

# WELCOME TO THE BIG UGLY



IT'S HERE -- IT'S NOW! FROM THE SHOOTINGS AT PETTIT & MARTIN, THE NYC COMMUTER-KILLER, THE POLLY KLAAS KIDNAP-MURDER TO THE RECENT MEDIA FRENZY OF THE BOBBETTS AND TONYA HARDING TO ANY ONE OF THE INNUMERABLE HAPPENINGS THAT DON'T GET SPLASHED ACROSS THE PAPERS.

BUT IT JUST DOESN'T STOP AT THE RANDOM SENSELESS ACT OF VIOLENCE THAT ULTIMATELY EQUALIZES EVERYONE; IT ALSO EXTENDS TO "PROTECTIVE MEASURES" THAT SEEM TO BE ALL THE RAGE. PEOPLE ARE WANTING TO FEEL 'SAFE' -- AND THAT IS QUICKLY OVERTAKING ANY OTHER CONCERNS THAT COME UP.

ADD TO THIS AN ALMOST OVERWHELMING (EVEN FOR HUMAN BEINGS) SHORT- SIGHTEDNESS AND WILLFUL STUPIDITY, ALONG WITH BEING AT THE END OF A MILLENNIUM, AND YOU HAVE WHAT CAN BE MILDLY REFERRED TO AS "INTERESTING TIMES".

