

The RN is personal journal of commentary, satire, cartoons, humor and current events.

## **All is Quiet on All Fronts**

It has been 19 days since the coordinated attack on the US. The White House continues to be deliberate, cautious, coy and reassuring to the world. Atty Gen Ashcroft keeps reminding the press and public that there are probable other instances of the New Terrorism that can spring to life at any time on American soil.

The waves from the tidal pool of the US psyche is still spreading out, slowly. The disruption has sunk us in a deep nose-dive recession, with no real recovery in sight. Capital and capital spending has dried up.

Unemployment has become to climb quickly. Personal bankruptcies hit a record in the quarter before the Attack. People now fear more than losing their paycheck; they fear losing their sense of security.

But there has been no counterattack. It has surprised some parts of the world. It has angered some elements of American politics. The problem lies in the Problem itself. How does one fight a war against an unseen enemy, that has many nationalities but no home country or land? How does one fight the twisted beliefs of madmen in a sane global society? How can one bomb the countries that harbor terrorists back to the Stone Age, when they are already living in the Stone Age? How does one silence the critics who believe this may cause World War III, a religious holy war raging on all parts of the planet?

How does one come to terms with men that cremate thousands of innocent people in NYC skyscrapers, then bury them under 110 tons of twisted rubble and melted steel? How does one find Justice in trying to apply western principles of criminal justice against people who are as mindless as rabid rats festering in Third World dung piles? We may never know the answers to these questions.

**“Should Not Play  
with Rattlesnakes”**



The cable news networks have rushed crews to Pakistan to begin coverage of the War on the Taliban and bin Laden's terror organization. Patriotic red, white and blue fills the corners of most television screens, even as the new prime time fodder hits the air.

Everything is now tempered; sports, finance, work, play, entertainment and travel.

Instead of a plane on approach to O'Hare coming over my house every 30 seconds, it is one every 30 minutes.

The Bears home opener had 17,000 no-shows. And it did not sell out.

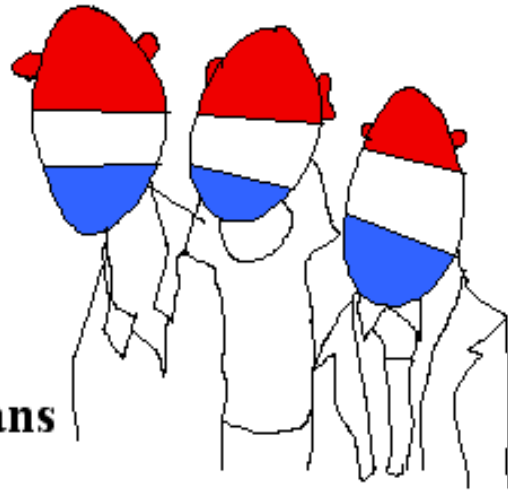
The pennant races are long forgotten. Barry Bonds' home run chase will be a small footnote in the Sports section. Entertainers have to ask for permission to make humor on stage. The nation is in a deep funk.

Things are beginning to change. Things will be slow to recover.

People with addictions like golf still run around the course. It is now fall, only a few more chances to break 100, 90, 80 or whatever.

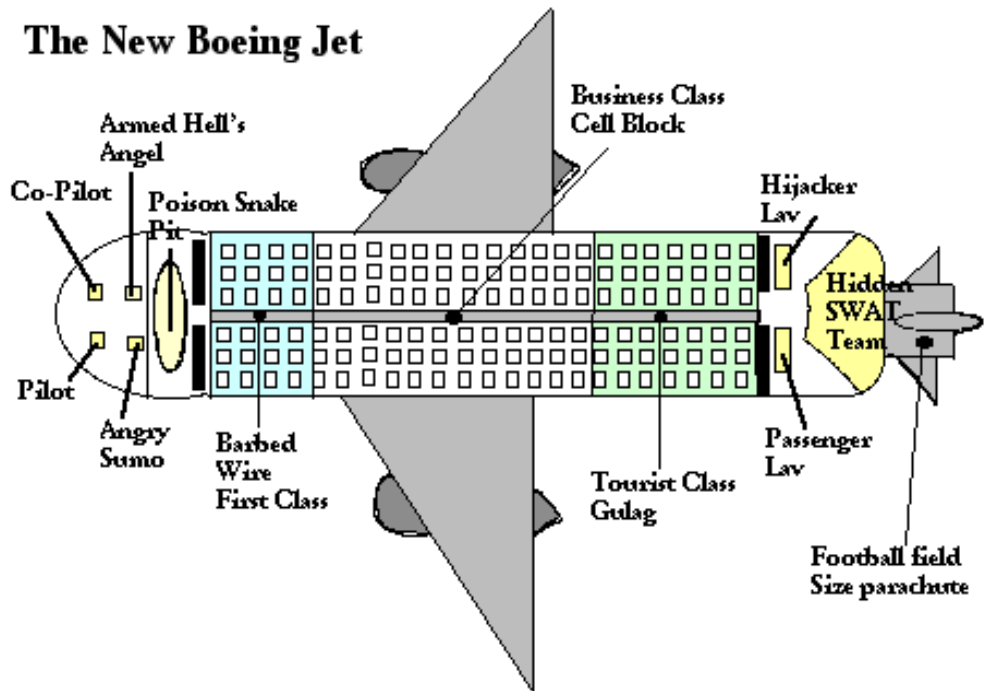
Draining a 20 foot, right to left hard breaker for a birdie does not have the same bite that it used to have for the weekend golfer, like myself. I know because I did that today; the one highlight in a bogey plus slow play round in the fog. No jets flew overhead for five hours today.

## 2001 All-Americans



There will have to something to restart the nation. I don't think the aged return of Michael Jordan will do it. I don't think carpet bombing for months in central Asia will do it. I don't think a long drawn out Pan Am type terrorist trial will do it. I don't think Al Gore beginning his next run for President in Iowa this weekend will do it. I don't think a John Wayne marathon film fest on AMC will do it. After the bombing begins, using the jaws of life to get Rather, Brokaw and Jennings

## The New Boeing Jet



from their non-stop anchor positions will not do it.

It can't be the cure for cancer, or a miracle food crop that ends global starvation, or friendly aliens landing from another galaxy. But it may be something in between those extremes.

Every aspect of the American way of life has been disrupted, either physically or emotionally, by the terrorist attacks of September 11th. Citizens now want the basics: safety, security and shelter for their families.

I don't think a sweeping press conference next year saying that we have won the war with the terrorists by striking at their camps, killing their leaders, disrupting their networks and cutting off their finances, will ease the pain and paranoia that each American feels on a daily basis.

The New World Order has been stamped on the nation. Pilots armed with guns. Mandatory military service for high school graduates. Higher taxes to pay for additional military bases overseas. America on high alert 24/7. Those could be permanent scars on the American landscape.

There is one thing that is eating at my brain.



Afghan White Flag of Truce

If only the oceans were oil, and we all were Saudi oilmen; we'd be at peace.



The politicians hogging the limelight. Politicians did not dig for survivors; ordinary men and women did. Politicians did not fight the hijackers and crash a plane in Pennsylvania; ordinary people did. Ordinary people will do the dirty work without seeking credit.

The hourly news conferences with no news is getting trite. Bill Clinton barging into a NY press conference to get some face time is appalling. Jesse Jackson making up mediation talks with the Taliban to get high profile week long press is galling and perverse. Enough already. This is no the time for politicians wrestling for the microphones on the nightly newscasts. Because they still don't get it. They do not control the outcome of the Issues. Ordinary people will fight the battles, work us out of the recession and put America back on its chosen course.

The pundits, professors and politicians have a small rolodex of contacts in the first class compartment of Life. They failed to appreciate that little, unassuming, unknown, poor, clever and suicidal killers can make a bolder statement than a half hour of political rhetoric on CNN. Ordinary people can do extraordinary things.

We can't speak his language but we know what he stands for.

We don't know where he is but we know he prefers bat caves.

We know he preaches that the Koran justifies terrorism and war, but we know it is really a book of Peace.

We know he is from a rich family, but lives like a poor man.



*This publication gets done on a haphazard schedule; basically when I have the time and will power to sit down and create something. Time is a short commodity. This year has flown by with a vengeance.*

*But this is Issue Five for 2001, but some of the publications are incomplete or unpublished. See, Public Notices below. Usually, there may be two or three, usually in Epic size, and usually printed and distributed carefully across America.*

*After I finish this prose, I must attack a dive bombing horsefly that has come out of no where to ruin my concentration. I thought the heavy fog of Natural Scent RAID last week to kill the water buffalo size crickets would have killed any other living creature at Chez Pablo, including my self.*

Public Notices.

The publisher of this fine publication is in the process, since early this year, to develop and go digital. The time consuming work schedule and total lack of social life has created a great backlog of personal projects to tackle. However, shortly, we shall have in place prototype web sites that carve the right side of the brain from the left. [cyberbarf.com](http://cyberbarf.com). [skirealnews.com](http://skirealnews.com). [pindermedia.com](http://pindermedia.com). Why do one thing right when you can split and triple the workload on three different game plans?

**“Why Won't Anyone Look At Me?  
I am the President!  
Hey, You, over there!  
I've got something to say as a native New Yorker, right?  
When will I be on TV? I should have the secret service set my VCR.  
Hey don't go away!”**

