

# THE PLAIN DEALER

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2001

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# TERROR HITS HOME

Hijackers ram 2 airliners into World Trade Center, 3rd plane slams into Pentagon, 4th crashes near Pittsburgh; hundreds die



SPENCER PLATT | GETTY IMAGES

Fiery blasts rock the World Trade Center after being hit by two hijacked airplanes. Both of the 110-story towers were toppled in the deadly terrorist attack.

## Call loved ones, say you will die, passengers told

MARC FISHERI AND DON PHILLIPS  
*Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — There was not even the grace of instant death. Instead, there was time to call from the sky over Virginia to loved ones, fingers pumping cell phones, voices saying quick goodbyes.

Herded to the back of the plane by hijackers armed with knives and box-cutters, the 64 passengers and crew of American Airlines Flight 77 — including the wife of Solicitor General Theodore Olson, a Senate staffer, three D.C. schoolchildren and three teachers on an educational field trip, and a suburban family of four headed to Australia for a two-month adventure — were ordered to call relatives to say they were about to die.

SEE CALL | A6



GULNARASAMIOLAVA | ASSOCIATED PRESS

An emergency worker helps a woman injured in the attack on the World Trade Center.

## Bush vows swift revenge

JOE FROLIK  
*Plain Dealer Reporter*

In the worst attack on U.S. soil since Pearl Harbor, terrorists unleashed a highly coordinated and deadly attack on America's political and financial capitals yesterday.

By late evening, there were few answers as to how the assault had been plotted and carried out, who might be responsible for it, even how many Americans had been killed. President Bush assured Americans that their government would be up and running again today, but it will no doubt be much longer before the shock of yesterday subsides.

Four commercial airliners, ap-

**EVIL COMES ASHORE:** It's time to master our fears, defeat our enemies. An editorial, **B10**

parently hijacked within minutes of one another along the East Coast, were turned into killing machines. Two of the planes crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, a third barreled into the Pentagon and the last crashed 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh on a trajectory that officials believe might have been carrying it toward the presidential retreat at Camp David, Md.

By 10:29 a.m., both World Trade Center towers had collapsed. The sun over Manhattan

was hidden by dust and smoke; screams and sobs echoed through its concrete canyons. Ash coated survivors as they fled the grisly scene, mangled bodies lay in doorways and streets, and explosions forced rescuers to retreat.

At the Pentagon, the massive symbol and command center of American might, military personnel and civilians pulled the dead and injured from debris. Already the White House and the Capitol had been evacuated, airplanes had been grounded across the country, and Americans, long complacent behind the barriers of two oceans and a \$300 billion-a-year military, had learned just how vulnerable they can be.

SEE ATTACK | A2



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