People for the Ethical Treatment of Zombies Ryan O'Callaghan (Publication Pending in Niteblade)

In the court case of Devon Palmer v. The City of Albany, Judge Andrew Atmore found the City of Albany to be guilty.

In fear, Officer Doug Mixon took the life of young Mr. Palmer under the impression that he was in fact a zombie. To be fair, Devon was covered in blood and did try to bite Officer Mixon on the hand. Palmer, a senior political science major at the State University of New York at Albany had spent the duration of the night in question at Damien's Ale House trying to soothe the pain of his recent break-up. However, after an hour of drinking at the Ale House, a young man walked in, whom Palmer believed to be the person who his former girlfriend had cheated on him with. Palmer threw the first punch, but sustained the most damage. A bloody mess and slightly concussed, Devon Palmer chose to stay at the Ale House instead of receiving immediate medical attention. He drank the pain away, three Blue Moons, five Jack and Cokes and six shots of what the bartender called "Damian's Hellfire;" it is said to contain cinnamon. Bloody, wobbly and unable to form a sound other than "uhhhh," Palmer took to the streets, was approached by Officer Mixon, whom he tried to bite, and was then shot between the eyes. On Officer Doug Mixon's behalf, the defense took the floor to state that Mixon's actions were based on an animal like instinct. The cause: fear. Mixon had faced great loss earlier that month due to a large zombie hoard. Devoured were his grandmother and his pet schnauzer, both named Milly. Milly Mixon, the grandmother not the dog, reanimated, and poor Doug had to watch her die a second time. Mixon was not penalized for his actions. The ruling stated that the problem was higher up.

Mr. and Mrs. Palmer were over-joyed for the victory, but they were unaware of the effects that would come with the win. So it was writ into law that a zombie could only be killed if a blood test is taken, showing the DNA anomaly of the aforementioned zombies.

For a few months, zombies were taken into captivity, tested and then incinerated. (Note: no un-zombified people were taken during this duration of time). Eventually, however, PeTA made a public statement reckoning that the so-called "zombies" were no longer human, but zombies, formed by a natural process. After the statement, other organizations joined the fight, while new organizations were formed. The "Let the Dead Live Campaign" took the US by storm, but smaller groups like "Zombies Need Food Too" and "Don't Hate, Don't Incinerate" were popular on a lower level. In the end, it was deemed that, despite how deadly they are, Zombies were a new part of the food chain, and disrupting the newly formed food chain could effect the earth's over all ecology. The ethical, at least what was believed to be ethical, decision was to remove zombies from inhabited area, much like we did with bears, wolves and Native Americans.

Zombies were no longer a real threat. The government was able to develop a vaccine for those who had become infected, but the cure would not bring the previously reanimated back to their former lives. Catching "zombie sickness" is no more difficult to cure than rabies. Nevertheless, the consequences of going untreated remain much more drastic.