

VEGAS VOYEUR

HEAD BANGER

Tim Larkin is deadly serious about your protection.

IN A MATTER OF DAYS, Tim Larkin has managed to get both a rabbi and a councilman in the English town of Slough to denounce him in the British media. But when you travel the world preaching a mantra of counteracting violence with violence, you're bound to offend some sensibilities.

Larkin, a former Special Warfare intelligence officer (and Navy SEAL candidate disenrolled due to a diving injury) with tree trunk-like arms who calls Las Vegas home, certainly isn't advocating for violence; he simply doesn't mince words about how you should respond to it. "Is it brutal? Yes, absolutely," he says when discussing the system outlined in his Target-Focus Training seminars and book, *How to Survive the Most Critical 5 Seconds of Your Life*. "But that's exactly what you need."

According to Larkin, 45, a life-or-death situation won't be resolved by any fancy kung-fu stance; instead you'll need to learn to punch, pull, gouge, choke and smash your attacker into submission—even to death. While it certainly won't win him any congeniality awards, Larkin's system has been taught in 52 countries to the likes of the FBI, US Marshals and of course the Navy SEALs, along with private clients such as Sony and Oracle. In fact, Larkin says it's most often Forbes 500 executives who call on him to learn how to protect themselves and their families. "With the high-end execs and CEOs I'm talking about, they get it right away," he says.

Larkin also has some unlikely fans here in Vegas. "A lot of the top Ultimate Fighting Championship guys come through who say, 'I know what to do in the ring, but I'm not sure what to do when knives come out,'" he explains. Attendance at one of his \$897 weekend seminars certainly will cover that. It'll also dispel any reservations someone may have about fighting back. "I don't teach anything that I feel is gratuitous, and I certainly don't glorify it," says Larkin, "but I also won't lie to you." —MICHAEL B. DOUGHERTY

