

# Voices

## Fighting Terrorism: A New Kind of War

By Melvyn Levitsky

In my lifetime we have fought four major wars. World War II mobilized the entire country and was understood by Americans to be fought for reasons of principle, values, and liberty. The Korean War was seen as a strategic necessity—to stop aggression—but did not command the wide public support nor the moral vision of its predecessor. The war in Vietnam seemed ill-conceived, badly fought, and weakly justified by our political leadership. Rather than bring our people together, as most wars do, it rent society in ways that persist to this day. The war in the Persian Gulf was hardly a war at all, given its relative brevity and the ease with which American and allied forces achieved their stated goals. Its main consequence was to stimulate a debate over whether the United States had gone far enough, and to leave troops on the ground in a highly volatile area of the world.

Now we are again speaking in terms of war. Waging war against terrorism, in the sense of mobilizing our people, our institutions, our military forces, and our allies, seems both justified and necessary for reasons of justice and deterrence: justice, because more than 3,500 innocent people have been murdered; and deterrence, because the American people insist at a minimum that our government make every effort to prevent a recurrence of the terror.

But if this is war, it is unlike any of the four major wars of the past half-century. The enemy is not a state or group of states. It's a dispersed multinational network, having its roots in Afghanistan and its branches in dozens of countries, rich and poor, all over the world. The cells of this network are cloaked in darkness, often hiding in and feeding on legitimate, peaceful communities of the

Muslim faith and connecting with each other through modern technology when terrorist transactions are being planned or at work. The enemy's agenda is murky and malevolent. While nominally focused on the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, its rage seems more directed against globalization, modernization, Western values, and the American presence in the world. Its goal is to terrorize and bring down those societies it identifies as evil and to replace existing governments with its own perverse and perverted concept of "religious" rule. Clearly no truce, peace settlement, or war-ending compromise is possible with such an adversary. No redirection of U.S. policy would bring about a lessening of terrorist fervor or targeting of our interests. Therefore our actions must be centered on breaking up and defeating the network and the states that support it.

How are we to accomplish this? How do we wage war when our strengths—massive, mobile armed forces, waves of aircraft and missiles, armadas of ships, all supported by the latest in technology—may not be entirely effective against such an elusive enemy? How do we

measure victory or even the success of our efforts?

To answer these questions, I suggest we see this war in terms of five interconnected battlefronts: diplomatic/political, economic/financial, law enforcement, intelligence, and military. Diplomatic action is focused on bringing together a broad coalition of nations for coordinated joint action. This will support the work on other fronts by maximizing our ability to find and destroy terrorist cells and minimizing the possibility that any nation will harbor or support them. A strong, viable coalition with staying power will bolster the efforts on the economic front to freeze terrorist money, prevent it from being laundered and used, and isolate and sanction those countries that do not cooperate with the coalition to the fullest extent of their capabilities. Such a coalition will also promote more effective cooperation among intelligence and law enforcement services in the production and sharing of operational, real-time information and intelligence—the key to success in knowing our enemy and his plans. The employment of

**The Role of Law** Law is meant for times like these. Legal institutions can provide collective comfort that our fundamental societal principles remain intact. The U.S. Constitution also ensures that the zeal of our elected leaders to increase our security by restricting our freedoms will be tempered. Still, one price we pay for a relatively open society is that the threat of terrorism can never be eliminated. Looking ahead, law can help address the root causes of terrorism. Terrorism does not occur in a vacuum. Using the international legal system to resolve conflicts and to forge agreements for economic development and education may do more for our national security than any homeland defense.

—William C. Banks, Laura J. and L. Douglas Meredith Professor, College of Law;  
professor of public administration, Maxwell School and  
College of Arts and Sciences



AP/Wide World Photos

An F-14A launches from the flight deck of the *USS Enterprise* to conduct a mission over Afghanistan.

actionable intelligence in law enforcement investigations, leading to arrests, convictions, and punishment of terrorist felons, can deal a strong blow to their ability to operate.

The military action in which we are now engaged should not be seen as separate from other fronts of the war, since it shares their objective of weakening and ultimately defeating the terrorist network. While our counterattack is currently targeted on the Taliban and the forces of Osama bin Laden, our forces may also need to be employed against other nodes of the network. But just as military action was not the first option to be used, it will not be the last. Afghanistan is important, but winning there

will not win the war. Because of the enemy's nature, we cannot expect the kind of final victory we might have in a conventional war. If military force defeats our enemies in Afghanistan, work on the diplomatic, economic, legal, and intelligence fronts to disrupt the rest of the network will become even more important—and potentially more effective.

In the final analysis, our success will depend on the ability of our political leadership to motivate and inspire our—and our allies'—support, resolve, and sense of sacrifice over the course of many years. While this success cannot be defined in terms of total victory, effective, purposeful, and coordi-

## Patriotism and Social Progress

The September 11 attack is the most significant challenge that American society has had to relativism since World War II. Out of supposed respect for social and cultural differences, we have so accustomed ourselves to asking, "Who is to say what is better?" that we have lost sight of what is good and bad. We have lost sight of the real as we play in the realm of ideology. Along the way we have confused the virtue of self-criticism with the vice of self-deprecation.

There are, to be sure, many ways in which America can change for the better. But we must not let this important truth blind us to the equally important truth that for all of our shortcomings, we have made unparalleled social progress. The social standing held by women in America simply towers over that of women in Afghanistan. Do we not, then, have greater gender equality? The Taliban government will not brook the least disagreement; whereas for all of the defects of our government, each American citizen can shout from the highest mountain his objections to government policies. Who among my colleagues would trade places? In America, a Satan worshipper can demand equal time; whereas in some Arabic countries, being a Christian makes one an enemy of the state, and fit to be killed. Or dare I say murdered? Are we not freer?

For some, these remarks mean that I am frothing at the mouth with the "disease" of patriotism. I think not. For these differences are among the very reasons why America is so despised by the Taliban and bin Laden. Now, if they can see this as a reality in America, and surely patriotism is not the explanation in their case, then why can't I?

I will never be complacent about America. But I will always be glad that I was born here and not there. And if that makes me patriotic, then I wouldn't have it any other way.

—Laurence Thomas, professor of philosophy and political science, Maxwell School and College of Arts and Sciences

nated efforts on all fronts of the battlefield can ensure our society a much greater degree of security and safety, and more complete enjoyment of our liberties in the years to come.

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## Viewing Violence and Terrorism in a Larger Context

**By Mehrzad Boroujerdi**

A German philosopher once said: "It is part of morality not to be at home in one's home." Allow me to speak as a man who by deliberate choice as well as involuntary circumstances often finds himself "homeless." Better yet, allow me to speak as a "skeptical homeless man" who in the aftermath of the heinous acts committed on September 11 is more inclined than ever to subscribe to that worldview best summed up in the phrase "pessimism of intellect, optimism of will."

What am I pessimistic about? I am



The Prophet's Mosque in Medina, Saudi Arabia, is a holy site in Islam second only to nearby Mecca. The conflict between westernization and Islamic tradition has become much more acute since the September 11 attacks.

pessimistic about the cause of civilizational understanding and world peace as I observe how the various sides involved in this conflict evoke deceptive yet effective “rationales” that are anchored in abstract prejudices and concrete exaggerations. The perpetrators of the recent terrorist attack cheaply clear their conscience by blaming the United States in particular—and the West in general—for the monumental shortcomings, maladies, and self-inflicted wounds of the Islamic world. The cherished antediluvian views, the oft-repeated demagogic slogans, the conspiratorial mindset, the intolerance for dissent, and the callous disregard for the sanctity of human life rarely lead to critical introspection, let alone self-indictment.

Meanwhile, the twin towers of paranoia and patriotism—coupled with Americans’ lack of knowledge and lazy prejudices about the Arab/Islamic world—are also hindering any move beyond politically expedient incrimination. While a disconcerted American public is rather reluctant, under the present circumstances, to acknowledge that its country’s foreign policy may have contributed in some way, shape, or form to the recent tragedies, the fact remains that the United States has a serious image problem in the Middle East and the Islamic world at large. At best, America is perceived as a benign yet clumsy elephant in a china shop, and at worst as an imperial power that for more than half a century has been guilty of depredations, double standards, *hauteur*, interventions, sanctions, strong-arm tactics, and support of ruthless dictators. The former view leads to anodyne dinner-table jokes or coffeehouse resentments, while the latter inflames the lethal wrath of leftist, nationalist, and religious militants. In short, America’s self-congratulatory perception of itself is in sharp contrast to the view that holds it to be colossally responsible for the alleys of discontent, the valleys of despair, and the mountains of disdain permeating certain quarters of the Arab/Islamic world.

Despite the hyperbole currently in vogue, I remain skeptical that the events

## Healing and Humanity

The apartheid system in South Africa incarcerated Nelson Mandela for more than 27 years, and was directly responsible for the deaths of more than 2 million people in the Southern Africa region and South Africa. The United States government supported the apartheid regime and branded Nelson Mandela a terrorist. This same leadership once trained and supported bin Laden as a freedom fighter. When South Africa attained majority rule, Mandela established the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, headed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, to investigate crimes committed by the apartheid regime. The tragic bombing of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon brought to the forefront the challenges of how to end terrorism and wanton murders. The Mandela methodology of “Truth and Reconciliation” offers an example of healing and a way of isolating those who carry out criminal acts.

In this moment of collective mourning, let us remember all of those who lost their lives through these acts. As we continue to mourn, let the spirit of healing prevail over the spirit of revenge and massive military build-up so that the forces of peace and justice internationally can prevail over the forces of warfare. Warfare in this moment of the biotech century will open up untold consequences. The reorganization of the priorities of humanity must be at the top of our agenda in this moment.

—*Horace G. Campbell, professor of African American studies and political science, Maxwell School and College of Arts and Sciences*

of September 11 will go down in the annals of history as the tragic inauguration of a fundamentally “transformed world.” I believe that once the present ambiance of grief, reprisal, and sympathy dissipates we will realize that the vista of the future is still polluted with the dirty linen of yesteryears and the repulsive problems of today. The Middle East as a region and Islam as a religion will still be in the throws of a severe and multifaceted identity crisis. Implacable enmity, vitriolic denunciations, and revanchist designs will in all likelihood remain the mantra of those marginalized by the mutilated modernity now reigning supreme in the Muslim world.

In the interim, I have little faith that the U.S. government will abandon a multitude of policies that have alienated a good number of people in the Islamic world. As a case in point consider America’s relations with the “petrolic”—yet despotic—monarchies in the Persian Gulf. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, these countries produce nearly 28 percent of the world’s oil and maintain 70 percent of the world’s excess oil production capacity in addition to respectively holding 65 percent and 34

percent of the world’s proven oil and gas reserves. These statistics become even more significant once we recognize that (a) petroleum and natural gas respectively account for 38 percent and 24 percent of U.S. energy consumption; and (b) U.S. reliance on foreign oil imports has increased from 21 percent in 1966 to 51 percent in 1996. Will any U.S. administration contemplate voluntarily abandoning these regimes so central to its “national interest” in favor of more democratic, independent-minded, and transparent governments? Is there any surprise as to why the United States is so inclined to resort to gunboat diplomacy against its enemies while remaining reluctant to expose the parody of democracy practiced by its regional allies? Furthermore, in light of the “global campaign against terrorism,” will the United States ever be in a position to object when these states—which all have been handed the equivalent of a “get-out-of-jail-free” card in a Monopoly game—start to hunt down their local dissidents under the banner of “fighting terrorism?” Finally, let me remind the reader that 50 years of America’s unqualified support for Israel and its lack of evenhandedness

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have begotten this country a great deal of ill will in the Arab/Muslim world.

I wish it were possible to exile all the above troubles and follies from history, or at least force them to take an extended vacation from it. Yet, as a student of politics, I know that this is a mere fantasy. As far as I am concerned, it is a safe bet that violence will remain the corollary of dissidence and that terrorism, as a political tool, will linger on as the favorite method of conducting asymmetrical warfare. We should make sense of the spasms of vio-

lence and terrorism in the larger context of the growing disparity between rich and poor individuals and nations, the revolution of rising expectations, the void left by the disappearance of previously potent ideologies and cultural unifiers, the revival of religious and ethnic identities, and the collapse of states in certain parts of our global village.

Those who exploit the present abyss of fury, embrace cultural vandalism and killing vendettas, and promise Manichean visions are not delivering the

proper benediction for a new world order. Now, more than ever, we are in need of developing what a contemporary philosopher has called an "ethic of the ear." Can the optimism of will triumph over the pessimism of intellect?

*Mehrzad Boroujerdi, a professor of political science at the Maxwell School and the College of Arts and Sciences, is the author of Iranian Intellectuals and the West: The Tormented Triumph of Nativism.*



The Rev. Thomas V. Wolfe speaks words of comfort to the SU community in Hendricks Chapel.

## Surrounded in Love and Support

By Rev. Thomas V. Wolfe

**O**n the morning of September 11, the doors of Hendricks Chapel were opened and a single candle was placed in a tall floor stand at the head of the center aisle. The lights of the chapel burned around the clock, and for the next 48 hours the University chaplains rotated shifts to attend to the needs of students, faculty, and staff. Everyone was in some measure of shock. There were more questions than answers, and many awaited news of their loved ones. In a world that appeared to be falling apart, the Hendricks Chapel staff and chaplains sought to create a place where people could come to catch their breath, reflect, pray, or talk to someone. In moments such as these, the chapel becomes a place of intimacy amidst the complexity of the larger institution. It's one of the ways SU embodies its core value of caring.

The afternoon of the terrorist attacks, the University community gathered in the chapel. People needed to be together to draw strength from each other. There also was a great need for accurate information about the day's events and to communicate the University's efforts in caring for its on- and off-campus constituents. By 3 p.m. the chapel was already full, and streams of students, faculty, and staff continued to pour in from the Quad. More seats were made available in the choir section, and students sat on the floor, stood in every corner, and sat on window ledges. More than 2,000 people were present.

Chancellor Shaw and Vice Chancellor Freund spoke to the immediate concerns of the University community, and Kevin Morrow from SU News Services provided up-to-date information about the tragedy. The chaplains offered prayers and readings from the sacred texts of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity, and the wisdom contained in the texts remind-

## Easing the Pain

Music has traditionally been included in all observances surrounding tragedy and death because it is the universal healer. We are fortunate to have music to turn to in times of sorrow because it feeds our soul, channels our emotions, and eases our pain.

—G. Burton Harbison, professor of music, College of Visual and Performing Arts

## Accept Help

Terrorism is an unwelcome reality of our times. Social workers, like everyone else, were profoundly shocked and saddened by the horrific events of September 11. Fear, anxiety, moodiness, and difficulty concentrating are all normal reactions to such a huge national loss. Social workers provide mental health services on a regular basis and have been very active with Red Cross efforts during this tragedy. On a personal level, family and friends of individuals who perished that fateful day should not be ashamed to accept help. In fact, the National Association of Social Workers encourages people to seek help through counseling organizations and resources in their communities. A strength of this country is the tremendous wealth of helping resources at our disposal that are culturally sensitive and attuned to the various circumstances of all Americans.

—Keith Alford, professor of social work, College of Human Services and Health Professions

Students participate in a candlelight vigil.



Steve Sartori

ed us that people of other generations had also experienced and reflected on great tragedy. In the face of so much uncertainty, the chapel was a place where we could collectively present our feelings and begin to bring order out of chaos. It was a place for us to once again discover the center that holds.

In the ensuing days, the Hendricks Chapel staff assisted with several University-wide initiatives. They offered prayers at a student-organized candlelight vigil on the chapel steps, and sponsored a service titled “Standing Together: An Interfaith Response to Terrorism and Violence.” The participants made paper peace cranes, strung them together, and hung them on the front of the chapel. Some chaplains helped address the potential for hate crimes and offered services and spiritual guidance to members of their own faith communities. At times like these, large, unsettling questions permeate a community’s consciousness, and people ask deeper, more difficult questions of their religious traditions. Spiritual formation at these moments is not in the answers, but in the affirmation of the person’s search.

In the first few days following the attacks, we heard stories of those who had escaped physical harm at the World Trade Center or the Pentagon. Later, we began to learn of those who had not been heard from—dread was shared by all, and grief was the predominant feeling. By this time, we knew that many SU alumni, family members, and friends had lost their lives. Community-wide efforts gave way to more personal responses addressing individual grief.

In the spirit of the University as an extended family, I traveled to Lubin House in New York City, and later to Greenberg House in Washington, D.C., to meet with alumni and surviving family members and friends. The hospitality of these centers allowed for human care grounded in the collective experience of having shared life and learning at Syracuse University. I offered spiritual support and a time of remembrance and common prayer. In the wake of these tragedies, it’s been important for people to gather, tell of their experiences, and speak of their loss as a means of beginning the healing process.

Our nation, world community, and University have begun the long healing process. To assist this, we held an interfaith memorial service on October 8 for the SU and ESF campuses. Again, the single candle remained lit, and prayers, readings, and music were offered. Nearly one month after the day of the terrorist attacks, we were back in the chapel as a community, and this time some of our alumni were connected to us through a live web cast. By this time, we had begun to comprehend the scope and impact of the events, although there were still many questions to be answered and fears to be faced. We lit 43 candles, both in memory of those who had died and in vigil for those still missing. Most importantly, we surrounded each other in love and support.

No one has remained unaffected by these tragic events. Through gatherings, ritual, and human touch, we’ve begun to remember again that no measure of loss and fear can outlast our human propensity to hope and to live lives of meaning.

*The Rev. Thomas V. Wolfe is dean of Hendricks Chapel.*

## The Spirit of Those Lost Will Live on Within Us

**By Kristin Walker-Bidwell**

**O**n September 11, I dropped my two eldest sons off at nursery school and was listening to the radio on the drive home when I heard that a plane had hit the World Trade Center. I thought it was a bad joke; this could not be happening. Reaching home, I turned on NBC and saw the blazing building. Unreal, I thought, as initial theories were offered of a small commuter plane gone awry. Then, along with millions of other Americans, I saw the second plane strike. My heart sank. Terrorism, they said.

Immediately my mind took me back to that evening in December 1988 when I sat in Hendricks Chapel with my sorority sisters at a vigil for victims of Pan Am 103. I lost three Pi Beta Phi sisters and two other friends in the terrorist bombing. Our sorority was targeted by the media—the press rang our doorbell and asked for my roommate by name to get the shocked reaction. An Associated Press photographer sat at the end of our pew at Hendricks and shot pictures of us. This tragedy wasn’t supposed to happen—they were too young, too innocent, and had too much of their future ahead of them. Ever since then, I’ve wanted vengeance. But 13 years later, in my opinion, justice still has not been served.

I watched over and over the horror of the plane crashing into the tower, and thought about friends who worked there. The phone soon began to ring as one by one I heard of friends and acquaintances who had escaped—and those who were missing. That evening my husband and I reviewed the people we knew who worked downtown. Among them was Jason Jacobs, a good friend of mine from SU who worked at Fiduciary Trust. I called his wife, Jennifer, the next morning. She told me she hadn’t heard from him since before the first plane struck the north tower (Tower I). Jason’s office was on the 97th floor of the south tower. He and 90 others from his company were still unaccounted for.

During the days that followed I called Jennifer often and went with others to sit with her and hope and pray. We initially thought that he was down in the basement of the buildings, or perhaps trapped. But as time went on it became increasingly clear that Jason probably wouldn’t return home.

My mind constantly returned to happier times at Syracuse with Jason: our freshman year at Brewster/Boland; filling up his (illegal) waterbed at Watson; celebrating my 21st birthday at Chuck’s; games at the Dome; struggling through a last-



Kathy Cacicedo '85, a New Jersey-based photographer, created this photo illustration, featuring the Statue of Liberty, in response to the terrorist attacks.

minute math requirement senior year. It seemed so unfair. He got married a few years ago, and had a 13-month-old daughter, Zoe. Jennifer and Zoe were the light of his life, and Jason was a truly unconditional friend—committed to his friends, family, and job. He was also passionate about learning, his education, and Syracuse.

As his memorial service started, I thought about why this had happened, and how terrorist hatred could touch the Syracuse community twice. What is it in the world that perpetuates such evil, and how can it be reconciled? I suspect that it's best to leave that question to experts. At the end of the day, no action will bring back my friends who were victims of Pan Am 103 or the World Trade Center attack, which is all that I really want.

Since September 11, much has changed. All of us look at life differently now. We say what needs to be said, we hug our kids, we savor the little moments, and yes, we in New York and the nation are beginning to live our lives again, although they will never be quite

the same. I know that this is what Jason and the others we have lost would have wanted, and what they would have done.

I vow to try to make a difference in the lives of those left behind, to support them and love them as those who are gone did, to tell them stories about times we had with their loved ones, and to perpetuate the values they stood for. And I will never forget them. Jason's spirit will live on in his daughter, and in us—his

friends and fellow alumni. None of the evil in the world will take that away.

*Kristin Walker-Bidwell, a 1990 graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences and former member of the SU women's rowing team, is an account supervisor at J. Brown/LMC Group, an advertising agency in Stamford, Connecticut. She lives in Pelham, New York, with her husband and three children.*

## Responding to Stress

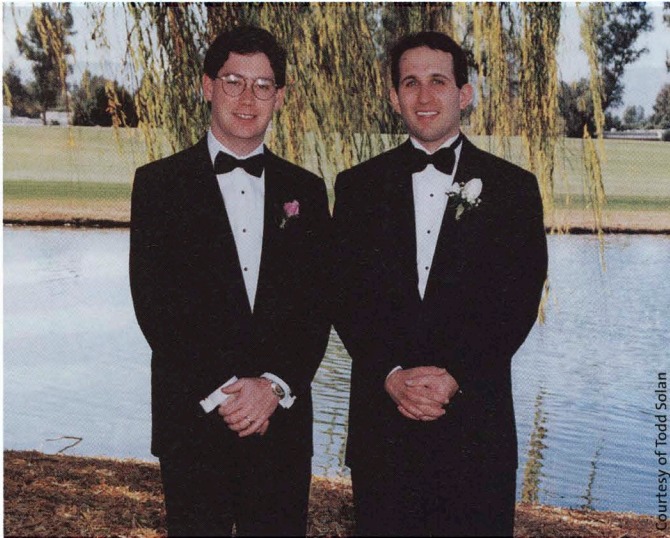
As a seasoned family therapist, I have learned a great deal from generations of successful family functioning about how to respond to stressful times in ways that heal rather than harm. Crisis brings out the best and the worst in people. Denial is a short-term solution, but long-term growth occurs when we are honest with ourselves and others about what is actually occurring and how it is impacting us. Use this opportunity to get to know yourself and your loved ones a little better. It is important to listen to others, to be curious, not judgmental. Give yourself and your loved ones permission to rest and contemplate, to take positive action, and remind yourself that, with support from loved ones and/or spiritual connections, you can tolerate what passes your way.

—Linda Stone Fish, professor of child and family studies, College of Human Services and Health Professions



# Remembering a Friend

By **Todd Solan**



Todd Solan, right, and Jason Jacobs at Todd's wedding in 1998.

I thought writing about my dear friend Jason Jacobs '90, who died in the World Trade Center attack, would be a simple task. After all, during the past months, I've thought of little else than Jason and his family. I've looked back at the great times we shared in college and at the fun we had later in our lives. And yet, piecing together words after this unconscionable and numbing event seems almost impossible. This is because all I really know is that Jason Jacobs—a wonderful husband, father, and friend who accomplished so much and touched so many—is no longer with us. I don't know why he's not here; I still can't believe he's not here, and it makes no sense to me that he's not here. And yet I must accept that this remarkable individual is gone.

My fondest memory of Jason at SU involves our time spent together in the Broadcast Journalism Program. I'm not exactly sure when we first met, but my earliest memory comes from Dona Hayes's Broadcast Newswriting class back in 1987 or '88. Jason's passion was not broadcast journalism, but rather politics and the study of political science. He would often lead the class through complex legal and moral discussions, bringing a whole new slant to broadcast writing. Jason's political interests weren't just shared in the classroom. During his college years, he worked with a political science professor, conducting exit polls on election night. At the time, Jason wanted to become an attorney. He ended up an extremely successful businessman, recently becoming a vice president in the information technology department of a major investment company. I always joked with Jason that our former classmates would never believe that he hadn't become

an attorney. Nonetheless, I knew everyone would be proud of the direction he pursued and admiring of his success.

After college, our careers separated us physically, but Jason and I stayed in close touch. This is when I discovered that Jason had another passion: Jennifer, a woman he met years earlier while she was visiting her brother at SU. When Jason talked about Jennifer I could tell by the excitement in his voice that this was the girl he would marry. Jennifer and Jason did marry close to five years ago, and I know that their love grew each and every day since. That might sound like a cliché, but it's true.

Without a doubt, the greatest event in Jason's life was the birth of his daughter, Zoe. He was thrilled throughout Jennifer's pregnancy, sending me e-mail after e-mail describing his life as an expectant dad. Once the baby came, Jason's usual upbeat personality became even more cheerful. He loved spending time with Zoe, reading to her and playing with her. He also had made a baby room for her in the home he recently bought and was fixing up. While I wasn't there to spend time with Jason and his daughter, his love of his baby was so large that he would write me what seemed to be a weekly two-page recap of everything they shared. Nothing in life made him prouder, and Zoe was extremely lucky to have such a devoted father, even if for only a brief time.

When I think of Jason and our years together, I think of a passionate, caring individual who made everyone who knew him proud. He was scholarly, courteous, successful, and, most importantly, a great friend, husband, and father. Living on the West Coast, I hadn't seen Jason often over the past few years, scoring only occasional visits on business trips. And it hurts me, because he was such a great person. I only wish my son had known this man; if he grows up with half of Jason's warmth, compassion, intelligence, and integrity, he will become a hugely successful person.

I will always think of Jason's smile, his laugh, and my visits with his family. It is not nearly enough, but it will have to do. Jason, I hope you are at peace. Everyone here misses you and loves you very much. The world will not be the same without you, and not a day will go by that I don't think of you. The Syracuse University community has lost a great friend and a true hero—because he exuded everything that is right in this world.

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# Overcoming Airline Insecurity Requires Real Action

By **Bob Monetti**

**T**he horrific events of September 11 stunned all of us. We, the families of the Syracuse students murdered in 1988 by Libyan agents over Lockerbie, Scotland, were badly shaken. We have some idea of what the families of the September 11 victims are going through. Our hearts and prayers go out to them.

Part of the reason for the terrorists' success in 1988 was the lack of any real

security on Pan Am. Since then, we have pressed for better aviation security. A reason for the terrorists' success in September was the lack of any effective security on United and American Airlines.

The security activity performed at most of our airports before September 11 was perfunctory—done only because it's required by regulations. It wasn't done to actually provide security. For example, friends of mine passing through the

San Francisco airport were told their bags would be subject to more thorough inspection and they were directed to the CTX machine, a device that creates three-dimensional X-ray images. The machine operator then asked them which two of their four bags they would like to have X-rayed! The motions are there, but security surely is not.

What passes for security at most airports in this country is a hodgepodge of measures that were enacted to counteract various threats over the years. The measures put in place after September 11 clearly reflect that. Cars are not allowed to park near terminal buildings, because someone exploded a car bomb in front of LaGuardia airport in 1972. Is this a threat today? I don't think so.

What passes for security at most airports in this country is the result of a false sense of security in the United



A member of the Minnesota Army National Guard stands watch at an airline security checkpoint at the Duluth, Minnesota, International Airport.

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States, especially among airline financial officers. No terrorist would dare try something here, they believed. This attitude persisted in spite of Pan Am 103, the World Trade Center garage bombing, and Oklahoma City. The problem was never urgent. If the schedule slipped another year, and nothing happened, airline officials thought: "Look how much money we saved."

What passes for security at most airports in this country is also the result of some very effective lobbying by the airlines, both at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and in Congress. Measures that might have prevented terrorist attacks were watered down to reduce costs and avoid potential delays. For example, the Computer-Aided Passenger Prescreening System (CAPPS) selects passengers who merit further scrutiny. The original plan was to more carefully examine checked baggage, carry-on baggage, and the passenger. This was reduced to just examining checked baggage. The selected passenger and his carry-on baggage pass through the same checkpoint screening that we are all too familiar with.

What passes for security at most of this country's airports is a result of inept and contradictory interests at the FAA. The airlines justifiably distrusted and fought against many FAA proposals in the past because they were impractical, unworkable, and didn't improve security. This approach also reflects the futility of trying to fight terrorism with federal regulation. In 1996 it was generally agreed that companies doing checkpoint screening should be certified. It makes sense—we certify our hairdressers! The hope was that by certifying screening companies, we could improve quality. It's now five years later. The regulation may be issued soon. Of course, any company applying for certification will receive a one-year "bye." Total elapsed time for this simple idea: six years and counting.

What passes for security at most airports in this country is a result of what the U.S. House of Representatives has allowed to happen. Members of Congress have oversight responsibility. They read the reports of the General Accounting Office and the Department of Transportation Inspector General—or should have. Yet they failed to watch what was going on or try to stop it. And the aviation subcommittee went even further. It earmarked \$5 million of last year's aviation security budget to a Tennessee congressional district. That's anti-terrorism money used as pork barrel.

To design an integrated and prudent security plan for our aviation industry will require us to understand what security is, how airports and airlines actually operate, and how terrorists might operate. I believe it could be an intelligent and reasonable system that would provide prudent security without undue delay, without an incredibly high cost, and without compromising our civil liberties.

*Bob Monetti of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, lost his son, Richard Paul Monetti, in the Pan Am 103 bombing. He is the president of Victims of Pan Am Flight 103.*

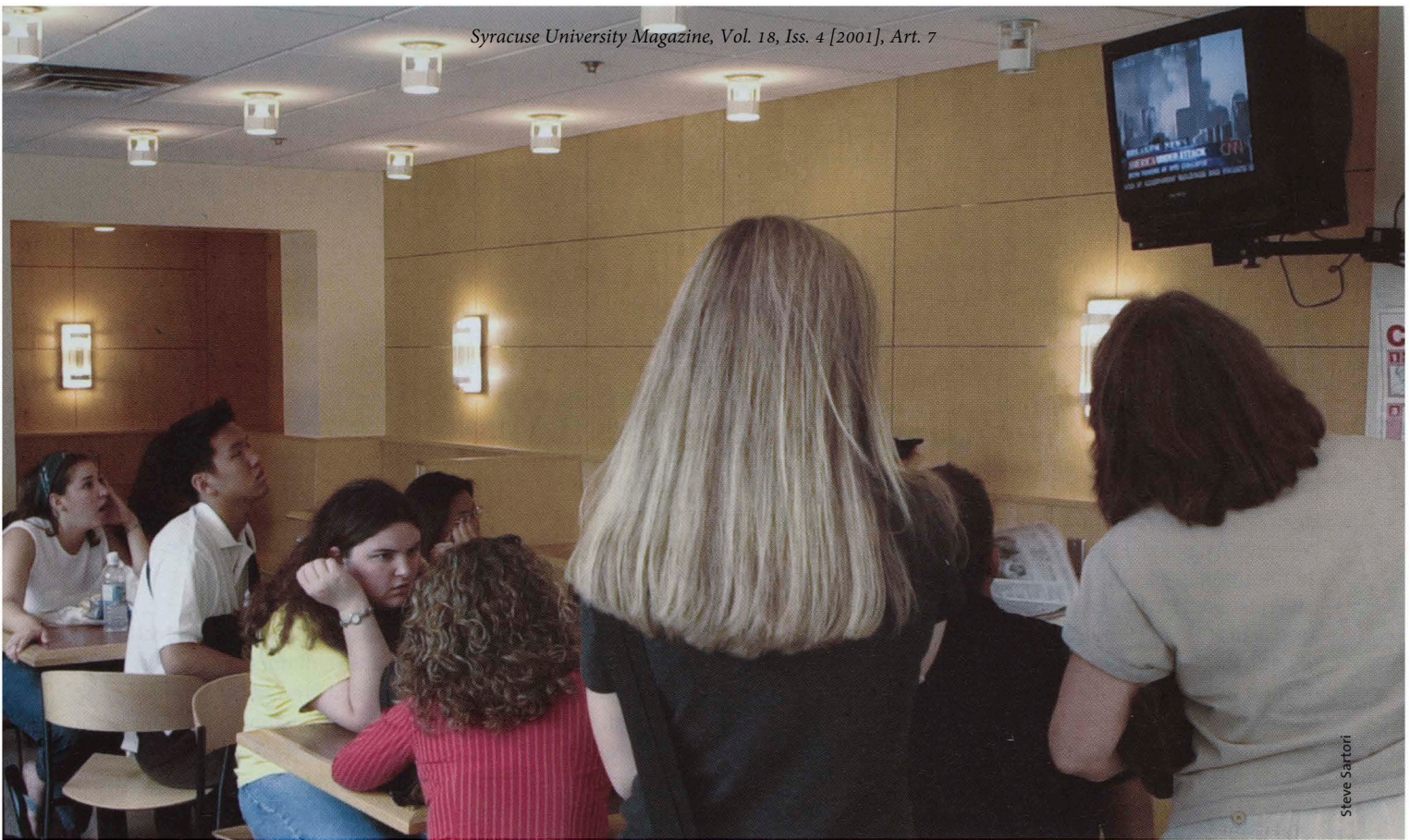
## Student Support

The outpouring of energy and effort I saw from students after the September 11 terrorist attacks makes me feel more confident than ever about the younger generation and its volunteer spirit. There is no question that our nation and the world will need their energy in the long term as we make the transition from a peacetime economy to a wartime one. Nonprofit organizations, schools, and many other public sector service-providers will have greater needs, and I believe there will be support from our student generation to meet these needs. There is so much uncertainty right now that students are looking for opportunities to make human connections. Volunteering helps them make those connections.

*—Pamela Kirwin Heintz '91, director, Center for Public and Community Service*



Students distribute candles in Hendricks Chapel.



Students watch television coverage of the World Trade Center attack in the Newhouse School's Food.Com cafe.

# Terrorists' Media Savvy Can't Be Ignored

By Joan Deppa

We were puzzled as we watched television reports that a plane had hit one of the World Trade Center's Twin Towers—and so were the TV morning-show hosts. Cameras stayed focused on the towers as everyone tried to understand what was happening. Diane Sawyer of *Good Morning America* was watching along with viewers when the second plane hit. “Oh, my God! Oh, my God!” she gasped. Seconds later co-host Charles Gibson said, “So this looks like some sort of a...concerted effort to attack the World Trade Center in downtown New York.”

Though they may not have known it, Sawyer, Gibson, and their colleagues across the dial were following a “made-for-TV” script the terrorists had written for their two-part attack on the Twin Towers. The first strike got our attention—and put all the cameras in place. Speculation about whether it was an accident or an attack set the stage for the

second strike, which resolved the argument. Following a reprise of instant replays we got the expected reviews. Gibson: “Terrifying, awful.” Sawyer: “We watch powerless. It’s a horror.”

Here are some of the ways in which contemporary terrorists often conceive their attacks as acts of mass communications in ways familiar to professional communicators.

Symbolic elements make the motives of the terrorists so clear that they can remain anonymous or even deny guilt, and still feel that they have delivered their “message.” This was the case with the bombing of Pan Am 103. In 1988 Pan American Airways was viewed as the American “flagship” carrier. The timing of the attack added to the symbolism. There is evidence that bombs were being built in October, but transatlantic passengers at that time would have been primarily from the ranks of business and government. By waiting until December

21, the bombers ensured that many families and college students would be aboard, implying retribution for the U.S. air strike on the home of Libya’s leader, as well as for the Navy’s accidental downing of an Iranian civilian airliner. Likewise, Timothy McVeigh chose to express his dismay over federal agents’ destruction of the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, by striking a federal building on April 19, the anniversary date of the incident. The World Trade Center was seen as such an unmistakable symbol of American power that it was attacked twice, first with a truck bomb in 1993 and then with hijacked jetliners. Even the choice of the two U.S. airlines, American and United, may have been part of the message.

Recognizing that their actions may be mistaken for accidents, terrorists often take pains to establish connection by attacking more than one target at a time. There are many examples. On a September Sunday in 1970, four planes were simultaneously hijacked over European countries and flown to airports in Jordan and Egypt (a fifth attempt was foiled). In an alleged action by Sikh separatists, the only way that the explosion of an Air India plane off the Irish coast could be connected to the terrorists was

# Voices

by the fact that another Air India plane had been blown up in Japan an hour earlier. The “double strike” by otherwise anonymous terrorists was used in the bombing of the U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Tanzania in 1998. Just last August, Indian authorities announced that Osama bin Laden and others had been indicted for attempting dual bombings of U.S. embassies in Delhi and Dhaka.

Terrorists have learned to plan news coverage of their acts. It seems certain that the September 11 perpetrators recognized that. By sending in the first plane 18 minutes ahead of the second, they guaranteed that cameras would be rolling for their morbid “television spectacular.” The third plane striking the Pentagon underlined the message, as would the fourth, had its attempt not been foiled by the passengers. A different technique of “news management” was used by Ted Kaczynski in his demand that newspapers print the “Unabomber” manifesto in return for ending his violence. In both cases the terrorists figured out how to send their message out via media to which they would otherwise be denied access. McVeigh paid similar attention to media coverage. He told his biographers that the Murrah building stood out by itself in such a way as to make for a good picture. He dressed for the media by wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with a famous Thomas Jefferson quotation: “The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.” Because McVeigh wasn’t arrested in front of the cameras, his T-shirt message was not reported to the general public, until it was entered into evidence at his trial nine months later.

Unfortunately, the higher the death toll, the greater the attention given to the terrorists. The attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the Murrah building were all timed during the workday to ensure high body counts. Timing also guaranteed that the largest audience possible would spend the day transfixed to the intended messages. With news providers on 24/7 schedules, the shock waves from the attacks spread around the world continuously and commercial-free via TV, radio, web site, and print, as well as by informal means via the Internet, cell phones, and other hand-held communications devices. It’s important that we recognize the high degree to which terrorists understand the communications process. They are creating 21st-century propaganda intended to terrify mass audiences into submission.

*Joan Deppa, a professor of newspaper and visual and interactive communications in the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, is principal author of The Media and Disasters: Pan Am 103.*

## Improving Building Safety

Our primary responsibility as licensed architects and engineers is the protection of life. Collapse of the World Trade Center (WTC) due to prolonged extreme heat might have been delayed, but not prevented. The destruction was a result of predictable sequential structural failure. Understanding this phenomenon is critical for rebuilding our cities.

The process of building the WTC involved orchestration of zoning, financiers, the Port Authority, and planning boards. Although built to minimum code and safety standards, the idea was to maximize rentable space under zoning law (10 million square feet). Each tower had only three fire stairs, narrow by today’s standards. Floor assemblies had 3-hour minimum fire ratings. Initial failure, here, occurred within 1.5 hours.

How then can safe evacuation design be constructed?

While code required a minimum of 4-hour fire protection at columns and 3 hours between floors, the minimum at fire stairs was 2 hours. Fire egress systems, stair widths, and fire-rated assemblies must be increased, providing adequate evacuation time. Independent of these, emergency entry systems must be installed. We must eliminate the “grandfather” clause in tall buildings, because compliance is essential for safety. Future city planning will be based on what becomes law today. Buildings must optimize environmental quality and life safety egress.

—*Theodore M. Ceraldi, professor and coordinator of technology, School of Architecture*

★

The collapse of the World Trade Center towers will change the way we build our landmarks, which unfortunately may become potential targets for terrorist attacks. The jet-fuel fire brought the Twin Towers down. Engineers will have to adopt stricter fireproof requirements. Fire exit design and emergency evacuation policies need to be re-evaluated, too. Sadly, we might be entering an era where blast resistance may have to be considered in design of highly occupied civil structures.

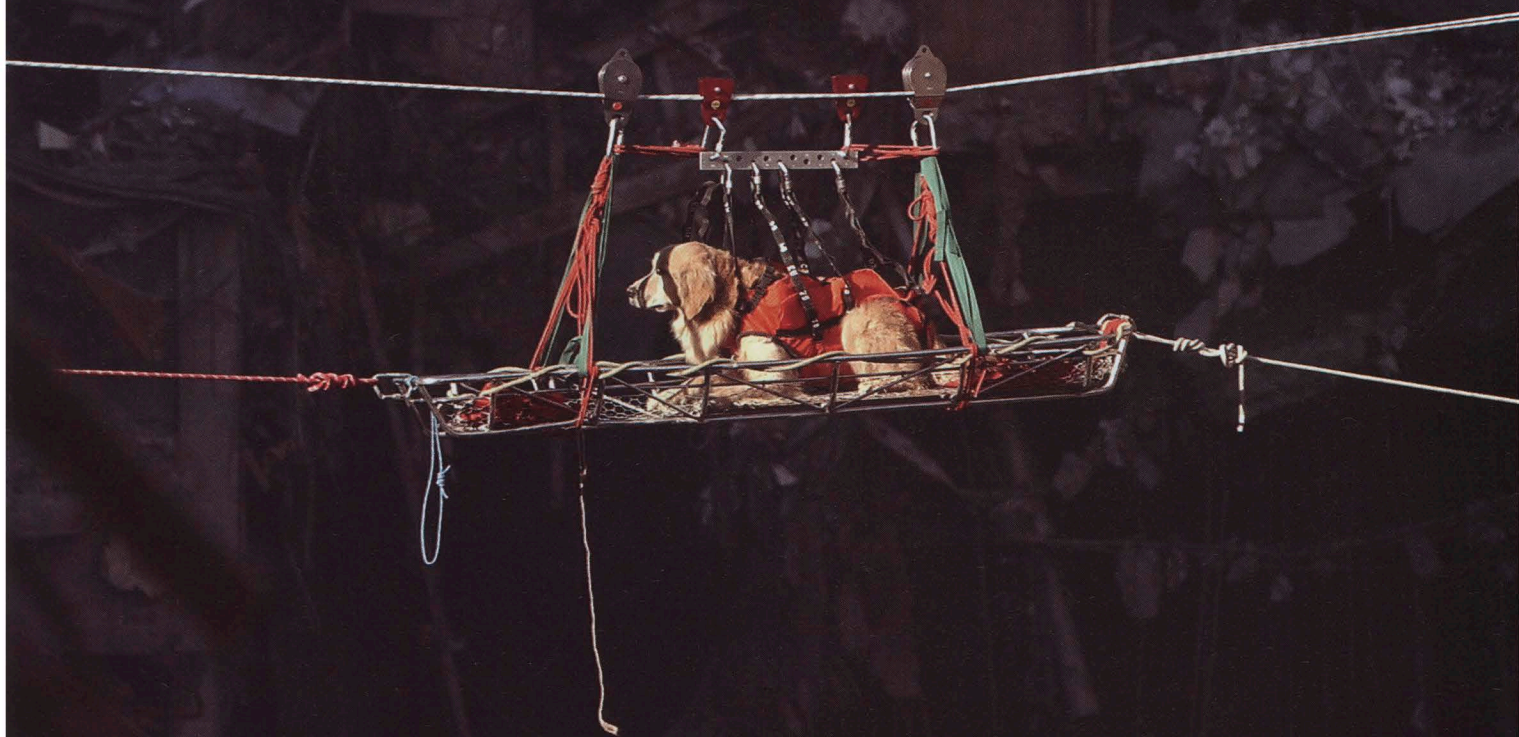
—*Riyad S. Aboutaha, professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science*

★

The destruction of the World Trade Center will affect architectural and structural design. The spans created to allow for flexible space utilization compromised the structure’s safety. It was fire—not the aircraft impact—that threatened the structure. Steel buildings are designed to resist fire for a limited time. Fortunately, new composite materials are emerging. Risk management and the vulnerability of buildings to random loads must be included in the design process. Codes should reconsider fire protection and the height of buildings. Our students should be made aware of these new challenges to prevent future disasters.

—*Ivan Markov, professor, School of Architecture*

A dog being used in the World Trade Center rescue and recovery effort is transported across the site.



## Ensuring Security in Information Technology

By Shiu-Kai Chin

Alvin Toffler, in his book *Powershift*, writes, “Knowledge, violence, and wealth, and the relationships between them, define power and society.” The September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States stunningly illustrate how the nature of power and our society is affected by technology in general and information technology specifically. The World Trade Center and the Pentagon—the symbols and centers of America’s economic and military strength, respectively—were both rammed by Boeing jetliners—examples of America’s dominance in commercial aviation. All of this was visible on a stage seen by the entire world in real-time, thanks to television and video cameras with real-time viewer interaction made possible by cell phones, pagers, e-mail, and the Internet. In the immediate aftermath, we saw thousands dead, a plunging stock market, and a whole nation disrupted by shock, anger, sadness, and fear—a fear that, in an instant, the relative safety we had taken for granted was now irrevocably shattered. How could so few affect so many and so much? Would we, could we, ever feel safe again?

Our technologically interconnected society supports the phenomenon that a few can significantly impact many. A 1965 finding known to computer gurus as Moore’s Law explains how increasing the number of transistors could double the power and speed of computer chips every 18 months. This is why last year’s Pentium processor is half price now and the newest models are twice as powerful. These advances make it feasible and economical for computers to be everywhere—from our desktops and pockets to our power plants and car brakes. Virtually anything can and is connected to everything else via computer and telecommunication networks. This is how a failure in a seemingly small and isolated component can cause failure across an entire system. Remember the 1965 blackout of New York City? That collapse of the Northeast power grid started with the failure of a single small electrical relay in Niagara Falls. The fact is our technological prowess has outstripped our ability to predict accurately what a complex system will do in all situations. Our interconnectedness and the complexity of our systems leave us vulnerable to unanticipated failures and to deliberate attacks. Systems now must be engineered with security in mind as well as safety and correctness.

Recognizing the increased vulnerability of such critical infrastructures as telecommunications, power, banking, and emergency services, President Bill Clinton ordered the creation of

the President’s Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection in 1996. The commission’s purpose was to form a national strategy for protecting America’s critical infrastructure from physical and cyber-attacks ([www.ciao.gov](http://www.ciao.gov)). One of the commission’s recommendations contained in its 1997 report, *Critical Foundations—Protecting America’s Infrastructures*, was increasing research in information assurance, or ways to assure the correctness, safety, availability, and security of information and information systems. Since the report was issued, the National Infrastructure Protection Center under the FBI has been created to deter, detect, assess, and respond to physical and cyber-attacks on our critical infrastructure ([www.nipc.gov](http://www.nipc.gov)). The National Academy of Sciences conducted hearings on the trustworthiness of information systems and has published its findings in a book, *Trust in Cyberspace* ([www.nap.edu/html/trust](http://www.nap.edu/html/trust)). New research programs in assurance are in place at such government agencies as the National Science Foundation and the Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome, New York.

Several SU professors are directly involved in efforts to counter cyber-crime and cyber-terrorism. For example, several of us are actively researching the technical aspects of information warfare, and I am a co-chair of the Tools and Technology Committee of the National Institute of Justice’s Electronic Crime Partnership Initiative. SU’s Center for Systems Assurance earned the University the distinction of being a National Security Agency Center of Excellence in Information Assurance Education ([csa.syr.edu](http://csa.syr.edu)). The CASE (Computer Applications and Software Engineering) Center at SU is recognized by the New York State Office of Science, Technology, and Academic Research (NYSTAR) as an Enhanced Center for Advanced Technology in Information Assurance ([case.syr.edu](http://case.syr.edu)).

In the next few years we will see more security technology being developed and deployed. We will have to make difficult choices about when and where these technologies should be applied. Cryptography, for example, can be used to protect information and information systems by assuring privacy and data integrity. It is a means to identify or authenticate people in various roles. Using cryptography generally increases the security of computers regardless of who they belong to. Computer and network security technology protects the computers of both the “good guys” and the “bad guys.” Should citizens and American businesses be allowed to harden their sys-



AP/Wide World Photos

An anti-surface warfare coordinator in the Combat Information Center of the destroyer *USS Decatur* goes through a training exercise. Ensuring that all kinds of electronic information are properly protected is essential to the nation's security.

tems (and protect them from intruders including the government), or should only the government be allowed to use cryptography? The National Academy of Science studied this, and its conclusions are in the book *Cryptography's Role in Securing the Information Society* ([www.nap.edu/reading-room/books/crisis](http://www.nap.edu/reading-room/books/crisis)).

Ghandi, King, and Mandela are inspiring examples that no system or technology can withstand human resolve and determination forever. Information technology increasingly binds us together by making it ever more difficult for any of us to say, "I didn't know."

Whether information technology brings us closer so we can live together more effectively or merely highlights our differences is our choice to make. Deciding to live together peacefully is an age-old choice, with technology magnifying the consequences. I hope we choose wisely.

*Meredith Professor Shiu-Kai Chin '75, G'78, G'86 teaches in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and is director of the CASE Center. He has worked with the Information Warfare Branch at the Information Directorate of the Air Force Research Lab in Rome, New York, and is a commissioner on the Onondaga County/City of Syracuse Human Rights Commission.*

## Furthering Advanced Technologies

The terrible events of September 11 were a somber reminder that the research we do in the Center for Natural Language Processing—creating technology that enables computers to have a human-like understanding of language for use in mining databases—is for a very real purpose. While such advanced information technologies as ours have been successful in providing advance warning and have foiled other terrorist attempts, it is horrible to think that evidence of the September 11 terrorists' plans was not detected. Renewed commitment to improving advanced technologies is one outcome I see. The other necessary outcome must be increased attention to the qualifications of employees at strategic points who are the vital linchpin in the process of protecting human life. Technology can only do so much, the human aspect is outside of technology's control.

— Elizabeth D. Liddy G'77, G'88, professor,  
School of Information Studies; director, Center for  
Natural Language Processing



# Voices

## In Class, the Day After

By Grant Reeher

It's September 12, the day after the terrorist attack on the United States, and I wonder: What can I say to the students? What should we do in class today? I've talked to my colleagues in the past few hours about what they've done, or intend to do, about discussing the tragedy with students. The faculty have been understandably cautious in the way they've conducted class—discussing the international context for this horrific event, and so on. I decide to simply let the students talk, and then see where things go.

Two of my students' families were affected personally by the event. They are not in class, of course. The rest are quiet. It's hard to tell if they want to talk. I am asked if this is the worst thing I have ever seen in my life. The premise of their question puts me in touch with my mortality—the distance in the number of years lived between myself and the students. Yes, it is the worst thing I have actually seen, but not the worst thing I have watched the world experience.

Then their anger comes, anger about many things. They can't believe what they are seeing on TV in the aftermath, the celebrations in the streets of the Islamic world. I consider discussing the nature of political coverage by the media, but instead, without planning or thinking, really, I take a more personal approach. I try to push them not to hate, to accept their own anger, but not to let that inform their judgment on what our nation should do. They challenge me: How should they feel about those celebrating? We should feel sorry for them, I argue. But they challenge me again: Why? There is no place else to go with this question and remain honest. We should feel sorry for them because they are demeaning their own souls. Because each of us walks around with this capacity in our hearts, and because life



A flag hangs from a soot-covered building near the World Trade Center.

is the constant struggle to listen to the better angels of our natures.

Rarely in class do we professors set forward our most basic beliefs, our faiths—and there are some good reasons why we don't. But there is no choice for me today. I share a story about a regret in my own life, from my own college years. In 1980, I let my anger over the hostage crisis lead me to go and watch the burning of an Iranian flag on campus. A friend stood alone

among the crowd and protested it. I wish now that person had been me.

Where will this class go this semester? I cannot say. But at least we are listening to each other.

*Grant Reeher is a professor of political science in the Maxwell School and the College of Arts and Sciences. He wrote this essay about his class, *Democratic Theory and Practice*.*

# American-Muslim Relations Not a Casualty

By Amber Nizami

After the tragic events of September 11, American Muslims braced themselves for the worst, as victims of both terrorism and prejudice. Unpleasant memories of Oklahoma City—in which Middle Eastern terrorists were immediately suspected until the arrest of Timothy McVeigh—were resurrected by the media, creating an overwhelming sense of déjà vu for Muslims. Fortunately, the legacy of Oklahoma City would not be exclusively composed of a blind repetition of the hate, prejudice, and suspicion experienced by Muslims in the

wake of these attacks. Instead, it would encompass a social and political re-evaluation of the stereotypes and prejudices that led the American people to wrongly accuse an innocent minority in their rush to judgment the first time around.

Times of crisis such as these have acted not only as a crucible for oft-celebrated American values, but also as a wake-up call for Muslims to actively disassociate Islam from terrorist vio-



Two American Muslim girls look out the back window of a bus as they leave an Islamic school in Brooklyn, New York.

lence. But the aftermath of the World Trade Center tragedy proved more than a bit surprising for American Muslims. According to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, bomb threats to mosques, businesses, and organizations were apparently far outnumbered—about 15 to 1—by reports of unexpected

## Accepting Others as Individuals

Hostile acts against Arab Americans and Muslims have increased dramatically since the terrorist acts in September. As soon as Saudi extremist Osama bin Laden was identified as the chief suspect, I knew these groups would be singled out for harassment. Instances of violence and vandalism, including the defacing of mosques with ethnic slurs, have been reported in Los Angeles, Detroit, Madison, Wisconsin, and elsewhere across the United States. Ironically, Arab Americans and Muslims were singled out for this same kind of derogation in April 1995 after the Oklahoma City bombing, until it was determined that Timothy McVeigh, not Islamic terrorists, was responsible for that act of terrorism.

For more than 10 years I have been conducting programmatic research on the attitudes of the host-receiving society in the United States toward smaller ethnic immigrant groups, why people use derogatory ethnic slurs against immigrants, and what makes people see others as foreign.

As an ethnic immigrant group, Arab Americans exhibit those traits that go the furthest toward identifying a group as being “Other.” Arab Americans comprise a small group in the United

States. Some of them have “foreign”-looking faces and dark complexions. Some have accents. These attributes of relative group size, facial appearance, complexion, and linguistic difference make social targets stand out, and influence people to think of those social targets in simplified, often derogatory, ways. One of the most pernicious indicators of this is found in the use of ethnic slurs to hurt members of those ethnic immigrant groups.

Fortunately, our research here at Syracuse University has shown that people can be trained to think about members of out-groups as individuals, instead of only seeing them as members of the group. Any individual is capable of acquiring the skills that will allow him to look at a person on the street and respond to that person as an individual, even though there is so much in our environment that presses us to respond to that person as a member of an out-group.

—Brian Mullen, professor of psychology,  
College of Arts and Sciences

# Voices

acts of kindness and support from Americans from all walks of life, including neighbors, co-workers, students, teachers, and religious organizations.

American Muslims received cards, flowers, offers of service and protection, and other expressions of empathy and solidarity. For instance, hundreds of non-Muslim American women donned headscarves in public on designated days. This action was part of a campaign of solidarity to fight a new wave of hate crimes against Muslim women, some of whom feared that leaving their homes would make them targets for vigilantes. Likewise, in a southern California community, non-Muslim American men and women gathered to partic-

ipate in Friday prayers with Muslims, kneeling and prostrating alongside their fellow Americans, although unfamiliar with the beliefs and rituals involved. By all accounts, Americans reached out to Muslims in ways never before witnessed, in numbers never imagined, trying to make amends for past wrongs while sending a message of hope, peace, and tolerance to Muslims in these dangerous and unpredictable times.

On behalf of the federal government, President George W. Bush also made some unprecedented remarks in his televised addresses to the American people, repeatedly calling for tolerance of American Muslims and understanding of Islamic beliefs and values. The president

also began working closely with a prominent American Muslim scholar, Sheikh Hamza Yusuf, who has since advised Bush on such matters as his characterization of Islam and American Muslims' views toward the Bush administration's current actions and foreign policies.

Americans now must decide whether they can replicate their efforts for peace and tolerance on an international level. But they must do so quickly—before an American tragedy turns into an even larger global one.

*Amber Nizami G'03 is a student in the College of Law and president of the college's Islamic Law Society.*

Smoke billows from the World Trade Center site at sunrise on September 12.



## Assessing the Economy

The impact that this event has had on the economy is yet to be seen. We're just seeing the tip of the iceberg. There's so much uncertainty floating around. That in itself is extremely bad news for the market. We were already on course for a recession. Now the question is how deep will it be, how long will it take? Most consumers will stop or diminish their spending, and that will be a contributing factor in slowing the economy even further. We haven't seen anything like this in the last 40 years.

—*Fernando Diz, professor of finance, School of Management*

★

The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, a symbol of our economic might and financial prosperity, were a devastating blow to the heart of our financial community and the soul of our nation.

The Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE) was one of many

financial institutions with offices in the complex. Thankfully, our entire staff escaped safely, but sadly, several colleagues did not, including a former CBOE vice chairman.

In the aftermath, the financial community has unified like never before. Regulators, exchanges, and firms, normally fierce rivals, have cast aside differences and competitive instincts and united as one, rallying behind the sole cause of restoring our markets. It has been an enormous undertaking, and we are succeeding.

In the long run, American markets will endure this crisis. Our country has the world's most vibrant, liquid markets and dedicated, skilled professionals. Driven by our renewed passion and unwavering commitment to succeed, our markets will remain the center of global finance.

—*SU Trustee William J. Brodsky '65, G'68, chairman and CEO of the Chicago Board Options Exchange*



Kathy Cacicedo Photography

# Reflections *Continued from page 3*

OPENING SHOT IN THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM



Jim Morin '75 Reprinted by permission of The Miami Herald

★ The victims of the attack on America were just doing their jobs, serving their country, going about their daily lives, and looking forward to the next time they would be surrounded by family and friends. Now they are gone. We must remember them all as heroes. In a tragic way, they have each played a role in making our country stronger than ever. God bless each one of them.

**Brett Gursky '02**  
East Brunswick, New Jersey

★ The London cabbie leaned out his window while I was walking near the U.S. Embassy, asked if I was American, and then flashed me the thumbs up and said, "God bless you." A lovely British woman talked to me on my subway ride and then embraced me. A structural engineer stood there, and apologized again and again. The London police at the embassy did a security check—and then shook our hands. Strangers on the street, hearing our Yankee accents, offered us their mobile phones to call home. The com-

passionate people I have encountered are what I will remember most about my semester abroad.

**Angela Sutter '03**  
London, England

★ Let us be sure that our leaders, acting in our names, go after the guilty carefully. Let us be sure that our outrage does not make "us" into "them."

**Judy Parsons '67**  
Kalamazoo, Michigan

★ Despite our distance, the people of Guam are grieving. Our silence and isolation cannot hide our deep sorrow. I have been pained very deeply by this tragedy. An immigrant to this great nation, I've always been very American at heart, even before I stepped on U.S. soil. I'm very proud of America, and all the noble ideals it stands for. We must defend our humanity at all cost. We shall never surrender.

**Richie Kerwin Lim G'95**  
Tamuning, Guam

★ On September 13, public life stopped in Germany at 10 a.m. In the afternoon, around 20,000 people assembled in front of the Hamburg city hall to listen to the mayor, the Lutheran and Catholic bishops, and the new American ambassador. I was shocked to learn that three of those terrorists studied in Hamburg and lived just a few blocks away from my brother and sister-in-law. We just hope here that there will not only be revenge, but a change in politics that aims to change conditions under which terrorism finds sympathy.

**Dr. Hannelore Bastian**  
Hamburg, Germany

★ It's the little things we do every day that matter. Live every day to the fullest. Help your neighbor. Hug your family and don't be afraid to say: "I love you." As Americans we sometimes take our freedom and this world for granted. We'll never do that again.

**Wendy Smith '84**  
Stoneham, Massachusetts

★ The day of the tragedy, I was off duty. Being an NYPD officer, I didn't even wait for a call, I just went into the city as fast as I could. When I got to ground zero, it was hard to imagine what had once been there. It all looked like a bad movie. Between the horror of what I had to see, plus the stench in the air, it was almost overwhelming. The hurt I felt over the loss of other officers and firemen will linger with me for the rest of my life. The stories I could tell you of heroic acts by cops and firemen would be almost endless. I wish to express my condolences to all of the families who lost loved ones in the tragedy. We are still working diligently in the recovery effort to give peace of mind to all of those affected. My prayers go out to all.

**Brian Winrow '94**  
Levittown, New York

★ I went through some of the longest hours of my life until I finally learned that my husband and others we knew had escaped uptown and were unharmed. Some of our other friends and colleagues weren't as fortunate. The towers were not my favorite buildings; I always thought that they were ugly. But I grew up watching them rise up into the New York skyline. They were a touchstone—I knew I was "home" when I saw them. I feel robbed of what they represent, and still cannot quite believe that they are gone, along with thousands of innocent people. Regardless, I have made up my mind that I will do whatever I can to continue to support the ideals and activities I hold most dear. Freedom has taken on a new significance for me, for all of us.

**Alison Blackman Dunham '75**  
Brooklyn, New York

★ I express my deep sorrow to U.S. citizens and to the victims of dreadful terrorism in New York, at the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania.

**Tohru Murai G'69**  
Hachinohe, Japan

★ Professor Laurence Thomas ended class early. He invited us to a local coffee shop to further discuss our feelings in a more casual environment. It was perhaps the best discussion I have ever been a part of, and I have to thank Professor Thomas for giving us that.

**Kurt Semder '05**  
Valley Stream, New York

★ We have to remember that terrorists have no religion, cast, color, or nationality—they are always terrorists. Please convey my heartfelt sympathies to those who

United States have done this. It is imperative that we recognize that the majority of people living here love this country (be they citizens or not) and are in shock and disbelief. It was not just American citizens who were maimed and killed on Tuesday. To accuse or to hold responsible individuals merely because they appear to be "foreign" or Muslim is to completely misunderstand the nature of such international acts of terrorism. They were meant to instill fear, lack of trust, and insecurity in all of us. The reactions of unity and patriotism are to be applauded; however, our efforts to seek justice must not be the cause of random



Frank Cammuso '87 Reprinted by permission of The Syracuse Newspapers

**UNCOMMON VALOR WAS A COMMON VIRTUE**

have lost their near-dear ones. Let us pray for peace to the souls of the people killed in the attacks as well as those who died during rescue operations.

**Nilmani Pramanik, Ph.D. student**  
Syracuse, New York

★ The far-reaching consequences and pain of the events of September 11 will remain with us a long time. As the horror of that day is replayed by the media, and the personal stories bring home the destruction and carnage, I plead that we retain some sense of civility and perspective. People filled with hatred and rage at the

accusations and acts of vengeance. We are a nation inhabited by people from other places actively contributing to the society. It is our great strength. We must remain humane in the face of this inhumanity.

**Geraldine de Berly, Director,**  
SU English Language Institute  
Syracuse, New York

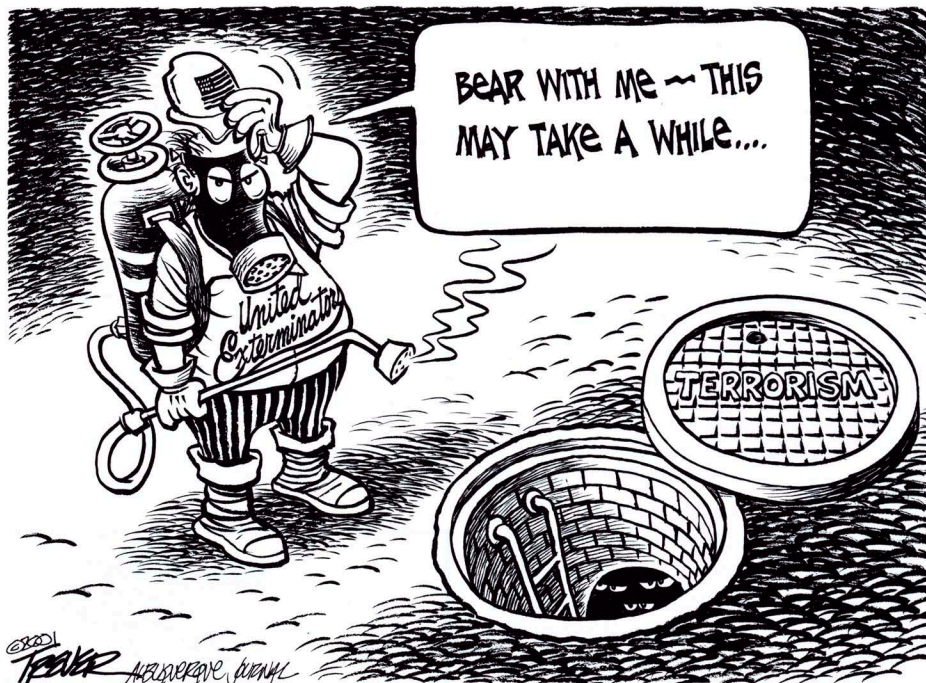
★ My husband's union, SEIU 1199, which represents SU employees, also represents many of the workers both at the Pentagon and the World Trade Center, who are janitors, window washers, etc...300

# Reflections

are presumed dead, thousands have lost their jobs. These are poorly paid people who will probably not enjoy the government handouts being given to wealthy businesses to rebuild. The union is raising funds for their relief. Despite our sadness about the victims, we are completely opposed to U.S. military action against countries in the Middle East, Asia, or Africa over this terrorist act. There is no justification for wantonly taking innocent life or for destroying the infrastructure in very poor countries. Such a plan will never work as a deterrent to future terrorism, it will only ensure its continuance for at least another generation.

**Linda Alcott**  
**Professor of Philosophy**  
**Syracuse, New York**

★  
 When I woke up today and realized I had not dreamt this, I was overcome with a profound sense of sadness....These terrorists struck at the symbolic heart of America—its business and its bounty—its World Trade Center. I now regard those thousands entombed in the towers as martyrs to the American dream and the American cause. I see them entombed in a destroyed American symbol—which must now be rebuilt by the



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nation. As a New Yorker, it is something I will expect and insist on from our government and its citizens. I want a national response.

**Raymond von Dran, Dean,**  
**SU School of Information Studies**  
**Syracuse, New York**

★

Every thought that is not of the tragedy seems to me like a horribly selfish waste of my thoughts. So I watch, and I wait. For what, I'm not certain. Whatever it is, I'm sure it's worth waiting for because time has stopped for me. "Business as usual" is a phrase that today sounds awkwardly optimistic, but what I wouldn't pay for September 11 to have been just "business as usual."

**Michael R. Sandy '03**  
**Rochester, New York**

★  
 We have prayed to our Buddha in the temple for your families' well-being.

**Kwang-Berm Lee**  
**former SU student**  
**Korea**

★  
 I hope that the world will see us as a people who picked ourselves up, dusted ourselves off, and continued to carry the flag of hope to the rest of the world.

**Wilder J. Leavitt '86**  
**Bethesda, Maryland**

★  
 Throughout Europe this day a three-minute silence has been held in memory of all those who perished in the terrorist



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attacks. Special services are being held and prayers said for all affected by this tragedy. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the families of your former students. A candle is burning in the foyer of Lockerbie Academy with a card placed beside it "In remembrance of all the innocent victims who perished." A minute's silence was held in school and, throughout the day, students—and some of them our wilder ones—have been coming down and stopping to look and remember. God be with you all and grant you His peace.

**Sandra Marshall**  
Lockerbie, Scotland

★ September 11 is not to be remembered as a time of weakness, but as a time of great loss and concern for our fellow man and the ones we love. Today we all suffered together, and I am thankful for those of you



Courtesy of VPA Professor Yvonne Buchanan

who mourned our nation's loss with me.

**Mike Bevivino '02**  
New Hartford, New York

★ The next time I hear about the uncaring attitude of today's college students, I will remember the photo of the candlelight vigil (printed in the *Syracuse Record*), see the line of people who tried to give blood at Maxwell, and remember how you answered the call when asked. I am so very proud, in the midst of this awfulness.

**Lynn Oatman**  
Senior Secretary to the  
Dean of the College of Law  
Syracuse, New York

★ As a resident of Lower Manhattan, I am devastated and depressed about the tragic events that have happened to my fellow New Yorkers and my neighborhood. Everything got stripped away in a matter of hours—human lives, shops, businesses, and the Twin Towers, the main symbol of the city. I sympathize for those who have lost their loved ones, but I also empathize with those who share an emotional and physical connection to New York City.

**Annamary Yuen '04**  
New York, New York

★ I trust that we will use this awful event to love our fellow man more, love and treasure our families more, and love God more, and respect and honor Him for who He is, and who He has always been: the only one that can heal us, comfort us, and strengthen us.

**Dale Williams Hill '81**  
Los Angeles, California

★ After watching television all day on that Tuesday, I made the hour drive home.



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# Reflections

The reality of what happened off the TV came to me when I saw a motorized construction sign flashing: "NYC closed to all inbound traffic."

**Cathy Pentosuglia**  
Graduate student  
Utica, New York



I've shed a lifetime's worth of tears in one week for people I don't even know. While I'm sure SU alumni were killed at the hands of evil on September 11, I'm certain that more will be involved in the fight against such acts. While we must thank and praise firefighters and rescue personnel now, please remember university members in the military who will be fighting tomorrow. I was in the enlisted army reserves while I attended school and enjoyed the amazing support of the faculty when I was called to duty. I pray that the student-soldiers currently among you will receive the same support for the missions they are about to undertake. Their jobs will have just begun after rescue and recovery ends.

**Edward A. MacKenzie '94**  
Tamarac, Florida



When so many innocent lives have been lost, as we have all just seen, there is no



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political, economic, or ethical argument that can in any way decrease the absolute evil in committing such an atrocity.

**Michael Hession '05**  
DeWitt, New York



I have been through the emotional process of searching for my father (who made it out), my friends, and co-workers

who all worked in or around the World Trade Center. I feel older now. I feel like I have lost that piece of me that allows me to be innocent in nature. But I have to remind myself and promise myself that this emptiness and anger can only last a short while in my heart. I owe it to those who lost their lives in these attacks to live out my life the best way I can. We all owe this to America's future generations.

**Patricia E. Potts '96**  
Middletown, New Jersey



It's a shame that this world has come to such cruelty—killing thousands of innocent people and leaving their families and loved ones to grieve.

**Talia M. Parkinson '00**  
New York, New York



I pray for those who have lost loved ones, those whose loved ones are missing, and those who may not have directly lost someone, but who mourn for the loss of innocent lives, for our sense of security, for our freedom, and for our country.

**Christine King '04**  
Batavia, New York



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