DO PEOPLE PAY TO VISIT GRACELAND?

everyone who makes the mistake of allowing me to guide them on a tour of southern california gets taken to the grave of marilyn monroe.

it's not a grave exactly -- just a drawer in a wall in the westwood cemetery, which is a green patch behind the avco cinemas that you enter through a parking lot.

no one that i have taken to marilyn monroe's grave has ever expressed a desire to see it in advance, nor has anyone, afterwards, ever thanked me.

that proves they needed it.

SIESTA TIME

the guatemalan takeover was about as unromantic, dull, and bloodless as a takeover can be. a very bad government was replaced by a government that is either slightly better or a little bit worse. the continuity of atrocities is not apt to be interrupted.

but what interested me was the anchor man's announcement that "only a few died in the coup."

i wonder who that few were and why they bothered to die.

did they believe fanatically in their theocratic dictator or were they, like stoppard's rosencrantz and guildenstern, basically a-political sorts who just happened to be guarding the wrong palace at the wrong phase of the moon?