

from other pens...

Orange flag raises questions of safety

The orange flag went up again as the country was placed on high alert. Those who look after our safety in times of threat apparently had reason, good reason, to move the alert level up.

Reports had been nearly constant of pending al-Qaida attacks abroad and very possible on our own soil again. There seemed to be more of a concern that the United States might come under car bombings and the like then with past alerts.

New intelligence pointed to Osama bin Laden's gang launching fresh attacks in the United States or against American interests overseas.

And it probably wasn't a coincidence that the newest threat came on the heels of a holiday weekend that saw Americans clustered in large numbers all across the land.

Big city? Small town? Rural area? No one knows, if an attack on our soil comes what the target will be. Those charged with protecting us mention, more times than not, hotels, shopping malls, water supply systems and bridges. The gang of murderers have shown they can invade the largest of our cities when New York City and the Pentagon were hit by al-Qaida suicide-controlled jetliners.

Will they be looking at less populated areas to strike next? Authorities make it clear each time they talk about attacks on our country that no area is safe. But for some reason, there seemed to be more of an urgency to this latest alert and it goes without saying that the FBI and all other agencies who look after the well being of all of us know something they aren't sharing. And it is probably wise they do it this way.

We thought it interesting that a small town in Illinois raised the orange flag within it city limits to remind everyone the status of the alert the country is on. Often, we who live in rural America seem so unaware or not as concerned as perhaps we should be when these alerts are issued. We just might be the next target. Those who want to see every American dead just might attempt acts of murder in the heartland to show us that every area of the country is vulnerable.

Be vigilant. Stick to your plans. Go about your days as you normally would. It is awfully hard to do that when we are being told that another attack on our soil might happen sooner than we think — an attack that not even our brightest can tell where or when that attack will be.

Osama bin Laden is alive and well and still at work with his plans for death and destruction. Saddam Hussein, as far as we know, is also alive and well, and some experts see him raising his ugly head at some time in the future. With these two born losers still roaming the turf there can be no let up. the war on terror can not be declared under control under their commander is put away for keeps.

This is again an uneasy time for all of us. Be careful. Be aware. And don't think we are snuggled in the country's safe haven.

There is no such place.

The color is orange — and for a reason. — *Tom Dreiling, Colby Free Press*

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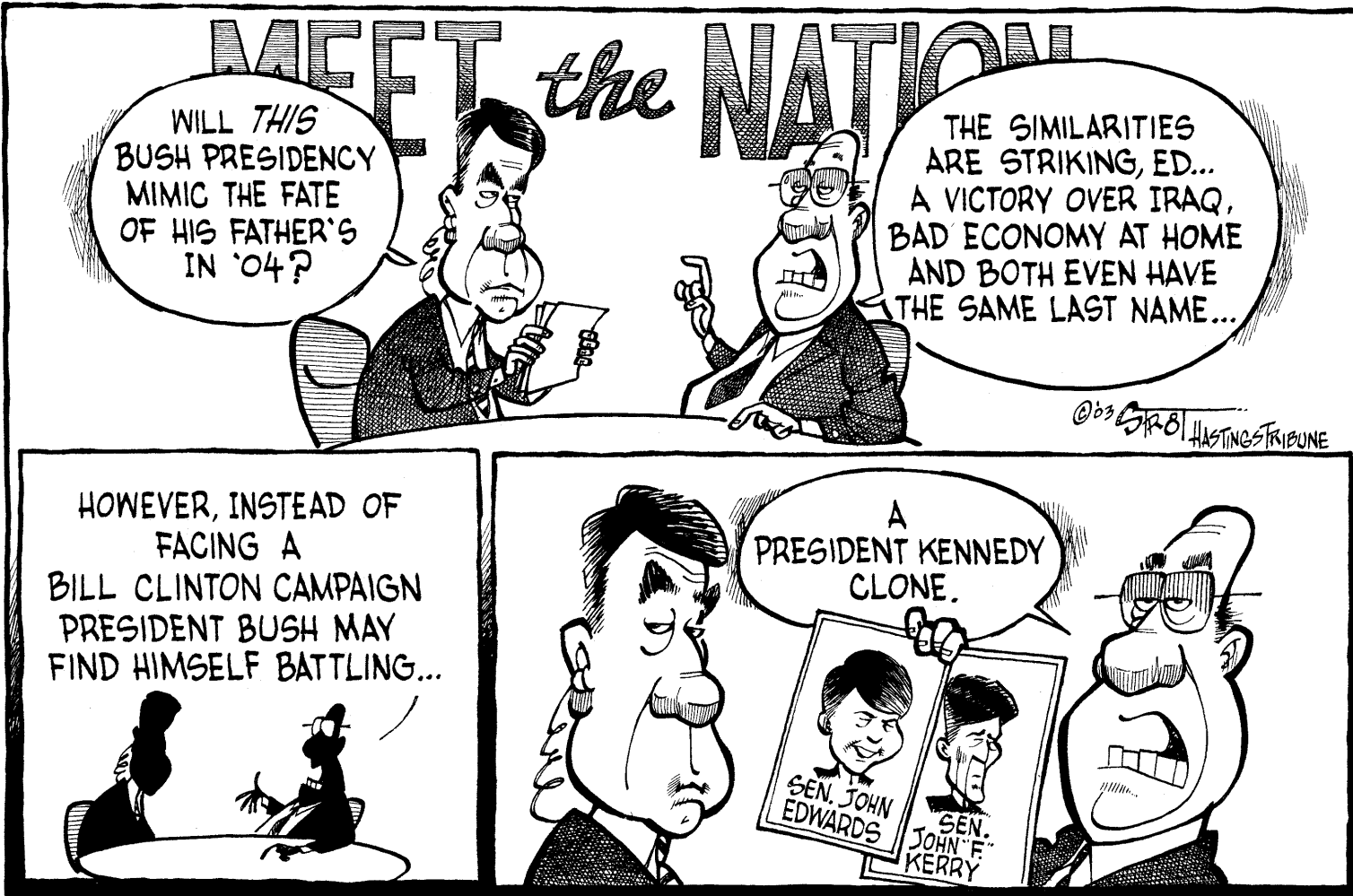
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Looking forward to lazy days of summer

I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to the "hazy, lazy days of summer."

This is the first summer in five years I haven't had to go away to school for a month — thereby creating chaos and havoc before and after that trip.

Thinking about summer always brings to mind childhood memories: climbing trees, playing Work-up with all ages of neighbor kids in the unpaved street in front of my house, fire-works, riding bikes, etc.

The memories are great, and I always wonder when I stopped being so physically active. Probably about the time I started having children of my own.

Here's a quiz I received by e-mail to begin your summer: Older Than Dirt

Quiz [Count all the ones that you remember, NOT the ones you were told about!]

1. Blackjack chewing gum
2. Wax Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water
3. Candy cigarettes
4. Soda pop machines that dispensed a bottle of drink.



**lorna
gt**

• commentary

5. Coffee shops with tableside jukeboxes
6. Home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers
7. Party lines
8. Newsreels before the movie
9. P. F. Flyers
10. Butch wax
11. Telephone numbers with a word prefix (Olive-6933)
12. Peashooters
13. Howdy Doodly
14. 45 RPM records
15. S&H Green Stamps
16. Hi-fi's
17. Metal ice trays with lever
18. Mimeograph paper
19. Blue flashbulbs
20. Packards

Do we really know each other?

How much do we really know about another person?

How much do we pay attention to those around us?

I pondered these questions last week after the death of Della Klima.

Della worked in our back room for almost eight years. She was always cheerful and hard working. She and her daughter Marsha showed up every week to spend three to four hours doing a hard, dirty job and neither ever complained or failed to show up or was even late.

The two of them were there last Tuesday, hauling newspapers out of the delivery truck, labeling them, bagging them and throwing the heavy sacks back in the truck for the trip to the post office.

Della liked to cook and she frequently brought in some goody for the crew. Tuesday, it was Rice Krispies treats, which she shared with everyone who entered the back room.

Wednesday they found her on the floor of her home. The emergency medical technicians could not help her. She was gone.

It was a shock for everyone, her family es-



**cynthia
haynes**

• open season

pecially, but for all of us.

"But, she was just here. She gave me Rice Krispies treats," at least three people said.

But, this kindly mother, grandmother and great-grandmother won't be bringing us any more treats. Nor will there be extra vegetables from her garden on the front counter in the later summer and fall, like there has been for so many years.

We will miss her. We will miss her a lot.

But, her family — husband, children, grandchildren will miss her more.

She was the center of family gatherings. Each holiday, everyone would gather at the Klima home to celebrate and enjoy the bounteous dinners she and the other women of the family would provide.

Her obituary says that she was a homemaker.

She certainly was that, and a gardener and a caretaker and a friend and a wonderful person.

How well did I know her?

Not very well, at all.

I know that she didn't drive. That was one of the things that made her and her daughter Marsha so close. Marsha took her mother everywhere.

I suppose there were the usual tensions between them, but I never saw it.

I know she loved to garden and had a running battle going with both deer and rabbits, since she lived at the edge of town. They came up from the creek to sample her produce, which usually included carrots, green peppers and eggplant. There were probably a lot of other things out in the garden but the carrots, green peppers and eggplant were especially prolific and came to the office to be given away each year.

I know several of her grandchildren and have seen pictures of the great grandchildren. She always had pictures.

What do we really know about another person.

So little for such a wonderful person.

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