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“Today and tomorrow, it’s all about honoring the memory of the people we lost.”



Dan Thompson of Pennsylvania embraces his wife, Joanne, on Wednesday in front of the Flag of Honor memorial in New York City. Joanne, a paramedic, lost two friends in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The memorial, located at Ground Zero, lists the names of civilians and emergency personnel who lost their lives.

DTH/KATE BLACKMAN

City shows new signs of strength

New York still considered cultural, economic mecca

BY ELLIOTT DUBE
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

For some people, it’s the city where Frank Sinatra longed to tread in his “vagabond shoes.” For others, it’s the grimy network of mean streets and fast-paced lifestyles that threatens to spit out whoever dares enter its maw.

But optimists and pessimists alike were forced to watch as New York was delivered a devastating blow.

On Sept. 11, 2001, it became the city where the towers fell.

From the looming tenements of the Bronx to glittering Manhattan to the tightly woven, multicultural fabric of Brooklyn, New Yorkers watched as the World Trade Center tragedy unfolded.

People’s sense of the city was capsized in a matter of seconds as two of its biggest and strongest buildings became its most vulnerable, said Ric Burns, director of “New York: A Documentary Film.”

He likened New York being brought to a standstill to King Kong being defeated: seemingly impossible and, when it happened, unbelievable.

“It was shocking to think that this, the most aggressively powerful city in the nation, could be rocked to its knees,” he said. “That’s not supposed to happen. New York’s our 800-pound gorilla.”

It’s too early to say that the city and the world have changed permanently, said Kenneth T. Jackson, professor of history at Columbia University and president of the New York Historical Society.

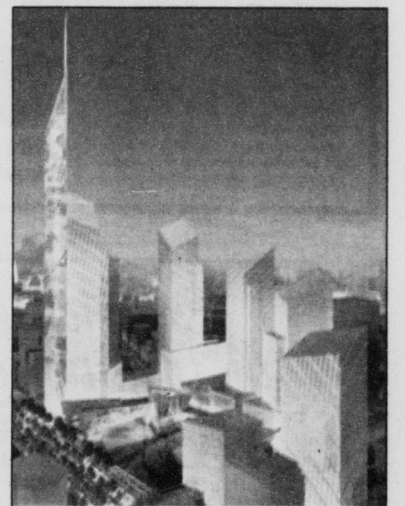
Twenty-five years from now, he said, people might be able to say the attacks either were isolated events or the beginning of a new era of fear.

“It’s still too stunning,” he said. “I don’t think Americans have returned to normal. I think we are returning to normal.”

The symbolic and psychological significance of Sept. 11 made for an event “for which there is no second place,” Jackson said. But New York has seen its fair share of tragedy.

On June 15, 1904, more than 1,000 people died when a fire engulfed the steamship General Slocum

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COURTESY OF PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK

The approved plan for the World Trade Center site.

DEEP SCARS CLOUD NEW YORK’S REVIVAL

BY CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR. AND EMMA BURGIN SENIOR WRITERS

NEW YORK

One year ago, memorials held letters, flowers, pictures and patches from law enforcement agencies across the world.

Tens of thousands of people streamed to New York to remember and to mourn.

But on the eve of the second anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, businesspeople going home for the day outnumber the mourners on the city block encompassing the site of the World Trade Center.

A 40-foot memorial in Battle Park City is replaced by a single wreath dedicated to this city’s police officers, including the 23 who died as a result of the Sept. 11 attacks. The wreath’s flowers and leaves are wilting; the red, white and blue ribbon has faded.

In Manhattan, as the sun sinks into the Hudson River and Sept. 10 draws to an end, there are signs that the scars ripped in the heart of New York City and the nation two years ago are healing, for better or for worse.

“It’s like a wound,” said Keith Zielinski, a resident of Queens who has watched the crowds come and go and the site evolve during the past two years. “It’s beginning to heal.”

The site of the World Trade Center no

longer is filled with dust clouds, as construction cranes have given way to new steel structures.

The thousands that thronged to New York on Sept. 10, 2002, have dwindled to hundreds in 2003, their flags replaced by disposable cameras.

“You see all these people taking pictures as if it’s some kind of tourist attraction,” says New York resident Savnya Bhatnagar. “It’s just human nature.”

Bhatnagar says he was on a bus in the Lincoln Tunnel when he saw the World Trade Center buildings ablaze.

He worked in the World Financial Center Two building, right across the street from Ground Zero.

His day was as chaotic as that of any other

person in Manhattan on Sept. 11, 2001.

He says he saw mass explosions of white paper, balls of flame leaping out of the towers and people falling to their death, images he says he can’t erase from his mind.

Eventually, he ended up walking more than 35 blocks to find his wife and tell her he was OK.

After the attacks, Bhatnagar says, he took about four months to “make sense of life.” But since January 2002, he’s been a regular visitor to Ground Zero as it has evolved from a tangled mass of rubble.

But Bhatnagar said he’s not the norm. “It’s a split,” he said. “I know some people can never come back. I can imagine my

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Ceremonies across state mark tragedy

BY LAURA YOUNGS
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Though New York is more than 500 miles away, cities across the state are finding ways to honor the lives lost just two years ago in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The Campus Y will hold a candlelight ceremony at 7 p.m. on the steps of South Building in Polk Place, at which students can pay tribute to those who died.

In addition, a remembrance banner will be in the Pit today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for students to sign. It will be hung in the Campus Y and eventually in the Foundation for the Defense of

Democracies in Washington, D.C.

But UNC-Chapel Hill is not the only place remembering those who perished in the attacks.

This morning, Raleigh Mayor Charles Meeker will lead a ceremony that will include local firefighters and police officers in front of City Hall, said Jim Shughrue, public information officer for the Raleigh Police Department.

At 9:59 a.m., there will be a moment of silence to mark the collapse of the South Tower in New York.

“Sept. 11 was an event that left an impression and a mark on

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Liberty, safety hang in balance

Greater restrictions concern many

BY ELLIOTT DUBE
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

On one hand, there is the increased airport security, the growing number of classified records and suspicions of people being detained indefinitely.

On the other, there are the lingering images of towers falling in New York, the Pentagon burning in Washington, D.C., and debris covering a field in Pennsylvania.

The question of whether people in the United States are willing to sacrifice some of their civil liberties to prevent future terrorist attacks has occupied the minds of citizens and policymakers for the past two years.

The USA PATRIOT Act, passed by Congress in October 2001 to expand law enforcement’s capacity to fight terrorism, has spurred debate about the balance between true liberty and true security.

Patricia Camp, executive director of the N.C. chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, said the act does more to expand the government’s surveillance powers than to stifle terrorism.

She said that the act weakens judicial standards and that its definition of terrorism is too flexible.

A terrorist investigation is different from a criminal investigation, she added. “We already have tools in the law to deal with crim-

inal investigations, and most of those tools have been effective.”

“Preserving Life and Liberty,” a Web site offshoot of the U.S. Department of Justice located at <http://www.lifeandliberty.gov>, offers a defense against such criticism of the act.

The site explicitly defines “domestic terrorism” as conduct that violates criminal law and that is dangerous to human life. It also notes that “delayed notification search warrants,” which the act gives to law enforcement agencies, have been used in criminal investigations for years.

Most governmental actions that might infringe upon people’s civil liberties don’t create constitutional problems, said Robert Scott, an expert on constitutional law for

Scott & Scott LLP in Dallas. “My view is that the government should increase security as much as it can without infringing constitutional rights.”

He said the constitutionality of recent initiatives taken by the federal government in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks will not be arbitrated by courts for some time. “In almost every instance, the courts and the law are way behind.”

In addition to legal concerns, the government’s treatment of immigrants has raised some eyebrows.

Many immigrants who have cooperated with the government have been deported, said Douglas Rivlin, National Immigration Forum spokesman. A number of

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CANDIDATE PROFILE

BRUCE ROSCOE
The Midwestern dean of students is vying for UNC’s vacant vice chancellor position **PAGE 3**

WEATHER

TODAY Sunny, H 77, L 55
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SATURDAY Partly Cloudy, H 80, L 60
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remembrance

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