

9.11.01

five years later ...



SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

REVIVAL OF RELIGION:

After the attacks of Sept. 11, Americans looked to religion, churches for answers, causing a growth in attendance. Five years later, Texas Tech students answer why.

See Page 2



STUDENTS

RECALL

THE DAY:

Texas Tech remembers events, students share testimonies, stories, where they were when America came under attack at the hands of terrorists.

See Pages 6 & 7

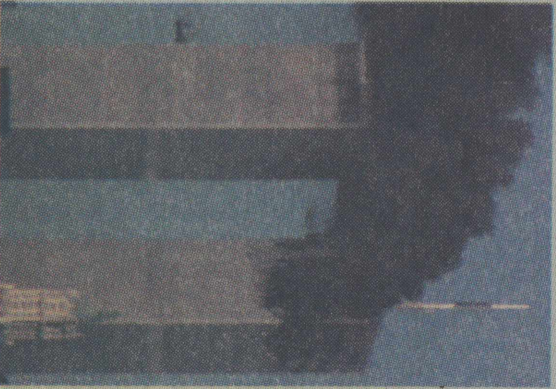


OUR JFK

ASSASSINATION:

The generation before us experienced the murder of a president. As college students, we will always remember Sept. 11, 2001, the events that changed our world, and opened our eyes.

See Page 12



Sept. 11 brought revival of religion

By ANNA SCHUMANN
STAFF WRITER

The events of Sept. 11 caused some Americans to reevaluate themselves spiritually.

According to studies conducted by The Barna Research Group, church attendance rose immediately after Sept. 11 and remained high for no more than two months following the attacks.

The study included interviews from more than 8,600 adults between January 2001 and August 2006.

According to the group's Web site at <http://www.barna.org>, research showed that attendance at some churches doubled the Sunday following Sept. 11. By January 2002, attendance had decreased to pre-attack numbers and has remained consistent since then.

Churches in Lubbock saw similar results.

Michael Passmore, senior minister at First Christian Church at 2323 Broadway Ave. said attendance increased drastically following Sept. 11 but dropped within a few months.

"We saw probably a 30 percent increase in attendance, from about 500 to maybe 780," Passmore said. "It lasted about two months."

Passmore said he believes he can speculate as to what caused both the sudden increase and the decrease in attendance that followed.

"When things are at the very worst, we tend to see the best in people," he said. "In the darkness of a crisis, once we emerged from the foxhole, people started looking for assurances in government instead."

Though the surge in attendance was brief, Passmore said he was grateful for the increased attendance.

"I'm glad they came; I'm glad we were here," he said. "We were here, we'll be here in the next crisis and every time in between."

Passmore said he was just as

angry as everyone else when the attacks happened but took special care to prevent members of his church from directing anger at the wrong places.

"We had one of our Palestinian families talk in service to prevent feelings of anger against (Arabs)," he said.

Passmore said the church will not hold a special service Monday, but he will attend the American State Bank memorial and encourage his members to do the same.

Dean Barham, college minister at Broadway Church of Christ and Christ In Action ministry, said he not only saw an increase in attendance after Sept. 11 but an increase in attention as well.

"People seemed to be open to asking deeper questions," Barham said. "People seemed to care about more than who won the football game."

Barham said he can speculate as to why church attendance and attention increased.

"Anytime what has been your foundation gets rocked, it makes you question what you are founded on," he said.

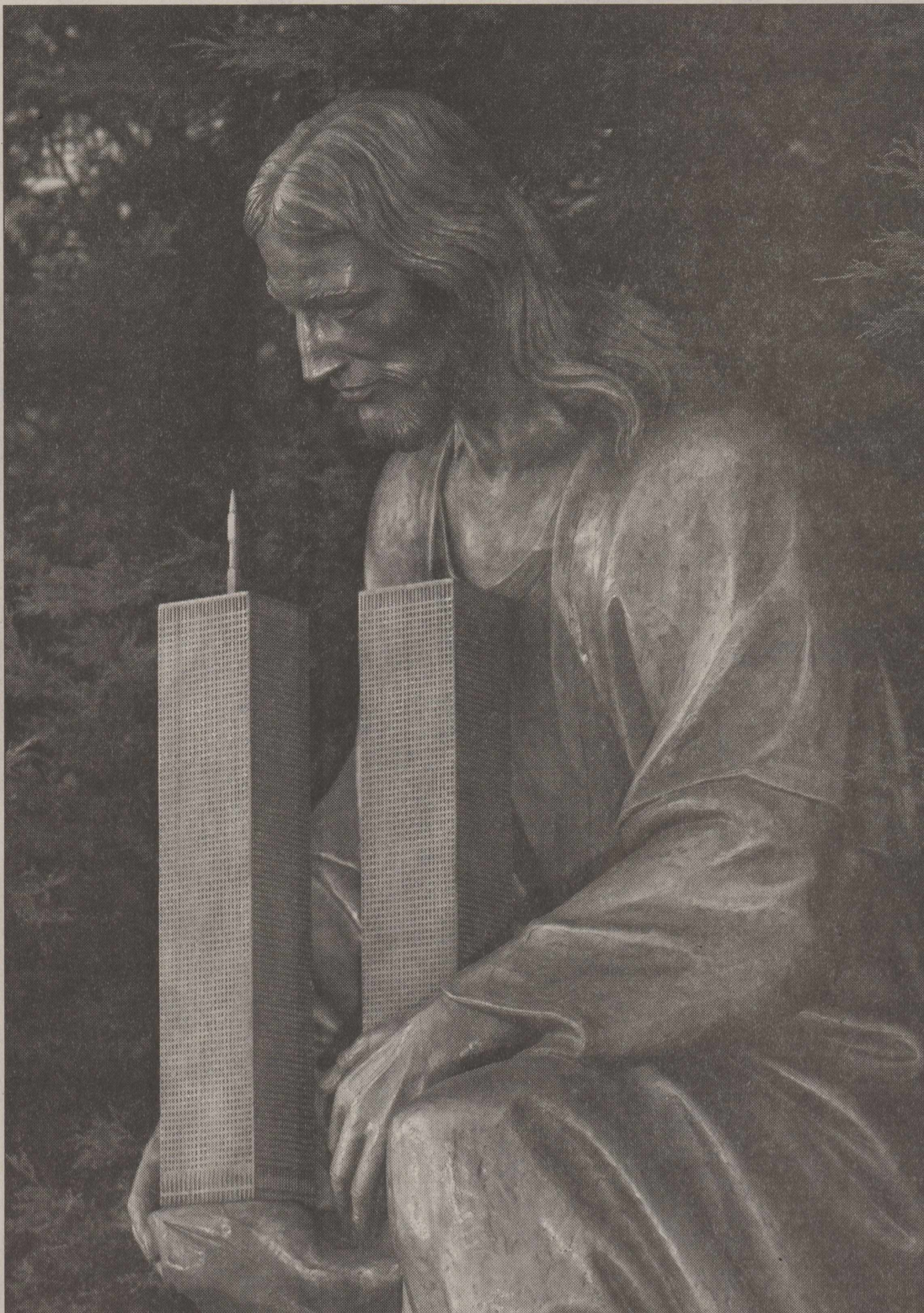
Another effect of the attacks, Barham said, was churches were forced to make sure they were doing things right. He said it was difficult for ministers to know what to say and do in that situation.

"It was hard because we were angry, too," he said. "We had to teach people that they can bring both their grief and their anger to God in prayer."

Barham said Tech's Center for Campus Life has been extremely supportive of the church's ministry efforts.

"Campus Life has recognized that there's a spiritual side of everything," he said. "They have helped us better connect with students."

Joanna Cornelius, an intern for Baptist Student Ministries, said membership in their organization did not increase after Sept. 11.



A ONE-TON, 5-foot, 6-inch statue of Jesus holding the World Trade Center towers in his hands sits in a memorial garden at St. Ephrem's Church in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, in New York. Sculpted in Italy, the statue was commissioned by family members of nine parishioners who lost loved ones in the attacks.

"Because this is a campus ministry, I don't know if it affected anything — membership didn't go down, though," Cor-

nelius said. Jenny Lemaster, campus missionary for Baptist Student Ministries, said she does not think attendance increased after Sept. 11 at her home church in Wisconsin, but her friends started acting differently.

"My non-Christian friends knew I believed in God, and more people started asking me

questions about God," she said. "People were trying to seek answers — why things happened like this."

Barham said Sept. 11 had lasting effects on individuals, directly or indirectly.

"We had people who came back and reconnected with God," he said. "Maybe not just because of 9/11, not just the tragedy, but because of what they found here."

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Read The DT online at www.dailytoreador.com

Texas Tech police blotter

Sept. 7

A student was detained for possession of drug paraphernalia by a Texas Tech police officer, issued a Lubbock County citation and then released. The incident occurred in a dorm room on campus.

A student in possession of more than one valid driver's license was detained by a Tech officer. The discovery was made after a traffic stop in the 1800 block of Tech Parkway. The student was released pending the filing of charges.

A Tech officer investigated the theft of a bench from Wall Hall which occurred sometime between 10:30 p.m. and 3:30 a.m.

A Tech officer investigated the theft of a black, red and silver men's Track 1200 21-speed, 26-inch bike. The bike was taken from a rack outside of the Biology building. The bike had been secured to the rack with a chain and padlock, both of which were also missing.

Sept. 6

The Z5-B parking lot was the site of a student getting detained for public intoxication by a Tech officer. The filing of charges with Judge Blackburn's office is pending. The student was released to a responsible party.

Sept. 5

Burnt food in the dining hall kitchen at Bledsoe Hall set off a fire alarm. The dining hall was evacuated and a Tech officer responded to the alarm.

The first floor restroom of Sneed Hall received unwanted decoration in the form of graffiti. A permanent black marker was used to write on a wall and several stall doors. Two Tech officers investigated the incident.

Derogatory comments made in a dorm room led to an investigation by a Tech officer. A student overheard the comments being made about her and reported the incident.

Three students were detained by a Tech officer at the entrance of a dorm for possession of marijuana. All of the students were released pending the filing of charges with the Lubbock District Attorney's office for possession of marijuana.

Possession of drug paraphernalia was behind a student being detained by a Tech officer. The incident occurred in a dorm room. The student was issued a Lubbock County citation and released.

A fire alarm was set off in the Texas Tech Plaza building, leading to both the Lubbock Fire Department and a Texas Tech Fire marshal responding. The alarm was triggered by an electrical motor which is located in the ceiling on the west side of the second floor. Two Tech officers also responded to the fire alarm.

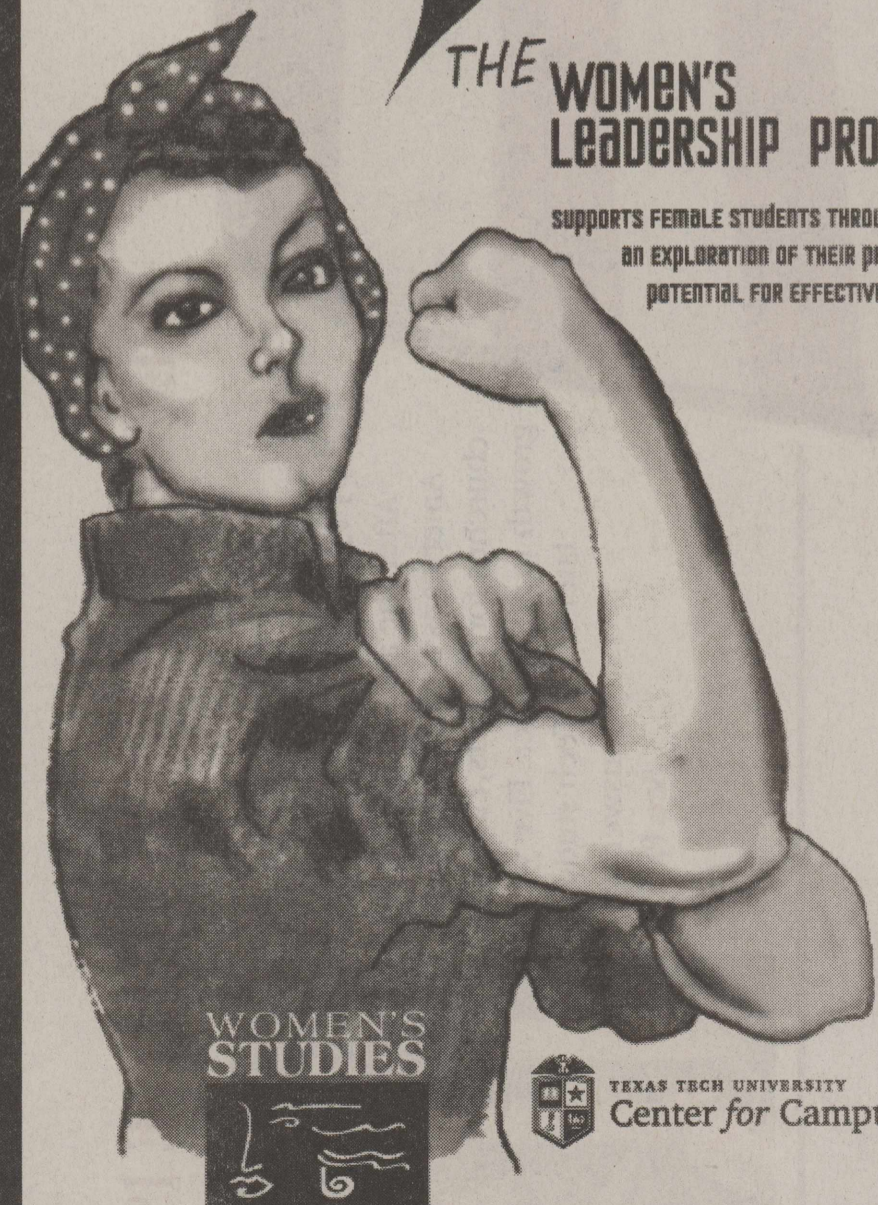
A radar detector and Sony PlayStation were stolen from a vehicle located in the Z4-P parking lot. Entry into the vehicle was gained through an open sunroof. A Tech officer investigated the burglary.

An incident of graffiti occurred in the men's restroom located in the lobby of Sam's Place in Sneed Hall. A bathroom stall received markings made with a permanent marker.

—Naomi Kaskela/Staff Writer

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Hub City prepared for possible terrorist attacks

By ANDREW GLOVER
STAFF WRITER

Although the likelihood of a terrorist attack on the Hub City is small, Lubbock and Tech officials say they are prepared for any such attack.

Jay Parchman, emergency management planner for Tech, said the chances of a plane striking a building at Tech are slim. But if attacks did occur, they would cause mass chaos like Sept. 11 in New York City and at the Pentagon.

Kevin Overstreet, emergency management planner for the City of Lubbock, said he believes the chance of a terrorist attack in Lubbock is remote.

Parchman said a terrorist attack at the university would be a high-casualty incident.

"Texas Tech doesn't have their own fire department or ambulances," Parchman said. "So we would be reliant on the city's response."

Parchman said he is not aware of an mass campus evacuation plan, but he said every building on campus has its own evacuation plan.

"It is important for each building to reduce the number of false alarms," Parchman said. "When we do sound the alarm, people will know it is the real thing."

Parchman said Tech is working on an evacuation plan for Jones AT&T Stadium to figure out how to move 50,000 people.

Overstreet said several things in Lubbock have changed since Sept. 11.

"We just added a terrorism annex to the emergency management plan," Overstreet said. "I serve as an adviser to the city mayor and the county judge. The mayor and the judge are responsible for making decisions on what to do next. All of our local law enforcement would respond in whichever way they need to, depending on the situation."

Overstreet said if there was an attack in Lubbock, the city has the proper units to respond.

"We have a regional bomb squad headed by the sheriff and homeland security funding," Overstreet said. "They are equipped with bomb robots and bomb suits. We have a Biological HAZMAT team, and we would equip that division with the necessary equipment."

Overstreet said if Lubbock had a big terrorist attack, all the emergency units would come together.

"We would assign tasks to the people on that team and let them assess the issue," Overstreet said.

Mayor David Miller said Lubbock has a system in place to react to any disaster whether it is a tornado or biological terrorism.

Overstreet said if there was a need for city officials to evacuate, the department of transportation would help.

"The department of transportation would take them on a route to an area not affected," Overstreet said. "There are parts of the plan that we do not reveal to the public because we don't want terrorists to know that information. If the city needed to be evacuated, the Department of Public Safety would head that effort."

Parchman said Tech does not have an evacuation plan for administrators. He said President Whitmore and other administrators would probably want to help instead of flee for their own safety.

Parchman said Tech does not use all of its academic space and could make accommodations if a building got damaged.

"I don't know if there is a time that we use all of the academic space we have available to us," Parchman said. "Kay Dowdy, academic facilities manager, would move classes if a building got damaged."

Overstreet said Lubbock officials would go to the state and national governments if they did not have enough resources in the city.

Parchman said Tech, Plainview, Lubbock and Levelland would participate in a regional exercise that will take place Oct. 24 through Oct. 26.

"One component of this exercise is a weapons of mass destruction incident, and we would find out what we would do in that situation," Parchman said.

Overstreet said Lubbock does have training in recovery efforts if a disaster occurred.

"We have a great plan put together including repairing damaged buildings," Overstreet said. "The important thing we would want to do is get people back to work as soon as possible."

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FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

PASSENGERS WERE FORCED to use alternate means of transportation when Lubbock International Airport cancelled several flights on Sept. 11, 2001. After five years later since the terrorist attacks, airports across the country have implemented new rules and regulations that have drawn mixed reactions by travelers.

Tightened airport security draws mixed reactions from travelers

By ANNA SCHUMANN
STAFF WRITER

Since Sept. 11, 2001, many changes have been made to better secure airports nationwide.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration Web site, there are more than 30 items prohibited on airplanes, including liquid mascara, toothpaste, gel shoe inserts and all beverages.

According to the site, bringing any of these or other prohibited items to security checkpoints is illegal, even if brought accidentally.

The site makes a few suggestions for making travel easier for passengers including cooperating with security personnel at checkpoints and reporting any suspicious behavior to authorities.

Hakan Simsek, a graduate student studying applied math from Ankara, Turkey, said he has flown to and from Turkey and Houston four times in the past year. He said he does not feel safer with airport security regulations.

"It doesn't make me more

safe," he said. "If they think they need to do that, it's OK with me. But this makes ticket prices higher because of all the security equipment."

He said preparing for flights can be harder now, and problems can occur if people do not follow the rules.

"It's harder to pack now. I completely forgot the new rules and had to wait in line to check my carry-on and almost missed my flight," Simsek said.

In order to make flying easier for passengers, Simsek said, airports should have signs explaining prohibited items posted more clearly and be willing to provide toiletries for passengers on longer flights.

"There were no signs in the airport, at least not visible, to remind me of laws," he said. "I'm a businessman. If it's a long flight, they should provide what we're missing: shaving cream, toothpaste."

Simsek said he believes following security precautions are easier for some passengers than for others.

"It's hard for some elderly to undress quickly," he said. "Maybe

they should have another line."

Simsek said despite the hassles of tightened airport security, he supports the changes that have been made.

"If it happened in my own country, I would personally support everything. I feel the same way here," he said. "Even though I'm not American, I still feel bad for them. The government should do something; if they think the security level will prevent that, I support it."

Caitlin Grann, a junior natural history and humanities and studio art major from Arlington, said she thinks airport security restrictions are crazy but necessary.

"The restrictions are ridiculous, but people do crazy things," she said.

The restrictions do not make her feel safer, she said, but she never felt unsafe at airports.

She said she thinks what airport security guards confiscate from passengers is silly.

"One time, the Lubbock airport took my toothpicks," Grann said. "And in Europe, they got mad at me for having shot glasses."

Despite the security issues, she said she still loves flying and has

no plans to stop.

Payal Patel, a junior chemistry major from Arlington, said she agrees that airport regulations are ridiculous but said she does not mind.

"The things you couldn't bring before (Sept. 11) were all common sense," Patel said. "Now, things are changing."

She said she believes these new regulations will not help prevent future attacks.

"No one can stay ahead of terrorists, but they can try," Patel said.

Patel said she believes the FAA's Web site is helpful for people preparing to travel.

"If the site gives all of the information," Patel said, "there's no reason why people should be delayed."

She said she believes it does not matter if people are inconvenienced.

"People can complain all they want, but things won't change," she said. "They don't care if you complain, and that's good."

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Minnesota woman in search of her birth parents learns her dad was a hero of Sept. 11

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — While searching for her birth parents two years ago, Mariah Mills found more than she bargained for: A hero of Sept. 11, 2001.

Mills' biological father, who had given Mills up for adoption when he and his then-girlfriend were in college, was Tom Burnett, a leader of a group that fought back on United Flight 93 before it crashed in Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, 2001.

Mills, 21, learned about her birth father in 2004 — after she turned 19, the legal age in Minnesota for requesting a birth certificate with names of birth parents — and subsequent DNA tests confirmed that Burnett was her father.

"Before I was even born, my birth dad made a brave decision — to give me a life," Mills told the St. Paul Pioneer Press in Sunday's editions. "It was a selfless act, just like his actions on Flight 93. And, as awful as it was that he died, and I never got to know him, there is good that came out of this."

Today, Mills has developed a relationship with Burnett's widow, Deena, her three daughters, husband and stepson, and other members of Burnett's family. She also celebrated her birthday with her birth mother, who lives in St. Paul with her husband and two children and asked not to be identified.

Mills transferred to the Uni-

versity of Minnesota and is entering her senior year. She will spend her first semester studying abroad. Her dream job, she said, would be writing about baseball and covering the Minnesota Twins.

Mills and her adoptive parents visited Jefferson High School in Bloomington during the spring of 2004 after Mariah found out about her birth parents. Mariah wanted to look up Tom Burnett in his senior yearbook. She found his photo and one of her birth mother, too.

"It was weird to finally look like somebody," Mills said. "I have her eyes, but mostly I look like a Burnett."

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OPINIONS

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MONDAY, SEPT. 11, 2006

WHERE WERE YOU SEPT. 11, 2001?

Seven DT columnists discuss thoughts, emotions of terrorist attacks during fifth-year anniversary

BY COLE SHOOTER
COLUMNIST

I was a sophomore at Lubbock High School on Sept. 11, 2001. Somehow I had made it to my first class at 8:40 that morning without having any idea that something was wrong. When I walked into class, the television was on and everyone was standing, craning their necks to watch the news. Still, no one really knew what was happening. Theories were flying and everyone was confused. The thought of a terrorist attack on our own country never crossed our minds.

The attack on the U.S.S. Cole in 2000 didn't surprise me much, because it was a missile destroyer. Military conflicts I could understand, but I never even thought someone would try to kill innocent Americans like this. The towers then began collapsing. Our classes were filled with watching footage of people dying and the threat that more attacks were on the way.

In Lubbock, as in the rest of the nation, most everyone was visibly shaken in a way I never had seen before. Everyone walked around in disbelief for the entire day. Even though I knew I didn't have much to worry about in the way of someone attacking Lubbock, I also felt vulnerable. I was so angry that someone would actually hate our country enough to massacre people just for going to work and living their lives. So mad, I couldn't have a rational thought as what was going to happen next.

For weeks after the attacks, it was difficult to think of much else. After I had become numbed to the horror of what happened, I visited the site in 2003. Seeing the area around what was once the massive towers reduced to a plywood alley caused what I had felt that day to come back as I approached. At ground zero, nobody spoke. I stared at the mural painted on a neighboring building overlooking the crater, and read the messages people had left on the walls constructed for people to write notes on.

I just couldn't believe that the place where the world watched as terrorism dealt a horrific blow to our lives was the same somber construction zone at which I was standing. I don't know that I'll ever be able to recall exactly what went through my mind, or exactly how I felt. I hope and pray that with what has happened, we can prevent terrorist attacks from murdering our innocent citizens again and we bring swift and harsh justice to anyone who wishes to.

BY TREY CALIVA
COLUMNIST

My morning of Sept. 11, 2001, started as a typical Tuesday. I woke up, showered and got dressed for class. But as I was leaving my residence hall room, I noticed several guys huddled into one room. "What's going on?" I asked. I was met by the same answer from everyone: "You have to see this." When I finally saw the images with my own eyes, I understood what had transfixed them. There on live television was one of the towers of the World Trade Center, a hole in the side, with thick black and grey smoking billowing from the building.

Murmurs around the room echoed the confusion of the news broadcasters covering the story. I immediately rushed from the room to wake my roommate. Whatever was going on, this wouldn't be something to sleep through. No sooner than I entered my room and turned on the TV did I see the second plane slam into the second tower of the World Trade Center.

Never before have I seen a coming together of people as much as I did that day. TVs were literally everywhere on the Tech campus. Every student, professor, and worker was glued to the unfolding horror of the day. I never had talked to that many complete strangers until that day. In the Student Union Building and the cafeterias, there were open discussions going on about what was going to happen. People were consoling and helping complete strangers.

My most poignant memory of 9/11 comes not from the day itself, but rather, the day after during the first Goin' Band rehearsal after the attacks. Instead of our typical warm-up, then-director Keith Bearden distributed copies of America the Beautiful. We played through it once and then were released for the day. Since that day, I've never heard the Goin' Band play as emotional as we did that day, and I doubt that it ever will. Together 400 people were able to share an intensely emotional moment to somehow respond to what had happened.

Expressing initial reactions to witnessing the attacks on America unfold is rather ridiculous. Everyone had the same reaction that day. Anyone who doesn't admit to being shocked, scared or worried about what was going to happen next is lying. Your real measure in the aftermath of such a tragedy comes in the months and years that follow. We all have endured through these past five years. Although the pain and the memories of the day never will fade, we can always have comfort in knowing that we came through it, together.

BY ADRIAN MARTINEZ
COLUMNIST

In much the same way as my grandparents' generation remembers what they were doing when news of Pearl Harbor reached their ears, I remember the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, as vividly as ever, even half a decade later. I was walking from the marching band field back to the school, talking with my director, discussing the kinds of things that drum majors and band directors discuss. As we entered the band hall, we noticed something that we had never noticed before — silence. All attention was sternly focused on the television that displayed a building we all recognized on fire and ready to collapse.

Many of the football players had been watching from the locker-room television as the second plane hit. Before then many people believed that the first collision was an accident. By the time I had heard the news, everyone knew that a second crash meant only one thing — an attack. Administrators called out over the announcement system for all teachers to turn off their televisions. The live footage was deemed too graphic for students to watch. We were left with the silence and awkwardness of not having something to hold our attention. The painful, uncomfortable feeling of teachers not knowing what to say saturated every room. We were left alone with our thoughts.

I remember immediately analyzing the situation and calling to mind the usual suspects. My first thought was that this was a domestic attack, much like the Oklahoma City Bombing, but on a larger scale. At this point I had no real familiarity with al-Qaida, Osama Bin Laden or the Taliban regime. I never expected an attack like this could come from the other side of the world. All I knew was innocent people were dead and nothing in the world was going to change that now.

Obviously we know a great deal more about what really happened, but the effects extend well beyond the death and destruction that was caused that day. My feeling of the significance of that event also has evolved over the last five years. America now is constantly attempting to balance the importance of maintaining freedom while improving security. Some feel that with the freedoms and successes that our country enjoys, an attack of this magnitude was inevitable. Every day I'm more inclined to agree with them. But, that doesn't mean we should stop trying to prevent one.

BY JEREMY GLIDEWELL
COLUMNIST

I remember Sept. 11 pretty clearly. The first plane hit just before 8 a.m., so I was already in class. I had a friend, however, who was habitually tardy, and he usually walked in with an excuse. This time was different; his expression was one of noticeable shock. He walked in and asked the teacher of our blow-off class (this was our senior year of high school) if we could watch the news. She seemed bemused and asked why. Then he told us what he had heard on the radio.

My first thought was, "Was the pilot drunk? How do you miss the runway that badly?" Then, the second plane hit. I had thought it was an accident because nowhere in my frame of thought would I have ever thought of anyone using an airplane as a missile. By now, it was clear that there was something awful happening.

I walked into my next class and watched one of the towers collapse. At this point, the teacher says something to the effect of, "I don't care about the rules, I'm praying. Anyone that wants to join may do so." I was honestly too shocked to say much of anything, so I just listened as they prayed in wavering voices.

At this point the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine took credit for the attacks, and I immediately turned to my friend, Joe Biles, and said, "Palestinian Communists?!? Palestinian Communists did this?"

United 93 crashes soon after. At this point, we weren't sure that this plane was even related to the other two. Joe speculated that, since the plane was pointed in the general direction of Washington, D.C., it was probably headed for the White House. He was almost right.

If I were in college, I would have skipped my classes that day. Since I was in high school, we simply didn't do anything. The day was filled with classes huddled around televisions, watching the events unfold, etching them in our memory. One day, our children will ask us that fateful question, "Where were you?"

In retrospect, my first thought wasn't too far off. The pilots were drunk. They were drunk on hubris and hate and delusion. Now we must "deny them the bottle" that is their recruiting tool. We must repair our relationships with Middle Eastern countries in the hopes that there is not another day like Sept. 11.

BY CHRIS KELLERMAN
COLUMNIST

It's hard to imagine that one day, in the not-so-distant future, people will hear the words "the Sept. 11 attacks" and think of it only as a major event in American history. They will be able to name the targets hit, the group responsible for the attacks and what happened afterward.

They won't talk about Donna Bowen. They won't mention Andrew Garcia, Faustino Apostol or Karen Martin. It was for these people, however, that we shed tears in September 2001. They are among the nearly 3,000 who were killed by terrorist attacks that day — and how soon we forgot their names.

Textbooks will show the faces of Osama bin Laden and the hijackers. They'll show the faces of President Bush and Condoleezza Rice, but they won't show Lisa Frost and Joe Ferguson. And why would they? It is impossible to expect anyone to know 3,000 names and recognize their faces. It is impossible to expect future generations to understand the grief we all felt after Sept. 11, 2001. To explain the American spirit following 9/11 will be very difficult.

We cannot, however, back away from it. We must remember it all. Assassinations of presidents and civil rights leaders are memorialized properly with special days commemorating them, and their names are attached to those days. We cannot do that with the victims, but we must find a way. We must look at the names and the faces, we must read their stories and we must grieve with those who still grieve for their loved ones. We must not let that day turn into "a big event" in American history. Can you name anyone killed at Pearl Harbor, or just that it was a "date which will live in infamy"?

We cannot let the Sept. 11 attacks turn into another Pearl Harbor. We must memorialize the victims. There are reasons: to fight tyranny, to prepare ourselves for the future, to help secure that American patriotism that was felt so strongly after the attacks. One reason stands above all: it is simply the right thing to do.

President Bush said, "Every one of the innocents who died on September the 11th was the most important person on Earth to somebody. Every death extinguished a world." We must honor the memory of those innocents. It is our challenge. It is our responsibility.

BY MATT WISNEWSKI
COLUMNIST

"Never say never" truly encompasses my Sept. 11 experience. Never did I envision the destruction I saw that day ever happening in the U.S. Never did I think I would see our nation's military headquarters brought down. A building thought to be impregnable, crumbled in front of the entire world. Most importantly, never did I imagine our country could be so united by such a malicious act of terror.

I choose to remember Sept. 11, 2001, as a day that brought America together. We saw others, who we might have snickered at before, as Americans. For the immediate weeks after Sept. 11, we were the people we always wanted to be. We were polite to our neighbors. We paid extra attention to our children's needs. And we took time out to sincerely thank the people who made a difference in our lives.

Sept. 11, 2001, showed a nation that was once thought itself to be invincible that it really isn't. The mighty Atlantic could not protect us from the horrific events that mercilessly plague other human beings. Sept. 11 showed all that we have can be taken away instantly.

On that day, I was a naive and sheltered 15-year-old sophomore in suburbia. Clothing, girls and sports were my only care. By the end of the day, I woke up to the realities of the world. The world is a dangerous place full of compassionless and cold-hearted humans who would not shed a tear if you were to die. You must be cautious of your surroundings and skeptical of what you are told. That's a hard reality for a 15-year-old to grasp.

When asked, I will tell people that Sept. 11 was truly the best and the worst of times. Amidst the sheer horror that was brought to our nation's most vital cities, we became resolute in helping those impacted by the event.

Record amounts of money and blood were donated to the victims. Partisanship in Washington fell by the wayside as all of Congress sang patriotic songs on the steps of Capitol Hill. Miracles were performed that day.

The hearts and minds of America were attuned to the needs of those who would not get a call from their loved ones again. This is how I choose to remember Sept. 11.

BY RICARDO RAMIREZ
COLUMNIST

I was sick with a high fever in my residence hall room on my freshman year, and I had been sleeping for most of the morning. I woke up, somewhat disoriented, to my roommate bursting in the room, alarmed by the attack on our nation. I tried to make sense of his words while not fully awake and high on medication. Then the television showed airplanes flying into buildings. Then, American flags rose everywhere.

Since then, I have been disappointed at the length to which Islamic fundamentalists have taken their misinterpretation of the Quran. While religion is meant to complement and enhance life, their take on Islam trivializes life and calls for the utmost sign of hatred — murder. By imposing their will on other people, terrorists adopt the same imperialist behavior they criticize of America. In the process, they make it easier for ignorant people to stereotype everything Islamic and Arabic.

And then there's us. We are the good guys. We fix everything that comes our way; we do it, fast, efficiently and with money. We make our surroundings look nice. We get rid of the old and replace it with the new. We even smile to strangers. We simplify things. We draw the line between good and evil, and then we trace it around the world. We are not that complicated. It's quite simple, actually. We just make things OK.

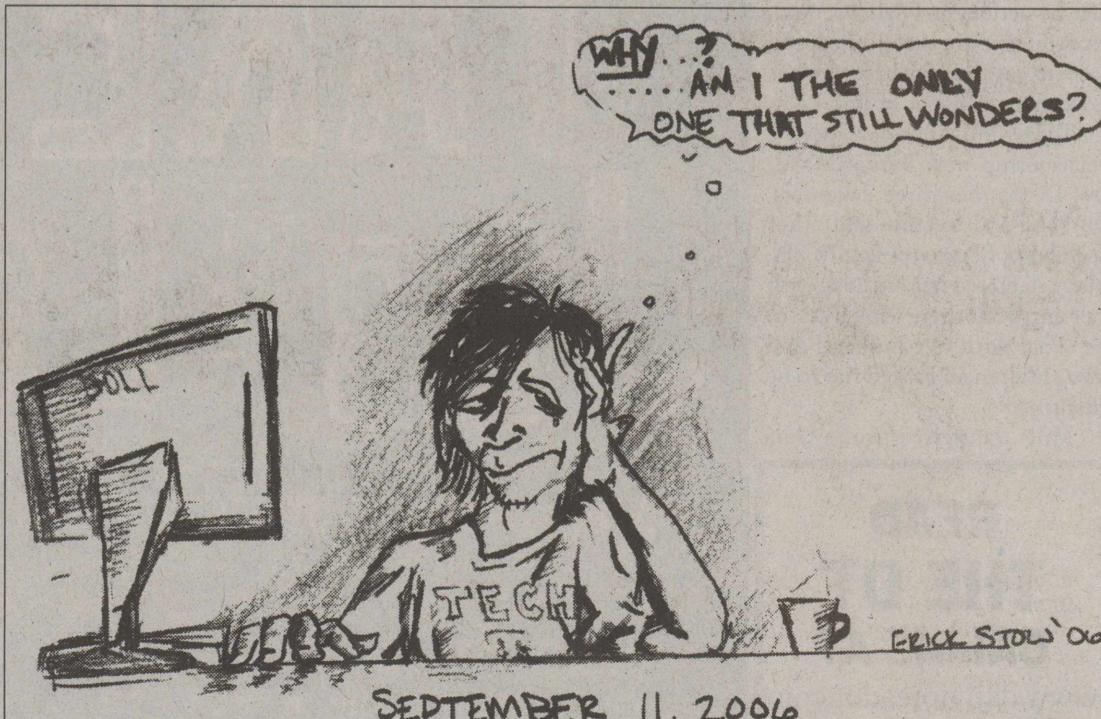
Ghostly things happen when we trace lines to simplify things into good and evil. We equated al-Qaida with Iraq and therefore war is OK. Wait — we are after their weapons. No. We are now spreading freedom, American-style; everyone must want it. We are giving it to Iraq because we are that humanitarian, and we care for them that much. However, Iraqis, if we see you (or something Arabic) in an airport, be careful: you may get tackled.

When I think of Sept. 11, I would like to first think of all the victims and their families. Please excuse me, but I cannot help linking it with everything that has happened between then and now. I am the result of this generation and, like you, Sept. 11 has dictated the world I live in. You can blame the media's twisted coverage of the government's misleading rhetoric. Or you can blame my judgment, whichever you want. After all, I may be doing a disservice to our country by not being quiet.



"No One Ever Told Me
That Grief Felt So Like Fear."

—C.S. Lewis



New Yorkers look back at close calls the morning of Sept. 11

By NAOMI KASKELA
STAFF WRITER

Douglas Haak, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Queens, remembers every detail of the morning of Sept. 11.

"We had the TV on 'Good Morning America,' the usual wake up," Haak said, "when we saw the interruption about something hitting the trade tower."

Haak, spending a couple of days off in Long Island with family, was immediately drawn to the reports surfacing on every channel.

"As we were watching, we saw the second plane hit," he said. "At that time we realized it was no accident."

With this news, his vacation was cut short.

Amy Hitotsubashi, a resident of Brooklyn, started her morning off like Haak, without realizing what was about to happen.

"The super in my building was supposed to fix the sink in my kitchen," Hitotsubashi said. "He came in and announced that one of the towers was hit by a plane. I thought he was foolish."

However, she turned on the radio and heard that the second tower was hit. The super had gone to get tools and had stopped on the roof of the building to look toward the World Trade Center, and without realizing it, he saw the second plane hit, she said.

Immediately after the report of the second hit, Hitotsubashi went into the hallway of her apartment building and encountered a neighbor who came running out of her apartment.

"(She) said, 'I would have been there. I would have been there, but I overslept,'" Hitotsubashi said.

Since the attacks, stories of close calls such as this have been all over the news. Many people who were in the area or knew someone who was in the area have tales to tell, and Haak is no exception.

"A member of the congregation couldn't go to work because she had just adopted two boys from Russia, and they couldn't get into (a nursery yet)," Haak said. "She was watching her boys, and she lost her whole department on the 86th floor. Because she adopted these boys, she didn't die."

The stories of survival and death do not stop here for Hitotsubashi.

An acquaintance of Hitotsubashi dropped her daughter off at school that morning. The school was located in what is now "Ground Zero."

"(The students) were being evacuated into another school building," she said. "The teacher told the kids not to look up. Of course, some of the kids did, and they saw the people being hurled down."

A memory that stands out in her mind is the manner in which the acquaintance's daughter described the process of moving, she said.

"(She said) we were walking with our teachers and scream-crying as we were walking to the next place," Hitotsubashi said.

After the second plane hit, Haak immediately started to call his parishioners, especially those who he knew would be in the area of the attack.

"I started placing phone calls to parishioners in Queens, trying to say, 'Where is... where is...,'" he said. "But I couldn't get through."

He finally did get in contact with a parishioner whose son worked in the hotel in the World Trade Center and learned that the son was running for his life, he said. While this man survived, Haak's congregation was not free from casualties.

"We did lose one member," he said.

The member was a New York fire fighter. Haak attended the memorial service and the burial after the fire fighter's body was recovered, he said.

The picture of the FDNY chaplain struck closer to home for Haak than most.

"The picture was taken by a son of my congregation," he said. "He was shell-shocked. He had raced down there when the first plane hit and then went to file the picture. Then he raced back down when the second plane hit."

Haak said he will always remember an act of kindness by comedian Ray Romano of "Everybody Loves Raymond."

At a funeral Haak attended, Romano picked up the tab for the 500 plus guests present because the funeral was for a childhood friend, Haak said.

The people were not the only things which affected Hitotsubashi or Haak, the sights and smells also played a role in not letting them forget.

"It was the remains of the people in the buildings that were blowing across the river in the ashes," Hitotsubashi said.

Only one time did Hitotsubashi and her family attempt to see what was happening at the World Trade Center. At the end of the street, they were once able to get a clear view.

"It was all a haze of smoke," she said. "We couldn't see. We decided we didn't want to try anymore."

For Haak, the atmosphere in Queens changed immensely right after the attacks.

"It was just a surreal, surreal atmosphere," he said. "We had ash on our windowsill."

On a trip through a neighboring state with his wife, Haak was immediately struck by the difference between what he was seeing and what was happening in New York.

In New York, Haak said there were flags everywhere, but in this state there were none.

"I remember feeling somewhat horrified," Haak said. "Don't these people realize what took place in New York?"



KATHY WILLENS/AP Photo

A WOMAN REACTS to a third explosion, possibly the collapse of the World Trade Center towers, while observing from the Brooklyn Promenade, which provides a view of the Manhattan skyline Sept. 11, 2001, in New York.

For Amy Drew, a graduate student in mathematics from Rochester, N.Y., the attacks did not hit as closely to home as one would imagine.

"Obviously the whole nation was affected," she said. "But Rochester was no more affected than California."

She said she did remember watching TV, but did not watch as much as those around her. She said she does remember hearing people constantly talk of the victims jumping from the towers.

A closer connection to Sept. 11 is made through her uncle who went to New York City to help in the cleaning process.

Haak said a friend of his, who is a retired police officer, is now sick because he too was involved in the cleaning process.

Although she is from New York

state, Drew has never been to New York City, but she said it is a good possibility that she eventually will go to the city. She also said that she thinks she will visit ground zero.

For Hitotsubashi, the possibility of visiting has already been realized, and for Haak it never will.

"I just went to kind of walk there and pay my respects," Hitotsubashi said.

She also stood on a nearby sidewalk with members of her congregation and sang Christmas carols.

"Some people rushing home, they paused," she said.

Haak said he will never go back to visit ground zero, although he once frequented the World Trade Center.

The degrees to which Drew, Haak and Hitotsubashi were affected vary, but each one realizes the importance of the anniversaries

of the attacks.

As for the fifth anniversary specifically, Haak said it is difficult every year.

"There is a very mixed reaction among people here in Queens about observing the fifth anniversary," he said. "They want it low key because talking about it, thinking about it is a horror. An absolute horror."

Both Haak and Hitotsubashi look to the future for healing.

"I think that it shows something," Hitotsubashi said. "That those who experienced it can't talk about it anymore."

The media and politicians were both cited by Haak as reasons for the delay in the healing process.

"Each anniversary opens the wound again," he said. "In time the wound will heal."

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Florence strengthens into hurricane, heads for Bermuda

HAMILTON, Bermuda (AP) — Florence intensified into the second hurricane of the Atlantic season Sunday as it headed for Bermuda, where residents installed storm shutters and hauled their yachts onto beaches.

Florence was expected to reach the tiny British territory Monday, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami. But was too early to tell whether it will make a direct hit.

The Category 1 hurricane, which had had maximum sustained winds near 80 mph early Sunday, was expected to become a Category 2 hurricane as it passes Bermuda, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

The storm was expected to veer away from the U.S. coast as it turns north toward Bermuda, but forecasters said its large size could also create high surf and rip currents along parts

of the eastern seaboard.

"Those waves will affect a good portion of the U.S. East Coast from basically Florida all the way up to the Cape Cod area" starting Sunday through the early part of next week, hurricane specialist Stacy Stewart said. "When those large swells come rolling in to the coastline they tend to produce dangerous and potentially deadly rip currents."

In Bermuda, skies turned gray and waves began to build Sunday morning as gusty winds blew in spits of rain.

Bermuda issued a hurricane warning, and the government urged its 65,000 residents to take precautions. The hurricane center said tropical storm force winds could hit the North Atlantic Island by Sunday afternoon.

"We are asking residents to please stay home. We are urging the public's cooperation so that emergency ve-

hicles will have free passage on the roads," Derrick Burgess, minister of public safety, said at a news conference. "Also, we are discouraging the public from sightseeing as this puts everyone at risk."

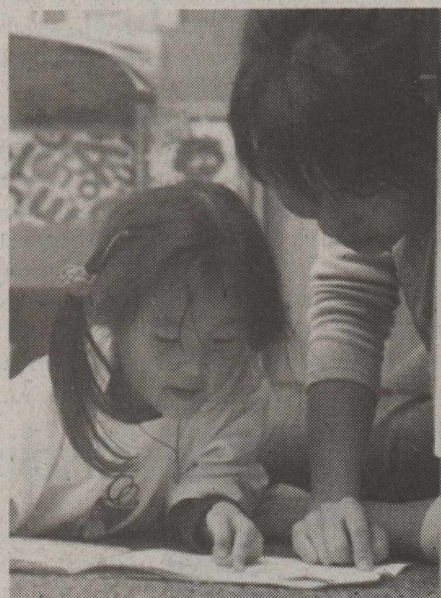
He also encouraged the public to stock up on hurricane supplies and secure their homes, lawn furniture and any other loose items which could be affected by high winds.

At 11 a.m. EDT, the center of the hurricane was about 255 miles south-southwest of Bermuda and was moving toward the north-northwest near 13 mph.

The hurricane center said Bermuda was expected to get 5 to 8 inches of rain, with up to 10 inches possible in some areas.

Shopkeepers and homeowners boarded up windows and doors, with one closed flower shop bearing the sign: "We've gone away to chase away Florence. Back Tuesday."

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Timeline of Flight 11

8:00 a.m.: American Airlines Flight 11, carrying 81 passengers and 11 crew members, begins its takeoff from Logan Airport in Boston, Mass., en route to Los Angeles.

8:21 a.m.: American Flight 11 turns off its transponder.

8:24 a.m.: This transmission comes from American 11: "We have some planes. Just stay quiet, and you'll be OK. We are returning to the airport." ("We have some planes," was unintelligible.) Seconds later another statement follows: "Nobody move. Everything will be okay. If you try to make any moves, you'll endanger yourself and the airplane. Just stay quiet."

8:37 a.m.: Boston Center informs NORAD of American 11's hijacking. It is the first notice the military receives of the unfolding events.

8:46 a.m.: American 11 crashes into the World Trade Center North Tower.

8:48 a.m.: The Federal Aviation Administration's New York Center, unaware of American 11 crashing, talks to the FAA Command Center in a teleconference concerning that flight.

10:28 a.m.: The World Trade Center North Tower collapses from the top down.

Timeline of Flight 175

8:14 a.m.: United Airlines Flight 175, carrying 56 passengers and nine crew members on board, takes off from Logan Airport in Boston, Mass.

8:41 a.m.: United 175 enters New York airspace.

8:47 a.m.: United 175 changes its transponder code twice. The changes go unnoticed because the same controller assigned to it is looking for American 11.

8:51 a.m.: The controller notices a change in the transponder code from United 175. The plane does not respond to repeated requests to change it back.

8:53 a.m.: The air traffic controller tells a peer there is a second hijacking and United 175 is unaccounted for. The controller begins diverting planes from the path of United 175.

9:03 a.m.: United Airlines Flight 175 crashes into the South Tower of the World Trade Center.

10:05 a.m.: The World Trade Center South Tower collapses.

Timeline of Flight 77

8:20 a.m.: American Flight 77 takes off from Dulles International Airport.

8:50 a.m.: The military receives word that a plane has hit the World Trade Center. At the same time, American 77 ceases communication with air traffic controllers.

8:54 a.m.: FAA Indianapolis air controllers notice American 77 deviating from its flight plan. The flight does not respond to contacts, and controllers are unaware of the hijacking and crash in New York.

8:56 a.m.: American 77 turns off its transponder.

9:00 a.m.: FAA Indianapolis notifies agencies that American 77 is missing, possibly crashed and seeks military help for a search and rescue.

9:10 a.m.: American 77 enters FAA Washington Center space but goes undetected for 36 minutes as the FAA checks westerly points for the craft.

9:20 a.m.: FAA Indianapolis learns about the other hijackings and becomes suspicious about American 77.

9:32 a.m.: Dulles terminal spots a suspicious aircraft and notifies the Secret Service. An unarmed National Guard cargo plane begins following American 77. Cleveland Center receives another transmission on the frequency from where there was screaming: "Keep remaining sitting. We have a bomb on board."

9:38 a.m.: American 77, with 58 passengers, four flight attendants and two pilots, crashes into the Pentagon. The National Guard pilot reports the crash to Washington's terminal facility. The Langley jets are 150 miles away.

10:10 a.m.: Part of the Pentagon collapses.

Timeline of Flight 93

8:42 a.m.: United Flight 93 takes off from the airport in Newark, N.J.

9:28 a.m.: The FAA receives its last normal communication from United 93.

9:29 a.m.: FAA Cleveland Control Center hears screams and struggles from an unknown source and someone yelling, "Get out of here! Get out of here!" The control center notices United 93 has dropped 700 feet.

9:30 a.m.: President Bush, speaking in Sarasota, Fla., says the country has suffered an "apparent terrorist attack." Cleveland Center polls other flights to determine if they heard the screaming at 9:29. Several report they did.

9:34 a.m.: FAA notified that United 93 might have a bomb on board. Until 10:08, Cleveland Center provides FAA updates on United 93's course.

9:36 a.m.: NORAD learns of a suspicious aircraft a few miles from the White House and orders the Langley fighter jets back to Washington. Cleveland Center asks whether anyone has requested military interception of United 93.

9:39 a.m.: A radio transmission from United 93 crosses. It is the voice of hijacker Ziad Jarrah: "Uh, is the captain. Would like you all to remain seated. There is a bomb on board and are going back to the airport."

9:41 a.m.: FAA Cleveland Center loses United 93's transponder signal, but uses visual sightings from other planes to track its turn east, then south.

9:46 a.m.: Command Center notifies FAA headquarters that United 93 was 29 minutes away from Washington, D.C.

10:01 a.m.: Command Center tells FAA headquarters that another aircraft had seen United 93 "waving his wings." It's believed to be evidence of the passengers' efforts to overpower the hijackers.

10:03 a.m.: United 93 crashes in Somerset County, Penn., southeast of Pittsburgh.

THE DAY NO ONE



AFTER THE WORLD Trade Center's North and South Towers collapsed, an image from a satellite was taken to show the devastation involved with the tragedy. Faculty members and Lubbock residents remember the tragedy felt on the day America was attacked.

Five years later, Texas Tech students, fac

BY JOSH HULL
STAFF WRITER

When American Airlines flight 11 slammed into the north tower, the world never be the same.

Five years later, faculty, staff and students at Texas Tech have a different perspective. Daniel Gates, a freshman architecture major from The Woodlands, arrived home that he became aware something had happened. "I wasn't really sure about what was going on," Gates said. He said he believes the last five years have given the world a chance to get things resolved. "I think some things have changed with our national intelligence. I know we're still in Afghanistan, but we've made progress. Some students feel the steps the United States have taken

Destiny Chandler, a freshman business major from Bastrop, said she feels awareness has risen in the U.S., but awareness might not be enough.

"Airports are safer and we are more aware of the situation, but conditions have not improved," Chandler said. "America is more safe at home, but things in the rest of the world have not improved. The threat is still there."

She said she believed until America mends its relations with the other nations of the world, security in the U.S. will not be what it needs to be.

Shannon Boyd, a graduate student from Paris, Texas, said the feeling of insecurity he felt when he first heard of the attacks is something he will not soon forget, but he wishes he could.

"I was in first period for band practice when one of our directors came running out in the parking lot and said we were under attack," Boyd said. "I was scared because all I heard was we were under attack. It wasn't until I saw what happened that I realized that this was a one-hit kind of thing."

He said he believes America is safer than it was before the attacks, but Americans should not become too comfortable because being this is how the U.S. was able to be attacked in the first place.

"I saw the World Trade Center movie, and I think we're safer than we were before that," Boyd said. "I'm still nervous because they outsmarted us the first time, and if we aren't careful, they could do it again."

Jarred Dodd, a freshman arts and sciences major from Sulphur Springs, said he agrees the threat of future attacks is far from being a thing of the past.

"I was in my eighth grade Spanish class when I first heard of the attacks," Dodd said. "I'm from a small town, and at first I had no knowledge of what was going on, and it was scary."

He said he feels safer now since the U.S. has improved security in airports, but it would be foolish for America not to expect new and different forms of attack.

"I think awareness is up, but I definitely think they can find ways around our security," Dodd said. "Aircraft aren't the only things they could hurt our country with."

Some at Tech see the five-year anniversary as an unexpected milestone in the history of Sept. 11, but feel the future is still very much unknown.

Brianna Toney, a graduate instructor of history, said when the attacks first

PEOPLE RUN FROM the collapse of World Trade Center Tower Sept. 11, 2001 in New York.

SUZANNE PLUNKETT/AP Photo



Timeline of U.S.

9:17 a.m.: The Federal Aviation Administration closes all airports.

9:25 a.m.: The FAA issues a nationwide alert.

9:42 a.m.: The FAA orders all aircraft to land at the nearest airport.

9:45 a.m.: The White House is evacuated.

9:57 a.m.: Bush departs Florida for Washington, D.C.

10:24 a.m.: The FAA announces that all flights to and from the United States are being diverted to other airports.

10:45 a.m.: All federal offices are closed.

10:52 a.m.: Washington-area area administration spokeswoman says that the towers are still standing.

11:02 a.m.: New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani says that the towers are still standing.

NO ONE WILL FORGET



COURTESY IMAGE/NASA Satellite Image

...d with the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Smoke billows out from the spot where the World Trade Center towers once stood. After five years, students,

Faculty remember the attacks of Sept. 11

BY JOSH HULL
STAFF WRITER

...north tower of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, one thing was certain: The world would

...Tech have a variety of feelings about the anniversary of the attacks.

...The Woodlands, said he remembers Sept. 11 as being an ordinary day at school. It was not until he

...happened.

...Toney said. "I knew things wouldn't be the same, and I knew we would do something about it."

...the world a chance to adjust, but there is more work to be done.

...intelligence, things that have made America safer," Gates said. "I think we could be doing more to

...but we need to stop getting distracted and stop linking Iraq to 9/11."

...re taken to improve security are necessary, but they have not improved the safety of America.

...happened she did not give much thought to the future.

... "I didn't give five years later a lot of thought then, because it was all so

...scary," Toney said. "I guess because of the impact of it, everything was just

...so jarred."

...She said she believes the events of the last five years have been a distraction

...from what the U.S. originally set out to do.

... "There have been so many changes and so many sidetracks in the last five

...years, I really have no clue what's going to happen down the road," Toney

...said. "It's like 9/11 isn't even the focus anymore."

...Michael Shonrock, vice president for Student Affairs, said his first thoughts

...after the attacks were with the students of Tech, and how the university

...would respond.

... "The world as I knew it, as we knew it on Sept. 10, would never be the

...same," Shonrock said. "Our thoughts, hearts and prayers were with the families

...and survivors, but we had to focus on how we as a campus community were

...to respond."

...He said the students' reaction to the tragedy showed him the true nature

...of the incident and how it affected everyone who heard about it.

... "I still recall all the different student groups that wanted to jump in the

...car and drive to New York," Shonrock said. "People were wanting to help,

...they just weren't sure how best to do that."

...He said he believes the events of Sept. 11 have given the world a unique

...opportunity to become unified in a way it never has before, despite all the

...work everyone still faces to achieve that goal.

... "Regardless of your politics, lives are being impacted each day," he said.

... "This is a time for us to become a world family. It's hard because it elicits an

...emotional response from all of us."

...Shonrock said despite all the tragedy the world has endured over the last

...few years, he hopes people can one day put the tragedy behind them.

... "One thing I'm always proud of is the resolve of the people in our nation,"

...he said. "It builds hope for the future, and we need to continue to give people

...hope. My hope is that when (students) are my age that this is just a chapter

...in a history book."

▶ josh.hull@ttu.edu

Timeline of U.S. Government Response

...Federal Aviation Administration shuts down all New York City area

...issues: a nationwide ground stop of all aircraft.

...A orders all airborne craft to land at the nearest airport.

...the House is evacuated.

...parts Florida for Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana.

...A announces that all inbound trans-Atlantic aircraft into the

...ing diverted to Canada.

...eral office buildings in Washington are evacuated.

...gton-area airports have been closed, a Federal Aviation Admin-

...an says.

...rk City Mayor Rudy Giuliani orders the evacuation of the area

...Trade Center.

1:04 p.m.: Bush, speaking from Barksdale Air Force Base, La., says the U.S. military

...has been put on high alert worldwide. He asks for prayers for those killed or wounded

...in the attacks: "Make no mistake, the United States will hunt down and punish those

...responsible for these cowardly acts," he said.

1:48 p.m.: Bush leaves Barksdale aboard Air Force One and flies to Offutt Air Force

...Base in Omaha, Neb.

5:20 p.m.: World Trade Center Tower 7 collapses.

6:41 p.m.: Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld holds a news conference at the Pen-

...tagon. Rumsfeld announces the Pentagon will re-open for business today.

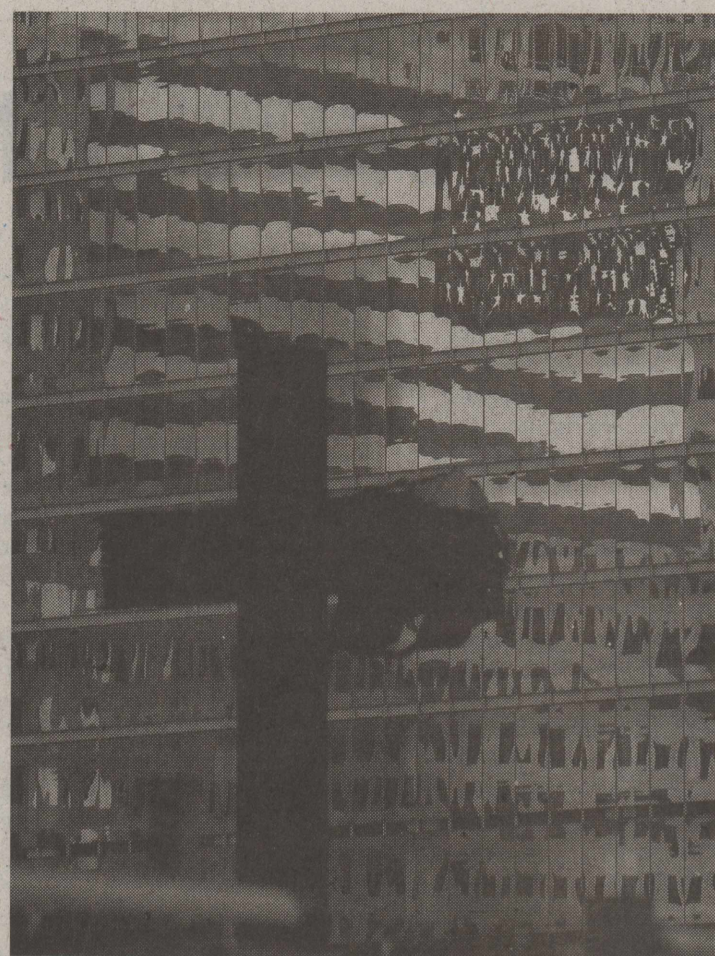
6:54 p.m.: Bush returns to the White House from Omaha.

7:15 p.m.: In a White House briefing, Attorney General John Ashcroft said, "We

...will not tolerate such acts."

8:30 p.m.: President Bush addresses the nation from the Oval Office.

SOURCE: CNN reports, 9/11 Commission Hearings



DIMA GAVRYSH/AP Photo

AMERICAN FLAG IS reflected in the World Trade Center 7 Tower Sunday in New York. Monday marks the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks in which the nearly 3,000 people died.

RAIDERrant

Where were you when you first heard about the Sept. 11 attacks, and how did you react to the news?



"I was actually in my history class in eighth grade ... Our teacher was worried that all of us would get really scared ... I was crying, and we didn't know what to do."

— ELIZABETH HEITZMAN

Freshman Speech Pathology Major from Mansfield



"I was in high school, in the newsroom for the morning announcements. And the second plane had just hit and we saw it ... One of those odd moments like it's everything just kinda changed."

— OSCAR CASAS

Senior Political Science and Biochemistry Major from La Cruces, N.M.



"When I first found out about the terrorist attacks, I was in high school ... I didn't know what I felt; I didn't know what the towers actually were — I just knew they were in New York."

— VIET LE

Junior Computer Science Major from Amarillo



"I will always remember just because I was in band, and I hated it so much, plus Sept. 11 is one of my best friend's birthdays, and we always joke with her telling her she's a curse."

— KAREN HODGE

Freshman Pre-Law and Political Science Major from DeSoto

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Front Cover Photo by Coleman Morefield. Flags fly at Kastman park Saturday morning just inside South Loop 289 between Quaker and Indiana Avenues. Front Page Design by Joey Kirk/Editor.

Tech cadets remain affected by 9/11

By SARAH WHETSTONE
STAFF WRITER

It may not be hard to remember the precise location of where you were on Sept. 11, 2001, after hearing about the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

But for two Texas Tech ROTC cadets, a greater concern abounds in knowing where they stand today — in the face of a deployment to assist the thousands of American troops fighting the War on Terrorism.

Dustin Oliver, a junior sociology and criminology major from San Antonio, and Tom Franks, a senior music education major from Vernon, both approach commission at the end of the year, the next step in

their career in the U.S. Army.

For Oliver, the son of a military family, serving his country as a career is an idea he shuffled around in his head most of his life. On Sept. 11, 2001, Oliver said he made up his mind.

"I come from a military family," Oliver said. "My father served for 20 years, so patriotism runs deep in me. I wanted to be a soldier, but I wasn't sure. Whenever 9/11 took place, I wanted to be able to protect innocent people and prevent a catastrophe like that from happening again."

Oliver said as a high school student, initially he was just as shocked and confused as everyone else. But as the smoke began to settle over New York and things began to clear up, fear yielded determination.

"At first, I reacted like everyone else did," Oliver said. "I was kind of in shock. But when they announced that they were mounting a search for who was responsible, I knew I wanted to be a part of that."

After serving three years in ROTC at Tech, Oliver is now facing the reality of serving his country and understands the risks of armed combat and the possibility of becoming a fallen soldier.

"I'm afraid that I might die, but that comes with the job, the territory," he said. "If you're not scared, you're stupid. Who isn't afraid to lose their life?"

Oliver said the fears he has about war are a small setback for protecting the country he loves.

"I don't want to cover in fear and watch another terrorist drop

another plane over me," Oliver said. "I think the United States is the best country on Earth, even with its flaws. This is a place where you can voice your opinion and not be afraid of repercussions. That is what I, personally, am fighting for. The right to say or be whatever you wish, and no one can ever take that away from you."

Though Oliver does not know what the future might hold, he said the honor of serving his country as an American soldier outweighs any sense of insecurity and he is ready to do his part.

"Everyone has got to serve their time sooner or later," he said. "I would rather go than send someone who doesn't want to go. I think the greatest thing you could do is become a soldier."

Franks, who is facing commission in one month, said he is prepared for the future that awaits him as a soldier.

"I think a lot of people go into the service not thinking that they're going to be deployed, and I think that's a big mistake," Franks said. "I went into this with the assumption that I am going to be deployed."

Franks said after experiencing the events of Sept. 11 and living through the aftermath, his desire is to sustain the country's security and decrease the threat of future terrorism in the United States.

"(Sept. 11) was a motivator," Franks said. "It motivates somebody to want to defend their country and not let something happen again. Luckily, nothing like that has happened since then. I think that is the

result of American soldiers and what they are doing out there."

Franks said he has desired to be in the armed forces since high school and his call to duty is stronger now than ever.

"I wanted to be in the army before 9/11 happened," Franks said. "I think now is the best time to be an American soldier."

Though he understands his calling, Oliver said that going to war is not something he personally wants to do, but rather a duty to the people of the United States he feels he has to fulfill.

"To tell the truth, I don't want to go to war," he said. "I don't think any of us do, but it's called selfless service. I want to serve my country."

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Two Lubbock soldiers recount time in Iraq

By LIZ BOYD
STAFF WRITER

Sgt. Daniel Russell of the U.S. Army National Guard returned from Iraq in December.

Russell served as a medic taking care of approximately 30 troops.

Medics are trained as emergency medical technicians and can assess anything from minor injuries to trauma, Russell said.

"I wanted to get the training to become a medic," Russell said. "It seemed like such a good way to serve my country."

Russell is originally from

Georgetown and said he has been in the Army National Guard for five years.

Russell said he was doing his basic training during the Sept. 11 tragedy.

"I knew that things would be very different after 9/11," Russell said.

Russell was in Iraq for 12 months, but he has also spent time serving at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Russell said his primary duty in Iraq was assisting injured soldiers that stopped along the MSRs, or military supply routes.

"We were basically out in the middle of nowhere," Russell said. "But, we would go to surrounding areas where soldiers needed assistance."

The hardest part of being in Iraq was not seeing his family, Russell said.

"I have a wife and two kids," Russell said. "It was so hard being away from them, and I missed them very much."

Safety was heavy on his mind before leaving for Iraq, Russell said, but once he got there he said his top priority was doing the job he had to do.

"I knew I was where I needed to be," Russell said.

Russell said he knows exactly what he would have done with a day off while in Iraq.

"A case of Miller Lite and a football game would be the best," Russell said.

Sgt. Michael Pritchard was in the same battalion as Russell in Iraq.

Pritchard, who also is a medic,

said he was stationed on an air base and ran security along an MSR.

"We traveled up and down what is basically a highway protecting convoys from attacks," Pritchard said.

Pritchard lives in Lubbock and will graduate from Tech with a degree in exercise sports sciences in December.

Pritchard said he is leaving the military in December because he has served for six years.

During his deployment, Pritchard said he married his fiancé while he was home on a two week leave.

"We decided to go ahead and get married because my father-in-law was struggling with cancer and we wanted him there," Pritchard said.

After their initial wedding ceremony, Pritchard said he and his wife had a much larger ceremony when he returned in March.

Pritchard said his hardest challenge was not being there while his wife struggled with her father's

illness.

"I wanted to be there with her in person," Pritchard said. "Only so much can be said over the phone, and I know she needed my support."

Pritchard said his ideal day off from the life of a soldier includes a case of beer and fishing on the lake.

"The only problem is there isn't much fishing in Iraq, well, unless you go to the Tigris or the Euphrates," Pritchard said.

Ann Rasch, a senior social work major from Houston, said if she had a friend or loved one returning from Iraq she would ask them what they missed while they were gone.

"I would want to know what things they wanted to do when they got back," Rasch said. "But I would take into consideration trauma they might have encountered."

Rasch said the events since Sept. 11 have opened her eyes to world views.

"I feel like I know so much more about the world in general," Rasch said, "and I support our troops for all they have done."

Pritchard said he wants college students to know that the troops are accomplishing positive things in Iraq.

"There is so much negativity about this war," Pritchard said. "But just seeing a child smile at you or an elderly person thank you for putting Saddam out of power makes you know that you are doing these people a service."

Pritchard said he urges everyone to keep supporting the troops.

"It's hard to come home and see anti-war protestors at funerals, it gets under your skin," Pritchard said. "We need support from everyone because we want to protect and honor our country."

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Shuttle crew begins inspecting for potential damage

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Early results from an inspection of space shuttle Atlantis using sensors attached to a boom showed no evidence of damage to the shuttle's thermal skin as it soars to the international space station, a flight director said Sunday.

"I have not seen a single problem with the vehicle," said flight director Paul Dye. "So far, everything has gone exactly according to plan except for the fact that we're a little bit early."

A decision won't be made for a couple of days on whether NASA will use an extra day to do a "focused inspection" on areas of the space shuttle that could look suspicious, Dye said.

"I haven't seen anything that's caught my eye," Dye said.

Atlantis' six astronauts already are on a tight schedule to take three spacewalks, attach a 17 1/2-ton truss segment to the space station by robotic arm and remotely unfurl two solar arrays from the new addition during the 11-day mission. The spacecraft arrives at the space station on Monday.

The shuttle crew awoke early Sunday to a version of "Moon River" sung by Audrey Hepburn in the movie "Breakfast at Tiffany's," a request of commander Brent Jett's wife.

"It really is a beautiful day up here," Jett said after the wake-up greeting. "We're awake and ready to get to work with the inspection."

More than 100 cameras were focused on Atlantis during liftoff to capture any signs of foam breaking off its external fuel tank, the problem that doomed space shuttle Columbia. NASA's cameras spotted three possible hits — two small foam streams and one ice chunk — but they came so late that the debris wasn't moving fast enough to do much damage.

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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- 1 Relinquishes
- 6 Talk incessantly
- 10 Smelly, dirty air
- 14 "Magic Man" rockers
- 15 Graveyard starter
- 16 homo (Behold the man!)
- 17 Palmer's entourage
- 19 Comparison word
- 20 Garlic unit
- 21 Start to breathe
- 23 Extinct bird
- 26 Pride member
- 28 Vegas
- 29 "Farm"
- 31 Inclined trough
- 33 Kitchen utensil
- 34 Comic Martin
- 36 buco
- 39 Animation
- 40 Amount not covered by health insurance
- 41 Break suddenly
- 42 God of love
- 43 Mine entrance
- 44 Relative size
- 45 Camera-ready copy
- 47 Loom operator
- 48 Initial letters
- 50 Town near Modesto
- 53 Singer Sumac
- 54 Author of "The Third Man"
- 56 Rupture
- 58 Semi-eternity?
- 59 Bluish-green
- 64 Patch up
- 65 Ballet skirt
- 66 Pavarotti, e.g.
- 67 Fruity drinks
- 68 Impertinence
- 69 Additional

DOWN

- 1 Half a dance?
- 2 Auction ending
- 3 Actor Duryea
- 4 The Red
- 5 Astral
- 6 Cry of appreciation
- 7 "Two Women" star
- 8 S dispenser
- 9 In an unmanly manner?
- 10 Fourth man?
- 11 Dognine's TV series
- 12 Florida city
- 13 Trait carriers
- 14 Dirt
- 22 Tahlequah, OK school
- 23 Syrup source
- 24 Disk jockey's cue
- 25 Presidential plane
- 27 Great success
- 30 Reagan confidant Ed
- 32 Puccini opera
- 34 Klamath relative
- 35 News agcy.
- 37 Oregon capital
- 38 La Scala offering
- 40 Vehicle perches for tots
- 44 Able to perceive
- 46 Writing tool
- 47 Angler's bait
- 48 Lizard of the Old World
- 49 Reproduce
- 51 Borders on
- 52 Island feasts
- 55 Finishes
- 57 "Bang a Gong (Get It On)" band
- 60 Sine... non
- 61 Bank payt.
- 62 Neither's partner
- 63 Period

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

ACROSS: ANNE POETESSES, COUNT EMPENNAGE, MASTS RAINGAUGE, EVERT UNSTAINED, RETIRED GLARY, ART TREASURES, MALS ARETTES GISS, ALGIE CRITTE AONE, NED MOATED TIDE, SENSORIMOTOR, FLEER TAMALE, RIVERNILE TILES, INITIALED ICONS, LECHERING NANCE, LATERDATE GLEES

DOWN: 44 Able to perceive, 46 Writing tool, 47 Angler's bait, 48 Lizard of the Old World, 49 Reproduce, 51 Borders on, 52 Island feasts, 55 Finishes, 57 "Bang a Gong (Get It On)" band, 60 Sine... non, 61 Bank payt., 62 Neither's partner, 63 Period

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2006

STAT. CHAN. AFFIL. CITY	KTXT 5 PBS Lubbock	KCBD 11 NBC Lubbock	KLBB 19 CBS Lubbock	KMYL 14 MYN Lubbock	KLCW 22 WB Lubbock	KAMC 28 ABC Lubbock	KJTV 34 FOX Lubbock
7:00	Curious Today	Early Show	Believer Life Today	Awesome Adv. Eye for an Eye	(\$80) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	Jack Hanna Paid Program
8:00	Dragon Tales	700 Club	Judge Mathis	Recipe TV	Recipe TV	Tony Danza Show	Martha
9:00	Sesame Street	700 Club	Judge Mathis	Recipe TV	Recipe TV	Tony Danza Show	Martha
10:00	Callou	Regis and Kelly	Piece is Right	Divorce Court	Divorce Court	The View	Tyra Banks
11:00	Teletubbies	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
12:00	Mister Rogers	Jeopardy!	Jeopardy!	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Access
1:00	Quilling	News	KLBB 13 News	Jerry Springer	Jerry Springer	Paid Program	All My Children
2:00	Gary Speltz	Days of Our Lives	Days of Our Lives	Shel & Beana	Shel & Beana	Shel & Beana	People's Court
3:00	Scrapbook	Passions	Guiding Light	Guiding Light	Guiding Light	Guiding Light	People's Court
4:00	Puppy	Inside Edition	Judge Joe	Jerry Springer	Jerry Springer	Jerry Springer	Ellen DeGeneres
5:00	The Lions	Cyberchase	Dr. Phil	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Bernie Mac	Ellen DeGeneres
6:00	Reading	Dr. Phil	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Bernie Mac	Ellen DeGeneres
7:00	Clifford	Arthur	Mya & Miguel	News	KLBB 13 News	Access	Still Standing
8:00	Mya & Miguel	News	CBS News	Family Feud	Family Feud	King Qu.	ABC News
9:00	Bus Report	News	KLBB 13 News	Family Feud	Family Feud	King Qu.	ABC News
10:00	Antiques Roadshow	Dateline NBC	Two & 1 2 (HD)	How I Met (HD)	Desire (HD)	7th Heaven "Secrets"	"The Path to 9/11" (HD)
11:00	America's Rebuilds II: Zero	Medium "Sweet Child o' Mine"	Two & 1 2 (HD)	How I Met (HD)	Desire (HD)	7th Heaven "Secrets"	"The Path to 9/11" (HD)
12:00	Frontline "Faith and Doubt at Ground Zero"	Medium "Sweet Child o' Mine"	Two & 1 2 (HD)	How I Met (HD)	Desire (HD)	7th Heaven "Secrets"	"The Path to 9/11" (HD)
1:00	News	KLBB 13 News	OS: Miami "One Upon a Time"	Paid Program	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Primerline
2:00	News	KLBB 13 News	OS: Miami "One Upon a Time"	Paid Program	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Primerline
3:00	News	KLBB 13 News	OS: Miami "One Upon a Time"	Paid Program	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Primerline
4:00	News	KLBB 13 News	OS: Miami "One Upon a Time"	Paid Program	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Primerline
5:00	News	KLBB 13 News	OS: Miami "One Upon a Time"	Paid Program	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Primerline
6:00	News	KLBB 13 News	OS: Miami "One Upon a Time"	Paid Program	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Primerline
7:00	News	KLBB 13 News	OS: Miami "One Upon a Time"	Paid Program	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Primerline
8:00	News	KLBB 13 News	OS: Miami "One Upon a Time"	Paid Program	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Primerline
9:00	News	KLBB 13 News	OS: Miami "One Upon a Time"	Paid Program	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Primerline
10:00	News	KLBB 13 News	OS: Miami "One Upon a Time"	Paid Program	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Primerline
11:00	News	KLBB 13 News	OS: Miami "One Upon a Time"	Paid Program	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Primerline
12:00	News	KLBB 13 News	OS: Miami "One Upon a Time"	Paid Program	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Primerline

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7	5		6	9		2	1
			4	1		7	
4							6
		7		5	9		
9		2		7	4		5
						4	1
		8	3				

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9 with no numbers repeated in any row, column or box.

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REPORT CARD

QUARTERBACKS

A- Harrell shined completing 77 percent of his passes and throwing for 376 yards, two TD's and one interception.

RUNNING BACKS

B+ Shannon Woods rushed for 83 yards on 12 carries and scored once while catching five passes for 26 yards.

RECEIVERS

A Filani had a 169-yard outing. Johnson added nine catches for 64 yards and a touchdown. Todd Walker had 47 yards.

OFFENSIVE LINE

B- While the offensive line did not allow a sack, they did have two penalties which called back two TD's.

DEFENSIVE LINE

B The Texas Tech defensive line batted two balls resulting in interceptions, including one in overtime.

LINEBACKER

C+ While Stratton, Tillman, and Session combined for 19 tackles, missed tackles haunted the D all game.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

C Torched for 375 yards passing and four TD's through the air. Intercepted Palmer twice, but allowed a reverse pass for a TD.

SPECIAL TEAMS

B Trlica went 3-for-5 for FG's, including the game winning kick in OT, but UTEP caught Tech off-guard with an onside kick.

TECH GETS MINER HELP

No. 24 Texas Tech escapes with a win in overtime thanks to a little help on a big kick

By **TRAVIS CRAM**
MANAGING EDITOR

With Texas Tech tied 35-35 in the first overtime against UTEP Saturday night at the Sun Bowl, Red Raider placekicker Alex Trlica knew he needed to be ready after missing two kicks wide left during the fourth quarter of regulation play.

He was. Trlica booted a 49-yard field goal that glanced-off the left upright, giving Tech a 38-35 victory and proving that two lefts do make a right.

After the game, Trlica said keeping a positive mindset was the most important part for him before hitting the game-winner.

"You know, those first two kicks, things like that happen," he said. "I was just hoping I would get the opportunity to redeem myself and help the team win."

The chance for the game winning kick came compliments of safety Darcel McBath, who got his second interception of the night off Miner quarterback Jordan Palmer, when defensive end Jake Ratliff batted a pass in the air and leaving it up for grabs.

After a touchdown to senior Robert Johnson was called back, sophomore quarterback Graham Harrell found sophomore receiver Todd Walker on a comeback route down the left side to set up the kick for Trlica.

McBath said he heard the loud sound and just looked up to try and find the ball, but was not quite sure if he was going to make it.

"I was thinking, 'Why am I moving in slow motion.' It felt like I just couldn't get off the ground," he said. "But then I caught it and I thought I could run it back, but the quarterback caught me. He's got long arms."

The long arms of Palmer troubled the Tech defense in the closing minutes of the first half and continued into the third quarter.

After the Raiders went up 17-6 on a reviewed touchdown catch to Joel Filani, UTEP marched 80 yards downfield to score with 14 seconds remaining in the half.

Miner placekicker Reagan Schneider missed a point af-

ter touchdown try earlier in the game and forced UTEP to go for a two-point conversion after the score, but failed leaving it 17-12 at the half.

The next Tech possession after the break resulted in a touchdown to Johnson, who had a 69-yard grab for a score called back early in the first half because of a penalty.

Two catches by the senior receiver were called back in the end, including what could have been the game ending touchdown in overtime.

Filani said he felt bad for the calls but was impressed with the way Johnson composed himself throughout the game.

"It sucks," he said. "I know he was a little down, but he bounced back and still was able to make plays throughout the whole game."

Filani went on to grab 10 catches for 169 yards and one score, his first game with more than 100 yards this season.

Johnson's score with more than 11 minutes to go in the third quarter started a Raider drought and Miner scoring spree.

Again, Palmer marched the Miners downfield 80 yards for another score, but it was Lorne Sam, a quarterback turned wide receiver, who took the snap on first and goal to bring UTEP within five points.

The Miners succeeded on four third-down conversions in their second half scoring streak after making only one in the first half.

The most important conversion came after the Miners recovered an onside kick on the ensuing kickoff.

Palmer was rushed by two Tech linemen on third down but failed to be sacked and slipped through the fingers of Raider linebacker Fletcher Session, gaining 42 yards on the play and setting up the go ahead score.

Neither Palmer or Harrell were sacked on the day, giving both quarterbacks the time to complete their passes.

Each of them had more than 50 attempts in the game.

Harrell completed 77 percent of his passes for 376 yards and two scores while Palmer almost equaled him with 334 yards and

three touchdowns on 67 per-



KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

THE RED RAIDERS huddle around kicker Alex Trlica after he had scored the winning field goal during the game against UTEP Saturday Night.

cent passing.

Harrell said a lot of the offensive success was due to the job by Tech's o-line.

"They did a great job today," he said. "I don't think I even got sacked once. When they're protecting us and with those guys (receivers) on the outside, we're going to be able to move the ball."

Although the linemen did a good job of defending their passer, the wide receivers again shined with Harrell over everyone else, as the sophomore quarterback found his wideouts on several third down conversions.

A key drive in the second half kept the Raider hopes alive when Tech started on their own 20-yard line and was able to convert a field goal to bring them within one point.

Harrell was able to make four plays into first downs, including a rush by himself to convert the first series.

He said the atmosphere of the game was intense and exciting and any game like this will help better prepare the team for next week.

"It was good," he said. "They had a good crowd, it was loud, we faced some adversity but we got to prove a lot before next week."

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BY THE NUMBERS

Passing

376 yards

375 yards

Rushing

106 yards

127 yards

Penalties

9 — 80 yards

8 — 84 yards

First Downs

29

26

Play of the Game

2nd Quarter — 14:46

to go

With Tech leading 7-0, UTEP ran a reverse handoff to Lorne Sam and then passed down the right sideline hitting Joe West for a 41-yard score.

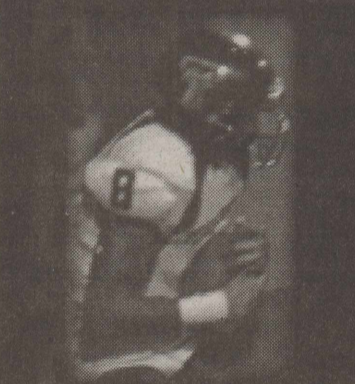
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PLAYER OF THE GAME



JOEL FILANI

SENIOR WIDE RECEIVER

STATS: 10 catches for 169 yards and one touchdown

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LAGOS

New York officer remembers rescue

By JEREMY REYNOLDS & IAN KLUMPP
STAFF WRITERS

When New York City Emergency Service officer Scott Strauss thinks back on Sept. 11, 2001, he sees blackness.

In the heart of the rubble that used to be the World Trade Center, Strauss said it was hard to breathe anything other than glass that fateful day. The space to move was tight and offered little in the way of light.

Within the rubble, glass and smoke of the Twin Towers, Strauss climbed down into the remains of the building to rescue Port Authority officers Will Jimero and John McLoughlin.

Both men, who now are the subjects of Oliver Stone's "World Trade Center," were attempting to evacuate the buildings when the

supports gave. They survived that day under weight of the metal and rock by climbing into the elevator shaft, one of the most stable parts of building, according to a press release. The men were two of the last survivors pulled out alive that day.

They were buried 30 feet into the north tower and could not see one another during their time, according to a press release. Dominick Pezullo also was trapped with Jimero and McLoughlin, though he didn't make it out alive.

"You couldn't see them right in front of you," Strauss said. "It was like someone dumped a dump truck of dirt on them."

Jimero was the first to be pulled out, and McLoughlin came out next, according to a press packet.

"I told (McLoughlin) that I was physically shot and couldn't help him, but that help was on the way,"

Strauss said.

After a round of surgeries, which Jimero still had to have for his injured knee, both men retired from the force.

Strauss said when he watched the movie, "World Trade Center," it was hard to get through some of the emotional parts.

"It was a very uplifting story they told," he said of the film-makers.

On that day, Strauss said he was heading home from a shift when the reports started coming in about planes hitting the Twin Towers. He said as soon as he heard the call on the radio, he went straight to "Ground Zero" and started helping out where he could.

"I'd been up since Monday," he said. "I didn't have any contact with my wife or kids."

When he finally did go home, he said he couldn't sit still long enough to simply watch the events unfold on

the television; he had to go back.

"My sons begged me not to go," he said.

When the film was released, Strauss said he brought his wife and sons to see it with him, and his youngest son held his arm throughout the movie. Even when Strauss' arm went numb and he tried to pull slightly away, the child didn't loosen his grip.

The young boy finally let go when he leaned over to Strauss and said his mom was having a hard time and needed him.

"The movie doesn't single anybody out," Strauss said. "It's about the citizens of that day."

Strauss, who is played by actor Stephen Dorff in the movie, said the film perfectly depicted what happened on that day five years ago.

The only aspect that strayed from the truth is what it looked and felt like inside the rubble. Strauss said

it was much darker and cloudier within the heart of the buildings. There were no Hollywood lights flooding the interiors, he said — it was just black.

"(Stone) didn't want to make it like that because it would have made the audience claustrophobic," he said.

Besides that single detail, he said everything else that happened in the film accurately portrays the events of the day. After each shot, Stone would ask Strauss if that was how it really was.

"The most important thing to him was getting it right," Strauss said.

High budgets, long shoot days or simple overall scale didn't bother Stone when making the movie, Strauss said.

Initially, however, Strauss said he didn't have the same kind of faith in Stone as he has now. With

a track record like Stone's, the obvious place audiences would assume the film was headed would be to a political statement. Strauss said that was his biggest worry when he first heard who was slated to direct the picture.

"It made me a little nervous," he said.

The film, which opened in August, was immediately recognized by many film critics as one that has nothing to do with political statements or conspiracy theories. Strauss said it is a human story, and that's what the film showed.

Five years after the events of Sept. 11, Strauss said those human stories still live on. He said he still is contacted every so often by Jimero and McLoughlin.

"(Jimero) calls me on holidays," he said.

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It's never too soon for a good story

It's been five years since the World Trade Center twin towers fell, and already there have been almost a dozen films released regarding the events of that day.

Are we to expect any less of Hollywood? Remember, this is the city that pounded out World War II movies while the war was still going on. So when something like a few thousand people dying in a terrorist attack captures the world's attention for nearly four months, you've got to figure it's only a matter of time before Hollywood cashes in.

Personally, there's no such thing as "too soon" when it comes to movies like these. Are we really thinking that a movie

Jeremy Reynolds



like "World Trade Center" would be better 40 years from now?

"World Trade Center" had the impact it did because the film had so much help from the survivors of that day. Scott Strauss, a New York City Emergency Service officer who rescued Will Jimero and John McLoughlin from the rubble of the towers, said after every scene Oliver Stone shot in the movie, he'd turn to Strauss and ask if that was how it really happened.

Earlier in the year, Paul Green-

grass released his film "United 93," which still stands as one of the best films of the year so far.

Watching the movie, I could tell Greengrass made it from the heart instead of the checkbook. He not only went out and got the advice of the victims' family members, but he followed that advice no matter where it took his film.

A lot of the real people who were involved in the events of Sept. 11, 2001, played themselves in the movie. By adding the real characters, you bring something different to the table. You bring heart and emotion. These men and women didn't have manicured or cosmetic emotions that actors have to put on. They remembered what it was like that day, and those feelings showed through.

The best time to make a movie about a tragedy such as 9/11 is within a few years of the event.

You want the family members to participate in the filmmaking process. By waiting 40 or 50 years to create a film, you sacrifice that heart you could have had within the first few years.

By waiting, you're relying on people who were children at the time of the event to fill in the blanks based on what their parents or grandparents said happened that day. When a director or screenwriter has to rely on that, studios start to rely on small budgets with a hope of a big turnaround.

The first movie to tackle the events of the World Trade Center was "The Guys" — a 2002 film starring Sigourney Weaver as a reporter for *The New York Times* who has to go out and interview a fire chief about the men he lost that day.

The movie was mediocre and relied more on making viewers cry than trying to tell a great story. I think since then Hollywood has wised up and started taking the advice of family members of the ones who died that September morning. These people know what it takes to tell a good story because they lived through one.

Stone, director of "World Trade Center," has a movie resumé that reads like a Michael Moore Christmas list.

There's conspiracy, there's America deserting its soldiers and there's vengeful politics of people who think of war first and diplomacy second.

About a year and a half ago when I first heard this rebel filmmaker would go from "Alexander" to "World Trade Center," I immediately had doubts about Paramount Pictures' hiring process.

Who would really want to let this man loose on a movie about a tragedy of this caliber? This is the same guy who made his conspiracy theory for JFK the only theory out there and won a few Oscars doing so, adding another seven Academy Award nominations to his record as well.

However, when I saw "World Trade Center," it felt nothing like a Stone picture. I don't know if this man decided to slap on his redstring Kabbalah bracelet or take 10 calming breaths before every shot, but "World Trade Center" lacked everything iconic of a Stone movie, and that's the way it should have been.

When making a film about the World Trade Center, you have to be calm and collected and make sure the story does not overrun the characters. The most important way to save a character from becoming background noise in a movie like this is to make each of these men and women unique. How do you do that? Talk with the families.

This is why there is no such thing as "too soon" when dealing with tragedies. Get it right. Make it good. Screw politics.

► Reynolds is The DT's movie critic. E-mail him at [Jeremy.Reynolds@ttu.edu](mailto:Reynolds@ttu.edu)

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WHEN TRAGEDY STRIKES A NATION

Kennedy assassination impacted the generation before; Sept. 11 attacks a momentous event for students

By SARAH WHESTONE
STAFF WRITER

As the five-year anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, approaches, many think back to the first time they experienced a national tragedy to that degree. However, for people who are old enough to remember, the terrorist attacks that took place five years ago echoed sadness and confusion felt when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in November of 1963 in Dallas.

Dennis Harp, associate dean of faculty, lived through both tragedies in the United States and said he remembers mostly confusion in the first hours after the announcement of Kennedy's death.

"There was a lot of chaos," Harp said. "People were asking 'What's going on? Who is in charge?' So many questions race through your mind. There was a lot of chaos and questions. People were asking, 'Could this really be happening?'"

Rory Walton, a freshman nursing major from El Paso, said the shock of Sept. 11 invoked some of the same questions from her and her classmates.

"I was really confused as to what was going on," Walton said. "I knew something big was happening, but I had no idea what."

Harp said he can replay in his mind the exact events that unfolded when Kennedy was assassinated.

"I was walking on campus at Southwest Texas, which is now Texas State, and someone shouted from across the street, 'The president has been shot,'" Harp said. "I don't even remember if I answered, but I just ran inside and found a TV and people were already watching. You will always remember where you were and what you were doing. I could go back to that street and tell you almost exactly where I was standing."

Walton also recalls her exact time and place when she first heard the news of Sept. 11. Like Harp, she was a student going through her daily routine.

"I was in my history class," Walton said. "My history teacher was saying, 'This is history in the making. You're going to be reading about this in history books,' and that is exactly what happened. She made sure everyone knew exactly what was happening."

The assassination of the president of the United States generated national grieving among Americans and brought the country together, Harp said.

"When you lose your president, that is certainly a sad thing," he said. "Watching John-boy do the salute was hard. The entire funeral and burial was on TV."

Walton said the quiet reverence that engulfed her school was representative of what the nation was feeling as a whole.

"Everyone was very quiet," Walton said. "There was a stillness. It was mild shock and disbelief. It gave us a renewed sense that we're all in this as a nation. There was a new awareness that anything could happen."

Walton said she gained a new understanding of the world after Sept. 11.

"I think it is interesting that as Americans, we feel that we have an accurate

worldly view," she said. "But leave the country for more than a couple of days, you start to realize how incorrect all your assumptions were."

Harp said the release of information on the days of and directly following Nov. 22, 1963, and Sept. 11, 2001, likened the two in the sense that there was more than one story for each event. He said waiting to hear the next update in each occurrence was one similarity.

Walton said she also stayed in front of a television and asked questions, trying to find answers.

"We did very minimal work at school that day," Walton said. "My teacher turned on the television and we just watched it all day. I asked everyone what was going on, but no one really knew."

When Kennedy was shot, Harp said everyone wondered who did it, where the shots came from and if a conspiracy occurred. Harp recalls the same buzz hovering over the Sept. 11 event when not only the first tower went down, but the second followed and the pentagon was hit.

"I was driving to work and I heard that a plane crashed into the Trade Center," Harp said. "At first I thought it was an accident, but when I heard about the other attacks I realized it was intentional. When I got here I went in the basement and recorded about six hours of the news coverage from that day."

When people did find out more about the terrorist attacks, Harp said the confusion he felt turned into sadness for the people who died.

"So many people were affected by 9/11 because of the great loss of humanity," Harp said. "I saw that building come tumbling down. It just seemed unreal when I saw those people running and that cloud of dust following them."

In response to the deaths and the people that were effected, Walton said she realized just how precious her life was. "It made me appreciate my life a lot more," she said. "We take a lot for granted. Two or three people in my classes that day had relatives that died. At first I thought, 'Wow, I'm glad that's not where I live.' Then I thought about all the branching repercussions. You think that these places are just countries on a map, but really everyone's interconnected."

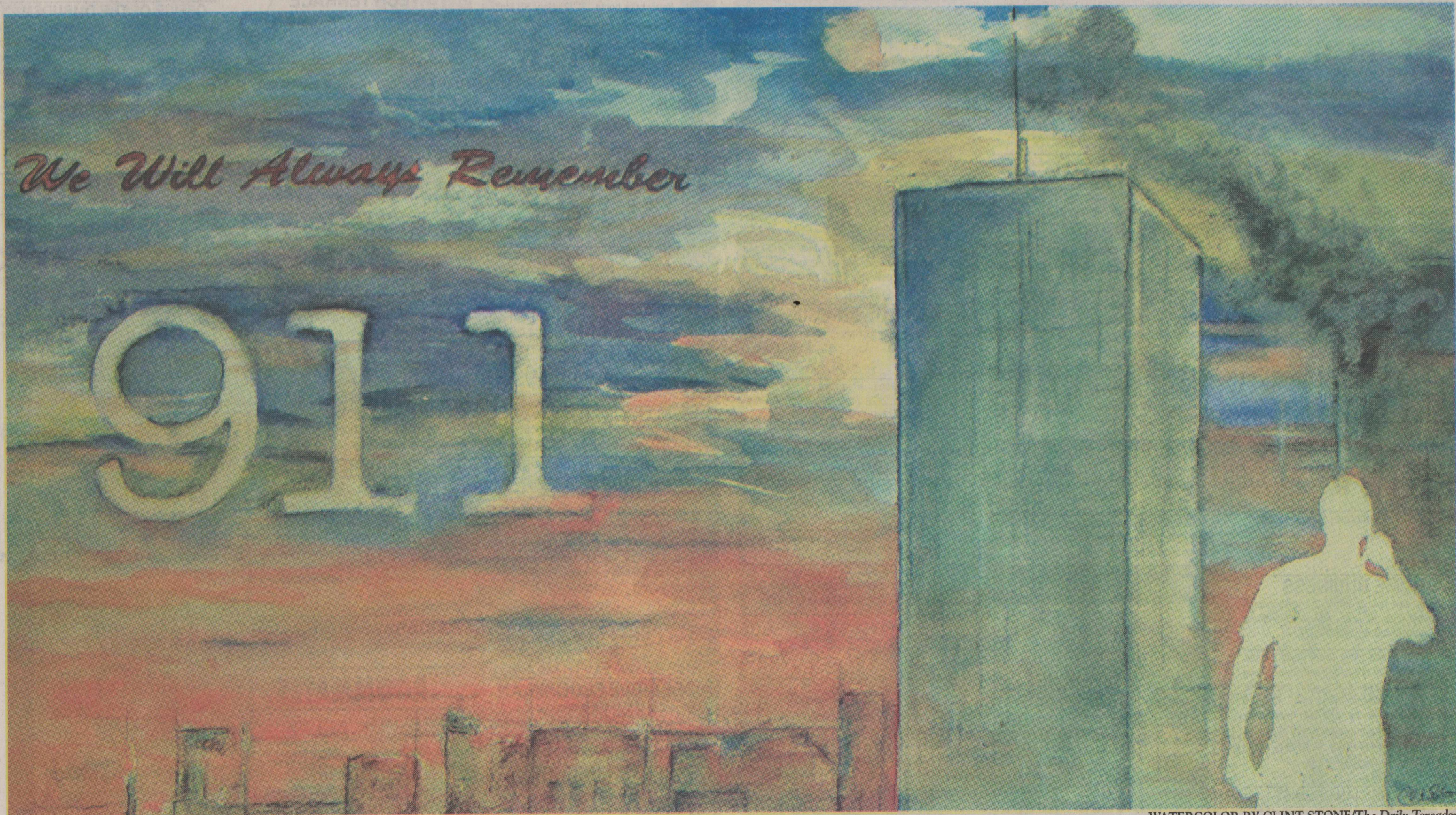
National tragedies such as the assassination of a president or a terrorist attack are moments in time that people never forget, Walton said.

"A lot of (my teachers) referenced JFK and the man on the moon on Sept. 11," Walton said. "It was a momentous event. It was the first time America had been attacked on home soil. It was a big thing historically."

Harp said he thinks historical tragedies happen in all generations.

"I have a feeling it was the same with Pearl Harbor for some of the older people," he said. "Everybody lives through something like this in their lifetime."

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