

Is LaPierre talking about the US or Syria?

Devin Rokyta/Moscow-Pullman Daily News

When did America become such a dangerous place?

When did it become too dangerous to send our children outside to play, to go for a stroll through the neighborhood or to go anywhere without a pistol on your hip or a shotgun within reach?

If you asked NRA spokesman Wayne LaPierre he'd probably point to the inauguration of President Barack Obama, or maybe it goes back to the Bill Clinton presidency. Whenever it started, it's clear, he says, the "entire fabric of society" is in "jeopardy" and you must arm yourself.

"All across America, everywhere I go, people come up to me, and they say, 'Wayne, I've never been worried about this country until now.' And they say it not with anger, but they say it with sadness in their eyes," LaPierre recently said at the 2014 Conservative Political Action Conference. "In the world that surrounds us, there are terrorists and home invaders and drug cartels and car-jackers and knock-out gamers and rapers, haters, campus killers, airport killers, shopping mall killers, road-rage killers and killers who scheme to destroy our country

"I ask you, do you trust this government to protect you?"

We ask LaPierre, do you have any shame? Is there any lie you won't tell or irrational fear you won't appeal to just to fulfill your greed and that of the NRA and the firearm industry?

Clearly not.

Unfortunately, LaPierre's fearmongering is working, as Americans are purchasing firearms and ammunition at a terrifying pace. Facts don't support LaPierre's view of our country - we don't live the Wild West or Syria, and we haven't been stricken by the zombie apocalypse just yet.

According to FBI Uniform Crime Reports, crime is going down - as it has for most of the past two decades. The nation's law enforcement agencies reported a decrease of 5.4 percent in the number of violent crimes, including murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault, for the first six months of 2013, compared to the same time in 2012. The number of property crimes, including burglary, larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft, also decreased 5.4 percent.

America isn't a dangerous place, and you shouldn't feel the need to carry a gun with you everywhere you go - and if you do, that's just sad.