

COP SHOP

By Officer Nance Hawkins

INTRUDERS: Firearms in the Home

If you see, or believe an intruder is in your home do not try to stop or detain him. Quickly leave your home and go to a neighbor's to telephone the police. Tell the operator exactly what you observed as calmly as possible. Stay on the line and don't hang up until the operator tells you to do so.

Keeping a firearm in your home is a personal decision, recent studies have shown that firearms kept in the home have caused needless tragedies and are rarely successful as a defensive weapon. If you decide to keep a gun in your home you should be familiar with the weapon, have proper firearms training, and know the law regarding the use of the deadly force.

Generally, California Law states that deadly force can only be used in defense of life; the law includes situations inside as well as outside of your home. You cannot use deadly force to protect property. In other words, you cannot shoot someone who is taking your property. In some instances you may have to establish that the suspect

was capable of harming you and that he had a weapon. Remember, as stated earlier, if you encounter an intruder in your home the best defense is to go to a neighbor's home to call the police.

If you do purchase a weapon, train with it extensively. There are several firearm courses available locally. Firearms are extremely powerful and a bullet from a handgun can penetrate the walls through an entire length of a home. The more powerful rifles may penetrate through the length of several homes.

If you have other questions about handling guns and/or intruders call the community relations office at 224-2833.

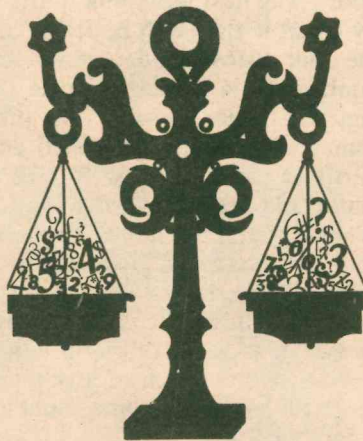
*Cop-shop crime up-date
May 18 - June 18*

2100 Abbott, 4800 Del Monte, 4400 Green Street, 4900 Longbranch, 4700 Muir, 4500 Narragansett, 4800 Santa Cruz, 2400 Seaside, 1500 Sunset Cliffs, 5000 West Point Loma, 4900 West Point Loma.

Getting things done isn't necessarily the same as doing things.

FRANKLY SPEAKING

By Billy Frank



THE CASE OF THE BLACK-EYED SUSAN

She was not a flower. She was a pretty little 23 year old woman looking for legal help with no money, no home, no clothes and two black eyes. Her story wasn't new nor even very different. Six months ago she moved in with her boyfriend and three months ago he started knocking her around. Yesterday he came home, punched her out then threw her out. She figures she is up the raging river without a raft. She isn't married to the dude so she can't sue for a divorce and get support or anything else (after all, Lee Marvin DID win); the police won't help out in a family feud like this. Is there no relief for the hapless maiden?

There is the new best seller on the singles scene - THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT of 1980. The California lawmakers with unusual insight enacted this little gem. They said, "the purposes of this (law) are to prevent the recurrence of acts of violence by a spouse or HOUSEHOLD MEMBER against another spouse or other family or HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS, and to provide for a separation of the persons involved in such domestic violence for a period of time sufficient to enable such persons to seek resolution of the causes of the violence." Naturally, that means kick one person out of the house until everybody cools off. Little black-eyed Susan is in luck. She is a person who regularly resides in the household and therefore can get a court order.

Here is what the lawyer will do for Susan. She will write up an affidavit (like under oath) stating all the heinous acts of violence the BF (boyfriend) has inflicted on little black-eyed Susan, and asking the judge to kick him out of the house, let little Susan stay there, and order the S.L.O.B. not to darken the doorway. The judge can make this order without any notice to the BF and just on the say-so of the little black-eyed Susan. The old BF doesn't suspect a thing until the big bad TRO (temporary restraining order) is laid on him - probably at work in his dirty old clothes. He may be restrained from going within oh say - 1000 yards of the house. These temporary restraining orders can be in effect for 15 to 20 days. All is not lost. Usually the order provides that with a friendly lawman present BF can get a few clothes and personal effects like maybe a razor blade.

To add insult to mortification, the judge might later make BF pay little black-eyed Susan's attorney fees. (That's usually about \$90 and up per hour and the lawyer decides the number of hours). However, justice will prevail, and if little black-eyed Susan twisted the facts to get the TRO, the judge may order her to pay BF damages. (He can't blame the lawyer, or the judge if little Susan has split and never had a dime to her name anyway.)

Happy Ending: BF and little (no-longer black-eyed) Susan can meet in court 15 days after the TRO, kiss and make up and BF can live happily ever after because he now knows that next time, he'll be first in the TRO race to the judge.

If you would like to know more about this exciting romance, you can read California Code of Civil Procedure Articles 540 to 553.

The best way to forget your own problems is to help someone else solve theirs.



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