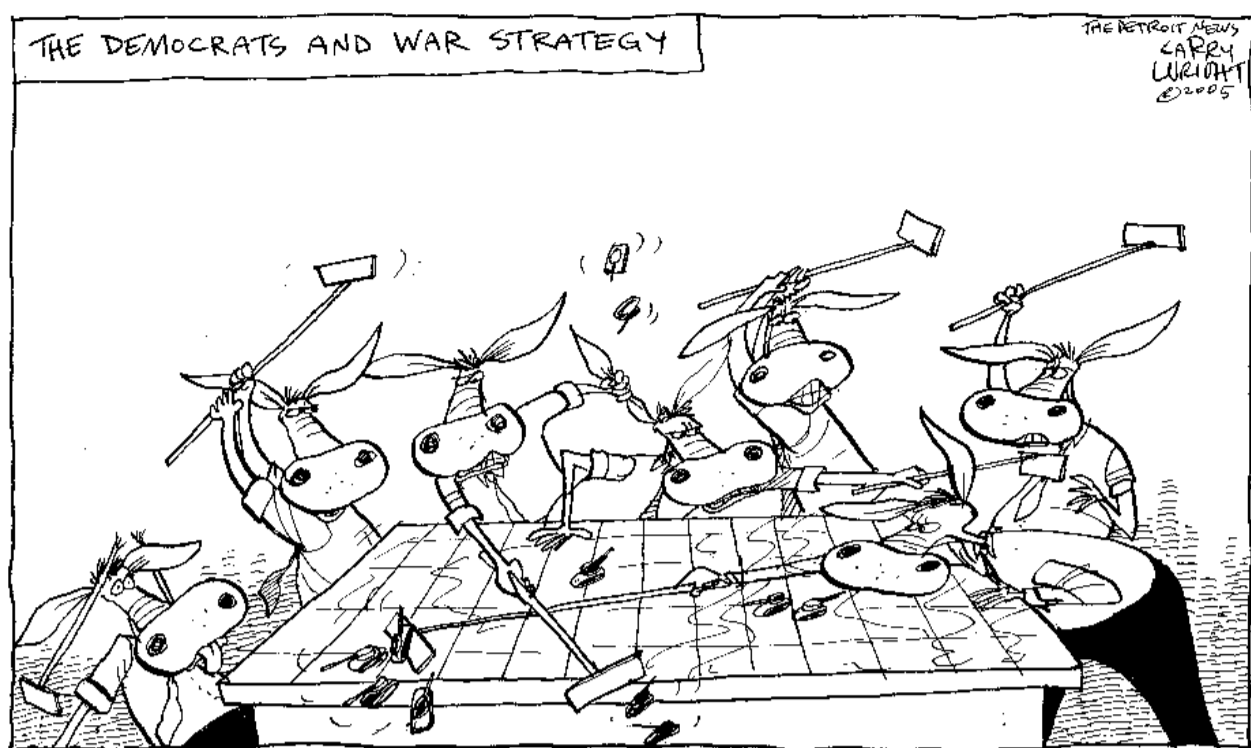


LARRY WRIGHT



Larry Wright is an editorial cartoonist at The Detroit News.

Cheers & Jeers

Jeers: To the *Star-Telegram* for eliminating the summaries of the week's movies from the back of Sunday's TV book. Maybe some newsprint has been saved, but it sure was nice to get some idea of what a movie was about.

Arnold Barkman, Fort Worth

Jeers: To the writer of a Nov. 26 editorial who erroneously assumed that he knew how to spell Richard Rodgers' last name.

Don Buckman, Fort Worth

Cheers: To the Stagecoach Ballroom in Fort Worth. The people there are very friendly and welcoming, the prices aren't inflated (as they are at a lot of clubs), the T.G. Shepard performance was at an affordable price, and the house band is great. But most important was the customer service we received from the management. It was so unexpected and greatly appreciated.

Chris Tate and Ami Walker, Fort Worth

Cheers: To Yamaha of Decatur, its new manager and especially Jason. They finally fixed our Wave Runner after other companies couldn't. We'll definitely recommend you.

Rhonda Sabo, Rhome

Cheers: To the police officers and Citizens on Patrol of Neighborhood Policing Districts Nos. 4 and 5 for making the east side one of the areas with the lowest crime rates in the city. Capt. Bryan Sudan and his staff are making a difference and defining "community policing."

Wanda Conlin, Fort Worth

Cheers: To the wonderful gentleman who picked up our tab at the Keg Steakhouse on Nov. 5. My husband and I were celebrating the Marine Corps' birthday that night; much to our surprise, when it came time to pay our bill, the waiter told us that it already had been taken care of by another diner. We thank him for his generosity and support for all our troops.

Brenda Villarreal, Houston

Jeers: To the Southlake Carroll football fans who were so eager to get seats near the 50-yard line at a Saturday play-off game that they forgot that two other teams were still playing. Instead of pushing their way in, all they had to do was wait until the end of the game for the Fossil Ridge fans to exit. Jeers also to the UIL Competition Committee for scheduling three games so closely together without appropriate crowd control.

Lee A. Felts, Fort Worth

Cheers: To Melissa Parnell for coming to my aid Oct. 26 after an accident, for giving a statement to the police and for calling me a few days later to see how I was. You're an angel. Cheers also to the Saginaw police and fire departments for their quick response. Special cheers to officer Joe Bozenko for staying and waiting for my husband while I was on the way to the hospital.

Sharon Rountree, Fort Worth

Jeers: To a charter travel company for leaving us stranded in Mexico with no way home after Hurricane Wilma. We were evacuated to a shelter and had a limited supply of food and water. The company wouldn't spend the money we had already paid to get us home. It cost an additional \$1,200 to see U.S. soil. Cheers to Enrique Dominguez of the Mexican government for saving us and getting us and several others on a Continental Airlines flight.

Paula and Ronnie Reitzer, Burleson

Cheers: To the Fort Worth Police Department. Those of us with handicapped license plates appreciate it when you put a ticket on a vehicle without a plate or placard parked in a handicapped spot.

Eileen Stewart, Fort Worth

Jeers: To the loser brats who broke into my car and four others on my street on Nov. 14. How can you live with yourselves? Obviously you're not very experienced thieves — you left fingerprints everywhere.

Pamela Reed, Fort Worth

Cheers: To Mr. Michael Wilkins for being such a hilarious substitute teacher and for making every subject fun. I wish I never had to leave school.

Naomi Grant, age 8, Fort Worth

Cheers: To the Walgreens on East Belknap Street for having a manager like Steven Bunna. He is so friendly and goes out of his way to help customers. He also knows all about the merchandise. Thanks, Steven.

Margie Wooley, Fort Worth

Cheers: To SBC tech Stephen (No. 162) for doing a professional and courteous job of repairing my phone lines, which were damaged by an overcharged leak-repair job by a North-east Tarrant County plumber.

Rae James, Fort Worth

Jeers: To the management of the Fort Worth Pops Symphony for allowing about 40 to 50 bright white lights to shine from the stage into the eyes of audience members. The lights are very distracting and limit enjoyment of the performances.

Wallace A. Clines, Fort Worth

Cheers: To registered nurse Kelly Martin for donating 15 inches of her thick, beautiful hair to Locks of Love. Cheers also to registered nurse Pam Fischer and her daughter Terri Woodall for donating baby clothes and items to a new mom, a Hurricane Katrina victim who delivered a baby girl at Harris Methodist Southwest. The baby clothes were beautiful; many were brand-new, with the original tags.

Registered nurse Terri Gunther and co-workers, Harris Methodist Southwest, Fort Worth

Cheers: To whoever found and turned in my handbag at the Tom Thumb grocery on Hulen Street on Nov. 18. I'm so grateful to you and want to thank you for your honesty and kindness. May the Lord bless you richly.

Rosemary Bonds, Fort Worth

Cheers: To the Fort Worth Brahmas hockey team for allowing my Cub Scouts to present the colors on Veterans Day. It was an honor to do so while the Marine Corps band played the national anthem. It was an experience that my boys will never forget. The game was a lot of fun, too.

Bill Evans, Keller

Cheers: To the young couple with three costumed children who on Oct. 29 paid for dinner at Pancho's on Texas 199 for me, my daughter and granddaughter because they thought they had held us up in the buffet line. We really appreciate your being so kind to us. God bless you.

Anna Moreman, Azle

Cheers: To Jason Reed and Christian Bros. Automotive on Rufe Snow Drive. Jason is helpful, courteous and honest. Jeers to another repair facility that was interested only in selling more repairs and that returned my vehicle in worse shape than when it was delivered.

Kathy Parker, North Richland Hills

Cheers: To the management and employees of Golden Corral for providing meals to active-duty and retired military personnel on Nov. 14. My wife and I participated at the restaurant on U.S. 377 in Keller.

Dale Ailles, Watauga

Cheers: To Coach George at Saginaw High School for leading my niece Monica down the right path and planting that ever-so-needed seed in her life. God bless teachers like you.

Peggy Ramos, Blue Mound

Jeers: To members of the U.S. House and Senate who are calling for U.S. troops to be brought home immediately from Iraq. Don't they understand that they're aiding the enemy? Last time I checked, this was treason!

Bruce Dodds, Arlington

Cheers: To Carter for coming to my rescue when I had a flat tire at Bowen Road and Interstate 20 on Oct. 14. You were an answer to my prayer, and you wouldn't accept any pay. You were also very patient with my young daughter. Cheers also to the man who pulled up behind me to see if I needed help before Carter started on my tire. May God richly bless both of you.

Tammy Enzman, Arlington

Cheers: To Coach Davis at J.T. Stevens Elementary School. He encourages his students and gets them excited about learning — not just fitness activities but also character education and recreation. He's popular with all students, not just the athletic ones, and he spends many extra hours on school activities. What a great role model!

Marvin Vann, Fort Worth

Jeers: To the rude truck drivers who have come to Johnson County since the Barnett Shale gas fields opened. They cut people off, block intersections and speed through school zones. Cheers to the Godley Police Department for cracking down on truck drivers who speed through school zones.

Michael L. Simons, Cleburne

Cheers: To our administrators and teachers for helping make our first annual Family Math Night a wonderful event. Thanks to Mrs. Barre of Crowley Middle School, Mrs. James of the Fort Worth school district and Mr. Moffett of North Crowley High School for presenting workshops. Thanks also to Mrs. Larson's mom for the baked goods, to our PTA for donating door prizes, to Liz (head custodian) for making sure everything was in place and to the parents for taking time to attend the event.

Seventh-grade math teacher Rosemarie Tatum, Crowley Middle School, Fort Worth

WAR

This much is certain:
This isn't World War II

■ Our president, our Congress and the American people who voted them into office should dust off their history books and read about an era when people knew what war really meant.

From Day One of the current war in Iraq, it has been the practice of the Bush administration and its surrogates to question the patriotism of those who oppose the conflict or

who criticize the administration's conduct of the war.

It took one of those surrogates — Rep. Jean Schmidt, R-Ohio — branding Rep. John Murtha (a decorated Marine veteran) a coward on the House floor for the administration to finally de-



Gregg Cantrell

cide that perhaps the demagoguery had gone too far.

It's interesting, however, to see what passes as "patriotism" with those who have beaten the war drums so loudly. From the start of the Global War Against Terror, the Bush administration has compared the conflict to that most patriotic of conflicts, World War II.

From his branding of Islamic terrorists as "Islamofascists" to his comparisons of Saddam Hussein to Adolf Hitler, President Bush has painted the war as the moral equivalent of the campaigns against Germany and Japan.

Given today's terrorist threat, those comparisons are not entirely unfounded. However, a quick glance back at what "patriotism" really meant during World War II reveals the stark contrasts between Franklin D. Roosevelt and George W. Bush in their understanding of the concept.

In the aftermath of Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt, like Bush, sought to rally the country. Unlike Bush, FDR made it clear from the start that "patriotism" meant asking all Americans to sacrifice for the cause.

First, there was the draft. The armed services had been drafting men for more than a year when we entered the war, but after Pearl Harbor, Congress extended draftees' service for the duration of the war. Men between the ages of 18 and 45 became subject to service, and unlike the later Vietnam-era draft, there were no deferrals for those from privileged backgrounds.

Altogether, more than 15 million Americans — 11 percent of the American population — saw military service in the war. At that ratio of service to population, 32 million Americans would be asked to serve today.

Then there were the sacrifices demanded on the home front. Tire rationing began in December 1941; gas rationing commenced a year later. After the government instituted price controls in 1942, rationing was extended to such items as sugar, coffee and meat. Wages and salaries were frozen in 1943. Patriotic Americans tightened their belts, planted Victory Gardens and rarely complained.

Then, as now, government spending rose dramatically to finance the war. Roosevelt advocated paying those costs with taxes rather than borrowing. "I would rather pay one hundred percent of taxes now than push the burden of this war onto the shoulders of my grandchildren," the president proclaimed.

Although Congress balked at FDR's proposed tax increases, ultimately about half of the war's cost was paid for by taxes — a vast difference between today's policy of making future generations pay the entire cost of the war.

Roosevelt likewise understood that the cost of the war should be borne by all Americans, rich or poor. Under the Revenue Act of 1942, tax exemptions were lowered from \$750 to \$500 for single people and from \$1,500 to \$1,200 for married couples.

Although basic tax rates were lowered from 6 percent to 3 percent, those with taxable incomes of \$500 faced a tax rate of 23 percent, and Congress raised the top rate to 94 percent for those with incomes over \$1 million. Taxes were collected for the first time by means of payroll deduction, and collections skyrocketed.

In 1939, only 4 million people paid income taxes; in 1945, that figure climbed to 43 million. Nobody was spared the pain of paying for the war, and that meant that everyone had a

direct stake in how the war was conducted and in its outcome. When money was wasted, people took notice.

Bush's "patriotic" tax solution? Give massive tax cuts to the very rich while making sure that working Americans' share of the tax burden grows ever larger.

During World War II, even those who lived in the nation's capital — transformed into a boomtown by war mobilization — felt the war in a thousand ways, large and small.

Congressmen, accustomed to employing domestic servants, found that they couldn't find them — or if they did, they couldn't keep them. Apartments were nearly impossible to find.

Taxi rides had to be shared. A ban on pleasure-driving put a major dent in Washington night life. With beef in short supply, the first butcher to put horse meat on sale sold a thousand pounds the first day.

By the war's end, several U.S. representatives and one senator had resigned their seats to serve, and *The Washington Post* reported on March 25, 1945, that 121 members of Congress had sons or daughters in the armed services. All four of FDR's sons served in combat units, with two Silver Stars, a Navy Cross and a Purple Heart among their decorations.

One can only wonder how many of the staunchest advocates of the current war would have been so quick to send troops to Iraq if they had known that they would be sending their sons and daughters, the voters who elected them and perhaps even themselves into harm's way. How many Washington policy-makers would have voted so blithely for war, knowing that they would be

imposing hardships and demanding real sacrifices of every single one of their constituents?

If that had been the case, I suspect that the history of this war would be very different.

Obviously, today is not 1941. Nobody is suggesting that every World War II-era solution worked well, or that they would all be

appropriate now. But there are important lessons to be learned from the way that Roosevelt conducted that war.

Wars require sacrifice, and it is immoral to require that those sacrifices be borne solely by the 150,000 Americans serving bravely in Iraq, by their families and by the future generations who will have to pay the bill.

We can honestly disagree about whether this war is winnable. In a recent *Atlantic Monthly* article, James Fallows, writing on the myriad difficulties that America faces in Iraq, quoted a Marine officer who declared that if our policy in Iraq doesn't change, we "can lose in Iraq and destroy our Army, or we can just lose."

This may be true, but there is a third alternative.

Those who are serious about winning have argued that we could double or triple the number of troops in Iraq, be prepared to maintain them there for a very long time and probably defeat the insurgency.

The problem with this plan, of course, is that neither the president nor Congress is prepared to do this. They know that it would require the sort of genuine patriotism — a patriotism that involves real sacrifice by the American people — that the country made so willingly in World War II.

In the meantime, our sons and daughters continue to die in Iraq, and with each day the government's hand reaches deeper into the pocketbooks of our grandchildren to pay for it. It's high time that our president, our Congress and the American people who voted them into office dust off their history books and read about that long-ago era when Americans and their leaders knew what war really meant, and what was required to win.

Then we can have a meaningful debate about whether this is a war we should be fighting. And perhaps then we can learn the true meaning of the word *patriotism*.

Gregg Cantrell of Fort Worth is a history professor at Texas Christian University and a member of the Star-Telegram's community columnist panel.

HOW TO SUBMIT A CHEER OR JEER

Limit your Cheer or Jeer to about 50 words. Full name (signature and printed), address and daytime telephone number are required. There are some restrictions on subjects. Items may be edited.

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