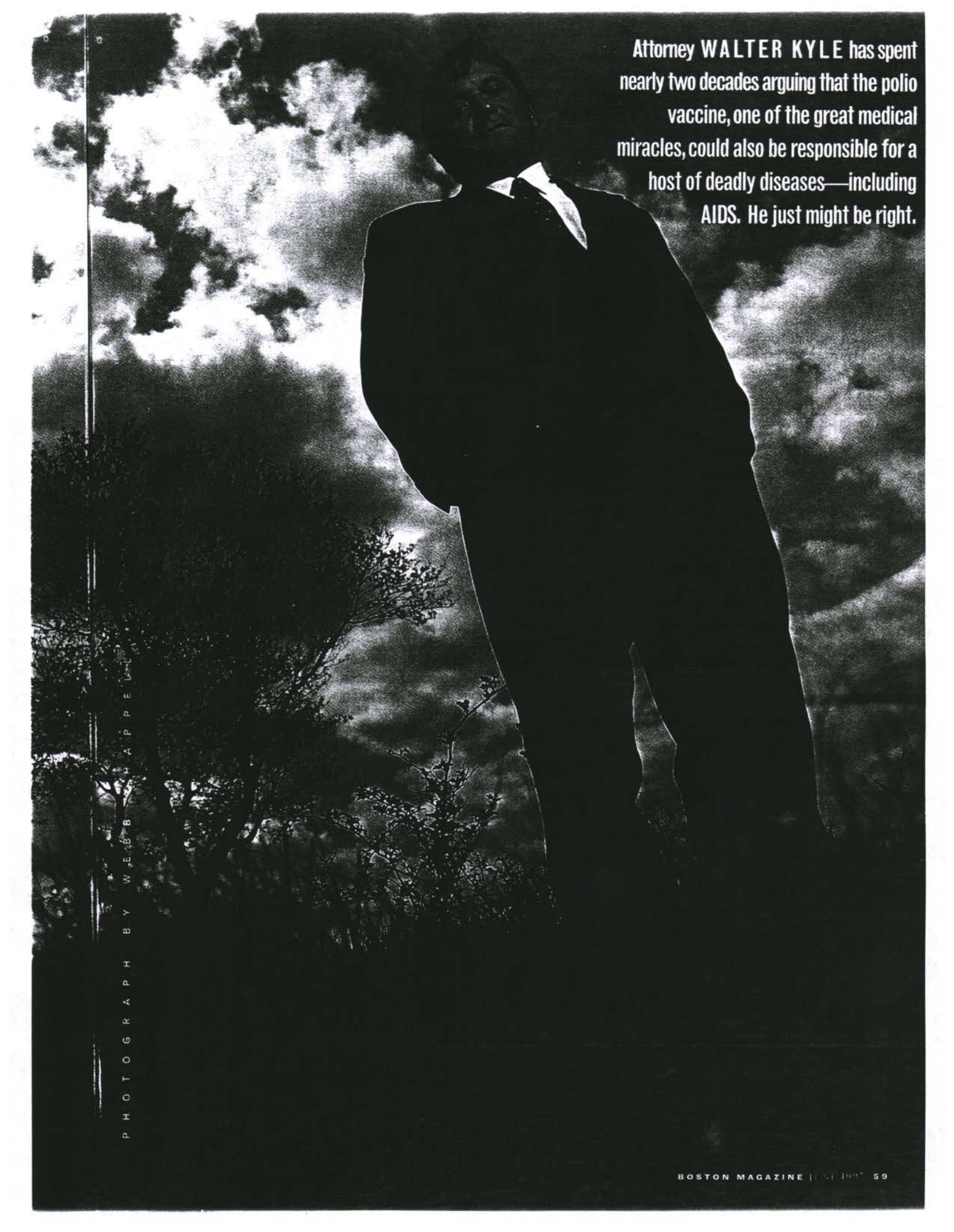
5-18-99

↳ There are  
important issues & think  
Walker Kyle (son  
of the attached) brought it  
to me → so I believe we need  
to follow up →

Walker Kyle  
505-428-1115

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Jennings  
Podesta

Kyle strongly believes  
parents should have  
informed choice, esp.  
those in his own  
category - women who  
are not be forced  
to vaccinate their kids  
to get in school -  
Barry, Kevin



Attorney WALTER KYLE has spent nearly two decades arguing that the polio vaccine, one of the great medical miracles, could also be responsible for a host of deadly diseases—including AIDS. He just might be right.

PHOTOGRAPH BY WEBB HAPPEL

# THE LONELY CRUSADE OF WALTER KYLE

By Debbie Bookchin and Jim Schumacher

**D**IRECTLY ABOVE THE GIFTED HAND, an upscale antiques and crafts store in the center of Hingham, a black and gold sign neatly mounted on the white clapboard of an immaculately kept Colonial house announces the offices of Walter S. Kyle, Attorney at Law. At first blush, Walter Kyle seems to blend perfectly into the backdrop of Hingham's amalgam of suburban chic and historic elegance. He is a handsome and affable 47-year-old Arkansas transplant whose soft-spoken and gentlemanly bearing suggest ease and comfort. His tidy office is tastefully turned out: a small cherry desk adorned with an antique brass faux-gas lamp, leather chairs, striking vermillion drapes, newly hung Williamsburg Collection wallpaper, and Persian-style rugs covering polished pine floors.



**THE CURE:** Almost everyone born before 1955 remembers the swath of terror that polio cut through the American psyche.

On a glass-encased shelf sits a gold-framed, inscribed photograph of Kyle and his son Robert standing with President Clinton in the Oval Office; nearby sits another of Kyle standing directly behind Clinton as he gives a speech in New Hampshire during the 1992 primary. Clinton, who told *Boston Magazine* he has known Walter Kyle "most of his life" and is "grateful for his friendship," tapped Kyle to serve as his New Hampshire field director during the 1992 presidential race. Dressed in a conservative blue suit that fits snugly over his athletic frame, Kyle could easily be mistaken for a smooth and prosperous lawyer, at home in the corridors of power.

Yet Kyle has devoted most of his career to a single-minded and iconoclastic pursuit that has earned him no love in Washington or in the boardrooms of America's pharmaceutical giants: attacking the polio vaccine. The vaccine is one of modern medicine's most revered miracles; but Kyle has borne witness to its darker side. Not only can the vaccine itself cause paralysis and death by infecting recipients with polio, but Kyle says there is plenty of reason to believe that it may be the repository for a variety of monkey viruses that can cause disease in human beings. That is because all polio vaccine produced for consumption in this country is grown on the kidney tissues of monkeys, which are notorious reservoirs for all kinds of viruses. He believes that federal health regulators have at times allowed contaminated batches of vaccine to be distributed to infants and children in this country. He has even hypothesized that one possible source of the AIDS virus was through contaminated polio vaccine.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) counters that the vaccine is free of all known monkey viruses. Kyle believes he has evidence to prove otherwise. In three undisclosed locations in the Boston area, Kyle, in the course of 20 years of litigation, has collected more than 100,000 pages of internal drug company memoranda and government documents. He says the internal memos paint a damning picture of a vaccine production process rife with contamination problems and a government that doesn't seem to care. "Why would anyone think it's okay to give American kids a vaccine that might be contaminated with monkey viruses?" says Kyle. "But that's exactly what's been going on with the polio vaccine. For 40 years they've been engaged in a massive experiment with our children. Every parent should be angry."

**T**ODAY IT IS EASY TO FORGET how deeply the fear of polio gripped the nation during the first half of this century. But almost everyone born before 1955 remembers the swath of terror the disease cut through the American psyche. Parents would reach into a crib to pick up their infants and, to their horror, find that overnight their legs had turned limp and lifeless. Polio could take the most robust and athletic children and reduce them to weakened cripples, condemned to a lifetime on crutches or worse, entombment in an iron lung. Polio didn't single out the poor and sickly; it struck healthy, middle-class kids and adults too. It was unpredictable. No one seemed to know how the disease was spread, so no one knew how to avoid it. In the epidemic of 1916, the first of almost four straight decades of annual epidemics in this country, 27,000 people were paralyzed and 6,000 died. As recently as 1952, 58,000 people contracted the disease. Every summer, as polio epidemics worsened throughout the 1940s and early 1950s, parents prayed their children would be spared. Polio had become a national scourge. Deliverance from it could not come soon enough.

When after extensive research in the early fifties a young, unknown Debbie Bookchin and Jim Schumacher are freelance writers who live in Vermont.

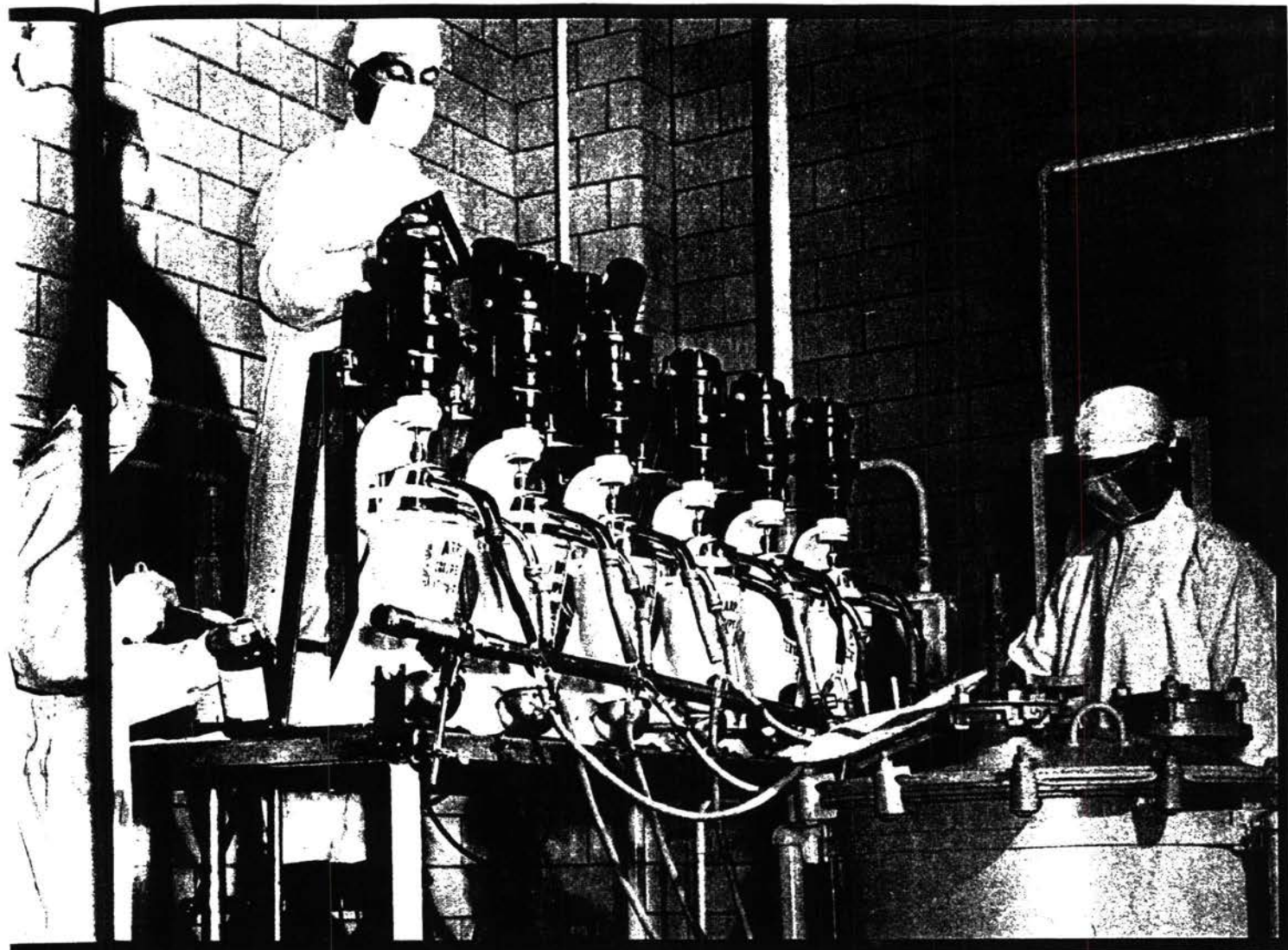
**"ASK ANY MOTHER if she would approve of her child being given a vaccine that was potentially contaminated with monkey viruses," Barbara Loe Fisher says of the polio vaccine. "I think she would tell you, 'No, thank you.'"**

microbiologist from the University of Pittsburgh named Jonas Salk developed a vaccine, he became an instant American hero. On April 12, 1955, the 10th anniversary of the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt, perhaps the most famous American polio victim, church bells rang throughout the land to celebrate the success of the trials of Salk's vaccine and its availability for massive immunization. Between the inactivated Salk vaccine and later Albert Sabin's "live" oral vaccine, polio was completely eradicated in this country by the late seventies. The success of the polio vaccine has stood as a singular achievement that is universally regarded as an unparalleled triumph of American know-how over what was as close to a plague as this country had ever known.

In 1977, when Walter Kyle was preparing to take the Arkansas bar exam, the last thing on his mind was the polio vaccine. The second in a family of overachievers (his two sisters both practice law, one in Texas, the other in Arkansas; a brother is a neurosurgeon) and a proficient pilot, Kyle had planned to pursue aviation law. He recalls that he used to fly seaplanes for Chalk's International to Bimini (before Gary Hart made it famous with Donna Rice aboard the yacht *Monkey Business*) after graduating from the University of Miami in Coral Gables. At Miami, Kyle received degrees in mechanical and electrical engineering, and then spent two years testing autopilot systems by pushing planes to their maximum speeds and taking them into a dive to see if they would crack up before he could recover.

After he'd had his fill of engineering feats, Kyle returned home to attend law school at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, where his old friend Bill Clinton and Bill's new wife, Hillary, were two of his professors. (Kyle recalls that the future First Lady was "more intimidating" in the classroom than her husband.) Two weeks after graduating, Kyle took the bar exam, skipping the lengthy bar preparation course most students consider prerequisite. He already had a job lined up with a law firm in Ft. Lauderdale.

Then the wife of one of his plane mechanics suddenly became paralyzed—a victim of what doctors call "contact" polio. Like almost 3 million Americans each year, she had brought her infant son to his pediatrician for a routine polio immunization. And like those other Americans she had no idea that her son's ingestion of the live oral vaccine held any danger for her or her child. But three weeks after he received the vaccine, she became permanently paralyzed from the waist down. The statistical risk of paralysis from the vaccine is considered negligible, but each year 8 to 10 people in the United States contract polio after receiving the oral vaccine or, as in the young mother's case,



**PANDORA'S BOX:** Above, workers in 1955, processing the polio vaccine. Kyle believes the continued use of monkey tissue in making the vaccine has exposed millions of Americans to many simian viruses.

after being exposed weeks later to the poliovirus in the stools of a recently vaccinated child. In 1963, the United States had switched from an inactivated injected vaccine and began to use the live virus vaccine. One reason the country began using the live vaccine was to increase the number of people being immunized in this fashion.

When Kyle learned that government policy included this kind of deliberate exposure of care givers to the deadly virus, he was outraged. "These people were innocents whose lives were ruined all because of a massive government program to inoculate people with a live virus without their consent," he says. "I thought it was a travesty." One day after passing the bar exam, he signed up his first case, agreeing to represent the woman and her family against one of the world's largest drug manufacturers, Lederle Laboratories, now known as Wyeth-Lederle Vaccines and Pediatrics, in Radnor, Pennsylvania, the nation's only manufacturer of live polio vaccine.

Kyle took his paralysis case to a well-known tort attorney, Henry Woods, now an Arkansas federal judge. On the day they were to start the trial, the two men won a sizable settlement from Lederle for their client. As far as Woods was concerned, the case was over. Not so Kyle. In 1979 he filed suit against the federal government on behalf of his paralyzed client, claiming not only that the government had failed to follow its own regulations to ensure that the vaccine was safe for people in close proximity to those inoculated, but that it was an invasion of a constitutional right to privacy for the U.S. gov-

ernment to expose people to the virus without their knowledge or consent. When the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, in St. Louis, agreed with Kyle that the government could be held liable

on certain claims just like any private citizen, Kyle significantly advanced the rights of anyone harmed by vaccines to sue the government for negligence. Since then he has been involved in nearly 100 claims on behalf of vaccine-damaged clients.

Far from prospering from these claims, Kyle has often not been paid for his vaccine work and has found that he has to devote increasing amounts of his time to more garden variety tort law to make ends meet. But even if they haven't made him rich, his vaccine litigations have secured him a minor place in legal history. In 1988, the United States Supreme Court cited his 1981 case in a landmark decision recognizing the rights of any vaccine-damaged individual to sue the federal government for failure to follow its own regulations. "He has touched a lot of people through his work," says Clinton. "He has always been hard working, determined, and compassionate."

IT WAS DURING HIS INITIAL case that Kyle received his first big batch of internal documents from Lederle. (Continued on page 93)

## Walter Kyle

(Continued from page 61)

In his discovery requests, Kyle had asked for Lederle's neurovirulence-testing data—the tests that ensure the vaccine won't cripple anyone. In response, he received a flood of documents and noticed that many contained references to "adventitious agents." Memo after memo documented Lederle's problem with the agents. Says Kyle, "It became obvious that what they were talking about was unwanted live monkey viruses that they couldn't get rid of." The realization piqued his curiosity.

Kyle started setting aside every document that mentioned adventitious agents. When he later turned to analyze them, he realized that the memos were describing a witch's brew of contaminants, including simian measles, foamy viruses, simian virus 40 (SV40), adenoviruses, and simian cytomegalovirus, known to scientists by its acronym SCMV. The Lederle memos dated from the early sixties to 1987 show that these adventitious agents had been plaguing the process of manufacturing vaccine for decades, forcing Lederle to discard what would have become millions of doses of vaccine.

Kyle cites a 1983 memo describing an internal company study of 13 years of vaccine production. The memo documents that Lederle was forced to junk almost half—43 percent—of all vaccine-in-production largely because of viral contamination problems. The memos show Lederle also had other contamination issues. A 1977 memo reports that even though the vaccine manufacturing process was supposed to be sterile, bacterial contamination forced the rejection of a large amount of vaccine-in-production. An internal company investigation found that mold, yeast, and strep were living in the company's air duct system.

As Kyle continued to collect Lederle memos, he realized that they mentioned one specific "adventitious agent" again and again: simian cytomegalovirus. According to Kyle's documents, simian CMV and CMV-like agents have proved to be a chronic problem for Lederle, which frequently had difficulty keeping the virus out of monkey-kidney-tissue preparations—the so-called harvests of poliovirus-containing fluids from the kidney tissues. Kyle believes the virus or its DNA has almost certainly made it beyond the vaccine-in-production stage and into some doses of the final vaccine released to the public, a charge that Lederle denies.

SCMV is a member of the herpes virus family. Its human counterpart, human cytomegalovirus, can cause retinal and gastrointestinal disorders and malaise. It is considered quite dangerous to infants or people with compromised immune systems. HCMV easily infects if it is ingested orally. If SCMV were present in oral polio vaccine, something offi-

cials from the Food and Drug Administration adamantly deny, it would be, they acknowledge, a cause for serious concern.

Lederle, which sells 16 million to 20 million doses of the vaccine each year, most of it to the U.S. government, insists all monkey tissue it obtains is tested and screened for adventitious agents before it is used for vaccine production and that it "strictly adhere[s]" to FDA regulations. Doug Petkus, a Lederle spokesman, asserts that the screening process used by Lederle is designed to insure that the vaccine be free of all foreign viruses, including SCMV. Another Lederle spokesperson, Audrey Ashby, maintains that "monkeys contaminated with cytomegalovirus have never been used for oral polio vaccine production."

But internal company memos from 1972 suggest that for many years SCMV-infected monkeys were used. In August 1972, Ronald

**Kyle believes that the simian counterpart to HIV, or possibly even an HIV progenitor, may have been released in millions of doses of polio vaccine in the seventies.**

Vallancourt, a veterinarian who was head of Lederle's polio production, described a study the company had undertaken with the FDA to examine how widely SCMV contaminated monkey tissue. In a memo titled "Cytomegalovirus Contingency Plan," Vallancourt noted that the joint study had found all 11 monkeys examined harbored the virus. Worse, he noted, 7 of the 11 infected monkeys "would have passed our existing test standards," an acknowledgment on Vallancourt's part that the monkeys would have been found suitable for vaccine production. Vallancourt concluded that the 1972 study suggested that SCMV "has been present in our environment for at least as long as the poliovirus vaccine has been produced. Therefore, all substrate [kidney tissue] used to this date have conceivably been 'contaminated.'"

The possibility of vaccine contamination was apparently of no concern to federal health officials at the time. As far back as 1968, a Lederle official had boasted that Roderick Murray, the head of the federal agency then charged with vaccine safety, had "agreed" with the company "that the adventitious agents . . . are of little consequence for an oral preparation in that such a large experience exists with the use of oral polio vaccine without any evidence of trouble related to these agents." Kyle's memos indicate that government health officials never followed up on the joint SCMV study. In one 1972 memo,

Vallancourt even observed: "Cytomegalovirus . . . is not being tested for at this time. For a manufacturer, and especially a regulatory agency, to accept this situation can only be judged a dichotomy but it has its basis in the fact that this agent is extremely cell-associated and cannot end up in the final vaccine." Kyle disputes Vallancourt's conclusion, focusing instead on Lederle's failure to test for SCMV. "If they weren't testing for this virus at least until after 1972, and they admit the monkeys were all contaminated, then Americans got contaminated vaccine," he says.

In 1973, Vallancourt informed his superiors at Lederle that federal officials had never again raised the subject of the SCMV contamination since the completion of the joint study the previous year. In another 1973 memo, he predicted that "our CMV problem will be pushed further and further into the background." Vallancourt was right, as underscored by the resignation of a government scientist named Kendall O. Smith, an electron microscopist, who in 1968 had first discovered widespread SCMV contamination of commercial African green monkey kidney tissues—the exact type used for polio vaccine manufacture. In a 1969 paper published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, Smith noted that SCMV often escaped detection by conventional methods and warned that existing testing protocols were inadequate. Smith quit the FDA in disgust over the agency's failure to react to the virus. In 1972, he told the journal *Science* that he found it "unforgivable" that federal regulations governing polio vaccine production had not been changed to ensure more thorough screening against the virus. Those regulations are essentially unchanged today.

**B** ARBARA LOE FISHER is a five-foot-one-inch, 49-year-old Washington, D.C., mother-turned-activist who heads the National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC), headquartered in Vienna, Virginia. From the organization's airy, second-story office just outside the Beltway, she and co-founder Kathi Williams have long pushed for greater government disclosure of the little-studied deleterious effects of vaccines upon some recipients and for parents to be allowed to make informed decisions about what vaccines their children receive. The notion of live monkey viruses in the polio vaccine strikes Fisher as alarming and par for the course, at the same time. "Our organization is very concerned that there seems to be so little interest on the part of the government about the issue of exposing millions of children to viruses and other biological agents from other species," she says. "Nobody knows what the long-term impact might be."

Fisher notes that as recently as 1995, Swiss scientists found evidence that the live

## Walter Kyle

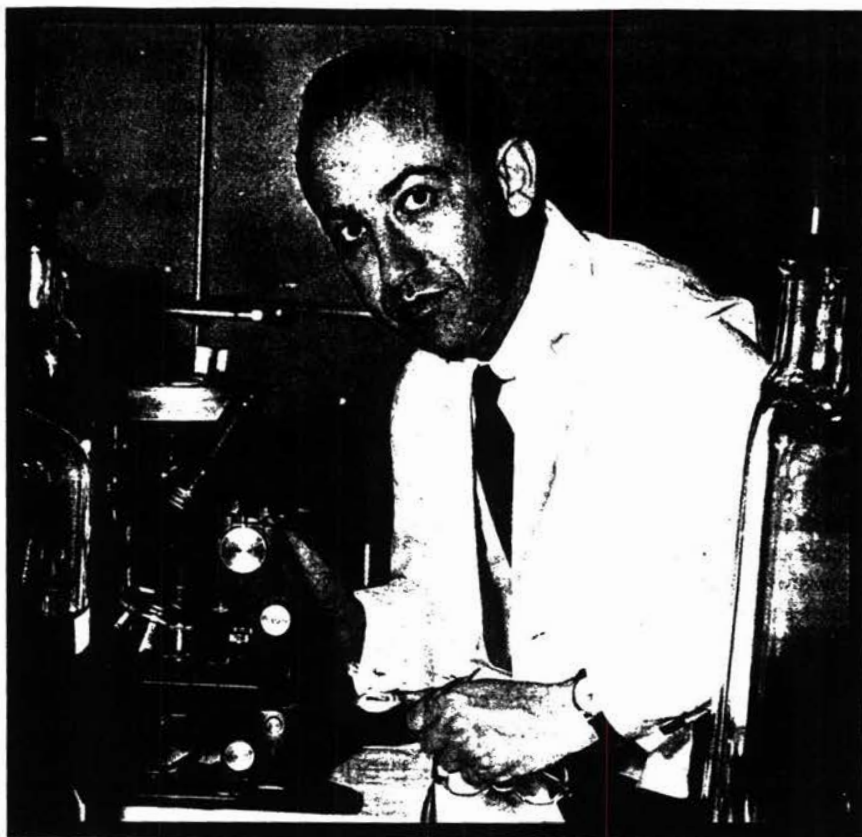
measles-mumps-rubella vaccine, grown on cell cultures of chicken embryos, might be contaminated with avian leukosis virus, which can cause a leukemia-like illness in birds. As long as the polio vaccine and a handful of others are to be mandated for every child, the government has an obligation to prove they are free of contaminants, she says. "Ask any mother if she would approve of her child being given a vaccine that was potentially contaminated with monkey viruses," she says of the polio vaccine. "I think she would tell you, 'No thank you.'"

Cecil Fox was a senior scientist with the National Institutes of Health for 18 years until 1991. There he did cancer research and became a prominent AIDS researcher who discovered that the virus that causes AIDS could live outside the bloodstream and in the lymph nodes. Fox has been concerned about the polio vaccine for many years. He takes issue with Vallancourt's 1972 assertion that since SCMV is "cell-associated" it could not end up in the final vaccine, arguing that fluids containing CMV-infected cells are notoriously difficult to clean up. "Saying it's cell-associated is taking a great leap of faith," he says. "There's no good way of cleaning up a cultured medium or liquid in which a fair amount of CMV has been present. You may be able to filter out all the infected cells, but that doesn't mean that the liquid is no longer infectious."

Although he remains a supporter of the oral polio vaccine, he cautions that continued reliance on monkey kidney tissues for vaccine production carries risks. "There's no way to ensure purity. All you need is one virus in one cell," he says. The use of monkeys, he says, is "a Pandora's box: The risk is that there are still monkey viruses that have not yet been discovered that can be transmitted to humans."

Fox is particularly concerned about the inactivated vaccine, which he believes holds far greater risk than the oral vaccine for transmitting monkey viruses to humans, because it is injected directly into the body. Fox's concern is of renewed interest because the Centers for Disease Control and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health have recently recommended using inactivated vaccine for some of the four recommended childhood doses of polio vaccine in response to concerns about polio caused by the live vaccine. Fox stresses that for many years the original Salk vaccine—an injected vaccine—may have been contaminated with up to 60 different monkey viruses, which he has referred to as the "crabgrass" of the polio vaccine.

At least one of these viruses, simian virus 40 (SV40), was not always killed by the formaldehyde used to inactivate the Salk vaccine. Between 1954 and 1963, up to 98 million Ameri-



**MEDICAL MIRACLE:** Jonas Salk created the vaccine that freed the world from the horrors of polio.

cans were exposed to SV40 through the polio vaccine. By 1963, all vaccine manufacturers had switched to African green monkeys, a species that is not infected with SV40; and all stocks of contaminated polio vaccine were no longer on the market. Long presumed harmless, SV40 genetic material has recently been discovered in some human brain, bone, and lung cancers. Scientists speculate that it is an oncornavirus, a cancer-causing virus, but that it may take years to cause certain cancers. Fox, who now heads a Gaithersburg, Maryland, research firm, says SV40 highlights the dangers associated with monkeys. "When you inject ground-up monkey guts into children, all kinds of things can happen."

Kyle speculates that the government was reluctant to get tough on Lederle's SCMV problem because it feared running out of vaccine. In fact, Vallancourt noted in his "Cytomegalovirus Contingency Plan" that the company held all the cards should the government decide to crack down on CMV: "Unless and until Pfizer's Diplovax [a rival vaccine] is in abundant supply, the FDA cannot risk Lederle being off the market."

Kyle also believes that Lederle's SCMV problems likely did not end 25 years ago. The 1983 memo, which had documented that the company had tossed almost half of its vaccine-in-production because of contamination problems, cited SCMV as the top culprit. Kyle has also collected hundreds of pages of Lederle's

monthly reports on poliovirus harvests. The reports document that SCMV continued to torment the vaccine manufacturer well into the 1980s. From October 1980 to March 1981, SCMV was particularly vexing, forcing the company to reject 65 percent of its harvests. A January 1981 report complained: "Rejections of harvest produced in October, November... and December... have been very high—11 in a row... and 13 of 14 overall. An unidentified viral agent, strongly resembling or presumed to be cytomegalovirus, is the cause."

In 1986, Lederle was forced to scrap 16 percent of all harvests because of SCMV. As recently as 1987, the last year for which Kyle has information, Lederle documented that it had discarded 30 percent of all its poliovirus harvests during the first half of the year, 8 percent because of SCMV contamination.

**F**DA OFFICIALS DISMISS the possibility that the polio vaccine released to the public could be contaminated by SCMV or any other known monkey virus. In a lengthy interview, William Egan, a chemist and deputy director of the FDA's Office of Vaccines Research and Review, and two of his subordinates asserted that the oral polio vaccine is, and has been, free of foreign viruses since SV40 contamination ended in 1963. But as a senior FDA official later clarified: "We can't screen for something we don't know about. We maintain it's free of viruses we

know how to protect from." Many of the scientists contacted for this article who work with monkeys, including Ronald Desrosiers, professor of microbiology and molecular genetics at Harvard Medical School and chairman of the microbiology division of New England Regional Primate Research Center, believe that only a small fraction of the viruses harbored by monkeys have been identified. Desrosiers once described use of monkey tissue in polio vaccine preparation as "a ticking time bomb waiting to explode."

According to Peter Reeve, a virologist and associate director of the FDA's division of viral products, the FDA ceased its own testing for viral contaminants more than 15 years ago. "There was no more point in putting time or effort into getting negative results," Reeve said. "It became clear that it was not necessary to repeat the [manufacturer's] tests because there was a lot of time and money involved." Lederle continues to check for viral contaminants according to the FDA requirements, which place the obligation of testing products on the manufacturer. The FDA itself conducts only routine virulence tests in its effort to minimize vaccine-associated polio.

Kyle says the disclosure that the FDA has suspended its own testing is an example of what he characterizes as the "incestuous relationship" between the agency and the drug companies it regulates. Fisher from the NVIC is also angered by the news, which she says proves her point that the polio vaccine receives little scrutiny because of its sacred-cow status. "They're supposed to be the watchdogs," she says. "But the reality is that they have such a cozy relationship with the drug companies that they are much too lax in regulating the vaccine. They have no business allowing manufacturers to use any sort of animal tissue if they can't guarantee its safety."

Could monkey viruses from the oral polio vaccine have infected people? W. John Martin, a professor of pathology at the University of Southern California, announced in 1995 that he had isolated a virus that was closely related to SCMV from the brains and peripheral blood of two people with neuropsychiatric diseases. Writing in a peer-reviewed journal, *Clinical and Diagnostic Virology*, he posited that the likely source was contaminated doses of the oral polio vaccine. Gary Hayward, a renowned herpes virus expert at Johns Hopkins University, has confirmed that the genetic sequences Martin has sent him are very close to those of an African green monkey cytomegalovirus. "The virus he's working with is not from baboons, or chimpanzees or rhesus. It's definitely from an African green monkey-like species," says Hayward. Martin's work has not been replicated and no one knows today whether Martin's hypothesis—that SCMV or an SCMV variant could be related to chronic fatigue syndrome and other immune-depressive diseases—has



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## Walter Kyle

any basis.

Martin says his belief that monkey viruses could be playing a role in human disease stems from his own experience testing vaccines at the FDA in the late seventies. He recalls being suspicious of viral DNA in a batch of vaccine and seeking permission from his superior to test it further. Permission was denied, and the agency released the batch containing millions of individual doses.

Martin's story is confirmed by a colleague from the time, G.S. Aulakh, a scientist who recalled that his superiors at the FDA rejected Martin's efforts to test the contaminant. "Nobody tested to see if it was harmful or not," Aulakh recalls. He adds that he has not seen or spoken to Martin since the two men worked together nearly 20 years ago, but his memory of his boss's brush-off is the same. "They told me the testing would scare the people, and it's not in the interest of the American people and this organization to do it," Aulakh says. A postscript: A few years later Martin's superior retired from the FDA and took a job as a senior vice-president with American Cyanamid, the parent company of Lederle.

**H**ARLAND WINTER is a pediatric gastroenterologist who holds multiple staff positions at Children's Hospital, Massachusetts General, and Boston Medical Center. He is an associate professor at the medical schools of Harvard and Boston University. In his home, Winter has a reproduction of an ancient Egyptian papyrus drawing of a person with a polio-withered leg, a reminder that polio has afflicted mankind for millennia. Now polio is near extinction worldwide. But he echoes other clinicians when he says that fear of monkey viruses shouldn't scare people from the vaccine. "I think it would be terrible if people became so concerned about taking vaccines that polio would return," he says.

Susan Lett, medical director of the immunization program of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, explains that even though the Western Hemisphere was declared polio free in 1991, the possibility of exposure to the virus always exists until the disease is wiped out. "The risk for that happening is declining based on rapid advances in other countries," Lett says, but she adds that people should continue to make sure their children are vaccinated. She says the CDC has never provided her with any data indicating the current vaccine contains dangerous contaminants. "We are all committed at every level to having the safest vaccines available," she says.

For his part, Kyle contends he is not anti-vaccine. What bothers him is the pattern he feels his memos reveal. "There's no reason American kids should be exposed to danger-

ous viruses because of government sloppiness and indifference," he says. Kyle believes that lax regulation of the vaccine has not only exposed Americans to SCMV and other monkey viruses but possibly to a far greater danger—AIDS. He believes that SIV (the simian counterpart to HIV, the human virus that causes AIDS) or possibly even an HIV-progenitor may have been released in millions of doses of polio vaccine in the seventies.

SIV infects up to 50 percent of African green monkeys in the wild. But since it is asymptomatic in the monkeys, Kyle believes infected African greens would not have been excluded from vaccine production prior to the discovery of the virus in 1985. Since then, all monkeys used to make vaccine have been tested for the virus.

Kyle focuses principally on one lot—2 million to 3 million individual doses—of vaccine

**"It's in the best interests of the drug companies not to do anything," says a prominent scientist. "Until somebody like Walter Kyle raises enough hell, it's going to continue that way."**

released in 1977. The FDA was so concerned about the lot that its release was delayed for an unprecedented 20 months. FDA scientists had discovered the batch, listed as "Lot 3-444," might contain retroviruses (SIV and HIV are retroviruses). Although no one at the time knew about the existence of AIDS, the possibility the vaccine could contain retroviruses prompted the agency to send micrographs—photographs taken through an electron microscope—of suspected viral material found in the batch to three electron microscopists at the National Institutes of Health for review.

Though the scientists were unsure about the identity of the material, the FDA decided the lot was free of contaminants and released it for public consumption. Kyle says that far from making a definitive determination concerning the vaccine's safety, one NIH scientist, in a memo to the FDA, worried about the possibility of retroviruses in the vaccine and warned of the potential for cross-species transfer of viruses. Kyle speculates that Lot 3-444 and perhaps others may have been contaminated with SIV or an HIV progenitor.

It was after he had received and reviewed the extensive documentation on Lot 3-444 that Kyle began research that led him to posit an alternative source for AIDS in North America. In the seventies, some clinicians were administering repeated doses of the oral vaccine to gay men in California and New

York as an unorthodox cure for herpes lesions. Kyle believes that the live virus, which normally would pass through the gut in children without adverse effect, found access to the bloodstream in gay men as a result of the open lesions and sexual activities. Kyle believes that when the HIV-like virus entered the blood stream, it began its deadly work.

Kyle's theory, far from being dismissed, was published in 1992 by *The Lancet*, one of the most prestigious medical journals in the world. Partially in response to Kyle's claims, this past year FDA scientists tested samples from 12 lots of old polio vaccine for the presence of HIV and SIV. The results, they say, were negative. Howard Urnovitz, a Berkeley microbiologist who is founder and science director of the Chronic Illness Research Foundation, has reviewed the FDA study. He says even if HIV or SIV were not found, the finding of other markers associated with nonpolio viruses is significant. "What's shocking is that there is a polymerase DNA [an enzyme characteristic of a retrovirus]," Urnovitz says. "Because these are vaccines that should only contain [the poliovirus which is] an RNA virus. What it tells us is that they have no idea what's spilling over into the vaccine."

John Coffin, a Tufts professor of molecular biology and microbiology who serves as a senior editor of the highly respected *Journal of Virology*, feels Kyle's AIDS theory "doesn't make a great deal of sense." Like many other scientists, Coffin believes the likely source for the AIDS virus in humans is chimpanzees, not African green monkeys. He observes that the polio vaccine has a 40-year safety record that is "well established" and believes that the vaccine is completely safe as far as retroviruses are concerned. Nonetheless, Coffin says, there is always a possibility of cross-species viral contamination when animal tissues are used. "By continuing to grow the vaccine on monkey tissues, there clearly is a discernible risk," he says. "It would make a lot of sense to move away from monkey tissue."

That view is shared by a number of scientists, including Jonathan Allan, a virologist and internationally known AIDS researcher at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research in San Antonio, Texas. Allan is a supporter of the polio vaccine and says he has no reason to believe it is contaminated. But he agrees that continued use of monkey kidney cells for polio vaccine production is foolhardy.

"There's a lot of scientific evidence that points to the possibility that monkey viruses that typically cause little or no disease in their natural hosts can have disastrous consequences when they jump ship into humans," says Allan, who was a vocal dissident on an FDA panel that approved the baboon bone marrow transplant for AIDS patient Jeff Getty in 1995. In a 1996 *New York Times* op-ed essay, he castigated the FDA and CDC for "muddled" priorities, saying,

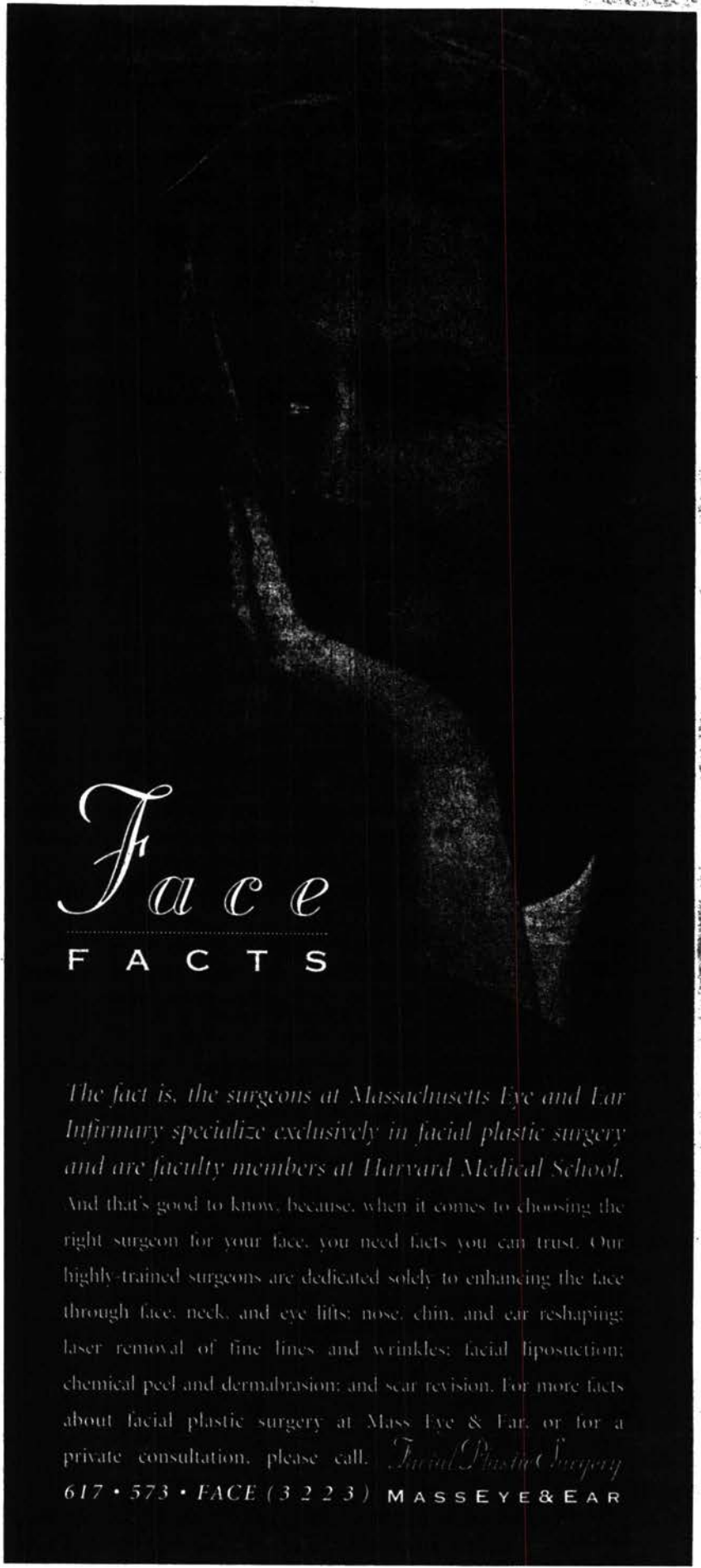
"Once a virus invades the human population it is nearly impossible to eradicate it." Allan, like many other scientists interviewed for this article, believes the United States should abandon the use of monkeys and join countries such as Great Britain and Canada that have used more expensive cloned human cells to produce oral and inactivated polio vaccine for many years.

**R**ECENTLY, WALTER KYLE has begun to turn his attention to the many new unexplained diseases that have arisen in the second half of this century. What if some are connected with viral contaminants in vaccines? In Kyle's very first vaccine case, Lederle argued that his client had become paralyzed by a polio vaccine that would not have affected any normal person because she was immuno-compromised in some fashion. Kyle says it was the other way around, and he was angered that the drug company engaged in what he calls a classic "blame the victim strategy." His client was fine until she was exposed to the vaccine. "My thought was there was some agent—monkey viral contaminant—that transmitted transient immune deficiency," he says. "That's why she got paralyzed."

Now Kyle is having tissues and blood samples from clients who have unexplained immune system disorders tested, searching for clues that they may be harboring in their blood monkey virus sequences that came from the polio vaccine. Kyle admits it's a chilling idea that millions of Americans could be walking around with monkey viruses, but given what he knows, it hardly seems far-fetched. What is scarier to him is the continued use of monkeys to manufacture the polio vaccine and continued government indifference. "Why do we continue to take risks with our children when the rest of the world abandoned monkeys a long time ago?" he asks in frustration. "When are we going to wise up?"

Today, even as more and more scientists recognize that there are safer alternatives, Americans continue to have no choice when it comes to polio vaccine: both the oral and injected vaccines available in this country are exclusively grown on monkey kidney cells. Pasteur Mérieux Connaught manufactures an inactivated vaccine from monkeys for U.S. consumption but produces the vaccine on clean cloned human cell lines for Canadian use. Cecil Fox maintains that, despite all the problems associated with monkeys, there is no financial incentive for vaccine manufacturers to give them up.

"It's easy. We've done it for a long time, so we keep on doing it," he says. Fox doubts that U.S. policy will change in the near future, even though the technology exists to readily make a vaccine safe from all contaminants. "It's in the best interests of the stockholders of these companies not to do anything," he says. "Until somebody like Walter Kyle raises enough hell, it's going to continue that way." **B**



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# THE VACCINE REACTION

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Special Report

*Published by the National Vaccine Information Center*  
**Barbara Loe Fisher, Editor**

September 1998

## **HEPATITIS B VACCINE: THE UNTOLD STORY**

### **Parents Question Forced Vaccination As Reports of Hepatitis B Vaccine Reactions Multiply**

In increasing numbers, parents across the country are contacting the National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC) to report opposition to regulations being enacted by state health department officials that legally require children to be injected with three doses of hepatitis B vaccine before being allowed to attend daycare, kindergarten, elementary school, high school or college. Simultaneously, as more schools and employers bow to pressure from government health officials and require individuals to show proof they have been injected with hepatitis B vaccine before being allowed to get an education or a job, reports of serious health problems following hepatitis B vaccination among children and adults are multiplying.

The National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC) maintains that federal and state public health officials are promoting forced vaccination with hepatitis B vaccine without truthfully informing the public about the risks of hepatitis B disease in America or the known and unknown risks of hepatitis B vaccine. Without being provided with accurate and complete information about disease and vaccine risks, citizens cannot exercise informed consent, which becomes a human right when an individual considers undergoing a medical procedure that could cause injury or death.

Following is a general overview of what is and is not known about hepatitis B disease, the hepatitis B vaccine and the politics of hepatitis B vaccination.

**HEPATITIS B NOT HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS** - Unlike other infectious diseases for which vaccines have been developed and mandated in the U.S., hepatitis B is not common in childhood and is not highly contagious. Hepatitis B is primarily an adult disease transmitted through infected body fluids, most frequently infected blood, and is prevalent in high risk populations such as needle using drug addicts; sexually promiscuous heterosexual and homosexual adults; residents and staff of custodial institutions such as prisons; health care workers exposed to blood; persons who require repeated blood transfusions and babies born to infected mothers.

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According to *CDC Prevention Guidelines: A Guide to Action* (1997), a book written by federal public health officials at the U.S. government Centers for Disease Control (CDC), "the sources of [hepatitis B] infection for most cases include intravenous drug use (28%), heterosexual contact with infected persons or multiple partners (22%) and homosexual activity (9%)." According to *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine* (1994), mother to child transmission of hepatitis B "is uncommon in North America and western Europe."

Although CDC officials have made statements that hepatitis B is easy to catch through sharing toothbrushes or razors, Eric Mast, M.D., Chief of the Surveillance Section, Hepatitis Branch of the CDC, stated in a 1997 public hearing that: "although [the hepatitis B virus] is present in moderate concentrations in saliva, it's not transmitted commonly by casual contact."

**HEPATITIS B NOT A KILLER FOR MOST** - Symptoms of hepatitis B disease include nausea, vomiting, fatigue, low grade fever, pain and swelling in joints, headache and cough that may occur one to two weeks before the onset of jaundice (yellowing of the skin) and enlargement and tenderness of the liver, which can last for three to four weeks. Fatigue can last up to a year. According to *Harrison's*, in cases of acute hepatitis B "most patients do not require hospital care" and "95 percent of patients have a favorable course and recover completely" with the case-fatality ratio being "very low (approximately 0.1 percent)."

Those who recover completely from hepatitis B infection acquire life-long immunity. Of those who do not recover completely, fewer than 5 percent become chronic carriers of the virus with just one quarter of these in danger of developing life threatening liver disease later in life, according to *Robbins Pathologic Basis of Disease* (1994), a medical college textbook.

*The Guide to Clinical Preventive Services* (1996), written under the supervision of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), states that the risk of developing a chronic hepatitis B infection is higher in infected infants than in infected older children and adults: "Infections during infancy, while estimated to represent only 1-3% of cases, account for 20-30% of chronic infections." Because infants born to infected mothers are at highest risk for developing chronic hepatitis B infections, routine screening of pregnant women for hepatitis B infection is one of the most important public health measures that can be taken to prevent chronic hepatitis B carriers. *The Merck Manual* (1992), a major medical reference used by physicians, notes that "postexposure vaccination is recommended for newborn infants of hepatitis B positive mothers."

**HEPATITIS B LOW IN U.S.** - The U.S. and western Europe have always had among the lowest rates of hepatitis B disease in the world (0.1% to 0.5% of the general population) compared to countries in the Far East and Africa, where the disease affects 5-20% or more of the population. According to *Guide to Clinical Preventive Services*, in the U.S. "the greatest reported incidence [of hepatitis B] occurs in adults aged 20-39" and "the number of cases peaked in 1985 and has shown a continuous gradual decline since that time."

Even though hepatitis B disease is uncommon in the general population in the U.S., it continues to be high among those engaged in high-risk behaviors, especially IV drug use. *Guide to Clinical Preventive Services* states that "In recent years, a growing number of injection drug users have become infected; currently, between 60% and 80% of persons who use illicit drugs parenterally (through the skin such as with a needle stick) have serologic evidence of [hepatitis B] infection."

In 1991, there were 18,003 cases of hepatitis B reported in the U.S. out of a total U.S. population of 248 million. According to the October 31, 1997 *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* published by the CDC, in 1996 there were 10,637 cases of hepatitis B reported in the U.S. with 279 cases reported in children under the age of 14 and the CDC stated that "Hepatitis B continues to decline in most states, primarily because of a decrease in the number of cases among injecting drug users and, to a lesser extent, among both homosexuals and heterosexuals of both sexes."

**CDC RECOMMENDS ALL INFANTS GET HEP B VACCINE** - Even though hepatitis B is an adult disease, is not highly contagious, is not deadly for most who contract it, and is not in epidemic form in the U.S. (except among high risk groups such as IV drug addicts), in 1991 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended that all infants be injected with the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine at birth before being discharged from the hospital newborn nursery. A similar recommendation was also made by the Committee on Infectious Diseases of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). This, despite the fact very little is known about the health and integrity of an individual baby's immune and neurological systems at birth.

In 1991, media reports generated by the CDC used hepatitis B disease statistics that were not anchored in documented fact but are still used today to promote mass hepatitis B vaccination. Most of the inflated disease statistics originate with statements generated by the Centers for Disease Control. In the 1991 ACIP Recommendations calling for mass vaccination with hepatitis B vaccine published in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, the CDC states that there are an "estimated 1 million-1.25 million persons with chronic hepatitis B infection in the United States" and that "each year approximately 4,000-5,000 of these persons die from chronic liver disease" and that "an estimated 200,000-300,000 new [hepatitis B] infections occurred annually during the period 1980-1991." The CDC gives no scientific reference for this data other than the CDC.

Just one year before the government's call for mass vaccination, hepatitis B vaccine maker SmithKline Beecham in their 1990 hepatitis B vaccine product insert stated, "The CDC estimates that there are approximately 0.5 to 1.0 million chronic carriers of hepatitis B virus in the U.S. and that this pool of carriers grows by 2% to 3% (12,000 to 20,000 individuals) annually."

**FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS BECOME STATE LAWS** - Because vaccination requirements are controlled by states and not the federal government, in order for federal health officials to achieve their goal of a 100 percent vaccination rate with new vaccines marketed by drug companies, they must persuade states to turn federal vaccine policies into state law. And, because during the past 50 years, most state legislatures have completely turned over the power to mandate vaccines to state health department officials, very infrequently do state legislators take a vote to approve the mandating of a new vaccine such as hepatitis B. So, while American children born in 1948 were only required by state health officials to show proof of smallpox vaccination to enter school, American children born in 1998 are required by most states to be injected with 33 or 34 doses of 9 or 10 different viral and bacterial vaccines to enter school, including three doses of hepatitis B vaccine.

**FEDERAL HEALTH OFFICIALS GIVE STATE HEALTH OFFICIALS MONEY TO FORCE HEP B VACCINATION** - Following the 1991 CDC recommendation for universal use of hepatitis B vaccine by all children, state health department officials began issuing mandates requiring children

to show proof they have been injected with three doses of hepatitis B vaccine in order to attend daycare or school. By the end of 1997, 35 states had regulations on the books requiring children to get 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine and, yet, only 15 states had passed laws requiring prenatal screening of pregnant mothers for hepatitis B infection.

To encourage states to mandate use of hepatitis B vaccine by all children, federal health officials at the Centers for Disease Control give grants and other financial incentives to state health departments to reward them for promoting mass vaccination. Since 1965, the CDC has given state health departments hundreds of millions of dollars through categorical grant programs to promote mass use of federally recommended vaccines. At the same time, if state health officials do not show federal health officials proof they have attained a certain vaccination rate in their state, federal grants to state health departments can be withheld.

In 1993, the Comprehensive Childhood Immunization Act of 1993 was passed giving the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) the authority to award more than \$400 million to states to set up state vaccine registries to tag and track children and enforce mandatory vaccination with federally recommended vaccines, including hepatitis B vaccine. The Performance Grant Program rewards a state with either \$50, \$75 or \$100 per child who is fully vaccinated with all federally recommended vaccines, including hepatitis B vaccine and, in 1995, DHHS Secretary Donna Shalala gave the states the power to approve a newborn's social security number in order to set up vaccine tracking registries in more than half the states. The CDC plan is to hook up the state vaccine tracking registries in order to create a de facto centralized electronic database containing every child's medical records.

### **PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY ALSO FUNDS FORCED HEP B VACCINATION -**

In addition to federal grants, many states get money from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (Johnson & Johnson), which operates All Kids Count, to set up vaccine tracking systems to enforce state vaccination mandates. (In 1989, Merck & Co., the U.S. manufacturer of the measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), chicken pox and hepatitis B vaccines, joined with Johnson & Johnson to form Worldwide Consumer Pharmaceuticals Co. with the goal of becoming "one of the premier worldwide consumer products companies." Merck's 1997 vaccine sales reached 1 billion dollars.)

All Kids Count is a project of the Task Force for Child Survival and Development headquartered at The Carter Center (former President Jimmy Carter) in Atlanta, which is directed by former CDC director Dr. William Foege. The Task Force is supported by the World Health Organization, World Bank, Rockefeller Foundation, United Nation's Population Fund and vaccine manufacturers, entities which also sponsor the Children's Vaccine Initiative (CVI). The CVI, headquartered in Geneva, was launched in 1990 at the World Summit for Children and promotes "the development and utilization" of vaccines by all of the world's children.

Forced vaccination with hepatitis B vaccine is also promoted in states by non-profit organizations such as Every Child by Two, founded in 1991 by former First Lady Rosalyn Carter and Betty Bumpers, wife of Arkansas Senator Dale Bumpers. Every Child by Two is funded in part by grants from Merck, Lederle and Connaught, the three largest U.S. vaccine manufacturers.

The non-profit CDC Foundation, which began operation in 1995, has raised more than \$15 million in the past four years to augment the CDC's campaign to enforce mass vaccination. The CDC Foundation, the Task

Force for Child Survival & Development and vaccine manufacturers funded the recent National Immunization Conference held in Atlanta.

The five-year-old non-profit Immunization Action Coalition operates the Hepatitis B Coalition, which nationally promotes hepatitis B vaccination for all children. Funding comes from private donations, including a grant from SmithKline Beecham, manufacturer of the hepatitis B vaccine, and a new \$750,000 grant from the Centers for Disease Control. A newsletter produced by this group contains the assurance that "Everything herein is reviewed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for technical accuracy (unless it is an opinion piece written by a non-CDC author)."

**PHARMACISTS NOW VACCINATE** - SmithKline Beecham, through the American Pharmaceutical Association, has also funded a nationwide campaign called "Pharmacy-Based Immunization Advocacy" which allows pharmacists to vaccinate children and adults. As of 1998, the Hepatitis B Coalition reports that 23 states have passed laws giving pharmacists the right to sell and administer hepatitis B and other vaccines.

**FAMILIES PENALIZED FOR REFUSING HEP B VACCINE** - As state health departments accumulate power and money to force vaccination with all federally recommended vaccines, including hepatitis B vaccine, child and adult citizens are punished by both federal and state health officials with economic sanctions for refusing to comply. Refusal to be injected with hepatitis B vaccine can result in citizens being denied an education, including enrollment in daycare, elementary school, high school, college and graduate school; denial of health insurance; denial of employment; denial of federal entitlement benefits for poor children including food under the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program and medical care under Medicaid. In some states, like Texas, a needy family loses \$25 per month per child in state health benefits if all children have not received all federally recommended vaccines, including hepatitis B vaccine.

**HEP B VACCINE LICENSED BY FDA WITHOUT ADEQUATE PROOF OF LONG TERM SAFETY** - In 1986, the FDA gave Merck & Co. a license to market the first recombinant DNA hepatitis B vaccine, which replaced the old hepatitis B vaccines made from blood taken from human chronic hepatitis B virus carriers. In awarding Merck & Co. and, later, SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals, licenses to market their genetically engineered hepatitis B vaccines in the U.S., the FDA allowed both drug companies to use "safety" studies which only included a few thousand children monitored for only four or five days after vaccination to check for reactions. As "proof" their hepatitis B vaccine is safe to be used in children, Merck & Co. stated in their 1993 product insert that "In a group of studies, 1636 doses of RECOMBIVAX HB were administered to 653 healthy infants and children (up to 10 years of age) who were monitored for 5 days after each dose."

Merck & Co. found that injection site and systemic complaints, such as fatigue and weakness, fever, headache and arthralgia (joint pain), were reported following up to 17 percent of all hepatitis B injections. Because the FDA did not require drug companies to provide scientific evidence that hepatitis B vaccine does not compromise the immune and neurological systems of children and adults over weeks, months or years post-vaccination, Merck & Co. warns in the 1996 product insert that "As with any vaccine, there is the possibility that broad use of the vaccine could reveal adverse reactions not observed in clinical trials" and SmithKline Beecham (1993) has a similar warning that "it is possible that expanded commercial use of the vaccine could reveal rare adverse reactions."

Another warning in the Merck 1996 product insert is "it is also not known whether the vaccine can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman or can affect reproduction capacity" and "it is not known whether the vaccine is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are secreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when the vaccine is administered to a nursing woman."

And, although doctors routinely inject hepatitis B vaccine into children along with many other vaccines such as DPT, HIB, MMR and chicken pox vaccine, Merck & Co. state in the 1996 product insert: "Specific data are not yet available for the simultaneous administration of RECOMBIVAX HB with other vaccines."

**HEP B VACCINE EFFICACY ALSO QUESTIONED** - All vaccines stimulate only an artificial, temporary immunity, and the length of immunity conferred by the hepatitis B vaccine and the future need for more "booster" doses later in life is still not clear. Merck & Co state in their 1996 hepatitis B vaccine product insert that "the duration of the protective effect of RECOMBIVAX HB in healthy vaccinees is unknown at present and the need for booster doses is not yet defined."

In the *CDC Prevention Guidelines: A Guide to Action* (1997), the CDC states "The duration of protection [of hepatitis B vaccine] and need for booster doses are not yet fully defined. Between 30% and 50% of persons who develop adequate antibody after three doses of vaccine will lose detectable antibody within 7 years but protection against viremic infection and clinical disease appears to persist." If immunity only lasts 7 years, babies vaccinated with hepatitis B vaccine may be candidates for more shots at age seven.

**IOM REPORT REVEALS LACK OF ADEQUATE SCIENTIFIC STUDIES** - In *Adverse Events Associated with Childhood Vaccines* published in 1994 by the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, observations about the limitations of hepatitis B vaccine studies included the statements that "it is important to note that individual trials usually involved a few hundred subjects for study...when larger vaccination programs were monitored, observations of adverse events were necessarily less detailed and less accurately reported" and "the studies were not designed to assess serious, rare adverse events; the total number of recipients is too small and the follow-up generally too short to detect rare or delayed serious adverse reactions."

The IOM report also noted that no controlled observational studies or controlled clinical trials have ever been held to evaluate repeated reports that hepatitis B vaccine can cause Guillain-Barre syndrome; arthritis; transverse myelitis, optic neuritis, multiple sclerosis and other central demyelinating diseases of the nervous system (degeneration of the myelin sheath of the brain that helps transmit nerve impulses); or sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

A major conclusion of the Institute of Medicine report was that almost no basic science research has been undertaken to define at the cellular and molecular level the biological mechanism of vaccine-induced injury and death. The report concluded that "The lack of adequate data regarding many of the adverse events under study was of major concern to the committee...the committee encountered many gaps and limitations in knowledge bearing directly or indirectly on the safety of vaccines. These include inadequate understanding of the biologic mechanisms underlying adverse events following natural infection or immunization, insufficient or inconsistent information from case reports and case series...and inadequate size or length of follow-up of many population-based epidemiologic studies...."

**MEDICAL LITERATURE CITES IMMUNE SYSTEM/BRAIN DAMAGE** - During the past decade, there have been many reports in the medical literature (primarily in international medical journals rather than U.S. medical journals) that hepatitis B vaccination is causing chronic immune and neurological disease in children and adults, including *lupus*: Tudela & Bonal (1992); Mamoux & Dumont (1994); Guiserix (1996); *arthritis, including polyarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis*: Christan & Helin (1987); Hachulla et al (1990); Rogerson & Nye (1990); Biasi et al (1993),(1994); Vautier & Carty (1994); Hassan & Oldham (1994); *Rheumatic Review* (1994); Gross et al (1995); Pope et al (1995); Cathebras et al (1996); Soubrier et al (1997); *Guillain Barre Syndrome GBS*: Shaw et al (1988), Tuohy (1989); *demyelinating disorders such as optic neuritis, Bell's Palsy, demyelinating neuropathy, transverse myelitis and multiple sclerosis*: Shaw et al (1988); WHO (1990); Reutens et al (1990); Herroelen et al (1991); Nadler (1993); Brezin et al (1993); Mahassin et al (1993); Kaplanski et al (1995); Baglivo et al (1996); Marsaudon & Barrault (1996); Berkman et al (1996); Waisbren (1997); *diabetes mellitus*: Poutasi (1996); Classen (1996); *chronic fatigue*: Salit (1993); Delage et al (1993); *vascular disorders*: Fried et al (1987); Goolsby (1989); Cockwell et al (1990); Poullin & Gabriel (1994); Mathieu et al (1996); Graniel et al (1997); and others.

In 1996, Burton A. Waisbren, M.D., a cell biologist and infectious disease specialist, who is a founding member of the Infectious Disease Society of America and past President of the Infectious Disease Society of Milwaukee, pointed out in the *Wisconsin Medical Journal* that "there is an increasing number of reports in the refereed medical literature about demyelinating diseases occurring after an individual has received the hepatitis B vaccination...since the hepatitis B virus itself has been reported to cause autoimmune problems, should we not be wary of giving antigens that seem to have triggered these problems?" Waisbren, in a presentation before a 1996 Institute of Medicine Vaccine Safety Forum, warned that genetically engineered hepatitis B vaccines contain polypeptide sequences that are present in human neurologic tissues such as myelin and that, by a mechanism called molecular mimicry, these polypeptides can act as autoantigens which can induce autoimmune demyelinating diseases of the brain such as multiple sclerosis.

In that same year, Montinari et al published a study in Italy evaluating 30 children and adults, the majority aged 3 to 9 months, who suffered central nervous system disorders, such as seizures and autism, following hepatitis B vaccination. The purpose of the study was to investigate whether there is an immunogenetic basis (autoimmune type) responsible for the demyelination process in the brain that can occur following recombinant hepatitis B vaccination. The authors concluded "autoimmune diseases are more frequent in nations where vaccines are widely used, the so called "clear" communities" and they identified several potential genetic markers that "may visualize risk patients for autoimmune diseases following hepatitis B vaccination.

Montinari's work to identify genetic factors for predisposition to hepatitis B vaccine reactions is important in light of the study in 1989 by Alper et al to identify genetic factors for those who do not respond to hepatitis B vaccination. In that study, the authors concluded that there was genetic predisposition to failure to respond to the vaccine. They stated: "These results support our hypothesis that the production of anti-HBsAg [vaccine-induced antibodies] is a dominant trait and that the inability to produce high titers of anti-HBsAg after adequate immunization is a recessive trait..." The authors concluded that the genetic markers they identified are most prevalent in caucasians of European descent "and is associated with a wide variety of diseases with autoimmune features in this population, including Type 1 diabetes mellitus..."

In 1996, Barthelow Classen, M.D., CEO of Classen Immunotherapies Inc., published an epidemiologic study in the *New Zealand Medical Journal* and reported that there was a 60 percent increase in Type 1 diabetes (juvenile diabetes) following a massive campaign in New Zealand from 1988 to 1991 to vaccinate babies six weeks of age or older with hepatitis B vaccine. His analysis of a group of 100,000 New Zealand children prospectively followed since 1982 showed that the incidence of diabetes before the hepatitis B vaccination program began in 1988 was 11.2 cases per 100,000 children per year while the incidence of diabetes following the hepatitis B vaccination campaign was 18.2 cases per 100,000 children per year.

### **VACCINE INJURIES REPORTED AT NVIC CONFERENCE ON VACCINATION -**

At the First International Public Conference on Vaccination sponsored by the NVIC on September 13-15, 1997 in Alexandria, Virginia, physicians and scientists from around the world gathered to speak about vaccine-induced chronic illness. Canadian physician Byron Hyde, M.D., Chairman of the Nightingale Research Foundation, and an internationally recognized authority on myalgic encephalomyelitis (also known as chronic fatigue syndrome), spoke about the data he has accumulated on more than 200 cases of serious immune and neurological dysfunction following hepatitis B vaccination. Dr. Hyde said:

"There was a nurse in Wisconsin who had had two immunizations against hepatitis B. After the second, she started to complain. They insisted that she have three more [shots], full dosage. They gave her the first, she complained of headaches, pain, and they told her this was anxiety neurosis. They gave her the fourth and fifth and she lost I.Q., measurable loss of intelligence, measurable loss in stamina, all of the things you see in the worst cases of ME or chronic fatigue syndrome.....A lot of these cases that we've looked at suggest demyelinating disease, disseminated myelitis, localized injuries, three unexplained deaths...the problem with all of this is that nobody has ever seriously studied it...."

Dr. Hyde was particularly critical of the poor science and medicine that hurts patients. He concluded "Almost all of these people who had adverse reactions after the first immunization, after the second immunization were individuals who had immunological side effects and who told their physicians and the physicians did nothing about it but continued to proceed with immunization... I think part of the problem is the pharmaceutical companies and the governments themselves have attempted to say 'Here, take this sugar pill, it is danger-free, it is a wonderful thing, it has no risk, no problems' and doctors have become lazy and actually believed this dangerous philosophy put out by the pharmaceutical companies and the governments."

**HEP B VACCINE INFANT DEATHS REPORTED IN VAERS** - Even though fewer than 10 percent of all doctors report health problems following vaccination, there are more than 16,000 reports of hospitalizations, injuries and deaths following hepatitis B vaccination that have been reported to the U.S. government Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) since July 1990. There are reports of deaths in infants under one month of age following hepatitis B vaccination in VAERS, with most of the deaths being classified as sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), even though SIDS is not historically recognized in the medical literature as occurring in babies under two months of age.

One of those death reports was made for a 15-day old baby boy who died within 48 hours of his first dose of hepatitis B vaccine. His father testified at a 1995 Institute of Medicine Vaccine Safety Forum workshop. He described what happened:

"For the first 13 days of his life, Nicholas was no different than any other baby. He ate well. When he slept, he slept well. He acted just like my first son acted when he came home from the hospital." Nicholas was given a hepatitis B shot at his regular check up at the pediatrician's office on the 13th day of his life. His father said:

"That night when I got home from work, I noticed that Nicholas was crying a lot more than usual. In fact, he was screaming some of the time. He was acting differently, but because we had just taken him to the doctor for a checkup and they told us he was a big healthy boy, we thought everything was OK. When he was just acting fussy, like babies sometimes do, we didn't know anything about vaccines or that they can cause problems for some babies."

"Nicholas cried on and off for most of the night. When I got up and went to work the next day, he was still crying on and off. He continued during most of the day and into the evening. The next morning, his mother found him dead in his crib. From the way he looked, he had been dead for several hours."

An autopsy was done the next day. A couple of weeks later, our pediatrician told us over the phone that the autopsy showed Nicholas had died of sudden infant death syndrome. He told us Nicholas was one of the healthiest babies he had ever seen.... What I didn't know then but I know now is that the pediatrician had made a report within 17 days of Nicholas' death to the government's Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System, VAERS. In VAERS, Nicholas' death is listed as SIDS. Even though I didn't know anything about vaccines or SIDS, something told me that there was a reason why Nicholas died, and I had to find out why."

After seeing an article in the *Washington Post* about the Institute of Medicine report on adverse events associated with childhood vaccines, Nicholas's father called the National Vaccine Information Center and began talking to experts and researching infant death and vaccines. Eventually a clinical professor of pathology, who had reviewed Nicholas' medical records, autopsy and slides, stated in writing that Nicholas did not die of SIDS but died a cardiac death, caused by passive congestive changes with pulmonary edema and hemorrhage caused by the active immunization with hepatitis B vaccine. The pathologist stated "I do not believe this was a sudden infant death syndrome death. Sudden infant death syndrome is the most abused diagnosis in pediatric pathology. In this particular case, the infant was two weeks old. Sudden infant death at two weeks old is so rare as to be virtually unheard of."

The pathologist went on to say that Nicholas was at high risk for congestive heart failure because his mother had gestational diabetes, but that he would definitely have survived were it not for the stress induced by the hepatitis B vaccination.

Nicholas's father, in his testimony before the Institute of Medicine, asked "How many other newborn babies are dying from the effects of hepatitis B vaccine, but are being wrongly diagnosed as SIDS and no one ever knows the difference? I looked at the computer printouts of VAERS reports at the National Vaccine Information Center, and I saw there were other reports of babies just a few days or weeks old, who have died shortly after hepatitis B vaccination. Many are listed as SIDS deaths, but are they?"

**ADULTS REPORT HEP B VACCINE INJURY AND DEATH TO NVIC** - As hepatitis B requirements force more adults to get vaccinated as a condition for getting a higher education or working in the health care field, NVIC is receiving more and more reaction reports like this one from a disabled nurse, who recently wrote in:

"24 hours after my first [hepatitis B] shot, I had muscle pain in legs and arms - was told this was 'normal.' Same thing after 2nd shot. Six weeks after 2nd shot I had my first episode of Raynauds [temporary loss of blood flow to fingers resulting in tingling, throbbing, swelling, intense pain] and also began having rashes on arms and neck. At this point it was minor and not constant. I asked if it had anything to do with the vaccine and was told no.

"Six months after the 1st shot, I received the booster. From then (1995) to today, I have constant daily fevers up to 100.5, tormenting rashes and prickling on arms, hands, neck and legs, muscle degeneration, joint pain with restricted movement, difficulty swallowing and Raynauds has become severe.

"I was perfectly healthy until the hepatitis B vaccinations and still all the doctors tell me it has nothing to do with my illness. I had reactions to two of the drugs they tried to treat me with. I am on total disability because of these symptoms. I am an RN but was taught that the vaccines were perfectly safe."

**PARENTS OPPOSE HEPATITIS B VACCINE MANDATE IN ILLINOIS** - In the spring of 1997, a suburban Chicago mother of two daughters, ages 9 and 11, became concerned when she received a notice from the school system stating that her older daughter had to be vaccinated with hepatitis B vaccine by September 1997 or she would be barred from attending school. Although both of Kathy Rothschild's daughters were fully vaccinated with all other childhood vaccines, she didn't know anyone with hepatitis B and couldn't understand why her daughter had to get the vaccine. Her research led her to a public library and then to NVIC.

With the help of Kathy Rothschild's State Senator, Kathy Parker, an agreement by the Illinois Department of Health to not voice opposition, and with support from NVIC members around the state, a bill passed the Illinois Senate 52-2 on March 20, 1997, allowing parents the right to philosophical exemption to vaccination. The bill also created a Task Force and required the Board of Health to hold public hearings to review how Illinois public health employees add new vaccines to state vaccination laws and how they implement those laws.

After the bill overwhelmingly passed the Senate, the Illinois Department of Health went back on its pledge not to oppose the bill and vigorously fought against the bill in the House, successfully killing it in committee before it had a chance to come to a floor vote. However, the health department did agree to roll back the hepatitis B mandate for one year (until September 1998) and to hold three public hearings, which resulted in testimony from physician expert witnesses and parents and reinforced the dangers of hepatitis B vaccine and the need for informed consent rights to be established within state vaccine requirements.

**DOCTOR, MOTHERS SAY VACCINE SAFETY DATA POOR** - In a December 1997 public hearing in Chicago before the Illinois Board of Health, Mayer Eisenstein, M.D., M.P.H., who is board certified in public health and preventive medicine, quality assurance utilization review, by the National Board of Medical Examiners and has recently completed a law degree, testified against the proposed hepatitis B mandate. He said: "The idea of giving this vaccine to a one-day old baby, a newborn, is preposterous. There is no scientific evidence for this. In fact, I called up the [hepatitis B vaccine] manufacturer and I had [a representative] come to St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital, where I am Chairman of the Department of Medicine, and I asked him: 'Show me your evidence on one-day old infants as to side effects [from the hepatitis B vaccine]' - we have none. Our studies were done on 5 and 10 year olds....As a father, grandfather,

a physician, as a lawyer, I want the option of not giving it to my children unless I believe the scientific evidence is there."

Later during the public hearing, a mother whose child reacted to the hepatitis B vaccine testified that "We were told unless we had the shot our children were not getting into school. In the past, I got the shots for my children. So I went and got the [hepatitis B] shot. First shot, my daughter got slightly sick. We didn't associate it with the shot. We associated it with possible flu. Her legs hurt. Her back hurt...."

"The second shot, within two days of this shot, my daughter's symptoms went from mild to severe abdominal pain around the clock. She couldn't eat. She couldn't sleep. Her legs hurt. She broke out in a rash. She had eczema over most of her body. Going to the doctor, we were told it was in her head, that she needed a psychiatrist. Then we decided we would find out for ourselves.

"It was the people who gave me [information on the vaccine], the list that I should have gotten first that said what the reactions were, including severe abdominal pain, eczema, rash, hair loss. My doctor didn't tell me that. I was given a piece of paper that said reactions would be a minimum, maybe a small fever. She had a fever the whole time.

"I never knew any of this existed, and this is \$18,000 later, a child who [had to be] out of school for the first three months and was tutored at home. I don't want to see other kids go through this. I think there should be more testing done. I think the parents should know that this shot isn't for something that's easily picked up. This is for sexual transmission or drug use. My child is ten years old. She plays with Barbie dolls and paints her fingernails. She doesn't know about this stuff. I don't want to give her a shot to protect her from something and someplace she's not at yet."

**CITIZENS MAKE PLEA FOR INFORMED CONSENT** - Before testifying at a Board of Health public hearing held in Springfield on March 26, 1998, NVIC held a press conference in the State Capitol building. Then, along with scores of Illinois parents who traveled to Springfield to make public comment, NVIC President Barbara Loe Fisher Reverend Robert VandenBosch, President of the American Research Foundation, and Bonnie Dunbar, Ph.D., professor of cell biology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, presented formal testimony.

Fisher told the Board of Health "There is a six year old girl named Katherine lying in a bed in Skokie, Illinois unable to lift her head off her pillow or walk to the bathroom. Just 13 weeks ago, Katherine was an ice skater with boundless energy and a dream of going to the Olympics. Her mother didn't want her to get the hepatitis B shot but her pediatrician told her it was a political issue like AIDS and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) was going to mandate the vaccine soon. Katherine got that hepatitis B shot and now she may never skate again. Where were her informed consent rights? And where will the doctors from the state health department and the CDC and the AAP be when her mother carries her up the stairs to the bathroom? And will the state of Illinois pay her medical bills when her insurance runs out after DHHS and the Justice Department oppose giving her federal compensation?"

During limited public comment time, all of the parents asked the Board of Health to allow citizens to follow the judgement of their conscience when making vaccination decisions for their children, including the right

to exercise informed consent to vaccination without suffering harassment and punishment at the hands of state health and school officials. Some, like a young man who was kicked out of an Illinois college in the middle of the semester because of his sincere religious beliefs, asked for the right to follow his religious convictions without being punished by doctors employed by the state. He said:

"They have refused to give me credit for this semester and have told me not to attend class and have cancelled my appointment with my advisors. I applied for a religious exemption. Both my parents wrote letters identifying my objection. We were refused on the grounds that, in order for a religious exemption to occur, I must identify 'a recognized church or religious organization.' I don't believe that anyone has a right to judge my religion. How does recognition of my belief by another human being make it more or less? I am confused by the word 'organized.' How does the number of people or the structure under which they operate validate my beliefs? This is a violation of my Constitutional right to religious freedom."

Rev. Robert VandenBosch, an ethicist, warned that "The First Amendment [of the U.S. Constitution] clearly defines the free exercise of religious beliefs and the moral rights of individuals to obey the judgement of their conscience in matters of life and death. The Ninth Amendment of the Constitution guarantees that governmental authority cannot override individual rights of conscience. It states: 'The enumeration of the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.' One of the rights retained by the people is the right of conscience."

## **PROFESSOR OF CELL BIOLOGY INVESTIGATES HEP B VACCINE DAMAGE -**

Professor Bonnie Dunbar, Ph.D., who has a distinguished 25 year career in academic and laboratory science and has been honored by the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) for her pioneering work in contraceptive vaccine development, presented at the March 26 Illinois Board of Health hearing and described disabling reactions to hepatitis B vaccine suffered by her brother and a research assistant.

"Three years ago my brother, who is a geologist Ph.D. agronomist with four college degrees, came to work with me at Baylor College of Medicine to work on a collaborative project in molecular genetic engineering of wheat proteins. He was required to take the hepatitis B vaccine. Within 24 hours to four days after the first injection, he had fever and severe fatigue for one week. Two to four weeks after that injection, he ended up with a whole series of symptoms that now 15 doctors have said are clearly symptoms of an adverse reaction to this vaccination. Even workman's compensation for the state of Texas is compensating him for over \$300,000 worth of medical expenses."

"At about the same time, a 21-year old girl, a medical student, came to work in my lab for the summer. She, too, had to get the hepatitis B vaccine. After the first injection, she had fever and fatigue. Three weeks following her second injection, she lost vision in her one eye but, after 6 months, regained most of her sight. She was reluctant to get the third dose of vaccine, and talked with her doctor and he told her this [hepatitis B] vaccine is the safest, there's no problem. After the third injection, she ended up in the hospital for two months extremely ill and she has lost all of her eyesight in one eye."

Dr. Dunbar went on to explain to the Board of Health members that during the past three years of collecting data on the hepatitis B vaccine, she has been contacted by hundreds of doctors and patients around the world who have reported severe autoimmune and neurological complications to hepatitis B vaccination in previously

healthy children and adults, including serious rashes, fever, joint pain, chronic fatigue, multiple sclerosis and lupus-like symptoms, rheumatoid arthritis and neurological dysfunction. As a basic science researcher with expertise in cell and molecular biology, she is investigating the possibility that molecular mimicry or other autoimmune mechanisms may be the reason why the genetically engineered hepatitis B vaccine "tricks" the immune systems of genetically susceptible individuals into attacking their own bodies, causing debilitating autoimmune disorders.

After analyzing the data she has accumulated, Dr. Dunbar, in collaboration with colleagues at other academic and medical institutions, applied for a NIH research grant to investigate the role that genetic factors may play in hepatitis B vaccine reactions and in vaccine failures. Their goal is to identify genetic markers so high risk children and adults could be screened out of the mass vaccination program and spared injury and death. The grant was turned down twice by the government in July 1997 and July 1998 but Dr. Dunbar and her colleagues are in the process of refiling the grant, along with additional data.

**HEP B VACCINE VICTIMS IN FRANCE SUE** - An article in the July 31, 1998 issue of *Science*, an American scientific journal, reports that French attorneys representing 15,000 French citizens filed a lawsuit against the French government "accusing it of understating the vaccine's risks and exaggerating the benefits for the average person." One French physician has reportedly collected data on more than 600 people suffering from serious immune and neurological dysfunction following hepatitis B vaccination, many with symptoms resembling multiple sclerosis. *Science* quotes a World Health Organization official as saying "These fears [of the hepatitis B vaccine] are quite unfounded" and reveals that CDC employee Robert Chen, who is responsible for monitoring vaccine safety for the U.S. government, has a simple explanation for the growing number of reports of hepatitis B vaccine associated injury and death in the U.S., Canada and Europe. His scientific analysis leads him to believe that "It's human nature to attribute cause to almost anything that precedes a tragedy."

**HEP B VACCINATION CAN MEAN A POSITIVE HEP B BLOOD TEST** - A little known fact about hepatitis B vaccine is that those who are vaccinated can test positive for hepatitis B on some routine blood tests. NVIC has received calls from adults who report that, after getting hepatitis B vaccine, they are testing positive for hepatitis B when they undergo routine blood tests in doctor's offices. The Red Cross maintains that more sensitive lab tests used by blood banks can differentiate between hepatitis B antibodies produced by disease and those produced by the vaccine.

HIV vaccines now being tested in humans also produce positive tests for HIV. As noted in a September 1997 *Washington Post* article about HIV vaccine trials: "Foremost among the worries of many would-be volunteers is the problem of forever testing positive for AIDS antibodies...although sophisticated laboratory tests can usually tell the difference between AIDS antibodies caused by a vaccine and those that indicate a real HIV infection, few laboratories are equipped to make that distinction. Moreover, as vaccines get better by more closely mimicking the real infection, it will become more difficult to distinguish between the two."

**IS FORCED HEPATITIS B VACCINATION PAVING WAY FOR FORCED VACCINATION WITH AIDS VACCINE?** - Hepatitis B is the first disease transmitted not by casual contact like smallpox or polio, but by high risk behavior such as IV drug use and sexual promiscuity, that has been mandated for use by all children. With the identical transmission routes as HIV, there are

strong indications that forced vaccination of infants and children with hepatitis B is a trial run for forced vaccination with an AIDS vaccine when it is put on the market in the next few years. AIDS vaccines are currently in human trials as a race to bring them to market intensified after a call last year by President Clinton to make the creation and use of an AIDS vaccine "a national mission."

**CDC PLANS FOR MASS VACCINATION OF ALL CHILDREN WITH AIDS VACCINE** - In a February 12, 1997 meeting of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), Neal Halsey, M.D., chairman of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Committee on Infectious Diseases, AAP liaison member of the ACIP and Director of the Institute of Vaccine Safety at John's Hopkins University, reminded HIV vaccine researchers and developers at the meeting that the CDC plans to target 11 to 12 year old children for "universal application" of an HIV vaccine. Halsey told them:

"One of the things that's happened in the past with vaccines is that sometimes the manufacturers have developed them and tested them primarily in an age group or a population which may not be the final target population that this committee has considered. Over the last few years we have developed a statement on adolescent immunization and it probably would be worth your reading that, and others, because we really see age 11 to 12 as the target age for introduction of vaccines for prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. And I know that, at this time, you are really studying adults and you're also some distance away from the actual - having a [HIV] vaccine in hand that might be licensed and approved - but at least it would be nice if there were studies that were planned in parallel when you move another step in the direction of actually having a candidate vaccine, realizing where WE think we would want to use universal application of such a vaccine. And so I think maybe [you should get] a copy of the adolescent immunization statement."

With the Children's Vaccine Initiative (CVI) and pharmaceutical industry setting up the mechanism for global mass vaccination of children and adults, including the creation of national and international vaccine tracking systems, countries with low HIV rates like the U.S. and Europe will be forced to use an HIV vaccine in order to pay for the vaccination of populations in Asia and Africa where HIV infection rates are skyrocketing. In 1996, HIV vaccine developer Stanley Plotkin, M.D., of Pasteur Merieux Pharmaceuticals (who developed the rubella vaccine and has been a vaccine policymaker member of the AAP Committee on Infectious Disease and AAP liaison member of the ACIP) explained why mandatory vaccination in rich countries like the U.S. help deliver vaccines to Third World markets:

"The keystone of the [global mass vaccination] system is that the research costs [of drug companies] are recouped in North America and Europe and the vaccines are sold in the developing world at much, much lower margins...the relatively high rate of childhood vaccination seen lately in most parts of the world is the result of that system," explained Plotkin.

**CDC TELLS CONGRESS ABOUT FUTURE VACCINES** - In testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources in 1997, CDC official Walter Orenstein, M.D., made a bid to persuade Congress to reauthorize 288 million dollars for the CDC's Immunization Grant Program in the \$427 million 1998 DHHS budget request for immunization activities. In a review of the history of vaccination, Dr. Orenstein recounted that, although almost a century passed between the development of the smallpox vaccine in 1796 and that of the rabies vaccine in the 1880's, by the middle of the 20th century there were nearly two dozen vaccines on the market.

Painting a picture of the future, Orenstein said: "On the horizon are vaccine technologies that would have been considered science fiction just a decade ago, but are now reported at scientific meetings. Snippets of synthetic DNA have worked as experimental vaccines in animals. Edible plants have been bioengineered to become vaccine factories....vaccines have been enclosed in microscopic capsules, permitting them to be released slowly over time..."

Orenstein reminded legislators that "Every day about 11,000 babies are born in this country. Each of these children starts with immunization coverage of zero. There is why our responsibility to our Nation's children never ends; it must be sustained every day of every year....completing state-based immunization registries is the cornerstone of assuring disease prevention."

### **VACCINE REGISTRIES TO TAG, TRACK, FORCE VACCINATION -**

Even though CDC officials admit that there is already a 96 percent vaccination rate in the U.S. with federally recommended vaccines, they are setting up state vaccine tracking registries and plan to link them together to create a de facto national electronic tracking system to ensure mass compliance with federal vaccine policies. Citizens will be tagged with a number at birth and tracked even when moving from state to state.

In 1995, DHHS Secretary Donna Shalala appropriated the social security numbers assigned to newborns to allow states to enter all babies in state vaccine tracking systems. In 1996, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), also known as the Kennedy-Kassebaum legislation, outlined plans for a "unique health care identifier" number, which is an alternative to the social security number, to be assigned to citizens at birth and electronically monitor their medical records, including vaccination records.

In a 1998 CDC publication entitled *Initiative on Immunization Registries*, the CDC states that "we see [vaccine] registries as a possible first step in the development of an electronic pediatric record" and "computerized registries will eventually be capable of capturing immunization for individuals of all ages" and "until a unique personal identifier can be established on a national basis, multiple means of identification must be used [in state vaccine registries]." Core data that is now collected in many state vaccine tracking systems include a citizen's name, address, phone number, social security number, birth date, sex, race, primary language, patient birth order, patient birth registration number, patient Medicaid number, mother's name (including maiden name) and social security number and father's name and social security number.

Most often state officials automatically enroll newborns into the vaccine registry without informing parents or giving them the right to "opt-out" of the registry. In the state of Texas, PROVE, a parent group led by Dawn Richardson, worked to get legislation passed in 1997 requiring the state health departments to obtain a parent's prior written consent to enroll a child in a vaccine registry.

The CDC goes on to state that one of their main goals is "establishing a target date to achieve the goal of establishing immunization registries in every community in the Nation" and "promoting the inter-operability of registries with other developing medical information systems" and "promoting the automated exchange of immunization records between registries."

**WHAT YOU CAN DO** - If you want to make informed, voluntary decisions about hepatitis B vaccination, there are several actions you can take to educate your community and protect your informed consent and privacy rights.

**Circulate this newsletter** in your community among your family, friends, and neighbors. Get reprints by sending in the enclosed reprint order card. Reprints are available for \$1.25 each. Bulk pricing is available. Give copies to your doctors, lawyers, teachers, school principals, nurses and others. Send a copy to your favorite newspaper, radio and TV station. Send a copy to your state and federal legislators with a personal letter.

**Report vaccine reactions** by calling NVIC at 1-800-909SHOT or accessing NVIC's website at [www.909SHOT.com](http://www.909SHOT.com).

**If you are pregnant**, get tested for hepatitis B disease. If you are infected, your baby is a candidate for vaccination.

**Stand up for your informed consent rights.** If you do not test positive for hepatitis B; do not fall into one of the high risk categories described in this newsletter; and decide you do not want your newborn vaccinated before leaving the hospital newborn nursery, you can amend the "consent for medical treatment" forms you sign upon entering the hospital before giving birth by writing on the form that you do not give consent for hepatitis B vaccination of your baby in the hospital. Check to see if your state has a vaccine tracking system and, if you do not want your baby enrolled in a tracking system, find out how you can exercise your informed consent rights.

**Get more information**, including checking your state vaccination laws for requirements and exemptions. Hepatitis B vaccine is required in 35 states. There are medical exemptions in all states, religious exemption in all but two states (West Virginia and Mississippi) and philosophical exemption in 16 states.

Don't let anyone intimidate or coerce you into taking action before you have had the opportunity to become fully informed about all your options and are comfortable with your vaccination decision.

---

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## **Tri-Best Security System**

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**E-mail: [tribest@pacbell.net](mailto:tribest@pacbell.net)**

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**949-733-8136**

FEBRUARY, 1999

## **BACKGROUND:**

In the United States today there is a tremendous social, cultural, and legal movement to diminish and eventually eliminate the loss of human life to unintentional firearm deaths. Few movements in the history of the United States have created such a new product marketing opportunity for an entrepreneurial driven firm to help solve this enormous needless loss of human life of all ages and in particular those of our children. During the recent past lawmakers have enacted numerous laws that hold adults criminally liable if they leave a gun loaded and accessible to a child and the minor uses it to injure himself/herself and/or others. Further, many of these child access prevention laws also require dealers to offer gunlocks to their customers when they purchase firearms. Tri-Best Industries, Inc., has developed the Tri-Best Security System to provide a foolproof solution of the tragic consequences of too many unlocked guns by developing this patent protected product.

## **TRI-BEST INDUSTRIES, LLC.:**

Tri-Best Industries, LLC., is a nearly new 1998 business start-up built around the development of its Tri-Best Security System. Its small and entrepreneurial driven market oriented team consists of its founder Mr. Phillip M. Arreguin, its CEO, Dr. Doug Brown, Mr. John Johannessen, and Mr. Bernie Rosellen. The members of this team together have approximately 100 years of combined business experience and substantial business strengths in the firearms industry in particular. The company has developed a comprehensive Business Plan, has patent protection, and tested Tri-Best Security System working prototypes.

## **PRODUCT: THE TRI-BEST SECURITY SYSTEM:**

The core product is a tamper proof gun security lock that effectively prevents a gun from being fired. The Tri-Best Security System is so foolproof that it is impossible to fire a gun when it is in use yet it is instantly removed by an authorized person for complete gun function or firing. This product has a superior fool-proof design that renders a gun inoperable until a conscious effort and special tool is used to remove it by its authorized owner or user.

## **OPERATIONS:**

The Tri-Best Security System is positioned as a complete foolproof firearm security system that is virtually impossible to remove by unauthorized persons. To provide competent manufacturing of this innovative product, Tri-Best Industries, Inc. has Mr. Bernie Rosellen as a member of its management team. Mr. Rosellen also is president of Rose-tech Manufacturing company a leading manufacturer of products for the firearms industry.

## **THE TRI-BEST MANAGEMENT TEAM:**

As previously discussed, the start-up management team consists of four highly experienced and capable professionals. Mr. Arreguin, the project founder, originator/developer and design engineer of the Tri-Best Security System, also established the Tri-Best Team across the United States and Canada, is an accomplished and technically based individual with 15 years experience in the firearms industry. Mr. Arreguin's impeccable research in the Firearms Industry, relating to the safety design issue, formulated the Tri-Best Security System. Mr. Bernie Rosellen also has multiple years in the manufacturing business within the firearm industry utilizing manufacturing contacts overseas with Certified ISO 9000 Quality Assurance Standards and for product cost effectiveness. John Johannessen having dedicated his life to saving children's lives from accidental and unintentional shootings and the prevention of unauthorized or self inflicted use of a firearm. He is heavily involved with the media, as his family has been involved with several TV programs and news media about promoting an awareness of the real dangers of guns. John's 12-yr. old daughter Shanelle barely escaped death from accidentally being shot in the head by her friend in July of 1997. Dr. Doug Brown is an internationally known and respected authority on New Products and Marketing who has worked with Mr. Arreguin for eight years. These four businessmen represent an ongoing strong competitive advantage.

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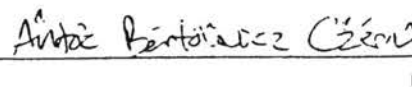
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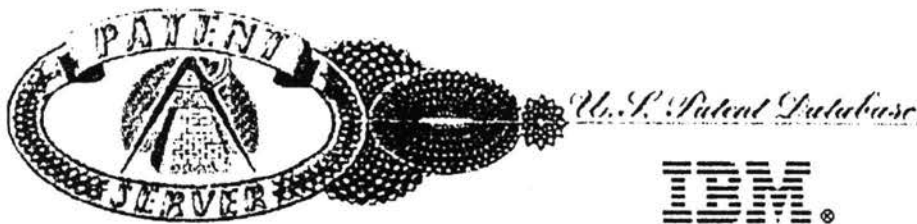
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## 5488794 : Tamper proof gun lock

INVENTORS: **Arrequin; Phillip M.**, Garden Grove, CA 92641-1505

ASSIGNEES: **none**

ISSUED: **Feb. 6, 1996**

FILED: **Feb. 21, 1995**

SERIAL NUMBER: **391261**

MAINT. STATUS: **CC**

INTL. CLASS (Ed. 6): **F41A 017/44;**

U.S. CLASS: **042/070.11; 042/066;**

FIELD OF SEARCH: **042-70.11, 70.01, 66, 67 ;**

**ABSTRACT:** A tamper proof gun lock is provided, which consists of a double dummy cartridge adapted to be received in a firing chamber of a gun. A keeper is adapted to be inserted into a bore of a barrel of the gun. A tool is insertable into the barrel of the gun, to engage with the keeper. In a first instance, the tool can cause the keeper to connect to one portion of the double dummy cartridge, making the gun inoperable by preventing the gun from being fired. In a second instance, the tool can cause the keeper to be disconnected from the one portion of the double dummy cartridge, thus allowing the keeper to be removed from the barrel and the double dummy cartridge to be removed from the firing chamber of the gun, making the gun operable to be fired.

U.S. REFERENCES: [Show the 2 patents that reference this one](#)

| Patent                     | Inventor     | Issued   | Title                                |
|----------------------------|--------------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 2803909 *                  | Soski et al. | 8 /1957  |                                      |
| 2836918 *                  | Pula et al.  | 6 /1958  |                                      |
| 4224753                    | Bielman      | 9 /1980  | Safety device for firearms           |
| 4461108                    | Von Muller   | 7 /1984  | Revolver safety lock                 |
| 4479320                    | Fix          | 10 /1984 | Cylinder lock for revolvers          |
| 4783924                    | Thurber      | 11 /1988 | Handgun safety device                |
| 4802299                    | Baugus       | 2 /1989  | Reel mounting device on fishing rods |
| * some details unavailable |              |          |                                      |

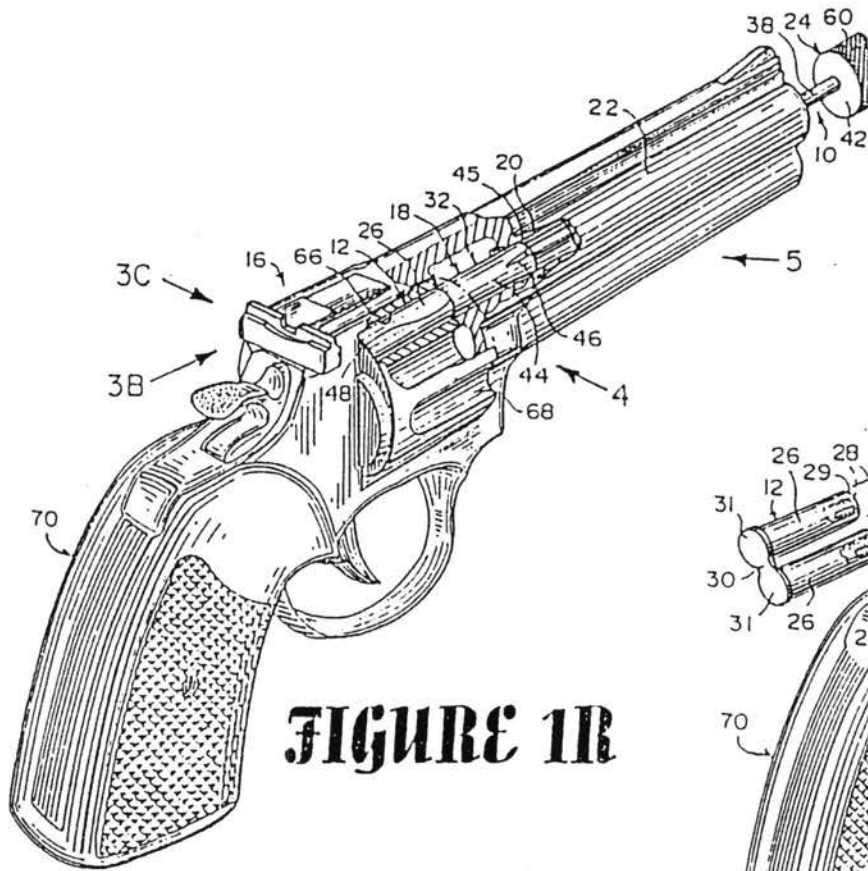
EXEMPLARY CLAIM(s): [Show all 14 claims](#)

What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent is set forth in the appended claims:

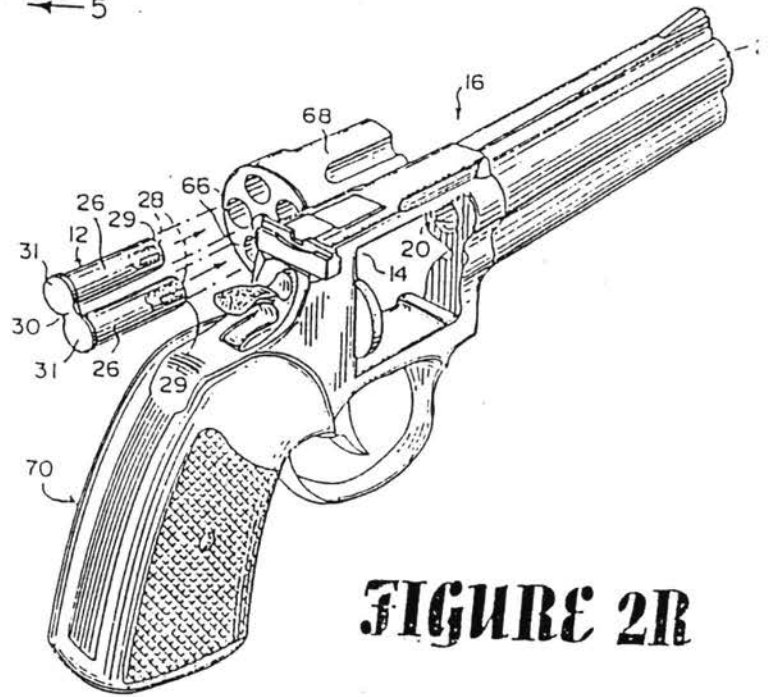
[http://www.patents.ibm.com/details?patent\\_number=5488794](http://www.patents.ibm.com/details?patent_number=5488794)

8/17/98

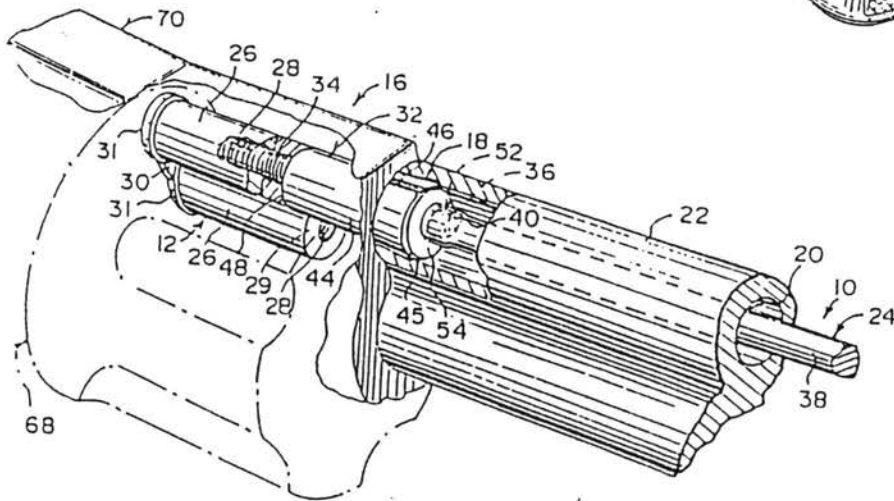
# REVOLVER MODEL



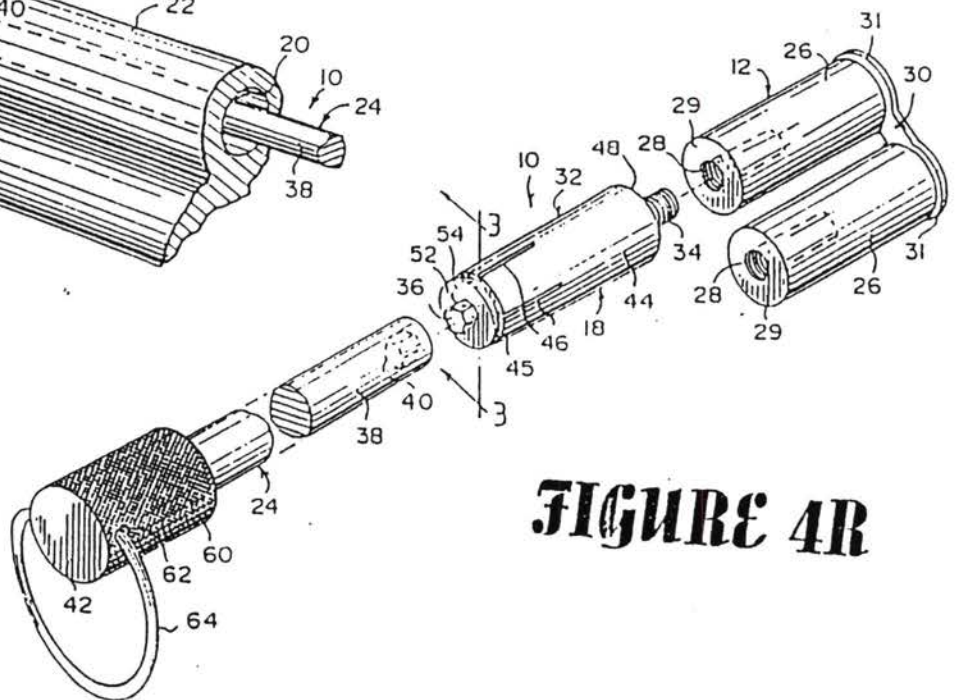
**FIGURE 1R**



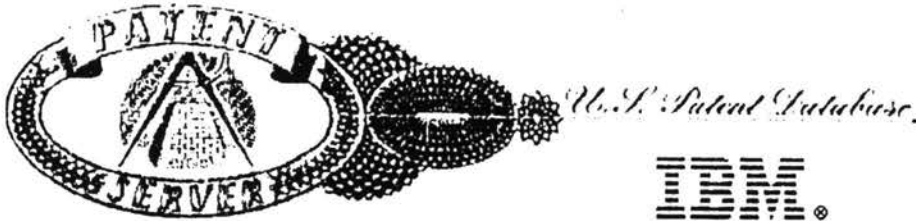
**FIGURE 2R**



**FIGURE 3R**



**FIGURE 4R**



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## 5732498 : Tamper proof multi-functional multipurpose firearm safety lock

INVENTORS: **Arreguin; Phillip M.**, Garden Grove, CA 92641  
 ASSIGNEES: **none**  
 ISSUED: **Mar. 31, 1998** FILED: **Oct. 30, 1995**  
 SERIAL NUMBER: **550454** MAINT. STATUS:  
 INTL. CLASS (Ed. 6): **F41A 017/44**;  
 U.S. CLASS: **042/070.11; 042/070.02**;  
 FIELD OF SEARCH: **042-70.02, 70.11, 70.01** ;

**ABSTRACT:** A tamper proof multi-functional multipurpose safety lock is provided which will render a firearm inoperable until a person utilizes a collapsible rod key coded tool head is used to remove the safety lock. A contoured insert is placed into an ejection port on a slide when the slide is in its most rearward position. The contoured insert has a socket, so that it will accept a lug on a dummy cartridge that is carried in a magazine. When a keeper is inserted into the barrel with the collapsible rod key coded tool head, the keeper will lock the dummy cartridge to the contoured insert. Accordingly, the firearm will be completely locked up including the magazine and the slide. In firearms that do not have magazines the dummy cartridge is eliminated.

U.S. REFERENCES: (No patents reference this one)

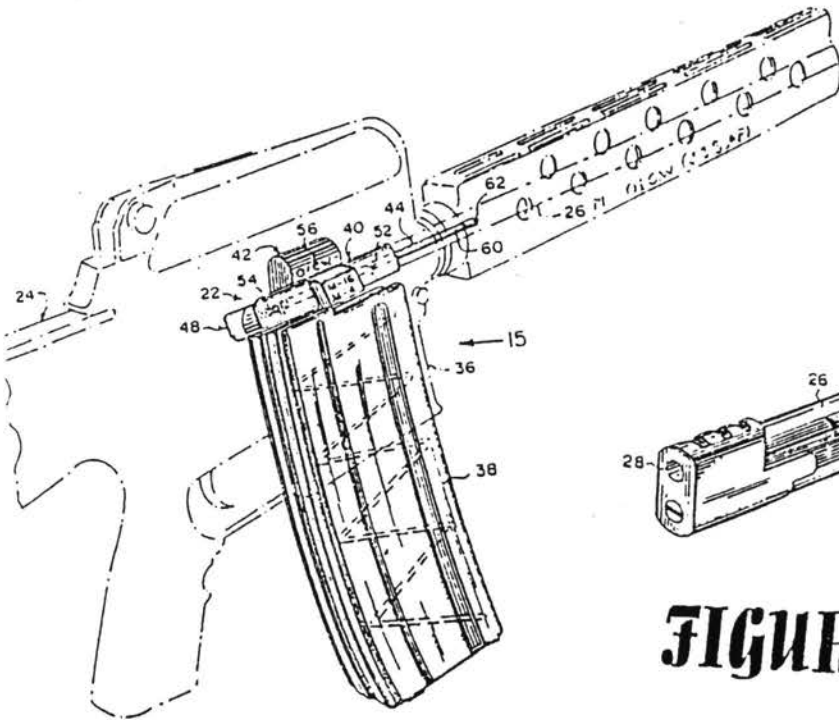
| Patent                     | Inventor    | Issued  | Title                       |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| 2836918 *                  | Pula et al. | 6 /1958 |                             |
| 2923323 *                  | Franck      | 2 /1960 |                             |
| 5115589                    | Shuker      | 5 /1992 | Locking device for firearms |
| 5488794                    | Arreguin    | 2 /1996 | Tamper proof gun lock       |
| * some details unavailable |             |         |                             |

EXEMPLARY CLAIM(s): [Show all 43 claims](#)

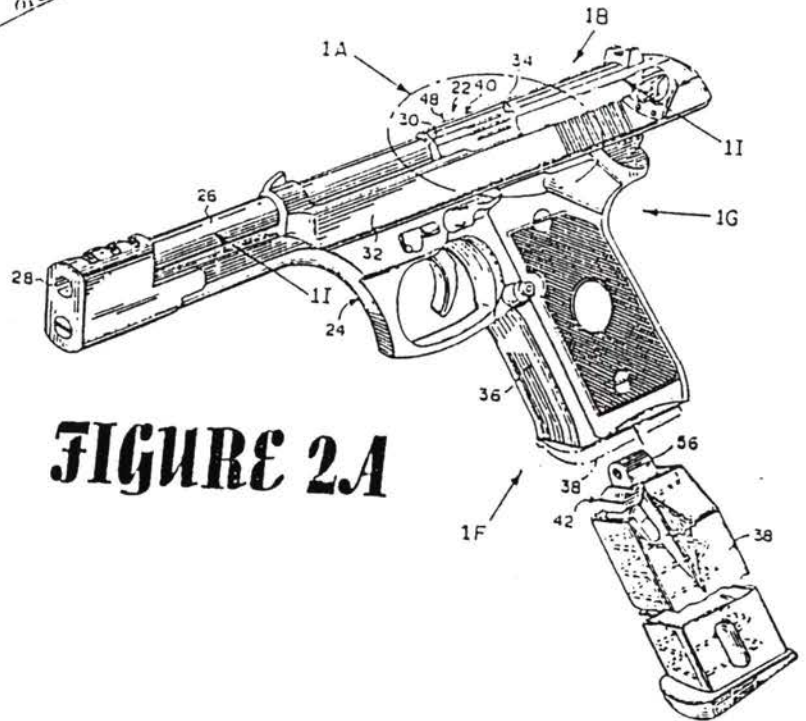
What is claimed is new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent is set forth in the appended claims:

1. A tamper proof multi-functional multipurpose safety lock for use in a firearm of the type having a barrel with a bore therethrough, a cartridge receiver firing chamber breech, a

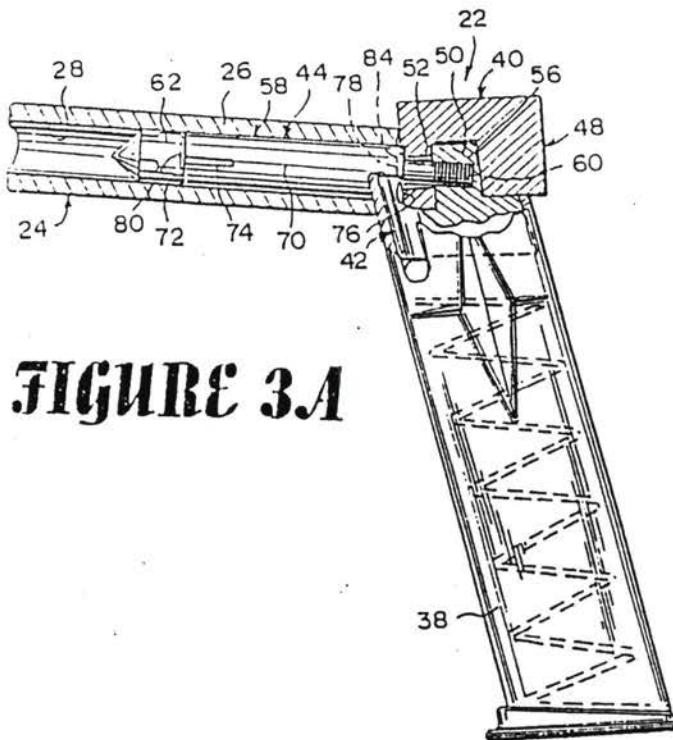
# AUTOMATIC MODEL



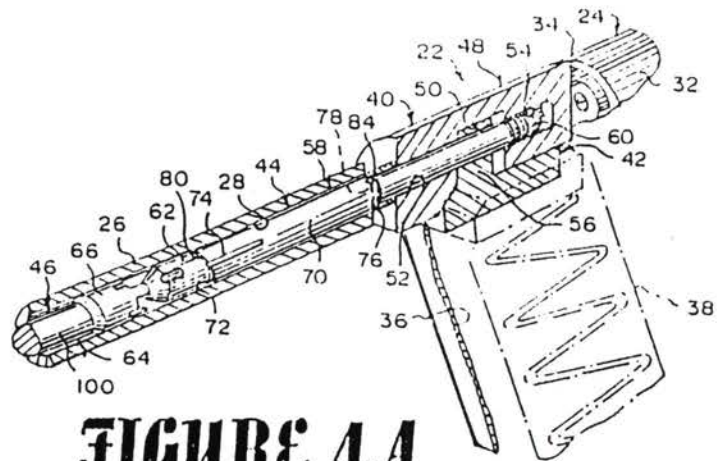
**FIGURE 1A**



**FIGURE 2A**

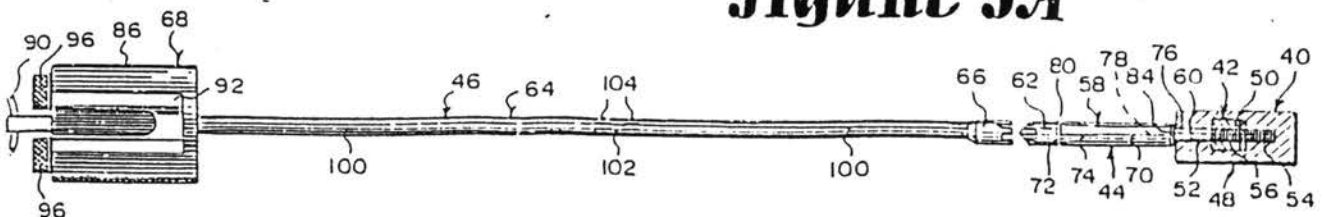


**FIGURE 3A**



**FIGURE 4A**

**FIGURE 5A**



**PAXTON QUIGLEY ENTERPRISES, INC.**

9903 SANTA MONICA BLVD., SUITE 300

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90212

310-281-1762

September 29, 1997

To Whom It May Concern:

As America's foremost female personal safety awareness advocate and author of "Armed & Female" (St. Martin's Press) and "Not An Easy Target" (Simon & Schuster), I am offering my support for the Tri-Best Project.

I have taught thousands of people how to shoot a handgun for personal protection and I know one of the most important elements of gun ownership is being a safe gun owner. I believe that the Tri-Best project offers gun owners an important option in keeping their guns safe.

I am ready to offer my services in promoting the Tri-Best Project through advertising, videos, radio and t.v. appearances, and infommercials.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paxton Quigley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name "Paxton Quigley".

Paxton Quigley



# ROSE-TECH

MANUFACTURING CO., INC.

October 14, 1997

Tri-Best Products International  
Phillip Arreguin  
8572 Daumor Avenue  
Garden Grove, CA 92641-1505

Dear Mr. Arreguin,

In regard to your Tri-Best Security System and related products, we have evaluated your prototypes and supporting literature and we hereby acknowledge our interest in becoming your manufacturer for these products.

After reviewing your business plan, your marketing strategies, and the documentation you forwarded, we feel that you have done a thorough job in your research and that your plans are sound. We think you have a great product and we would be pleased to continue discussions on manufacturing methods and costs.

As a designer and manufacturer of other gun related products, we have a broad range of capabilities to support your requirements for quality and delivery. We also have alliances with sub-contract companies in our area that add to our fabrication capabilities. I have enclosed several business references who can confirm our reputation for quality and commitment to our customers.

Please feel free to have potential investors and other parties interested in your products contact me regarding our discussions and your security system.

In the meantime, please call me at your convenience to talk about subsequent actions to be taken.

Sincerely,

Bernie Rosellen  
President and CEO

MICHAEL I. KROLL  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

171 STILLWELL LANE—SYOSSET, NEW YORK 11791

516-367-7777 800-367-7774\*

FAX 800-367-7704\* CAR PHONE 800-367-7779\*

\*TOLL FREE US & CANADA

International Phone / Fax 516-692-2787

Internet-http://invention.com E-Mail-patent@invention.com

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Mr. Phillip Arreguin  
8572 Davmor Avenue  
Garden Grove, California 92641

September 03, 1997  
(express mail)

Ref: United States Trademark Registration  
s/n: 2,086,210  
Mark: "TRI-BEST" and design

Dear Phillip:

We are pleased to enclose herewith the original Certificate of Registration for the above referenced mark.

Please note that an affidavit as specified on the inside of the cover page of the enclosed original Certificate must be filed between the 5th and 6th year from the registration date of the Certificate.

Additionally as noted on the outside cover your mark is renewal every 10 years.

We are now open 24 hours a day (other than Sunday) and accordingly please call any time if any further information is needed.

It was a pleasure working with you and look forward to working with you in the future.

encl.  
MIK/ms

Very truly yours,

Michael I. Kroll

## PROFESSIONAL SAFE CRACKING

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Phillip M. Arreguin  
8572 Davmor Avenue  
Garden Grove, CA. 92841  
(714) 534-3848

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1999

Dear Phillip

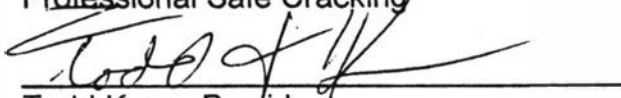
Thank-you for coming over to my business the other day to present to me and my associates, the Tri-Best Security System that you have been working on. I must say that it looks very incredible! We were very amazed at all the research and hard work that went into the prototypes of this Aerospace Engineered Internal Inter-changeable Multi-functional, Multi-purpose Security System for firearms.

As you are aware, our company services and opens all kinds of safes, locks in the home, business and Government. With all our years of service and extensive experience in safe cracking worldwide, we feel that we would be qualified to do the testing of the Tri-Best Security System for firearms. The standards and requirements for security systems for firearms is quite simple, if it can be removed or if the gun can be loaded and fired with the security system installed, it failed the test!

As you have mentioned in regards to the national challenge of testing of gunlocks, we would be very interested in participation of the testing of gunlocks of all brands and types. I feel that it is very important that the people of the United States know and understand the real aspects of liability concerns and safety issues when it comes to guns locks and unauthorized use of firearms. The lives of our children depend upon it!

Please keep us informed about the project and have anyone contact us if they need any further assistance. We feel that this is a revolutionary product that will change the way society thinks about the issue of gun lock security and the safety of our children.

Thank-you,  
Professional Safe Cracking

  
Todd Kern, President

# AcuSport

---

One Hunter Place Bellefontaine, OH 43311-3001  
937-593-7010

Mr. Phillip Arreguin  
Tri-Best Project  
8572 Daumor Avenue  
Garden Grove, CA 92641

October 22, 1998

Dear Phillip,

I appreciate all the information you have forwarded to me. The amount of time you have spent accumulating your facts is very evident in the quality and quantity of the information you have provided.

The multi-functional security product that you are working on is very interesting. It is not just a safety devise, but also a firearm cleaning rod and tool system. In the marketplace, this makes your invention extremely desirable. Today's consumer is looking for items that have more than a single function, they want more for their hard earned dollar. Your product is very useful and practical for the firearm owner. Other manufactures produce items that may operate as a security devise or a cleaning rod or a tool, but your product is all three.

As a wholesale distributor, AcuSport Corporation is very interested in new and improved products for the firearms industry. Your product looks to be a step in the right direction to help improve the safety of firearms, which is a concern for everyone. We sell many different products to help prevent firearms from being fired by unauthorized persons, and your product is even more appealing because it is multi-functional. Your business plan establishes manufacturing costs and suggested retail pricing which is very appealing also. Safety is very important, but your product will also be profitable and that is what the distributor, manufacturer, and retailer count on to stay in business.

Firearm safety and security is in the forefront of every American's mind now, with all the newspaper articles and television documentation showing the potential dangers associated with the misuse of firearms. With so many state and federal governments planning legislation to require safety devises, your product will surely be in high demand.

I look forward to talking with you again about this project.

Sincerely,



Bryan B. Moore  
Training Coordinator  
1-800-543-3150, ext. 204



43445 Business Park Drive Ste 103 Temecula Ca 92590 Ph. (800) 770-5750 Fax (909)676-8037  
Internet address:<http://www.outdoorchannel.com>

October 21, 1996

Mr. Phillip Arreguin  
TriBest Security Systems  
8572 Davmor Ave  
Garden Grove Ca 92681

Dear Mr. Arreguin,

In reference to the TriBest Security System, we feel that our viewing audience would be the right audience for your product. Hunting and shooting is an integral part of our programming strategy. As such, a majority of our viewers are gun owners. Any device that can prevent injuries or accidental death due to firearms would be a benefit to society, and from the looks we have been able to see the Tri-Best is among the best. Who would not want to protect their family from the dangers of accidental discharge of firearms in the home?

It is our belief that the TriBest product would sell very well to our viewers, and more importantly, key members of prestigious organizations such as the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the National Rifle Association, the National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers, and others watch our channel regularly. In addition, gun dealers and other distributors monitor our channel, and many people will call inquiring about distribution arrangements.

We are confident that an ad campaign for TriBest on The Outdoor Channel would be well received and a tremendous boost to the TriBest effort.

Best Regards,

*Wade Sherman*  
Wade Sherman

Advertising Accounts Manager

CHRISTOPHER COX

CALIFORNIA

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JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States  
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February 2, 1994

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TASK FORCE ON  
CAPITAL MARKETS

CO-CHAIRMAN:  
TASK FORCE ON  
BUDGET PROCESS REFORM  
CONGRESSIONAL GRACE CAUCUS

Mr. Phillip Arreguin  
8572 Daumor Avenue  
Garden Grove, CA 92641

Dear Mr. Arreguin:

Thank you for visiting my office to discuss your gun safety lock with my District Representative, Greg Haskin.

I have enclosed of copy a Department of Defense publication entitled, "Selling to the Military." This publication provides contact names and phone numbers to a wide variety of military installations. This should answer all your questions regarding marketing to the military.

It was a pleasure to have assisted you with your request. The opportunity to help people in this way is one of the most rewarding aspects of my job as a Congressman.

Please feel free to contact my Orange County staff at any time if you need additional assistance with this or any other matter involving the federal government.

It is a privilege to represent you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris", written over a horizontal line.

Christopher Cox  
U.S. Representative

CCC:dpg

Enclosure

ORANGE COUNTY

# METRO

Los Angeles Times

## A New Method of Home Security

By STEVE CARNEY  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

GARDEN GROVE—Inventor Phillip Arreguin thinks he has a remedy for the third-leading cause of death among kids 5 to 14: shootings.

He's patented a lock that secures handguns and rifles alike from within, unlike traditional safeties such as trigger guards, which can still allow a loaded gun to be fired if installed improperly.

Arreguin's belief that he's built a better mousetrap comes after eight of the nation's largest handgun manufacturers announced in October a voluntary agreement—brokered by President Clinton—to supply a child-safety lock with every new weapon sold.

The agreement intercepted a push toward a mandatory gun-lock law last year after Clinton personally appealed for such legislation.

Seventeen California cities and counties already require that trigger locks be sold with guns, including San Jose, San Francisco, Sacramento and West Hollywood.

"Trigger locks have been a craze, at least politically,

Phillip Arreguin  
Has Patented a  
Lock to Make  
Firearms  
Child-Proof

over the last several months," said Bill Powers, a National Rifle Assn. spokesman.

It's all in response to disturbing figures: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shootings were the third-leading cause of death nationwide for children ages 5 to 14 in 1994. That same year, according to the FBI, gunshots killed more preschoolers than on-duty police officers. In 1995, Orange County alone saw 90 hospitalizations and three deaths from unintentional shootings, according to state

statistics.

But what locks are best and whether locks should be mandatory are still being debated.

Powers said the NRA is opposed to a trigger-lock mandate because the devices aren't appropriate in all situations.

For example, he said, he has no children at his home, and though he wants to keep his .45-caliber pistol secure, he also wants quick access to it to defend his home if needed. So he keeps it loaded inside a combination-locked box that he can open easily.

Please see GUNS, B10



GLENN KOENIG / Los Angeles Times

Garden Grove inventor Phillip Arreguin holds a revolver with part of his new locking device in the cylinder.

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## ORANGE COUNTY

## GUNS

Continued from B1

"There are literally dozens of ways of storing firearms," Powers said. "The No. 1 rule of storing a firearm is to keep it from unauthorized persons. It's common sense."

Arreguin, 34, says preventing unauthorized use and the tragedy that can follow is the reason he designed his lock, which he calls Tri-Best.

The former stonemason said he came up with the idea in 1993 and has been refining it ever since with his brother, a machinist.

His lock requires no alterations to the gun, he said. A probe fits down the barrel and screws into a companion piece in the gun's chamber, where the bullet normally is held before it's fired. When the parts are screwed together, they can't be removed without damaging the weapon unless a special tool is used.

"If it's in your glove box, it's locked, it's secured," Arreguin said.

The FBI says it receives about 300,000 reports of stolen firearms every year. That's why Arreguin suggests that the release tool be kept separate from the gun, a step he said makes the stolen gun useless.

Arreguin, who has yet to find a backer for his project, said he learned this firsthand. While testing a prototype in 1994, Arreguin misplaced his release tool and had to destroy a 9-millimeter Beretta pistol by cutting off the barrel in order to remove the lock.

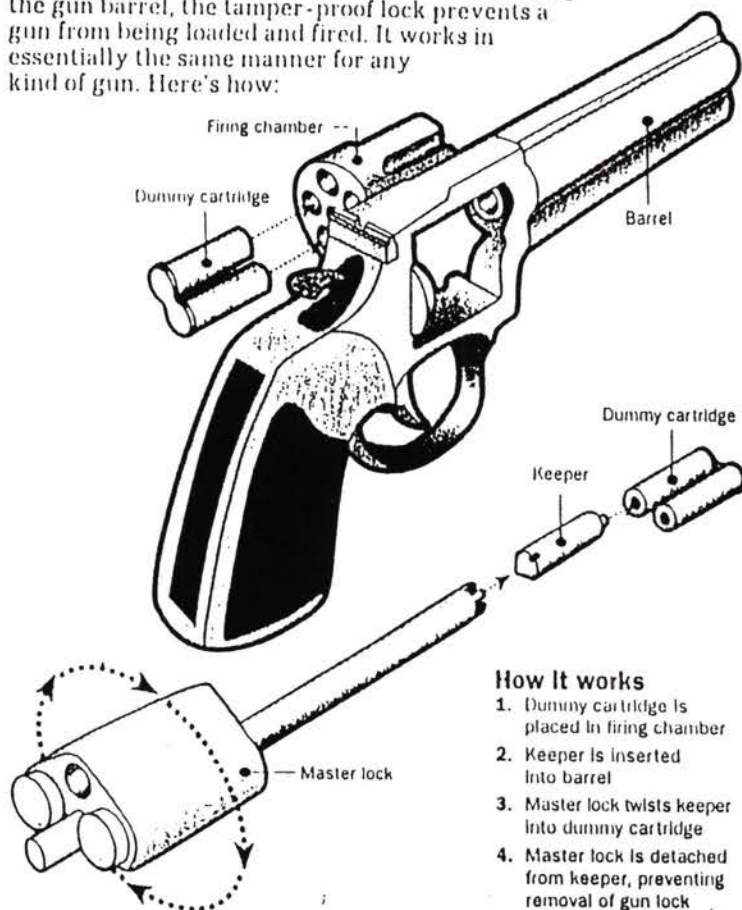
Firearms security became a matter of law in California in January 1992, when the Children's Firearm Accident Prevention Act took effect. Like similar legislation passed in 14 other states, it holds adults accountable for the safe-keeping of their guns by making it a crime to leave a loaded, unsecured firearm where a child can get to it.

The crime becomes a felony if the minor then injures himself or someone else with the gun. A violation carries up to a three-year prison sentence and a \$10,000 fine.

Florida was the first state to pass such a law, in 1989, and unintentional shooting deaths there fell 50% in the first year. A similar

## Weapon Safety

By locking a dummy cartridge into place and closing the gun barrel, the tamper-proof lock prevents a gun from being loaded and fired. It works in essentially the same manner for any kind of gun. Here's how:



## How It works

1. Dummy cartridge is placed in firing chamber
2. Keeper is inserted into barrel
3. Master lock twists keeper into dummy cartridge
4. Master lock is detached from keeper, preventing removal of gun lock

Source: United States Patent Office and California Department of Health Services

KIRK CHRIST • Los Angeles Times

drop occurred in California, according to the state Department of Health Services. And gun dealers reported jumps in gun-lock sales.

John Johannessen of Mission Viejo has become an outspoken supporter of gun locks. He knows better than most people the danger of keeping a loaded gun where a child can find it.

In July, his 13-year-old daughter, Shanelle, was shot in the face by a 13-year-old playmate who found a loaded 9-millimeter pistol at her home. She was showing it to

Shanelle and it fired.

Shanelle needed reconstructive surgery after the bullet tore through her cheek, jaw and neck. She's still recovering, and she can now talk and eat soft foods.

"We're the lucky ones," Johannessen said. "She's still alive."

"It's just horrifying what people go through because adults leave guns lying around," he said. "People have to be responsible for their guns and keep them locked, so if a child does get hold of it they can't make it work."

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## Taxpayers who owe the IRS and didn't call before December 31 must read this

If you owe the IRS back taxes—and didn't call before December 31—there is still time to "make a deal" with the IRS. Congress is now on your side in 1998.

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# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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VOL. CXL NO. 37 WE/RV ★ ★ ★

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1999

INTERNET ADDRESS: <http://wsj>

## Insurers Act to Limit Exposure in Suits Filed Against Gun Makers, Distributors

By DEBORAH LOHSE  
And VANESSA O'CONNELL

Staff Reporters of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

As litigation mounts against gun makers and distributors, liability insurers are taking steps to limit their exposure.

Several insurers have notified gun companies and industry trade groups that they won't necessarily cover damages awarded in lawsuits, including suits brought by municipalities seeking to recover public costs related to gun violence.

The insurers' stance creates a danger for smaller gun companies, which industry officials have said might be forced to seek bankruptcy-court protection if faced with sizable verdicts. Without insurance coverage, the firearms industry as a whole also could be forced to consider settling lawsuits rather than fighting them.

The move to limit coverage comes as more cities are gearing up to sue and after a federal jury in Brooklyn, N.Y., this month found that 15 of 25 gun makers distributed weapons negligently. In the Brooklyn case, brought by the families of seven shooting victims, the jury imposed \$520,000 in damages against three gun manufacturers: the Beretta U.S.A. Corp. unit of Italy's Beretta SpA; American Arms Inc.; and the Taurus Manufacturing International Inc. unit of Brazil's Forjas Taurus SA. Last week, the judge presiding over the case ordered a fourth gun maker, S.W. Daniel Inc., to pay \$49,000 in damages.

### Open Question

"It's an open question at this point as to whether insurers will have to cover damages," said Daniel T. Hughes, a lawyer for American Arms, which was ordered to pay \$9,200 and has been told by Home Insurance Co. that it won't necessarily cover any damage awards. Home is one of several insurers of defendants in the Brooklyn case that sent their clients so-called reservation of rights letters during the trial. A spokesman for Home, which now handles claims under the supervision of the New

Hampshire insurance department, said he couldn't verify the information.

Some insurance brokers say their clients who are defendants in the city cases also have gotten, or expect to receive, reservation-of-rights notices from their insurers.

Insurance companies often try to avoid covering jury awards in cases that aren't clearly covered by the language of their policies. In the gun cases, which all make novel allegations, "all carriers will look for a way to escape," predicts Jay Mayesh, a product-liability defense lawyer who isn't involved in the litigation.

The insurers are scrutinizing the city suits to see whether such allegations as "negligent marketing" of guns are covered by their product- or general-liability policies. The theory that gun makers fail to take reasonable care to keep their weapons out of criminal hands was the core of the trailblazing Brooklyn case. Chicago and Bridgeport, Conn., make similar allegations. New Orleans, Miami and Atlanta allege that gun makers were negligent in failing to incorporate safety devices in their products.

### Warning in Chicago Case

Indeed, Hi-Point Firearms, a Mansfield, Ohio gun maker with about \$4 million in annual sales, was told by its product-liability insurer, Bermuda-based Sporting Arms Insurance Ltd., that any damage awards in Chicago's negligent-marketing suit wouldn't be covered by the policy, according to Tom Deeb, president of Hi-Point. An executive at the insurance company said it has sent out reservation-of-rights notices, but couldn't be reached for comment about Hi-Point.

Lawyers say a product-liability insurer could also argue that the shootings by criminals weren't caused by a misfire or malfunction of the gun, the classic trigger for such policies to pay.

Grounds for denying a claim also might  
*Please Turn to Page A8, Column 1*

## Insurers Act to Limit Exposure in Lawsuits Involving Gun Makers

*Continued From Page A3*

center on language in many general-liability policies that excludes payments for "intentional acts," which insurance companies may argue include flooding lax-regulation areas with guns that fall into the hands of criminals. Timothy Bumann, an attorney for Taurus, said plaintiffs could "prove themselves out of coverage" and have to try to collect from gun makers.

Then again, gun companies could argue that insurers should pay unless they can prove the gun companies intended to cause deaths, not just to flood certain markets, said Robert L. Carter, a product-liability lawyer whose firm has represented gun makers in the past.

Some insurers, meanwhile, are backing away from new gun business. New York-based Gulf Insurance Group, part of Citigroup's Travelers Property Casualty Corp., last week stopped writing policies for shooting ranges if the ranges also sell guns, according to an agent. A Travelers spokesman confirmed that Gulf Insurance no longer writes such policies.

CONTACT KNBC (4) OCT 15TH 1997 3:27 PM (4)  
UNSAFE TRIGGER LOCKS USAGE

# Trigger-Locking Devices

By Paul K. Vallandigham, CRPA Member

CRPA member William R. Stewart's suggestion that we support the use of trigger-locking devices (*The Firing Line*, September, 1997, p. 15) overlooks one major problem with these devices: **TRIGGER LOCKS DO NOT PREVENT THE GUN FROM BEING LOADED AND FIRED!**

NRA has recently produced a video tape on just this subject for distribution to legislators and others, as the trigger lock issue has been raised in legislatures across the country. I was able to obtain a copy of that tape. It clearly shows trigger locks being placed inside the trigger guard (per the lock manufacturers instructions) of a Glock semi-auto pistol and a double action revolver (it appears to be a Smith & Wesson or clone thereof in .38/.357 caliber). Both firearms had completely empty chambers prior to installation of the lock.

After the locks were installed, a loaded magazine was fully inserted into the mag well of the Glock, and the slide was cycled, placing a live round in the chamber. Likewise, the revolver's cylinder was opened, loaded with 3 live rounds, and closed. My point? The locking devices did not prevent loading live ammo. A

person relying on the locks to keep the firearm in a childproof condition of safety could be gravely mistaken (in more ways than one).

Worse still, after the firearms were loaded, the Glock was pointed downrange (with the lock still installed) using a normal (firing hand) position on the "grips". Pressure was applied with the other hand to the front of the lock, causing it to slide backward into the trigger, thus firing the loaded round and cycling the slide! The same was true for the revolver -- the trigger lock did not prevent manual cocking of the hammer, and the lock was pushed back into the trigger, causing the revolver to fire!

Finally, although I cannot verify this through my own experience, I have been told that all of the trigger locks available today are relatively easy to remove with a few simple household tools, thus negating their value in preventing criminal misuse of stolen guns.

The best safety device we have available is the grey matter that resides inside our skulls. The appropriateness of any gun

safe, lock box, or trigger-locking device depends entirely on the individual owner's situation and preferences.

We (the CRPA and the NRA) should certainly continue to be a resource for people seeking information on how to use and store their firearms safely and responsibly. But we should make sure we provide the best and most complete information. That means we should not promote the use of any single firearms storage strategy. We need the public to know that, while they may have their place in some situations, trigger locks are no panacea. We should never fall into the trap of believing that technology can overcome our problems.

★ Trigger-locking devices hold the false promise of safety and security -- with potentially deadly consequences. Legislation mandating their sale and/or use is dangerous.

Thank God that Governor Wilson VETOED AB 1124, the trigger-lock bill that passed both houses of the Legislature this session.

*IN CAN BE RAMPED AND SHOT LIKE SITTAIN (Puny)*

## THE FIRING LINE (ISSN 0164-9388)

Published monthly by the California Rifle and Pistol Association, Inc., 271 E. Imperial Highway, Suite #620, Fullerton, CA 92835, a non-profit organization affiliated with the National Rifle Association of America for the purpose of promoting safety and education in the sport of shooting. THE FIRING LINE is sent to all Life, Club, Business, Junior, Temporary and Regular annual dues paying members of the Association or may be purchased at the rate of \$15 per year or \$1.25 per copy. The editorials and articles appearing in this publication reflect the differing views present among sportsmen and gun owners, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher.

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## The CRPA Annual Banquet is Near

By Jeffrey A. Enriquez, CRPA Member

I really look forward to receiving *The Firing Line* every month. I usually sit down and read it cover to cover as soon as I get home. I enjoy the articles very much. They are very informative. I am not a very outspoken person when it comes to issues of gun control, however, I find myself to be increasingly vocal in trying to argue for our Second Amendment rights using the information I continue to learn each month from *The Firing Line*. I am a firm supporter for our Second Amendment rights and will continue to be more and more vocal in support of those rights.

I would also like to add that I have attended the CRPA members banquet for

the last two years and have found it to be an awesome event. The program is fantastic and the food is outstanding. I have really enjoyed Leslie Easterbrook as the MC. She is so vibrant. I urge all members to attend if you can, it is a very enjoyable and fun filled evening, and maybe next time I'll win one of those fine firearms offered as door prizes.

CRPA's 1998 Annual Banquet will be held at the WestCoast Anaheim Hotel (near Disneyland) on Saturday evening, February 28, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. Banquet seating and sweepstakes entry forms will be featured in the December and January issues of *The Firing Line*.

# Hype Over Trigger Locks

A month after deadline for weapon makers to include childproof device on new handguns, some worry that the public will be lulled into a false sense of security.

By ERIC SLATER  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

MILWAUKEE—The October 1997 ceremony was an unprecedented show of solidarity between gun control advocates and firearms makers. The heads of some of the nation's largest gun companies, facing even stricter legislation, had gathered around President Clinton in the Rose Garden and signed an agreement to include "child safety locks" with new handguns.

"This will affect eight of 10 handguns made in America, and it will save many young lives," the president declared.

Now, a month after the deadline for including the locks, only a handful of the 27 arms makers who eventually signed on are complying, according to industry insiders—although others are scrambling to include the devices with their guns.

Although gun control advocates are disturbed by the lack of timely compliance, many find themselves in a similarly unusual position of agreement with the National Rifle Assn. and other firearms groups: Trigger locks, by far the most popular of the locking devices, are being hyped well beyond their capabilities—to the point, some say, that they might actually lead to accidents because gun owners frequently don't understand their limitations.

"If it is a loaded gun, there isn't a lock out there that will keep it from being fired," said Tracy Lang of Master Lock, which manufactures the devices. "If you put a trigger lock on any loaded gun, you are making the gun more dangerous."

Many gun control advocates also question the wisdom of promoting trigger locks in the name of child safety and wonder how many people forced to buy one—either as part of their gun purchase or under a growing number of laws—will actually use it.

"We're not the biggest cheerleaders for trigger locks," said Kristen Rand of the pro-gun control Violence Policy Center in Washington. "They've been way oversold."

But, Rand added, "We're taking baby

steps. We need to keep our expectations low. These things are going to work to prevent a very small number of gun injuries . . . off the top of my head, [perhaps] 10 to 20 child injuries a year."

In 1996, the most recent figures available, 220 children under the age of 15 were killed in accidental at-home shootings. Forty of those were under the age of 5.

Skeptics—and even some of the lock makers themselves—say the Rose Garden agreement and laws from Los Angeles to Massachusetts that require buyers of some firearms to also purchase a locking device are "feel-good" policies that have served primarily to create a small but booming industry and offer gun owners an exaggerated sense of security.

"If they were really effective, people would have started buying them long before now," said Michael Saporito, a former New York state judge who is now with IISR Management Corp., an Orlando, Fla.-based firearms distributor.

**'If it is a loaded gun, there isn't a lock out there that will keep it from being fired. If you put a trigger lock on any loaded gun, you are making the gun more dangerous.'**

TRACY LANG  
Master Lock official

Although a host of gun locks—from cable locks to devices that are inserted in the barrel—fulfill the requirements set forth in the Rose Garden agreement and most local laws, trigger locks have taken center stage in this latest push for firearms safety.

They are simple to use, as effective as most other types of locks in many circumstances, and perhaps most importantly, are inexpensive—averaging around \$10, with the cheapest versions available for about \$2.

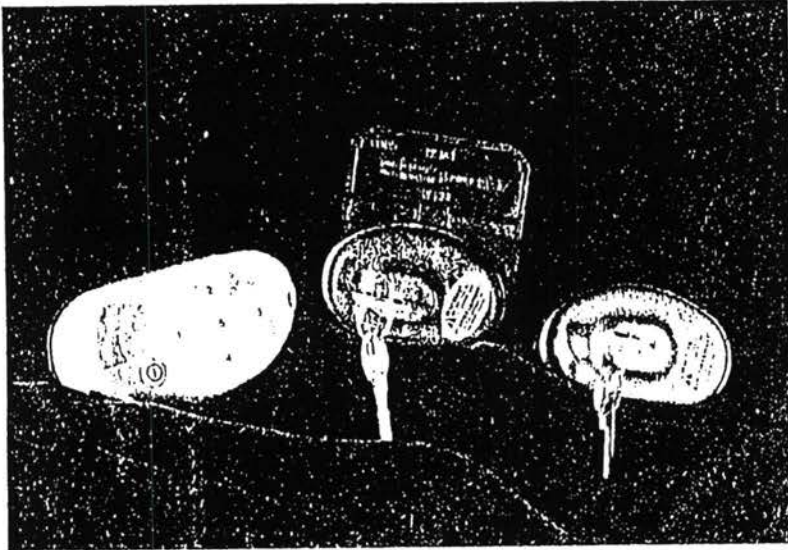
The first trigger lock was patented in 1969 by Milwaukee-based Master Lock, and remains the standard. A two-piece rubber-coated steel device with a center bar, the lock snaps over the trigger guard.

Such devices were never designed to prohibit all movement of the trigger.

# onal Perspective

## SAFETY

# Provokes Fear of Firearm Accidents



CLARENCE WILLIAMS / Los Angeles Times

Some worry that trigger locks such as these might actually lead to more accidents because gun owners frequently don't understand their limitations.

Rather, they function primarily by denying easy access.

And although virtually all lock packaging includes an explanation that the device must be used on unloaded firearms, that message has been lost, some say, as cities and community groups offer trigger lock giveaways and legislators praise the devices as an easy way to childproof a firearm.

"Even the politicians today are calling them 'child safety devices,'" said Lang, who heads Master Lock's gun lock branch. "We never market our products like that, and I would guess the Consumer Product Safety Commission wouldn't like it either."

Some gun control activists say it will take years, but eventually many owners will understand how to properly use the devices and the potential benefits of doing so.

"This situation is very analogous to seat belts," said Bob Walker, president of Handgun Control Inc. "When seat belts were first put in cars, there was a very low rate of compliance."

Eventually, Walker noted, through a series of laws and grim lessons, the rate of seat belt use grew from about 10% three decades ago to 69% today.

Walker and other gun control activists concede, however, that the single largest group of handgun buyers is going to be difficult to persuade.

About 60% of all handguns are purchased specifically for home- or self-protection. And some gun owners—among them peace officers—shudder at the notion of having their firearm locked.

Although few of the roughly 240 million firearms in the U.S. are ever wielded against a home intruder, most shootouts are over in a matter of seconds. And even if the gun owner were able to release the trigger lock in time, the gun would be unloaded if they've followed the manufacturer's advice.

"I'll probably stick [my gun] under my mattress," Joe Crump, a 21-year-old from Sherman Oaks who is saving for a handgun, said recently at a Burbank firing range. "And it's not going to have a lock."

Indeed, of those who are forced to purchase a trigger lock, "I would think a majority never use them," said Jack Adkins of the American Shooting Sports Council, which helped broker the Rose Garden agreement.

Even so, a series of nationally wrenching shootings by children, the growing number of must-purchase laws—and the support of politicians, including Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.)—have led to a boom in the industry.

The Master Lock-style device was about the only type available until a few years ago. Today, sporting goods stores and chain retailers sell key-operated

versions in various colors, combination-style trigger locks and a battery-powered version with a lighted keypad for easier nighttime access. There are locks with 110-decibel alarms and locks with motion sensors that indicate the gun has been moved or tampered with.

Unlike padlocks, trigger locks are not subject to a quality rating system, and some of the biggest sellers are little more than plastic-and-aluminum devices that can be picked with a paper clip or shattered by a simple hammer blow.

Opponents of the Rose Garden agreement and lock laws say trigger locks certainly serve a purpose, but that forcing people to buy them is a policy doomed to fail. Gun education programs, they contend, would be a far more effective way of reducing injuries and deaths.

"You have more children who die by drowning in buckets than by guns," said University of Chicago School of Law professor John Lott, the author of the controversial book "More Guns, Less Crime: Understanding Crime and Gun Control Laws."

"These are feel-good type rules, and people will say if we can save only one life, it will be worth it. But the solutions that are proposed also have costs."

Gun control advocates, who are pushing manufacturers to research "smart guns" that could only be fired by the owner, say trigger locks have great limitations but are better than NRA child gun-education programs—which they deride as gun promotion efforts—and are certainly better than nothing.

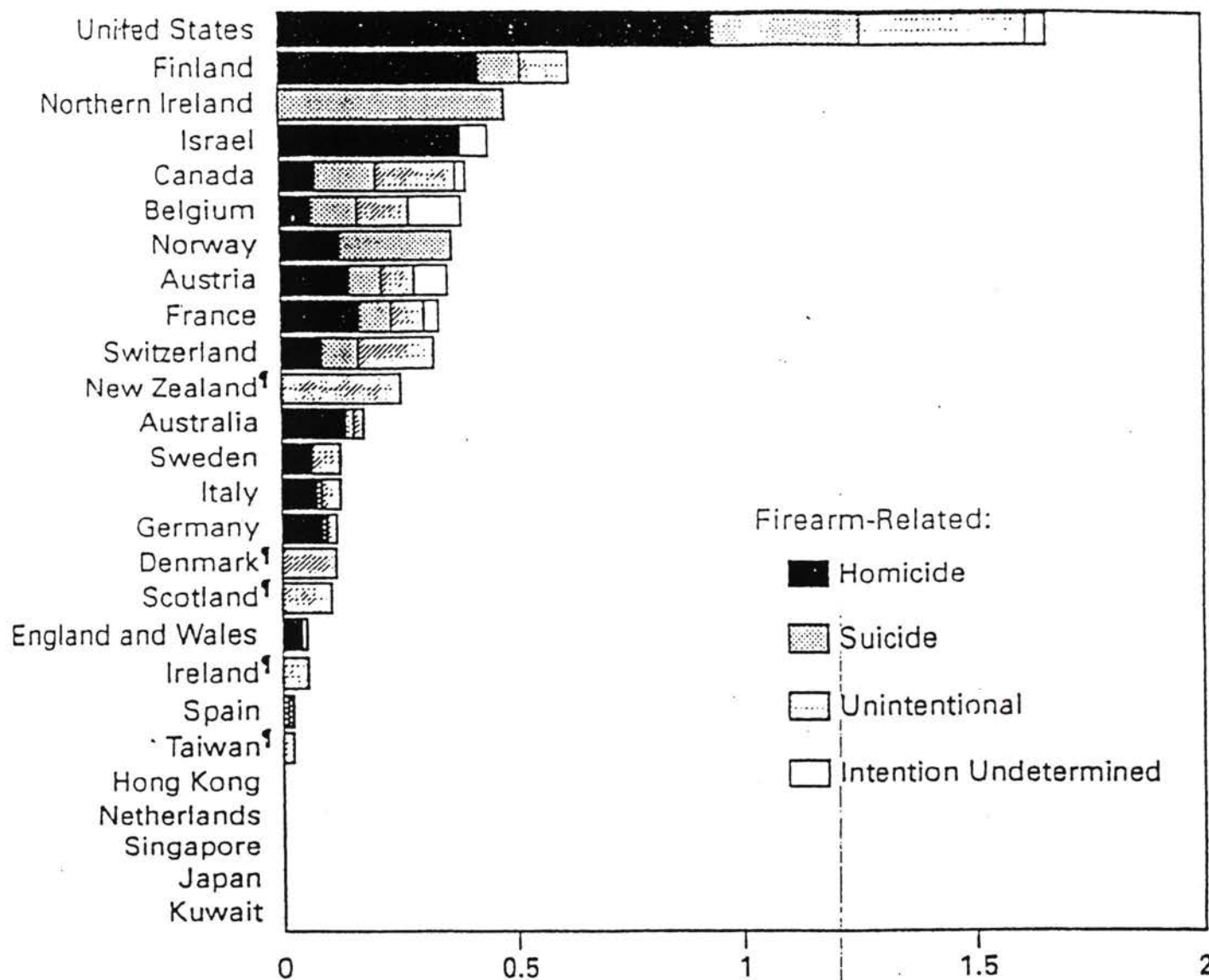
"Gun manufacturers and gun dealers have not done their part in seeking to reduce these deaths," Walker said. "They need to take steps. . . . We think this is a first step."

As gun makers and retailers brace for anti-tobacco-style lawsuits—by Chicago, New Orleans, Miami-Dade County and Bridgeport, Conn.—aimed at recovering costs from gun-related injuries and deaths, they are doing their best to promote themselves as responsible corporate citizens—and skeptically going along with the push for trigger locks.

Several new versions were unveiled at the gun industry's annual trade gathering, the SHOT Show, this month in Atlanta. The city of Atlanta, meanwhile, is considering filing its own suit against gun manufacturers and retailers.

Times staff writer Kurt Stroeter and correspondent Joseph Trevino in Los Angeles contributed to this story.

FIGURE 1. Rates\* of firearm-related death† among children aged <15 years — 26 industrialized countries‡



\*Per 100,000 children aged <15 years and for 1-year during 1990–1995.

†Homicides by firearm (*International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision*, codes E965.0–E965.4), suicides by firearm (E955.0–E955.4), unintentional deaths caused by firearm (E922.0–E922.9), and firearm-related deaths for which intention was undetermined (E985.0–E985.4).

‡All countries classified in the high-income group with populations ≥1 million (5) that provided complete data. In this analysis, Hong Kong, Northern Ireland, and Taiwan are considered as countries.

nm a/a

# Stop Our Shootings Foundation

**1-800-598-0366**  
(949) 632-0820 Fax # (949) 733-8136  
E-mail us at [tribest@pacbell.net](mailto:tribest@pacbell.net)

Hi Barbra and Jim,

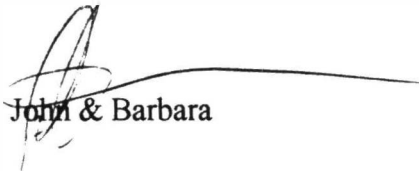
It was an absolute pleasure to meet you on Mother's Day.

Thank you for your concerns and suggestions on the letter, as well as shortening the name. I hope that you like the shorter version. As soon as we can get funded we will open the website and file the 501C3 status.

Today I received a call from Good Morning America. They want us at the White House possibly as soon as Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, and hopefully this will get to President Clinton before then so he will at least have time to review this information.

Thank you for your help. We know that with your help we can make a difference in preventing these tragedies.

With love and good wishes,



John & Barbara

# **S<sub>top</sub> O<sub>ur</sub> S<sub>hootings</sub>** **Foundation**

**Toll free 800-598-0366**

**(949) 632-0820 Fax # (949) 733-8136**

**E-mail us at [tribest@pacbell.net](mailto:tribest@pacbell.net)**

# Stop Our Shootings Foundation

(949) 632-0820 Fax # (949) 733-8136

P.O. Box 3022

Mission Viejo, CA 92690

E-mail us at [tribest@pacbell.net](mailto:tribest@pacbell.net)

President Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, DC

May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1999

Dear President Clinton

We need your consideration, support, strength and the humanitarian dedication of a person like yourself to endorse and support our foundation. Stop Our Shootings Foundation (formerly The Shanelle Foundation) consists of several aspects that are focused on saving children's lives and preventing families from experiencing that devastating psychological and emotional disaster, as when a parent hears those words, "YOUR CHILD'S BEEN SHOT"! You have shown the country your tremendous concern about this issue by simply requiring your Federal Agents to secure their guns with Trigger Locks and all new guns to be sold with a security system!

**STOP OUR SHOOTINGS FOUNDATION *intends to donate a tamper proof security system for firearms to families with unsecured guns in the home; financial and emotional support for victims of shootings; and educational programs THAT WORK, where victims can teach the real dangers of playing with guns!* Our goal is to prevent unintentional and intentional shootings like ours and the tragedies in Arkansas, Greensboro, Jonesboro, and now in Littleton.**

Our daughter Shanelle was unintentionally shot in the head with a Federal Agent's gun by her 13-year old girlfriend in July 1997. The gun was an unsecured, loaded 9mm semi-automatic pistol belonging to a Criminal Investigator working for the Department of Defense. He left the pistol in an unlocked briefcase sitting on the floor in the middle of the house in "super safe" Rancho Santa Margarita, CA, where my daughter had stayed the night. The event that took place that day has undoubtedly changed the lives of our family forever, as I'm sure you understand these types of events often do. With lots of prayers our daughter Shanelle, thank God, survived! After several months of frustration trying to make sense of it, Shanelle was asked to speak to some schools here in Orange County. The response was overwhelming and very positive. The impact that Shanelle made on the kids was incredible as they listened in stunned silence! For the first time we sensed a positive event emerge from a near tragedy, as schoolchildren realized the real dangers of guns in Shanelle's lesson. We found that sharing the experience is great therapy for any child who is a victim of gun violence.

As we have become more involved with this issue of kids shooting kids, we realize a lot of work still needs to be done. We have found that trigger locks don't always stop guns from being fired, even when they are properly installed. They can also be easily removed by an unauthorized user.

***We need a "Fool Proof" system to secure guns!***

Stop Our Shootings Foundation endorses a revolutionary product that received the Geneva, Switzerland Award in 1994 called 'Tri-Best Security System for Firearms' because it secures a

firearm internally. Even if the firearm is stolen, the Tri-Best Security System cannot be removed from the firearm! With our extensive research compiled over the last few years, we are positive we have an educational program that works supported by a product that answers all the concerns of firearm safety.

After Hollywood has made billions of dollars with movies showing kids "the bigger the gun, the more you kill, the bigger the Hero you are!" we see the importance of showing kids what REALLY HAPPENS when you pick up a gun and play with it. Video games are a tremendously realistic way for children to playfully aim a gun and blow people to pieces as blood splatters everywhere! It's time to take a stand and say, "Enough is enough"! Through our Foundation we can educate our society and secure the guns in the homes of children throughout the United States with systems that are tested and certified for firearms to completely prevent it from happening in the first place. ***Even aspirin are sold with locking caps!***

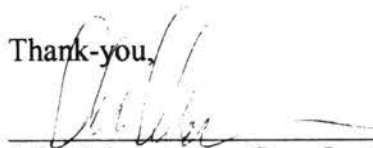
UNITED STATES STATISTICS SHOW THAT 13 CHILDREN A DAY ARE ACCIDENTALLY AND INTENTIONALLY KILLED. MANY MORE WHO SURVIVED HAVE BEEN PERMANENTLY DISFIGURED!

Mr. President, I have dedicated my life to preventing such tragedies because of the tremendous family destruction that follows. We're wasting our time pushing legislation for inferior trigger locks and need help to launch our Foundation so we can provide people with a security system that works. Would you please support this Foundation and join with us and the following organizations and individuals, together in helping us to try to put an end to these senseless tragedies:

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense -- Cheryl J. Roby, Acting Deputy  
United States Department of Education -- William Modzeleski, Director, *Safe & drug Free Schools Program*  
City of Los Angeles -- Mayor Richard J. Riordan  
City of Anaheim, California -- Mayor Tom Dailey  
City of Costa Mesa, California -- Mayor Peter Buffa  
Venado Middle School, Irvine, California -- Julie Michelle, Principal  
Court TV, New York, NY -- Monica Seale, Associate Producer, *Your Turn*  
ABC KNXV-TV, Phoenix, AZ -- Paul Joncich, Anchor  
Cosgrove Meurer Productions, Burbank, CA -- Fran Weinberg, Producer, *You Be The Judge*  
Maury Povich -- Monica Joseph, Assoc. Producer, *Kids & Guns*  
Leeza, *Teens Beating the Odds*  
EXTRA -- Phil Shuman, Correspondent, *Unintentional Shootings and Justice*  
KFI AM 640 Talk Radio, Bill Handle Show -- Michelle Kube, Exec. Producer, *Kids & Guns*  
Saddleback Valley College -- Dawn Kamber, KSBR News Director, *Unintentional Shootings*  
Orange County Sheriff's Department -- William Francis, Lieutenant, *Medal of Valor*  
CBS 2 News -- Judd McIlvain, News Correspondent, *Special Assignment - Two Teenage Kids and a Federal Officers Gun*

Now, as we desperately seek out the answers, please join with us with support and any suggestions, so we can move forward preventing families from experiencing a devastating psychological and emotional disaster because another child has been shot.

Thank-you,

  
John Johannessen, Stop Our Shootings Foundation

# Stop Our Shootings Foundation

## MISSION & PURPOSE STATEMENT:

*For the Prevention of Unintentional Shootings  
through Education & Security Systems for Guns*

1. To allow victims to educate children through the schools across America, everything about the real dangers of playing with guns, with a tested and proven system that works.
2. To provide, free of charge, a tested, certified security systems for guns to people who have children in the home.
3. To provide financial assistance and counseling to victims and their families that are involved with shootings.
4. To create Federal Laws that make all gun owners responsible for their weapons.
5. To limit the age to 21 and under, prohibiting the use of violent video games and the use and /or sale of weapons.
6. To provide a web-site for the victims across America to express their grief and concerns and provide a face with all the names of all the children who were shot; to use as an educational tool to teach the children in the schools and homes about the real dangers of playing with guns.

**Blazing trail**—Commuters create rivers of light that appear to flow from the sky on a recent night along the San Joaquin Hills tollway in a time-exposure image.

**MISSION VIEJO**

# Girl, 12, Shot in Face by Friend Goes Home

After spending nearly two weeks in the hospital recovering from a gunshot to the face, 12-year-old Shanelle Johannessen returned home on Wednesday, relatives said.

Though the girl still has her jaw wired shut from her extensive surgery, she has been able to mumble a few words, her father, John Johannessen, said.

Doctors have told Johannessen that she will not be able to eat solid food for at least nine months, since they fear that any chewing motions could damage her fragile jaw. Her lower jaw was shattered by the single bullet.

"She can walk around pretty good and is so happy to be home," her father said.

Shanelle Johannessen was shot July 19 while she was visiting her friend's house in Rancho Santa Margarita.

Authorities said the girl's friend found the weapon in the house and when she attempted to show it to Shanelle, the gun fired, sending a bullet below her left

## SADDLEBACK/SOUTH BEACH

ear and through her right cheek. John Johannessen said they have not been in direct contact with the other family. Charges have not been filed in the case.

—LORENZA MUÑOZ

**LAGUNA HILLS**

## In-Flight Medical Technology Tested

Airline passengers suffering in-flight medical emergencies may soon be just a phone call away from immediate help because of a revolutionary new technology tested Thursday at Saddleback Memorial Medical Center.

In a first-ever simulation, vital signs and photographic images from an American Airlines passenger on a flight from Los Angeles to Chicago were transmitted instantaneously by phone

line to emergency-room doctors in Laguna Hills.

With the immediate medical information, doctors will be able to treat patients in flight.

The tests prove doctors "can do the same thing at 30,000 feet that we can do on the ground," Saddleback Memorial's Dr. Wesley Fields said.

With the help of a seatback cellular phone, a portable patient monitor sends critical medical information, such as blood pressure and heart rates, to the emergency room. A laptop computer and camera also are patched through the cellular line, so the patient and doctor can talk or communicate through electronic messages.

Known as "telemedicine," the technology was developed nearly two years ago by Kevin Montgomery of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration,

Dr. Alex Gandsas, a Michigan surgeon, and George Migliarini, a computer expert at Saddleback Memorial.

Airline officials say in-flight medical emergencies are not unusual. American Airlines diverted 157 flights in 1995 for medical reasons. Doctors said most emergencies involve passengers with heart or breathing problems.

Fields said there are no immediate plans for airplanes to use the technology because many legal and logistical issues remain unresolved.

—KIMBERLY BROWER

**LAKE FOREST**

## 1-Year Renewal Likely for Animal Shelter

The City Council has been urged by staff to extend its

animal control contract with Orange County for at least one more year when the issue comes up for approval Tuesday.

But that could change next year if costs increase.

"At this point, [renewal of the \$95,000 contract] is the better business decision," City Manager Robert C. Dunek said. "But we are going to monitor the situation based on what other cities are doing."

With the proposed expansion of Theo Lacey jail in Orange, the animal shelter would be forced to move.

City officials say subscriber cities may be required to pitch in for the cost of a new county shelter.

Lake Forest has the option of contracting with shelters in Mission Viejo and Irvine.

The 7 p.m. meeting will take place at City Hall, 23161 Lake Center Drive.

Information: (714) 461-3400.

—FRANK MESSINA

# School Items Sought for Battered Kids

The Child Abuse Prevention Center of Orange County and other organizations are collecting school supplies for neglected and battered children through Aug. 21.

Items needed include crayons, notebooks, pens, highlighters, paper dictionaries in Span-

## COUNTYWIDE

• Premier Health, 150 Avenida Cabrillo, San Clemente. (714) 492-7488.

• Create A Party Rental, 2812

ment does not require the city to lease or resell the land to the troupe.

However, a city would have

take such action in this case.

Once the city purchases the land, it could transfer ownership to the ballet company in exchange for not having to pay back the loan, according to Jones-Helper.

The City Council, acting as the

## NORTH

**FULLERTON**

## State Funds Sought for New Building

The Fullerton School District is applying for state funds to help



# Adults won't face gun charges in girl's accidental shooting

**COURTS:** The District Attorney's Office says it cannot prove gross negligence.

By JOHN McDONALD  
and ALESSANDRA DJURKLOU  
The Orange County Register

No charges will be filed against the owner of a 9 mm pistol that a 13-year-old Rancho Santa Margarita girl used to shoot her friend, the District Attorney's Office said Tuesday.

The July 18 shooting of Shanelle Johannessen, 12, was ruled accidental because her friend thought the gun wasn't loaded when she pointed it at Shanelle. The District Attorney's Office concluded that neither the 13-year-old's mother nor her fiancé, Eric Braun — the gun's owner — could be charged under a 1992 law that requires guns be stored so they are inaccessible to children.

"We could not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the (couple) behaved in a grossly negligent manner," Deputy District Attorney Bruce Patterson said.

John Johannessen, whose daughter needed reconstructive jaw surgery after the shooting, was livid after learning of the decision.

"I can't believe it," he said. "I'm surprised that this is how the district attorney takes care of our little children."

Braun, 30, who works for Defense Criminal Investigative Services in Mission Viejo, is authorized to carry a gun. At the time of the shooting, the briefcase containing the gun was in an unoccupied bedroom, where there was no expectation the youngster would find it, Patterson said.

"The briefcase was equipped with a combination lock, but the girl said it was unlocked when she found it," he said.

The 13-year-old had been warned about the gun's dangers, he added.

Penal code 12035, The CHILDREN'S FIREARM PREVENTION ACT, a law enacted in 1992.

12035. (a) As used in this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Locking device" means a device that is designed to prevent the firearm from functioning and when applied to the firearm, renders the firearm inoperable.

(2) "Loaded firearm" has the same meaning as set forth in subdivision (g) of Section 12031.

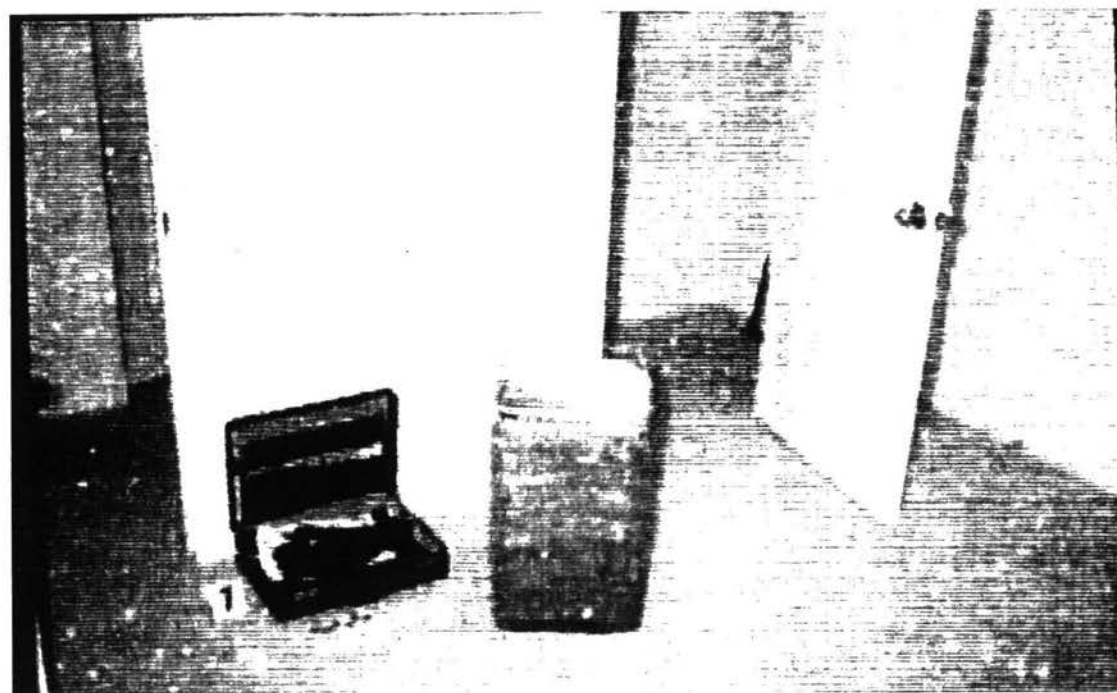
(3) "Child" means a person under 16 years of age.

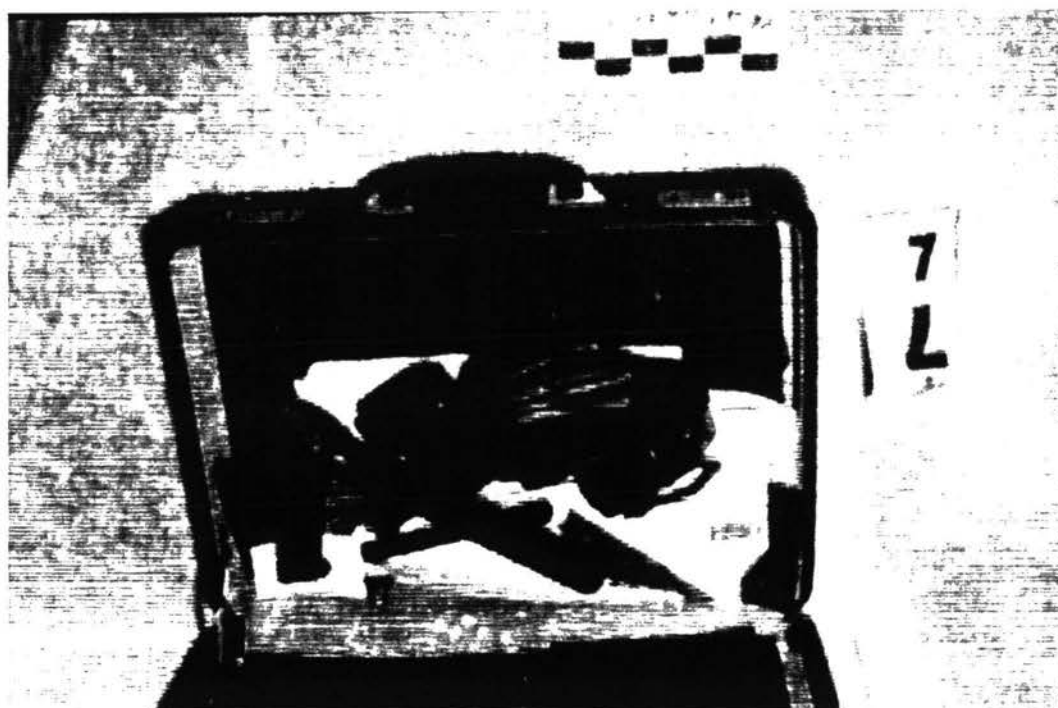
(4) "Great bodily injury" has the same meaning as set forth in Section 12022.7. (5) "Locked container" has the same meaning as set forth in subdivision (d) of Section 12026.2.

(b) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (c), a person commits the crime of "criminal storage of a firearm of the first degree" if he or she keeps any loaded firearm within any premise which is under his or her custody or control and he or she knows or reasonably should know that a child is likely to gain access to the firearm without the permission of the child's parent or legal guardian and the child obtains access to the firearm and thereby causes death or great bodily injury to himself, herself, or any other person.

(2) Except as provided in subdivision (c), a person commits the crime of "criminal storage of a firearm of the second degree" if he or she keeps any loaded firearm within any premise which is under his or her custody or control and he or she knows or reasonably should know that a child is likely to gain access to the firearm without the permission of the child's parent or legal guardian and the child obtains access to the firearm and thereby causes injury, other than great bodily injury, to himself, herself, or any other person, or carries the firearm either to a public place or in violation of Section 417









COMMAND, CONTROL,  
COMMUNICATIONS, AND  
INTELLIGENCE

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
6000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-6000

December 2, 1997



Mr. & Mrs. John Johannessen  
28271 Glenbrook  
Mission Viejo, CA 92692

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Johannessen:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 1997, to President Clinton concerning locking devices on federal firearms. As the head of the office responsible for firearm safety within the Department of Defense, I have been asked to reply to your correspondence. I was touched by your letter and the personal tragedy you have experienced. I was encouraged by your recognition that the President has taken positive steps to ensure weapons issued to federal agents are secure at all times.

In furtherance of the President's direction, this Department requires a trigger lock on all weapons stored outside armories. I know that directives are only as good as the people who employ the procedures. Safety is continuously stressed to prevent incidents such as the one which involved your daughter, Shanelle.

Please accept my best wishes that your daughter continues to experience a complete and full recovery.

Sincerely,

Cheryl J. Roby

Acting

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense  
(Intelligence and Security)





CITY HALL  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
(213) 847-2489

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

RICHARD J. RIORDAN  
Mayor

November 4, 1998

John and Diane Johannessen  
PO Box 80271  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Johannessen:

I extend my appreciation and commend you and your family for having the courage to share your daughter, Shanelle's tragic story with others to bring forth an important message about guns and young people. I admire Shanelle's bravery in turning her terrible experience into a positive and educational one for her peers.

As you may know, creating a livable environment along with public safety is one of the principal goals of my administration. There is definitely a great need to educate youth about the real dangers of guns.

Once again, I commend you and your family's hard work and dedication to promote non-violence to young people.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Riordan  
Mayor

RJR:ap





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Mr. and Mrs. John Johannessen  
P.O. Box 80271  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

OCT 30 1998

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Johannessen:

Thank you for your recent letter to Secretary Riley concerning your violence prevention efforts through the Shanelle Foundation.

The prevention of youth violence remains a high priority for both President Clinton and the Secretary. As you may be aware, on October 15, 1998, the President held the White House Conference on School Safety as a way to explore new solutions to the problem of youth violence. The conference was designed to build on the existing body of knowledge about young people and violent behavior, share best practices and model programs, and develop strategies to put these models in place in our Nation's schools and communities.

At this conference President Clinton announced a series of new initiatives designed to address many of the problems that schools and communities may face in the creation of safe environments for our youth. Specifically, he proposed:

- (1) A \$12 million School Emergency Response to Violence (Project SERV) program that will enable the Federal government to help local communities respond to school-related violent deaths;
- (2) A new \$65 million initiative to hire up to 2,000 community police and school resource officers to work in schools with serious crime problems, and to train police, educators and others to help recognize the early warning signs of violence;
- (3) Plans to reform the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program that will be require schools to adopt more rigorous, comprehensive school safety plans, and
- (4) A \$25 million Safe Schools-Safe Communities initiative designed to help 10 communities develop and implement a coordinated, comprehensive response to school safety.

The President also announced a partnership with MTV to engage youth in solutions to violence. Beginning in 1999, MTV will launch a yearlong media campaign -- "Fight For Your Rights: Take A Stand Against Youth Violence" -- designed to give youth a voice in the national debate on youth violence.

Page 2 -- Mr. and Mrs. Johannessen

As you can see, President Clinton and Secretary Riley are strongly committed to helping schools and communities effectively address the problem of youth violence. We cannot achieve our National Education Goals or ensure the ability of our youth to succeed in their lives unless we first make schools and neighborhoods safe places. Children with a chance to learn and grow in a safe environment will help strengthen and enrich our families, neighborhoods, and communities, and I commend your efforts and wish the Shanelle Foundation every success in helping others understand the dangers of gun violence.

To be exempt from federal income tax, an organization must be described in one of the sections of the Internal Revenue Code providing for exemption. For more information, you may wish to download the publication *Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization* at the Internal Revenue Service webpage at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (202) 260-3954, or visit us on the Internet at [www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS).

Sincerely,



William Modzeleski  
Director, Safe and Drug-Free  
Schools Program

-

-



CITY OF ANAHEIM

Office of the Mayor

October 27, 1998

Mr. and Mrs. John Johannessen  
The Shanelle Foundation  
P. O. Box 80271  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Johannessen:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding your daughter's most unfortunate encounter with a gun.

The positive response she has received from other youth about her experience is very encouraging. I agree that education is the key to prevention of gun violence, and I applaud your on-going commitment to extend your message to young people throughout the nation.

Best of luck with The Shanelle Foundation for the prevention of unintentional shootings.

Sincerely,

Tom Daly  
Mayor



## CITY OF COSTA MESA

CALIFORNIA 92628-1200 P. O. BOX 1200

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

November 2, 1998

John and Diane Johannessen  
The Shanelle Foundation  
P. O. Box 80271  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

Dear Mr. And Mrs. Johannessen:

This is in response to your recent letter regarding your proposed foundation. From the information in your letter, I understand that your daughter Shanelle was the victim of an unintentional shooting at a friend's house. It was a blessing that she survived and now chooses to share her experience with her peers.

On behalf of the Costa Mesa City Council, I certainly support your efforts to educate school children on the dangers of handling guns. Good luck with your foundation.

Regards,

Peter Buffa  
Mayor of Costa Mesa

/jc



# *Certificate of Appreciation*

*The Violence Prevention Coaliton  
of Orange County*

*Presented to*

*Shanelle Johannessen*

*In recognition for your work and dedication to non-violence in Orange County*

*June 1998*



*Daria Waetjen*

*Daria Waetjen  
Co-Chair*

*Davine Abbot*

*Davine Abbot  
Co-Chair*



# **GUN VIOLENCE!**

**ORANGE COUNTY CITIZENS FOR THE  
PREVENTION OF GUN VIOLENCE**

Founded in Memory of Matthew C. Blek

## **ORANGE COUNTY CITIZENS FOR THE PREVENTION OF GUN VIOLENCE**

### **HONORS**

**SHANNELLE, JOHN AND DIANE  
JOHANNESSEN**

FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO  
ALERTING THE PUBLIC TO THE HAZARD OF LOADED HANDGUNS  
ACCESSIBLE TO CHILDREN.

---

Mary Leigh Blek  
Chair



## MEDAL FOR LIFESAVING



JIM SLIKKER

Born and raised in Southern California, Jim graduated from Costa Mesa High School in 1981, where he excelled in water polo, wrestling and track. He later attended Golden West College and majored in Police Science.

Jim joined the Sheriff's Department in 1984 and has worked in Corrections, North Patrol and later South Patrol, where he is currently assigned. He is a member of the Sheriff's Department's Dive Team and has received several letters of appreciation for the many rescues and underwater searches he has been involved in. Jim's goals are to join the Sheriff's Department's Gang Detail, then eventually promote to investigator and one day become a sergeant.

He currently resides in Mission Viejo with his wife, Cathy, and their 5 year old son, Andrew. Jim enjoys scuba diving, spear fishing, weight lifting and riding his motorcycle in the desert.



## DEPUTY JIM SLIKKER

### Saved the Life of a 12 Year Old Gunshot Victim

On July 8, 1997, Deputy Slikker was dispatched to the scene of an accidental shooting in the community of Rancho Santa Margarita. Upon arrival, he found a 12 year old girl covered in blood, lying on the bed in the master bedroom. She had been accidentally shot in the neck by a friend who was playing with a large caliber handgun. Deputy Slikker immediately rendered assistance to the child by applying direct pressure to both sides of her neck with his hands in order to cover the gaping wound she suffered from the gunshot.

During the time it took for fire units to arrive, he spoke to the victim and her hysterical girlfriend in a calm and calculating manner. Deputy Slikker was successful in stopping the profuse bleeding and continued to turn the child's head to the side allowing blood to exit her mouth to alleviate choking. When paramedics arrived, he continued applying direct pressure to her wounds while they administered an I-V and stabilized her vital signs.

During the incident, the young girl looked directly into the deputy's eyes and asked, "Am I going to die?" This may have shaken even the most experienced veteran. Deputy Slikker, however, kept his cool and calmly told her she would be fine and instructed her to keep breathing slowly and remain calm.

Paramedics later stated Deputy Slikker's fast response time and quick and decisive actions were the major reasons she survived. He most assuredly saved her from bleeding to death.



SADDLEBACK COLLEGE

28000 Marguerite Parkway • Mission Viejo • CA 92692

<http://www.saddleback.cc.ca.us>

(714) 582-4500

Dear John Johannessen:

9-3-98

KSBR appreciates you, your wife Diane, and daughter Shanelle, for sharing your story about the unintentional shooting of Shanelle.

I know it was a tough ordeal your family experienced. But it was kind of your family to share with listeners your experiences, so hopefully they won't endure the same troubles.

Several listeners had phoned following the program to compliment you on being courageous in sharing the story, and for wanting to do more with the Shanelle Foundation.

With the numbers of unintentional shootings among kids rising in the nation, I can see how your organization can help educate kids to desire to stay away from guns, and for adults to lock them up.

I hope you're successful in getting the Foundation off the ground. Please keep me updated.

I look forward to doing a yearly show on unintentional shootings, to air near the anniversary of Shanelle's shooting. I have already put that down on my 1999 calendar.

Thanks again for the half hour show.

Sincerely,

Dawn Kamber  
KSBR News

John Johannesse  
Simon Viejo, A.

15

Dear John,

All of us at News 15 want to thank you and your family for helping us put together our Kids and Guns story.

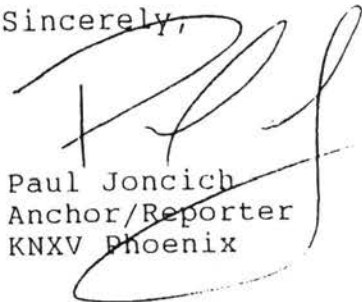
Shanelle's close call with death - may give other children life.

It takes courage for a father to talk about the feelings that come with almost losing a daughter. Thank you for doing that.

I'm returning the two video tapes you loaned us, and I've included a copy of our Kids and Guns story that aired February 23rd. We receive a large amount of positive feedback about the story. You really helped get the message across.

Thanks again for your help.

Sincerely,



Paul Joncich  
Anchor/Reporter  
KNXV Phoenix

Paul Joncich

602-243-4151

KNXV-TV  
1625 South 33rd Place  
Phoenix, Arizona 85040  
Phone (602) 232-6331  
Fax (602) 232-6363



Scripps Howard Television Station



KNXV-TV, 4625 South 33rd Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85040 (602) 243-4151



Represented by KATZ National Television



A Scripps Howard Television Station



4/20/98

Mr. John Johannessen  
28271 Glenbrook  
Mission Viejo, CA 92692

Dear John:

As I am moving on from the current project, I wanted to return all the materials you so generously provided for our use. Please find enclosed both audio tapes of the 911 calls, your lovely photos of Shanelle, the hospital colored xeroxes and modelling shots, xeroxes of the crime scene evidence and newspaper articles (I photocopied them for our files).

It was great to have access to them for a riveting anti-gun segment. As it now stands, the show, "You Be The Judge" is slated to air on NBC this Fall. I will leave your number on the contact list for those to be given an airdate. But if you don't hear from someone, call in on the 800 number and ask for an airdate for "You Be The Judge". Tell them your daughter is featured in the piece. The number is 1-800-421-4519.

It has been my pleasure to get to know you and learn Shanelle's story. Thanks again for all of your help.

Sincerely,

Fran Weinberg  
Segment Producer

April 15, 1998

Mr. John Jonanassen:

**KFI**  
AM 640

I'm not sure if you'll remember me, but I hope so. My name is Michelle Kube, Executive Producer of KFI Radio in Los Angeles, and Producer of the Bill Handel Show. We spoke last July soon after the accident that happened to your daughter. I am writing you now, because I saw an article in the O.C. Register last week about your daughter Shanelle speaking at some schools in the Orange County area regarding her experience. I admire her bravery in bringing the most important message about guns to light to young people, and I'm hoping to extend that message to the million people that listen to us each week. In the wake of the Jonesboro, Arkansas shootings, the topics of kids and guns seems to be in the forefront of everyone's mind. Whether accidental or intentional shootings, the issue of a child's access to guns in the home is the same.

I am hoping that the three of you will consider appearing on Bill's show together to share your experience, along with the very emotional 911 call, so that we can try to prevent this from happening again to someone else, and to let parents know that they need to be responsible, even more so if they consider keeping a gun in a home with children.

Thank you in advance for any consideration you may give this.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns

Sincerely,

*Michelle A. Kube*

Michelle A. Kube  
Executive Producer  
KFI Radio  
213-251-3176

**"We teach, we tickle, we torture....."**

**KFI-AM 640, More Stimulating Talk Radio".....**

610 South Ardmore Avenue

Los Angeles, California 90005

213/385-0101

A Member of the KFI/KOST Family



1840 Victory Boulevard  
Glendale, California 91201  
818/972-0694 • Fax 818/972-0683

Phil Shuman  
Correspondent

June 2 1998

Dear Sharile

Thanks to you and your Mom  
and Dad for sharing your story with us  
at EXTRA and with our audience.

Your work and your courage  
in speaking out will definitely save  
lives. Not many of us can  
have such an impact ... congratulations  
on taking something terrible and  
making something good happen.

Sincerely,

Phil Shuman

# COURT TV

COURTROOM TELEVISION NETWORK

May 18, 1998

Mr. John Johannessen  
The Shanelle Foundation for the Prevention of Unintentional Shootings  
28271 Glenbrook  
Mission Viejo, CA 92692

Dear John,

Thanks so much for your help, time and sharing Shanelle's story with me. I can tell you that her appearance on *Your Turn* made a difference. I've enclosed the materials you sent me, except the tape recording of the 911 call.

I hope all goes well with *Extra*, and we will forward a VIIS copy of the show once it airs in late June. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 212-973-7921.

Sincerest regards,



Monica Seale  
Associate Producer, *Your Turn*

encl.



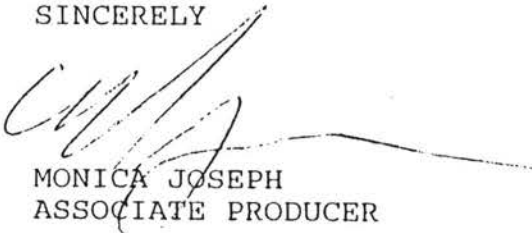
DEAR JOHANESSENS,

LET ME START BY SAYING I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING YOUR FAMILY ON OUR SHOW FOR SUCH AN IMPORTANT TOPIC. I WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE YOU MR. JOHANESSEN ALONG WITH YOUR WIFE DIANE AND OF COURSE SHANELLE THAT YOUR TRIP HERE TO THE "MAURY POVICH SHOW" WILL BRING ABSOULUTELY NO SURPRISES.

AFTER AFTER DISCUSSING THE EVENTS THAT HAVE UNFOLDED IN REFERENCE TO SHANELLE'S ACCIDENT WE BOTH AGREE THAT INVITING THE CURTIS'S TO BE ON THE SAME SHOW WOULD NOT BE BENEFICIAL OR HELP CONVEY THE MESSAGE WE ARE TRYING TO GET ACROSS IN THIS SHOW.

I HOPE THIS LETTER WILL PUT US IN TOTAL UNDERSTANDING WITH EACHOTHER, AND PLEASE LET SHANELLE KNOW THAT NEW YORK IS LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING HER AS MUCH AS SHE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING HERE.

SINCERELY



MONICA JOSEPH  
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER





May 27, 1998

Diane and Shanelle Johannessen  
28271 Glenbrook  
Mission Viejo, CA 92692

Dear Diane and Shanelle,

You have our heartfelt thanks for joining us on the program to share your incredible story. We really appreciate your contribution. Thanks so much and take good care.

All the best,  
  
Leeza





*Just Listen*

Shanelle Johannessen  
3 Via Yortuga  
RSM, CA 92688

July 22nd, 1998

Dear Shanelle

Thank you very much for going on *KidsTalk Live*, Children and Guns. The show was a great hit because of you.

When people see what, you went through and how an accident like this can happen to innocent children, hopefully this will give parent's moors of an impacted as to keeping their guns in a safe place, or as, Mark Warschaw said, teach your children about guns. What guns really are and how dangerous they are?

I hope your Foundation is going well, we at *KidsTalk* commend you and wish you all the very best on what you are doing for other children.

If I can be of any help to you, just give me a call and I will do whatever I can. It was a wonderful experience meeting you and thanks for being part of *KidsTalk*.

With Love •

Ninon de Vere De Rosa.

Enclosure



7534 Mulholland Drive, Los Angeles, California 90046, U.S.A.

888-KidsTalk

tel: 213-850-1303 • Fax 213-850-1302

**From:** dnoble@cpsc.gov <dnoble@cpsc.gov>  
**To:** shanelle@shanelle.org <shanelle@shanelle.org>  
**Cc:** mcohn@cpsc.gov <mcohn@cpsc.gov>; kbegala@cpsc.gov  
<kbegala@cpsc.gov>; jbromme@cpsc.gov <jbromme@cpsc.gov>;  
pgilbert@cpsc.gov <pgilbert@cpsc.gov>  
**Date:** Thursday, August 06, 1998 2:21 PM  
**Subject:** Your August 6, 1998 email message to CPSC

---

Dear Mr. Johannessen:

Thank you for your August 6, 1998 message. The July 18, 1997 incident, as described in your message, certainly demonstrates the necessity for parents and caregivers to keep any firearms stored in their residence in a safe and secure location and away from any unsupervised access by children.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is mandated by Congress to have jurisdiction over more than 15,000 types of products to ensure that they do not present an unreasonable risk of injury or death to consumers. Congress also specifically prohibited action on our agency's part to address potential hazards with firearms as well as with food, drugs, cosmetics and tobacco products.

Therefore, you may want to consider contacting the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) within the Department of the Treasury and bring to that organization's attention the work of the Shanelle Foundation. General inquiries can be sent via email to:

[atfmail@atfhq.atf.treas.gov](mailto:atfmail@atfhq.atf.treas.gov)

or addressed through a letter to the following address:

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms  
Office of Liaison and Public Information  
650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW.  
Room 8290  
Washington, DC 20226

This and other information about BATF can be found on their web site at [www.atf.treas.gov](http://www.atf.treas.gov)

Thank you again for contacting us and sharing this account of a near tragedy to Shanelle and her family and actions she is taking to warn other young people about the potential hazards of firearms.

Cordially,

Douglas L. Noble  
Assistant Executive Director for Information Services  
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

**From:** Kurt Knutsson <kurt@cyberguy.com>  
**To:** Shanelle <pop@mail.shanelle.org.criticalpath.net>  
**Date:** Thursday, July 30, 1998 12:11 AM  
**Subject:** RE:

---

Hi Shanelle--

Our phones rang off the hook about your story here at ktla5.

People really appreciated you sharing your experience from a year ago to now.

Thank you for taking the time to speak with us about it.

Take good care,

Kurt  
CyberGuy  
ktla5/cyberguy tv

CyberGuy, Kurt Knutsson, brings the Internet to life on TV. Based at KTLA-TV Los Angeles, the CyberGuy syndicated TV news features currently reach into nearly 35% of US broadcast TV households. Led by an Emmy Award-winning team, the reports air as part of a local newscast 3 times weekly. More info is found at <http://www.cyberguy.com>

Kurt is called on by Entertainment Tonight, EXTRA, Leeza, CNN, the BBC and other national programs. Kurt is quoted by Associated Press for his experience with the Internet and technology. Catch his monthly columns in print publications including Detour Magazine.

CyberGuy  
5800 Sunset Blvd  
KTLA Bldg 16  
Los Angeles, CA 90028  
[kurt@cyberguy.com](mailto:kurt@cyberguy.com)  
(213) 460-5404 fax

**From:** Patricia Guinn <bondman007@earthlink.net>  
**To:** shanelle@shanelle.org <shanelle@shanelle.org>  
**Date:** Thursday, July 09, 1998 11:00 PM  
**Subject:** Getting GUNS away form kids

---

Hi. One year ago I was shot with a Windstor 1 Ounce Shotgun shell in the hand. I almost lost my hand. Now I am hear to hlep you take guns out of the hands of kids and into the hands of Pros. I think GUNS should all be burned. I tired to do what you are doing but all that happend is that people laguhed at me. Now I am turning to you. Togther we can help save lives.

RW GUINN  
E-mail me when you get this  
[bondman007@earthlnik.net](mailto:bondman007@earthlnik.net)

**From:** Thomas J. O'Toole <tjotoole@bit-net.com>  
**To:** friend@shanelle.org <friend@shanelle.org>  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 1998 4:39 PM  
**Subject:** Nice site

---

Hello,

First let me say I'm sorry your family has been put through this ordeal, I hope Shanelle has fully recovered, God was surely watching over her that morning.

I've been browsing your website with interest as it develops. I can't remember how I found it, possibly on a firearms related mailing list, my first thought was ohh geez another Sarah Brady/HCI organization. But I'm glad to see you acknowledge that guns have their place, or at least not making this a 2nd Amendment issue. I carry a handgun daily for self defense, but I'm sickened whenever a child is injured through an owner's negligence, not only is a child's life destroyed or at the least severely disrupted, but it gives the gun control advocates more power.

I'm not a fan of trigger locks because I view them as dangerous, the installation of the trigger lock on a loaded gun can cause the gun to go off. I think a more substantial storage device, even a firesafe from SENTRY will work better. What works best even if guns are not in the home is instilling a healthy respect, you don't want your kids playing with a circular saw either right? Well thats just as dangerous in my opinion. The main focus of the Eddie the Eagle program seems to work great with kids, and I'm glad you have it on your page, but controlling access by children is even better.

I'm only 25 years old, I grew up in a gunfree household, but many of my friends did not. BUT I respected them(guns) enough to avoid when possible and the parents were responisble enough to teach their kids not to go near them when they weren't around. The trick is to demystify guns. If my friends wanted to show me a gun they would have their parents permission and their parents would be observing. I know of some owners who have their kids help them clean their weapons after a hunting trip or trip to the range, this demystifys the gun and teaches safe gun handling from an early age. Also the kids knew that all they had to do was ASK Mom or Dad if they could see the gun and Mom or Dad would show it to them, always stressing safe gun handling. It's when it's kept in the bedside table or in a closet and is a "secret" THATs when guns become the most dangerous.

When more information about the Foundation is posted I may become a full supporter, fo now I wish Shanelle well and hope she is doing better.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. O'Toole - Certified Flight Instructor

<http://www.bit-net.com/~tjotoole>

Owner - Av8r Images

[http://www.bit-net.com/~tjotoole/photos\\_new.htm](http://www.bit-net.com/~tjotoole/photos_new.htm)

**From:** jay bennett <network@fea.net>  
**To:** shanelle@shanelle.org <shanelle@shanelle.org>  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 03, 1998 7:17 PM  
**Subject:** wishing you well

---

dear shanelle, 6/3/98

we wanted to write a note of encouragement, in your commitment to share your powerful story, with kids about the dangers of playing with guns. today with more kids your age purposely shooting there fellow students there is a great need for your experience and dramatic story to educate others on being responsible with guns. keep sharing your story!!! our little girl who is 5 yrs. old is also named shanelle. we read your story in the times and she reminded me when we were in my office to send you an e-mail.

i know as a family you have to be very thankful on shanelle's recovery. our family wishes your family the best and God bless.

sincerely, jay, siw, shanelle, & keane

9/4/98

**From:** Chris <llchris@earthlink.net>  
**To:** shanelle@shanelle.org <shanelle@shanelle.org>  
**Date:** Sunday, August 30, 1998 4:32 PM  
**Subject:** Guns

---

I appreciate what you are doing and wish you luck, although hard work is what counts. I can support your idea 100% and I have always been responsible with my guns. But I can't support any more legislation, we have too much now.

I have two daughters who really enjoy shooting, and that is part of what taught them about the danger of guns and what they can do. Something mysterious is often dangerous. Many disagree about methods but the goal is the same. If one person is saved by your efforts that would be wonderful, and I'm sure this web page alone can make a difference.

My youngest daughter goes to Thurston High School. She will be a Junior this year. She has only been back to the cafeteria once since the shooting. She was not directly involved, but it affects us all.

Parents that are responsible are involved with their kids in all aspects of their lives, irresponsible parents are difficult to deal with and new laws can only do so much. I feel such sadness for parents that won't do their job as role models and just being there for their kids. I'm a single father and it's been very hard to do this alone, but it's the best job I have ever had and I'm very proud of my girls.

Chris Lindley  
Springfield, Oregon

**From:** Georgia Abbatcola <georgiaa@magnet.com>  
**To:** 'Shanelle' <pop@mail.shanelle.org.criticalpath.net>  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 04, 1998 3:26 PM  
**Subject:** RE: my daughter

---

Its very hard to understand why some live and some die. My daughter was shot with a small caliber gun. She had overcome so much pain in her life she had four little boys who she loved very much. I know she is with God and at times I know she is walking streets of gold. There is a song that says if you could see me now I am walking streets of Gold you would not want me to come back. I believe that. I to feel that with all the tragedy in my life that I am here to help other people. I was pronounced dead in 1986 from liver failure and had an after death experience. I felt God kept me alive for some reason who knows maybe this was the reason. Thanks for listening.  
Georgia

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Shanelle [SMTP:pop@mail.shanelle.org.criticalpath.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 04, 1998 2:48 PM  
**To:** Georgia Abbatecola  
**Subject:** Re: my daughter

Dear Georgia,  
I am so terribly sorry for what happen to your daughter. Just know that she is in good hands with god. I hope that one day I can save a life so what happen to your daughter will not happen to any one else. I am soooo oo very sorry . GOD BLESS you and your family.....  
Shanelle  
P.S. keep in touch.....

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Georgia Abbatecola <georgiaa@la.magnet.com>  
**To:** shanelle@shanelle.org <shanelle@shanelle.org>  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 04, 1998 2:28 PM  
**Subject:** my daughter

>My daughter was not as lucky as you she found a gun and feeling  
>depressed shot herself in the head. She died and I must say my life has  
>changed. I am going through a very rough time in my life now. I wish you  
>all the best God can give you.  
>Georgia  
>

**From:** Serina Knight R Knight <WINDYKNIGHTS@prodigy.net>  
**To:** educate@shanelle.org <educate@shanelle.org>  
**Date:** Monday, May 25, 1998 9:22 PM  
**Subject:** shanelle

---

I THINK THAT THIS IS A VERY GOOD PROGRAM. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. THERE IS NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO TAKE THE TIME FOR THIS KIND OF STUFF. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS.

<http://educate@shanelle.org/html/shanelle.html>

**From:** EDSPLZ@aol.com <EDSPLZ@aol.com>  
**To:** shanelle@shanelle.org <shanelle@shanelle.org>  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 08, 1998 10:58 AM  
**Subject:** hello

---

I just visited your site. I want to thank you for sharing this with us and our children.

Sincerely,  
Ed and sue Yenowine  
[EDSPLZ@aol.com](mailto:EDSPLZ@aol.com)

**From:** BeachChk80@aol.com <BeachChk80@aol.com>  
**To:** shanelle@shanelle.org <shanelle@shanelle.org>  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 08, 1998 10:35 AM  
**Subject:** hi there!!

---

dear shanelle,

i am so happy to hear that you are fully recovered! that is so neat that you are brave enough to go to school auditoriums and make your own website about the danger of guns!! i remember hearing about you on TV and it made me sick to think that someone could just pick up a gun and playing with it when they didn't know it was loaded. i know it was an accident but guns are such dangerous things. well, good luck in the future and i again i am so happy for you to have the energy to do the things you do!! i will talk to you later maybe?

bye!  
love always,  
kristin martin  
irvine california

P.S.--write back please

9/4/98

**From:** Donna Antekeier <fuzzysmom@yahoo.com>

**To:** friend@shanelle.org <friend@shanelle.org>

**Date:** Wednesday, July 08, 1998 1:19 PM

---

Hello...

I saw Shanelle's story on the news this morning and I wanted to say how proud I am of her. I think it is very important that kids know what to do if they see a gun and that they know the consequences of handling guns. I have a six year old daughter whom I'm very protective of and I am always trying to teach her how to handle many, many situations and also what can happen if a situation is mishandled. I also think it is important to fill her life with things of importance and substance not just the Spice Girls and such. I am so glad Shanelle has recovered and I wish her well throughout the rest of her life!

Sincerely,

Donna Antekeier

C

---

DO YOU YAHOO!?

Get your free @yahoo.com address at <http://mail.yahoo.com>

**From:** mauricio Escobar <mauricio@avcomputercenter.com>  
**To:** shanelle@shanelle.org <shanelle@shanelle.org>  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 08, 1998 8:58 AM  
**Subject:** Just an average letter from an average guy

---

Hello I write because I want to thank you fro being an image of strength in my life when I had heard what had gappened bout a year ago I looked at it as just another California day someone gets shoot due to lack of responsibility on someones behalf. As the weeks rolled on I heard more about how you were doing and the details on the incident . I am sorrry that you had to go through all that but just like you said on KTLA when you spoke with the cyberguy you felt like the bad had been done to you , so now the good you sowed has now turned into reaping in the form af many new admirers and people who get inspired by you story of determination. I just wanted to thank you. Write back if you ever get a chance .

~Maurice E  
Palmdale California

9/4/98

**From:** Shanelle <pop@mail.shanelle.org>  
**To:** jay bennett <network@fea.net>  
**Date:** Friday, September 04, 1998 8:00 PM  
**Subject:** Re: wishing you well

---

Dear

-----Original Message-----

From: jay bennett <network@fea.net>  
To: shanelle@shanelle.org <shanelle@shanelle.org>  
Date: Wednesday, June 03, 1998 7:17 PM  
Subject: wishing you well

>dear shanelle,                   6/3/98  
>we wanted to write a note of encouragement, in your commitment to share  
>your powerful story, with kids about the dangers of playing with guns.  
>today with more kids your age purposely shooting there fellow students  
>there is a great need for your experience and dramatic story to educate  
>others on being responsible with guns. keep sharing your story!!!  
>our little girl who is 5 yrs. old is also named shanelle. we read your  
>story in the times and she reminded me when we were in my office to send  
>you an e-mail.  
>i know as a family you have to be very thankful on shanelle's recovery.  
>our family wishes your family the best and God bless.  
>                   sincerely, jay, siw, shanelle, & keane  
>  
>

9/4/98

**From:** chris glover <chetco23@hotmail.com>  
**To:** friend@shanelle.org <friend@shanelle.org>  
**Date:** Friday, July 10, 1998 2:01 AM  
**Subject:** From a friend

---

Hi,

My name is Chris Glover and I am a Fire Fighter in Southern Oregon. I am a Prevention Officer for my Department, and I think that what you are doing is GREAT!!! It is great that you want to educate others from your accident. I saw your story on KTLA tonight.  
Keep up the good work!!!!

Chris Glover  
[chetco23@hotmail.com](mailto:chetco23@hotmail.com)

---

Get Your Private, Free Email at <http://www.hotmail.com>

**From:** Michelle Kube <handel@primenet.com>  
**To:** Shanelle <pop@mail.shanelle.org.criticalpath.net>  
**Date:** Sunday, May 10, 1998 11:21 PM  
**Subject:** Re: to Bill and Michelle Kube

---

Shanelle....

Thank you for coming on the show and telling your story....you really touched a lot of people. I've been getting e-mails and phone calls from people that said they listened to the hour with their kids and they really learned something.

I'm really glad that you have e-mail now website. Bill's on vacation this week, but when he gets back, I'll have him tell everyone over the air where they can get in touch with you.

I'm going to e-mail the people who wrote me about the show to let them know your e-mail as well.

Tell your family I said hello, and I'll keep in touch with you. Remember, knowledge is power and you are empowering people by speaking and sharing the pain that you went through.

All the best.....

Michelle

**From:** Mark Bottjer <alizhan@nmt.edu>  
**To:** guestbook@shanelle.org <guestbook@shanelle.org>  
**Date:** Monday, May 25, 1998 2:34 PM  
**Subject:** Guest login

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Camille Scielzi |  
[mailto:camille\\_scielzi@rocketmail.com](mailto:camille_scielzi@rocketmail.com)  
<http://www.nmt.edu/~cscielzi> |

Hi Shanelle,

I am a teacher and am having my students in New Mexico do civil rights debates. One of the topics is gun control. I am glad you decided to take action. I always tell my students that history is written by the people who took action, not the ones who didn't.

Camille Scielzi

**From:** Brian Heffley <webmaster@BandNetwork.com>  
**To:** shanelle@shanelle.org <shanelle@shanelle.org>  
**Date:** Thursday, July 09, 1998 11:06 PM  
**Subject:** to Shanelle

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Hey Shanelle,

I saw your interview and story on the news here in L.A. tonight (Thursday) and just wanted you to know that I'm glad you came through alright and I'm glad you're making a good cause for a serious problem.

I'm from Covina, California (close to L.A.), 21 years old, and own a Website company, Webco. I just started a new website last month called [www.BandNetwork.com](http://www.BandNetwork.com) for music groups. Anyhow, I'd like to support your cause if I could. I'd like to get permission from you to make a link on my site to yours, if I could. Hopefully this could help get the message across.

Please let me know how I can help! Have a good day!

Thank you!  
-Brian Heffley

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[webmaster@bandnetwork.com](mailto:webmaster@bandnetwork.com)  
Webco Internet Authoring  
(626) 339-9363

Print Msg

From: NBurt90208@aol.com  
Subject: (no subject)  
To: shanelle@shanelle.org  
Date: Sat, 10 Oct 1998 21:22:44 EDT

[http://mail.shanelle.org/address/add\\_person?add\\_from\\_msg=NBurt90208@aol.com&id=9](http://mail.shanelle.org/address/add_person?add_from_msg=NBurt90208@aol.com&id=9)  
[http://mail.shanelle.org/address/add\\_person?add\\_from\\_msg=NBurt90208@aol.com&id=9](http://mail.shanelle.org/address/add_person?add_from_msg=NBurt90208@aol.com&id=9)  
<http://mail.shanelle.org/mail/reportuce?id=9>  
<http://mail.shanelle.org/mail/reportuce?id=9>  
<http://mail.shanelle.org/mail/printmsg?id=9>  
<http://mail.shanelle.org/mail/printmsg?id=9>

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While working on a college class project I stumbled onto your web site! I love what I see and want you to know you are in my prayers, as well as your efforts. I choose the topic of guns and children to do a research/debate topic in my Sociology class. I do not think people who have not experienced the pain of a gun shot wound to themselves or loved one can truly understand the feeling and conviction as we whom have been changed forever by a gun. 4 years ago I held my 12 year old son as he fought for life after being "accidently" shot in the head . To make matters worse it was his own 15 year old brother who pulled the trigger. My son is a walking miracle and doing good. He has been left with a seziure condition but we are not complaining. However, the severe trama his brother endured by this (he loves his brother) plunged him into a deep depression. He became very suicidal and we came very close to losing him also. Praise God, he is better now too but I still 4 years late have not seen the son I had before the shooting. The experience should have never happened but it did. I hate guns and do not want them in my house. I must ask myself though when my children visit others homes "are they safe?" People are so blind sighted. I want to scream out when I hear the statement "my kids no better". My son did too but he made a mistake. I and my husband as parents made a bigger mistake! We allowed my son to have a key to the locked gun closet in case a burgler broke in the house. How stupid! When we built our house the guns (hunting guns) were a big priority for me. I had lost a 10 year old Sunday school student to a gun shot wound and wanted the guns locked up! Out of 4 children he was the only one with a key. I think we need laws to help protect everyone from guns and punishments for those who do not use good sound judgement when owning a gun, I am not sure what this should be but we must do something. I will visit again, and God Bless!

Narrow or Widen message text.

Print Msg

From: NBurt90208@aol.com  
Subject: Re: responding  
To: pop@shanelle.org  
Date: Mon, 19 Oct 1998 23:40:32 EDT

[http://mail.shanelle.org/address/add\\_person?add\\_from\\_msg=NBurt90208@aol.com&id=10](http://mail.shanelle.org/address/add_person?add_from_msg=NBurt90208@aol.com&id=10)  
[http://mail.shanelle.org/address/add\\_person?add\\_from\\_msg=NBurt90208@aol.com&id=10](http://mail.shanelle.org/address/add_person?add_from_msg=NBurt90208@aol.com&id=10)  
<http://mail.shanelle.org/mail/reportuce?id=10>  
<http://mail.shanelle.org/mail/reportuce?id=10>  
<http://mail.shanelle.org/mail/printmsg?id=10>  
<http://mail.shanelle.org/mail/printmsg?id=10>

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Thank you so much for responding. In an odd way it helps to share. The accident is like a "big pink elephant in the kitchen" at my house. Everyone notices it but ignores the fact and NEVER dare speaks of the trauma we all encountered. My family and I live in the "Heart of Dixie"! Needless to say "I hate guns" of any type. In the South much family tradition lies around hunting which makes it more difficult. My son Stephen is 16. He is a very active teenager and loves body building. Stephen was left with a seizure disorder which causes some problems off and on but we are not complaining. He is Great! His scares have healed very good. It was very odd but the way the shell entered was through his nose. (I can hardly stand to type the words, I get goose bumps) He had surgery to remove the shell and then to repair damage to his nose and sinuses. The shell was slowed down by the cartilage (and God) to stop right between the eyes. It did penetrate the membrane layer that protects the brain and his seizures are a result from losing the cranial fluids. He is literally a walking miracle. I hope and pray your daughter is doing good. I did not see in your net page how she has recovered. I am trilled she can speak out to others. She is truly special. This past spring my sister lost her only child in a car accident. She fell asleep coming home from work. I can not imagine how she must feel. I know the utter pain that comes with standing on the edge of life and death with a child but I can not see how I could have endured if things had not worked out the way they did. Please pray for her and her husband. They are so much in pain. They are trying to be brave. I am sorry to type so much. I guess I should send you a fee for listening. Better yet a prayer! Take Care.....NB

Narrow

Dear Shanelle,

Thanks for coming to our school to tell us about guns and about what happened to you. I appreciate you taking the time from your life to talk to people that you don't even know. It must be hard to talk to us about your story because it <sup>may</sup> bring up some painful memories, and feel strange sitting up there in front of everybody like that. So I just want to say thanks and if it makes you feel any better I convinced my dad to lock up his gun and hide the bullets away from the gun.

Trisha Peters  
Trisha Peters

Dear Shanelle,

I would like to thank you for coming to our class. I think that it is awfully generous of you to take up your time just to share with us. Even though it might have seemed that we weren't listening or even paying attention, I can assure you that we were. Meeting someone who has experienced a tragedy because of gun violence really helps me realize that things like this can happen to you when you least expect it, and change your life forever. Thank you for coming, it means a lot.

Sincerely,

Alina Gram

April 9, 1998

Dear Shanelle and Mrs. Johannessen,

I really appreciate you for coming and talking to us about gun violence. I learned so much from you. For instance, I learned that guns are not cool and if you see a gun you should walk away from it. I consider it a miracle that you survived, and I also consider you very lucky. At home we have 2 handguns. At first I thought they were cool, but now I know they are dangerous. I think you should go around to other schools and tell the students to be gun free. I was watching the news and I heard that you want to be a attorney. I wish you good luck.

Sincerely,  
Timmy Choy

*April 9, 1998*

Dear Shanelle Johannessen,

Go Girl! I'm proud of you for speaking out about gun violence! It is a very unfortunate thing that you have been a victim of a gunshot wound. I wouldn't say a victim of gun violence because it was accidental. You are a beautiful 13 year old girl who has a lot going for her. I would say continue your modeling career until you want to stop to become a lawyer like you said. You can do it, Shanelle! Thank You for coming to Venado to educate us about gun violence. We greatly appreciate it. My father has two guns. One is a rifle from the United States Navy and the other is a starter gun. The BB bullets used in the starter gun can seriously hurt you or kill you if fired from a certain distance. I don't know how many kids know about it, but I've had several kids ask me if they could see the guns. I always change the subject, but before I do, I always say, "Why would you want to put yourself at risk? I wouldn't want to do that to myself and my friend." By speaking out, you have probably prevented a lot of deaths. You should be proud of that!! I have two words to say. GO GIRL!!!

Sincerely,

Alaina Talbot

*8th Grader*

Dear Shanelle,

4/8/98

12:35 p.m.

It's sad that something like this had happened to a beautiful young lady like yourself. We all were honored for you to stop by Venado and talk to every student.

You gave me a valuable message about guns now I saw and heard what could happen. It can scar you for life, or even death at the worst. I hope you can come back and visit us again and just hang out with the students of Venado. Hope to meet again and the best of luck. Here's a poem for you.

Take Care of Yourself

Brian

Duffin

### Poem: The Message

With her majestic power  
and mysterious moods,  
Shanelle touched something deep  
within our souls.

At times inspires us all, with  
her dramatic tale of gun violence.  
Other times she soothes our spirits  
with soft whispers of pain.

Strong, yet gentle, happy,  
yet sad,

she reflects her pain to teens  
to avoid the same fate as her.

-End-



# Venado Middle School

A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

Julie Mitchell, Principal • John McKeever, Assistant Principal

April 22, 1998

Dear Shanelle and Mrs. Johannessen,

I want to thank you both again for taking the time to speak to my health students at Venado. I think you'll find from their letters that your presentation had a powerful effect on them.

I appreciate your work in educating us all about guns and gun violence.

Sincerely,

Lee Gallace

P.S. I felt the coverage by OCN, Channel 9 and The Register was both professional and informative. Well done!



**VENADO**



**Val-U-Gram**

Dear Shanelle ~

I want to thank you again for taking the time to visit my health classes last week.

Your message is a very important one, and you delivered it well. My students were definitely affected by your visit. Why do kids listen so well to their peers?

😊 Thanks again, Mrs. Fallace

April 9, 1998

Dear Shanelle,

Thank you for coming to speak to my health class about gun violence. It was better to hear about a shooting first hand from someone who was shot, than to just hear about it on the news when I normally would not pay any attention to it. Having you come to speak really made the situation sound more real and less far away, like it could not happen to me.

I am fourteen years old and am in the fifth period class at Venado Middle School. Most of my interests are theatre arts, bowling, and arts and crafts. I hope to be an actress some day.

I think it is great that you are speaking to other kids about gun violence. What you have said has probably made a lot of kids think twice about touching or playing with a gun (even though you did not even touch the gun). It was surprising to me how it happened so quickly and you did not even see the gun before you were shot.

I have never encountered a gun and hope never to, but I know from what you and other speakers have said, to be safe, to not even to stay in the same room with a gun, just leave.

Never think that what you are doing is not worth it because it is everything you said to us had a bigger impact than any violence prevention ad we could see on TV or elsewhere. Our class was listening. Sometimes it must feel like we were not listening since we did not have that many questions, but we were since what you said was so important.

Thank you again for coming. Good luck on your modeling career.

Yours truly,

*Georgette Kightlinger*

Dear Shanell,

Thankyou so very much for coming to our school and explaining what happens when people don't respect guns and fool around with them. It must of been hard telling people that your friend shot you when they asked, "Who and how did this happen." I bet many people say, "If she shot you she's not much of a friend." I wish I had the courage to go up and speak to our class, you might be wondering if we were listening or goofing off and thinking what we were going to do after school. I was listening to you the whole time. Your mom said, "It was a 9mm semi-automatic. My dad has ~~a~~ a 9mm semi-automatic and I don't know how many kids know about it but all of the young kids ask me to see it. I get so ticked off how they are so irresponsible. I tell them no and change the subject.

From,  
Scott Scholz  
Scott Scholz

Dear Shannel,

Thank you for the time that you have spent to educate us about the dangers of guns. I have learn a lot from the information that you have taught me. I always thought that guns were a tool needed for any hero to have, but because of that day that you have spent with us, I have totally changed my believe. Thank you once again and hope you would have a successful career as an attorney.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Silas Chiu". The letters are fluid and connected, with a large initial 'S' and a distinct 'C' for the last name.

Silas Chiu