

S F C H R O N I C L E

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## Darts to Stun Rioters Or Make Them Sick

### Pittsburgh

A group of seven engineering students at the Carnegie-Mellon University thinks it has found a better weapon for police and National Guardsmen than rifles.

The group is trying to interest some 92 defense contractors and weapons manufacturers in a pistol which shoots a drug-carrying dart instead of bullets.

The gun is based on the principle used by conservationists to immobilize wild animals temporarily.

John Minarik, a CMU

graduate now working for U.S. Steel and one of the designers, said riot control gasses cannot be used to inactivate an unruly person because they often cannot be directed accurately for more than a few yards and because they sometimes backfire on those using them.

The students found the drug-dart guns now available each had serious shortcomings, including darts which bounced off before inserting the drug, unsterile needles that could lead to severe infection, premature firing of the injection mechanism and

unstable flight performance.

They believe the pistol they designed solved most of these problems.

Minarik said the big problem was the choice of a drug.

Most drugs will affect a 100-pound girl and a 250-pound man differently. The place at which it is injected also makes a difference.

"We've tried to build in a safety factor . . . to allow for these variations," he said.

He said a drug which induces nausea is among the most promising of those examined.

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