

## One Smart Guy

When the situation began looking a bit dicey, Albert Einstein did the most sensible thing he could under those heavy circumstances — he tucked tail and fled the country.

which proved to be a good move, all things considered. If he had foolishly chosen to stick around, who knows how many heinous developments may have come to light? He might have fell prey to the Nazi Regime or, worse yet, become an indentured servant to Adolph, doomed to provide The Reich with all manner of cutting-edge insight and innovation.

Or, barring that, he may have just been executed for his intellect and the threat it would pose. In fact, historical records tell us that an arrest warrant had been issued, and a score of fugitive hunters were hot on his trail.

Fortunately, the U.S. gave him asylum. And in return, Big Al contributed countless advancements to the world of math and physics. His theories and formula are even the mainstay of college courses throughout the world. His insight has been lauded as



some of the most important works of the century, and he is sure to go down in history as one of Mankind's most valuable assets.

And they also said he was a pretty smart guy. For sure.

But the decision to stay in Pennsylvania and weather the storm, as it were, was not the work of a smart man. Unlike Einstein, I was eventually captured and subjected to a lifetime of grievous offenses. My lifestyle has never been entirely suitable for small town establishments — a concept I learned the hard way. There is a saying in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that goes something like: "If you come here on vacation, you'll leave on probation."

And, O Lord, that wisdom has been proven true time and time again.

The voting, tax-paying citizenry are just not having it. They are far too mired in tradition and old-world values to cede the thought of some young, modernistic writer running wild on drink and



drugs in their quiet, peaceful state. They want no part of it. The only fitting penalty for free-wheeling heathens of my stripe is immediate exile. And for the dim-minded, spiteful DA., this consensus roughly translates to — lengthy prison sentences.

Yes, that is STATE PRISON, folks. Even for petty misdemeanors. Harsh confinement mandates and severe punishment. So much for having the sentence meet the crime, eh?

Not even Einstein could make sense of such an outrage. Police harassment, undue persecution, and cruel, inhumane treatment of low-level offenders. Then again, maybe he could. There's something a bit hauntingly familiar about those abusive practices, aren't there? They have a certain ring to them, a certain melody that harks back to...

Ah, well. The point has been made, I think. One only needs to look at those ugly recidivism rates, or the mounting reports of institutional negligence, or even the disrespectful and shame-ridden trend of parole corruption to see that some math just doesn't add up.

Not even Einstein could argue with that.