

Tofu, schmofu

“Did you grab some tofu?”

I looked directly into the eyes of my spouse to answer, “Yeah, hon.” We were grocery shopping in Idaho Falls. Near the produce area when this exchange occurred, it took a split second to fully understand that Tim was really asking it. After almost six years of marriage, this man’s palate has been transformed.

During our first year of living together, I was painfully schooled on the ins and outs of what made Tim tick. He too, had to adjust to my quirks (which included my unusually loud snoring). But for me, the most challenging component of Tim’s personality had to be his picky eating. My first attempts at making salad for him told the saddest of tales.

“Oh, I don’t like cucumbers.” Hmm.

“I also hate tomatoes.” Uh-oh.

“What are these?”

“Those are capers.”

“I don’t think I like capers.” Okaaay. I soon understood that this was not going to be easy.

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“What’s that smell?”

“Tilapia.”

“What’s that?”

“Fish.”

“Oh. I don’t like fish.” Ouch.

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“What’re you makin’?”

“Chili.”

“Smells great!” Finally.

“I hope there aren’t beans in there. I hate beans.” Oh. My. Gawd.

Tim explained most of it away as a “texture issue.” I regarded it as completely silly. We are not a family that includes children, but I felt that what I was going

through had to be similar to dealing with the formidable palate of a toddler.

There was a list, and it was long.

I was not to use

mayonnaise. Ketchup was an even greater offense (he puts mustard on his fries). No wheat or spinach pasta. He thought it was too weird. The variety of vegetables that he refused astounded me. Absolutely no

peas. He shunned asparagus, and turned his nose up at any kind of pepper. He did favor romaine but would crinkle his nose at other leafy greens.

And that is another thing. Tim isn’t exactly subtle with his facial expressions. He – like me – has a tendency to let it all hang out reaction-wise. Neither of us plays poker. We are both incapable of a bluff. As such, the reactions that I had to endure when his “texture issue” arose were decidedly expressive. After the initial shock of this situation, I gradually started to filter certain foods into Tim’s diet

without his consent. I put a small amount of mayo on his grilled cheese – just for a little flavor. He loved it. I started putting red leaf lettuce in our salads. He got used to

it. I got him to eat fish. I don’t remember how. I’ll never forget the night I served my husband eggplant parmesan. He failed to give me “the look”. Instead, he cleaned his plate and then had more. It took us three years to get that far.

As our sixth anniversary approaches, Tim definitely deserves some credit for having expanded his tastes. A former hater of mollusks, he relishes the mussel dish at Forage. He chooses roasted red pepper as an ingredient in salads of his own making. He eats kale and numerous other greens that he would have never considered before. He has embraced asparagus and instructed me on how he likes his spaghetti squash cooked. All of the pasta in our pantry is whole wheat, and he has praised it as “more hearty than regular pasta.”

Do we embrace change because it is an unrelenting force (in this case – me), or do we simply decide as individuals that change is what we are ready for? Tim will never change completely when it comes to food. He’s never going to eat tomatoes. His anti-ketchup stance is serious and not to be taken lightly. He would rather die than eat an oyster. But he has in him – like I believe all of us do – a true capacity to be a gastronomic adventurer. His palate has broadened and will continue to do so. Pass the tofu, please.

SPOONFED

JENN REIN

Letters

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celebrate the accomplishments, efforts, and memories of the citizens of Driggs in the past 100 years, to enhance the pride in our community, and to create enthusiasm for the future of Driggs. Your support has helped us meet these goals.

The Driggs Centennial Quilt and Air Show was a success and enjoyed by all those who attended. We have many more activities planned throughout the year and we hope we can continue and even increase our success. We hope to have everyone in the valley enjoy and benefit from the celebration and your support and involvement made that possible on Saturday.

Once again, thank you. We truly do appreciate your support and involvement and we hope to see you and fellow friends continue to enjoy our actives and events throughout the year.

Debbie Hunter
Driggs Centennial Committee

In the front row

I just wanted to express my opinion about the proposed “Glenn Beck Protest” that is being organized by some of our socialist progressive citizens. I am looking forward to Glenn Beck speaking and I for one will be there in support of him. Faith, hope, and charity, free speech, and the Constitution of the United States of America make more sense to me than the protests and spreading hate that we see from the left. I’ll see you there! I’ll be the one on the front row.

*Bart Woolstenhulme
Victor*

Who’s on third?

First, it’s moving the 4th of July venues like the fireworks to the third, because the fourth is on a Sunday! I always thought July 4 was a secular holiday celebrating our country’s Independence.

Second, how is it we as a community let one of the most important venues for the 4th of July, the fireworks, get sold off to the Huntsman Springs development for a “sales promotion event?”

Lastly, but more importantly this “event” is headlining one of the most politically divisive personalities around, Glenn Beck. His twisted leaps of logic, and his interpretation of writings of our founding fathers and American history, topped with feigned emotional “crying” session. It is sad, when you think of all the money he’s making.

To have our community’s 4th of July fireworks display, happening on the third and put on for a huge sales/political event for Huntsman Springs headlining the likes of Glenn Beck, who says our President is “a racist and hates white people” is, dare I say, unpatriotic...I..I just love my country (sob..sob)

Here’s my recommendation, boycott and protest this sham! Make your July 4th celebration on the fourth!

Go to, and support the concerts at the Spud and at the courthouse on the 4th! Make our 4th of July the biggest and best on the 4th!

*Gaither Campbell
Tetonia*

Typical

Tom Walsh sure has his big-girl panties in a twist over the Huntsman’s invitation to host Glenn Beck at their July 4th festivities (*Valley Citizen*, June 2, “A Trust No Longer Held”).

His commentary unfortunately represents a typical liberal over-reaction and double standard that has become more prevalent in our society today.

While they (liberals) agree with a person’s First Amendment rights (especially if one is anti-American, a criminal or a terrorist), if they don’t like what the speaker is saying, they then proceed to demonize said speaker and anyone that supports that speaker.

“No one questions their (the Huntsmans) right to host the man, but...” Mr. Walsh then tears into the Huntsmans for being guilty of having bad taste, questionable motives and insulting all of Teton County.

As a resident of this county, I’m not insulted in the least by this invitation, so don’t speak for me, Mr. Walsh. I’m grateful to the Huntsmans for their philanthropy bestowed upon our valley and see them as excellent examples of corporate leaders continually giving back to their community.

If they want to host a speaker on their property and invite anyone from the public to attend, then that is their business; end of story. I hope they don’t feel the need to defend their actions and will dismiss the ridiculous Mr. Walsh as yet another misanthropic, ranting, hypocritical and misinformed meddler.

Mr. Walsh knows better than to question a citizen’s right to free speech, but he’s got to make sure we and the Huntsmans know that he adamantly disapproves of this invitation. Anyone that doesn’t think Glenn Beck is a racist, a liar, or a hate-filled demagogue is insulted and demeaned along with the Huntsmans, who have the audacity to invite Mr. Beck to speak at an event they are sponsoring.

I don’t have a television, but I have watched Beck’s program and Fox News on occasion. I also read daily from a wide variety of information available to all citizens via the library, Internet and newsstand. I don’t like or agree with Mr. Walsh’s inference that the Fox audience is bigoted.

The rest of his commentary is filled with supposedly inflammatory comments Beck has made and denouncements of Beck by so-called “conservative pundits” like Scarborough and Graham. (Note to Mr. Walsh: true conservatives do not consider Lindsay Graham or Joe Scarborough to be one of us, so your use of them as finger wagging Beck nay-sayers is laughable and non-effective!) However, I was disappointed to realize what a bunch of wimps the Idaho Potato Commission are!

I’m somewhat curious to know how Mr. Walsh felt (although I can pretty much guess) about the University of Wyoming’s recent decision to invite Weather Underground terrorist Bill Ayers to speak on campus. While I think it disgusting that people like Ayers can make money as a result of their dubious notoriety and criminal

past, I do defend his right to speak. You won’t however, find me in the audience.

I love how (sarcasm on) so many liberals play the race card when someone they ardently disagree with, like Glenn Beck, espouses their opinion in a public forum. Personally, I think this tactic is getting old - can’t you come up with an attack that is a bit more original? Glenn Beck is not a racist, he is a Constitutionalist, an historian, an entertainer and politically incorrect. If you don’t like what Glenn Beck has to say, don’t listen to him. Boycott his TV show and its sponsors, and don’t go to the July 4th celebration at Huntsman Springs. Censorship is never American, Mr. Walsh, especially on our nation’s birthday.

Finally, thank you Sharon Boothe, for your comments in Forum last Thursday (*Valley Citizen*, June 2 “Your vote, our consequence.”) I agree with you 100 percent and am angered that once again the majority of voters decided to allow the county to continue to take our hard earned money to fund their bottomless pit of projects with no accountability.

*Julie A Boisseau
Victor*

Beck in Da House

When I heard that Glenn Beck was coming to town to help us celebrate July 4th, my first thought was, “What, they couldn’t get Tony Hayward up here to remind us why we wanted our independence from England?”

But, instead of reacting with reflexive revulsion to Mr. Beck’s coming, I decided to think a little about why I dislike this guy...okay, that’s enough.

I watched a couple of his clips on YouTube to freshen up, because otherwise all I see is what Jon Stewart or Keith Olbermann show me. I happen to prefer their distortions of reality.

The reason Beck annoys me is, first, that he can annoy me, so I’m giving him some of what he wants. Second is that his whole stance that the country’s got serious problems and the government is broken probably has some merit - it’s hard to say for sure since someone always thinks that way - and he turns that concern into race-baiting, hyperbolic, unfounded, paranoia which I don’t think he believes himself. He’s a thought grifter, and when he cries I pat my pockets.

Or maybe he does believe himself - I don’t know which is more frightening. His whole spiel is very entertaining, and it’s good he’s around because it’s helpful to know roughly how many people there are who take him seriously, but he’s also so depressing I suspect he may be part of a right-wing strategy to bum out thinking people so much they die of acute apathy and can’t vote.

With Beck and the constant rain, I can see moving back to Socialist England, where people die of paper cuts for lack of medical attention, and saying I’m sorry and I want to come home.

But I’ll turn out to see him and weep tears of laughter.

*Scot Crawford
Driggs*

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