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## HILLARY: "I SHOT A DUCK"

### *Why arming the public is no solution*

*By Julius (Jay) Wachtel.* On Saturday, February 16, only two days after a psycho youth murdered five students at Northern Illinois University, Presidential wannabe Hillary Clinton responded to a question on the tragedy with a breezy comment about keeping guns from the mentally ill. Although that's an objective that even the mighty N.R.A. endorses, our would-be prez quickly reassured her Wisconsin audience that she would never do anything to "infringe the right" of lawful gun owners; after all, she once [shot a duck!](#)

After the murder of thirty-two at Virginia Tech in April 2007, the Delaware State University shooting in September, the Cleveland high school shooting in October, and the Louisiana Tech, Oxnard high school and N.I.U. shootings this month, to say nothing of the countless killings that *didn't* happen on school grounds, one would think that Hillary, Barack, John, the lot of 'em would be eagerly proposing solutions for the problem of gun violence in the U.S.A.

Alas, our brave candidates' silence on this pressing issue is so deafening that one could hear a firing pin drop. In the meantime, the crazies who encourage arming Americans to the teeth have been far less shy to press their case. Carrying a concealed weapon, a privilege once restricted to police, is now open to citizens in nearly every State. Applying usually calls for nothing more than submitting fingerprints, passing a computerized record check and completing a brief firearms proficiency course. Issuing a CCW permit is normally mandatory. Fortunately, nearly every State has either outlawed guns on campus or allowed schools to decide. One exception is Utah. [Its laws](#), which don't prohibit carrying guns in educational institutions, have been interpreted to [pre-empt](#) local restrictions. So for those who feel the need to carry an Uzi under their graduation robes, it's presently the only place to go.

But even that's changing. Guns are coming to schools, and legally. Turning the meaning of events such as Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois on their head, legislators everywhere are rushing to reaffirm the rights of concealed-carry permit holders to pack guns anywhere they like. For example, in South Dakota, where it's possible to secure a [temporary CCW permit](#) in five days, the House just passed a [measure](#) that enshrines the rights of students and faculty to carry guns on campus. Its sponsor, Representative Thomas Brunner, a proponent of the theory that "the only remedy for a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun," says that his daughter

needs a pistol to protect herself during that lonely and treacherous half-mile walk from the parking lot to her dorm.

School administrators and police chiefs -- those who have to deal with the real world -- are horrified. In Arizona, where another [take-a-gun-to-school measure](#) is under consideration, the president of the Board of Regents, a self-proclaimed supporter of the Second Amendment, said it all: “when you have 18- to 25-year-old kids with guns in their pockets, it's just a recipe for disaster.”

Well, what of it? Are “good guys with guns” more likely to help or hurt? [Garrett Evans](#), a student shot during the Virginia Tech massacre (his sister was killed) thinks that arming students is a “crazy” notion, that events happened so quickly that no one could have possibly intervened. At Northern Illinois University the shooting was also over in seconds, campus police reportedly arriving within two minutes. One can only imagine the confusion and carnage that would erupt should a bunch of startled CCW permit holders reach into their pockets, briefcases and purses and try to exchange fire with some lunatic in a crowded classroom. What police officer in their right mind would step into *that* scene?

It doesn't matter where one falls on the ideological spectrum, as at heart this isn't a political issue: it's a matter of sanity -- and we're not talking the shooter's. Unless our addled Presidential candidates wake up from their N.R.A.-induced comas and start speaking to the truth, guns on campus is a bizarre Ramboesque fantasy that's likely to come true.