

# The Almanian

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# HISTORY

Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us. No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory. I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt,  
December 8, 1941



## America mourns terrorist attacks; 5,000 feared dead

Nikole Canute  
News Editor

Business in Lower Manhattan resumed Monday for the first time since terrorists hijacked American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175 and flew them into the twin towers of the World Trade Center, resulting in their collapse last Tuesday.

State and local police, along with 4,500 National Guard troops, patrolled the area throughout the day, and pedestrian and vehicle traffic crossed the Brooklyn Bridge, flowing directly into Lower Manhattan. Subways were operating normally throughout the city with the exception of the Wall Street area, where service was slower and limited service.

The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), three blocks from the World Trade Center, returned from the longest trading disruption since the Great Depression, distributing approximately 5,000 face masks

to employees to protect them from the dust and soot still circulating in the air. Losses in the stock exchange were approximately 5 percent, with the Dow Jones industrial average falling more than 600 points at its worst levels. Airlines and insurers took the hardest hits on the market, as they were the two businesses most affected by the attacks.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration, two-thirds of normal commercial airline volume flew on Sunday.

New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani confirmed Sunday the deaths of 190 people in New York, 115 of which have been identified. Among those confirmed dead were 37 firefighters, police officers and paramedics. Approximately 4,957 people are missing from the World Trade Center attacks.

The death toll at the Pentagon, where hijacked American Airlines

Flight 77 crashed on Tuesday, stands at 188.

Additionally, 38 passengers and the crew of United Airlines Flight 93 were killed when the flight was hijacked and crashed in Stony Creek Township, Pennsylvania Tuesday.

Giuliani has promised that rescue operations will continue in New York until all hope has been extinguished. Wednesday marks one week since rescuers pulled the last survivor from the wreckage.

To aid in the recovery efforts, Congress approved a \$40 billion package on Friday—twice as large as the White House requested. Recovery and cleanup efforts in New York and Virginia will receive \$10 billion immediately. To release another \$10 billion, Congress will then require written certification from Bush after a 15-day waiting period. Finally, Bush

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## The campus reacts

Jen Bussell  
Staff Writer

The campus community came together several times following Tuesday's terrorist attacks, at both a candlelight vigil and a panel discussion intended to help students understand the events of recent days.

At Tuesday evening's ceremony, students shared their thoughts and stories about the tragedies, and also offered their prayers to the victims and the victims' families. A processional around the chapel in the setting sun highlighted the evening.

Wednesday evening's panel

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# NEWS

Tuesday

- terrorist attacks in NYC and at Pentagon
- fourth hijacked plane crashes in Pennsylvania
- FAA shuts down air traffic
- government and major buildings are evacuated
- stock markets close

Wednesday

- last time a survivor was pulled from the wreckage in New York
- NATO promises to support U.S. military response

Thursday

- Sec. Of State Colin Powell identifies Osama bin Laden as the primary suspect

Friday

- Congress passes \$40 billion aid package
- Congress authorizes use of force

## Palestine history remains important in investigation of attacks.

Rachel Kuhl  
Chris Machnacki  
Staff Writers

Long associated with dissent and combat, the Middle East continues to be a hotbed for conflict between people of different nationalities and is especially noteworthy during the investigation of Tuesday's terrorist attacks on the United States.

The location of Palestine, linking three continents, has made it a melting pot of cultural influences, religion, trade, and especially conflict. The area's history has been one of domination by powerful neighbors, a pattern that has persisted to the present.

A majority of the Palestinians converted to Islam after the Arab conquest circa 1400. The remaining Christians and Jews were granted religious freedom and maintained complete control over their individual communities. These practices continued until the 19th century, when European nationalism and anti-Semitism prompted thousands of Jews to emigrate to Palestine in a movement known as Zionism. This sudden burst of migration worried Palestinian

leaders, and many opposed the influx.

During this period, Palestine was under the control of the Ottoman Empire. During the First World War, Britain promised Palestinian leaders the independence of their country and aided the Palestinians in revolting against the Turks. However, in 1917 the British issued the Balfour Declaration, promising to aid in the establishment of a Jewish national homeland in Palestine.

During the inter-war period, the British satisfied the demands of neither side and precariously ruled Palestine under a mandate from the League of Nations, the precursor to the modern United Nations (UN). Following the Second World War, tensions between the Jews and Palestinians were high as hundreds of thousands of Jews fled Europe and the horror of the Holocaust. The new UN attempted to divide Palestine into Jewish and Palestinian states, but the Palestinians claimed that Israel was given a disproportionate share of the land.

In May 1948, the State of Israel was established and recognized internationally, but immediately attacked by Arab armies coming

to the aid of the Palestinians. Israel defeated the Arab forces and increased its power and territory, including territories not allocated to it under the 1947 UN partition. The war left approximately 780,000 Palestinian refugees, many with a strong national identity and a desire to return to their homeland.

A stalemate resulted despite major outbreaks of violence between Israel and its neighbors in 1956, 1967, 1973, and 1982. Israel's Arab neighbors were incapable of defeating it militarily, and Israel was unable to stamp out terrorism directed by Yasir Arafat's Palestinian Liberation Organization. Complicating the situation, Israeli settlers have constructed many small towns in the West Bank of the Jordan River, predominantly Palestinian land occupied by Israel after the 1967 Six Day War.

Finally, in 1993, Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met on United States soil to sign the Oslo Peace Accords in 1993. The agreement called for limited Palestinian self-rule in Israeli-occupied territories and began a process to finally create a Palestinian state.

Implementation of the Oslo Accords has never gone according to plan. Rabin was assassinated in 1995 and his Israeli successors, unconvinced that Oslo offered a serious chance for peace, delayed implementation. Growing Palestinian frustration resulted in further outbreaks of violence.

In October 2000, a provocative visit to a religious site by now-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon sparked a cycle of violence known to the Palestinians as an intifada, resulting in hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries among both Palestinians and Israelis. Superior military equipment on the Israeli has resulted in far heavier Palestinian casualties. Suicide bombings by the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas have killed dozens and inspired fear throughout Israel.

Historically, the United States has been a close supporter of Israel. Israel receives \$3 billion in foreign aid every year from the United States, much of it used to purchase advanced military equipment.

This support for Israel has resulted in heavy criticism, and even outright hatred, of the United States among the people and governments of the Middle East.

## Bin Laden still prime suspect in attacks

Ryan Cannon  
Staff Writer

As America continues to sort through the rubble of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, politicians, pundits and the public continue to find reasons to blame Osama bin Laden, the leader of the al Qaeda ("the Base") terrorist group that has been suspected in numerous bombings of U.S. embassies and military installations in the recent past, including last year's bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen and the 1998 attacks on U.S. embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya.

Sunday, vice-president Dick Cheney called bin Laden a prime suspect, stating, "I have no doubt

that he and his organization played a significant role. There's a lot of evidence to link his organization ... to this operation."

The son of a wealthy Saudi construction mogul, bin Laden controls nearly \$300 million of his family's \$5 billion, and has used his wealth to bankroll his terrorist activities.

Bin Laden, a Muslim extremist, originally gained posterity by leading Islamic forces of Afghanistan in a jihad—holy war—against the U.S.S.R., which the U.S.

bankrolled to the tune of \$3 billion. He has now turned his attention toward attacking the U.S., citing the government's policy and actions in the Middle East as fundamental threats against Islam.

Without a country or family, bin Laden puts all his faith in his god to deliver his cause

Bin Laden has declared a jihad against the U.S. as a reaction to American attacks on Islamic forces and civilians, citing, among other things, the U.S. bombing of a pharmaceutical company in the Sudan under the suspicion that it made chemical

weapons, and the economic sanctions on Iraq.

The Saudi government, which bin Laden calls "insufficiently Islamic," has exiled him and frozen his available assets in that country. He has declared Saudi Arabia a tool of the U.S. government, keeping oil prices well below fair market levels and allowing Americans to keep the so-called Jewish occupation (Israel) of the Muslim holy land (Palestine) in place.

Without a country or family, bin Laden puts all his faith in his god to deliver his cause. His wealth and business savvy are invested across the East and the West, and he is determined to see that the U.S. pays for its crimes against Islam.



# NEWS

Saturday

- Pakistan pledges support to the United States
- FBI identifies hijackers

Sunday

- bin Laden issues statement denying responsibility

Monday

- Pakistan urges Afghanistan to turn over bin Laden or risk attack by the U.S.
- Stock market re-opens
- Business resumes in Lower Manhattan
- The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank announce cancellation of their annual meetings

## Past attacks on the United States of America

### April 18, 1983

A terrorist driving a van bombs the U.S. embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. The blast rips through the building killing 63 people, many of them U.S. and Middle Eastern diplomats.

### October 23, 1983

A terrorist bomb destroys the US Marine barracks in Beirut. Two hundred forty-one personnel are killed and over 100 more are wounded.

### February 26, 1993

Around noon, a bomb explodes in the World Trade Center. Six people are killed and over 1,000 are injured. The blast causes over a quarter of a million dollars in damage.

### April 19, 1995

The Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City is bombed killing 168 in the building. Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols are arrested and tried in the case. McVeigh is executed in 2001; Nichols is jailed for life and is awaiting additional trials.

### July 27, 1996

At the Centennial Olympics in Atlanta a pipe bomb explodes killing 1 woman and injuring 111 people. The bomb goes off at a latenight rock concert. Eric Rudolph is considered the main suspect but is still at large, presumably in North Carolina.

### August 7, 1998

U.S. Embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya are bombed. Two hundred twenty people are killed and over 4,000 are injured. U.S. planes bomb suspected terrorist sites in Afghanistan and Sudan in response.

### October 12, 2000

A boat carrying explosives blows a hole in the USS Cole. Seventeen sailors are killed and the boat is taken out of action. The ship had been in Aden, Yemen for refueling.

## AMERICA

must make a specific request of Congress to obligate the remaining \$20 billion.

Also on Friday, Congress passed a resolution authorizing the use-of-force in retaliation to the attacks. The resolution passed in the House of Representatives overwhelmingly, with the only dissenting vote being cast by Rep. Barbara Lee, D-California, who said that the measure gave too much of Congress' power to the president.

Under the measure, the president is authorized "to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons, in order to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States by such nations, organizations or persons."

In response to the resolution, Bush said, "I am gratified that the Congress has united so powerfully by taking this action. It sends a clear message—our people are together, and we will prevail."

On Monday, Bush stated that Osama bin Laden, the suspected terrorist he labeled last week as the "prime suspect" in the attacks, was "wanted, dead or alive."

"We will win the war and there will be costs...I want justice," said Bush in a visit to the Pentagon on Monday. "There's an old poster out West that said: 'wanted, dead or alive.'"

Concurrently, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said that Osama bin Laden is not the sole focus of the international investigation. A federal "watch list" contains about 100 people that authorities are currently trying to find.

Two material witnesses remain in custody and two new arrest warrants have been issued by federal investigators for people wanted for questioning regarding the attacks; however, no details were made available to the public and the

warrants were sealed.

International support for United States' retaliation efforts has been widespread, the most notable of support coming from Pakistan, which neighbors Afghanistan, the country where bin Laden is reportedly being harbored.

The Taliban, the government ruling Afghanistan, has denied that bin Laden could be involved in the attacks because they have cut off his communications from the rest of the world. Additionally, bin Laden himself released a statement on Sunday, read live on Al Jazeera, the Arabic television news channel, denying any involvement.

"The U.S. government has consistently blamed me for being behind every occasion its enemies attack it," the statement said. "I would like to assure the world that I did not plan the recent attacks, which seem to have been planned by people for personal reasons."

Taliban officials have said that if any evidence confirming bin Laden was involved in the attacks, it should be turned over so bin Laden can be tried in their judicial system. The government also stated that they will attack any neighboring country that allows the United States to stage an attack on Afghanistan. The Pakistani military has reported "unusual movements" of Taliban troops and missiles near the Pakistan border, but would not elaborate further.

Despite this threat, Pakistan's president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, announced on Saturday that his government has pledged full support to the United States and will assist the U.S. in the fight against terrorism.

On Monday, in meetings with the Taliban foreign minister and Mullah Mohammed Omar, Afghanistan's supreme leader, Pakistani officials demanded that Afghanistan relinquish bin Laden or face an attack from the United States. In response, Omar said in a radio address on Monday that Afghanistan's top Islamic clerics will meet today and "they will decide."

## CAMPUS

consisted of political science faculty Dr. Burnet Davis, Dr. Sandy Hulme, Dr. Edward Lorenz, Dr. Marek Payerhin and Dr. Maurice Sheppard, as well as sociology faculty Dr. Catherine Fobes and Dr. Timm Thorsen. Some of the dialogue between staff and students was strained, but Dr. Thorsen cautioned everyone to "Give yourself some time to think." The student reaction was varied, but the program helped students to focus on what they could do in the following days.

On Friday, which President George Bush declared a national day of remembrance, approximately 200 students, faculty members and administrators prayed together in the warm morning sun on Bahlke Field. Malcom Cox (04) played "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes.

Alpha Phi Omega, the co-ed Greek society of leadership, friendship and service, quickly organized a can drive on Wednesday to assist the Red Cross.

"I just thought it up while sitting at lunch, knowing that Alpha Phi Omega should help in some way," said Melissa Couturier, Alpha Phi Omega VP of Service.

Members of the society went door-to-door picking

up cans and passing out yellow ribbons for the donations. In the near future, Alpha Phi Omega will write a check to the Red Cross, requesting the funds be sent to New York or wherever they are needed. (For more information on how you can contribute, call Melissa Couturier at x8381.)

The History Club has set up a table in Hamilton Commons this week to accept donations to support relief programs with the American Red Cross in New York and Washington, D.C. (For more information on this program, call Adam Lincoln at x8051).

"I can't see how you can see this on TV, on the news and on the Internet and not have strong feelings about it," said Elizabeth Norton (03). "These are the buildings that you look at and think are secure. I mean . . . the Pentagon - and suddenly a plane runs into it. People have lost their lives and our entire way of life has changed."

The campus will hold a blood drive on October 3, donations from which will be needed, according to the American Red Cross, "for weeks to come."

To give blood, you must be in good health and at least 17 years old. The American Red Cross estimates that only 5% of eligible donors give blood.



# REACTION

Know thy enemies first! Before you advocate a blanket endorsement of bombing another country, consider this. Some time ago, as a draftee of the Polish Army, I trained to fight any enemies of my country. At the time, those included principally NATO members, especially Germany and the United States. As I went through the infantry and paratrooper training, I was taught to recognize American insignia and vehicles. I don't need to tell you why. Yet, I knew of nobody in that army or society at large who harbored

any hatred towards America. In fact, I was once involved in a war game that included a scenario in which our Communist commanders anticipated (and feared) that the ENTIRE Polish population might side with an American invasion against the Communist regime. Poland is a member of NATO now. And Americans see what they tended to overlook in the past: countries are not monoliths, governments are not the whole "countries," fanatics are the fringe, not the

norm. No matter how repugnant you find a country's regime, your bombs will be killing all its citizens regardless of their attitudes towards you. "Surgical strikes" or "smart bombs" do not work with terrorism. Its root causes need to be eradicated. And destroying the country because of actions of just a handful of its inhabitants can only enlarge the pool of hateful individuals who will now have a "just" or "holy" cause.

Marek Payerhin  
Assistant  
Professor of  
Political Science

I don't know how many people were shocked and now suddenly fear their safety, but from those I have talked to, it seems to be nearly everyone is worried about their safety now. As an army brat, I am shocked by this, but I have been taught not to take my safety for granted from an early age. I hope people can finally realize that the US is not invincible.

Jennifer  
Washburn  
Class of 2005

Death, be not proud, though  
some have called thee  
Mighty and dreadful, for thou  
art not so;  
For those whom thou think'st  
thou dost overthrow  
Die not, poor Death, nor yet  
canst thou kill me.  
From rest and sleep, which but  
thy pictures be,  
Much pleasure; then from thee  
much more must flow,  
And soonest our best men with  
thee do go,  
Rest of their bones, and soul's  
delivery.  
Thou art slave to fate, chance,  
kings, and desperate men,  
And dost with poison, war, and  
sickness dwell,  
And poppy or charms can make  
us sleep as well  
And better than thy stroke; why  
swell'st thou then?  
One short sleep past, we wake  
eternally  
And death shall be no more;  
Death, thou shalt die.

John Donne (1633)  
Submitted by Ardella  
Crawford  
English Department

## National Disaster Stress Reactions

If you have been exposed to a natural disaster like a tornado, you may have exceeded the demands of day-to-day "normal" life. Your response to this event can be influenced by several factors, such as:

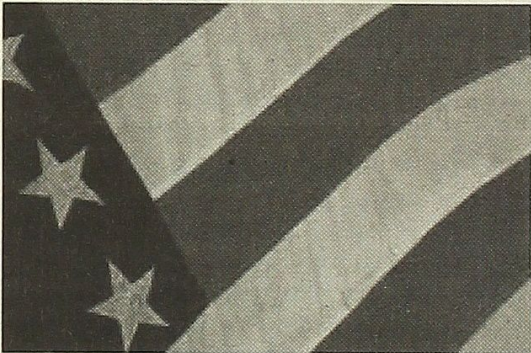
- The type of event and its severity
  - Your current life situation
- Your level of responsibility during the event
- Your previous experience in personal crisis
  - How physically close you were to the event
- How you were taken care of during the event
  - How psychologically close you were to the event
- The availability and continuation of emotional support

After an disaster it is natural to experience some "after shock" or a stress reaction. These are normal responses and are the way we process a demanding life experience. If these responses do not diminish over time it is important that you seek the help of a friend, trusted co-worker, loved one or a professional counselor or your physician. Some typical stress responses can include:

PHYSICAL	COGNITIVE	EMOTIONAL	BEHAVIORAL
Nausea	Slowed thinking	Anxiousness	Crying spells
Upset stomach	Fearful thoughts	Fear	Extreme hyperactivity
Tremor	Disorientation	Guilt	Change in activity
Feeling uncoordinated	Memory problems	Grief	Withdrawal
Profuse sweating	Distressing dreams	Denial	Increased/decreased intake of food, sleep or sexual activity
Chills	Blaming	Depression/sadness	Increased smoking, drinking, drug use, absenteeism, need for safety, conflicts
Diarrhea	Illogical thinking	Feeling lost or abandoned	Overly vigilant
Dizziness	Memory flashbacks	Numbness	Avoiding
Chest pains *	Intrusive thoughts	Feeling isolated	Change in: social patterns
Rapid heart beat*	Poor judgment	Worry about self and/or others	communication
Increased blood pressure *	Difficulty: problem-solving	Wanting to hide	hygiene
Sleep disturbance	calculating	Anger	self-care
Rapid breathing	naming objects	Irritability	productivity
Headaches	making decisions	Hopeless	
Muscle aches	concentrating	Helpless	
Lethargic	learning new material	Overwhelmed	
		Reduced feelings of pleasure	

\* Check out these symptoms at a hospital

Courtesy of CIGNA Behavioral Health, Inc.



### Forgiveness

To forgive is to grow a morning  
glory  
in your heart.  
But the flower stays open all  
day.  
Before long you forget it is  
there.

In your heart  
a seed of hope grows in a seed  
of light.  
Before long you forget it is  
there.  
Tendrils weave holes through  
the matted pain.

A seed of hope grows in a seed  
of light  
and you begin to see again.  
Tendrils weave holes through  
the matted pain.  
The rope of hate unbraids itself.

You begin to see again.  
To forgive is to grow a morning  
glory.  
The rope of hate unbraids itself.  
The flower stays open all day.

William Palmer,  
Professor of English



# REACTION

## From our President. . .

### God Heals

Remember when you heard the words - and your mind went blank  
 you were in another world  
 God Heals  
 Remember in your darkest hours - when all that surrounds you  
 is pain and sorrow  
 God heals  
 Remember friends' prayers - your family's encouragement  
 glimmers of hope from everyday angels  
 God heals  
 Birds are singing - the sky is a beautiful blue  
 flowers are blooming  
 God heals  
 Truths that you know as a child awakened again with new understanding  
 God heals  
 Remember when others can't - that life is a gift  
 each day to treasure  
 God has healed

Rachel Palmreuter  
 Class of 2002

This week we witnessed an event incomprehensible in its horror and devastation. Our sense of security is shaken, our faith in humankind called into doubt. We can find no satisfactory explanation as to why such a terrible act happened. It is precisely in such times of confusion, sorrow, and search for answers that we most fully comprehend the meaning of community.

We watch the global community come together to share the sorrow and shock of our nation. We see numerous signs of national pride emerge. And we gather as the Alma College community to draw strength from one another, to remember those killed in these senseless acts, their loved ones, and all who have exhibited acts of heroism in this time of crisis. We also gather together to learn and grow

through our pain, dedicated to shaping a world where such violence does not happen.

As members of this learning community, may we use our intellects to provide leadership for positive change in the world. Let us promote the worth of all peoples, reminding others that the perpetrators of this tragedy do not represent a single religious, ethnic, or racial group. Let us also commit to show love rather than hate, to treat each other with kindness and compassion, and to reach out to those in need - whether they are in our midst or far away.

May our prayers sustain those in need and our actions advance the healing that our community, indeed our nation and world, so desperately need at this time.

Sandra J. Tracy  
 President, Alma College

No more mommies for some  
 Daddies are gone  
 Devastation and loss widespread  
 No one to hold those babies  
 Who lost their families  
 To comfort the confusion filled heads

I know one thing  
 My mommy is gone  
 And I know right where she is  
 She's standing in heaven  
 With arms wide open  
 Welcoming all who come in

I'm here on earth  
 With no mommy myself  
 A unique perspective to things  
 I'll be like my mommy the only way I can  
 Prepared with open arms  
 To whatever life brings

Laura Ewald  
 Class of 2005

As we turn to each other and to God to mourn Tuesday's events, it is critical that we not react in anger or violence toward Middle Eastern members of our communities. My hometown of Dearborn has a large Middle Eastern population. Many are neighbors and close friends of mine, and I have seen them unfairly victimized and discriminated against a myriad of times, including during the Gulf War, the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center and the Oklahoma City bombing.

It is vital that everyone understands that a large number of the Middle Eastern immigrants came to the United States to escape terrorism in their own countries, not to inflict it upon an innocent society. To mistreat any of them in anger is unfair and frankly disgusting.

As a nation, the United States is capable of overcoming this unspeakable tragedy as long as we remember that Americans of all different cultural and religious backgrounds were attacked by the terrorists, not just those of us who are Christian and were born in this country.

I close with the words of my friend Mohamad Fawaz, who stated the following upon hearing about the attacks: "Life is always full of hope/and love alone will help us cope."

April Schlaff  
 Class of 2002

"We shall . . . do our part to build a world of peace where the weak are safe and the strong are just. We are not helpless before that task or hopeless of its success. Confident and unafraid, we labor on." - President John F. Kennedy, Commencement address at American University on June 10, 1963.

On September 11, 2001, America was shaken to the very core of its being. The heart of our great nation was broken as an unknown group of terrorists took thousands of innocent lives through a series of shocking attacks. Many of us sat paralyzed by a television in disbelief as we watched the destruction of revered buildings that had become symbols of our country. We sat by the phone for news of friends and family and prayed that our loved ones were safe.

As the day went on and the terror seemed to subside, different emotions emerged. Some students criticized the administration's decision to continue with classes, believing that it was more important to show reverence to the situation and keep up with the news. Some students commended the decision to hold classes because of their belief that the classroom was a positive source for processing and learning from each other about the day's tragedies. Some sat in stunned silence as the devastation mounted, while others vowed to bomb the daylights out of those responsible. Some simply cried. Everyone had his or her own way of coping.

We have heard from the day we stepped on campus that we are a community. *We are*. We are a community who can all relate to some degree to someone directly touched by the attacks. Perhaps it is a friend off-campus in New York or D.C., or an alumna who works in one of the destroyed buildings, or a family member who lives in the attacked

areas. Over the last few days we have shared our stories and our connections. We have seen our faculty and administrators share their deepest concerns and feelings as they too have family and friends involved. These connections have brought us together as a college community and will only make us stronger.

Not only has a tragedy such as this brought us together as a college, but this country has been united in a way not seen in most of our lives. New York has been overwhelmed with heroic volunteer efforts and instead of letting the devastation break our spirit, the country has shown the world that "we labor on." The international community has vowed to support the United States in bringing justice, *not retribution*.

Justice does *not* mean vengeance. A senseless act of violence against another country also containing innocent humans would only extend the cycle of violence that began on Tuesday. We are stronger and greater than that. Albert Camus said, "I should like to be able to love my country and to love justice." In a time of difficult emotions and instability, I hope that we can continue to hold faith in our country and in justice. We must not have blind patriotism; rather we must have patriotism that seeks justice and peace. Gandhi once said, "Patriotism is the same as the love of humanity." We can love and support our country while refusing to take innocent lives that were in no way responsible for the tragedies of Tuesday. By standing strong as a smaller community and as a nation, we can triumph over a tragic event by refusing to let it destroy our hearts or spirits.

Elizabeth Wheat  
 Vice-President for Special Events  
 Alma College Democrats

I attended the candlelight vigil celebrating the lives of the people who perished in the New York and Washington D.C. terrorist attacks and was appalled to see several photographers taking pictures. Obviously, the events that took place on September 11, 2001, are forever going to be a sad chapter in American history. And while I do

strongly feel that history should be documented, I believe that the actions of three photographers taking dozens of flash pictures during the service and during the walk around the outside of the chapel were inappropriate and disrespectful to the tone of the day. I sincerely hope that if (God

forbid) anything like this were to happen again, the members of the press would use better judgment and try and not be so invasive.

Heather White  
 Class of 2004



# OPINION

## Letter from the Opinion Editor

Reannon Broekema

### Picking up the pieces of America's darkest hour

The events of the past week have taken an incredible toll on Americans. The media have bombarded us with images of planes colliding with the World Trade Center towers, their collapse, people running for their lives from the enormous clouds of ash and cement, and firefighters and rescue workers digging through rubble.

Surrounded by all these images, it is easy to see how we, the community of Alma College, could get lost in the mix of things. We were not present at any of the crash sites, and it would be easy for us to say "I wasn't there, it doesn't affect me, so why should I be concerned?"

Thankfully, Alma College has done just the opposite. Instead of turning our backs to the tragedy we have become very attentive. While we are hard-pressed to find a television station that is not devoted to the attack, televisions across campus are turned on and tuned in to the problems that have resulted from the attacks. Faculty members turn up radios in their offices in order to keep people informed of what is happening. Even your loyal campus paper, *The Almanian*, has foregone the traditional weekly edition in order to bring the international news to you.

Not only have people paid much more attention to news sources, but many campus activities have occurred since last week's events.

Activities began last Tuesday night as students and faculty recognized all the lost and missing souls in New York, Washington D.C. and southwestern Pennsylvania by lighting candles and carrying them in a procession around the chapel. Following the vigil Reverend Perry spoke for a few

moments about the events, and many students shared their thoughts on the day.

Wednesday, faculty members held a panel discussion for students wishing to learn more about the attack. Seven professors discussed the attack and then took questions from students.

Friday morning, hundreds of students and faculty gathered on the football field for a prayer session.

Ribbons were distributed to promote peace and to honor police officers, fire fighters and victims of the attack. President Tracy and Reverend Perry spoke, and Malcom Cox played "Amazing Grace." Throughout the week yellow ribbons have appeared all over campus in tribute to the victims of the attack.

I am extremely proud of the way Alma has responded to the terrorist attack on the United States. Interest in world events and campus morale has skyrocketed, and students and faculty are asking "What can we do to help?" It took virtually no time for the magnitude of the events to set in around the college, and I think everyone has realized they are in some way connected to the tragedy. Some of us have friends or family (or classmates) that are in the military, others may be related to those who worked in the crash areas or for airlines. There were even a few students and alumni that were in the trade center buildings or very near to them when they collapsed.

I hope the Alma community continues to express interest in the devastating events of last week. It is encouraging to know that I am surrounded by caring, conscientious people that want to make a difference in our world and stand up for the things they believe in—themselves, their community and their country.

## Administration was right to let classes continue

Tim Slade  
Staff Writer

As a disclaimer to this article, I would like to state my horror at the events of Tuesday. The opinion that I am about to state should in no way be taken as a lack of sympathy for the victims of the terrorist act; rather, it is because of the deep pain that I and the rest of the American community felt and continue to feel that I express my sincere thanks that classes were not canceled on the day in question.

I have heard a fair amount of complaining around campus as to how awful it was that classes were held on Tuesday, about how they should have been canceled, etc. In all honesty, I too wished for a while that my afternoon lab would be postponed or called off; however, when I examined my motivations more closely, I realized that only 35-40% of the reasons for my wish had to do with wanting to follow the proceedings. The other 60% or so had to do with my desire to avoid spending two hours of my afternoon sitting in a laboratory struggling with an experiment that in the end wouldn't really help someone who learns the way that I do. Now, perhaps I am the only cretin on campus who wished to have class canceled for a reason other than wanting to be able to follow the proceedings on television. While acknowledging that possibility, I must also say that I doubt it very highly. If there were very many people out there who shared my feelings, then it is good that classes occurred, if only as a sort of chastisement for having such ignoble thoughts.

Others feel that academics should have been suspended in honor of the families who were touched by the tragedy. In response to that, I pose the following question: what was

happening while people were not in class? One answer, of course, is that folks were watching the news. Surely there is nothing wrong with that.

However, people were also gossiping a very great deal; in fact, I heard more unfounded rumors in one afternoon last week than I did in three years of middle school. Is there something wrong with wanting to determine the truth through discussing an event with friends? Absolutely not; however, the sensationalistic spreading of wild rumors does nothing to honor the memories of the dead, least of all when it also winds up spreading racist and bigoted feelings.

At the time, I heard a lot of students express favor for the idea of going out and bombing those [expletive deleted] Arabs. Admittedly, Osama Bin Laden has become a prime suspect in the investigation, and has done so through exhaustive study of the evidence at hand. As of Tuesday afternoon, however, his responsibility for the events was nothing but wild conjecture; the lack of evidence for accusing him, however, did not stop acquaintances of mine from immediately blaming him and all other Arabs, not to mention suggesting that we go bomb the Palestinians for celebrating in the streets. Personally, I would rather have the entire faculty and student body of the college stay busy with classes; that way, by the time we all got free to go hear the news, a little more time would have passed and the facts could have been better established. Even if the facts were not cleared up to a greater degree by the time students got free, it would at least be another hour and twenty minutes during which no one would have the opportunity to spread false rumors and jingoistic sentiments.

My final reason for being thankful that classes continued has to do with human psychology. Now, I am not a psych major, nor

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## Little can be done without compromising civil liberties

Rob Nicholson  
Staff Writer

In the wake of Tuesday's tragedy, many questions have arisen about our government's response in terms of domestic policy, such as what security measures need to be taken and how far these measures can go. The Federal Aviation Administration has already announced changes limiting how close cars can park to airport terminals and allowing only ticketed passengers past security checkpoints.

However, these are changes

that do not affect our civil liberties. Civil liberties are rights guaranteed to citizens, such as freedom of speech and the right to assemble, which are specified in the Bill of Rights. While Americans will easily support increased airport security, they will not accept measurements that infringe on their civil liberties in order to combat terrorism.

The people who committed this horrible act did not just attack important buildings, but the principles upon which the United States operates. If our government

acts to limit civil liberties, denying freedom of the press and stopping non-violent protesters in the event of military action, then the terrorists will have fulfilled their desire to disrupt the American way of life. While we may succeed militarily, infringing on the rights that define Americans will result in a loss far greater than any opposition force could inflict upon us.

During the second World War, Japanese-Americans living on the west coast had their constitutionally guaranteed rights violated

and were moved into internment camps. This raises a question: Will a similar move be made against Arab-Americans in the event of a war with Middle Eastern forces? As we saw, the internment of Japanese-Americans achieved little if anything in preventing the Japanese from gathering intelligence or making sabotage attacks, and the camps have proven to be a source of government embarrassment for the past fifty years. The unsuccessful past, combined with

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# OPINION

— All Together —

## Think, then act

Chris Machnacki  
Staff Writer

The horrible tragedy committed against the United States last Tuesday in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, with some thousands dead and many devastated survivors, leaves us with many choices to make in the coming weeks. We can act hastily and satisfy a primitive urge for rapid and bloody vengeance, or we can act thoughtfully, with minimum damage to the world at large and our own domestic institutions.

In the coming weeks, there will be many proposals for how to defend ourselves against another such attack. Some of them will make sense, like increasing our intelligence capabilities and tightening the apparently miserable security at our airports. On the whole, however, we must be vigilant regarding infringements on our civil liberties.

Experience has shown that legislation is a poor remedy for terrorism. Following the brutal bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995, Congress passed the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996. This law gutted many safeguards built into the death penalty appeals process, resulted in far less emphasis placed on protecting the rights of all Americans, and serves as a textbook example of how not to respond to this tragedy. Obviously, clamping down on our own liberties has not reduced our vulnerability. Further doing so will not protect us any more.

The question of how to retaliate for this horrendous act weighs upon President George W. Bush every day. Many people shout now for military retaliation. The perpetrators of this act do need to pay, but the burden of being the world's preeminent power requires that our response be as measured as theirs was heedless. A nation of laws such as the United States does not have the freedom of the lawless.

Suspicion for the attack is now centered on Osama bin Laden, a rich Saudi Arabian exile with an extensive terrorist network, believed to be in hiding in Afghanistan. In a moment when the sympathy of nearly the entire world is in line with the United States, it would be foolish to lose it with pictures of blood-soaked Afghan women and children, one of the inevitable by-products of any hasty reaction.

Some have said that facing the wrath of a federal prosecutor in New York will not deter any future terrorist attacks. Raids with cruise missiles and aircraft, especially if they are fired at an elusive foe in a desperately poor and miserable country, will not get the job done either. Air strikes in Afghanistan can produce a severe reaction in neighboring nuclear-armed Pakistan, where many are sympathetic to the Taliban. Pakistan is already teetering on the brink of an Islamic fundamentalism similar to bin Laden's. If you think that Tuesday was a tragedy, as indeed it was, wait until you see what terrorists could do with nuclear bombs.

Hunting these madmen down, lowering them to the level of common criminals, and locking them away forever will impress the world far more than the accuracy of our missiles and bombs. Obviously, the men who attacked us do not fear death. How will they feel about spending the rest of their lives ignored by the world in a small cell?

A comprehensive approach to this problem would be a full-scale attack on the root causes of this sad event. Poverty, stalemate and hopelessness in the West Bank of the Jordan River, religious intolerance in Iran, Afghanistan, and a host of other countries, and the perception that the United States cares primarily about cheap oil and exports, all must be addressed. In some of these areas, like the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, the United States has tremendous influence to wield. In other places, like Iran and Afghanistan, progress will be slower and our patience will be tested.

There are two ways that the United States can hand a great victory to those who attacked us. One way would be to drastically reduce our respect for individual rights that has distinguished this country for over two centuries. We cannot allow terrorists to dictate what our freedoms will be by engaging in some fruitless quest for absolute security. Similarly, bloodying our own hands by lashing out at the wrong targets and endangering the innocent will achieve nothing.

## The enemy is not a nationality

Michael Murphy  
Freelance Writer

The media acted very irresponsibly by showing pictures of celebrating Palestinians and other Arabic nationalities following the terrorist attack on America. Just hours after witnessing the collapse of two symbols of our nation, our people did not need to see anyone rejoicing, especially Middle Easterners.

Showing clips of children and grown men from a foreign culture jumping up and down does not

their homes and shipped to internment camps during most of the war's duration. Why? Because they shared the same physical features that our assailants had shared. Instead of recognizing them as Americans willing to help America defeat its foe, we classified them as a possible enemy because of their physical characteristics.

This must not happen again.

In the midst of this awful tragedy that has sobered the entire international community, it is critical that we understand that

As intelligent citizens, we must understand that the suspects in these atrocious acts are individuals, not an entire race

ing but instill hate and anger towards an entire population of people.

As intelligent citizens, we must understand that the suspects of these atrocious acts are individuals, not an entire race. It is crucial that we do not associate terrorism with an entire people, but rather a small, minute number of fanatics from that particular culture.

In Michigan, there is a large Arabic-American population, especially in the Metro Detroit area. Are they responsible for the actions of a small number of men from their homeland? Of course not. Should they be treated as if they are some lesser class of citizens? Of course not. We must learn from previous mistakes--hating an entire race due to the appalling acts of just a few members is unacceptable.

Remember what happened to Japanese-Americans following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. They were immediately uprooted from

there is but one enemy: those individuals that have conspired to wreak havoc on innocent men, women and children. The enemy is not an entire race. The enemy is not an entire culture. The enemy is certainly not an entire religion. The enemy is a faceless coward not even worthy of being a part of the human race.

While we rise out of the billowing ashes of hate, we must remember to keep our heads above the dark circling clouds of racism. We must stand as one united America as we slowly become stronger each minute, each hour, and each day. We must stand together as Americans, whether Jew or Gentile, white or black, Catholic or Protestant, Christian or Muslim, Asian or Arabian.

And when we do this, we will have triumphed, for the ideal of America, a place where all are treated equally and given equal respect, will have a new and more profound meaning than ever before.

### LIBERTIES

media coverage and protests that would occur from the internment of Arab-Americans, make this proposition very unlikely.

A little over two years ago, the worst school shooting in American history occurred at Columbine High School. The news media devoted around the clock news coverage and sweeping changes were promised in school security. Yet two years later, there have been only a few sporadic and localized changes to school security. High schools remain vulnerable to the same type of at-

tack that occurred at Columbine. Granted, the current terrorist attack is far worse than the Columbine shootings in terms of damage done, but the same media frenzy and demand for changes in security continue. This will ready Americans for change, but in actuality there are little changes that can be made without compromising our own civil liberties. Ultimately, it will come down to increased foreign intelligence and involvement, as well as a reliance on our fellow citizens to make the right choices in order to protect Americans' security.



# OPINION

## Staff Editorial — Our turn

Our generation is lucky. We have never had to endure the gore and terror that Americans and South Vietnamese experienced in the late 1960s and early 1970s, vicariously and in reality. We have never had to bear guilt for the deaths of 50,000 innocent people in Japan or suffer through the days of slave labor on plantations. We have never fully understood the fear of living under the Cold War's shell, and we have not fought in battles like those at Antietam or Gettysburg.

But our luck has run out. It's our turn to feel pain.

As the gaping holes in the World Trade Center's twin towers howled and billowed teary smoke on Tuesday morning before they collapsed, this world superpower, our superpower, crumbled and howled in agony along with the people it has kept enormously safe for nearly three decades. There we sat on Monday, as we have since the boom times of deficit-laden 1980s, fat and happy and soft, agonizing over which digital camera to buy and which piece of Hollywood trash would provide the most laughs in the fall.

By Tuesday, none of that mattered. After years of living in the most secure nation on the planet, a blanket of fear quickly covered our fifty states and demanded, by its very nature, that we respond, somehow, somehow, to an unspeakable horror that we have never seen or experienced in our lifetimes. Consequently, the plush comfort zone we have been blessed with since birth is gone, and now we're scrambling for answers on how to get by somewhat normally without that comfort.

Our first move involves squashing ignorance. Since people often accuse our generation of screaming indifference to all the travesties that occur daily around the world in places like Chechnya and Sierra Leone, now is the perfect opportunity to prove the pessi-

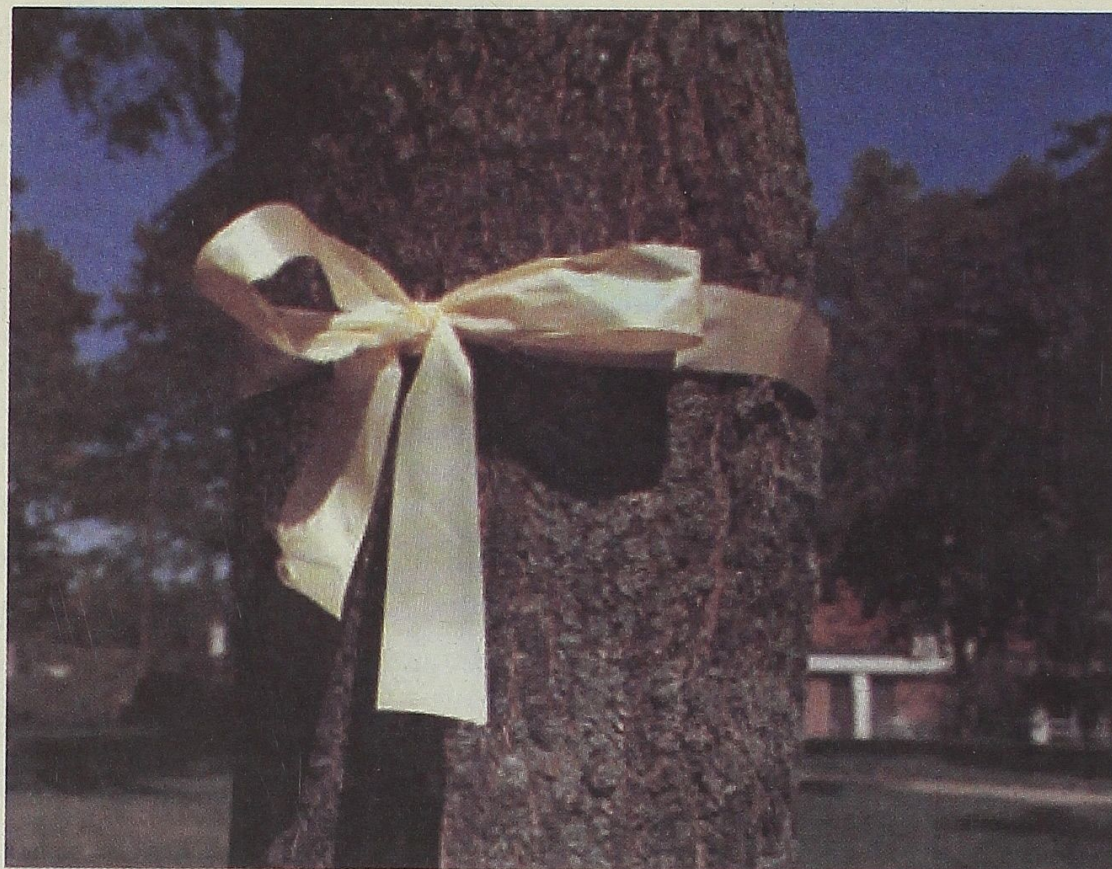


Photo by Dan Joyce

mists wrong. Please, stop agreeing completely with the bits of misconstrued information that CNN and MSNBC keep feeding into televisions, and instead, look closely at the situation: What exactly would the United States accomplish by taking quick military action against Afghanistan? Very little. The notion of quickly enlisting into the U.S. armed forces and zooming to the other side of the world to kill a man in the name of patriotism is ludicrous.

If anything, seeing Osama bin Laden locked behind bars forever would be greatly more

satisfying than watching our planes drop bombs in an already-war-torn nation in a grisly manhunt for an individual who has successfully hidden from our surveillance for over five years. This is not a fight against bin Laden or any other individual or government, but a fight against the fear that the terrorist attacks forced into our lives. We can combat the fear by checking our emotions and acting rationally and logically. Then, and only then, will the pain begin to subside, and then, and only then, will we have won.

### — CLASSES —

do I pretend to know more on the subject than anybody else on campus. However, having been in situations equally as tragic as this one numerous times before, I have seen that the most effective way to deal with the situation is to attempt to busy oneself. For those of you who wonder what tragic events I am talking about, I am referring to the 12-year civil war that I lived through in El Salvador (which left more than 75,000 dead), along with the 1986 earthquake in San Salvador that killed 1,100 and injured more than 8,000 while leaving 34,000 homes uninhabitable. Although I was young, my parents and I were part of the relief effort that continued over the next several years following the quake, and I was able to see and experience the devastation firsthand. When it is possible to provide immediate relief in a tragic situation, people who have helped frequently say that their activity helped them block out their grief until they could more adequately deal with it. In a case like this one, where the opportunity for immediate and direct involvement in the relief effort on the part of members of Alma College was all but impossible, it is just as important to keep one's mind busy.

Bearing all those things in mind, I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation to the administration of the college for giving the

professors the leeway to keep classes open, as well as to my professors for having done so. In providing us with a distraction from the carnage and providing a hint of normalcy in our lives on the day in question, they did the best they could to help us move on. By

all means, we should mourn; however, mourning a little at a time over a longer period of time is better than tearing one's hair out and dressing in sackcloth. I hope the student community can appreciate the faculty's decision to continue despite the awful events.

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The *Almanian* is a newspaper published not only for the students at this institution, not just for the faculty on campus, and not solely for the administrators who work for Alma, but for all people interested in Alma College and the lives it touches. The writers, editors, publishers, and distributors of this newspaper are dedicated to producing an interesting accurate, timely, fun, and error free newspaper on a weekly basis in order to inform and educate the people for whom it is intended.

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All letters to the editor must meet the following standards of publication: signed, and including the author's phone number and address. The letter must pertain to the Alma College community. Letters are published as layout space allows with priority given to letters under 250 words. Submission of a letter does not guarantee publication. The *Almanian* reserves the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. on the Friday before requested publication. Please email letters to [almanian@alma.edu](mailto:almanian@alma.edu) or address letters to Newberry Hall, Alma College. Email is preferred.

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