



# borne & borne

special issue

**11 SEPTEMBER 2001**

# letter**from**the**editors**

On Tuesday, September 11, the whole world changed. The New York skyline was obliterated. We lost over 5,000 innocent people. Our conceptions of good and evil were forever altered. But, what has remained solid and eternally unchanged, amid all this devastation, is our resolve to know the truth.

The bulletin, for its part, is determined to create a forum for this truth, both concrete and personal, for all in this community. We saw the pain illuminated on our fellow students' faces during our Tuesday evening vigil and we knew that the emotion that colored that candle light must be expressed. Not only did we want healing, we wanted answers. We wanted the bulletin to be a place that our questions could be, if not answered absolutely, at least illuminated. It is in the disclosure, the unfolding of the facts that affect this tragedy, that we expected to find some solace.

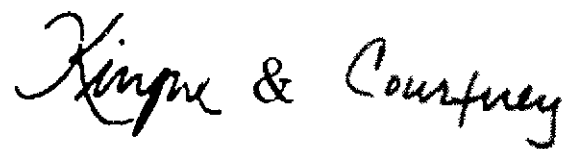
And we have. What you will find in this issue is a variety of topics, opinions, and information surrounding the tragedies that have occurred. We present news about the events preceding and following Tuesday's attacks, meant to inform our community in order to dispel mistruths and misconceptions about these complex issues. We provide features articles about the world's response to the attack on New York City, starting from our own community and extending to nations from around the world. And finally, we publish commentaries by Barnard students who are personally engaged in the issues at hand and the outcomes that

may arise from them.

The opinions of the commentary writers does not reflect the opinions of the bulletin staff as a whole. We stand by the commitment to publish the uncensored views of the student body and uphold the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. This is their place. This is every student's place to be heard, and of course, responded to. If you feel strongly, against or in support, of any of the opinions you find expressed in this issue, please respond to [bulletin@barnard.edu](mailto:bulletin@barnard.edu). We look forward to including as many students with as many differing viewpoints as possible in these pages.

We know that the next weeks and months will be a trying time for all of us. The moral dilemmas that face our nation right now are harrowing. We will, no doubt, be compelled to wrestle with them emotionally and intellectually. It is our hope that amid this turmoil, the bulletin will be a publication that you can count on to inform you and give voice to your pain and passions.

We hope this issue finds you and your family and friends safe. Please accept our deepest condolences for those you have lost.



Kiryn Haslinger & Courtney E. Martin  
editors-in-chief

barnard**bulletin**

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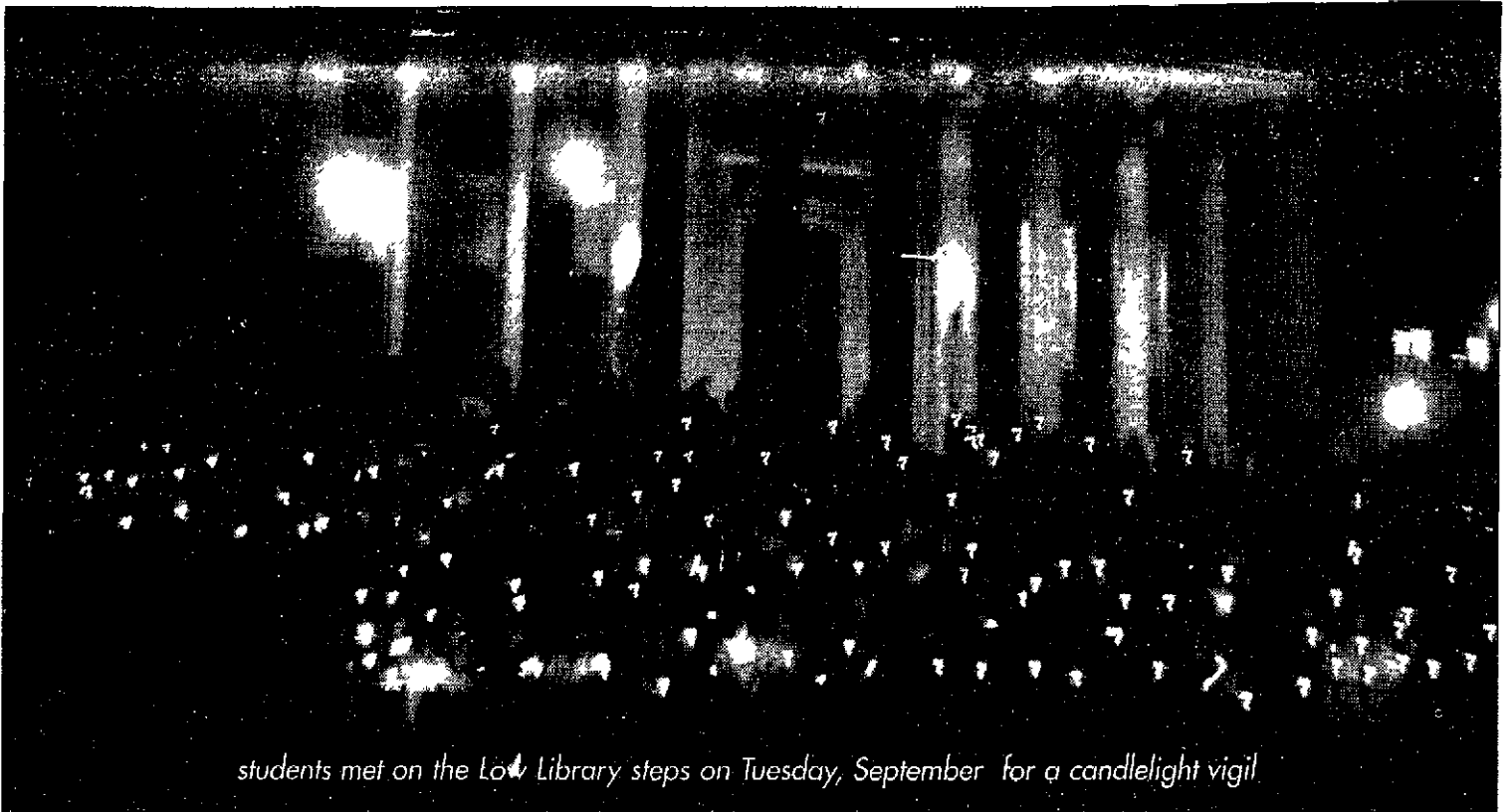
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# campus pulls together to overcome tragedy



students met on the Low Library steps on Tuesday, September 11 for a candlelight vigil

By KB Torgovnick

It seemed like a normal morning. Many students attended morning classes, unaware of what was happening only a few miles away. Others slept, only to awake to news reports revealing images more fitting to movies like Independence Day or to the pages of a Tom Clancy novel than to real life. By early afternoon, September 11 was anything but normal—it was the day of the largest terrorist attack on the United States in history.

Soon following the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, students, staff, and administration quickly mobilized to help each other through the tragedy. Barnard classes were canceled, and President Judith Shapiro called an emergency meeting on Lehman Lawn to address the attacks and give students important information. Blood drives around the campus and the Morningside Heights area were organized to help hospitals cope with shortages in blood. Counseling services made help available to students in their dorms, and Nightline made its presence known for students. Candlelight vigils were organized to help the community cope with its grief.

At 3pm, students gathered on the Lehman Lawn for a campus-wide meeting. To begin the meeting, President Shapiro addressed the unequaled tragedy of the terrorist attacks. "We are coming together on a day that is unprecedented in our lives and in our country," Shapiro said. "We have seen things on the television today that we would only see in films. We know that some members of this community will be directly touched by this event".

Barnard professor Dennis Dalton followed Shapiro, stressing that he was not sure what could be said about the terrorist attacks. "In a time of tragedy, it might be that silence or quiet conversation among us are more appropriate," he said. "We need to know more about these attacks, but we know enough. . . to seek solace. We know enough to realize that Martin Luther King Jr. was right when he said to not blame the sinner. We have to learn to blame the sin, and that sin is violence and the hatred that caused the violence."

Director for the Center for Research on Women, Janet Jakobsen also spoke at the meeting, asking students to think globally. "One of the challenges of today is

to think of things we can do to help, even if those things do not seem like enough," she said. "Making the world a better place is a great way of honoring those who have suffered. Many religious traditions affirm the importance of caring for those we have never met"

At 8pm, students and staff once again gathered on the Lehman Lawn for a candlelight vigil. The vigil was set up as a 'safe place' where anyone could approach the microphone and say a few words about what they were feeling. Though only a few people spoke at the microphone, groups on the lawn talked amongst themselves, sharing stories of shock and near-misses.

At the vigil, Dalton once again approached the microphone. "I've attended many vigils on this lawn. In most of these vigils there has been a common enemy—that is violence," he said. "Our concern right now in every way possible is to make violence unacceptable. When that happens, I will feel truly satisfied that we have gotten to the root of the problem. Until then, we will be holding vigils and asking ourselves what could have been different".

Shapiro once again spoke at the vigil

saying, "We all have to hope that our country will know how to respond to this in the right way, in the wise way". She also led the group in singing "God Bless America"

Tara Flochoki, who helped organize the Barnard vigil, concluded by saying that she was happy to see members of the campus help each other through tragedy. "We are a community," she said. "Every time something happens, we come together".

Four hours later, another candlelight vigil was held on Low Plaza for the entire Columbia community. Small flickering flames lined Low plaza as John Lennon's "Imagine" was read. As students headed to the microphone, a variety of reactions to the tragedy were voiced, from a request for a moment of silence to a call for revenge on those who planned the terrorist attacks.

Earlier in the day, counseling services was one of the quickest groups to react to the tragedy, sending counselors to Brooks Living Room, the commuter lounge, Plimpton, and the 600s, where students were gathering to watch news reports. Director of counseling services Laura Smith emphasized that distress is a perfectly normal reaction. "It's not a psychological incident, its a human incident," she said. "There is no one who is not effected by this".

Students came to counselors with a wide variety of concerns. "A number of students were worried that they might have parents, family, friends, boyfriends, or girlfriends who might be at the World Trade Center," said Smith. "Others couldn't reach their parents. Even for all of us who had no connection, it was a horrible tragedy".

In addition to providing support on September 11, counseling services organized ways to help the community through the week. Drop-in groups were held throughout the week for students, and will continue in the future. "People have really strong reactions which they don't understand—overwhelmed, shocked. There are a number of ways to respond to a tragic event," said Smith.

An online chat for students abroad was held on September 13 to help students who might be feeling isolated from

family and friends. Groups for faculty, staff, and RA's were also held, focusing on how to respond to students and look for signs of traumatic stress. Also, counseling services made appointments with individual students who walked in to their office in Lower Level Brooks, or who came with an RA. "It's a human tragedy, and helpers and helpers alike will not be themselves for a while," said Smith.

Smith stressed that the office will continue to provide help to the university community. "Right now, there is a lot of feeling numb and surreal. As the days go by, it's going to hit home. . . It's very important to be patient with yourself. We're in shock—we don't realize all the many ways we may be impacted," she said. "Your reactions may be very different from others, so be patient with each other. This is just the beginning of time we need to take care of each other. You may have changes in your diet or sleeping patterns, or you may have persistent thoughts—that's normal. When it gets too disruptive, come down to [counseling services]".

Nightline, a student-run service which provides callers with someone with whom they can talk, is another resource students can use if they are feeling distressed. Following the terrorist attack, Nightline has instituted extended hours. "We had no idea how to gauge the student body's response to the events and what special need, if any, they would have for our services," said Nightline co-president Robert Edridge-Waks, a Columbia College senior. "Instead of extending our hours by a definite time, we chose to allow the counselors on duty to determine whether there is sufficient reason to keep the phones open later".

Operators for Nightline undergo semester-long training. Still, Nightline operators must handle their own emotions about the events while helping others. Edridge-Waks said, "We recognize that not only is this a difficult time for our callers, but for our counselors as well. Although Nightline training is very extensive, focusing particularly on constructive ways to deal with callers who are experiencing a crisis, nothing can prepare us as a community to handle a crisis of this magnitude. We must take things as they come, seeking the support from fel-

low counselors that we know will be there."

Edridge-Waks stressed that Nightline operators can be very helpful by providing a shoulder to cry on. "We understand that at times students just need to speak to someone who will unreservedly listen to them, and if students require more support or information than we are capable of providing, we are ready to offer them appropriate referrals," he said. "There's just no greater feeling than gently hanging up the receiver after a caller has thanked you from the bottom of his or her heart for just being there to listen."

The Office of Multicultural Affairs has also sought to help students by creating the Sulzberger Parlor of Barnard Hall as a space for quiet reflection. Through the week, students were invited to the parlor to think, meditate, or pray. Discussions on peace-making, moving beyond stereotypes, and dealing with feelings also took place in the parlor. Ennis Edmonds, the Director of Multicultural Affairs said in an email, "These events are designed to help give voice to and put into perspective our feelings, as well as to help us on the path to healing of the hurts we feel."

As part of their healing process, many students have taken part in city-wide events held to commemorate those lost. On Friday night at 7pm, students emerged from their dorm rooms holding candles, taking part in an informally organized nation-wide vigil. Impromptu gatherings of people formed throughout the city, and people shared their feelings about the events on September 11. Many held flags, gently waving them through the streets of New York.

In the next week, the Office of the Provost will hold community forums designed to facilitate discussion of how the terrorist attacks will affect students as well as the rest of the world. The forums will feature professors from various Barnard departments, all bringing different perspectives to the forum. The first forum will be held on Wednesday at 7:30pm in the Held Auditorium, and the second will take place on Friday at noon in the Altschul Auditorium.

K8 Torgovnick is a Barnard senior, and a bulletin news editor.

# countries around the world



By *Tiffany Mummy*

Leaders and public figures around the globe have expressed horror at the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon that occurred Tuesday, September 11 and have sent messages of support and condolence to the US.

European Union foreign ministers not only declared Friday, September 14 a day of mourning throughout its 15 member states but also offered search and rescue help, while the leaders of nations like Syria, Cuba, Libya and Iran issued statements of solidarity with the US.

According to CNN, Guy Verhofstadt, the prime minister of Belgium, which currently holds the chair of the EU, said "On behalf of the European Union, we condemn in the strongest possible terms this type of cowardly attack on innocent civilians."

German Chancellor Gerard Schroeder agreed, saying "This is not only an attack on the United States but an attack on the civilized world."

According to the Associated Press, Pope John Paul II sent a telegram to President Bush shortly after hearing of the

attacks, saying "I hurry to express to you and your fellow citizens my profound sorrow and my closeness in prayer for the nation at this dark and tragic moment."

In the Middle East, both Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat gave press conferences in reaction to the attacks. "The fight against terrorism is an international struggle of the free world against the forces of darkness," Sharon said. He designated Wednesday, September 12 as a national day of mourning in Israel.

At his conference, after reports of Palestinians celebrating in one West Bank town and in Lebanese refugee camps, Arafat said, "We [Palestinians] completely condemn this very dangerous attack, and I convey my condolences to the American people, to the American president, and to the American administration, not only in my name but on behalf of the Palestinian people."

China and Japan also issued statements expressing sympathy to the US and concern for the safety of their own people. China had 14 companies in the WTC, while Japan still has 100 nationals unaccounted for. Even Cuba sent mes-

sage of its support of the U.S.

Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque said "Cuba laments and expresses its profound sadness for the loss of so many innocent lives and expresses our absolute rejection of terrorism, wherever they may come from. "He then said that Cuba was willing to give airspace and airports to any aircraft from the U.S. or elsewhere that needs it.

One nation that did not offer its condolences was Iraq. According to CNN, a television commentator in Baghdad said, "The American cowboy is reaping the fruits of his crimes against humanity."

Echoing this statement was Sheikh Yassin, leader of the Islamic militant group Hamas, who said "No doubt this is a result of injustice the US practices against the weak in the world."

From Gaza, Islamic Jihad official Nafez Azzam agreed with Yassin, saying, "What happened in the United States today is a consequence of American policies in this region."

Yet, King Abdullah of Jordan, according to CNN, referred to the statements made by Azzam and Yassin by saying, "It's a small group of people: it's no way a reflection of the Palestinian people or

# respond to terrorist attack

other peoples of the Middle East.”

In another show of solidarity, on Friday, September 12, Australian Prime Minister John Howard announced that he had invoked Article 4 of the ANZUS treaty a defense pact formed between Australia, New Zealand, and the US after World War II. According to The New York Times, this formally commits Australia to support the US in the event of war. Nine Australians have been confirmed dead in the WTC attack, with 85 still missing.

Another military announcement made on Friday, September 12 came from NATO, whose members voted unanimously to invoke Chapter 5 of its

charter, which would allow its 19 member nations to give any form of support to the US on the grounds that if one member is attacked, they all are. However, NATO's declaration of support referred not to an “act of war,” as President Bush has described the terrorist attacks, but only to an “act of barbarism.” There has been some ambiguity in the semantics revolving around this statement.

German Defense Minister Rudolf Scharping agreed with the terms of NATO's declaration, saying “I hope we all remain calm and do not speak of a state of alarm. We don't face a war. We face the question of an appropriate response.”

Throughout Germany, Great Britain, the Ukraine and other countries in the EU, five minutes of silence was imposed after 11 a.m. on their day of mourning, while all flags flew at half-staff. An estimated 100 Britons also lost their lives in the attack on the WTC.

According to CNN, shortly after hearing of the attacks, average European citizens also reacted with horror to the terrorist attacks, gathering at US embassies for candlelit vigils, while some tried to get into contact with friends and family in the US, including students here at Barnard.

*Tiffany Mummy is a Barnard first year.*

## friends send empathy across oceans

...I was thinking about you among my many NY friends. The city has been such a part of my life, and earlier I was going through old photos, and looking at the World Trade Center in the background of some smiling photos of friends, taken out on the street. It is, of course, a huge deal over here—you'd be surprised, perhaps. Must be the historic connections, and the emigrant experience. Also many Irish are among the dead. It's a National Day of Mourning here and there is constant TV coverage. I was on radio this morning talking about it—I get pulled in on account of the book etc. I did try and give a bit of context. I think there is a danger, as you say, of people talking about 'evil monsters' and getting caught up in feelings of dangerous vengeance.

The Middle East is a tinder box and, as you know, the Israeli/Palestinian crisis has created extraordinary instability. But no one seems to be talking about that. Have we learned no lessons? It took us long enough in Ireland... (Ireland)

It's awful. What happened is not only the pain of the US, it's the world's pain. (France)

Helphi. It's been a long time we haven't keep very much contacts, each of us have her own life, but I still think about you. Today all the world is in trouble because of the NY's news. I don't know if you are in NY now, or if you'll receive that mail, is it the correct address... Anyway I want you to know that I think about you there and hope you'll be able to continue a normally life. the next days... (Switzerland)

When I spoke about anger against American Foreign policy, I had no idea it would turn to this. No amount of perceived injustice can ever justify such calculated brutality on this scale. Believe me when I say that South Africans are shocked and horrified. My thoughts are especially with you, Tiffany and Andress, as you wait for news, or come to terms with your loss. I wish comfort to you all. (South Africa)

I wish to send my condolences to you and your people for the terrible loss you suffered on September 11. You must know that you are not alone in your grief. My hope is that your President should react with calculated caution and restraint. I wish your rulers would revise their role in world affairs and their attitude to nations of darker pigmentation. May your hearts be healed. (South Africa)

Hola, espero que este bien, sobretodo en estos momentos bastante dificiles, he pensado mucho en ti, antes y especialmente ahora, todo el mundo esta muy preocupado, me parece que lo que ocurre es algo increíble.

Me gustaría tener noticias tuyas, algo que puedas contarme sobre como estas, o como te va la vida.

Imagino que todo pasara y las cosas volveran a tener sentido. Por favor mandame una letritas, algo que me tranquilice un poco. La información aqui es bastante limitada. Si tuviera un numero de telefono podriamos hablar mas despacio, me encantaria. Espero que tu familia y tus seres queridos esten bien. Besitos desde Sevilla. (Spain)

# volunteers aid rescue efforts

By Thea Tagle

When the terrible events of September 11 unfolded, American citizens were jolted out of their peaceful existences, and called into action. For some, lighting a candle at a vigil was the last of their participation in Tuesday's tragedy. For others, however, it was only the beginning. From food, money, clothing, and blood donations to direct action at ground zero, the volunteer effort has swelled, with people both close to home and across the country rallying together.

Many people have chosen to be directly involved with the rescue efforts downtown. A man, who identified himself as David, came from Vermont and arrived in the city at midnight last Friday. Volunteering as a supply distributor, David said that he and the Orange Team [his group of volunteers, identified by their bright orange shirts], "will be going down to the site in an hour to bring the rescue workers emergency supplies: asbestos masks, ropes, things like that."

The Jacob Javitz Convention Center on 34th St. (between 11th and 12th Avenues), where David was located at the time of the interview, has been transformed from a business center to a central place for volunteers to gather. Volunteer firefighters, medical workers, and policemen utilize the space to rest, to eat food prepared or donated by other volunteers, and to update themselves on the latest information.

Besides the effort to rescue victims of the tragedy, other volunteers are reaching out to victims' families, providing counseling, support, and aid in many different ways. Mental health workers are on hand in every hospital, bereavement center, and help line to counsel those grieving for lost or missing friends and loved ones. Joelle Barozzini, from upstate New York, was waiting at the Javitz Center for her name to be checked off on the waiting list in order to volunteer in such a capacity. A certified mental health therapist, Joelle

was anticipating her chance to volunteer. She said of coming to the city to lend a hand, "It's hard to believe that this is New York City. Everyone is so helpful, and there are so many people here that want to help. I want to do my part by talking to the families and other people that need me."

Another important volunteer action is working for the telephone hotlines that have been set up for families to help locate missing relatives. After the caller

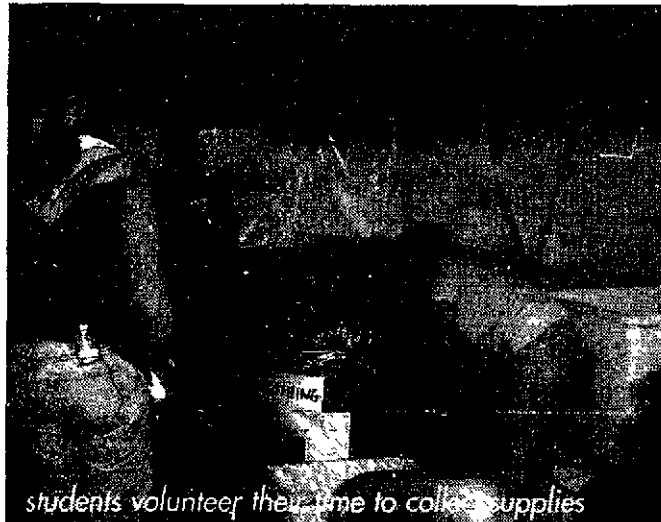
efforts can still be made through the school. Last week saw the SGA-sponsored baked goods and ribbons sale. Barnard students worked diligently the night before the event, either baking treats or putting together the red, white, and blue ribbons meant to commemorate the victims of the attack. The sale, held this past Friday, was a success; it is estimated that over two thousand dollars was earned, with all of the proceeds going to a relief fund.

Currently, the SOCKS drive is happening in the lobby of the 600 buildings. Tables have been set up, with various donation possibilities at each one. There are boxes for sock donations, other containers for monetary donations to the Javitz Center fund and the Red Cross relief fund, and lists of other important items needing to be donated. Clothing and necessities collections are being taken in the lobbies of all Barnard residence halls.

For those Barnard students that are unable to donate time or supplies for whatever reason, a cash donation is a simple act of kindness that takes only a few moments to complete. In an event so profound, many non-profit organizations have been stretched to the limit in what they can provide for the victims, their families, and for the rescue workers. Helping.org lists a variety of organizations asking for monetary donations; the Red Cross and the New York Firefighters 9-11 Disaster Relief Fund are such organizations.

In this time of trouble, Americans from all over have come together to rebuild this city. In the coming weeks, when the rubble is cleared and the roads repaved, it will not only be downtown that is transformed; the people that chose to volunteer will have changed, their hearts and conscience bettered after giving something unselfishly to help someone else.

Thea Tagle is a Barnard sophomore and the bulletin music editor



provides the name of the missing person, the helpline volunteer searches through hospitals' patient lists, in the hopes of locating the missing person among the admitted patients. Sophomore Brooke Lockyer volunteered last Wednesday at one such hotline, and said that after eight hours of working the phones, two missing persons had been found at area hospitals.

With such a wide range of volunteer activities, helping both victims and their families, it seems unbelievable that there is an overabundance of help. Yet many places around the city are already at capacity for the amount of donations they can receive. St. Luke's hospital in Morningside Heights is asking potential blood donors to place their names on a waiting list, and the Javitz Center is not accepting new donations until after nine each night, because of the sheer volume of people and donations already at the center.

What can students do? For members of the Barnard community, volunteer



# who is osama bin laden?

## and what does he have to do with afghanistan?

By Isa Loundon and Christy Thornton

As the *bulletin* goes to press, President Bush has issued his edict that the prime suspect in last Tuesday's terrorist attack, Osama bin Laden, is "wanted dead or alive." The American mainstream newsmedia has widely publicized the government's suspicion of Osama bin Laden, a wealthy Saudi Arabian suspected in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, the 1996 killing of 19 US soldiers in Saudi Arabia, and the 1998 bombings of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, but background on both bin Laden and the illegal government that is currently harboring him, Afghanistan's Taliban, is sparse and often contradictory.

According to the unclassified CIA file on bin Laden, as reported in 1998 by MSNBC's Michael Moran, Bin-Laden left Saudi Arabia in 1979 to participate in the Afghan resistance to the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan. That resistance, however, is widely thought by academic experts to have been funded at least partly through the CIA, with funds and arms funneled through Pakistani Intelligence Services Intelligence, the CIA equivalent in Pakistan. Many experts now believe that the US saw Islam as the only force with enough power to defeat Soviet communism in the Middle East, and hence helped to foment the *Mujaheddin*, the Afghan resistance of Soviet invasion. Ahmed Rashid, a member of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and a correspondent for the *Far Eastern Economic Review* and *The Daily Telegraph* of London reports that in 1986, CIA agent William Casey persuaded the US Congress to supply the *Mujaheddin* with American-made Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and US advisors to train the *Mujaheddin* fighters. Trained at the *Madrass* schools on the Pakistani border (which were funded by Pakistan's military government and Saudi Arabia's monarchy), the fighters would, by 1992,

loosely assemble into a group of 35,000 Islamic radicals, some of which would go on to form the Taliban movement. As Rashid reports, US intelligence all but overlooked the potential for backlash and the possibility that this well trained and well supplied group of fighters might someday turn their forces against the US. Zbigniew Brzezinski, a former US National Security Adviser, said of the situation, "What was more important in the world view of history? The Taliban or the fall of the Soviet Empire? A few stirred-up Muslims or the liberation of Central Europe and the end of the Cold War?"

Amidst the tangled web of influence, foreign funding and US intelligence, it is unclear exactly how serious of a role bin Laden played in the Afghan resistance. Renown scholar Noam Chomsky said about bin Laden in a September 17 interview, "He was one of the many religious fundamentalist extremists recruited,

armed, and financed by the CIA and their allies in Pakistani intelligence to cause maximal harm to the Russians." But while some scholars point to him as a leader, others say he was merely a

wealthy player who headed up some important projects, such as the building of the CIA-funded Khost tunnel complex, a military base on the Pakistani border. It was this complex that eventually brought Bin Laden in contact with the Taliban, the militant Islamic fundamentalist group that overthrew the Afghan government and took the city of Kabul in 1996. Pakistani officials introduced bin Laden to Taliban leaders and sought

negotiations over the control of the Khost camps. Bin Laden's financial prowess proved interesting to the Taliban, who moved him to Kandahar in 1997 where he set about building a home for Mullah Omar and providing funds to other Taliban leaders, reports Rashid in his latest book, *Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia*.

Bin Laden has remained in Afghanistan and the surrounding area since, spending some time in neighboring Dagestan with Taliban leaders. He has denied personal involvement in the September 11 attacks, but said he nonetheless supports the actions of those who carried them out. Notwithstanding this denial, the US government has named bin Laden as a prime suspect in the attacks on New York and Washington, DC. It has not released information with direct evidence of his involvement. Pakistan has urged the Taliban to hand



over bin Laden, and as the *bulletin* goes to press, the *New York Times* reports that a council of Islamic Clerics in Afghanistan will meet to decide the fate of bin Laden.

Afghanistan has been in a constant state of war since the Soviet Union's withdrawal in 1989, the country since has fallen under the control of the fundamentalist Islamic Taliban government. The actual responsibility for the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington is subject to debate among scholars contending that the Taliban controls only the capi- <<page 13>>

# students respond to tragedy

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**Ainsley Ross, Barnard sophomore**  
What did you do on Tuesday the 11? Who did you spend time with?

I was with friends the whole day. Just kinda relaxed. It still hasn't sunk in. I haven't really been thinking about it. I don't know if that's bad.

**Lauren Tal, Barnard sophomore**  
How did you feel when you first heard about it?

I couldn't understand. It was so weird. I'm used to bad things happening in Israel. I was there for a year after high school, but I.

**How do you think this will affect our future?**  
America now knows that it's not invincible.

**Lilliana Segura, Barnard senior**  
How did you feel when you first heard about it?

I got messages from my parents and sisters. I couldn't call them. kept trying the phones. Just about everyone who knew I was in New York inquired about me—people I baby sat for.

**How do you think this will affect our future?**  
It's so unthinkable, so different from anything I can comprehend. It's gonna take a lot more to feel safe again.

**Rachel Halegoua, Barnard sophomore**  
What did you do on Tuesday the 11? Who did you spend time with?

Yesterday I stayed in my dorm room the whole day. No one knew where my cousin was, but finally I found out that he was okay. I just spent time with friends and tried to go on with everyday life.

**How do you think this will affect our future?**

It's so unreal, we're not used to terrorism. It's going to take a while to adjust. People are going to be much more cautious where they go, what they do.

**How do you think this event will affect relations on campus?**

I hope it doesn't create a lot of tension between different groups of people.

**Assaia, Barnard senior**  
How did you first learn about the attack on the World Trade Center?

I was in my apartment downtown on 54 St. I turned on the news as I do every morning and that's when I heard about it. People were screaming on TV. I couldn't call my mother because the phone lines were down. I live right near the Citi-Corp center and the super told us we all had to evacuate the building. Drove of people were walking uptown. The delis and cafes were giving out free food, water.

**How do you think this will affect our future?**

Our lifestyle, everything is going to change. We'll never be as free, there's going to be stricter regulations from flying to anything. We are in war. Some people don't believe it, but we are in war and it's scary.

**Becca, Barnard junior**  
How did you first learn about the attack on the World Trade Center?

My dad called from Maryland and told me before they had fallen down. "Two planes hit the World Trade Center." And I was like, How could two planes hit? It didn't make any sense. I watched it collapse live on TV.

**How did you feel when you first heard about it?**

It's strange that what registers is the buildings, not as much the people dying. I thought of all the thousands of mugs and pictures that are now obsolete. Now I feel kind of numb, like everything spectacularly back to normal, but I don't know.

**What did you do on Tuesday the 11? Who did you spend time with?**

I watched television, wandered around, gauging peoples' reactions the way everyone else was doing, looking at each other. Then I went to the top of Sulzberger Tower and watched it from there.

**Anna Schwartz, Barnard sophomore**  
How did you feel when you first heard about it?

I couldn't believe it. I turned on the radio and was like, "Oh my God." And just started screaming.

**What did you do on Tuesday the 11? Who did you spend time with?**

I watched news for awhile. I was worried about my sister in New York. We couldn't find her, but we finally got in touch with her. I went for the Ecumenical prayer service at St. Paul's with friends. When the Muslim students leader was talking I could see some Jewish kids staring daggers. There was a lot of tension.

**Who were you in contact with and who all called or e-mailed you with letters of concern?**

I got e-mails from my entire family, people who I hadn't even spoken to for years and months. It was nice to see that people care.

**How do you think this will affect our future?**

I think it's stupid to declare war right now. I'm afraid Bush will declare war. I don't think it's right to respond to senseless violence with the same reaction. I don't understand the rationale.

# technology plays large

By Allison Wayne

In Downtown Manhattan on Tuesday morning, business people chatted on their cellular phones on their way to the environs of the World Trade Center. After ending early morning conversations and entering their offices, the business world should have begun as usual, but at 8:47 a.m. a commercial airliner struck into the North Tower, as 1 WTC is known.

Once the evacuations started and media outlets received word of the attacks, phones all over the nation chirped and vibrated continuously. Thousands of people received sporadic, or were without, phone service on a day when staying in touch signaled life and death.

In a society of cellular phone service and ethernet connections, we are both blessed and cursed with the ability to spread news faster and more efficiently than ever. Families and friends, especially those unfamiliar with Manhattan's geography, sought immediate answers wherever they could get them. Highly accessible technology allowed some student's fears to be immediately allayed, while others struggled against listening once more to James Earl Jones' booming "I'm sorry, all circuits are currently busy. Please try your call again," in addition to the everyday wired phone line busy signals.

Family members and friends of Barnard students, fearful and unaware of the college's proximity to the attack, clogged the system phone lines. Some Barnard students could dial

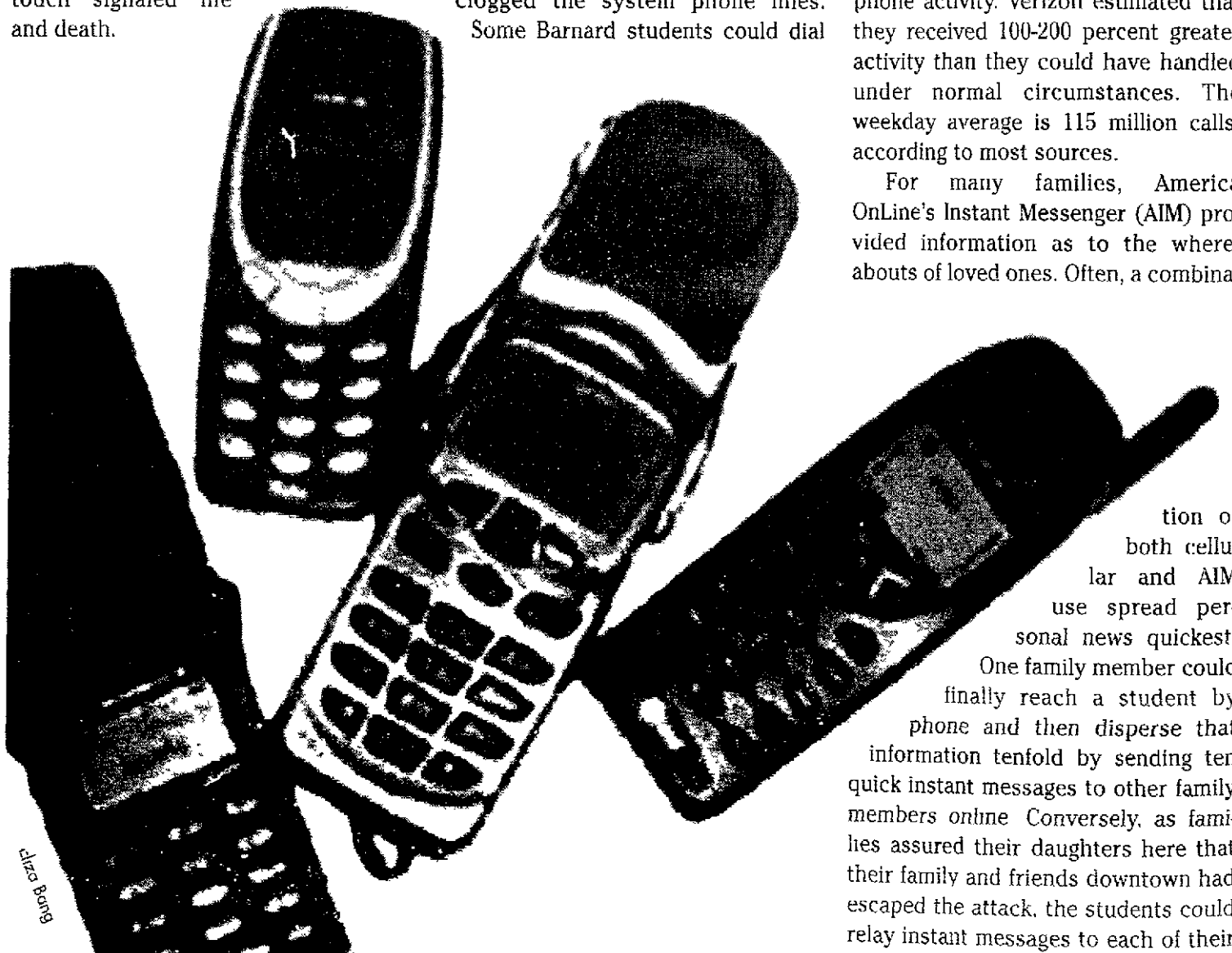
out and thus alleviate their families' fears, but most remained frustrated with their inability to disseminate assurances that they were miles away from the attacks.

Verizon virtually stopped service for part of Tuesday, unable to respond to such a high volume of calls. They had no choice.

"We did lose connection at some points because we had circuitry at the World Trade Center," said a Verizon representative.

Verizon had 10 wireless transmitters (as well as 488 employees on the lower levels of the North Tower) affected by the attack on the World Trade Center. Mostly, however, the disruptions occurred because of overloaded phone activity. Verizon estimated that they received 100-200 percent greater activity than they could have handled under normal circumstances. The weekday average is 115 million calls, according to most sources.

For many families, America OnLine's Instant Messenger (AIM) provided information as to the whereabouts of loved ones. Often, a combina-



Clara Bang

tion of both cellular and AIM use spread personal news quickest. One family member could finally reach a student by phone and then disperse that information tenfold by sending ten quick instant messages to other family members online. Conversely, as families assured their daughters here that their family and friends downtown had escaped the attack, the students could relay instant messages to each of their

# part in attack, aftermath

friends instantaneously via the ethernet connection.

President Shapiro urged students at the school-wide meeting to use e-mail more frequently than the telephone if possible, leaving the phone lines open for emergency workers to make calls throughout the city. e-mail was certainly a solid technological alternative to phone calls in the face of tragedy—the Internet performed at close to normal levels except during the hours of 10 am to 11 am.

“Shortly after the attacks, *www.matrix.net* [a website that monitors Internet Provider performance] detected a significant performance degradation of major Internet infrastructure points and Web sites,” said a *www.matrix.net* press release from September 11. It went on, “While the spike was significant, it was relatively short-lived, and IP traffic returned to near-normal performance levels within about an hour.”

What was affected most often during those first few hours were news websites such as *www.nytimes.com*, *www.msnbc.com*, and *www.cnn.com*. All over the world, the public hit these

sites for the latest visuals and reports from ground zero.

“Though a number of major news-related web sites are down or responding very slowly, they appear to be overburdened by large numbers of users trying to access them or by direct loss

**...highly accessible technology allowed some student's fears to be immediately allayed, while others struggled against listening once more to James Earl Jones' booming, "I'm sorry, all circuits are currently busy. Please try your call again..."**

of web server capacity as a result of the attacks and not by infrastructure outages of major Internet Service Providers,” said the press release.

Cellular phones and the internet played a further role in the crisis than students trying to connect to their families. Employees stuck in the World Trade Center activated their cell phones to signal help from rescue workers. While unable to make a local

911 call, one could call out of the City and have family members somewhere else call back into the City for help.

New technology is now being used to track the cell phones of missing World Trade Center employees to trace the whereabouts of people buried under the debris. Perhaps this measure can allow quicker, pinpointed rescues to occur.

In the aftermath of the attacks, technology may help save the economy. Companies whose employees had lodged in the World Trade Center were able to continue their business because a number of employees now keep work laptops at home.

When the World Trade Center was bombed in 1993, 26% of the companies housed there went bankrupt because they did not have sufficient emergency recovery procedures in place according to *www.cnn.com*. This diffusion of technology should help the U.S. economy to stabilize faster than it might otherwise be able.

*Alison Wayne is a Barnard sophomore and bulletin features editor.*

## bin laden and the taliban: the connections, cnt'd

<<page 9>> tal at Kabul, while others say that Taliban rules up to two-thirds of the Afghan territory. The Taliban is recognized as the official government of Afghanistan only by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, with the rest of the international community refusing to recognize the regime's legitimacy. The economic conditions in Afghanistan are severely depressed and the standard of living is very low. Continuous civil war, unrelenting since the early 1980s, has made it nearly impossible for the country to establish regular trade and transport. Most of the country's citizens suffer from poor nutrition, medical care, housing, and lack of clothing. Afghanistan is more than 5 billion dollars in debt to nations who have assisted them financially the past twenty years, and has little to no financial power, and no legitimate legal system or capable military. In May of this year, Secretary of State Colin Powell autho-

rized another \$43 million dollars in aid to the Afghani people, bringing this year's total US aid to Afghanistan to \$124 million dollars, on top of last year's \$114 million. This makes the US the world's largest donor of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.

As people and governments everywhere seek justice for last week's attacks, thousands more Afghani people flee over the borders into neighboring countries with each passing day, fearing a military strike by the US. It has yet to be seen what the consequences of President Bush's declaration of war on terrorism will mean for the Afghani people and for the future of the world.

*Isa Loundon is a barnard sophomore and bulletin managing editor. Christy Thornton is a barnard senior and bulletin consultant.*

# president shapiro reacts to tuesday's events

Dear Member of the Barnard Community,

The deadly terrorist attacks on Tuesday, September 11, have shaken all of us, provoking a mixture of sadness, fear, and anger.

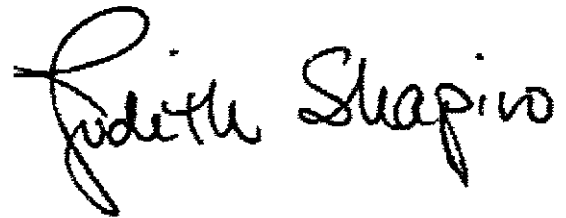
The attacks were driven by fanaticism and hatred. Ironically, they have created the opposite—not hatred, but a sense of shared purpose and a willingness to help each other. In London, the *Star Spangled Banner* was heard for the first time in Saint Paul's Cathedral. Expressions of solidarity have come from Russia and across the Middle East. We have no better example than the selfless work of firefighters, police officers and other rescue workers to rescue the victims of the tragedy. And we see it in the quick efforts by members of our own community—students, faculty and staff—to donate blood and raise funds for the victims.

Sadly, though, some have reacted to this tragedy by taking out their anger on others who are different from them. In Detroit, an Arab-American newspaper has received many anonymous threats from residents. And here on Morning-side Heights, we have received reports that some of our Muslim, Arab and Arab-American students may have been harassed—as if nationality, dress or skin color has anything

at all to do with what happened on Tuesday. We must collectively and strongly reject any such behavior.

This is a time for us to come together, to reach out and draw strength from each other, and to affirm our common humanity. As Americans, our strength derives from the fact that our nation is built around a set of ideals—including tolerance and liberty—and not around a single ethnic group or race. When anyone in our community gives in to prejudice, all of us are weakened and terrorism's goal—disrupting our sense of who we are—is strengthened. As we move over the coming weeks to better understand what happened, how it happened, why it happened, and how to prevent it, I hope that all of us can be inspired by the good that this tragedy has revealed. It is the basis from which we can, together, move forward.

Sincerely,



**The tragedies of September 11 evoked in everyone serious emotional responses of varying, and sometimes conflicting, natures. The *bulletin* aims to create an open and non-censored forum for the ideas of all members of our campus community. The views reflected in the following commentary section of this newsmagazine do not reflect the opinions of the editorial board or the *bulletin* as a whole. If you would like to submit a commentary article for upcoming issues contact the bulletin editorial board and send any responses to moderators at [bulletin@barnard.edu](mailto:bulletin@barnard.edu). We welcome your input, and hope to serve as a forum for dialogue.**

# a student writes to her family

By Kate Lovitt

The following article was written 12 September 2001 as a letter to the family members of the author.

But the real news is that I am fine. Unfortunately, I was en route to my internship in the financial district when the plane crashes occurred. It was quite a shock to emerge from the subway three blocks from the WTC and see the gaping 15-story hole shooting out fire from the immense building. The world was at a standstill in lower Manhattan, with buildings evacuated and hundreds of thousands of workers frozen in the streets, just staring towards the sky incredulously. My first thought was not of the building, but of the people inside, and I began to cry. We were all vulnerable to the falling debris and covered in bits of paper that drifted down from the offices. Realizing this, I turned to rush to work, dazed and unable to digest what I was witnessing. Cell phones were not functioning and the lines for pay phones were ten to fifteen people long. Streams of people in suits and heels skittered towards the East River, as far away from the burning buildings as they could get. Luckily I work in a small building on the East River, parallel to the WTC but about ten blocks to the east.

I made it to work around 9:20 and sat stunned while my boss videotaped the World Trade Center, easily visible from our fourth-floor window. From the television coverage we could see what was happening in the world. The streets around us were full of the same image I had seen before: men and women in suits and briefcases, their faces upturned in shock towards a sight one only imagined possible in blockbuster movies. No one understood the gravity of the situation yet, and certainly no one ever expected the buildings to collapse. At that point, most of us weren't even aware that the planes were two enor-

mous jets hijacked and full of passengers.

Within ten minutes of returning from the electronics store, a thunderous roar began to the west and billows of thick, white smoke rose up, enveloping buildings and rushing down the corridors of the streets. People began to run, but we were already as far east as you could go. Nobody knew where they were going, they just ran, a panicked stampede to get away from the monstrous cloud of smoke pursuing them. This smoke was not just your average campfire smoke, but thick and odorous, painful to breathe

**...my first thought was not of the building, but of the people inside, and I began to cry. We were all vulnerable to the falling debris and covered in bits of paper that drifted down from the offices...**

dense with ashes and bits of the building—glass, insulation, concrete, dent paper. I watched as it raced and overtook the onlookers with whom I had stood moments before and finally covered the building I was in, so that I couldn't see out the window anymore.

At that moment I realized how lucky I was to be inside, removed from the tumbling building, the stampede, the stampede, and the deadly and asphyxiating smoke now blanketing all of lower Manhattan.

The aftermath was almost too much

to handle. It looked like a wizard had struck, inches of white ash on the ground and the cars, people walking like zombies, absolutely covered in the substance, coughing and trudging through the streets. Where were they going? I don't think that even they knew. The FDR became thick with throngs of workers evacuated from surrounding buildings, creeping through the contaminated air towards the bridges crossing to Brooklyn. The East River was barely visible, the west was nothing but smoke and more smoke.

People kept coming and coming. News of the Pentagon, of hijacked planes, of the White House, Pittsburgh, Morgan Stanley, and more news, words, words struck my ears. But all I could think of was the people, CEOs indistinguishable from mail clerks and custodians, everyone out there in exodus from the city. It looked like a war camp and I was watching the battle ground from the equivalent of courtside seats.

On the phone with my mother to reassure her of my safety, another even louder roar began to emanate from the west and thick clouds of smoke rose again, this time black. I shouted that I thought the second one was falling and she, witnessing the event on the television confirmed that. "It already has." More people ran, more people were covered. People with nowhere to go, evacuated from their offices, just marching the highway and braving whatever was out there.

More information transmitted through the airwaves, and the story unfolded while I listened to the radio and watched the news outside my window. The dust slowly settled, the sun began to surge through the black clouds and reports of gas leaks struck across the air waves. I decided I had to get home to Brooklyn before anything else happened. Over an hour after the second plane hit, I had sales to go outside. It was as good as it **<<page 22>>**

# breaking the cycle of violence

By Sarah Mines

The pain and helplessness that we all feel in the wake of the terrible tragedy has flooded our campus. It is evident in every conversation, every glance exchanged with a stranger, every hug given to a friend on the way to class. Many students rushed to the scene instead of running away from it, offering whatever help they could give: handing out blood donation forms, helping the rescue crews, looking for any way to breach the terrible inhumanity of Tuesday's attack. The same spirit of compassion and support for the victims, families, and rescue work-

ers has been seen in vigils around the country. Candles from these ceremonies have lit the Barnard and Columbia campuses every day since the attack occurred. This campus has come together in a way that has helped many of us to grieve as well as express our outrage at this senseless atrocity.

Our politicians have also come together. But I fear that their intentions are not so noble as ours. Before the dust had even settled, Democrats and Republicans alike were singing "God Bless America" and beating the drums of war. President Bush pledged to "hunt down and destroy" the perpetrators and Congress quickly passed a resolution giving Bush full war powers authority. At the memorial service for the victims at Washington National Cathedral on Friday, Bush used the pulpit to sound a battle cry, saying it was America's responsibility to "rid the world of evil." By Saturday, Bush declared that America was in "a new state of war." Any country that does not sign on to the U.S. program will be vulnerable to attack. Where is the democracy there?

The media laid the groundwork for war in the Middle East almost immediately. They showed pictures of Osama bin Laden before there was any reason at all to believe he was responsible, never mentioning that bin Laden was trained by the American CIA in the late 1970s during the US-backed war against Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Television stations played a clip of Pakistani

the last few days about how to respond to the attack, but it seems no one is asking why this attack occurred in the first place. Until that question is honestly addressed, any "response" will be powerless to prevent this kind of tragedy from occurring again. Bush's claim that America was attacked "because we are freedom's home and defender" is outrageous and simply not true. Despite the

**As we mourn for the Americans killed  
we must bear in mind that  
we are global citizens  
We must stand up to this war  
because there is NO reason  
why more innocent people should die.**

shockingly racist commentaries on major network television advancing the view that Muslims are taught to hate America and freedom, the depth of anger and despair that motivates this kind of attack is not some sort of irrational hatred of free-

dom as our President would have us think. Rather, it is a reaction, while an extreme and indefensible one, against the systematic economic and military oppression carried out by the United States on a worldwide scale, particularly in the Middle East.

children on the West Bank rejoicing every five minutes all day long on Tuesday implying that all Palestinians were celebrating the attacks. Actually most Palestinians were horrified and many demonstrated on the street holding signs with such messages as, "We grieve with you, we feel your pain, we are victims too." But the media focused on the exceptions. At the same time, a celebratory reaction does not seem so strange when you consider the context: Palestinians have been being attacked by bombs stamped with "Made in the USA." for the last year and have been living under apartheid-like conditions made possible by US political and economic support for Israel. Despite the understandable hostility of people in Palestine and other Arab nations to the United States government, there has been a massive outpouring of sympathy and grief from our Arab brothers and sisters. For they, like us, understand that it was not the US government that was attacked on Tuesday, it was people.

There has been much discussion in the media and among our "leaders" in

dom as our President would have us think. Rather, it is a reaction, while an extreme and indefensible one, against the systematic economic and military oppression carried out by the United States on a worldwide scale, particularly in the Middle East.

It has never been more clear that the United States has to address its role as the world's foremost military and economic power if there is ever going to be real security in this country. Tuesday's tragedy showed that sophisticated military defense systems and intelligence cannot prevent the kind of senseless violence that we saw in New York and Washington, DC this week. The kind of anger and alienation that could produce destruction of such enormity is not motivated by religious fanaticism, hatred of freedom, or any of the rest of the garbage being propagated from Washington and the media. Rather, it is a response to a government, that in the last two decades alone has launched major military attacks on no less than eight countries—Crenada, Libya. Panama, Iraq, Somalia,

<<page 22>>



# united we stand, divided we fall

By Kiryn Haslinger

Red, white, and blue hangs from every store window and many residences as people proudly display a concrete symbol of American freedom. This brings me great comfort. When everything I know is falling apart—our sense of security has been false, and evil is our real and immediate enemy—the support and solidarity of my fellow American citizens pulls me up and reminds me that America is not just its buildings. America is not even just its people. America is timeless values that have surpassed the lives and deaths of thousands of citizens and will outlive this tragedy. The commitment to freedom and justice is stronger than any enemy who attempts to destroy it.

225 years ago in the face of a powerful and unjust threat to independence, the citizens of the American land banded together and fought, not knowing if they would prevail or die trying. They ultimately triumphed and formed the United States of America, an independent nation founded on certain ideals: the sanctity of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Since then, the US has built itself up as one of the greatest political superpowers in world history. It has not grown by conquest of other countries, as all other empires that came before, but solely on its ideals and on the appeal of those ideals to people from all over the world who have come here to make America their own.

Last week, our lives and our liberty were violently and brutally attacked by an enemy whose fundamental values are terror, cowardice, and intolerance. In other parts of the world, families celebrated, dancing in the streets and congratulating each other for the murder of thousands of innocent American people. And now the world can no longer be seen through the lens of moral relativism, looking at cultural differences from a nonjudgmental standpoint. The ethical questions that will determine the outcome of our existence

rise above bipartisan politics. They transcend the artificial and divisive factions that we have built up around skin color, ideology, and national origin. They are questions about how each of us values her life and her liberty and questions about our willingness to risk these values in order to maintain them.

Terrorists attacked our country, our city, our families, and our sense of security. They did so in the most atrocious way in all of warfare throughout history: faceless, and intending to kill the maximum number of innocent civilians. America is not a cowardly nation. America is a good and noble nation that does not shrink in fear to bullies. It is a nation that throughout its history has examined its flaws, decided the extent of their danger, and publicly castigated itself to try to fix them. Even in war, America has fought for its ideals, and if we hurt the enemy during defeat, we helped rebuild their nation and serve their people. We are not happy when we are at war, and we are certainly not proud when we kill innocents.

Declaring war is not a choice for us. A war, of which we wanted no part, has been declared against us. We can sit back, moralize about cultural equivalence, and let it destroy our civilization. We can let it exceed the atrocity of killing thousands of innocent people and destroying our national monuments and institutions. We can allow it to touch the very heart and foundation of our nation, our way of thinking and living. Or we can fight back. We can let the world know that human life is important and people are more than just pawns in a sick mission to eradicate free thought. When thousands of people were unjustly enslaved in America because of their skin color, people had to fight and even kill to bring justice to the nation. When millions of people were tortured and murdered in Europe because of their Jewish faith, people had to fight to bring justice to the world. When people have decided that terrorism is a legitimate way to express political dissatisfaction and that America deserved to be devastated, turning the cultural center of the world into a war zone and killing its people, people need to fight to bring retribution upon the monsters who did this.

A great question faces our college community of idealists right now: Is pacifism anti-American? What is American if not the freedom to think freely and formulate your own views based on your personal moral fiber? But if you value this freedom, then you must fight for it because right now it is in grave danger of being eradicated. If we can't stand up honorably and state that our lives are more than just breath and blood, and that living wouldn't matter without values, then we cannot say we are American.

*Kiryn Haslinger is a Barnard senior and bulletin co-editor in chief.*



# all Muslims not the enemy

By Zehra Mamdani

I am an alien. I became an alien fifteen years ago when my family immigrated to the Bronx from Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania Kindergarten, so to speak, was the reason my family emigrated to America. We traded in our beachfront home with servants and nannies, for a one-bedroom apartment with occasional cockroaches, overlooking a Laundromat. Although our monetary freedom exceeded that of our new American home, we were stifled by the ignorance of our land. . .there were scant opportunities for betterment and we yearned for a place where our dreams would not be limited to our financial assets, but only by our imaginations. But fifteen years later, after reaping the fruits of my family's American freedom, I woke up today to realize that I was stifled by the same ignorance I left behind when I was five years old.

The morning cacophony of sirens foretold the beginning of a day that was eerily foreboding of the Apocalypse. . .shocking and disturbing pictures and images floated into homes and we all watched as our secure routine was shattered. After years of living as a hyphenated American, I realized that today I am no longer an alien and am more American than I thought I was. Although my American-Muslim hyphen always sufficed in the past, today, those two words clashed with each other. As I walked along Broadway, my headscarf was an open sign to anyone who wanted to let their frustrations out, and of course, people did. Several people exhibited their "New York charm" by cursing, giving me dirty looks and (always a favorite) walking into me. I guess one couldn't tell that my heart bled for the victims of today's bombing. I guess one couldn't tell that my scarf was



not woven with hatred for this country and that it doesn't represent a defunct interpretation of Islam as a militant, blood-thirsty religion that the media often portrays it to be. And finally, I guess one couldn't tell that I, and the majority of the world's Muslims, are not responsible. It's incredibly easy to point fingers for issues affecting Americans. During World War II it was the Japanese-Americans who needed to be sent off into concentration camps because somehow, it seemed that they were responsible for the war.

During the time of slavery and racial inequality in America, it was black people who were responsible for the social ills of America's society, just as Russian-Americans were thought to be "red comics" who supported the communist Soviet Union.

This week, today, right now, is when we will be forced to wrestle our inner stereotypes and prejudices. The UN Conference on Racism is a supreme example of how antiquated notions of inequality are still very much part of the global psyche. This summer's G-8 meetings made globalization a household term and challenged the educated world to question traditions like capitalism and democracy on which we tend to fall back. The chaotic events that always exploded "over there," far, far away from "right here," are beginning to unfold in our very own backyard. Words could do no justice to the pain felt by today's American victims and words will not be enough to capture the horror that tomorrow's civilians in Afghanistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, or whichever country that will be held responsible, will face. Today I woke up and found my spirit shattered, but I'll sleep tonight with the hope that it'll one day be rebuilt.

Zehra Mamdani is a Barnard junior.

## Leaflet for Peace this Thursday and Friday!

"Leafleting for Peace" is in response to the recent hostility that has been directed toward minorities, especially Americans of Arab decent and American Muslims. A letter that condemns acts of violence toward fellow Americans will be handed out on College Walk from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday and at Rockefeller Center from 11:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m on Friday. Students from all backgrounds are welcome and can drop by during the leafleting periods.

### Leafleting:

10:30 a.m. Thursday 9/20. Columbia Sundial – students leaflet on college walk till 1:00 p.m.

10:30 a.m. Friday 9/21. Columbia Sundial – students will leaflet at Rockefeller Center

### Attend one Mandatory teach-in:

6:00-7:00 p.m. Wednesday 9/19. Altschul Atrium . or 7:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday 9/20. Altschul Atrium

# REVISITING A YEAR OF TERRORISM

By Meredith Webster

I woke up in the morning to the sounds of sirens rushing past my window. I immediately got the all too familiar sinking, panicked feeling in my stomach that disaster had struck. Two ambulances just whizzed by; was there a bomb in my favorite restaurant? Are my friends and family all safe? Following the usual routine, I ran to turn on the radio. However, to my great surprise the newscast was in English and not in Hebrew. My window was overlooking Manhattan, and not Jerusalem. I was confused for a minute. Things like this don't happen in America! For an entire year my mother was begging me to leave my school in Israel and return home to America where it was safe, where there were no terrorist attacks.

This past year I spent time studying in Israel, and absorbing the culture, people, and life in the Jewish homeland. Many Jewish students decide to spend a year after high school in such a manner, but their experiences are much different than the experiences of the students who went last year. This is because last year's students had to survive the El Aksa Intifada, the wave of terrorism that began last September after Ariel Sharon went up to the Temple Mount angering Palestinians.

Imagine all the feelings of fear, and anxiety that you felt after Tuesday's events; being scared to leave the campus because no where around the city was safe, because another building could explode at any minute. Now imagine having those feelings every day for an entire year. Every day I had to face my own mortality. I came to the realization this year that I was not immortal as so many American teenagers believe. The quiet in Ameri-

ca provides for a false sense of security. Occasional tragedies like Columbine or the Oklahoma City bombing occur which shake us up and make us reflect, but those events are unusual. They do not directly threaten our every day lives. In America the only gunshots I have ever heard were in the movies. In Israel, every night I fell asleep to the sounds of machine guns and tank shots that were being fired in a village ten minutes away from my school. Per-

**WE ARE NOT INVINCIBLE HERE IN AMERICA. UNFORTUNATELY, WE ARE JUST AS VULNERABLE AS ANY OTHER COUNTRY. WE CAN NO LONGER LOOK AT THE FIGHTING AND VIOLENCE IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND FEEL DETACHED.**

forming every day errands that I take for granted in America meant risking my life in Israel. As I stepped onto a bus I worried that it could explode. When I walked into the mall and opened my bag so that it could be searched for explosives, I worried that they missed some explosives in another's bag. As I drove down a road to visit my teacher, I was scared that I'd be struck by a bullet or rock.

One of the scariest moments during my year occurred on one Saturday night. I went into the center of town with a bunch of friends. When we got there we saw that it was a huge social scene, and we decided that we weren't in the mood to see a million people we knew, so we left. An hour after we left, two bombs exploded a couple of blocks away from where we had been standing. Everyone was in a frenzy trying to make sure that all their friends were alive. I hadn't wanted to see these people a short while ago, and now I would have given anything to see them

and make sure they were okay. Similar to this past Tuesday, cell phones were down so it was impossible to reach anyone. The hours before the phones were reconnected were the longest hours of my life. Miraculously, nobody that I knew was injured, but it made me realize how precious my life and the lives of those around me are.

This feeling of mortality and appreciation of life that I had gained in Israel had begun to weaken since I started college. I had much more important things on my mind like figuring out my schedule and meeting new people. There just wasn't enough time to call my family or close high school friends just to say hello and I love you. But Tuesday's events and the all too familiar feelings and thoughts that

returned within me served as a reminder to set my priorities straight once again. It isn't about the money you make or the job you have because as we saw, all of that can crumble in a matter of seconds. It is about the people in the world who you touch and who you love. Those are the effects that will last in the world forever.

We are not invincible here in America. Unfortunately, we are just as vulnerable as any other country. We can no longer look at the fighting and violence in other countries and feel detached. We are all human beings and we all experience the same feelings of fear, mourning, and anxiety no matter where we live or what language we speak. We must be sensitive to the feelings of all our fellow human beings, and appreciate every day that we are safely living on this earth. Make the most of every moment, because you never know when or where terror can strike again.

*Meredith Weber is a Barnard first year.*

# tragedy affects students on different levels

By Kirsten Eller

My mom woke me up shortly before 8am with the news. In my morning grogginess, I understood little more than being awoken after a restless night. "Candace, from your dance classes...she was on one of the planes yesterday. Candace was flying from Boston. And it hit the World Trade Center". I was still shell-shocked from everything that happened the previous day. But I had survived in New York City during the attack, and I'd seen the masses of people fleeing the city by train as they recounted survival stories by cell phone. Nobody I knew personally worked in the World Trade Center, nor did I know anyone who would be flying on an early Tuesday morning in September. I assumed that the danger, while close, wasn't personal.

"You're kidding? Candace? No. Not Candace," I mumbled, still reeling from confusion. My mom handed me the local newspaper. On the front page of the paper was the headline "U.S. Attacked," followed immediately by "Danbury Woman, 20, Feared Dead."

The picture below matched my mom's words. Candace—one of my friends from dance classes in middle and high school—had left Boston on an American Airlines jet bound for a vacation in Los Angeles. Candace—whom people confused with me in pictures from those dance classes—was on board flight #11, the first jet to hit the World Trade Center on Tuesday morning.

It hit me like a brick wall.

Terrorists had nailed someone I knew, a college kid like me. It could just as well have been me. But it wasn't.

I've always been able to insulate

myself from plane crashes simply because I didn't know anyone involved. But all that changed. Someone I knew suffered her end at the hands of terrorists, all because she picked the wrong time, the wrong day, to fly.

The previous morning, she'd been beginning her day, the same as any of us. I was exhausted trying to be on time for

there was a mistake. That the Candace Williams in the newspaper somehow didn't match the one whom I had known. I checked online, hoping that the passenger list bore no one with a remotely similar name.

But Candace was there. Standing next to me and smiling during our jazz recitals. And one of the final passengers on the plane's manifest. There was no mistake, it was the same person.

But how? Why? We had lost touch after I stopped taking dance lessons, but I've always had fond memories of those classes. Of everybody I'd met during those years, Candace was one of the friendliest. She was a talented dancer, but more importantly, she was a wonderfully happy person. Candace always had a smile on her face.

A few days later, the pictures of the jets crashing into the World Trade Center make me sick. Knowing that Candace was trapped on that plane as it melted into the side of the building. And that there was nothing she, nor we, could do. As the networks replay those images, I can't help but replay what those last few moments must have been like for her.

I'm still at a loss for words. What happened? Why did it have to happen? Why did it happen to Candace? Why were the rest of us spared instead?

There are so many questions swirling around my head, but I don't know if I'll ever have the answers. Candace was a good person, like so many of the thousands of others who were killed. For me, she is a personal link to the tragedy, someone who shouldn't have died, but who died all too soon.

We'll never forget you, Candace.

Kirsten Eller is a Barnard senior.



banners through the city commemorate loved ones lost

**"You're kidding? Candace? No. Not Candace," I mumbled, still reeling from confusion. My mom handed me the local newspaper. On the front page of the paper was the headline "U.S. Attacked," followed immediately by "Danbury Woman, 20, Feared Dead."**

a 9 o'clock class. She may have been exhausted from trying to catch the 8 a.m. flight to Los Angeles. But an hour later, while I sat in my French class studying new words, Candace's life brutally ended, ironically in the same building where she had interned a year earlier.

I pulled out my photo albums from dance lessons, hoping that somehow,

# we are a desensitized generation

By Sherry Huang

As I watched the news of the World Trade Center on television, part of me felt so desensitized. What was real seemed to, instead, be scenes from a typical adrenaline-packed action movie; people flying through the air and running through the streets, fire brimming through the windows, and, finally, skyscrapers crashing to the ground. What I saw juxtaposed with scenes from *Independence Day*, *Deep Impact*, and *Armageddon*.

Our generation has seen too many apocalyptic movies. In a way, I believe we have become so used to Hollywood images of landmarks crashing down that seeing it for real, we can't help but feel almost...nothing.

Those of us who have seen *Independence Day* recall a NYC scene where the aliens emit a red beam down onto the Empire State Building, causing it to begin a chain-reaction explosion from top to bottom. Bystanders begin running hysterically, frantically abandoning their cars as they try not to be swept up by the incoming fire pelting through the streets. What is eventually left is a landfill of ashes, car frames, and collapsed buildings.

Background music plays "It's the End of the World" by R.E.M. Are members of our generation hearing this same music as we watch the news footage of what has really happened in our own city? Are we able to turn this real-life terror

into an action movie adrenaline rush?

Many people have compared the World Trade Center terrorism of last Tuesday to the tragedy in Pearl Harbor 60 years ago. For those who lived through that era, I'm sure seeing the blockbuster *Pearl Harbor* meant re-living a memory they would rather forget. In the movie, once again Hollywood is re-creating a destruction, albeit a historical one, but the war is romanticized and the audience is more intrigued with the love triangle than the attack on America.



real life or from a movie?

**...our generation has seen too many apocalyptic movies. In a way, I believe we have become so used to Hollywood images of landmarks crashing down that seeing it for real, we can't help but feel almost... nothing.**

When I saw *Pearl Harbor*, I left the theatre thinking how cliched the movie had been. To me, the story's plot and action scenes had been a mix

of *Armageddon* and *Titanic*. I had become so used to seeing the usual action movie gimmicks: slow-motion running shots away from the chasing fire, scenes of the enemy preparing to attack versus scenes of potential vic-

tims living their lives ignorant of the pending attack, and the declaration of love from the hero promising to come back to his true love who he will, of course, marry in the end when the world is saved and at peace. My blockbuster savvy critique of the plot and cinematography was forefront on my mind, not the real lives that had been lost or the political crisis that shattered so many people's lives. I am

not atypical of my generation. The WTC destruction was real and was more horrible than anything we have ever seen, but we can't be completely surprised if some of us revert to seeing the destruction as if it were a part of a movie, just as we could with the movie *Pearl Harbor*.

Living the reality also makes me wonder if Hollywood will be more careful in the type of destruction scenes they depict in the future. *Pearl Harbor* was turned into an event for our disconnected generation to see; many of us barely gave a thought to those who lived the reality. It is scary to think that in future years, Hollywood may film a blockbuster action movie based around the World Trade Center destruction. I fear the story line would include heart-wrenching background music, a love triangle, and an inevitable countdown to destruction. If this movie is ever made, will our children go see it for the movie star appeal? Will you see it? Or, would you be repulsed and horrified that Hollywood was sensationalizing an event so terrible in your heart?

Sherry Huang is a Barnard sophomore.

<<page 15>> was going to get.

So I marched home, joining the exodus, wandering confused up Water Street towards the Brooklyn Bridge. The bridge was closed and so we all pushed downward towards the Manhattan Bridge, anywhere to get out of there. The smoke rose continuously around us. I walked quickly, being one of the few people without the benefit of a surgical mask and almost unable to bear the pain of the smoke.

People recounted their personal stories to each other around me or moved silently through the streets. Chinatown was full of cameras and tourists snapping shots of the disaster. I stopped at a church converted into a triage center to try to donate blood, but was told they did not have the facilities there. Moving towards the bridge, the lower level was too crowded to move and so I scaled the middle to get to the upper level and walked briskly across, turning momentarily to catch glimpses of the burning Manhattan skyline.

Overheated, traumatized or asphyxiated by the smoke, men and women passed out on the bridge and were surrounded by compassionate New Yorkers trying to help out in any way possible. At the Brooklynside, volunteers passed out water and juice, waved to the busloads of firefighters en route to Manhattan, and cheered us on. I stopped at another hospital, denied again the opportunity to donate blood and redirected to another center, which was full, as well. Flatbush was completely blocked off until Atlantic Avenue and thousands of us overtook the street.

I live in a neighborhood with a large number of Muslims and the mood was eerie as I walked by their shops and noticed the posters in support of Palestine pasted to the streetposts weeks earlier. Again, I felt lucky to live not too far into Brooklyn and was easily able to walk home.

Once home, I made the requisite phone calls, those that would connect, at least. My boyfriend returned shortly after me, worried and breathless. Even the school where he teaches in Crown Heights was in utter confusion and chaos. We went up to our roof to watch as Rome burned down, and bits of debris and paper flew through the air. The wind pushed the smoke southeast, over our neighborhood in Brooklyn. The smell and contamination was unbearable. Later, I went up again and found a page from a book floating through the air, singed at the sides but otherwise intact. The title at the top of the page said "CRIME."

I spent the afternoon and evening in shock, watching TV, pacing, crying. At 11 o'clock at night we walked towards the Promenade and witnessed the pocked New York skyline, the chute of smoke rising from it. The Promenade was packed with people in awe. The Brooklyn Bridge was a mess of emergency vehicles traversing it. The smoke covered Staten Island now. There was nothing else to do...

I do have classes today but with subway access interrupted and advisories to stay OUT of New York and be at home unless absolutely necessary to leave, I have decided to not go. I am also still dealing with sights I witnessed and am not quite ready to enter the "real world" again.

*Kate Levitt is a Barnard senior.*

<<page 16>> Sudan, Afghanistan, and Yugoslavia, not to mention wars where the US backed a proxy force, the atrocities carried out by US supported "freedom fighters" in Nicaragua in the 1980s being only one example. It is a response to a government that funds Israel's repression and war against the Palestinians to the tune of \$3 billion a year. It is a response to a government whose economic sanctions on Iraq have killed more than 500,000 Iraqi children and whose now former Secretary of State Madeline Albright can justify these deaths saying, "We think the price is worth it."

Howard Zinn put it best, saying "If we want real security, we will have to change our posture in the world—to stop being an intervening military power and to stop dominating the economies of other countries." This is what we have to demand from our government, and what many Americans have already begun to fight for.

As I write this on Saturday, it looks like the US could very well go to war against Afghanistan within the next few days. If there is a war, it will not bring an end to terrorism, or any sort of justice. We have to ask the question, who exactly will be bombed? It will be more innocent civilians, like our very own brothers and sisters in lower Manhattan and Washington, DC. This time it will be our Afghani brothers and sisters, or our Pakistani brothers and sisters. History has shown that military responses to terrorism only bring more senseless violence.

As we mourn for the Americans killed last week, we must bear in mind that we are global citizens, not just American citizens. And that the lives of people around the world are on the line. We must stand up to this war because there is absolutely no reason why more innocent people should die. A new war in the Middle East will mean more loss of innocent lives in this seemingly ceaseless continuum of revenge. We must demand an end to this cycle of violence.

*Sarah Hines is a Barnard senior.*

## Community Forums

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

7:30 P.M. IN HELD AUDITORIUM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

NOON IN ALTSCHUL AUDITORIUM

DISCUSSION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: (i.e., students whose home is outside the US) this Thursday, 9/20 at 5 p.m. in Elliott Hall Lounge.

# worldview thrown into question

By Courtney Martin

When I was fourteen years old I took a fat black marker from my parents' dresser drawer and in a fit of brave abandon wrote, "There isn't anyone you couldn't love once you heard their story -Maisy Kownick" across the top panel of my closet door. I stood back from my handiwork—the thick black ink violating the pristine peach paint with its spontaneous crudeness—and felt happy with myself. I had made permanent (a fourteen year old version that is) what I held to be at the center of my being. I believed, wholeheartedly, that people were essentially good. I was able to walk around all day, eat dinner, think, run, laugh, function, all because I held this like my organs, unmoving and life-giving within my body.

And then I woke up Tuesday morning, September 11, in a mess of sheets and limbs and learned that the world

was not going to let me function like this. The world had other plans, and while I was running to my first classes, scheduling a walk in Riverside Park and a dinner with friends, the world was shifting under my feet forever. Nothing was certain anymore. Even my lungs began to wonder what breathing was for when you couldn't believe in people. What are we living for if not the belief that humanity can be depended on? I could feel my closet door at home throbbing under the weight of such contrary evidence.

I walked around the whole day with

this question pulsating under the very surface of my skin: Can people really be evil in their cores?

There was very little use asking anyone for insight. Adults put on authoritative faces around here, made plans and smiled steadily at the shaky faces of their students—overwhelmed by their first taste of war—but they didn't

mental goodness was still the rule. Surely they would stand by my fourteen year old testimony, probably cracking and chipping now, off a closet door I no longer open and shut. But even they seemed a little uncertain of where to put the day.

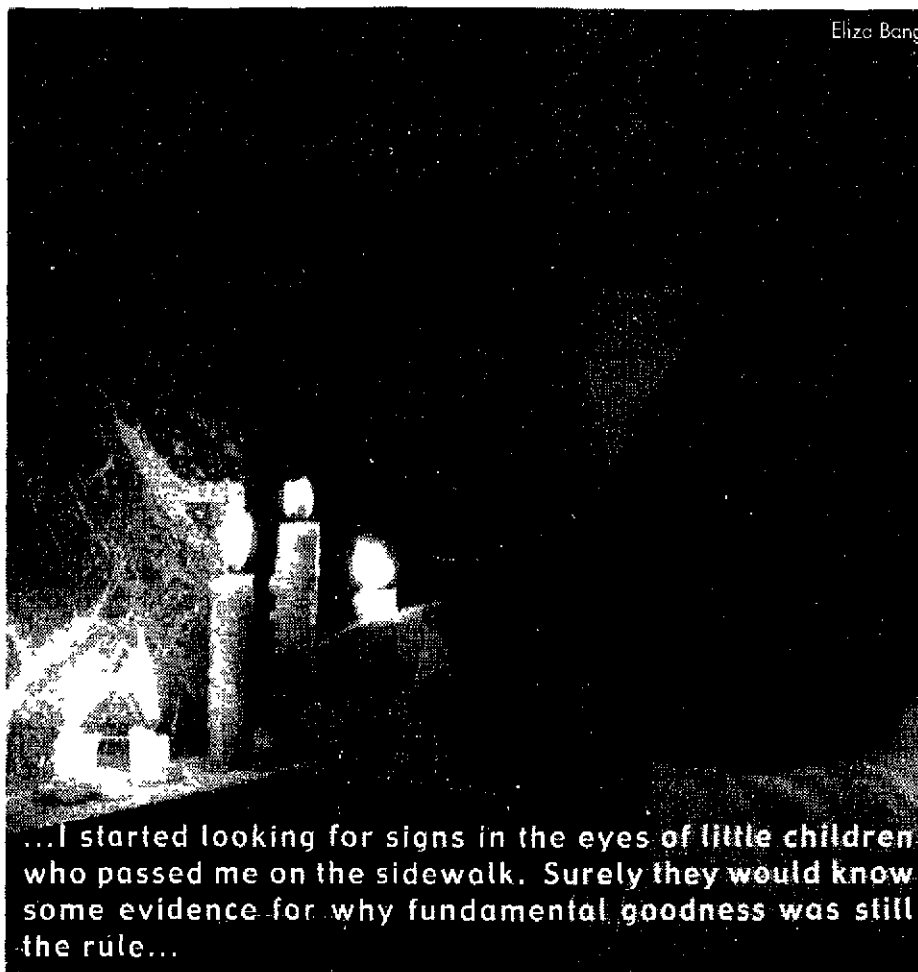
I don't know. I don't know why everything has to be so painful. I don't

know why people have the capacity to be so excruciatingly distant from one another. I don't know how a group of people, across an ocean and a political landscape, could forget the faces in the buildings, could remove the stories from the country.

I do know this. I woke up this morning, Wednesday, September 12, in a mess of sheets and limbs and there was light streaming through my window, voices outside in the hall, and an aching in my fingers. Maybe we aren't fundamentally good. Maybe there is more evil than I ever conceived of. But at least this is true: people are resilient. People

are brave. At least we wake up the morning after the whole world has changed, and find ourselves still a part of it, still compelled to find people who are hurt and fix them, to dignify the dead and celebrate their lives, to eat breakfast, smile at strangers on the street, and sing in the shower. At least we can wake up this morning, full of anger and the kind of sadness most of us have never known, and live again for the first time.

*Courtney Martin is a Barnard senior, and a bulletin co-editor in chief.*



...I started looking for signs in the eyes of little children who passed me on the sidewalk. Surely they would know some evidence for why fundamental goodness was still the rule...

want me to ask. No one, not even my best friend over a piece of pizza in a deli where everyone was focusing on the mundane—buy, eat, digest, go home—in order to distract themselves from the unprecedented, wanted me to ask. He looked down and contemplated his own fingers, red sauce sitting on his nail bed, and shook his head. I think he wished I would just be quiet. I understood why.

I started looking for signs in the eyes of little children who passed me on the sidewalk. Surely they would know some evidence for why funda-

# EMERGENCY

