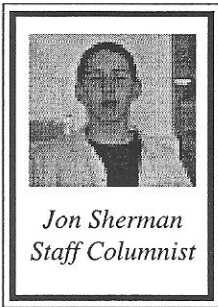


Where Were You On September 11?



Jon Sherman
Staff Columnist

We all know now, and most of us with great detail, of the catastrophes that took place on September 11, 2001: the day the World Trade Center's Twin Towers came tumbling down, along with the

bombing of the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

While some hurried busily in their suits and expensive briefcases across the downtown streets of the Twin Cities, there were several men in the skies above our nation on a mission to kill, both themselves and others. I remember hearing, "Didn't you hear about the airplane crashing into the World Trade Center in New York? And another just crashed into the Pentagon." My fellow students asked with a smile of laughter on their face. I responded in a way that could best be described by saying, "and..."

Airplanes crash everyday. Hadn't an airplane crashed into the White House a few short years ago? Nobody was harmed, were they? I can't remember, so it obviously must not have been that large of an event. Didn't sometime after the E.S. building was erected, a plane ran into, then stuck directly out of the building's side, "as if it were a movie prop" my aunty recalls? What struck me was the coincidence of the two crashes. My first class got out. I wandered throughout the halls for a good two to three minutes before noticing small crowds gathering in rooms, which is unusual. Open School students going to class and all- eagerly at that. Something was wrong.

So I headed toward Julie Doble's room. She had the television on, and the minute I walked in, the first words I hear on the television are a woman saying, "Oh my God, oh my God, here comes another one." Another airplane struck the second tower of the World Trade Center, and when the camera panned out for a skyline-view of New York City, I thought that this was the end of the world. It literally looked like a Hollywood movie show, the plane crashing into this large structure, New York in smoke. I was near breaking into tears for fear of my life, as were others in this country.

At around 8:50 that morning 10th grader Savanthia Moore walked into Leo's room

Attack on America By The Numbers

Dan Skelly
Staff Writer

The Terrorist attacks on Tuesday September 11th, have shaken the nation and it may be weeks before we know the total number casualties. The tragedy began at 8:45 a.m when Flight 11 slammed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center, killing the 92 passengers and crew on board. Many thought the crash was an accident until the second plane, Flight 175, crashed into the South Tower at 9:03 a.m killing, the 65 passengers and crew. It was around 9:43 a.m when Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon killing the 64 passengers and crew on board. Around 10:00 a.m, the 44 passengers on Flight 93 learned of the terrorist attacks, by cell phone and tried to stop them from crashing into other important buildings. The plane crashed 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. Their were no survivors.

At full capacity, The World Trade Center Towers contain 25,000 people each. Luckily most people escaped the towers before they collapsed. The North Tower fell at 10:09 a.m, followed by the South Tower at 10:30 a.m. At the site, over 279 people have been confirmed dead with 2,250 wounded and over 5,960 are missing but presumed dead. Although that number may go down because many family members may have reported the same person missing.

After this much time the chance that any of the 6,400 people buried under the rubble are still alive is next to nothing. At the Pentagon 125 are believed dead with 77 wounded. These figures do not include those killed on planes, just the ones killed in the buildings.

The plane that hit the Pentagon, Flight 77 was believed to have been intended for the White House, but the building is very hard to spot from the air because it's surrounded by trees and buildings. The plane flew over the white house. It is believed that when the plane missed the White House then it headed for the Pentagon because it is easy so see from the air and the plane could be shot down by Stinger missiles from the White House roof before completing a second pass.

The death-toll from this attack could easily surpass the 2,000 deaths at Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941, or the Oklahoma City bombing on April 19th, 1995 that left 168 dead. For now the nation watches and waits for what's to come. ♦

asking if he could hook up Julie Doble's television. According to Leo, She said she wanted to see all the dead people. She most likely didn't know the extent of this tragedy. Hall monitor Christina Mauricio was in the office speaking to Mary Kay. This must have been eight-something. Mary Kay insisted Christina come to the television. She was shocked.

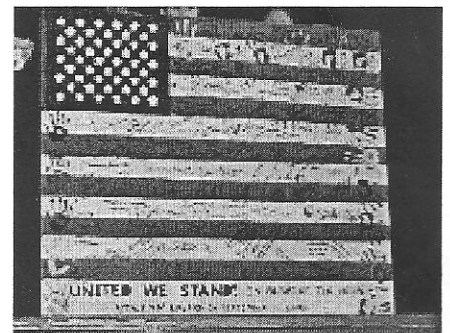
Christina arrived in the office shortly before the second tower collapsed. Since then, Christina said she has felt bad about this predicament, especially for the kids and parents, both lost and surviving the lost. Christina also expressed concern for attendance liaison Rashonda Shanklin, who has family in Washington D.C. "It's got to be scary to hear your workers and family are down there, and you're left wondering if they're OK or not, but luckily for Rashonda they are," said Christina.

Christina also thinks that the while the news coverage of this situation is a bit overdone, it makes it easier for people to talk about the tragedy.

Spencer Folsom, grade 11, was coincidentally late for school that morning. He woke

up at home around 8:00 only to see the tragedies unfolding in a live broadcast on the CBS morning show. "I don't want you to go to school today Spencer," said his mom, Goldie Folsom of St. Paul. "They're (the news) saying it might be terrorism, but aren't sure."

Some lived, some died, everybody else has an opinion. I find it very funny, because two weeks ago, if you were to ask someone what their culture is, they typically wouldn't care. Now we are greeted with good old American pride. This has definitely changed America. This is the generation's JFK Where were you on September 11th, 2001?



US flag signed by Open School students