



## Exercising The Right

### The New Gun Control

John Howting, in *Chronicles Magazine* on July 22, accurately described phenomena sweeping the nation. Howting wrote about what he called a new form of gun control where “the left is making the consequences of defending oneself with a firearm so dire for white people that none will even want to own a gun. The mainstream right is letting them get away with it by accepting the left’s narrative, that in any confrontation between a white male and a non-white male, the former is always at fault.”

To support his argument, Howting cited recent incidents from across the country where white gun owners lawfully defended themselves but then ended up being prosecuted afterward. The first incident he discussed was the widely known case involving Mark and Patricia McCloskey in St. Louis, who defended their home with guns — by merely holding their guns at the ready — after rioters broke into their private community.

Howting also wrote about “Jillian and Eric Wuestenberg, a white couple from metro Detroit,” who after exiting a restaurant with takeout food for their four children accidentally bumped elbows “with a 15-year-old African American girl” and “her mother [who then] promptly hurled accusations of racism while filming with their cellphones. The Wuestenbergs got in their car and began to back out but members of the African-American family began hitting the back of the car, which triggered a safety feature and caused the car to lock up. The Wuestenbergs were surrounded. Mrs. Wuestenberg got out of the car and was confronted by the yelling, cellphone-wielding black mother. At this point, Jillian Wuestenberg took out her handgun and pointed it at the black mother, telling her to get away from their car — a terrifying, out-of-context image that quickly went viral. Subsequently, the Oakland County prosecutor charged Mrs. Wuestenberg with felonious assault.”

Howting then delves into how different the story would have been presented if the races been reversed, noting that had a middle-age black woman used the gun to scare off a group of marauding whites, she would have been cheered by all sides. Ultimately, Howting concludes that the Left doesn’t even need to change the laws to pass this new gun control, because they simply just “make life a living hell for any white person who defends themselves with a gun against anyone with more diversity points.”

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### The Enemy of the People

On July 1 Yahoo News published a grossly misleading article on a case of armed self-defense. The article centered around a former Marine who owned a restaurant and a bar and defended himself from a looter during a riot in Omaha, Nebraska, on May 29. The Marine, 38-year-old Jake Gardner, is white, and the person who physically attacked him, and whom he shot, was black. The colors of their skin was all the media needed to vilify Gardner in an attempt to get him prosecuted for his lawful actions.

As cellphone video shows, Gardner was pursued by a crowd of looters outside his restaurant, backing up as the crowd approached him. He raised his shirt to reveal that he was carrying a handgun. As the crowd continued to advance on him, he pulled his gun from his waist, keeping it at his side. Incredibly, instead of the looters being deterred, a few people from the crowd pounced on him and tackled him to the ground.



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Yahoo News did its best to obscure this fact in its reporting. Yahoo News tried to spin what happened as “peaceful protesters” trying to disarm a man brandishing a handgun, but the video speaks for itself. Yahoo News even interviewed a woman named Alayna Melendez, who was one of the people recorded trying to wrestle Gardner’s gun from him. Melendez rationalized her actions to Yahoo News as an attempt to disarm a man who she felt was a threat to public safety. Melendez and another person knocked Gardner to the ground, but Gardner was able to fire two warning shots, which got them to back away.

It was at that moment that 22-year-old James Scurlock initiated a violent attack on Gardner from behind. The video recording of the incident has a witness clearly yelling out, “It’s not worth it! Are you stupid?” Scurlock tackled Gardner and put his arm around Gardner’s neck. Scurlock had Gardner’s right arm pinned, but Gardner was able to get his pistol into his left hand, and he pointed the gun over his shoulder, firing into Scurlock’s neck and clavicle area. The injured Scurlock fell to the street, and Gardner quickly retreated to his restaurant to call the cops.

Law enforcement investigated and, based on the evidence, Douglas County prosecutor Don Kleine told the public that there would not be any charges filed against Gardner. “There was a consensus that the actions of the shooter were justified,” Kl-eine told the media at a press conference. After the Left protested outside Kleine’s home, demanding action, he buckled under pressure and convened a grand jury with a special prosecutor to review the case.

Yahoo News’ biased coverage continued, attempting to smear and defame Gardner as a “racist,” based on hearsay accusations and flimsy anecdotes, all of which had zero to do with the shooting. Yahoo News wrote over 8,000 words involving random claims from people. For instance, one person claimed that Gardner’s father had used politically incorrect language to refer to looters shortly before the shooting. Yahoo News also wrote that in the past Gardner had made a post on Facebook that was deemed “transphobic” and that Gardner is a supporter of President Trump and posted pictures of himself with Donald Trump, Jr.

Yahoo News even interviewed a former disc jockey at Gardner’s establishment who claimed that Gardner was a racist because he didn’t want the DJ playing rap and hip-hop music.

The police investigation brought up only one pertinent point: Gardner’s concealed-carry permit was expired at the time of the shooting, meaning that Gardner can still be charged with a misdemeanor. Surprisingly, Yahoo News did acknowledge that the deceased Scurlock had a criminal past, including a 2015 burglary conviction for which he served time in prison, as well as a rap sheet that included multiple charges for assault.

Sadly, a “Jake Gardner Defense Fund” put up on the crowdfunding site GoFundMe was removed by the Big Tech company. Gardner’s businesses have also closed, and it is unlikely they will ever reopen.



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