



**Your ~~on~~ off the
Street Reporter**



Uyless Black

**Heard off the Street
Articles 43 - 45**

Heard off the Street

<u>Section</u>	<u>Report</u>	<u>Report Name</u>
I	1	Dog Shoots Itself While Looking for a Water Dish
	2	Pro Golfer Shoots a Birdie without Reaching the Green
II	3	Frustrated Woman Fries Husband
	4	Armed Robber Leaves His Call-back Number
III	5	The Spoils of Kiddie Litter
	6	Psychologists Claim Having Choices in Life is Life-Threatening
IV	7	People Prefer Flowers to Snakes
	8	My Drinking is Your Problem
V	9	Store Robbed of 10 Boxes of Condoms by Man in Wheel Chair
	10	Close the Ports!
	11	Fat People Got Every Reason to Dance!
	12	Talk English Hoss-ette!
VI	13	Air Fives Replace High Fives
	14	The Bobbles of John Wayne and Lorena Bobbitt
VII	15	“Bambi” and “G Force”
	16	Make the Punishment Fit the Crime
	17	“Facebook” for Kids
VIII	18	Harvard Students Suffering from Malnutrition
	19	Airports from Nowhere to Nowhere
	20	Divorce, American Style
IX	21	Michael Vick Humbled Enough to Rise like Phoenix
	22	Sports Agent Polishes his Reputation
	23	Food Gestapo Pursues Ronald McDonald
	24	Dis-merit Pay!

X	25	Down Thru the Chimney with Good St. Nick!
	26	4-Year-Old Sued for Recklessness
	27	Upcoming Litigant Jawbones a Lawsuit
	28	Man Sues Family because he Killed a Family Member
XI	29	Friendly Toasts to a Toasted Friend
	30	Pervert, Heal Thyself
	31	Acid Reflux
	32	If the Rat Poison Won't Do It, the Anti-freeze Will
XII	33	"Lay down, I think I love you!"
	34	Entrapment
	35	In God we Trust, as well as Ramses
XIII	36	Smothered with Love
	37	Moral Indignation
	38	Placenta: Pills or <i>a la carte</i>?
XIV	39	Pistol Packin' Mama
XV	40	On the Wings of a Dove
XVI	41	Do a Good Turn Warily
	42	Let the Punishment Fit the Crime
XVII	43	It Only Hurts for a Little While
	44	Clamor from the Bear Spray Repellant Lobby
	45	"My Grandmother Made me do It!"

Included in this volume

Reports 1 – 42 are available online at Blog.UylessBlack.com. Scroll to Series 2 in the Table of Contents and click on "Heard off the Streets."

Heard off the Street (XVII)

These reports chronicle stories about the weird and often wonderful antics of the human race. For Part XVII, direct quotes from sources and conversations are placed within quotation marks or are indented. Brackets within the quotes indicate my comments or slight changes to a direct quote.

Report 43: It Only Hurts for a Little While¹ Tucson, Arizona

The United States is running short of execution drugs. Part of the problem stems from an action by the Food and Drug Administration. It has impounded orders of sodium thiopental, an anesthetic that numbs a person's mind and body in order to supposedly circumvent a "pain killing" death.²

The drug was banned because it is not legal to export pharmaceuticals from suspicious pharmacies. There is also the issue of quality control. The drug (and others) was ordered from a company located in India. The state of Nebraska spent \$54,000 for some of these chemicals that never arrived at Nebraska's prisons' doors. Queries at the Indian pharmaceutical firm revealed that:

...no one answered the door at the residential address in Kolkata, India, that is listed as the firm's office.

The fact that a state in the U.S. is ordering execution drugs from a residence in India has brought forth complaints from two special interest groups. (a) Organizations that are against the death penalty. (b) Inmates on death row who, coincidentally, are also against the death penalty. The latter party asserts that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should pay more attention to the chemicals that are going to paralyze their muscles and stop their hearts.

In view of this national death-defying crisis,

...states have had to change drug combinations or put executions on hold while they look for other options. As backups, Tennessee brought back the electric chair and Utah the firing squad.

Critics of these less-than-sure-to-kill technologies continue to lobby for bringing back the guillotine as the most effective and humane tool for executions. They cite the advantages of this tool. First, unlike a poorly aimed rifle, the guillotine does not miss. Second, unlike Sparky, the blade's abrupt actions ensure the person being executed does not experience prolonged agony. Third, unlike the notoriously unreliable drugs, which often lead to the condemned person

¹ Astrid Galvan and Justin Prichard, Associated Press, "Feds Confiscate Lethal-Injection Drugs," *The Coeur d'Alene Press*, October 24, 2015, C5.

Lyrics of "It Only Hurts for a Little While," are sourced from two non-copyrighted sites: YouTube and my memory. Many people have recorded this classic song. My favorites are Jim Reeves and Margo Smith.

² This essay does not contain my views (pro or con) on the death penalty. Please do not so-infer.

lingering between life and death for prolonged times, a swift beheading by a guillotine is a cut-and-dry maneuver (figuratively speaking, of course).

Similar to the scarcity of lethal-injection chemicals, guillotines are in short supply. So are guillotiners. This situation is met with mixed feelings among America's populace. It depends on a citizen's view of a guillotine blade as it makes its way downward toward the chopping block: Those who can see where the blade lands and those who cannot.

Nonetheless, true to humans' knack for devising ideas such as the just-in-time inventory concept, several states have come up with a solution to their death-avoiding death-inducers. They have already accumulated a ready-to-be-killed inventory of prisoners, mostly because of appeals and stays of execution. Nonetheless, they remain true to their job descriptions and know they must reduce the inventory (as examples) of 250 death row inmates in Texas, and 118 deadbeats (an anticipatory noun) in Arizona. How so? With readily available sword-bearing executioners! An ample inventory is already on hand (so to speak) in the Middle East.

After all, death by a sword, while seemingly barbarous, is more humane than (citing one incident) the execution in Arizona of a man who was given 15 doses of a drug that causes severe breathing problems...a euphemism for respiratory failure. How agonizing can the inability to breathe be? Likely, very agonizing, but we will never know, because those among us who succumb to respiratory failure are no longer among us.

We are informed the inmate in the Arizona prison was also administered *one* dosage of a painkiller. Why not 15 doses of the painkiller? In fairness, a "something for something" exchange, a "quid pro quo" thing.

However, death penalty advocates claim that executions should not be about taking a bottle of sleeping pills. Feel some pain man! It's just retribution for the pain you yourself have caused.

Some frustrated state executioners are said to be forming a lobbyist group whose aim is to pressure Congress into enacting laws to address two problems: (a) getting ISIS blade runners off the streets in the Middle East to prevent them from killing innocent people, and (b) getting them onto the streets of America and into America's prison system where they can at last do some social good.³

By the way, authorities at the Arizona state prison system explained, "He was supposed to die with one dose."

This story reminds me of that classic country and western song, "It Only Hurts for a Little While." Take it away, Jim Reeves, but kindly change the lyrics to fit the occasion:

³ Writing political commentary by using satire can sometimes lead into waters that some may find offensive. I extend my deepest condolences to those who have lost their loved ones to the swords of people who can only be characterized as murderers. I honor the stoic bravery of those who fell to an executioner's sword. I have used the guillotine and the sword to make the point that they are indeed more humane ways of execution than our country subjecting a person to 15 doses of a drug that slowly and painfully kills. How ironic. Fifteen killers and one painkiller.

Strum, strum, strum...

It only hurts for a little while.
That's what they tell me, that's what they say.
It only hurts for a little while.
Then all my heartbeats will pass away.

It's so easy to be smart
with someone else's heart.
So I don't know how to start
forgiving you for what you do.

I must pay a price for an awful crime.
And I know it will finally end my time.
I also know that I shall not be free.
But please, for this one time, make it short for me.



Report 44: Clamor from Bear Spray Repellant Lobby⁴ Sandpoint, Idaho

Randy Carl Eiland has been convicted of burglary and battery by a Bonner County jury in Sandpoint, Idaho. The burglary charge stemmed from his breaking into a private home. The battery charge came from his attacking the family who lived in the house. They managed to take refuge in their bedroom to escape the assailant's bear spray.

That's right. No guns and no shooting. Eiland drew from his shoulder holster a can of bear repellant and began spraying a couple and their young daughter as he threatened them with *Your money or your eyes!*

Little did Eiland know that bear spray repellant is actually pretty mild, especially in comparison to its human counterpart, pepper spray. Both sprays contain oleoresin capsicum, but pepper spray has about ten percent of the chemical, whereas bear spray contains only one to two percent.

Off the street rumor has it that this reversal of the ratio content of oleoresin capsicum in human and bear repellant---sometimes leading to a reversal of fortunes in the forest---is attributable to the Bear Hugger Lobby (BHL). This organization created its name as a public relations ploy to attract donations from lovers of teddy bears and fans of cuddly Pandas. The lobby is closely aligned with other societies whose mission is to protect assorted wildlife and vegetation from the predations of humans.

Rumor also has it that CNN asked why the BHL was lobbying to keep oleoresin capsicum at such low levels in bear spray. The BHL spokesperson responded that there are more people than bears and that BHL was simply trying to level the playing field.

Enough rumor. Journalists are allowed no more than fifty percent of their reporting to be innuendo from secondary sources. So, back to non-rumor and more hard journalism.

Eiland was apprehended by the police a short distance from his break-in. He did not get very far away from the scene of his crime as he "appeared to be suffering the effects of the caustic bear spray." He immediately came under suspicion because he was staggering down the street, suffering from excessive tearing, swelling of the eyelids; as well as having difficulty breathing and exhibiting temporary blindness. At his trial, he maintained he was the victim of mistaken identity; the mistaken identity being his inability to recognize himself during his attempted escape.

The good news is that the Bear Hugger Lobby efforts to save more bears might have saved three innocent people, who suffered minor ill effects from the diluted bear spray. In 1985, Eiland was convicted of first-degree murder for shooting a man to death because the man refused to turn over box office receipts at a movie house. Perhaps gun control laws prevented him from obtaining a gun for his recent crime. In any event, he is likely to spend most of his remaining life in prison.

⁴ Keith Kinnaird, "Bear Spray Burglar Denied New Trial," *Coeur d' Alene Press*, October 24, 2015, C1.

Rumor has it that the Bear Hugger Lobby is doling out dollars to Congress to persuade it to pass bear spray repellent laws and require bear spray repellent owners to register their canisters with a new government agency and into a national bear repellent database.

As expected, the NRA (National Repellent Association) is mustering its army of lobbyists, lawyers, and millions of dollars (the latter, thanks to *United vs. Citizens*) to thwart this grass roots movement.

Report 45: “My Grandmother Made Me Do It!”⁵ Moscow, Idaho

With the idea that emulation is the best form of flattery, an 18-year-old took his gun to town in Moscow, Idaho, and shot-up 36 vehicles and 15 businesses.

These attacks occurred after the well-publicized Phoenix freeway shootings (on Interstate 10 and State Route 202) that occurred in the summer and early fall of 2015. Your writer was in the Phoenix area for a week during that time, regularly traversing I-10. After watching the nightly news about what were almost daily shootings, on my way to the airport on my final day, I took a detour around the I-10 urban combat zone.

Sure, the odds were great in my favor that the shooter or a copycat would not drill my rental car. And after all, it was a rental car. It is Hertz’s job, not mine, to fix Hertz’s hurt cars. But fixing damaged customers is another thing. I could not drop-off a lacerated, bullet-filled shoulder at the Hertz counter with “Had a little trouble on the Interstate. Fix it up. Your damaged body insurance coverage will take care of the transfusions and stitches.”

Anyway, I took the wimpy way back to Hertz by avoiding I-10, all the while thinking my macho dad and brothers were silently giving me the raspberry in their graves.

As the Twitterites say, “Not to worry!” The urban terrorists have been apprehended and their weapons confiscated. The Phoenix shooter was aiming at his targets with either a handgun, a rifle, or both (the investigation is continuing). In contrast, the Moscow youth’s weapon of choice was a BB gun. Yep. A BB gun.

Jonathan Walters was sentenced to 30 days in jail, five years of probation, and a bill of \$35,000 for the damage his pellets did to Moscow’s vehicles and citizenry. It’s fortunate the pellets did not hit any of the driver’s eyes or ears.

Walters’ defense attorney, Deborah McCormick, had this to say about her client:

“He’s fairly young, each day (in jail) has had an impact. The 19 days were pretty tough for him [and tough for the 36 vehicles and businesses he attacked].

Deborah says that Walters had a tough childhood that included the death of his grandmother. [It’s a miracle the streets of the world are not populated with grandma-grieving gunners.]

She added that Walters wants to relocate to Portland and enroll in a culinary school [His cooking specialty is yet to be defined, but passive Portland should offer a supportive grandmother-like atmosphere for his newly found passion in life. New, in the sense he suddenly found his way to salvation and around incarceration while under arrest and awaiting sentencing and more jail time].

⁵ “Idaho Teen Gets 30 Days in Jail for Vandalism,” Associated Press, *Coeur d’ Alene Press*, October 24, 2015, C4.

Walters informed the judge, “It’s time to make a change, to take my life onto a better path than it was going.”

Faster than the cocking of a BB rifle, his tale had a happy ending. Suddenly, the crook had morphed into a cook and avoided extended prison time. After all, he had only assaulted 36 parties. Thus, the blind eyes of Mother Justice counseled, “Let the punishment fit the crime, so off you go to learn the art of raising a soufflé.”

In response to Walters’ born-again salvation, the judge replied, “Not even God can change yesterday. But you can change the future.”

Court cameras rolled as convict and judge joined in a hug.