

for-ward true. If the Bible (Revelation 9:1-11) says that billions of six-inch-long scorpionlike monsters with the heads of men, "flowing hair like that of women" and the teeth of lions, wearing crowns and helmets, will swarm across the globe gnawing on unbelievers — well, that's exactly what LaHaye says will happen. And soon.

LaHaye's books, and his quirky interpretation of biblical prophecy that

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By Ro
Drey



CAN ELECTRIC BULLETS SAVE LIVES?

"When Amadou Diallo was reaching for his wallet, the police put 40 bullets in him before he hit the ground," says inventor and munitions expert John LeBourgeois of Technosis, in Moffett Field, California. "I read that and decided there had to be a better way." In New York's Diallo case, an innocent person died because police mistakenly thought he was pulling out a weapon. If cops could completely incapacitate a person with a single gunshot, LeBourgeois reasoned, they could use

lethal force sparingly and still be safe themselves (a mortally wounded person can fire back for many seconds before losing consciousness). So he invented ShockRounds, bullets that fire like normal 9 mm rounds but on impact release a paralyzing 50,000-volt charge—similar to what you would feel grabbing a particularly strong electric fence.

The jolt temporarily shuts down the muscular system and possibly causes momentary unconsciousness. Unlike a Taser gun, which shoots

two electrified wires, ShockRounds can stop a person more than 300 feet away. The bullets contain a disk of piezoelectric material that releases electricity on impact; there are no batteries or moving parts. LeBourgeois will soon test the bullets and hopes to make them commercially viable by next year. Bill Johnson, of the National Association of Police Organizations, is cautiously optimistic. "If they're able to build it as advertised, then certainly this is something that officers would be very much interested in," he says.

—Susan Kruglinski

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPH NIEMANN

Fencing Terror

OPERATING on the premise that good fences make good neighbors, a defense company has proposed using a combination of high and low technology to create an electronic barrier between Israelis and Palestinians. Israel-based Tadiran Electronic Systems has designed a multi-layer barrier that uses a combination of ground, pole-mounted and aerial sensors to detect trespassers. Security forces are positioned along the perimeter so they can stop violators before they reach the other side. A low-tech feature within the system is a simple sand shoulder that can reveal footprints.

KEEP OUT:
Tadiran says its barrier works better than a wall.

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