

THE SUN

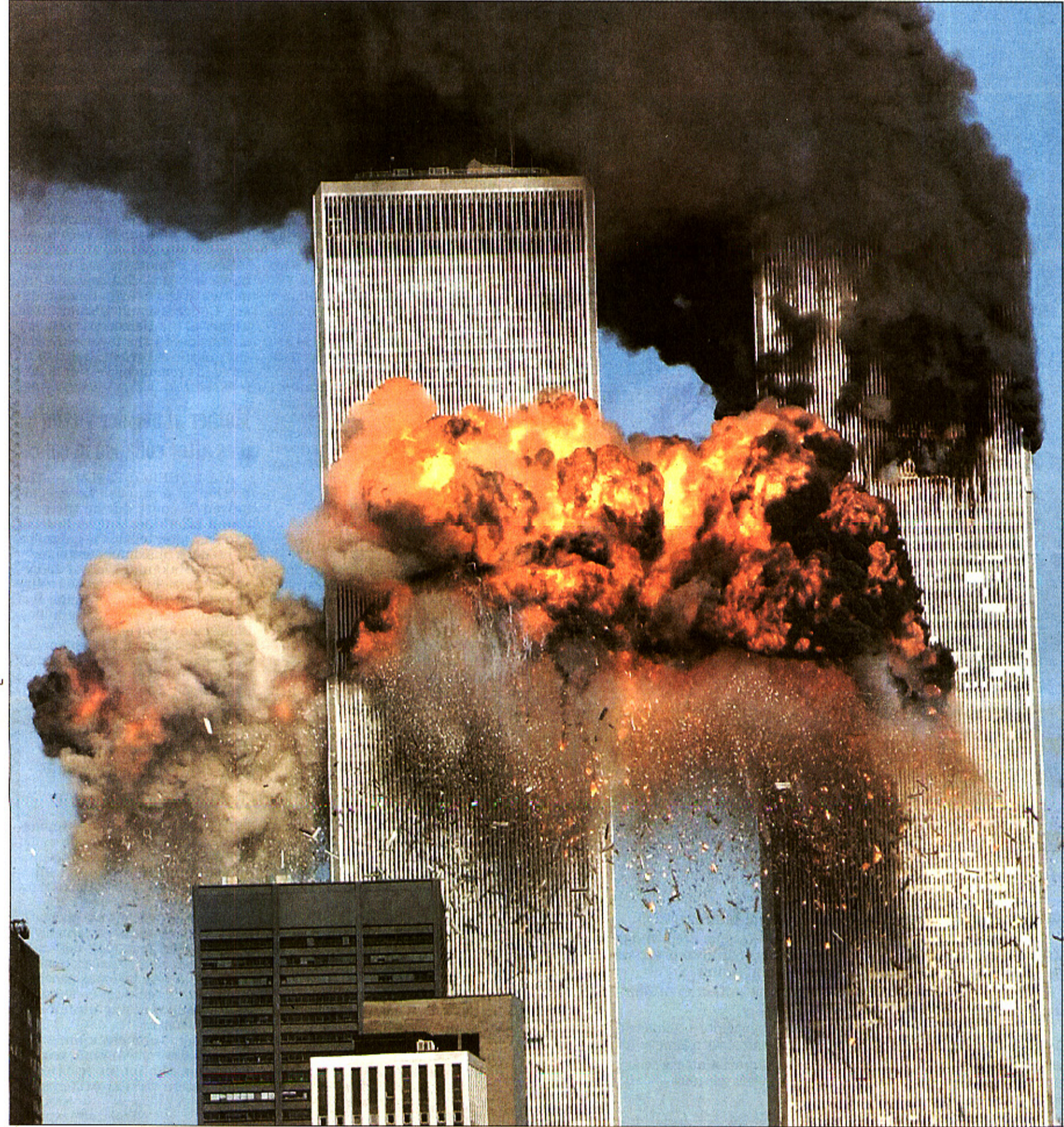


Wednesday, September 12, 2001

Baltimore, Maryland

50 cents

DEVASTATION



Destruction: Smoke billows from the World Trade Center towers after hijacked airliners struck them. Within two hours of the attack, both had collapsed. SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

Hijacked planes destroy World Trade Center towers

Third jetliner slams into Pentagon

Thousands feared dead in worst U.S. terror attacks

By DAN FESPERMAN AND CHERYL LU-LIEN TAN
SUN NATIONAL STAFF

NEW YORK — Terrorists carried out the most destructive attack on the United States in history yesterday, a horrifying rain of four hijacked airliners that toppled both towers of the World Trade Center in New York and destroyed a section of the Pentagon.

Although the death toll won't be known for days, thousands were believed dead, including 266 aboard the planes, hundreds of firefighters and police missing in the rubble in New York and scores of people in the 1,300-foot-plus-high towers, where about 50,000 worked.

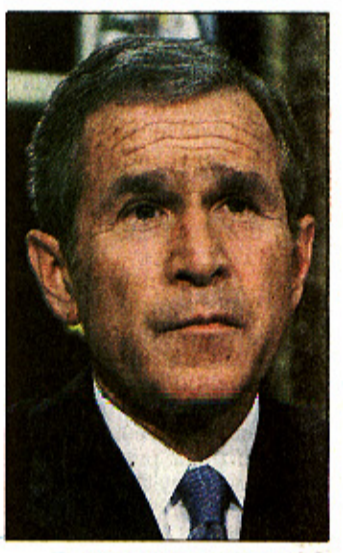
At the Pentagon, a source said, "the services believe they have fewer than 500 unaccounted for," including military, civilian and contract personnel.

Buildings in Manhattan's financial district were still burning late last night, as was a part of the Pentagon.

The fiery assault on prominent symbols of the nation's financial and martial strength jolted the nation. Airports, schools, government buildings and virtually every place a large crowd might gather were closed, and comparisons were made to the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941.

This time the enemy is unknown and the response uncertain, although President Bush signaled last night in a nationwide address that he hasn't ruled out a broad retaliation, saying, "We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts, and those who harbor them."

As Bush [See Terror, 8A]



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
President Bush speaks to the nation from the Oval Office. (Text of address, Page 6A)

Jet flies headlong into the Pentagon

Plane carrying 64 shears freeway lights before crashing

'Still taking bodies out'

By PAUL WEST
SUN NATIONAL STAFF

WASHINGTON — The nation's capital came under deadly terrorist assault yesterday morning when a hijacked jetliner flew full-throttle into the Pentagon, the storied seat of U.S. military power. Scores were killed and dozens injured.

The crash, part of a coordinated terrorist attack on the United States, took place less than an hour after two other hijacked commercial jets tore into the World Trade Center towers in New York City, with devastating results. A fourth jet, which also may have been targeted at Washington, crashed in southwestern Pennsylvania as it headed toward the capital.

President Bush was out of town at the time of the attack. He learned of the initial strikes, on New York, while visiting an elementary school in Sarasota, Fla.

After delivering a brief statement condemning the assault, Bush was flown to air force bases in Louisiana and Nebraska as a security precaution. He arrived back at the White House last night and addressed the nation from the Oval Office. [See Washington, 12A]

17 pages inside

Chaos: From Manhattan to BWI to the Capitol, life's routines yield to nightmare. [Pages 4-20A]

Weather

Mostly sunny. High, 78; low, 59. Yesterday's city high, 83; low, 66. [Page 24B]

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The Sun on the Internet:
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On warm Md. day, chill of fear spreads

Heightened alert empties schools, offices across state

Frantic calls to D.C., N.Y.

By MICHAEL JAMES
SUN STAFF

The ripples of terror spread throughout Maryland yesterday as the unbelievable sank in, a realization that sent horrified parents flocking to get their children from schools, state officials scrambling to move government out of Annapolis, and police with submachine guns patrolling around downtown Baltimore's World Trade Center.

For millions of Marylanders, the unprecedented terrorist attacks in New York

and outside Washington left apocalyptic images of burning buildings in their minds, and left many wondering what today will bring.

"This is turning the world upside down as we know it," said Donald R. Howell of Howard County, who heads a nonprofit agency that works with rescue workers and others in the wake of disasters.

Maryland Gov. Parris N. Glendening took the extraordinary step of evacuating government offices in Annapolis, including the State House, and the World Trade Center at the Inner Harbor because of fears that they could be terrorist targets.

In Baltimore, Mayor Martin O'Malley said city officials were on the highest state of alert [See Maryland, 15A]

Aftermath Everything changed yesterday

■ Vulnerable: By mid-morning, we were already a country wistful for its sense of security.

By MICHAEL OLLOVE
SUN STAFF

Yesterday, September 11th, 2001, will be remembered as the day America stopped feeling like America.

No longer can we tell ourselves that we are safe simply because we live in the United States. No more can we cling to the faith that our military and economic might are sufficient to protect us from our enemies. Never again can we derive comfort from our geographic remoteness.

Everything changed yesterday. Lying in the rubble that was the World Trade Center is the American sense of well-being.

"This will be a transforming event," said Steven Da-



ASSOCIATED PRESS
In horror: Two women console each other on a New York street as they watch the World Trade Center burn.

vid, a professor of international relations at the Johns Hopkins University, as much in disbelief as people across the nation.

We are vulnerable, and vulnerability has rarely squared

with America's self-image. "The notion that Americans as a people are in jeopardy fits poorly with the national sense of self and its sense of destiny," said Todd Git-

[See Vulnerable, 14A]