

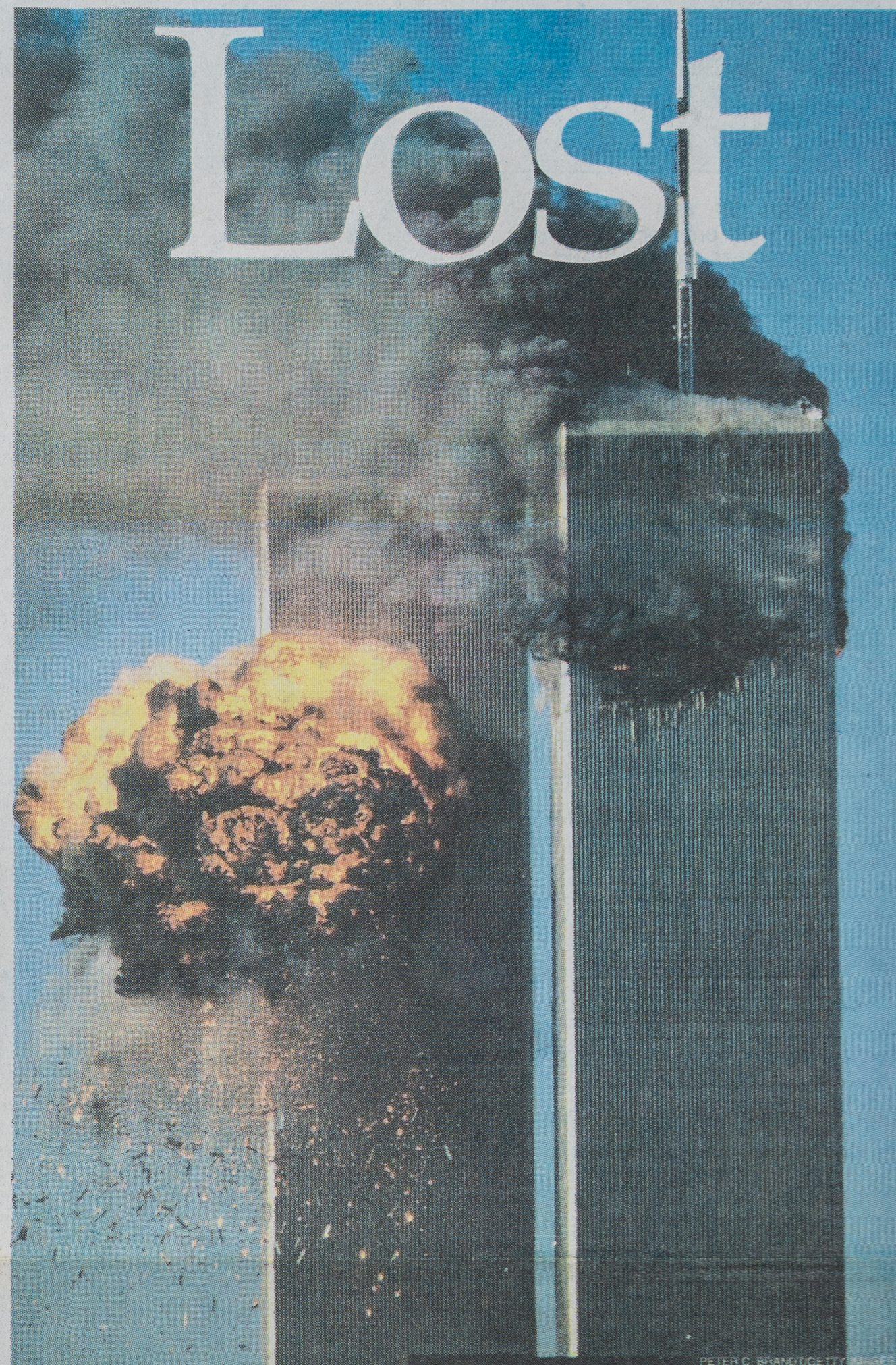
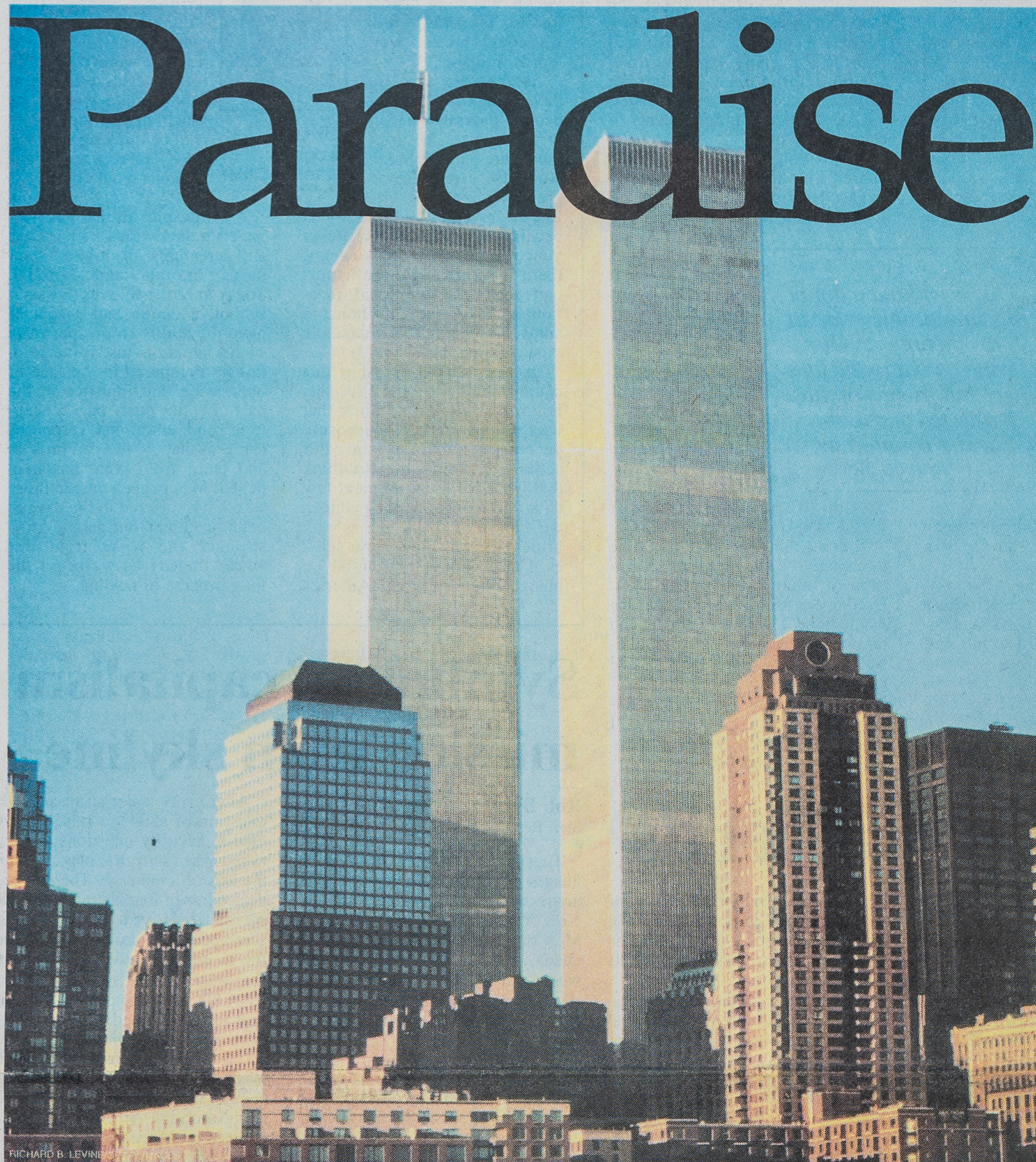


# THE AVION

September 12, 2001 • Volume XCIV • SPECIAL EDITION

A Division of the Student Government Association

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Daytona Beach, Florida



## A day of carnage costs a generation its innocence

Mark Cappello  
Copy Editor

When first one, then two commercial aircraft slammed into the World Trade Center buildings in New York, the explosions and subsequent collapses brought many people to their deaths.

But far deeper than any physical destruction wrought on the United States and its citizens was the body blow to the American psyche.

Air travel, once taken for granted by many, is now an uncertainty - an uncertainty tinged

with the fear of death.

Tuesday morning, inherent in the act of lifting off from a runway was the assumption of a safe landing. No more. A day of unrelenting violence has driven home a fundamental shift in the view of commercial aviation - from transport to weapon.

For an American generation born after the scars of Vietnam, and that experienced only the almost bloodless pains of the Gulf War, suddenly the world came knocking. Where we were and what we were doing when the Trade Centers were hit have become the JFK assassina-

sination for a new generation.

"Nobody can touch us and they do. And use our own resources against us. We're so vulnerable. The thought that we're not vulnerable makes us vulnerable," senior Jesse Wells said.

How was something that Americans took for granted, like driving to work, perverted to bring the country's national air transportation system to its knees?

And how was no one able to prevent several aircraft from veering off their travel corridors and smashing into buildings?

Air traffic control (ATC) governs the world of aviation.

Most commercial aircraft, as in the case of the American Airlines Boeing 767-200, Flight 11, out of Boston, Mass., to Los Angeles, follow victor airways. Victor airways are flight corridors defined by two Very-high frequency Omnidirectional Radar (VOR) arrays. Modern aircraft utilize the beacons to check their positions against the positions determined by the aircrafts' accelerometers and measurement devices.

Before takeoff, the dispatcher gives the aircraft crew the flight plan - including loading, route, times, alternate airports and special notes - which is inputted into the Flight Management System. The FMS, coupled to the autopilot, will take the pilot anywhere on or off the flight plan that he or she wants to go.

According to ERAU Air Traffic Management students Mark Borman and Brett Power, controllers on the ground in tracking stations called Area Control Facilities direct traffic along the proper route to its destination, based upon the flight plans filed with the Federal Aviation Administration. In the case of flights passing near the World Trade Center, the aircraft would have come under the supervision of New York TRACON, a tracking facility that controls flights around La Guardia, Kennedy, and Newark International Airports. Controllers at the "super TRACON," the second busiest tracking facility in the world, monitor the aircraft on tracking radar. Deviations from routes prompt calls to the offending aircraft, but without return communication, there is no way for the people on the ground to know what's going on in the cockpit.

Veteran controllers would pick up deviations from the routes quickly.

"They would see the plane veer off course as quickly as you'd see someone

## Shock and anger

### Students react to epic tragedy

Ashlee Fiser  
Copy Editor

What began as a routine morning soon escalated into a day of shock and disbelief as news of the events in New York spread across campus. In less than an hour, students, faculty and staff were glued to TV and radio to watch and hear the tragedy unfold.

"[A friend] came in my room, woke me up and told me to turn on my TV. I thought a Riddle plane had crashed or something. Then I saw the World Trade Center. I was astonished, pissed off and scared. I couldn't believe something like this could happen," said Tyrel Jackson.

"A friend of mine called and woke me up. I listened to the radio report for about an hour, and then went to my neighbor's house to see the images on TV. It was just breathtaking. I was deeply saddened by what I saw," said Jesse Wells.

Others heard of the nation's attack once they were on campus. "I had just come out of class and was heading over for breakfast. I noticed a crowd in Student Activities and asked what was going on. I couldn't believe it - it was like something from the movies," said Cy Maramangalam.

Many students' red, puffy eyes and distraught looks described their thoughts and moods as they huddled in front of available televisions, unable to express in words what they were seeing.

"Let me try to put what I'm thinking into words . . . I don't understand how this could happen, especially with our military technologies," said Trebor Yocum.

"It was so surreal, so unbelievable. I turned on the TV to watch

[the World Trade Center] on fire, and saw when the second plane actually crashed into it," said Josh Wycuff.

Because classes continued as scheduled, students used the time between classes to attempt to reach distant friends and relatives by cell phone - seeking any reassurance that loved ones were okay. Because 26 percent of students enrolled come from northeastern states, including New York (10%), Pennsylvania (9%) and New Jersey (7%), many were directly affected by the morning's events. Most were fortunate.

Mike Szczecinski, a student from New York, has a mother who works for American Airlines as a flight attendant.

"She would have been on the Boeing 757 that crashed into the Pentagon, but she recently took medical leave. I was freaking out but am getting over the shock. My second thought was that I

took that skyline for granted, and I got pissed."

"My friend's cousin should have been at the World Trade Center, but he had the day off," said Wells.

"My cousin lives in southern Manhattan. I was relieved to hear he was okay," said Nick Lorenzen.

"Disbelief," Fabio Miguez of Brazil said when asked to describe his feelings. "I was at home. I saw the towers coming down."

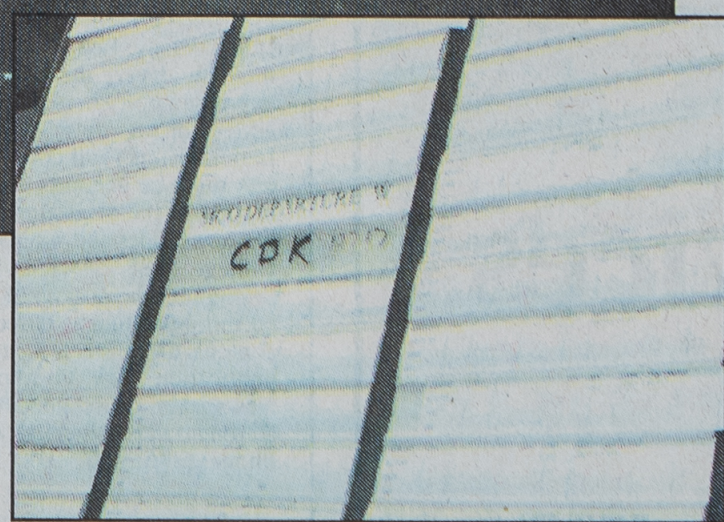
"Whoever did this, it was unnecessary," said Ahmad Salem, of Egypt. "The action from the start was wrong, (they) didn't have to do this."

"I'm disappointed with our government for allowing this to happen. And of course, I'm thinking about retaliation," said Yocum.

"I felt so sick. I threw up when I saw it," said Mohamed Elhosan, of Egypt. "I thought it wasn't real, can't be happening - like a Spielberg movie . . . Innocent people died. It's not fair."



**STUDENT MARK BORMAN TRACKS** an American Airlines Boeing 767-200 travelling along a victor airway with the TRACON Pro simulator in the Airway Science Simulation Building. The 767 would have a flight strip - a printout with the aircraft's speed, altitude and flight routing data like those at right - that the controller uses to direct the aircraft to its destination.

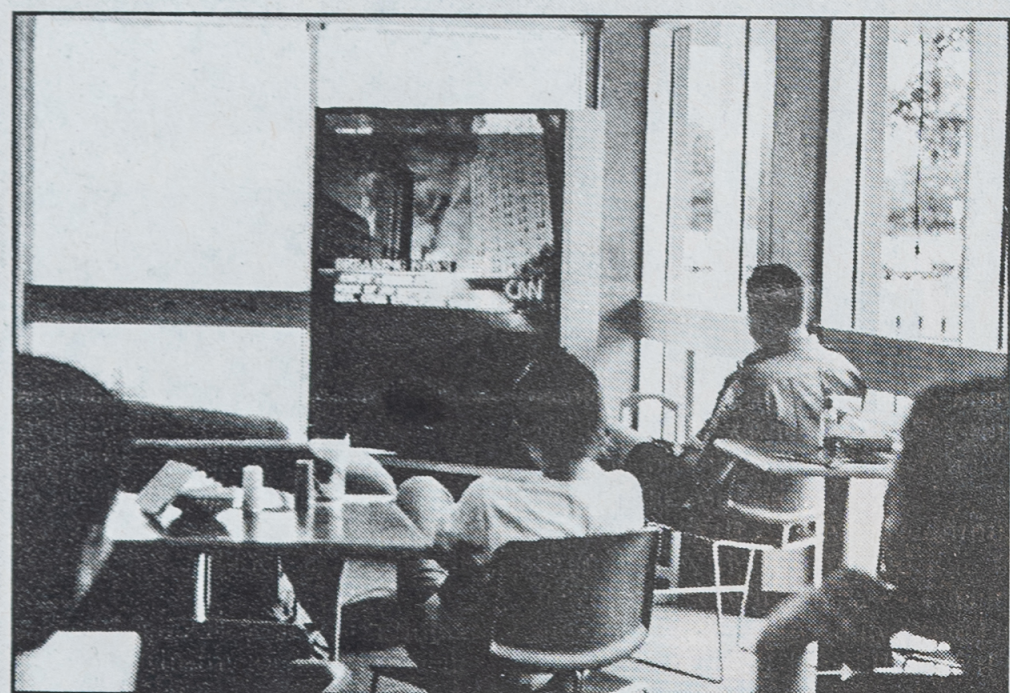




# On Campus



MEMBERS OF THE AVION confront Florida news agencies regarding their presence on campus early Wednesday morning. Channel 13 was located outside Spruance Hall while Channel 2 set up broadcast at the Student Village.



TELEVISIONS AROUND CAMPUS WERE fixed on one of the many news channels covering the events unfolding on American soil Tuesday morning.

## Responding to tragedy

### Aviation community deals with horror in the skies

Philip Ciani  
Copy Editor

President Roosevelt once said that December 7, 1941 is a day that will live in infamy. Perhaps those are the only words that are able to describe Tuesday's horrific attack on the cities of New York and Washington and on the United States as a whole.

For years, many youngsters have heard about where their parents and grandparents were when Pearl Harbor was attacked, JFK was shot and the Challenger Shuttle exploded. Now, a new generation will be able to tell stories about the Attack on America.

Campus reaction has been made up of disbelief, shock, anger and sadness. Faculty and students alike came together in their time of need to express their feelings and give their sympathy to the many people who have been affected by this turning point in American history.

According to Thomas Connolly, Chancellor of Embry-Riddle's Daytona Beach campus, extra counselors have been added to the staff to help students and faculty members through this time. He also added his feelings on Tuesday's events.

"This is without a doubt the most tragic event in my lifetime.

**"This is without a doubt the most tragic event in my lifetime... Our hearts go out to the families and friends of those affected and to the entire community."**

—DR. TOM CONNOLLY

Considering the large number of people that have been killed around the country it's a tragic event for everybody. Our hearts go out to the families and friends of those affected and to the entire community."

Connolly and other staff members were also at the Student Village on Tuesday night offering support to the student body. At the time of print, all of ERAU's planes were on the ground in the Daytona Beach area.

Pat Lee McAllister, Assistant to the Dean of Students also expressed her sorrow. According to her, the University was trying to maintain a degree of normalcy. She also said that the University was concerned for the international students on campus. According to McAllister, ERAU is encouraging students to support each other.

Tom Kirtan, a professor at ERAU shared his thoughts. "I'm totally devastated. In June I went out to Oklahoma City and visited the memorial to the bombing victims of that tragedy. It is such a stunning thing. I'm just blown away and have no concentration at all. Somebody needs to be straightened out for all of this."

Peter Alvarez, the Student Government President also shared his disbelief. "I don't think we have had time to capture the sheer size or magnitude of what has happened yet. Everyone is still in shock about the whole thing. I'm fully confident and have a lot of faith in our community. I think we will pull together and be fully supportive of each other."

When asked how it will affect students on campus, Peter replied, "I think it will forever change how we look at ourselves in this world."

## Crash highlights security concerns

Aydin Özkazanç  
Training Manager

Tuesday morning's attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon have taken center stage in United States media. Four aircraft, hijacked from United Airlines and American Airlines were used in a series of suicide dives into both towers of the trade center and one wing of the Pentagon.

This isn't the first time that an American civil aviation aircraft has been hijacked, but it is the first time that a massive attack has been committed using civilian aircraft as the main weapon.

After viewing images and footage on national television of the trade center being hit then collapsing, the public turned its attention to the thousands that may have been trapped inside. With the chaos going on inside New York City, the sequential hijacking of four large commercial airliners was already under investigation. These hijackings have raised major questions

and concerns about airline and airport security.

Two of the airliners left from Boston Logan Int'l, one from Newark and the last one from Washington Dulles. Investigations have been launched to identify how each hijackings took place.

When passengers arrive at an airport they go through security checks. Although thorough searches are conducted, there may have been certain flaws or lapses in security either by airlines or airport officials that could jeopardize the safety of air travel. The fact that four aircraft were hijacked raised suspicions that a system may exist to overcome all the security checks while reducing the reality that the breaches were not coincidental.

In the United States, as opposed to certain other countries, it is not necessary to present a federal identification when boarding an aircraft, a simple driver's license is sufficient to check in and board a commercial airliner. This may create a probability for an individual to

board with a fake id. When a hijacking occurs, it may be difficult to detect whether it was the airline or the airport security that may have allowed the hijacker to make it onboard.

With all commercial flights cancelled until further notice by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), no news has been released on any revisions or changes to security and hijack operations. There are strict rules enforced by both the FAA and the International Civil Aviation Organization concerning interference with a flight crew and hijacking. The rules will not be as effective in these four cases because the people responsible are dead.

Earlier this year, the FAA proposed a \$99,000 fine against American Airlines for security breaches on six flights in the year 2000. American was observed to have carried unaccompanied baggage on five flights, not to have declared identification on two flights and failed to ask security questions on two more flights.

American Airlines have made an announcement to immediately fix the problem, thus it is too soon for anyone to connect the hijacking to last year's event.

This is the first series of hijackings in the nation that has had severe consequences. Other hijacks involving U.S. aircraft have taken place overseas in the past years. One such incident was a Pan Am flight 93 in 1970. The aircraft was hijacked while flying from Amsterdam to New York. No deaths occurred in that incident. Another significant hijacking was TWA flight 847 flying from Athens. After several destination changes the hijackers released passengers and escaped.

Hijackings occur in many countries around the world. Even though there is no one reason for each hijacking, several hijacks have been the result of political statements. Security at airports and airline security policies are expected to undergo investigation in the coming weeks.

## Letter From The Editor

Waking up this morning, going through my routines, it never once occurred to me that within an hour, my reality would change so drastically. Like so many others in the Embry-Riddle community, I too was shocked and sickened by the surreal images that were unfolding before my eyes. My colleagues, friends, coworkers, all huddled around the television, watching history unfold, the only words we could muster were words of disbelief.

As the events of the day transpired, many people naturally began to rationalize the grief they were feeling. Some students cried, some grew angry and others, like myself, just became emotionless. Whatever your reaction to today's events, there is something more important than our emotional reactions at stake here in the hours to come, and that is how we handle this situation logically.

Despite all the hardship this country and its people have suffered, I would like to think that we would never purposely become subhuman in our actions. I would like to think that what we do in the next few days and months, will be actions we can look back upon with pride once we come to our senses. I also believe that unlike so many other cultures, America

realizes two wrongs never make a situation right, that above all mankind is defined by its actions and its ability to think through a situation. I urge my fellow classmates as well as the rest of mankind to reflect on the fact that we are all human, we are all creatures with the ability to think and that we should never believe for one moment that the people who committed these crimes were truly "thinking." The people who perpetrated these crimes were people of great negative emotions and people warped by such perceptions as to not be thinking what the real effects of their actions would be.

It is my opinion, despite all that has happened today, we as humans are still creatures of higher standards, morals and rational. Today more than ever, we as a school, a nation and a species have the ability to prosper from such a situation, just as our forefathers prospered in the face of oppression and injustice in the past. Let us push our conceptions and emotional responses aside so that we too can prosper and learn from what has happened. May peace come to those who have suffered in the days to come, and may our people grow stronger and wiser from this whole tragedy as we begin the long process of healing.



Christian Tougas  
Editor-in-Chief

## Symbols of capitalism missing from skyline

Rob Byrne  
Staff Reporter

Tuesday's news was filled with images of horrific plane crashes and destruction of landmark buildings in New York and Washington DC. Most of the coverage focused on the chaos in the cities. In the coming weeks, America will have a lot of cleaning up to do and have to begin looking into the economic destruction.

Besides the obvious financial destruction caused as a direct result of the attacks on the world trade center, there is the possibility of a further economic downturn in the airline industry. Over the next few days it will likely begin to sink in to the public mind that four commercial jets were lost in intentional crashes in one morning. While most people will probably take events somewhat in stride and continue with the travel necessary for business and everyday life, some people will inevitably give in to fear and choose not to fly.

After every major air disaster, the question of safety is raised in the media. Security questions are also raised when terrorists play a role in the loss of an aircraft. The unprecedented loss of four aircraft in one day may indeed prove to be too much for some people to deal with. Consider the recent dissolution of TWA and the destruction five years ago of TWA 800 by an apparent fuel tank explosion. Granted, TWA suffered from poor management, but flight 800 quite possibly could be the single event that pushed the airline to the point of no return. This is not to say that American Airlines or United Airlines are necessarily in any particular danger of losing their financial integrity, but they and the airline industry in general may indeed suffer a noticeable and even significant loss of business.

The world has never seen an attack as large and inherently evil as that of September 11, 2001. Only time will tell if people will lose faith in the safety of the airline industry.

## LOST from A1

veer off the highway." Air Traffic Management Program Coordinator Keith Parkman said.

A plane leaving its route and heading towards a structure in New York traverses the distance in very little time.

"There's almost no reaction time," Chief Flight Instructor Ken Doucette said.

As a result of the four aircraft crashes, the FAA immediately issued a FDC Notice to Airmen (NOTAM), signifying a drastic change or revision to flight operations.

"!FDC 1/9731 FDC SPECIAL NOTICE - DUE TO EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND FOR REASONS OF SAFETY. ATTENTION ALL AIRCRAFT OPERATORS, BY ORDER OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION COMMAND CENTER, ALL AIRPORTS/AIRDROMES ARE NOT AUTHORIZED FOR LANDING AND TAKEOFF. ALL TRAFFIC INCLUDING AIRBORNE AIRCRAFT ARE ENCOURAGED TO LAND SHORTLY."

Subsequently, aviation ground to a halt nation-wide, with the exception of military and Search and Rescue (SAR) craft.

Hundreds of Embry-Riddle stu-

dents have been caught up in events so far. The University has over 100 extended campus sites all over the world, including a number of training centers on U.S. military bases in all of the armed services. ERAU is the leading provider of off-duty education for the Air Force.

"Almost all extended campus branches will be affected due to heightened security on bases. Faculty are being put on active duty," said Dr. Leon Flancher, Chancellor of the Extended Campus.

Embry-Riddle is also a well-known trainer of many international students, especially in the flight program and University-run CATER program in DeLand.

According to wire reports, the FBI is currently seeking the whereabouts of a person in the Daytona Beach area connected with one of the flights, though no reason was given.

With the wide speculation that the hijackers actually flew the planes to the target, such hijackers would have to be trained pilots. There are few commercial aviation facilities to train pilots worldwide that are not American or European.

When asked about the likelihood that the pilots flying the hijacked aircraft, or the hijackers themselves, were trained at any campus of ERAU, Flight Department Chairman Richard Theokas said that he thought such pilots would be easy to find.

## Penetrating the Pentagon



GRANT WERNICK / UWIRE DC BUREAU

RESCUE UNITS GATHER OUTSIDE the Pentagon to coordinate their search and rescue efforts. An estimated 800 people perished in this particular stage of the attack.

**ERAU**  
**Health & Counseling Services**  
will remain open 24-hours  
until further notice.

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# “I witnessed history. . .”

## High school student witnesses collapse of Twin Towers, assists in rescue effort

Joseph Ricci  
Special to the Avion

The terrorist attack on the World Trade Center was one of the most frightening things I have ever witnessed. Unlike most people who have seen this, I was actually in it. I go to Stuyvesant High School, located downtown on Chambers Street and West Street, which is a mere five blocks from the former location of the two gigantic towers of the World Trade Center.

I arrived at school on that Tuesday morning, thinking that this was going to be a regular day. My first class of the day was over and I was going to my second class when the attack began.

As I sat down, one of my friends came into the class and announced that a plane had hit the World Trade Center. People are always making things up, so I immediately thought he was lying. Just then, the principal came over the loud speaker and said the very same thing. I was shocked. I thought it must have been an accident, that the pilot was drunk or something. From my first-floor classroom with an obstructed view, I couldn't see much. However, I was clearly able to see a black plume of smoke rising high into the sky.

It was interesting for about 15 seconds, and I thought nothing of it until I got to my next class, where my English teacher had the television on. He was watching a news report on the crash. The whole class was watching the T.V. and I found out that a plane crashed into each of the towers and

that it was a terrorist attack. We had also heard that a plane hit the pentagon. Now, I began to get frightened because I thought that if three attacks could happen, then why not more.

All of a sudden, near the end of class, all of the lights flickered, the T.V. went out and I felt a slight vibration. Since there was no T.V., I had no idea what happened. All I saw was more smoke out of the sixth floor window. At first I thought that a third plane had struck the building, however I later learned that it was the top 20 floors of the first tower falling to the ground. Then, while on my way to my next class, an announcement came over the loudspeaker ordering all students to report to homeroom, which was to last indefinitely.

About 10 minutes into homeroom, a bunch of soot-covered EMS workers burst into the room. Since we were in the room closest to the exit, they asked us for our assistance.

They needed us to move a bunch of folding tables up from the basement and set them up somewhere, anywhere, they didn't care. They needed these tables so they could turn them into makeshift hospital beds. Of course we agreed. As we were moving the tables we heard an announcement asking teachers to evacuate the building. Our homeroom of about 30 students and 2 teachers remained behind to help the EMS people. Just as we were finishing, I felt the ground begin to quiver. All at once the lights went out and the ground really began to shake.

I thought it was an earthquake. I was so scared. I later found out that both of the towers collapsed and that was what made the ground shake.

As soon as we felt the ground shake, some police officers yelled for us to get out of the building. We started running and exited the building through a back door on the north side, away from the World Trade Center and the huge column of smoke that was closing in behind us. We ran until we were a safe distance away. I think that I was lucky to have escaped that catastrophe, but I regret not being able to stay and help the EMS workers do more.

“We started running and exited the building from the north side, away from the World Trade Center and the huge column of smoke. . .”  
—JOSEPH RICCI

## Terror at the Towers: A New Yorker reflects

Christopher Kemmerer  
Sports Editor

On a “normal” day in Daytona Beach, this New Yorker, 1000 miles away from family, friends, girlfriend and life in general, woke up to see the football highlights of yesterday's Monday Night Football game on SportsCenter.

Just like any other day in my life, I got up, took a shower and prepared my books for the school day. I departed my apartment and headed on my almost routine drive to the Embury-Riddle campus.

As I scrolled through the preset channels on my car radio, I heard 103.3's “Bob and Sherry” show talking about a plane crash in New York City.

As the broadcast went on I became more and more agitated due to the fact that I didn't know what happened. They were describing the present state of my city, but didn't explain what exactly was going on. I raced into school and jumped onto a computer to check out the story. I couldn't get through to the main sites for information.

I ran into the SGA office to come face to face with an image on TV described at best by the word, “surreal.”

My city had been attacked, had been disgraced, and more horrifying – bludgeoned. At the same time, commercial aircraft had been used with lives on board. This was my future profession.

As I learned more, I started thinking about my family. Although my immediate family was in the next borough, a good 20 miles away, I had no idea who might have been visiting or had business in the city this morning. Then I thought about the countless number of people that I know that were in the city that I was not in day-to-day touch with. I don't know if it had hit me yet.

Lastly, within seconds of my first thought, I thought about my girlfriend who went to school in the city and worked in the city. She had told me the previous night that she would be going in early to take care of some business. She also would be flying down on Thursday to visit. Not to mention her father worked in downtown Manhattan. I could not

get in touch with them. My immediate family was okay, though, and I was thankful that I at least knew that.

Classes began for me, but my mind was elsewhere. I heard that the South Tower had collapsed due to the strain of the crashes. I left class and got in contact with my family. My mother spoke with shaken words, an obvious sign that she was definitely upset. I think she represented America to me, and finally the magnitude of the disaster that was implanted into my head. Still, I could not believe. A sight that I had taken advantage of, the most beautiful skyline in the world, was wounded and amputated. The World Trade Center was just a mound of dust, and missing. It will never return. I had taken advantage of the sight, and now it was gone. What else is gone?

I met up with my ERAU colleague and friend from New York for the first time since the tragedy, and I could see it in his eyes. This was big. If I was home and saw this firsthand, I would have collapsed. The television images were startling enough, but to see this with my own eyes would destroy me.

The lives that had been lost today were countless, and will not be forgotten for a long time. We had been attacked in other cities, and airliners were dropping throughout the northeast. Every time I stepped away from the TV there was more news, more lives lost. Where is my girlfriend, her father? Who else had visited the city this morning? How many people that I don't know died this morning? What can I do?

My life was New York and commercial aviation. Both facets were attacked within hours, and complete pandemonium had occurred.

Our country was attacked. The words, “Pearl Harbor,” were being buzzed around campus. This is worse. I think the worst is still to come because the dust has not settled. Rest assured, when it does, fingers will be pointed, if they aren't already. Act of war? YES.

All I want to do is go home, and be with my family, and know everyone is all right. Until then the dust is still in the air.



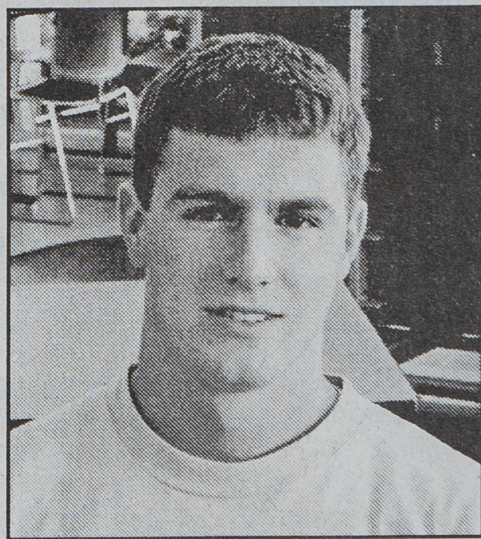
Christopher Kemmerer  
Sports Editor



SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

THE WORLD TRADE CENTER was attacked on Tuesday, killing thousands of people. Just before 10 a.m., a hijacked American Airlines jet was deliberately crashed into the upper floors of one of the towers. Shortly after, the other tower was destroyed when another hijacked jet slammed into it. The event was the worst attack in U.S. history, killing hundreds of police and firefighters and thousands of civilians.

### Student Forum



Austin Horn  
Freshman  
Meteorology

“I get goose bumps thinking about it. I didn't believe it. My dad works at the Pentagon. Anything can happen. We are so vulnerable.”



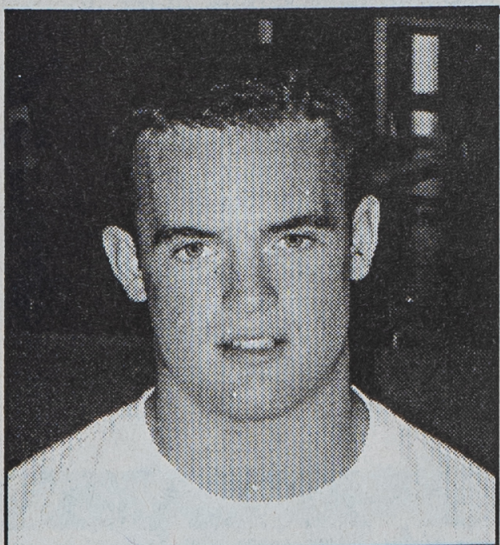
Alfredo Bethune  
Freshman  
Aviation Management

“I thought it was bin Laden, but I heard that Afghanistan just got bombed. I was worried because my mom works in Brooklyn.”



Ginger Demakos  
Freshman  
Aeronautical Science

“We are partially to blame because we let our guard down. We shouldn't make assumptions until we know the facts.”



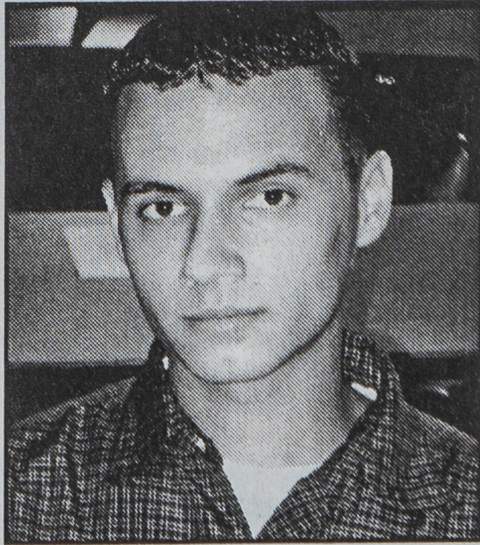
Matt Rice  
Freshman  
Aeronautical Science

“I don't think that they are going to take the measures that they need to take. We need more defense. I just hope that they do something.”



MJ Velasco  
Senior  
Aeronautical Science

“I think it is a time to think, not feel. Ten years ago we were in the same predicament with Saddam Hussein. It is ludicrous to fight over religion.”



Tim Homan  
Junior  
Aeronautical Science

“I was alarmed by the report that in Palestine they were dancing in the streets.”



Chris Baglieri  
Freshman  
Aeronautical Science

“It happened so fast and there was nothing that we could do about it.”



Phil Davis  
Freshman  
Aeronautical Science

“Find out who did it and avoid war. I feel safe here.”



Sarah Vaneekhoven  
Freshman  
Aerospace Engineering

“I'm scared because we're near the Space Center.”



# “I witnessed history. . .”

## High school student witnesses collapse of Twin Towers, assists in rescue effort

**Joseph Ricci**  
Special to the Avion

The terrorist attack on the World Trade Center was one of the most frightening things I have ever witnessed. Unlike most people who have seen this, I was actually in it. I go to Stuyvesant High School, located downtown on Chambers Street and West Street, which is a mere five blocks from the former location of the two gigantic towers of the World Trade Center.

I arrived at school on that Tuesday morning, thinking that this was going to be a regular day. My first class of the day was over and I was going to my second class when the attack began.

As I sat down, one of my friends came into the class and announced that a plane had hit the World Trade Center. People are always making things up, so I immediately thought he was lying. Just then, the principal came over the loud speaker and said the very same thing. I was shocked. I thought it must have been an accident, that the pilot was drunk or something. From my first-floor classroom with an obstructed view, I couldn't see much. However, I was clearly able to see a black plume of smoke rising high into the sky.

It was interesting for about 15 seconds, and I thought nothing of it until I got to my next class, where my English teacher had the television on. He was watching a news report on the crash. The whole class was watching the T.V. and I found out that a plane crashed into each of the towers and

that it was a terrorist attack. We had also heard that a plane hit the pentagon. Now, I began to get frightened because I thought that if three attacks could happen, then why not more.

All of a sudden, near the end of class, all of the lights flickered, the T.V. went out and I felt a slight vibration. Since there was no T.V., I had no idea what happened. All I saw was more smoke out of the sixth floor window. At first I thought that a third plane had struck the building, however I later learned that it was the top 20 floors of the first tower falling to the ground. Then, while on my way to my next class, an announcement came over the loudspeaker ordering all students to report to homeroom, which was to last indefinitely.

About 10 minutes into homeroom, a bunch of soot-covered EMS workers burst into the room. Since we were in the room closest to the exit, they asked us for our assistance.

They needed us to move a bunch of folding tables up from the basement and set them up somewhere, anywhere, they didn't care. They needed these tables so they could turn them into makeshift hospital beds. Of course we agreed. As we were moving the tables we heard an announcement asking teachers to evacuate the building. Our homeroom of about 30 students and 2 teachers remained behind to help the EMS people. Just as we were finishing, I felt the ground begin to quiver. All at once the lights went out and the ground really began to shake.

I thought it was an earthquake. I was so scared. I later found out that both of the towers collapsed and that was what made the ground shake.

As soon as we felt the ground shake, some police officers yelled for us to get out of the building. We started running and exited the building through a back door on the north side, away from the World Trade Center and the huge column of smoke that was closing in behind us. We ran until we were a safe distance away. I think that I was lucky to have escaped that catastrophe, but I regret not being able to stay and help the EMS workers do more.

**“We started running and exited the building from the north side, away from the World Trade Center and the huge column of smoke. . .”**  
—JOSEPH RICCI

## Terror at the Towers: A New Yorker reflects

**Christopher Kemmerer**  
Sports Editor

On a “normal” day in Daytona Beach, this New Yorker, 1000 miles away from family, friends, girlfriend and life in general, woke up to see the foot ball highlights of yesterday's Monday Night Football game on SportsCenter.

Just like any other day in my life, I got up, took a shower and prepared my books for the school day. I departed my apartment and headed on my almost routine drive to the Embry-Riddle campus.

As I scrolled through the preset channels on my car radio, I heard 103.3's “Bob and Sherry” show talking about a plane crash in New York City.

As the broadcast went on I became more and more agitated due to the fact that I didn't know what happened. They were describing the present state of my city, but didn't explain what exactly was going on. I raced into school and jumped onto a computer to check out the story. I couldn't get through to the main sites for information.

I ran into the SGA office to come face to face with an image on TV described at best by the word, “surreal.”

My city had been attacked, had been disgraced, and more horrifying – bludgeoned. At the same time, commercial aircraft had been used with lives on board. This was my future profession.

As I learned more, I started thinking about my family. Although my immediate family was in the next borough, a good 20 miles away, I had no idea who might have been visiting or had business in the city this morning. Then I thought about the countless number of people that I know that were in the city that I was not in day-to-day touch with. I don't know if it had hit me yet.

Lastly, within seconds of my first thought, I thought about my girlfriend who went to school in the city and worked in the city. She had told me the previous night that she would be going in early to take care of some business. She also would be flying down on Thursday to visit. Not to mention her father worked in downtown Manhattan. I could not

get in touch with them. My immediate family was okay, though, and I was thankful that I at least knew that.

Classes began for me, but my mind was elsewhere. I heard that the South Tower had collapsed due to the strain of the crashes. I left class and got in contact with my family. My mother spoke with shaken words, an obvious sign that she was definitely upset. I think she represented America to me, and finally the magnitude of the disaster that was implanted into my head. Still, I could not believe. A sight that I had taken advantage of, the most beautiful skyline in the world, was wounded and amputated. The World Trade Center was just a mound of dust, and missing. It will never return. I had taken advantage of the sight, and now it was gone. What else is gone?

I met up with my ERAU colleague and friend from New York for the first time since the tragedy, and I could see it in his eyes. This was big. If I was home and saw this firsthand, I would have collapsed. The television images were startling enough, but to see this with my own eyes would destroy me.

The lives that had been lost today were countless, and will not be forgotten for a long time. We had been attacked in other cities, and airliners were dropping throughout the northeast. Every time I stepped away from the TV there was more news, more lives lost. Where is my girlfriend, her father? Who else had visited the city this morning? How many people that I don't know died this morning? What can I do?

My life was New York and commercial aviation. Both facets were attacked within hours, and complete pandemonium had occurred.

Our country was attacked. The words, “Pearl Harbor,” were being buzzed around campus. This is worse. I think the worst is still to come because the dust has not settled. Rest assured, when it does, fingers will be pointed, if they aren't already. Act of war? YES.

All I want to do is go home, and be with my family, and know everyone is all right. Until then the dust is still in the air.



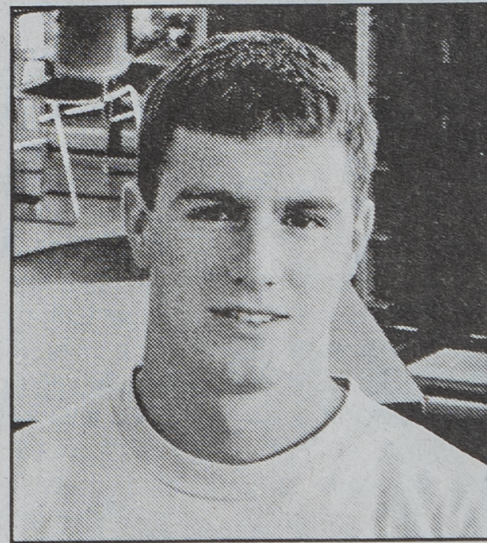
**Christopher Kemmerer**  
Sports Editor



SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

**THE WORLD TRADE CENTER** was attacked on Tuesday, killing thousands of people. Just before 10 a.m., a hijacked American Airlines jet was deliberately crashed into the upper floors of one of the towers. Shortly after, the other tower was destroyed when another hijacked jet slammed into it. The event was the worst attack in U.S. history, killing hundreds of police and firefighters and thousands of civilians.

### Student Forum



**Austin Horn**  
Freshman  
Meteorology

“I get goose bumps thinking about it. I didn't believe it. My dad works at the Pentagon. Anything can happen. We are so vulnerable.”



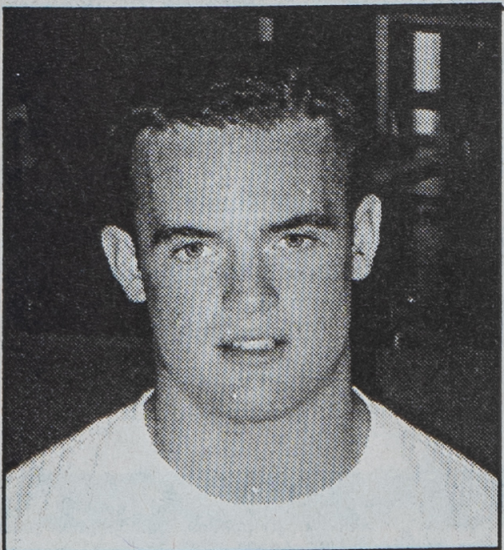
**Alfredo Bethune**  
Freshman  
Aviation Management

“I thought it was bin Laden, but I heard that Afghanistan just got bombed. I was worried because my mom works in Brooklyn.”



**Ginger Demakos**  
Freshman  
Aeronautical Science

“We are partially to blame because we let our guard down. We shouldn't make assumptions until we know the facts.”



**Matt Rice**  
Freshman  
Aeronautical Science

“I don't think that they are going to take the measures that they need to take. We need more defense. I just hope that they do something.”



**MJ Velasco**  
Senior  
Aeronautical Science

“I think it is a time to think, not feel. Ten years ago we were in the same predicament with Saddam Hussein. It is ludicrous to fight over religion.”



**Tim Homan**  
Junior  
Aeronautical Science

“I was alarmed by the report that in Palestine they were dancing in the streets.”



**Chris Baglieri**  
Freshman  
Aeronautical Science

“It happened so fast and there was nothing that we could do about it.”



**Phil Davis**  
Freshman  
Aeronautical Science

“Find out who did it and avoid war. I feel safe here.”

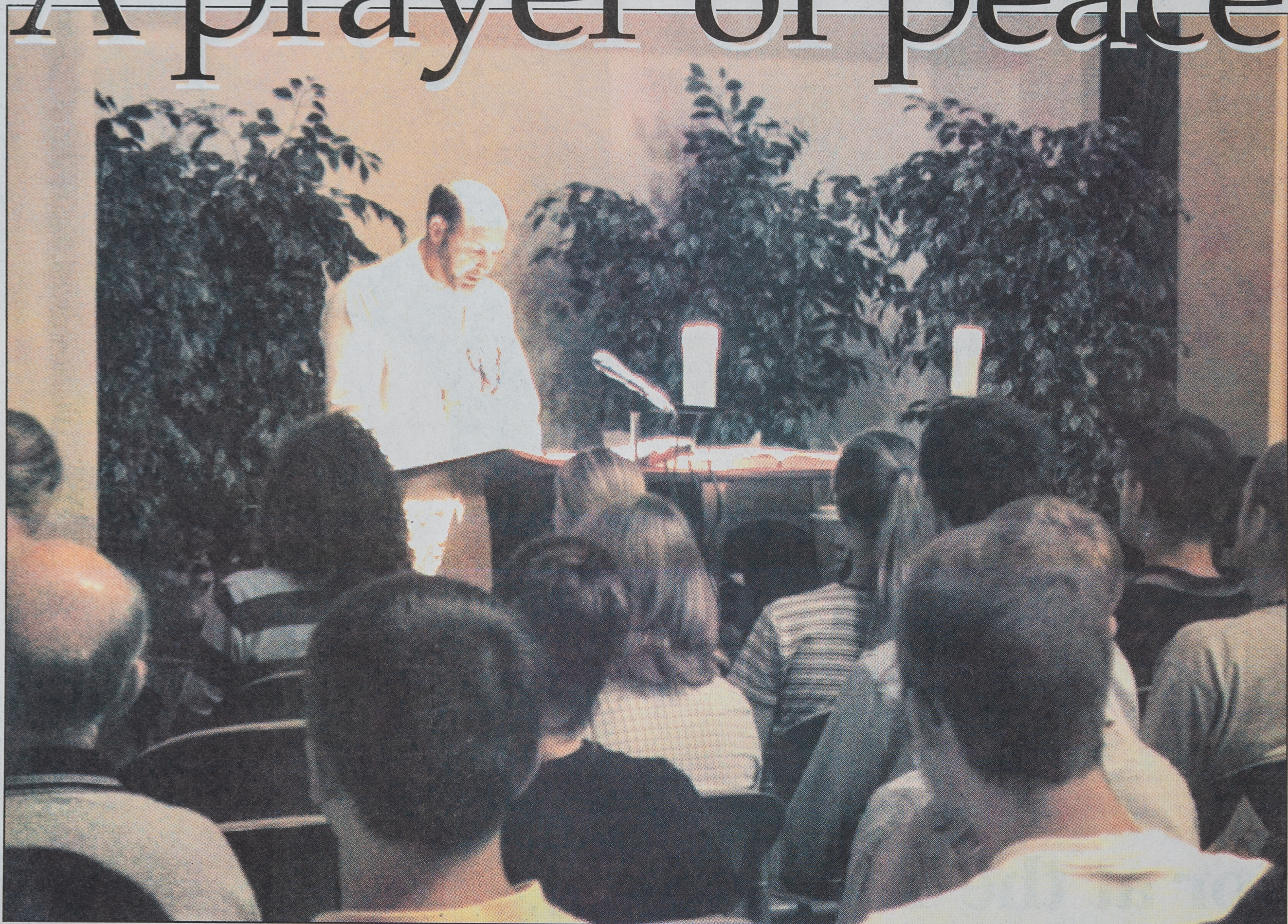


**Sarah Vaneekhoven**  
Freshman  
Aerospace Engineering

“I'm scared because we're near the Space Center.”



# A prayer of peace



MARIANO ROSALES/AVION

Tuesday's senseless attacks in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania left many Americans frightened, confused, and shocked. Embry-Riddle's religious staff took the occasion to host an interfaith prayer service, to comfort the student body in its time of need. The service, hosted by Father Tim Daly and Reverend Jack Ottoson, took place at 9:00 that evening. It brought together a small but distraught group of students and adults, offering them a chance to pray for peace and hope. "There are no simple answers to complex problems," Rev. Ottoson said, quoting a high school teacher of his. He shared some excerpts from Tuesdays With Morrie about feeling compassion for the suffering of strangers. Father Daly spoke to the students about maintaining hope, and being thankful that the attack was not worse than it was.

Students lit candles and then broke into small prayer groups. It was there that they shared their concerns with their fellow students and with God. The service concluded with the hymn "On Eagle's Wings" and was followed by further prayer and refreshments. Most students were deeply affected by the service. "It was peaceful," said senior Sean Boherer. "I think that's what we need, with all this talk of retaliation." Another student said, "I was a little disappointed by the small turnout. But I'm grateful that they had the ceremony, and that we got as many people as we did."

## Remembering the day America was attacked



Phillip Ciani  
Copy Editor

Today will be remembered with the likes of the Challenger accident and the Oklahoma bombing.

Where were you when you first found out the World Trade Center was destroyed? Much like the Challenger explosion and the start of the Persian Gulf War, that moment will stay with you for the rest of your life.

I was in my car, on the way to school when I heard my hometown news station (880 AM) from New York broadcasting over an Orlando radio station. The news was shocking, almost too shocking to believe. The World Trade Center was hit by a plane and was actually "melting" according to the reporter. The horrific description went on: people trapped in windows 100 stories up, debris falling to the ground and complete chaos on the streets of Manhattan.

At this point I thought to myself about the crowded New York airspace. A plane enroute to LaGuardia must have had a problem and unfortunately collided with one of the towers. This happened at the Empire State Building in the 1940s.

This thought was quickly swept away when I heard the other tower was also on fire due to another plane. Then I heard the word terrorism and was blown away.

Perhaps the most terrifying moment of the day was seeing the towers fall one by one. A symbol of our strength and accomplishment as humans in a free society fell to the West Side Highway in ruins.

As I write this article, I'm saddened, angered and outraged. I'm saddened that tens of thousands of innocent people died, I'm angered that anyone would attack us on our own soil, and I'm outraged that somebody would blow up an icon of my hometown.

On Tuesday, New York woke up in an innocent state. By Tuesday night, part of the city was in ruins and the other part was grasping for a way to deal with the horrific events. However, one thing will remain unchanged. It was and is the world's greatest city much like the U.S. was and is the world's best country. No terrorist ever has or ever will change

## Attacks criticized by numerous world leaders

John Gibbs  
Aeronautica Editor

of Tuesday's terrorist attacks has been swift, wide and damning.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair was one of the first world leaders to comment, taking the opportunity at the TUC conference to show British support for the American people and government during this hard time. Blair stated that these attacks were "...perpetrated by fanatics, utterly indifferent to the sanctity of human life."

Other NATO members were swift to offer their condolences and condemn the attack. French premier Lionel Jospin damned the terrorist actions as "monstrous." French security forces have stepped up the level of policing at major metro stations and airfields throughout the country. NATO ministers were earlier summoned to an emergency meeting in Brussels.

Russian president Vladimir Putin offered his nation's sympathies, and in a telegram to President Bush, urged the American leader to bring those responsible to justice.

Even America's less than

International condemnation friendly neighbor Cuba in Afghanistan, a statement denounced the actions, saying that the Caribbean nation's position was one of a "total rejection of this sort of terrorist attack." China's premier Jiang Zemin also sent a telegram to President Bush, offering his government's sympathy to the American people.

In the Middle East, Saudi Arabia "strongly condemns such acts which contravenes all religious values and human civilized concepts." An official Saudi source also stressed "the Kingdom's condemnation of terrorism, and its constant work with the international community to combat all forms of terrorism. Both Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon communicated their h o r r o r at the events to the American government.

Although world suspicion is pointed at Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden, who resides

released by bin Laden denied any involvement. However, he did voice his support of the attacks.

Pakistan, one of three nations to recognize the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, echoed the sentiments of other Asian nations. General Pervez Musharraf "The people and government of Pakistan deeply mourn the enormous and unprecedented loss of innocent lives."

South African president Thabo Mbeki expressed "shock and dismay" at the terrible events, and expressed "his condolences to President George Bush and the people of the United States." The S o u t h African gov- issued a statement expressing its confidence that American authorities will bring the terrorists to justice.

“...perpetrated by fanatics, utterly indifferent to the sanctity of human life.”  
—TONY BLAIR”

## Efforts rise to provide blood relief

American Red Cross  
Press Release

In response to the national crises, the American Red Cross is ready to send over 50,000 units of blood into the affected areas as needed. In support of the national effort, the local Red Cross Blood Center has implemented expanded blood collection hours of 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily until further notice.

Local Red Cross volunteers have also been called today and are on standby to travel to these cities in response to these disasters.

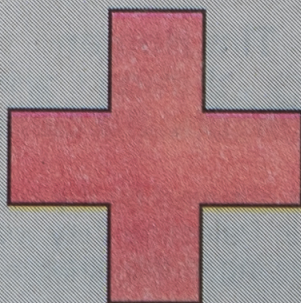
Red Cross mental health and health workers will be helping people recover from the emotional trauma of the incidents. People will be experiencing stress from the lack of warning, the unfamiliarity of the event, the exposure to gruesome situations and mass casualties. Additionally, the shock of such a terrible event caused by what appears to be human hands will cause emotional trauma in communities across the country. People in the affected areas are encouraged to contact their families outside the area to let them know they are okay. There is a 48-hour moratorium on Family Well-being Inquiries. Following the 48-hour moratorium, individuals who have family in the affected areas, can call 1-800-896-7949.

All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. To help the victims of this and other disasters, contributions can be made to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund by calling 1-800-HELP-NOW or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish). Internet users can make a secure online credit card contribution by visiting [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org). Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may also be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, D.C. 20013.

### Volusia County Red Cross Blood Drive Efforts

WHERE: 341 White St.  
(east side of DBCC)

TIME: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
(effective through Friday)



IMPORTANT:  
Red Cross officials released a statement to area media requesting the public to refrain from large amounts of people wishing to donate blood. This will allow efforts to be focused on other relief/aid. There will be a larger demand for blood over the next two weeks.