

AMERICAN TRAGEDY

Terrorists strike World Trade Center in New York, Pentagon near Washington, D.C., in unprecedented attack on United States

'Today our nation saw evil,' president says

NEW YORK (AP) — In the most devastating terrorist onslaught ever waged against the United States, knife-wielding hijackers crashed two airliners into the World Trade Center on Tuesday, toppling its twin 110-story towers. The deadly calamity was witnessed on televisions across the world as another plane slammed into the Pentagon, and a fourth crashed outside Pittsburgh.

"Today, our nation saw evil," President Bush said in an address to the nation Tuesday night. He said thousands of lives were "suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror."

Said Adm. Robert J. Natter, commander of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet: "We have been attacked like we haven't since Pearl Harbor."

Establishing the U.S. death toll could take weeks. The four airliners alone had 266 people aboard and there were no known survivors. At the Pentagon, some reports said 800 had died.

In addition, a firefighters union official said he feared an estimated 300 firefighters had died in rescue efforts at the trade center — where 50,000 people worked — and dozens of police officers were believed missing.

No one took responsibility for the attacks that rocked the seats of finance and government. But federal authorities identified Osama bin Laden, who has been given asylum by Afghanistan's Taliban rulers, as the prime suspect.

Aided by an intercept of communications between his supporters and harrowing cell phone calls from at least one flight attendant and two passengers aboard the jetliners before they crashed, U.S. officials began assembling a case linking bin Laden to the devastation.

U.S. intelligence intercepted communications between bin Laden supporters discussing the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, according to Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch, the top Republican on

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Foreign students express concern

By Colin Atagi
DAILY STAFF WRITER

Tuesday's incidents on the East Coast triggered strong reaction among students of different ethnic backgrounds.

Students expressed various opinions about the events.

While some individuals were angered by the tragedy, others felt that the occurrences should have been expected.

"I'm amazed this hasn't happened before," said a student living in the International House who wished to remain anonymous. "There's been a lot of people threatening the U.S.A., and (attacking the United States) is not hard to do."

Elena Dorabji, a political science lecturer who specializes in American and comparative politics, said she was saddened by the events.

She was aware, however, that the United States has made a lot of enemies in the past.

"I think that from an academic point of view, this is a world that has gotten increasingly more violent, and the United States is experiencing a lot of disillusion," she said.

"I think Americans are being seen as the bully that was ignoring international treaties and going along with our vision on how we could exploit the world. I think there are a lot of areas of anger and resentment and a lot of opportunity for violence, and even though I think it's shocking and awful, it doesn't surprise me that people are reacting in a violent way."

However, not everyone expected such an event.

Some students were surprised and upset by the events.

"My thoughts, or my feelings rather, are of great disturbance," said David Goodman of Hillel of Silicon Valley, the foundation for Jewish campus life. "Just the fact that something like this could

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Kris Gainey / Daily Staff

Andrea Rojas, right, wipes away tears as her Alpha Omicron Pi sorority sister Tiffany Quintana, left, comforts her at the Catholic

Campus Ministry chapel. The prayer service was held Tuesday for students, faculty and staff members who wanted to pray for peace

after the attacks on the Pentagon and New York City's World Trade Center. More than a score attended the afternoon service.

Students find solace at church service

By Christina Lucarotti
DAILY SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The afternoon prayer service Tuesday at the Catholic Campus Ministry chapel began with the singing of "Let There be Peace on Earth."

Six hours had passed since news broke of attacks on the World Trade Center.

The West Coast had awakened to a whole new world.

And everyone in America was trying to understand what it meant to be a target of terrorism.

Nearly 30 people from San Jose State University gathered to turn their concerns over to a higher power.

The opening prayer, one specifically used in time of war or civil disturbance, asked God to "banish violence from our midst and wipe away our tears."

Sophomore Andrea Rojas attended the service with 13 of her Alpha Omicron Pi sorority sisters.

"It was the least we could do," Rojas said.

She and her housemates had learned about the acts of terrorism at 9:30 a.m. and wanted to show their support for the families of victims. They were also trying to organize fraternity and sorority members to donate blood.

"I'm disappointed that we're capable, as human beings, to do this," Rojas said with tears in her eyes. Her sorority sisters shared her disbelief.

"I'm just mostly shocked that someone could do this, and I'm shocked that it was our own people on those planes, and they knew they were going to die," said Jacquelyn Harlow. "It's hard to comprehend."

During the 40-minute service, Sister Marcia Krause and chaplain Roger Wharton gave reflections focused on self-examination.

"I think we need to realize that we in this country, in this nation,

live a very privileged life. Other people cannot live simply, because we refuse to live less luxuriously," Wharton said as he discussed the United States' use of global resources.

Wharton also talked about the need for forgiveness.

"We need to remember that not only Jesus but all the great spiritual leaders have said revenge and retribution are not the place to go."

Rojas agreed.

"I want us to reach out to the Palestinians, not be racist. If anything can come out of this, I hope we grow closer as a nation," she said.

Wharton said he hopes the events in New York and at the Pentagon would cause students to pause and reflect on their personal responsibility to others.

"I don't know what the government's going to do, but on our level, I hope our response is to examine our lifestyles and live more simply," Wharton said after the service.

Krause viewed the tragic events as a chance for transformation.

"We are such a volatile people. We need to be more peaceful, and that only happens through prayer and reflection," she said.

Michaela Black, a nursing student, said she was hesitant to join her sorority sisters at the prayer service because she didn't feel ready to deal with the reality of the attacks, but said it was beneficial.

"It helped give me a perspective and give me a few odds and ends I have to work on," Black said.

Krause urged those in attendance to think about times when they are the source of violence and division instead of peace.

"This day is a challenge and a call to see how we are implicated. I pray that we ourselves can see how we can be peacemakers."

Another prayer service is scheduled for today at 12:10 p.m. at the Catholic Campus Ministry chapel.

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Dorm students react to terror

By Moses Peraza and Karlie Reiss
DAILY STAFF WRITERS

The common area of every residence hall was filled with students focused in on the breaking news of the World Trade Center terrorist act.

Classes were canceled at San Jose State University on Tuesday, but resident halls remained open.

"Only an emergency would close down the dorms," said Anna Bechen, resident assistant.

T. J. Holloway, a dorm resident said, "This just shows we're vulnerable, even as the strongest nation in the world. We also got our own planes high-jacked and crashed into our own building."

The students were conversing on the question of the motive of the act, as well as what will happen next.

"Why do people do this?" said Kassa Benketu, a student resident. "This makes no sense. I hope they, whoever did this, gets what they deserve."

Some of students in the resident halls said they felt that the attacks on the east coast were surreal.

"Absolutely hard to accept," said Tammy Bueno, a SJSU student. "So many innocent people hurt— it accomplishes nothing but creates anger and hostility in people."

Not all students were angry about the attack, however some were worried about friends and family living back east.

"Nerve-wracking," said Germanine Lacap, a resident of Hoover Hall. "I have friends in New York and I tried calling their parents but they are not responding."

Patrick Engdahl, dorm resident, was concerned about his father who was in New York on a business trip.

"He was suppose to have a meeting at the World Trade Cen-

Images of horror glue eyes to television



Andrea Scott / Special To The Daily

Students gather in front of a television outside the Spartan Bookstore to watch coverage of the terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center.

By Kemberly Gong
DAILY STAFF WRITER

Student reaction was grim in response to destruction of the World Trade Center buildings and the Pentagon.

In an event that is said to top the death toll and destruction of the WWII attack on Pearl Harbor, some students were shocked and in disbelief of the events that occurred Tuesday.

"I heard it on the radio — it's shocking," said Cindy Leong, an undeclared sophomore.

"You think the U.S. is invincible, but something like this really hits home that anything can happen."

A television was set up outside

the Spartan Bookstore on Tuesday, and students swarmed around it to watch the events broadcasted on the news.

Many stared in disbelief as they watched the video of the airplane as it crashed into the second tower of the World Trade Center.

Many students expressed surprise that the United States would be vulnerable to an outside attack.

"I'm shocked right now," said Joseph Bryant, an undeclared sophomore.

"Personally, it seems like school is going on as normal."

This was before it was announced that the campus was

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