

Opinion



Free Press Viewpoint

Homeland Security: we do have a problem

Who haven't we heard from during this time of terror in the Washington, D. C. area?

Remember the name "Homeland Security"?

It seems odd that Tom Ridge, the director of that office, and the administration in general, have kept a low profile as Americans are being shot dead by a sniper or snipers.

We are being told that the murders are not a terrorist-related activity. Bull! It takes an empty head to come to that conclusion. That area of the country is terrified by these acts of terrorism, regardless of whether it is a domestic or international ordeal.

But, again, where is "Homeland Security"? They have issued all sorts of warnings, even to the elevated color of orange, the second most severe on the colorful board maintained by Ridge. But yet as the sniper or snipers continue to lead Americans to the cemetery this office is silent. Deadly silent.

We were supposed to feel somewhat safe with Homeland Security in place. Homeland Security, protecting the homeplace. What kind of protection are we currently receiving?

Maybe the President needs to put Saddam "Insane" Hussein on the back burner for now and concentrate on the attack — and that is exactly what it is — that is literally allowing Americans to drop dead in their tracks. Mr. Bush needs to get off the campaign trail and on the trail of a murderer or murderers.

What is going on with this backdrop of silence is not acceptable. Law enforcement can do only so much. And if Homeland Security can't protect the homeplace maybe it is a waste of time and money

One sniper death was one too many.

The terror continues.

It is terror.

Don't try to tell those people back there it isn't. — *Tom (TD) Dreiling, Publisher*

Comments to any opinions expressed on this page are encouraged. Mail them to the Colby Free Press, 155 W. 5th St., Colby, Kan., 67701. Or e-mail td@nwkansas.com.

Addresses of elected officials:

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-4774

U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-6521

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 1519 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202/225-2715

State Rep. Jim Morrison, State Capitol Building Rm. 174-W, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7676 e mail: jmorriso@ink.org web: <http://www.idir.net/~jmorriso/>

State Sen. Stan Clark, State Capitol Building Rm. 449-N, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7399 e mail: sclark@ink.org

COLBY FREE PRESS

155 W. Fifth (USPS 120-920) (785) 462-3963 Colby, Kan. 67701

freepress@nwkansas.com

State award-winning newspaper, General Excellence, Design & Layout Excellence, Column Writing, Editorial Writing, Sports Columns, News, Photography.

Official newspaper of Thomas County, Colby, Brewster and Rexford.

Tom (TD) Dreiling - Publisher
td@nwkansas.com

NEWS

Patty Decker - Editor

pdecker@nwkansas.com

Darrel Pattillo, Sports Editor

colbysports@nwkansas.com

Michelle L. Hawkins, family and religion

mhawkins@nwkansas.com

ADVERTISING

Crystal Rucker - Advertising Representative

crystalr@nwkansas.com

Flo Rodriguez - Ad Composition, Legals

BUSINESS OFFICE

Lea Bandy - Circulation Manager

Pattie Stevens - Office Manager, Want Ads

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator

support@nwkansas.com

NOR'WEST PRESS

Jim Bowker - General Manager

Richard Westfahl, Lana Westfahl, Ron VanLoenen, Judy McKnight

THE COLBY FREE PRESS (USPS 120-920) is published daily, every Monday through Friday, except the day observed for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, by Haynes Publishing Co., 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE is paid at Colby, Kan. 67701, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701.

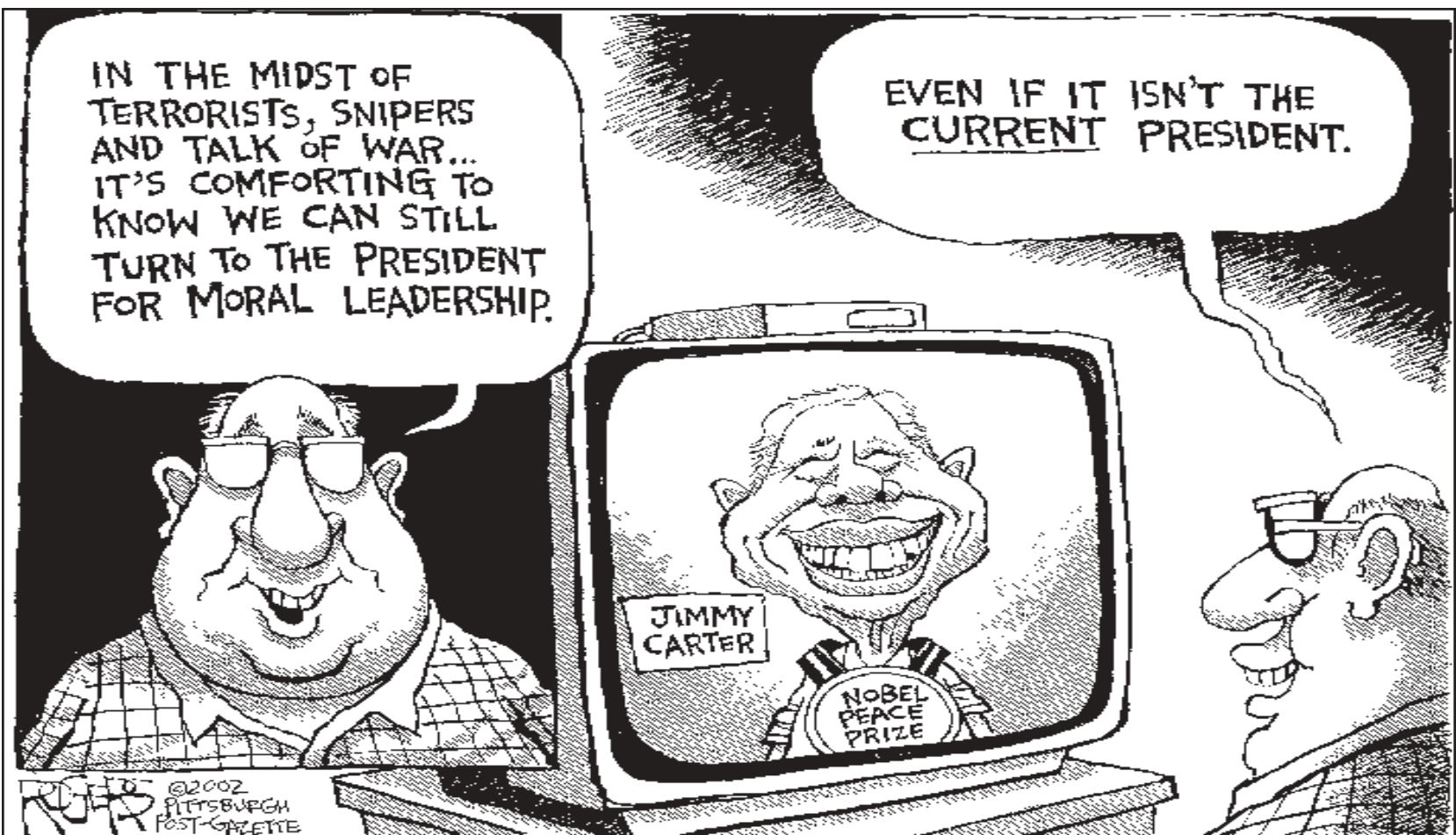
THE BUSINESS OFFICE at 155 W. Fifth is open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, closed Saturday and Sunday.

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, which is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news credited to it or not otherwise herein. Member Kansas Press Association, Inland Press Association and National Newspaper Association.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In Colby by carrier: 4 months \$32, 8 months \$47, 12 months \$64. By mail with in Colby and the nine-county region of Thomas, Sheridan, Decatur, Rawlins, Cheyenne, Sherman, Wallace, Logan and Gove counties: 4 months \$44, 8 months \$56, 12 months \$72. Other Kansas counties and surrounding states: 4 months \$51, 8 months \$61, 12 months \$75. All other states, \$75, 12 months.

Nor'West Newspapers

Haynes Publishing Company



Lots of unsolicited advice

Tom Dreiling

• My Turn



IDO NOT want to lose weight. I don't really need to. I'm 5-8, and hang around 175 to 180 — depending on how heavy the shoes are that I am wearing on the day I step onto the scale. I cannot open my email each day without some weight loss goofanization trying to lure me into their lose-weight-quick program. I would venture to say the only thing I would lose quickly if I were to join would be my money. How do they know I need to lose weight without even knowing me? Oh, yes, there's the bunch who want me to quit smoking, which I did some 32+ years ago. And there's also a group who has just the kind of diet I need to change me from head to toe. I wonder which toe. It is endless. I would venture to say that when I open my email each morning there are between 60 and 90 messages waiting, with around 70 percent of them totally worthless. When you see them so often and you know that at one time or another you probably opened them, you simply junk 'em unopened. But no matter what you do they show up again and again. And don't ever try to get rid of them by following the instructions telling you how to properly delete them. That's mistake #1. They're with you for life. While writing this item I've been alerted 7 times of incoming email. One was from an occasional exchange. The others were filler for file 13. If you think telemarketers are pests, you don't have email. But despite those drawbacks, I'd find it hard to live without. It would be like not having a telephone.

Time change takes effect this coming Sunday. Turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday night.

ONE WEEK and one day from today is Halloween. I hope for favorable weather so the kiddies can come trick-or-treating. I hate stocking up with goodies and then have Mother Nature rain or snow on my Halloween. It's always a highlight of the fall season as I reflect back on the days when my kids were little ones and I would take them around the neighborhood

and watch the expressions on their little faces as the person at the door would had them mini-bars, or other sweet treats. I remember my brother Jim, who, on one particular Halloween night thought he'd be a smarty and when some of the older trick-or-treaters — of high school age — came to his door he invited them in and gave each one of them a glass of water. He chuckled at their surprised reaction. But he didn't chuckle at their payback — soaped, very soaped car windows. I bet they were chuckling as they did their dirty deed.

HAPPY Birthday to...

Oct. 23 — Conrad Reed, Heather Spitznagel, Kari Taul, Carol Lovenstein

Oct. 24 — Bridget Bickner, Roger Raymond, Jessica Wiens, Curt Stephens, Preston Stephens, Gary Kaufman

HAPPY Anniversary to...

Oct. 23 — George & Dorothy Ladenburger

Oct. 24 — Steve & Karen Molstad

Congratulations!

Call us at 462-3963 or email td@nwkansas.com to have your special day mentioned. And *please* keep us advised of any changes in any listing. We need your help to keep the calendar accurate. Many thanks!

I SEE where we got 0.25 inches of moisture out of the rains of Tuesday. That brings the month's total to 1.22 inches. We'll take it. Right? Right! Sure didn't like getting the thick coat of ice off the car's windows this morning. Little early for that. Low this morning

settled in at 27 degrees.

I WAS going to pass along a surefire recipe for warding off the flu and colds. A reader called it in last week but I misplaced it. Perhaps she will be kind enough to give me a call back. Thanks!

THIS one is for all you fishermen out there.

It was a cold winter day (kind of like today) when an old man walked out onto a frozen lake, cut a hole in the ice, dropped in his fishing line and began waiting for a fish to bite. He was there for almost an hour without even a nibble when a young boy walked out onto the ice, cut a hole in the ice not far from the old man and dropped in his fishing line. It only took about a minute and WHAM! a Largemouth Bass hit his hook and the boy pulled in the fish. The old man couldn't believe it but figured it was just luck. But, the boy dropped in his line and again within just a few minutes pulled in another one. This went on and on until finally the old man couldn't take it any more since he hadn't caught a thing all this time. He went to the boy and said, "Son, I've been here for over an hour without even a nibble. You have been here only a few minutes and have caught about half a dozen fish! How do you do it?"

The boy responded, "Roo raf roo reep ra rums rrrarm."

"What was that?" the old man asked.

Again the boy responded, "Roo raf roo reep ra rums rrrarm."

"Look," said the old man, "I can't understand a word you are saying."

So, the boy spit a glob into his hand and said, "You have to keep the worms warm!"

HAVE a good evening!

Dreiling is publisher of the Free Press. His column appears Wednesdays and Fridays. td@nwkansas.com

They hate us because we're arrogant

A year after launching the war on terror, the world's sole superpower needs to wake up to a painful reality. The United States has the capability to overwhelm its adversaries through military might, but, in the process, it is losing the battle for "hearts and minds." Rather than a consensus for the American war against Iraq, there is international opposition to any U.S. military action in Iraq from much of Europe and most of the Muslim and developing world.

This losing battle prompted the U.S. government to gather foreign and American experts together in Washington to, in the words of State Department spokesman Robert Boucher, "explore the roots of anti-Americanism around the world, what it means for the United States and how the United States can address

it." A pop-style radio station in Arabic has also been launched in an apparent bid to "sell" the message of America to the masses in the Arab world. Not surprisingly, a former Madison Avenue advertising executive now heads the State Department's Office of Public Diplomacy.

But it doesn't require a special conference to explain what has gone awry. The problem of anti-Americanism worldwide is rooted in U.S. policies, not in a public relations failure, or in some amorphous "they" hating "our" freedoms. And the problem is being compounded by the drumbeat of war against Iraq coming from administration and media hawks alike.

By treating public opinion in the Muslim world and elsewhere as little more than a media damage-control exercise, public diplomacy becomes primarily a means to avoid the reality of how U.S. policies are

Mushahid Hussain

• Another Viewpoint

felt and viewed by much of the world. But just a few policy changes would go a long way in narrowing the gap between the U.S. and international public opinion, particularly in the most volatile and dangerous regions of our planet.

For starters, all violence against innocent civilians should be condemned, whether it is committed by the Taliban or the Northern Alliance, Palestinian suicide bombers or the Israeli Army, Kashmiri militants or the Indian Army, the Russian Army or the Chechens. The national or religious origin of the victims should not blunt a firm condemnation of the perpetrators.

A few more steps to take:

- Respect the U.N. Charter and international law. "Might is right" is an outdated concept in an interdependent world, and rejecting international agreements arrived at by consensus, like the International Criminal Court and the Kyoto Treaty, or the refusal to accord even the basic precepts of American justice to the Muslim detainees at Guantanamo Bay, is deeply upsetting even to America's closest allies.

- Practice what you preach. Seeking to "restore" democracy by removing a thuggish dictator like Saddam sounds good. But very recently the world saw

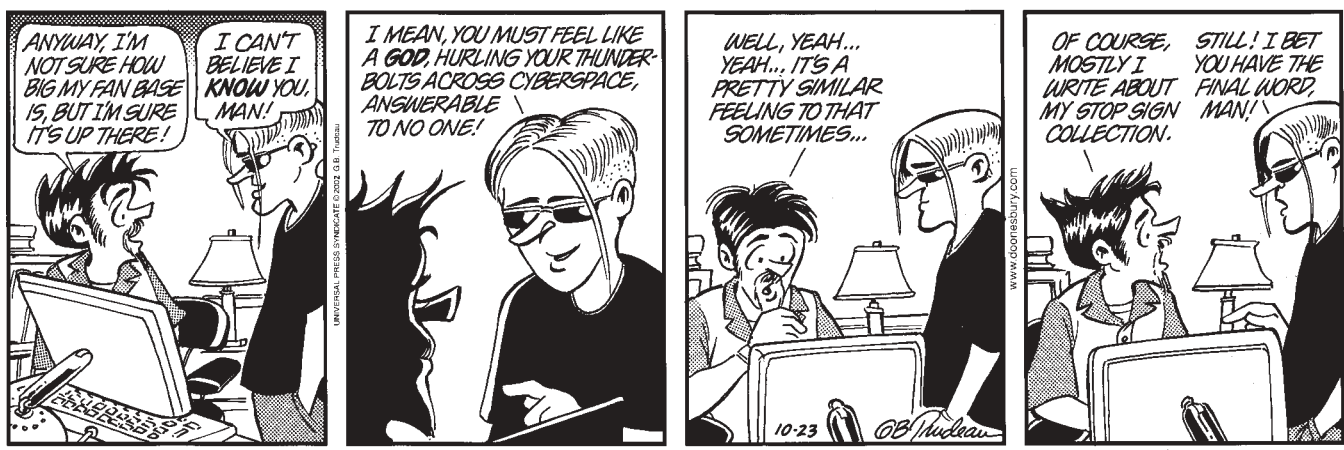
Washington wink at a coup against the elected President of Venezuela, acquiesce to General Musharraf's attempts to rule Pakistan by diktat, and openly reward corrupt and undemocratic governments throughout Central Asia as allies in the war on terrorism.

- Own up to past policies. Whether it was walking away from Afghanistan in 1989, which created a fertile ground for the likes of Osama bin Laden, or supporting Saddam in the 1980s to contain Iran by allowing him to stockpile and use "weapons of mass destruction," the United States needs to start accepting responsibility for the consequences of past policies.

- Develop a little humility in foreign policy. Ironically this is something that George W. Bush advocated when he was campaigning for the presidency in 2000, an honorable position he seemed to forget after he became president. The administration's militaristic unilateralism towards the world's pressing issues, which is dismissive of critics and allies alike, is alienating the rest of the world in a way that no billions spent on public diplomacy can rectify.

Surely decision-makers in Washington don't need Madison Avenue executives and more taxpayer-funded conferences to figure out where the root of much of the anti-Americanism in the world comes from. It's not about bad P.R.; it's about bad policies.

Mushahid Hussain, a former information minister in Pakistan, is a journalist for many South Asian publications and an analyst on the Muslim world for Foreign Policy In Focus, a Washington, D.C., think-tank. For more information, visit: <http://www.ipsdc.org>.



Doonesbury

• Gary Trudeau