

# The Paper

So we stand here  
On the edge of hell  
In Harlem  
And look out on the World  
And wonder  
What we're gonna do  
In the face of  
What we remember

Langston Hughes

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CITY COLLEGE NEW YORK

SPECIAL COVERAGE OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER ATTACK

## WAR ?

### 9-1-1 The World Trade Center Is On Fire

by Clare Brown

Someone please call 911! It's an emergency! The Twin Towers of the World Trade Center are on fire. One commercial airplane filled with 92 passengers and crewmembers, flying from Boston was hijacked. It flew into the first building... then... a second airplane flew into the second Twin Tower. Immediately, flames engulfed the upper floors of the building. Soon thereafter, the World Trade Center was falling down, both, including lives, thousands, and no one knows for sure. The streets of lower Manhattan became chaotic with thousands of people running for their lives. Towards West Street they ran, looking to get away from the torch of inferno and smoke. Inside some even jumped or were blown out of the building. The hijackers seemed capable of flying an airplane, or at the very least, how to aim into a building. The third airplane crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, DC, killing many. While the fourth hijacked airplane crashed into a Pennsylvania field.

September 11th was a day when New York stood still. It seemed like a nightmare as students gathered in the student lounge to watch the news. It was hard to find any available chairs or space, so we stood shoulder to shoulder. A good view of the television was hard to get, that was when people could be seen standing on top of the small white tables. Then again,

you didn't need to see any more pictures of the airplane crashing through. Yet still one had to watch. We were all compelled. Fixated on, is this thing for real? How often do we see a plane crash into a building? It not only happened once but twice within minutes. After all, The World

you wouldn't imagine in a standing room only. Suddenly, in certain areas or corners of the room you would see someone crying or someone who had already done their tears.

By all accounts, the school tried its best to accommodate those that would be affected in getting

were't able to get home on their own. I know of one student, who lives on Staten Island, who was driven home along with another student by a school security guard.

In an age where it seems like just about everyone has a cellular phone and they were all being

used like a hotline off the hook (the phones were busy, busy, and busy). In addition to lines being formed for all of the pay phones, the school had also set up phones for the students to call home. What made it virtually impossible for so many of the

students to get home were the complete shut down of the subway system, including Penn Station and Port Authority. It forced a lot of people to put on their walking shoes and walked like they never walked before, from lower Manhattan to mid-town to catch a bus, or train going uptown, and some walked all the way home. Some walked home from Manhattan to Brooklyn by crossing the Brooklyn Bridge. All of the bridges and tunnels were closed off from vehicles. For some that had to walk the long journey home, home was the next day. These terrorists had powerful Wall St. subdued, including the Dow Jones, NASDAQ, and 1200 other businesses inside of the WTC and surrounding areas. In addition to having many Americans living in fear of a war or another terrorist attack, our lives will never be the same.

Indeed, the city was humbled on September 11<sup>th</sup>. The Big Apple became gray with dust and debris, steel, bricks, glass, metal, and dead bodies. "It stinks down there," said one worker, while the smoke continues.



The WTC South Tower goes down Photo

by Sulaiman Laguda

Trade Center, was the tallest building in the world, until another country decided to out do us with a taller building. Wasn't it built to withstand some sort of natural disaster? Didn't it symbolize America's greatness? The engineers of the WTC and the government were better prepared for a natural disaster, an earthquake, or hurricane but not this. Who would think it could all come tumbling down before our eyes? And, who would believe for a split second that it wasn't a movie, before reality set in.

For a while it was just the sound of the news coming from the television, then an unexpected silence

home. Classes were cancelled for the day, including the next day. A counselor was on hand. She briefly spoke to us and asked for everyone to hold hands while we said a prayer for the victims and their family. City College President, Gregory H. Williams, made a brief appearance and he also spoke to the students. So many of us wondered how we were going to get home. The students were offered a place of refuge on campus, or elsewhere, if they

students to get home were the complete shut down of the subway system, including Penn Station and Port Authority. It forced a lot of



CCNY students watching the disaster unfold.



## Terror has no Place in Religion

The Moslem Student Association and all American Muslims utterly condemn what are apparently vicious and cowardly acts of terrorism against innocent civilians. We join with all Americans in calling for the swift apprehension and punishment of the perpetrators. No political cause could ever be assisted by such immoral acts.

Never in my life have I felt so much apprehension and fear, anger and despair, shock and disbelief, such as I - and countless American Muslims - experienced during the early hours of Tuesday, September 11, 2001.

As we all watched the unfolding horror on television news, we saw surreal images of the smoke column engulfing the first tower of the World Trade Center; then minutes later, live on camera, the unbelievable scene of yet another giant passenger airplane smashing into the second WTC tower and instantly exploding in a blazing inferno. "Oh my God!" We cried out in utter disbelief. But after that, there were no more words to describe the indescribable, only tears, and the beginning of profound sadness, anger, and fear.

And in between, we prayed earnestly, hoping against hope that these unspeakable horrors would not be revealed as the terrible work of ignorant, insane Muslims, compounding their heinous sins by attributing them to acts of faith.

Muslim scholars and spiritual leaders around the world responded similarly, with categorical statements that criminal terrorist acts are sins that have no place or endorsement in Islam and could not be committed by any true Muslim. Islam is one of the fastest-growing religions in the United States and has approximately 5 million to 7 million adherents nationwide, including African American, Arab Americans, Bengali Americans, and Pakistani Americans, among others.

We condemn in no uncertain terms the horrifying attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11. We are shocked and angered by such brutality and share all the emotions of our fellow citizens about these attacks, which target all Americans without exception. We firmly believe that there can be no justification for such horrible acts. We join with the nation in calling for the perpetrators of this terrible crime to be brought swiftly to justice.

We applaud the statements of the numerous senators, members of Congress, and Government officials who have cautioned against attempts to stigmatize the Arab-American and American Muslim communities or blame them for this tragedy. We urge our fellow Americans, the government and media to follow their example and not assign any form of collective guilt against communities for the crimes of individuals.

All of us are overwhelmed. It's difficult to look at this and come to terms with what it all means. Naturally at this time our thoughts and sympathies remain with the victims of the recent atrocities, and we all have a deeply felt responsibility to reach out to everyone who has been affected.

*Tarek Saadawi Faculty Advisor, Moslem Student Association*

by Sheria McFadden

When terror struck on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, City College, like all of America had to rise to the occasion, and it did so. With strong leadership, dedicated people, and caring human beings, City College may be standing physically. However, New York's finest treasure and thousands of people have vanished right before our very eyes.

Our government officials speculate that Osama Bin Laden and other Islamic militants and Middle Eastern groups are the main suspects. These few individuals of the Islamic and Arab culture, which are convinced that "Allah" has instructed them to commit such an inhumane act, does not represent the views, attitudes and beliefs of all Islamic people. After the attack many Islamic and Arab leaders have publicly condemned these acts of terrorism.

Before Bin Laden, there were many other individuals from many other countries and races, that have committed unscrupulous acts of terrorism against other human beings. These acts have motivated many nations to fight one another for the survival and protection of its people, land and religious beliefs. However, this was not just an act of terrorism on America, but an attack on humanity.

It is sad to say but, whoever, is responsible gave the world "A Wake Up Call."

I say this in retrospect because many of our world leaders both national and local, have put their differ-

## Editorial

ences aside and have support President Bush's view that, "Uniformed measures must be taken against those responsible and innocent people should not be punished for the acts of a few individuals."

During the Sunday service at Abyssinian Baptist Church of Harlem, the Rev. Dr. Calvin Butts, spoke about "Fear," and he said that "If we allow our fear to overcome us, then the terrorist have won, and therefore, we must learn to manage our fear." He also reminded the congregation that while the fear we are experiencing is real and right in our own backyard, we have faced fear before. At the hands of the KKK, the President Kennedy assassination, the 1993 WTC bombing and most recently when the USS Cole attack. The only difference is the "enormity" of the situation, but we have overcome them all." Ultimately, it is the management of our fear that will determine not only our destiny but the world's destiny as well.

It is our duty as human beings to continue to support, encourage, and show love for one another. We must not let this act of cowardness turn us into criminals. There are too many of our people already occupying jail space. And remember the courage of our fire, EMT and police personnel, who unselfishly risked their lives to save the lives of all people. These rescuers did not let their fears overcome their pursuit of humanity.

As one of the editors for the

CCNY "Paper," I call upon the City College community to manage your fear and overcome this tragedy with acts of humanity. Contact your student clubs, faculty & academic departments, as well as the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and become involved in the clothing drives, blood donations, counseling, and food collection that are happening both on and off the campus.

For those who have lost loved ones and friends, on behalf of The "Paper", I offer our condolences and prayers. It is important that you seek the support and help of others in your time of pain.

This is and will always be the, THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE. We are a diverse community, of many races & ethnic groups, but before all that, we are all human beings. It is not our job to pass judgment or to commit any acts of violence against someone because they look like or come from the same place as those who maybe responsible for this horrific act against our country. Like, Martin Luther King, Jr., We all have a dream, a dream of peace and harmony. This dream can be achieved only through the pursuit for humanity.

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## Buckle your seat belts. You're in for a bumpy ride!

by Clare Brown

As if the lines at the airports aren't already long? complicated by cancellations, delayed flights and random checks that will be much more frequent, that targets a certain group of people, will only complicate matters. So get ready for the upcoming saga in airport security. It's the passengers versus the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). If you think things were bad before, it's only going to get worse.

Since the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center (WTC), the FAA will be implementing new procedures and guidelines. How far will they go to implement these rules? How much is it going to cost travelers to fly or take a vacation? Will we even want to be bothered? And, is it only a matter of time before everyone

forgets about the WTC and security lapses again?

Here are some of the things that have been discussed by the FAA: inspections of airplanes and airports with bomb-sniffing dogs, no curbside check-ins and only ticketed passengers can pass through to the security check points and gates—there'll be no more last minute hugs and kisses from family and friends. You'll see more uniformed cops patrolling the airports. Passengers will be checked with hand-held metal detectors. Armed air marshals will be on all the flights. A new cockpit door that even Superman can't penetrate. The hiring of trained personnel, as well as, an increase in security. Who pays for all of this?

There will be an increase in airfares, leaving many customers unable to travel.

People will be less inclined to go and see a relative out of state, go to a wedding, or on vacation. This will leave the already troubled airlines strapped for cash, coupled by the millions of dollars they would've already spent in improving security. The government will have to step in to help the airlines, to relieve them of some of the financial burden. So whether you're a frequent flyer or not, you'll feel it in your pocket. Travelers will have to pay a higher price to travel and taxpayers will have to pay as well.

There are even talks about racial profiling. More than half of the people, who were interviewed for a Time/CNN poll, said it was fine to profile by age, race and gender, to identify suspicious passengers. Who would they consider suspicious, a black man or woman, a dark skin man with a Middle Eastern accent or a white male?

If passengers have to go through all of this just to get on an airplane, why bother? This type of environment will only reduce people to anger and added frustration and eventual fights. By the time you get to your destination, the only thing you might want to do is to have a cold beer to forget your troubles, before you could even think of starting your vacation. Airport security will never quite be the same and will only cost us more.

### ATTACK ON AMERICA THE MUSLIM RESPONSE

"He who killed any person, unless it be a person guilty of man-slaughter, or of spreading chaos on the land, should be looked upon as though he had slain all mankind, and he who saved one life should be regarded as though he had saved the lives of all mankind."

[Holy Qur'an 5:32]

A core meaning of Islam is PEACE. The inhumane and horrific events at the World Trade Center, including the hijackings themselves, causing innocent casualties (including many Muslim victims) are completely **un-Islamic**.

The actions of an individual or a small group do not necessarily represent the beliefs of a religion, nor is that religion held responsible for such actions. Therefore, the media's labeling of those who are allegedly responsible for these actions as "Islamic Terrorists" and the linking of such actions to Islam or the Holy Qur'an, are incorrect. Rather, such inhumane actions contradict the teachings of Islam - just as the bombing at Oklahoma City by Timothy McVeigh and the massacre at Ibrahim Mosque, Hebron by Dr. Baruch Goldstein clearly contradict the teachings of Christianity and Judaism, respectively.

It is inconceivable that the religion of Islam, which takes its teachings from the noble Prophets such as Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad - peace be upon all of them - would ever teach terrorism or suicide missions. **In reality, Islam not only condemns terrorism and suicide missions, but also forbids them entirely.** Many Muslim nations, organizations, and communities all around the world have condemned such actions, hoping never to see its like again. The yellow journalism of the media showing the views of a small group of Palestinians (mostly children), who have been terrorized for years, does NOT represent the true feelings of Muslims worldwide.

It is also unfortunate that harassment of various kinds (including shootings, beatings, stone throwing, robberies, vandalism, death threats and hate language) has occurred against innocent Muslim residents in the United States - the elderly, women and children alike. In addition, Islamic places of worship and Muslim-owned businesses have now become the targets of some peoples' anger and ignorance, just as the American people had become the targets of the anger and ignorance of the perpetrators of the World Trade Center attacks. Such bigotry and hatred are inhumane and unjustified. As Americans unify and come together, what gives us the right to harass other Americans? If we are all collectively condemning this hate crime of the WTC tragedy, then why commit hate crimes against other innocent Americans?

**We strongly denounce the killing of innocent civilians in the United States, just as we have patiently for many years denounced the killing of innocent civilians in Bosnia, Chechnya, Kashmir, Palestine, and many other countries around the world.**

May GOD, Almighty, have mercy on all his creatures for truly we are in need of His mercy as the effects of Tuesday ripple and resonate in our newly condensed world. May we all stand together during these difficult times to promote peace and love over violence and hate. Ameen.

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# City College: After the Attack

by Sheria G. McFadden

Only in office about a month and President Gregory H. Williams' leadership is already put to the test. Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> about 8:45 AM, two hijacked planes crashed into the North & South Towers of the World Trade Center. As security measures in all New York City, State and Federal agencies, departments, and institutions were put on high alert, the Chancellor of the City University of New York, gave the order to shut down all campuses. In addition, Mayor Guiliani halted all transportation into and out of Manhattan, which meant that many of City College's students, faculty, and staff, who rely on public transportation had no way of getting home. However, President Williams and his cabinet setup a command

center in his office and converted the Holman Gymnasium in the Science Building into a shelter for those who were stranded. Many faculty and staff were on hand to help comfort and console students in this time of terror.

Dr. Lois Cronholm, the new Senior Vice President, and other faculty members told me that by late evening, alternative methods of transportation were made available to students who were not able to access public transportation, therefore making it possible for all CCNY students to spend the night at home.

It is Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, one day after the "Attack on America." President Williams met first with faculty and staff, then with students to inform, discuss, and listen to the concerns of the City College communi-

ty. He began the meeting by saying that "Classes will be in session tomorrow and we must go on with business as usual, but it is obvious that it will not be business as

mentioned that The Center for Workers Education, an extension of City College and The Borough of Manhattan Community College, which are located

the bulletin boards around campus, faxes, posters and the information desk as other means of communication."

The second concern was counseling for students, faculty and staff. On Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> the President sent out a memo to the college community with phone numbers for students and faculty to call for counseling. In addition, SEEK & CCAPP held counseling sessions on campus the and Undergraduate Student Government had a phone drive to counsel students. If anyone would like the services of the campus minister Gregory Pope, he is located in room Baskerville 304 at (212) 650-5866.

While the "Attack On America," took place miles away from City College, many people were concerned about safety. At the meeting, Timothy Hubbard, Director of Security, assured everyone that the campus is safe and there was no reason to believe that CCNY would be considered a target. However, he did stress the importance of students not only carrying their IDs, but also having them visible, so that security can distinguish CCNY students from outsiders. In closing the President said, "Our security is only as good as our weakest link."

As the meeting came to an end Kenneth Williams, President of CCNY's Undergraduate Student Government, thanked President Williams and the administration for their leadership, support, and efforts in this darkest day.



President Williams addressing students and faculty.

usual and will not be for some time." Despite the tragedy, a number of faculty and staff were in attendance for the meeting, ready to provide assistance where needed.

The main concerns expressed by the City College community were communication, counseling, and security. All in attendance agreed that class time should be used as an opportunity for discussion regarding the events.

Renee Green, Interim Vice President for Development and Institutional Advancement, along with her assistant Katrice Henderson are interested in collecting the names of people tied to CCNY who have lost relatives or friends in this tragedy, you may email the names to [khenderson@sci.ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:khenderson@sci.ccny.cuny.edu). The Development Office and Campus Minister Gregory Pope are planning a memorial service that will be held at a later date.

The president also

in the vicinity of the WTC), have asked the college to provide them with classroom space to conduct their classes until further notice.

When asked about the communication, President Williams directed the questions to Marylou Edmonson, Vice President of Communication. Ms. Edmonds said that, "At 7AM she was in route to the college, so there was no way for her to update the message and apologized for the inaccurate information." In addition, she said "That the website is updated within 20 minutes of receiving information and all emails received via the City College website will be answered." She also said that, "Students can receive all City College announcements by email if they have an CCNY email account address." She strongly recommends that students obtain a CCNY email from Academic Computing located in NAC 1/205. The administration said, "They will be utilizing

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