

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

SHOUTS & MURMURS

LOCK 'N' LOWDOWN

BY BRUCE McCALL

OVERHEARD: Charlton Heston to pal Tom Selleck at the recent Fair Play for Russian Roulette fund-raiser: "Guns don't kill people, bullets kill people—and, for that matter, only the teeny little tips at the end." Right on target, Chuck! . . .

RANDOM RICOCHETS: Speaking of bullets, how come those pasty-faced liberal hysterics *never mention* that the bullet is *as far as a thousand feet away* from the sportsman at the moment of impact? Yet who's always the scapegoat? You got it: the sportsman! . . .

HOWZABOUT THIS FOR A YEAR 2000 PLATFORM PLANK: *Arm All Postal Employees!* . . . Folks attending that big Save the AK-47 Shoot-In heard Tom Selleck quip to pal Chuck Heston, "God takes lives—guns just take the blame!" Amen and a twenty-one-gun salute, Tom! Meanwhile, the stats show those Fluoridation-Loving Confiscation Vigilantes *wildly overstate* gunplay danger: nine out of every ten gunshots *miss their target*. So all you search-and-seizure fanatics, chill out! . . .

SHOT IN THE DARK: Now that the Constitution Sabotage Lobby has made "bullet" a dirty word—howzabout we call it what it is: a high-speed freedom projectile? *When you think about it, aren't gunshots the sound of freedom?* . . .

HANDGUN CONTROLS? Let's talk piano controls! Dangle a piano out any window, cut the rope—mayhem in our streets. Yet, **FACT:** Any child can walk into a piano store and buy a Steinway grand without a permit, no questions asked, no waiting period. **FACT:** Most pianos are owned by liberals. **FACT:** The fiercest opponents of piano control are—you guessed it—bony-fingered liberal fernbar quicheheads! . . .

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST: Top docs now admit it—*Guns don't kill people, sucking wounds kill people!* . . . And

why not a pressure campaign against dictionary publishers to suppress those liberal anti-sportsman code words? Examples:

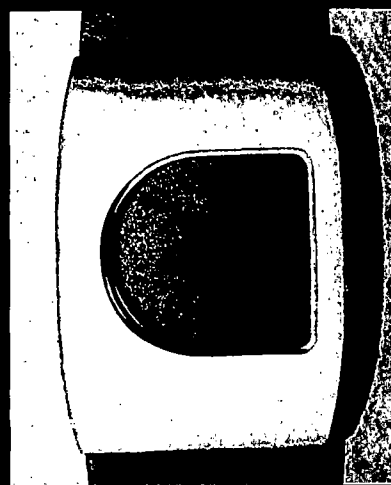
- "gun-shy" would become "lead-intolerant"
- "shotgun wedding" would become "emergency lock-and-load event"
- "bullet-headed" would become "Tapered Skull syndrome"
- "loose cannon" would become "untethered ordnance tube"



SOMETHING for those who'd take away our guns, melt them down, and make life-size statues of bearded European radicals to think about: *Guns don't kill people, not breathing kills people!* . . . and if you don't believe us, *just try it!!!* . . . Logical solution to the deer-tick epidemic: **SHOOT ALL THE DEER!** . . . Dept. of Nobody Asked Us But: Sure, Canada has "gun control"—leaving an entire nation's citizenry supine and powerless to defend themselves, their loved ones, and their pets against Eskimo Uprisings, Mountie Putsches, and Red Chinese Paratroop Invasions!! . . .

ALL THE GUYS KNOW IT, so why not come out and say it? *Guns are the last line of defense against rolling pins!* Thanx to Chuck Heston for reminding us that *if nobody had guns, everybody would have to throw bullets.* . . . And now we're down to our last round, so we'll make it count: *If only permit-holders owned guns, only gun-owners would hold permits!* Tell that to the bird-watching anti-patriot liberal thought police! ♦

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THE PRICE PROPHET

*The long-forgotten economist whose controversial
theories help explain today's market mania.*

BY JOHN CASSIDY

IF there are two things most people can agree on these days, they are that free-market capitalism is the only practical way to organize a modern society and that the key to economic growth is "knowledge." So prevalent are these beliefs that their origins are rarely examined, which is somewhat surprising, since both statements can be traced back, in large part, to one man, Friedrich August von Hayek, a reserved Austrian economist who died in 1992. In November of 1989, when the Berlin Wall came down, Hayek was a frail but mentally alert ninety-year-old living in Freiburg im Breisgau, a picturesque town in the Black Forest. Hayek didn't issue any public statements, but he thoroughly enjoyed watching the television pictures from Berlin, Prague, and Bucharest. "He would beam benignly, and the comment was 'I told you so,'" Hayek's son, Dr. Laurence Hayek, said to me recently from his home in Devon, England.

Hayek did indeed tell us so, and at a time when that message was deeply unfashionable. In 1937, in the wake of the Great Depression and with capitalism and democracy under siege from Communism and Fascism, he published an academic article entitled "Economics and Knowledge," which pointed out that free markets were not just a political construct, as many critics claimed, but remained the best way of coordinating scattered information. Seven years later, when most of the world's major economies were under unprecedented central control, Hayek published "The Road to Serfdom," a damning indictment of socialism and state planning that once more, this time in plain English, laid out the fundamental advantage of the free market: by allowing millions of decision-makers to respond individually to freely determined prices, it allocates resources—labor, capital, and human ingenuity—in a manner that can't be mimicked by a central plan,

however brilliant the central planner.

This argument is now widely accepted, but when "The Road to Serfdom" was published, Hayek later recalled, "it went so far as to completely discredit me professionally." Many of his colleagues interpreted the book as a dangerous and antediluvian attack on the welfare states that were being built in wartime Britain, where Hayek lived, and in other European countries. The reviews didn't get any better for a long time. During the nineteen-fifties and sixties, the Soviet economy appeared to be doing pretty well, and the social democracies of Western Europe, with their large and growing state sectors, prospered mightily. In 1967, Eric Hobsbawm, a Marxist historian, dismissed Hayek as a "prophet in the wilderness"; in the same year, Anthony Quinton, a British philosopher, dubbed him a "magnificent dinosaur."

If economic history had stopped when the Beatles split up, Hayek would have remained a museum piece favored mainly by right-wing cranks. Even when I began studying economics, at Oxford, during the early eighties, Hayek, with his seemingly outlandish proposals to emasculate the trade unions and privatize the money supply, was still considered well beyond the pale. True, he had received the Nobel Memorial Prize in 1974, but that was seen within the economics profession as a political sop, with Hayek's name added to balance that of his co-winner, Gunnar Myrdal, a left-wing Swedish economist. (Myrdal later said that he wouldn't have accepted the award if he had known he would have to share it with Hayek.) I made it all the way through undergraduate and graduate school without reading Hayek, and I wasn't unusual. Even today, nearly eight years after Hayek's death, there is no scholarly biography available. (The closest thing is a commemorative album produced by John Raybould, a British