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We Serve and Protect

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BURTON LIEBERMAN

WE SERVE AND PROTECT

My face caught tear gas
as I ran from the helmeted
masked men who serve and protect us

the people in Lincoln park that
night were peaceful
there were ministers talking God
as a detective car
neared the crowd its searchlight
searching the darkness
the park closes at 11
if you are in the park after 11 you are in
violation of the law—the car said
it sped away

the detectives had detected us
all 2000 of us

this is our park and we're staying here
use a wet cloth over your mouth
take short breaths
don't panic
don't run
don't touch a tear gas can
kick them away

the helmeted goggle-eyed masked men
who serve and protect us
were grouping on the beach
they took the beach and moved toward the park
200 of our protectors
moved to form a single line
two huge light trucks rolled in
a tear gas spray truck
the latest in design and efficiency to serve
and protect us was called to duty

a huge cross of Christ was moved to
the front to face our protectors
in wedge formation they moved the blaring
lights showing them the enemy
tear gas cans started exploding in the crowd
Christ's cross was being gassed
the cans exploded and wizzed along the ground
people began choking and running
don't run—walk—don't run
a young girl fainted two Yippie medics carried
her away

pigs! pigs! pigs!
motherfuckers—fascist pigs
cocksuckers pigs pigs pigs!

I ran slowly
trying to keep ahead of the
law and order peace giving
serving and protecting gas

is this Chicago
is this Lincoln park
is this Prague

the masked helmeted men
the lights behind them
moved in an unbelievable nightmare
the gas exploding

is this Hiroshima
or Nagasaki,

is this Iwo Jima
will they raise the American flag
when they take the park
or will they raise the swastika
I'm waiting to see this
the swastika
with the slogan—we serve and protect

we gassed you for the fatherland
for your own good
we were only following orders
the park was full of communist revolutionaries
we're in power
we have the clubs and the mace
and the guns
you listen to us
up against the wall
that's it

you bastards think you can take over
ja

**THE GESTAPO SHALL NEVER BE DEFEATED
WE WILL LIVE FOR A THOUSAND YEARS!**