



**Your On the  
Street Reporter**



**Uyless Black**

**Pistol Packing Mama**

## **Pistol Packing Mama**

**January 13, 2011**

Hello from Your on the Street Reporter. Thanks for the responses to the report on the Tucson shootings. I have not yet answered all the emails. They are on their way.

The major criticism with the report was my mentioning the politicians' comments about media coverage and political pandering creating an atmosphere that led to these sorts of tragedies. The criticisms also stated that the shooter was simply crazy and toned-down chatter was not going to repair his dented brain.

It is a valid response. Just remember that I did not make the point. The politicians and media pundits did. My point was the politicians' somber tones. They now realize they might come under more than just a political gun. Nonetheless, upon re-reading the report, I should have made this point clearer. I will clean up this point.

One reader offered a view of my predictions on deployment of weapons of mass destruction, "You sure have an imagination!" Let us hope that possibility is only an image of my far-fetched thoughts, but I think it is only a matter of time before a group uses unconventional weapons on a large population.

### **Coffee, Leaded or Unleaded?**

Gun control is not an issue up here in Northern Idaho because ordinary citizens have control of guns. You want a gun? No problem. You want to carry a gun? No problem? Unlike, say, Washington D.C., where only crooks in the local citizenry carry guns, we citizens can sport a fire-arm as well.<sup>1</sup> The idea is to permit equal opportunity shooting.

A few days ago, I pulled-in to a coffee kiosk in Hayden, Idaho. These small businesses are as popular up here as donut shops are in Canada. The coffee is served directly to the customer while he or she is sitting in his car. Pull-in, order a cup, and pull-away with a freshly brewed java.

The only establishments in the Idaho panhandle that outnumber coffee kiosks are churches and empty buildings---the latter, courtesy of Wall Street. I conducted a survey about the number of existing businesses in the area. The findings:

### **Businesses: Most-to-Least in Number:**

1. Churches
2. Coffee kiosks
3. Banks
4. Service stations
5. Bars

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<sup>1</sup> D.C. has one of the highest murder rates in America.

I hang-out at these establishments in the reverse order of their positions in the list. So, given my biases, and attempting to be an objective reporter, I'll stay off the Op-Ed page and concentrate on number 2 on the list.

### **Pistol Packing Mama**

The coffee maker (and owner) at the kiosk I visit is an attractive, articulate woman. She recently bought the rights to use a small building to ply her trade. She opens the place at 5 AM. At that time, and given the location, she is often alone.

After talking with her a few times, I learned her mate was concerned about her well-being during the early hours of the day. Granted, her location is in a "safe" area in Hayden Idaho, and the White Aryan Nations wannabes up here have not been known for terrorizing coffee shops.

Still, one never knows. A sociopathic tea drinker, irritated that coffee kiosks actually serve coffee, might very well express his discontent by shooting the coffee maker. It is as valid a reason as any I have heard about the motives of these sad, deviant, disordered souls.

Not at this kiosk. You can get your coffee, leaded or unleaded. But if you muck around with the help, you're going to get some decaffeinated lead. Here's a snapshot I took of this pistol packing mama making my brew and protecting her self-interests.



I asked her if she has had any problems with robbers or other malcontents. She said "Nope."

Only in Northern Idaho? Maybe. But with more Tucsons, we will likely see more pistol packing mamas and papas in America's venues.

Your on the Street Reporter