



Exercising the Right

The “Desperate Woman” Ploy

The Exponent Telegram reported on April 19 out of Fairmont, West Virginia, about three burglars who employed an age-old trick to take advantage of an unsuspecting victim. Fairmont Police Chief Steve Shine told *The Exponent Telegram* that an 80-year-old man was home alone when he heard loud knocking on his door in the middle of the night. The older gentleman thought it was suspicious, so he retrieved his loaded five-shot revolver from his coffee table, placed it in his back pocket, and then went to answer the door. A woman who was knocking on the door, later identified as 23-year-old Whitney Kabiru, told the homeowner that she needed to use the elderly man’s phone for an emergency. When the man opened the door to let her in, he was suddenly bum-rushed by two male burglars who were waiting outside. The two male suspects forced the homeowner further into his home, and one of them pulled out what police later determined was either a pellet or BB gun. The burglars demanded the man’s personal items, but the homeowner pulled out his own revolver and shot both suspects. The two injured suspects fled the scene, as the burglary victim called the police.

Authorities arrived and found the body of one of the male suspects, identified as 28-year-old Larry Shaver, who was shot in both the neck and the head, lying in the driveway. Twenty-eight-year-old John Grossklaus was located nearby, with a gunshot wound to his lower abdomen, and he was taken to a local medical facility for treatment. Kabiru reportedly ran off before the shooting occurred, but was later apprehended by police and is being charged with robbery and conspiracy.

Police Chief Steve Shine told *The Exponent Telegram* that the shooting was in self-defense. “I can tell you that we are investigating it, and all the evidence that we have collected and information we gathered and statements we’ve taken have led us to the belief that this was a shooting in self-defense.” Shine also explained that the tactic used by the burglars is a common one. “The female knocked on the door as a ruse to try and get the other males in.”

Neighbors were shocked and saddened about the incident. Geneva Wood had just moved to the area recently and she told *The Exponent Telegram* that her “husband heard screams and crying.... We moved here thinking maybe it’s a little bit better, but now this happened. Now we don’t know whether to move or not.”

Suspect in Black Hoodie

KXII.com reported on April 15 out of Paris, Texas, about a dangerous home invasion that left a man and his wife terrified for the future. Pedro Ayala was sleeping in bed with his wife when he was jarred awake by the sounds of someone trying to enter the front door of his house. Ayala quietly whispered to his wife to stay in the bed and not move while he grabbed a loaded firearm that he had stashed nearby. Ayala slowly moved through his house, trying not to make any noises while he searched for signs of an intruder. Then Ayala heard the sound of shuffling feet near the back corner of his home. Ayala readied his firearm and turned the corner only to come face to face with an armed burglar. Ayala told KXII.com that he yelled for the man to freeze: “I said ... freeze ... don’t move.... [Then Ayala saw the suspect] had a 9 mm in his left hand, he had either a pocket knife or a razor, in his right hand.... He was wearing all black, with a hoodie covering his face.” The suspect did not listen to Ayala’s verbal directions, so Ayala



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fired at him. “When I fired a shot, he got up and tried to jump out the window, so I tried to grab him,” Ayala said. “When I switched hands with the gun, he cut me.” The burglar was able to escape through a window after cutting Ayala, and he fled from the house in a car. Authorities were called to the scene by a frazzled Ayala, and are still looking for the suspect. Ayala said that they’ve seen people dressed in all black come through their backyard before, and now they live in fear that the criminal or criminals may return to the scene of the crime.

John Berry of the Paris police told KXII.com that, based on what he was told by Ayala and his wife, “[The suspects were] armed and if they’re armed I would consider them dangerous.”

Intruders Kill Family Dog

WDRB.com reported out of southern Louisville on April 20 about a burglary attempt that quickly turned tragic. A husband was home with his wife when two teenage intruders broke in to their house. The family dog immediately began barking at them, and the armed suspects fired on the dog, mortally wounding the animal as he tried to defend his home turf. The husband heard the shots that claimed the life of the beloved family pet and quickly retrieved his loaded firearm. The husband fired at the intruders, hitting them both. The wounded suspects fled the scene, and the wife called 911. Authorities arrived on the scene and discovered the injured suspects not far from the house. They were taken to a nearby medical facility for treatment and are expected to survive. The wife told police that the two teenage intruders broke in to the house not knowing that her husband was home.

Neighbor Charles Graham described the sounds of the incident to WDRB.com: “Pop, pop, pop! And there was a pause, and then, pop, pop! ... And then a couple seconds later, he [one of the suspects] was running down the street saying his brother got shot.”

Neighbor Gary Dickman expressed support for the actions of the man, as well as sorrow over what happened to the family dog: “I mean, it’s a shame that you have to protect your house like that, but someone comes in your house like that while you’re home, then I guess you have that right.” Dickman also said that the neighborhood has been struggling with rampant crime caused by teenage thugs and that, only a few weeks ago, he actually confronted some teenagers trying to burglarize that very same house where the shooting occurred. “Those guys took off running. There was two more that came out from behind his fence, and they took off,” Dickman told WDRB.com as he described the earlier incident.

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