

Saints and sinners: Let's show the police some respect

"The policeman's lot is not a happy one," sings one of the characters in "The Pirates of Penzance." He may be right.

Every 37 hours, a police officer is killed in the line of duty in the United States. And what is even more startling, every 22 hours a cop commits suicide in this country.

If Rodney Dangerfield thinks he gets no respect, he should become a police officer. Public opinion polls rank officers near the bottom, along with used-car salesmen, in terms of respect.

If we were to play a game of word associations, the word most people would use to fill in the blank in "police —" would be "brutality," not "protection."

Yet no one puts his or her life on the line more often (and for people they don't even know) than a police officer.

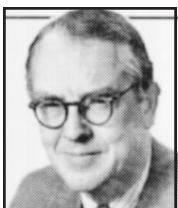
We used to teach our children that the corner police officer was their friend. Now we teach them their Miranda rights in case an officer tries to bully them.

But much of that attitude has changed since the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The police officer, along with the firefighter and the construction worker, has become a hero in our society. That's because of the heroism of the cops who selflessly risked their lives — and even gave their lives — to save others.

It's hard to say who is responsible for the adversarial relationship that has developed between a community's citizens and those they entrust to act as the guardians of their lives and safety.

In any case, it's time for a truce. Both sides need to reform.



george plagenz

• saints & sinners

There is no doubt that many police officers could use a Dale Carnegie course. The police do the most to shape a city's image, especially in the eyes of outsiders. If the image they project is poor, the whole city has a public relations problem.

When I lived in Cleveland, there was a traffic cop at the corner of East Sixth Street and Superior Avenue who would accompany the pedestrians on their walk across the street while

complimenting the ladies on their good looks and joking with the men.

People like me would walk an extra block or two just to cross the street at his corner. I think that the out-of-towners staying at the Hollenden Hotel on that block went back to New York, Dallas or Milwaukee with a good feeling about our city.

But if we want more police officers to act like this traffic cop, we will have to change our disdainful attitude toward the police. They are giving back what we are giving them. Even so, the police probably show more good will toward citizens than we citizens express toward the police.

We are ready to cry brutality if an officer so much as speaks sharply to us when we commit an offense that by all rights should land us in the clink.

In one big city, recently, a woman physician who was charged with resisting arrest subsequently accused the arresting officer of police brutality.

Many people might have been inclined to believe her story if it weren't for the fact that the officer had recorded the entire incident on a video camera in his cruiser.

There was not a hint of brutality or of stepping out of line in the policeman's conduct as recorded on the video.

A policeman's lot may not be a happy one — but it can be. And it is for many men and women in blue who are like Tom Lambert, whom I met when I was covering the police beat for a paper in Boston.

When I asked him how he would like it if his three young sons grew up to be policemen, he said, "Nothing would make me prouder."

Protest on Palestinian issue highlights Christian-Jewish divide over Israel

By Jay Lindsay

Associated Press Writer

BOSTON — The pro-Palestinian rally outside the Israeli consulate was as notable for the protesters as their message.

Three Episcopal bishops, holding crosses and wearing purple vestments, joined 60 people in October carrying signs that read "Christian-Muslim solidarity in the face of Israeli invasion" and "Destruction in Bethlehem."

Boston-area Jewish leaders were outraged. They felt critics were ignoring that Israelis also have been killed.

The exchange was one example of how — as violence in the Mideast has intensified — long-simmering tensions between some Christians and U.S. Jews over Israeli treatment of Palestinians have become more public.

The Christian-Jewish dispute "has an acid affect," said Rabbi James Rudin, who formerly oversaw interfaith relations for the American Jewish Committee.

The current unease between Jews and mainline Christians has roots that go back decades. After the Six-Day War in 1967, when Israel annexed the West Bank and Gaza, the view of Israel in the eyes of some Protestant groups changed from oppressed country to aggressor, said Philip Cunningham, executive director of Boston College's Center for Christian-Jewish Learning.

"It's no longer David vs. Goliath, but Goliath vs. David," Cunningham said.

The Israeli invasion of Lebanon in the 1980s and the failure of last year's peace talks were two other watershed events that made policy differences

more public, Rudin said.

Churches for Middle East Peace, formed in 1984, supports the right of Israel to exist, but has also lobbied for a freeze on Israeli settlements in the territories and for a Jerusalem governed by Palestinians and Israelis. The group includes the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The World Council of Churches, a fellowship of some 340 Christian churches in more than 120 countries, has repeatedly voiced concern for victims of violence on both sides while seeking an Israeli withdrawal from the territories. In September, the council endorsed a boycott of goods produced by Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza.

Their efforts took on more urgency

this October, after Israel occupied Bethlehem, the birth place of Jesus Christ.

Pope John Paul II's envoy to the Holy Land and several Christian bishops led thousands of Palestinians in a march for peace that month in Bethlehem. The Episcopal bishops protested in Boston around the same time, saying they felt their concerns were being ignored.

"Frustration was a major issue there," said the Rev. Kenneth Arnold, spokesman for Boston's Episcopal Diocese.

Christian critics say Israeli occupation of the territories is illegal under international law, and many consider the expansion of Israeli settlements theft of Palestinian land. They back United Nations resolutions calling for the withdrawal of Israel to its pre-1967

borders.

"How long would you expect people to live under these circumstances and not do what they can to get out of it?" said Peter Makari, a global ministries executive for the United Church of Christ.

Evangelicals and conservative Christians have a different view, staunchly supporting the government of the Jewish state, partly because of the end-times theology of dispensationalism, which sees the return of the Jews to Israel as an essential step before Christ's return.

Some Jewish leaders accuse more liberal Christians of employing a double standard, excusing Palestinian atrocities while condemning actions Israel takes in its own defense.

Robert Leikind, New England ex-

ecutive director of the Anti-Defamation League, said Christians refuse to acknowledge that some Palestinians support the murder of innocent Israelis. Critics also don't understand the realities of life surrounded by enemies, Rudin said.

"Would that Israel was in western Canada, it would be very nice," he said. "But Israel is in a very tough neighborhood."

Despite their differences, dialogue between Jews and Christians continues. The protest by the Episcopal bishops has sparked new rounds of talks in Boston, even as it highlighted the stark contrast in their positions.

"We still work together," Rudin said. "But it's getting tougher."

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899-7368

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Worship Service: 10 am
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Pastor: Rev. Steve Rains
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899-6185

Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am
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Pastor: Matthew Delp
Third & Caldwell
899-2080 or 899-3797

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:50 am
Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First Baptist Church

Pastor: Bud Chester
Fifth & Center • 899-3450
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Evening Worship: 6:30 pm
Tuesday: Mens' Prayer Group: 6:00 am
Thursday: Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail
Pastor: Arlin Cochran • 785-332-2888
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 11 am



Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Pastor: Loren Strait
Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233
Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups,
Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups,
Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship
Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing
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First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman
899-3631

Pastor: Rev. Carol Moore-Ramey
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398

Minister: Tony Kafka
Youth Minister: Doug Bean
Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am
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Wednesday:
Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm
Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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Pastor: Scott Grimshaw
Sunday: Sunday School: 8:45 am
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Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Kanorado United Methodist Church

Pastor: Leonard Cox
399-2468

Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10:15 am

Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400

Pastor:
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
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Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday: Call for location

Grace Fellowship Church

104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423
Pastor: Bob Snyder • Residence: 899-0134
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am
Worship Service: 11 am

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center
899-2115 or Rectory 899-2114
Priest: Father Charles Schneider
Deacon: Gretchen Talitha
Adult Forum: Sunday : 8:30 am
Morning Prayer: 9:30 am 1st & 5th Sundays
Holy Eucharist: 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays: 9:30
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Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO • (970) 664-2470
Sacrament Meeting: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am
Priesthood/Relief Society: 11:30 am

Word of Life Foursquare Church

223 E. 10th
899-5250

Pastor: John Coumerilh
Sunday: Worship Celebration &
Kids' Church: 10:30 am

United Methodist Church

Brewster:

Pastor:

Worship Service: 10:45 am CST
Sunday School: 9:45 am CST

Winona:

Minister: Rev. Bob Winters
Worship Service: 9 am CST
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo
Spanish Speaking Church
Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.
1601 Texas • 899-5275

Daily Prayer: Sunday thru
Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Pastor: Father Daryl Olmstead
307 W. 13th • 899-7205

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4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment

Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 6 pm
Sunday: 8 am and 10:30 am
Spanish Mass:
1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

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899-5784

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