FW: Re: Deep Throat commentaries Subi: 6/5/2005 8:47:59 PM Central Standard Time Date: From:

To:

>From: "Beth" <beth@pogo.org> >Reply-To: beth@pogo.org >To: | >Subject: Re: Deep Inroat commentaries >Date: Sun, 5 Jun 2005 21:46:10 -0400

Hey everyone - in case you missed it, Mike German had a front page >Outlook op-ed in the Washington Post today, you can view it here: >http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/art/cle/2005/06/04/AR2005060400147.html TAKE

>Here's an op-ed we just ran out on the Knight Ridder wires below. Hope you >all will think about doing op-eds as I'm sure the media will be interested >in hearing about your experiences as modern-day Deep Throats.

Article Last Updated: 6/04/2005 03:07 PM

Every era needs its truth tellers

By Danielle Brian and Martin Edwin Andersen

>Salt Lake Tribune

More than 30 years after helping to end a roque presidency riddled with >criminal acts, W. Mark Felt finally emerged last week to add a name, a face >and a public record to the legacy of Watergate's Deep Throat, already >America's most famous whistle- blower.

By stepping forward now, Felt provides an opportunity to reflect on >efforts to hold government accountable and on the fate that still awaits >people like him — his fellow whistle-blowers — when they follow their >conscience in alerting the public to corruption.

By all accounts, Felt was a "Type A" personality who was dedicated and >loyal to his profession. Yet, once he became a whistle-blower, even an >anonymous one, as Vanity Fair reported: "(Felt) lived in solitary dread, >under constant threat of being summarily fired or even indicted, with no

>colleagues in whom he could confide. He was completely isolated, having >placed his career and his institution in jeopardy."

- His fear was well-placed. Now even the media are questioning Felt's motivations, quoting such dubious authorities as the very people who went to jail over the Watergate scandal. The first instinct of government officials or politicians mired in scandal will almost always be to attack the credibility of the information source for that scandal.
- Felt could have easily become a martyr to such attacks during the Nixon
 His decision to remain anonymous allowed him to help the media
 understand Nixon's abuse of power, while sidestepping what would
 undoubtedly be a distracting firestorm over his identity
- More recent whistle-blowers, particularly those who blow the whistle on
 threats to national security, have not been so lucky. In several cases,
 they have lost their jobs or their careers for their truth telling.
- Deep Throat's own FBI has been one agency that, in recent years,
 relentlessly roots out whistle-blowers. The FBI has promised to fire agent
 Robert Wright who, after Sept. 11, publicly raised his concerns about the
 bureau's failure to pursue and prosecute financiers of terrorism. His
 efforts to reform the FBI internally led the agency to lie. This, despite
 promises from FBI Director Robert Mueller that whistle-blowers would be
 protected following FBI whistle-blower Colleen Rowley's attempts to inform
 Congress of counter-terrorism enforcement failures.
- > Congress has neglected to provide a viable legal venue for these >whistle-blowers to challenge retaliation. As a result, the reporters, too, >are now under the gun from the courts over the identity protections that >they give to their sources.
- Despite this, our nation benefits in every era from officials who sound >the alarm when the government has violated the public trust. In this era of >increasing secrecy, when less is known about the government's decisions and >activities, the public must depend even more on government employees to >bring wrongdoing to light.
- Danielle Brian is executive director of the Project On Government
 Oversight, a government-watchdog group. Martin Edwin Andersen won the
 Public Servant Award for blowing the whistle on egregious security
 violations at the Department of Justice.

> From: >Sept: Stinday Tupe 05, 2005 1:30

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>Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2005 1:30 PM