



LESSONS LEARNED FROM TRAGEDY

It was a typical Sunday morning around 7 AM, in a quiet upscale suburb of a major metropolitan area.

[BY BRUCE N. EIMER, Ph.D]

A fit, elderly couple was walking, as they did every morning, in a local park not far from where they lived. Both were suddenly attacked by multiple violent criminals armed with baseball bats. The man was beaten to death, and his wife was raped and beaten. She was left for dead, but survived with permanent injuries and physical disablement. She recovered enough to recall that the (two or three) attackers emerged suddenly from a parked van. It is of interest that both victims were CCW permit holders, but neither was armed at the time and place of the fatal attack. The deceased male victim was a decorated, retired Special Forces soldier with training in hand-to-hand fighting!

Internationally acclaimed firearms instructor and author John Farnam of Defense Training International, who has

reported similar cases, states several lessons to be learned from this type of tragedy. To quote Mr. Farnam:

"We call them side-arms for a reason. At least one needs to be at your side all the time. Aspire to be a competent, self-contained, independent operator. And, expect neither support nor understanding from naive Victims By Choice (VBC).

Don't arbitrarily divide your life into safe and dangerous parts, places, nor activities. Fate may neglect to celebrate your dear fantasy! I know people who have CCW permits, but don't carry, and they're ever-ready to treat me to a nauseating dissertation of their idiotic excuses. The foregoing exposes the lethal fallacy of such self-deceptive thinking.

When your spouse (either gender) is squeamish about 'the whole gun-thing,' help them get over it.

You need a partner, not a burden! Be aware of pattern-behavior. Regularly change up routines. Don't become predictable. Stalkers will use your predictable routine against you, as was likely the case here.

Don't deceive yourself that your martial arts training and prowess will protect you against heavy odds. No matter how many black belts you have, against multiple, simultaneous Violent Criminal Attackers (VCA), you will likely not prevail when unarmed. A single, dashing hero, casually dispatching several bad guys with glamorous judo moves, is something that happens only in movies!

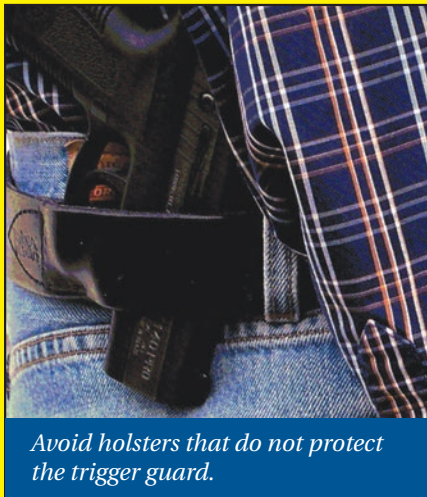
'Police protection' is a contradiction of terms! Don't fill your head with false expectations with regard to actual services police can provide. Police investigators are basically armed archeologists. We



left: John Farnam, Bruce Eimer and another student training at a Defense Training International class in Philadelphia.



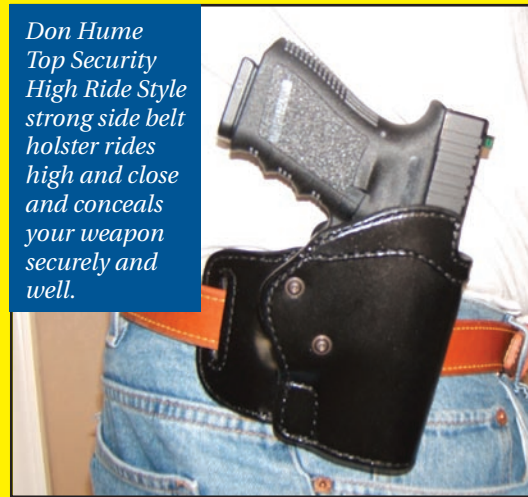
right: Training to prevent a gun grab at a Lethal Force Institute Class in Live Oak, Florida.



Avoid holsters that do not protect the trigger guard.



Gould & Goodrich Auto-Retention Belt Slide Holster rides high and close. It also comes in a paddle configuration.



Don Hume Top Security High Ride Style strong side belt holster rides high and close and conceals your weapon securely and well.

might catch these guys, and we might not. Patrol officers may be there to help you, and they may not. We get paid the same either way. And whatever we manage to accomplish after you're dead will probably be of scant interest to you anyway!"

Mr. Farnam raises some interesting points that are relevant to armed senior citizens:

First, do not deceive yourself. Senior citizens are twice as likely to be selected by violent criminals for victimization as are middle-aged people. Seniors are considered easy prey. Therefore, it is common sense that able-bodied and able-minded seniors train to be armed. If you are a senior citizen, you are expected by naïve VBCs and by VCAs to be a victim. Don't be! Surprise everyone. The world we live in is a dangerous place. A gun in the hands of an educated, law-abiding citizen is simply an emergency rescue tool. Obtain CCW permits that allow you

to carry legally in as many states as possible.

Second, choose an appropriate handgun to carry concealed. Figure out a method of concealed carry that is comfortable and secure for you, and stick to it, so that you will carry every day, all day. Train with your carry gun. Learn every aspect of its use and maintenance. Learn the pertinent laws regarding the use of deadly force. Seek competent instruction. Spend the money. Your life is worth it! Do not be deceived by fantasies that someone else will come to your rescue when the fertilizer hits the fan. The fact is that you are on your own.

Third, to the extent possible, be unpredictable to outside parties. Don't stand out; blend in. Use deception. Be alert and aware of your surroundings. If you are on prescription medications that cloud your alertness, if possible, figure out those times of day when you are most alert and lucid and go out during those periods.

Fourth, because attacks are likely to be launched simultaneously by multiple VCAs, do not expect your hand-to-hand skills and martial arts or boxing prowess to be your trump card. This is why people choose to carry handguns. Employing deadly force such as a gun is your final option for the gravest of extremes—when you are in imminent deadly peril that you yourself have not provoked.

Fifth, if you choose to go armed, you need to carry a handgun of substantial caliber—preferably at least a .38 Special or 9mm—that you can operate ably. Your method of concealed carry needs to be secure from a handgun retention standpoint, but at the same time, you need to be able to get your gun on target smoothly and quickly. This means you must choose the right equipment, and train with that equipment at the range. You will perform in the field as you have trained.

Finally, you cannot afford to let anyone snatch your gun! If someone goes for your

gun and gets it, they are more than likely going to try to kill you with your own gun.

Having determined the correct defensive mindset, and identified a suitable pistol for our requirements, we must now consider finding a suitable holster to carry the pistol.

If you choose to carry a substantial handgun in an outside the waistband (OWB) strong side concealment holster, consider the following: First, whichever holster you choose, you will need to train with that holster to become proficient with it. Second, make sure the holster you choose is made for your particular handgun. The holster should be neither too tight nor too loose. It is essential that your gun's trigger guard is protected. Reject holsters that do not secure most or all of the trigger guard. They are unsafe. Third, consider whether your holster will assist in protecting you from an attempted gun grab. Do not buy into the argument that because your gun is concealed, you do not have to worry about retention, because you do! Finally, be certain that the firearm will stay securely in the holster if

you are pushed down, or running, or scuffling, or rolling around on the ground, or jostled in a tight crowd.

Nowadays, we have more choices than ever before in models of good retention concealment holsters. First, there is the traditional thumb break belt holster. Don Hume Leathersgoods, Gould & Goodrich, and DeSantis Holster & Leather Goods are three reliable companies that manufacture classic thumb break retention strap belt holsters of superior quality for most popular duty and concealed carry side-arms.

Second, there is a new generation of open top retention concealment belt holsters on the market. Don Hume, Gould & Goodrich, and DeSantis are innovators in the design and manufacturing of these rigs. The Gould & Goodrich Auto-Retention Belt Slide Holster rides high and close to the body, and it also comes in a paddle configuration. It can be adjusted for strong side cant or worn crossdraw. With an out of sight, adjustable thumb release, it offers excellent retention without a thumb break to unstrap, and allows for an unimpeded smooth draw that con-

forms to the natural positioning of your strong hand. Of course, perfect practice, with an unloaded weapon at first, will help you develop a perfect draw. This holster has the durability of modern polymer with the look of leather. Sized for popular semi-automatic pistols, this design provides audible, automatic, instant retention when you place your weapon in the holster. Mine conceals my Glock 23 very well. It will also fit a Glock 19 and a Glock 32. It allows a smooth draw and easy reholstering.

The Don Hume Top Security High Ride Style strong side belt holster, and their Top Security Paddle Style version, also raise the bar for open top retention concealment holsters. Both of these Top Security High Ride Style holsters are secure, simple and fast. The belt slot version is built as an Askins-style concealment holster. Both versions have a hidden release trigger locking device that is the same mechanism as used on the company's newer duty style rigs. As with the Gould & Goodrich design, these holsters automatically secure your gun after you reholster. With your finger off the trigger,

WHEN SURVIVAL COUNTS!

NAA - .22 Magnum Actual Size Shown

- * Highest quality rust resistant stainless steel
- * Original half-way notch safety cylinder.
- * Call or Write for your FREE Catalog featuring NAA's complete line of Firearms and Accessories.
- * LIFE TIME WARRANTY

NORTH AMERICAN ARMS, INC.
2150 S. 950 E. • Provo, UT 84606-6285
Toll Free 1-800-821-5783
www.NorthAmericanArms.com

Summit Duchesne
Kings Peak
Hunting & Shooting Sports Heritage Fund

you simply insert your gun in your holster and push down. Be sure the trigger guard lock is in place. The retention lock enters the trigger guard, and the gun rests safe and secure from unauthorized hands. To draw, you simply acquire a strong shooter's grip and your thumb will naturally travel down to the trigger guard release button. Then a smooth efficient draw can be performed. Of course, as with any other quality holster, perfect practice with an unloaded weapon at first helps ingrain a perfect draw. I also have both of these Don Hume Top Security holsters for my Glock 23. They will also fit a Glock 19 and Glock 32. They work great. The paddle version is especially handy if you have to put on and take off your sidearm often. Perhaps you want to make a quick run to the grocery store and then head back home. The paddle version will fit the occasion. Perhaps one of these retention concealment holsters is right for you.

Stay safe. ■

[Bruce N. Eimer, Ph.D., co-author of the *Essential Guide to Handguns*, is a licensed clinical psychologist and NRA Certified Firearms Instructor in Philadelphia, PA. Bruce teaches concealed carry classes for Florida, Virginia, and Utah permits, along with private firearm instruction. To contact Bruce, or sign up for FREE access to Dr. Eimer's Arsenal for the CCW Permit Holder, visit www.PersonalDefenseSolutions.net.]

CONTACTS:

Defense Training International
www.Defense-Training.com
 (970) 482 2520

DeSantis Holster & Leather Goods
www.DesantisHolster.com
 (800) 424-1236

Don Hume Leathersgoods
www.DonHume.com
 (800) 331-2686

Gould & Goodrich
www.GouldUSA.com
 (800) 277-0732

Lethal Force Institute
www.Ayoob.com
 (800)624-9049

A proven system to keep your handgun concealed. Concealed Carry vests are the answer to the question: "What can I wear to keep my handgun concealed?"

We have 5 styles of Concealed Carry Vests:

- ☆ Holster Vest ☆ Hot Weather Vest
- ☆ Professional Vest
- ☆ Western Vest ☆ Patriot Vest



Holster Vest
\$179

www.concealedcarryoutfitters.com ☆ 866-802-4356



Home Backup Protection Protection Within Reach



The BackUp Bedside Shotgun Rack
 Gives you easy access to your shotgun when you need it!
 Don't keep your self defense shot gun under the bed or in the closet.
 You can reach it quickly.
 You do not have to turn your back to your assailant to reach it.

Just \$39.95
Plus S&H

Made of space age polymer in the USA for strength and durability
 Will not scratch your shotgun.
 Adjustable to fit any legal sized shotgun.

Not Intended for Homes with Children!

[HTTP://www.the-backup.com](http://www.the-backup.com)

HIGH NOON HOLSTERS®

"Innovative Holsters for Armed Professionals"

Slide Guard
\$74.95



IDPA APPROVED

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

WWW.HIGHNOONHOLSTERS.COM
 OR FOR COLOR CATALOG SEND: \$3.00



PO BOX 1923

TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34688



PHONE/FAX 727-939-2701



ADVERTISE IN CONCEALED CARRY MAGAZINE

Contact Bob at
 (360) 665-0542
bobcole@centurytel.net