

Opinion

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: In the long haul, truth has the most power

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William White of Fort Walton Beach writes about the fallacies of the pro-gun lobby: “Hunters, ranchers, shooting sportsmen, all derive great benefit and pleasure from their guns. Still, there aren’t actually enough arms to hold off the marines should they actually come for you.”

Another sign of evening the score in a man’s world. Surely good news for weapons makers and their NRA stooges. Women, more than ever, are carrying heat these days. Hardly to protect themselves from each other! When did you last hear of some crazed woman shooting up Walmart, a concert or school?

Since August 2016 Walmart has experienced at least 500 incidents of gun violence in or around their stores. Guess it’s pretty much a guy thing. Quite apart from that, if you’ve as many guns as people the law of averages pretty much assures us somebody’s going to get hurt!

Hey, haven’t guns and violence always played a large role in American culture? Didn’t John Wayne really win the West with his six-gun holstered to that muscular thigh? Actually no! The West was won by regular folks raising barns, towns and building railroads. (Chinese?) Clearly, a man’s upper body strength was more significant than the size of his pistol.

Yet when it comes right down to killing quick, efficiently and far, mass killings thunder through our news almost daily. Actually becoming routine. In 2017 there were 39,773 deaths by firearms, approaching the total of all Vietnam’s war years! By Nov. 19 the number was 34,603 and the killing clock ticks on.

Nobody wants to take your guns away! Hunters, ranchers, shooting sportsmen, all derive great benefit and pleasure from their guns. Still, there aren't actually enough arms to hold off the marines should they actually come for you. (Scratch another myth.)

If you need more than 10 rounds to pepper a critter or target - what little's left of either? Maybe you just like commotion. There's really little reason any transaction involving firearms shouldn't be a matter of record. (Sure, people steal or get sneaky, they always have.) How sinful criminal mass killing machines (AR-15?) still find their way into inner cities already sinking in hopelessness and anger. By the way, if they do decide to buy them back, they're not for resale overseas.

Just a reminder, over the long haul, the very best weapon has always been speaking truth to power.

William White, Fort Walton Beach