

The case involved whether or not the state has the right to set up road blocks to check for drunk driving, but it also opens the door to road blocks at any place, any time, to check IDs. With the move toward a national ID card, this is the beginning of a serious erosion of freedom of travel. This despite the clear constitutional prohibition against searches without probable cause. The Founding Fathers suffered from arbitrary searches by the British, and that's why they thought they prohibited them in our Bill of Rights.

Police State Update

Five armed men recently broke down the door of a Seattle home. It was 12:45am, and restaurant-owner Warren Chinn was still at work, so the men handcuffed his wife, threw her face down on the floor, put a gun to her head, and demanded: "Where's the man? Where's the man?" Chinn's 90-year-old mother was also brutally questioned.

After a search, the police officers--for that is what they were--left. It seems there had been a mistake. A man arrested for marijuana possession had given the address as the home of a marijuana grower, and so five plainclothes cops, who didn't identify themselves as such until the end of this appalling episode, sprayed Mace on the Chinn family's two dogs and proceeded to act like kidnappers, for that is what Mrs. Chinn and her mother thought they were.

Neither woman has been able to sleep well since the attack; both lie awake with nightmares.

Pink October?

Gay groups are even angrier about novelist Tom Clancy's apology, written in response to hundreds of letters protesting his original remark: "What can you say about a country that tolerates homosexuals but not smokers?"

Wrote Clancy, the author of The Hunt for Red October and other bestsellers: "I do not approve of homosexual activity," but "I live in a free country, and if people want to have their anuses used in that way, while I find it unsavory, I do not arrogate to myself the right to prevent them from doing so."

The Power of the Market

Even in wartime Beirut, the free market is showing its power. The public utilities--which were no great shakes even in peacetime--have long ceased functioning, so entrepreneurs are providing electricity, telephone service, domestic and international mail, and water.

A leftwing newspaper called these businessmen "sharks," but