

Lamberg, A. (2003, June 26). "Its enough to make you want to leave town."
In "Letters," *The Riverfront Times*, p6.

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Date: Thu, 26 Jun 2003 20:14:58
From: "Alan Lamberg"
Subject: Response to "Meet the Anarchists"
To: feedback@riverfronttimes.com

To Randall Roberts and RFT Staff:

Thank you for reporting on the incident of pre-emptive arrest of protesters and housing rehabbers that occurred last May. I had wondered what was the full story behind it, and I feel that you've investigated it thoroughly and fairly.

I am of the opinion that St. Louis needs the lifeblood of young, creative intellectuals, but the city and its officials aren't going to get it by breaking a fair balance between security and freedom.

Although I had grown up in Baltimore, Maryland -- a sister city in many respects -- my father and his family are from St. Louis. So, I've developed an affinity for this city while attending graduate school here these past couple years. I've been pleasantly acquainted with its assets.

However, this disappointing example of poor decision-making and lack of communication nor care from city officials toward its citizens lessens the regret I may have in my leaving this city to move back East when I am finished school.

Thus, a mayor and his police chief that try too hard to protect their people will be left with very little a city at all. Try getting in touch with your people in a more constructive way, St. Louis.

Sincerely,

Alan Lamberg
St. Louis, (Skinker-Wydown neighborhood)

(e-mailed afterward)
Hi family and friends,

I read a really good article that investigated the pre-emptive arrests made in May in south St. Louis. The people arrested were people who were going to protest the World Agricultural Forum that was to meet in St. Louis. The Mayor and Chief of Police in St. Louis, afraid of a protest on the scale of Seattle, had gathered intelligence and arrested a lot of creative, young intellectuals who also happened to be doing the city a favor by rehabbing south city housing.

At any rate, I thought you might be proud of my little speak up in the Riverfront Times (the equivalent to Baltimore's City Paper).

So, read the article first, form an opinion for yourself, and check out my letter.

The Article "Meet the Anarchists"

<http://www.riverfronttimes.com/issues/2003-06-25/feature.html/1/index.html>

My letter:

<http://www.riverfronttimes.com/issues/2003-07-09/letters.html/1/index.html>

Cheers,
Alan