

HUMOR

"You better recognize"

Thought for food

By Rebecca Andrusky
staff writer

I am often described as a picky eater. I feel that this is a pretty negative term. I prefer the term 'selective.' For example, I am a vegetarian. Some people become vegetarians for the sake of animal rights, and others for health reasons. I became a vegetarian because, frankly, I'm lazy. Vegetables are a lot easier to eat because unlike a deer they don't need to be chased before eating it. If you eat meat, there is effort involved, usually in the form of hunting, slaughtering, going to the grocery store and picking out a cut, and possibly grilling it on top of that.

Letuce does not run 45 miles per hour and does not need to be shot with a gun before it can be eaten.

I was never much of a shellfish fan before I stopped eating meat either. I have certain rules about what foods I eat, hence one of the reasons I'm often told I'm a picky eater. But really, these rules seem like common sense to me. For one, I do not eat food that had to molt before I got a hold of it. To me, that only makes sense. If a cow had to shed all its skin in the middle of the field every couple of weeks, I doubt anyone would be quite as inclined to eat it. So, that rule right there gets rid of all crustaceans, insects, and anything else that might be hiding under the counter of McDonald's with more than four legs. Actually, the second rule is that I don't eat anything that is hiding under the counter of a McDonald's, no matter how many legs it has.

So, really, the best food to eat is food that:

1. Doesn't require any significant amount of energy in order to eat (i.e. no chasing, hunting,

picking, cooking, excessive chewing etc).
2. Does not have an exoskeleton to remove either by allowing the animal to molt or taking a chisel to it.

3. Does not live under counters.
This brings us to...what DOES make food good? Personally, I have found that the less healthy the food, the better it tastes. For example, lets compare regular amazing potato chips, low fat potato chips and no fat potato chips. Regular amazing potato chips are, well...amazing. They are greasy and salty and absolutely horrible for you (so says the nutritional chart on the back of the bag' listing them as having 600 calories per five chips). Low-fat potato chips have less fat and calories, but also half the flavor, and who wants that? And no fat potato chips, as we all know, are just cardboard in disguise.

It's like movie popcorn. Why would anyone ever order movie popcorn without butter and salt? It completely defeats the purpose of popcorn. Without the butter and salt, though healthier for you, movie popcorn becomes just.... popped corn.

What makes junk food really qualify as GOOD food for me, besides just tasting amazing, is that it is virtually effortless to prepare. Potato chips are just poured into a bowl; TV dinners are popped in the microwave.

Even vegetables (though not junk food) require nothing more than taking a carrot, for example, out of the fridge and eating it. Veggies eaten raw will not give you E-coli, mad cow disease, or some other deadly illness. And yet again, the biggest plus for me is that raw veggies, as well as most other junk food take no effort to prepare, and they still qualify as food for most people. Bon appetite all.



Top five of the week...

By Brad Kovalcik
staff writer

Really, I just don't care anymore. I mean it's cold and snowing, my class work is piling, and Ben Raymond keeps getting on my case about nothing in particular. Well screw him and screw you. I'm not your clown. I'm not your trained monkey that you can just throw change at and I'll do tricks for you. No, I don't need this. This is...



Brad Kovalcik/ THE BEHREND BEACON

The top five things I could have been doing instead of this

5. Cooking ravioli - But not eating it, just cooked it and throw it away. That's the kind of guy I am.
4. Playing minesweeper for two hours.
3. Take a nap; a very long nap.
2. Reading "The Gilded Six Bits," for my CMLIT 184 class
1. Watching QVC for 5 hours straight.

Elections are a farce

By Jerry Pohl
calendar page editor

A friend of mine wrote something about this year's election. At first I didn't think anything of it, but then I checked into it. Its 2006, there was an election in 2004, and elections only happen every 4 years; it literally didn't add up. After a quick Wikipedia search I found out what's been going on. This supposed election you may have heard about is just another myth cooked up by the liberal media to attack our president. The public is not going to fall for some made up election, just like they didn't fall for global warming or civil rights.

This pseudo-election is nothing more than an exaggeration of the facts. Several of the paper pushers in Congress will be reappointed this year and that's it. Don't be fooled by the fact that there will be "voting." I've done some research and these people in Congress have been around so long that voting doesn't even faze them. Sometimes there are new people running for Congress, but they're probably just doing it for a school project or something since it's obvious they can't get in. I don't know why these congressmen ever run for President, that's a dead end job; there's no room for advancement. Being in Congress is job security second only to the Supreme Court, which auto-

matically comes with permanent tenure. More evidence that this election is a ruse is the fact that it's not gerrymandered enough. Sure there's the small-time local districting stuff, but nothing as massive as the Electoral College, whoa-boy, now that's disproportionate representation. There's no better way to divide America than to literally divide it by proportion of political party members. Without that necessary division, liberals would run mad with power, holding elections every time they didn't like how things were going. Without gerrymandering we'd be no better than the ancient Greeks or *American Idol*.

The election cycle is analogous to crop rotation; you have to leave a field fallow for awhile to ensure a good crop. This is why too many elections would be disastrous. Our political field has been a dust bowl since before I was old enough to vote. I've done my part by not registering, and thanks to general voter apathy, the lack of irrigation on our untilled political farm will soon result in a beautiful desert, perfect for opening a dune buggy course. The amber waves of governmental grain are no longer plagued by weeds like the thorny Newus Ideaum. Now we just have to wait for that pesky grain to wither and die so we can use the land for something that might actually yield results, like drilling for oil.

Practically Political

By Pat Webster
managing editor

Will Rogers once said, "It's easy being a humorist when you've got the whole government working for you." He also said "an onion can make people cry but there's never been a vegetable that can make people laugh." but since it doesn't apply to the upcoming election, we're not going to pay much attention to it here.

No, really, he's right. Our government, the wacky and fun-loving organization that it is, is a constant producer of quality entertainment and has been for over 200 years. It works like this: every two to six years, the public goes to various voting locations around the country and collectively selects who is going to represent them in our system of government. Well, the winners won't really represent the public per se, but will have already been bought off by powerful corporate interests and influential lobbies. Don't worry if your candidate loses, though, because most powerful businesses and lobbies buy both candidates to insure that it doesn't matter.

This is a good thing, since most Americans can't name their current representatives neither in the House of Representatives nor the Senate, let alone the candidates running or what their views are. In fact, most Americans don't even know what parts of our government are involved in this election business. Since it's important for citizens to make responsible choices, I'll include a brief description of some of the major offices that are up for grabs this week:

US Representatives: The House of Representatives consists mainly of middle-aged white Protestant men who would like to be Senators. This house of our governmental legislature is the one that makes laws regarding important issues like finance, taxes, social issues, trade, and Terri Schiavo. This is why it is made up of people

who have held a variety of important jobs and have notable qualifications on their resumés, like used car salesman, inheriting a lot of money, or having fathers that were politicians before them.

US Senators: The Senate is composed almost exclusively by middle-aged white Protestant men who would like to be President. This house of legislature deals with meaningful issues like foreign policy, treaties with other countries, law enforcement, and passing laws that control the amount of water that goes through your toilet when you flush. This is why it is made up of people who have held a variety of important jobs and have notable qualifications on their resumés, like used car salesman, inheriting a lot of money, or having fathers that were politicians before them.

State Governor: State governors are important people who spend a great deal of time dealing with important issues in their state and who also would like to be President. Actually, I'm not quite sure what they do. Like Presidents, they seem to take credit for everything good that happens and blame the legislature for anything bad.

Lieutenant Governor: Lieutenant governors have no function.

State Representatives: State representatives usually are minor local celebrities who would like to become US Representatives. These legislators handle laws that deal with the day-to-day business of their constituents,

lucrative casino deals, taxes, and education. This is why it is made up of people who have held a variety of important jobs and have notable qualifications on their resumés, like used car salesman, inheriting a lot of money, or having fathers that were politicians before them.

All in all, this means that the voting public has a lot of research to do to find out which candidate for each of these positions holds views that more closely resemble their own.

This would include hours of combing through press releases, newspaper articles, and attending political conventions and debates. Fortunately, the candidates buy advertising time on local television stations so prospective voters don't even have to leave their recliners. Many, if not most citizens might not have even been aware that an opportunity to exercise their civic duty was approaching, if not for the helpful ads pointing out that the other guy often takes part in satanic rituals and hates puppies and apple pie.

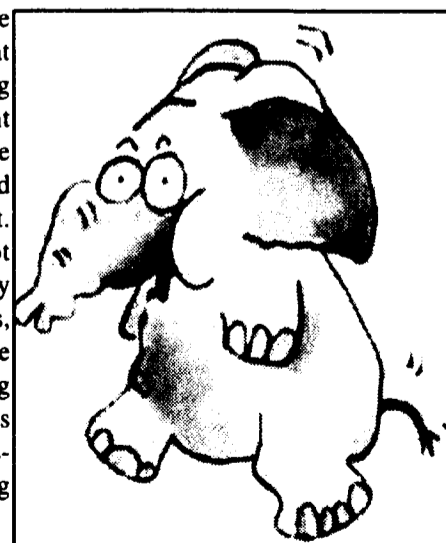
The public, being the keen observers that they are, pay close attention to these commercials right up until the point they're ready to throw a brick through their television set. The arrival of the actual election no doubt saves a great many innocent TVs from imminent doom as the public heads off to the polls, where they

elect, you guessed it, Will Rogers.

No, they usually elect whoever either has better looking hair or whose names they recognize, if they bother to vote at all. This isn't a Presidential election, so a sizeable portion of the public could care less...leading to our government offices being filled with people who have held a variety of important jobs and have notable qualifications on their resumés, like used car salesman, inheriting a lot of money, or having fathers that were politicians before them.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO