

Opinion

Free Press Viewpoint

It seems as though we still aren't sharing

We hear a lot of talk about the 'territorial' dispute between the FBI and the CIA. And, if they had gotten along better and communicated with each other more freely, we might have avoided the tragedy we now call 9/11. This is not to infer they alone were the reason the deadly attacks on that day in September 2001 were carried out right under our noses.

Well, after listening to the Homeland Security chief and the Attorney General this week, it almost sounds like they are not communicating with one another, either. Tom Ridge, Homeland's #1 guy, wasn't as concerned about the increased Internet chatter and other intelligence about a forthcoming attack on this country by terrorists as was Atty. Gen. John Ashcroft's concern.

Ridge told us to carry on, not to change anything. Ashcroft's story was a lot different and frightening. He foresees an imminent attack, perhaps as early as this weekend as Americans by the millions gather to reflect on the meaning of Memorial Day.

Ashcroft said there are other large gatherings in the summer that could be the target of terrorists, such as the Democratic and Republican conventions in Boston and New York, respectively, July 4th, etc.

He also said there is a real possibility that a terrorist cell is already operating in this country and pleaded with every American to be on the lookout for suspicious activity in their communities and to report that activity to their local law enforcement people.

Now here's the puzzler: With the stakes as high as they tell us the stakes are, doesn't it seem odd to you that there has not been any movement in accelerating the color coded warning? We're still two colors shy of the most critical of those colors on the chart..

And here we have two gentlemen with very different approaches to what could be another very real attack on our soil—two gentlemen on whom the President relies for advice as he ponders a course of action to protect the masses.

It just sounds like an extension of the divided turf on which the FBI and the CIA danced. Tom and John got to talk to one another. Period.

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Free Press Publisher

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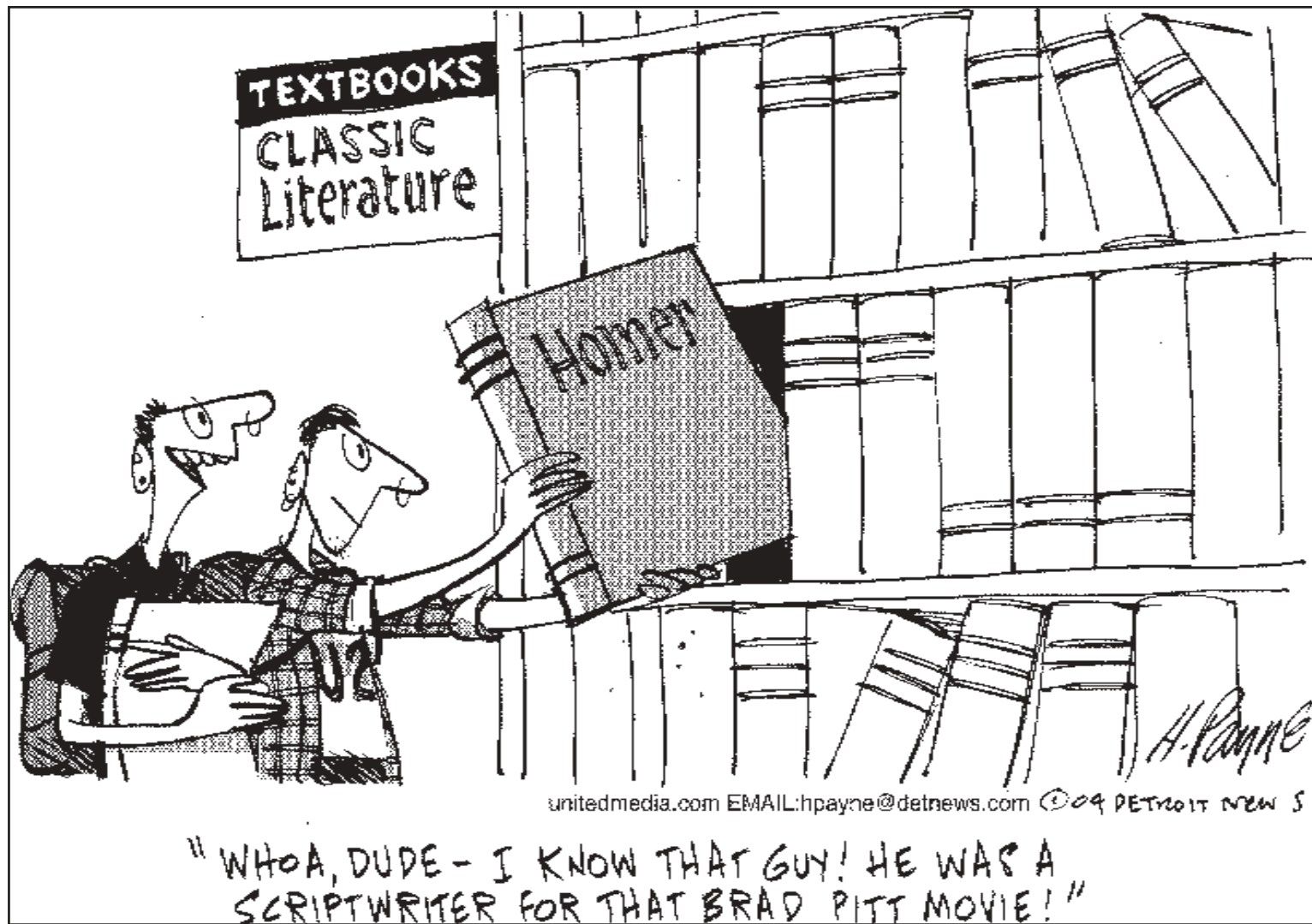
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A sign of the times



Jay Kelley
• Speaking MyMind

There has been much talk about where or upon whom the final responsibility and punishment for the reprehensible scenes from Abu Ghraib prison will fall.

The Army has suspended Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski, the commander of the 800th Military Police Brigade in charge of the prison. Also suspended was Col. Thomas Pappas, commander of the 205th Military Intelligence Brigade.

Both deserve censure whether or not they were part of the actual abuse because, as commanding officers, they set the tone of their respective commands. It is called command responsibility and you can't duck it.

Those on up the chain of command may be a different matter. Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez and Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller, the ground commander in Iraq and the former commander of the detention center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, respectively, are also under some suspicion.

It is interesting that Maj. Gen. Antonio Tagabu is held up as a paragon of military honor and virtue by those who insist on hammering the president and his senior civilian and military staff when Tagabu's report said the problem was among a few lower ranking members of the unit.

Personally, my own military experience tells me that could be true. It doesn't mean others up the chain, especially Karpinski and Pappas, are not responsible. In the Navy, at least, a commanding officer is responsible for everything that happens on his watch.

Such repulsive conduct could not have happened in a well-disciplined unit without the

knowledge of the commanding officer.

If Sanchez and Miller are guilty they should be sacked as well, but one thing is for sure. As long as the diviners of doom on the left are screaming for the heads of anyone wearing stars (and not a few wearing suits,) justice will not and cannot be served.

So long as Senators Kennedy, Byrd and others are screaming for heads to roll, those in charge of the military will feel the need to appease them and heads will be offered, whether guilty or not.

It's called civilian control of the military, it's constitutional and it's the correct way to do things as long as the civilians in control are responsible individuals. Whatever you might think of the current or any of the former occupants of the White House, do you really think Byrd, Kennedy, Pelosi and Company has our military's or our own best interests at heart?

Of course, We, the People elected those who are, to use a common phrase, running around like their heads are on fire. Therein lays the real responsibility. Our society is ultimately respon-

sible for Abu Ghraib.

No, we shouldn't let those who perpetrated those heinous acts off. Nor should we allow those in command who created the atmosphere in which those actions could take place walk free. We must, however, look to our own society for the answers as to how and why such a thing could happen.

We are a society of pagans and pornographers. We have left off pursuit of the God of Heaven and replaced it with pursuit of the God of Mammon. Is it any wonder our society produced the people at Abu Ghraib? Even now, we are so worried someone in authority will get off we are ignoring those who committed the crimes to the point their convictions receive only passing notice.

So long as we remain corrupt, our leaders will be corrupt. We cannot get away with demanding integrity from those in authority until we are willing to demand it from ourselves.

If we decide to hold ourselves accountable, there will certainly be more scandals. We won't get it completely right; after all we are human and fallible. If we don't, the scandals will eventually go away because we will become so calloused that we no longer recognize good and evil.

If we don't do something soon, I fear the choice will be made for us.

Jay Kelley is a local minister and writer who speaks his mind from time to time. His e-mail is jkelley@nwkansans.com.

WMDs being made right under our noses

We've all heard about the inspections that took place in Iraq to find weapons of mass destruction and programs to make them. As we know, none were found in Iraq.

That wouldn't be the case if the inspectors were to come to the University of California at Berkeley. They would find that programs to research, design, develop, improve, test, and maintain nuclear weapons have been going on under the auspices of this university for more than 60 years. They would find that the University of California provides oversight to the nation's two principal nuclear weapons laboratories: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Los Alamos National Laboratory. They would find that today these weapons laboratories are engaged in attempting to make new, more usable nuclear weapons: "bunker-busters" and mini-nukes.

For a fee, the University of California has provided a fig leaf of respectability to the research and development of the most horrendous weapons known to humankind. It is ironic that our government cannot tolerate the possibility of Iraqi scientists creating such weapons, but at the University of California (U.C.) such a horrid use of science is called "a service to the nation."

Two of the weapons developed at the Los Alamos Laboratory were used on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

These were relatively small weapons but caused the deaths of over 200,000 persons, mostly innocent civilians, by incineration, burning, blast and radiation poisoning. There are no guarantees that the nuclear weapons being developed today under U.C. auspices will not be used again. In fact, the odds are that they will be used again, by accident or design.

There are three reasons the U.C. should get out

David Krieger

• Guest Commentary

of the nuclear weapons business:

First, the U.C. is a great university, and no great university should lend its talents to making weapons capable of destroying cities, civilizations and most life on Earth. A university exists to examine the amazing wonders of our world, to collect and categorize knowledge, and to pass important knowledge from the past on to new generations.

How can a great university allow itself to be co-opted into helping create weapons of mass destruction? How can the U.C. Board of Regents justify this as "a service to the nation"?

Second, there is no moral ground on which nuclear weapons can rest. These are weapons of mass murder. They cannot discriminate between combatants and civilians. They kill indiscriminately. By continuing to develop and improve these weapons, the United States, economically and militarily the strongest country in the world, is signaling to other nations that these weapons would be useful for them as well.

Third, the International Court of Justice has stated that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is illegal under international law. It allowed only one possible exception in which the "very survival of a state" was at stake. In such a situation, it said that the law was unclear, but under any circumstance the use of nuclear weap-

ons would not be legal if it failed to discriminate between civilians and combatants or caused unnecessary suffering. There is no evidence that nuclear weapons could be used without violating these precepts.

Sir Joseph Rotblat, a Manhattan Project scientist and Nobel Peace Laureate, has written: "If the use of a given type of weapon is illegal under international law, should not research on such weapons also be illegal, and should not scientists also be culpable?"

It is time to heed the words of Professor Rotblat and to bring nuclear weapons under control. If the scientists and engineers at the laboratories are unwilling to give up their role in creating and improving nuclear weapons, then at least the U.C. community can send a message to the rest of the country and the world that it is no longer willing to participate in the management of laboratories making weapons of mass murder.

The motto of the University of California is "fiat lux," meaning "let there be light." It is unlikely that the light the founders of the university had in mind was the flash "brighter than a thousand suns."

They meant the light of knowledge, truth and beauty.

The University of California should end its association with the nation's nuclear weapons laboratories when the contract expires in 2005.

David Krieger is president of the Santa Barbara-based Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (www.wagingpeace.org) and wrote "Nuclear Weapons and the World Court" and "Choose Hope, Your Role in Waging Peace in the Nuclear Age."

Doonesbury

• Gary Trudeau

