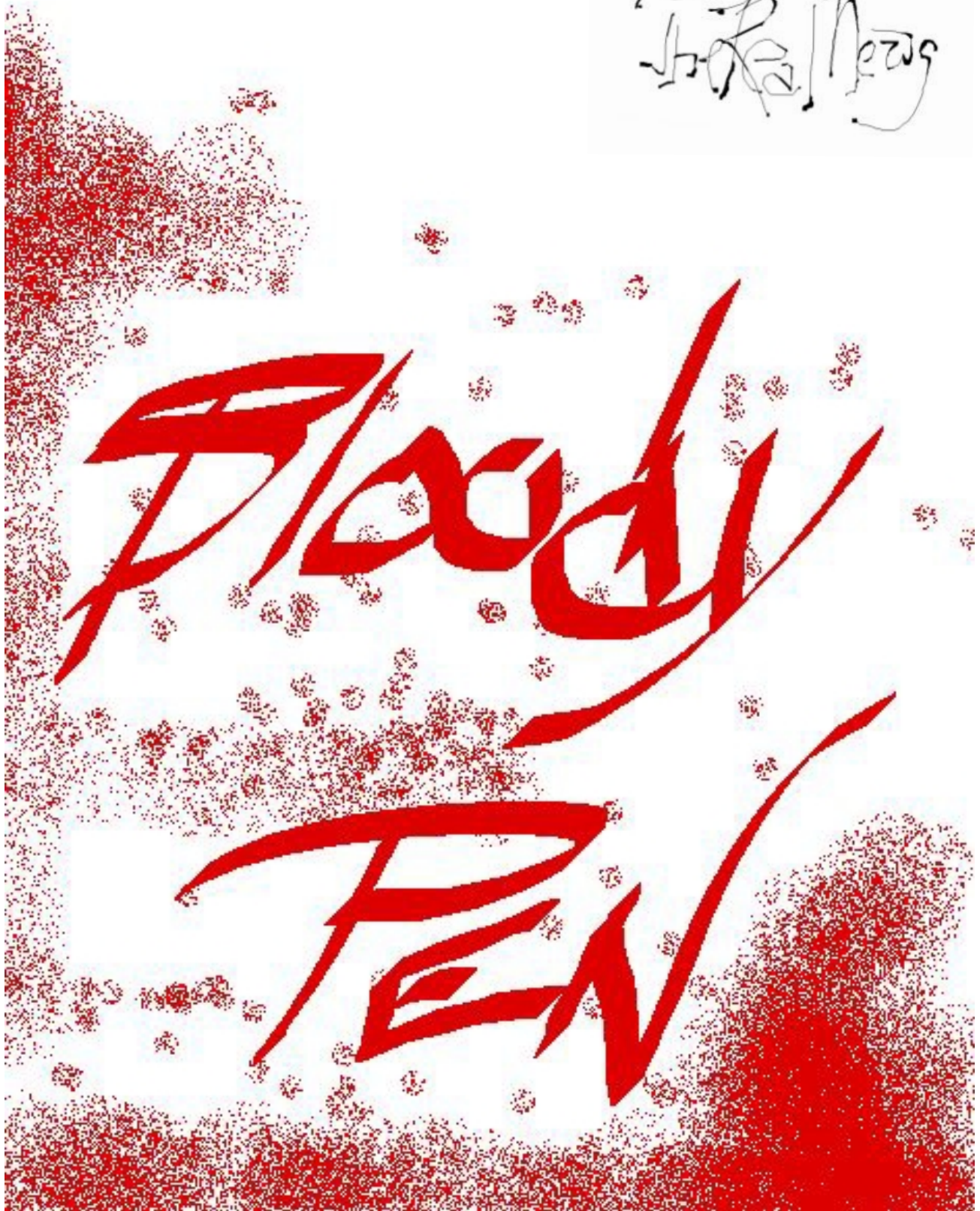


*True News*



## THE WORLD CONTINUES TO GO MAD

### BLOODY INK

**There is a moment of transcendence when you put ink to paper.**

*transcendent:*

beyond or above the range of normal or merely physical human experience: the search for a transcendent level of knowledge.

- surpassing the ordinary; exceptional: the conductor was described as a “transcendent genius.”

- (of God) existing apart from and not subject to the limitations of the material universe. Often contrasted with immanent.

- (in scholastic philosophy) higher than or not included in any of Aristotle’s ten categories.

- (in Kantian philosophy) not realizable in experience.

ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin transcendent- ‘climbing over,’ from the verb transcendere (see transcend).

**Even a simple cartoon can hold the emotional release of a mental land mine.**

*cartoon:*

a simple drawing showing the features of its subjects in a humorously exaggerated way, esp. a satirical one in a newspaper or magazine.

- a comic strip.

- a simplified or exaggerated version or interpretation of something: this movie is a cartoon of rural life in America | [ as modifier ] : Dolores becomes a cartoon housewife, reading glossy magazines in a bathrobe.

a motion picture using animation techniques to photograph a sequence of drawings rather than real people or objects.

a full-size drawing made by an artist as a preliminary design for a painting or other work of art.

verb

make a drawing of (someone) in a simplified or exaggerated way: she has a face with enough character to be cartooned.

ORIGIN late 16th cent. ( sense 3 of the noun): from Italian cartone, from carta, from Latin carta, charta (see card). Sense 1 of the noun dates from the mid 19th cent.

**It takes tragedy to remind us that even the simplest childhood tasks can lead to irrational behavior. The mere use of satire to comment on issues of the day can lead to senseless bloodshed.**

*satire:*

the use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people’s stupidity or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues. See wit.

- a play, novel, film, or other work that uses satire: a stinging satire on American politics.

- a genre of literature characterized by the use of satire.

- (in Latin literature) a literary miscellany, esp. a poem ridiculing prevalent vices or follies.

ORIGIN early 16th cent.: from French, or from Latin satira, later form of satura ‘poetic medley.’

**The horrible events in a Paris newspaper office brings out the cynical nature to a world view.**

*cynical:*

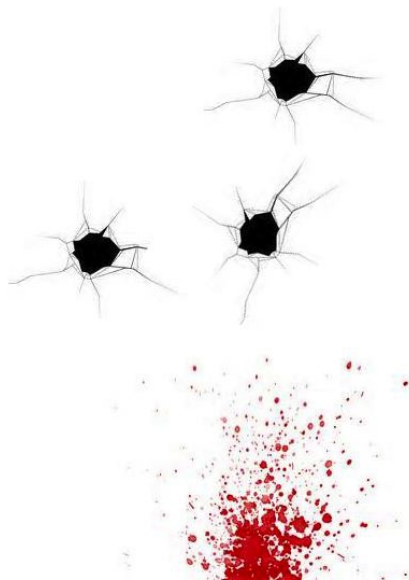
believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity: her cynical attitude.

- doubtful as to whether something will happen or whether it is worthwhile: most residents are cynical about efforts to clean mobsters out of their city.

- contemptuous; mocking: he gave a cynical laugh.

concerned only with one's own interests and typically disregarding accepted or appropriate standards in order to achieve them: a cynical manipulation of public opinion.

**Because I never thought that in my life time would I have thought being an editorial cartoonist would be classified as a dangerous profession.**



*dangerous:*

able or likely to cause harm or injury: a dangerous animal | ice was making the roads dangerous.

- it is dangerous to underestimate an enemy.

- likely to cause problems or to have adverse consequences: our most dangerous opponents in the playoffs | it is dangerous to underestimate an enemy.

ORIGIN Middle English (in the senses 'arrogant,' 'fastidious,' and 'difficult to please'): from Old French *dangereus*, from *dangier* (see *danger*) .



## ***A LETTER FROM THE PUB***

Even before the attack on the Paris satire publication Charlie Hebbon, I realized that everyone has one universal trait: we are all Charles Schulz's Charlie Brown.

At some time in our lives, we feel like the outcast. We can't get the courage to say Hi to the little blonde girl. We try hard but fail. We are picked on for success and failure. We think we are going to one time actually kick the football (but it always taken away.)

Experience may mask some of these Charlie Brown traits, but the subconscious fear is that they will surface at the most awkward moments.

I never read the publication that was attacked by extremists who killed 12 journalists, cartoonists and police officers. But it seemed like it was a satirical, political, no-holds-bar mix of *Mad*, *Scanlan's*, *Rolling Stone* and an anti-authority citizen protest flyer. It seems unbelievable that humorists, cartoonists, writers and journalists are subject to the death penalty by people who disagree on how they practiced their craft. There is a loss of the basic moral principle of right and wrong and this attack was absolutely wrong.



*danger:*

the possibility of suffering harm or injury: his life was in danger .

- a person or thing that is likely to cause harm or injury: infertile soils where drought is a danger.

- the possibility of something unwelcome or unpleasant: there was no danger of the champagne running out.

- Brit. the status of a railroad signal indicating that the line is not clear and that a train should not proceed.

## PHRASES

in danger of likely to incur or to suffer from: the animal is in danger of extinction.

out of danger (of a person who has suffered a serious injury or illness) not expected to die.

**ORIGIN** Middle English: from Old French *dangier*, based on Latin *dominus* ‘lord.’ The original sense was ‘jurisdiction or power,’ specifically ‘power to harm,’ hence the current meaning ‘liability to be harmed.’

**It is ironic that the least literate form of expression can lead to the most controversy and reaction.**

*irony:*

the expression of one’s meaning by using language that normally signifies the opposite, typically for humorous or emphatic effect: “Don’t go overboard with the gratitude,” he rejoined with heavy irony.

- a state of affairs or an event that seems deliberately contrary to what one expects and is often amusing as a result: [ with clause ] : the irony is that I thought he could help me.

- (also dramatic or tragic irony) a literary technique, originally used in Greek tragedy, by which the full significance of a character’s words or actions are clear to the audience or reader although unknown to the character.

**ORIGIN** early 16th cent. (also denoting Socratic irony): via Latin from Greek *eirṓneia* ‘simulated ignorance,’ from *eirṓn* ‘dissembler.’

**If words have strong meaning, then cartoons have a visceral emotional impact.**

The history of the editorial cartoon goes back farther than most people realize. Archeologists have found filthy pictures of the pharaoh and construction foremen in the tombs in ancient Egypt. This graffiti was an early form of incendiary public expression against work conditions or political caste systems.

Caricature is composed of two elements: caricature, which parodies the individual, and allusion, which creates the situation or context into which the individual is placed. Caricature as a Western discipline goes back to Leonardo da Vinci’s artistic explorations of “the ideal type of deformity”— the grotesque— which he used to better understand the concept of ideal beauty.

Over time the principles of form established in part by Leonardo had become so ingrained into the method of portraiture that artists like Agostino and Annibale Carracci rebelled against them. Intended to be lighthearted satires, their *caricaturas* were, in essence, “counter-art.” The sketch of “A Captain of Pope Urban VIII” is representative of the new genre in that it is a quick, impressionistic drawing that exaggerates prominent physical characteristics to humorous effect.

The first American editorial cartoon was Benjamin Franklin’s “Join or Die,” which depicts a snake whose severed parts represent the Colonies. Franklin used the cartoon in support of his plan for an intercolonial association to deal with the Iroquois at the Albany Congress of 1754. It came to be published in “virtually every newspaper on the continent,” as the snake is significant in the development of cartooning because it became an icon that could be displayed in differing variations throughout the existing visual media of the day— like the “Don’t Tread on Me” battle flag— but would always be associated with the

singular causes of colonial unity and the Revolutionary spirit.

Cartoon images were a powerful tool to engage public opinion on serious social matters. The greatest example of a cartoonist taking down the establishment was Thomas Nast's 1871 Harper's Weekly cartoons on the corrupt "Boss" Tweed.

The story of Nast and Tweed is one of the most celebrated specimens of graphic social protest in American history, with cartoons such as "Let Us Prey" are typical of his work because they are "devastating in effect" i.e. they overwhelmingly achieve the goal of ridiculing their subject, but as a measure of sophistication they are more akin to base insults than the kind of deft criticisms found in more subtle satire.

Tweed himself railed against his critics, proclaiming that he did not mind writer's words, but decried those damn cartoons, since Nast's drawings could raise the ire of those illiterate immigrants who sustained the Tweed machine. Cartoons and a free press help take down a corrupt political regime.

With power comes some responsibility. The reaction to the massacre at the offices of *Charlie Hebdo* has been condemnation, but a very small element claimed that the offensive publication "got what it deserved" for denigrating a religious group. However, no one deserved to be murdered for their thoughts, humor or expression.

Any critic takes an internal pleasure of throwing clever barbs at its subject, especially when it really hits bone (and gets a loud reaction.) Humans need a sense of acknowledgment from other people, or what's the point?

One personal example of the power of the pen was when I was a college editorial cartoonist at *The Eastern News* at Eastern Illinois University. The student senate had a vote pending for a campus transit bus to the downtown square (about a mile away). I thought it was a waste of student fees, so I drew a cartoon before the election vote showing "the history" of public transit, concluding with a broken down bus on cinder blocks. The

measure failed, and many students told me afterward my cartoon had swayed a lot of votes. Ridicule, humor and transposition are power tools to sway public opinion.



It is up to the publisher to set the standards for their publications. For *Charlie Hebdo*, everyone and every institution, including religions, were fair game. This position is extremely rare in today's world of "political correctness." America's founding fathers realized that all speech, including offensive speech, had its place in a civil society. They used powerful images to unite different religions to a single cause: freedom. If one cannot voice any opinion without the threat of violence, then we don't have a civilization anymore, just disorder.