

[January 11, 2015]

On January 7th, members of the terrorist group - oops, sorry, "Islamic extremists" - Al-Qaeda stormed the offices of satirical weekly "Charlie Hebdo" and opened fire, killing 12 people, including editor Stéphane Charbonnier. Along with the anguished hand-wringing by the usual suspects, #JeSuisCharile has popped up all over the place, or as the Associated Press said with its trademark self-righteousness "tens of thousands took a stand against living in fear... [defending] the freedom of expression..." #JeSuisCharile is a hold-over from #BringBackOurGirls, the utterly-useless response by the hand-wringers to the kidnapping of 276 girls from a school in Chibok, Nigeria by terror group - oops, sorry, "Islamic extremists" - Boko Haram on April 15, 2014. Boko Haram reportedly slaughtered 2,000 men, women, and children in Baga, Nigeria last week. So far, no hashtags from the hand-wringers.

Aside from the traction the "Charlie Hebdo" attack has gotten, I'm surprised no one has linked it to the movie "*The Interview*" because at the heart of each, so we are told by the hand-wringers, is free speech. For the benefit of those who could give a shit what happens in Hollywood (or in France), on November 24, 2014, a group called the Guardians of Peace (G-O-P, get it?) hacked the mainframe of Sony Entertainment, parent company of Columbia Pictures, and published e-mails by Sony big shots, which produced much embarrassment (and hand-wringing). The incident came four months after North Korea denounced the film as its "plot" concerns a pair of dopes (played by real-life dopes James Franco and Seth Rogen, who co-wrote and co-directed) who are recruited to assassinate North Korea's Dear Leader, Kim Jong-un. The hackers then threatened any cinema which showed the film on its scheduled release, Christmas Day.

Sony canceled the New York premiere as cinema chains canceled screenings, which produced more hand-wringing. As Hollywood denizens piled on Sony for caving ("The bad guys won" Mia Farrow tweeted), our Dear Leader - oops, sorry, Obama - chimed: "We cannot have a society in which some dictator in some place can start imposing censorship in the United States". Then, as if on cue, Sony decides it's not going to eat the \$45 million it blew to make the film, and announced Columbia is now looking for ways to release it.

The media, doing its usual bang-up job, linked the "GOP" to "*The Interview*" when the "GOP" never cited the film as its motive for the hack. In order to hack a mainframe, a hacker needs to have the code to the mainframe, which can come only from someone employed by the company whose mainframe the hacker wishes to hack. Or in the words of idiot savant Gomer Pyle: "Surprise, surprise, surprise!"

On January 8th, radio personality Hugh Hewitt went so far off the deep end during his "conversation" with the Catholic League's Bill Donohue about Donohue's take on the "Charlie Hebdo" attack, I half-expected Hewitt to be carted off to the funny farm while on the air! In

accusing Donohue of blaming Charbonnier for the attack and screeching that Donohue made him ashamed to be a Catholic (kissing Mitt Romney's ass ought to make Hewitt ashamed to be a Catholic, but I digress), Pinhead - and, by extension, the Hollywood hand-wringers - missed Donohue's point completely: the freedom to mock who or what you don't like doesn't entitle you to do so. Charbonnier never took responsibility for what he published; Sony and the other studios never take responsibility for what they release.

Stéphane Charbonnier was an enemy of Western Civilization and of all that is decent and good. He used "Charlie Hebdo" not to expose human folly, but to vent his hatred of humanity -- especially at those "stupid" enough to believe in a power greater than themselves. You don't have to be a Christian to understand why a cartoon of God having gay sex would offend Christians, or be a Muslim to understand why a cartoon of Muhammad lying naked as a camera lens hovers over his backside would offend Muslims, or be a Catholic to understand why a cartoon of Pope Benedict XVI and a Swiss Guard in an amorous embrace would offend Catholics (except Hewitt), or be a Jew to understand why a cartoon of an Orthodox Jew kissing a Nazi would offend Jews (in a sad irony, one of the victims was a Jew). "Free speech" is whatever the elites say it is. A cartoon of God having gay sex? Free speech. Criticizing Michael Sam for kissing his boyfriend on TV? Hate speech. Assassinating Kim Jong-un in a movie? Free speech. Criticizing how Obama is "running" the country? Hate speech.

The hypocrisy would be funny were it not so obscene.