

# Terrorism: Will we strike back?

□ The largest-scale terrorist attack our country has ever seen or experienced, will pull us apart if we let it.

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Managing EEditor

Images of the twin towers of the World Trade Center crumbling to the ground, the Pentagon in flames and President Bush talking somberly to the nation in disbelief and despair have resonated off TV screens, radiowaves and internet web-sites since yesterday morning.

Our nation is now witnessing the greatest American tragedy of our generation's lifetime.

This unprecedented act of aggression toward innocent Americans has left many with the realization of the false sense of security many of us in this country, which until now has been isolated from terrorist attacks, have had in the past.

We are so used to watching these events unfold in the Middle East or Ireland but not here at home.

I cannot fathom what it would be like to have family and friends in New York or Washington, D.C., and not be able to hear their voices to be reassured they are alive and well.

Many questions have to be answered in the coming days as these perilous events are analyzed and replayed.

How did the terrorists sneak aboard the hijacked planes?

What exactly was their motive?

Were they helped by a foreign government?

Could this happen again?

Could these atrocities have been prevented?

Americans are understandably angry.

They are angry that so many innocent people died.

They are angry that security was not tight enough to catch these unscrupulous killers.

They are also angry that their sense of security has been shattered.

While these feelings are completely understandable and expected, it is imperative that the American people not place blame on any government, organization or group of people before this attack is attributed to the proper source.

Many speculations have been made as to who is behind the massacre and what the

as this national crisis is investigated.

I hope that America is strong enough not to succumb to this.

Instead of pointing fingers and persecuting those who have as much right to be in this country as those who are Christian, Catholic or atheist and those who are of African-American, American-Indian or of Japanese-American descent, I wish for an America where

we will all come together to heal as a nation, not as separate religions and not as different backgrounds.

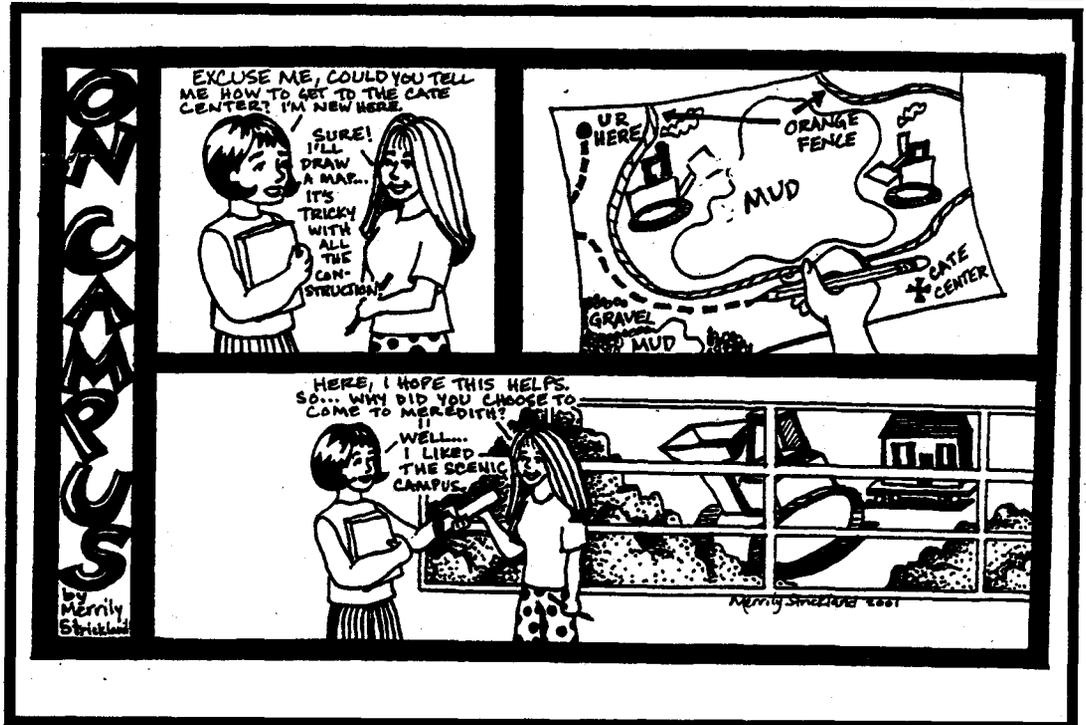
Our country has now become prey to a predator who has lurked in other countries for decades.

Now that this beast has come upon our shores, it hits home in a way that it has never before. It is now important more than ever for Americans to realize the meaning of the age-old phrase "United we stand; divided we fall."

motive was, but nothing is known for certain yet.

Osama Bin Laden has been named the prime suspect in the killings due to his history of terrorist attacks on American embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya in 1998 and his discontent with our foreign policy toward Israel.

While Bin Laden very well could be behind this tragedy, I fear that because of his religion (if those who encourage terrorist activity are truly religious at all) and his ethnic background, innocent Americans who have Middle Eastern lineage or believe in the Muslim faith will be harassed in the coming days



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