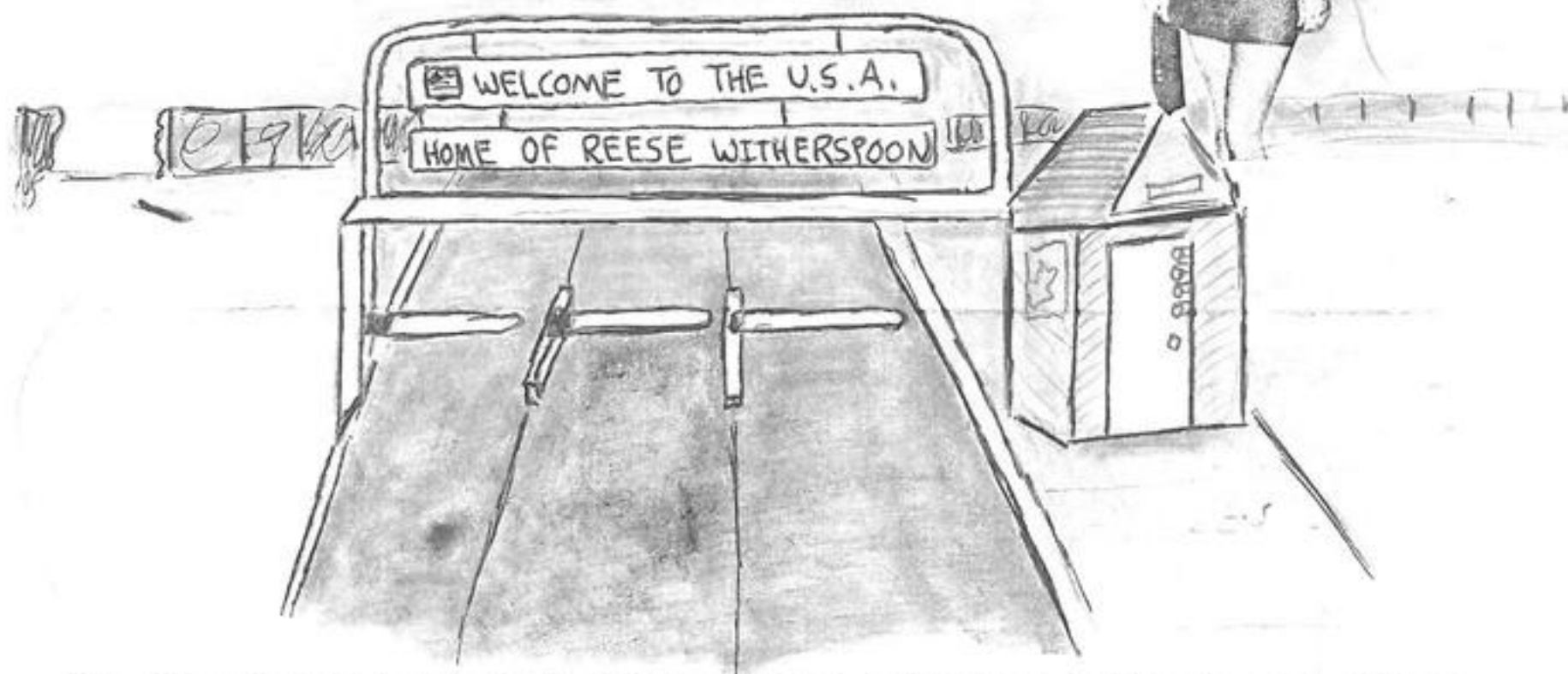


AMERICAN GRANDILOQUENCE:
Reese Witherspoon--Between the Lines



"Do you know my name?" Witherspoon asked an Atlanta cop after she and her agent/husband got pulled over for DUI; and it's the phrase a lot of the knee-jerk-media is focusing on, but some journalists are picking up on the bigger picture. Her oddly archetypal claim of--"I'm an American and I can do what I want."

Here, as with most, is a Hollywood product, putting into words only what the shared mental collective of the American public is thinking. A typical specimen, Reese isn't to blame, because she's no worse than any other American female her age. She just happens to have the attention of millions upon millions of people. I used to live in Atlanta, and let me tell you, it's full of DUI swerving vehicles, the Witherspoon's car was nothing new to those streets. I knew lots of dirty cops when I lived there. I seen cops screwing the hookers behind one of my stores on a regular basis, usually girls from Mexico or Rio, there trying not to get caught without a green card and willing to do anything to stay--I felt sorry for them. I knew cops that would buy and use drugs, and I even knew some that participated in the street racing I did, blocking roads off or even running their patrol cars stupidly against my 3000GT VR4.

What Reese needs to do, is hire an investigator to not only do a check on the arresting officer, but track every single penny of the fines her husband incurred with his DUI. Now I'm not saying the Witherspoon's actions were just, drinking and attempting to drive is very stupid. I've had a lot of bosses that were alcoholics--always coming up to the stores drunk in their cars, for years, never pulled over. Reese was most likely stopped not only because the cop seen a DUI, but because the cop noticed an expensive car (I presume) that could pay. That's

why I'd like to see where the money went. Let us just say that Reese's husband, Jim Toth, got like a \$500.00 fine, although I'm sure it's much more in total, including impound etc; and where exactly does it go? How much did the taxpayers of Atlanta actually see, and why?

Tax payers of Atlanta, and Georgia, give tons of money to law and law related things (i.e., patrol cars, gas, repairs, helicopters, cameras, paperwork, computer tech supplies and repair, jails, housing if inmates, electricity for the jails and offices of law, prosecutors and their many assistants and needs, the list goes on and on and on, and tax payers pay for it ALL.) Even many millions, even billions, of government taxes from across the country make it to Atlanta's budget, just as it does with all our cities. The Witherspoon's have money, lots of it, and probably pay like 60% of it to the government (The rich pay a lot more than the poor like to admit, they usually pay out over half of what they make now, and if everyone had had to do that they'd be another civil war. Most poor and middle class pay about 8% on the low end if anything at all, and like 40% on the high end. Someone making twenty grand a year, and with two kids, in South Carolina, pays no taxes at all--they get it all back plus bonus money under the ruse of "earned income tax credits"--I know because I always claimed it myself.).

My point, Atlanta has budget funds coming in from everywhere in the U.S. and to top that off, even those avoiding taxes cannot avoid buying things, and all those pennies of sales tax add up. So. Why. Do. Cops. Profit. From. Tickets. And. Fines?

Don't think they do? Get Reese to trace the money of those fines. Where did it go, and whose paychecks benefited from those dollars collected? Oh I'm sure some went to good causes--but I bet you'll find some didn't. And how many of these wayward pennies add up for the year? Plus, what other crimes were taking place while this cop was parked by the side of the road? It would take someone actually looking at reports for the following week or so of that day, of crimes reported to have taken place by record of filed reports (and arrests) of the happenings of that night, then overlay it all with a map of the city, compare it to weekly, daily, and monthly, even yearly data. What you'll probably find is that the cop had much bigger fish to fry that never made it on the bank let alone near the pan; because he wasn't really fishing for criminals of poor quality, the city needs its quota, and that's met with payed tickets, convictions, and incarcerations.

We as Americans have these shared delusions that we're all special for some reason or another--but we're not, we're all part of the same human race, and humans are greatly flawed! Hollywood may raise us, with its bedazzled life and its throwback ease, but we have to grow up at some point. If you drink; you cannot drive. Do drugs; you're an idiot. An actress is just a woman that can act. A cop is just an EMPLOYEE of the taxpayers. When they start crossing lines--we need to then read between them, for the bigger problem at hand.

