



In a two-week segment of Doonesbury beginning today on the comics page (415), Garry Trudeau (center) satirizes Palm Beach with cartoons the town attorney has labeled 'totally unjustified, totally distorted.'

Trudeau, Pam Beach & Pretoria

Cartoonist's acid pen angers town, brings cries of 'unfair shot.'

By DAVID MARCUS
Times Staff Writer

The mayor is fuming. The town attorney is furious. The Chamber of Commerce president is disappointed.

Welcome to Palm Beach, Doonesbury. For the next two weeks, Garry Trudeau's comic strip will be a civic booster's nightmare. Trudeau portrays the rich, little town as a narrow-minded, bigoted police state, a place where innocent people are jailed while down-graders sip tea and seek "big diseases" for charity drives.

The satirist dipped his pen in acid for this series. Take the moment when his idealistic congressman, Lacey Davenport, meets with society ladies dripping with jewelry. Davenport is engaged in one of Palm Beach's favorite activities — fund-raising. She talks about her project, a shelter for the homeless. She describes the plight of people living in the streets.

"That's awful," one lady squeals. "Why don't they just move to their country homes?"

And that is only the third day. Wait till you — or the 80 million other people who read newspapers that publish Doonesbury — flip open the paper Saturday. You'll see a black man pulled over by the cops for "loitering." While driving 35 miles per hour.

Prominent townfolk got an advance peek at Doonesbury last week. Thanks to a reporter carrying printer's proof.

"The townfolk didn't laugh much.

"It's an unfair shot at Palm Beach. It is totally unjustified, totally distorted," Town Attorney John Randolph said. "Quite frankly, it makes me angry."

"After 34 years here, I don't dignify anyone who snarls Palm Beach," said Jesse Newman, perennial president of the Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce, as he poked his head up from the com-
 He was scowling.

"Palm Beach," he said, pushing the offensive cartoon strips aside, "has survived all of the slanderous comments and innuendoes against the wealthy people who live here."

"Why would he do this? He's Jane Pauley's husband, isn't he?"

At the crux of Trudeau's two-week tirade is the law that requires maids, bellhops, janitors, store clerks and most other blue-collar workers in Palm Beach to be fingerprinted and photographed at the police office; they also must carry official identification cards whenever they are on the island.

One could guess that the crusading cartoonist — who is indeed married to Today's Jane Pauley — admits the ID law. At one point, he likens Palm Beach to Pretoria.

"It's got no foundation of fact," said Mayor Yveswe "Dewey" Marx, a descendant of the French Emperor Charlemagne.

"I would like to say that Mr. Garry Trudeau has

Please turn to DOONESBURY/JC

It's not comical in Palm Beach

DOONESBURY / JPM/IC

missed the entire point of our ID card system. It is for the protection of our residents and visitors," Town Council Member Nancy Simmons Doughty said. (That "Simmons" as in the Simmons Mattress fortune.)

By this time next week, the fictional Willy Bruce will have had a memorable trip to Palm Beach. First, a congre-
 at the breakfast will confuse him with a "manarvial" and suggest he get a hotel room "on the mainland." Later, Royce — a legislative aide and former assistant to the Rev. Jesse Jackson — will be carted off to a cell in police headquarters.

His crime? Failure to have an identification card.

Or perhaps being a black in a white oasis.

That is strong stuff alongside Peanut, Hagar the Horrible, B.C. and Ziggy.

What is going on here? Is Trudeau unfeeling and wily a saboteur of negativism — or does he depict the unwary tourist?

"You can't easily find a black homopener in town. There don't seem to be any among the 10,000 residents."

Ask John West, resident manager of the Breakers.

"Manservant? That almost sounds like Robinson Crusoe! That went out quite a while ago here."

West admits that for decades the Breakers banned black guests, others in town say the practice ended in the early 1960s. These days, anyone who wants to pay the bill, about \$120 per night in the winter, is welcome.

"Still, this is old-time Palm Beach. It's not exactly as if we harborers from the NAACP coming in all the time," he says.

Every businessman in this town is in favor of the identification card. In my knowledge," Chamber of Commerce president Newman said.

The way Newman describes it, it's not an American Express Card for the working class.

"It's not only a security measure, but it's a morale builder for people who hold it. They have a card issued by the Palm Beach Police, with their photos and fingerprints. It's a good all-around the world. They can cash a check anywhere."

Not only security padlocks and bellhops have the cards. West, the hotel manager, has them too.



Doonesbury becomes a civic booster's nightmare for Palm Beach beginning with today's strip (excerpted above) and running for two weeks.

It made me feel like I'm a poor domestic servant.

And Town Council member Doughty carries one to her head and bag. "I figure if I support the card, I should have one myself."

Says Newman: "The people who object must have something to hide."

Unfair, irresponsible, reprehensible — they've heard it all at Universal Press Syndicate's offices in Fairway, Kansas since The Los Angeles Times made comic history by yanking a Doonesbury strip in 1971. Still, it's Universal's most popular strip, purchased by 825 papers all over the United States and as far away as Saudi Arabia.

After last week's controversy surrounding Trudeau's treatment of Frank Sinatra, Universal editorial director Lee Salem says, "My guess is many editors will be relieved to see the Palm Beach strip go."

But Salem would like to see the strip in South Florida that carries right to do this, whether it is valid or not — no, even though it is invalid all the way around."

She dips in indignation. "You just have to have the skin of a zhi-nee to live here."

Trudeau agreed to talk to a reporter from his New York City apartment, but only after extracting a promise that he would not be quoted.

Trudeau said he learned of the Palm Beach identification rule six months ago, when the Mercedes freighter crashed in Mollat, W. I. — not a back yard and the movie filmed on Palm Beach's beaches. No, he's never been in the town and he has no plans to make his debut this week or next.

Says Nancy Simmons Doughty: "Unfortunately, under the first Amendment, I suppose he has the

The PB pass: Apartheid or crime prevention?

By DAVID MARCUS
Times Staff Writer

In Palm Beach an identification card, as Garry Trudeau implies, a vestige of racism?

Ask attorney James Kellogg Green, a bearded Antioch Law School graduate who donates his time to the West Palm Beach branch of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Green represents two former hotel employees who are suing the town to end the ID card ordinance. The way they see it, Palm Beach authorities are wiping their feet on the Constitution.

Palm Beach Ordinance 17-82, "Registration of Certain Occupations," says waiters, bartenders, busboys, sales clerks, janitors, cadettes, servants, taxicab drivers, vending machine operators and charter boat operators must be fingerprinted and photographed at the police office within 48 hours of starting work.

Ordinance 17-84 says the ID card received "shall be hereby carried on the person at all times." It does not state a penalty for failing to comply.

Green compares this to South Africa's apartheid. For one, he says, the ID card targets blacks and other minorities. Lawyers, doctors and stockbrokers don't need ID cards, unlike the people who remove their trash, clean their windows and tote their golf clubs.

Second, the registration at the police office is akin to arrest without probable cause, Green says. And third, he says, it interferes with Constitutional guarantees to interstate commerce.

"If the city and state required this kind of registration before a worker could start, we would have what amounts to barriers on business. Interstate commerce requires not only the free flow of goods from state to state, but also a free flow of labor from state to state."

U.S. District Judge Norman Rosenberg threw out the first two arguments and will rule only on whether the identification cards interfere with commerce. His decision is expected soon. When Trudeau needed information about the rule, he called Green.

"Palm Beach is one of the most beautiful towns in the world," Green says. "Underlying the physical beauty is an ugliness directed towards the common man. I think that's the real story."

For every detractor of the ID, there are dozens of defenders in Palm Beach. The police say they catch 10 to 15 crime suspects every year while processing the ID cards. They say the majority of workers who have identification cards are white.

Green counters that more than two-thirds of those arrested are black or Hispanic — 55 out of the past 85.

But John Randolph, the town attorney, says police do not randomly single out workers and check ID cards. He laughs at the apartheid comparison. "The court didn't give any credence to that, nor do I, nor does anybody here."