

HOROSCOPE

BY SOUP
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PSYCHIC

Aries (March 21-April 19) The impulsive nature of Mars may lead your rash action early this month. Remember that while impulsiveness sometimes reaps rich rewards, questioning yourself along the way will enhance your overall achievement.

Taurus (April 20-May 21) Some have called your stringent routine inflexible. Allow your ruling planet Venus to take over this spring. Any anxiety you might feel about change will dissipate as you ease into a peaceful season of renewed sociability.

Gemini (May 22-June 22) What has been missing in your life is new knowledge and experiences. Let out your curious inner child these following weeks -- with respect to the re-growth of the moon.

Cancer (June 23-July 23) Your protective nature is to be commended, but enough is enough. If you are feeling overly sensitive, it is best to analyze your insecurities. Friends and loved ones can only be expected to be so patient.

Leo (July 24-Aug. 23) April showers will have you feeling down this month, as the Sun sign in you yearns to be free. Nobody wants to hear you complain. Light shines over all of us equally, Leo, a sense of entitlement only got the king beheaded.

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) Mercury, at some point or another, may or may not be in retro-grade. Use this to hone your ability to express your own critical views in a positive manner.

Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) A coming planetary balance will suit your diplomatic personality. A friend may come to you with a question regarding compromise. Sometimes being a good leader means taking one for the team.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Mars will have you hopping mad this month. You need an outlet for all that energy. Try to find a new activity that encourages a productive use for your built up emotions.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 22) You react best to a proper diet. Lucky for you, previous kindness you have given others will be returned with fervid reciprocity.

Capricorn (Dec. 23-Jan. 19) Obsession with discipline and hardship can seem callous to the less stalwart. Remind yourself that healthy fun often lacks structure.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) A wise astrological sage once noted, "Uranus is forward thinking and rebellious." Uranus is in control of you, push for innovative action in the coming weeks.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) Your sensitive emotions may spin out of control from time to time, but not these days. Stick to your opinions, even if others cannot comprehend the subtleties of your imagination, there's a reason you feel the way you do.

CORRECTIONS

Street Roots strives for accuracy, but we're human. So we also strive to correct errors in our paper whenever possible. Please report any errors to our managing editor, Joanne Zuhl, at 503-228-5657, or write to joanne@streetroots.org.

March 20: In the correction for the story "Witnessing History," (Street Roots, Jan. 2, 2009) we erred in correcting the court's verdict. Mr. Harcourt was found innocent of all charges, including that really nasty one. ewww.

Popularity of 'secret lists' takes hold

BY LIV ABILITY
UNEMPLOYED WRITER

Word is out that "the well is going dry," in terms of offenders in downtown Spokane, after a series of sweeps by police officers there who want to keep sweeping to the city limits. And maybe even beyond, if that's what's necessary to keep downtown Spokane livable.

Under the Community Lives Under Selective Enforcement program, based on a strategic plan developed in Germany in the 1930s, people targeted by the police are put on a secret list, and when police arrest them, they are subject to harsher punishment in the courts, and then channeled into social services. People placed on the secret list are not able to appeal their status.

The program has been controversial, and civil rights lawyers charge that it's unconstitutional because police officers decide the crime, who gets arrested and where the list applies. The program has been around for several years and has taken many different names as critics have challenged its fairness and legality. The program is now facing a challenge in court by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of people on the list.

To the surprise of no one, the policy's firm approach -- some have called it fascist --

has people on the run, with the police crediting the program for a decline in repeat arrests in the area. So successful, in fact, that maintaining the supply of tax money for the program, and even procuring federal stimulus funds, means putting retreating offenders in new neighborhoods on the list.

"It's time to branch out," said Sturm Oondrang with the Community Lives Under Selective Enforcement program. "It's basic supply-and-demand principals at play, and there are so many people who need to be on the list. We have to expand."

Police in Seattle, seeing how well the list operation has worked in Spokane, have inquired about bringing the program to downtown Seattle, where traditional methods and programs have left many people still on the streets. Seattle is considering the Livability Ends Justify the Liveliest Means program, which is expected to slide through the Seattle City Council at midnight sometime soon.

One concern Seattle might consider is that Spokane's list, subpoenaed in the ACLU challenge, includes the names of 24 African Americans, out of a city population of 17.

Oondrang said that the key is to have complete trust in the police officers who compile and manage the list, drawing names off the city's data bank. "After decades of being on the front lines of our society's ills, they've become expert social-service

representatives." Oondrang said. "They're paid to look after us, and it's our job to make sure they can do what they feel they need to do, because we all trust them to know best."

Once arrested, people are ushered into addiction and housing programs, which are reserved with funding from the program's \$2 million budget.

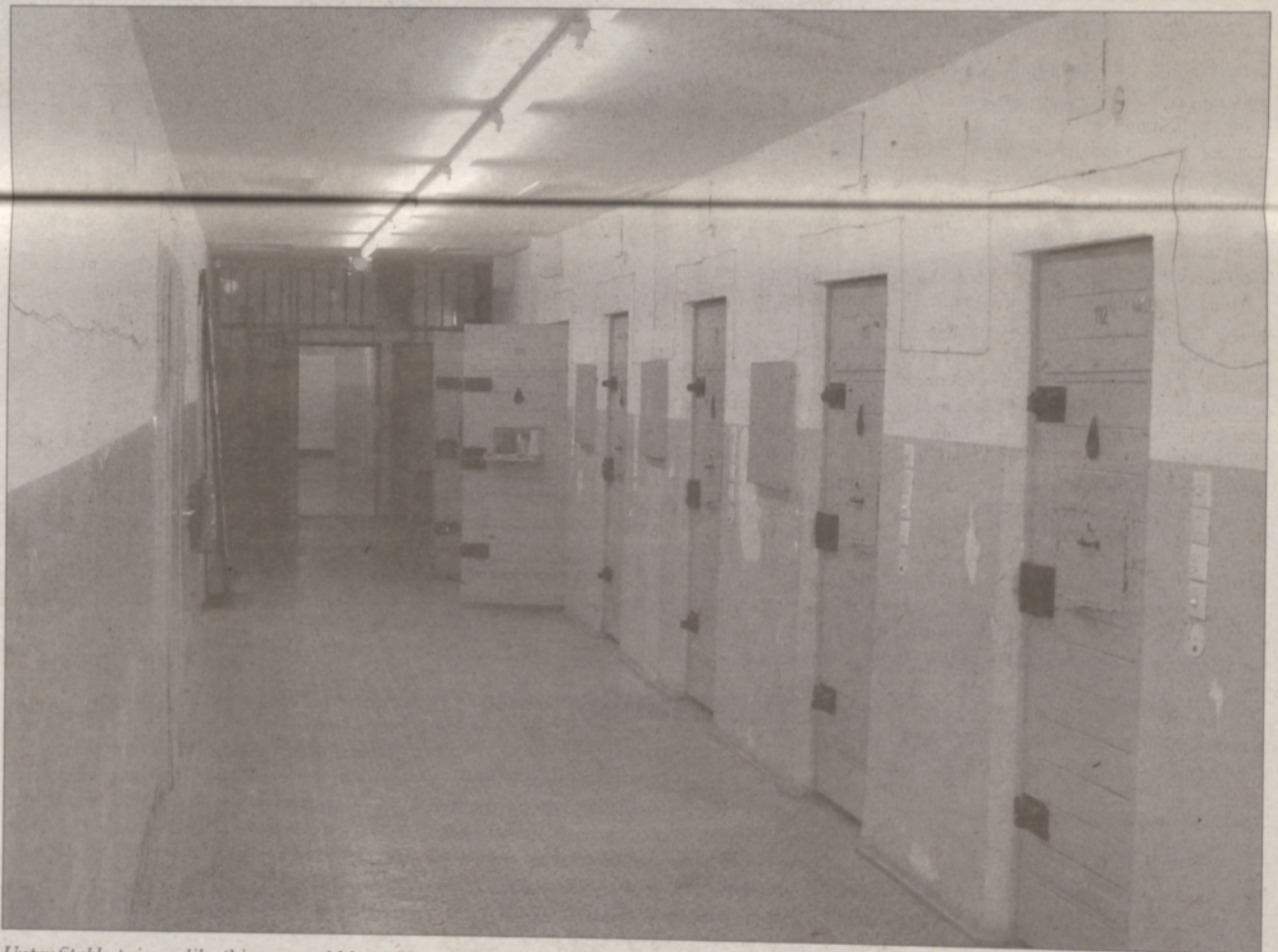
"Being on the list means we care about you," said Oondrang. "It means we see that you're in need and the justice system wants to help."

Sam Waterways, who is experiencing homelessness in Spokane, says he's been trying to get on the list for the past year.

"I've tried to get into service programs and housing, but the waiting lists are so long," Waterways said. "If I could get on the list, and get arrested, I know I'll get inside sooner."

Waterways admits that he actually may already be on the list, but doesn't know for sure because it's secret.

Police in Spokane say they are now considering starting a secret list of all people who ride bicycles in the city, in order to better serve cyclists' needs after they are cited for rolling through stop signs. In related news, activists in San Francisco have started a secret list of police officers they hope to be arrested by.



Unprofitable prisons like this one could be a thing of the past if the West Coast Business Association assumes control of the local industry.

Business group lobbies for control of state justice system

BY KA CHING
UNEMPLOYED WRITER

A West Coast Business Association report paid for by the West Coast Business Association found that Portland and other communities throughout Oregon would save money if they handed over the entire criminal justice system to private companies the association represents.

The report found that if the association were given the justice system it could appoint and pay for judges free of cost to taxpayers and move several district attorney offices throughout the state to newly refurbished office buildings created through the federal stimulus plan.

"Like the federal government, cities and

counties around the United States are thinking smart about how to save money and boost the economy in a way that allows them to serve the general public," said a representative from the association after declining to comment for most of the interview. "It's something we really should be thinking about during hard times."

The report notes that during the past two decades, private companies nationwide have been able to purchase and maintain with dignity a large portion of state and federal prisons throughout the United States. The report states that if the program was duplicated at a local level through the entire criminal justice system, the cities and counties would save millions.

The association currently pays for a

portion of community courts that have created programs to work with low-level offenders in communities throughout the West. The association also supports the court through lobbying efforts and writing thoroughly crafted legislation for many of the laws targeting offenders who drink beer in the park and urinate in public after restrooms are closed to the public.

"We're confident things will continue on schedule," a spokesman for the association told Street Roots. "Sometimes having a safe community means making concessions. And in this case, that means handing the criminal justice system over to us. It's the price we have to pay to live in a safe world."