

Unbelievable

“We feel strongly that the Paterno issue, if you will, or honoring Coach Paterno is a sensitive one. It’s going to take a lot of dialogue with the community. We want to be reflective. We want to go slowly, and it will be something that will take a lot of deliberation. There is no time line or deadline; it’s not necessary, actually.” - Karen B. Peetz, chairman of the Penn State Board of Trustees as quoted in the *The New York Times*, 7/14/12

If any more evidence were needed that the people in charge of Penn State have lost all sense of a moral compass, one has only to read the inane remarks of the chairman of the board of trustees, surely the least trustworthy board not sitting on Wall Street. All she and the institution she represents are worried about is liability – as well they should, since they are up to their necks in it – and the morons who are howling about preserving the legacy of a man who knowingly shielded a child rapist for at least 14 years, probably longer. This is not a “dialogue” that requires “a lot of deliberation.” Should we preserve the legacy of Bernie Madoff, since he was revered – like Joe Pa – as a genius and leader of men? How does this qualify as a “sensitive issue?” Football cretins – probably Sanctorum’s electoral base – seem to form the bulk of central Pennsylvania society, but that is no reason to defer to them. That’s not leadership, that’s cowardice. Is that what the great Joe Pa taught?

Lest you think I exaggerate, digest these tender nuggets: Spanier and Curley, who all evidence confirms as perjurers who abdicated the responsibilities of their respective offices, are still on the Penn State payroll and *the university is paying for their defense!* That’s the position to take, defend the demonstrably corrupt men in power against the people they vowed to serve. This would all be understandable, if no less

revolting, if it were a coal company or some other institution with zero demonstrated interest in the public welfare, but this is a university, *where they are supposed to teach*.

If you listen to Apologist-in-Chief Peetz, two task forces appointed by the board and the university's president, who will examine the Freeh report and its recommendations, hope to act on what she characterized as a "teachable moment." What's she going to teach, how to create lawsuits by trying to avoid them, as it least she'll have some expertise in that field by fall? Maybe how to whitewash a crisis in American education? How to toady to a mob of idiots? What's she teaching *now*?

I'll tell you what she's teaching, since Ms. Peetz doesn't seem to know herself. She's teaching that power, money and status can intoxicate the most respected figures in America and distort them into monsters whose PR-preened halos prevent us from seeing them as they are. She's teaching us that the janitors who feared reprisals if they told authorities what they witnessed Sandusky doing to a helpless child were spot on in their assessment of the situation. This university, can, did and continues to celebrate a culture in which anything goes as long as no one rocks the boat, the boat captained by Joe Pa.

If Ms. Peetz's comments included any statements of sympathy or compassion for the victims of his horror, they were not reported.

No matter how the Penn State cronies try to cover it up, the stench will continue to rise out of College Station. The Paterno family seems intent on uttering profoundly stupid remarks at every opportunity. It boggles the mind that they think they're going to keep the \$3 million in please-go-away contract money

the university lavished on the tarnished icon. Regarding that contract, the ever-savvy Ms. Peetz remarked, "Contracts are contracts." Wow, I hope she's not on the law school faculty. What she should have said was, "Violated, breached contracts are no longer binding contracts," and sued the Paterno family for the money the university should never have signed over to them in the first place. The board did so, of course, in hopes of grant of immunity (*from the Paterno family – is no one puking in amazement here?*), hopes the family, ever deaf to reality, did not fulfill.

I find it very hard to believe that the contract binding the great leader Joe Paterno to the university didn't include a morals clause. All we ever heard about this guy for a nauseatingly long career was how upstanding he was, the greatest guy *ever*. He should have happily signed the most stringent morals clause in history. I also find it hard to believe any morals clause includes the qualification, "except in the case of reporting child rape."

How can people maintain the pretense of moral leadership when they transparently can't tell right from wrong? With each passing day the evidence grows that the trustees of this university – not one of which has stepped down, a very telling detail – do not understand the problems their lack of stewardship has engendered and therefore have no chance effecting real change.