

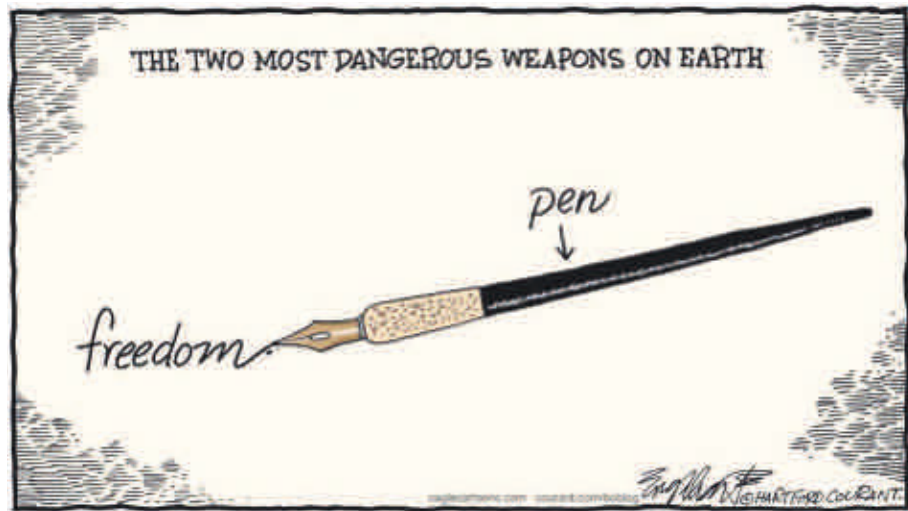
EAST OREGONIAN
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Pen crushes sword



Most of today's editorial page has been set aside to discuss the horrific murder of 12 Parisians.

The Islamic terrorists suspected of the crime are accused of attacking 10 journalists who work at the French cartoon magazine Charlie Hebdo. Two police officers were also killed in what was the worst terrorist attack in France in more than 50 years.

This is therefore the time for weeping and bringing the guilty to justice, but also for a renewed vigor to defend journalists and their work, and for promoting the tenets of free speech, free expression and nonviolent debate. Those values are the axle on which society rests, and if allowed to tip over would descend our world into anarchy, violence and eventually a return to totalitarianism.

It's terrible to hear of any life taken too soon, but we are especially hurt when the victims are journalists like ourselves. Cartoonists are often artists in the truest sense of the word; stepping over the line we've drawn around our understanding and comfort. They need to be brash, needling and funny.

And as we know, not everyone has a sense of humor or appreciates that art. Just this week we had subscribers cancel their subscription to this paper because they found an editorial cartoon about the Catholic church inappropriate.

Granted, canceling a subscription is a much more civilized response than shooting up a newsroom, but it shows the razor's edge on which much of journalism lives. We must stir the same pot in which we boil.

Terrorism is repulsive no matter the cause: be it religion, power or violence just for the sake of violence.

When terrorists hijacked planes and killed 2,000 Americans more than 14 years ago, this country totally rewrote its laws. We sacrificed our privacy and our freedom for the promise of more safety and security. We made accommodations and passed the Patriot Act, created the Department of Homeland Security (now a \$50 billion and growing annual outlay for our federal government), gave the NSA the ability to spy on our phone calls and emails, even allowed the TSA to see us naked as we walk through security.

There can be no such accommodation when it comes to free press and free expression.

Journalists will not be intimidated. Although we shouldn't have to die to do our work, men and women all over the world are willing to.



Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board of Publisher Kathryn Brown, Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, and Opinion Page Editor Tim Trainor. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.

OTHER VIEWS

The culture of cartoonists in France — a revered and respected profession

By DARYL CAGLE

I woke up this morning to the news of the terrorist attack on the Charlie Hebdo Magazine office in Paris. Twelve people were killed and eleven wounded, including two of my French cartoonist friends, Tignous and Wolinski. Cartoonists around the world are grieving.

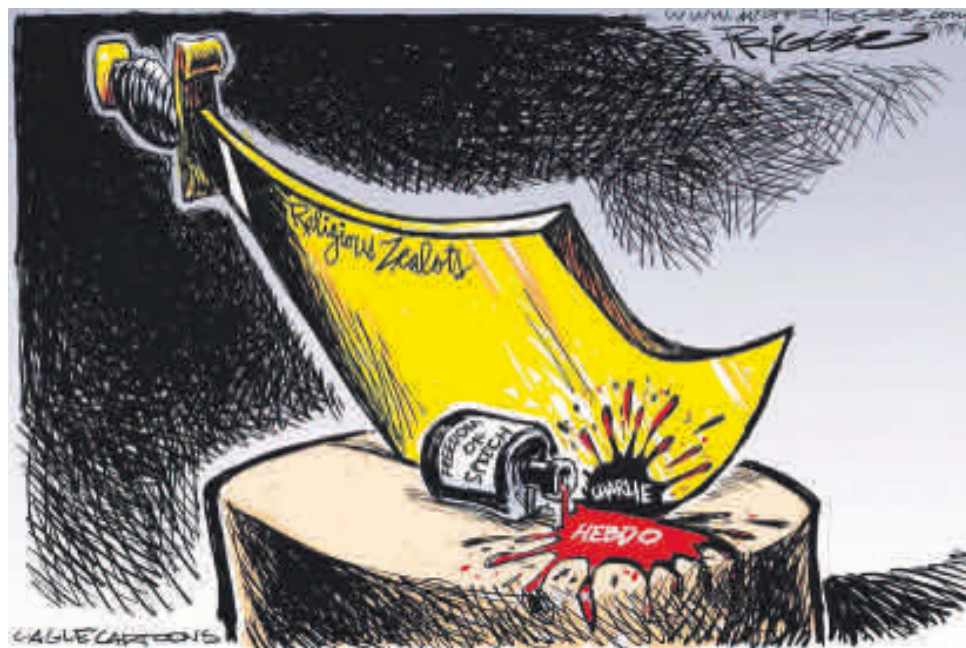
Americans treat editorial cartoons as a trivial daily joke in the newspaper — in France, editorial cartoons are loved and respected. The Louvre has a branch museum devoted to cartoons. Imagine if the Smithsonian had a cartoon museum, that's the way cartoons are revered in France.

"Charlie Hebdo" is a silly name; it is a weekly magazine filled with editorial cartoons, easily found on newsstands everywhere in France. "Hebdo" means "weekly" in French, and "Charlie" comes from France's love for the comic strip "Peanuts" and

Charlie Brown — therefore "Charlie Hebdo." The top cartoonists in France vie to be on the pages of Charlie Hebdo.

There are cartoon festivals all over France. The best one for political cartoonists is in the small town of St. Just le Martel. I've been attending for years, along with other cartoonists I syndicate. The townspeople pitch in to throw a festival for the editorial cartoonists every year; villagers put cartoonists up in their homes, and they award a live cow to the "Humor Vache" cartoonist of the year. One greatly respected winner of the cow was Georges Wolinski, a brilliant cartoonist with a masterful loose, swishy, wordy style, highly respected by the French. We were fellow cow winners, having a beer together last October. It is hard to imagine that he is gone.

The Charlie Hebdo cartoonists are a diverse group of charming



characters; they are the heart of the French cartooning community. There are not a lot of editorial cartoonists. We get to know each other; the murders are a blow that strikes close to all of us.

The Charlie Hebdo artists were energized and incensed by the Danish Muhammad cartoon fracas a few years

ago. French cartoonists have a macho attitude, seeing themselves on the front lines of a free speech debate. One Charlie Hebdo issue, touted as "edited by the Prophet Muhammad" had all blank pages. One Charlie Hebdo cover featured a drawing, by French cartoonist "Luz." It depicted the magazine's

publisher/cartoonist "Charb" having a sloppy kiss with a Muslim man, under the headline "L'Amour plus fort que la haine" or "love is stronger than hate." Charb was among those killed in the terror attack.

Terrorists have no sense of humor. Cartoons loom large in the Arab world,

typically on the front pages of Arab language newspapers. It is no wonder that our cartoons seem to bother the terrorists more than our words. Sitting behind a beer with Charlie Hebdo cartoonists, the talk often turns to Islamic extremists and their assaults on press freedoms. No one can doubt that editorial cartoonists are leading the fight for press freedoms now.

Today we are grieving, but as we move forward, I hope that our cartoons won't be chilled by these murders and that the cartooning community will step up to this challenge with even more brilliant and insightful work — I'm sure the French cartoonists will do that; they are my heroes.

Daryl Cagle is an editorial cartoonist who runs the CagleCartoons newspaper syndicate distributing editorial cartoons to more than 850 newspapers around the world, including the East Oregonian.