

Viewpoint

Tom Mitsoff

America must take action

Special Commentary



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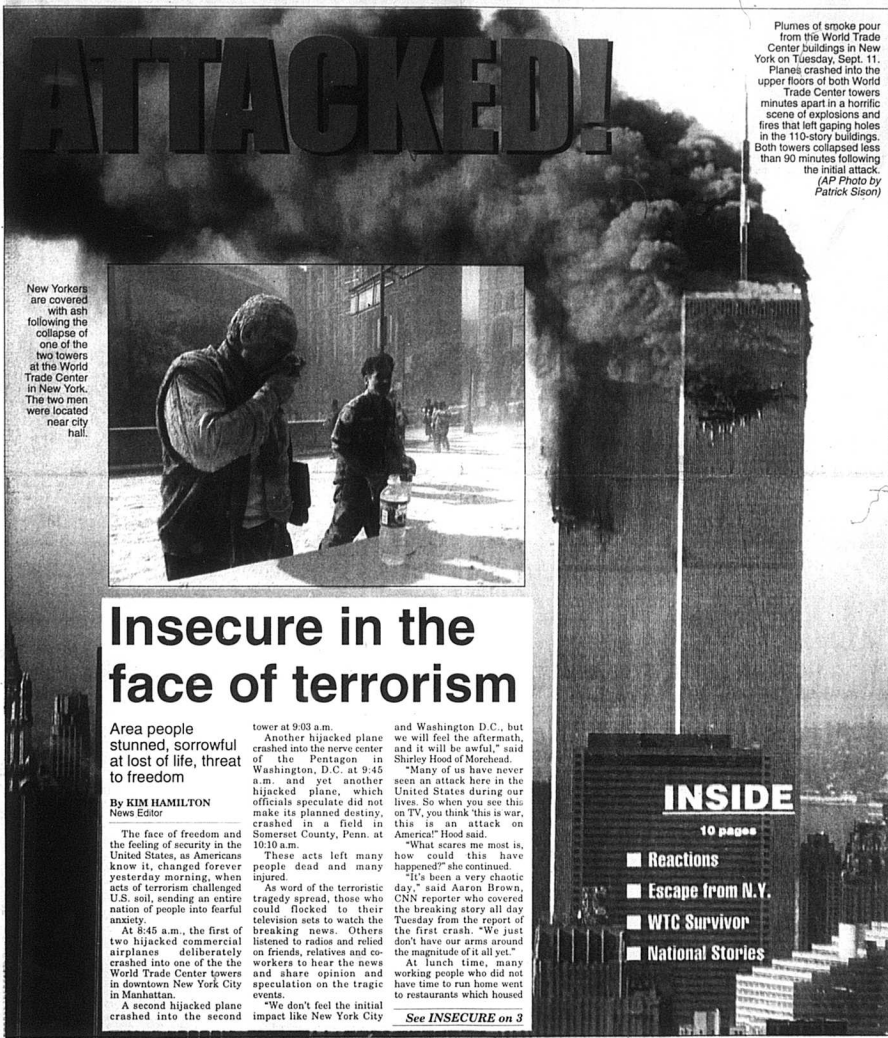
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Plumes of smoke pour from the World Trade Center buildings in New York on Tuesday, Sept. 11. Planes crashed into the upper floors of both World Trade Center towers minutes apart in a horrific scene of explosions and fires that left gaping holes in the 110-story buildings. Both towers collapsed less than 90 minutes following the initial attack. (AP Photo by Patrick Sison)

New Yorkers are covered with ash following the collapse of one of the two towers at the World Trade Center in New York. The two men were located near city hall.



Insecure in the face of terrorism

Area people stunned, sorrowful at loss of life, threat to freedom

By KIM HAMILTON
News Editor

The face of freedom and the feeling of security in the United States, as Americans know it, changed forever yesterday morning, when acts of terrorism challenged U.S. soil, sending an entire nation of people into fearful anxiety.

At 8:45 a.m., the first of two hijacked commercial airplanes deliberately crashed into one of the World Trade Center towers in downtown New York City in Manhattan.

A second hijacked plane crashed into the second

tower at 9:03 a.m. Another hijacked plane crashed into the nerve center of the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. at 9:45 a.m. and yet another hijacked plane, which officials speculate did not make its planned destiny, crashed in a field in Somerset County, Penn. at 10:10 a.m.

These acts left many people dead and many injured. As word of the terroristic tragedy spread, those who could flocked to their television sets to watch the breaking news. Others listened to radios and relied on friends, relatives and co-workers to hear the news and share opinion and speculation on the tragic events.

"We don't feel the initial impact like New York City

and Washington D.C., but we will feel the aftermath, and it will be awful," said Shirley Hood of Morehead.

"Many of us have never seen an attack here in the United States during our lives. So when you see this on TV, you think 'this is war, this is an attack on America!'" Hood said.

"What scares me most is, how could this have happened?" she continued. "It's been a very chaotic day," said Aaron Brown, CNN reporter who covered the breaking story all day Tuesday from the report of the first crash. "We just don't have our arms around the magnitude of it all yet."

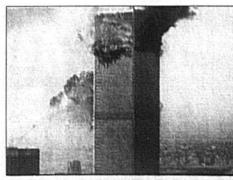
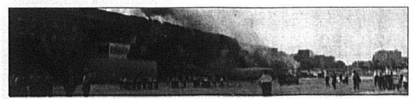
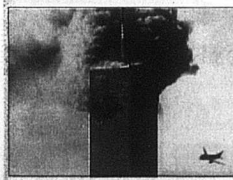
At lunch time, many working people who did not have time to run home went to restaurants which housed

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A ball of fire, right, explodes from one of the towers at the World Trade Center in New York after a plane crashed into it, left, in these images made from television Tuesday Sept. 11, 2001. The aircraft was the second to fly into the towers Tuesday morning. (AP Photo from ABC)

Above, flames and smoke pour from a building at the Pentagon after a direct hit from a third hijacked aircraft.