

OUR VIEW

Instant Replay

This year, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the governing body of college sports, took a page from the National Football League's book and implemented (albeit on a trial basis) instant replay. When it was first introduced years ago, football purists disparaged instant replay as the worst thing since the hard-as-concrete astroturf. Why take authority of way from referees and put technology in charge, they argued? The boo birds eventually died out, as instant replay proved invaluable—overturning a call here, reversing a ruling there, correcting human error and moving the game closer to the truth. Every lawyer should be so only be so lucky to have the opportunity to review footage of human history and make decisions based on truth.

Speaking of lawyers and instant replay ... There's the case of a 64-year-old Black man repeatedly punched in the head by New Orleans police. Cops allege that Robert Davis, a retired elementary school teacher who'd returned to New Orleans to check on his property in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, was publicly intoxicated and unruly, leading to his arrest in the French Quarter. Davis' lawyer disagrees and says the assault racially motivated pure and simple—three officers are White. Like the assault on Rodney King by four White Los Angeles Police Department officers in 1992, the Davis beating was caught on tape. And sounding very much like former LAPD chief Daryl Gates, New Orleans Police Superintendent Warren Riley said the footage only captures "a portion of that incident."

But what it captures tells a chilling story. Replay, please.

The tape shows Davis getting hit in the head at least four times. It shows him flailing as he's subdued by the officers. It shows him being kneed and pushed down to the sidewalk, blood streaking down his arm and into the gutter. Irrefutable evidence? Certainly seems so.

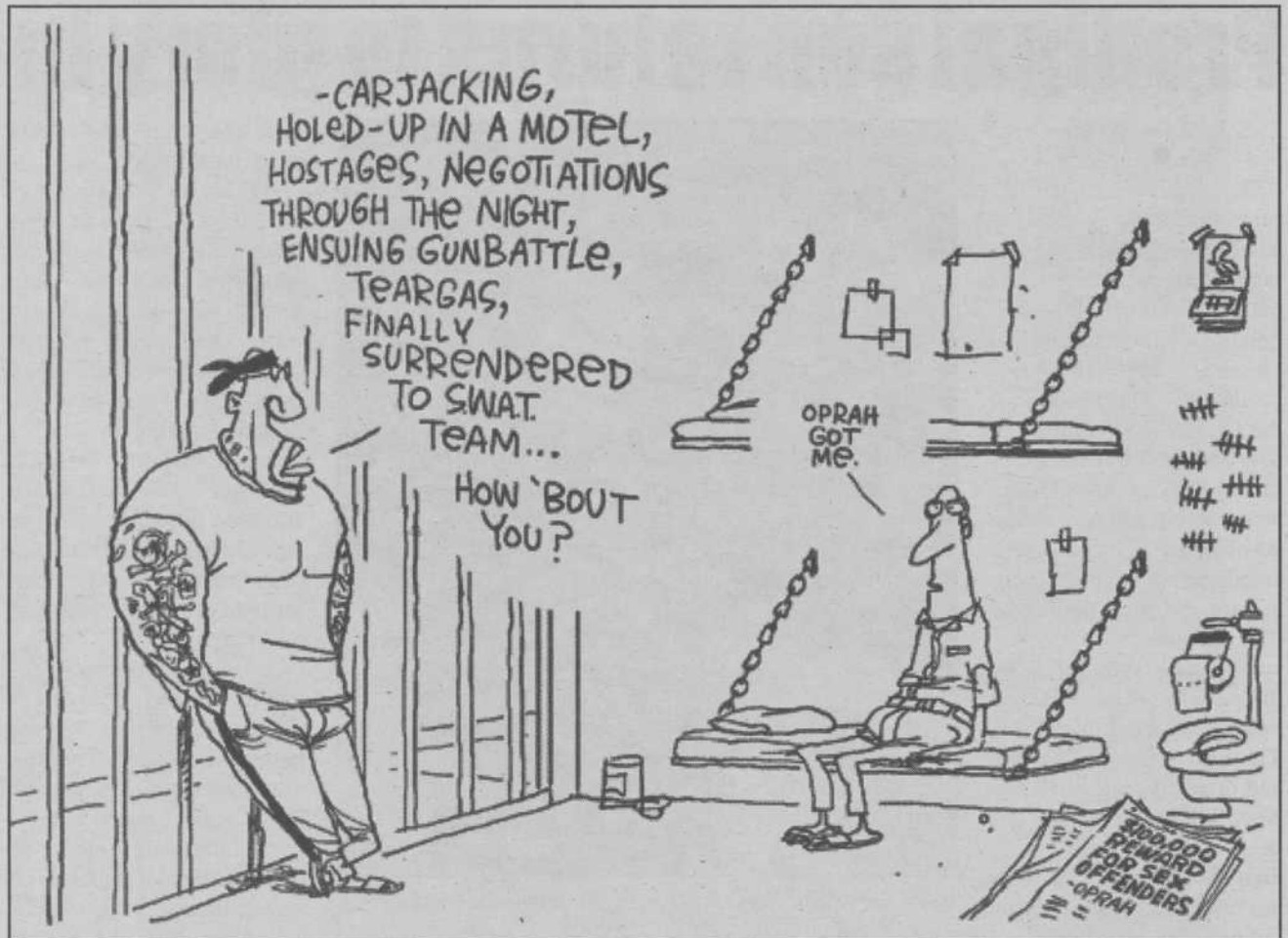
According to his attorney, Davis (a retired teacher who's lived in New Orleans for 30 years) suffered cheek and eye socket fractures as well as scrapes and bruises.

"I don't think that when a person is getting beat up there's a whole lot of thought. It's survival. You don't have a whole lot of time to think when you're being pummeled," attorney Joseph Bruno told the Associated Press, adding that Davis was a recovering drug addict who hadn't had a drink or taken drugs in "years and years. He was not taking anything."

A federal civil rights investigation has been opened and a Jan. 11, 2006 trial date set for Lance Schilling, Robert Evangelist and S.M. Smith. All pleaded not guilty to battery and were released on bond. (One cop is also accused of grabbing and shoving an Associated Press Television News producer who document the incident). The judge should make liberal use of the rewind function.

Instant replay has gained traction—in addition to the NCAA, the National Basketball Association also uses it, though in truncated form—stems from proving its worth. Whether a reviewed ruling goes in their favor or not, sports fans generally prefer the right call over the partisan one. After reviewing footage of LAPD cops raining blows, 56 in all, on Rodney King, many felt the officers were guilty. Rather than subduing King, they continued beating him. The evidence seemed conclusive: This was a case of rogue cops acting out. We were told that other parts of the tape would have shown the actions of these uniformed thugs was necessary, but never got to see the tape. Instant replay works in reverse, too—you can't review what you can't see.

Shades of the Rodney King beating were evident in the videotaped assault, 10 years later, of 16-year-old Donovan Jackson by cops in Inglewood, California. Replay of the footage clearly shows a handcuffed Jackson, blood coming out of his mouth, having his head slammed into a patrol car. The Sheriff's Department retreated to cop mode: it was Jackson's fault. If the cops in Davis' case get off with the same wrist slaps as their counterparts in LA, then instant replay will be what it's never become in the sports world: a subjugator of truth.



Enduring the wrath of God

By Dora LaGrande
Sentinel-Voice

Over the past ten months, since the Tsunami earthquake hit Southeast Asia, we have witnessed the total destruction of whole cities being wiped off of the map by hurricanes, earthquakes and floods like we have only heard about in biblical proportions. A short time later, the earthquake hit Southeast Asia causing considerable destruction and claimed in excess of 300,000 lives, killing people in excess of 2,000 kilometers away from where it hit.

On August 29th, 2005, Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans, La., parts of Mississippi and parts of Alabama and left a couple thousand people dead, up to a million people displaced and in excess of 423,000 people jobless.

On September 23, 2005, Hurricane Rita's path of devastation along the Texas-Louisiana coast damaged or destroyed 9,900 homes, leveled 805 of the buildings in the town of Cameron and left approximately 100 people dead.

On Saturday October 8, 2005, in Islamabad, Pakistan, a 7.6 magnitude earthquake near the Pakistan-India border reduced villages to rubble, triggered landslides, flattened schools and apartment buildings and left tens of thousands dead and millions homeless.

On October 10, 2005, in Alstead, New Hampshire 13 people died in a flood, houses



ON THE RECORD

By Dora LaGrande

were swept off of their foundation and roads were washed away.

Over the past few weeks I have heard renowned pastor after pastor say that this is not the hand of God, that God will not destroy the innocent. Scientists attribute these major disasters to global warming. The fact of the matter is that both of these theories are wrong. Colossians 1:16 tells us that "By him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, the visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things are created through and for him."

What Bible are the pastors reading when they say that this is not the hand of God? When Hurricane Katrina hit, it was three days before a week long celebration of lesbians and gays was to take place in New Orleans where 125,000 people were expected to attend and bring in an excess of \$2.25 million over five days. Southern Decadence (the name of the festival) would have had homosexuals performing unspeakable sex acts right on the streets of New Orleans.

In Genesis 18:20, the Lord said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and

their sin is very grave that he will destroy the whole city. And when the angels of the Lord went into the city, the men of the city tried to lay with them even though Lot offered his daughters to them. So because of the lust burning in their groin for other men as well as other sins, the Lord destroyed the whole city."

In I Samuel 15, the Lord told Saul to go to the city of Amalek and utterly destroy all that they have and do not spare them. But kill man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey. There are many examples of God using people to destroy whole nations which include good and bad people.

So the pastors' contentions that the Lord will not

destroy a whole city with innocent people are wrong and part of the problem for the apostasy of the church. The word of God says that judgment will fall upon the just and the unjust. When the church does not conduct an expositional study of the word of God and teach people what "thus saith the Lord" they are setting themselves and the people they teach up for destruction, judgment and God's wrath.

The church has become compromising and is more focused on generating money, how many members it has, how big of an edifice to build and other such nonsense. This attitude has allowed denominations across the religious spectrum to back away from the real word and away from the absolute truths of the Bible because church leaders need to be popular and to have a bigger congregation.

Denominations across the board let homosexuals speak from the pulpit, let gays (See LaGrande, Page 13)

NEVADA'S ONLY AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice
GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.
PO BOX 104111 LAS VEGAS NV 89104

Nevada's only African-American community newspaper.
Published every Thursday by Griot Communications Group, Inc.
900 East Charleston Boulevard • Las Vegas, Nevada 89104
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Member: National Newspaper Publishers Association
and West Coast Black Publishers Association