

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2009 (STRIPS 7-8)

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from students' blogs:

- Becca: irony and sarcasm
- Becca: drawing wife as terrorist represents negative side-effects of obsession
- Becca: citizens as puppets
- Brian: top half of 7 as more of an observational piece than a critical piece
- Brian: flags resemble a broken heart, as if parties are tearing the country apart
- Brian: government is upside down
- Brian: alternate reality
- Jack: use of colors red/blue throughout 7
- Nicole: Spiegelman is all in white
- Jack: flip book over, and Spiegelman is the one out of touch
- Jack: news poisoning
- Jack: comical!
- Jack: comic-style strip at bottom of 7 creates un/reality
- James: they led us off cliff, but claim to be "falling up" ... false information leads to believe what you are told and go along with it (living in the un/real)
- James: nightmare or un/reality where trauma is relived... 9/11 is ongoing b/c Iraq is one and same
- Jordan: conflict as a means towards progress
- Lauren: Americans are depicted as mutated
- Lauren: USA gov't keeps the trauma fresh
- Lauren: difficulty of mourning & trauma
- Michael: shows history repeating itself
- Michael: speigleman is making a huge deal out of human tragedy... egocentric... this was just another violent human event
- Nicole: recurrent image of burning tower is burned into his mind
- Steve: knocked out with stars and jailed with stripes
- Steve: illustrates message of media furthering terror and unpleasantness by using elements from the past, and ties it in with the theme of the page

my discussion points on comic 7:

- 9/11 shown as exercise in jingoism & forced patriotism
- recurrence of image of glowing bones of tower
- nostalgia?!
- terrified by the flag! and then it provides no comfort (but strange tie-in to ostrich party in 5)
- birds (doves & hawks/eagles) are colored same as political parties
- skull and Grim Reaper are red
- people are grey, include his wife & Happy Hooligan
- pox Americana: cf meaning of pax Romana, multiple meanings of pox
- Nemo: again the Maus character, this time mom is a Nazi in a robe
- Lady Lovekins & Muffaroo: rightside up is happy story; upside down is scary

my discussion points on comic 8:

- grotesque image of Spiegelman as cheerleader... only he can't keep up the cheerleader routine
- jackhammering own brain: self-inflicted trauma... newspapers coming out of brain?
- drowning in news
- sees glowing towers in glasses while Bush looks on and Statue of Liberty is ripped down
- "killer apes" text overlaid on glowing towers
- Marital Blitz: Bringing Up Father character is a bumbling fool, but worries Pisa will fall on him
- Maus character is carrying an intact tower
- USA out of NYC, NYC out of NYC, a.s. out of a.s.