

# Security guard lucky to be alive after gun fails to fire

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN  
Staff Writer

York Regional Police have nabbed a suspected shoplifter who, when challenged by security Wednesday, tried to fire his handgun twice at the guard.

The Sears security officer is lucky to be alive after the plastic bag containing the gun wrapped itself around the trigger, preventing it from firing.

Just before 5 p.m. Wednesday the guard observed a man trying to conceal several men's clothing items under his jacket

at the Shoppes on Steeles Sears store and followed him outside to arrest him.

The suspect attempted to flee and the guard was forced to pin him to the ground as he tried to handcuff the man.

Three shoppers left the store then and the guard asked them to call police.

*'You're going to die now.'*

While the guard's attention was diverted by the passers-by, the suspect reached down and pulled a plastic bag containing a small black revolver from his left sock.

"You're going to die now. You shouldn't have f...ed with me," he told the guard. Then he pulled the trigger.

"The bag was wrapped around the trigger guard and it did not fire," said Det. Sgt. Wayne Kalinski.

As the guard pushed him away, the thug tried again. He put the barrel of the gun against the guard's left cheek and pulled the trigger a second time.

The frightened but thankful guard, still awaiting police back-up, finally told the gunman to take off.

"It's your lucky day — don't f...k with me," the thug said, grabbing a shoe that had fallen off in the scuffle and the stolen items and fleeing toward Hwy. 404.

Police issued a plea for information to the public, especially the three passers-by, and released an image of the suspect caught on the store's videotape.

Tips poured in to Crime Stoppers, Kalinski said.

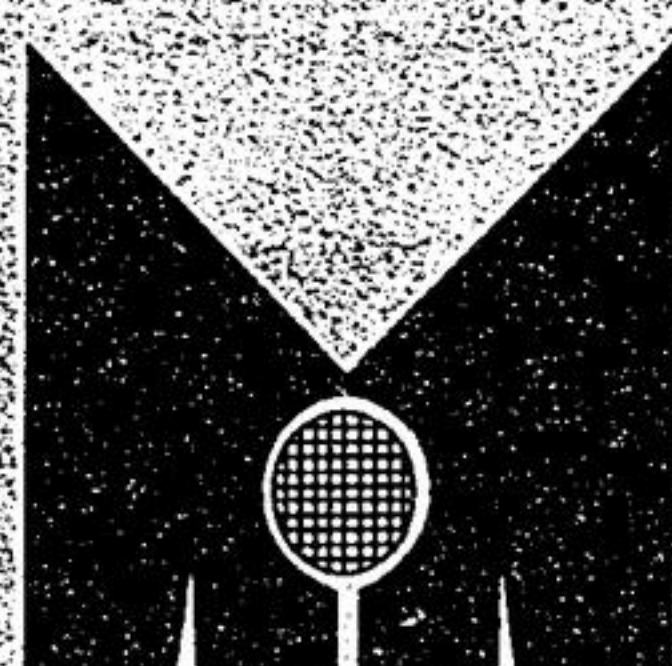
On Thursday at about 6:30 p.m., York police accompanied Toronto Emergency Task Force officers to a Scarborough address.

A 26-year-old man surrendered without incident.

He is charged with possession of an offensive weapon, assault with a weapon and possession of a handgun.



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