

Reptile gets Tasered

A 14-foot female Burmese python named Chloe used to be considered the staff and spectators' favorite among all the animals at the local aquarium in Tarpon Springs,

Evildoer

Bruce Schneider, chief technology officer at BT Counterpane, a security consulting firm in Mountain View, California, was recently asked in an interview if he thought the Transportation Security Administration's use of "no-fly" lists was an effective means of preventing terrorism.

The root problem, as Schneider sees it, is the TSA's reliance on IDs that are so easily obtained under false pretenses. "It would be wonderful if Osama bin Laden carried a photo ID that listed his occupation of 'Evildoer,'" permitting the authorities to pluck him from a line, Mr. Schneider said. "The problem is, we try to pretend that identity maps to intentionality. But it doesn't."

Florida. But that was before Chloe mistook the hand of 18-year-old Alison Cobiauchi, an aquarium employee and St. Petersburg College freshman, for something to eat. The snake attacked, sinking her teeth into Cobiauchi's knuckles and wrapping around her arm and waist.

The staff had never had any problems with the large reptile and had no idea just how strong the animal's grip was. In fact, it took a jolt with a Taser to get Chloe to unhinge her jaw from the girl's arm and return to its cage.

Cobiauchi, who was treated at a hospital for minor hand wounds, said she would never go near a snake again.

"It was definitely the most scary and painful thing that has ever happened to me," she told reporters during her recovery process at her home.

"I knew I wasn't going to die, but I was worried I wouldn't get my hand back."

The incident occurred as Cobiauchi was preparing to take Chloe out of her cage for the aquarium's



Burmese Pythons can grow to enormous sizes and can get very hungry.

daily snake presentation, during which handlers discuss the natural habitat and growth cycle of pythons to school kids and other visitors.

But Chloe had been acting strangely all day, waiting by the front door of her cage. Cobiauchi slid open the cage door as usual at about 1:30 PM.

In a flash Chloe struck, seizing several of Cobiauchi's fingers as a small crowd of visitors watched in horror.

Visitors were quickly cleared from the area and police were called.

In what could be the first use of a Taser by police on a snake, Chloe was Tasered. The animal released her grasp about three seconds later, said Sgt. Allen MacKenzie. The snake was not seriously injured.

For now, the aquarium's snake show has been indefinitely canceled. Konger is considering purchasing his own handheld in case any of the animals get out of line again.

But Cobiauchi has had it with snakes.

"She was my favorite animal that we had. Not anymore."