Sep 22, 2014 at 4:12 PM, Regarding

**From:** Barry Reitman [mailto:barry@memoryshock.com]

This is an important story and there are two major errors: The Colt (?) .45 and the Smith & Wesson .380 are NOT automatic. They are SEMI-automatic. There’s a world of difference and you’ll do yourself well to correct this immediately. Please feel free to contact me for an explanation.

**From:** 'NYTimes, Senioreditor'

Dear Mr. Reitman,

Thank you for your email. This is how the paragraph describing the weapons found in Mr. Gonzales' car currently reads:

*Among the items found in Mr. Gonzales’ car in July was a mini-arsenal of 11 guns – including two shotguns and four rifles, some equipped with scopes and bipods such as a sniper would use – and “a map of Washington, D.C., with writing and a line drawn to the White House,” law enforcement officials said. He also had four pistols, three of them loaded, and a revolver. The inventory of Mr. Gonzales’ car listed by the Virginia State Police indicates the items were found stored in his vehicle’s “bulky floor.”*

Is there anything specifically incorrect about that passage (or elsewhere in the article)?

Louis Lucero II

Assistant to the Senior Editor for Standards

**From:** Barry Reitman [mailto:barry@memoryshock.com]

That’s fine. My earlier comment referred to the difference between automatic and semi-automatic. In a nutshell, an automatic weapon will continuously fire bullets while the trigger is pressed. A semiautomatic requires a release and new press of trigger for each. The current wording avoids the topic, and that’s OK.

But,

“*He also had four pistols, three of them loaded, and a revolver.”*

Implies that the revolver was not loaded. Is that the case?

**Correction: Printed September 22, 2014**

An earlier version of this article mischaracterized some of the weapons found in Omar Gonzalez’s car in July. They were semi-automatic weapons, not automatic.