

# The Decision

## Andy Mager's story

AS TOLD TO DENNY O'NEIL AND STEVE LEIALOHA

MEET ANDY MAGER, NINE YEARS OLD, NICE KID, LIVES IN A SUBURBAN HOME WITH HIS PARENTS, WATCHES TV...

SOMETIMES, AFTER GILLIGAN'S ISLAND HE WATCHES THE NEWS.

BODIES OF MARINES RETURNING FROM VIETNAM...



A QUESTION FLASHES THROUGH ANDY'S MIND!

HE WANTS TO TRADE MY BLOOD FOR ANOTHER COUNTRY'S OIL?

AND HE REMEMBERS THE IMAGES OF BODY BAGS HE HAD SEEN ON TELEVISION WHEN HE WAS A CHILD.

WELL IF HE SAYS WE GOTTA GO~

~ WE GOTTA GO!

I'M NOT SO SURE...

ANDY FEELS PRETTY LONELY AT THAT MOMENT. IS HE THE ONLY ONE QUESTIONING THE PRESIDENT?

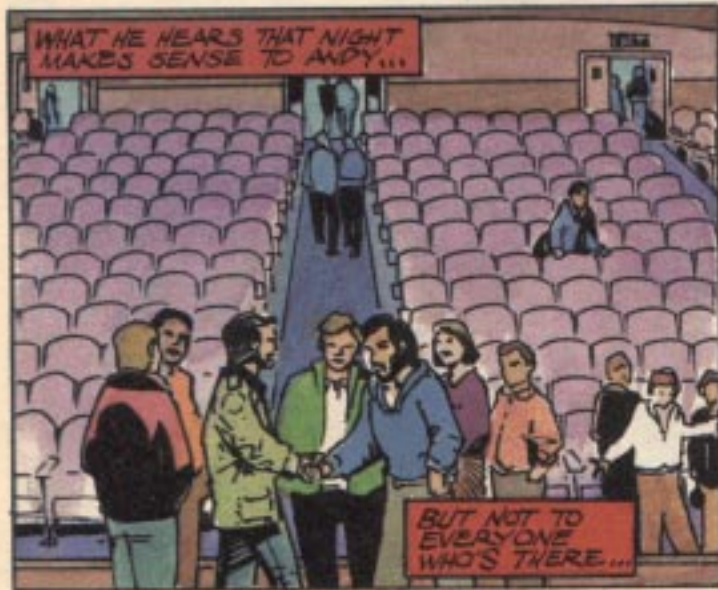
THE NEXT NIGHT HE HAS HIS ANSWER...

HE ATTENDS A MEETING WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED OTHER STUDENTS...

... AS A VET, I KNOW THAT REGISTERING FOR THE DRAFT MIGHT INVOLVE YOU IN WHAT THEY CALL "MILITARY INTERVENTION"...

... I KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS-- IT MEANS KILLING PEOPLE!

IT MEANS THAT THE BEAST IN MAN WILL BE RELEASED...





WHY THE HELL NOT?

FIGHTING WON'T SOLVE THE PROBLEMS. VIET NAM SHOWED US THAT.



OR MAYBE YOU'RE CHICKEN! AMERICANS HAVE ALWAYS GONE TO FIGHT FOR THEIR COUNTRY! BESIDES YOU OWE THIS COUNTRY.

MAYBE. BUT MAYBE THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO PAY THE DEBT...



OTHER WAYS... HE BEGINS BY FINDING OUT WHAT THE PROBLEMS REALLY ARE

-- PROBLEMS OF POVERTY IN THE U.S. IN CENTRAL AMERICA IN AFRICA -- PROBLEMS WITH NUCLEAR WAR, WITH NUCLEAR POWER, WITH THE ENVIRONMENT --



THEN HE KNOWS HE HAS TO SPEAK OUT--

IT'S CLEAR TO ME THAT IF I'M OPPOSED TO WAR--

SYRACUSE FEDERAL COURTHOUSE:



--THEN I'VE GOT TO WORK FOR WORLD PEACE AND JUSTICE AND NOT AGAINST IT. THIS IS WHY I CANNOT REGISTER FOR THE DRAFT--

EVEN IF IT MEANS GOING TO JAIL!

IF I REGISTER I'LL BE HELPING TO PREPARE FOR WAR. I CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY WAY, NOT EVEN BY SIGNING A PIECE OF PAPER.



AND SO IT CAME TO BE--

MISTER MAGER, YOU VIOLATED THE LAW. ARE YOU AWARE YOU COULD GO TO PRISON FOR THREE YEARS?



SURE.



I WILL NOT KILL OTHER PEOPLE. WAR IS AN IMMORAL WAY OF SOLVING PROBLEMS AND WITH THE THOUSANDS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS STOCKPILED--  
--IT'S SUICIDAL!



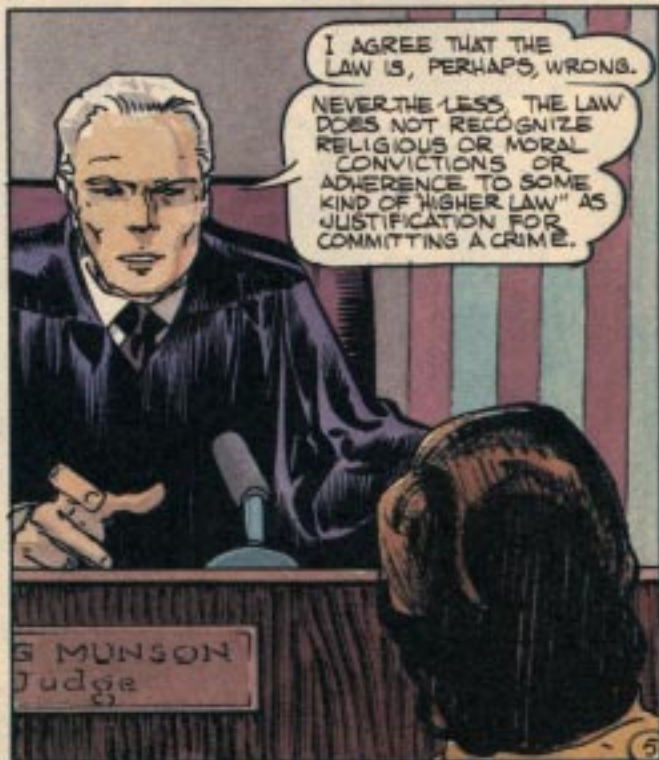
I'M PROUD TO BE HERE AND STANDING UP FOR WHAT I BELIEVE IN.

I ASK YOU TO BREAK OUT OF YOUR NORMAL BOUNDRIES AND CREATE THE CHANGES NECESSARY FOR A WORLD OF PEACE AND JUSTICE.



I AGREE THAT THE LAW IS, PERHAPS, WRONG.

NEVERTHELESS, THE LAW DOES NOT RECOGNIZE RELIGIOUS OR MORAL CONVICTIONS OR ADHERENCE TO SOME KIND OF "HIGHER LAW" AS JUSTIFICATION FOR COMMITTING A CRIME.



S. MUNSON  
Judge

ANDY IS CONVICTED AND SENTENCED TO SIX MONTHS IN PRISON. AS HE'S BEING LED AWAY --



-- HUNDREDS OF HIS FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS DEMONSTRATE OUTSIDE, DEMANDING THAT THEY, TOO, BE SENTENCED.



PRISON ISN'T FUN, BUT ANDY KNOWS HE'LL GET THROUGH IT...



AND HE DOES.



AS HE LEAVES, HE FEELS GENUINELY FREE -- FREER THAN HE DID WHEN HE CAME.



SO WILL YOU KEEP WORKING FOR PEACE, AND BREAKING THE LAW?



SURE...

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS HAVE NOT REGISTERED SINCE 1980 BUT ONLY 20 HAVE BEEN INDICTED. OF THESE EIGHTEEN WERE PROTESTERS. ANDY WAS JUST ONE

end