

# Brady-Feighan bill misses the target

**H**ERE'S AN idea. Let's close all the prisons, let the criminals go free and use the money we save to conduct a door-to-door search across the country and confiscate all handguns. That way, if handguns are eliminated from society, there won't be any violent crimes and the need for prisons will be almost nonexistent.

Sure it's an absurd idea, but that's about the same logic used to close up H.R. 7, the Brady-Feighan bill.

Anyone who actually believes this bill will have a big impact on violent crime must also believe in Big Time Wrestling and the Tooth Fairy. Come on! Get real!

The Brady bill has about as much chance of deterring violent crime as Mr. Rogers has of beating up Mike Tyson.

**THE BRADY BILL** misses the target. It does absolutely nothing to eliminate the criminal from society, which is the root of the violent problem.

Drunken drivers kill people each day, but does Mothers Against Drunk Drivers call for the elimination of alcohol or automobiles from our society? No. That would be ridiculous. MADD demands the elimination of the problem — the drunken driver. It

urges stiff, mandatory penalties that deter people from driving drunk.

Simple and effective.

Just because some jerk abuses alcohol and automobiles doesn't mean we must all give up our automobiles or our ability to enjoy the beverage of our choice.

So why, because a very small minority of mindless fanatics chooses to abuse the handgun, should conscientious citizens be closing millions of hunters, collectors and target shooters be burdened with useless restrictions?

**THE BRADY BILL** mandates a seven-day waiting period for the purchase of a handgun, but does not mandate a background check. That's an option of the local law enforcement agency. That's also a loophole for the criminal to slip through.

The Brady bill would burden law enforcement agencies by not providing the dollars needed for updated and accurate criminal records. What good is a background check if the records are not up to date?

The Brady bill calls for local law enforcement agencies to implement the system. That means already over-stretched police departments will have to take men off the street and reallocate funds to process the paper-



outdoors  
**Bill Parker**

work needed for the upstanding American citizen to exercise his constitutional right to bear arms. Why, in the name of fighting crime, would anyone want to take cops off the street?

I doubt that many violent criminals buy guns from sporting goods dealers anyway.

**I'M WORRIED** about what the Brady bill really stands for. It seems more like a smoke screen for the anti-gunners to assemble behind than a bill to fight crime.

Where will the Brady bill lead us if it does become law? How often does paperwork from a government agency go through the proper channels on scheduled? Seven days, make it 10. How long will it take before Mr. Law A. Biding is charged with a processing fee to cover the extra man hours and paperwork? And what happens when the law enforcement officer, whether by neglect, intent or simply lack of available time, fails to ac-

knowledge receipt of the required form?

The Department of Justice doesn't even support the Brady bill.

**LET'S CUT** the bologna.

Do supporters of the Brady bill — Handgun Control, Inc. and other anti-gunners — really want to fight crime, or do they want to force their left-wing views down the throats of all Americans?

If they really want to eliminate crime, why not support legislation that would eliminate the criminal.

Too bad the anti-gunners and the National Rifle Association spend so much time fighting each other on the gun issue instead of attacking the real problem of career criminals. Too bad they can't combine efforts and insist lawmakers pass stiff, mandatory sentences that eliminate the scum from the streets.

According to Department of Justice surveys and NACP law

enforcement surveys, 75-80 percent of violent crimes are committed by career criminals, many of them on some form of conditional or early release.

ON AUG. 16, 1990, Leonard Duddenski — convicted of killing his drug dealer (manslaughter) in 1977, twice convicted of carrying a concealed weapon (1981 and '84) and once convicted of prison escape — walked into a Rochester Hills pharmacy, robbed, stabbed and killed the pharmacist.

On Jan. 17, 1989, Patrick Purdy — arrested eight times on felony charges — opened fire on a schoolyard full of innocent children in Stockton, Calif. Purdy killed five children and injured 30 others before turning the gun on himself. Eight felony arrests and he was still walking the street because our great criminal justice system allowed him to plea bargain down to a misdemeanor each time. Why the hell were these losers still walking the street?

The Brady bill or any other bill that attacks guns will not work. What will work is to convict criminals of the crimes they commit and keep them incarcerated — for good.

**WHY DON'T LAWMAKERS** support a bill that would eliminate the plea bargain when a handgun is used during the com-

mission of a felony?

Michigan law calls for a mandatory two-year prison term for anyone convicted of using a handgun during the commission of a felony. Two years...big deal.

The law also stipulates five years for a second offense and 10 years for a third offense. Lawmakers must expect repeat offenders.

How about passing a law that mandates a first offense 10-year prison sentence for the use of a handgun during the commission of a felony? How about life in prison for murder — with absolutely NO parole.

It's not hard to see the real problem here if we just open our eyes. Let's eliminate the criminal. Let's eliminate the multiple offender.

Write to your senators and congressmen and tell them to get tough on crime, not conscientious gun owners. Let's take life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness away from those who choose to take life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness away from us.

(Bill Parker is happy to answer questions readers have regarding the outdoors. Send question or comments to: Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, Mich. 48009.)

## outdoors calendar

### IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

• Through August — Jack Levenez Sailing School will hold classes on Lake St. Clair. Call 886-7887 for more information.

• May 24 — A scuba and snorkeling class begins at 7 p.m. at Bloomfield Hills Andover High School. Call 433-0885 for more information.

• May 25-Sept. 2 — Crooked Lake Fishing Contest will be held at Independence Oaks County Park in Clarkston. Call 625-0877 for more information.

• May 25-Sept. 2 — Buhl Lake Fishing Contest will be held at Independence Oaks County Park. Call 625-0877 for more information.

• May 25 — Bass season opens on inland lakes statewide.

• May 25-26 — Seventh Annual Michigan Great Lakes Wildlife Festival will be held in Clare. Call (517) 386-7492 for more information.

• May 26 — Spring wild turkey

### season ends

• May 26 — Holloway Classic Bass Tournament will be held in Davison. Call 664-7221 for more information.

• June 1 — Rouge Rescue, an annual volunteer effort to help clean the Rouge River, begins at 8 a.m. in Farmington Hills. Call 473-9520 for more information.

• June 1 — Kids Fishing Derby will be held in Wyoming (616) 530-3164 and Zeeland (616) 722-6236.

• June 1-2 — Canton Challenge Festival Fishing Derby will be held in Canton. Call 397-5110 for more information.

• June 1-2 — Great Lakes Bow-fishing Championships will be held at Cassville. Call 755-5060 for more information.

• June 2 — Sterling Heights Bass Anglers will hold a fishing tournament on Saginaw Bay. Call (517) 893-1222 for more information.

• June 2 — The first Red Man bass fishing tournament of the Michigan Division will be held at River-

side County Park on the Grand River. Call (502) 362-8110 for more information. Additional Michigan Division tournaments will be held June 30, July 21, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, and Oct. 13.

• June 5 — Monthly meeting of the family-oriented Four Seasons Fishing Club begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Maplewood Center in Garden City. Call Tony Brehrer at 477-3816 for more information.

• June 8-9 — Michigan Free Fishing Weekend.

• June 8 — Fishathon, a 50-day tagged fish tournament begins on Belleville/Ford Lake. Cash prizes will be awarded to individuals who catch specially tagged fish. Call (812) 273-1613 or the local Easter Seals Society for more information.

• June 9 — Royal Oak Archers will hold a 3D shoot on its walk-through range in Lake Orion. Call (812) 273-1613 for more information.

• June 15 — Lake St. Clair Walleye Fishing Tournament, sponsored by the Cardinal Monks Catholic High School Dads Club, begins at 7 a.m. Rob Trout, host of the Public TV (channel 56) show Great Lakes Outdoors, will be the emcee and guest speaker. Registration is \$125 per boat and includes cash prizes and a buffet dinner. Call 295-1043 or 468-1383 for more information.

• June 16 — Western Wayne County Conservation Association will hold a 3-D archery shoot at 10

a.m. on its walk-through range in Plymouth Township. Call 453-9843, 10 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. daily or 425-0887 evenings for more information.

• June 22 — Bass season opens on the Detroit and St. Clair rivers and Lake St. Clair.

• June 30 — Motor City Charity Bass Classic Tournament will be held on Lake St. Clair. Call 949-0151 for more information.

### METROPARKS

• Pond Personalities, a nature program featuring a view of many unique animals who live in a pond, begins at 10 a.m. Saturday at Indian Springs.

• Registration Deadline for the June 8, 8-mile interpretive canoe trip on the Huron River.

• A View to the Past, a nature program about the history of the Kensington park, begins at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Kensington.

• Spring Wildflower Walk, a naturalist-hike in search of spring wildflowers, begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Kensington.

• Our Bloomers are Showing, an opportunity to see and learn about woodland wildflowers, begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Stony Creek.

• Who's Who of Snakes, a program featuring live snakes in which participants will have the opportunity to see and learn about snakes, begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Indian Springs.

## camps

**LUTHERAN NORTHWEST:** Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest will host the Crusader Camp from June 17-21. The boys camp will be held June 17-21 and the girls will be June 24-28. The camps begin Monday morning at 9 a.m. Pre-registration is \$50. Among the features will be videotape analysis and free Gate-ride. Camp director is Tim Lockhead, head varsity coach at Lutheran Northwest for the past four years.

**BIRMINGHAM BROTHER RICE:** Brother Rice will hold a summer basketball camp with special emphasis on fundamentals and skill development. The camps will be from June 17 to July 3. Session I is for boys entering grades 10-12; Session II for boys entering grades 5-7; and Session III for boys entering grades 8-9. The cost is \$125 per student for 13 sessions. Camp director is Brother Rice head coach Frank Car-

rice who has 20 years of coaching experience. For more information, call 647-2526.

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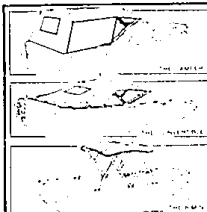
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