

ACLU chides Reno cops' dumping of racial profiling study

RENO, Nev. (AP) - The American Civil Liberties Union has criticized the Reno Police Department's decision to scrap a study into racial profiling.

Gary Peck, executive director of the ACLU of Nevada, called the timing of the force's action "gamesmanship."

The department's announcement comes two weeks after a legislative panel killed a bill that would have required police across the state to continue tracking the race of drivers stopped by officers. The ACLU and several minority groups supported the measure.

"(Reno police) announced it very loudly and very proudly. 'We're doing our own data collection,'" Peck said. "They said that while legislation was pending. As soon as it appears that (legislation) probably wasn't going to happen, they retract the statement and renege

on the commitment."

But after buying a \$20,000 data-scanning machine and hiring a consultant to help monitor whether officers single out minorities for traffic stops, police said they scrapped the study because it's too expensive.

"To carry it further, a lot of money has to be spent," Assistant Chief Jim Weston told the Reno Gazette-Journal. "We've got many more important public safety issues to deal with."

Nine police agencies across Nevada collected traffic stop data last year for a study mandated by the 2001 Legislature.

The survey of 386,000 traffic stops found that police stopped black motorists at a rate nearly double the state's black population. The rate was highest in Reno and Las Vegas.

Michael Coray, who served on a citizens panel to help Reno police with the racial

profiling study, called the department's decision to scrap the study "reprehensible."

"The department has transformed its earlier pronouncements of heartfelt commitment into a commitment born of convenience," Coray wrote in a resignation letter. "That, in my view, is the very definition of disingenuous."

ACLU representatives said last year's results suggest a problem and more study is needed.

But law enforcement officials called the study flawed and inconclusive. They also complained that it was too time-consuming for officers to track the data.

Weston said the department has mechanisms in place to prevent racial profiling, including psychological screening of recruits, officer training and internal affairs investigations of complaints.

Victims of discrimination still can take their complaints to court, he added.

"We don't think there's a systematic problem in the department," Weston said. "We have enough safeguards in place."

The city can't afford to spend \$42,000 on a consultant at a time when the city is grappling with a tight budget, Weston said.

"We've got policing things to do versus spending money on this," he said.

Earlier this month, the Senate Government Affairs Committee voted 5-2 to kill a bill that would have required Nevada police to continue tracking the ethnicity of every driver they stop.

Sen. Bill Raggio, R-Reno, a panel member, said current law is sufficient to protect against racial profiling by police. The 2001 Legislature outlawed racial profiling but imposed no penalties.

Lorenzi Park gets beautified on youth service day

By *Lés Pierres Streater*
Sentinel-Voice

Nearly two dozen people gathered recently at Lorenzi Park to commemorate National Youth Service Day.

Organized by the Southern Nevada National Youth Service Day Coalition, the event coincided with simultaneous events done by groups in the United States and more than 150 countries in honor of civic-minded youth.

National Youth Service Day is the largest service event in the world. Over the past 14 years, NYSD has engaged more than 22 million people together in thousands of communities worldwide in service projects addressing literacy, hunger, public safety, the environment, and healthcare. The day doubles as a recruiting tool and educational forum to promote the benefits of youth service.

"We always hear adults commenting about our future because the youth of today

seem unconcerned about their community, but this doesn't represent the young people that I'm involved with on a daily basis," says Olga Mendoza, an AmeriCorps director of the Bringing Everyone's Strengths Together (BEST) Program, a partnership for a safe and drug-free Nevada.

"The efforts put forth today by the youths to pick up debris and clean the park is an example of their go-getter attitude and taking nothing for granted. After being recognized for their efforts through proclamations from Gov. Kenny Guinn, Sen. Harry Reid, and Rep. Shelly Berkley, the students chose to clean the park and give something positive back to their community because this is where they live."

Lorenzi park was chosen because it was in close to where the students' schools. One of 43 city parks, 82-year-old Lorenzi sits on 60 acres constructed in 1921. It ser-



Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

Kenid Shizuma, left, and Hector Miguel do their part in commemorating National Youth Service Day by cleaning up Lorenzi Park earlier this month.

vices 138,413 people within a 3-mile radius and has baseball fields, basketball courts, a fitness course, playgrounds, picnic areas, tennis courts, jogging/walking paths, open space and an amphitheater.

One of those enjoying the service work was Hector Miguel, president of the Clark High School Key Club.

"Our key club chose to

our service project for the day."

Added Jo-Anne Almeda, president of the Centennial High School Key Club, "Serving my community is always an experience that I enjoy, and giving back is something beneficial to others."

After the event, students prepared Easter eggs for another service project event. Three students, Anthony Davis, Jeremy Wobbler, and Roy James, eighth graders at Swainston Middle School, spent the rest of the morning fishing at the pond.

"The students worked hard today on planning and coordinating their efforts on the service projects," says Rekaya Gibson, Project Director for the BEST Youth Council. "Not only did they help clean the park, but now

are participating in putting together Easter eggs for an Easter egg hunt which will be held at the Vera B. Johnson Housing Development Complex for Seniors."

Park visitors rejoiced after hearing about the youth activism and appreciated Lorenzi receiving the labor of NYSD volunteers.

"Today is my husband's birthday, and we came to the park to celebrate, because it's a clean and safe park. I bring my kids to play here and enjoy themselves," Shaquilla Brown said.

Added Brian Dunn, who was spending the time with his two children eating breakfast, "This is my opportunity to spend some quality time with the kids on the weekend, letting them play on the slide and swings, and releasing some energy."

Malvo

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of an attorney fell well short of the clear, unambiguous demand required by the law to halt an interrogation. They cited the testimony of Fairfax homicide detective June Boyle, who said she advised Malvo of his rights on numerous occasions.

"There is not a scintilla of evidence that there was coercion or compulsion used in this case to obtain a confession from Malvo," said Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Robert F. Horan Jr.

The judge could throw out all or part of the confession or retain it in its entirety.

After Malvo arrived in Fairfax, Boyle and FBI special Agent Brad Garrett supplied the hungry teen with veggie burgers and engaged in small talk. Eventually Malvo talked about the crimes, laughing as he described some of the shootings.

Malvo is being tried first for the fatal Oct. 14 shooting of FBI analyst Linda Franklin outside a Home Depot store.

On Monday, Boyle testified that during the questioning she asked Malvo where he had shot Franklin. "He laughed and pointed at his head," the detective said.

At the start, Malvo asked, "Do I get to see my attorneys?" When Boyle responded, "Yes," Malvo replied, "Because the lawyer said not to talk to the cops until they get here."

Boyle then explained that they needed to get some information about him. Malvo said OK, according to the notes.

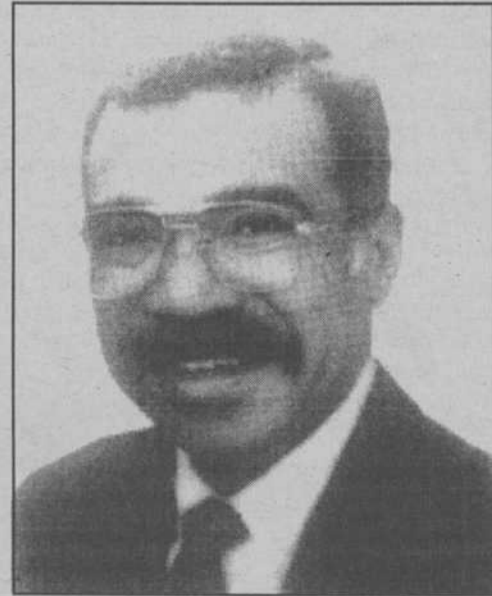
He was asked about his friend — an apparent reference to Muhammad — and responded, "I know when my friend is around; I can feel his energy. I know when he's close. We can feel each other."

Malvo and Muhammad were arrested Oct. 24 at a Maryland rest stop while they slept in their car.

Malvo told police that he was caught because he failed and he "swayed from discipline. ... You get about five minutes of pleasure and then you pay for it."

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