

Former NU law student takes on government

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display without a permit. He said his usually oblique messages change in content from day to day. Last Friday, the arrangement of words was one of the 36-year-old's more direct presentations: **IRS-FITS-RICO-CROOK.**

The words spell out his belief that the U.S. government uses tactics that are unfair to the American people and are similar in nature to that of gangs, he said.

Manthey said the IRS is a prime example of the U.S. government manipulating its population to keep a few in power and the people they serve "in the dark."

"There are 7 million words of IRS coding that we're suppose to understand," he said. "It's like reading the manual to your VCR or something."

Manthey said his main problem with the government is that it employs "adhesion contracting."

"If one has wants to drive a car in this country, that person must basically pay rent for the right to use that car by getting it licensed," he said. "It's non-negotiable. Where else in society is there such one-way contracting? And do you ever really own your car?"

Although he has disdain for the contractual nature of the federal government, Manthey doesn't say he's a protester, much less anything else.

He dodges most every question with a philosophical, angular answer that sounds as if it's coming out of a Sean Penn interview. However, unlike the narcissistic nature of a Hollywood actor, Manthey avoids self-definition in obvious terms because it might actually get him arrested.

"I can't say that I'm a protester or anything else, really," he said. "I don't know what you'd call me, most people just say I'm 'the psycho on the corner.'"

Manthey, with a coy smile emerging from his bearded face, was commenting on what has proven to be a popular analysis of the people scooting by his corner stage in motored vehicles. He said people usually yell the "psycho" word out their windows, as well as many non-printable terms.

Such a simple, insulting assessment of the man would not only be off the mark, but intellectually trite as well.

Manthey is not Lincoln's Ted Kaczynski. In fact, he seems to go about his T-shirt protesting with the same normal and gritty sense of humor one would expect from an upstanding blue-collar worker.

He normally greets people who are curious enough to ask him how he is doing with "same shit, different day, different corner."

However, it's been obvious that

Lincoln authorities have approached his patient and idealistic daily performance with caution. And in post-Oklahoma City-bombing America, the careful tactics are reasonable enough.

Manthey said that more than a year ago, the Lincoln Police Department sent a professional from the Regional Center to talk to him.

"She asked me frivolous questions, so I gave frivolous answers," he said.

And this is where Manthey performs best - using his self-educated intellect to bob and weave the government, and anyone trying to get in the way of his mode of expressing his version of the truth.

A former law student, he admits to speaking "legalese" when confronted with potential interrogation.

Furthermore, Manthey is really Lincoln's most famous street juggler, although he's out there every day juggling libertarian ideas instead of bowling pins.

He is someone Barry Goldwater probably wouldn't have minded talking with about western, freedom-seeking politics. Although, unlike Goldwater, Manthey refuses to join the system in any form.

"That would be like joining the Ku Klux Klan to change the Ku Klux Klan, and that doesn't make any sense," Manthey said.

Manthey is vigilant and punctual in his sidewalk exhibitions - Monday through Friday just before lunch and dinner time is when the people in military or business attire keep the federal building's revolving doors rotating at their highest rates.

However, he sounded as if he believed those people take him about as seriously as they would the sheep dog punching in and out of watch duty in the old Warner Bros. cartoons.

"I believe my impact has been absolute zero," he said.

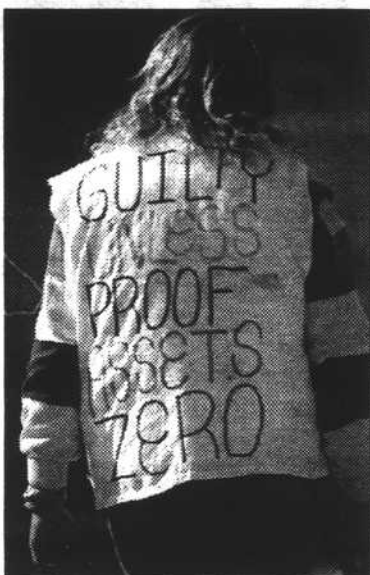
Federal employees seem to be a bit dumbfounded by Manthey's antics, but none interviewed expressed feelings of fear.

Tracey Daley, a janitor at the federal building, gave a popular answer when she said, "I just wonder what he's doing."

Although equally dismayed as Daley, Travis Henning has found an admirable quality in Manthey's day-to-day work.

"At first I thought it was funny," said Henning, who works for the U.S. Attorney's office. "And then I realized what kind of dedication it took to be out there every single day and was a little impressed by that."

Steve Hrral, a maintenance worker at the federal building, said he thought Manthey might be protesting what a lot of people complain about these days - government waste of tax



HEATHER GLENBOSKI/DN
TOM MANTHEY SAID, "We are all under contracts with the government without our knowledge or consent." He performs his back-and-forth, eight-step routine every day during the noon and evening rush.

dollars. "(The government) doesn't always have the ladder on the right wall," Hrral said.

Anyone who talks with Manthey, will find him to be anything but uneducated - especially about his sidewalk showcasing.

By wearing a T-shirt and moving to a different corner every 30 days, Manthey avoids a grocery list of applicable misdemeanors, which includes unauthorized protesting and obstructing the flow of sidewalk traffic.

Manthey said he dropped out of the NU College of Law in the 1980s. He said he reads non-fiction nightly at his home in south Lincoln and earns a living by selling aluminum siding, which he finds in trash bins.

He's never been on welfare and believes he's using his self-education to help humankind, Manthey said.

Even though he intensely suspects his practice of offering "advertisements" won't change the world around him, Manthey speaks in philosophical layers about his determined one-man show.

"Metaphorically, with my subliminal messages, I'm playing the role of the government and its people," he said. "The government, whether you know or not, works in a subliminal nature."

"I'm out here affecting the population much in the same manner as the government, with vague politician-like messages. But I'm also part of that population, so I have both ends covered."

Television special explores Native American culture

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belief system had to offer," Buffett said.

His inspiration for "Spirit" was an experience a friend of his had. She realized, after her relatives had tried to hide it from her, that she had American Indian heritage.

Her newfound knowledge changed her outlook on life, Buffett said. She began to understand feelings that she never had before.

The music style that "Spirit" has, Buffett said, is a hybrid between his style of music and what would be considered traditional American Indian music - or at least what has survived to be known - which includes drums, flute and voice.

He mixes this with his style, which has been influenced by artists such as the Beatles, Steely Dan and Peter Gabriel.

Buffett also worked in close collaboration with Chief Hawk Pope, the principal chief of the Shawnee Nation. In addition to serving as a narrator and vocalist for "Spirit," he provided other support to the project.

"(Pope has) been an invaluable component because of what he brings both musically and his knowledge of the history of the nations," Buffett said.

"Spirit" has premiered already on PBS stations around the country, and it will continue through March in different markets.

After its television run, work will begin on a touring show. Several changes will have to be made, Buffett said, and the show will increase in length from its current 40 minutes.

But even at this early juncture in his production's exposure, Buffett already feels like he's succeeded.

On Wednesday, "Spirit" had the power to pry people from Monica Lewinsky's interview with Barbara Walters, Buffett said.

"I was in Baltimore and I was on against her, and the phones still rang," Buffett said. "There actually are people who could watch something else."

The experience embodies the focus of the show: It's for people who are tired of the gossip and triviality of today's world and want to explore something deeper.

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Renowned director Kubrick dies

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director, Anthony Mann, and Kubrick did not regard the finished product as a great success.

"I tried with only limited success to make the film as real as possible but I was up against a pretty dumb script which was rarely faithful to what is known about Spartacus," Kubrick told an interviewer.

"Lolita," starring James Mason and Shelley Winters, was based on Vladimir Nabokov's controversial novel about a professor who is sexually obsessed with a 12-year-old girl. The work was filmed in Britain, in part because of censorship problems, and thereafter Kubrick was based in Britain.

"Dr. Strangelove," starring Peter Sellers and George C. Scott, was a black comedy about nuclear war released in the early 1960s during a

period of great fears over the bomb and Cold War tensions.

"2001," a science fiction film about the evolution of man and humanity's place in the universe, combined dazzling visual imagery and an inspired use of music. It proved to be a great success for Kubrick.

In an interview with Playboy magazine, Kubrick said he had "tried to create a visual experience, one that bypasses verbalized pigeonholing and directly penetrates the subconscious with an emotional and philosophic content ... just as music does. ... You're free to speculate as you wish about the philosophical and allegorical meaning."

"A Clockwork Orange," set in a violent future, is a graphic film about a young thug who carries out rapes and beatings before being sent to prison where he is brainwashed.

The film was one of Kubrick's most controversial - it was even disparaged by Anthony Burgess, whose novel was the basis of the film, and Kubrick eventually removed it from screens in Britain. One of Kubrick's memorable touches was to have his hero sing "Singin' in the Rain" while dishing out a brutal beating.

"The Shining," a thriller based on a Stephen King novel, starred Jack Nicholson as a writer who went mad and attacked his family while at a deserted, snowbound resort hotel.

Kubrick was married three times, first in 1948 to Toba Metz, then after divorcing he married Ruth Sobotka in 1954. Their marriage ended three years later, and in 1958, he wedded Suzanne Harlan, with whom he had three daughters.

Details about funeral arrangements were not immediately available.