

FORGIVINGS

By Fred Hobbs

Once while working in middle management for a big corporation I was required to take a test designed to expose personality traits and tendencies embodied in my supposed management style. To my surprise the results revealed a tendency to hold a grudge.

The test, like all similar sociological and psychological approaches, definitely was subject to critical examination. I had never thought about it much, but I do admit to have something of a grudge against the smarty-pants guy who interpreted the test and informed me of my “grudgy” nature.

So, just in case there is a hint or so of that in my personality, I am proposing the creation of a new holiday, “Forgiveness Day” on which everyone will leave grudges and annoyances aside and forgive those people, events or simply “things” that beg to be forgiven.

Herewith is a short list of the important or trivial “forgivings” that I intend to act upon should that day and its observance ever come to pass:

Reluctantly, I would forgive the candidates in the recent election who bombarded the nation with those negative, offensive and downright false campaign ads on television. (Must I forgive them again in the next election cycle coming up in less than two years?)

I forgive the pretty curvaceous girl I had a crush on in high school chemistry class who wouldn’t give me the time of day. She later married the star of the football team. (Actually, I don’t have to forgive her. She eventually “suffered” enough when the balding ex-jock threw her over for a new “blonde bombshell” half her age.)

I forgive the genius that invented the “adult proof” caps on medicine bottles.

I forgive the guy with the fancy sports car who cut in front of me going 25 miles over the speed limit with about an inch to spare between us. Unfortunately, scores of drivers are just like him so I have a lot of forgiving to provide (assuming I *live* through those repeated traffic nightmares).

I forgive the professor who gave me the only “F” I ever received in a college final exam and also the boss I had the one time in my career I was fired. (Though, that grudge trait shows up sometimes in both my day and night dreams even after many years. Wisely, I don’t act on it.)

Most folks would agree that some acts are so vile and contemptible they can never be forgiven. Overall, the need for forgiveness is widespread and the practice of it is in too short of supply. Maybe, the observance of a “Forgiveness Day” would balance that equation...at least a tad.

