

tem" of foster homes and institutions while waiting for an opportunity to find a stable, loving adoptive home. Sadly, for many, such a home never becomes available.

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realize how many groups of people in Utah Valley have to be served by just this one mall?

We can hardly walk from store to store without bumping and being bumped by dozens of young parents and their strollers. Mothers like me, with a string of school-age children tagging behind them, trudge from store to store because the clothes are so picked over and all the sizes we need are gone. Throngs of hyperactive teen-agers (whose weary parents, including me, have dropped them off at the mall to get rid of them for three hours) race up and down, trying on clothes they have no intention of buying, and fill up the fitting booths I need to use.

Then there is the BYU crowd, hundreds of college students buying all their needs or walking around hand-in-hand on a "mall date." Out-of-state mothers who attend Education Week in August buy up all the school clothes I need. If you're there any day in the afternoon, you're sure to be lodging groups of short-haired missionaries from the MTC coming out to have one last touch with the world and buy all of their needs before they take off for a foreign country where there are no malls at all.

At Christmas the entire scene becomes so berserk you can hardly put one foot in front of the other.

As for the people who live in the trailer park, well, I'm sorry for their situation, but I believe that progress has to move forward when the time is right.

The need for another mall has already existed for five years and I, for one, wish that everyone from BYU to Santaquin could stop somewhere new, so that everyone from north Provo to Alpine could have a lot more room at University Mall. We'll probably all shop at both malls, but at least it will

# The saga of a government run amok

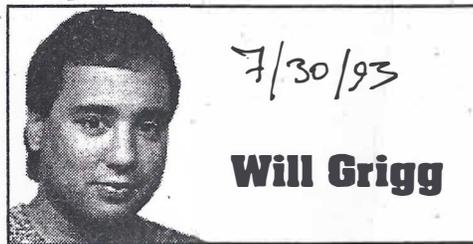
*This is the first of three columns about a federal government "gone wild."*

In 1974, a 22-year-old Phoenix man named Rick Allen Ross was convicted of attempted jewel theft. The first-time offender was sentenced to 10 days in jail and a brief term of probation. Less than a year later Ross was in court again to face charges that he had violated probation by becoming involved in a second robbery attempt.

A psychological evaluation of the recidivist (admittedly, any such analysis should be looked upon with a hint of skepticism) described the individual as a man with a history of emotional problems who was easily corrupted by peer pressure. The evaluating psychologist discerned "sociopathic inclinations" in Ross. Following his prescribed "rehabilitation," this habitual miscreant gravitated toward the dubious profession of "cult deprogramming."

A "deprogrammer" is a free-lance kidnapper who torments cultists into recanting their religious beliefs. Although most deprogrammings focus their attentions upon occultists and fringe sects (such as Scientology), Ross has become a specialist in what he calls "destructive Bible-based groups," chiefly Evangelical Christian and Orthodox Jewish congregations. Ross collects a fee of \$350 a day to abduct individuals — usually adults — and pound their biblical beliefs out of them.

Ross, a peripatetic persecutor, has been involved in abductions in several states. In 1991 Ross and two associates were arrested for the abduction of an 18-year-old



## At Home and Abroad

Washington resident named Jason Scott. The young man was imprisoned for five days. Just before his escape, Scott overheard his captors making plans to take him to a "rehabilitation center" in Ohio.

For reasons that are opaque to the rational mind, Scott became an "expert advisor" to various law enforcement agencies. In the late 1980s, police in Island Park, Vermont — acting upon Ross's advice — stormed a local Christian commune called the Northeast Kingdom Community. The authorities, responding to reports of pervasive child abuse, took 350 children into custody in the high profile raid. A judicial investigation of the raid found that the children had indeed been abused — by the state authorities, who had seized them without cause.

But involvement in the Vermont episode was merely Ross's dress-rehearsal for his most notable achievement. In late 1992, Ross was hired to "deprogram" two members of David Koresh's Branch Davidian sect. The "deprogrammed" Davidians offered lurid (and utterly unsubstantiated) accusations regarding child abuse

and sexual irregularities among their erstwhile co-religionists.

By that time, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms had been keeping the Davidians under surveillance for several months. In the August American Spectator, Daniel Wattenberg notes that just before the February 28 raid in Waco, the ATF became entangled in a sexual harassment scandal. Whatever the merits of the accusations against the ATF, the agency suddenly had a need to distract public attention and placate the feminist sensibilities of the Clinton administration. A spectacular raid against a white, patriarchal male "cult" leader would serve those ends quite tidily.

Before the raid, Ross became a "consultant" to the ATF and FBI. During the Waco siege he was a frequently-quoted "cult expert." In the latter capacity he did much to poison the well of public opinion, demonizing David Koresh as a "predatory, manipulative animal" and worse. Following the bloody denouement in Waco, Ross declared that Koresh had "killed his own children" rather than face a prison term.

The public may never find out exactly what happened in the lethal final hours in Waco: federal authorities have bulldozed the residual evidence into oblivion. "Exit counsellors" retained by the feds are performing similar labors upon the memories of Waco survivors. Exit Counsellor Brett Bates told the April 24 New York Daily News that the survivors must be deprogrammed before they can become "productive witnesses."

# Mitchell priming for a close senate race

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, has issued a call to arms to campaign contributors: He tops the Republican hit list and needs \$2 million by Election Day 1994.



winner and a sure loser in politics," said a Mitchell spokesperson. "The senator feels he needs to be prepared for a competitive contest and in this day and age that means