

# PHI KAPPA PHI FORUM

Fall 2011

A large, three-dimensional red '9/11' is the central focus, standing on a dark, cracked, and jagged concrete slab. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly asphalt or concrete, with scattered debris and small rocks. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the concrete and the boldness of the red numbers.

**Terrorist theories • Apolitical commemoration • Shared grief  
Economic costs • National security • Civil liberties • Literary interpretations  
Ground Zero • First responders • Ashen dust • Cantor Fitzgerald • Airport security  
Pat Tillman • Campus considerations • Tragicomic birthday**

Perry A. Snyder, former executive director of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, reflects on a dozen years of service.

## Phi Kappa Phi Forum and Its Relationship with the Society

**P**hi Kappa Phi Forum is the multidisciplinary quarterly magazine of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Each issue of the award-winning journal reaches more than 100,000 active members as well as government officials, scholars, educators, university administrators, public and private libraries, leaders of charitable and learned organizations, corporate executives and many other types of subscribers.

It is the flagship publication of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest, largest and most selective all-discipline honor society, with chapters on more than 300 college and university campuses across the country. Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 at the University of Maine and upwards of one million members spanning the academic disciplines have been initiated since the Society's inception. Notable alumni include former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, former NASA astronaut Wendy Lawrence, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, writer John Grisham, YouTube co-founder/CEO Chad Hurley and poet Rita Dove. The Society began publishing what's now called *Phi Kappa Phi Forum* in 1915.

### Spring, summer and fall issues

The spring, summer and fall issues (usually mailed late February, late May and late August, respectively) feature a variety of timely, relevant articles from influential scholars, educators, writers and other authorities, oftentimes active Phi Kappa Phi members, who offer variations on an overall theme.

Notables to have contributed pieces include Ronald Reagan, 40<sup>th</sup> President of the United States; Myrlie Evers-Williams, civil rights trailblazer; Warren Burger, 15<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court; Molefi Kete Asante, African-American studies groundbreaker; Sally Ride, former NASA astronaut; Ernest Gaines, fiction writer; and Geoffrey Gilmore, former director of the Sundance Film Festival.

*Phi Kappa Phi Forum* also encourages movers and shakers to speak for themselves through exclusive interviews. Q & As have run the gamut from public servants such as Lynne Cheney, former chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities, to famous artists such as playwright August Wilson to literary critics such as Stanley Fish.

(For other significant contributors, go online to [www.phikappaphi.org/forum](http://www.phikappaphi.org/forum).)

The spring, summer and fall issues further contain columns on fields such as education and academics, science and technology, and arts and entertainment in



The first organizational meeting of what came to be known as The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi took place in Coburn Hall (above) at the University of Maine in Orono, Maine, in 1897. The Phi Kappa Phi name was adopted on June 12, 1900. Although the national headquarters has been located in Baton Rouge, La., since 1978, the vast majority of the Society's historical documents are still kept at the founding institution.

addition to book reviews, poetry and humor. Plus, these issues compile member news, chapter updates and Society developments, along with letters to the editor, the Phi Kappa Phi bookshelf and general announcements of interest to keep readers abreast of Society programs and activities.

Through words and images, Web links and multimedia components, the magazine intends to appeal to the diverse membership of Phi Kappa Phi by providing thoughtful, instructive, helpful — and sometimes provocative — material in smart, engaging ways.

### Winter issue

The winter issue (mailed late November) celebrates those who win monetary awards from Phi Kappa Phi.

The Society distributes more than \$700,000 annually through graduate and undergraduate scholarships, member and chapter awards, and grants for local and national literacy initiatives, and *Phi Kappa Phi Forum* applauds the recipients in this edition, listing them all and spotlighting a few. (For more information about Phi Kappa Phi monetary awards, go online to [www.phikappaphi.org/awards](http://www.phikappaphi.org/awards).)

As an arm of the Society, *Phi Kappa Phi Forum* helps uphold the institution's mission: "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others." ■

### Phi Kappa Phi Forum mission statement

*Phi Kappa Phi Forum*, a multidisciplinary quarterly magazine that enlightens, challenges and entertains its diverse readers, serves as a general-interest publication as well as a platform for The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

### Phi Kappa Phi Forum

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The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the staff of *Phi Kappa Phi Forum*, the Society staff, or the Board of Directors of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

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## PHI KAPPA PHI FORUM



**This Issue:**  
Terrorist attacks on the U.S. on Sept. 11, 2001, changed the nation and the world. The wide-reaching impact still looms large a decade later.

Cover Illustration: Arnel Reynon



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By Jeffrey Kaplan

The tactic flows in waves, and while methods vary, motivations remain constant.



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Since people suffered loss unawares, they needed and found ways to mourn together.



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By David B. Yerger

The attacks: \$170 billion. The U.S. response to them: at least more than 20 times that.



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By Jacqueline Smith-Mason

At airports or via technology, what takes precedence: national security or civil liberties?



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The grave events pervaded and changed cartoon strips, comic books and sequential art.



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A first responder at Ground Zero recalls some of the horror and humanity she witnessed.

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**Lourdes Barro** was promoted from Associate Executive Director of Phi Kappa Phi to **Acting Executive Director** effective July 1. She also will continue her duties as Chief Financial Officer. As part of her new role, Barro serves as a nonvoting member of the Board. Email her at lbarro@phikappaphi.org. — **Staff report**



By **William A. Bloodworth, Jr.**

**S**pring commencement occurred at my school, Augusta State University, on May 9, one week after the killing of Osama bin Laden.

As president of the university, I always see to it that commencement is carefully scripted and practiced. Graduation is an important rite of passage, after all, for all in attendance. But things didn't go exactly as planned this year. And the reason has to do with 9/11.

One thing I always do at commencement is ask those graduates who, having completed our Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) requirements and been commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army, to stand up. I call out their names to thank them for their chosen service to the nation.

The audience always dutifully applauds. But never quite the way it happened this year. The applause began with faculty members rising from their seats and turning around to face the 640 graduates, in the midst of whom the new lieutenants were standing in their caps and gowns. Then other students did the same, and the clapping grew more impassioned. Soon, 5,000 family members and friends in the audience got caught up in a thunderous ovation. I'm not the only one who will never forget this impromptu "interruption" of what I'd like to think is a meticulous affair.

Actually, the groundswell was in the

airwaves the day before, at our ROTC commissioning ceremony. One new lieutenant received his first salute via Skype from his brother, an Army sergeant in Iraq. Another received her first salute from her husband, a sergeant in Afghanistan. The student-soldiers were entering careers in which they had offered, if necessary, to lay down their lives for their country. "I take this obligation freely," they said in their oath of office. Knowledge of 9/11 — following bin Laden's death six days earlier — pervaded the ceremony. No one could have doubted the weight of the freely taken obligation.

What we know as 9/11 remains with us, part of our collective memory. Surely many of us repress it — and events continue to awaken it within us.

My university has often paid tribute to the combination of horror, patriotism, and service associated with 9/11, including a 21-gun salute for Maj. Stephen Long, an alumnus and former ROTC cadet who was one of the victims at the Pentagon. A week after the attacks, our Phi Kappa Phi chapter offered a symposium on terrorism for the campus — and the community. We've held annual ceremonies of remembrance on campus since that time.

The victims and heroes of 9/11 — and all of those who have fallen as victims or served as heroes in the conflicts following the tragedy of that day — continue to deserve our attention and honor. Members of Phi Kappa Phi can take special pride in this edition of *Phi Kappa Phi Forum*. It, too, is an act of remembrance. And reckoning. ■

## Editor's Note



By **Peter Szatmary**

**W**ell, good luck with this whole issue. I'm looking forward to it ... I think," Theresa M. Valiga wrote in an email after finishing her personal essay about escap-

ing from lower Manhattan on Sept. 11, 2001. "It's true what I said ... tears well up even now, and I get a lump in my throat. I hope I'll be able to read all the articles."

That's an ideal, perhaps inevitable, way to think about this 9/11-themed edition: something you feel compelled to pick up and may have to put down — a must-read you might need a break from, especially if your memories are vivid, and maybe even if they're not.

"This was tough," Betty Hastings admitted in a phone call one day while working through her account of providing medical care as a first responder at Ground Zero. Yet she persevered — 10 years ago most of all, and over nine months of drafting her piece.

The courage, vulnerability, strength, fear, determination, outrage, generosity, and sacrifice that Valiga and Hastings allude to, other contributors do too. Repercussions abound,

from geopolitical to military to economic, and on (mental) health and families and creativity.

So much to examine. Only a finite amount of space. And many articles were underway or completed when Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden was killed by Navy SEALs in Pakistan on May 2.

In a way, the pained resolve that Valiga shared about this edition — "I'm looking forward to it ... I think" — and that Hastings confronted at the time and over time — "This was tough." — defines this edition. And the past decade. ■



*Phi Kappa Phi Forum* earned two 2011 APEX Awards of Excellence in the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual recognition of superior work by professional communicators. "Scare Tactics," fall 2010, won for Magazines & Journals, Print over 32 Pages, and "Empathy," spring 2011, won for Magazine & Journal Writing. Of the 3,329 entries, including 643 writing submissions and 529 magazines and journals, less than one-third were honored in more than 140 categories.

# Good Work! Bad Job!

As a Phi Kappa Phi member for about 30 years, I very much appreciated the spring magazine, theme of “Empathy.” My favorite article was Arnold Anthony Schmidt’s letter to the editor, “Empathy, Politics, and Italian Nationalism.” A main point was that in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, philosophers discussed how people made moral decisions through “Sentimental Ethics.” A favorite response entailed the political dimensions, emphasizing Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence; the reiteration of the liberties in America is so refreshing. The conclusion was also so patriotic: empathy for Italians who 150 years ago created their own nation and especially for those who hope to do so.

— **Jeri A. Eimers**  
(California State University-Long Beach)  
Retired marriage and family therapist  
Solana Beach, Calif.

Until your summer issue, theme of “Color,” I always thought of *Phi Kappa Phi Forum* as an erudite, informative and classy magazine. But I was appalled and disappointed that you would publish “The Thin Blue Line” by Bob Zany. There is nothing uplifting about vulgar, dirty comedy, and I hardly think Redd Foxx’s humor exemplifies the spirit of Phi Kappa Phi. From Mark Twain and Will Rogers to Bob Newhart, Dick Van Dyke and Jerry Seinfeld, great comics can amuse and instruct without stooping to filth. Many of us don’t find that humor funny — it’s adolescent and sophomoric at best, and degrading at worst. And why would anyone want to stoop to that level? I certainly hope this article doesn’t presage more of this type of material, which is better suited to *Playboy* or some other cheap rag.

— **Maria B. Murad**  
(University of Minnesota public relations officer)  
Adjunct English instructor, National American University  
at Bloomington, Minn.  
Apple Valley, Minn.

Recently I felt honored to be inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, believing it to be an honor society that values scholarship. Then I received my first copy of *Phi Kappa Phi Forum*, the summer edition, which has more to do with notions of political correctness than scholarship. Perhaps the

most egregious example is Bron Taylor’s “Gaian Earth Religion and the Modern God of Nature.” To state the obvious, Gaia has contributed absolutely nothing to Western civilization. No, contrary to the author’s notion that religion “promotes solidarity and cooperation” — as though people were nothing more than Marxist drones — its purpose is to find metaphysical truth. If you wanted readers to consider the intersection of scholarship and faith, it would have been far more appropriate to examine how St. Thomas Aquinas taught us how to use Aristotelian logic. . . . Unfortunately as a result of such articles, my impression now of the leadership of Phi Kappa Phi is that of a group of Gaians, sitting around, reading animal entrails, eating dirt, and barking at the moon.

— **Ed Johnson**  
(Campbell University)  
Associate Professor, Dept. of Communication Studies,  
Campbell University  
Buies Creek, N.C.

It is disconcerting that such a respected journal should come to the conclusion in the summer edition that all the evidence is in to establish man-made global warming as a fact, and all that remains is to convert skeptics to that belief. In the hands of the advocates it has become a religion rather than a matter of scientific inquiry. . . . A minister in Oregon declared, “We intend to move the challenge of climate change from the laboratories of science and halls of diplomacy to the pulpits and pews of the American heartland.” [But] there is little or no evidence of global warming in the last 10 years, though in the very long run, of course the globe is warming. . . . Some time ago, a senior fellow of the Hudson Institute collected a list of 500 scientists who had published books or scholarly articles that refuted the danger of man-made global warming. Sallie Baliunes, an astrophysicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, after long and careful study, concludes that changes in the climate on the Earth are most likely the result of changes in the sun. . . . But what if you are concerned about emission of “greenhouse gasses”? The answer is nuclear power, which emits none. ■

— **James A. Huston**  
(Lynchburg College)  
Dean Emeritus, Lynchburg College  
Lynchburg, Va.

## Include Phi Kappa Phi in Your Estate Plan



*I was looking for something which would be an inspiration to all students to work for high rank, and I believed that uniting those who were interested would be helpful.*

— **Marcus L. Urann**, in his proposal for what would become The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

As a student at University of Maine, Marcus L. Urann (1873–1963) championed an honor society to recognize academic achievement and elevate outstanding students in the eyes of their classmates, faculty, community, state, and beyond. Born in Sullivan, Maine, he earned a bachelor’s degree from the school in 1897 and a law degree from Boston University School of Law. In addition to helping create Phi Kappa Phi, Urann was a founder of the Ocean Spray brand of cranberry products.

The Marcus Urann Society includes those who have provided for Phi Kappa Phi in their estate plans:

- L. D. and Vicki Bond
- Ruth Brasher
- George and Agatha Burnett
- Lisa Comeaux
- Florence Dowling
- Kathleen Greey
- Louise Guild
- Walter and Adelheid Hohenstein
- Barbara Jones
- Margaret McCaffee
- Arthur A. Rezny
- Robert and Carol Rogow
- Marjorie Schoch
- Rick A. Shale
- Perry and Cindy Snyder

If you have provided for the Society in your estate plan, or want to do so, contact Lourdes Barro, Acting Executive Director, at [lbarro@phikappaphi.org](mailto:lbarro@phikappaphi.org) or (800) 804-9880 ext. 14.

### Coming Next Issue

Winter 2011 will celebrate those who have won monetary awards from Phi Kappa Phi the past year.

### Letters to the Editor Submission Guidelines

*Phi Kappa Phi Forum* welcomes letters to the editor for consideration for publication. Letters should be no more than 400 words and may be edited for content or length. Note: submission does not necessarily mean publication; the editor decides based on appropriateness and space. Send letters to:

\*Letters become the property of this publication and cannot be returned to sender.

### Letters to the Editor

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# The New/Old Terrorism

By Jeffrey Kaplan

**W**ith the death of Osama bin Laden on May 2, almost 10 years after the 9/11 attacks on the U.S., it would seem logical that the long-sought turning point in the American War on Terror had been reached. Yet amid media coverage and blogosphere reactions, there were no ticker tape parades, “Mission Accomplished” banners, or rallies in which crowds waved American flags as orators from political parties declared victory. Clearly, there would be no repetition of poorly stage-managed events such as the fall of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein’s statue by U.S. military at Firdos Square in Baghdad in April 2003.<sup>1</sup> The U.S. reaction to bin Laden’s killing, extensive in some cases and muted in others, symbolizes what I call the new/old terrorism.

U.S. soldiers with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 327<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, returned fire against Taliban forces in Barawala Kalay Valley, Kunar Province, Afghanistan, on March 31.



The use of hijacked planes as bombs on 9/11 was a form of terrorism that was tactically innovative but in no way new. Bombs are bombs; explosives (like fuel) are explosives. What changes are the delivery systems. The 1995 Oklahoma City bombing was accomplished by truck bomb, as were the 1983 attacks on the American embassy and Marine barracks in Lebanon. The Twin Towers of the World Trade Center were felled not by planes but by airplanes turned into manned bombs, a 21<sup>st</sup>-century version of Major Kong riding the bomb that begins the nuclear holocaust in the 1964 movie, *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*.<sup>2</sup>

Equally innovative, although again not new by any means, was the announcement by President George W. Bush that the U.S. was engaged in a "War on Terror." The first War on Terror actually occurred early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century; a reaction to the threat of anarchic terror and Soviet schemes, it took place domestically in response to the unsolved Wall Street bombing and the Sacco-Vanzetti case, and the government's infamous Palmer Raids yielded few concrete results and had dire effects on civil liberties.<sup>3</sup> The current War on Terror takes place on a global scale and includes military operations in three Islamic countries: Afghanistan, for refusing to turn over bin Laden, its leading guest of state; Iraq, on a possession charge about imaginary weapons of mass destruction and for the very real excesses of Hussein, a one-time U.S. ally against Iran; and Libya, for reasons yet to be fully defined.

### Terrorism waves

University of California, Los Angeles Professor Emeritus of Political Science David Rapoport identified four waves of modern terrorism.<sup>4</sup> 1) The Anarchist Wave included terror "for the greater good" that stemmed from anarchist and socialist circles. It was catalyzed in 1878 by Vera Zasulich, who attempted to assassinate the governor of St. Petersburg, Russia, after he ordered the flogging of a political prisoner, and it ended with World War I. 2) The Anti-Colonial Wave began in 1919 as a result of the disappointment of the colonized world with the outcome of the Treaty of Versailles. One almost immediate development was the birth of this wave's most successful movement, the Irish Republican Army (if success is measured in terrorist terms as simple longevity), followed by a long hiatus. Second-wave groups became more active in World War II, then gradually disappeared, often in the guise of ruling parties in newly emergent nation states, as the last of the European colonial empires collapsed. 3) The Leftist Wave was stimulated by the Vietnam War and eventually faded into the sepia tinged nostalgia of "children of the sixties." 4) The Religious Wave started with the Iranian Revolution in 1979. This year also saw other global reli-



Clockwise from top: Smoke continued to pour out of the World Trade Center terrorist attack site in lower Manhattan on the evening of Sept. 13, 2001. An undated Osama bin Laden propaganda poster. President George W. Bush (foreground) answered a question about bin Laden while Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld listened at the Pentagon on Sept. 17, 2001. An aerial view of the Pentagon days after the hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into it. Former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was hanged on Dec. 30, 2006, for crimes against humanity.



giously based terror organizations such as the beginning of the hostage crisis in Iran and the burning of the U.S. embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, by Islamist militants. 9/11 is part of this wave.

In Rapoport's theory, each wave lasts roughly 40 years. Because the Religious Wave, in contrast to all earlier waves of terrorism, appeals to faith, it shows no signs

of flagging any time soon. This wave's unique appeal to a popular constituency is cemented by the group leaders' mastery of sacred text and their fervent desire to liberate sacred spaces from the malign grip of outsiders. These tendencies are particularly marked by Islamic and Jewish terrorist groups and have allowed terrorist leaders to connect directly with significant portions of

the populations of the countries in which they operate. This connection is deepened in the digital era via chat rooms, websites, streaming video, and Al Jazeera's televised and Web-based news which, in a first for its kind, is free of government censorship.<sup>5</sup>

### Additional theories

Well-funded online terrorism databases built entirely on open source literature also have appeared to serve governmental, academic, press and public interests.<sup>6</sup> More traditional forms of terrorism research were undertaken as well, and from these new directions, the "new terrorism" referred to in the title of this paper emerged. And theory, for the first time, fed quickly into U.S. government and intelligence counterterrorism research.

A great deal of thought has gone into what might follow the Fourth Wave of modern terrorism. For a few years, some believed that terrorist spectaculars such as 9/11, and earlier calamities including the Oklahoma City bombing, Aum Shinrikyo's attack on the Tokyo subway system beginning in 1994, and other mass casualty incidents amounted to a theory called "superterror." It flashed across academic and governmental radars for a time (starting in the late 1990s) and was predicated on the supposition that 9/11 was the apex of a new kind of mass fatality event that would become increasingly typical of terrorist attacks. Superterror did not last long. For one thing, it ran counter to the history of terrorism. For example, did the campaign of the first-century A.D. Jewish terrorist group the Sicarii, which comes to us through the writings of Josephus and which constituted the first recorded instance of terrorism in its modern form, signify the first case of superterror? After all, it resulted in the Masada, the mass suicide of more than 900 Jewish rebels under siege by Roman forces. Collateral casualties included every Jew living in the Holy Land who was forced into exile. The inherent contradictions in superterror ultimately doomed it and the term dropped out of the vocabulary of terrorism scholars, despite its wondrously trenchant appeal to the media as a striking sound bite.<sup>7</sup>

More recently, a bitter argument arose between Georgetown University professor Bruce Hoffman, who directs the Center for Peace and Security Studies at its School of Foreign Service, and Marc Sageman, a senior fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute with a background in intelligence. The argument began, or more precisely became public, at a terrorism conference in 2008. The issue was, on the surface, a disagreement about the structure of Al Qaeda while bin Laden was still among the living and thought to be ensconced in the wilds of the Pakistani tribal territories. Hoffman contended that Al Qaeda and bin Laden were still very much in control of the terrorist network. If that were true, the

organization, beheaded by bin Laden's killing, would be in its death throes as I write this article. The brand name, however, remains very much alive and to date there have been only minor local repercussions following bin Laden's demise. Sageman saw Al Qaeda as a flag of convenience picked up by a "bunch of guys" in Internet chat rooms and online jihadist video archives; they were the real enemy upon which American resources should be focused. Here, as much as I am loathe to admit it, given Sageman's unaccredited lifting of part of the title, and many of the ideas, of my own "Leaderless Resistance" article in *Terrorism and Political Violence*,<sup>8</sup> my work has proved prescient.

**Terrorism is what it has always been: a tactic of desperation by the weak in defiance of the strong. The key is not the weak versus the strong, however. Rather, the key is understanding that terrorism is, in fact, a tactic.**

The Hoffman-Sageman argument might seem somewhat arcane, but given its timing, it was extremely important. Hoffman is to be admired for his vast knowledge of political terrorism and because he remained an adviser to the military in Iraq when many other academics, disgusted by the Bush administration's invasion of the country, simply walked away or didn't answer the phone when contacted for help to begin with. Sageman, a psychiatrist and sociologist by training, collected biographical material on some 400 Al Qaeda terrorists and has consulted for numerous branches of the federal government. He challenged Hoffman intentionally during the change-over from the Bush to the Obama White House administrations. The fight played out among academics and policymakers in the pages of *Foreign Affairs* and received coverage in *The New York Times*.<sup>9</sup> At stake was not only a considerable amount of private wealth in consulting fees, but also of far greater importance, the direction of American policy in the global War on Terror. The Obama admiration went with the more known quantity in Hoffman and U.S. policy opted for the audacity of stasis.

### Ongoing dangers

In the end, there is no New Terrorism. Terrorism is what it has always been: a tactic of desperation by the weak in defiance of the strong. The key is not the weak versus the strong, however. Rather, the key is understanding that terrorism is, in fact, a tactic. Had President Bush declared on the

rubble of the Twin Towers a decade ago that the U.S. would engage in a War on Terrorists rather than a War on Terror, the death of bin Laden would have been game, set and match. Instead, the U.S. committed to an existential battle, modeled very much on the Cold War struggle, on a tactic, not a group, nation, side or even a "bunch of guys," as Sageman would have it.

My own contribution to this expanding body of theory about terrorism concerns the emergence of a new form of tribalism in places like Africa, where increasingly vicious or outright genocidal conflicts are taking place in Sudan, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for which Rapoport's Four Waves theory fails to account. My Fifth Wave theory finds the ultimate goal of each of the movements to be nothing less than the creation of a new and perfected people, making all who do not belong to the respective group and the reconstituted "tribal Golden Age" subject to the intent of extermination. The signature weapon of the Fifth Wave is rape in the same way that air hijacking was to the Third Wave or suicide bombing has been to the Fourth Wave.<sup>10</sup>

Terrorism has been with us always. We can no more create a new terrorism than we can cleanse the earth of terrorists. Terrorism is what it always was. So are people. Until that changes, one can only think of the immortal observation of the German writer Friedrich von Schiller from centuries ago: "Against stupidity the gods themselves contend in vain." ■



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For footnotes, go online to [www.phikappaphi.org/forum/fall2011](http://www.phikappaphi.org/forum/fall2011).



# Commemoration without Politics?

By David Simpson

The approaching 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 invites some thoughtfulness about how to reflect and remember. Can we contemplate, in our media-saturated society, the reporting or imaging of a disaster that does not play into or at least employ stereotypes of one or more genres: the sensation story, the display of private sentiment in public, the religious representation of national concern? Can any such account preempt or constrain political opportunism? I have my doubts.

But the idea of pure mourning, the expression of a grief that is from the heart and goes straight to the hearts of others, remains in place. It reflects a desire for a form of remembrance that cannot be corrupted or exploited. This may be an impossible ideal, but it nonetheless contains a regulatory force for measuring just how far short of the utopian standard any particular representation of significant death will fall.

We might agree that Sir Edwin Lutyens' War Memorial (the Cenotaph) in Whitehall, London, and Maya Lin's Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., come close to commemorating death in a way that discourages and even rebukes those who seek to serve themselves by exploiting it. The plain, unadorned column of the London memorial, created in 1919 to commemorate the dead of World War I, and the dense array of names on the 1982 Washington site, listing more than 58,000 persons killed or missing in action in the Vietnam War, signal the enormous scope

and seriousness of death.

Each in its way inspires humility and deep reflection. Lutyens suggests the unimaginable number of dead by mentioning none; beholders encounter an empty surface. Lin, working with relatively finite numbers, gets across how many individuals lost their lives, and how they are all reduced to sameness; beholders see ranks of names combined with their own reflections and perhaps (out of the corner of the eye) the Washington Monument or the Lincoln Memorial. Each came into being in a political world, and each stimulated urgent debate about what memorialization should be and how it should be enacted. That debate has not ceased, but with the passing of time, and without implying that they are above politics or independent of architectural precursors, these monuments invite beholders to patient and difficult acts of engagement and response.

The cumulative record of 10 years of 9/11 commemoration has not so far produced much of equivalent integrity. Mediatized conventions

The "Tribute in Light" memorial in lower Manhattan on Sept. 11, 2006, five years after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

were so ready to hand that they were widely sensed to have anticipated the disaster; many observers felt they had already seen those falling World Trade Center towers in disaster movies, and some (like composer Karlheinz Stockhausen and artist Damien Hirst) indiscreetly categorized the destruction as a work of art. This was felt as an outrage at the time (and Hirst quickly apologized), but we can see that the creation of a spectacle for global circulation was precisely the point of the terrorist attacks: They were intended to have aesthetic appeal, and could not have failed to confuse an audience of television watchers about the boundaries between image and reality.

No less predictable was the parade of politicians (then- New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, New York Governor George Pataki, President George W. Bush) standing in the ruins of lower Manhattan and preaching a justice and retribution that failed to convince quite a few and with the further passage of time has become even less convincing.

A few cultural commentators criticized the stereotyping carried out by “Portraits of Grief,” the thumbnail eulogies of almost 2,000 victims appearing from September 2001 to February 2002 in *The New York Times*. I thought these sketches represented the dead as implausible icons of a flourishing national culture; everyone was good, everyone was happy, everyone was either living his/her dream or just about to realize it before dying. This image of America (and it was about America, despite the many other nationals who perished that day) was just too good to be true, notwithstanding the familiar injunction to speak only good of the dead.

This depiction of an innocent, paradisaical and even infantile world (the format was eerily evocative of the high school yearbook) brutally invaded from outside could do little good, I pointed out in an essay in the *London Review of Books* in November 2001 and thereafter in my 2006 book *9/11: The Culture of Commemoration*. The depictions seemed to me to celebrate a society that did not exist except in the imaginations of *The New York Times*, whose then-executive editor (Howell Raines) was tactless enough to admit that these were the best weeks of his career in journalism. “Portraits of Grief” described a society without violence, class or ethnic conflict, or economic distinctions, far from the world we live in, and its simplified format did nothing to discourage our leaders from embarking on an unjust and massively destructive war against Iraq.

Ten years on, “Portraits of Grief” now seems to me more poignantly individual than it did at that hot media moment. The series can now be read more slowly and pondered one at a time. The politics of mourning has not abated, but the spotlight has subsequently been shining more brightly on the military dead in Iraq and Afghanistan. As we learn more and more



Construction continued at One World Trade Center, formerly known as the Freedom Tower, on May 7.

about the deceptions that justified the Iraqi war and the unnecessary loss of life and long-term damage to quality of life (bad enough for us but massive among Iraqi civilians), the commemoration of 9/11 has to respond to pressures felt by all too few in the heady days when architect Daniel Libeskind was selling his design centered on the “Freedom Tower” to the judges of the competition to rebuild Ground Zero. Thankfully, this appalling prospect, with its overemphatic rhetorical indicators of the heroism of American democracy, has been considerably modified. Although the main building is still to be 1,776 feet tall, it now goes by the more modest title of “One World Trade Center,” whose implications will likely not concern most people.

Meanwhile, the only memorial I know of to Iraqi dead is a virtual one: iraqimemo-

rial.org. The same goes for the 824 Afghan civilians (only the recorded portion of the likely higher actual number) who died in U.S. attacks during the first phase of the war in Afghanistan before January 2002, and who are remembered on Global Exchange’s website *Afghan Portraits of Grief*.

The museum and memorial planned for lower Manhattan, which will inevitably engross the popular understanding of what 9/11 is all about (as it did right at the start, with the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pa., sites, the locations of the two other attacks on that day, a distant second and third), have not made promising starts, in my view. The big risk, judging by what we know so far, is that there will be no distinction between the two. The museum looks set to be an extension of the memorial rather than a site for education and preservation, while

the memorial has been mired in debates about how the names will be listed and whether firefighters and police or impacted companies like Marsh & McLennan (an insurance brokerage and risk management firm) or Cantor Fitzgerald (a financial services firm) will get sections to themselves.

It is still too early to say exactly what sort of cultural-political installation will emerge. But I see it as positive that the fetishism of the national wound has been robustly contested by many New Yorkers who live and work in the shadow of no towers and who would prefer to see a usable space as a fitting homage to the dead.

We do have a powerful prototype for the ways in which memorializing the dead can be used and abused, one that the architects of 9/11 commemorations would do well to ponder. I am thinking, of course, of Holocaust museums and memorials, some 250 of which now exist in various incarnations, mostly in the U.S. and Europe but also in Melbourne, Montreal, and Cape Town, among other cities worldwide. As James Young, Professor of English and Judaic Studies at University of Massachusetts, Amherst, has shown in his 2000 book, *At Memory's Edge: After-Images of the Holocaust in Contemporary Art and Architecture*, these buildings have created something of a genre of their own.

Much of the best that has happened in the extended tradition of commemorating the Holocaust (itself a controversial term) has been the debate itself, a debate about how and why and who and where. Ironies abound: Berlin's memorial was designed by an American and selected by a committee chaired by an American, a circumstance that cannot but be political. The so-called Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, Calif., as Wendy Brown, a political scientist at University of California, Berkeley, pointed out in her 2008 book, *Regulating Aversion: Tolerance in the Age of Identity and Empire*, is really an adjunct of the Holocaust museum genre, with the death of Europe's Jews its central topic. There is careful editing of others to whom tolerance is deemed worth extending; the museum's archives do not, for instance, register Palestinians as among those whose lives are to be considered as damaged by intolerance. Holocaust museums often embody a vigorous justification for the state of Israel which tends to become even more pronounced as Israel's policies come in for criticism by others. If you want to study the politics of mourning, you can't do better than look at the Holocaust memorials.

But even the most egregious exploitations of Holocaust memory do not justify ignoring or denying it, and the same will be true of the collected 9/11 projects when they're completed. For me, the most significant piece of architecture in the Middle East is not another Museum of Tolerance

For more on "Portraits of Grief" and other 9/11 memorials, see page 10.

planned for Jerusalem but the wall of intolerance that makes the daily life of so many ordinary Palestinians almost unmanageable. (Here I recommend *Palestine Inside Out: An Everyday Occupation*, a 2008 book by Saree Makdisi, a literary and cultural critic at University of California, Los Angeles.) This means that I must somehow work through manipulations of Holocaust memory to try to understand something of the horror of the scale of death in mid-20<sup>th</sup> century Europe; the opening pages of the late historian Tony Judt's 2006 *Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945* give a statistical sense of this. I must remember that Jews, among others (but especially Jews), were the ob-

ject of a distinct kind of genocide, one that has, in fact, an exceptional component of the spectacular, one readily accessed by those who have made big-budget films out of it, and just as often critiqued by those who have not, or who have sought other forms of recollection (like filmmaker and journalist Claude Lanzmann, creator of the nine-and-a-half-hour 1985 documentary *Shoah*, and researchers at the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale University).

Every new representation of the Holocaust produces a debate: Is it true to history, respectful of memory, and immune to the aestheticizing of mass murder as middlebrow tragedy or even sentimental comedy? Films and books both come under inspection, as do plays and artwork, and by now we should be aware that there is no right way to do it, no easy way to focus on the Jews without seeming to forget the Roma or the Russians, and vice versa. Benjamin Wilkomirski's 1995 memoir, *Fragments: Memories of a Wartime Childhood*, was a prize-winning masterpiece until it was found to be an invented story, at which point it was reviled by many as an almost criminal act; the truly difficult questions about authenticity and intention remain to be pondered by the few who will take the trouble. Popular sentiment is not always wrong, but it is certainly not to be trusted uncritically.

One can imagine many of the same syndromes coming to govern 9/11 representations, be they novels, memoirs, films, museums, memorials, or other creative responses. One must always read through the varieties of motives and functions I am loosely calling "politics," not with the ambition of achieving some or other simple or complete truth, but with the aim of becoming as open as possible to the fullest range of informational and emotional responses that might govern an event or our reaction to it. This does not mean a mere leveling of the sort commonly despised under the term "cultural relativism." One must resist declarations of equivalent or nonequivalent suffering, especially when they are designed to render "our" deaths more

significant than "theirs."

Even at its best, memorialization always resorts to some sort of genre and some kind of general language. It helps to remain open-minded about the informal, unofficial and ephemeral kinds of remembering that bypass the control points of politics and media. Editors Michael Sorkin and Sharon Zukin's collection of essays, *After the World Trade Center: Rethinking New York City*, already in print by early 2002, offered a vigorously dissident array of analyses and opinions that remain no less pertinent with the passage of time. Contributors to editor Dana Heller's 2005 book, *The Selling of 9/11: How a National Tragedy Became a Commodity*, make obvious points about consumerism and commodification, but also force us to consider the potentially positive functions of kitsch and the critical edge of parodies and graphic novels. What does it mean to tell jokes about 9/11? Is it simply tasteless to do so, or is there also in play a determination not to abide by the permitted rhetoric, one that we should take seriously? When and why is laughter to be allowed, or not?

These ostensibly nonapproved kinds of memorializing are important to hold on to because the rebuilt site in lower Manhattan, where money and media go hand in hand with politics, will undoubtedly dominate the national and international imagination. Here we must hope for an architectural array that can generate serious reflection and livable space rather than patriotic pomp, something that will not in 50 years look like a marooned historical artifact (or embarrassment) erected (on the backs of the people) for other times and places. It remains to be seen what lower Manhattan will look like when the construction crews pull out. At the moment the signs are mixed. ■



**David Simpson**, Professor of English at University of California-Davis, wrote about some of these topics in his book, *9/11: The Culture of Commemoration* (University of Chicago Press, 2006).

His numerous other works include *Wordsworth, Commodification, and Social Concern: The Poetics of Modernity* (Cambridge University Press, 2009); *Situatedness, or Why We Keep Saying Where We're Coming From* (Duke University Press, 2002); *The Academic Postmodern and the Rule of Literature: A Report on Half-Knowledge* (University of Chicago Press, 1995); and *The Politics of American English, 1776-1850* (Oxford University Press, 1986). He is on the editorial boards of *Cambridge Studies in Romanticism* and *Modern Language Quarterly*. Simpson earned English degrees from Magdalene College, Cambridge (B.A. and Ph.D.) and University of Michigan (M.A.) and has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and the American Council of Learned Societies, among other organizations. Email him at [desimpson@ucdavis.edu](mailto:desimpson@ucdavis.edu).

# Shared Grief Is Good Grief

By George Dickinson

Because there is no formula for grief and no two people grieve alike, 9/11 did not change how people mourn. Yet 9/11 likely contributed to how people share grief.

Unlike those who mourn someone dying from chronic illness, no one could prepare for the 9/11 decedents (other than the terrorists). Without experiencing the healing process of anticipatory grief, the 9/11 bereft sought outlets.

## Impact of the media on grieving

The media provided one. Visual media have fostered openness about grief most readily since the Vietnam War, which was fought “live” on television and was the first war witnessed from living rooms. On 9/11, Americans turned to television in their disbelief, confusion, anger, sorrow, and fear. In especially horrific images, more than 200 people trapped in the fiery, crumbling Twin Towers of the World Trade Center jumped to their deaths for lack of other escape. Most went down alone; a few held hands. As a comment on the blog Chas’ Compilation put it, “The faces of those who chose to fly from the upper windows are forever burned in my memory.” (Chasblog-spot.blogspot.com; see Sept. 10, 2007.)

A nightmare of this magnitude was unknown to most Americans. Not since the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor had something like this occurred on U.S. soil. The sense of security and self-confidence Americans assume as their birthright suffered a grievous blow. These deaths were sudden and violent, thus more intense than lingering or expected demises. More guilt may occur as a result because there is no opportunity to say goodbye, express feelings, make amends, etc.

No wonder, then, the popularity of “Portraits of Grief” by *The New York Times*. These self-described “snapshots” of those who died in the World Trade Center were “a means of connecting, a source of consolation,” a way of “paying homage,” and “a guide to how to live a better life,” wrote contributor Janny Scott in “Closing a Scrapbook Full of Life and Sorrow” on Dec. 31, 2001. “And the more we knew about them, the more we could wrestle with our own grief,” novelist Paul Auster told her.

An emerging 9/11 theme is sharing in the loss of the mourner and exalting in the life of the departed. This is evidenced not only in the “Portraits of Grief” mini-eulogies, but also on Facebook, whose “Never



Above: One hundred eighty-four joint service troops unveiled the Pentagon Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 11, 2008, to honor 184 people killed at the site on 9/11. Right: U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officers David Bittle and Mathew Schalich, from the Atlantic Strike Team, signed their names on the last beam of the World Trade Center before it was removed in a ceremony on May 28, 2002.



Forget 9/11” site the social network company calls the “largest and most interactive 9/11 memorial page on the Internet.” It puts griever in touch with all sorts of people who offer support, from mental-health professionals to fellow sufferers, observed Lauren Katims in “Grieving on Facebook” in *Time* (Jan. 5, 2010). She cited experts who conclude that “sites like Facebook are helping people become more open about grieving.” Closure used to be thought of as necessary to move on. Katims counters by quoting psychologist Robert Neimeyer, the bereavement specialist: “Closure is for bank accounts, not for love accounts.”

Don’t survivors appearing on television talk shows thank the public for its concern, no matter the pain endured in the exposure? Crying is contagious; thus, viewers are brought into the grief. A sharing of grief, even by strangers, seems to console; it helps to know that others care. Grief shared is grief relieved. The 9/11 dead were just like us: firefighters, traders, window washers, chefs, parents, grandparents, amateur golfers, avid shoppers, and others who were certainly not saints, Scott pointed out. And identification with and connections to them happened through the media.

## Other public displays of grief

Because death is an unknown, anxiety

exists about what is “beyond.” Existentialists argue that each person’s death is unique and that death is something everyone will experience alone, no matter how many people may be in attendance. Anthropologist Colin Turnbull, in *The Mountain People*, his 1972 book about the Ik tribe in Uganda, recounts how a tribesman dying in his arms from wounds from multiple arrows turns away at the moment of passing and “in true Ik style dies alone.”

I am not arguing that death is not individualized. An emerging of shared grief is on the horizon, however. For example, roadside memorials and emblems affixed to vehicle windshields publicize grief and invite in the sharing of it. (See, for example, my article with Heath Hoffmann, “Roadside Memorial Policies in the United States,” *Mortality*, July 2010; and Pamela Roberts et al., “Traveling Tributes: Car Memorials in Southern California,” *Social Context of Death, Dying and Disposal Conference*, September 2009, Durham, England.) Ad hoc tributes to the victims of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing and of numerous shootings at U.S. campuses sprouted up at the locations and across the country.

Other public displays of grief include sculptures. One such example is 911Sculpture.com, which says it specializes in “bronze firefighter statues from six inches



Above: Members of Naval Special Warfare SEAL Team 18 performed a demonstration around the pitcher's mound at Cincinnati's Great American Ball Park before the game between the Pittsburgh Pirates and Cincinnati Reds, on Sept. 11, 2010. Left: Observers read names of victims lost at Ground Zero on Sept. 12, 2002.



small to 20 feet tall." Steel wreckage from the World Trade Center has been turned into artful memorials nationwide, such as near the main gate of the California State Fair in Sacramento, and abroad, such as one in progress in London beside City Hall.

Bells toll each anniversary of 9/11 at the moment the hijacked planes hit the various sites, and the names of the dead are read in lower Manhattan, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, Pa., all of which also contain memorials. Many other more modest memorials have been erected around the U.S., especially in communities in which individuals who died in the attacks had lived — not unlike war memorials recognizing the local dead.

Communing is a way of dealing. Many people believe that the place of death is where the soul left the body and, thus, a sacred site to memorialize. To return to the scene, therefore, becomes a way to reconnect with the departed and a means to make this reconnection public. Indeed, President Barack Obama laid a wreath at Ground Zero in lower Manhattan days after U.S. military had killed Osama bin Laden in early May in a raid.

Perhaps visitors to the 9/11 Memorial at Ground Zero, which will be dedicated on Sept. 11 (with the 9/11 Memorial Museum set to open in September 2012), will come away with a sense of understanding, peace, and hope. After all, this happens at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and other hallowed war sites worldwide. Because "once you share your coping rituals," advises hospice and bereavement specialist Claire Bidwell Smith, "you'll find you're not alone and not crazy. Then, you can start moving forward," she tells Piper Weiss, a staff writer

for Shine, a website produced by Yahoo (shine.yahoo.com), in "The Way We Grieve Now," a posting dated Sept. 13, 2010. Officials estimate that 7.1 million people will visit the 9/11 Memorial at Ground Zero in the first year.

Yet a visit may cause difficulties. College of Charleston undergraduate Christa Horrocks, whose 38-year-old father Michael was copilot of United Airlines Flight 175 hijacked by terrorists and flown into the South Tower of the World Trade Center, has never watched video of the crash. "I know I have to at some point. I know I have to come to terms with it," she said. Her family visited Ground Zero once, "but she never got out of the car," Schuyler Kropf wrote in "Never Alone," in the *Post and Courier* on Sept. 8, 2010. Instead, she honors the memory of her sports-loving father by becoming the best member of the track team she can be, running "for miles and miles," she told Kropf. Her college track coach, Kropf reported, said she "was someone who used a terrible tragedy in her life for something good in her life," adding that "she is mature beyond her years."

Church attendance "soared" immediately after 9/11, to the highest level in America since the 1950s, and there were similar spikes in England, Canada, and Australia. (See Tom Pyszczynski et al., *In the Wake of 9/11: The Psychology of Terror*, 2003). Eighty-four percent of Americans said 9/11 prayers, according to Tom W. Smith et al., in "America Rebounds: A National Study of Public Response to the September 11<sup>th</sup> Terrorist Attacks, Preliminary Findings," for the National Opinion Research Center at University of Chicago (Oct. 25, 2001). A Gallup poll a few days following the attacks "found that 70 percent of Americans

say they have cried as a result of the tragedy, 74 percent have prayed, and 77 percent have shown or will show more affection for a loved one than they normally do." (See Lydia Saad, "Personal Impact on Americans' Lives," Gallup News Service, Sept. 24, 2001.) Worship — the act and the gathering — soothes and inspires.

Gestures and tributes occurred at sporting events. Moments of silence were common. Shortly after 9/11, Major League Baseball instructed all teams to play "God Bless America" at the seventh-inning stretch for each game for the rest of the season, before scaling back the directive the next year. A few squads, like the New York Yankees, still do so each game. And the National Football League, whose first full slate of weekend games this season falls on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11, "will use the national platform to remember and reflect upon those who lost their lives and honor families who lost loved ones," NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy told Steve Wyche in a May 2 article for NFL.com. "We also will salute the American spirit, the early responders on 9/11 and everyday heroes."

### Causality as motivation

In addition to evoking disbelief, confusion, anger, sorrow, and fear, 9/11 also elicited compassion, altruism, unity, determination, and patriotism. As psychiatrist Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, theorist behind the five stages of grief (denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance), often said, encounters with death made her appreciate the potential of another day of life. And certainly firefighters and police officers who died at Ground Zero could be said to have reached psychoanalyst Erik Erikson's eighth and final stage of the life cycle, senescence, in that they "fought the fight," with integrity, and made the ultimate sacrifice in giving their lives to (try to) save others.

We never truly get over significant deaths like those of 9/11. We learn to live with them. Yet some good can come from the bad. If grief shared is grief relieved, knowing others care may be "good grief." ■



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# The Economic Costs of 9/11 on the U.S.

By David B. Yerger

Nearly 3,000 people perished in the 9/11 attacks. As of May, more than 6,000 U.S. troops have died and more than 43,000 other American military have been wounded in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.<sup>1</sup> The magnitude of the tragedy leaves even an economist hesitant to discuss the financial costs of all of this. But U.S. policy on terrorism can be informed by such monetary quantification.

The most immediate and direct costs of the attacks themselves entailed property damage and the value of lives lost. The cost of destroyed physical assets was estimated by Robert Looney at the Center for Contemporary Conflict, the research arm of the National Security Affairs Department at the Naval Postgraduate Institute, at \$16.2 billion. Another \$11 billion went to rescue, cleanup, and recovery. The total: \$27.2 billion.<sup>2</sup> Attempting to place a dollar amount on the lives lost in the attacks requires calculating what's called the "value of a statistical life." Such an estimate is, of course, imprecise, but over the past decade, the federal government computed \$7-\$8 million for a statistical life. So, the value of 9/11 lives can be approximated as \$21-\$24 billion.<sup>3</sup> That brings the estimated range for the immediate, direct costs of the attacks to \$48-\$51 billion. In 2001, the value of the nation's output as measured by gross domestic product (GDP) was \$10,286 billion. So the \$48-\$51 billion in immediate costs from the attacks represents about one-half of one percent of the U.S. national output that year.<sup>4</sup>

The economic costs of the attacks on the country overall, and on the New York City (NYC) region in particular, extend beyond the immediate expenditures pertaining to damage and must include the estimated negative impact on the growth rate. In the aftermath of the attacks, sectors such as airlines, property insurance, tourism and manufacturing faced significant business disruptions in numerous ways, from a decrease in revenues to an increase in security. Since the official starting and ending dates for the 2001 recession were March and November of that year, 9/11 clearly did not cause the recession. The attack-related business disruptions, however, impeded recovery from it. Economic output grew only 1.9 percent in the four quarters following the recession, a slower rate than is typical for the first post-recession year of

a business cycle. For comparison, output grew 7.7 percent, 2.6 percent, and 3 percent for the four quarters following the end of recessions in November 1982, March 1991, and June 2009, respectively.<sup>5</sup> In a December 2001 report, the International Monetary Fund estimated that the terrorist attacks might reduce U.S. economic growth by some 0.75 percent of GDP in the

from the attacks than many initially had feared would be the case. Federal Reserve Bank of New York researchers estimated a net shortfall of 65,000 jobs in NYC shortly after the attacks, but this deficit was mostly replenished by December 2002.<sup>10</sup> NYC's August 2001 unemployment rate of 5.1 percent was 0.2 percentage points higher than the national rate of 4.9 percent. By August 2002, NYC's unemployment rate of 6.3 percent exceeded



near-term, translating to a loss of \$77 billion.<sup>6</sup>

More recent analysis reinforces these findings. A 2009 edition of the journal *Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy* analyzed the economic impact of 9/11 on the nation and on NYC. Most of the eight articles estimated lost output at \$35 to \$109 billion for the nation, or about 0.5 to 1.0 percentage points of the GDP.<sup>7</sup> The studies also demonstrate that NYC bore the brunt of these costs, perhaps as much as half, with estimates ranging from 1.2 to 2.4 percent, or more than twice the impact on the national economy.<sup>8</sup> These papers also estimate property damage and rebuilding costs for NYC approaching \$23 to \$27 billion.<sup>9</sup>

Fortunately, the studies also found that the NYC economy had recovered faster

the national rate of 5.7 percent and remained 0.6 percentage points higher than the national rate as of August 2003, 6.6 percent versus 6.0 percent. By August 2004, however, the NYC and national unemployment rates were equal at 5.4 percent.<sup>11</sup>

Using the upper range of the above estimates, the economic costs of 9/11 itself, then, approximate \$171 billion, based on \$27 billion in property damage and rebuilding, \$11 billion in rescue and related cleanup, \$21-\$24 billion in value of lost lives, and \$109 billion in lost economic output.

Below: U.S. Army soldiers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, patrolled at Camp Ramadi, Iraq, in late 2009. Right: Charlie Troop, 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 33<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, participated in Operation War Perandai Shekari in spring 2010 in Khost Province, Afghanistan.

Amel Reymon photo illustration. War photo: Staff Sgt. Daniel St. Pierre, U.S. Air Force, courtesy of Defenseimagery.mil

## The price of the war on terror

These costs are dwarfed by the costs of the U.S. response to the terrorist attacks. A 2007 Federal Reserve Bank of New York study estimates that annual homeland security spending rose \$43.5 billion, from \$56 billion in 2001 to \$99.5 billion in 2005 — a gain of 77.7 percent — with \$34.2 billion of the increase coming from federal government spending and the remainder from private sector spending.<sup>12</sup> An assumption of a modest uptick in spending since 2005 correlates to roughly \$50 billion more devoted to 9/11-related homeland security each year. With national output now exceeding an annual GDP value of \$15 trillion, this is only one-third of one percent of national output and an additional insurance cost easily absorbed by the U.S. economy.<sup>13</sup>

The bulk of the costs related to the U.S. response to 9/11 arises from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. A September 2010 report by the Congressional Research Service, a legislative

tary bases, and the remainder for unallocated expenses.<sup>14</sup> It's important to note that these figures comprise incremental expenditures above and beyond regular baseline military expenditures. For fiscal year 2010, these incremental war costs accounted for \$163 billion of the \$697 billion in defense-related federal spending, or some 23 percent, and nearly 5 percent of total federal spending of \$3,456 billion.<sup>15</sup> Even by federal government spending patterns, \$163 billion is a lot of money, however. It is more than twice the federal spending in fiscal year 2010 on programs related to environmental protection and natural resources, agriculture, and energy.<sup>16</sup>

The direct spending costs on the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are not expected to end soon. A 2010 Congressional Budget Office analysis forecasts the cumulative budget for them by fiscal year 2020

For more on the health crisis that resulted from 9/11, see page 22.

war also has such costs not reflected in the federal budget cost estimates.

The biggest future long-term budgetary costs of the wars for the federal government will be medical care and disability benefits for war veterans. In September 2010 congressional testimony, Bilmes stated that these future long-term costs for Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans were equivalent to an immediate cost today of \$589 to \$934 billion.<sup>20</sup> Similarly, in January, the federal government committed \$4.3 billion in healthcare or disability assistance for 9/11 responders and volunteers through the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act<sup>21</sup> and earlier it had allocated \$3.35 billion through the Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> Victim Compensation Fund of 2001.<sup>22</sup> The other major future budgetary cost is the interest owed on funds borrowed to finance the wars. In 2008, Stiglitz and Bilmes estimated \$615 billion in interest payments

for borrowing costs related to the Iraq

war.<sup>23</sup> Similar analysis on interest costs of funding the Afghanistan war would raise costs further, of course.

So what did 9/11 cost the country in dollars? The attacks themselves likely imposed less than \$171 billion, even accounting for property damage, lives lost, and reduced economic growth in the short-term. Add another \$40 to \$50 billion annually in additional homeland security. And if one regards the Iraq and Afghanistan wars as arising from the terrorist attacks, these costs are quite likely to total more than \$4 trillion. This makes the monetary costs of the U.S. response to the attacks, at the May deadline for this article, at least more than 20 times larger than the monetary costs of the attacks themselves. ■

will be \$1.56 to \$1.88 trillion.<sup>17</sup> Moreover, these projections underestimate the complete economic costs of these wars by excluding costs not paid by the federal government directly or not yet incurred. Nobel Laureate and Columbia University economist Joseph Stiglitz and Linda Bilmes, a public finance and U.S. budget expert at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, developed the most complete estimate, at least regarding the Iraq war, in their 2008 book, *The Three Trillion Dollar War: The True Cost of the Iraq Conflict*<sup>18</sup> but last September updated the total to \$4 to \$6 trillion.<sup>19</sup> Their tally includes long-term costs of health and disability benefits for war veterans, replacement costs for military equipment, interest costs on funds borrowed to cover war expenditures, economic costs of lives lost, and the costs of higher oil prices. Clearly, the Afghanistan



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For footnotes, go online to [www.phikappaphi.org/forum/fall2011](http://www.phikappaphi.org/forum/fall2011).



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jeffrey Alexander, courtesy of DefenseImagery.mil

branch agency within the Library of Congress, tabulates federal spending of \$1,121 billion over the nine years through fiscal 2010, with \$751 billion for the Iraq war, \$336 billion for the Afghanistan war, \$29 billion for enhanced security at U.S. mili-



# Privacy Rights ...

The Transportation Security Administration uses millimeter wave technology to produce images that resemble a fuzzy photo negative, allowing officers to see foreign objects through clothing.

## Versus Public Safety after 9/11

By Jacqueline Smith-Mason

*History teaches us that grave threats to liberty often come in times of urgency, when constitutional rights seem too extravagant to endure.*

— U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall, 1989

The increase of global positioning system satellite tracking devices, combined with the ease of data mining, and other technological advances, such as airport security scanners, blur the line between privacy rights and public safety in the post-9/11 era. On the one hand, video surveillance can aid in capturing criminals in the act or on the run and airport magnetometers help prevent terrorists from sneaking a bomb onto a plane. But while most Americans have grown accustomed to surveillance cameras in banks, grocery stores and even their local gym, some travelers began complaining in November 2010 when the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) — building on the Aviation and Transportation Security Act signed into law on Nov. 19, 2001, in the wake of 9/11 — implemented pat-down searches and body-scanning technology at airports as part of the effort to increase homeland security in the war on terror. Americans appreciate the intent of the heightened precautionary measures, of course, but there

are those who feel physically violated and publicly humiliated in what they consider an invasion of privacy.

The U.S. Constitution does not specifically mention the right to privacy. However, the right to privacy seems to fall alongside the freedom of speech (First Amendment), prevention of unreasonable search and seizure (Fourth Amendment), upholding freedom of non-enumerated rights (Ninth Amendment), and entitlement of citizenship (Fourteenth Amendment) cited in certain U.S. Supreme Court decisions including how a state's ban on contraception violated the right to marital privacy (*Griswold v. Connecticut*, 1965) and how a woman's right to abortion falls within the general right of privacy (*Roe v. Wade*, 1973). Additionally, Congress passed the Privacy Act in 1974 to protect citizens from unauthorized use of data collected by the federal government, such as by the Social Security Administration or Internal Revenue Service. Over time, the right to privacy has grown to be a core value of U.S. democracy and iconic as baseball and apple pie in American culture.

The underlying premise is that the right to privacy provides Americans with a certain level of comfort and assurance that individuals will not be abused by those in seats of governmental power, for instance, the TSA or the Federal Bureau of Investiga-

tion. Yet the American Civil Liberties Union and other watchdog/advocacy groups such as Privacy International and the Center for Democracy and Technology, examining privacy issues on multiple fronts ranging from national security to electronic communications to video surveillance, argue that the potential for abuse exists.

Although the TSA says that digital body images will not be stored and that the possibility of these images ending up on the Internet is nonexistent, it is not being truthful, objectors contend, because it is reasonable to assume that the images might be needed for litigation and, therefore, retained in the event that someone is found to have an explosive. Other self-conscious travelers consider the digital body images embarrassing. And passengers and airline crews have raised questions about exposure to radiation. The TSA, not to mention the White House, counters that these security procedures protect the greater good, even if they make a few people uncomfortable; that even repeated exposure to the radiation is not harmful, citing, as recently as March, experts from the Food and Drug Administration and third-party scientists; and that those leery of full-body scans have an alternative: a full-body pat-down. Some travelers, however, report that the full-body pat-down is invasive and that having a stranger touching them is disconcerting. (In





9/11 resulted in stricter airport security. Some travelers don't mind the more proactive precautions; others do.

April, an eight-year-old Oregon boy was subject to one on his way to Disneyland; so was a 6-year-old girl in New Orleans. And last November, John Tyner, a 31-year-old software programmer, called the pat-down he received at San Diego International Airport “groping” and “sexual assault.”) Thus, these disgruntled travelers must choose between the lesser of two evils if they want to fly, if singled out by security.

Complicating matters is the media hype that focuses on these disgruntled travelers. (For example, the parents of the 6-year-old girl appeared on *Good Morning America*, and ABC News and CNN were only two of many major outlets to report on Tyner.) Yet a *USA Today*/Gallup poll from November 2010 found that 71 percent of travelers who had flown at least twice during that year said the loss of privacy from full-body scans and pat-downs was worth it if it meant preventing an act of terrorism. However, 62 percent of those surveyed said they had not flown in the past 12 months. Yet, in a further twist, 79 percent said they’re just as likely to fly now, with all these changes in protocols, as in the past. Meanwhile, “The Department of Homeland Security said that of the estimated 28 million people who flew during the first two weeks of the new security measures, TSA received fewer than 700 complaints,” according to Michael A. Memoli and Brian Bennett in *The Los Angeles Times* on Nov. 22, 2010. “Of all the passengers who were asked to submit to a full-body scan,” they wrote, “only one percent have chosen to opt out and instead undergo a pat-down.”

Another perspective is that flying is a

privilege, not a right, and the TSA’s first priority must be safety. If someone does not want to be subjected to a pat-down or full-body scan, another mode of transportation should be considered, when feasible. It’s not possible to return to pre-9/11 business as usual when it comes to national security and air travel. The enemy and warfare have changed. In order to fight back,

adaptation is necessary, and part of that adjustment means giving up a certain level of privacy.

### Context and priorities

Interestingly, while there has been a lot of concern about airport safety versus privacy rights, many people freely post information, photographs and videos, sometimes quite personal, about themselves on social media sites and other components of the Internet and never give this a second thought. Until, that is, they’re suspended from school for cyberbullying; fired for criticizing an employer in a blog; threatened by data breaches such as the 77 million user accounts of Sony’s video game online network that were hacked into in April; or victimized outright by identity theft, which occurs to more than nine million Americans each year, estimates the Federal Trade Commission. (President George W. Bush issued an executive order in 2006 establishing a task force on identity theft. The earlier Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act of 1998 made identity theft a federal crime.) Whether we realize it or not, we leave a trail of information for marketing strategists and data

For more on air travel post-9/11, see page 24.  
For more on civil liberties post-9/11, see page 25.

mining companies to peruse and exploit. In many ways, that sounds more alarming than intrusive airport security measures. No wonder there’s even a National Data Privacy Day, on Jan. 28.

For most people, swiping a discount card at a local grocery store or using an E-Z Pass to move through a tollbooth a few seconds faster than a person paying with currency does not feel like an invasion of privacy. On the other hand, the store can track what, where and when you buy and create a permanent electronic record of your spending habits, and the government knows the make and model of your vehicle and the time and day when you travel through the tollbooth. Certainly, the media and blogosphere devote much attention to airport horror stories. Absolutely, invasive pat-downs are a problem and full-body scans might be worrisome. However, consumers should not ignore how they erode their privacy for the sake of convenience or saving money. In some ways, complaints about the TSA and about how the mechanisms of daily lives leave a data trail to be mined by others are an oxymoron.

Addressing national security in the post-9/11 era requires educating the public and weighing alternatives. Americans can never underestimate the enemy. Who would have thought that terrorists would conceal explosives in their underwear or fly hijacked planes into the World Trade Center? Prior to 9/11, these scenarios would have been viewed as ridiculous. Today, as people commemorate those who perished in the terrorist attacks and in the war on terror, and reflect on the sacrifices made by so many in the spirit of protecting life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, all levels of government face the difficult challenge of balancing privacy rights with public safety. Likewise, Americans must also ask: What am I willing to give up so that there is never a repeat of 9/11? ■



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# Paranoia in Post-9/11 American Fiction

By Ann Keniston and Jeanne Follansbee

How do we assess the effects of 9/11 nearly 10 years later? Even if we think and speak about the terrorist attacks less than we once did, American culture over the last decade has been deeply affected by the fear and anxiety raised by them. The misinformation about weapons of mass destruction that led to war in Iraq has made Americans suspicious. Military outsourcing has prompted Americans to question whether the principles of free enterprise are at odds with the public good. In the name of security at home, Americans have yielded to ever-increasing government surveillance in areas once considered private. Not for the first time in national history, Americans have come to fear an enemy they can't identify and to suspect what the government says.

This suspicion has led to a fear that Americans are vulnerable, as individuals and as a society, to unforeseen and, so far, unknown powers. Freud coined the term "paranoia" to explain individual psychosis, but Americans have increasingly used it to describe their collective anxiety. While historian Richard Hofstadter argues that American politics since the Puritans has been driven by a paranoid worldview, where American "good" perpetually battles some "evil" other, in recent decades the idea of collective, or cultural, paranoia has expanded. Critic Patrick O'Donnell, in "Engendering Paranoia in Contemporary Narrative," from *National Identities and Post-American Narratives*, edited by Donald Pease (Duke University Press, 1994), concludes that such paranoia involves seeing "the multiple stratifications of reality, virtual and material, as interconnected or networked."

But something about paranoia has



Novels offer a distinctive vehicle for exploring post-9/11 paranoia because they efficiently pull together the collective and the individual, the political and the domestic.

changed after 9/11, or at least that is what recent popular American fiction suggests. While experimental postmodern fiction often involves complex plots and counterplots that themselves seem paranoid, recent mainstream works reveal something sim-

pler: the responses we might think of as paranoid are not signs of psychosis or existential alienation. Instead, they are logical and rational responses to contemporary life. Americans are in fact being lied to and watched; the institutions charged with protecting national interests are (in some instances) corrupt; people are constantly exposed to misinformation via the Internet; and, worst of all, many are complicit in this surveillance, corruption, and fear.

Novels offer a distinctive vehicle for exploring post-9/11 paranoia because they efficiently pull together the collective and the individual, the political and the domestic. They deliver cultural commentary through stories about characters that readers care about. Perhaps more importantly, novels, like paranoia, offer a "system" — the plot — where contingency is eliminated and every action is meaningful. For this reason, novels are especially able to depict paranoid constructions of reality. Post-9/11 fiction does this in a range of ways: Genre fiction explores American vulnerability to a new enemy and the implications of a paranoid worldview in global terms, while domestic fiction considers the effects of paranoia and surveillance on individuals.

## Genre fiction

Given post-9/11 anxieties about the end of American hegemony, it makes sense that recent genre fiction — spy novels and science fiction — explores America's vulnerability to new enemies. In these fictions, the control of information is key to global dominance. The slipperiness of the post-9/11 enemy — unbounded

geographically and eschewing traditional geopolitical power — jars against the conventions of the Cold War genre and its recognizable targets. Therefore, post-9/11 spy novels challenge their protagonists to interpret and neutralize these new threats. Science fiction, in turn, considers how this same physical and political landscape leads to a cataclysmic, post-apocalyptic future.

William Gibson's 2003 novel *Pattern Recognition* evokes and recasts the Cold War-era spy thriller through a protagonist, Cayce Pollard, who channels the lessons of her cold warrior father to fight a different enemy: emergent global capital. When a filmmaker's evocative if mysterious footage appears online and develops a cult following, Pollard, a freelance marketing consultant of some renown, must protect her from corporate baddies (one with the last name of Bigend) hoping to use it to circulate Internet advertising messages surreptitiously. Here, as in many post-9/11 genre novels, the events of Sept. 11 are central to the plot because they signal a new kind of enemy. Although not conventional terrorists, these corrupt capitalists resemble Al Qaeda in two ways: They comprise a diffuse network marked by actual, as well as virtual, connections, and they cannily use publicity to establish authority. Because the threat to freedom comes from corporations eager to commercialize online communication, protecting "freedom" in *Pattern Recognition* boils down to protecting the free exchange of information.

Where Gibson connects freedom with the circulation of information, *The Albertine Notes*, Rick Moody's 2004 sci-fi novella, uses posttraumatic stress disorder and memory, which figure in many post-9/11 novels, to explore the relationship between information and power. The story centers on journalist Kevin Lee, who, after a dirty bomb destroys half of Manhattan in 2024, tries to uncover the origins of Albertine, a highly addictive new drug that enhances survivors' memories. The story allegorizes the conflict between remembering and forgetting by connecting control of Albertine's history with the ability to control distribution of the drug. Lee becomes important to both sides — a drug cartel and a group of academics charting the epidemic — because as a writer, he can order — or plot — the random events he records in his notes. He's also Addict Zero, son of the drug's creator and its first user. Lee is, therefore, the source of the plot in both senses of the word: author of the narrative and origin of all subsequent plots to control the drug. While the action of the story centers on competing paranoid conceptions of events, its structure dramatizes the convergence of seemingly disconnected events into a single narrative, where all actions and all memories have meaning. This con-

vergence suggests that the history of Albertine is itself a paranoid construction.

### Domestic fiction

Freedom and storytelling are also central to two novels focusing on families after 9/11. While genre fiction stresses global plots, domestic fiction blurs the boundary between outside and inside. In the process, these novels twist the old American story of corrupted innocence by suggesting that in an age of corporate and government corruption, individual innocence does not, in fact, exist. Yet such complicity with corruption is not necessarily a sign of moral failure. Nor is it paranoid for individuals to be preoccupied with the kinds of conspiracies that these novels depict as real and verifiable. Instead, post-9/11 novels undermine the illusion that the domestic sphere remains apart from outside events and ideas.

Jonathan Franzen's much-celebrated 2010 seriocomic *Freedom* concerns the history of a marriage. But from its opening depiction of the neighbors' opinions of protagonists Walter and Patty Berglund, scenes of surveillance recur, signaling not the paranoia of particular characters but the larger idea that "freedom" enables the very conspiracy theories that seem to threaten it. Given the post-9/11 context, it is not surprising that

*Freedom's* two central subplots challenge the innocence/corruption dichotomy. In one, idealistic conservationist Walter, a lawyer by profession, joins a 2004 effort initiated by a Texas oilman chummy with U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney to situate a bird sanctuary deep inside a mountaintop-removal coal-mining project. Although Walter knows the preservation project is a pretext for environmental devastation and corporate profits, he sticks with it until, at last overcome with rage, he speaks out in an incoherent and ineffectual tirade that is nonetheless quickly embraced by "the radical fringes of the blogosphere" and "the sites of 9/11-conspiracy-mongers." Similarly, when Walter's rebellious son Joey becomes embroiled in a high-paying project to procure inadequate spare parts for U.S. military equipment in Iraq, he recognizes that the scheme is deeply corrupt. Unlike his father, though, Joey keeps silent, a moral lapse with few lasting effects.

Conspiracies that might otherwise be considered paranoid are ubiquitous in *Freedom* but unnamed as such. In Richard Powers' National Book Award-winning *The Echo Maker* (2006), paranoia is also a logical response to post-9/11 domestic life, but here the novel offers a neuro-scientific explanation. Following a head injury after he crashes his truck, protagonist Mark Schluter, a 27-year-old meatpacker, develops Capgras Syndrome, a condition characterized primarily by the conviction that others — including his older sister

Karin, who leaves her consumer-relations job at a computer company to come home to care for him — are imposters. (As in much post-9/11 fiction, Mark's paranoia lets him make sense of his otherwise baffling situation; "his delusions," one doctor notes, "close th[e] gap" created by his accident.) But while the source of Mark's paranoia can be located on MRI scans, this scientific discourse fails to contain or alleviate either the Capgras or the paranoia, which spreads throughout the novel. Mark is not alone in his convictions; Karin and several other characters note that they do, in fact, feel like imposters and that the virtual world of the Internet and computer games does seem more real than the physical world. Moreover, Mark's paranoia is useful: It ultimately enables him to determine who caused the accident.

Both novels thus depict paranoid thinking as an appropriate response to a post-9/11 world. Yet these novels resist closure by failing to represent alternatives to this paranoid worldview. Instead, characters remain trapped, recognizing that outside incursions undermine their innocence and make them complicit in their own corruption.

### Deferred resolution

Many heralded the death of Osama bin Laden in May as the end of an era, offering closure to Americans who had not been able to achieve it while the perpetrator of the 9/11 attacks was alive. But, in typical paranoid fashion, others warned that bin Laden's death might lead to future and indeed increased attacks. As these positions suggest, closure remains elusive after 9/11. These novels would concur. They suggest that resolution must be continually deferred in a world where the enemy is unclear, information is distorted, corruption is ubiquitous, and old values no longer hold. ■

For more on contemporary American prose writers and 9/11, see pages 18, 27, and 28.



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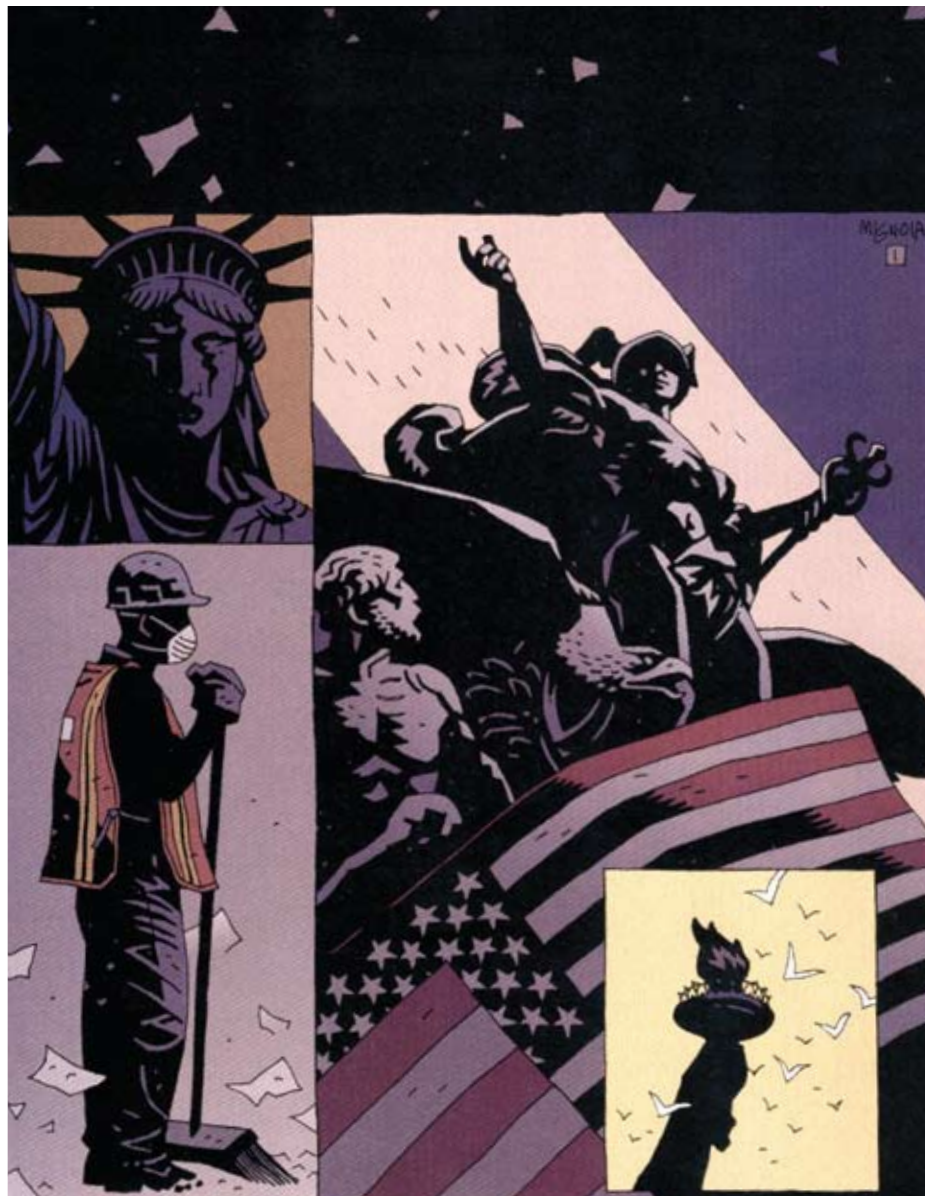
# 9/11: A Graphic Depiction

By Stefan Hall

Because 9/11 could barely seem to be part of anything but a fantastic realm, those working in cartoon strips, comic books and other sequential art took to the subject as a way to make sense of something that strained comprehension. Putting 9/11 to ink served as a creative conduit to document and process what had happened.

Cartoon strips and comic books began exploring the terrorist attacks almost immediately through newspapers and the Internet because of the quick dissemination. Tom Tomorrow's long-running weekly political cartoon *This Modern World* lampooned the federal government post-9/11 in a story line subsequently collected in March 2006 as *Hell in a Handbasket*. In Garry Trudeau's daily satirical epic *Doonesbury*, around for decades, the hippie Zonker delivered fruitcakes to rescue workers at Ground Zero, the reservist B. D. was recalled for military duty and lost a leg in Iraq, and the everyman titular character attended a memorial service for a former employee. Meanwhile, David Rees' *Get Your War On*, debuting on Oct. 9, 2001, contrasted recycled images of office employees expressing cynicism about daily life continuing in the aftermath of 9/11 with similarly appropriated shots reflecting their workaday lives. And the webcomic *Shooting War*, launched in May 2006 by writer Anthony Lappé and illustrator Dan Goldman, followed hipster video blogger Jimmy Burns after he films a terrorist attack in Brooklyn.

Since New York City is a hub for comic book companies, the attacks on the World Trade Center resonated within the industry, prompting a number of benefit comic books for 9/11-related charities. Marvel Comics offered *Heroes* (December 2001) and *A Moment of Silence* (February 2002) as special releases and *The Amazing Spider-Man* #36 (November 2001) as part of an ongoing series. The treatment of 9/11 in superhero books was particularly important then because the industry was in a self-aware/self-referential phase that often pondered two interrelated questions: 1) What if superheroes were real? 2) In the very real instances of people acting heroically doing their jobs around 9/11, what exactly is meant by "hero" and "superhero"? Thus, *Heroes* collected 64 full-page illustrations paying tribute to firefighters, law enforcement, emergency medical personnel, and other first responders. *A Moment of Silence* featured four wordless stories inspired by true events such as a firefighter's wife confronting the death of her husband and a rescue worker searching desperately for the sounds of life from a trapped victim. *The Amazing Spider-Man* #36 described how Spider-Man and other Marvel characters like Captain America, Daredevil, and even villains such as Doctor Doom and



Comic book artist Mike Mignola compares 9/11 responders to iconic statues on page 135 of 9-11: *September 11, 2001 (Artists Respond)*, Volume One (February 2002).

Magneto, reacted to the attacks.

In fact, Marvel reimaged the highly symbolic Captain America in a relaunch in June 2002. From the first scene of Captain America, shown not in his starry red-white-and-blue uniform but in civilian clothes, sifting through rubble of the Twin Towers, *The New Deal* put the superhero squarely in the fallout of the attacks. The initial six issues of the series chronicled his efforts to combat a new kind of enemy for the 21<sup>st</sup> century: terrorists who were products of the wars fought by America around the world. In one segment, Captain America killed a terrorist named Al-Tariq and then unmasked himself on live television and revealed his secret identity, explaining that

it was not a nameless, faceless nation behind such deeds but an actual person who accepted responsibility for his actions.

Although Captain America's origins in World War II might make him seem a staunch champion of a particular interpretation of U.S. culture, his history in the comics and use by nearly 50 writers over the eras has made him reflective of both liberal and conservative causes and open to interpretation. He has debated everything from the role of the military to the meaning of the Constitution. While superheroes maintain an illusion of relevance by constantly changing with the times — updated settings, gear, and cultural references — they also anchor themselves to particular

moments — their costumes, catch phrases, and origin stories. An event like 9/11 was of such magnitude that the ideological processes behind the superheroes put their dynamic components and fixed identities into sharp contrast, creating a schism between the fantasy of the comic book and the reality of the readers. In the *Civil War* arc (June 2006–July 2007), Captain America balked at the Superhuman Registration Act and refused to lead a force to catch rogue superheroes, choosing instead to go underground himself, in what amounted to a commentary on national security versus civil liberties.

### Unavoidable truths

For numerous superheroes, 9/11 has been impossible to surmount. These figures are “designed to restore our virile confidence” in the U.S., writes Susan Faludi, in *The Terror Dream* (2007), which investigates post-9/11 reactions in the media, popular culture, and politics, but “fears about the hero’s incapacity are so often on display.” Despite their powers, superheroes cannot alter this particular event, notwithstanding having rewritten so much of history in the past. 9/11 is unavoidable, even in the escapism of comic books.

(This might explain one reason why some graphic novels address 9/11 head-on, almost in a documentary format, the starkness of 9/11 compelling creators to detail it straightforwardly. For instance, Art Spiegelman’s 2004 *In the Shadow of No Towers* examines 9/11 posttraumatic stress disorder by combining 10 large-scale pages of material about his family, living in lower Manhattan near Ground Zero, with two essays and reproductions of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century comic strips like *The Katzenjammer Kids* and *The Yellow Kid*. And Sid Jacobson and Bernie Colón turn *The 9/11 Commission Report* into *The 9/11 Report: A Graphic Adaptation*, making a governmental tome that many people would not likely read into a visually accessible series, published in 2004, of four interrelated timelines.)

Many superheroes have found themselves limited in their capacity for change in an almost self-aware movement that reflects the processes of their creators to address the occurrence of a major world event like 9/11 while reestablishing the constructed normality of the superhero fantasy world. In “Unreal,” the opening story to *9-11: September 11, 2001 (The World’s Finest Comic Book Writers & Artists Tell Stories to Remember)*, *Volume Two*, published by DC Comics in January 2002, Superman flies through space while thinking about how incredible his abilities are, but also about their limitations. “The one thing I can *not* do is break free from the fictional pages where I live and breathe, become *real* during times of crisis,” he notes, “and right the wrongs of an unjust world.” The panels for this sequence then pull back to reveal a frame within a frame of the Superman comic in the hands of a small child being rescued by

a New York City firefighter.

What’s more, although Superman makes several appearances in this volume, and is joined occasionally by Batman, Wonder Woman and other major characters, the bulk of the stories, usually only a page or two, highlight non-superheroes, average citizens who might be readers of the comics. Thus, identification is not with superpowers dealing with grand myths of good and evil but with everyday people dealing with basic realities of life and death.



Eric Powell reinterprets the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on page 7 of *9-11: September 11, 2001 (Artists Respond)*, *Volume One*.

This is perhaps most redolent in *9-11: September 11, 2001 (Artists Respond)*, *Volume One*, released by Dark Horse Comics, Chaos! Comics, and Image Comics in February 2002. While *Volume One* and *Volume Two* include many visionary artists — including creators with reputations extending beyond comic books such as Frank Miller and Stan Lee, plus other major talent in the field such as Guy Davis and Will Eisner — the strongest stories emerge when luminaries move away from their notable characters such as Daredevil (Miller) and the X-Men (Lee) and adapt their signature styles onto the iconography of New York City.

In particular, Eric Powell, better known for his darkly irreverent series *The Goon*, recasts the familiar crosshatch façade of the fallen World Trade Center towers from print and television images into the background of a single page arrangement and situates into prominence a lone firefighter gazing at an American flag mounted in the rubble. Just as noticeably behind this, a group of many faces representing the diversity of the U.S. stares straight ahead — at the scene and the reader. The viewer cannot

see the firefighter’s face; it is up to the reader to provide the emotional context. The black and white composition provides the dreamlike scene with further realism, trading the typically bold colors of comic books for a monochromatic starkness.

Mike Mignola, creator of *Hellboy*, has illustrated many superheroes, including Batman and Daredevil, with his highly distinctive style evocative of German Expressionism. In *9-11: September 11, 2001 (Artists Respond)*, Mignola, like so many others, eschews superheroes for real people. Surgeons, firefighters, and sanitation workers pause from rescue efforts and are juxtaposed against panels of statues from New York City. Thus, through his use of portrait, coloration and posing, Mignola equates those who worked around the statues during 9/11 with the emblematic sculptures, and the value of the modern and the ancient balances the mournful with the hopeful.

For Powell, Mignola, and other contributors to 9/11 projects, their powers are not expressed through the superheroes they had used before but from the creative ability to interpret a tragic landscape. In the process, these writers and artists become aesthetic brethren to the likes of Tomorrow and Trudeau, Rees and the team of Lappé and Goldman, Spiegelman and partners Jacobson and Colón. 9/11-themed comics and germane arts prove cartoonist and comics theorist Scott McCloud’s assertion in his *Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art* (1994) that the multiform genre “offers tremendous resources to all writers and artists: faithfulness, control, a chance to be heard far and wide without fear of compromise.” Many auteurs, like Powell and Mignola, are used to turning the ordinary into the extraordinary. But by fashioning the astonishing events of 9/11 into the medium of comic books, they transform the panels into windows to look from fantastic worlds into those of daily life, and death. And through such contemplation, they imbue those images with their own super power. ■



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# A Day of Disbelief, Dust, and Dignity



New Yorkers rushed to the lower Manhattan waterfront at Battery Park to try to escape the collapse of the World Trade Center towers. They were later evacuated by ferries and tugboats from all over New York harbor.

## Theresa M. Valiga

For years I crisscrossed thousands of people around the World Trade Center to get to and from my job as chief program officer for the National League for Nursing, located on the 33<sup>rd</sup> floor of a building a few blocks south of the site.

On 9/11, after the first plane hit, colleagues and I, watching smoke come out of the far side of the North Tower, assumed that a small aircraft had flown into it by mistake and that the fire department would handle things. I went back to my desk.

A few minutes later, I looked up from my computer to see a large plane flying right before my eyes. I thought it unusual for an aircraft to fly that low but resumed working. A heartbeat later, I heard a loud noise and my building shook. Being only four blocks from the South Tower, I felt the effect when the second plane hit it.

Colleagues and I ran to an office with a view. Thick black smoke poured from a gaping hole in the South Tower and continued to stream from the North Tower. No one had any idea what was going on.

Management peers and I directed everyone to the lobby via elevators. Panicked staff received permission to leave to check on their children; others, visibly shaken, said they could not work and were encouraged to go home, too. But many of us took things in stride, waited in the

lobby, and, when told there was no damage to our building, rode elevators back up to the 33<sup>rd</sup> floor.

Soon after returning to my office, I heard another terrifyingly loud sound and looked outside to see my building engulfed in smoke and debris. The South Tower had fallen. With calmness that came from being a nurse in

emergencies, I turned off my computer, gathered important work and personal items, and again helped shepherd co-workers out of the building, this time by stairs since elevators were off-limits.

It was slow going. The farther the descent, the more people departing. Concern ensued, but not panic. Someone who had entered the stairwell on the 20<sup>th</sup> floor passed around a roll of soaked paper towels for us to breathe through. This happened orderly, and no one took more than a sheet or two, so there would be enough for others. Eventually, our group caught up with an elderly, heavyset woman

having difficulty walking; she kept apologizing, urging others to pass her. We did not pass her; instead, we told her not to worry and that we would help her, if need be.

By the eighth or ninth floor, the stairwell was packed. It connected to another stairwell on the other side of the building. Four colleagues and I crossed over to it, not realizing we'd be closer to the Twin Towers upon exit.

At the second floor there was nowhere to go. Security officers, we later found out,

Concern ensued, but not panic. Someone who had entered the stairwell on the 20<sup>th</sup> floor passed around a roll of soaked paper towels for us to breathe through. This happened orderly ...

initially instructed everyone to stay in the lobby. We waited calmly until the lobby cleared out after a bit. We departed rapidly but without pushing.

Once outside, a thick layer of dust and debris covered our shoes and hurt our throats, even with the moist paper towel. An eerie silence loomed. It was broken by a police officer assisting a woman with a small child into a van.

We walked away from the fallen South Tower, of course. Heading toward Battery Park three blocks away, we heard another loud roar and were engulfed by a black cloud. The North Tower had fallen, too. It was nearly impossible to see. The paper towels no longer helped much.

Within minutes, however, the black cloud rolled past us, through Battery Park, on to — where?

We waited in Battery Park — for what, we didn't know. I looked at the Statue of Liberty and wondered if it would be hit next. Rumors flew about a terrorist attack, but no one knew for sure. Cell phones did not work; no one had access to radios or televisions.

People passed out wet linen napkins gotten from a nearby restaurant. My colleagues and I finally decided it made no sense to stay in the park. We were in what came to be called the "hot zone." Of the scant options, heading over to the Staten Island Ferry a few blocks away seemed most feasible.

Downing bottled water compliments of the Port Authority, we rode away from the calamity, one step closer to home and loved ones.

What do I remember most about 9/11? Having no idea what was happening. In the digital age of cell phones, emails, and instant news, I had never been so out of touch.

But more than that, I remember the humanity all around me. No pushing and shoving or screaming and wailing. But caring, compassion, camaraderie, and hope in the midst of chaos, fear, and uncertainty. ■



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For more of Valiga's account, go online to [www.phikappaphi.org/forum/fall2011](http://www.phikappaphi.org/forum/fall2011).



When I left the grieving Marine, I was so angry at what had happened to the U.S. and at the loss of lives and heroes. That is when a FEMA photographer snapped this picture of me in front of the Church Street aid station. I had so much disdain in my heart for the hurt that had been inflicted.

# Heartbreak and Honor

By Betty Hastings

At 10:18 a.m. on Sept. 11, 2001, a confidential government email arrived to U.S. Public Health Service Disaster Medical Assistance Team personnel nationwide. It said that two planes had crashed into the World Trade Center and that “the overall federal response to this disaster is an urgent matter, and your immediate attention is necessary and appreciated.”

I couldn’t believe what I had read and had no clue that the U.S. was under attack. News of another plane hitting the nearby Pentagon and a fourth going down in Shanksville, Pa., soon confirmed the worst fears. As colleagues and I awaited instructions, I worried that the 18-story Department of Health and Human Services building I worked in would be a target. Yet all that seemed to matter to me was calling my mom and dad.

After what seemed like an eternity, we received orders on Sept. 20 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to muster supplies at a warehouse in Gaithersburg, Md., and then headed out on Sept. 22 via two coach buses to Ground Zero in New York City. The energy on my bus was typical for rescue types “biting at the bit” to get to the disaster: eager and tense. The five-hour ride seemed to go quickly. Upon our check-in at a midtown

hotel, I immediately identified exit signs on the 38<sup>th</sup> floor where my room was, as I was concerned about additional terrorist attacks.

The next day, after a debriefing, we first responders were driven to “the pile” and given IDs. Marines patrolled entry points. There were no federal guidelines to follow for a disaster like 9/11, though there are now. Despite years of training and experience, I had no idea where to begin. Law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services and construction workers are tough groups to help, even more so when under duress. All I knew was that we’d have to be flexible because nothing is constant in a catastrophe except change.

I had spent years as a certified emergency medical technician in the Washington, D.C., area and as a mental health social worker at the University of Maryland R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, but I had never seen anything like this. To the left of the West Treatment Center, our first post, was a temporary morgue, with a refrigerated trailer. Straight ahead were incinerated vehicles in a fenced-in parking lot. (I still wonder if people were in their cars arriving to work when the devastation struck.)

Awful odors nearly overwhelmed us: the smoldering “pile” of wreckage; burned

human remains; bodies in the morgue; diesel fumes from heavy equipment and gas generators; rotting food. One of my duties was to hand out peppermint soaked cotton balls and Halls cough drops to help workers reduce potential nausea from the horrific smells.

A lesson I learned in treating people was that sometimes a heartfelt, “How ya doing?” and a cup of coffee and a pair of dry socks are the best medicine. (Trench foot was a problem.) One young ironworker confided while I bandaged his injured hand that he hadn’t slept in 36 hours due to nightmares. While on the 26<sup>th</sup> story of a secondary building dismantling iron beams from the Twin Towers, he had uncovered a human torso.

Stories like that were why when not seeing patients, I organized supplies and cleaned floors — making small order out of infinite chaos — and called my elderly parents nightly to alleviate their worries.

One day near the scorched cars, I spotted among burnt papers a family photo that probably once sat framed on a desk. The family would have given anything to have their loved one’s last evidence of physical connection with them, I thought. I felt so bad that I couldn’t retrieve the photo and find the family. Lost in these thoughts, I mindlessly pulled at filaments in the parking lot fence. What I thought was carpet fibers was human hair.

Another day I came upon a Marine standing at attention at an entry to “the pile.” He was there to support a mass memorial service for fallen responders. Tears streamed down his face as he stood at attention for the entire ceremony. When it was over, I waited a few minutes and then entered the tent he had ducked into. He noticed a New York City Harley-Davidson sticker on my hardhat and mentioned that his uncle had a Harley. When I asked what his uncle rode, he stated the model and, with tears welling, explained that his uncle was a New York City firefighter just honored at the mass memorial service.

I also recall standing in uniform at lunchtime in a midtown deli as a kindly woman thanked me for my efforts and asked how I was doing. Processing my feelings while on task interferes with getting the job done. I had been on autopilot since arriving to Ground Zero but my heart pounded and eyes watered. I had to walk away and shift gears. Otherwise, I would have fallen in a heap. ■

**Betty Hastings** (University of Maryland) worked at Ground Zero from Sept. 23 to Oct. 2, 2001. A Commander with the U.S. Public Health Service, she is the Emergency Medical Services and EMS Children Coordinator for the Indian Health Service in Rockville, Md. Hastings earned degrees in social work from University of Maryland at Baltimore (M.S.W.) and University of Maryland, Baltimore County (B.A.) Email her at [betty.hastings@ihs.gov](mailto:betty.hastings@ihs.gov).



For more of Hastings’ story, go online to [www.phikappaphi.org/forum/fall2011](http://www.phikappaphi.org/forum/fall2011).

## When the Dust Finally Settled

By Catherine C. Shoultz

The 9/11 images that stick with me involve the dust that coated lower Manhattan after hijacked planes were crashed into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center (WTC). The collapse of the buildings created a billowing mass of more than 1.2 million tons of construction material.<sup>1</sup> Almost every photo of Ground Zero in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attacks had one thing in common: dust.

"The dust was omnipresent," said firefighter Kevin Stewart, Deputy Chief of the Jersey City (N.J.) Fire Department, and a first responder. "Everything that you touched, every step you made, everything you leaned on — it was everywhere," he told me in an interview. There was "no way to get away from it the entire time."<sup>2</sup>

This pulverized wreckage would cause potential respiratory problems for first responders, construction crews, and many others who inhaled it in the days, weeks and months of rescue, cleanup and recovery — for roughly 525,000 people, including more than 90,000 9/11 workers.<sup>3</sup> Some battled respiratory damage for years and, in at least a few instances, it proved fatal.

The dust was the byproduct of the massive pressure generated by the towers compressing on themselves and jet fuel exploding into long-burning fires. Toxic pollutants in the dust included everything inside the felled skyscrapers: steel frames, concrete, glass windows — even office equipment such as phones and computers.<sup>4</sup>

Because the dust varied in size from large to small, all parts of the lung were threatened, including the vulnerable deep tissue.<sup>5</sup> Also, the concrete debris from the towers turned the dust alkaline, impairing nasal clearance mechanisms that ordinarily stop particles from entering the lungs.<sup>6</sup> Further, carcinogenic components, such as asbestos,

laced the dust, resulting in an increased danger of lung diseases including cancer.<sup>7</sup>

This dust turned into another terrorist of sorts, haunting the lives of those present at the tower attacks and those participating in relief and refurbishment efforts. Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City determined that of the 10,000 workers from Ground Zero it had tested, nearly 70 percent developed a new or substantially worsened respiratory problem, such as sinusitis and asthma, while on the job or afterwards.<sup>8</sup> World Trade Center Cough Syndrome, a respiratory irritation causing a chronic cough and gastroesophageal reflux, also developed.<sup>9</sup> An "unusual number" of cases of multiple myeloma (cancer of plasma cells in bone marrow) in WTC responders younger than age 45 developed as well.<sup>10</sup>

The 14,000 or so firefighters working at Ground Zero through Sept. 24, 2001, endured the worst exposure to the dust and experienced the largest decline in lung function.<sup>11</sup> A 2010 study found that 59 percent of firefighters at Ground Zero had a form of obstructive airway disease.<sup>12</sup> Part of the reason firefighters and other first responders were so adversely affected by the dust is because they were first on the scene, and 50 percent of a random sample of firefighters surveyed rarely used a respirator in the first two weeks of response.<sup>13</sup> Although there was increased use of masks and respirators as efforts continued, overall use was, at best, moderate.<sup>14</sup>

### Help and progress

In January, the U.S. passed the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act for first responders, additional relevant workers, and many others who suffered injury from the dust.<sup>15</sup> It will distribute \$4.3 billion over the next five years for the 9/11 health crises.<sup>16</sup> The bill, named after a police officer who died of a respiratory disease

after duty at Ground Zero,<sup>17</sup> follows the Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> Victim Compensation Fund of 2001, the original 9/11 healthcare bill that resulted in the processing of upwards of 7,300 claims of related death or physical injury and totaled \$3.35 billion.<sup>18</sup>

In July 2005, the Department of Homeland Security created three new systems that provide the framework for dealing with catastrophic emergencies: "(1) a national response plan (what needs to be done); (2) a command and management process (how it needs to be done); and (3) a national preparedness goal (how well it should be done)."<sup>19</sup> This blueprint incorporates ways to protect first responders; in one of the most important, a safety officer looks for hazardous conditions and has the authority to stop operations if first responders are at risk.<sup>20</sup> A safety officer at Ground Zero might have been able to ensure the use of respiratory equipment and that the equipment fit correctly, which it often didn't.

As the dust has settled, the U.S. has established a safety system for first responders, created laws to compensate victims of 9/11, and provided healthcare for those in need. From now on, when I think of the dust-laden air that blanketed lower Manhattan, I will also remember how America has risen from the ashes. ■



### Catherine C. Shoultz

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in 2009 from Missouri State University, at which she was one of six students to earn the school's highest award, the Citizen Scholar. Shoultz also won a 2009 Award of Excellence from the Society to help finance her graduate studies. Email her at [cat.shoultz@gmail.com](mailto:cat.shoultz@gmail.com).



For footnotes, go online to [www.phikappaphi.org/forum/fall2011](http://www.phikappaphi.org/forum/fall2011).



Removal of debris at Ground Zero continued 24 hours a day in the aftermath of 9/11, with dust everywhere, as this photo from Oct. 13, 2001, shows.

Andrea Booher/FEMA News Photo



# When Healing Is Job One

By Kimberly Thompson

When a catastrophe strikes companies, they often reel, manage, pitch in, and pull through like families. Take Cantor Fitzgerald and 9/11.

Howard Lutnick, chief executive of the financial services firm that lost 658 employees in 9/11, attended 20 funerals every day for more than a month following the attacks on the World Trade Center, he told Rupert Neate of *The (U.K.) Telegraph* on May 2, in an interview about the killing of terrorist leader Osama bin Laden earlier that day by Navy SEALs. Cantor Fitzgerald's headquarters had occupied floors 101-105 of the North Tower; the firm suffered more deaths in 9/11 than any other business or organization — two-thirds of its employees (most of the others were working off-site that day). Lutnick's younger brother and best friend/right-hand man were among the fatalities. Lutnick survived because he was late to work, having taken his son to his first day of kindergarten. By all accounts, the hard-charging boss became the sensitive father figure in the recovery efforts.

The Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund was established three days later. It initially entailed donating 25 percent of the profits that would go to the firm's partners through 2006 to the families of the employees lost and providing them with 10 years of healthcare. Cantor Fitzgerald later expanded the philanthropy to victims of natural disasters such as the Southeast Asian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina, as giving back is important in tragedies. Its brokers also donate all commissions made on the 9/11 anniversary. "On the morning of Sept. 11, we lost more than a team. We lost family," begins Cantor Fitzgerald's website memorial, [cantorfamilies.com](http://cantorfamilies.com).

The workplace often doubles as a surrogate family because of overlapping responsibilities, shared interests, and unspoken comradeship that develop over the many hours spent together daily. Belonging to a group creates positive synergy that leads to team spirit. When calamity arises, these bonds can fray as clinical depression, awkward silences, and survivor guilt, among other psychological responses, set in, and companies need to react and adapt accordingly.

Cantor Fitzgerald tax specialist Harry Waizer was riding in an elevator that ignited as a hijacked plane crashed into the building. While colleagues logged up to 90-hour weeks in the reclamation, he

underwent extensive rehabilitation for horrific burns, including two months of a medically-induced coma. "So I never had the chance to deal with it in a group way, day in and day out. What I dealt with was the personal impact of 9/11," he said in "A Tale of Renewal," profiles of the healing process of 9/11 survivors from Cantor Fitzgerald, in *Bloomberg Businessweek* on Sept. 11, 2006. Riding in elevators, usually a necessity, also haunted him "for a very long time."

Employees confronting loss often want to return to work to establish normalcy; routines provide a sense of security and a way to cope. Stephen Merkel, Cantor Fitzgerald's general counsel, escaped unharmed in a different elevator. "What I learned was that I had the capacity to shut down emotionally and just work, and that might not be the best trait for a husband, a father, or a friend, but for what we had to do, it was necessary," he said in "A Tale of Renewal." This helped lessen his fear and grief, "which I'm grateful for."

Cantor Fitzgerald employee Frank Walczak, an avid surfer, took the day off on 9/11 to take advantage of the swells created by Hurricane Erin on Monmouth Beach, N.J., from which the Manhattan skyline can be seen. After several lengthy rides, he turned his gaze toward the office and saw smoke pouring out of the Twin Towers. Walczak desperately tried to call colleagues but got no answers.

"I still feel a tremendous sense of loss. You start to think of how much time you spent with these people. More time than with your own family," he said in "A Tale of Renewal." "I had a lot of guilt with this. I still get the feeling that people look at me and think, 'Why weren't you there?'"

"But in general I'm doing much better," he continued. "I'm going to make the best of my life, because I know I can't take anything for granted." Walczak switched from trading bonds to securities in the post-9/11 reorganization, in one of many vital acts of restructuring. He "needed" to get back to work, he said. "I feel like what we're doing comes from within. We're rebuilding the company and rebuilding ourselves."

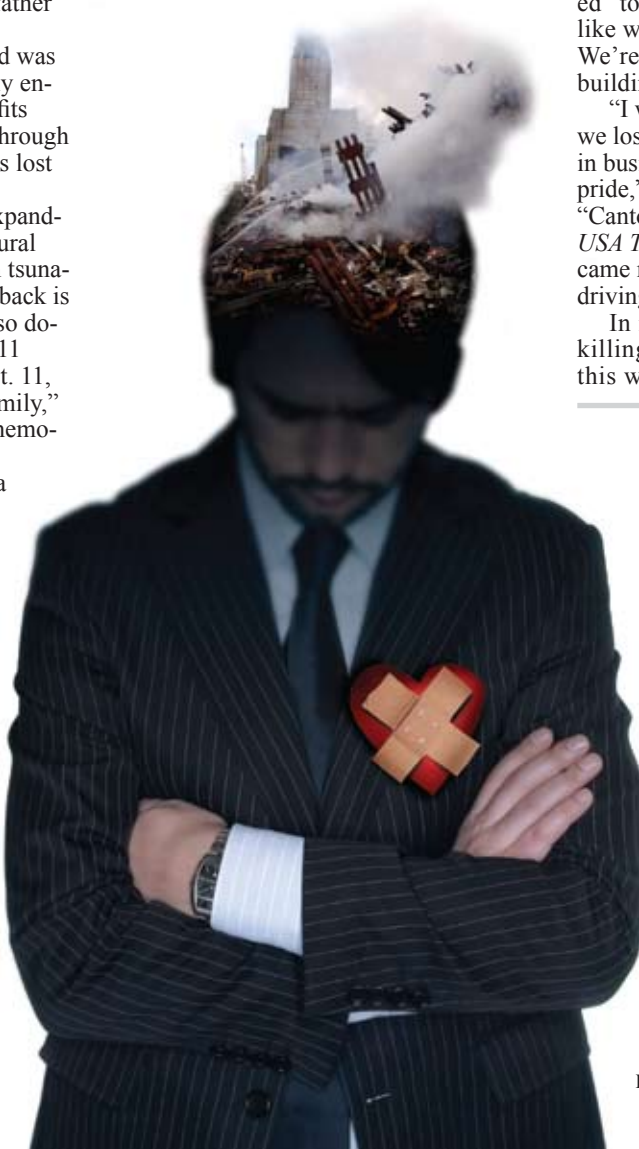
"I want the company to honor the people we lost. Before, we were about succeeding in business. Now, we are about honor and pride," echoed Lutnick in Noelle Knox's "Cantor Battles Back from Tragedy," in *USA Today* on Nov. 12, 2001. "That became my motivation. That became my driving force."

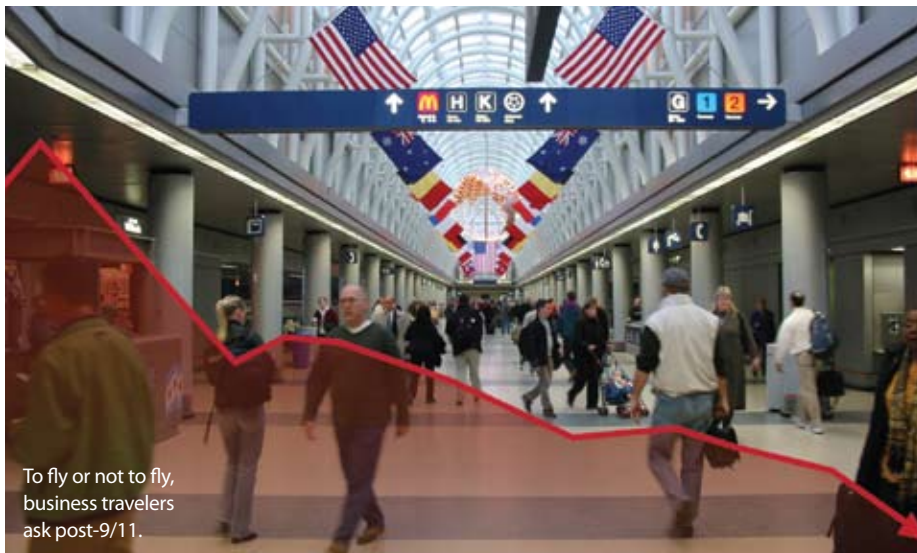
In numerous interviews upon the killing of bin Laden, he said he still felt this way. ■



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To fly or not to fly, business travelers ask post-9/11.

## U.S. Business Travel after 9/11 — and bin Laden

By Philip R. Wahl II

Nearly 10 years after terrorist hijackers turned commercial airplanes into devastating weapons, the mastermind of these horrific deeds, Osama bin Laden, was killed during a U.S. military raid in Abbottabad, Pakistan. But only time will tell if the death of the Al Qaeda leader on May 2 will restore the trust, convenience, and safety that Americans once placed in air travel, arguably the greatest advancement in mass transportation in history. Calls for vigilance against possible revenge following President Barack Obama's announcement that "justice has been done" throws another spotlight on the ongoing economic challenges that the U.S. air transportation system faces — and on where the windfall winds up when business flights don't get booked.

"The current aviation security system is discouraging Americans from flying and contributing to a decline in productivity among those who choose to fly," declares *A Better Way: Building a World-Class System for Aviation Security*, a March report by the U.S. Travel Association in conjunction with the Blue Ribbon Panel for Aviation Security. Airplanes account for 18 percent of business travel, the report states, citing statistics from the U.S. Department of Transportation. "According to a 2010 survey conducted by Consensus Research, American travelers would take an additional two to three flights per year if the hassles in security screening system were eliminated," the report continues. "These additional flights would add nearly \$85 billion in consumer spending and 900,000 jobs to the American economy."

Of course, heightened airport security helps thwart potential terrorist threats and brings peace of mind. But nobody likes standing in a line for hours to go through the protocols. Although I am not a regular business traveler, on a recent return trip from Washington, D.C., to Augusta, Ga., on work matters, I spent almost an entire day in the terminal, waiting my turn to pass through security, or on the plane (barely making the last call for boarding). And most of my colleagues and clients who travel often for their jobs are concerned about how tightened airport security reduces their productivity.

Consequently, many business travelers resort to staying home, limiting their reach to driving distance, and taking to the airways in a virtual sense. (Doing so also saves money in a tough economy and follows the eco-trend of reducing carbon footprints.) "Airlines 2020: Substitution and Commoditization," an executive report from December 2010 by Steve Peterson, global and transportation team leader at the IBM Institute for Business Travel, cites a study that found that 60 percent of worldwide travelers surveyed had reduced travel through remote conferencing. And household product giant Procter & Gamble, with 127,000 employees in 80 countries, built 43 "telepresence" studios from Boston to Singapore for virtual meetings, eliminating more than 6,000 international flights and "millions in travel costs" in the first six months, Ted Samson wrote in an April 20, 2009, article for *InfoWorld*.

Information technology companies benefit from these developments, of course. Perhaps less obvious is that mid-sized cities

do, too. I serve as secretary-treasurer of the Augusta (Ga.) Convention & Visitors Bureau, and I can report that Augusta's hotel/motel tax revenues have increased upwards of 22 percent the past five years largely because more businesses, organizations and government entities are opting for meeting locations in driving distance. (Augusta is located on a major east-west interstate midway between the state capitals of Atlanta, Ga., and Columbia, S.C.) Plus, 54 percent of North American meeting planners say this focus on local and regional markets increases return on investment, according to Randall Travel Marketing's "2011 Top Ten Travel Trends" from April.

On the other hand, metropolitan areas have experienced declines in business economics. For instance, Atlanta suffered an 8 percent drop in business travelers, to 10.8 million, from 2008 to 2009 (lower than the national decline of 11 percent), and business traveler spending decreased by 17 percent, to \$4.4 billion, in that period (higher than the national dip of 11 percent), according to the Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau at [www.atlanta.net/pressroom/research.html](http://www.atlanta.net/pressroom/research.html). For the same period, business travel in Denver fell 20 percent (higher than the national fall of 19 percent via different metrics), according to a June 2010 study, by the research firm Longwoods International, commissioned by the Colorado Tourism Office and VISIT DENVER, the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"Fly the friendly skies," an airline once urged. Business travel in general and business air travel in particular have been permanently changed by 9/11. The costs and the benefits involve security, not to mention money, technology, and environmentalism. Although there is comfort in knowing that the founder of Al Qaeda can no longer wreak menacing havoc, terrorism remains a real danger. We cannot question the necessity of airline security measures. How to manage them is the issue. ■



**Philip R. Wahl II** (Augusta State University) is Senior Vice President/Augusta City President for First Citizens Bank in Augusta, Ga. He is the immediate past chair of the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce. Other outreach

includes being on the Augusta State University Foundation board of trustees and the school's Hull College of Business board of advisors; the University of Georgia Small Business Development Center Network advisory council; and the Medical College of Georgia's presidential community advisory council. Wahl's past chairmanships span the Augusta Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Downtown Development Authority of Augusta. He earned a B.B.A. in management from Augusta State University. Email him at [Philip.Wahl@firstcitizensonline.com](mailto:Philip.Wahl@firstcitizensonline.com).

# Civil Liberties on Campus since 9/11

By Timothy L. Hulsey

I watched the second hijacked plane crash into the South Tower of the World Trade Center with a class of my psychology students on TV. We knew the world was changing, but none of us realized how the events of that day would change what it meant to be an American.

U.S. colleges and universities started grappling with the impact of 9/11 on civil liberties almost immediately. Intense debates about the proper balance between national security and personal freedom began almost as soon as the dust of 9/11 had settled. Initially, these debates were impromptu, arising in class and on quads. Through its annual Clarke Forum for Contemporary Issues, Dickinson College was one of the first to create an ongoing discussion about the post-9/11 world. Part of its effort included establishing in early 2002 a “Teaching 9-11” national contest (teaching9-11.org), which recognizes contributions to 9/11 pedagogy at the primary, secondary and postsecondary levels.

Colleges and universities also began organizing colloquia and conferences to debate civil liberties in a post-9/11 world. For instance, in April 2007, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill brought together “experts on national security, civil liberties and information technology ... [to] explore conflicting needs and realities of the post 9-11 world,” according to a press release. Topics in the free forum included “government access to privately collected data, data sharing and retention, surveillance, data security, data mining and propensity profiling, national ID cards and consumer rights.”

That same year, Oberlin College created an interdisciplinary winter term institute called “After September 11<sup>th</sup>.” Its multidisciplinary lecture series dipped into subjects such as “Civil Liberties and Academic Freedom: The War on Terrorism’s Implications for Students and Faculties in American Colleges and Universities” and “9/11 Civil Liberties, Anti-Terrorism, and the Rights of Subordinated Groups.” And, last year, University of Pennsylvania’s Asian American Studies Program and South Asia Center hosted “Nine Years Later: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties in Post-9/11 America.”

Law schools and schools of public policy have seen the biggest changes in curriculum. In 2005, the Department of Government at University of Texas at Austin offered a course on the “development of civil rights and civil liberties in America, with 9/11 as an organizing theme.” Washington University in St. Louis offered a course that same year called “National Security, Civil Liber-



On syllabi across the ivory tower: how 9/11 has altered assumptions about personal freedoms.

ties and the Law” that used 9/11 as its springboard. And North Carolina Wesleyan College offered a 2005 course emphatically titled “9/11: The Road to Tyranny.”

Perhaps the most telling example of how these discussions have entered higher education comes from websites such as [termpaperaccess.com](http://termpaperaccess.com), [essays24.com](http://essays24.com) and [collegepaperstore.com](http://collegepaperstore.com) that sell or post free term papers on post-9/11 civil liberties! The irony of downloading someone else’s work on individuality and freedom is apparently lost on their customers.

What, if anything, will come of these discussions and courses remains to be determined. The years since 9/11 have not witnessed dramatic reductions in the level of government scrutiny or intrusion that stemmed from the so-called Patriot Act, signed into law less than six weeks after 9/11 to give the federal government more authority to fight terrorism. In November 2001, the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, a watchdog group on higher education, produced a report, “Defending Civilization: How Our Universities Are Failing America and What Can Be Done About It,” that contained 117 “anti-American” statements attributed to academics. And governmental investigations of college students have made the news in many cities. Meanwhile, the December 2010 repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” a 1993 law that prohibited discrimination against

gay men, lesbians and bisexuals in the U.S. military but barred them from service if they were “out,” has meant the return of military training programs to many campuses, stirring things up even more.

Debate about the balance between civil liberties and national security will continue for many years beyond the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11. Educators would do well to continue to expose the citizen-leaders of tomorrow to the complexities of this topic. In fact, doing so is not only instructive but also patriotic. ■



**Timothy L. Hulsey** (Society Vice President for Chapter Relations) is Associate Professor of Psychology and Dean of the Honors College at Virginia Commonwealth University. He coauthored the 2004 book *Moral Cruelty*

(University Press of America), and articles he wrote or co-wrote have appeared in industry publications including the *American Journal of Psychiatry* and *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*. Hulsey earned psychology degrees from Texas A & M University-Corpus Christi (bachelor’s), Trinity University (master’s), and University of Tennessee (doctoral) and served as a pre- and postdoctoral fellow at Dartmouth Medical School. Earlier in his career, he taught and directed the university honors program at Texas State University. Email him at [tlhulsey@vcu.edu](mailto:tlhulsey@vcu.edu).

# A Game Warrior Remembered

By Joe Cascio

Many people consider Pat Tillman (Nov. 6, 1976-April 22, 2004) a hero. The defensive back for the Arizona Cardinals walked away from a three-year, \$3.6 million contract and said goodbye to his new wife to join the Army in the wake of 9/11 and died in the line of duty in friendly fire.

Tillman simply considered himself a patriot.

“You know, my great-grandfather was at Pearl Harbor and a lot of my family has ... fought in wars,” he told NBC News the day after the terrorist attacks. “And I really haven’t done a damn thing as far as laying myself on the line like that.”

That’s why in June 2002, the newlywed, who had married his high school sweetheart the previous month, enlisted in the Army with a younger brother, Kevin, who survives him (and who accompanied the body back to the States). In a letter to his family, Tillman offered his motivation: “Sports embodied many of the qualities I deem meaningful: courage, toughness, strength. These last few years, and especially after recent events, I’ve come to appreciate just how shallow and insignificant my role is. I’m no longer satisfied with the path I’ve been following. ... It’s no longer important.”

Taking tough stands was in his makeup since childhood, what with being raised by a lawyer father and teacher mother. “Defending a friend in a fight, a 17-year-old Tillman roughed up the assailant so badly that he served 30 days in juvenile detention for felony assault, a charge reduced to a misdemeanor. ‘I learned more from that one bad decision,’ he said years later, ‘than all the good decisions I’ve ever made,’” wrote Bob Carter for ESPN.com in 2004.

Tillman applied this hard-won resolve at Arizona State University. The undersized linebacker was the Pac-10 defensive player of the year and his school’s most valuable player in 1997 as a senior. A second team



Left: Football star Pat Tillman enlisted in the Army in the aftermath of 9/11 and died serving his country. Below: Fans paid tribute to Tillman on Sept. 19, 2004, at the Arizona Cardinals football stadium as his number was retired.



All-American, he earned several scholar-athlete awards and graduated summa cum laude with a marketing degree in 3½ years.

The Cardinals picked him in the final round of the 1998 draft and switched him to safety. “What he did well was find his role on the team,” former Cardinals quarterback Jake Plummer remarked to Biography.com earlier this year. “He went out there and impressed guys with his intensity.” In 2000, the relentless Tillman set a team record for tackles.

He carried that grit and resolve to the Army. Tillman and his brother signed up for the elite Army Rangers (training for 28 weeks, including basic training, to make the cut). Their first assignment was in Iraq in March 2003 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“Tillman caught the eye of many in

Washington, D.C. He was the most famous soldier in Iraq or Afghanistan and the Pentagon knew it. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld sent Tillman a handwritten note commending him on his decision,” Christine Romo and Stephanie Wash reported for ABC News’ *Nightline* on Sept. 11, 2009. “But Tillman shunned the limelight, refusing to do any interviews after he joined the Army.”

The private first class returned stateside for additional Ranger training in fall 2003, and in April 2004, his 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment was deployed to Southeastern Afghanistan in the push to destroy the infrastructure of Al Qaeda. At first, it was announced that Tillman had died helping lead his platoon to safety during an ambush. (His brother was part of this battle.) Eventually, after conflicting accounts, attempted cover-ups and botched procedures, the Army disclosed that he had perished by friendly fire. Military investigations and congressional hearings followed. So did books such as Jon Krakauer’s 2009 *Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman* and the 2010 documentary film, *The Tillman Story*, by director Amir Bar-Lev.

More than 3,500 people attended Tillman’s memorial service. “Pat’s best service to his country was to remind us all what courage really looks like,” Sen. John McCain of Arizona eulogized, “and that the purpose of all good courage is love.” ■



**Joe Cascio** (California State University-Dominguez Hills) is Project Manager of Athletics at Santa Monica College. Previously, he was associate head coach of men’s basketball. Beginning full-time higher education

at age 34, Cascio earned a bachelor’s degree in kinesiology and a master’s degree in physical education administration from California State University-Dominguez Hills. Email him at [cascio\\_joe@smc.edu](mailto:cascio_joe@smc.edu).

## Posthumous Honors for Pat Tillman:

- He was awarded the Purple Heart and Silver Star.
- The Arizona Cardinals (No. 40) and Arizona State University Sun Devils (No. 42) retired his number and created stadium memorials.
- The football field of his alma mater, Leland High School, San Jose, Calif.; the Pac-10 Conference football defensive player of the year award; the Mike O’Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial (Colorado River) Bridge, a Hoover Dam bypass; and the Pat Tillman USO Center, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, are named for him.
- The joint Engine Co. 10 and Ladder Co. 10, New York City Fire Department, commemorates his No. 40.



## The Pat Tillman Foundation:

Created by his family and friends, its mission “is to invest in (U.S.) veterans and their families through education and community.” One effort, the Tillman Military Scholars program, supports “active and veteran service members and their families by removing financial barriers to completing a degree or certification program of choice.” Go online to [www.patillmanfoundation.org](http://www.patillmanfoundation.org).

— Joe Cascio

Left: *Tribute to Pat Tillman*, football player and 9/11 patriot, painting by Scott Medlock

# Writer's Roots Grew in Twin Towers Rubble

By (William) Arnold Johnston and Deborah Ann Percy

**B**ryan Charles moved to New York City in 1998 to find success as a writer shortly after receiving a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University, where he had majored in creative writing and taken several writing classes from one of your columnists. But the obstacles to literary success in the world's toughest arena, as well as its economic pressures, compelled him to accept a day job with Morgan Stanley, the financial services firm, on the 70<sup>th</sup> floor of Tower Two of the World Trade Center. Charles was at work on 9/11. He and his closest colleagues escaped unharmed largely because they descended the stairs, ignoring announcements to stay at their workstations.

The experience led Charles to quit his job and earn an M.F.A. in creative writing from Brooklyn College. A coming-of-age novel, *Grab on to Me Tightly as if I Knew the Way* (HarperCollins, 2006), and *Wowee Zowee* (Continuum International Publishing Group, 2010), an appreciation of the titular album by the alternative rock group Pavement, followed. But 9/11 remained with Charles, and his memoir about being an aspiring writer, *There's a Road to Everywhere Except Where You Came From* (Open City Books, 2010), climaxes on that fateful day. In an email Q & A, Charles discusses the book. Here are edited excerpts.

**Question:** Could you comment on the sense of responsibility you felt in turning tragedy into art?

**Answer:** Early on I felt burdened by a fairly heavy set of expectations, a feeling that I needed — and really, desperately wanted — to write *the* definitive 9/11 book. (The early version was a thinly fictionalized novel.) And the early drafts suffered as a result, and I guess I did too, in the sense that I worked with this weird sort of albatross around my neck for the better part of three years before I changed the focus. I think what happened was I was giving the event too much power in the narrative — it was the whole reason for writing that early version of the book. Once I changed the focus to my early days in the city and my desire to be a writer and the struggle to make a living — once I placed 9/11 in that context and it became just another component of that narrative rather than the main event — a weight was lifted, and I was able to write what I feel is a more interesting book.

**Q:** You've expressed some scorn about memoirs that suggest the writer's life was changed for the better after undergoing a traumatic experience. But looking back, do you feel that 9/11 has played a similar part in your life?

**A:** I think I know what you're talking about, and I sure didn't mean to be scornful. I was responding to a review of the book where the critic took me to task somewhat for writing what she felt was a withholding, too-restrained memoir. It's an issue some people have with the book. There isn't a ton of handholding or explaining or even stabs at insight into my or other people's motivations. It's mostly just action recounted in stripped-down sentences. Having said that, the book does follow the modern memoir framework to a degree. Something big happens and it has a profound effect on me and I eventually make a big life change. So yes, I feel now — and have always felt — that 9/11 changed my life and perspective. There's really no question of that. And I

think the book ends "happily" in a way, if not with any neat summary of a life lesson.

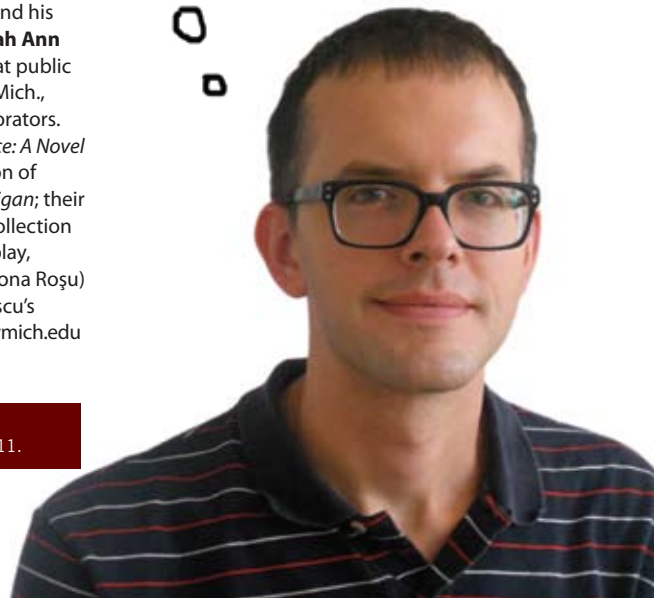
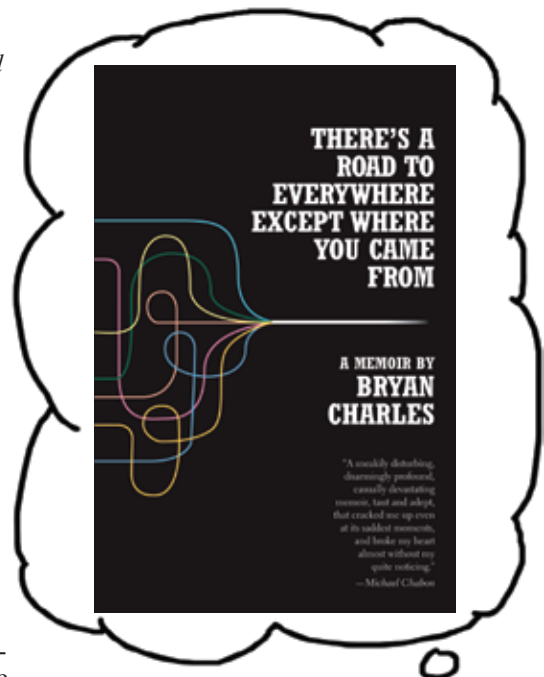
**Q:** Do you feel any impulse to revisit the event's implications beyond your own life?

**A:** Not at the moment, although maybe that'll change two or three years down the line. I've always been interested in the political and cultural dimensions of 9/11 and I've read a number of books that go at it from those angles. At the same time, it is such a personal, emotional thing for me that it's hard to envision a time when I won't write about it through that lens. It's strange — it has been 10 years and part of me feels so removed from it now that seeing pictures and footage of it is like seeing old news footage of the Vietnam War or something. But there's this other part of me that's still so highly attuned to it that it doesn't feel that long ago at all; it feels like a blink. So it's this weird mix of quasi-objectivity and rawness lurking just below the surface. ■



**(William) Arnold Johnston** (Western Michigan University), Emeritus Chair and Professor of English at Western Michigan University, and his wife **Deborah Ann Percy**

a former educator-administrator at public middle and high schools in Kalamazoo, Mich., are full-time writers and frequent collaborators. Their books include his *The Witching Voice: A Novel from the Life of Robert Burns*; her collection of fiction, *Cool Front: Stories from Lake Michigan*; their anthology, *The Art of the One-Act*; their collection of one-acts, *Duets: Love Is Strange*; their play, *Beyond Sex*; and their translation (with Dona Roşu) of Romanian playwright Hristache Popescu's *Epilogue*. Email them at [arnie.johnston@wmich.edu](mailto:arnie.johnston@wmich.edu) or [dajohnston2@gmail.com](mailto:dajohnston2@gmail.com).



For more of the Q & A, go online to [www.phikappaphi.org/forum/fall2011](http://www.phikappaphi.org/forum/fall2011).

# How to Connect in a Shattered World

By David Madden

There are the literary artist who succeeds in rendering the elements of enormous events that defy imagination, that affect a multitude of people, catastrophes such as the tsunami in Japan and Hurricane Katrina, manmade holocausts such as the Jewish genocide and Hiroshima, in ways that profoundly activate the reader's emotions, imagination, and intellect, meshing the three in compassionate memory. That is the achievement of Don DeLillo's 2007 novel, *Falling Man*.

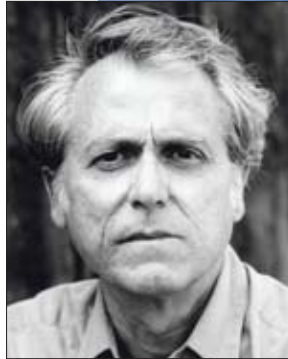
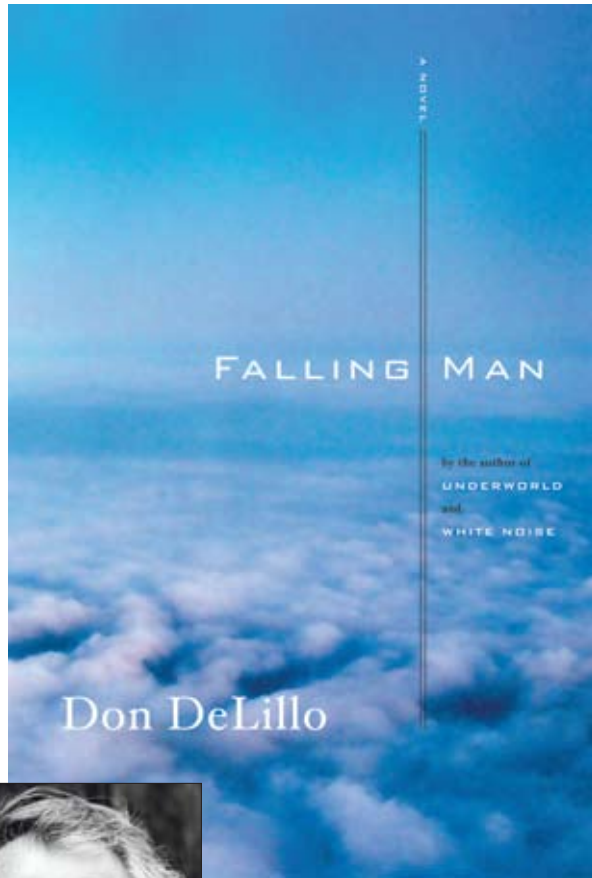
Within an apt structure of fragments, DeLillo develops complex parallels among all the characters, "overlapping emotions," intensifying our responses to the external and internal experiences especially of the two main characters, Keith, a 39-year-old lawyer who escaped down the stairwells of the World Trade Center on 9/11, and his wife, Lianne, who witnesses stages in the effect of 9/11 upon her husband over three years.

DeLillo's characters see parallels to the fall of the Twin Towers everywhere. Lianne "saw what she saw. She saw the towers." A freelance editor whose father committed suicide at the first signs of dementia, she also conducts writing therapy for patients in the early stages of Alzheimer's. "They wanted to write about the planes." As one of the spectators watching a man falling head first in harness from high buildings as a stunt "seven days after the planes," Lianne is acutely aware of the parallel with the anonymous man in Richard Drew's famous photograph actually falling from one of the towers. The most poignant parallel image comes in the final line. Walking away from the towers, Keith "saw a shirt come down out of the sky ... arms waving like nothing in this life."

Having unconsciously carried a stray briefcase out of the burning building, Keith looks up its owner, Florence, a young black woman (Keith is white), the only person with whom he can talk about the tower. "This was their pitch of delirium, the dazed reality they'd shared in the stairwells, the deep shafts of spiraling men and women" in "the descending chaos." Their talking, Florence tells Keith, saved her life. "Only connect" is a major theme, along with its fruition, a sense of community.

Lianne's own attempts to draw Keith out about his experience effect profound psychological changes ("cognitive dissonance") as she continues her skewed relationship with her hypochondriac mother, an art historian who is engaged in a long relationship with a charming international art dealer whose past includes acts of terrorism.

Separately, Lianne and Keith respond to their nine-year-old son's reactions to 9/11. Having heard the newscasts and talk among their parents, Justin and his two friends lock themselves daily in a room where they scan the skies with binoculars for the planes that Bill Lawton (as they interpret the sound of Osama bin Laden's last name) will someday send to blow up the Twin Towers. Lianne cannot fully convince Justin that the towers have already fallen, not



Don DeLillo

even when she takes him to Ground Zero.

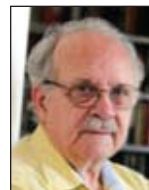
In short sections, DeLillo delves into the mind of one of the hijackers. "The world changes first in the mind of the man who wants to change it. The time is coming" when "each man becomes the other, and the other still another, and then there is no separation." Ironically, the hijacker's insight embraces all the characters. A fascinatingly complex character, Lianne wants to become her mother, but she also wants to be a normal, ordinary person. By contrast, Keith fails to continue to be himself. Having lost two of his poker buddies in the catastrophe, he becomes a different person — a professional gambler.

DeLillo, whose other novels include *Players*, *White Noise*, *Libra*, *Mao II*, and *Underworld*, has chosen not to narrate 9/11 on an epic scale; rather, his approach is to meditate vividly upon the drama of

human consciousness. "There's the event, there's the individual," Lianne's mother's lover, the aging former terrorist, says. "Measure it. Let it teach you something. See it," he tells Lianne. "Make yourself equal to it."

DeLillo does not barrage the reader all at once with disaster images; he brings them into play page by page, raising them a level higher than mere description. The explosion drove "pellets of flesh ... organic shrapnel" into the skin. "The dead were everywhere"; they "settled into ash and drizzled on windows all along the streets," in Keith's "hair and on his clothes." Keith looks at his best friend, Rumsey, dying: "The whole business of being Rumsey was in shambles now." Walking away as a survivor, Keith saw "the tower falling, the south tower diving into the smoke."

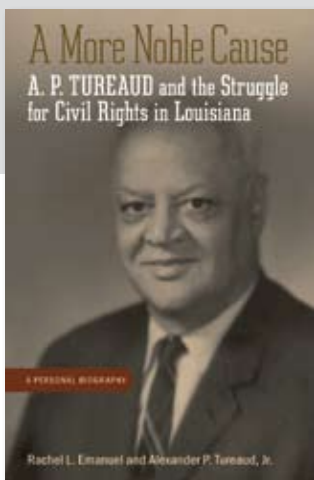
In the most unique and brilliant of his artistry, DeLillo moves, in a single sentence, from the mind of the hijacker to the impact of his act upon Keith. Seated, his back to the towers, the hijacker watched a bottle fall off the counter in the galley, "then skitter across the floor an instant before the aircraft struck the tower, heat, then fuel, then fire, and blast waves that sent Keith Neudecker out of his chair and into a wall." ■



**David Madden** (University of Tennessee) has written 10 novels. The most recent, *Abducted by Circumstance*, was reviewed in the spring 2011 edition of this magazine, and *London Bridge in Plague and Fire* will be published by University of Tennessee Press in 2012. Madden's other novels include *The Suicide's Wife* and *Sharpshooter*. He also has published scholarly books, story collections, and plays. Madden taught at Louisiana State University for

41 years. Email him at david@davidmadden.net.

Compiled by Editor Peter Szatmary



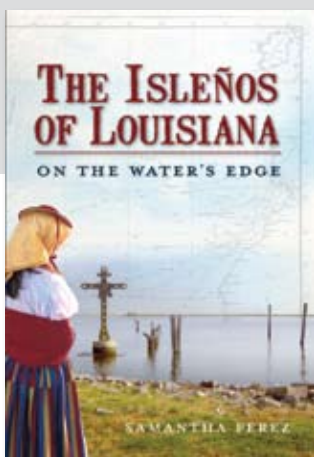
## A More Noble Cause: A. P. Tureaud and the Struggle for Civil Rights in Louisiana

By Rachel L. Emanuel and Alexander P. Tureaud, Jr.

352 pp. Illustrated. Louisiana State University Press (April 2011).  
\$35 hardcover.



‘Throughout the decades-long legal battle to end segregation, discrimination, and disfranchisement, attorney Alexander Pierre Tureaud (1899-1972) was one of the most influential figures in Louisiana’s courts. *A More Noble Cause* is both the powerful story of one man’s lifelong battle for racial justice and the very personal biography of a black professional and his family in Jim Crow-era Louisiana,” press materials declare. Coauthor Rachel L. Emanuel (University of Texas at Austin), director of publications and electronic media at Southern University Law Center, studied the person and the cause in graduate school, she explained via email, and wrote and produced related short documentaries including *Journey for Justice: The A. P. Tureaud Story* and *Taking a Seat for Justice: The 1960 Baton Rouge Sit-Ins*. This first full-length study of the New Orleans-based Tureaud utilizes more than 20 years of research, press materials continue, “into the attorney’s astounding legal and civil rights career as well as his community work.”



## The Isleños of Louisiana: On the Water’s Edge

By Samantha Perez

144 pp. Illustrated. The History Press (February 2011).  
\$19.99 paperback.



The Spanish influence on Louisiana, via Canary Islanders, dates back centuries. “After Hurricane Katrina, I began to realize that so much of the culture in St. Bernard Parish, La., was at risk of being lost. This book became my way of helping to preserve and share that culture and that history with others,” Samantha Perez, a resident of the parish whose home was destroyed in the hurricane, wrote via email. “I argue that Isleño history is a living history,” continued Perez, a doctoral student in history at Tulane University; 2010 Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship winner; and South Central Region representative on the Society’s inaugural Council of Students advisory panel. The book, which builds on an earlier one-hour documentary by Perez (Southeastern Louisiana University) and her fiancé Joshua Robin, is “a way of preserving everything — the history, the stories, the songs, the oral tradition — for those in the community and anyone interested in the Isleños,” she added.



## Historic Diary

By Tony Trigilio

115 pp. BlazeVox [books] (January 2011).  
\$16 paperback.



Poet Tony Trigilio (Northeastern University) investigates Lee Harvey Oswald in his latest collection, naming it after Oswald’s account of his journey to the Soviet Union. “I want the poems in *Historic Diary* to re-experience the myths and texts of the John F. Kennedy assassination within their historical and cultural contexts,” Trigilio, who teaches at Columbia College Chicago, wrote via email. Poet Srikanth Reddy in a blurb calls the book “an extraordinary work of imaginative reconstruction” that “assembles a postmodernist Warren Commission Report from archival research, obituaries, interviews, and historical broadcasts surrounding the assassination” and that discovers “in the chaos of evidence, rumor, and falsehood, that no dialectical method can offer his speaker an escape from the prison house of paranoia.” Poet Martha Collins agrees; her blurb calls this a “fine book,” “both a page-turner that takes you into remote corners of the Kennedy assassination controversy, and a bold postmodernist collage of poetic styles, voices and forms.”

## Phi Kappa Phi Bookshelf Submission Guidelines

If you are an author and would like your work to be considered for inclusion in the Phi Kappa Phi Bookshelf, send two copies of the book, a color headshot of yourself, contact information (address, phone numbers, email), and a one-page synopsis to:

### Phi Kappa Phi Bookshelf

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi  
7576 Goodwood Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806  
editor@phikappaphi.org

\*All submitted books will be added to the Phi Kappa Phi library housed at the Society headquarters.

## Former Phi Kappa Phi Executive Director Offers Parting Thoughts upon Retirement

By Perry A. Snyder

For several weeks, I have tried to identify four or five reminiscences to convey what it meant to labor in the “vineyards of honor and excellence” for 12 years as executive director of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

Hmm. “Vineyards.” Reminiscence No. 1 has its roots not in vineyards but in kudzu. En route to a meeting at University of West Alabama, Neil Luebke, the first Society president with whom I served, commented on the insidious roadside vine. That led the conversation to vineyards of the Napa Valley, then to “vineyards of honor and excellence,” a phrase I have used on countless occasions since that late summer day in 2000. This reminiscence affords me the opportunity to remark on the late Luebke’s service to our honor society. It grew out of his belief that Phi Kappa Phi’s greatness stems from its mission: “To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others.” Neil, who passed away at age 72 in June 2009, was uncompromising in his commitment to it. Neil Luebke, mentor, friend, leader.

Fast forward four years to the United States Military Academy. How I have enjoyed participating in initiations and getting to know chapter volunteers like Michelle Gerdes and new initiates like 2004 Fellowship recipient Kevin Terrazas, who would go on to graduate from Harvard Law School and is an associate at Yetter Coleman, which handles business and technology litigation. Like my wife Cindy, who traveled often with me, I treasure each and every initiation ceremony. The one at West Point, N.Y., with Gerdes and Terrazas was especially memorable for me as an historian because cadets Dwight Eisenhower, George Patton, Douglas MacArthur, and George Marshall and countless others from the Greatest Generation dined in the very hall in which the initiation took place.

From the Hudson River to a March 2007 meeting in Baton Rouge of the Society’s governing board. “Bright and shining moment in the history of our honor society” does not do justice to the decision the board unanimously made to change the

governing body to include students and “alumni” members not part of the academy. Credit is due to all on that board and to then-president Paul Ferlazzo for building consensus for this action.

From Baton Rouge to Washington, D.C., to meet with ophthalmologist and humanitarian Alice “Wendy” True Gasch. On a chilly October day in 2006, she carved time out of her busy schedule to

meet with me. Over lunch, I asked, “Wendy, why have you been both faithful and generous in your support of Phi Kappa Phi?” I recall her answer as though it were yesterday. “It’s simple. I believe in honor and in excellence,” she said, “and that’s Phi Kappa Phi’s reason for being.” Through her family’s foundation, Wendy has provided invaluable financial support

for Fellowships and for the relocated headquarters. Wendy Gasch, philanthropist, friend.

“Philanthropist and friend” also describe William J. Wolfe. My phone rang one July morning in 2004. The voice on the other end said, “I just read an article in *Phi Kappa Phi Forum* about endowing Fellowships. Can you help me endow one?” That call led to two visits with Bill in his home in Tucson, Ariz. During one of them, he showed me portraits of his forebears and paused before his paternal grandfather and said, “I would like my fellowship to bear Grandfather Wolfe’s name.” That was as poignant a moment as I have experienced in four decades of fundraising. Shortly before his death at age 80 in June 2007, Bill, who spent most of his career as a teacher and librarian in public middle and high schools, also contributed generously to the relocated headquarters. The Society gardens bear his name.

How I wish I had more space to thank by name current and past board members, committee members, chapter officers, and the university presidents, provosts, deans and department heads for whom Phi Kappa Phi is a priority. My special appreciation goes to staff colleagues whose hard work I have appreciated and whose friendships I hold dear. In taking my workday leave from what has been my honor society since March 1964, I am confident that Phi Kappa Phi’s best days are ahead. ■

My special appreciation goes to staff colleagues whose hard work I have appreciated and whose friendships I hold dear.



Perry and Cindy Snyder

**Perry A. Snyder served as executive director of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi from June 1, 1999, to June 30, 2011. During his tenure, the Society:**

- Increased the number of **chapters** from 282 to 316
- Added three **awards** competitions (beyond Fellowships, which began in 1932, and the Phi Kappa Phi Scholar and Artist, which date to 1974 and 1983, respectively): Study Abroad Grants (2001), Literacy Grants (2003), and Love of Learning Awards (2007)
- Purchased a new home for **headquarters** in Baton Rouge, La., in May 2006
- Received its largest planned **gift** of \$1.2 million in November 2002 and a commitment for its most generous current **gift** of \$300,000 in December 2010
- More than doubled the headquarters’ **staff** from 9 to 20
- Expanded **services** to chapters and members including creating Chapter Relations (September 2000) and Marketing and Member Benefits (January 2005) Departments
- Switched from a triennial to a biennial **governance** cycle effective August 2010
- Moved production of **Phi Kappa Phi Forum** from Auburn, Ala., to the Baton Rouge headquarters in July 2008



## Question: SLU's Most Popular Chapter Event? Answer: Quiz Bowl!

By Shipra De

**I**n Norse mythology, name the eight-legged steed that belongs to Odin and has runes carved on its teeth.”

If you answered Sleipnir (and knew that runes are mysterious and magical marks or lettering), you might have what it takes to compete in the Phi Kappa Phi Homecoming Intramural Quiz Bowl at Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU). The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary event will occur in October. At least eight four-person teams are expected to play the enlightening and entertaining game.

The quiz bowl exemplifies “the fun as well as the academic aspect of the institution,” said Joan Faust, English professor, SLU chapter secretary (and former chapter president), and contest organizer. Roy Blackwood, visual arts professor, former Phi Kappa Phi Director of Fellowships, and former SLU chapter president, agreed, calling the quiz bowl “a demonstration of academic quality, which is what Phi Kappa Phi is all about.”

In fact, a Phi Kappa Phi Promotion of Excellence Grant, which Faust successfully submitted 10 years ago, worth about \$2,500, allowed the SLU chapter to purchase the buzzers, time clock and questions necessary to bring the quiz bowl to the school.

The competition unfolds over the course of a friendly-fierce afternoon. Teams of faculty and students vie for respective titles in seven-minute games in a double-elimination format, answering questions that the SLU chapter orders from vendors that market quiz bowls. The final match pits the winners of these two brackets against each other in a showdown for bragging rights and trophies, which are typically bestowed by the university provost or president.

More than 700 people have participated in the quiz bowl over the years, Faust estimates. Teams tend to return year after year, often with the same line-up. Sample challengers: the Center of Attention, made up of personnel from the Centers for Faculty Excellence and for Student Excellence; and the Sigmatizers, who represent the English Department and sponsor the school’s chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society.

Lori Smith, head of government documents at the library, and a veteran of the Dewey Decimators library faculty team, said she likes how “there are questions

**Every year ‘they have a player who can bleed pages from an encyclopedia.’**



The Sigmatizers won the 2010 Phi Kappa Phi Homecoming Intramural Quiz Bowl at Southeastern Louisiana University. The team represented the English Department and sponsored the school’s chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society. Players, from left to right, Chris Genre, instructor; Rebecca Murry, instructor; Sheri Craig, instructor; Dustin Cotton, administrative assistant; and George Dorrill, associate professor, posed with university President John Crain on Oct. 18, moments after victory.



Left: The Italian Club (the left team, from left to right: Cody Sires, Estelle Haile, Jordan Gugliuzza, and Charles Barcia) competed against the Gamma Beta Phi Honor/Service Organization (left to right: Anna Jones, Tim Relling, Sharon Johnson, and Shantel Crain) in a student match on Oct. 18, 2010.

from all over the map, from calculating sales tax to opera” to her areas of expertise: vampires and boy bands.

To show team spirit, the Dewey Decimators sometimes come adorned in gray wigs with pencils sticking out of them like stereotypical librarians.

The English Department is usually the team to beat, though. Every year “they have a player who can bleed pages from an encyclopedia,” commented quiz bowl host Joe Burns, a onetime radio disc jockey and current communications professor and faculty senate president.

The hardest questions? “Oh, math, certainly,” said Smith. One year a student team “really destroyed” opponents because of a preponderance of math questions, seconded Burns. “I have the questions in front of me while everyone else looks at me like my mother is ugly. But they had this one player who could

just fire off the right answer,” he recalled. “She influenced us to keep the math questions when we were debating whether we should eliminate them.”

The best part of quiz bowl? “The interplay between the faculty and students,” Smith said.

To date, the faculty leads 7-2 as quiz bowl champs. ■



**Shipra De** (University of Nevada-Las Vegas) is an analyst at an engineering and technical support firm contracted with the Department of Defense. She earned three bachelor’s degrees, in mathematics, computer science, and

economics, from University of Nevada-Las Vegas in May. De is a Western Region representative on Phi Kappa Phi’s inaugural Council of Students advisory panel. Email her at [shiprade@yahoo.com](mailto:shiprade@yahoo.com).



For more photos, go online to [www.phikappaphi.org/forum/fall2011](http://www.phikappaphi.org/forum/fall2011).

# Member Spotlight

**MY TALENT:** sculpture

**MY STYLE:** realistic, academic and classical

**MY PASSION:** capturing the expressions, emotions and movements of the human form

**MY HONOR SOCIETY:** Phi Kappa Phi

## GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE.

**Glenna Goodacre** is renowned for her large-scale bronze figurative sculptures. Her works are exhibited and displayed in public, private, municipal and museum collections in more than 40 countries. Goodacre was initiated into Phi Kappa Phi at Texas Tech University in 1999.

Founded in 1897, **Phi Kappa Phi** is the oldest and most selective honor society for all academic disciplines. Its more than 100,000 active members include great minds in science and medicine, government and law and the military, education and business, along with sports, literature and the arts and just about every other field imaginable.



Matt Shure

**KNOW OF OTHER GREAT MINDS TO FEATURE IN THE PHI KAPPA PHI GREAT MINDS CAMPAIGN?  
SEND US YOUR SUGGESTIONS AND SEE A GALLERY OF MORE GREAT MINDS AT [WWW.PHIKAPPAPHI.ORG/GREATMINDS](http://WWW.PHIKAPPAPHI.ORG/GREATMINDS).**

Compiled by Editor Peter Szatmary

**Jaime Benator** (Mercer University) won the U.S. Army Nurse Corps Spirit of Nursing Award at the 59<sup>th</sup> annual National Student Nurses Association convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. The May graduate from Georgia Baptist College of Nursing at Mercer University works in the neonatal intensive care unit at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (Ga.) at Egleston.



**Arthur A. Dugoni** (University of the Pacific) received the inaugural Paragon Award from the American Student Dental Association for excellence in student advocacy, dental education, clinical practice, and industry dedication. Dean Emeritus, Pro-

fessor of Orthodontics and Senior Executive of Development at University of the Pacific Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, he has earned many other distinctions including election to the FDI World Dental Federation List of Honour and dental alumnus of the year at numerous universities.

**David Glenwick** (Fordham University) published *A Physician under the Nazis: Memoirs of Henry Glenwick* (91 pages; Hamilton Books, January 2011; \$17.99 paperback, \$9.99 ebook), about his father. It provides a "rarely-heard perspective on the Holocaust by a Jewish physician who served both Russian and German occupiers during World War II," Glenwick, Professor of Psychology at Fordham University, wrote via email.

**Kevin Knutson** (Western Michigan University), Director of Undergraduate Academic Advising, College of Arts and Sciences, Western Michigan University, was one of five winners of a 2011 Outstanding Advising Award, Academic Advising Administrator Category, from the National Academic Advising Association.

**Robert Lima** (Pennsylvania State University) held a one-man show, "Framed Poetry," featuring some of his poems and visuals largely comprised of his own photography, in the lobby of the State Theatre, a nonprofit community arts venue, in State College, Pa., in April. He also was the featured poet at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual celebration at Casa-Museo Federico Garcia Lorca in Granada, Spain, in May, discussing his own writings and the oeuvre of Garcia Lorca, on whom Lima has published. Professor Emeritus of Spanish and Comparative Literature, and Fellow Emeritus, Institute for the Arts and Humanistic Studies, at Pennsylvania State University, Lima has published seven books of poetry, plus numerous works of criticism, biography and bibliography. His "Astrals" won this magazine's inaugural poetry contest in spring 2009.

**Kranthi K. Mandadi** (Texas A & M University), a postdoctoral research scientist in the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology at Texas A & M University, was one of six young scientists to be named an ambassador to the American Society of Plant Biologists. Four graduate students also were appointed.



**Susan Niz** (University of Minnesota) published her first novel for young adults, *Kara, Lost* (240 pages; North Star Press of St. Cloud, Inc., June 2011; \$14.95 paperback). The 16-year-old title character "feels the suffocation of her suburban

life, trading in her home and family for a gritty, anonymous existence on the streets of Minneapolis," press materials state. The "universal story of yearning for place, acceptance, and identity" is loosely based on the author's adolescence. Niz, an ESL teacher, has published short stories in print and online literary journals.

**Jorge Pullin** (Louisiana State University) has been appointed founding editor of the online, open-access trade magazine about physics, *Physical Review X*, [prx.aps.org](http://prx.aps.org), published by the American Physical Society as part of its *Physical Review* journals. Specializing in gravity and black holes, Pullin is Hearne Chair of Theoretical Physics at Louisiana State University and co-directs its Hearne Institute for Theoretical Physics.



**Brittany Reid** (University of West Georgia) held her first book signing for her debut work, *Quack-a-Doodle-Do: Do It Like Dave*, a self-published and full-color picture book for children age 5 and older (\$13 paperback). It's

about a young duck who thinks he's a chicken. She appeared at Barnesville-Lamar County Library, in the Flint River region of Georgia, where she grew up and still resides. Reid, who helped raise such animals on her family farm as a child, earned a B.A. in mass communications and journalism from University of West Georgia in July 2010. The book is the first in a proposed series promoting self-esteem. Go online to [www.quackadoodledoo.com](http://www.quackadoodledoo.com).

**Sarmad (Sam) A. Rihani** (University of Maryland, College Park) was elected president of the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI). More than 20,000 structural engineers within the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) comprise it. SEI publishes technical documents, holds conferences, sponsors continuing education, and produces codes and standards. An ASCE fellow, Rihani is principal of REI Structural Consultants of Reston, Va., and has held previous administrative positions at SEI and ASCE.

## The following members last spring ...

### Received academic honors:

**Patrick Adams** (University of Louisiana-Lafayette), mechanical engineering major, outstanding graduate at University of Louisiana-Lafayette. **Shannon Leigh Beaudry** and **Heather Elizabeth Patterson** (Francis Marion University), English major and early childhood education major respectively, two of three winners of William H. Blackwell Awards for highest grade point average upon graduation from Francis Marion University. **Shaun M. Cooper** (Mississippi State University), secondary education major, one of three winners of \$3,000 G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery Foundation Scholarships for Mississippi State University seniors. **Michelle Hamann** (State University of New York-Oswego), a graduate student in an M.B.A./bachelor's program in accounting, one of five students from State University of New York-Oswego to earn a Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. **Vanessa Junkin** (Salisbury University), communication arts major, Achievement Key Award at Salisbury University's honors convocation. **Alan Kondo** and **Brittany Ross** (Lamar University), chemical engineering major

and exercise science and psychology major respectively, 2011 outstanding senior man (C. Robert Kemble Award) and woman (Bess Gentry Award) at Lamar University. **William Munro** (Illinois Wesleyan University), political science professor and director of international studies at Illinois Wesleyan University, 2012 Kemp Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence from the school. **Leah Shapiro** (Pennsylvania State University), restaurant and institutional management major, Pennsylvania State University College of Health and Human Development student marshal. **Amy Sage Webb** (Emporia State University former chapter president), English professor and co-director of the creative writing program at Emporia State University, 2011 Ruth Schillinger Award for outstanding service to the women of the school.

### Spoke at commencement:

**Kevin Callihan** and **Medina Whitney Jackson** (Morehead State University), music education and psychology major respectively, Morehead State University. **Kim Taylor** (Youngstown State University), geography major, Youngstown State University. **J. Robert White** (Samford University), Georgia Baptist

Convention Executive Director, Shorter University.

### Earned scholar-athlete distinction:

**Kelee Grimes** (Northwestern State University), junior business administration major and pitcher at Northwestern State University, named second-team selection to the 2011 Capital One All-Academic Softball District VI Team by the College Sports Information Directors of America. **Dan Mazzaferro** and **Erica Meissner** (Auburn University), he an M.B.A. student-diver and 2010 Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship winner and she a swimmer earning a B.A. in anthropology last summer from Auburn University, named 2010-11 H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athletes of the Year by the Southeastern Conference and each receiving \$15,000 scholarships. **Lee Ellis Moore** (University of Mississippi), biology major, men's track and field scholar-athlete of the year from the Southeastern Conference, and one of two in his class at University of Mississippi to earn its highest academic honor, the Taylor Medal. ■



For more Member News, go online to [www.phikappaphi.org/forum/fall2011](http://www.phikappaphi.org/forum/fall2011).

Compiled by Editor Peter Szatmary

**Edith Rose Henry Antonel** (Arizona State University), 90, worked as a licensed practical nurse at her husband's medical practice and later as a special education teacher in an elementary school. She received her nurse's license as part of the first nursing class at University of Arizona and earned a master's degree in special education from Arizona State University. Antonel volunteered with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul charity and the Northeast Regional Medical Center in Phoenix, Ariz. Described as fiercely independent, she drove till a month before her passing. As a youth, Antonel, a mezzo-soprano, won lead roles in high school musicals and hosted a radio program in Kansas City, Mo. Preceded in death by her husband of 47 years in 1988, she died on May 7 at her home outside of Kirksville, Mo. Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, another son, and two grandchildren, among many other kin.



**George T. Barthalmus** (North Carolina State University former chapter president), 68, taught zoology and biology to more than 16,000 students over 40 years at North Carolina State University. He also

served as associate dean and director of academic programs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences before retiring in 2001, then soon returned first as interim director of the honors program and then, at the time of his death, as director of the office of undergraduate research. He specialized in the behavioral toxicology and pharmacology of amphibian skin secretions, co-held a U.S. patent for a method of inhibiting the growth of melanin-pigmented cells, and authored many scholarly articles and book chapters. (Barthalmus also penned three mystery novels.) Among his biggest contributions was developing the State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium. "Under George's leadership undergraduate research and the university's undergraduate research symposium grew impressively; indeed, George was successful in expanding the model to the entire 17-member UNC campus system," former colleague and former Phi Kappa Phi president Wendell McKenzie wrote in an email that summarized "his highly effective career." Barthalmus earned a bachelor's degree in biology and education from Bloomsburg University and master's and doctoral degrees in zoology from Pennsylvania State University. He died on May 12; survivors include his wife, daughter and son-in-law, two grandchildren, and mother, among other relations.

**Garland Edmonds** (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University), 83, turned his

bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Virginia Tech into a 34-year career with the Chesapeake Corporation, from which he retired as vice president of production. It may not be surprising that he helped construct church and school buildings and additions and a civic auditorium in community service and that one of his hobbies was carpentry. An Army sergeant in World War II, Edmonds died on March 23 at his home in West Point, Va., surrounded by his family. Survivors include his wife of 60 years, daughter and son-in-law, son and daughter-in-law, two grandsons, one granddaughter, and two great-granddaughters, plus many others.

**Abraham Holtzman** (North Carolina State University), 88, taught political science at North Carolina State University for more than 45 years, wrote Sylvia Holtzman, his wife of 62 years, by email. His six books include *The Townsend Movement: A Political Study*; *American Government: Ideals and Reality*; *Interest Groups and Lobbying*; and *Legislative Liaison: Executive Leadership in Congress*. Earlier in his career, Holtzman worked for a U.S. congressman, senator and the chair of the Democratic National Committee. He earned degrees from University of California, Los Angeles (B.A. and M.A.) and Harvard University (M.A. and Ph.D.) and was a Fulbright professor in Bologna, Italy, for a year. The Army veteran, who served in New Guinea until wounded, died on Jan. 18, 2010. Other survivors include three sons and daughters-in-law, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**Paula Raye King** (Southeast Missouri State University former chapter president), 65, chaired the Health and Human Services Department at Southeast Missouri State University at the time of her passing. She won many honors for her work in home economics and earned degrees from Southern Illinois University (B.S. and M.S.) and Oklahoma State University (Ph.D.). It might be inevitable that she was a master seamstress and excellent chef. King also enjoyed singing in the university choir. She died on March 28; survivors include her husband of 31 years, his family, two sisters and their families, and her parents.

**Anne Elizabeth Moore** (Oregon State University), 56, an outdoorswoman nonpareil, trekked many state parks, famous mountains and natural wonders throughout the U.S. with her husband, a military man; the couple boated, pitched tents, hiked and went birding together. Moore also was a fitness buff who especially liked swimming and aerobic dancing. Her lust for life extended to the fine arts and fine dining, too. And to education: she earned three bachelor's degrees from Oregon State University. Preceded in death by a sister, she

died on April 10 at her home in Milwaukie, Ore. Survivors include her husband of 40 years, son, parents, in-laws, two brothers, and sister.

**Thomas C. Suermann** (United States Military Academy), 64, spent his military career with the Army Corps of Engineers. Perhaps his patriotism was preordained given that he was born on July 4. Suermann served as platoon leader in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division upon graduation from the United States Military Academy. After earning a master's degree in aeronautical engineering from Princeton University, he held command and staff positions, taught at West Point, and was district engineer in the Wilmington, N.C., and St. Louis, Mo., regions. The highly decorated Suermann served overseas in Darmstadt and Heidelberg, Germany; Taegu, Korea; and the Sinai Desert in Egypt. He retired as a colonel in 1998 and went on to work for architecture, engineering and construction firms including Parsons Brinckerhoff in Orlando, Fla., and Burns & McDonnell in Kansas City, Mo., among other jobs, before relocating to Rockledge, Fla., to build a home for his golden years. Suermann died on March 9, after a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer in January; survivors include his wife of nearly 40 years, son and daughter-in-law, another son, four grandchildren, mother, identical twin brother, numerous other siblings and their spouses, and many nieces and nephews.



**Albert R. Whittle** (Troy University), 96, made his professional mark twice with "distinguished careers in the United States Air Force, as a lieutenant colonel, and at Troy University, as vice president

of financial affairs," wrote son Alan by email. His Air Force tenure "spanned World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, during which he served as a member of the Judge Advocate General's Corps in several state-side and overseas assignments. He met the bar in Alabama, Georgia, and Ohio and was certified to argue before what's now called the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces and the U.S. Supreme Court." Whittle received numerous military citations before retiring in 1969 to begin his second line of work at Troy University. He earned degrees from University of Georgia (bachelor's and master's) and Atlanta's John Marshall Law School. Whittle, who had 10 siblings, died on March 31 of natural causes at his home in Moorpark, Calif., surrounded by his wife of 70 years and other son and daughter-in-law. Other survivors include two granddaughters, a grandson, five great-grandchildren, and a sister. ■

# 911 on Short Notice, from the Coffee Room

Backpedal through the combusting office-spaces, the one-hundredth floor water cooler; backpedal through the smoldering cement, the charges of the soot angels. Hold a chart to my eye and ask me what I see; make me pick a letter, count my matches, strike one, batter up, repeat. Ask me what I see when you pinch two fingers over the eye and press me into a marine field trip — sea urchins and cephalopods — then press me into a lopsided laminograph; open me up, sure, but don't pat my edges over somebody's creamed father, don't let anyone brulée at all. Don't let anyone shake you up one morning and ask you who's missing, ask which wall came tumbling down. It's raining now, bitty spider, don't come out. Don't peer at electrodes popping over that sheet of convex glass and see someone's papa; don't know someone who might have left on a jet plane. Tell me I'm the clincher to a joke I didn't get, in a dream that was hard to shake. Don't make us watch those steel-armed birds nosedive like paper planes, fragile and cruel. From their graves the Wright brothers raise an affronted eyebrow, point a finger nowhere in particular, and then watch those birds spindle down like maple pods on a fiery breath,

like a slow-speed car chase. How fast can anyone go in a slow-speed car chase? How fast before it's no longer a slow-speed car chase, but the kind of guest who stands up at dinner like he has something to say. *Who cares?* You want to sigh, wondering what French nails are called by Parisienne women, because if you were a Parisienne woman, and not an American boy, your father would not have climbed two flights of stairs to the office one day, and not climbed down. The guard on the street corner waves you over for a riddle. What goes up on two legs and down on its back? We're too young to know that air in New York could be filled with so much ash. What is ash, you want to ask your father who's not there, but it seems like such a trivial question; you once heard all of life is trivial, like a neighbor who passes of a late night stroke while half the city is ignited, like stapling scraps of your dress onto the fabric of your shoes, like trying to count how long it takes to make a building that tall. And if anyone had called in sick that morning, what were they thinking as they sat down to their Wheaties and the news?

By Karlanna Lewis

## Terror Takes Flight

When the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center fell to terrorist attacks, poetry suddenly appeared everywhere: taped to lampposts in Manhattan, passed around via email, and soon thereafter published in journals and anthologies dedicated to remembrance. Ten years later, a simple Internet search of "9/11," the theme of this edition, brings up endless websites and books devoted to elegizing events of that day.

This isn't surprising. Despite poets' justified lamentations about poetry not being widely read in the U.S., people often turn to it in the darkest and brightest, mostly deeply felt moments of their lives — consider funerals and weddings — even those who might otherwise rarely or never seek it out.

The genre of the elegy for a communal loss, especially one as dramatic as 9/11, however, is fraught with human and aesthetic challenges — challenges that all entrants faced and that Karlanna Lewis met especially well in her winning poem, "911 on Short Notice, from the Coffee Room." To convey the "universal" terror and loss of that day, she focuses on particulars, in image and word: from the "one- / hundredth floor water cooler" in "combusting" offices to the evocative "charges of the soot angels" to what those were thinking who called in sick that morning "as they sat down to their Wheaties and the news."

The relentless, cumulative drive of the poem as the speaker at once "backpedals" to the horrors of that day and begs "[d]on't make us watch / those steel-armed birds nosedive" powerfully embodies the overwhelming nature of this experience that must be confronted — by the speaker; by the child whose father "climbed two flights of stairs / to the office one day," never to climb back down; and, ultimately, by each of us. ■

— Sandra Meek, poetry editor



**Karlanna Lewis** (Florida State University) earned an undergraduate degree in Russian and creative writing, with an honors thesis in poetry, from Florida State University in April. Her writing has been published in journals and newspapers. She also dances with a small Tallahassee company, Pas de Vie Ballet. Email her at [kml09k@my.fsu.edu](mailto:kml09k@my.fsu.edu).



**Sandra Meek** (Colorado State University) is author of three books of poems: *Nomadic Foundations* (2002), *Burn* (2005), and *Biogeography* (2008), winner of the Dorset Prize from Tupelo Press. Her fourth, *Road Scatter*, will be published in 2012 by Persea Books. She also edited the anthology *Deep Travel: Contemporary American Poets Abroad* (2007), which earned an Independent Publisher Book Award Gold Medal. Recipient of a 2011 creative writing fellowship in poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts, Meek also has published poems in *The American Poetry Review*, *Agni*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Poetry*, *Conjunctions*, and *The Iowa Review*, among other journals, and twice been Georgia Author of the Year. She is a cofounding editor of *Ninebar* Press, director of the Georgia Poetry Circuit, and Dana Professor of English, Rhetoric, and Writing at Berry College.

**Editor's note:** *The poetry contest is open only to active Society members, published or unpublished. Submissions — one per entrant per issue — should be up to 40 lines long and must reflect the theme of the edition. One original, previously unpublished poem is selected for the printed version. Runners-up may appear online. Because the winter edition will be devoted to those who have won Phi Kappa Phi monetary awards in the past year, the next poetry contest will be for the spring 2012 edition, theme of "Accountability." Entry deadline is midnight, Dec. 4, only by email at [poetry@phikappaphi.org](mailto:poetry@phikappaphi.org). For complete rules and details, go online to [www.phikappaphi.org/poetry](http://www.phikappaphi.org/poetry).*

# When Comedy Is No Joking Matter

By Bob Zany

Every Tuesday morning, I wake up at 3:45 PST to prep for my nationally syndicated radio segment, "The Zany Report." Despite my touring schedule, I am usually able to phone it in from my home office in Southern California, although I have broadcast live from Atlantic City, the Bahamas, Israel and countless airport lounges. Except for the time I slept through my alarm in — where else? — Las Vegas, I haven't missed a show in 14 years.

So, on Sept. 11, 2001, I did what I always do: got up before dawn, made some coffee, and scanned the paper for last-minute joke ideas. And since it was my birthday, I indulged in my discreet annual glance at the "Celebrities Born Today" column in the *Los Angeles Times*. Like every year, actress Kristy McNichol and writer O. Henry were listed, but there was no mention of me. Come on, not even on my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday?

My first call was to the team of "Two Guys Named Chris" on Rock 92 FM out of Greensboro, N.C. At 5:46 AM my time, while I opened with a throwaway joke about actor Marlon Brando's permanent weirdness, American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. I finished the call with no knowledge of the unfolding events, jostled my sleeping wife, an actress/comedian scheduled to shoot a makeup commercial that day, and did a little packing for our birthday trip to Orlando, Fla.

What turned out to be 12 minutes after United Airlines Flight 175 had crashed into the South Tower, I phoned "The Big Dogz" on KJ-108 FM in Grand Forks, N.D. Although I have to assume that the radio station was beginning to receive news, I finished my report unaware. My third call was to the nationally syndicated "Bob & Tom Show." When the producer answered the phone, all he said was, "I don't think we'll do any more comedy today."

My first thought was that he was having some sort of a breakdown. The "Bob & Tom Show" was, and remains, one of the most popular morning drive-time comedy programs in America. I had been in radio since 1980 and I knew that formats changed without a lot of notice, but this didn't make any sense. So I walked into the bedroom and turned on the TV. That woke up my wife. "How did it go?" she asked, as she did every Tuesday morning. "It didn't," I answered, still preoccupied by the last call. "Something big is going on." So big that neither of us mentioned my birthday.

I have performed on earthquake-rattled stages, through smoke



from nearby forest fires and while holding a flashlight *and* a microphone during power outages. I have done my act after so many hurricanes, tornadoes and ice storms that I could have my own show on The Weather Channel. I was familiar with working in and around natural disasters, but this was something different — and the only time in my career that the show actually didn't go on.

My wife's acting job did go on as scheduled, and she spent the day hawking a new brand of mascara while I cancelled our vacation. I didn't want to answer the question, "What did you do after Sept. 11?" with, "I went to Disney World!"

Over the next few days, I watched the comedy world readjust. My gig at The Riviera in Las Vegas for the week of Sept. 17 was cancelled, and my agent advised me to drop a joke with the punch line, "There's smoke in the cockpit!" even though it was written years earlier and was about dyslexic pilots.

My first post-9/11 show was on Sept. 21 at Brewster's Comedy Club in Peoria, Ill., and it was immediately clear that the crowd needed some collective laughter. It played in Peoria. There was no mention of my birthday. ■



Comedian **Bob Zany's** "Zany Report" is still featured weekly on the "Bob & Tom" radio show. He tours with the Busch Light Bob & Tom Comedy All-Stars at concert venues and produces stand-up shows for casinos and resorts across the country. *Close but No Cigar*, Jay Kanzler's documentary about Zany's career, is playing festivals nationwide after debuting in February. Zany has made more than 800 national television appearances and for 17 years was associated with *The Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Association Labor Day Telethon* in front of and behind the camera. A Los Angeles native, he lives in the San Fernando Valley with his wife, Erin, and their certified pre-owned adopted dogs, Henry, part rottweiler and Doberman pinscher, and Frankie, dalmatian and pointer. Go online to [www.bobzany.com](http://www.bobzany.com) or [www.facebook.com/bob.zany](http://www.facebook.com/bob.zany) or email him at [bob@bobzany.com](mailto:bob@bobzany.com).

# THE HONOR SOCIETY OF PHI KAPPA PHI OFFICIAL GEAR

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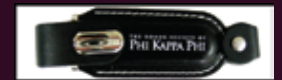


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