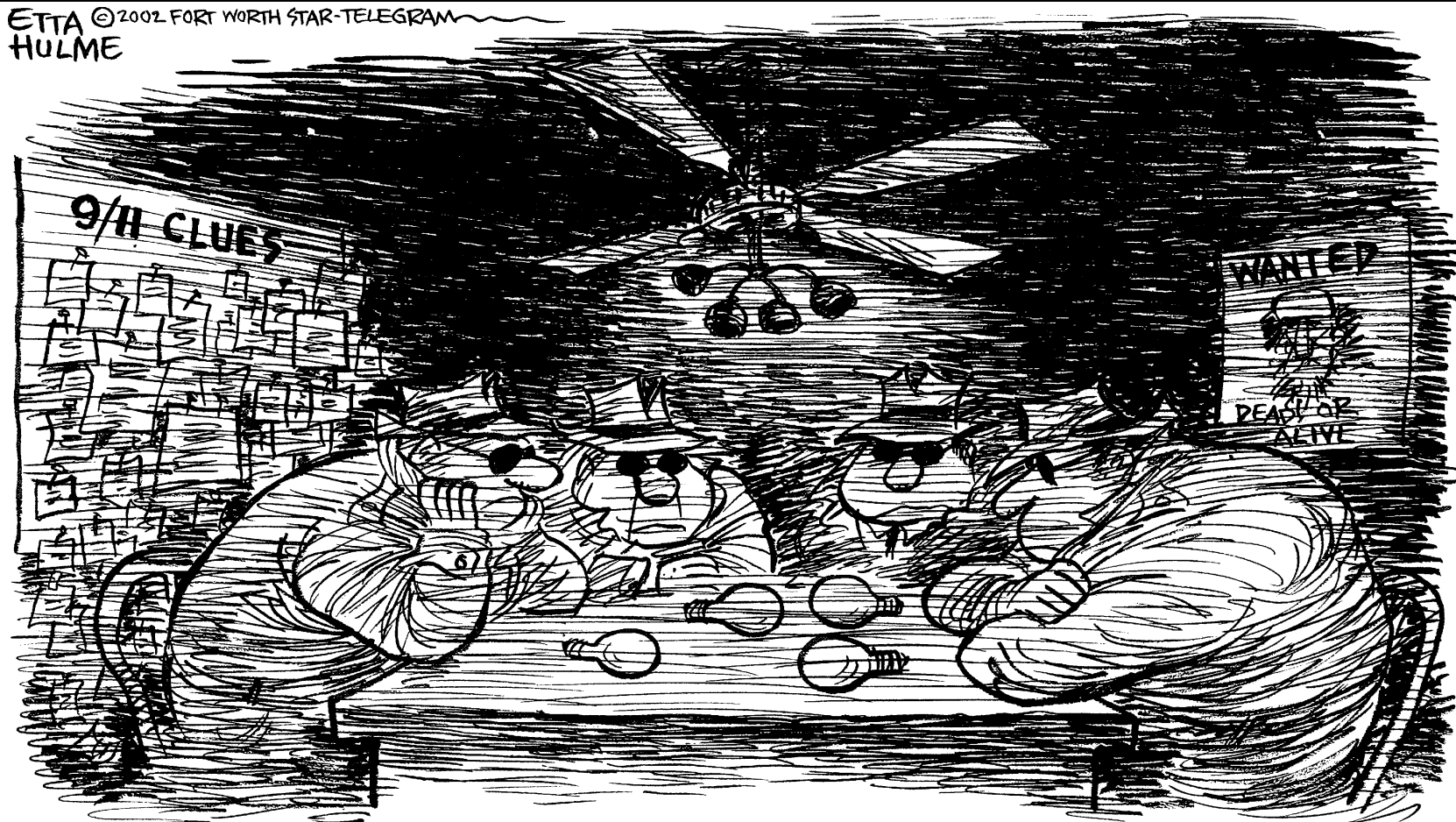


ETTA © 2002 FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM
HULME



U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES WAITING FOR THE LIGHTS TO COME ON

Trips remind me why I like living here

Every time I leave town, I'm reminded of why I like living here so much.

I drove to Chapman recently, about 50 miles past Salina, to cover the regional high school track meet. I drove straight through almost to Salina, where I stopped for lunch.

I exited I-70, and got in the left turning lane to hit a fast-food joint I don't get to eat at in Goodland. I'm about to turn and a car pulls up next to me on the left, hanging off the road, blocking my turn.

I wait for the car to turn, but by this time another car has pulled behind it, also hanging off the road, and it blocks me. I check the mirror, and there is a stream of cars, just waiting to cut me off.

Fine. I'll just turn to the right. No can do. Another long line of cars. I inch forward a bit, and try to make my way into the line.

A get a rude gesture and a lot of pick-up truck in my path.

Finally a car in the line hanging off the road to the left lets me by, and I'm on my way. As I'm waiting to cross traffic to my restaurant, I see the car drive by and the driver wave. I glanced at the tags, and was more surprised than I should have been. I saw the initials SH, for Sherman County.

City meetings

Part of my beat here at the *Daily News* is covering city government activities, including the commissioners' meetings, and I've noticed a trend I'm not too fond of.



**doug
stephens**

• wisdom from babes

The audience at the meetings isn't usually more than a handful of regulars, but everyone once in a while, there is a sizable crowd of people who are interested in just one item on the commission's agenda. They show up, sit through what they want to see, or have their say, then leave.

At the last meeting, a bunch of people interested in building up the economy of the town showed up at the meeting to talk to the commissioners, and to "open a line of communication," as one member of the group put it.

This is all fine, more than fine, actually. If we can attract more businesses here, everyone will benefit. What surprised me was that when these concerned citizens had their say, and heard what the commissioners had to say in return, most of them stood up and went about their regular business.

These are people who say they care about our town and want to improve it, yet they won't stick through a whole meeting.

The commissioners are elected officials who have a great impact on our lives. They can set taxes

and utility fees, pass ordinances which tell us how to park and separate our trash, equip our parks, and buy equipment to work on our streets.

Everyone who lives within the city limits is affected by what they do. If someone truly wants to improve our town, the city commission, as well as the county commission and school board, is something to pay attention to.

One of the most interesting parts of the meetings is towards the end when the commissioners give their reports.

This is a good chance to see what our officials care about, how well they get along with each other, and sometimes how well they understand the issues and pay attention. But almost no one sticks around to the end to hear them.

We vote these people into office, they spend a good part of their free time trying to work for our benefit, and hardly anyone bothers to attend.

I hear people griping all the time about how the commissions aren't doing their jobs and don't care about the rest of us, but rarely do I see those same people show up and voice their concerns.

Show up. Sound off. Let yourself be heard. The commissioners care about our town, and want to hear what we have to say, or they wouldn't be in the job in the first place.

And don't just show up for the juicy stuff. Everything these folks do affects every one of us, every day.

Immigration has lots of work to do

"We can do a better job of making our borders more secure," President Bush said last week before signing legislation designed to do exactly that. "We must know who's coming into our country and why they're coming. We must know what our visitors are doing and when they leave," he continued, adding, "It's knowledge necessary to make our homeland more secure."

Easier said than done? You bet. For all the spiffy, new immigration guidelines provided by the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Bill (intensifying immigration checks at American ports-of-entry; creating an easy-access database of known terrorists; strengthening the student visa program; and hiring 400 new INS inspectors and investigators) the same old problem remains: an understaffed and under-trained immigration agency overwhelmed by the magnitude of its duties.

Take the New York office of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service. Bush may have just signed a grandly titled and — with a \$3.2 billion budget — grandly priced bill into law, but the fact remains that today, on the ground, at our flagship port of entry, it's up to just 14 federal immigration agents, assisted by seven New York City police detectives and two state troopers unfamiliar with immigration law, to find and deport the roughly 1,200 illegal immigrants from Al Qaeda-active countries now thought to be in the



**diana
west**

• commentary

New York vicinity. An even smaller federal squad, a mere seven agents, is supposed to be making sure that no illegal immigrants from Arab or Muslim nations hold any of the several thousand potentially sensitive jobs at local airports and nuclear plants. Cross your fingers and hope none of these guys catches a cold.

Meanwhile, no one from the New York office has had time even to begin what the INS calls a national priority — tracking down student-visa violators from Muslim and Arab nations.

"They just have nowhere near enough people," said James K. Kallstrom, a former assistant director of the FBI and a security adviser to New York Gov. George E. Pataki, in the *New York Times* in a recent article. "They need a geometric increase."

Why the thin, thin, thin blue line? Low morale and equally low pay, say agents and union officials. Topping out at \$49,959 a year, rank-and-file special agents make nearly \$10,000 less than their counterparts at other federal law enforcement agencies, an economic fact of life that often leads

INS agents to move on to the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Customs Service and other better-paying agencies. Perhaps it's no wonder, then, as the *New York Times* reported, the law enforcement arm of the New York INS office is operating at roughly half-strength. Where as many as 150 agents worked there in years past, just 80 federal agents are now responsible not only for the more routine crimes of immigrant smuggling and document fraud, but also for new and urgent terrorism-related duties. "Much of their work," the newspaper wrote, "remains undone."

And will remain undone for the foreseeable future, despite lawmakers' efforts to date. The border-security bill promises to plug some of the holes in our borders, but implementation takes time — for example, more than a year, say INS officials, just to get new agents recruited, trained and assigned. Why so long? It sounds like a major recruitment campaign to beef up the INS is in order. With our leaders preparing us not just for the possibility of future attack but for its deadly certainty, time is an antiquated luxury of the past. Something needs to be done now to protect ports like New York.

Diana West is a columnist and editorial writer for *The Washington Times*. She can be contacted via dwest@washingtontimes.com.

commentary

from other pens...

Will war be averted between old enemies?

By George Gedda

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Escalating tensions between India and Pakistan recall the period in 1999 when the two countries averted a potential nuclear cataclysm with a decisive assist from President Clinton.

During an anxiety-ridden White House meeting on July 4 that year, Clinton persuaded Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to withdraw his forces from the Kargil region in the disputed Indian territory of Kashmir. The two countries dodged war then, but now again they are at the brink.

According to a first-person account by a top national security aide, Bruce Riedel, Sharif in 1999 wanted no part of a conflict with India. But he was opposed by his military chief at the time, Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

Precisely 100 days after that fateful White House meeting, Musharraf deposed Sharif in a military coup. Now president, Musharraf is at the center of the latest flare-up over Kashmir between the two nuclear-armed rivals.

The Bush administration is worried that the conflict could so distract Pakistan that it will cease cooperating with U.S. anti-terrorism efforts along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. On Pakistan's list of priorities, helping capture al-Qaida fighters pales alongside the stakes in Kashmir. Or so some U.S. officials believe.

India accuses Pakistan of engaging in cross-border terrorism in Kashmir and rejects Pakistan's suggestion of dialogue. Pakistan has carried out three test launches — the latest on Tuesday — of a missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead into Indian territory.

Musharraf has won broad U.S. support because of his stand against Afghan-based terrorism, but Riedel paints an unflattering portrait of the Pakistani leader in an essay published by the Center for the Advanced Study of India at the University of Pennsylvania.

While Sharif was eager in 1999 for an accommodation with India, Riedel wrote, Musharraf "seemed to be in a different mold. Musharraf was a refugee from New Delhi, one of the millions sent into exile. He was said to be a hard-liner on Kashmir."

The border region Kashmir, which has an overwhelmingly Muslim population, had a Hindu maharajah when British India was partitioned in 1947. He opted for India, and the South Asian neighbors have been in states of war or nearly so ever since. Kashmir is claimed by both governments.

During the tense summer of 1999, it was clear that "the civil-military dynamic between Sharif in Islamabad and Musharraf in Rawalpindi was confused and tense," according to Riedel.

As he described it, Clinton firmly supported India during the Kargil crisis and made that point clear during his July 4 meeting with Sharif.

Clinton held firm. He reasoned that any concessions to Sharif's position would only reward Pakistani aggression in Kashmir.

Finally, Sharif backed down and agreed to accept a joint statement, in which the key clause read: "The prime minister has agreed to take concrete and immediate steps for the restoration of the LOC," the line of control dividing Kashmir.

That meant that Pakistan would observe the informal border, or line of control, that runs through Kashmir. It is the point over which the two sides are not supposed to cross.

Today, a million troops are deployed on both sides of the line. Gideon Rose, of the Council on Foreign Relations, is not so sure catastrophe can be avoided, as it was in 1999, despite urgent appeals from diplomatic peacemakers to Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

EDITOR'S NOTE — George Gedda has covered foreign affairs for *The Associated Press* since 1968.

The Goodland Daily News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)

Member: Kansas Press Association
The Associated Press

Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association
National Newspaper Association
e-mail: daily@nwkansas.com



Steve Haynes, President
Tom Betz, Editor/Editorial Page
Rachel Miscall, Managing Editor
Pat Schiefen, Copy Editor
Doug Stephens, Sports Editor
Sharon Corcoran, Society Editor
Eric Yonkey, Bill Wagoner, Advertising Sales
James Schiefen, Adv. Production Sheila Smith, Office Manager



Nor'west Press

Jim Bowker, General Manager

Richard Westfahl Ron VanLoenen Judy McKnight
Betty Morris Skilar Boland Lana Westfahl

nwkansas.com

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services (nbetz@nwkansas.com)
Evan Barnum, Systems Admin. (support@nwkansas.com)

Published daily except Saturday and Sunday and the day observed for New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Daily News, 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: daily@nwkansas.com. Advertising questions can be sent to: gdnadv@nwkansas.com

The Goodland Daily News assumes no liability for mistakes or omissions in advertising or failure to publish beyond the actual cost of the ad.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$25; six months, \$42; 12 months, \$79. Out of area, weekly mailing of five issues: three months, \$30; six months, \$45; 12 months, \$80. By mail daily in Kansas, Colorado: 12 months, \$115. (All tax included.)

Incorporating:

The Sherman
County Herald
Founded by Thomas McCants
1935-1989

THE SHERMAN COUNTY
STAR
Founded by Eric and
Roxie Yonkey
1994-2001

Nor'West Newspapers
Haynes Publishing Company

ETTA © 2002 FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM
HULME



berry's world



www.comics.com © 2002 by NEA, Inc.