

# What memory would you select to relive?

I saw a movie recently that was selected to be shown at this year's Roger Ebert Film Festival. The name of the movie was "Nine Days." It's a bit quirky, but one of the themes the movie brings up is this: "If you had one experience in your life that you would like to experience one more time before dying, what would that experience be?" One character in the movie chose to walk barefoot on a sandy beach and play in the water. Another character wanted to relive riding her bicycle down a familiar street from her childhood. Of course, this movie got me thinking, "What moment in my life would I choose to experience again?"

That's a tough question because I have been blessed with many pleasurable experiences and it would be difficult for me to narrow it down to just one. I'm sure that if we were forced to choose, many of us might

pick the time you proposed marriage or were proposed to. I'm sure most people are confident of what the answer to a proposal to their beloved would be, but there is always that tiny bit of doubt until the answer is received and the feeling of elation takes over. The actual wedding is another moment that elicits an emotion that's noteworthy. How about the time your first child is born? The mother may have the strongest feelings of love and accomplishment, but as a first-time father, I recall the joy I had after holding my baby girl in my arms and counting all her fingers and toes, and having the nurse say that she is perfect.

Maybe hitting a game-winning home run in Little League or high school is a memory worth having again. Running the bases while being on Cloud Nine and smiling wide as the entire team jumps up

and down, slapping your hand as you cross home plate with your parents bursting with pride.

Perhaps, if given the choice, people would choose the day they passed their driver's test and the first time they got to drive a car all by themselves. Buying your first home, receiving a prestigious honor for exemplary performance at work, earning a medal for heroism in the military, or giving CPR to someone in distress, are all singular events in one's life that people may wish to experience again.

Life holds many such memorable experiences. Graduation day when you are the first member of your family to have graduated from college. Bowling a score of 300, hitting a hole-in-one during a golf game, earning an "A" in an especially tough class, or finishing the building of something (a house, a shed, a road, a

## So there I was

By Pete Buckley



bridge, etc.) that will stand for generations. The list of special times in our life that we might want to go through again is endless, so selecting only one to experience again is hard.

As for me, several events in my life stand out as times in my life that I would like to recreate that special emotion I felt at that particular moment. The instant my wife answered "Yes" to this Army 2d Lieutenant 46 years ago was a day I'll always remember because of that joyful feeling I had (and still have) that there is someone on this earth who "gets

me." I also remember the elation of crossing the finish line after completing the Superior Trail 50-mile run. It's hard to explain the combination of exhaustion, exhilaration, and the feeling of accomplishment that I felt at that moment.

I immensely enjoyed the feeling of relief I received each time I was a member of a team of law enforcement officers when we would break into a residence housing violent street gang members to make an arrest and come away from that scene with no one hurt. I recall a kidnaping

case I worked on while with the FBI. The victim was the father of young children and he was taken at gunpoint, placed into a trunk, and driven throughout several states. I stayed with the victim's brother for five days and nights as the brother received ransom demands and instructions on where to deliver the ransom money. The outcome of a kidnaping is always uncertain and the exact moment we were finally able to track down the kidnaper and his accomplices, release the victim and recover the ransom money, unleashed a feeling of euphoria I have seldom ever felt.

I like to think that everyone has plenty of cherished memories from which to choose should they ever find themselves in a position to select one to repeat. I just hope that we continue to make these memories.

# Beer boycott seems arbitrary and silly

I stopped in the cigar shop the other day and went over to the fridge to grab a drink. I noticed there was no Bud Light.

Oh, no, we're boycotting Bud Light, I was told. The company had the audacity to market their product to the transgender community.

I didn't want a beer, anyway, so I said I'll just grab a Coke. You do know, don't you, that Coca-Cola has featured gay couples in its advertising and supports transgender rights?

If you want to effectively boycott transgender support, you may want to stop using Google, Amazon and Airbnb. They all support transgender rights as do Ben & Jerry's ice

## Ramblin' Man

By David Porter



cream, Starbucks, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Bank of America, Cargill, Levi, Lyft and Uber.

Those are just a few of the companies that have signed on to oppose anti-transgender legislation. Coke and Pepsi also signed on as did MGM Re-

sorts, Marriott and Nike. IBM and Apple both signed on, so I'm not sure what the boycotters are going to use for computers. If the list keeps growing, purchasing options could become quite limited.

Even Playboy, not so long ago, featured a transgender

model in its magazine. I didn't see it; I took their word for it.

Fifty-six major corporations recently signed a joint statement supporting transgender rights. It's not necessarily that they're pro-transgender; they're pro-human, and transgender people are human, too. I haven't heard about any boycotts of these other companies. Apparently, beer is where we draw the line.

And what did Bud Light do? It gave a commemorative can to a transgender woman who promoted their product on TikTok. I don't use TikTok, so I didn't see it, and I'll bet no one else in the cigar shop saw it,

either. The TikTok influencer, Dylan Mulvany, is someone I had never heard of and probably never would have if not for the boycott.

All it took was for one person to hear about it and say, that's it; no more Bud Light for me. And the whole herd turned and went with them. That's how influencing works.

Why would Bud Light do such a thing, anyway? Because transgender and other queer folk drink beer, too. The LGBTQ+ community has an estimated \$1.1 trillion in annual buying power. A capitalist doesn't have to buy in to the community to want the community to buy their products.

Now, I don't care what beer you drink or what products you want to boycott. I just think it's arbitrary and silly. The boycott gives way more publicity to Bud Light than Dylan Mulvany did.

And after a week or two, the hubbub will die down and people will be back to their old drinking habits and turn their ire to some other outrage.

But if Dylan Mulvany ever decides to embrace guns and Viagra, this whole country could melt down.

© Copyright 2023 by David Porter who can be reached at [porter@ramblin-man.us](mailto:porter@ramblin-man.us). I think I'll boycott cigars but only for a minute.

# Coronation quiche – a recipe fit for a king

May 6 is the Royal Coronation of King Charles and the official website has just announced the first of many recipes for the festivities. I think this food-related event is one we here in the USA should include in our Presidential Inaugurations. We the people have very little chance to actually attend an Inauguration in Washington D.C., just as most Brits will not be in London for their big day, which is usually just once in a lifetime for them. We, on the other hand, get to celebrate every four years. I have always thought there could be more public involvement in our Inauguration other than just watching on TV.

I think it would be patriotic of us to hold town parties with political parties joining together to welcome the new President. The Brits even have an entire country-wide festival they call "The Big Lunch" where individual communities band together for a grand outdoor picnic and the Royal website sponsors a planning packet, which anyone can obtain. This is a really neat idea and one I have seen news footage of during a couple of Queen Elizabeth's celebrations. These events are also sponsored by "The Eden Project," which is a British educational and tourism program and one of the King's patronages.

So what will the British people eat on Coronation weekend? It has been announced that Coronation Quiche is the first official food of choice; it contains an unusual combination of ingredients; Broad beans, which are fava beans here in the USA, spinach, cheese and tarragon with a cream sauce. I would have

never thought to put these ingredients together; actually I have never heard of a Broad or fava bean except in "The Silence of the Lambs" movie and British actor Anthony Hopkins refers to them as going well with a sip of Chianti, an Italian red wine.

Fun facts about the fava bean: they are thought to be the magical bean in "Jack and the Beanstalk."

The "Soft School" (<https://softschools.com/>) website states: They are a member of the pea family and the Fava bean blooms during the spring (three months after sowing). Flowers emit strong and sweet scent which attracts honeybees, main pollinators of this plant.

Fava bean has been found in the tombs of Egyptian rulers. Fava bean contains substances that can prevent development of certain types of cancer and Parkinson disease.

So far I have looked for fava beans at most of the stores in Charleston and have not found them but they can be purchased on "Amazon" so I had better place my order quickly if I am to celebrate on Coronation day. "Mashed.com" states: "For any recipe that calls for fava beans, you can always replace them out with lima beans," per All Recipes, Lima beans and fava beans are very similar in texture, taste, and appearance, making the switch an easy one. For substitution in a stew or soup recipe, using canned beans such as cannellini is a better option." "Veggy.com" seems to disagree, stating fava beans and lima beans do not taste the same." Since I am not a lima bean fan I don't think I

would enjoy that substitution. I do love quiche and I like tarragon and spinach but I am going to have to taste this recipe before I give up my choice of ham and four-cheese quiche.

For those who were wondering, Queen Elizabeth's chosen food was "Coronation Chicken." According to "tasteofhome.com" Coronation Chicken, or "Poulet Reine Elizabeth" (translated literally as "Queen Elizabeth's Chicken"), is a chicken salad with a curry-cream sauce. It utilizes numerous ingredients, such as curry, wine and apricots, that were considered extravagant at the time, given that the UK still implemented wartime rations. As such, it is inherently a celebratory meal for special occasions, developed specifically for the Queen and her 350 esteemed guests. It was served as the centerpiece of her coronation banquet, held at the Great Hall of Westminster School.

I guess we should try it, we might like it!

## Coronation Quiche

Recipe: (<https://www.royal.uk/coronation-quiche-0>)

Coronation Quiche: A deep quiche with a crisp, light pastry case and delicate flavours of Spinach, Broad Beans and fresh Tarragon. Eat hot or cold with a green salad and boiled new potatoes - perfect for a Coronation Big Lunch!

- Pastry**
- 125g plain flour (4.41OZ)
- Pinch of salt
- 25g cold butter, diced (.88OZ)
- 25g lard (.88OZ)
- 2 tablespoons milk
- Or 1 x 250g block of ready-made short-crust pastry (1 recipe)
- Filling**
- 125ml milk (.53 CUPS)
- 175ml double cream (.74 CUPS)

## Memories and Musings

By Cheri Sims



- 2 medium eggs
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh tarragon, Salt and pepper
- 100g grated cheddar cheese, (3 1/2 OZ)
- 180g cooked spinach, lightly chopped (3 1/2 OZ)
- 60g cooked broad beans or soya beans (2.12OZ)

To make the pastry... sieve the flour and salt into a bowl; add the fats and rub the mixture together using your finger tips until you get a sandy, breadcrumb like texture.

Add the milk a little at a time and bring the ingredients

together into a dough.

Cover and allow to rest in the fridge for 30-45 minutes

Lightly flour the work surface and roll out the pastry to a circle a little larger than the top of the tin and approximately 5mm thick.

Line the tin with the pastry, taking care not to have any holes or the mixture could leak. Cover and rest for a further 30 minutes in the fridge.

Preheat the oven to 190°C. Line the pastry case with

greaseproof paper, add baking beans and bake blind for 15 minutes, before removing the greaseproof paper and baking beans.

Reduce the oven temperature to 160°C.

Beat together the milk, cream, eggs, herbs and seasoning.

Scatter 1/2 of the grated cheese in the blind-baked base, top with the chopped spinach and beans and herbs, then pour over the liquid mixture.

If required gently give the mixture a delicate stir to ensure the filling is evenly dispersed but be careful not to damage the pastry case.

Sprinkle over the remaining cheese. Place into the oven and bake for 20-25 minutes until set and lightly golden.

# A recap of planetary positions

As we welcome May, let's do a quick planet roundup. I hope you got to see Mercury in mid-April as it now passes between the Sun and Earth to inhabit the morning sky. Brilliant Venus still commands the western sky as the brightest starlike object there. Above and left of Venus is the red-dish Mars, though it has faded quite a bit since it's close approach late last year. Jupiter passes behind the Sun on April 12 and now hangs out in the morning sky with Saturn. Saturn rises at about 3:30 a.m. in the east-southeast with Jupiter rising two hours later. Both are on the far side of the solar system but will be better

## In the night sky

By David Leake



placed (and closer) in the late summer and fall.

The Moon will be a target for telescopes at the Champaign-Urbana Astro Society Observatory this Saturday as we have our second open house of the year, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. if skies are clear. If in doubt, call the hotline num-

ber at 217-351-2567. The observatory is located on Rising Road, south of the Monticello Road.

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