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Subject: Re: Virginia Tech Massacre

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Thu, 19 Apr 2007 02:22:41 GMT

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And that's after acquiring a purchaser's permit, I'd wager. It can take months to legally acquire one of those, and you need one for every single handgun you buy in most places if not everywhere. You are not allowed to purchase any firearm if you have been convicted of a felony or a domestic violence charge, if you have a documented history of drinking, are taking medication or have been institutionalized for any sort of mental illness... the list goes on.

Basically, you have to be squeaky-clean if you want to buy a gun in this country unless you have a damned good excuse for whatever marks you've got on your record. Remember that we live in a country that presumes innocence until a court of law proves guilt; that someone may at some time in the future commit a crime is not a valid reason to deny any right or privilege to a citizen or legal resident of the US.

If this fellow was institutionalized once before, as I've heard is true, then he shouldn't have been able to legally acquire those weapons in the first place. Either he bought them illegally or he somehow circumvented the system- which is the same thing, really. In other words, any argument for more gun control that rises from this is totally baseless, because lax enforcement of existing laws allowed him to get the weapons and not the lack of tougher laws.

I don't know what his status was as a resident, either- he was not born in the US- anyone know if he had legal resident status or just a student visa?

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