

It is a good day for Liberty.

The local tabloid editorializes that concealed carry on college campuses is a bad idea. This is the same tabloid that predicted blood in the streets when concealed carry was passed and again when constitutional carry without a license passed. It was wrong both times. It cites opposition to concealed carry from students, administration and faculty. The right of self-defense is not up for referendum. It claims that the idea that mass killers target “gun free zones” is a myth. It is not a myth. The usual suspects re-define mass killing incidents to include ordinary crimes and then claim their manipulated statistics disprove a myth.

We are told to love our enemies. Sometimes I’m tempted to love them to death.

Hearing Protection Act seeks to change federal law and make suppressors legal. State law may still provide obstacles.

The usual suspects have done us a favor. They have created a manual on grassroots activism called “Indivisible: A Practical Guide for Resisting the Trump Agenda.” It is available for download (free) at www.IndivisibleGuide.com. For one thing it is wise to know what the opposition intends to do. For another, it is good tactical grassroots advice we can use towards our own ends.

Massad Ayoob has written a column on Open Carry in which he advises “Don’t carry at people” (or don’t get in people faces with open carry). This is great advice. He also writes that he has never heard of a person being converted to our side by open carry. Existing supporters may have made approving comments, but not new ones. The snowflakes out there respond by calling 911 with imaginative embellishments about threats. They demand restrictions on us based on what they “feel” we are going to do. If a person is afraid of clowns it does not cure the syndrome by having a clown jump in front of him. Starting out with T-shirts or caps with appropriate images might. For God’s sake do not wear images of skulls alongside guns. That is not the image we are trying to promote.

I have observed that the more an advocate yells, the less people listen.

People ask, “What can I do?” Sometimes they ask in resignation, sometimes they ask in real inquiry. The answer is always “something.” Inability to do everything is not an excuse to do nothing. We have a member who puts a quarter in a coffee can every time he hears an anti-gun comment. It adds up quickly. He donates the money to the organization.

Public speaking is feared more than death. Private conversations may be a superior substitute. Pick up on what other people say. If they talk about a forward pass, mention it is the same principle as a rifle. A “Jason” horror movie is the reason for 30 round magazines. There are real horrors who absorb large amounts of ammunition and keep coming. Know your audience. One speaker spoke to gun group, rambling on for 30 minutes about the evils of socialism, mentioned the Second Amendment in passing and continued to ramble. The audience was already opposed to socialism; they were present to hear about gun rights. If he had spoken about gun rights and dropped in the occasional comment about his pet issue he might have had some success. Dropping a pro-gun comment into a conversation is a successful tactic but it is wisely said that “Brevity is the soul of wit.” Belaboring a point a length becomes boring. It is not possible to present the entire Second Amendment case in one conversation. A comment, perhaps two, can plant the necessary seeds and they do add up.

The local tabloid editorializes that liberals should not fight the appointment of Judge Neil Gorsuch to replace Justice Scalia. They reason that it is a conservative replacing a conservative. It recommends saving the fight for the replacement of a liberal judge. It stresses the need to keep a “balance” on the court. If the election had gone the other way I doubt the tabloid would find a need to preserve this “balance.”

I received a call from the new editor of the letters to the editor page. He wanted me to fact check part of a letter. This is significant in that they want to be accurate and ask us for fact checking. It would seem that we have a real chance of getting our own letters in now.

An autistic teenager was tased seven (7) times. He is suing of course but the interesting part is that the teenager was not incapacitated. This shows that tasers cannot be relied upon.

A man in Columbia shot a fleeing felon under the delusion that the “stand your ground law” allowed him to do so. He is massively wrong. He may be a victim of the hysterical reporting that the law allows anything anytime. This emphasizes the need for checking facts, regardless of the source.

CNN reported that the US House of Representatives repealed the background check system. This is not remotely true. What the House did was vote to block a Social Security rule which placed an enormous number of persons in what I call the "crazy computer." Under the proposed rule anyone receiving Social Security Disability benefits for mental reasons would automatically be a prohibited person for NICS purposes if another party handled their money. This violates their right to due process of law. Prior law required an individual evaluation. The next time CNN reports on "fake news" verify.

The full Congress has now passed a law preventing the Social Security Administration from adding thousands of people to the NICS "crazy computer" without a hearing. The proposed rule said that anyone getting disability for mental reasons was barred from owning guns if someone else administered their money. This is presented by the usual suspects as allowing crazy people to have guns. It does not. Many of these people receive benefits because they cannot work. Sometimes the money is administered by another to prevent them from being cheated. These people are rarely dangerous and when they are there is an existing system for identifying them and putting them in the crazy computer. The proposed rule denies due process of law for these persons by treating them all the same without an individual hearing.

Kansas has defeated a measure to prevent people from carrying guns in hospitals. The local tabloid complains that there are a host of helpless people in hospitals and they should not have to worry about someone with a gun. Being helpless makes me want to have a gun. KU Medical Center is the focus of this angst. I remember an incident in which someone walked into the emergency room and opened fire with a shotgun. The facility has an excellent police force with an enviable response time but it is nowhere near "point and shoot."

The local tabloid featured a story about ex-Black Panther Pete O'Neal. Mr. O'Neal fled to Tanzania some fifty years ago after being charged in federal court with being a felon in possession of a firearm. He purchased a shotgun at Sam's Loan in Kansas City Kansas and brought it to Missouri in those pre-NICS days. The paper glosses over Mr. O'Neal's criminal record, tries to raise questions over whether the gun moved in interstate commerce, justifies him fleeing prosecution and argues that he is a fine man now and must be forgiven for things done in his youth. This is the same paper that wants to punish gun owners for possessing guns because of things we might do. Of course, Mr. O'Neal is a cousin of Congressman Cleaver.

We shall overcome.