

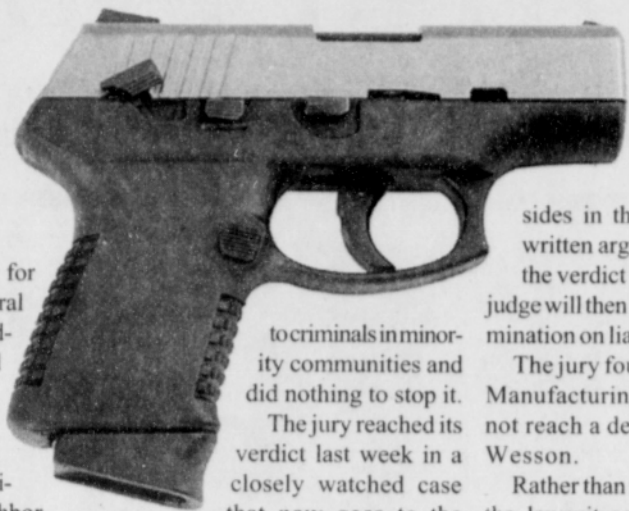
# POLICE

## Gun Makers Cleared of Stoking Violence

Jury says industry not to blame for inner city shootings

(AP) — In a victory for the gun industry, a federal jury has cleared 45 handgun manufacturers and distributors of allegations their marketing practices have stoked violence in African American and Hispanic neighborhoods.

The NAACP lawsuit alleged the firearms industry knew corrupt dealers were supplying their products



to criminals in minority communities and did nothing to stop it. The jury reached its verdict last week in a closely watched case that now goes to the judge for a final decision.

Because U.S. District Judge Jack Weinstein decided the jury would play only an advisory role, both

sides in the case will submit written arguments interpreting the verdict within 30 days. The judge will then make the final determination on liability and remedy.

The jury found Glock and Colt Manufacturing not liable. It did not reach a decision on Smith & Wesson.

Rather than monetary damages, the lawsuit sought to force distributors to restrict sales to dealers who have storefront outlets, prohibit sales to gun show dealers and limit individual purchasers to one

handgun a month. The gun industry argued that it was unfair and unlawful to hold manufacturers liable for the criminal use of a legal product. They also said that legislatures — not courts — should set standards for sales.

NAACP President Kweisi Mfume said the civil rights organization will work even harder to force better regulation of the sale and distribution of handguns.

"Our allies in this fight must not sit back and accept the mood by some in Congress who are too ready to do the bidding of the National Rifle Association. Now is the time to step up our campaign," he said.

## Moose Sues over Sniper Book

Former Portland chief says he has right to tell his story



Charles Moose

(AP) — Former Portland Police Chief Charles Moose who gained celebrity status during last fall's Washington, D.C. area sniper shootings has filed a lawsuit to win the right to tell his story.

Moose is seeking an injunction to bar The Montgomery County Ethics Commission from taking any action against him for writing about the events surrounding the shootings.

"Any attempt to sanction, prosecute or take disciplinary action against Chief Moose based upon him writing or publishing a book or working on a screenplay would violate the First Amendment," Ron A. Karp, head of Moose's legal team, told The Associated Press.

As head of the Montgomery County police department, Moose helped lead a task force of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies that spent three weeks trying to stop a rash of shootings in the region surrounding the nation's capital.

Sniper suspects John Allen Muhammad, 42, and Lee Boyd Malvo, 18, have been linked to 20 shootings, including 13

deaths, in Virginia, Maryland, Louisiana, Georgia and the District of Columbia. They were arrested Oct. 24, and both men await capital murder trials in Virginia for two of the fatal shootings.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court here, charges that Moose has been deprived of his constitutional right of free speech. The ethics panel contends that participation in the book or movie projects would allow Moose to profit from the prestige of his office and possibly compromise the prosecutions.

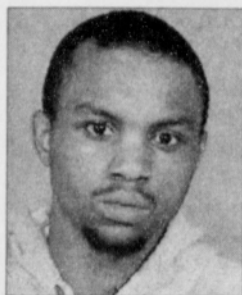
Moose, 49, has been on active duty with the District of Columbia Air National Guard since mid-March. He is a major in a military police detachment.

Despite the ethics panel decision, he has continued work on the book commissioned by Dutton Publishing, Inc., and has completed more than seven chapters.

## Gunfire Erupts Outside Southeast School

(AP) — A fight near an elementary school could have turned deadly after a bullet fired by one of the participants crashed through a classroom window.

The bullet struck a blind and fell to the floor, frightening 10



Montez T. Taylor

children in a portable classroom at Bridger Elementary School in southeast Portland. A second bullet struck the car of someone involved in the May 13 incident, and a total of four or five shots were fired, according to police.

Neither the bullets nor the fight caused any injuries.

Montez T. Taylor, 20, of Portland was arrested on charges of attempted assault and unlawful use of a weapon.

Police seized a .25 caliber semi-automatic pistol the next day.

The fight involved roughly a dozen people from two groups, who had been fighting, Portland

Police Bureau spokesman Brian Schmutz said. Though some witnesses described the incident as gang-related, authorities would not confirm that.

After the shots were fired, school officials quickly accounted for all the children and the school was locked down. Some parents, however, rushed to take their children home.

## FBI Investigates Kendra James Shooting Death

The FBI has opened a preliminary inquiry into the shooting of Kendra S. James upon the request of Portland Police Bureau Chief Mark Kroeker. James died May 5 when she tried to drive away from a traffic stop.

Charles Mathews III, special agent in charge of the FBI in Oregon, said the inquiry will be an independent review under the federal color of law, civil rights statutes.

The law provides penalties to law enforcement officials who willfully subject or deprive a person of any rights, secured or protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States.

Sentences under the law call for fines and imprisonment depending on the nature of the injuries to the victim. The results of the preliminary inquiry, when completed,

will be forwarded to the Department of Justice for review and determination as to whether a full investigation should be conducted.

Due to the on-going nature of this investigation, the FBI said it will have no further comment.

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## Identities Sought for Protesting Pair

Portland Police and Multnomah County Prosecutors, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for the public's help in establishing the true identities of two people arrested during recent protest demonstrations.

Both the man and woman had no identification and refused to give a name when they were taken into custody. They were booked as "Jane" and "John Doe" and then failed to appear in court.

"Jane Doe" was arrested on March 21. She is a white female who appears to be in her 20s, approximately 5 feet 3 inches tall and weighs roughly 155 pounds with brown hair and brown eyes.

"John Doe", was arrested on March 25. He is a white male who appears to be in his 20s, approximately 6 feet 1 inch tall and weighs roughly 185 pounds with brown hair and blue eyes.

Police said there is a possibility the two may not be from the Portland area.

Police hope someone can identify the man and woman in these photographs.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to the true identities of the individuals and you need not give your name. Call Crime Stoppers at 503-823-HELP (4357), or visit Crime Stoppers on the website at [www.portlandpolicebureau.com](http://www.portlandpolicebureau.com).

## Guard Member Admits Racial Attacks

(AP) — An Oregon National Guard member has pleaded guilty to assault and intimidation charges for what police called racially motivated attacks on an Indian-born motel clerk and a homeless man in Medford.

Aaron A. St. James, 26, also agreed to testify against his co-defendant. He won't be sentenced, and three other charges will not be dropped, until he testifies against his co-defendant, Andrew L. Patterson, 23, of Eagle Point, said Beth Heckert, Jackson County assistant district attorney.

A third suspect, 21-year-old Chadwick James Ritchie, of Medford, committed suicide in a restaurant parking lot as police sought the trio.

St. James confessed to beating Francis J. Zimny, 51, near Medford's Gospel Rescue Mission on Jan. 29 and later intimidating Nayur Patel, 24, a clerk at the Sis-Q-Motel a few blocks away.

The attacks occurred less than a week after St. James returned from a six-month peacekeeping stint in the Sinai Peninsula with the Ashland-based 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry.

Patterson faces trial July 22 on charges of intimidation, kidnapping and burglary, and five counts of assault in the attacks. He is being held in Jackson County Jail on \$300,000 bail.

Police said the three referred to their attacks as "missions," proclaimed white supremacy to some victims and declared their intention to "clean up" Medford.

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