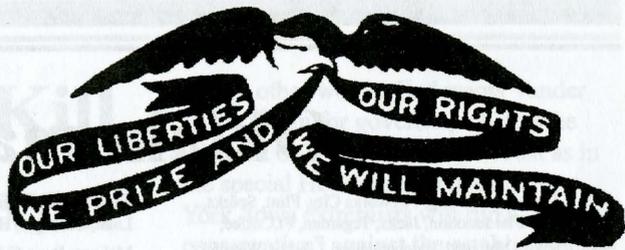


# THE PRAIRIE PROGRESSIVE



February 2010

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*A NEWSLETTER FOR IOWA'S DEMOCRATIC LEFT*

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## Amy Correia: Person of the Year

Over the last six months Iowa City has held a sustained public discussion about race relations. White Iowans are not used to dealing with issues of race, and often willing to believe that racism belongs somewhere else in America, not in liberal and well-meaning Iowa.

In Iowa City, the context is the growing number of African-Americans living on the southeast side of Iowa City where there has been a growth in serious crime and vandalism, some of it committed by people under 17, all of it frightening to its victims and potential victims. The fear generated by crime has generated a sharp racist reaction, openly on display in the press.

Racism is based on, among other things, the projection of undesirable characteristics of some members of a community to the whole community. In Iowa City there have been general condemnations by some people of all African-Americans on the south east side ("these people from Chicago"), and a demand that public officials take action against them with heavier policing, curfews, or housing policies that disperse them throughout the community.

Contentious disputes about re-drawing school boundary lines have been driven in part by racial anxieties. City High principal Mark Hanson, for instance, appears to be losing his job in part because he suggested that some schools, including City High, are having too heavy a burden placed on them, i.e. too many African-American students. Hanson embarrassed the school district earlier

by censoring City High's prize-winning newspaper, The Little Hawk, for running the results of a survey documenting racial tensions in school.

The response of public officials, i.e. the city council and the police, has been to deploy a classic tool of racial segregation, the curfew, in an attempt to get all African-American young people off the streets at night. The language of the curfew ordinance, which I recommend that you read, is obviously meant to apply to the south-east side. It is dripping with arguments that have been used historically to establish black inferiority. "The City has found," intones the ordinance, "that there has been a significant breakdown in the supervision and guidance normally provided by parents and guardians for juveniles." Furthermore, according to the ordinance, young people are joining criminal gangs which they are too immature to resist and their parents too incompetent to prevent.

In identifying a general family breakdown on the southeast side, the ordinance echoes the wholesale condemnations of the entire body of poor African-Americans found decades ago in the Moynihan Report, which provided the basis for intrusive federal and state government interference in the African-American family, including Bill Clinton's notoriously racist welfare reform bill. Exactly how a curfew will prevent family breakdown is unclear, but imposing one is what the city has done, sending in armed police officers to confront and interrogate young people on the streets on a "complaint-driven" basis. The goal is

to get them back into their dysfunctional homes, or into detention, where they will at least be out of sight.

The curfew of course criminalizes those young good citizens who behave themselves and might have a perfectly good reason to be out late at night, such as going to get a pizza or jogging or watching a meteor shower, at least until some frightened good citizen phones in a complaint to the police. The curfew does not cover those engaged in criminal behavior who are over 17, but creates a new class of criminals under 17. In order to avoid the accusation of explicit racism, the city had to extend the curfew to all young people in Iowa City, a place which is already so heavily over-policed that 17% of University of Iowa undergraduates have a criminal record when they graduate.

It was disheartening to watch city council members Matt Hayek and Michael Wright engage in the rhetoric of denial during council debate. Hayek argued that other mostly white communities in Iowa have a curfew, so this one can't be bad, ignoring the specific racialized context in which it had been brought to the table in Iowa City. Hayek lamented the fact that young people in other parts of town (who as everyone knows are mostly white) are being punished for the misdeeds of young people on the south-east side (i.e. black young people). Wright earnestly argued that the curfew was based on behavior, not race,

*Amy Correia*  
Continued on Page 4

# Oklahoma

St. Louis, Armstrong, Fireworks City, Flint, Sparks, Burns Flat Junction, Jacks, Tegarden, Ft. Coffee, Canton, Maxwell, Independence, Liberty, Warwick, Artillery Village, Star, Shinewell, Banner, Francis, Scott, Keyes, Tatums, Tyner Siding, Crescent, Moon, Miami, High Bridge, Sand Point, Key West, Driftwood, Gulfown, Pensacola, Seminole, Bowden, Tulahassee, Orlando, Lookout, Mountain Park, Chattanooga, High Hill, Rocky Point, Toppers, Zeb, Pike, Peek, Grandview Heights, Lotsee, Denver, Rocky Mountain, Parkland, Brink Siding, Granite, Boulder Turnoff, Westport, East Junction, Mason, Dickson, Divide, Dixon, Stonewall, Cotton Valley, Whitefield, Frost, Pumpkin Center, Snow, Scrapper, Ultima Thule, North Pole, Midwest City, Peoria, Bradley, Indianapolis Siding, Butler, Little City, Middleberg, America, Brady, Bunch, Slim, Jimtown, Nanchito, Casey Siding, Lawrence, Kansas, Five Mile, Farmers Hill, Barnsdale, Alfalfa, Locust Grove, Greenfield, Colony, Cropper Siding, Amber, Grainville, Silo, Hominy, Lima, Corn, Ft. Cobb, Laverne, Baker, Russett, New Lima, Byng, Cherry Tree, Pink, Sickles, Wheatland, Iron Stob Corner, McCurtain, Jacktown, Reed, Kremlin, Kennady, Red Bluff, Oswalt, Knowles, Lincoln, Douglas Siding, Gideon, Wellston, Hoover, Tyler, Taft, Reagan, Hinkle, Ames, Winchester, Indian City, Pine Ridge, Indian Meadows, Mounds, Broken Bow, Gray, Cloudy, Weathers, Welling, Bald Hill, Eagle City, Featherston, Custer City, Indian Village, Sand Creek, Unity, Fite, Shawnee, Tecumseh, Arapaho, Osage Junction, Comanche, Parker, Chocktaw, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Nashoba Y, Wyandotte, Howe, Hiawatha, Uncas, Cloud Chief, Dripping Springs, Gage, Hickory, Willow, Oaks, Sequoyah Siding, Forrester, Nicut, Little Axe, Buffalo Valley, Bills Corner, Cody, Moyers, Bison, Herd, Hyde Park, Roosevelt, Dog Creek, Eufaula, Spade Mountain, Tailholt, Pettit, Wybark, Deer Creek, Antlers, Sharp, Elk City, Canadian Fork, Eagletown, Yukon, Kingfisher, Huskey, Paw Paw, Black Bear Siding, Lep, Ord, Lyons, Quapaw, Panther, Wildcat Point, Angora, Bengal, Tiger, Ti, Cobb, Sams Point, Camp Houston, North McAlester, Cook, Countyline, Lone Wolf, Chester, Burnett, Asp Siding, Coil, Cleo Springs, Burton, Taylor, Cairo, Niles, Pyramid Corners, Copie Slab, Dead Woman Crossing, Pharaoh, Sanders, Heavener, Helena, Paradise View, Mallard Bay, Pond Creek, Webbers Falls, Fowler, Kaw City, Kildare, Crow, Red Bird, White Eagle, Moodys, Blue, Skiatook, Cobalt Junction, Winganon, Rhea, Piper Siding, Briartown, Carl, Perkins, Lark, Teriton, Phillips, Morris, Manitou, Tupelo, Counts, Twin Lakes, Three Sands, Four Mile Crossing, Fivemile Corner, Carter Nine, Byron, Nelson, Putnam, Green, Snead Acres, Ruthdale, Homer, Ceres, Victory, Carleton, Goodwin Siding, Lamar, Hoyt, Nellie, Fox, Oscar, Myers, Franks, Robinson Corner, McWillie, Maysville, Center, Tip, Willis, Reeding, Montubby, Smith Village, Lexington, Sayre, Rush Springs, Vamoosa, Payton Crossing, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Oil City, Blackwell, Slick, Blackgum, Asphaltum, Lost City, Yonkers, Buffalo, Lakeside Village,

Albany, Avant, Garden City, Bloomington, Oleta, Swan Lake, Carnegie, Hall Park, Avery, Fisher, McLure, Ituna Siding, Caston, Arnett, The Village, Chelsea, Jonah Siding, Hollow, Perry, Whitesboro, Eastside, Clarks Heights, Kent, City View, Acme, Hightower, Crystal, Clearview, North Village, Longtown, Nuyaka, Twin Bridges, Parallel, Railford, Jay, Gould, Union Station, Santa Fe, Clayton, Potter, Sterling, Silver City, Whitebead, Jasper, Concho, Belton, Goldsby, Eldorado, Fleetwood, Nash, Harrison, Fords, Carwile, Keys, Horntown, Hird, Blair, McLoud, Pierce, Broken Arrow, Bentley, Park Wheeler Corner, Dodge, Eram, Kenefic Station, Gas City, Ethyl, Oil City, Octavia, Scipio, Romulus, Piedmont, Hill, Empire City, IXL, Virgil, Lucian, Etna Siding, Ashland, Summit, Elgin, Marble City, Big Cedar, Pine Top, Sentinel, Berch Hole, Hopewell, Pine Knot Crossing, Chism, Trail, Dustin, Hoffman, Steedman, Gene Autry, Cole, Porter, Wagoner, Ft Supply, Wassetta Siding, Gray Horse, Sorrels, Saddle Mountain, Bowlegs, Mustang, Bray, Clyde, Dale, Sedan, Blocker, Adamson, Cartwright, Pernel, Little Ponderosa, Tia Juana, Wann, Williams, Holdenville, Hollywood Corners, Tyrone, Powers, Strong City, Ralph, Meeker, Amorita, Haworth, Milburn, Stones Corner, Gilbert, Roland, Preston, Sturgis Siding, Newkirk, Douglas, Olustee, Burt, Reynolds, Gypsy, Rose, Lehigh, Disney, Warner, Hitchcock, Marty, Ritts Junction, Ridley, Clemescott, Ward, Bond, Heman, Fonda, Cox City, Big Rocks, Sharon, Stone Bluff, Petersburg, Short, Little Chief, Braggs, Long, Jumbo, Fallis, Ripley, Wesley, Harden City, Bender, Overbrook, Reams, Lusta Siding, Needmore, Bennington, Moorewood, Old Bennington, Cocklebur Flat, Tucker, Bedwell, Davenport, Three-Way Corner, Stella, Stanley, Blanch, Happyland, Barr, Non, Bailey, Isabella, Ringling, Lula, Bell, Box, Rocky, Rambo Siding, Bashe, Slapout, Dempsey, Harjo, Louis, Leon, Big Heart, Farris, Carney, Chance, Emit, Kellyville, Wheelless, Old Farris, Last Chance, Port of Dunkin, Half Bank Crossing, Burg Siding, Little, Hope, Titanic, Brinkman, Duncan, Ludlow, Rubottom, Longdale, Limestone Gap, Old Allison, Ringwood, Ingersoll, Darwin, Darrow Siding, Weeks, Muncy, Sooner, Jennings, Bryant, Boone, Fiekens, Dixie Park, Cumberland, Gap Siding, Ozark, Purdy, Daisy, May, Oak Ridge, Bouse Junction, Carbon, Adams, Apple, Eva, Strohm, Boley, Cookson, Chewey, Olive, Garden Grove, Woody Chapel, Norman, Clifton Siding, Porum, Ringold, Aylesworth, Dewar, Hennessey, Vining, Autwine Siding, Bordeaux, Red River Gin, Binger, Dundee, Corum, Old Time Trading Post, Hooker, Tallant, Byers, Dow, Jones, Price, Settlement, Poole, Tabler, Felt, Cushing, Paradise Hill, Lodi, Roll, El Reno, Bluff, Sportsman Acres, Dennis, McLain, Hunter, Thompson Corner, Atoka, Stony Point, Old Bliss, Osage, Mt. View, Delhi, Fallon, Crusher, Akins, Payne, Hughart, Arkoma, Mead, Johnson, Medicine Park, Rexroat, Bromide, Sulphur, Bromide Junction, Medford, New Mannford, Okay, Hectorville, Troy, Achille, Hatcherville, Hastings, Frey, Range, Warr Acres, Cowden, Hogshooter,

Wildhorse Siding, Enos, Slaughterville, Gore, Leonard, Woods, Blackjack, Pershing, Patton Siding, West Point, Torpedo, Midway, Gulf Junction, Wainwright, Lugert, Shults, Mouser, Hess, Messer, Smithville, Albert, Speer, Veterans Colony, Valliant, Sumpter, Kams, Arlington, Peno Corner, Shay, Marshall, Lawton, Chilli, Cold Springs, Sealy, Hardesty, Hart, Hanna, Fairland, Council Hill, Courtney, Jester, Savanna, Satterwhite, Hinton, Clinton, Hester, Hardy, Boise City, Duhriage Pass, Ketchum, Maple, Sugar Creek, Mocane, Smacker, Cheek, Sunkist, Citra, Richards Spur, Haw Creek, Pryor, Bebee, Kingston, Castle, Cedar Crest, Lige, Noble, Neal, McKnight, Coal Creek, Newcastle, England, Albion, Cromwell, Britton, Cornish, Welch, Haileyville, Mills, Vera, Drake, Victor, Hugo, Provence, Forest Hill, Sans Bois, Green Country Estates, Petes Corner, Boggy Depot, Shamrock, Eddy, Murphy, Ryan, Orion, Hobart, Simpson, Maguire, Twin Oaks, Springhill, Spring Hill, Curtis, Mayfield, Spring Creek, Summerford, Mingo, Talala, Tishomingo, Oowala, Wallville, Oologah, Sageeyah, Okcoee, Okcoee, Ogeechee Siding, Dover, Delaware, Lynn Lane, Linn, Lane, Bowlin Spring, Salem, Witcher, Hazel Dell, Hext Siding, Scullin, Crossroads, Micawber, Turpin, Tiner, Verdigris, Frederick, Remington, Steel Junction, Pittsburg, Swink, Zincville, Orr, Iron Post, Emsey Siding, Carson, Witteville, Dudley, Dewright, Loco, Babbs, Walters, Milton, Burwell, Martha, Stuart, Colbert, Tuskegee, Plainview, Jet, Geronimo, Yeager, Apache, Keokuk Falls, Carters Landing, Fargo, Inola, Gay, Straight, Honobia, Pirtle, Oberlin Ferry, McQueen, Oneta, Bryans Corner, New Oberlin, Fillmore, Westville, Frisco, McMillan, Golden, Gate, Ironbridge, Oakland, Hayward, Richmond, Jobs Siding, Shirk, Union City, Hayward, Wilson, Pickett, Sallisaw, Esau Junction, Hibsaw, Carpenter, Foreman, Rufe, Walls, Iconium Siding, Franklin, Geary, Le Flore, Cement, Arch, Edith, Yewed, Garland, McBride, Homestead, Big Cabin, Four Corners, Squaretop, Bushyhead, Brush Hill, Braden, Greasy, Macomb, Barber, Bearden, Baldrige, Mohawk, Clothier, Calvin, Easter Padgeant, Tryon, Bluejacket, Fobb, Glover, Hennepin, Pinhook Corners, Peggs, Pin Oaks Acres, Watkins, Glenpool, Wade, Alma, Joy, McKiddyville, Cookietown, Hulah, Hooper, Matoy, Schoolton, Proctor, Central High, Duland, Grant, Cambridge, Yale, Colgate, Carbondale, Cottonwood, Grove, Greenwood, Blackburn, Odetta, Freedom, Loving, Parvin, New Liberty, Mutual, Friendship, Loyal, Washington, Post Oak, Woodward, Katie, Graham, Whippoorwill, Rogers, Jesse, Owen Siding, Irving, Berlin, Johnsonville, Frankfort, Prague, Moravia, Pulaski Siding, Burmah, Moore, Ravia, Togo, Watonga, Panama, Port, Tangier, Texanna, Christie, Page, Turner, Story, Pickwick Siding, Tom, Collinsville, Sawyer, Langston, Hughes, Howard Siding, Narcissa, Meers, Wright City, Muse, Spencer, Marlow, Conrad, Thomas, Mannsville, Mountainview, Arcadia, Forest Park, Sherwood, Anderson, Russell, North Bank Siding, Goodwell, Sweetwater, Strawberry Spring, Erick, Redland, Norge, Canute, Stillwater, Dane, Salina, Salt Fork, Herring, Red Fork, Dill City, Greenup Siding, Martin, Denny,

*Oklahoma,  
Continued on Page 3*

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# Terry Branstad: Road Kill on the Highway to Heaven

The Des Moines Register has anointed Terry Branstad as the likely winner of the 2010 GOP gubernatorial nomination. He's got the money, 300 county chairs, and name recognition in early polls of likely Replutocratic voters. There is just one problem. Terry is already road kill on the Highway to Heaven in Iowa. The Christian Taliban, know-nothings, gun nuts, Palin-drones, tea baggers, and Obama-haters are never going to vote for a tax-and-spend business conservative like Branstad.

Bob Vander Plaats will be the Replutocratic nominee for governor, or he will run against Branstad and Culver as the "true conservative" candidate in Nov. 2010. Vander Plaats has the endorsement of 2008 Iowa Caucus winner and guitar-strumming preacher Mike Huckabee; television tough guy and beard model Chuck Norris; and most importantly, the Iowa Family Policy Center PAC.

In Steven King's "The Dead Zone," his clairvoyant character foresees a slick presidential candidate starting a Christian nuclear war when they shake hands. I've met Bob Vander Plaats and shaken his hand. He's upbeat and personable, but I got a glimpse of his hoped-for future – subservient women in modest garb, children force-fed creationist claptrap in school, and of course that ultra-conservative Jesus Christ reigning from Des Moines. It still sends a shiver down my spine.

Branstad is running a state-of-the-art 1980s campaign – tapping 300 establishment Replutocrats across Iowa as county chair-warmers, vacuuming in money from the party establishment, and trumpeting 30-year-old economic nostrums for Iowa's 21st century problems. By contrast, Bob Vander Plaats writes a blog, is tied into the national conservative propaganda and fund raising behemoth, and understands that the paramount issue

in recession-ridden Iowa is gay marriage bashing.

It's hard to come up with the best metaphor to describe Terry. Is he Rip Van Branstad, waking up after a 12-year nap and tripping over his beard in an effort to attract rabid extremists? Is he a caveman, defrosted from the political ice and ready to work with Joy Corning and all those other traditional Republicans to really get Iowa moving again? Or is he the last of the great Whig politicians, mouthing irrelevant platitudes in a world that has left him behind?

Branstad is an old-timey, main street Republican who pays lip service to right-wing kooks when he has to, but who does not understand that he is now as helpless as a toddler wearing water wings while swimming in the riptide of extremism, willful ignorance, and Astro turf populism that defines the current GOP. His management of Iowa in the 1980s is of no interest to tea baggers today. Can you picture Rush Limbaugh championing Branstad and his love of the sales tax? Or Sarah Palin popping in to say that she and Terry can see Heaven from his porch?

In the unlikely event that Branstad scrapes by in the Republican primary, he will face both Culver and Vander Plaats in the fall. Vander Plaats has not promised he will support the GOP nominee, or ruled out a run as an independent conservative. The Iowa Family Policy Center has flatly stated it will not support Terry if he wins the primary. Speaking in Des Moines at an Iowa Family Policy Center PAC rally, Danny Carroll, a former Republican legislator who is chairman of the PAC's board of directors, denounced the G.O.P. during a statehouse rally. "Now is the time for people who care deeply about a Christian world view to be heard. Now is the time to put principle, Biblical principle, before political parties" (Des Moines Register).

In other words, God wants Vander Plaats to run for governor, whether he wins the GOP primary or not. Just as in the special House race in upstate New York, Iowa extremists will run a "real conservative" against the establishment Branstad. They would rather lose with an Ayatollah than win with a Republican-in-name-only like Terry.

Chet Culver is a lucky man. If Vander Plaats is the official GOP nominee, he will terrify sane Iowans into voting for Culver in droves. Or Culver will face the lackluster Branstad and his 20th century patent medicine, plus the zealot Vander Plaats, running as The Chosen Candidate who wants to lay siege to the Sodom-like Des Moines. Either way, Culver will remain Iowa's governor.

*--Duncan Stewart would be a pillar of salt in Vander Plaats' Iowa.*

## Oklahoma

*Continued from Page 2*

Green Pastures, Flora, Holly Creek, Hocker, Luther, Burbank, Lake Valley, Gilland, Shoals,

Edgewater Acres, Cabaniss, Rattan, Frogville, Hopkins, Springer, Chigley, Leach, Bee, Welty,

Ratliff City, Willard, Bugtussle, Webb City, Coody's Bluff, Lakeside, Marena, Hydro, Foyil, Dunjee Park,

Grimes, Rock Island, Elba, Waterloo, Row, Boatman, Briggs, Anchor, Aqua Park, Lodar Siding, Quay,

Drumb, Upson Siding, Commerce, Nichols Hills, Eubanks, Folsom, Cashion, Carrier, Enterprise, Shrewder,

Billings, Cache, Success, Clear Lake, Goodwater, Sandy, Canadian Shores, Ontario, Goodlake, Erie,

Grand Lake Towne, Cleveland, Brown, Edgewater Park, Crowder, Newport, Fame, Lambert, Hendrix,

Rossville, Harmony Star, Carmen, Ellaville, Kenton, Leader, Blanton Siding, Bessie, Vivian, Smith-Lee,

Morgans Corner, Allen, Dawson, Drumright, Beaver, Harris, Harmon, Cardin, Pauls Valley, Chambers,

Sevenmile Corner, Dewey, Davis, Zoe, Watts, Blackland, Fay, McKey, Fitzhugh, Duke, Earl, Platter,

Bowring, Stringtown, Ron, Carter, Lennox, Massey Point, Elliott, Carters Corner, Copeland, Boulangerville,

Henryetta, Miller, East Jesse, Jamesville, Lake West, Powell, North Miami, Southard, Piney, Baron,

Shady Point, Cedars, Lebanon, Temple, Hartshorne, Ramona, Indian Springs, Oriental, Eastman, Beggs,

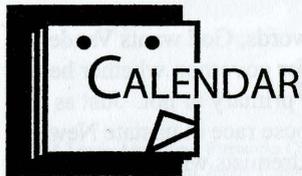
Castenada, Center Point, White Eagle Station, Noel, Sunrise, Sacred Heart, Alpha, Omega, Midway Village,

Mazie, Gracemont, Meridian, Sunray, Redden, Cimarron City, Sunsweet Siding, Shiloh, Elmwood,

Shady Grove, Sunset Corner, Karma, Fairvalley, Anadarko, Seven Oaks, Lone Pine, Canadian, Sunset, Goodnight...



*— a work in progress by Ron Ikan, Solon, IA*



- Feb 11, 1990  
Nelson Mandela released from prison
- Feb 15, 1820  
Susan B. Anthony born
- Feb 16, 2005  
Kyoto treaty ratified by 140 nations (not the US)
- Feb 21, 1965  
Malcolm X assassinated
- Mar 7, 1965  
First US combat troops to Vietnam
- Mar 7, 1965  
Selma to Montgomery march

Apr 19, 1995  
Oklahoma City bombing

Apr 30, 1970  
US invaded Cambodia

Apr 30, 1975  
Vietnam War ended

**Amy Correia**

*Continued from Page 1*

as if the "complaints" that the police are expected to respond to will be equally distributed among whites and blacks, and as if the goal of the ordinance is not the regulation and criminalization of young people in a particular part of town.

Iowans like to proceed by consensus, but in this case there was no consensus either in the community or the council. There was a majority in favor of the curfew, but their ability to pretend that this was not about race was shattered by council member Amy Correia, who repeatedly urged the council to think about what this looks like to young Af-

rican-Americans who work hard and are attempting to obey the law and do well in school. Public officials who stand up for racial equality often find themselves in the voting minority and subject to public vilification, and both happened to Amy Correia. She was joined by then mayor Regenia Bailey and council member Ross Wilburn in opposing the curfew. Bailey was rewarded for her opposition by being booted out as mayor, replaced by Hayek.

In the various discussions of who should be the Iowa City Press-Citizen's "person of the year", no one mentioned Correia, but she surely should have the prize. By taking the lead in speaking in positive terms about African-American young people, she has at least communicated to the whole vilified body of them that there are white community leaders willing to recognize the positive achievements of young African-Americans. Many of these newcomers are after all here in Iowa City largely because their families, now being condemned indiscriminately by city ordinance, wanted a better place for their children to live. ✕

— Jeff Cox

**THE PRAIRIE PROGRESSIVE**

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Iowa City, IA 52244



**"There is no flag large enough  
to cover the shame of killing  
innocent people."**

— Howard Zinn