

Mule with a Hat?

Does your day need to be lightened up a bit? Responsibilities, telephone calls and paper work threatening to overpower you? Sit back for a moment or two, and ponder the rationale for these odd laws still on the books of our states. As you recall, we have featured some states with these funny ordinances a couple of times before, but let's look at some more. We picked these up from the website of Radio Station WBAC in Cleveland.

In Pocatello, Idaho, pedestrians and motorists are prohibited from displaying frowns, grimaces, scowls, threatening and glowering looks, gloomy and depressed facial appearances, "generally all of which reflect unfavorably upon the city's reputation." It sounds like a great way to deal with road rage, huh? Also in Pocatello, boxes of candy given as romantic gifts must weigh more than 50 pounds. That is a lot of chocolate!

In Indiana, monkeys are forbidden to smoke cigarettes in South Bend. In Gary, it is illegal to attend a theater within four hours of eating garlic. I would vote for that one.

In Kansas, it is illegal for restaurants to sell cherry pie a la mode on Sundays. In Wichita, a man's mistreatment of his mother-in-law may not be used as grounds for divorce. In Lang, it is illegal to ride a mule down Main Street in August, unless the animal is wearing a straw hat. In Natoma, it is illegal to throw a knife at anyone wearing a striped shirt (maybe that was legislation obtained by sports referees).

In Kentucky, it is illegal for a woman to appear in a bathing suit on a highway unless she is escorted by at least two police officers, armed with a club or lighter than 90 pounds or heavier than 200 pounds. The ordinance also specifically exempts female horses from such restrictions (do horses wear bathing suits?) It is also illegal to remarry the same man four times.

In Massachusetts, the city of Salem forbids even married couples from sleeping in the nude in rented rooms. It is illegal to wear a goatee without a license. Dueling with water pistols is outlawed. In Boston, it is illegal to take a bath unless one has been ordered by a physician to do so.

In Michigan, the city of Clawson has made it illegal for a farmer to sleep with his pigs, cows, horses, goats and chickens. A state law stipulates that a woman's hair legally belongs to her husband. Under state law, dentists are officially classified as mechanics.

(more)

Obviously, some very interesting situations must have prompted these bizarre laws. Either that, or we have been sending some strange people to represent us.

Okay, okay. It could be both.

--Beecher Hunter