

Take a ride with the LAPD

Los Angeles Times Letters

Re "Racial profiling in L.A.: the numbers don't lie," Opinion, Oct. 23

Nowhere do the statistics Ian Ayres cites reflect the individual facts that were developed in each situation -- and which led to the action of the officer involved. Ayres criticizes the arrests resulting from these frisks and searches, concluding that because there was an arrest disparity when the officer was a different race from the suspect, the arrests were invalid. What would have been useful was to follow up on the results of the arrests. How many resulted in charges filed or convictions?

What the ACLU is unwilling to admit is that Los Angeles Police Department officers are doing an extremely dangerous job under stressful conditions -- and with a very high degree of professionalism.

Tim Sands

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The writer is president of the Los Angeles Police Protective League.

**** Note: The Times editors removed Tim's opening line which read: "Statistics are often used like a drunk uses a lamppost, for support, not illumination."**