



OFFICE OF
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KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

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March 5, 2004

Sean Lamphere
Editor, Central Kitsap Reporter
9989 Silverdale Way NW, Suite 109
Silverdale, WA 98383

Dear Mr. Lamphere:

The purpose of the editorial page is to stimulate public thought through commentary, opinion, and humor. This is an important concept in a free society. Unfortunately, a recent editorial cartoon may have left the wrong impression.

The safeguarding of human life is why many law enforcement agencies nationwide have implemented "less-lethal" devices such as the Taser. They have proven successful in neutralizing threats to officers and citizens without injury. In the recent Silverdale incident, the preliminary investigation indicates the use of necessary force was unrelated to the death of the individual involved.

My deputies respond to over 90,000 calls for help from citizens each year. Many of these involve violent and bizarre behavior. When confronted with a direct threat, they are trained and ready to take action. This has included pursued felons who point loaded weapons directly at an officer.

They also cannot walk away when an intoxicated individual menaces a neighborhood with shotgun blasts out his window **and** then waits in ambush.

The law enforcement role is difficult and we are fortunate to have individuals willing and able to accept the risks. They deserve our support.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Boyer
Kitsap County Sheriff