

Opinion

Thursday, September 13, 2001

THE BATTALION

Page 15

"Those responsible for these attacks would do well to heed the words of Japanese Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto after the attack on Pearl Harbor:

"I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve."
"And so they have."

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram

"As civilized human beings, we simply cannot grasp the fanaticism that would lead anyone to hijack four airplanes full of people innocently going about their daily lives and turn them into weapons of mass destruction. We may never know the true death toll from Tuesday's assaults on America and American citizens."

Bryan-College Station Eagle

"The United States of America must continue to epitomize the values of democracy. Americans know we are a resilient people. Now, through our courage and resolve, we must remind the world of how precious freedom is and how relentlessly we will defend it."

The Dallas Morning News

The pressure will be on the government to make haste with that and then to swiftly respond to the parties responsible.

That is appropriate, but just as our guard is up for the threats of such attacks, it also ought to be up against an overreaction to these frightful events that threatens our personal civil liberties. Our safety and our freedoms are under attack from these terrorists and to give in to them in either regard, allows them a venomous victory that we should not allow.

Houston Chronicle

ANOTHER DAY

"Needless to say, we have made ourselves a high-profile target. The American military and global financial institutions are rife with symbolic value. There have been many moments in history that have defined us as a nation. This undoubtedly ranks at the top. The sheer destruction and loss of life is truly unfathomable. Our character will be tested by the nature of our response to our suffering and fears."

*The Daily Texan
University of Texas-Austin*

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."

The Washington Post

"This is not a Cold War. This is a hot war. And what makes it worse is that the U.S. is a very open society, and it makes it easier for the 'bad guys' to penetrate."

The El Paso Times

"What we live with now beyond shock and beyond the courage witnessed on the streets of New York and Washington yesterday, is an urge for reprisal. But this is an age when even revenge is complicated, when it is hard to match the desire for retribution with the need for certainty. We suffer from an act of war without any enemy nation with which to do battle."

The New York Times

THE BATTALION

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Americans stand tall

As the dust settles in Manhattan and Washington D.C., Americans' spirits have risen to a new challenge. Even though a stake was driven through the heart of freedom, America has proven its resiliency. Freedom has been threatened. Terrorists have attacked the icon of the free world. And the free world is fighting back.

The government should be commended. A day before the attack, America was a nation divided. In the aftermath of last year's hotly contested presidential election, social commentators spoke of a people divided by chasms of culture, religion and politics. Today, none of those divisions matter, for the attack was one against every American's way of life. America

has united and revealed its indomitable strength.

The terrorists have wrought enormous human devastation, but they underestimated the morale of a great nation. American is peace-loving, but strong patriotism will stop at nothing to punish those who threaten the life and prosperity of its people.

America needs to assume a war mentality and be in a prolonged state of readiness. The enemy is still among us, and the national government united once again will "awaken the sleeping giant."

These excerpts from editorials printed nationwide represent a diverse analysis and quantification of the past 48 hours and the perseverance and strength of the American people.

MAIL CALL

Aggies should unite, show spirit at football game

I have spoken with many students who want to help with the tragedy that has rocked our nation. The only thing we the students can really do is show support. As a sign of everlasting spirit and love the idea has come forth that we wear red, white and blue to the next home football game against Oklahoma State. Red on the 3rd deck, white on the 2nd deck, and blue on the first deck. This is something the students of A&M could do to show the viewing audience and others across the country that our thoughts are with those who have been affected by the events of Sept 11, 2001. Please help spread the word of this idea.

Jimmy Fellbaum
Class of 2001

expressing distrust and sometimes outrage towards that which is "foreign".

Dramatic outbursts are understandable, especially in the context of these devastating events. However, it is wholly inappropriate to make careless pronouncements that only serve to divide and disrupt our already beleaguered community.

Whether or not these statements are made in earnest, the foreign students among us are sensitive to the undercurrents of patriotism within them. We must remember that the World Trade Center stood as a symbol of not only the United States, but also our foreign allies.

I encourage all of you to challenge those who make reactionary statements by countering with the same calm assurances being released by the US government. Not only must you defend the American principles of tolerance and equality, you must defend the decency of this our University.

Devon Strawn
Class of 2002

Tolerance is necessary around campus

I am alarmed by the opinions voiced by my fellow students in reaction to the grim events that unfolded Tuesday morning. No doubt many of you were witness to individuals in your classes openly

Classes at A&M should have been canceled

Almost 60 years ago our grandparents experienced the attack at Pearl Harbor. Later our parents watched as Kennedy was shot and killed. These moments are significant events in their

lives, changing them forever. On Tuesday, my generation watch as an event unfolded before our eyes that could be bigger than Pearl Harbor or more devastating than the Kennedy assassination; something that our grandchildren will be learning about in school.

But our administration did not have the decency to cancel classes during a tragic time like this. Some students do not understand the magnitude of this event because the administration tried to make this day as normal as possible. This was not a normal day and should not have been treated as one.

I learned more about foreign relations, government strategies, culture differences and what it means to be an American than I ever will be given the opportunity to again. Because of our administration, many students missed out on this learning experience and will never understand the grave significance of the events.

The whole nation and most of the world are grieving, but too many on this campus are too ignorant about what we are experiencing. Does our nation have to have a nuclear attack to get classes canceled? Two years ago, we expected the nation to grieve with us in the moment of tragedy, and now the roles are reversed. Too many people have not even stopped to notice.

Mike Butts
Class of 2003

CARTOON OF THE DAY



THE UNCARToonist ©