

Corrections to the *New Times* feature on Alan Korwin, 5/28/15

I'm honored that *New Times* chose me for a cover story, so yes, I admit to having an ego. They took hundreds of pictures of me in at least four settings and a studio... and what, no cover photo? Sheeesh. I shouldn't have worn that nice tie to the studio, considering the headline they crafted. My list below is in order as you read the article. There are some major errors, and yes, I'm verbose here.

I think Elizabeth writes well and did a decent job. There was none of the lying, distortion, invention or malfeasance that has marred this paper in the past—and had me concerned before release—but as a friend pointed out, new management, new editor, new result. Sweet. One pal wrote: "Thoroughly enjoyed this read... even with its decidedly leftist, anti-rights, unrestrained condescension." I leave it to you to judge about style, and tell me.

1. I don't do this: "comparing those calling for background checks or permits to white supremacists refusing to serve Negroes at the lunch counter." I make that comparison only to those who post no-guns-allowed signs, and discriminate against the civil rights of people legally armed—banning them from restaurants and stores, for no other reason than the property they own and carry.

2. It's misleading to say Alan: "believes the answer to America's crime problems is a well-armed citizenry." I believe it's one element of the answer.

3. THIS IS FALSE AND ABSURD: "His fervor has been instrumental in pushing through major pro-firearm legislation in Arizona, including abolishing all training requirements for gun owners..." There is no training requirement for gun ownership here, as in most of America. There is no way I or anyone could have "pushed through" such an imaginary law. That has been the case here since statehood in 1912. I will seek a published correction.

4. It is misleading to say: "His fervor has... gotten him booted off the Anti-Defamation League's civil rights committee..." A paper I posted online, analyzing Sen. John McCain's gun-show bill draft of 2003, was published without my knowledge, by a group I don't know—an act I encourage as I disperse my work. Seeing this, the New York office of ADL told the Phoenix office to take me off the committee, because ADL disapproved of the group. My paper was technical and accurate, exposing flaws in the bill. Bill Straus, the local chief at the time, expressed regret but had no choice. I was dismayed. Saying my fervor got me out is a false characterization. Too bad they only mentioned *Korwin v. Phoenix* in that graf, and not the fact that we WON this First Amendment freedom-of-speech case to be able to publicly say Gun Save Lives—coincidentally the paper's front-cover image.

5. The how-many-gun-laws-are-there piece has all the classic errors: The weak Brookings Institute paper (grossly inaccurate BTW), the conflation of federal and state numbers, the what is "one law" problem... it's quicksand, I've spelled out the how-many-gun-laws-are-there issue accurately here:

<http://www.gunlaws.com/faq.htm#howmany>

The *Washington Post's* error checker had done an exhaustive study and traced the oft-quoted 20,000-laws number back to a casual remark on the floor of Congress; I have our e-chat here somewhere, I ought to add it to the link, the 20K has no real basis. Bloomfield's numbers are the only actual ones, since we found and counted every statute for federal, some states and SCOTUS. There were 271 federal gun statutes, 93,354 words, as of 2005.

6. The Cartridge Family Band motto is: "Spreading peace and freedom through music—and threats if necessary." Just for the record, our lyrics cover guns, drugs, taxes, education, police, politicians, religion, news and you if you're within range.

7. The characterization of why Arizona was ranked #1 in the country by *Guns and Ammo* magazine for two years running is inaccurate and does the public a disservice, typical of a media perspective. It's not because we "don't require permits" and have strong "stand your ground" laws. That makes us sound like wild-eyed yahoos running round shooting people (to the ignorant and ill-informed). We're #1 for the greatest degree of freedom, exhibiting the greatest respect for the civil and human right to keep and bear arms, and a legal infrastructure reflecting this—strong burdens of proof, justification statutes, presumption of innocence, defense against frivolous lawsuits, great training facilities, etc. Being #1 is good.

The reporter continues with a very common herd-mentality journalism mistake of examining firearms issues as if they're scary—parsed out by the acts of psychotic madmen, naming mass murderers as reference points. Journalists should look at truly crucial issues from newsworthy, firearms-relevant vantage points instead—such as safety, crime control, new products, policy choices, balance of power or future benefits. This is typical, but this reporter did show a willingness and ability to learn. She interestingly balanced Kleck's poll on DGUs (defensive gun uses, 2.5 million/yr.) to one by Bloomberg's gun-control proxy, Everytown, which showed 100,000 to 370,000 DGUs annually. Still, that's 1,000/day on the high end, from the most anti-rights source around, a tremendous value.

8. My dad manufactured gold jewelry frames for gold coins in pendants, rings, belt buckles and similar, he was not "an entrepreneur who crafted diamond-studded jewelry from ancient coins." Although he dabbled with this toward the end of his career, she just didn't get it, or I wasn't clear. It's a small point.

9. My friend Carl was black. There was no such thing as African American when I grew up. He was African good friend. We were both American.

10. Cheryl and I never lived in Brooklyn, or in a Brownstone, which don't have ten floors. We met and lived in an apartment building on Manhattan's upper east side, 66th St. and 1st Ave. I was on 10, she was on 3, and we commuted in bathrobes on the elevator. Lots of folks did. Those were the days.

11. We collected rocks when we eloped out here in Arizona (a highly mineralized state, I've been a collector since childhood, have published on the subject for decades), but in baggies, not two duffle bags (they're heavy!). My daughter spells her name Tyler Brittany. Writer's tip: triple check names!

12. Wrong: "No permits or background checks are required to holster up in Arizona, he soon discovered. Dealers don't need a license, and open carry is A-OK." Right: "No permits or background checks were required at the time to holster up in Arizona, he soon discovered, but dealers needed licenses, federal paperwork was required for buying, and open carry was routine since 1912."

13. "So he withdrew \$7,000 from his bank account and, with his wife's cooperation, with the help of business partner Richard Shaw, owner of the Pensus Group, founded a publishing company and printed it himself. They called it Bloomfield Press after Bloomfield Drive, Road, the street where Alan and Cheryl purchased their home in Arizona. They marketed the book to book stores, shooting ranges

and gun shops. The first 3,000 copies sold out in under a year" and led to a second edition, the hallmark of a small-press success.

14. This is not in my Wickenburg book, delete: "with a grisly history of conflict with the Yavapai tribe" and perhaps add, "Wickenburg nearly became the capital of the state."

15. "outside the local museum gift shop" s/b "outside the local museum and town's shops"

16. "After publishing an unabridged guide to the federal gun laws, *Gun Laws of America*, he formed a partnership with Richard Shaw, owner of the Pensus Group." He and Shaw outlined a plan to write and publish gun owner's guides for all 50 states, starting with Texas, which had just enacted a concealed-carry law. Korwin still seeks this goal.

17. "*Gun Laws of America* and *The Traveler's Guide to the Firearm Laws of the Fifty States*" s/b "these books" (I didn't write the *Traveler's Guide*, that was done by Kentucky attorney J. Scott Kappas, who should get a credit.

18. "Now he approaches the press like an animal-control officer trying to bring in a rabid dog." I said this? I don't think I ever said this. I certainly don't do this. I'm cautious when dealing with the press, after having been misquoted, deceived, lied to, having had facts distorted, mistaken, twisted, invented, and dealing with an innate bias and prejudice that is overwhelmingly well documented. If you have a recording of me saying this I will recant. I will stand fully behind this quote she used: "Reporters as a body hate guns, gun owners, gun rights, pro-rights gun laws — and it shows in everything they do." q.v., <http://www.gunlaws.com/NewsAccuracy.htm>

19. The caption on the *Teach Your Children* billboard is inaccurate. It is a subtle point that reporters, politicians and the public alike often have a hard time grasping. The legislature didn't "pass a law in 2010 giving citizens the right to carry a gun without a permit." Government doesn't give you rights. They *repealed* language that banned people unconstitutionally from exercising their civil and human right to keep and bear arms. The legislature freed people. It restored rights that had been denied. Like I said, many people have a hard time getting this distinction. "giving citizens the right to carry" s/b "restoring the right to carry".

20. *packing heat & gunslinger* are civil-rights slurs.

21. Clarification about *The Jihad Song*—that was recorded in a Texas friend's living room, and he posted it on the web, where it's been for years. Another friend created a YouTube channel for me and put it there just weeks ago. I got about three lines of the song from a radio show while in traffic, could never find out who did that, but loved it, and, inspired by the incomplete memory of it, wrote the rest of the song around it. If anyone knows where that originated, PLEASE—tell me!

22. The punch line on the heart-and-stomach-argument joke (which is missing!) is that the butt shuts up and they all die.

23. Also missing is the tasteful fact that the reporter herself joined us in the shooting competition, after her first-ever shooting experience at the range that day, and she had the tightest grouping of us all!

24. Nice ending. I hope I never have to find out. Like my book *After You Shoot* advises, which the article criticizes, new Rule Number One for gun safety is: It's always better to avoid a gun fight than to win one. And of course, it's always better to win one than to lose one.