

# D.A. HOLT PERF

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# QUESTIONED

NEVADA'S

TOP

WEEKLY



Blacks often have reason to think America's legal system has compassion and understanding only for Whites like Patty Hearst. We should therefore take some renewed faith from the recent controversy over Tom Howard.

In 1965, Officer Fortye--an armed white policeman with a trained attack dog--stopped a west Las Vegas Black, Tom Howard, for petty traffic violation. Somehow, a fight arose.

Almost always, if anyone dies in such a brawl, it is the Black. And, however great the policeman's fault, he is unlikely to do any prison time--certainly not life without possibility of parole.

Surprisingly, this time, the white officer died, shot with his own gun. Not surprisingly, although the only eye witness, Howard's wife, supported his defense, Howard was convicted. Not surprisingly either, Howard was sentenced to prison for life, without possibility of parole.

We assume--although there is much reason to believe otherwise--that Howard received a fair trial. We even assume the fairness of Howard's sentence--although we do not believe juries usually punish killings in fights so harshly--for we share the belief that even the unplanned killing of a police officer is a matter of very grave concern.

However, we cannot agree with recent grandstanding by Clark County's bigoted and incompetent District Attorney concerning Tom Howard being granted a chance to seek parole.

If performance and not talk is the test, District Attorney George Holt is far from "hard on crime." Only a few days ago, he agreed that a man who beat and boiled a 3-year-old child to death should serve--at most!--six years. Howard has already been confined almost twelve. As another newspaper has said, "Holt's decisions are stranger very day!"

Equally strange is District Attorney George Holt's decision to remain silent when Tom Howard--after 12 years in custody and remarkable efforts at self-improvement--applied to the Nevada Pardons Board for the chance to be considered for parole. Apparently Holt's silence did not mean, as anyone would think, that Holt approved the prison authorities' strong recommendation--a recommendation that Howard receive the possibility to earn parole at some time in the future.

Then why did Holt remain silent, although he admits receiving notice of Howard's hearing?  
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## LAS VEGAS

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 2  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1977

# VOICE

NEVADA'S BLACK  
COMMUNITY WEEKLY  
"An Uninterrupted  
Publication Since 1963"

15¢

EVERY GOOD GUY



GIVES THE  
UNITED WAY

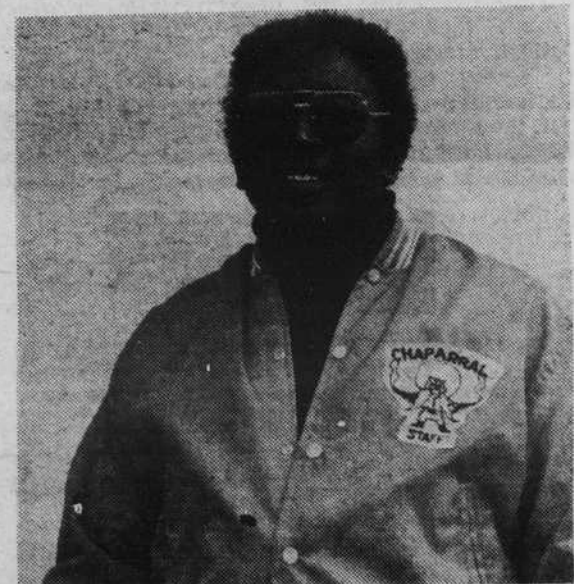
## FIRST ANNUAL BLACK & WHITE BALL



BONNIE JUNIEL

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## WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE BLACK IN THE U.S.



JOHNNY HOLMES

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