

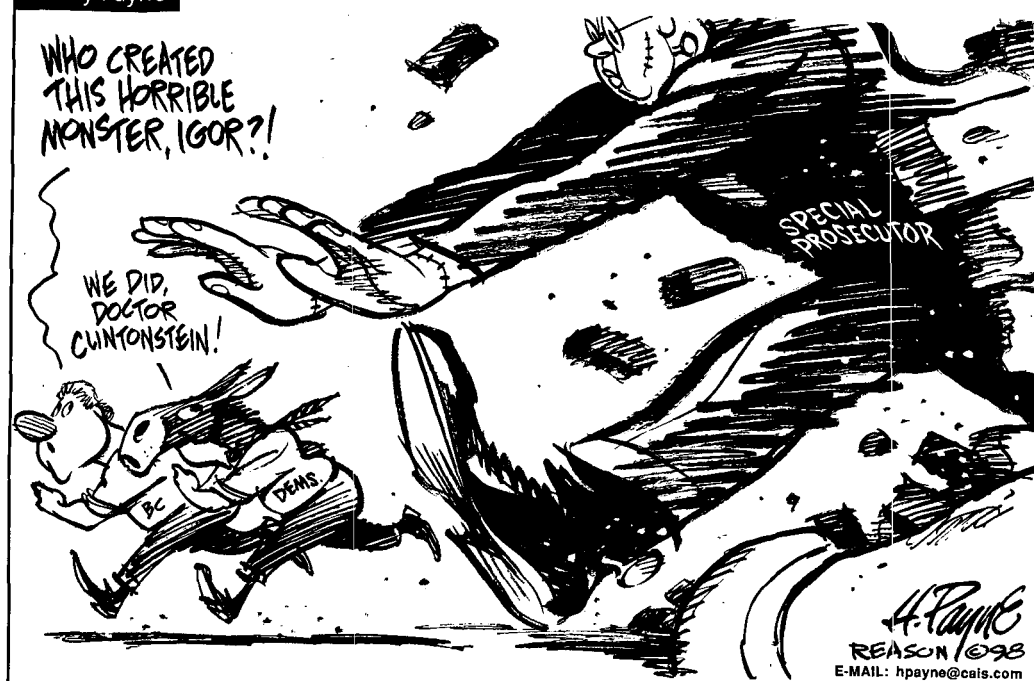
BRICKBATS

◆ The Labor Department says 28 percent of all federal worker's compensation claims are filed by Postal Service workers. Granted, postal work can be dangerous. But recent investigations indicate a bit of fraud going on. In San Juan, Puerto Rico, investigators followed one man claiming total disability in his ankle and knee. The man may have been unable to work in the post office, but he was able to operate a tae kwon do school, where he was seen breaking boards with his feet. Another postal worker who had been collecting disability pay since 1985 claimed he was unable to lift more than 10 or 20 pounds. He was caught in a gym bench-pressing 235.

◆ Members of the European Parliament will never have to wait in line for a bathroom stall. Each has his own private bathroom, complete with shower. The bathrooms cost \$14,790 each.

◆ About 30 years ago, the military wanted a direct route for moving forces from one side of the Hawaiian island of Oahu to the other. So construction began in the early '70s on the H-3 freeway. With the end of the Cold War, the military no longer needed the highway, but building continued. Finally, 25 years late and 18 times more expensive than planned, the 16-mile, four-lane freeway was finished at a total cost of \$1.3 billion. State officials say the new highway will alleviate traffic jams, but critics say that's unlikely: The road really doesn't go anywhere anyone wants to go.

Henry Payne



ference calls even after the suspect under surveillance has hung up, and monitor the content of a suspect's voicemail box.

The deadline for CALEA's implementation, October 1998, clearly can't be met because the technology to deliver numbers and content isn't yet available and may take as long as 18 months to develop and deploy.

With negotiations between the FBI, industry representatives, and privacy groups at a standstill, the parties have asked the Federal Communications Commission to settle the dispute. The FCC now plans to start a "rule making" proceeding that will develop regulatory standards for digital telephones and establish a timeline for compliance with the law. The FBI wants the FCC to issue the final regulations by the original deadline this October. But a source close to the negotiations says this won't happen, since the feds and technology firms have been at an impasse for more than

four years and neither side appears likely to give in.

Youthful Exuberance

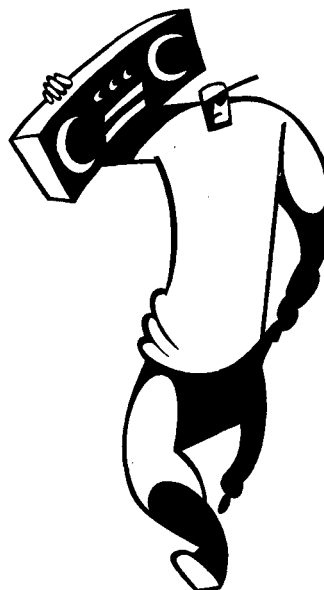
By Nick Gillespie

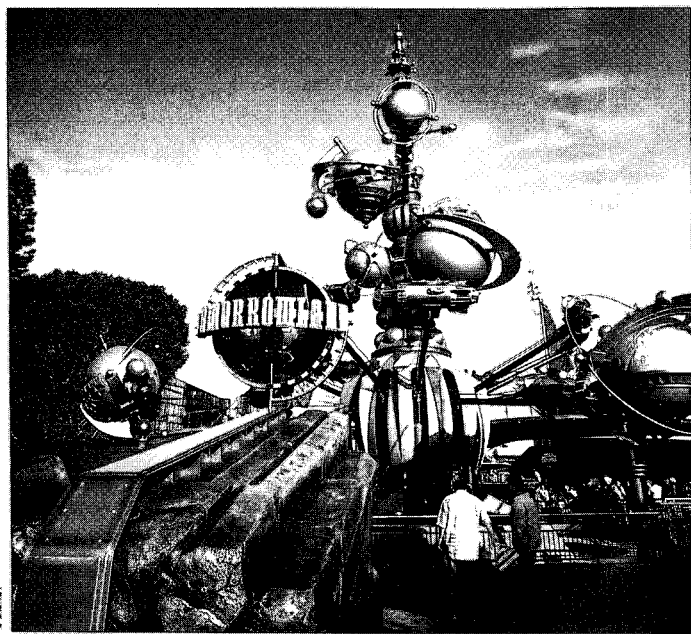
Between 1978 and 1993, the rate at which adults were arrested for murder declined by about 7 percent, while the rate for juveniles skyrocketed by 177 percent. Some prominent criminologists, such as John DiIulio and James Q. Wilson, believe the huge increase among ju-

venile criminals reflects the rise of "super-predators," a new breed of sociopathic kids who are qualitatively different from past generations of offenders.

In "Juvenile Crime and Punishment," a recent National Bureau of Economic Research working paper, Harvard University's Steven D. Levitt suggests an alternative explanation for the boom in adolescent anarchy: It reflects "a rational...response to a change in the relative incentives for juveniles and adults to engage in criminal activities." Levitt notes that over the past two decades the adult prison population tripled, while juvenile lock-ups failed to keep pace. Since kids were more likely to get away with crime, he suggests, they were more likely to engage in it.

Levitt calculates that the ratio of adult state and federal prisoners to violent crimes committed by adults, a "rough proxy" for the severity of the criminal justice system, rose from 0.34 to





The Search for Tomorrow

In late May, Disneyland will open its third revamped Tomorrowland. Gone is the hard edge of 1950s modernism. The new Tomorrowland draws on the visions of Jules Verne and Leonardo da Vinci; its buildings are decorated in lush jewel tones; its gardens are filled with fruit trees. (Tomorrowland does still have spaceships; the new Rocket Rods ride is the fastest in the park.)

Social critics have been quick to see Tomorrowland's most recent changes as proof that progress is a fantasy and technology suspect. The cultural critic Tim Appelo declares that Disney's "Imagineers know we're scared of the future....[T]he old Disney dream of erecting a futuristic techno-paradise is dead."

Giving up "techno-paradise" doesn't mean giving up technology or optimism, however. It means letting the future evolve to suit what people want. Contrary to 1950s planners, the real people who buy Disney-

land tickets don't want to live in generic high-rise apartments and walk their dogs on treadmills. And Tomorrowland has always emulated the evolving future: constantly under revision, to incorporate new information and please changing tastes. The great thing about the park, said Walt Disney, was that it "will never be finished....It's alive."

—Virginia Postrel

0.55, an increase of over 60 percent, from 1978 to 1993. The corresponding ratio for young offenders, however, declined from 0.36 to 0.29. Juvenile punishments, concludes Levitt, "were comparable to adult punishments in 1978, but were only about half as severe in 1993."

Levitt notes that in states where adult offenders are much more likely to be imprisoned than juveniles, violent crime rates drop by 25 percent when a cohort becomes a legal adult. Far from indicating a new breed of "super-predator," such findings suggest that young criminals—like their older counterparts—can be deterred by the threat of doing time.

Puff Daddies

By Rick Henderson

"T his is the first act of civil disobedience in

my life," laughed comedian and nonsmoker Drew Carey, as he lit a cigarette in the popular West Hollywood restaurant Barney's Beanery March 31. "Lock me up."

Before a crush of microphones, cameras, reporters, and fellow protesters, the stand-up comic and ABC sitcom star publicly flouted the ban on smoking in bars and restaurants that took effect in California January 1. The event, which also promoted REASON Senior Editor Jacob Sullum's new book *For Your Own Good: The Anti-Smoking Movement and the Tyranny of Public Health*, attracted lots of press attention. *Entertainment Tonight*, *Access Hollywood*, CNN, VH-1, and E! Entertainment News sent camera crews and

correspondents, as did the local network affiliates and two independent stations.

"I want to have the right myself to ostracize [smokers], I don't want the government to do it," said magician/comedian/nonsmoker Penn Jillette, who took a drag from a bystander's cigar. Print reporters from *USA Today*, the Associated Press, *Daily Variety*, and *Hollywood Reporter* covered the smoke-in, as did *Los Angeles Times* columnist Mike Downey. Along with the camera crews and report-

ers, two other stars of *The Drew Carey Show*—Ryan Stiles (Lewis) and Nan Martin (Mrs. Louder)—and about two dozen grassroots protesters joined the smoke-in.

Erwin Held, owner of Barney's, gladly hosted the event because he says the ban has reduced his business by 30 percent to 40 percent. This loss of commerce doesn't seem to bother West Hollywood Mayor Steve Martin (not the actor), who said he was "disappointed" in the

positive publicity Carey and his fellow scofflaws attracted. "The ban is here to stay," Martin said. "The government is looking out for the majority, and the smoking ban makes good sense for the majority." ►

