

OUR VIEW

Time is Now

All we can say is that it's about time. As of press time, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department had recorded its 19th officer-involved shooting, 12 of them fatal—a sobering statistic when weighed against the fact there were only 12 officer-involved shootings all of last year. When these incidents occur, it's customary for Metro to launch an internal review. When officer-involved shootings result in death, the Clark County coroner's office conducts its own investigation. But aside from law enforcement and a smattering of police sympathizers, there's a general lack of faith in both Metro's and the coroner's office to be impartial sleuths.

Blame it on the fact that officers have been absolved in 149 of 150 inquests involving death; the only cop held criminally liable was later cleared by a Clark County grand jury. Blame it also on the fact that Metro rarely brings the hammer down on its own in these situations. Other than being placed on temporary administrative leave, it appears cops involved in shootings face scant repercussions. Something has to change. Now!

The change should come from Carson City. No disrespect to the County Commission, whose chairman, Rory Reid, announced during a Tuesday press conference—held by the Las Vegas branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada—that the commission would investigate the coroner's inquest process and meet with activists and concerned citizens. But the commission might not be the best entity to take on such an issue. The commission co-funds Metro with the city of Las Vegas. The commission championed a sales tax to add officers to patrol our rapidly growing city. So it's unlikely that the commission will do anything deleterious to Metro's ability to do its job.

State lawmakers don't have those quandaries. Just as former state Sen. Joe Neal, prodded by decades of complaints of unpunished police abuse, pushed lawmakers to create a civilian review board, so should activists and community leaders press to open Metro and the coroner's inquest to public scrutiny, or at least make their investigations more transparent. Fat chance with Metro—only a maverick sheriff (the current sheriff, Bill Young, is retiring) could nudge rank-and-file officers on this matter. The coroner's inquest, however, can be retooled.

As the writer in a published report in *Las Vegas Weekly* summed an inquest proceeding he attended: "No hard questions are asked, contradictions and discrepancies are left unresolved and the process of the inquest, like its composition, is one insurmountable advocacy for the police." Activists, are you listening?

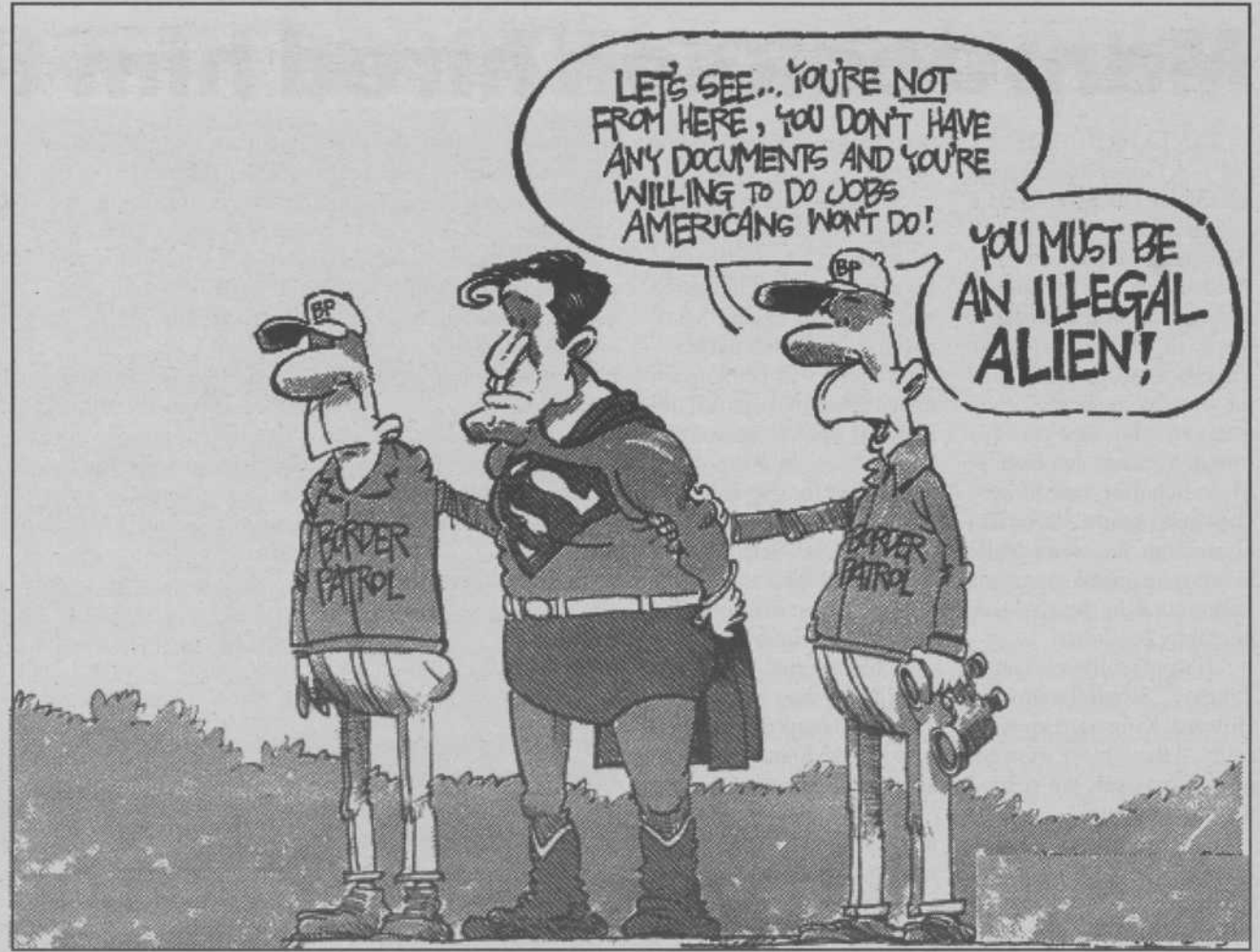
Even Sheriff Bill Young admits there are problems. In an interview with *KLAS Channel 8*, he expressed dismay over some of the actions taken by officers involved in the fatal July 4th shooting of 31-year-old Tarance Hall. According to Metro, officers tried to stop Hall at the Flamingo-Strip intersection for playing his music too loud. An officer jumped into the car, Metro says. Hall drove away and crashed into a cab. Officer Ryan McBride shot and killed Hall, then handcuffed the dead man.

"I did not like seeing what I saw, our officers pulling that individual out when he had already been deceased. Throwing him to the ground and throwing handcuffs on him when he was mortally wounded," Young told *Channel 8*. "I do not think that is a good police tactic. I disagree with anyone who says that it is. I don't care if they like it or not..."

Indignation about handcuffing a dead man, but none about the fact that his officer killed someone. Classic Metro. Things need to change. Now!

Certainly, there are times when cops must defend themselves. But people are fed up with cases like that of Swuave Lopez, a 17-year-old murder suspect shot in the back while trying to escape. Why couldn't cops just run and catch him? Why couldn't they use non-lethal force? Not only do cops have Taser, but every patrol car has shotguns that shoot beanbags.

Change must happen. Now! Be it use-of-force policy, laws, more punitive measures, etc. The dying must stop.



God's meaning of marriage

Dora LaGrande
Sentinel-Voice

One of the largest amendments being fought about in the arena of Congress and in society today is same sex marriage, and the debate continues. Our radically confused society is debating the meaning of marriage with increasing intensity. That question leads to a host of other issues — especially the boundaries of sexual behavior and the nature of procreation. No one is untouched by this debate.

Marriage is a basic human and social institution. Though it is regulated by civil laws and church laws, it did not originate either from the church or the state, but from God. Therefore, neither church nor state can alter the basic meaning and structure of marriage.

Marriage, whose nature and purposes were established by God, can only be the union of a man and a woman and must remain such in law. In a manner unlike any other relationship, marriage makes a unique and irreplaceable contribution to the common good of society, especially through the procreation and education of children, which is what God intended when he said, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." The scripture very clearly joins a man and woman together, not a man and a man, nor a woman and woman, but one



ON THE RECORD

By Dora LaGrande

man and one woman.

There are many passages in the Bible that ban homosexual behavior in any form.

In Genesis 19 God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because of homosexuality and homosexual rape.

In Leviticus 18:22 God specifically told Moses to tell the people that "you shall not lie with a man as with a woman, it is an abomination." The Hebrew word for abomination is *toebah* and is defined as something abhorrent, something disgusting. Leviticus 20:13 goes on to say if a man lies with another man as if he is a woman, both of them have committed an abomination and they shall be surely put to death.

Deuteronomy 23:17; 1 Kings 14:24, 15:12, 22:46; 2 Kings 23:7 say that there shall be no ritual harlot of the daughters of Israel or a perverted one of the sons of Israel. The Hebrew word for perverted is *qadesh* and is defined as one practicing sodomy and prostitution.

Romans 1:25 and 26 states: "When we continue in our wicked ways God gives us up to uncleanness in the lust of our heart to dishonor our bodies among ourselves." It goes on to say that

we'd rather exchange the truth of God for a lie and worship and serve the Devil than the Creator. For this reason, God gives us up to vile passions. For even the women exchanged the natural use of their bodies for what is against nature (women sleeping with other women). Likewise, also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman (sleeping with a woman) they burn in their lust for another man. Men sleeping with men committing what is shameful.

Romans 1:32 goes on to say, among other sins, that those who practice sexual immorality (homosexuality, lesbianism, fornication, sleeping with animals) even though they know the truth of God are deserving of death

and also those who practice with them.

And last but not least, 1 Corinthians 6:9 and 1 Timothy 1:9 states that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of Heaven. It tells us to not be deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetousness, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortionist, nor kidnappers, nor liars, nor perjurers will inherit the kingdom of Heaven.

People can say or believe whatever they choose, but there is no ambiguity in the word of God. It means exactly what it says. Now, I know that some people will believe that I am hateful and intolerant when it comes to homosexuals and lesbians. It's strange that when you don't approve of this behavior you are labeled hateful and intolerant. I don't approve of a beloved relative's behavior because he smokes crack, but that doesn't mean

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