

## The First Generation

# A Nation Attacked

**September 11, 2001.** The date is now history. The thoughts in our heads that the world was calm and international peace was just around the corner were shattered on that day.

Millions of children across America were brought home from school that day to be told the awful truth: The Twin Towers had been struck down.

At 8:15 in the morning, just as the streets of New York City were bustling with people getting to work, a plane bound for California, filled with fuel, was suddenly hijacked. There have been reports that the hijackers used knives, rather than guns, to force the passengers and crew into submission. The plane was turned around and fired straight into the north tower of the World Trade Center. There was nothing to do but watch when another plane flew into the south tower several minutes later.

Firefighters rushed into the first tower. But it was no use for those above the floors that had been hit, among them dozens of firefighters who had tried to save them. Onlookers stood frozen, not believing their eyes.

One woman walking by knew that her child was in daycare on the fifth floor. She tried to get inside until she was told that the daycare center had been evacuated and the children were safe.

People  
panicked...and then  
it hit everyone:  
Nowhere was safe.



Steve Ludlum for The New York Times

Then the smoke rose, like a billowing, grey cloud. It moved like a dust storm and, in fact, was more dust than smoke.

People panicked, not knowing whether to go inside or outside or under a car. The go-under-a-car option disappeared when cars started exploding. And then it hit everyone: Nowhere was safe.

It was all a blur. And when the smoke cleared, the south tower was gone. No one was prepared for this. But then they watched the north tower as it too began to fall. People didn't think to run again until a new batch of dust and smoke hurtled itself toward them. This time, it was so thick that if you stood in New Jersey, you wouldn't be able to see a single building in Manhattan. And when the smoke cleared, all there was was sky.

Many were able to get out alive, but thousands, particularly those who stopped to make a call or send an e-mail, were trapped and died.

Cleanup began the next day and lasted for nine months. The director of the cleanup said it was finished much earlier than he had expected. They'll use at least some of the empty space for a memorial.

The whodunit was up for grabs. People blamed terrorists around the world. Some said it was the Palestinians because they were in a war with Israel and the United States was helping Israel. Others blamed the Pakistani, the Cubans, the Afghans; countless people and countless groups.

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## Attacked (continued from Page 1)

It turned out to be the Al Qaeda terror network led by the Saudi Arabian Osama bin Laden.

The U.S. started bombing Al Qaeda's hideout caves in Afghanistan. It turns out that Osama could not be found. It was rumored that he was in Texas with a cowboy hat and a shaved beard. For all we know, he could be dead in the rubble of the bombed caves.

But the wake of the attack traveled into even greater circles every day. Thousands of death certificates were requested and thousands more bodies were never found or returned to their families. The excavations showed that a subway had been running under the World Trade Center at the time and was crushed.

After the attack, all transportation in and out of the city was shut down. People walked home over bridges in swarms. Some were not in contact with their families for several hours, partially because of the lack of ways to leave and partially because the cell-phone airways were so full with everyone trying to call everyone else. Lines of seven or eight people could be found at every pay phone, even the broken ones.

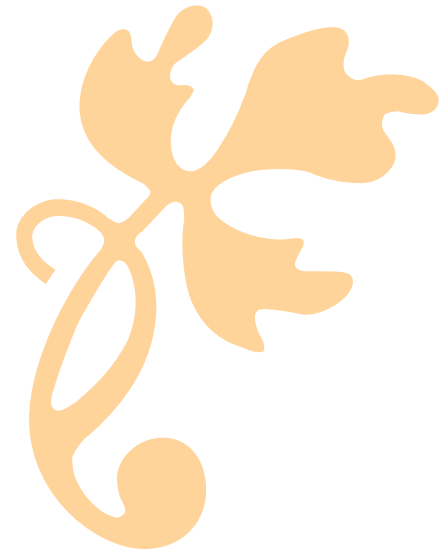
Suddenly, George Bush was everyone's favorite president. Rudy Guiliani, with less than four months left to his term as the city's major, acted exceptionally and was later knighted by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II. Every politician that took action was hailed by the public.

But the shock of the shaking of our country has been rippling all these months and has not faded. On the Fourth of July, one final fireworks display was solely red, white and blue. Although July 4 had always been a patriotic day, that had never been done before.

But patriotism was not the only result. The U.S. has lodged itself into a war against an ephemeral, and often invisible, enemy whose threats were unknown less than a year ago.

The Twin Towers are gone, yet the shock remains fresh and arousing every day. And as the cry was heard at the site of the attack on that bright, late summer morning, people still open their eyes wide and think "Where did it go, O Lord? Where did it go?"

**Morgan McDaniel**



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# Life in a Post-9/11 Era

Recovering from the shocking blow last September has been very hard, especially for those who have lost loved ones or friends. However, as we near the anniversary of the terrorist attacks, it's becoming increasingly necessary to step back and examine how 9/11 has affected our communities, families and schools.

Until a few months ago, Manhattan maps in New York taxicabs displayed the words "World Trade Center" alongside an image of the Twin Towers. Nowadays, in that space, one usually sees the icon of a memorial entitled "World Trade Center Site."

Airports are the most emblematic of post 9/11 security changes, which some voyagers characterize as paranoia. Incessant searches and processes are so lengthy that airline passengers on international flights are required to arrive more than four hours in advance of their departure time. In addition, a new regulation now mandates that laptops be removed from their cases and placed on plastic trays for x-ray and metal detector scanning.

For many of us, the quest to normalize and continue our shaken and disturbed, but still functional, lives has bit by bit proven successful.

Composer Michael White, a colleague of my father's, lives in one of the heavily damaged buildings in Battery Park City across the street from the World Trade Center. Although his building is now structurally sound, he stayed in our apartment for three weeks following the attack and could not return home for six months.

Students in the Challenge 2002 journalism course recently discussed whether kids are still talking about September 11 and its aftermath.

"It's not as if I've really forgotten about it," said Katherine Cagen, 11, of Manhattan.

"I mean, people still go about their lives," she said. "They don't stop and think about it. At my school, Sept. 11's really not a topic of conversation."

Others, however, reported intermittent reflections on the attacks.

**The quest to normalize has proven successful...but there will always be reminders.**

One challenge camper said that occasionally, when she was home alone, she thought about the collapse of the World Trade Center and what the future would be like.

Most schools have had class discussions about the aftermath of 9/11 followed by related activities and discussions. At my school, there were two such conversations as well as a period of 20 minutes to write personal accounts and thoughts about the World Trade Center tragedy. These talks were the teachers primary strategy of responding to the attacks.

Parents, after the first few days,

wondered if the events of 9/11 remained on their children's minds.

"Are you still talking about September 11 at school?" asked my father, Samuel Zyman.

But even as early as October, my answer, more often than not was "No. Not anymore."

"Everyone's a lot quieter," said eight-year-old Manhattanite Russell Kahn last week. "You can see a lot of American flags everywhere: in cars, buses houses windows. The newspapers contain a lot more bad news."

Reflecting on what he had just said, he added that it was "a lot harder" talking about the subject than he had anticipated.

Like Russell's American flags, there will always be reminders. Three folders in my computer were last modified "Sept. 11, 2001," at 8:50, 8:44 and 8:41 p.m. At the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., postcards with customized stickers were handed out, each bearing the stars and stripes. On Manhattan's Upper West Side, less than five miles from where the towers fell, a devastating rack of similar postcards greet the customers of Gold Leaf Stationers on Amsterdam Avenue and 89th St.

"Twin Towers of the World Trade Center," brags one of the more prominent ones, "New York City."

Many kids have expressed their understanding that September 11 will appear in future history books. This is undoubtedly true as it is a cataclysmic chapter in American history that we will never forget.

**Erik Zyman Carrasco**



When I first heard that the Twin Towers had been hit by two planes, I thought it was a joke and that nothing had really happened. My teacher didn't know anything about it, so I was surprised when I learned the truth. When I saw 10 people get picked up early from school, I knew it was bigger than I thought.

When I got home, my dad was already there. I got frightened because I thought that something might have happened to him. My dad saw the planes hit the Twin Towers. He said that, at first, it didn't seem real, but when the truth sank in, it was terrifying. My dad told me to come upstairs with him and watch the news on T.V. I got so sad.

My brother was at Hebrew school that afternoon. When he came home, my dad went over what had happened. My brother was shocked. He couldn't believe that the Twin Towers weren't standing above New York City.

At dinner, I wanted to talk to my family about how the Twin Towers were hit by planes, but I couldn't because my parents didn't want my three-year-old sister to know about it. That night, when I was in bed, I thought about it a lot. I had a feeling that another attack might occur. Luckily, it didn't.

The next day at school, Ms. Keating, my teacher, talked about what had happened. Everyone was involved in the conversation. Some people were more sad than others.

Many people have lost family members and friends. That shouldn't have happened. There should be more security at landmarks and special places. At airports, guards should check bags more carefully so that nothing harmful is brought on planes.

The tragic attack has changed people's lives in drastic ways. People don't feel safe and secure anymore. They are worried that something horrendous might happen again.

**Michael Bernstein**

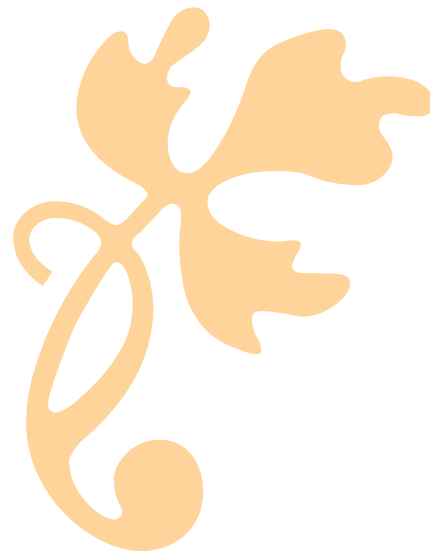
On September 11, it was only my fourth day of school. I heard people were talking about a plane crash although I didn't know where or how many people were hurt or killed. It was during science that a few kids started talking about it. When I asked one of my friends what was going on, she just said that it was better that I didn't know. A few minutes later, my English teacher came in and told me that my mother was there to pick me up. I asked my teacher why my mother had come and she said it was better if my mother told me.

My mother said that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center, that one of the towers had fallen and that another plane had flown into the Pentagon in Virginia. I thought they were just little planes until I heard that both towers were hit. When I got home, the second tower was still standing. My father was there we all watched Channel 4 on television. The pictures were from the station's helicopter and one of the reporters in the helicopter said that while the tower was still standing, it looked like it was tilting. My father said he wished they hadn't said that. A few minutes later, the second tower fell. The newscaster said that if you were a child, you'd better not look. I didn't.

Both my grandfathers were in lower Manhattan that day. One of them saw the crash and turned for home. The other was on a train scheduled to stop under the World Trade Center. Because the towers had already been hit, it never got there.

My grandfather left quickly and tried to walk to Brooklyn Heights. Someone stopped and gave him a ride in their car. He finally got home.

**Moriah Kennedy**



# *...many years from now*

"Ugh," said Melanie, dumping her school books on the table. "History. We're studying attacks on America."

"That sounds interesting," said her mother optimistically.

"Attacks aren't interesting!" Melanie retorted. "They happen every day. There's always a war somewhere. It's really a normal thing."

"Not when I was a girl," said her mother.

"Well, when you were a girl, cancer was a serious disease. So that shows how much they knew back then," Melanie snipped back. "I'm going up to study for my test on Friday." The truth was, Melanie had all the information she needed on a datachip that she could insert into a screen.

"I'll call Jessica," she thought and raced upstairs to her computer and typed in Jessica's compu-phone number and got her immediately.

"+So, what R U doing 2nite+," Melanie typed.

"+Studying, Rn't U+," Jessica sent back.

At this point, Mel's mom turned on the downstairs computer and tried to compu-phone her husband. Instead, she cut in on her family's already busy line and saw her daughter's conversation.

Mel's answer as "+Study? I'm using a datachip, don't U+"

Now, Mel's mom cut in "+Sorry Jess. Mel has to go+" and shut off the connection.

"Get down here right now, Melanie Woods!" Mel heard over the intercom. She sulked down the steps to her mother who shouted, "A datachip! Who do you think you are? Give it to me now or I'll call Mr. Roberts and tell him that you are going to cheat!"

Mel's extended hand showed a small, circular piece of metal that her mother grabbed away and quickly disposed of.

"Sure, Mom, sure," said Mel. "You might as well have told him. I'll just get a zero

honestly this way."

Then Mel took the elevator up to her room and turned on her computer.

"Explain the terrorist attack of Osama bin Laden of 2001."

"Um, well, bin Laden, in 2001..."

"Specific date!" reminded her mother.

"Oh, November 7, I don't remember..."

"You have to remember. This is important."

"Oh come on, Mom! It's only a test. An attack on two little towers with two little planes sent by one little terrorist in one little dot on one stupid timeline!"

Mel's Mom went white. Her eyes grew large and tears welled up inside of them. Her lower lip quivered. Mel had never seen her mother like this before.

"Fine," her mother said in a small voice.

"Fine. I can't make you study if you won't study."

Melanie was sorry. She didn't want to upset her mother.

"No, I-I-I remember now," she whispered. "September 11. Tuesday."

"Go to school," said her mother.

As Melanie left, looking upset herself, her mother was thinking.

They don't understand. It's just a date in a textbook for them. And war is so common now. The government legalized the use of nuclear weapons in war just last week. I didn't tell Melanie, but she probably knows anyway. And she didn't realize the danger when Aunt Dora caught smallpox and nearly died.

She started to clean up the table and saw her daughter chatting with her friends as she waited at the corner for the bus.

So much has changed in 25 years.

Melanie raised her hand.

"Yes, Ms. Woods."

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# ...many years from now

**(continued from Page 5)**

"Well," Melanie began, "Since we're doing a test review today, could you please go over the bin Laden terrorist attack?"

Mr. Roberts, the history teacher, closed his eyes. He paused and then said "Who knows something about the the bin Laden attack?"

A few children raised their hands.

"Two hijacked planes flew into the New York World Trade Center twin towers," said one student.

"New York City was closed down two years later after having been discovered to be toxic," said another.

"It happened on Sept. 11, 2001," said a third.

"Bioterrorism wiped out a quarter of the country," said the last.

A flood of facts poured in and, as Mr. Roberts nodded in verification, the rest of the class scrambled to write them down. When Mr. Roberts looked tired, and comments continued to flood the room, Mel thought of something and quickly did the math.

$2026 - 2001 = 25$ . It hadn't occurred to her that 2001 was only 25 years ago. Her mother's father had died 25 years ago. He had worked in New York City. Was it possible that...?

"Mom!" Mel shouted when she got home. "Mom!"

"What is it?" asked her mother coming out of the kitchen and wiping flour off her hands.

"How did grandpa die?"

Her mother stood there for a long time and then said "Come, sit down."

After they both were seated, Mel's Mom said "Imagine it. You were in a content unsuspecting lifestyle when it happened. Without warning. No one knew. And it happened. Nothing like it had ever happened before. No one thought it could happen.

"But it did," she said. "And innocent lives were shattered and ended.

"And that's what's so terrible about wars. Do you understand?"

It hit Melanie like a bolt of lightning. In the world she lived in, people actually died in war. They felt pain. No fairy dust brought them back. Mel nodded. Her mother left. And Melanie cried.



The New York Times

## Author's Note

This story was my interpretation of what the United States will be like in 25 years. I tried to incorporate technology and science, but also violence, its reponse, and most important, memories. I think every American from here on in should understand that we, personally and as a nation, went through during this time. If, like so many other things, September 11, 2001 becomes just another date in the textbook, the memories of those who died and those who had to live through it will be dishonored. I know it is hard for people to talk about it, but sometime, somewhere, someone has to know your story and your feelings of this fateful moment on American history. Every story is important for making the American story we are all aiming for.

**Morgan McDaniel**

# The Threats

## Bioterrorism: The Invisible Killers

There are four major diseases that terrorists can threaten us with. Although some have been eradicated in the wild, it is now possible to re-create them in a laboratory and use them as weapons.

Smallpox is the deadliest of the diseases and has killed more people than any other cause. Smallpox is passed through human contact and is highly contagious. People in the United States stopped receiving smallpox vaccinations in 1972 and the disease was officially declared eradicated in 1980.

In the 1990s, several governments, particularly the United States and Russia, considered destroying the remaining stores of the virus but decided to delay that decision questioning whether the virus could aid in research. After the breakup of the Soviet Union, however, and the ensuing downturn in the then new Russian economy, it is now known that some of the stores were illicitly sold to countries such as Iraq and North Korea.

Although the U.S. government now has enough smallpox vaccine to immunize everyone in the country, there is a controversy over whether the vaccine should be made available to the general public before or after an attack.

Anthrax is also a deadly disease but, unlike smallpox, it is not passed through human contact. A small amount of powdered anthrax could kill 300,000 to three million people if released in a favorable environment. The Iraqi government has said it has 8,000 liters of the disease.

The most serious form of anthrax is contracted through inhalation, although one can get also get a milder form through touch. Symptoms are fever, cough, headache and chest pain. Untreated, death would occur three days later. If caught in time, anthrax responds to drugs such as Cipro and other related antibiotics. The U.S. has a vaccine but it is only currently available to the military.

In the past 12 months, anthrax caused the death of an elderly woman in Connecticut and was found in several U.S. Post Office buildings. The powder was also sent to the offices of ABS and CBS News.

There is some question as to whether the source of the powder was a foreign terrorist or an American trying to alert the government to the dangers of bioterrorism.

There are four different types of plague: bubonic, septicemic, pneumonic and pharyngeal.

Caused by the bite of an infected flea, plague is passed through human contact. Symptoms begin one to six days after exposure and produce fever, cough and bloody phlegm.

There is no vaccine, but plague can be successfully treated in its early stages with a course of antibiotics.

Botulism is caused by *Clostridium botulinum*, one of the most poisonous toxins in the world. It can be eaten or might enter the body through a wound. It could then go into the gut or lungs and cause muscle or respiratory paralysis. The incubation period is from six hours to 10 days after infection. Symptoms are trouble speaking, seeing and swallowing and nausea and vomiting.

There is an botulinum anti-toxin available at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga. that is licensed to state and local health departments.

**Kyle Hertz**

# Smallpox: The Disease and the Vaccination Controversy

Smallpox is a dangerous disease that kills 30 percent of its victims. Caused by the variola virus, it occurs only in humans and is passed from person to person through air droplets or aerosols. After a 12 to 14-day incubation period (the time after a person has been infected but has no symptoms), a high fever occurs accompanied by pain, malaise and prostration. Between two and three days later, a blistering rash develops on the face and then spreads to the rest of the body. The blisters, called pustules, grow and scab eventually leaving pitted scars. People usually die during the second week of the illness although the disease's most severe form can cause death within five to seven days.

The virus spreads most easily in the cool, dry winter months but can be transmitted in any climate and any part of the world.

The only known weapon against smallpox is vaccination. The smallpox vaccine, which contains a live virus related to smallpox called vaccinia, achieved widespread use in the 18th century although smallpox vaccination is known to have occurred as early as the 10th century in China. It was critical to the success of the American Revolution helping to stem the smallpox epidemic raging in the colonies at that time.

Smallpox vaccinations ended in this country in 1972 and the disease was considered eradicated worldwide eight years later. As a result, only about half of the people in the United States have been vaccinated and most experts agree that it is doubtful that those people are still protected from the illness because of the age of the vaccinations.

Before the September 11 attacks, most people thought of smallpox as a dead disease. It was believed that the virus existed only in two high-security laboratories: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia and the Russian State Centre for Research on Virology and Biotechnology in an eastern region of Russia.

In 1996, the World Health Assembly passed a

resolution agreeing to destroy all of the existing smallpox virus by end of June 1999. It was thought that killing the virus would be at least one way to limit the risk that smallpox would re-emerge. A month before the virus was to be destroyed, the Assembly postponed its destruction until 2002 to leave more time to see if the virus could be used for future scientific research.

However, after the breakup of the Soviet Union, former Soviet officials revealed that during the cold war, Russia produced large stocks of smallpox virus which it intended to use as a weapon. At least two other laboratories were reported to house smallpox virus, one of which may be able to produce the virus in tons monthly.

Even more important, many Russian scientists may have left Russia after the Soviet breakup and sold their services to rogue governments which support terrorism.

In the wake of the September 11 attacks, there is a growing controversy over the smallpox vaccine and how it should be used. The current government policy calls for administering the vaccine -- all of which is owned by the federal government and cannot be sold commercially -- only to those who have been in contact with an infected individual or their contacts, a protocol called ring containment. Those who support the policy believe that because the vaccine itself can kill one in every million people vaccinated, it should not be given preventively, even on a voluntary basis, unless there is a verified risk of an attack or a smallpox outbreak.

Opponents maintain that government intelligence is not good enough to determine the likelihood of an attack and that smallpox would be the most desirable terrorist weapon, particularly in light of an unimmunized population. Ring containment, they say, while effective for natural outbreaks, could not work if the virus were purposefully released in several cities simultaneously.

They say that offering the vaccine before an attack, on a voluntary basis, would protect both the relatively small number of people whose immune systems are too weak to tolerate it as well as the rest of the U.S. population, a third of which could be wiped out by a smallpox attack.

**Dylan Freehauf**

# The Threats

## *Danger at Indian Point?*

On June 30, approximately 150 people gathered from both side of the Hudson to demand the immediate decommissioning of both active nuclear power plants at Indian Point in northern Westchester County.

The Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition, representing one of many groups at the protest, collected more than 10,000 signatures asking New York State Governor George Pataki to withdraw the state's letter of certification for the Indian Point Radiological Emergency Evacuation Plan as a first step to closing the plant.

"We want to send a message to Pataki that his neighbors want Indian point closed," said one protestor, who asked not to be identified, referring to Pataki's home in nearby Garrison, N.Y.

Westchester's emergency evacuation plans are based on projections by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission that, if there were an attack on the plants, the spread of radiation would be limited to a narrow strip about two miles wide and five miles long.

Critics say that the plan is unworkable. If there were an attack, they argue, local roads and highways would be brought to a standstill by throngs of people taking their children from schools and fleeing the area in private vehicles.

The owner of the plant, Entergy Nuclear Operation Inc., maintains that both the reactors and their radioactive nuclear material are secure. Each nuclear reactor is surrounded by a six-foot-thick reinforced concrete wall with a stainless-steel lining and is shielded by other structures. In the event of a breach, spokespersons for Entergy said that personnel would be able to shut the plants down in a matter of seconds.

Many residents, however, are not convinced and say that they would willingly pay more for power if the plants were shut down.

"I think the potential for catastrophe is small," said another protestor, "but if something did happen, the potential for destruction outweighs the need for the plant."

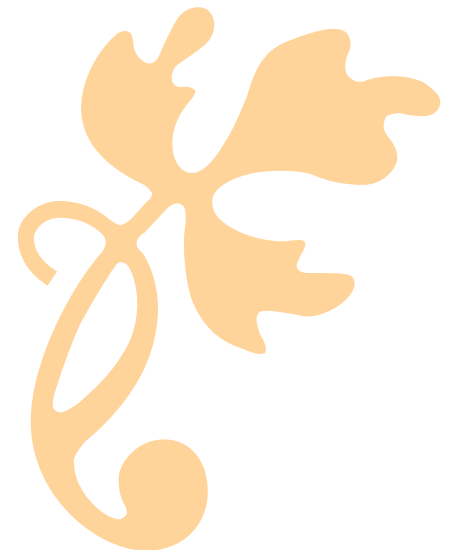
"I don't think that anyone should have to risk should devastation," he said.

The effort to close Indian Point escalated after the September 11th attacks when New York area residents feared that the reastors would be a terrorist target. Over the past six months, there have been several demonstrations over the issue, a movement supported by several local and state officials.

Westchester has distributed free potassium iodide pills, which prevent thyroid cancer caused by radiation exposure, to some nearby residents. Others throughout the region have purchased the pills privately.

The Indian Point plants were originally built for Consolidated Edison. Two of the three original nuclear reactors there are currently in operation. Designed by United Engineers and Constructors, the facility uses pressurize water reactors manufactured by Westinghouse.

**Katherine Cagen**



# Opinion

## *A Matter of Choice*

There has been a big controversy over the smallpox vaccine. Ever since the attacks of September 11, many people are afraid that terrorists will use biological weapons such as anthrax, botulin toxin and especially smallpox, against the United States.

The last reported case of wild smallpox occurred in 1977, five years after the last smallpox vaccination was given in this country. In 1980, smallpox was officially declared eradicated worldwide. Approximately half the American population has never been vaccinated and those people who have are probably no longer protected from the disease because of the age of their vaccinations. A vaccine is a live or dead virus given in a small amount that allows the bodies antibodies to arm themselves if a disease should attack.

Currently, the government owns all of the smallpox vaccine in the U.S. and has not made it available to the general public. Its position is that it will only make it available to the public after there is an attack which would cause thousands, or even hundred of thousands, of deaths. Its reasoning is that because not everyone is a candidate for the vaccine and because there could be a very small number deaths from the vaccine if all 286 million people in the country were vaccinated, no one, other than specific medical personnel, should be allowed to have it.

This is faulty and dangerous reasoning. If there were a smallpox attack, the first group of people killed by it would far outnumber those who would have been negatively affected by the vaccine. Also, if the vaccine were offered on a voluntary basis, people would have the opportunity to choose for themselves whether they want to accept the small risks of the vaccine as opposed to taking their chances with the disease itself which kills 30 percent of its victims and disfigures the rest.

Last month, the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention held four forums across the country asking for public comment on how the smallpox vaccine should be administered. Unfortunately, these meetings were poorly attended, probably because of a lack of information about the threat of the disease and the fact that the forums were not publicized. Also, many people are so afraid of smallpox that they are not able to face the issue.

On June 20, a vaccine advisory committee to the federal government recommended that 10,000 to 15,000 medical workers be vaccinated nationwide. Earlier this month, the government announced a plan to vaccinate 500,000 medical workers.

But to vaccinate only medical workers still leaves the rest of the country at unprotected and still exposes those who are not candidates for vaccine at risk of being passively immunized since they have the greatest contact with medical personnel.

The government should publically disclose the risks of the smallpox vaccine and then make it available to anyone who wants it. The 500,000 medical workers who are slated to receive the vaccine initially can then vaccinate others.

The government should not withhold the public's only weapon against a disease that has killed more people than any other source in recorded history. If it does, it is saying that it has the exclusive right to determine who live and who will die.

**Keshav Raghavan**

# The Threats

## The Al Qaeda: An Illusive Foe

Al Qaeda has killed thousands of innocent people. Their terror against American civilians include the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center towers and the bombing of the World Trade Center parking garage in 1993. The terrorist organization is supported by the former government of Afghanistan, the Taliban.

The group's philosophy centers on a fundamentalist form of Islam, repudiated by many Islamic scholars, which maintains that Islamic countries should be run by theocracies, or religion-based governments, and should ban all modern, western influences. It also declares that men should have absolute power in the society with women being subservient child bearers.

Al Qaeda is led by the Saudi Arabian Osama bin Laden who has been on the run from U.S. troops in Afghanistan since shortly after the September 11 attacks. The son of a wealthy family, many members of whom lived in the United States before the attacks, it is believed that he has diabetes, kidney ailments and brittle bones.

Al Qaeda is not only in Afghanistan. It is made up of a network of cells, or small groups that function within individual countries throughout the world. One man was recently arrested in Hamburg,

Germany for being a suspected terrorist cell member.

The U.S. bombing raids on Afghanistan have put a large dent in Al Qaeda although there are still many members left. A group of guerilla fighters called the Northern Alliance has pushed the Al Qaeda and the Taliban out of several Afghani cities such as Kabul, Kandahar and Jalalabad.

A U.S. government official said that some Al Qaeda members are now regrouping in Pakistan. There are known Al Qaeda cells throughout Europe, the U.S., the Phillipines and most recently in the disputed region of Kashmir.

The group's largest attack was the destruction of the World Trade Center, when a dozen Al Qaeda hijackers got onto four planes and crashed into the two New York towers and the Pentagon. The fourth plane, which U.S. officials believe was headed for The White House, went down in a field in Pennsylvania after passengers rushed the hijackers and forced the crash before the plane reached Washington, D.C.

Earlier Al Qaeda attacks against the United States, include the Oct. 10, 2000 bombing of the U.S.S. Cole in the port of

Aden in Yemen, which killed 17 and injured 39 American sailors; the 1998 bombing of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, which killed more than 200 and injured 5,000; and the attack on U.S. Air Force barracks in Saudi Arabia in 1996 which killed 17 U.S. servicepeople.

**Eamon Anderson**

## The New Enemy

On September 11, the World Trade Center towers were attacked by terrorists from Afghanistan. They crashed two planes, one into each tower.

The terrorists were not smart to do it. They started a war. They destroyed themselves because they wanted to destroy others. The Americans fought them in Afghanistan and then helped to rebuild that country. Some nations are helping us; some have turned against us.

You probably see more American flags now than before September 11.

Whatever happens, we hope there will be peace.

**Gideon Broshy**



## More Cautious Than Ever

My grandmother's name is Clara Beckford and she is 74 years old. She used to work near Wall Street in Manhattan but now stays home in Mount Vernon and helps take care of my cousin Noah, who is three.

When I asked her about the World Trade Center attack, she told me that it made her very sad. She told me that nobody on the top floor of the towers survived and that she saw people jumping out of windows to make it out of the buildings. She said it was a horrible sight.

After September 11, my grandmother became much more cautious. She is careful to look all windows and doors and is much more concerned about people who look different. She is afraid a tragic scene like this could happen again. And she wonders how soon it will happen. To play it safe, she doesn't like to go out at night and only has flown once since Sept. 11.

Many people have tried to help the victim's families. My grandmother contributed to a fund that gives money to the families so that they can buy food and continue to live in their homes. My third grade class in Florida drew self-portraits and gave them to the World Trade Center Memorial. Everybody wants to help New York and the United States go back to its normal life.

**Paige Drummond**

## From the Twenty-Eighth Floor: Down and Out

This is the true story of a woman running down one of the World Trade Center Towers during the September 11 attack. Her name is Aunt Dawn. This was one of the scariest moments in her life. I interviewed Aunt Dawn's niece, Julia Nunez.

Aunt Dawn worked on the 28th floor of the first tower to be hit. Suddenly, she heard a loud sound. She had no clue as to what it was. Then the building started to shake. She left everything in her office and started running -- running for her life.

It got harder and harder to breathe. She and some of her friends decided to stay together. When she got out, the smoke was unbearable. Then, from out of the street smoke, came a man who was handing out wet paper towels to help people shield their mouths from the smoke. She called this man an "angel from above."

She started running again as fast as she could. She did not care what was happening; she just knew she had to get out. As she ran, she saw flames and people jumping out of windows.

By the time she got home, the second tower had been hit.

**Kyle Hertz**



# National Security

## The Cast of Characters

As the nation braces itself to deal with a sometimes invisible and often unknown enemy, there are several key people in the federal government charged with the responsibility of protecting the nation and responding to an attack.

First and foremost is the president, George W. Bush, chief executive of the country and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. President Bush makes foreign policy and all final decisions having to do with the military. When American troops entered Afghanistan following the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center, it was President Bush's order that sent them there.

Mr. Bush is the 41st president of the United States and only the second in U.S. history to be the son of a president, former President George Bush. The first was John Quincy Adams, son of the second president, John Adams.

Former governor of Texas, Mr. Bush, 56, is a graduate of Harvard and Yale Universities.

Second in command is Vice-President Richard C. Cheney. A native of Wyoming, Mr. Cheney assists the president in making executive decisions and is president of the Senate. He has the unique role of having to assume the responsibilities of the presidency if the president were to become physically or mentally incapacitated and would become president if the

president died. When Mr. Bush underwent routine medical tests earlier this month, Mr. Cheney became the country's acting chief executive during the president's hospital stay.

Historically, the U.S. vice-presidency has been a position of little influence and even less power. This is not the case with Mr. Cheney who appears to function as the president's equal, especially in matters of foreign policy. He is a frequent spokesman for the administration's war against terrorism and is a key player in making American foreign policy.

Since September 11, the Mr. Bush and Mr. Cheney have rarely been seen publically together for security reasons.

Donald Rumsfeld is the U.S. Secretary of Defense. His job is to carry out the president's orders to the military. The war in Afghanistan has transformed his position from being the manager of a peacetime force to a leader of troops at war.

One of the more popular figures in the administration is Secretary of State Colin Powell. A Bronx native and former army general, Mr. Powell carries out American foreign policy and sometimes aids in negotiations between foreign warring powers. He recently went to the middle east in an

unsuccessful attempt to initiate peace talks between Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice has a very similar role to that of Mr. Powell and their two jobs often overlap.

Other officials who are crucial to running the country, particularly since Sept. 11, include: Tommy Thompson, Secretary of Health and Human Services, who is responsible for the physical well being of U.S. citizens and, second only to the president, is the main decision-maker having to do with bioterrorism; FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III; CIA Director of Center of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; Spencer Abraham, Secretary of Energy; and Norman Mineta, Secretary of Transportation.

A new department, the Office of Homeland Security, was established in the wake of the World Trade Center attacks to develop a national strategy to protect the U.S. against attacks and to coordinate information among government agencies. Led by former Pennsylvania governor Tom Ridge, it is the first major federal department to be established since 1947.

**Katherine Costantini  
Madeline McDaniel**

# *Defense and the Military*

## THE TOOLS OF WAR

### AIR POWER

The army's air defense artillery is used to defend the United States from deadly missile attacks, helicopter cruise missiles, fighter bombers and lethal stinger missiles. The artillery also provides an alert system which warns of other combat, calls out combat support units and activates counter-missiles and bombs that are targeted to the enemy's weaknesses.

The Bofors defense is part of the 40mm 1/70 defense gun system -- which includes the 40 EL/70 gun system -- that is based on Boors weaponry but is integrated with a fire control and a battery powered electric laying system.

The Tridon 40 is just like the 40 EL/70 but is mounted on a vehicle made by Volvo. It is made for defending air bases and bridges. It is typically targeted at cruise missiles and dispenser missiles. The TRiAD air defense system is an armored air defense turret. Its primary purpose is to protect military units from attack helicopters and other types of weapons.

**Bianca Hodges**



### TRANSPORTATION

In the army heavy boat company, the cargo boat transports cargo and is a landing base for aircraft. It has a 46-foot picket boat for controlling operations and a 65-foot tug boat for towing disabled air and water craft.

Company headquarters is a boat that commands and administers a unit with platoons and water crafts that spread out along the coastline. It is also called a company commander. The control officer may be on land or aboard the unit's control boat, depending on where he can best control his or her operations.

**Jaclyn Escala**

# International News

## *The Wars Overseas*

### ***The Middle East***

The fighting between Israel and the Palestinians continues with no peace in sight. Almost daily suicide bombings have killed hundreds on both sides as repeated efforts by the United States to end the violence fail.

Modern Israel has been at war with its Arab neighbors since the nation was created by the United Nations in 1948. At that time, the U.N. established a partition plan by which the land, which was then called Palestine, would be divided into a Jewish and an Arab state. Jerusalem was to be an open, international city administered by the U.N.

Israel accepted the plan but the Arab nations rejected it saying that Palestine should be under Arab control and that Israel was an illegitimate state. On May 15, 1948, the day after the U.N. passed the partition resolution, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq joined forces and attacked the newly-formed state.

Bloodshed has continued in the region, with only brief respites, since that time. As a result of several wars, Israel now controls Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and parts of the West Bank. The issue of that control, and the acceptance by Palestinians of Israel's right to existence, has been and remains the major deterrent to a lasting peace.

**Gideon Broshy**

### ***Kashmir***

India and Pakistan have been fierce enemies from the time they were liberated from Great Britain as a single nation and became separate, sovereign states. Their quarrel has been over the region of Kashmir. Now, there is a chance that the dispute will escalate into nuclear war.

To understand what is happening, one must know the history of the India and Pakistan war for Kashmir. When India gained its independence from Britain in 1947, the nation was split into Hindu-dominated India and the new Muslim state of Pakistan. After massive rioting, the Pakistanis and the Indians started arguing over who owned Kashmir. Pakistan claimed it because it was the only Indian state with a Muslim majority. Indians said that they should have it because it was made part of India in the Instrument of Accession of 1947 which gave both India and Pakistan their sovereignty. Since then, there have been two wars over Kashmir between the sibling nations.

Because the struggle for Kashmir has been so bitter and has gone on for so long, and because both countries have nuclear weapons and the expertise to use them, nuclear war is now a real possibility on the subcontinent. Such a war would kill millions of people in the region and would have far reaching consequences throughout the world. India has bigger missiles than Pakistan but Pakistan is thought to have a greater number of nuclear weapons. Experts say that a single one of these devices could kill more than 500,000 people.

The U.S. and other western nations have made attempts to alleviate the crisis but the situation remains tense.

**Smita Ravichandran**

# Opinion

Will There be Peace in the Middle East?



Moriah Kennedy 2002





James Estrin/The New York Times

## Hopes for the World Trade Center Site

People are arguing about what to do with the land where the World Trade Center stood. The design team is working on six ideas for the site. They will present the ideas on July 20. The Lower Manhattan Development Corporation and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey will decide upon the final plan by Dec. 1. Some ideas that people had for construction are a memorial, offices, retail stores, a new train station and pedestrian-friendly streets.

Derek Turner, a businessman from the Bahamas, thought of an idea for a memorial. He would plant 2,833 trees with the name of each person who died carved at the bottom of each tree. There would be four buildings topped by a pyramid. They would be 129 feet higher than the original towers. The lower floors would house apartments. The middle floors would have offices and on the top would be a hotel.

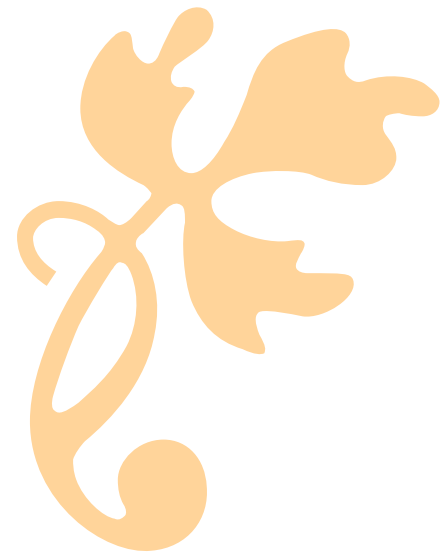
New York State Governor George Pataki said late last month that he does not think buildings should be erected where the old towers stood. Whether his ideas coincide with that of the design team will be seen when the plans are presented later this week.

Some people who live in New York City do not want the memorial to be too big. Mayor Michael Bloomberg said that the planners should consider what the people who live nearby the site think. Many residents want to have cultural places such as a museum dedicated to American freedom.

Many people are against the idea of building a monumental super-block. They think the site should include lots of little blocks so that it blends in with the rest of the city.

If I could choose, I would make some of it a nice quiet park and the rest a living memorial in honor of the victims.

**Alexander Cammarata**



*Some people who live in New York City do not want the memorial to be too big...If I were to choose, I would make some of it a nice, quiet park and the rest a living memorial...*