

a yuppie in giuliani's new york /1/ rudy's crackdown

A journalist named Adam, who lives in New York, discovers one day that a warrant has been issued for his arrest. Not knowing what crime he has committed, he goes to the police station to find out. It turns out that mayor Rudy Giuliani's policies of cracking down on crime have been so successful that the NYC cops have a hard time finding new criminals. To prove their worth, they begin rounding up people who have failed to pay fines or broken silly laws.

A few weeks ago my mother called **to say there was a warrant out for** my arrest. She received the **news** from Gladys, her 85-year-old landlady, who barricaded herself inside her Brooklyn apartment and refused to come out and speak with the two policemen **knocking** on the door. I was **confused**. I'd like to **think of myself as being** dangerous. But **in fact**, I'm just a journalist **who leads a pretty dull** life. I don't have a **criminal record, though** the address on my **driver's license** is **my mother's—which is why** the "raid" **took place** where **it did**. I **hadn't** robbed any **convenience stores lately, either**, so the warrant didn't **make any sense to** me.

But this is Mayor Rudolph **Giuliani's** New York, where it doesn't **take** much to **draw the attention** of cops. New Yorkers **are used to** this **by now**. They know that Rudy **has been trying to stop** homeless men **from approaching** drivers and offering **to** clean their windshields. He's **cracked down on street vendors** and sent police into **neighborhoods** to **make sure** that there is no **jaywalking** or tree climbing. **While** the crackdown **has been** controversial, I can't say I **haven't benefitted**. **There has been much less** crime **lately** than **there used to be** only a few years ago. I don't **worry** about **getting mugged**. **Fewer** people **hassle you on the subway**. And there are no **small-time** drug dealers in Washington Square Park **anymore**.