

SuSE: RE: [SLE] so OT it hurts...Merry Christmas!

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From: Stephen Villano (*steve_at_LWR.yi.org*)

Date: 12/24/03

To: "'William G. Westfall'" <wgwestfall1@hotmail.com>, "Suse-Linux-E@Suse. Com (E-mail)" <suse-lin
Date: Wed, 24 Dec 2003 02:11:19 -0500

I ***REALLY*** feel your pain. Especially around the ribs from the belly laughs...

Been saying much of the same for years. Probably why I haven't been promoted as I'm not "progressive". I come from a much older Army. The one that meets the enemy and kills the hell out of them, thereby not having any more enemies (or at least the few remaining are sufficiently frightened as to not cause the nation any trouble).

That doesn't mean I want to go to war "at the drop of a hat", I'm a professional. As such there must be sufficient reason to wish to break the peace. I'll advise against an ill conceived military action. I will follow orders, but any objection will be quite well documented...

Frankly, professional soldiers are the ***LAST*** people who wish to visit harm against another human. However, once the necessity is present visit said harm with vehemence.

I've shaken hands and tipped back a drink with an officer who some years before was shooting at me as we are no longer dire enemies. We were both professionals and acknowledged that past was past, we were both doing our jobs for our respective nations.

Has our nation done wrong in the past? Will it do so again in the future? How about a simpler question: Are we human?

We'll make mistakes. We made some **MAJOR** ones in the past, current events are the direct result of some of them. I'm certain we'll make them in the future, we haven't stopped being human.

The second biggest test is what we'll do about them in between to prevent another disaster. The biggest test is what we'll do about them if we ***CAN'T*** prevent another disaster.

I've found that you can tell a **LOT** more about a person **NOT** when things are at their best, but indeed when things are at their absolute worst.

Now if only we could learn as a species to bring the best of ourselves displayed during a disaster forward to our normal existence...

Sorry for the long OT bit, just **HAD** to vent...

Closer to topic: 9.0 is the best thing to come out since they put handles on popsicles.

I am a bit confused though if the sparc platform is available in a current

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version...

Gonna try playing with the 2.6 kernel as soon as I can shoehorn in some time on my calendar...

Happy holidays to all, for those who don't observe our holidays: Have a pleasant, peaceful and prosperous year.
And to those few who can't even observe the latter: Welcome to my world...
;)

-----Original Message-----

From: William G. Westfall [mailto:wgwestfall1@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 24, 2003 1:42 AM
To: suse-linux-e@lists.suse.com
Subject: [SLE] so OT it hurts...Merry Christmas!

General speaks out

Merry Christmas;

I thought that you might enjoy quoting General Hawley over the holidays. This four-star says it pretty well.

For those who don't know General Hawley, he's a newly retired USAF 4-star general. He commanded the USAF Air Combat Command [our front-line fighters and bombers]. The Command headquarters is at Langley AFB, VA. General Hawley is now retired and no longer required to be politically correct. His short speech is very much to the point. The following are excerpts:

"Since the attack [9-11], I have seen, heard, and read thoughts of such surpassing stupidity that they must be addressed. You've heard them too.

"Here they are:

1) "We're not good, they're not evil, everything is relative." Listen carefully: We're good, they're evil, nothing is relative. Say it with me now and free yourselves. You see, folks, saying "We're good" doesn't mean, "We're perfect." Okay? The only perfect being is the bearded guy on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. The plain fact is that our country has, with all our mistakes and blunders, always been and always will be the greatest beacon of freedom, charity, opportunity, and affection in history. If you need proof, open all the borders on Earth and see what happens.

2) "Violence only leads to more violence." This one is so stupid you usually have to be the president of an Ivy League university to say it. Here's the truth, which you know in your heads and hearts already: Ineffective, unfocused violence leads to more violence. Limp, panicky, half-measures lead to more violence. However, complete, fully thought-through, professional, well-executed violence never leads to

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more violence because, you see, afterwards, the other guys are all dead. That's right, dead. Not "on trial," not "re-educated," not "nurtured back into the bosom of love." Dead. D-E —Well, you get the idea.

3) "The CIA and the rest of our intelligence community have failed us." For 25 years we have chained our spies like dogs to a stake in the ground, and now that the house has been robbed, we yell at them for not protecting us. Starting in the late seventies, under Carter appointee Stansfield Turner, the giant brains who get these giant ideas decided that the best way to gather international intelligence was to use spy satellites. "After all (they reasoned), you can see a license plate from 200 miles away." This is very helpful if you've been attacked by a license plate. Unfortunately, we were attacked by humans. Finding humans is not possible with satellites. You have to use other humans. When we bought all our satellites, we fired all our humans, and here's the really stupid part. It takes years, decades to infiltrate new humans into the worst places of the world. You can't just have a guy who looks like Gary Busey in a Spring Break '93 sweatshirt plop himself down in a coffee shop in Kabul and say "Hiya, boys. Gee, I sure would like to meet that bin Laden fella." Well, you can, but all you'd be doing is giving the bad guys a story they'll be telling for years.

4) "These people are poor and helpless, and that's why they're angry at us." Uh—huh, and Jeffrey Dahmer's frozen head collection was just a desperate cry for help. The terrorists and their backers are richer than Elton John and, ironically, a good deal less annoying. The poor helpless people, you see, are the villagers they tortured and murdered to stay in power. Mohammed Atta, one of the evil scumbags who steered those planes into the killing grounds is the son of a Cairo surgeon. But you knew this, too. In the sixties and seventies, all the pinheads marching against the war were upper—middle—class college kids who grabbed any cause they could think of to get out of their final papers and spend more time drinking. It's the same today.

5) "Any profiling is racial profiling." Who's killing us here, the Norwegians? Just days after the attack, the New York Times had an article saying dozens of extended members of the gazillionaire bin Laden family living in America were afraid of reprisals and left in a huff, never to return to studying at Harvard and using too much Drakkar. I'm crushed. Please come back. Let's all stop singing "We Are the World" for a minute and think practically. I don't want to be sitting on the floor in the back of a plane four seconds away from hitting Mt. Rushmore and turn, grinning, to the guy next to me to say, "Well, at least we didn't offend them."

So here's what I resolve for the New Year: Never to forget our murdered brothers and sisters. Never to let the relativists get away with their immoral thinking. After all, no matter what your daughter's political science professor says, we didn't start this. Have you seen that bumper sticker that says, "No More Hiroshimas"? I wish I had one that says, "No More Pearl Harbors."

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