

Interesting Self-Defense Stories - 1
From: www.your-martial-arts-resources.com

Phonecam helps foil alleged child kidnapping attempt:

From: http://www.boingboing.net/2003/08/01/phonecam_helps_foil_.html
(August 1, 2003):

Police say a 15-year-old boy foiled an abduction attempt by pulling out a phonecam and snapping photos of a man trying to lure him into a car, as well as the alleged abductor's license plates.

The teen gave the evidence to police, who arrested a suspect the next day.

"It's surprising the kid had the presence of mind to use the technology under duress," Det. Capt. Robert Rowan told The Record of Bergen County.

A spokeswoman for Sprint, whose phone the boy used, said she had never heard of someone using the new technology to catch a criminal.

Screwdriver and rage foil would-be robber:

From: <http://www.canada.com>
(August 1, 2003):

Cathy Tan, 24, holds screwdriver she used to scare off thief at her family's Surrey grocery store.

The best defence is a good fencer. Store clerk Cathy Tan, a fencer and a fan of Kung Fu movies, took on a knife-wielding robber who demanded money from the till and won.

She sent him running with a well-aimed thrust of a big, honkin' screwdriver, just like in a Bruce Lee fight.

"People tell me I look younger than I am," Tan, 24 and five-feet-two, said last night. "I'm small. I'm not built like Xena. But I watch a lot of Kung Fu movies -- Hee-ah!"

Her decision to draw a 30-centimetre screwdriver and whack her assailant after he pulled out a 20-centimetre serrated kitchen knife comes from a background where "you earn what you get."

"My parents work at the store 14 hours a day, seven days a week," she said at the Tan family's Crown Produce supermarket at 15138-100 Ave. in Surrey. "I guess I wasn't scared at the moment. It makes me mad. People wave a knife at you and they don't work for their money."

His knife was only a kitchen knife. Dad uses a bigger knife to chop vegetables. I would have been afraid if it was a machete.

"The gutsy grocer showed off her epee prowess and her first move was a sally she has rehearsed many times as a fencing student at the club level.

Left-handed, the robber brandished the knife across her body; she, also left-handed, parried with an outside motion, just like the sword-fighters of old. There was the clash of steel on steel.

"I thought of lunging towards him with the blade but I hate the sight of blood," said Tan.

With three Tans yelling at him, the robber fled, empty-handed, to the street and was almost hit by a car. He has not been caught.

Tan doesn't advise others to follow her example. "He wasn't that big," she said. "I don't know if I would have tried it on somebody bigger. I had a feeling it would be OK.

"The thief is five-feet-six, slim, with short dark brown hair, clean-cut with fair skin and was wearing brown runners.

The Tan family comes from the school of hard knocks in communist China.

Said Cathy's sister Karen: "In China, life is tough. Thieves went to jail. Here, they don't. Sometimes they are set free.

"Surrey RCMP spokesman Tim Shields was pleased the Saturday night drama turned out well." "But this isn't something we recommend," he said.

Man dies after wife squeezes testicles:

From: http://news.com.au/common/story_page/0,4057,7101566^13762,00.html
(August 29, 2003):

A woman in Cambodia has given herself up to authorities after accidentally killing her husband in a scuffle in which she squeezed his testicles until he fainted, newspaper reported.

Saut Chin, 46, was fed up with physical abuse from her husband when she grabbed his testicles until he passed out in the incident Tuesday, the Rasmei Kampuchea (Light of Cambodia) newspaper reported.

Fearing that her husband, Ouch Yan, 52, might regain consciousness and start beating her again, Saut Chin tied his neck with a scarf to a bed, the newspaper said.

The exact cause of Ouch Yan's death was not known.

The incident occurred in a village near Sihanoukville, a port city 185 kilometres southwest of Phnom Penh, news reports said.

Saut Chin and her husband Ouch Yan, 52, were arguing when the husband then kicked his wife's sexual organ, the reports said.

"Hurt badly and fed up, she grabbed her husband's testicles and squeezed them with full strength until he fell unconscious on the spot," Rasmei Kampuchea said, citing police reports of the woman's confession.

After discovering that her husband was dead, Saut Chin reported herself to local authorities and asked to be jailed. She said she had not intended to kill her husband "but only to teach him a lesson," according to the newspaper.

Nabbed a thief, got no handcuffs? Use your teeth:

From: <http://story.news.yahoo.com>

(November 11, 2003):

Berlin (Reuters) - A German with no handcuffs readily available captured a burglar by clamping his teeth onto the man's thumb and dragging him off to a neighbor's house.

"He couldn't use the phone himself...so the neighbor called the police," Duesseldorf police said a statement.

The thief received treatment for his injured thumb.

'Your arm is broken, Mr. Carjacker':

From: http://www.ardmoreite.com/stories/121003/loc_carjacking.shtml

(December 10, 2003):

And the moral of this story is: Don't be fooled by a relaxing "old" man kicked back with his boots off. Especially if that "old" man happens to be Pat Ratliff of Lone Grove.

That's the first mistake a Dallas carjacking team made a few days ago while scouting a parking lot for an easy mark. At 83, Ratliff can strike one as an easy mark.

"They shouldn't have done that," Ratliff remarked about the totally unexpected attack.

A red-headed woman and gun-toting male companion had the element of surprise on their side. That advantage didn't account for Pat's cool approach to just about any situation and his reputation as "the man who tears quarters with his bare fingers."

Ratliff was only momentarily surprised when the woman appeared by the driver's door and began hitting him with her purse for no apparent reason. The reason became clear moments later when a man stuck a gun inside from the opposite side.

Being the alert type and an individual who's "been through a lot of stuff," Ratliff immediately began looking for an opportunity. He was ready when the man glanced away.

"I grabbed his arm and broke it over the door," Ratliff said of his response, speaking literally. "The bone was sticking from his arm. I was trying to teach him a lesson."

Knife-Wielding 90-Year-Old Sends Intruder Packing:

From: <http://news.yahoo.com>

(January 14, 2004):

Wellington- A 90-year old New Zealand man grabbed a carving knife from his kitchen and chased away a masked intruder who had threatened his wife with a butter knife.

The intruder waved the flimsy weapon at David Saulbrey's wife when she tried to ring the police to report Tuesday's break-in at their home in Lower Hutt, near Wellington, the Dominion-Post newspaper reported.

Saulbrey, who failed to hear the hapless intruder's demand for money because he was not wearing his hearing aid, then beat the burglar in a search for a more threatening weapon.

"Once I got the carving knife I said: 'Now you bastard, you're for it.' With that he threw his knife at me and took off out the door," Saulbrey told the newspaper.

"I was that bloody wild I would have stuck (the knife) in his Adam's apple," he said.

New Zealand police said they did not recommend confronting an armed intruder but praised Saulbrey's bravery.

"He's a tough old bugger. You wouldn't think he was 90, that's for sure," Detective Scott Cooper was quoted as saying.

88 year old former boxing champ KO's young mugger:

From: <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/050211/344/fc9t5.html>

(February 11, 2004):

'You picked the wrong man'

A young punk who tried to mug an 88-year-old picked the wrong man -- his intended victim turned out to be a former boxing champion who knocked the attacker out cold.

"I was visiting a friend's grave when a young, long-haired man came up to me and demanded I hand over my money," said granddad Gerhard Brinkmann of Halberstadt, Germany, who was the country's top lightweight boxer in 1936.

"I told him to come closer if he wanted it and, as he did, I landed a full-force right hook on his chin."

Would-be robber attacked by customer with hammer:

From: <http://www.ananova.com>

(March 23, 2004):

A masked gunman was hit on the head four times with a hammer after a customer intervened to stop an attempted robbery on a pizza shop.

The would-be robber had ordered everyone in Stoney's Pizza, Columbus, Ohio, to drop to the floor.

Witnesses said he searched an office for money, but when he couldn't open a till, he tried to get away.

But customer, JR Croy, used his truck to block the gunman's getaway and a sledgehammer to subdue him.

"I was sitting here with the hammer, and he pointed the gun up at me. After hitting him in the head with a hammer four times, he wouldn't go down."

The pizza shop has given Croy a \$500 reward, which he plans to use to pay some bills. The weapon the man was carrying turned out to be a paintball gun.

Croy says he will be returning to Stoney's to keep an eye on the place, reports the newsnet5 website.

Clerk foils kidnapping attempt:

From: http://www.hesperiastar.com/story.php?id=456_0_1_0_M
(April 13, 2004):

Suspect leads police on 100mph chase

A stop for a soft drink and a quick-acting convenience store clerk foiled a kidnapping attempt in Hesperia last week, police said.

At 12:46 on Monday, April 5, an unidentified 27-year-old Hesperia woman entered the 7-Eleven at Main Street and Maple Avenue to purchase a soft drink, and told the clerk on duty she was being kidnapped at gunpoint by her boyfriend.

The clerk called the police. The woman's boyfriend, identified by the Hesperia Police Department as Hesperia resident Jorge Stopani, 25, was behind the wheel of a 2000 Chevrolet Malibu waiting for his girlfriend as police arrived, and fled as they approached.

Stopani led police on a four-minute chase east down Main Street and south on 11th Avenue, at times reaching speeds of 100 miles per hour, before crashing the car into a guardrail near the aqueduct at 11th Avenue and Rancho Road.

Two concealed handguns were found on his person when Stopani was arrested, according to police.

He was booked at West Valley Detention Center in Rancho Cucamonga and was charged by the San Bernardino District Attorney's office Wednesday with kidnapping, unlawful taking or driving of a vehicle and evading an officer with willful disregard. At press time, Stopani is being held without bail on unrelated charges.

“We’re just very proud of the way the employee handled herself,” 7-Eleven corporate spokeswoman Margaret Chablis said Wednesday. “Fortunately, no harm came to the woman who came into our store.”

If found guilty of all charges at trial, Stopani faces a maximum sentence of 19 years and four months in prison.

Man scares off robbers by faking seizure:

From: <http://story.news.yahoo.com>
(June 14, 2004):

Hong Kong - An Australian man visiting a southern Chinese city scared off robbers demanding the security code for his ATM card by faking an epileptic seizure.

Tom Beckett was lured into a dead-end alley by two women who said they would take him to a DVD shop in Shenzhen, which borders Hong Kong. Five robbers then showed up and took him hostage in a nearby building, the Sunday Morning Post reported.

After finding an automated teller machine card on Beckett, the robbers asked for the number, but Beckett, with his mouth taped, feigned an epileptic seizure, the report said.

The robbers tried to treat him by pouring water over him and massaging his chest — but only after taking his watch and cash, the Post reported.

"They obviously didn't want dead meat on their hands," Beckett was quoted as saying.

The robbers then escorted Beckett out of the building and set him free.

Area cop jailed:

From: <http://www.wjhg.com/home/headlines/2241201.html>
(July 16, 2005):

A Mexico Beach police officer is being charged with child abuse.

Gulf County sheriff's investigators arrested 34-year-old Timothy E. M. based on a complaint filed on January 17 by the Florida Department of Children and Families.

The initial report was that M. had beaten his 11-year-old son. Investigators say they found bruises on the boy's neck and face.

M. said he was teaching his son self-defense techniques, and the boy did not block one of his punches.

Based on their findings, Gulf County deputies filed the abuse charge against M. He was booked into the Gulf County Jail in Port St. Joe, then released on his own recognizance.

Child abuse is a third degree felony punishable by up to five years in prison.

Bank robber referred to next counter:

From: <http://www.ananova.com>
(December 7, 2005):

A bank robber fled empty-handed in Austria after being referred to a different counter.

The clerk he approached told him she did not "deal with those types of queries".

But there was a big queue for the next cashier at the Landesbank-Hypotheckenbank in Vienna.

So the man, who was holding a silver box that he claimed was a bomb, fled before repeating his request.

Clerk Maria Bertel said: "He came up to me wearing his scarf wrapped high around his face and said he wanted money. I said I didn't deal with money here and told him to go to the next counter.

"It was only afterwards I realised he was trying to rob the bank. We called the police, but by the time they came he had run off."

Cartoonist quick on the draw:

From: <http://www.ananova.com>
(January 18, 2006):

A burglar who stole from a cartoonist in Australia was arrested - after his victim drew his picture.

Bill Green, 82, known for his pictures of sports stars, saw the man take a cycle from his shed, says the Mirror.

He gave his sketch to police who matched it to a man arrested for a different theft in Melbourne, Australia.

Senior Constable Michael Henry said: "Holding up the cartoon, officers were amazed to find it was the spitting image of the man in the back of their paddy wagon."

A 34-year-old man was charged with burglary and assault and is due in court.

Cashier slapped robber:

From: <http://www.ananova.com>
(January 30, 2006):

An armed robber fled after a cashier in a betting shop pulled off his mask and slapped him round the face.

Ana Zuric, 47, unfazed by the robber's gun, told him: "Don't be such a silly boy."

The robber had demanded he hand over the day's takings at the betting shop in the Croatian capital Zagreb.

But he fled empty handed after she pulled off his mask and slapped him across the face, local media reported.

"I told him not to be such a silly boy," Zuric said.

Police are still searching for the man, believed to be in his 20s.

James gives burglar the Blunt treatment:

From: <http://www.soundgenerator.com/news/index.cfm?articleid=6922&maingenreid=3>
(January 30, 2006):

The singer fends off a thief.

James Blunt had a narrow escape with a burglar recently while attending an awards ceremony in France.

The hit singer/songwriter, who's "Back To Bedlam" was the UK's biggest selling record of 2005 (and has recently entered the US top ten), was in Cannes, France, to accept an NRJ Radio Award and was staying at the reclusive Martinez Hotel.

According to Blunt, the Best Newcomer trophy is the perfect device for staving off burglars.

"It was pitch black in the room so I couldn't really see anything," he says. I was looking for a phone to ring downstairs, or for an emergency button to push, but the only thing I could find was my NRJ award. It's a big solid lump, so I picked it up and whacked him.

"He then threw himself off the balcony and ran away."

The incident happened on January 21st.

Blunt's next opportunity to land a further haul of self-defence devices comes at the Brit Awards in London, with the singer sharing the most nominations - five - with the Kaiser Chiefs.

Kindy teachers offered self-defence to combat feisty kids:

From: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/0,2106,3561087a11,00.html>
(February 2, 2006):

Kindergarten teachers are being offered self-defence training in a bid to combat biting, hitting and hair-pulling youngsters.

The programme, funded by the Ministry of Education, trains teachers to deal with "crisis situations", the Manawatu Standard reported today.

Josh Couperus, one of four people from the ministry's Group Special Education which runs the course, said it covers "how to stop a punch, a kick, choking, biting, hair-pulling, and they also learn restraint techniques".

"Kindy teachers certainly get bitten and certainly get hit."

The course teaches how to identify and manage potentially dangerous situations and prevent them from turning violent.

"The purpose of this course is to provide the best care, welfare, safety and security of everybody involved in a crisis," Mr Couperus says.

A website promoting the course said it was designed to target the special needs of caregivers, particularly with the rising level of violence in society.

Rangitikei National MP Simon Power has slammed the course as an example of skewed educational priorities.

"It's a sad indictment when people that just want to teach our children are being required to learn restraint methods and take self-defence courses," he said.

"I feel sorry for the teachers because I'm sure they'd rather spend their time on professional development that will help them better educate our kids.

"I think the public would be astounded that the teachers, who do a great job, are required to do a course like this."

He wanted bagels, but then he wanted dough:

From: <http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2006602020385>
(February 2, 2006):

He ordered two plain bagels -- then demanded cash.

But the robbery attempt failed, police said. The man went into New York Bagel Baking Co., 19731 W. Twelve Mile, about 5:45 p.m. Jan. 24.

A 53-year-old employee told police the man presented her with a note announcing the robbery. She grabbed a knife, backed up to a phone and dialed 911.

She told police that the man then left the store -- with the bagels.

Self-defense: What is self-defense?:

From: <http://www.valleybusinessjournal.com/?p=249>
(February 3, 2006):

by John Gabriele

I've been battling this for years. I have devoted a good part of my life to this pursuit of "Self-Defense". I've trained in a Martial Art for years, trained in Kick-Boxing, fought in Full Contact Kick-Boxing, attended numerous self-defense type seminars and still didn't have a concept of what self-defense really was. As a matter of fact I'm not so sure that the skills that I had at the time would have done me any good in a real life-threatening situation.

As the, Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women, puts it:
" Self-defense is a set of awareness, assertiveness, verbal confrontation skills, safety strategies, and physical techniques that enable someone to successfully prevent, escape, resist and survive violent assaults".

Aaaaah, not just physical techniques! That's the key, that's what was missing in my training, and the training I was giving to others. See I had the techniques, or thought I did, and was teaching these skills, but that is not enough, as the following will explain.

Think about this: You're walking back to your car with your spouse after a nice dinner. The car next to yours is filled with young toughs blaring loud music. One of them is sitting on your hood. You walk up and with a big smile politely ask the guy to get off your car. He turns to you with red glaring eyes. "You want me to get off your car?" He asks in a tone that screams, "It ain't gonna be that easy."

What's your response? After training for many years, I can tell you most instructors would have analyzed that situation in terms of what techniques could I use to subdue the antagonist. Some thought also would have gone into how to avoid the problem.

However, virtually all the self-defense training I have had, and you may have had, never addressed the real question, "what is your response?" The response is that your chest tightens, your legs get heavy, your mind starts to race and you may even experience a freezing-up. At least, that's what most people, trained or untrained, experience when faced with a pure, evil intent to harm them. It's a human response often referred to as the "fight or flight reflex." Or, as others call it, "flight or freeze."

To be continued.

'Monster' killed wife No 6:

From: http://news24.com/News24/South_Africa/News/0,,2-7-1442_1876846,00.html
(February 7, 2006):

Johannesburg - A Pretoria pest controller who fatally shot his wife after she attacked him with a blunt sword was jailed on Tuesday for at least 10 months.

Judge Johan Els sentenced Izak Jansen, 50, of Uitzicht to five years' imprisonment in terms of the Criminal Procedures Act, making him eligible for parole after he has served 10 months of his jail sentence.

Jansen said that in May 2004 he shot dead his 32-year-old alcoholic wife, Lizelle, in self-defence after she had attacked him with her handbag, a wooden statue and a blunt ornamental sword.

The court found that although Mrs Jansen had been drunk and attacked her husband, he had exceeded the bounds of self-defence and found him guilty of culpable homicide.

Els said it was not improbable that Jansen may have shot his wife twice in desperation.

On Tuesday, a quite-different picture emerged in a report by probation officer René Pretorius.

Pretorius, who interviewed Jansen's parents-in-law and two of his five previous wives among others, said Jansen had a worrying pattern of behaviour in his relationships with women, marked by jealousy, manipulation and violence.

Two of his ex-wives regarded him as a "terrible danger" to society and said he should be locked up to protect other women.

Both said he had impressed them as a charming, caring and successful businessman when they met him, but he turned into a violent, jealous and manipulative man.

He did not even allow them to look other people in the eye when they went out in public and subjected them to numerous assaults and death threats.

Both of them had obtained protection orders against him after being assaulted and threatened.

One of his ex-wives described how he left her in black townships without any money on occasion and pushed his finger down her throat when he felt she had eaten too much.

He also forced her to keep her curtains closed at all times, dangled her from the balcony of their flat and threatened her with a knife against her throat.

She was not surprised to hear of his wife's death and was convinced he was capable of killing again.

Pretorius said in her report the possibility that Jansen had provoked his wife into attacking him through his own violence could not be ignored.

She said it was clear Jansen had no remorse whatsoever about killing his wife and portrayed himself as the "victim" who had acted in self-defence and should never have been convicted.

His parents-in-law admitted their daughter had an alcohol problem and that they had obtained a protection order against her, but said it was because of verbal and not physical threats.

They felt particularly aggrieved because Jansen had never expressed remorse and, up to now, had never made any attempt to contact them.

Clerk describes battling blowtorch bandit:

From: <http://nbcсандiego.com/news/7157066/detail.html?rss=dgo&psp=news>
(February 17, 2006):

San Diego -- A gas-station clerk describes his battle with the blowtorch bandit, which was caught on tape by multiple surveillance cameras.

Store clerk Eric Piva fought off the robber on New Year's Eve at the Valero Gas Station in Encinitas on Birmingham Drive. Sheriff's investigators are hoping the public can help identify the bandit, who is a white man in his 50s or 60s.

"He had on a Gilligan hat and mirrored glasses -- you know ... aviator glasses. I thought it was Halloween, but it wasn't the right season," Piva said, chuckling.

What happened next was no laughing matter.

"Load it," said the bandit, gesturing to a large nylon bag he had placed on the counter.

"What?" asked Piva.

"Load it full of money," the robber demanded.

"Are you crazy?" Piva asked the bandit.

"I am," was the response.

The bandit can be seen lighting the torch on tape as Piva ran toward him with Polynesian headhunting club. You can see the robber light it as Piva comes at him.

"I knew he was serious," said Piva. "My instinct [was] to just turn around, and I tried to beat him up."

Piva repeatedly hit the blowtorch bandit, who fled almost immediately, with the club.

"He wasn't saying anything," said Piva. "He was moaning, I think."

Piva chased the robber outside, who jumped into a car with a female accomplice inside. Off-camera, Piva threw a plastic chair through the car windshield as it sped away.

According to investigators, the gas station wasn't the only target in Encinitas for the blowtorch bandit that night. Fifteen minutes earlier, the man tried to rob a Rite Aid on Santa Fe Drive.

"The cashier looked at him and told him to get out of the store," said Detective Bob Stevenson of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. "The suspect turned around and left."

The blowtorch bandit hasn't struck since New Year's Eve, as far as law-enforcement officials know. For his part, Piva thinks the bandit may have learned his lesson.

"If he comes back again, I'll teach him another lesson."

Investigators said that the man took off in a silver two-door Dodge Neon. The license plate could begin with 4DT.

Intruder beset by own pupils:

From: <http://www.washingtonpost.com>
(February 23, 2006):

Karate Teacher Admits Breaking Into Home of Twin Sisters, 10

The masked man had a plan.

He would enter the Vienna family's townhouse in the middle of the night, gag them with strips of a towel, bind their hands and feet with plastic ties and then stealthily strip their home of jewels, cash and electronics.

The residents had another plan.

Two 10-year-old sisters, asleep in their beds when the masked man tried to bind one of them, fought and kicked and screamed and bit. Then the parents leapt into the fray, and the intruder retreated with nothing but cuts and bruises.

Yesterday, Andrew Jacobs, 43, admitted in a Fairfax County courtroom that he was the masked man. He was also the girls' karate instructor -- and he apparently taught the twin sisters, who have blue belts, how to protect themselves.

At a minimum, Jacobs faces 20 years in prison when he is sentenced in May.

According to the prosecutor, Jacobs slipped into the family's townhouse shortly after midnight on Oct. 2. A part-time instructor at the Mountain Kim Martial Arts studio, Jacobs told police that he knew his two students lived in the Townes of Moorefield subdivision off Nutley Street.

That night, he was dressed in black and wore a black mask and gloves, said Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Marc. J. Birnbaum. He was also carrying an "all-purpose tool" that included a 3- to 4-inch knife blade, the prosecutor said.

Jacobs found a towel in the family's laundry room and used his knife to cut it into strips, Birnbaum said. Then he went into the bedroom where the girls were sleeping. As Jacobs climbed on top of one of the girls and forced a towel into her mouth, she started yelling, awakening her sister, who jumped up to help.

He tried to wrap a towel around the second sister's eyes, then pushed her down, Birnbaum said. As they fought and kicked, the second sister bit Jacobs's finger, Birnbaum said, and Jacobs responded by punching her twice in the eye.

The first sister kept screaming through her gag, Birnbaum said, and their mother and father darted into the room. The father and Jacobs "exchanged several punches" as the struggle moved into the parents' bedroom, Birnbaum said. Jacobs then swung

himself behind the father and placed him in an arm hold while the father inflicted a second bite wound, the prosecutor said.

That's when the girls' mother picked up a table lamp and whacked Jacobs in the head several times, Birnbaum said, and Jacobs fled. Photographs of the girls showed they had marks from where one was gagged and one was punched.

Their mother told Vienna police that the intruder's receding hairline and ponytail were like those of "Andy," her daughters' karate instructor. Investigators went to Mountain Kim, got his full name and then visited his house that afternoon.

Jacobs admitted that he had broken into the house. After he tied up the family, his plan was to "first get the small stuff, then go back for the big stuff," Birnbaum said.

During yesterday's hearing, Jacobs told Circuit Court Judge Stanley P. Klein that he didn't go there to hurt anyone and that he didn't even have to break in. The door was unlocked.

Jacobs pleaded guilty to one count of abduction and one count of attempted abduction, which carry possible sentences of 10 and five years, respectively. He entered an Alford plea -- meaning he does not admit guilt but acknowledges that there is enough evidence for a conviction -- to burglary with a deadly weapon. That count carries a minimum 20-year term and a maximum of life in prison.

Jacobs's attorney, Lavonda Graham, asked Klein if Jacobs might be released on bond before his sentencing. But Klein said Jacobs was staying in jail. "This is a horrible crime. He's potentially a danger to the community."

Motel maids battle with mop and plunger:

From: <http://www.ananova.com>
(March 9, 2006):

A fight between two motel maids, armed with a plunger and a mop, ended with one in hospital and the other in jail.

The women accused each other of taking toilet rolls from each other's cleaning carts at a motel in Charleston, South Carolina.

Police were called after the fight left one of the women, 52, with a welt requiring hospital treatment, reports the Post and Courier.

The other maid, Deloris Smith, 47, told police she was defending herself from a woman wielding a plunger.

She was charged with assault.

Granny floors intruder with TV karate moves:

From: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2006/04/10/karate_granny/
(April 10, 2006):

Battling Romanian septuagenarian

We've said it before and we'll say it again: what on Earth is happening to the world's pensioners? Time was, your dear old grandpa would be sitting in a fireside chair, dispensing wisdom and Werther's Originals in equal measure while wrapped in a tartan travelling rug, faithful Labrador asleep at his beslippered feet.

Over in Lithuania, meanwhile, battling old timers prefer to burn off their excess energy by giving burglars' testicles a good seeing to - and we don't mean in the prosecution of a blue rinse smut flick, either.

Ditto Romania, where a 75-year-old woman recently floored an intruder with some sharp karate moves she picked up on a TV self defence show.

Anica D from the village of Popeni in Vaslui county woke up to find her self being assaulted by the night-time ne'er-do-well. She shouted for help, but none was forthcoming.

Accordingly, she "immobilised" the assailant and then called in the authorities, Romanian paper Ziarul reports.

The 30 year old miscreant has been charged with burglary and attempted rape, although it's clear he can count himself lucky to escape with his vitals intact.