



Bodyguard Tom Muzila (far right) with client Victoria Principal and her husband Dr. Harry Glassman

The Art of Bodyguarding

by Tom Muzila

As a professional bodyguard, I have found myself in some very exciting, interesting and amusing situations and places. For example, when filming *Above the Law*, in 1986, I was Steven Seagal's personal bodyguard. We filmed in Cabrini Green on one particular night. It is considered one of the most dangerous project areas in Chicago. A few months prior, there had been fifty-four sniper type shootings in two months. The police are very reluctant to go in the area. I found myself watching these old apartment projects with a loaded .45 caliber in my belt, looking for movement of sniper rifles. In the distance, I could hear the yelling of gangs who were armed with automatic sub-machine guns. I pondered what I was going to do if I had to face a gang of thirty with automatic weapons by myself. Luckily, we only got a bottle thrown through our makeup trailer window.

To define what I mean by bodyguard, I must first exclude patriots, religious zealots and masochists. These are people

who are prepared and willing to die for their client, but they also tend to be non-professionals, and sacrifice is often the only strategy open to them. Unlike these groups, I have no intention of dying for my client. However, as a professional, I have no intention of letting harm come to my client either.

The art of bodyguarding has evolved considerably over the years and is often underestimated. Having a huge bodyguard staked out next to a client for intimidation purposes is only a minor factor in bodyguarding. You must also incorporate into your plan a team of individual bodyguards, people with police and military experience, and then the intimidating looking bodyguards. They should all be used and positioned properly. You must also create various perimeters of protection, such as a close-proximity perimeter right around your client, a medium perimeter, and an outside perimeter of security which could be up to a block away from the client.

I have been in charge of security at benefits in Beverly Hills where six hundred

celebrities were in attendance. At one particular benefit, I was Oprah Winfrey and Stevie Wonder's personal bodyguard as Oprah had some threats imposed upon her. I've found myself bodyguarding movie producer Ted Field and his wife Susan along with Heather Thomas on a thirty-million-dollar yacht in Europe cruising the Mediterranean. We had to keep an eye out for drug and pirate boats and also night or underwater scuba terrorists and intruders.

The most important actions to take when protecting a client are preventive in nature. That includes everything right up to placing yourself between an attacker and your client. If you fail and the attacker is successful, a crime has been committed and law enforcement takes over. However, to fail is unthinkable. Your client has placed his absolute trust in you. For him, you stand alone between his enjoyment of the fruits of success and the misery of a life of fear. He can be at ease only if he has complete confidence in you. The only way that can happen is if you earn that confidence. Your capability is



"For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction."

Sir Isaac Newton 1642-1727 English mathematician and physicist.

The history of rocketry dates back to the ancient Chinese who first discovered and used a primitive form of gun powder encased in a paper-like casing to hold the rocket together. It was not a true rocket in the modern sense in that it required

atmospheric oxygen for combustion. This device still finds application on a limited scale today.

Many problems remain, and experiments are being conducted on various formulae of fuels and combustion

processes. Chemists are constantly testing various materials to maximize the output of energy for a given amount of mass. But physical chemistry appears to have its limits. So, the investigation is leading to more exotic forms.

Instead of ejecting fiery gases there is some expectation that ions could be harnessed to supplant gases—in short, ionic drive. An ion is, simply put, an atom or molecule (a group of atoms) that has lost one or more of the electrons that encircles it. It therefore carries an electric charge. Such electrically charged subatomic particles can be caused to move in an electric field. Depending on the ambient friction, these ions can move at fantastic velocities, in some cases approaching the speed of light.

The problem with ionic drive is that an electric field of very high intensity must be present to cause the ions to move. Also, the field must be polarized, i.e., the perimeter of the field must be charged either negatively or positively. This, in effect, creates the field itself. Then, the ions must be introduced into the field and allowed to accelerate to the desired velocity and directed to the rear of the vehicle. The logical conclusion can be drawn from Sir Isaac Newton's law of motion. If the ions can be made to move to the rear at or near the speed of light, then the rocket will begin to move forward and accelerate to, or near to, the speed of light. The speed of light is approximately 300 million meters per second or 186,000 miles per second.

Astronomers, when discussing distances, often speak in terms of light-years. A light-year is the distance light travels in one year at the speed previously mentioned. It is safe to say that velocities at or near the speed of light will be required to reach our nearest interstellar neighbors.

It should be borne in mind that what is impossible today may be commonplace tomorrow. Many of our modern appliances and devices weren't even dreamed of one hundred years ago. If mankind is to achieve interstellar travel in a normal human lifespan, then travel at velocities near the speed of light will be imperative. The future of mankind itself may depend on this fantastic adventure far beyond our planet Earth.

Some years ago archaeologists uncovered an ancient Egyptian tomb. Inside they found an inscription which they deciphered and declared to be most sad and somber. The message read: "I have seen yesterday, I know tomorrow." Perhaps in light of today's knowledge and technological development it can be interpreted as anxiously hopeful.



Jane Meadows and Steve Allen are surrounded by bodyguards (l-r) Bill Ungerman, Tom Muzila and Willard Butler

demonstrated in your ability to plan and take action. If you are 100 percent effective, your client will never even know he may have been exposed to danger. You will give all of the appearances of not being needed.

A few years ago, I was one of Archbishop Desmond Tutu's bodyguards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills. The Archbishop was here to receive a specific award, but we had also heard he was a primary target on a hit list of a significant European political group. We were strictly prohibited to carry weapons

was on a collision course with Miss Griffith, and my only choice was to place myself between the skier and my client. The collision resulted in a real tumble with my handgun sailing through the air and landing in the snow next to two waiting skiers. This exposure could have been embarrassing to my clients, so I continued to roll and fall until I could place myself on top of the gun and recover it to concealment. A novice skier wouldn't have been so lucky.

At the Leonard vs. Duran championship fight in Las Vegas, I was

"A 'hot-dog' skier was on a collision course with Miss Griffith, and my only choice was to place myself between the skier and my client."

with a potential prime target. My associate Bill Ungerman and I were assigned directly to the Archbishop. We were there literally to block the Archbishop from getting shot using only our bodies without any weapon defense.

One plan or even a few plans won't cover every circumstance, neither will a reactive operation. If you wait to react to a situation you are already too late. A wide variety of plans must be developed based on the client's personality, his movements, his associations and identified or presumed sources of threat. As different as clients are, so different must your security plans become. It is dangerous to try to make the client fit the plan. There are no "package deals" when it comes to an effective security program. Bodyguarding is far more a mind game than just a brute strength contest.

An occasion presented itself while I was assigned to protect Don Johnson and Melanie Griffith on the slopes of Aspen, Colorado. A "hot-dog" skier

assigned to protect Vanna White and her escort, George San Pedro. In that environment it was necessary to be as close to Miss White as her escort was. Surrounded by photographers and newspaper people, I was faced with trying not to look like a bodyguard while trying not to look like her escort and while trying to prevent any other problems for Miss White. It might have been easier to get in the ring with the fighters.

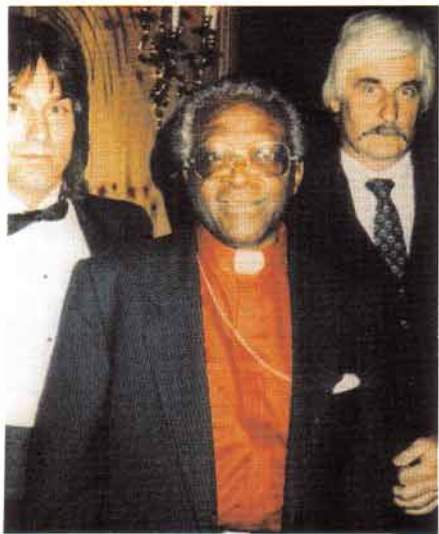
There are different levels of threat and diplomacy involved in bodyguarding. The high-threat-level clients are strong potential targets. These kinds of clients pose high risks for bodyguards and usually involve specific planned attacks for a focused reason: money, kidnapping, ransoms, etc. Many times wealthy individuals or key corporate executives in foreign countries active with specific terrorist groups could fall into this category. You have individuals like Ted and Susan Field who have an incredible level of personal and technological

security. I've heard it said by special agents to the President that the Field's technological security is more sophisticated than the White House. Then you have the celebrity individuals who are being critically harassed by fanatic fans. There are also wealthy individuals who need their estate and monetary possessions protected. A bodyguard or security staff may be hired specifically to make the client's activities, trips, vacations and meetings go more smoothly and efficiently.

Personal protection can take you all over the world. Back in the early seventies, while in Special Forces, I found myself out in the jungles designated to protect a highly-targeted political leader in Bolivia. A few years later, I discovered myself in a motorhome in Tennessee, bodyguarding six burlesque dancers while they were having breast implant surgery performed.

Can you envision the range of criteria, the mix of capability required to successfully complete an assignment? You must go where your client goes. You must do what your client does. If he climbs mountains, you climb mountains.

In the last couple of years, the situation with celebrities and wealthy individuals in Beverly Hills, Hollywood, Brentwood, and Bel Air has become critical. Crime,



(L-R) Tom Muzila, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Bill Ungerman

harassment and threatening events get worse every year. We cannot always depend upon the police and sheriff departments. But, if I were to put on a cape and go out into the world myself, I would soon have my own little rubber room someplace. I also wouldn't make much of a living. That's why I'm a bodyguard, because to be a bodyguard is to be part of the solution.