

viewpoint

By Jeff Riggerbach

The War on Illegals Hits Home

During the last week of July, I was arrested in California, handcuffed, strip-searched, photographed, fingerprinted, and jailed for more than seven hours by the U.S. Border Patrol. My wife was subjected to all the same indignities. Our seven-year-old son was arrested, photographed, and jailed right along with us, though he was spared the handcuffs, the strip-search, and the fingerprinting. Our car was seized, and we were told we would not be allowed to reclaim it.

What had we done to bring this down on ourselves? We had picked up our 25-year-old Mexican housekeeper, Ana, in San Diego and driven north on Interstate Highway 5 toward our home in Orange, California, a suburban community about 35 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles. Ana had spent the weekend in Mexico with her fiance and had reentered the United States that morning. When she reached San Diego, she had called to let us know where she was, and we had driven the 85 miles down to give her a ride home.

What we didn't reckon with was "Checkpoint Charlie," the permanent roadblock the Immigration and Naturalization Service operates on I-5 about 100 miles north of the border. The official reason for having a Border Patrol checkpoint so far north of the border is to catch Mexican nationals who are trying to violate the terms of their tourist visas. Such visas entitle the bearer to visit the United States, but only within 100 miles of the border. Many Mexicans obtain such visas, however, and travel beyond the 100-mile limit, whereupon they disappear into the Latino areas of cities like Los Angeles, where finding them is like finding a needle in a haystack.

Ana possessed such a tourist visa, but it had been canceled the day before, when she had attempted to enter the United States through Nogales (south of Tucson, Arizona). The Border Patrol had searched her purse and found an airline ticket that would have taken her from Tucson to Orange County's John Wayne Airport about 10 miles from our home. Now, therefore, she was an "illegal alien." And we were guilty of "transporting" her and of "aiding and abetting" her flight from the border, which she had illegally crossed.

We had not known that it was illegal to



"transport" an illegal alien—that is, to give an undocumented person a ride from one place in the United States to another. Since our arrest, we've been able to find only one person who did know it was illegal before hearing our story.

In the Los Angeles area, illegal aliens make up a substantial part of the adult work force. In Orange County, according to the *Los Angeles Times*, one adult worker in 10 is an illegal alien. And every day of the week, Monday through Friday, the contractors who employ those aliens on construction sites, in orchards, and in farmers' fields pick them up on street corners to transport them to their jobs. They are never arrested for doing so. But we were.

The question, of course, is why *anyone* should be arrested for helping an immigrant enjoy a better life. Ana regarded the salary she received for working in our home and caring for our children as more than generous. She in no way felt exploited by us. In fact, she regarded us as her benefactors. And we regarded her as a member of our family. She had a particularly close and loving relationship with our seven-year-old son, who was deeply hurt when she was taken from us.

We considered the work Ana did in return for her salary completely satisfactory. Both parties to the bargain were happy with what they got out of it. What business had government—or anyone else—to interfere with

our entirely voluntary transaction? Why is our government using violence to prevent capitalist acts among consenting adults? Whose rights did we violate? Whom did we damage?

Those who want to see our immigration laws better enforced—those who speak of the need to "protect the integrity of our borders"—often accuse illegal immigrants of entering this country in order to collect welfare. But Ana—and all the other illegals I have known over the years—had done no such thing. On the contrary, she had come here at some expense and not inconsiderable danger to herself in order to

earn her living and help support the members of her family in Mexico. The work she did was work no native American would do at a price her employers could afford to pay. Whose rights did she violate? Whom did she damage?

In the end, she was deported and warned not to come back. (She was back, however, within three weeks—back in this country, but not back in our home, where we all fear the Border Patrol might come looking for her.)

We were charged with one felony count and one misdemeanor count of violating U.S. immigration laws. But our attorney talked the federal prosecutor into offering us a "deferred prosecution." If we maintain a clean record for one year—if we are neither arrested nor charged with any violations of local, state, or federal laws for that length of time—the charges against us will be dropped and the \$1,000 bond we were required to post will be returned to us. Meanwhile, we have lost a close friend and valued employee, we have lost several thousand dollars in legal fees and other expenses, our young son has been needlessly traumatized, and we have been brutalized by government thugs.

Your income taxes at work.

Contributing editor Jeff Riggerbach is an editorial writer and columnist for the Orange County Register and a regular guest columnist for USA Today.

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But in addition to its historic importance, beauty and the value of its metallic properties, the Minerva coin is the symbol of a little-known, new country, established in 1972 by a group of visionary, freedom-loving libertarians.

The Republic of Minerva

On January 19, 1972 the North and South Minerva Reefs (situated 400 miles south of Fiji, and previously unclaimed by any nation) were occupied and claimed under international law by the founders of the State of Minerva. These men immediately commenced a bold, sophisticated plan of landfill and seawall development to literally create from once barren reefs the land needed for a city-state of 30,000 inhabitants.

The Republic of Minerva was dedicated to the principles of Capitalism and Free-Enterprise. Its government was limited to the protection of its citizens against force or fraud. Other world governments were officially notified of the existence of the newly created island and its government. Landfill operations were proceeding apace, and recognition had been received from the first of the world's countries when disaster struck.

On June 21, 1972 Minerva was forcibly invaded by the Kingdom of Tonga, its nearest neighbor, 260 miles distant. Unable to

effectively defend the island, its government was forced into exile pending resolution of the conflict. The possibility remains that the Republic of Minerva may yet reclaim its territory and if that should happen, the Minerva coin could multiply in value many times over.

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Radar warning breakthrough #4 is now available from the same engineers who made #1, #2, and #3

Bad news for radar detectors. The FCC (Federal Communications Commission) has cleared the Rashid VRSS for operation on K band.

What's a Rashid VRSS?

The Rashid VRSS is a collision warning system using a radar beam to scan the vehicles path, much as a blind person uses a cane. It may reduce accidents, which is very good news.*

Now for the bad news

Unfortunately, the Rashid transmits on K band, which is one of the two frequencies assigned to traffic radar. Rashid speaks a radar detector's language, you might say, and it can set off detectors over a mile away.

Faced with this problem, we could hope Rashid installations will be few. Or we could invent a solution.

Opportunity knocking

Actually, the choice was easier than it sounds, because our engineers are in the habit of inventing remarkable solutions. In fact, in the history of radar detection, only three advancements have qualified as genuine breakthroughs, and all three came from our engineers.

Back in 1978, they were first to adapt dual-band superheterodyne technology to the problem of traffic radar. The result was ESCORT, now legendary for its performance.

In 1983, when a deluge of cheap imported detectors was found to be transmitting on radar frequency, our engineers came through again, this time with ST/O/P*, a sophisticated circuit that could weed out these phony signals before they triggered an alarm.

Then in 1984, using SMDs (Surface Mounted Devices), micro-electronics originally intended for satellites, these same engineers designed the smallest detector ever. The result was PASSPORT, renowned for its convenience.

*For more information on Rashid VRSS collision warning system, see *Popular Science*, January 1986.

They said it couldn't be done

Now we're introducing breakthrough number four. In their cleverest innovation yet, our engineers have found a way to distinguish Rashid from all other K band signals. It's the electronic equivalent of finding the needle in a haystack. The AFR* (Alternating Frequency Rejection) circuit isolates and neutralizes all Rashid signals, yet leaves the radar detection capability undiminished for your protection.

No waiting for the good stuff

When testing proved that AFR was 100 percent effective, we immediately incorporated it into ESCORT and PASSPORT. Our policy is to make running changes—not model changes—whenever a refinement is ready. That way our customers always get the latest science.

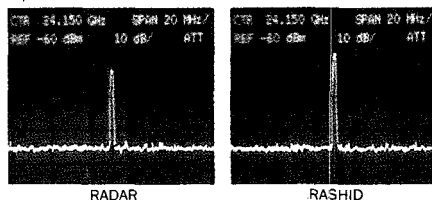


Figure 1: A digital spectrum analyzer scanning the entire width of K band can't see the difference between radar and Rashid.

AFR is fully automatic. There are no extra switches or lights. Nothing for you to bother about. The Rashid problem simply goes away.

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