

MAKING OUR STREETS SAFER

A group of teenagers in an economically depressed neighborhood walk to the corner store to get a few items of groceries. In the front of the store is parked a brand new souped-up car with the windows rolled down and music blaring out of a top-notch audio system. Noone is inside and the keys are visibly in the ignition.

Of course, it's a set-up. A typical snare that police use to capture crooks before they have an opportunity to commit a real crime. And, of course, the prison sentences will reflect the sentences handed down had the scenario not been a staged one conducted by the local police department.

Scenes like this, and less obvious ones, play out every day across America. Sometimes the snares are very difficult to spot. Sometimes they involve an undercover cop coaxing and cajoling some kid to commit the crime. Sometimes they involve a pretty young girl, who happened to get busted with some prescription pills or marijuana, teasing and enticing some young guy into doing things he wouldn't normally, and will later regret, doing.

I do understand the rationale. Had the impurity not been present in a persons heart, no amount of temptation, or provocation, could induce them to commit a crime. So, the theory goes, identify, isolate, and incarcerate all potential elements in a society to prevent crime before it occurs.

But how much temptation, provocation, or manipulation is seriously going to be acceptable? And according to whose standards? In a fallen world, the real one, with real men, not angels, don't we all have some defects or weaknesses that could be exploited by someone sinister enough and with enough resources to do so?

Maybe greed isn't your thing, nor lust. But if an informant/agent/gang leader ordered the homies to rob and beat you senseless, maybe jostle the wife a bit, how much culpability can seriously be attributed to you when you retaliate and kill or wound those who the legitimate cops refuse to prosecute? (without saying he's working for them?)

Reminds me of an episode of COPS I watched some time ago. The local crack dealers were out in broad daylight, on film, slinging some rocks. Enter an angry father upset that his teenaged daughter was getting turned out, dope fished right across the street. So, of course, he takes to the teenaged dope dealers with a ball bat, arguing and threatening them. They call the cops. Of course, dad goes to jail. And the 'honorable' officer explains to the camera that we are a nation of 'laws', not vigilante justice, etc...etc...How it's their job to arrest the dealers, etc...(which, incidentally, they don't do.)

I always wonder why they don't let the public know that certain people have 'de facto' permission to deal drugs without fear of prosecution, in exchange for giving up a few of the hoies every now and then, info on other crimes, or any other price the D.A. or local police may set for the free pass(es).

Maybe the cops just want a few turus on die dad's teenaged daughter every now and then.

Again, how much provocation is too much? We all shve limits.

Call me the crazy psycho that our "honorable" government portrays me to be. But in my twisted world view, I would consider it the duty of a legitimate government and it's leaders to identify the good qualities that we all have within us, and find ways to inspire us to virtue, as opposed to placing temptation after temptation before us until they find our breaking points so they can proclaim "Aha!, we caught you!"

The broke kid may not have had any desire to actively go out and commit a crime, or even been looking for one to commit, yet when palced under enough pressure, may end up doing so. Just as equally, this same kid may have had a soft spot for disabled kids or cancer patients or his own downtroden community, and had he been shown how and given an outlet to make some sort of positive impact on the issues he cared about, he may have been inspired to donate time and effort into positively affecting his surroundings.

Man is a curious mix of good and bad qualities. It's extremely rare that you'll find a man completely good or evil. So why do our 'law enforcement' agencies go out of the way, and invest a great deal of tax payer money to transform the POTENTIAL for crime into a REALITY?

Oh yeah, I remember. To justify their existence. To increase conviction rates. To justify and increase the budgets alloted them by the legislatures. To maintain the political patronage jobs involved in a 2.3 million man prison population and countless probation/parole and court/lawyer jobs. To make our prosecutors look like heroes. (As we assign actual military heroes to be buried in landfills in New York)

I almost forgot. Almost thought they were acting out of ignorance. Almost forgot who the good guys were.

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