

## **A Few minutes with the Boss**

*By: Joseph Andalina*

### **Gun stories**

A couple of stories revolving around firearms headed the news in early January of 2012.

The first involves a young 18-year old mother and widow from Oklahoma. The woman's husband died on Christmas Day and she was left to care for her infant daughter. Apparently, a man stopped by her home on multiple occasions and tried to talk her into letting him in under the ruse that he was a friend or neighbor of her deceased husband.

She wisely said no. But the a-hole came back on New Year's Eve, armed with a 10" hunting knife and brought a friend. After unsuccessfully trying to con their way in again, they began to kick in the door. The young mother barricaded the door with a couch, got her baby, a shotgun, a pistol, and called 9-1-1.

She asked for help and told the dispatcher what was going on. She asked if she could shoot the intruder if he got in. The dispatcher wisely advised her that she could not tell her she could shoot him, but that she had to do what she had to do to protect herself and the baby. Good for this dispatcher—the unsung heroine here.

After about 20 minutes, the two home invaders gained entry and when the lead jerk-off with the knife came towards her, the mom fired one shot and killed him. The other creep fled but was later apprehended.

All I can say is—Yay! She has grit! The dispatcher was right on, also. One less piece of puke to worry about. Was that guy stalking her? Was he after drugs that her deceased husband allegedly had?

We all pretty much could guess that either way, if she didn't let him have it, she and her baby would have been in deep trouble. I say, way to go, girl! We need more gun-toting citizens in this world who are not afraid to defend themselves. There is a purpose to being able to possess a firearm and defend oneself from the evil that surrounds us. And nary a word from the crazy liberals out there who espouse confiscation of all guns and more gun controls. Not much they could say, is there. When it comes down to us or the bad guys, a firearm is the great equalizer.

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The second story is not so good, but illustrates how difficult a cop's job is. The ability for bad people, disturbed people, or outright foolish folks to get a gun is the other side of the coin.

In this incident, a 15-year old boy went to his school and randomly punched another student in the face in the hallway. Administrators noticed that the teen had a gun and called police. Officers responded within minutes and recordings of the emergency call clearly shows the officer repeatedly shouting for the youth to drop his weapon.

When he did not and reportedly pointed the weapon at officers, he was shot and killed. Reports indicate that three bullets struck him and he was pronounced dead at the scene.

After the shooting, as the school was being made secure, it was discovered that the firearm the teen had was a replica pellet gun. It had no orange markings on the muzzle or barrel, and for all practical purposes, it looked like the real thing.

It was not known why the youth brought a weapon to school. Neither parents, friends, nor family could explain that. He did not appear to be in a gang, but came from a tough neighborhood. Teachers said he was not perfect, but his problems were more of the mischievous sort.

As could be expected, parents, friends and family cry out that he was unjustly killed by the police. That they did not have to shoot him three times and kill him. That it was not a real gun, and why, why, why?

I can't answer these questions. But I do know that youths or adults bringing guns to school, even if they are look-alikes, is always a bad idea. It will bring immediate police attention. SWAT will be on full alert. Just think of Virginia Tech, Northern Illinois University, and a dozen others where students have lost it and the result is murder and mayhem.

I don't know if the police could do anything other than what they did. If someone is pointing a firearm in your direction, must you wait until they shoot first? Do you have to wait to see if you or others are hit? Do the police just wait for the carnage to begin before using deadly force? At the time the officers fired their weapons, the path to tragedy was already entered by the young person who decided to strike out, bring a weapon to school, and threaten officers.

I know it was not a real gun, but how do you find that out when you respond to another school incident involving a student and a gun? It may be impossible to ever answer that. The cries for justice from the parents are real and one truly sympathizes with them.

Just think of your own son. Empathize. This isn't easy and responsibility must be taken by the family that the young person put all the pieces on the table when he brought a replica weapon into a school setting. Unfortunately, he started the action that resulted in his death. I don't know if the police could do anything less than what they did under their own department protocol. But it doesn't minimize the grief that his parents are going through.

These two stories further illustrate the good and the bad of the use of firearms, which often result in being ugly to someone.

It's all in how they are used. But in protecting yourself and society, it is a necessary evil.

Vita é Bella