

OUR VIEW

No Justice?

If there's one job decidedly less fun than being president of the United States, it has to be Clark County sheriff. Only five and a half months into the year and Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department cops have been involved in 12 officer-involved shootings. (It took until October to reach this same number in 2004.) But it's the circumstances surrounding this latest shooting the death of 17-year-old Swauve Lopez—that puts Metro in an unenviable defensive position.

The story: Lopez was arrested on Saturday as a suspect in connection with death of 18-year-old Kyle Staheli; authorities found his body, burned and riddled with bullets, in a desert in the Valley's northeast side. Authorities say a handcuffed Lopez slipped his legs through his arms, exited a detective's car and ran. That's when, authorities say, detectives Ken Hardy, a 20-year veteran of the force, and Shane Womack, with Metro for seven years, fired one shot apiece, striking Lopez in the back. The teenager died at University Medical Center.

What concerns many people is the officers' punishment. Scuttlebutt is that the detectives will get off scot-free or, if they face any repercussions, it'll be of the wrist-slapping variety. Metro and the Clark County Coroner's Office have themselves to blame for the dearth of confidence in their abilities to police themselves. Since Coroner's Inquests began in 1976, guess how many of the 150 investigations have concluded the officer was criminally negligent? If you said none, you're close. One! That's it. Take into account that a Clark County grand jury cleared the officer accused of criminal negligence, refusing to issue an indictment, and Metro's record of killing civilians without legal ramification is perfect.

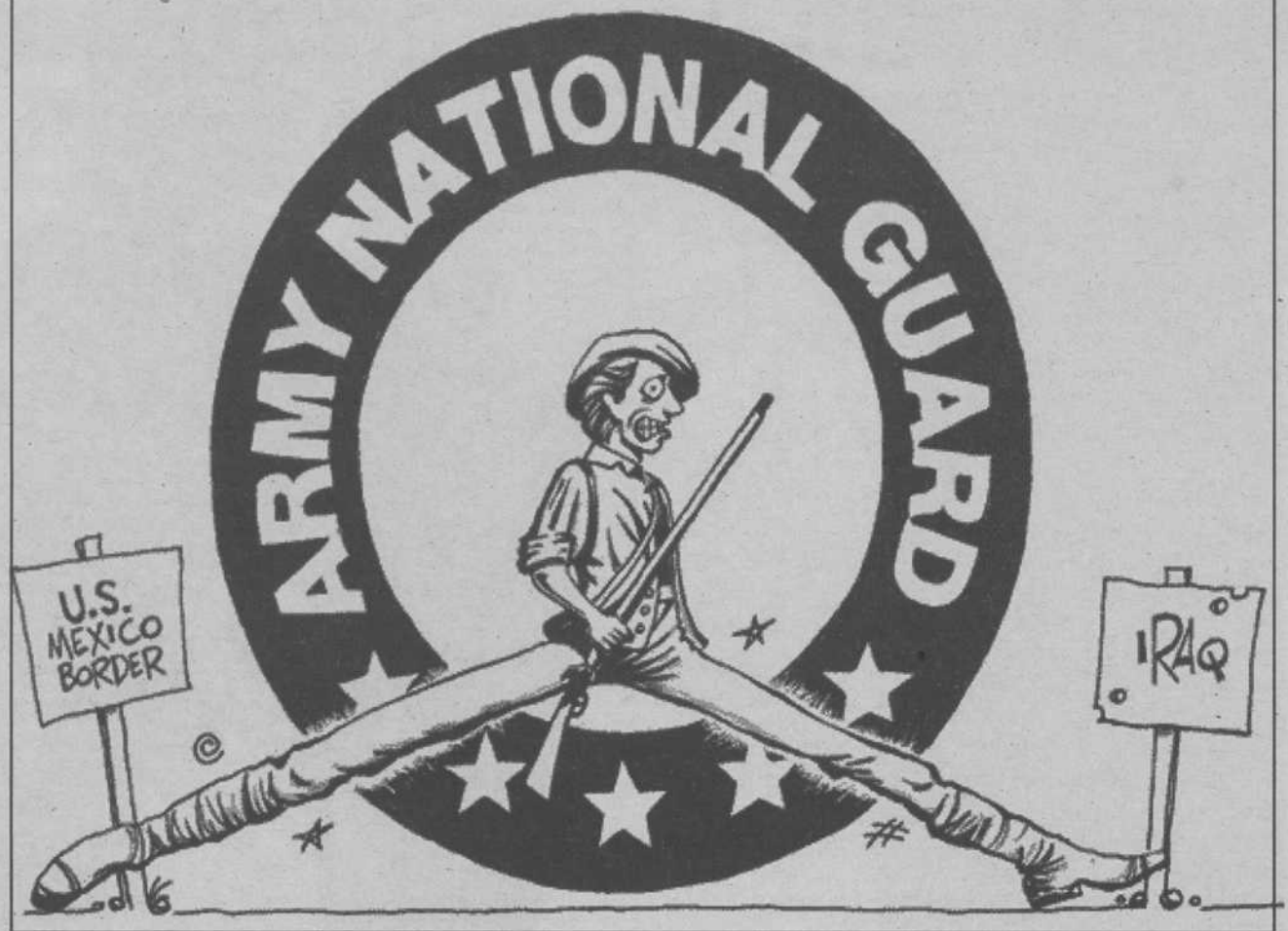
"I know everybody wants answers right now, but that's not the way things happen," Deputy Chief Greg McCurdy said at a press conference on the matter. "In criminal cases, sometimes it's a couple of years before everything comes out. This will be weeks. We will tell the community what happened and why."

The public shouldn't buy this obvious obfuscation. McCurdy has a job to do—to protect Metro. Truth is, we could get answers today about what transpired. But it behooves Metro to delay its response: the better to weave a coherent (and hopefully, for them, a convincing) story. Unless Metro is hiding something, this just doesn't pass the smell test. Why did the officers shoot a handcuffed detainee? Did they fear he was armed? If so, why didn't they do a thorough pat down? Why didn't they give chase on foot? Did they think they couldn't catch him? Couldn't they have given chase in their vehicles? What about warnings? Did they tell him to freeze? Why did both cops fire? Why did they shoot him in the back? Yes, it provides the largest target, but couldn't they have aimed at his legs? Weren't there non-lethal methods of apprehension at their disposal? Good questions, all. But until Metro offers responses, they're aimless.

Metro can provide answers and provide them in less than the years or weeks McCurdy is talking about. That is, of course, if the department plans on being forthright. The adage goes that truth is stranger than fiction; but it's also easier to tell than a lie. Lies take time. Sadly, it appears, Metro is going to take all the time it needs to cover its backside. Think we're cynical, Metro? Prove us wrong.

Rich Get Richer

Now back to President Bush and his lower-than-low approval ratings. Maybe the media has been getting it wrong. Maybe it's been polling the wrong people about the president's on-the-job performance. Maybe the general public shouldn't be asked how it feels about Bush's handling of the war in Iraq, the genocide in Darfur, his ramshackled Social Security reform effort, expansive corruption within his party, backlash over domestic spying, concern about military abuse, seeming unconcern about military casualties (the list goes on and on). We bet if you ask the investors and the wealthy who are the main beneficiaries of a new round of tax cuts, \$70 billion worth, we're sure his approval rating is 150 on a scale of 100.



Honesty on immigration

By Dora LaGrande
Sentinel-Voice

On Monday night before the American public, President George Bush laid out his immigration proposal. For me, the proposal raised even more questions than I had before.

I don't believe there was anything new if you've been following the elected officials on this issue at all. However, it is apparent that Mr. Bush either does not realize the ramifications of some of his ideas (which is highly possible), or he is so naïve as to believe that he or anyone else can truly stop illegal immigrants from crossing the border.

The first thing Congress as a whole needs to do is to be honest with the American public about how many illegal immigrants are actually coming across the Mexican border. Richard Humphries a former law enforcement officer who assists with border control in Elfrida, Ariz., said that more than 3,000 illegal aliens cross the border nightly in the Tucson Sector alone. Instead of the 11 to 12.5 million that's being bandied about, it will actually be more like 60 million. How? Let's look at a few undeniable facts that will justify this population explosion of 60 million that will wreak havoc on our society.

The President said he wouldn't be in favor of amnesty; well it was just a play on words. In fact, a guest worker or temporary worker



ON THE RECORD

By Dora LaGrande

program, whatever Bush calls it, is exactly that. If the 12 million illegal entrants will be allowed to stay and work for up to six years, that creates a momentum of colonization in and of itself. (A recent *Time* magazine article and the Bear/Stearns Report count 20 million illegal aliens residing in America.) Under the President's new proposal, they will be allowed to bring in their wives and children to live with them during that six-year period.

For argument's sake, say only half of them are married. That adds an additional 6 million wives. Being very conservative, let's say they each have three children per family and most would enter our school system. That's 18 million children added to our already overcrowded classrooms, and few, if any of them, speak English. That adds up to 36 million new, unskilled and mostly uneducated people.

Almost all Mexicans are Catholic and practice church restrictions on birth control, so they'll have two to three babies per family during the six year period. Instantly we have 54 million new residents, within only six years. Then, when the six years are

up, we're going to tell them they must take their kids out of school, pay off their home and car loans, gather up their children and return to a third world country; but are they going to go? Who do we think we're kidding? By now, this is their home, and do we really expect that they will willingly give up everything and take their families to a country their children know little about? Of course they won't.

Finally, take the 6 million unmarried guest workers who could potentially father at least one child in those six years. That gives you close to another 6 million children, which equals 60 million new people trouncing our nation's dwindling resources.

When adding the 1.1 mil-

lion legal immigrants added annually in those six years, we're adding horrific additions to our nation in sheer numbers of people that boggle any of our minds. Our once-stable population, because of immigration, is the third fastest growing behind China and India.

Regarding the criminal element, say a minimum of 10 percent of apprehended illegal aliens carried felony convictions on their rap sheets. We can only guess at the number of felons that got through the border and are now operating in our own state, let alone the other 49. And 29 percent of all federal and state prisoners are illegal aliens.

Now whatever happens, we all know that authorities won't round them up and deport them, because we won't do that with the "mere" 12 million or so that are already here; therefore, we just granted citizenship to at least 60 million people as the re-

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