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RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS
FOR THE REAL WORLD

Firearms Training Services

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Tag!



You're It!

By Tom Givens

A couple of months ago, Lynn and I moved to a small suburban community in Florida. We're 35 miles from Tampa, in a nice, quiet, semi-rural setting, in a town of only 36,000 people.

Gary Durham had a long criminal history, with charges including theft and aggravated assault. He then beat a man to death with his fists in a road rage incident and served eleven years in the Florida state prison. He recently was released. Last week he attacked another man in another road rage incident and that man shot him to death. This occurred about two miles from my new home. Police have said no charges are being filed against the shooter.

The FBI report for 2015 isn't out yet, so I checked the report for 2014. In my little town of 36,425 people, in 2014 there were five murders, nine rapes, 32 armed robberies and 123 aggravated assaults. That's an average of one aggravated assault every three days.

So, it doesn't matter what town you live in or that you live in the "nicer" part of town. Be aware that American society, including the criminal class, is completely mobile and can and will show up anywhere, at any time. Be aware, be alert and be armed. If you are the only homicide in your community next year, it will still have a hugely negative impact on your quality of life! ■



Tampa Bay Times



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Man killed in road rage incident served 10 years in prison for previous traffic fight

By Dan Sullivan and Tony Marrero, Times Staff Writers
Wednesday, August 10, 2016 9:49pm

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My Edition 174

SIGN UP FOR DAYSTARTER

This article comes from Greg Ellifritz, a full-time Ohio police officer, a well-known personal defense trainer, and a friend of Rangemaster. Greg is also a prolific writer and blogs regularly at www.ActiveResponseTraining.com.

- Tom

THE CRIMINAL POINT OF VIEW

Today at work we got a call about a stolen bicycle. A college-aged female rode her bike to a local drug store and went inside. She didn't lock up the bike. When she came out a couple minutes later, the bike was gone.

Fortunately, several witnesses saw the theft and we got a good description of the suspect. I found him and arrested him (still riding the stolen bike) about 20 minutes later.

In the grand scheme of things, not a big deal. A theft. An arrest. It happens every day. While I was speaking with my prisoner during the arrest process, I recognized that most of you will never be in such a position to talk candidly with a thief (who also had past arrests for felonious assault, kidnapping, rape, and a host of other crimes). Since I get this "honor" quite regularly, I'm happy to share the what I learn with you all.

**"I knew it was wrong to steal the bike, but ...
Biking is just faster than walking."**

Our thief today is homeless. He's 32 years old and overweight. He's a regular consumer of crack cocaine. He has no job and no place to live. He sometimes stays at friends' apartments, but his permanent address is a local homeless shelter. The sum total of his possessions consisted of a change of clothes, a broken phone, and less than \$4 cash.

When I asked the man why he stole the bike, his comment was enlightening:

"I took it because I have the chance to stay at my friend's place tonight instead of the shelter. My friend lives in (the next town over) and it would be about a four hour walk to get there. It rained all day yesterday and it looks like it's going to rain some more today. I just didn't want to spend four hours walking in the fucking rain and getting soaking wet again. I figured a bike would be faster."

He continued by saying: "I knew it was wrong to steal the bike, but I just don't care. I didn't want to get wet no more. I saw an opportunity and I took it. I'd do the same thing all over again if I got the chance. Biking is just faster than walking."

The guy wasn't rude or trying to play the role of a badass. He was just describing the daily realities for someone who lives in a world very different from the one in which you and I reside.

He wasn't mentally ill. He knew right from wrong. But he had absolutely no remorse about taking a bike from some girl who probably needs it as just badly as he did. The thought of what the victim would experience didn't even register in his mind. He "saw an opportunity" and took it. He took a college girl's only means of transportation, because he didn't want to be inconvenienced by a long walk.

This is what most folks don't understand about serious criminals.

by
**Greg
Ellifritz**

The fact that the victim of the crime would be affected in a negative manner is not even an afterthought. Your feelings and concerns mean absolutely NOTHING to the criminal. He doesn't care if you live or die, let alone how "inconvenienced" you will be if he takes all of your stuff or beats you within an inch of your life. If you literally had ZERO concern about the well-being of your neighbors and fellow humans, what kind of atrocities would you be capable of committing? That's something that few people consider.

Unfortunately, the majority of the hard core criminals I encounter feel the same way. You are literally nothing more than an obstacle they must overcome to achieve their goal. Most of the serious criminals out there think you and I are merely pawns on the chessboard of life. They will destroy everything you know and love if it means that they will benefit in the wake of the destruction. You are completely expendable in their eyes.

Recognize that. Recognize also that we aren't going to be able to "fix" many of these criminals. They are out there among us every day and can't be avoided.

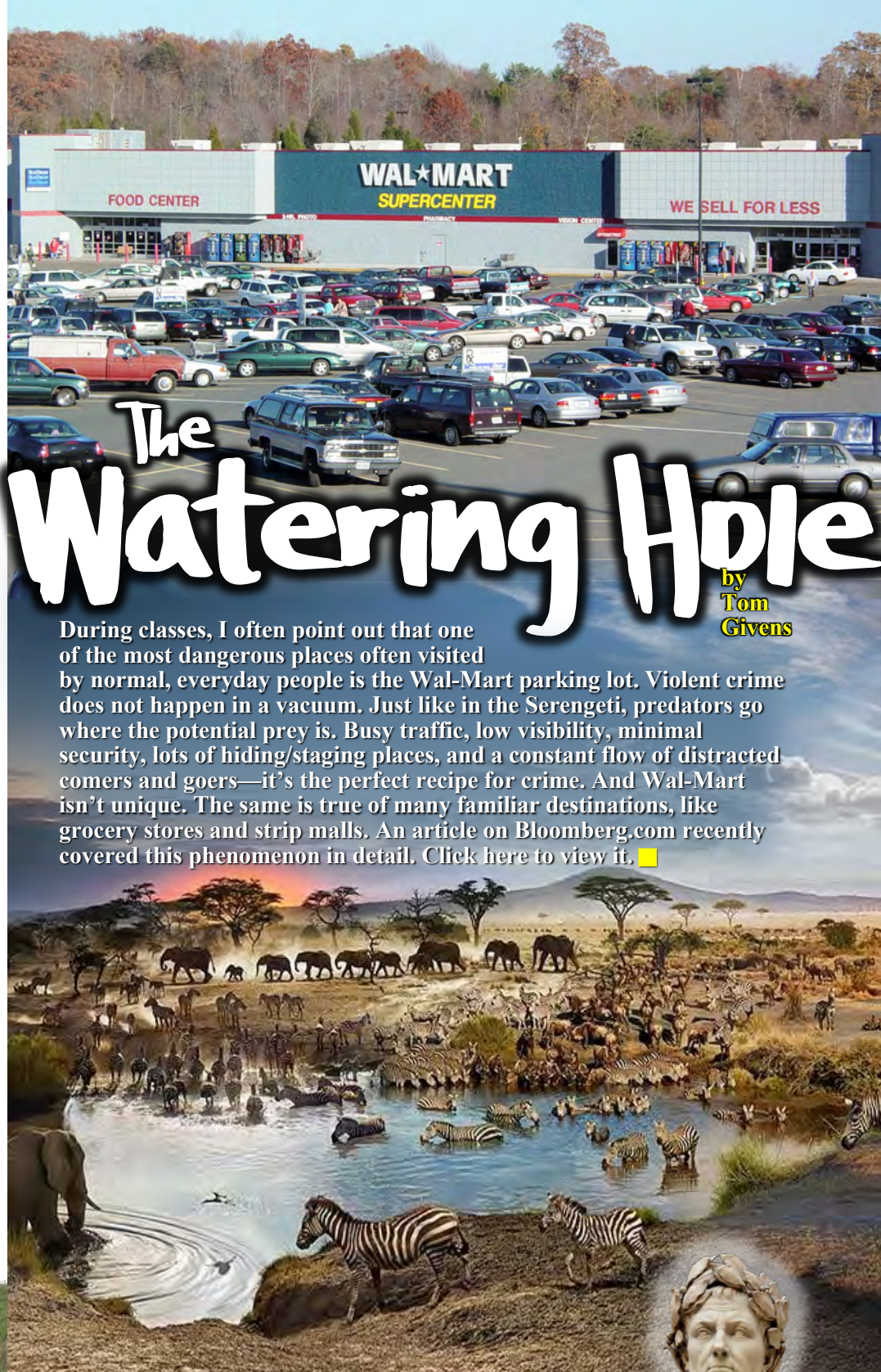
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One of the only things you and I can do is to reduce the "opportunities" for people like this to act on their urges. The criminal is going to commit crimes. The only thing we can do is to harden ourselves and take actions to ensure that the WE aren't the ones targeted. You can't stop people like this because they don't operate with the same mental processes that you have. They don't have a care in the world if they hurt, kill, or inconvenience you. If it will help them get what they want, they'll do it. That is a crucial concept that most "good" people can't comprehend.

Harden the targets. Make it tough for the criminals and they will more often than not move past you to find an easier victim. As sad as it seems, that's truly your best hope. The only way you can win this game is by not playing. Remove the criminal's "opportunities" and you will have a minuscule chance of being victimized. Career criminals don't like hard work. If you make it hard on them, you will be deselected from their victim pool.

Think about what "opportunities" you might be inadvertently creating for the potential criminals you encounter. Do the work. Remove the "opportunity" from the equation and your chance of being a crime victim drops into the "slim to none" territory.

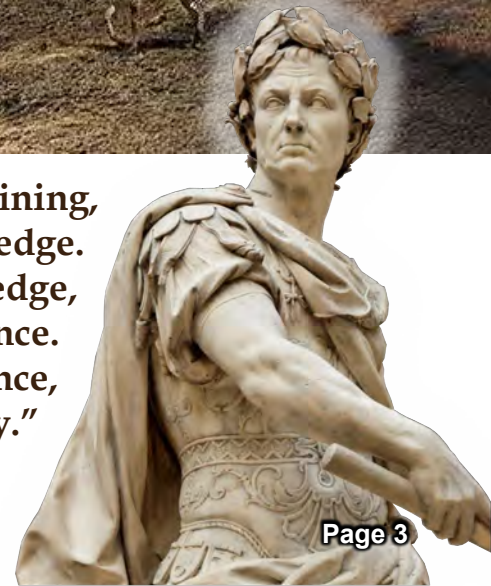
There are people like my prisoner all around you every single day. If you don't understand how they think, your name might soon be filling the "victim" box on my next police report. ■

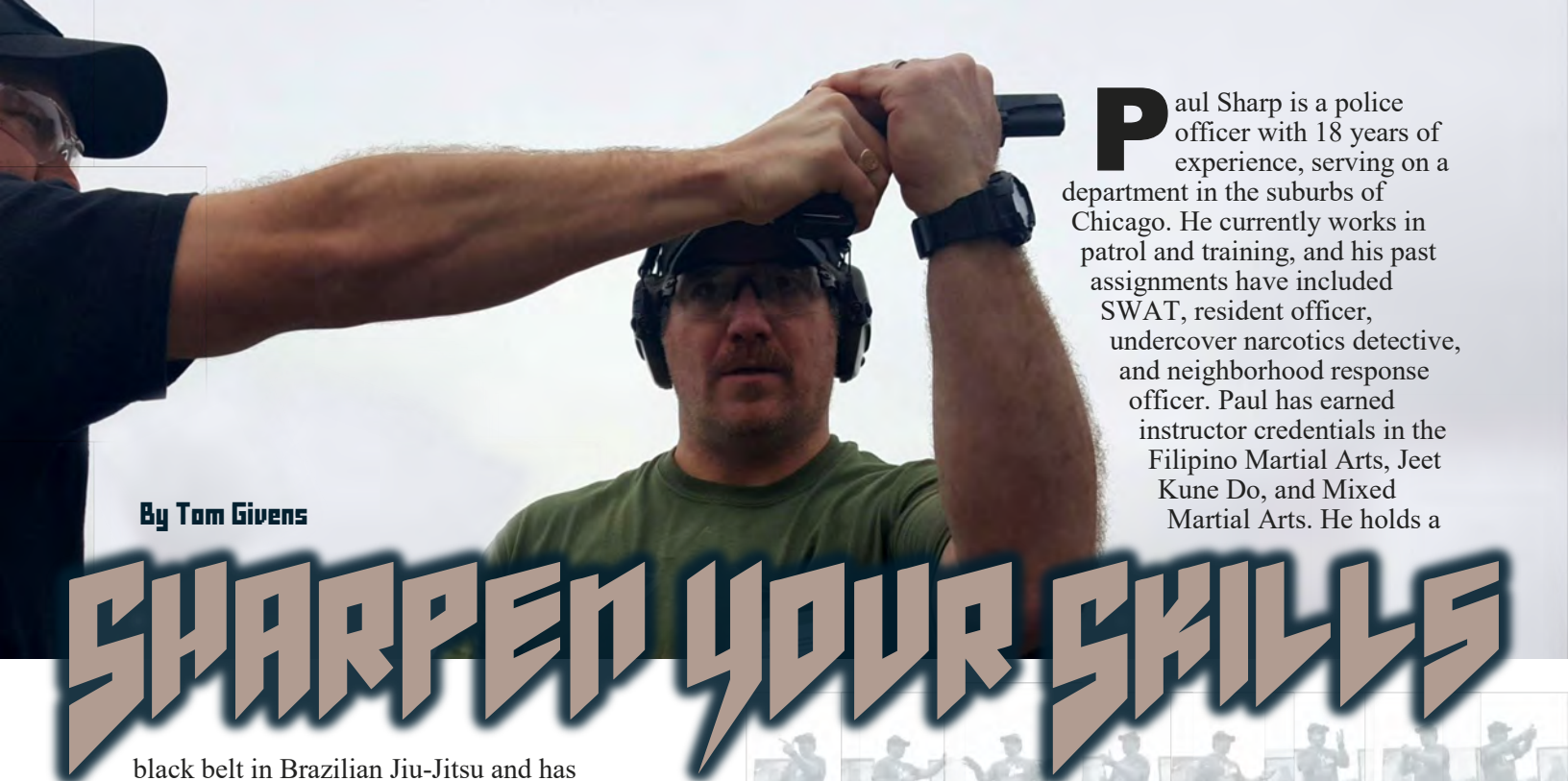


During classes, I often point out that one of the most dangerous places often visited by normal, everyday people is the Wal-Mart parking lot. Violent crime does not happen in a vacuum. Just like in the Serengeti, predators go where the potential prey is. Busy traffic, low visibility, minimal security, lots of hiding/staging places, and a constant flow of distracted comers and goers—it's the perfect recipe for crime. And Wal-Mart isn't unique. The same is true of many familiar destinations, like grocery stores and strip malls. An article on Bloomberg.com recently covered this phenomenon in detail. [Click here to view it.](#) ■

Without training,
they lacked knowledge.
Without knowledge,
they lacked confidence.
Without confidence,
they lacked victory."

- Julius Caesar





By Tom Givens

Paul Sharp is a police officer with 18 years of experience, serving on a department in the suburbs of Chicago. He currently works in patrol and training, and his past assignments have included SWAT, resident officer, undercover narcotics detective, and neighborhood response officer. Paul has earned instructor credentials in the Filipino Martial Arts, Jeet Kune Do, and Mixed Martial Arts. He holds a

black belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and has competed professionally in Mixed Martial Arts and boxing. He currently serves as the mid-west regional director for SBGi and the head instructor at the Straight Blast Gym of Illinois. Paul has been featured in several national and international magazines for his part in developing a systematic approach to integrating and instructing Mixed Martial Arts and combative sports for those working in a weapons-based environment. He has also been recognized as an instructor in DR Middlebrooks Fist-Fire shooting system. This diverse background makes Paul uniquely positioned to coach others from knowledge and experience. All of his classes are excellent, including REV Pistol, which he's offering several times this fall.

The one-day REV Pistol course is based on addressing the reality of a violent confrontation. This includes intensive work on a robust and consistent draw stroke from the holster and making rapid, accurate hits with the strong hand, the support hand, or both hands on the pistol. Listed below are some of the subjects covered in the class:

- Refresher on Firearms Safety and Fundamentals of Marksmanship
- Firearms Presentation from the Holster, Concealed and Unconcealed
- Strong and Support Hand Shooting
- Multiple Target Engagement
- Shooting on the Move

Students will need a minimum of four magazines, a reliable holster (hip or thigh), a magazine pouch, eye and ear protection, sunscreen, appropriate range clothing (knee and elbow pads are recommended), and a minimum of 500 rounds of ammunition. I highly recommend Paul's training. To register for one of the listed classes or to contact Paul about hosting a course in your area, contact him at paul.sharp.mma@gmail.com. ■



The Gunfighter's Gun

Pictured to the left is a Smith & Wesson Model 10 in a typical law enforcement set-up, circa 1972: four-inch heavy barrel, Rogers synthetic stocks, and semi-wadcutter ammo in HKS speed-loaders. The Model 10 was the Glock of the 20th century police world.

DEFENSIVE SHOTGUN INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT COURSE

Oct. 21-23, 2016
Friday - Sunday
Martin, Georgia
(near Atlanta)

The shotgun is one of the most effective and versatile weapons available to the average private citizen or police officer. It is also the least understood and most under-utilized weapon system. Learn how to teach students to properly select, modify, feed and operate the defensive shotgun for optimum effectiveness. This intensive course will teach you efficient techniques for handling and shooting the shotgun under stressful conditions. Topics covered include:

- Firearms safety, including considerations specific to shotguns
- Selection of the fighting shotgun
- Modifications, and accessories
- Ammunition selection and capabilities
- Patterning for optimum performance
- Nomenclature and mechanical operation
- Shooting technique
- Loading/reloading techniques
- Safe storage and ready conditions, including cruiser ready
- Care and maintenance
- Adult teaching methods
- Training aids

Eventbrite

Instructor candidates will receive an extensive training manual and an over two-hour-long instructional DVD as part of the training package. Students will need 250 rounds of birdshot, 100 rounds of buckshot, and 30 slugs. We will have some properly set up loaner shotguns available. To graduate from this course, student instructors will have to pass a shooting qualification and a written test on the material covered in the course. ■

Rangemaster Firearms Instructor Development Courses

We only have two more Three-Day Firearms Instructor Development Courses remaining in 2016. If you miss these, you'll have to wait for the 2017 training season. These are very intensive courses that delve deep into the "how" and the "why" of personal protection with firearms. Whether you intend to instruct others or not, the best way to master a subject is to learn to teach it. Don't miss out! Visit our website or our Eventbrite page for more information or to register.

Sept. 13-15, 2016

KR Training
Bryan, Texas

Oct. 28-30, 2016

Ben Avery Shooting Complex
Phoenix, Arizona

Eventbrite



2017 TACTICAL CONFERENCE



For Tac-Con 2017, we'll be gathering at the Direct Action Resource Center (DARC) in North Little Rock, Arkansas. This is a fabulous facility with multiple ranges, shoot houses, and lots more. The event will be March 17-19, 2017. We are almost full, with only a few spaces left. **WARNING:** Please do not email us in January or February asking us to work you in. We will not be able to do so. Last year's Tac-Con was sold out by early November, but this year we are on pace to sell out much sooner. Don't miss out on this epic event! Register now, before it's too late!

Eventbrite



POP QUIZ

During World War I, what pistol caliber was issued by more countries than any other?

- A. .32
- B. .38
- C. 9 mm
- D. .45

**You know
what to do!**

Be the first to post the correct answer on the Rangemaster Facebook page, and you'll be this month's winner!!!

