

commentary

from our viewpoint...

Remembering the tragedy of today and yesteryear

As we think back on where we were on Sept. 11, 2001, when we heard that the terrorists had attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon there is no doubt it is one of those events which will be forever etched into our memory as a terrible tragedy with an astonishing loss of life.

For those of us in the "baby boom" generation it gives us at least two major points in time going back to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy that fateful Nov. 22, 1963 in Dallas, Texas.

Those in the older generation have three beginning with the sneak attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor on Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, that brought us into World War II.

There are other tragedies of our lifetimes including the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert F. Kennedy. Or maybe some will remember where they were when they heard about the dropping of the atomic bomb on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

These all mark tragedies of a singular nature, but there are more to be remembered with the killing of the 6 million Jews by the Nazis remaining the largest of the century.

Tragedies are the times when people stop and reflect on what has been, and pledge to change for the better. There has been a sense of renewed patriotism over the past year, and that is good. With their misguided attempt to destroy America the terrorists have created a major leap forward in people believing in the principles on which our country was founded.

One thing that gave them a sense they could succeed what that when they looked at American society they believed - wrongly - we had become so fractionalized that such a devastating act would destroy the fabric of our nation and tumble us into internal strife and such squabbling that we would become so desperate there would be a revolution that would give them total victory.

Looking from the outside at the tumultuous years and the wide swings of our society from the free love 60s to the me 80s and the who cares 90s there was a sense the county was slipping into a growing quagmire of mistrust, doubts and spiraling illegal behavior.

When those planes hit the twin towers of the World Trade Center it brought the entire country to a halt for a day, but as the heroic stories about the rescue efforts and the revelation of the action by the passengers on the fourth plane that crashed in Pennsylvania were released there was a sense we were going to survive.

There was some panic as gas prices skyrocketed and a few grocery stores saw panic buying like it was the end of the world. However, most people stopped and watched and listened and read about what was happening. We did so with tears in our eyes if we knew people who had been in the twin towers or the Pentagon, and even if we didn't the tears flowed and streaked our faces.

Somewhere down deep we reached out with our grief and horror and knew we would not let the terrorists defeat us as a people. Flags appeared everywhere and special memorial services were held in hundreds of thousands of communities where we pledged our efforts in his name.

Thinking back it reminds us of a special speech a tall man from Illinois read from the back of an envelope as he looked out on a field at Gettysburg, Penn. in 1863. President Abraham Lincoln's most famous speech

"...We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

"But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate - we cannot consecrate - we cannot hallow - this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. ...

"It is for us the living to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us - that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; ..."

Remember those we lost last year, and resolve to do something this year for our country to help keep the American spirit alive and well. — Tom Betz



Variations on a grilled cheese theme

A grilled cheese sandwich to me is a comfort food. The following are variations on that theme from the American Dairy Association.

Spicy Cajun Bayou Grilled Cheese

4 tablespoons softened butter
8 slices crusty Italian bread
6 tablespoons pepper jelly
8 slices pepper jack cheese
2 links andouille sausage, grilled, each link cut into quarters and split lengthwise. Andouille is a spicy smoked sausage made from pork; a specialty of Cajun cooking. Any other smoked sausage may be substituted.

8 slices Muenster cheese
Spread butter on one side of each slice of bread. Spread pepper jelly on the unbuttered sides of 4 slices of bread. On the jellied bread, place two slices of Pepper Jack cheese and two pieces of grilled sausage over the jelly. Cover the sausage with two slices of Muenster cheese and top with remaining slices of bread with the buttered side out. Cook sandwiches in a large skillet or griddle over medium heat until golden and cheese is melted. Serves 4.

Heartland "Pepper Harvest" Cracked Wheat Grilled Cheese

4 tablespoons softened butter
8 slices cracked wheat bread
4 slices Monterey Jack cheese
4 slices provolone cheese



pat schiefen

• postscript

8 ounces thinly sliced peppered roast beef or pastrami
12 slices cooked bacon, sprinkled with coarse ground pepper

Spread butter on one side of each slice of bread. On the unbuttered sides of four slices of bread, place one slice of provolone cheese and Monterey Jack cheese. Place roast beef and bacon over the cheese and top with remaining slices of bread, buttered side out. Cook sandwiches in a large skillet or griddle over medium heat until golden and cheese is melted. Serves 4.

New York Strip Steak Grilled Cheese

4 ounce softened cream cheese
2 tablespoons horseradish mustard
1 cup baby spinach leaves, stems removed and coarsely chopped
2 New York strip steaks (about 8 ounces each), grilled to desired doneness
4 tablespoons softened butter
8 slices hearty white bread
2/3 cup canned, drained or previously sauteed

fresh mushrooms

4 slices Havarti cheese
In a bowl combine to cream cheese and horseradish mustard and stir until smooth. Fold chopped spinach into the mixture. Trim steak of fat and thinly slice on the diagonal. Spread butter on one side of each slice of bread. On the unbuttered side spread the cream cheese mixture. Layer four slices of bread each with about 1/4 of the steak slices and 1/4 of the mushrooms. Top each sandwich with Havarti cheese and remaining slices of bread, buttered side out. Cook sandwiches in a large skillet or griddle over medium heat until golden and cheese is melted. Serves 4.

Hoosier Apple Surprise Sammies

4 tablespoons softened butter
8 slices cinnamon raisin bread
1/2 cup crunchy peanut butter
4 slices mozzarella cheese
1 Golden Delicious apple, thinly sliced
8 slices cheddar cheese
Spread butter on one side of each slice of bread. On the other side of four slices spread equal amounts of peanut butter and top with a slice of mozzarella cheese. Place apple slices over the cheese. Top each sandwich with two slices of cheddar cheese and remaining slices of bread buttered side out. Cook sandwiches in a large skillet or griddle over medium heat until golden and cheese is melted. Serves 4.

Who's in a name?

Expeditions and Foresters. Explorers and Navigators. Excursions, Pathfinders, Mountaineers, Troopers, Trailblazers. You'd think Vasco de Gama and Sir Edmund Hillary were driving these things instead of soccer moms and weekenders. Like it makes you a navigator if you can get to the A&P without a map. Does it take a mountaineer to drive two kids to school and then go to the mall? The way it looks on the television ads you'd think the average person was leaving the house to take a six month voyage to the Spice Islands when actually their big trip of the day is taking the dog to the groomer's. Wow, who knows what adventures they might have on Elm Street on their way to Pine Terrace. Hey, look at me, I'm a forester, not a corporate lawyer, that's just my day job.

I wonder how well these cars would sell if they were named for what the people who drive them really do? "Hey, Bob, I see you moved up to the new 2002 Middle Manager. How's that handle? Did they fix that problem where it automatically slows down and moves to the side when someone drives by in one of those Vice Presidents?"

"Have you test driven the latest V6 Commuter,



jim mullen

• the village idiot

yet? It goes from zero to bumper to bumper in two seconds. The windows have been calibrated to be the perfect height for fast-food drive-throughs, ATM machines and toll booths. Built-in features include hands-free phone, passenger seat laptop and built-in rear seat filing cabinets."

"Experience the luxury of the new Inside Trader. Leather seats, leather CD player, leather carpet, leather air bags, front and back ejection seats, and a golden parachute are all standard equipment. And with our new lawyer-proof lease you can drive it to your arraignment and not have it confiscated."

"On a budget? The new Average Investor looks just like the Inside Trader except it has a 4 cylinder engine, cloth seats, no CD player, no air bags, no resale value and no one will insure it."

"Have you sat behind the wheel of the all new, restyled Systems Analyst yet? Enjoy the comfort and confidence that comes with owning a car that even we don't know what it does exactly. But it does it with simple authority and a quiet condescension that will make you the envy of your gated community."

"The Contractor. A rugged, tough pickup truck that converts easily into a lawn-shredding, lumber-hauling, multi-job supervising platform. Why be late, when you can be late with style? All models come without clocks or calendars."

"Why let people guess how much you make when the \$89,000 Social Climber will let them know down to the penny. It comes with our exclusive one button OCP System — On Call Psychotherapy. Bottled water dispenser and jewelry safe are standard equipment. Strictly cosmetic changes will be made to the body each year to make you even more insecure and neurotic."

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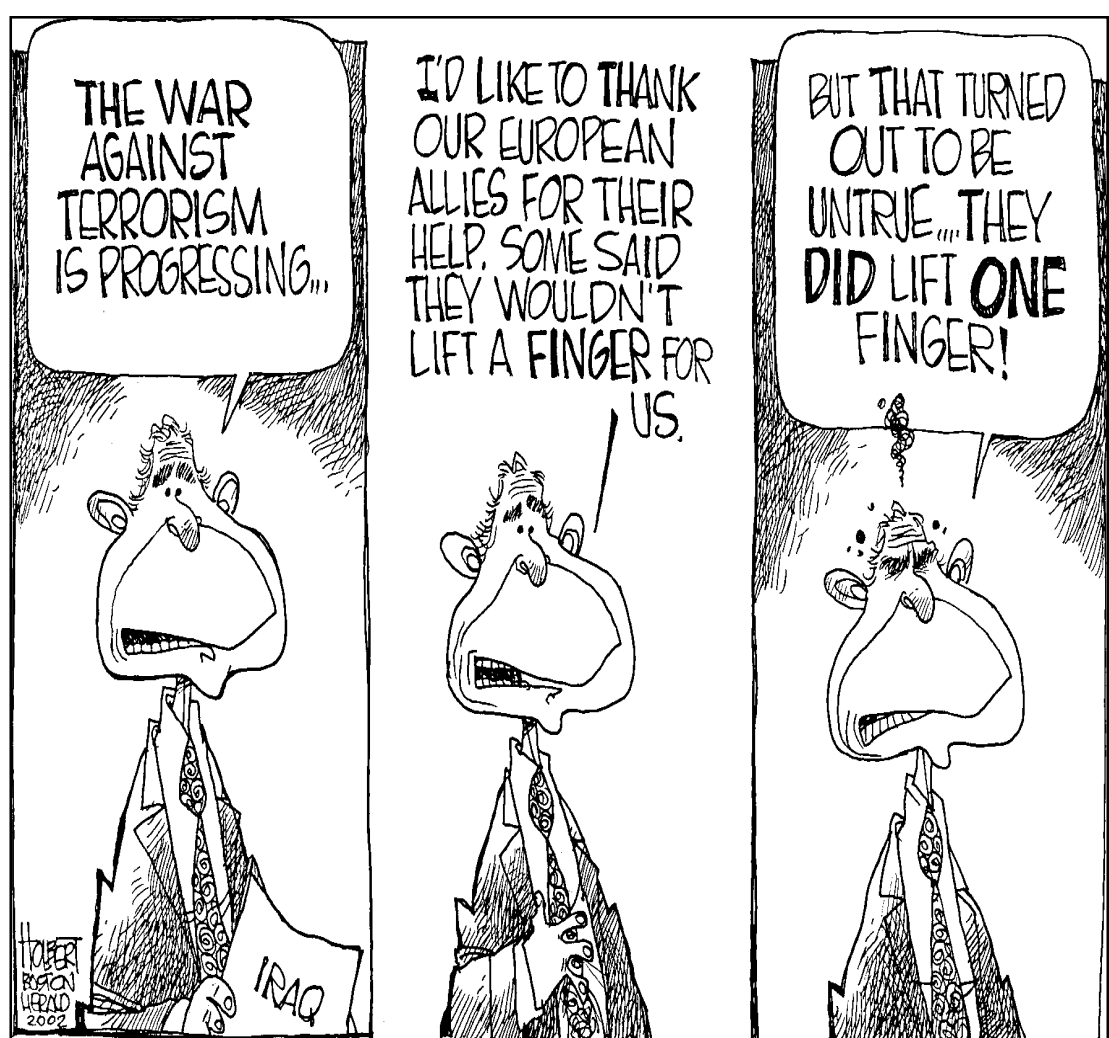
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