

A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY

EDITORIAL



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The American spirit will triumph through tragedy

Today, Americans will awake to find a hole in the Manhattan skyline, the result of the worst terrorist act in U.S. history. And they will see that it is dwarfed by the hole in the hearts of Americans across the nation.

Faceless enemies who hide behind terrorist acts can destroy the landmarks of the American people, but the spirit and strength that built the World Trade Center and Pentagon, among other structures, is indestructible.

Thousands of civilians are feared dead within the twisted metal and concrete. There is no mistaking the severity of this cowardly act: American blood has been spilled on American soil. It was a declaration of war against the United States and the American ideals of democracy, freedom, tolerance and peace. The government is expected to respond accordingly. The perpetrator of this barbaric and shameless act of violence should be brought to justice and punished by severe measures as soon as possible.

The government is trusted to do whatever is necessary to find the

attackers — no resource should be spared in this task. Once found, retribution should be swift and certain.

Motive and coincidence point to Islamic fundamentalist Osama bin Laden as the mastermind behind the attack, although U.S. officials carefully sidestepped questions regarding his involvement. It is right to not lay blame until the initial investigation is complete, but the likelihood of bin Laden's involvement must be examined to the fullest extent, as his extremist views in the past have translated into terrorist acts against the United States.

The destruction of the World Trade Center and part of the Pentagon is an intolerable assault on the most basic American beliefs. The bottom line is that no religious view can justify the carnage that Americans witnessed Tuesday.

In the meantime, the hole in Manhattan and our hearts will not go away. Now is a time for condolence and prayer.

In aftermath of terrorism, world divided, Aggies united

The world was divided Tuesday between those who believe in freedom and those who do not, as Americans endured the worst terrorist attack in their history. America's dignity was threatened, and others rejoiced at our loss.

As Texas A&M students mourn this tragedy, they naturally want to lay blame. But now is not the time to point fingers and accuse one another for something students had no control over. The memories are far too familiar and the emotions too prevalent — Aggies have dealt with tragedy together. Now Aggies must unite again.

With the cultural diversity of this community, students should come together in thought and prayer. The international students at A&M should not feel threatened by their fellow students. Instead, they should join and stand against a strike at the heart of the world's freedom.

When a country's freedom is threatened, intense emotional anguish can dictate actions. But justice will not be served by attacking one another. This will only divide the campus, which is a microcosm of our world. Students at A&M are patriotic, but this patriotism can sometimes be offensive, something Aggies must not tolerate. Let Aggies not be accused of being closed minded and pointing fingers.

Everyone on campus has a purpose and a love for A&M. Even more importantly, they have a love for America and the freedom it provides.

In the wake of this tragedy, the spirit of this great country must be renewed, dignity must be preserved, and faith in America's resolve must prevail. Through thought and prayer, A&M can help maintain unity and perseverance across America. Anything else will devastate the sense of community and spirit about which Aggies boast.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights..." This was the basis of American freedom 225 years ago, and it remains steadfast today.

American citizens or foreigners, Aggies are all here for a purpose, and each has an equal right to be on American soil. And they feel the same remorse for what has happened. As they do when any tragedy arises, Aggies must stand in unity and share the nation's tears.

There's a spirit that can ne'er be told. God will shed his grace on thee, and brotherhood will be restored from sea to shining sea.

