

THE BEHREND BEACON

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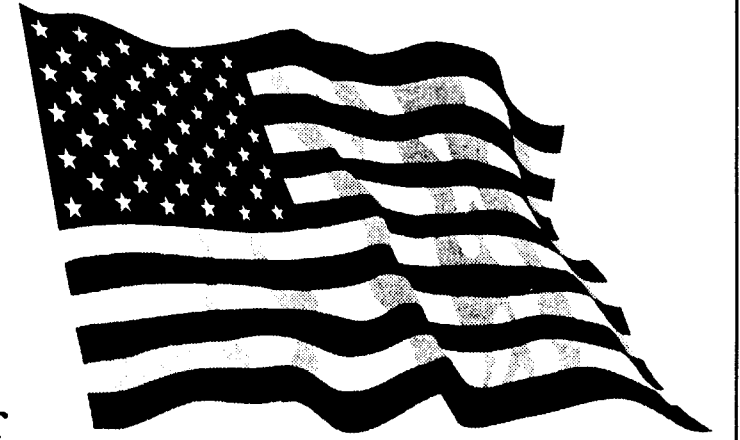
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•Letter Policy•

The *Beacon* encourages letters to the editor. Letters should include the address, phone number, semester standing and major of the writer. Writers can mail letters to behrcoll2@aol.com. Letters must be received no later than 5 p.m. Sunday for inclusion in that week's issue.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those whose lives were lost or irreparably changed by this week's tragedies.



-The Beacon Staff

'A date which will live in infamy'

The following editorial appeared in Wednesday's "Washington Post":

WASHINGTON — Tuesday's horrific terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., will rank as one of the greatest calamities in American history, and will confront the United States with one of its most demanding challenges. Not since Dec. 7, 1941, has the U.S. homeland sustained such an aggression. The nation responded then without panic but with iron determination to defend itself and punish the aggressors. The response today must be as decisive to the mass murderers who planned and carried out the attack, and to any nation or nations that gave them shelter and encouragement.

It will be days or weeks before we can know the particulars of the death and destruction at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania, and can absorb the magnitude of the losses; but what we know already is shocking, wrenching and infuriating.

Thousands of American civilians, travelers, businessmen, tourists, government employees, and children were systematically targeted and slaughtered out of the blue sky of a late summer morning by an enemy that did not, and probably will not, willingly identify itself. In the days to come America must do what it can to ease the suffering of those who have been injured, comfort the families of those who were killed and quickly repair or clear away the physical damage. The Bush Administration must move aggressively, as it did Tuesday, to defend the country against possible follow-up attacks. And with soberness and determination, the nation must prepare itself to fight its first war of the new century, one that will begin with identifying and punishing the authors of Tuesday's mass murder, but one that must continue until the sources of support for the terrorists have been eliminated and the country's defenses against such unconventional warfare is decisively strengthened.

The challenge today is in many ways different from that of 60 years ago, and in

some ways more complex. The attack at Pearl Harbor targeted military forces, not civilians, and when it was over the United States knew who the aggressors were and where to find them. All we know for sure about the enemy that struck Tuesday is what the terrible wreckage in New York and Washington tells us: that this was an adversary capable of meticulously planning and executing a large-scale attack, one that draws on good intelligence and abundant

and abroad. A few terrorists were apprehended and put on trial; a couple of cruise missile strikes have been launched; the networks of one leading suspect in Tuesday's attacks, Osama bin Laden, were said to have been seriously disrupted.

But the terrible message of Sept. 11 is these steps fell far short; the nation's commitment was not enough. Despite the increased airport security, the attackers managed to hijack four large airliners from

sacrifices that a state of war requires, such as accepting greater inconvenience in public places. They may also need to acquire some of the civic alertness that other open societies, such as Israel or Ireland, have cultivated.

A state of war also means a national commitment, nurtured by bipartisan cooperation in Washington, to attack and defeat the country's enemies. This means more than merely tracking down and arresting individual suspects, as has been done before. With time, it is likely that it will be possible to identify the larger network behind the attack; it should also be evident where it is based or obtains support.

In the past the United States has shied away from squarely confronting regimes that were linked to terrorist attacks against Americans, such as Iran in the case of the 1996 Khobar towers bombing in Saudi Arabia, or Afghanistan in the 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania by Osama bin Laden's network. It can no longer afford to do so.

Instead, it must seek to assemble an international alliance to identify and eliminate all sources of support for the terrorist networks that would wage war on the United States. If necessary, it must act alone. There can be no greater purpose to foreign and defense policy in the coming years.

Though the circumstances are different, what President Franklin D. Roosevelt said after Dec. 7 in Pearl Harbor, "a date which will live in infamy," applies to Sept. 11 just as well. "Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us," Mr. Roosevelt said. "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory. I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost, but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again."

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-Franklin D. Roosevelt, former President of the United States of America

resources. It is an enemy that has proven it has the ability to penetrate U.S. homeland defenses, perhaps more readily than the country has faced in modern times. And though it may have no single fixed address, it probably has the support or complicity of one or more foreign governments.

If the enemy is more elusive, Tuesday's attacks were not, or should not have been, as unexpected as was Pearl Harbor. The United States for years has been fighting a low-grade war against terrorists, and for years counter-terrorism experts and military planners have been warning of the possibility of a massive strike against U.S. domestic targets. Some earlier attempts, including a previous plot to topple the World Trade Center, were narrowly averted. Steps have been taken in recent years to tighten airport and border security, and the FBI and CIA have mounted broad efforts to identify and uproot terrorist networks both at home

three major airports at Boston, Newark and Dulles almost simultaneously, and flew one of them into the Pentagon's restricted airspace — apparently unchallenged. More broadly, an attack that must have required extensive preparations and a substantial support network appears to have gone entirely undetected by the FBI and intelligence community. These are large failures, the causes of which will have to be meticulously identified and remedied.

The challenge ahead will require strengthening U.S. defenses and intelligence at home in ways consistent with American values. Not just foreign embassies and military bases but also domestic airports and other civilian targets must be better defended. At the same time the country cannot allow terrorists to alter the fundamental openness of U.S. society or the government's respect for civil liberties. Americans will have to make

A VIEW FROM THE LIGHTHOUSE

The next chapter of American history

This editorial is being written on Wednesday, Sept. 12. It has been just over 24 hours since the world as we know it has toppled into rubble. Had we been able to wait to write this editorial on Friday, when this edition of the "Beacon" will appear, would we then know what to say? And would we know how to say it? We certainly don't now. And what about a week, a month, a year, a century from now? Will we have the words then?

National symbols that are recognized the world over are lying in ruins. And while the economic, political, and military systems of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon symbolized are still standing, our perceptions of our country must be radically altered. Our former vision of ourselves is buried amidst the destruction.

This is both an end and a beginning for our country. The end of these buildings is obvious as the television channels continue their endless coverage, filling our eyes, our minds, and our hearts with scenes that continue to unfold. But there is a bigger finale for America.

No longer can we stand apart from the world. While we certainly haven't been uninvolved in the problems of other countries, we have been able to separate "their" problems from "ours." While we have assisted others facing terrorism and the defeat of democracy, we have considered ourselves safe from those threats. While we have expressed sympathy for foreign suffering, we have been able to remain aloof.

But now their problems are ours. Now we are threatened by terrorism. Now American citizens know firsthand the amount of suffering that terrorism causes.

Never again will we presume to be safe from the atrocities we have seen elsewhere. Since the consolidation of our country more than 200 years ago, we have considered ourselves lucky for our natural defenses. Our country is surrounded by two oceans that provide us with distance from the world. Our only neighbors are countries we maintain comfortable relations with, and we have made certain we are the big brother of our continent — no one has ever questioned our authority, at least not

too loudly.

But all that has changed. The image of American solidarity has collapsed. We can no longer presume that our power, our democratic convictions, and our resources will be enough to keep predators at bay. Our borders are no longer impenetrable, if they ever were.

Now, while this is an end for us, it is also a beginning. And while at first that beginning may appear grim and foreboding, it needn't remain so.

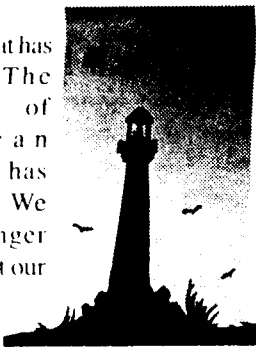
We have been shown in the most powerful way possible that we can't rely on our natural defenses to keep us safe. But we can take new measures to ensure our safety while not endangering our basic freedoms. And we can begin to see ourselves as members of a new global alliance.

We have always considered our country the leader of democracy and justice in the world. Maybe we have thought so partially because we have been able to avoid the situations other countries have found themselves in. But now America is a member of an unfortunate group, as deeply mired in conflict as the rest.

But we can take advantage of this new distinction by becoming more united with the other members of this global alliance. We can rely on others just as they have relied on us in the past. Our country can now understand the position of others more clearly. We are not alone in this battle, and they now have a formidable partner in obliterating terrorism.

It would be wonderful if we could have understood the position of others who have experienced terror without experiencing it ourselves. But then we could forever remain aloof to that terror.

So, we have reached the conclusion of a chapter in our history. But the book is far from over. A new chapter is beginning. It may be in a different language, it may require some studying, and it may take some time before we feel comfortable turning its pages. But we will learn to read and understand it. We don't have a choice.



West Nile Virus welcoming committee



Untitled 21
Ben Kundman

Editorial Page Editor

Some of you who actually read the drive I know as "The Erie Times-News" may have recently read the article "West Nile Virus Back in Erie."

This article is completely biased against the West Nile Virus. It fails to interview the Virus, and has a complete lack of interest in finding the virus' point of view. I think that rather than harboring fear of the West Nile virus, we should embrace it.

Erie is a town in need of an image enhancer. All we have right now are

stupid fish. It's completely obvious that the fish are just a blatant rip-off of the Moose (Moosees? Meese?) Of Toronto, the Cows of New York City, or the Giant Cocks of Rooster, Ohio. The fish do nothing to put Erie on the map. I think we should allow Erie to become the West Nile Virus Capital of the United States. When I travel out of state, and I tell people I am from Erie, they usually have one of two reactions: 1.) I told you to leave me alone, you creep. 2.) I thought that was a lake.

Erie needs the national recognition that a West Nile Virus outbreak would bring. People would sit in Erie coffee shops and ponder things such as, "Why is it called the West Nile Virus?" "Does it only exist WEST of the Nile?" "What if you go on a boat immediately after contracting the West Nile Virus, and you go from the west

side of the Nile to the east side; is it still the WEST Nile virus?"

We could change the name of our local AAA sports teams to names such as the "West Nile Virus-Carrying Mosquitoes" or the "Encephalitis." (This is the potentially deadly swelling of the brain sometimes caused by West Nile Virus.) Re-naming our sports teams would let other teams know, "Hey, we're from Erie and we mean business!"

In order to spread the West Nile Virus throughout Erie, I recommend a three-pronged assault. First, a massive smear campaign against other viruses should be implemented. An example of a daily headline could read: "Ebola Virus Forces School Bus Full of Children Off Road." This will make the West Nile virus seem more appealing to Erie residents.

Second, Erie will announce a campaign to "bring the tires back into Erie." Tax rebates for those with more

than 10 used tires in their backyard will be put into place. These used tires help encourage the breeding of West-Nile Virus Carrying Mosquitoes (the insects, not the sports team). Third, the mayor of Erie will present the West Nile Virus with the Key to the City. When the West Nile Virus has the key to the city, people will start to realize how cool the West Nile Virus really is.

Erie is in need of a makeover. There are many different ways this can be accomplished. The largest ball of twine? It's in Minnesota. Rubber Capital of the World? Akron, Ohio. The largest freestanding fiberglass cow? Kearsy, Pa. A West Nile Epidemic? That, my friend, we could call our own.

Kundman's column appears every three weeks.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Need to get something off your chest?
Send letters, both positive
and negative, to the editor!
behrcoll2@aol.com**