

A good week for local TV news

You have to hand it to television news. When it's good, it can be very good.

Take last week's news coverage of the rape of a nine-year-old school girl. On KLAS TV-8, reporter **Gordon Tokumatsu**, who is fast becoming one of the station's best reporters, opened with an account of the search for the suspect, followed by **Carla Alston's** neighborhood reaction story (a girl had been killed in the same area a year ago) and **Tom Warden** wrapped things up with a well-handled report on sexual assault treatment.

Channel 8's coverage was a cut above the usual, and so was **Lynn Heider's** reports on the controversy at City Hall that aired on KVBC TV-3. Channel 3 even led with one of Heider's stories on the same night that the rape was hot news on the other stations. It showed even Channel 3 isn't always out to sensationalize the news.

Meanwhile, Channel 3's **Katie Harris** weighed in with some reports on a local artist, **Joyce Straus**, who took up fine art and has been successful selling outside Nevada. What was so unusual about the report, aside from the fact that fine art actually got some air time, was that Straus' work does not fall into the "Sunday painter" category, or the basketweaving crafts line either. Her work is modern and that type of art usually gets a snickering once-over by the media.

In all it was a good week for TV news. Here's hoping more quality work comes from the three local newscasts.