

Editor and Proprietor: William A. Mays
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Poetry Editor: Ivan Fail, USMC ret.
Maritime Editor: David C. Weed
Sporting Editor: "The Referee"
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 National Police Gazette Enterprises, LLC
 PO Box 372
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Manager: Steven Westlake
 saw@PoliceGazette.US



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Jon Jones vs. Jack Sharkey

When Jack Sharkey beat Max Schmeling in Madison Square Garden on June 21, 1932, he became the only fighter raised in the Binghamton area to become heavyweight boxing champion of the world. This achievement cemented Sharkey's position as the most famous pugilist ever to come out of Broome County... until now.

On April 21st, Jon "Bones" Jones retained his UFC light heavyweight title in a match against Rashad Evans. The heavy favorite to win, Jones did more than just defend his title; he reinforced the general feeling that he's the best mixed-martial-arts competitor in the country. He's the youngest champion in UFC history, and is the poster boy for a sport that is exploding in popularity all over the world. He's represented by Ari Emmanuel—yes, that Ari Emmanuel—one of the most powerful talent agents in Hollywood. And some are saying that with his combination of skill and personality Jones could become as legendary as Muhammad Ali. Not bad for a kid from Endicott, NY.

Jack Sharkey moved to Boston as a young man and considered that city his home base during his boxing career. He maintained few ties to this area. For instance, the famed Sharkey's Restaurant on Glenwood Avenue—contrary to some local belief—is actually not named after him. Jones, on the other hand, still has family in the area—including two football-playing brothers—and names Endicott as his home town before matches.

There's just one little problem with being from New York State if you're a professional MMA competitor: pro MMA bouts are illegal here. New York is one of the few states that has yet to legalize the sport. So fighters like Jon Jones must travel elsewhere to compete. Which brings us to the *Police Gazette*....

In 1880, the sport of boxing was illegal in every jurisdiction in America. It was considered violent, degrading, immoral, essentially cock fighting except with humans. But the

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CORRESPONDENCE

Current Mail

THE TRAYVON EDITORIAL
 Thank you, April's eccentric tantrum on the Trayvon Martin case was very well done.
 —Kerra Quinn

Letters From the Vault: September 1962

CRAZY MOON TRIP
 If living conditions on the moon are so impossible, why spend \$40 billion to go there? If we waste this money on such a crazy project, it will only bankrupt America and help the Communists to conquer the world. With all this "moon talk" it's no wonder that doctors are pleading for more mental institutions.
 —G.L. McCastney, Zachary, LA

RHONDA MISSES THE POINT
 Rhonda Fleming misses the point in explaining why Hollywood's "perfect" marriages bust up. She attributes the breakups to jealousy on the husband's part. The truth is that it takes a great deal of maturity on the wife's part to prevent a divorce, especially if she is financially independent. The trouble with many marriages today is that women have been given equal opportunities in the business world. If women stayed in the kitchen—where they belong—the divorce rate would drop.
 —Jack Roberts, Chicago, IL

Write to us at letters@PoliceGazette.US. Please include your city or location. Writing to us at the above address constitutes your consent to have your letter published. Letters become the property of the *National Police Gazette* and may be edited.

Limerick of the Month

There once was a fellow named Tommy,
 Who could deep throat a log of salami.
 "It's amazing," I spoke,
 As he said with a choke,
 "I first learned this trick from my mommy!"

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- Chess Boxing!

ECCENTRIC TANTRUMS SUE JURORS FOR WRONG CONVICTIONS

Another Life Sentence Overturned

DNA evidence has exonerated yet another person convicted of a crime he did not commit. Robert Dewey of Colorado was released April 30th after spending 17 years in prison for beating, sexually assaulting, then strangling to death a woman with a dog leash. He never did it. But he was sentenced to life without parole anyway. And the prison door slammed shut on his life, seemingly forever.

Then the Innocence Project took his case and DNA evidence was re-tested. The results were what Dewey had known all along: He had been sent to prison by people who were sure of something they had no right to be sure about.

Robert Dewey is the 290th person—and counting—exonerated by DNA testing in the United States, including 17 who were on death row waiting to be executed. How many more are currently in prison cells with no hope of having a box of evidence turn up that legally could have been destroyed long ago? Why are so many people being convicted of crimes they did not commit? The answer is that there is no punitive recourse for the wrongly imprisoned. The laziness, sloppiness and downright dishonesty of prosecutors, jury members and judges goes unchecked. There is no accountability. They destroy a man's life with the same casualness they would use in choosing what's for dinner. Was there more compelling evidence against Robert Dewey than there was against O.J. Simpson? We don't think so. The concept of reasonable doubt, pushed nearly to the point of high camp in the Simpson trial, is more often totally ignored in the rush to throw away the key on the first person who stumbles into the prosecutorial trap.

For a remedy we do not seek *lex talionis*, as fair as that may seem. What's needed—nay, demanded—is for prosecutors, individual members of juries and judges to be opened up to civil lawsuit and subject to punitive damages in all cases where a person is convicted who did not actually commit the crime in question. This will make them think twice before they nonchalantly imprison and destroy the life and family of a man who committed no crime other than being in the wrong place at the wrong time—a place where lazy-minded vigilantes can snap up the

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