



## Exercising the Right

### Bringing a Pickaxe to a Gun Fight

WPMI, the NBC news affiliate in Mobile, Alabama, reported on February 28 about a terrifying incident where a deranged man used a pickaxe to break through three doors to gain entry to a business. The event unfolded when 20-year-old Sedrick Jemison allegedly used a pickaxe to smash open a door to Elite Marine, a seller of used watercraft, in Foley, Alabama. The 74-year-old owner of the business lives on the premises and was asleep in his bedroom at the time of the break-in. The noise from Jemison's shattering the glass on the front door woke the owner up.

The scared business owner quickly retrieved his personal firearm and readied his weapon, as he could hear the intruder getting further and further into his business.

Jemison continued his invasion and successfully broke down the main entrance to the business and began cutting down a second door to get back to the living area. The owner pointed his gun at his bedroom door when he saw the end of the pickaxe smash through it. As the door gave way and Jemison barged into his bedroom, the owner fired his weapon, hitting Jemison multiple times. The business owner called 911, and authorities soon arrived to discover Jemison's lifeless body at the scene.

Foley Police Captain Thurston Bullock told WPMI that the suspect had his face covered when he broke in to the bedroom and lunged at the victim: "At that point he was in the room with him. He came in with a black bandanna on his face." "He [the businessman] had every right to be in fear for his life and he took action accordingly. And if he hadn't, I think the tables would have been turned," Captain Bullock told WPMI.

Kathy Thompson, who lives near Elite Marine, told WPMI that the business owner was left with no other choice but to use deadly force. "I don't know what he could do besides let him kill him. He had to defend himself. He broke through that many doors, came with an ax you have to do what you have to do," she told WPMI.

### Stalker Shot

KPLC, the NBC affiliate in Lake Charles, Louisiana, reported on February 23 about a case of a stalker who finally pushed his victim too far. The alleged stalker, 31-year-old Derrick Brown, is a former acquaintance of one member of a Lake Charles family, and police say he had been harassing the person for quite some time. Two days after a recent burglary, law enforcement said, Brown returned to the home. He allegedly tried to force his way in as the former acquaintance, a woman, tried to close the door. Brown was much stronger than the woman and was able to force the door open. The woman had a pistol on her, and she fired at Brown, hitting him.

The injured Brown ran from the house into the car of a friend, who was waiting in a cemetery behind the house. The accomplice drove Brown to a hospital, where he received treatment for his injuries, which were not life-threatening.

The Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office told KPLC that police believe Brown stole a cellphone and a vehicle from the house in the burglary that took place two days before the shooting. The cellphone was recovered after Brown was arrested, but the vehicle has not yet been found. Brown was charged with



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simple burglary of an inhabited dwelling, attempted simple burglary of an inhabited dwelling, illegal possession of stolen things, cocaine possession with intent to distribute, stalking, theft of over \$750, and theft of a motor vehicle, and is being held at the Calcasieu Correctional Center.

## **Death at the Donut Shop**

The criminals who targeted a donut shop for a robbery probably assumed it would be an easy target, but you know what they say happens when one assumes. KABC, the ABC affiliate in Los Angeles, reported on February 24 about two robbery suspects who broke in to a Lancaster, California-based donut shop called Sugary Donut, a little before 3 a.m. The criminals likely thought that no one would be in the store at that time, but an employee was there making the donuts for the early-morning customers. Unfortunately for the robbers, this was no ordinary employee. According to police investigators, the employee had prior experience working in donut shops, where he has been victimized, leading him to arm himself and be prepared for any repeat occurrence of such a crime.

Lieutenant John Corina of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau explained to KABC that the employee who was working at the time "had been the victim of a robbery before, he had been robbed at a previous donut shop where he worked."

The employee was armed and ready when he heard the sounds of the two men breaking in to the store. One of the men, who authorities believe was armed with a tire iron, went behind the counter and menacingly approached the employee and the female owner of the store. The armed employee, in fear for his life and the life of his employer, fired at the suspect, fatally injuring him. The second suspect, who was busy grabbing money from the cash register at this time, heard the shots and quickly ran from the shop, and is still being sought by law enforcement. The employee dialed 911, and the police who responded discovered one suspect, who was pronounced dead at the scene. Police said one suspect did grab the cash register, but dropped it when the shooting began. Lt. Corina did not explicitly say the shooting was justified because the investigation is still ongoing, but he did admit that it appeared the employee was lawfully exercising his rights. "Well, it's legal in California. You work inside your business, you can be armed. You can have a weapon inside your business, just like you can have a weapon inside your home," he told KABC. Authorities recovered the vehicle they believe was used by the suspects, and they feel they are much closer to finding the surviving suspect.

The owner of the donut shop expressed gratitude for the fast actions of her employee and said that both he and she are still trying to come to terms with what happened. "He is very shook up and so am I.... I'm just glad that he's okay," the donut shop owner told KTLA.

— Patrick Krey



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