

## Frisky business

**S**tonily unimpressed by falling crime, the cops-can't-do-anything-right crowd is beating its broken drum that police are making inquiries of suspected bad guys and frisking where necessary.

The thump goes as follows: The NYPD is stopping far more minorities than whites, thereby suggesting racial profiling, if not racism.

Once more, this needs dismissing with facts. First, the cops reported contacts with 575,304 people in 2009. In each instance, officers cited a reasonable suspicion of possible wrongdoing as grounds for asking a question or two. That's as far as things went for 43% of the people.

The remainder were patted down based on a fear that a weapon was present. Often, such was

the case. The cops found 762 guns and more than 6,000 dangerous instruments of other kinds.

Some 87% of those stopped were black or Hispanic, a figure decried by the civil liberties advocates. What they leave out is that the NYPD intensifies operations in high-crime neighborhoods, which often are minority areas; that crime victims identify the race of perpetrators in proportions about equal to those of police stops, and that street cops are often acting on fresh crime reports.

Meanwhile, the Center for Constitutional Rights and its fellows made little of the one number they unearthed that puts the lie to claims of racially disparate treatment. The cops wound up arresting slightly more than 6% of the whites who were stopped and slightly less than 6% of the blacks who were stopped. That's even-steven.

