

The stun gun might violate civil rights

The Marion County sheriff's office recently purchased some "high-tech" weaponry. The weapons, known as stun guns or zap guns, are a new addition to many police arsenals nationwide. But their use raises many concerns.

There are essentially two types of guns. The first is the Taser, which fires two wire trailing, electrode-bearing darts that contain 50,000 volts. And the other is the Nova, which shoots a 45,000-volt charge when pressed against a human body. Both temporarily cause the victim to lose control of all muscles, drop to the ground and remain stunned for several minutes. The guns' manufacturers claim they do not cause pain, tissue injury or nerve damage. But there is evidence that incomplete contact with the skin surface can cause tissue burns.

Proponents of the guns, which resemble "Star Trek" phasers, argue they will allow police to avoid serious injury while apprehending criminals with the use of a temporarily paralyzing weapon. But opponents fear that it will be easy for police departments to abuse criminals, in light of the weapon's nature. Recent events support the fears of many stun-gun opponents.

Last week in New York, five police officers were charged with using the guns to torture four men arrested on narcotics charges. A San Antonio sheriff's lieutenant was recently given probation for repeatedly using a zap gun on a handcuffed suspect. And Los Angeles police recently experienced their second stun-gun related fatality.

The Marion County sheriff's office says it will only allow officers to use the gun in self defense and as a replacement for the controversial sleeper hold. But what constitutes self defense? New York police were not acting in self defense when they tortured the four suspects for a confession. Likewise, the sentenced San Antonio officer had little need for the guns' use on a handcuffed suspect. In the above instances police may have been more inclined to use the weapons because the weapons in most cases do not permanently injure its victim.

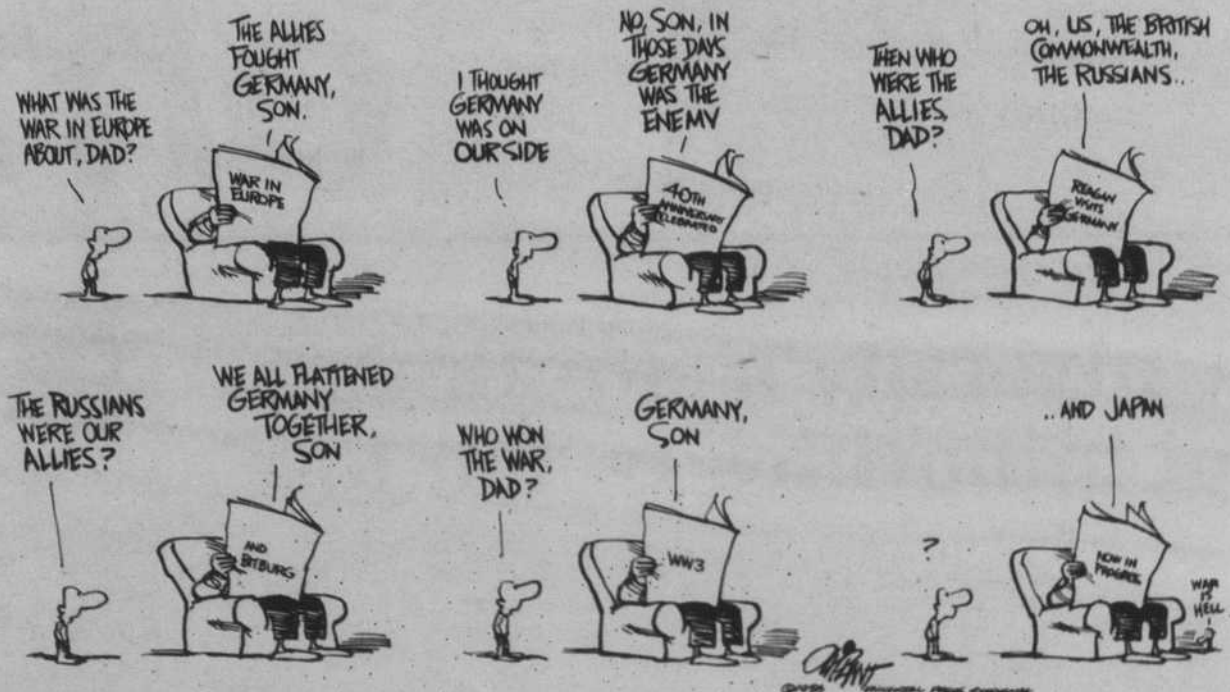
Any police force that uses the guns must implement a review policy for every instance when a stun gun is used. Similarly, all police forces must develop a protocol by which officers must act before they can use the guns. The stun gun may be an advance in law enforcement. If used properly the guns will undoubtedly decrease the number of injuries suffered by both police and criminals. But citizens, elected officials and police departments must examine many questions before the stun gun is fully implemented.

Welcome back Mr. Reagan, you really showed them

Well, President Ronald Reagan's back from Europe! And what did he accomplish? He certainly annoyed America's Jewish community. He was the target of a massive protest in Spain. He did stay at the residence of Adolf Hitler's nephew. And how can we forget that splendid day he spent at former Spanish dictator Francisco Franco's vacation home.

The beautiful memories of his visit to a Nazi war cemetery will linger forever, but at least he finally established a firm reconciliation between West Germany and the United States. (Things were getting pretty hot in the area of West German-American relations, weren't they?)

He did go to Europe for an economic summit, and its participants did agree to meet next year. But, we know what he really accomplished: Reagan at 74 proved he can still travel with the best of 'em, Welcome home.



letters

Wow

Oh come on Mr. Powell. Maybe the homosexuals you know don't admit to engaging in certain disease spreading activities but the weight of medical and sexual behavior research confirms Mr. Goulet's points.

Point A) Most homosexuals have dozens of partners. In Kenneth Plummer's book, "The Making of the Modern Homosexual," we find with reference, "the average, white male homosexual... encounters 1,000 partners over his life, most of them strangers (Bell and Weinburg, 1978, p.12)."

Even Kinsey found longterm male homosexual relationships rare.

Point B) Homosexual sexual practices are unsanitary and because most homosexuals engage in them then this encourages epidemics.

Most homosexuals practice sodomy and oral to anal contact according to the 1983 ISIS study.

Many medical studies conclude that such behavior is responsible for certain epidemics occurring in homosexual populations. Some groups are even encouraging homosexuals not to perform "fisting" and other activities. If few homosexuals performed the behaviors Mr. Goulet listed then why all the attention from the "safe sex" movement?

Maybe Mr. Goulet has made a few homosexuals mad but the truth has a habit of stirring people up.

What I don't understand is

why Mr. Goulet's critics resort to attacking him instead of listing authorities to prove anything he states is wrong. Mr. Goulet shares his sources after all.

Do you suppose his critics don't have anything to back up their side?

Bob Wagner
Economics

An apology

I am writing in regard to last week's visit to the University campus by Professor Jerome Frank from Johns Hopkins University. Professor Frank is a very distinguished psychiatrist and author of the book "Sanity and Survival in the Nuclear Age." He was invited by our group, the University Arms Control Forum, to talk about the psychological aspects of the nuclear age to the University community and various groups in the area. His presentations were very stimulating and enlightening, and they were very well received.

I want to apologize to the University community, and particularly the students, for our failure to advertise this event properly. There was a remarkable series of missed communications and errors in judgment made by our group that led to the situation that Professor Frank was not available to much of the University community. This was not our intention for Professor Frank's visit.

The University Arms Control Forum is committed to presenting a variety of views on the issues surrounding nuclear arms control to the whole University and community. I deeply regret our mistake, and I hope the students and other community members accept my apology.

Dr. Peter O'Day
Chair, University Arms Control Forum

You nerds

To Dan Martin, Dan Goulet and the other "Holier than Christ Himself" types who have nothing better to do than be obsessed with what other people do in their private lives:

"Me thinks thou protest too much."

But aside from that, don't you think it's a bit conceited for you

mere mortals to tell us what God thinks and wants.

And to support your "hell fire and brimstone" name calling, you quote from the greatest "Book of Contradictions" the world has ever seen, the Bible.

But because it is your reference of choice, I will quote from it too. "Let ye who are without sin cast the first stone," and by the Bible's definition, all mortals, Christian or not, are sinners (this means you, too, Dan, Dan, et al.).

One more thing. If heaven is what you say it is, besides being the most boring place ever conceived, it sounds like it's full of hypocrites and closed-minded nerds.

I'd like a one-way ticket to hell, please.

A. K. Stanton
Perchild

A disgrace

The Emerald is to be congratulated for once more proving that it is the same small-time, provincial publication we have all come to know so well.

You continue to grant space to bigoted know-nothings who are vociferously, if seldom coherently, opposed to just about everything, and in the (ODE, May 9) issue you have a thoroughly redundant pair of articles about something as ephemeral as a stupid home-movie contest.

Yet, at no time in the past week have you printed one word, as far as we can tell, about the presence of internationally acclaimed poet and speaker, Andrew Salkey, who was on our campus.

Professor Salkey was here from Monday through Wednesday; there was no notice announcing his Wednesday night reading, no interview, and nothing on the reading itself. Your ignorant and inconsiderate treatment — or lack of treatment — of this matter demonstrates yet again why many of us do not think that the Emerald and the concept of journalism have anything in common.

Your lack of awareness brings no credit to the University.

Edwin Coleman II
Dept. of English

oregon daily emerald

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