

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER ELEVENTH

SPA Student's Personal Account from New York

Sarah Pennie
Layout and Design Editor

Editor's Note: Sarah Pennie is spending fall semester at CityTerm in New York City.

The first I heard of the attack was through Minnesota. Forty minutes out of New York City by train, it was ironic that the first I knew of it was when my sister called from home. I was just walking back into my room after math, at about 9:15 in the morning, when my phone rang. It was my sister, asking if I was all right. Of course I was fine I told her, why would I be any differently? Then she told me that two planes had hit the world trade center at 8:45 and 9:00AM. My first thought, (hopeful, considering the situation), was what a horrible and stupid accident, because it was the most beautiful-clear day yet, then she told me that they were suspected terrorist attacks. There were three of us on the floor, and we immediately began trying to get to news sites on the Internet, due to our lack of television, but every thing was tied up. The only TV in the building is in the common room, in which classes were being taught. We had to wait until nine fifty, when second period ended before we could watch the news, and even then only for the five minutes of passing time.

impossible except through email. The shock was much easier to handle than the uncertainty.

We had visited the World Trade Center on September 6, only five days before the attack. The faces of the workers in the gift shop, to whom I had complained about the ridiculous prices, were spinning around in my head, who knew where they were now? During the considerably long ride up the tourist freight

device is normally only a Saturday night event), and people began to disperse, each trying to pursue their own ways to comprehend such an event, and its consequences.

Lunch was quiet, seeing as many students at The Masters School, our host school, lived in the city, and many had parents who had worked in one of the Twin Towers. Discussions of what came next began, along with a collective prayer that Bush would not screw this up.

and many tearful conversations with family and friends began.

In the following days, things began to settle back down. Thankfully no one had lost a parent on one of the hijacked flights. There were many stories of close calls, people who had been to sick to work on Tuesday, or who ran for their lives as 110 stories came crashing down behind them.

What can one really say about the greatest senseless act of violence the United States has ever seen? The class went back into Manhattan for the first time on the fourteenth for a community service project, and the first thing we saw as we stepped into Grand Central was a group of employees raising a Flag in the main terminal. The entire building is draped in a flag, with God Bless America, and cries for peace written all over it in chalk.

Having not been in the city very long, it is hard for me to gauge the obviously huge impact. It is clear however, that everything is moving a little more slowly, and there is a new and definite kind of brotherhood among strangers. On street corners people hand out red white and blue ribbons, and safety pins with which to attach them, for free. More fitting to New York's entrepreneurial history, vendors sell flags and bandanas in the parks. During the week of the eleventh, crime dropped forty percent since the same time last year. It is so sad that it takes such tragedy to bring people together, but this new and hopefully lasting unity can only serve to make both city, and country stronger places. As for now, all that is left to do is mourn the incomprehensible loss of life, and in the irreplaceable New York tradition, build again and keep on going. All the while, never forgetting the events of 9/11/01, the bravery of those who died fighting hijackers in the Pennsylvania crash, and rescue workers, who continued saving lives even as New York's Twin Towers leaned and finally collapsed.



Graphic courtesy of www.time.com

elevator to the 110th floor, a few students had been talking about how the towers were perfect for a terrorist attack, and the only real way to do it would be with planes. I could not help thinking that we could have just as easily been on that tower on Tuesday instead of Thursday, and how lucky we were. Much the same thoughts seemed to run through everybody's mind as we struggled to deal with the magnitude of such loss. People's thoughts were not only in New York either, many had friends or family working in the Pentagon as well. The TV stayed on, (a rare event at a school in which the

or ever refer to "hunting" anything down again throughout his term. Worries began to surface about friends who could be drafted in the event of a war, and how our program, all about New York City, would be affected by the attacks. The day was utterly quiet, due to the termination of all air traffic, the only noise being the occasional military jet or helicopter, under which we all cringed and ducked. News kept coming in, we learned more about the plane in Pennsylvania, and rumors began to surface about various car bombs all over the cities of New York and Washington. Phone lines began to open up,

In Grateful Memory of the Heroes who Died

Josie Herzog
Variety Editor

Think of any friend of yours, perhaps one you have known for your whole life. Now imagine this friend of yours trapped under many feet of debris from the catastrophic terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. As a good friend, no doubt you would do anything in your power to extract this person from the debris, perhaps even risk your own life. However, following the tragedy on September 11th, hundreds of Americans have laid down their lives for strangers. As firefighters and police officers work tirelessly at the high risk job of searching for people trapped in the rubble of the World Trade Center towers, their own death tolls are mounting. More than 350 firefighters, as well as 40 police officers, have been officially reported missing or dead; this total is almost

30 times the number of New York City fire fighters killed in one incident in the history of the United States. Among the dead are some of the New York fire



Graphic courtesy of www.time.com

fighters' leaders: William Feehan, the first deputy commissioner, Peter Ganci, the chief of the department, Raymond Downey, the chief of special operations, and the Reverend Mychal Judge, chaplain of the fire department. Each of the firefighters, police officers, and rescue workers, both dead and living, deserve special trumpets of abounding exultation for their service to our country and its spirit. Their work does more than find people near death and rescue them, it demonstrates to all Americans, and all the world, that America is a nation of kindness and sacrifice for our fellow people, no matter who the people are, no matter how pitiful helping them may be. While at least eighteen terrorists died for the cause of hurting America, these fire fighters and police officers laid down their lives for America and its people. Their courageous service to our nation must remain an example of overwhelming kindness and sacrifice for us all.

AS AMERICANS WE STAND; AS AMERICANS WE ARE UNITED

Claire Dowdle
Variety Editor

On September 11, 2001 the United States of America witnessed the worst of human nature. Americans were left clueless and fearful, feeling a loss of the security we had all taken for granted. As I stood in the hallway all night after the terrorist attack, I watched the faces of the victims on television as well as the people around me. Everyone was obviously devastated, worried, and apprehensive about what was left to come.

Throughout the last few weeks we have all witnessed the way SPA has come together as a community. People openly supported one another, all of us feeling the same. The compassion and comfort our students and faculty found in one another was astonishing. We are all lucky to attend SPA, with such a close knit group, where everyone can feel supported through the worst of tragedies. People throughout our nation and world have made an amazing effort to support and help one another in this time of crisis. 350 firefighters lost their lives trying to save victims in the World Trade Centers. As many people escaped the buildings, they stopped to help the injured or the disabled. People have lined up all over the nation to give blood to those suffering. Great Britain showed their support by playing the US national anthem for the first time during the changing of the guards. People obviously care and want to do their part to reach out.

Although this tragedy was felt strongly around the world, the people in New York City were undoubtedly hit with the shock the hardest. For those living in the city, there is no escaping it. When they look out their windows,

they see the absence of what used to be New York's signature buildings. When they talk to people on the street, it seems everyone has a horrific story to tell. There's no hiding. My brother Drew Dowdle has been living in New York for the last year. His apartment is about one mile away from the World Trade Centers. He explains the loss he felt as he watched the buildings collapse. "They were gone. Our point of reference. Our anchor. Not just damaged and in flames, but completely gone. It's been almost two weeks now, and I cannot get used to this fact. Every morning seems normal again, until I walk outside and I deal with the reality all over again as if I

just heard the news for the first time. I will accept this at some point. It will take a long time, but I will get used to not seeing them. But one thing I know for certain, New York City is forever changed. And so am I." Throughout the last few weeks he has witnessed the city in devastation. "In the wake of this pure evil, I feel I have seen mankind at its



Graphic courtesy of www.time.com

most with a woman singing "America the Beautiful," and literally everyone in the entire cathedral was sobbing. In a place where people take great pride in being strong and not showing emotion, this was truly an amazing site. The spirit and camaraderie in New York has been simply beautiful.

The way people have been rallying around each other and the city has been incredible to watch. When fire trucks go by now, people come out onto the street and cheer. I see people buying the police on the street lunch, and coffee, and anything they can to show their appreciation. Now when I walk down 5th Avenue at lunch, there are hundreds of American flags within view. People don't honk nearly as much now. People aren't fighting over taxis; they share them instead and take the opportunity to meet someone new. People on the elevator now turn to one another and ask with absolute sincerity, "How are you?" The attack is still fresh and people are struggling to figure out how to behave, but I honestly feel that this has forever changed people here, and in many ways for the better.

"I find myself swelling with pride when I see the amazing resilience of this city. Everyone is depressed and many devastated, but all refuse to be beaten. I have always been a proud Minnesotan, and will sing Minnesota's praises to anyone who will listen. But this week has solidified my love for my new home, New York City.

I know this is an extremely difficult thing to deal with across the country, not just here in New York. But we must use this terrible event as a means of bringing people together and seeing the bigger picture. There has never been an event in my lifetime that has united us as a nation. For the first time all division has evaporated. Political parties, state lines, religious affiliations, racial descent - none of this means a thing anymore. We are all united as Americans. And it feels great. We must never forget this. And now we must do what needs to be done for our children and generations to come."

The Greatest Generation Speaks Out

Emily Osthus
Opinion Editor

Once I got over the shock of Tuesday's terror, and despite the pain of all the people directly affected by the attack on Sept. 11, I thought of another group of people who I wished had not witnessed the act of terrorism. The others I am speaking of are our grandparents, the generation that lived through Pearl Harbor and WW II. However, the opinions and thoughts of experienced generations prove valuable, and also stand as a reminder that America was rebuilt once, and we can do it again. The terrorism attack has been compared to Pearl Harbor on the news and by specialists, but also by those who experienced a similar attack in WWII. I immediately thought of my grandfather, Edward Terrill, who fought at Pearl Harbor. I called him to talk about how he thought the recent attack compared to World War II, and to ask what action he thought America should take. Usually a fiery, right winged conservative with strong opinions, he surprised me in his answers. With regard to the enemy he simply said, "You wonder about the mentality and religious beliefs of someone who would go through all that. It makes you wonder what they live for." My grandfather compares the Sept. 11th attack to Pearl Harbor in many of the same ways as

others. The biggest difference was that at Pearl Harbor we knew who our enemy was, and could fight back. He also said that Pearl Harbor and WWII united the country. People gave up whatever they had, to make sure that America would come out okay. This however, is different. This is a war to find out who is responsible, and punish them. Interestingly enough, soon after Pearl Harbor, a news reporter asked my grandfather if he thought the country would ever stand that united again. Never dreaming that the country would ever experience such a great attack again, he said no.

"What we need now is better security at the airport. We need to stop as much as we can on the ground." There are many different opinions and stances regarding what steps need to be taken in retaliation. My grandfather

feels that we need to start now to try to end terrorism. He thinks that the people behind this mastermind need to be sought out and punished, without excessive bombing. He made it clear however, as have many politicians, that this is not something that will be accomplished this year or even next year. He commented that we need to prepare ourselves for delays at the airport and a long haul to achieve justice. My grandfather holds that, "we are a great and friendly country. We are very charitable." He knows that other nations will help us. Finally, he gave advice for younger generations. Having experienced a similar situation before, he said, "Be patriotic, support your country and abide by the law. We need to stand firm."



Graphic courtesy of www.time.com

In light of the recent tragedy, the Rubicon staff invites any members of the SPA community to contribute to the rebuilding of New York City. A donation box will be set up outside the deanery to collect these donations. Thank you for your consideration and our hearts are with the families of the victims. -The Rubicon

An American Tragedy: Terrorism Hits Home

Dignity for Everybody

Jeff Paller
Editor in Chief

On September 11, the United States of America became united. After the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Americans across the U.S. rushed to donate blood, volunteer at hospitals, and mourn for our country. It didn't matter whether we were African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans or Caucasians. It didn't matter whether we were male or female, rich or poor. We were all simply Americans. Except for one group: Muslim-Americans.

During a time when all other Americans were grieving, Muslim-Americans had to persuade Americans that they were grieving too. The Islamic Assembly of North America issued a news release that stated, "We condemn the killing of innocent people as much as we condemn the false accusation of other innocent people."

Muslim centers across Minnesota, including the Muslim Student Association of University of Minnesota and the Islamic Center of Minnesota were forced to give press conferences because they were afraid that they would be the targets of hate crimes, racial slurs and other negative acts in reaction to the attacks.

It is unfortunate that Muslim-Americans had to give press conferences to prove their patriotism to America. However, the acts of past events in the United States gave Muslim-Americans reason to worry. After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor (an event many are comparing to these recent terrorist attacks) the American government sent away thousands of innocent Japanese-Americans to internment camps. After the World Trade Center bombing of 1993 and the Oklahoma City bombing of 1995, Arabs were immediately blamed for the attacks. Several Muslim-Americans became victims of hate crimes and had racial slurs directed toward them.

In the United States, a country that prides itself on being a free and comfortable place for all people to live, Muslim-Americans shouldn't have to worry about their safety when they are on the street, at work, or at school. Furthermore, Muslim-Americans should be able to feel the safest at their mosques, not more threatened. After a severe tragedy like this one, Muslim-Americans should be able to grieve the same way we Americans were able to grieve, together with the rest of America. As the Islamic Assembly of America's press release perfectly stated, "Nothing justifies accusing over 1.3 billion individuals (the Muslim World

population) with terrorism or subjecting an estimated 8 million American Muslims to fear retaliation due to unjustified stereotyping and accusations."

It is very reassuring that our political leaders have quickly denounced this unfair behavior towards Muslim-Americans. Shortly after the attacks, the U.S. Senate passed 98-0 the need to protect the civil rights of Muslim-Americans. Minnesota State Senator Saaveer Chaudhary preached to Minnesotans on the Thursday after the attack, "If a white person did this, we wouldn't go out and begin attacking other white people. If a Christian did this, we wouldn't go out and begin attacking other Christians. Muslims have nothing to do with this just like you don't have anything to do with it. Please, don't respond to hatred with more hatred." President George W. Bush similarly stated, "We should not hold one who is a Muslim responsible for an act of terror."

These reminders from our political leaders have seemed to help, although several Muslim-owned businesses have received threatening phone calls and death threats.

Trees at the Islamic Center of Minnesota were covered with toilet paper and an Egyptian bus driver was physically attacked. This problem has been even greater out East, where Islamic Mosques have been vandalized and many Muslim-Americans don't feel safe taking the subway or walking the streets. Across the

country, three Muslim-Americans have been killed in what is suspected backlash against Arab-Americans. The FBI is currently working on 40 hate-crime investigations.

On the other hand, several Minnesota Muslim-Americans said they have been treated better after these attacks than they did after the Oklahoma City bombing. Muslim-Americans have received hundreds of calls of support. A student leader of the Muslim Student Association of University of Minnesota stated that he had students come up to him, ask him questions about Islam, and give him hugs. This organization also reported no acts of violence towards any Muslim-American on the university campus. It is quite comforting to know that Americans are becoming more and more sensitive to the beliefs of Muslim-Americans. U.S. citizens are taking the time to understand Islam as a religion. They are beginning to shed their fear and naivete towards Muslim-Americans. The sad thing is, this should have never been an issue.

Should America Demonstrate Forceful Retaliation? The Changing Face of War

Karon Lackner
Managing Editor

Throughout most of the 20th century, America was the world's superpower. With the most productive economy and most advanced military, it was a nation of wealth and power, bent on preserving its democratic and capitalist ways. But the terrorist attack on the most prominent symbols of American power indicated, that since then times have obviously changed. America does not have the far-reaching power it once had, and its intelligence seems to be either underfunded or unproductive. Tuesday, September 11, 2001, a day in which our country's growing vulnerability was exposed, will no doubt with more hatred." President George W. Bush similarly stated, "We should not hold one who is a Muslim responsible for an act of terror."

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From its history, we can learn two things about Al Qaeda, bin Laden's terrorist organization. First, that it is relentless. The number of attacks is indicative of its ruthlessness. But even more startling is the fact that the group has twice come back to work it has not completed. The first attempt, under heavier security, blew a hole in the middle of the ship's hull, killing several enlistees.

Indeed, after the first World Trade Center bombing, the mastermind Yousef said that the buildings were still standing because he did not have enough explosives. Coupled with its ruthlessness, Al Qaeda's widening scope of hate for America makes it one of our nation's most dangerous enemies in history. Since its inception in 1988, the terrorist group has become broader and broader in its terrorist activity. The group began attacking only American forces stationed in Saudi Arabia. In buildings and ships with the intent to kill. Al Qaeda united with several Shiite terrorist organizations in an effort to bomb the Horn of Africa. In 1996 bin Laden expressed his support of anti-American terrorism groups throughout the

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Graphic courtesy of www.illustration.com



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If we not to retaliate effort toward, the outcosurely beled attainst

We as Americans have long held the privilege of feeling safe and secure in our own country.

Retaliation would not solve... anti-american feelings in other parts of the world and the problems of terrorism itself... but rather encourage them.

implemented, or failed to implement, in protection of their citizens. Here is the paragraph I added. My personal opinion would be to omit it, but it is here if you'd like to keep it in: So how does the United States proceed from here? Clearly, we must not attack recklessly just for the sake of striking back. Instead, we should determine which terrorist organization was responsible for the incidents of September 11 and then stop at nothing to prevent them from carrying out such acts in the future. This probably means we cannot do anything less than destroy the organization completely. If nations harbor these terrorists, any actions that they take in resistance to the elimination of terrorist groups should be interpreted as their siding with terrorism. Countries are certainly allowed to manage their own affairs, but when doing so puts the entire world at risk, as harboring terrorists does, then they must understand that they are positioning themselves between the militaries of democracies of the world and the terrorists these forces seek to destroy; thus, such nations cannot expect to be spared from the same justice that targets the terrorists.