

Suspect in Wisconsin salon attack had history of abuse

By Dinesh Ramde
Associated Press

BROOKFIELD, Wis. (AP) — A Wisconsin man suspected of opening fire at a salon where his wife worked, killing three women and wounding four others, had a history of domestic abuse and had been arrested for slashing his wife's tires a few weeks earlier, police said.

It wasn't clear if Radcliffe Franklin Houghton's wife was among the victims in the Sunday shooting, Houghton, 45, killed himself at the spa, police said.

Houghton's wife sought court protection four days after he slashed her tires on Oct. 4, Brookfield police said. Police arrested him and a judge granted a four-year restraining order on Thursday. As part of the order, Houghton was prohibited from owning a firearm.

Brookfield Police Chief Dan Tushaus declined to comment on whether Houghton had surrendered any weapons prior to Sunday's salon rampage. Tushaus also said he wasn't aware of a motive, but that investigators weren't looking for anyone else in the shooting.

"I can tell you we're not seeking additional suspects," he said at a news conference Sunday evening. "The community can feel safe."

The shootings set off a confusing, six-hour search for the gunman, forcing the lockdown of a nearby mall, a country club adjacent to the spa and the hospital where the survivors were taken. The search froze activity in a commercial area of Brookfield, a middle-to-upper class community west of Milwaukee, for much of the day.

Authorities said it would take time to sort out exactly what happened, and emphasized they were still interviewing witnesses and res-

cuers and didn't have a firm timeline of events. Brookfield Mayor Steve Ponto called the shootings "a senseless act on the part of one person."

The chaos started around 11 a.m. at the Azana Day Spa, a two-story, 9,000-square-foot building across from a major shopping mall. The first officers on the scene found the building filled with smoke from a fire authorities believe Houghton set, Tushaus said.

They also found a 1-pound propane tank they initially thought might be an improvised explosive device, Tushaus said. That slowed the search of the building as law enforcement agents waited for a bomb squad to clear the scene.

Tushaus said later that police didn't know whether the gunman brought the propane tank to the spa or whether a contractor left it.

The search was also complicated by the layout of the building, with numerous small treatment rooms and several locked areas, Tushaus said. While officers initially thought the gunman had fled the building, they later found his body in one of the locked areas, he said.

The bodies of the victims were also found in the spa. Tushaus said investigators were still working to identify them. He said the four survivors were between the ages of 22 and 40. He didn't know if they were employees at the spa or customers, and it wasn't clear if the man's wife was among the victims.

Houghton's father, Radcliffe Houghton, Sr., spoke to The Associated Press shortly before police announced that they had found his son's body. In telephone interviews from Florida, he said he had last spoken to his son a few days ago, but didn't know anything was wrong. He begged

his son to turn himself in.

After learning of his son's death, he said only: "This is very sad."

A sea of ambulances and police vehicles converged on the scene shortly after the shooting. A witness, David Gosh of nearby West Allis, told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel he was returning from duck hunting with his father and a friend when he saw a woman emerge from the spa, screaming, as she ran into traffic.

"She ran right out into the street and was pounding on cars," Gosh told the newspaper.

Moments later, a man with a handgun ran out. He appeared to be chasing the woman but then went back inside, Gosh said.

At the hospital where the victims were taken, staff members were escorted inside during a temporary lockdown. Officers were stationed at entrances, and critically injured patients were admitted with a police escort.

The hospital released a statement saying two women had undergone surgery, and one was in critical condition. Another was expected to have surgery Sunday night.

American Airlines layoffs taking toll on families

TULSA (AP) — Since layoff notices went out to nearly 3,000 employees at American Airlines' maintenance center in Tulsa, families of workers have been working to cope with an uncertain future.

The airline last month informed workers that their jobs could disappear in the next few months. American is struggling to cut costs and get out of U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

Since the original

notice, the airline has clarified that only about 150 workers will ultimately get the ax.

John Bell, who helps maintain the physical plant at the center, says the mood was gloomy after the notice went out but has lightened since the airline told workers that fewer than expected would lose their jobs.

Union officials caution that workers shouldn't relax because jobs are threatened by overseas maintenance operations.

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Thank you, U.S.A. !



-Your adopted son, K. Vasudevan

Let us remember with humility that:

- This is the Greatest Nation on Earth
- We are the freest people on Earth
- We have the best standard of living on Earth
- We have the best quality of life on Earth
- We have the best way of life on Earth, and
- We are the most generous people on Earth

Let us re-establish our fundamental values like:

- Fairness
- Personal conduct based on right and wrong; not based on getting caught and punished
- Faith, family and charity
- Hard work
- Pride in not taking handouts
- Shame in taking handouts
- The need for defense with all our might

No other nation has sacrificed more of its children and more of its resources for the sake of others, than the USA.

There is no other nation on earth that can be a role model for the world like the USA.

The "Crime of the 21st Century" will be if we, "The people" will not do whatever it takes to restore the Glory of the USA.

There are thousands of people in the world who are willing to die for the freedom of expression we enjoy.

Let us restate the famous old line "Let these truths be self evident", with today's reality that:

- Unemployed people cannot create prosperity.
- All people are not created to do high tech and computer work.
- All people who can work, must have work to do.
- We will have work for all people only when we produce goods again in the "Good Old USA".
- Prolonged unemployment and handouts of any form breeds laziness and an unwillingness to work.
- No one can keep spending money that they do not have.
- Spending more money is not the solution for all problems.

Let us stop asking for favors from our elected officials...and demand that they serve the Nation, the State, their District and themselves, in that order of priority.

Let us ensure that we have leadership to bring harmony between:

Rich and Poor
Minority and Majority
Labor and Management
Old and Young
etc. and etc.,

instead of promoting conflict between us.

All in the interest of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
for now and forever.

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ELECTION:

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petroleum products," Sanders said, also expressing support for biofuels.

"I was pretty much frustrated there were not alternative, viable candidates," Sanders said. "I decided I couldn't do any worse.... The alternative was to not take that swing," and not enter the race.

Lucas said his goals for the coming two years is to get the farm bill passed, continue opposing tax increases, overturn the federal health care law and provide funding for the military.

And, Lucas said, being a conservative Republican in what is considered by many to be the reddest of the red states, is a good thing.

"The only thing that would be better is if (President) Obama comes to campaign in Oklahoma personally," he said. "That would remind voters of all the things that he stands for, that would stir up Oklahomans to come and vote for me and Mitt Romney even more."

PROGRAM:

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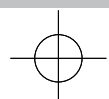
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sentences are being paroled through the second sentence to the street.

"Even though this State Question won't impact all those situations, they cause concern for removing the governor from any part of the process," ODAA officials said in the release.

"Removing the governor from the parole process would be a terrible mistake. There would be absolutely no accountability for those who are tasked with releasing criminals from our prisons. And we know based on recent cases that the parole board is not acting responsibly," said District Attorney Greg Mashburn, of Norman, who serves as president of the association.

"It is imperative to keep the governor in this process as someone who takes this task very seriously. This way the public can be assured that no one is released from prison to our streets that shouldn't be," said Mashburn.



Exhausting the insignificant

WASHINGTON — Oh, to be 12 again, the better to enjoy the presidential debates.

Or rather, the better to appreciate the Twitterverse, where America's obsessive-compulsive, attention-deficit population holds the zeitgeist hostage with tweets and memes that infantilize political discourse and reduce the few remaining adults to impolitic fantasy.

In this, the first social-media presidential election, the debates have come to resemble reality shows during which virtual audiences cast ballots (and aspersions), hiccupping their impulse-reactions to every word and movement into the intellectual vacuum we charitably call the body politic.

Two debates in, and the complex issues of our day have been reduced to a large yellow bird and binders full of women.

The problem isn't only with the debates themselves, but the simultaneous critique by the world's largest party — social media. Our million-way conversation is a convention of Snarks Anonymous. The clev-



Kathleen Parker
SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

erest commenter gets a free, if short, ride on the Fame Wheel, usually at the expense of Mitt Romney, who, let's stipulate, is not the likeliest presidential choice of the Twitter generation.

It doesn't help that Romney is so ... giving.

During the first debate, he delivered Big Bird, one of his targets for funding cuts along with public broadcasting. Such easy prey for President Obama, whose campaign launched a rejoinder sure to capture the tyke vote: Obama kills Osama bin Laden and Romney wants to kill Big Bird. It was the kind of setup that puts comedy writers out of work.

Next came the "binders full of women." Romney was answering (or avoiding) a question about the Lilly Led-

better Act, which removed the statute of limitations for filing complaints about unequal pay, and switched to his record on hiring women. In the process of a search to fill Cabinet positions while governor of Massachusetts, he said he had "binders full of women."

Before the debate was over, the hashtag #bindersfullofwomen was ricocheting through the Twitterverse. By morning, "binders full of women" was the lead topic on talk shows and continues to be a multimedia punch line.

It would all be so very amusing if not for the subsequent media interrogatory. Was this emblematic of Romney's attitude toward women? Did Romney cause himself irreparable harm among women voters?

I defer to Time's Mark Halperin, who doubtless spoke for many of us when he said on "Morning Joe": "The binder thing is what's wrong with our politics."

Ridiculous, in other words. In full disclosure, I should confess that I am a binder person. I have a binder for everything — family, finances, office, home, dog. I do not

objectify these aspects of my life; I honor them with organizational zeal. So when Romney said that he had binders full of women, I thought, well of course.

As it turns out, at least some of his binders were provided by a women's organization that was lobbying the governor for more women in power positions. Good for them — and good for him. He did it, filling 10 of the top 20 positions in his administration with women.

By contrast, it seems fair to mention, women staffers in the Obama administration have reported feeling marginalized, according to Ron Suskind's book "Confidence Men." One even described the White House as a "hostile workplace."

But never mind. The Obama campaign couldn't be more delighted with "Bindergate," which dovetails nicely with the narrative created by Obama's team that Romney is waging war on women. Not all women see things this way, the evidence of which is the movement of women voters toward Romney, especially after the first debate. For this reason, per-

haps, the Obama campaign immediately bought a Twitter ad and issued this statement: "The President talked about women as breadwinners. Romney talked about them as resumes in 'binders.'"

Actually, he spoke of them as people he wanted to hire, but again, never mind.

Romney can be awkward. His word choices are sometimes odd. But the idea that this particular phrasing was so jarring to some women that they got digital vapors is nonsense. Twitter may keep us entertained, but it can also make us ninnies.

So much ado about nothing leads one to wonder what else might be going on. Perhaps Obama foreshadowed these events in his acceptance speech at the 2008 Democratic convention when he said: "If you don't have a record to run on, then you paint your opponent as someone people should run from. You make a big election about small things."

File that one in your binder full of politics.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleenparker@washpost.com.

Obama, Romney to debate foreign policy

BEVERLY HILLS — God bless America, and how's everybody?

The FBI employed a double agent to thwart a Bangladeshi student who tried to blow up New York's Federal Reserve Bank. The terrorist tried to use a truck bomb. President Obama blamed the attack on the 50th anniversary release of Lawrence of Arabia on DVD.

Barack Obama and Mitt Romney will hold a foreign policy debate in Florida Monday on TV. It's nearly over. After two years of uninterrupted campaigning by both parties, anyone who still claims they're undecided is just lonely and trying to make the phone ring.

Bruce Springsteen went onstage with Bill Clinton in front of cheering crowds in Ohio Thursday to campaign for the ticket. It was wild. Women still throw their room keys at these guys when they're onstage but now they open the door at an assisted living facility.

Lance Armstrong was dropped by Nike on Wednesday over the overwhelming evidence that he lied about steroid use. This is far from over. Lance Armstrong just flew to New York to deny doping claims, but it would have been more convincing if he had used a plane.

Cuba relaxed U.S. travel restrictions Thursday, opening the door for Cuban-Americans to visit their motherland. It's a good thing for people to get re-connected to their roots. When people do that in Los Angeles they go two months without getting their hair colored.

The Rolling Stones will play London and New York to mark their 50th anniversary next month. They've lost none of their sex appeal. Following the announcement they had a party for Mick Jagger where friends say he was alert, he smiled and even had a little cake.

The N.Y. Yankees considered paying off the \$150 million they owe Alex Rodriguez. How he loves to think of the good old days. There was a time when the Yankees had two coolers in the dugout—one labeled Gatorade and one labeled Testosterone.

Mitt Romney increased his lead over Barack Obama in Thursday's poll. The reaction by Democrats included threats to riot if they lose. The L.A. mayor advised anyone who was planning to loot new TV sets from home electronics stores not to forget the 3-D glasses.

Mitt Romney said as governor he asked women's groups to help him hire qualified females and they brought him binders full of women. How archaic. He was governor so long ago people submitted their resumes on paper instead of throwing them in the ocean.

The National Enquirer reported that O.J. Simpson is trying to sell the knife he used to kill his wife. He's trying to find a secret collector who'll put five million in an offshore account. He's trying to sell all his stuff before he ends up on Storage Wars for non-payment.

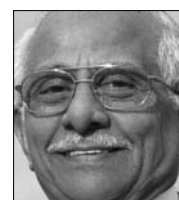
Cook County Supervisors proposed a tax on every bullet sold in Chicago Thursday to help raise tax revenue to pay for cash-strapped government services. It's only going to make the city less safe. At an extra dollar a bullet, warning shots will be a thing of the past.



Argus Hamilton
E-E COLUMNIST

The view from across the ocean — through the eyes of an adopted son

(Editors Note: The following speech was presented by local entrepreneur and businessman K. Vasudaven to the Rotary Club of Bartlesville on Sept. 15, 2012. It is the second such address made by Vasudaven on this topic. The first speech was presented in 2010. The text is republished here by permission of the author in its entirety. Vasudaven is an immigrant from India and a naturalized citizen of the United States of America.)



K. Vasudaven
GUEST COLUMNIST

God Bless America.

Thank you for the opportunity to talk to you. Thank you for the opportunity for my family and I to be citizens of this greatest nation on earth. Yes:

- This is the *greatest* nation on earth
- We are the *freest* people on earth
- We have the best standard of living on earth
- We have the best quality of life on earth
- We have the best way of life on earth, and
- We are the most generous people on earth

All of the above is a repetition of my message delivered first here in September 2010. Since all of these statements are true, today as is it was then, I thought it would be worthwhile to repeat them as a reminder.

My message that day in 2010, "Through the Eyes of An Adopted Son" was made possible by Tara Gotwalt and Dan Droegge. I appreciate their friendship and consistent support. You may recall that you received that message with overwhelming acceptance. Unfortunately, there was no time for discussions after the speech that day because of a politically driven agenda immediately following the speech.

Since that time, Dan helped me deliver that speech at a few Rotary Clubs. He came with me to all those places. It is gratifying that it was received with similar response as you did. This was followed by very active discussions for extended periods. The message was also delivered on telephone and through an ama-

teur DVD Tara was kind enough to produce, to several people across the country. It was also delivered in person to the joint board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. In all instances, it was received with humbling support.

The summary of the topic was, just to refresh your memory, "How America was when I first saw it, what is happening, and what must be done." Obviously, not enough people heard the message, and not enough people responded by action. I sincerely, and humbly wish that the whole Nation heard me out and acted in unison. Today, allow me to show you, "The View from Across the Ocean, Through the Eyes of an Adopted Son."

During the end of 2011, and the beginning of 2012, I had the occasion to spend about three and a half months in southern India along the West Coast. This was the longest time I spent, since 1952, in that village where I was born. There was no TV, radio, or Internet where I stayed. Only one newspaper in English, and the phone. This was done on purpose by me. Believe me, it is extremely valuable to see this dear country of ours through your own mind without external interference.

Two authors, Thomas Friedman and Michael Mendelbaum, published the book "That Used to Be Us" during the later part of 2011. I had just read it before reaching India. The authors realistically point out how America fell behind the world it invented in the industrial, technological, and educational fields. I do not agree with some of their conclusions, but agree with the need for action on a crisis basis.

As far as I'm concerned, we must not compete with anybody, nor should we admire

anybody. Because I earnestly believe that "to compete is a disgrace, but to set the pace is the honor." Henry Ford set up the assembly line production for automobiles, making it affordable to all, we built the Golden Gate Bridge, we built the Hoover Dam, we sent the first man to the Moon, etc., etc., etc. What is wrong with us now?

My dear fellow Americans, it is hard, very hard, to experience "That Used to Be Us" like I did during those three months.

There was a time when everything we had when we arrived in India was sought after by the local people. The shoes, blue jeans, belt, pen, watch — just anything we carried from the United States. Americans paid more than any others for the help they received. We tipped better than anyone else, etc. Today everything we take from the USA is available locally, and in many instances, better products. That in itself is not necessarily bad. But today, we are the poor folks because those coming from the Middle East blow away money with no consideration of value. In the three months that we were there, I heard no one ask "What does it cost?" This goes from street vendors of vegetables and fish, to silk and jewelry stores. They just buy it, making us who ask what something costs, sound "cheap." Many times the tips are given without even counting. So what?

What is sad is that it is our money, the money we pay for imported energy and goods that is being tossed around, making us look "cheap." — This is while we as a nation borrow money from other nations to feed our old habits of spending recklessly. Habits we cultivated when we had so much surplus that we did not know what to do with it.

Another sad facet of the view is that we Americans are considered responsible for just about everything that goes bad in the world. They think that the CIA is behind all ethnic, religious, and national conflicts in the world! America used to be the one to help people out of

all such problems, once. Now, we are perceived to be the ones creating the problems.

In spite of those negatives, let me assure you:

There is no one on earth who can be a role model for the world than we the people of USA. Not a single one; not because I am an American and not because we are Americans. Just simply because no one is there to be a role model, period. India, China, England, France, Brazil, Australia, Russia? — None.

That is why: The crime of the Twenty First Century will be, if those of us who breathe today and call ourselves Americans will not do whatever it takes — doing "something" is not enough — but doing whatever it takes to put this beloved country of ours where it belongs, ON TOP OF THE WORLD.

Yes, we can do it, and must do it. We have done it before and we can do it again.

In that effort, let us re-state an old, famous line and add a few current realities to it:

Let these truths be self evident, that:

- Unemployed people cannot create prosperity.
- All people are not created to do high tech and IT work.
- All people who can work, must have work to do.
- We will have work for all people only when we produce goods again in the "Good Ole USA."
- Prolonged unemployment and handouts of any form breeds laziness and unwillingness to work.
- No one can keep spending money that they do not have.
- Spending more money is not a solution for all problems.

I am strongly confident that this is a nation which can and will act if the action is sought by sincere, honest, leadership who walk their talk. Arise America, let's get the job done. We, the people, can do it, must do it, and put this country where it belongs — ON TOP OF THE WORLD.

God Bless America.

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