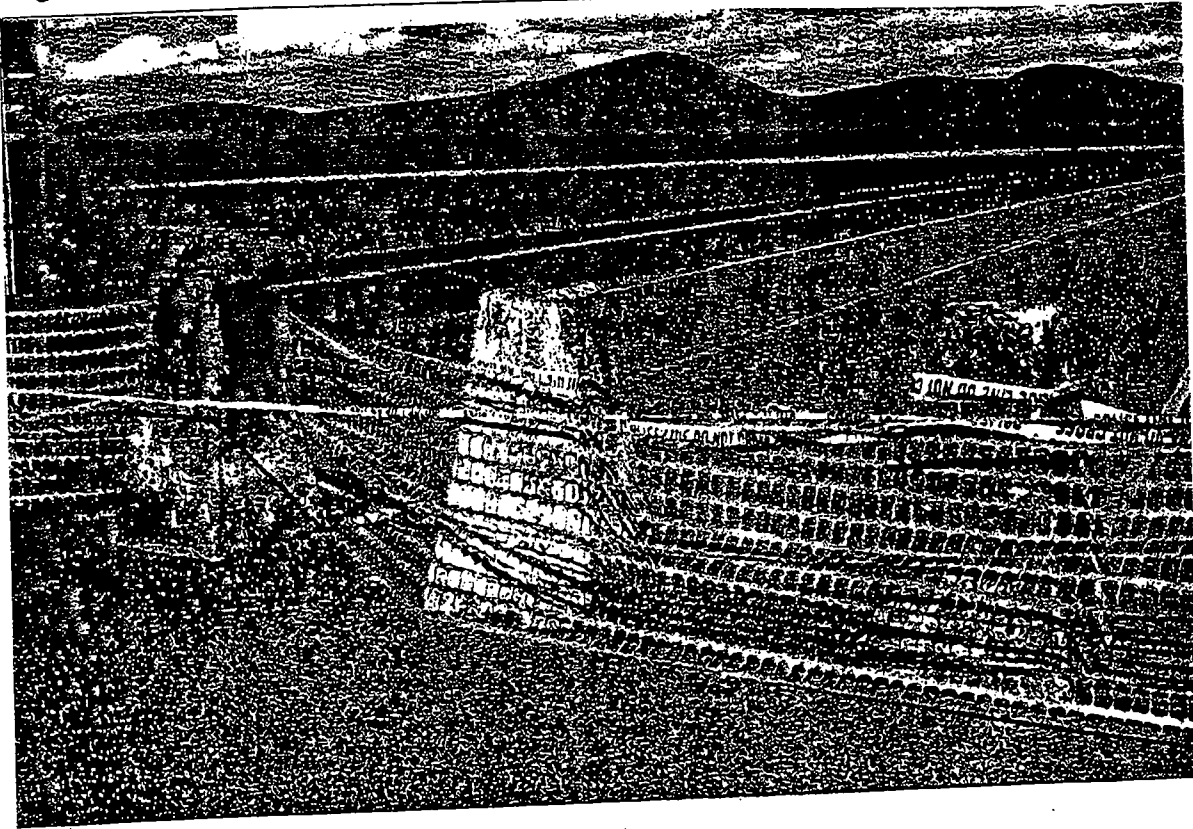




News Digest

Joel A. Miele Sr., P.E., Commissioner
Charles G. Sturcken, Esq., Chief of Staff/Special Counsel

Date: October 1 & 2, 2001 Includes: Sept. 27 - Present



*THE TIMES HERALD RECORD
SEPT. 30, 2001*

Can Reservoir at Monument Road.

EASY TARGET

Can 440 cops and inspectors really patrol 300 square miles of NYC reservoirs?

Reservoir levels (New York City water supply)
Yesterday 66% ██████████
Estimated normal... 75% ██████████

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MICHELE HASKELL/The Record

on Road in Grahamsville, which runs along the Neversink Reservoir, has several pull-off areas for access to fishing and boating. In the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks, reservoirs like the Neversink and the Rondout have suspended fishing and boating, though, as one reporter and out, security remains tight.

Testing the waters

A reporter's ability to get too close magnifies the vulnerability of NYC reservoirs.

by Steve Israel
The Times Herald-Record
sisrael@th-record

On a gray afternoon exactly two weeks after America was attacked, I parked my car by a reservoir for New York City and threw stones in the water. So did a colleague. For 15 minutes, we stood within a few feet of the Rondout Reservoir in Sullivan County, tossing rocks into the lifeblood of millions.

No one stopped us. No one questioned us. The only security we saw driving around the Rondout and Neversink reservoirs near Grahamsville was this: A few blocks of stone to prevent us from driving down to the water, knee-high guardrails, a few waist-high chain link fences and a little pink sign that said, "All fishing and boating suspended until further notice."

We did not see any security.

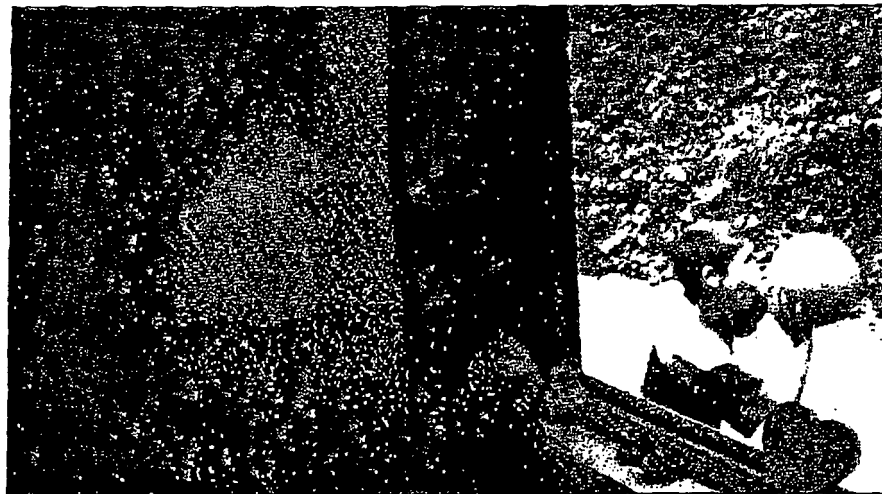
A spokesman for the agency that protects the reservoirs was dumbfounded.

"I don't know how that happened," said Geoffrey Ryan of the Department of Environmental Protection. "It is a concern."

Ryan said that after stressing the "heightened security" at reservoirs, including coordination on federal, state and local levels.

Then he added something that would be echoed by law enforcement experts, government officials and scientists: A biological or chemical attack on the three reservoirs in Ulster and Sullivan counties is unlikely.

Truckloads of chemicals would be needed to pollute hundreds of billions of gallons of water. Presumably, the trucks would be easier to spot and stop



MICHELE HASKELL/The Record

Jan Gilliam watches one of her four children, Will, 10, play outside her home. Gilliam, who lives between the Neversink and Rondout reservoirs, has many concerns and questions on safety.

than a couple of reporters and a white Subaru.

The bottom line, say those experts, is that our reservoirs are vulnerable. Security needs to be beefed up. But, most experts add, the odds of a terrorist attack on them are small. They say this even though the Ashokan Reservoir in Ulster County was No. 2 on a list of terrorists' targets the FBI obtained after the World Trade Center was bombed in 1993.

Rep. Maurice Hinchey, a longtime critic of reservoir security, agrees with the experts. His district includes three New York City reservoirs: the Neversink, the Rondout and the Ashokan.

"I've always felt an enormous amount of vulnerability about the system," said Hinchey, who says he drives around the three

reservoirs several times a week. "But a terrorist attack is highly unlikely. But it could happen. And if it did, it would be serious."

Hinchey wants to see more security - more than the extra cops he's seen patrolling the forested roads around the water.

So does Robert F. Kennedy Jr., lead attorney for the environmental group Riverkeeper, which blasted reservoir security in a 1999 report.

"There are serious vulnerabilities in the system, which is extraordinarily open," said Kennedy, who stresses "the dissolution factor" could stop toxins from reaching the city.

Even the chief of staff of the DEP says more security is needed.

"There are parts that are more critical than others," said Charles Sturckin, when asked

about the vulnerability of the system that spans some 2,000 square miles.

He stressed that security has been beefed up - from 40 cops to 140, with an additional 300 inspectors. The cops are working 12-hour shifts. Planes and helicopters patrol the skies over the water.

But perhaps the greatest protection against pollution of the reservoirs is the sheer amount of chemical or biological agents necessary to do damage.

"It would take truckloads and truckloads, so I don't think that's where the threat would come from," says Diane Vande Hel executive director of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, which coordinate efforts against attacks on the nation's water systems.

See RESERVOIRS Page 29

RESERVOIRS: Residents left with unanswered questions

Continued from page 3

Vande Hei says the real threat would be attacks on the plants that treat and pump the water — particularly those closest to New York in Westchester, which Kennedy says is "really vulnerable."

And, she says, the government is establishing a computer system to warn local law enforcement of terrorist threats.

Military help is already on the way, says Sturckin of the DEP.

And trucks near the reservoirs are being stopped by officers like Arthur Mervine, who says that "nothing goes unnoticed and stationery cars will be checked out."

Still, a couple of reporters were able to park by the reservoir and throw stones in the water. That same day, no one stopped a Grahamsville woman who walked down to the water to remove her boat. And while Kennedy praises the "hard-working, well-trained" DEP cops, he says they're ill-equipped and undermanned.

"They should have rifles instead of pistols, secure radio frequencies instead of ones that can be monitored, and their cars are antiquated," he said.

Plus, the beefed-up reservoir security is still way down from the 450 cops and 700 guards that patrolled the system during World War II.

And even though two roads that pass

over the Ashokan are now closed, some roadblocks only consist of a half dozen plastic orange cones. The fence around the forest that lines the reservoir is made of rusty waist-high wire. The gaps in the fencing are roped off with a strand of plastic yellow police tape that says "Caution, Do Not Enter."

"That's a joke," says a man who lives on a road that surrounds the big blue Ashokan.

That's why people who live near the reservoirs have questions about their safety — and the safety of the reservoirs.

"We were told to report anything suspicious," says Grahamsville's Jan Gillam. "But what's suspicious?"

"We just want to know what the dangers are," says that man who lives next to the Ashokan.

"Where do we go in an emergency?" he asks.

"Who do we call?"

"Is our ground water safe?"

"We don't want to compromise security," he explains. "But if we had some answers, we'd feel more secure because fear starts from the unknown."

Two more questions need answers:

How, exactly two weeks after America was attacked, could anyone park by a New York City reservoir and throw stones in the water? And why didn't anyone notice?

Dear reader,

How vulnerable are we?

It's a question on the minds of many Americans.

After watching the attack and collapse of the Twin Towers, landmarks of the economic might of this country; the



blow suffered at The Pentagon, the symbol of our military strength; and the potential target of either the White House or the Capitol, foundations of our democracy, we are left to wonder: What next?

And where?

Last week, Record reporter Beth Quinn reported that the Ashokan Reservoir in northern Ulster County was No. 2 - after the World Trade Center - on a short list of terrorist targets

obtained by the FBI. This was not breaking news. That information had been revealed after an arrest was made in the 1993 bombing of the Twin Towers.

What is news is that nearly a decade has gone by, and not much has changed in protecting the Ashokan and five other reservoirs in Sullivan, Ulster and Delaware counties that supply New York City with nearly 90 percent of its water.

The warnings have been ignored.

That troubles Robert F. Kennedy Jr., lead attorney for the environmental group Riverkeeper, which blasted reservoir security in a 1999 report. It troubles Rep. Maurice Hinchey, D-Saugerties, a longtime critic of reservoir security; and it troubles Jan Gillam, a Grahamsville resident who lives between the Neversink and Rondout reservoirs.

It also troubles many of us that, a few days ago, Record reporter Steve Israel was able to park his car along the Rondout Reservoir and spend 15 minutes tossing stones into the water. The effects of those ripples remained in our minds long after the reservoir turned calm and the stones fell to its bottom.

Many readers contacted the newsroom after last week's story, saying we were aiding the enemy by printing a map of the reservoirs. Others said we're just feeding the fear of people still shaken from September 11.

We appreciate the comments and understand the uneasy feelings of our neighbors. But it would be wrong for us to bury our heads in the sand and not question the safety measures being taken to protect what Steve Israel so aptly describes as "the lifeblood of millions."

In the coming weeks, The Times Herald-Record hopes to bring federal, state and local officials together with area residents in a town hall meeting to discuss what is being done and what needs to be done to protect the reservoirs, and the thousands of people who live around them.

We cannot afford to be so vulnerable.

Barry Lewis
Acting Sunday editor

Red Tape Cut and Rivers Dredged to Carry Debris by Water

By ERIC LIPTON

The city has nearly completed a super-accelerated dredging of the East and Hudson Rivers to create barge ports to carry away a large share of the 1.2 million tons of debris from the World Trade Center site.

The goal is simple: every load of steel or crumbled concrete moved by barge means fewer trucks clogging already crowded roadways, tunnels and bridges. Already, barges have been used to move about a third of the 154,000 tons cleared from the site, city officials said.

The city has long used barges to move trash from Manhattan to its Fresh Kills landfill in Staten Island, which closed earlier this year. Now, with the Staten Island landfill being used again to handle World Trade Center debris, two former trash transfer stations, a barge port on the Hudson River at 59th Street and one on Hamilton Avenue in Red Hook, Brooklyn, have been enlisted to help with the barge effort.

But given the immense scale of the World Trade Center cleanup job, these ports were not enough. So the city and federal government embarked on a huge dredging project in Lower Manhattan.

Already, at a cost of more than \$1.3 million, nearly 200,000 cubic yards of mud and silt have been dug up from two new sites along the East and Hudson Rivers. That mud — it would be enough to build a pile 110 feet tall if it were spread out across a football field between the goal lines — has been dumped back into the water in Newark Bay, in a dredging disposal pit there.

Work is already complete at one of the new ports: a barge loading area has been set up by Weeks Marine Inc. just north of Battery Park City, at the former Pier 25.

A second contractor, Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, is scheduled to be finished today on the second new port, which is between the Downtown Manhattan heliport (Pier 6) and the Staten Island Ferry terminal on the East River in Manhattan.

The fifth barge port is just north of the heliport, at a spot where the East River is already deep enough to accommodate barges.

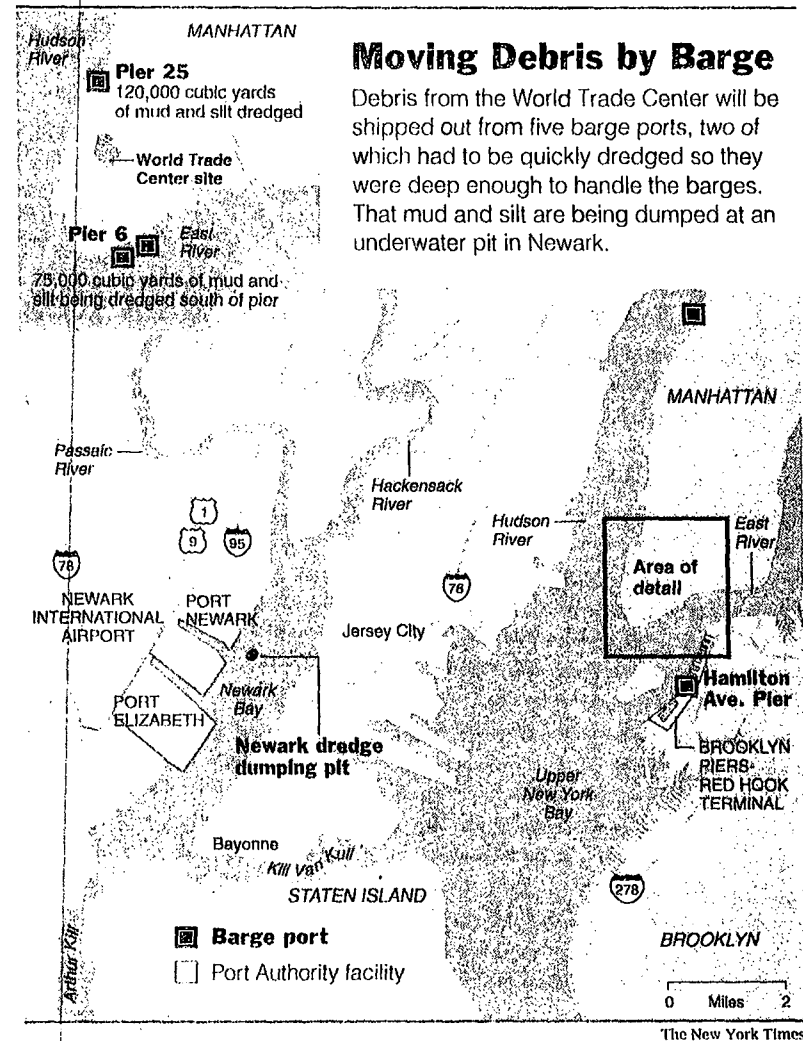
Normally, dredging permits can take up to two months to acquire, and contracts with companies that perform the work even longer to set up. But after the World Trade Center attack, all of this happened within days. The process was faster in part because the Newark Bay pit was available; it is a 31-acre dumping ground that opened in 1997.

After the use of giant clamshell-shaped shovels and crews that worked night and day in 12-hour shifts, the water along the East River's edge near the heliport is now at least 17 feet deep, even at low tide. A channel has also been dug 700 feet out into the river.

Cindy Zipf, executive director of Clean Ocean Action, an environmental group, said she would have preferred if the material dredged from the rivers had been removed from the water permanently, cleaned and then perhaps used elsewhere as fill.

"Clearly the material from that part of the harbor contains contaminants," she said. But she added that given the need to move quickly, she thought the Newark Bay pit was a reasonable choice.

A single barge can carry up to 3,000 tons, although depending on the shape of the steel, it may be able to fit only about 1,000 tons. A truck, by comparison, can carry 10 to 30 tons of steel, again depending on its shape.



Moving Debris by Barge

Debris from the World Trade Center will be shipped out from five barge ports, two of which had to be quickly dredged so they were deep enough to handle the barges. That mud and silt are being dumped at an underwater pit in Newark.

The city's Department of Sanitation is moving loads of debris from the barge ports at 59th Street and at Hamilton Avenue in Brooklyn. But Weeks Marine of Camden will operate the barges at the three other ports. The company has 23 barges

ready to carry debris, about half for steel and half city-owned barges that will be used for lighter material. The steel is being taken to recycling companies in Port Newark and Jersey City and the other waste to Fresh Kills.

NYT 10/2/01

Hudson River weasels

To the city and the nation, the events of Sept. 11 were apocalyptic. To General Electric, they apparently were a convenient diversion. Since that day, GE has held at least two closed-door meetings in Washington with the Environmental Protection Agency to discuss Hudson River dredging. The company has been told by the feds to remove the poisonous chemicals it dumped in the water over 35 years, but state officials and environmental advocates fear it is trying to undermine the directive. Under cover of a distracted public.

For shame! says GE. Also for shame! says the EPA. They would never think of such a ploy. But then, GE also would never have thought of cleaning the river if it hadn't been told to. And it has continued to fight the project tooth-and-nail, even after EPA Administrator Christie Whitman announced she would push ahead with it.

The recent meetings reportedly concerned performance standards GE would have to meet in the \$460 million cleanup. Dredging supporters suggest GE wants to create a project so complicated that it becomes impossible to fulfill and eventually dies.

GE and the EPA deny nefarious motives. But listen to EPA spokeswoman Tina Kreisher: "The dredging will go forward, but surrounding us is this National Academy of Sciences study . . . so no one's quite sure that this is the answer . . . do we commit ourselves that we're going to see this through to the end, dredge every last piece of material out of the Hudson whether or not it helps the environment? . . . We're going to examine it as we go." This is called hedging.

Sounds like GE's been doing a lot of shmoozing over at EPA. Sounds like Whitman has been listening. If the former New Jersey governor, who built a reputation on environmental issues, allows GE to weasel out of its obligation, she can kiss her aspirations goodbye.

As for GE, it donated \$10 million to the Trade Center victims' fund. Nice. But good corporate citizens don't just shell out the bucks; they take responsibility for the messes they've created.

DAILY NEWS

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

G.E. Is Accused of Trying to Undercut Order to Dredge Hudson River

By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30 — New York State officials and environmental groups say they are worried that General Electric is trying to sabotage the landmark federal order that the company dredge the Hudson River to remove poisonous chemicals.

Company representatives have been meeting with officials of the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, pressing G.E.'s cause and prompting what state officials described as a rift with the officials in the agency's New York regional office, which has been overseeing the case for years.

Supporters of the dredging plan worry that the company hopes to have the order changed to be so difficult to comply with that the project will be derailed. They also are disturbed that the meetings between G.E. and the E.P.A. have taken place behind closed doors, after the time for public comment on the cleanup order ended and since the terrorist attack on Sept. 11. The New York regional office was displaced by the attack at the World Trade Center and its work disrupted.

Representative Maurice Hinchey, a Democrat from Saugerties, in the Hudson Valley, who favors the dredging, said of the E.P.A.: "They are apparently allowing G.E. to have grossly undue influence in the process. They're trying to fly under the radar and take advantage of the trade center situation, while people are distracted, to accomplish some nefarious objectives."

E.P.A. and G.E. officials vigorously deny any such thing. The E.P.A. plans to meet with environmental groups on Tuesday, and it said no attempt was being made to circumvent the regional office and no decisions had been made or new orders handed down to the regional office.

"There are a lot of conclusions being drawn about what E.P.A.'s decisions are going to be when in fact those decisions haven't been made," said Mary Mears, a spokeswoman for the regional office. She also said there were no divisions within the agency.

General Electric officials also dismissed the criticism. "We had one perfunctory meeting with E.P.A., basically going over the status of the process," said Stephen D. Ramsey, G.E.'s vice president for environ-

G.E. denies it has any more influence on the cleanup than any other interested party has.

mental programs. "They're having the same kind of meeting next week with these environmental groups. It's pure and simple stakeholder stuff," he said, suggesting these were routine talks with interested parties.

However, some state officials say they have been left out of the process. "The state is being kept out of these apparently secret meetings," said Peter Lehner, chief of the environmental protection bureau in the state attorney general's office. Referring to performance standards that would set goals for G.E. to meet, Mr. Lehner said, "If E.P.A. is putting these in without full and detailed consultation with the state, that would violate agreements we have and violate the Superfund law."

Tina Kreisher, an E.P.A. spokeswoman in Washington, noted that the office of Gov. George Pataki, who supports dredging, had submitted comments to her agency, although it was not clear when they were written. Of the timing of the meetings with G.E. after Sept. 11, she said, "Things happen when they happen."

She said the agency was being criticized both for going too fast and going too slow — its process was already behind schedule when the terrorists attacked, and Ms. Mears said that any final decision would likely now be delayed until November.

Ms. Kreisher also emphasized that the agency wanted the dredging plan to be successful. "We're going to be working with G.E. for the next 10 years," she said, noting that the agency was being guided by a study from the National Academy of Sciences, which emphasizes the importance of listening to all parties. "There's so much we don't know about dredging for P.C.B.'s, and this assessment by N.A.S. says we should when necessary be ready to make midcourse corrections, so it's important to listen along the

Continued on Page F6

NYT
10/1/01
P.10f2

G.E. Is Accused Of Bid to Undo Dredging Order

Continued From Page F1

way," she said.

G.E., which discharged millions of pounds of P.C.B.'s — polychlorinated biphenyls — into the upper Hudson River for more than 35 years before the chemical was banned in 1977, has long resisted a federally imposed cleanup plan. The river was declared a Superfund site in 1983. The company says it has already spent \$200 million on research and restoration projects over the last 20 years, and maintains that the river is now cleansing itself and that dredging would do more harm than good.

Christie Whitman, the E.P.A. administrator, announced on Aug. 1 that her agency would proceed with the plan conceived under the Clinton administration to order General Electric to carry out a half-billion-dollar cleanup.

General Electric was never happy with the order, which was viewed as a black mark on the legacy of John L. Welch Jr., who retired Sept. 7 as chairman of G.E. The company has already spent tens of millions of dollars advertising and lobbying against the plan, and was surprised when Mrs. Whitman said that the federal government was sticking with the Clinton plan. The company and its allies vowed to fight the proposal nonetheless.

Environmentalists and others believe that G.E.'s new approach is to have a major say in spelling out the details in the cleanup plan. The company has met at least twice with federal environmental officials since Sept. 11. Mr. Ramsey met with Mrs. Whitman's chief of staff, Eileen McGinnis, between Sept. 11 and Sept. 21. On Thursday, Jessica Fury, Mrs. Whitman's counsel, met with another G.E. official, also in Washington.

G.E.'s goal, according to state officials and environmental groups, is to change the order so that it sets performance standards that are unusually high and difficult to meet and thereby scuttle the whole project.

State officials say that E.P.A. officials in Washington have told the regional officials in New York to rework the plan to accommodate new performance standards — a move that they say is causing a revolt within the New York office.

"Region 2 is livid and refuses to do it, and there's a huge fight going on," said one state official. Speaking of the final record of decision, known in bureaucratic parlance as a ROD, this official added, "They will not allow a ROD to go out that will booby trap the decision."

Representative Hinchey said, "There is a struggle going on between Region 2, where the people are trying to carry out this project in a responsible and lawful way, and the headquarters in Washington, which is trying to do something else."

Ned Sullivan, president of Scenic Hudson, one of the groups meeting with Ms. McGinnis next week, said environmentalists also wanted performance standards, but said they should be determined in public.

Mr. Lehner of the attorney general's office said, "We're not talking about some minor element — these are critical components of the ROD, especially if they have the effect that G.E. seems to be advocating. Normally, it takes years of factual analysis to develop these; to do it quickly by talking to G.E. would be very, very troubling."

Ms. Mears, the regional E.P.A. spokeswoman, said that suggestions of a rift within the agency were not true. "Washington, D.C., and the regional office are working together," she said. "The region doesn't object to performance standards."

P.20f2

Watershed Workshops

Watersheds play an important role in the environmental and economic well being of all New York communities. Protecting watershed resources while maintaining a sustainable economic base and accommodating growth can be especially challenging for communities facing coastal and watershed management issues.

The Environmental Protection Agency along with the New York Aquarium is conducting a two-day workshop about coastal watersheds to encourage comprehensive planning. The workshops will be held at the New York Aquarium on October 2 and 3.

The goal is to involve public and private interests to achieve a balance between quality development and resource protection.

This workshop is designed for individuals who are interested or involved in water resource protection programs, including local officials and staff (planners, health officials and conservation officials); county, state, and federal government officials; non-profit organizations concerned with natural resource management; local media; scientists interested in coastal watershed management options; and others involved in land and water resource management and protection.

To register or for more information, call the Aquarium at 265-3448 or fax your name, phone number and affiliation to Ellen Burros at 508-833-3150.

A Wildlife Conservation Society park, the Aquarium's ticket booth opens every day of the year at 10 a.m. and remains open until 5 p.m. General admission is \$9.75, and \$6 for children two to 12 years of age and senior citizens, 65 and older; children under two years of age are admitted free. The parking fee includes one adult admission.

The Aquarium is located at West 8th Street and Surf Avenue. For directions, information on public events and programs, and other Aquarium information, call 265-FISH or visit them on the web at <http://www.nyaquarium.com>.

Bay News

Oct. 1. 01

History lesson

IF **Mayor Giuliani** ends up spearheading the World Trade Center rebuilding effort, it won't be the first time a former mayor

has helped the downtown area recover from disaster. After the Great Fire of December 1835 destroyed 700 buildings south of Wall Street, a committee of 125 prominent citizens was named to administer the re-building, historian/author **Gerard Koepel** informs PAGE SIX. One member was ex-mayor Philip Hone, who had written in his diary the night of the fire: "How shall I ... attempt to describe the most awful calamity which has ever visited these United States? I am fatigued in body, disturbed in mind, and my fancy filled with images of horror." Directing the rebuilding was another ex-mayor, Stephen Allen, who was already overseeing construction of the Croton Aqueduct. A year later, the city's commercial center was not only rebuilt but thriving.

Newsday
Sept. 30.01

Fury of Battery Park's battered dwellers

By ALEV AKTAR and MELISSA GRACE
DAILY NEWS WRITERS

More than 1,500 angry people who live in Battery Park City — the majority of them rendered homeless by the Sept. 11 terror attacks — crowded into a meeting last night looking for answers about when they'll be allowed home and how safe the air is in lower Manhattan.

Mothers with their children, husbands and wives and young professionals crammed into a tense three-hour session at Pace University's Schimmel Hall.

The landlord for the six buildings at Gateway Plaza, where 1,400 people have been displaced, said all but one building could reopen within two weeks.

But he cautioned that doesn't mean people will necessarily be able to go home.

First, the city has to "provide access" to the apartment complex, which is across

West St. from the ruined World Trade Center, landlord Jamie LeFrak said. When that would happen remained unclear.

Justine Parchment, 24, who lives at Gateway, yelled, "I can't get into my apartment. The locks have been changed. The cleaning crews have access. The doorman has keys. I don't have keys."

Another resident bristled at a suggestion by LeFrak that he was agitated. "I'm not agitated, I'm homeless," he shouted.

Bonnie Bellow, a representative of the federal Environmental Protection Agency, said 16 air-monitoring stations have been set up to check for lead, asbestos and other dangerous compounds in and around Ground Zero.

The agency has found levels of asbestos in samples of dust that are higher than the allowed level, Bellow told the crowd.

She said the agency has been using

large, specialized vacuum cleaners in local parks and sidewalks throughout the Financial District to suck up toxins.

Without elaborating, she told people to "take necessary precautions" in the area.

The Battery Park City Authority announced that a shuttle bus would run between Rector Place and the Bowling Green subway station, starting tomorrow.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-Manhattan) told residents there would be a meeting Wednesday for downtown residents with top city and state officials.

Crowd members grew angry about not getting specific information about when they could return to their homes.

"I came here tonight to see if there was any real information, said Michael Kaufman, a 30-year-old architect who hasn't been able to move back into his apartment in Gateway Plaza. "It was more or less the same stuff I've already heard."

Daily
News
9.29.01

Traces of asbestos further setback for HS

Findings could delay Stuyvesant reopening

By ALISON GENDAR
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Asbestos was found inside Stuyvesant High School in tests last week, raising concerns that the school near the World Trade Center wreckage is contaminated with the cancer-causing substance, the Board of Education said yesterday.

Three dust samples taken inside the high school Sept. 21 contained asbestos fibers, said Bernard Orlan, the Board of Ed's director of environmental health and safety.

A dozen air samples taken the same day, however, were free of airborne asbestos, the most dangerous form.

Asbestos-laden dust samples also were found inside Public School 150 on Greenwich St., though the air tests were clean.

The Daily News reported yesterday that dust samples taken by the federal Environmental Protection Agency outside Stuyvesant on Sept. 19 found asbestos at twice the permitted level. The agency said it has not yet tested air quality inside the school.

Parents learn results

Yesterday's announcement was the first official confirmation that asbestos had been detected inside the schools, though parents groups have been told some of the results.

Worried parents and experts yesterday questioned whether the schools should be reopened as planned in two weeks. Wary Stuyvesant parents have enlisted their own experts to determine whether the school is safe.

Board of Ed officials said they were confident a \$1 million cleanup launched this week at Stuyvesant would ensure that the school would be ready to reopen Oct. 9.

At PS 150, which has only 12 classrooms, cleaning was completed last weekend. The school is to reopen Thursday. The other six Ground Zero schools will get the same cleaning for asbestos even if tests are negative, Orlan said.

"The standard we are using to clean Stuyvesant and the other schools is: Unless I'm willing to put my child in there, I won't put anyone else's in the school," he said.

'Air quality is safe'

Mayor Giuliani and city health officials yesterday insisted the

air quality outside the high school — and throughout lower Manhattan — was safe.

"The air quality is safe and acceptable. I know there are people concerned and worried about it, but that's just the reality," Giuliani said.

"Stuyvesant High School can be open now," the mayor said, but added that the reopening date was set for Oct. 9 to ensure the school is cleaned "in a way that is environmentally and totally safe."

But critics, such as the New York Environmental Law & Justice Project, contend Stuyvesant and the seven other schools in the area evacuated after the disaster should remain closed until the Trade Center excavation is finished and the fires that have flared since the towers crumbled are out.

Daily
News

9.29.01 Page 10f

Traces

Of the 12 to 15 air samples taken at Stuyvesant last week by experts hired by the Board of Ed, all showed below 70 asbestos fibers per square millimeter — the EPA's action level. Stuyvesant's levels were in the 20s last week, Orlan said.

Of the dust samples taken, three of 35 tested positive for asbestos. The dust tests cannot measure asbestos as precisely as air samples.

Until Tuesday, emergency workers had used Stuyvesant as a staging area for the massive excavation effort six blocks away. Students, who fled the elite high school in terror after the jets slammed into the towers, have been attending classes at Brooklyn Technical High School.

New tests set

In a massive effort this week, environmental crews wearing disposable suits and respirators set up airtight work areas at Stuyvesant to remove dust and clean all surfaces and air vents. Workers enter and exit through a decontamination chamber to avoid spreading asbestos fibers.

Work at Stuyvesant is expected to be finished Wednesday, when a battery of new air and dust tests will be performed by numerous agencies, including the Board of Ed and the EPA.

Cleaning efforts can bring asbestos levels near zero, experts said.

The board is planning regular testing of the eight Ground Zero schools over the next few months for asbestos, harmful dust that can trigger asthma and other environmental pollutants.

Page 2 of 2

Asbestos levels in Ground Zero air generally safe, EPA records show

By ALISON GENDAR
and SUSAN FERRARO
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

Air samples taken from lower Manhattan three days after the World Trade Center collapsed showed asbestos levels that only occasionally exceeded permissible levels, according to federal inspection records.

Since the towers fell Sept. 11, city and federal officials have said rescue workers faced minimal risk from the fetid, debris-filled dust. Mayor Giuliani repeated those assurances yesterday, calling air quality "safe and acceptable."

Initial asbestos readings from 16 sites taken by the Environmental Protection Agency from Sept. 14 to 24 largely confirmed those assurances.

Of more than 500 air samples taken, 15 exceeded federal limits for asbestos, according to the EPA records released last night.

There were occasional spikes in the EPA's air tests, such as Sept. 14, when asbestos levels at Barclay St. and West Broadway hit 133 fibers per cubic millimeter, nearly twice the allowed level of 70 fibers. Another spike came Sept. 15 at Liberty St. and South End Ave., when asbestos readings hit 150.

"As we have been saying, there was not a significant risk, even in the early days," said

EPA spokeswoman Mary Helen Cervantes, though she said rescue workers should continue to wear protective gear.

But the vast majority of the samples showed levels of the cancer-causing agent well below levels that EPA officials said trigger concern. Nearly all asbestos levels have fallen since Sept. 14.

EPA officials, criticized for not releasing the air sample find-

ings sooner, said the agency needed time to analyze the data.

Cervantes said the EPA would release tests taken Sept. 11 to 13 in the next few days. Those tests will be scrutinized closely because they closely followed the collapse of the towers.

The Daily News reported yesterday that tests by independent experts of dust samples around the Trade Center ruins found air mixed with dangerous levels

of asbestos and fiberglass and even human bone particles. On Sept. 19, four of 10 dust tests found that 2% to 5% of the specimens contained asbestos.

The EPA and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration agree that any material containing 1% asbestos officially triggers federal rules for employee protection and cleanup.

Air samples like those taken by the EPA are considered a bet-

ter safety indicator than dust samples. Asbestos in dust or chunks is not dangerous unless it becomes airborne. If inhaled, the fibers can embed themselves deep in the lungs and cause serious illnesses.

Dr. Stephen Levin, head of Mount Sinai Medical Center's Selikoff Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine, said there is no safe level for asbestos.

"There is always some increase in the risk of cancer in any exposure to asbestos," he said.

But Levin and other experts said short-term asbestos exposure is not likely to result in serious health problems. Those most at risk are workers who handle the stuff daily for years and smokers. They risk lung-scarring, asbestosis — the inflammation of lung tissue — and cancer.

Daily
News
9/29/01

Tests find toxic dust drifted into playground

By ALISON GENDAR
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Tribeca parents took it upon themselves to test the sand at a playground just blocks from Ground Zero and found double the allowed federal level of asbestos.

The city and the private board that runs the park closed the playground Friday, the day the results were made known.

"We decided we wanted to do the testing on our own. We are just north of Chambers St., where most of the testing is taking place. We didn't know when or if testing might get to us," said Linda Lakhdhir, president of the board of the Washington Market Community Park, on the northwestern corner of Chambers and Greenwich Sts. "We wanted to be cautious."

Debris and grit-filled dust filled downtown streets when the World Trade Center thun-

dered to the ground Sept. 11. The immediate health concern was for those who lived, worked or went to school in lower Manhattan and for the rescue workers who have been digging through the smoking debris.

But now, people in a wide area, including Brooklyn Heights, which was downwind of the plume, are wondering whether their parks and backyards were dusted with a cocktail of chemicals from the spewn debris and dust.

Some soil samples taken from Washington Market's lawn contained 3% asbestos, while sand from the sandbox had 2% asbestos in some cases.

The Environmental Protection Agency has determined that material containing 1% asbestos officially triggers federal rules for employee protection and cleanup.

The EPA, which already had an air monitor near the park, was alerted to the park

board's results and took its own samples there yesterday, agency spokeswoman Mary Helen Cervantes said.

The results from those tests will determine whether any of the park's topsoil has to be removed along with the sandbox sand, said Bill Tai, the city's district manager for lower Manhattan parks.

Tai said similar tests would be taken in downtown parks, including City Hall Park, Battery Park, Bowling Green and Rector Park. There were no immediate plans to test parks north of City Hall, he said.

Although no level of asbestos is considered safe, doctors say that the serious health problems associated with the insulator — cancer and lung scarring — generally take years of exposure. Because it can be inhaled, airborne asbestos is considered more dangerous than asbestos in dust, soil or sand.

DAILY NEWS • Sunday, September 30, 2001

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2001

Panel Cautions Against Mercury Preservative

By SANDRA BLAKESLEE

There is no evidence that thimerosal, a mercury-containing preservative formerly used in childhood vaccines, poses a significant threat to the developing brain, a panel of medical experts said yesterday.

Nevertheless, in a report issued yesterday, the 15-member panel urged drug and vaccine manufacturers to redouble their efforts to remove mercury from all products used by children and pregnant women. The experts, appointed by the Institute of Medicine, said that although there was not enough evidence either to prove or disprove a link between the amounts of mercury in older vaccines and abnormal brain development, such a link was "biologically plausible."

The Institute of Medicine, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences, advises the government on health issues.

Two years ago, vaccine manufacturers stopped adding thimerosal to vaccines given to small children out of a concern that the compound might cause brain injury. All six childhood immunizations that are required by the government are widely available without mercury.

But some vaccines more than two years old, still containing thimerosal, may remain in use. In addition, some vaccines occasionally given to small children, like flu shots, contain mercury, as do some over-the-counter products, like nasal sprays. The Institute of Medicine has no authority to force manufacturers to recall supplies of childhood vaccines containing mercury, the report said.

Parents should ask their doctors to use mercury-free vaccines, said the chairwoman of the expert panel, Dr. Marie C. McCormick, professor and chairman of the Department of Maternal and Child Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. But in the unlikely event that mercury-free vaccines are not available, Dr. McCormick said, parents should and have their children vaccinated with older products. The danger of getting a disease that can be prevented by a vaccine is very real, she said, whereas the danger of being harmed by the tiny amounts of mercury in older vaccines is extremely remote.

Parents of autistic children who worry that the mercury in vaccines might cause the disorder praised the panel for taking their concerns seriously and for urging that exposure to mercury be minimized.

The idea that mercury in vaccines might contribute to autism was raised several years ago when the incidence of the disorder apparently and inexplicably started to rise.

While most experts believe that genes are involved, they say it is theoretically possible that something in the environment might contribute.

Vaccinations came under suspicion when the parents of autistic children noted that symptoms of the disorder, like lack of social awareness and language delay, appeared shortly after their children got their measles, mumps and rubella shot at age 18 months. Many blamed the vaccine, even though it did not contain mercury.

A child's first 18 months is a period of extensive brain development, when many things could go awry to

An element's link to brain injury is called weak but plausible.

cause the abnormal organization of the brain.

Earlier this year, the Institute of Medicine discounted any link between the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine and autism.

But mercury, a known neurotoxin, remained a possibility. Thimerosal has been used as a preservative since the 1930's to kill bacteria and fungi in vials containing multiple doses of vaccine. A preservative is needed if vials contain more than one dose, to prevent the growth of organisms that may enter the vial after the cap is pierced by a needle. Once injected, thimerosal breaks down

into a compound called ethylmercury.

Before 1990, most babies got only one shot that contained mercury, the report said. After 1990, two more vaccines containing it were added to the required list for all infants.

By the end of the decade, the Food and Drug Administration concluded that some infants were being exposed to cumulative amounts of ethylmercury, and instructed manufacturers to remove thimerosal. Vials of vaccine are now made as single doses, requiring only one needle puncture, so that no preservatives need to be used.

No one knows if extremely low doses of ethylmercury are dangerous, Dr. McCormick said in a news conference. Federal safety standards have been set for a closely related compound, methylmercury, which is a breakdown product of industrial mercury in the environment and is found in certain seafoods. Whether studies of methylmercury apply across the board to ethylmercury is just not known, she said.

Epidemiological studies are under way to examine whether there is any link between thimerosal and autism, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder or delayed language development, Dr. McCormick said. Preliminary results of one unpublished study in children who received higher than usual levels of thimerosal show no increased risk of autism.

The results did, however, show a small but significant increase of a risk of speech delay in children with attention deficit disorder.

New York Times

Carbon Monoxide in Home Kills Man

By Theresa Vargas

STAFF WRITER

For years Sonia Holmes would call her 76-year-old husband, Martin, every day at 9:30 a.m. to say hello. But when he hadn't answered the phone by 1 p.m. Friday, she frantically left work early only to find him unconscious in the bathroom of their West Hempstead home, Nassau police said.

"She opened the door and the house was filled with smoke and a heavy soot-like odor," Det. Raymond Kurz of the Arson Bomb Squad said Friday.

Responding officers tried to revive Martin Holmes but were unable. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Kurz said it appears a faulty basement oil burner,

only 10 years old, leaked carbon monoxide into the home. The basement floor and burning system were splattered with oil, he added.

A test conducted by Nassau County fire marshals also showed that the carbon monoxide level in the home "far exceeded" normal counts.

Holmes probably never even realized what was happening, Kurz said. "It's tasteless," he said of the gas. "You can't smell it in the beginning."

Sgt. Lawrence Nullett and officers Mary Farrell and Mary Francis Hernon were treated and released at Mercy Medical Center in Rockville Centre.

Police said a distraught Sonia Holmes, 68, did not require medical attention.

On Friday no one answered the phone at Holmes' two-story house, which Kurz said needs to be cleaned and tested before anyone can live there.

Newsday
Sept. 29. 01

GIULIANI IS BLUNT IN RARE U.N. TALK

Choose Civilization or Terror
in Global Struggle, He Says

By SERGE SCHMEMANN

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 1 — Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani used a rare invitation to the United Nations podium today to entreat the countries of the world to abandon neutrality in the battle on terrorism: "You're either with civilization or with terrorists."

"This is not a time for further study or vague directives," Mr. Giuliani declared in a speech that alternated between lessons in American civics and forceful appeals to the world to join forces in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks. "The evidence of terrorism's brutality and inhumanity, of its contempt for life and the concept of peace, is lying beneath the rubble of the World Trade Center less than two miles from where we meet today." [Excerpts, Page B5.]

Mr. Giuliani became only the third New York mayor ever to address the General Assembly, and the first to speak at an event other than a groundbreaking or a grand opening. The last was in 1952, when Mayor Vincent R. Impellitteri spoke at the opening of the United Nations headquarters on the East River.

Mr. Giuliani, by contrast, was invited on Friday by the Assembly to speak at the opening of its debate on terrorism, which was planned long before Sept. 11 but has taken on new significance since.

Delegates filling the Assembly hall

greeted Mr. Giuliani with applause, but remained silent throughout his speech. Though his blunt tone differed from the usual flow of diplomatic formulas, most diplomats in the hall were also New York residents who lived through the horror of the attacks and who regarded Mr. Giuliani not only as their sometimes critical host, but also as their mayor.

"That hall was packed with people not only wanting to show global solidarity, but also as New Yorkers," a European diplomat said. As for the stern tone, "He does it to George Bush, so he can do it to us also," she added with a smile.

"It was good, it was O.K.," said Nasser al-Kidwa of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine, whose leader, Yasir Arafat, has been routinely snubbed by the mayor and was barred by him from a Lincoln Center concert in 1995 celebrating the United Nations' 50th anniversary.

ry. "Everything has changed in life. I once thought of this man only as a political enemy," Mr. Kidwa said of the mayor. "Now I respect him."

And the didactic tone? "Well, that's Giuliani," Mr. Kidwa said.

Others were more effusive. "It was a great speech from a great guy," said Ambassador Ahmed Aboul Gheit of Egypt. "Everything he said we'll be saying in our statement today."

Mr. Giuliani's basic message was that the attack on the twin towers had been an attack also on the United Nations and what it stood for, and that it was time to respond seriously.

"Let those who say that we must understand the reasons for terrorism come with me to the thousands of funerals we're having in New York City — thousands — and explain those insane, maniacal reasons to the children who will grow up without fathers and mothers and to the parents who have had their children ripped from them for no reason at all," he said.

"On this issue — terrorism — the United Nations must draw a line," the mayor declared. "The era of moral relativism between those who practice or condone terrorism, and those nations who stand up against it, must end."

Mr. Giuliani went out of his way to emphasize to the delegates, many of them Arabs and Muslims, that he was opposed to singling out any ethnic or religious group for blame. He said there were many times when he would visit a mosque on Friday, a synagogue on Saturday, and a church — "sometimes two churches" — on Sunday. "And by the time I finished," he said, "I would say to myself, I know that we're getting through to God. We're talking to him in every language that he understands. We're using every liturgy that exists. And I know we're getting through to the same God."

He also peppered his remarks with lessons in American civics, noting that each country represented in the hall has contributed citizens to the United States and to New York, "and people continue to come here in large, large numbers to seek free-

dom, opportunity, decency, civility."

His final appeal was for people from around the world who had considered visiting New York to come now. "Come to enjoy our thousands of restaurants and museums and sporting events and shopping and Broadway," he said. "But also come to take a stand against terrorism."

In coming days, 144 speakers are scheduled to follow Mr. Giuliani to the podium in the debate on terrorism. The initial speeches continued with the strong expressions of solidarity and pledges of support that have come from the United Nations ever since the attack. Both the General Assembly and the Security Council have passed strongly worded resolutions, including a council resolution last Friday that obliged all member states to freeze the finances and control the movements and activities of terrorists.

Secretary General Kofi Annan added a chilling note of urgency to the discussion. "It is hard to imagine how the tragedy of 11 September could have been worse," he said. "Yet the truth is that a single attack involving a nuclear or biological weapon could have killed millions."

Mr. Annan and many diplomats said they hoped the debate would lead to the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which has been under discussion for many months. The main sticking point has been the definition of terrorism, since groups that would be branded terrorists by one country may be glorified as freedom fighters by another.

Taking a cue from Mr. Giuliani's address, Mr. Annan said he understood the complexity of the issue,

"but let me say frankly that there is also a need for moral clarity. There can be no acceptance of those who would seek to justify the deliberate taking of innocent civilian life."

Several diplomats said they hoped that the negotiations would not become stranded on heated issues like the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the way the United Nations conference on racism was in Durban, South Africa, last month. But it was evident that the conflict would not remain entirely in the background. In his address today, Mr. Aboul Gheit of Egypt said that some parties in Israel believed "there is an opportunity now to crush Palestinian resistance by taking advantage of current conditions gripping the entire world."

"That would be a terrible mistake of incalculable consequences," he warned.

NYT
10/2/01

Scholars.....

versity, said that there were no insurmountable legal obstacles to keep Mr. Giuliani from staying on. "Democracy has some play in its joints," Mr. Tribe said. "If he were looking for some underhanded or tricky way of extending his term, that would be disturbing. It's a matter of taking

'People are critical of rewriting the rules in the middle of a process.'

advantage of and acting in light of the fact that he is so widely valued in maintaining calm and order in the city in a time of terror."

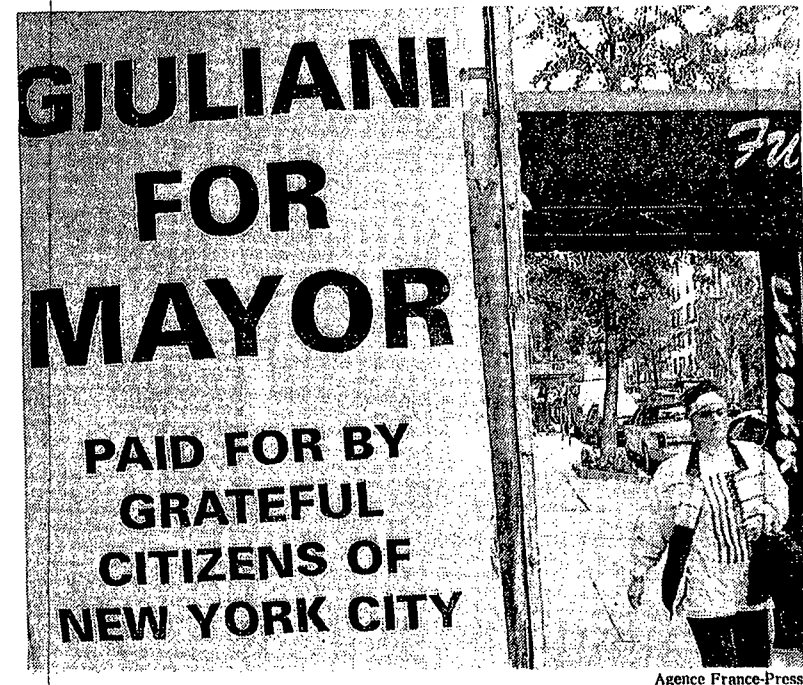
But other scholars said the legal precedents were not encouraging. Some cited the unsuccessful attempt by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to stack a hostile Supreme Court with justices favorable to his New Deal policies. In 1937, at the beginning of his second term, he proposed

legislation to add as many as six justices to the court. The proposal, labeled court-packing by opponents, was even denounced by Roosevelt's supporters.

"The main point is that it was defeated," Mr. Foner said. "And this was right after F. D. R. won re-election. He was, like Giuliani, at the height of his popularity. Congress didn't pass the law for the basic reason that you don't change democratic process to accommodate a particular view or outcome."

Richard Briffault, a law professor at Columbia University and an expert on election law and local government, offered another analogy. Until the Depression, he said, the official start of term for the president of the United States was March 4. But after Roosevelt's election in November 1932, a Constitutional amendment was passed, making the date Jan. 20, partly, Mr. Briffault said, because "people were troubled by the fact that Hoover remained in office five months after being soundly defeated." But the amendment did not go into effect until after Roosevelt's re-election four years later.

"In general, people are critical of rewriting the rules in the middle of a process," Mr. Briffault said. "You're



The mayor's leadership in a hard time has increased his popularity.

usually able to write rules for the future, not for the present."

Sean Wilentz, a professor of history at Princeton University, said that he was not in principle opposed to the idea of Mr. Giuliani's remaining in office for a few months, but he joked that he had a better idea for how to use the mayor's time. "Giuliani

should step down and they should make him ruler of Afghanistan," Mr. Wilentz said. "He'll need a job, and, God willing, the job will soon be open. He'll bring law and order to the people. If he can make it happen in New York, he can make it happen anywhere."

Page 20 of 2

Scholars Divided on Giuliani Bid

By EMILY EAKIN

Politicians have responded in different ways to an adoring public. Julius Caesar declined attempts by his constituents to have him wear a crown, explaining, "Non rex sum sed Caesar" — "I am not a king but Caesar." (Though in the end, his closest advisers got him out of office by stabbing him.) And George Washington refused to give in to public desire to keep him permanently in the presidency, stepping down at the end of his second term.

But Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, who has seen his approval ratings soar since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, opted for a another kind of response this week when he proposed extending his term in office by at least three months.

While the three candidates to succeed him as mayor scrambled to find a politically palatable response to the announcement, experts on American history, election law and New York City politics debated the merits of such a move and searched for historical precedents. An informal sounding of scholarly opinion yesterday revealed an academic community divided over whether the mayor's proposal, which was approved by two of the three mayoral candidates, amounted to an unacceptable breach of democratic tradition or a welcome, even necessary, response to a difficult time for the city.

"Though historians are very reluctant to say never, I can't think of a single historical precedent," said Eric Foner, a professor of history at Columbia University. "In times of crisis, we have always had transitions from one elected leader to another one and from one party to another." Mr. Foner cited several examples from American political history, including the presidential elections of 1864, during the Civil War, in which Lincoln was re-elected; of 1952, during the Korean War, in which Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected to succeed Harry S. Truman.

"I can't think of any time at which an outgoing official suggested he ought to stay on because he's indispensable," Mr. Foner said. "Our political system has gone through many political shocks and survived

them." Ester Fuchs, a professor of political science and public policy at Barnard College and Columbia University and the author of "Mayors

and Money: Fiscal Policy in New York and Chicago," agreed, arguing that New York City has weathered extraordinary circumstances in the past without tampering with its electoral laws or extending the terms of its political leaders.

In 1932 during the Depression and again in 1975, Ms. Fuchs said, the city faced debilitating fiscal crises, and in both cases, elected officials carried out their duties normally. The 1975 case, she said, was particularly instructive. Mayor Abraham Beame, she said, "restructured the city's debt and governance." Moreover, she stressed that unlike Mr. Giuliani, who has been able to rely on support from the federal government to pay for rescue and recovery operations at the World Trade Center, Mr. Beame was largely on his own. (Remember the front page of The Daily News summing up the White House's response: "Ford to City: Drop Dead." The government eventually did offer a loan guarantee.)

"People were satisfied with how Mr. Beame handled the crisis, no question," Ms. Fuchs said. But that did not mean they wanted to keep him on as mayor: he lost the 1977 election to Edward I. Koch. "Today we have the support of the nation and the state," Ms. Fuchs said. "We have a much broader resource network to get us through this than we did either in 1975 or in 1932."

But that network of financial resources is precisely what makes Mayor Giuliani indispensable to the city right now, said Fred Siegel, a professor of urban history at Cooper Union in Manhattan. "For our recovery, we need federal money, and the key to getting it and using it expeditiously is Giuliani," Mr. Siegel said. "We have many businesses on the verge of failure, not just in lower Manhattan but across the city. It's in our interests as a city to get those sluice gates open and get the money flowing, and Giuliani has those mechanisms at his disposal. There's no learning curve."

Even if a majority of New Yorkers supported such a move, extending Mayor Giuliani's term would require new legislation. Some scholars, including Laurence H. Tribe, an expert in constitutional law at Harvard Uni-

NYTimes
0700 10f2 9/29/01

Words to a Hurt World: Action, Not Deliberation

Following are excerpts from Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani's address yesterday to the General Assembly of the United Nations, as recorded by The New York Times.

On Sept. 11, 2001, New York City, the most diverse city in the world, was viciously attacked in an unprovoked act of war. More than 5,000 innocent men, women and children of every race, religion and ethnicity are lost. Among these were people from 80 different nations. To their representatives here today, I offer my condolences to you as well on behalf of all New Yorkers who share this loss with you.

This was the deadliest attack — terrorist attack — in history. It claimed more lives than Pearl Harbor or D-Day. This was not just an attack on the city of New York or on the United States of America. It was an attack on the very idea of a free, inclusive and civil society. It was a direct assault on the founding principles of the United Nations itself.

The preamble to the U.N. Charter states that this organization exists to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, to practice tolerance and live together in peace as good neighbors and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security.

Indeed, this vicious attack places in jeopardy the whole purpose of the United Nations. . . .

The United Nations must hold accountable any country that supports or condones terrorism. Otherwise, you will fail in your primary mission as peacekeeper.

It must ostracize any nation that supports terrorism. It must isolate any nation that remains neutral in the fight against terrorism. Now is the time, in the words of your charter, the United Nations Charter, to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security.

This is not a time for further study or vague directives.

The evidence of terrorism's brutality and inhumanity, of its contempt for life and the concept of peace, is lying beneath the rubble of the World Trade Center less than two miles from where we meet today.

Look at that destruction, that massive, senseless, cruel loss of human life, and then I ask you to look in your hearts and recognize that there is no room for neutrality on the issue of terrorism. You're either with civilization or with terrorists. On one side is democracy, the rule of law and respect for human life. On the other is tyranny, arbitrary executions and mass murder.

We are right and they are wrong. It's as simple as that. And by that I mean that America and its allies are right about democracy, about religious, political and economic freedom. And the terrorists are wrong, and in fact evil, in their mass destruction of human life in the name of addressing alleged injustices.

Let those who say that we must understand the reasons for terrorism come with me to the thousands of funerals we're having in New York City — thousands — and explain those insane, maniacal reasons to the children who will grow up without fathers and mothers and to the parents who have had their children ripped from them for no reason at all. . . .

We're a city of immigrants unlike any other city, within a nation of immigrants.

Like the victims of the World Trade Center attack, we're of every race, we're of every religion, we're of every ethnicity. And our diversity has been our greatest source of strength. It's the thing that renews us and revives us in every generation — our openness to new people from all over the world.

So from the first day of this attack, an attack on New York, on America, and I believe on the basic principles that underlie this organization, I've told the people

of New York that we should not allow this to divide us because then we would really lose what this city is all about. . . .

We can't let terrorists change the way we live. Otherwise they will have succeeded.

In some ways, the resilience of life in New York City is the ultimate sign of defiance to terrorists. We call ourselves the capital of the world in large part because we're the most diverse city in the world. And we're the home of the United Nations. So that spirit of unity amid all our diversity has never ever been stronger. . . .

Freedom from fear is a basic human right. We need to reassert our right to live free from fear with greater confidence and determination than ever before here in New York City, across America and around the world. With one clear voice, unanimously, we need to say we will not give in to terrorism.

Surrounded by our friends of every faith, we know this is not a clash of civilizations. It's a conflict between murderers and humanity.

*'With one clear
voice . . . we need
to say we will not
give in to
terrorism.'*

NUT
10/2/01

WAITING FOR WAR

Now, New York faces *Economic loss almost too much to bear*

By WILLIAM SHERMAN and BRIAN KATES
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

The immediate toll of terror on New York's economy approaches a staggering \$60 billion, with shock waves felt from Wall Street giants to the smallest mom-and-pop store.

In years to come, the devastation could be measured in the trillions.

The insurance industry has set the total loss in the city at \$40 billion to \$60 billion, the equivalent of the annual gross domestic product of Hungary.

Insurance payouts are expected to total more than \$25 billion. Before that, the largest insurance payout ever was \$19 billion after Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

And as New York reels, so does the nation. The city's \$500 billion annual gross product accounts for 5% of the nation's economic output.

Since the Sept. 11 attack, investors have watched the meltdown of their retirement accounts and other holdings in what amounted to near-panic selling on Wall Street.

In the week after the attack, the Dow Jones industrial average had its second-biggest weekly loss since 1915, with 29 of the index's 30 members falling. Stocks declined all five days of the first week of trading following the attack, erasing a mind-boggling \$1.38 trillion in market value.

Since then, the market has rebounded a bit. The Dow Jones closed Friday up 10% from its post-attack low. The NASDAQ composite,

which also had plummeted, bounced back more than 20% off its low.

But 32 Nasdaq member companies had offices in the twin towers.

Since Sept. 11, trucks have hauled more than 130,000 tons of shattered concrete and twisted steel from Ground Zero. Estimates run as high as \$1 billion for the total debris removal and cleanup, which could take up to a year to complete.

But that is just bricks and mortar.

The cost in blood and bone will be felt for generations.

High insurance tab

Life insurance payouts are expected to be between \$2 billion and \$5 billion, according to the American Council of Life Insurers.

The federal government also will pay \$151,635 to the families of each of the more than 400 firefighters, emergency medical technicians and police officers who died in the catastrophe. The cost of replacing their experience is immeasurable.

The loss of life will have a swift impact.

The average Manhattan worker has an economic output of \$150,000 a year, compared with \$116,000 in the

rest of the metropolitan region, according to Robert Hartwig, chief economist of the Insurance Information Institute.

"Multiply that by the number of deaths, and this is a tremendous loss of human capital and intellectual output," Hartwig said. "Many of those killed were highly educated, highly compensated and extremely productive."

Although the city's trial lawyers have agreed to hold off for now, survivors of those who perished are expected to seek more than \$5 billion in damages, according to several of the city's top litigators.

To gauge the impact of the suits, consider this: Next of kin of the victims of Pan American Flight 103, blown up by terrorists in 1988, received on average \$18.3 million each, said Manhattan attorney Lee Kreindler, who represented the families of 104 passengers in that case.

About 108,000 New Yorkers will be left unemployed — including 2,000 security guards, window cleaners and janitors who worked in the World Trade Center and surrounding buildings. About 75,000 are expected to file for unemployment insurance, according to Assistant U.S. Labor Secretary Emily DeRocco.

Federal officials say at least 700,000 of the city's 4 million jobs will be affected in some way.

The state already has secured \$25 million in federal aid to provide temporary jobs as part of the disaster relief. But that will hardly meet the need. Workers' compensation costs alone are expected to top \$1.3 billion, according to the New York

Compensation Insurance Rating Board.

And the human suffering extends well beyond adult wage earners: The Board of Education envisions spending \$110 million — \$100 a child — for disaster-related counseling. The board also has asked for an additional \$100 million to hold extra sessions to make up class time lost to disruption.

It will take years for the city to rebuild.

20% drop in area real estate

The World Trade Center attack wiped out 15 million square feet of lower Manhattan real estate — about 20% of the area's total — of which only about 6 million square feet will be usable within a year, according to experts at Jones Lang LaSalle, one of the country's top real estate firms.

The worth of the World Trade Center buildings alone is estimated at \$6 billion to \$8 billion, according to Bernie Bordeau, president of the New York State Insurance Association. But that, of course, is just the beginning.

"Property claims will be tremendous," said Bernie Heinze, chief of the American Association of Managing Agents. "In addition to the incalculable loss of life, how do you account for 220 floors of office space in the twin towers with all the computers, valuable papers, and storage and backup systems? How do you put a price tag on that?"

TowerGroup, a technology research company, has attempted to do just that. The group estimates it will cost \$3.2 billion just to replace computer

Counseling city, 000 work schoolchildren
\$110 million

ADDING UP THE LOSSES TO THE CITY

Industry officials are still trying to tally the costs of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack. Here are just some of their expectations:

Total property and casualty losses
\$40 billion to \$60 billion

Property insurance payouts
\$25 billion to \$30 billion

Ground Zero cleanup and security
\$1 billion

Life insurance payouts
\$2 billion to \$5 billion

Workers' compensation
\$1.3 billion

Expected survivor lawsuits
\$5 billion

9/11-4

P20f2

\$60B disaster tab

stations at securities companies that were in the seven Trade Center buildings and the adjacent World Financial Center.

The implosion of the twin towers knocked out more than 400 megawatts of electricity in lower Manhattan — enough to power 400,000 homes. Two key Con Edison substations, both in the WTC, were knocked out. Gas and steam mains were ruptured. Con Ed estimates the cost, including laying 33 miles of cable and repairing the two substations, at \$400 million.

Verizon suffered damage to five central switching offices, affecting nearly 200,000 phone lines, and AT&T took big hits to its network as well. Neither company has put a price tag on repair costs.

"First we fix it, then we add up all the costs," said Jim Smith a spokesman for Verizon.

But for nearly 14,000 companies in lower Manhattan, 5,000 of them in the frozen zone below Canal St., the disaster meant no light, no refrigeration, no phones — and no customers. And even after power was restored, security precautions kept clientele away.

As of Wednesday, the Federal Emergency Management Agency had referred 3,263 companies and 2,414 homeowners to the federal Small Business Administration for disaster assistance. The SBA also has fielded

nearly 5,000 walk-in requests for aid. So far, the agency had approved 68 loans totalling \$6.53 million.

That's just a beginning. After the Northridge, Calif., earthquake in 1994, the SBA made 125,000 loans totaling \$4.1 billion. Loans in New York are expected to total at least that and likely much more, according to SBA spokeswoman Carol Chastang.

Tourism, hotels suffer

Among the hardest hit sector of the city's economy was the city's \$25 billion tourism industry and its linchpin, the hotel trade.

The Jacob Javits Convention Center canceled three major trade shows.

Broadway was forced to close five plays, laying off more than 100 actors and scores of musicians and stage crew. It took a \$5 million loss in just one week.

The Marriott World Trade Center hotel was destroyed in the attack, two other hotels were damaged and a third was closed, forcing 1,000 people out of work. Elsewhere in the city, 2,200 more hotel workers — waiters, desk clerks, room attendants and bell staff — have been laid off as fear of terrorism kept visitors at bay, according to John Turchiano of the Hotel Trades Council.

Occupancy rates, normally 90%, dropped to 30%, and the industry

is taking in \$7 million a day less than normal, said John Fox of PKF consulting, an international hotel advisory firm. And that does not include food, beverages, telephone, gift shop and other revenues, Fox said.

Although the total cost of lost business has not been tallied, just one company — Windows on the World, the famed restaurant at the top of the Trade Center — had revenues last year of \$37.5 million. No longer.

Howard Stone, regional manager for Food Emporium, estimated the loss of spoiled food at the supermarket at Greenwich and Duane Sts. alone at "several hundred thousand dollars."

Drew Nieporent, who with film star Robert De Niro, owns Tribeca Grill, Nobu and Nobu Next Door, all located in the frozen zone, said his businesses lost more than \$500,000 until they reopened last week.

"Below Chambers St. it's like a war zone," he said. "I haven't let any of my employees go. I've got 1,000 workers and I can afford to be generous. But I can't afford to bankrupt myself."

The effect, of course, is felt well beyond lower Manhattan. The Hudson newsstand chain, for example, suffered severely from the shutdown of airports and bus and rail stations. The company, which

generally takes in \$4 million a week, estimated that in the week after the disaster it took in no more than \$500,000.

Fewer shoppers

Federated, which operates Macy's and Bloomingdale's, said sales were \$65 million less than expected during the week of the attack, with about half of the loss recorded on Sept. 11.

Reports of city tax revenue loss range from \$1.3 billion to \$3 billion. The state projects a \$1 billion tax loss.

Hundreds of lower Manhattan businesses have been forced to relocate to other areas of the city, where companies that had paid as little as \$23 a square foot will now have to cough up \$40 to \$80 a square foot depending on location, length of lease and improvements.

The city's once-imposing residential market also has tumbled.

"There is a sense of vulnerability, particularly in the upper floors of tall buildings," said Scott Durkin, chief operating officer of the Corcoran Group, which specializes in residential real estate. "In

the three days after the attack we had 315 rental reductions, where the landlord reduced the rental price from \$50 to \$250 a month on apartments."

Property value of the World Trade Center	Computer replacement costs for securities companies at WTC	Con Ed initial costs	SBA loans to date	Loss to Broadway theaters	Loss to hotels	Lost revenue: Windows on the World restaurant	Lost city tax revenue
\$6 billion to \$8 billion	\$3.2 billion	\$400 million	\$6.3 million	\$5 million a week	\$7 million a day	\$37.5 million a year	\$3 billion

Plunging tax revenues spell NY budget woes

City, state shortfalls are due to looming recession

By **NANCY DILLON**
DAILY NEWS BUSINESS WRITER

New York officials are predicting a plunge in tax revenues following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, putting the squeeze on state and city budgets.

The state's Division of Budget said this week that the sudden decline in economic activity will likely cleave more than \$1 billion from expected state tax receipts this year.

And while the city budget office is still working on its assessment, city controller and former mayoral candidate Alan Hevesi has said he expects a city-based tax shortfall in the area of \$1.5 billion.

Putting such figures in perspective, \$1.5 billion is more money than New York City spends each year on sanitation, libraries and park services combined.

"It's already becoming very clear that the state's fiscal reserves, worth \$2.6 billion, will be necessary to offset substantial revenue losses associated with the attacks," said state budget spokesman Kevin Quinn.

Governor George Pataki said this week he was not ready to discuss use of the reserve funds, adding simply that total state costs from the attacks — including tax shortfalls, clean-up and rebuilding — were going to be "multiple, multiple billions" of dollars.

The state's final budget for the next fiscal year is already six months overdue, having just weathered an ugly bout of wrangling over school spending.

According to state officials, tax shortfall estimates are based on the assumption that weakness in wages, corporate profits, consumer confidence and the

stock market will lead to reductions in taxes tied to income, business, sales and capital gains.

"Budget forecasts prior to Sept. 11 were predicated on the belief that the economy would remain soft but not go into recession. Now with the shock of the disaster and worse-than-expected August numbers, we have to assume recession is here," said Ronnie Lowenstein, director of the Independent Budget Office, a city budget watchdog.

Lowenstein said recession, in budgetary terms, often means a one-two punch of lower tax revenues and a need for increased city spending.

"As the economy and stock markets stumble, more people tend to need public assistance and the city must pump more of its own money into its pension funds," she explained.



HEIDI SCHUMANN

Gov. George Pataki may have to dip into reserves due to tax shortfalls.

Daily
News
9.29.01

City faces loss of nearly 110,000 jobs

By **BRIAN KATES**
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

The city could lose a staggering 108,500 jobs in the next month as a result of the terror attack, according to a study released yesterday by the New York City Central Labor Council.

The report puts the loss at 2.4% of the city's workforce, with a combined payroll of \$6.7 billion. The cost to the economy, factoring in lost production and spending, is estimated at a whopping \$16.9 billion.

With stores below 14th St. closed for days, many business-

es still without phone service and shoppers and diners feeling more cautious, the study also forecasts a 10% drop in consumer spending because of the attack. Normally, consumers spend \$200 million in the city every year.

The report is the first detailed breakdown of the economic impact of the Sept. 11 attack to be made public. It was prepared for the labor council by the Fiscal Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank.

Hardest hit is the securities industry, which lost hundreds of workers in the collapse of the

twin towers and is expected to lose 12,200 jobs before the end of October. The cost to the economy: \$4.4 billion, according to the study.

The securities sector has accounted for roughly half of the city's economic activity since the 1990s, even though it accounts for only about 5% of the total payroll.

Retailing is expected to lose 12,200 jobs, with an economic cost of \$684 million.

In the aftershocks, tourism — including hotels, restaurants and the theater — also will take monumental hits.

Restaurants are expected to lose 11,900 workers. Hotels, which have already lost 3,200 jobs, are expected to see a total loss of 4,300 by next month. Broadway and Off-Broadway theaters will furlough 7,800 actors, musicians and crew members.

Also hard-hit are air transportation (5,300 jobs lost), advertising (2,700); insurance carriers (2,500); real estate (2,300) and computer and data processing (2,300).

The Central Labor Council is a consortium of 375 local unions.

Daily
News
9.29.01

Rebuild downtown from bottom up

On Friday, this page outlined a proposal to make downtown whole again. We called for a blue-chip commission of civic and business leaders to draft a plan for rebuilding, which would be implemented by a special recovery and reconstruction authority. There is no one better to lead that authority than Mayor Giuliani; put him in charge of a Marshall Plan-like campaign to reclaim downtown.

It is imperative to move forward decisively with the reclamation of the World Trade Center site — and to focus all available resources on creating a 21st century infrastructure to drive our 21st century economy. The capital of capital must rise anew on the shattered street grid of lower Manhattan. And quickly.

The risks and costs of this campaign should be spread throughout the nation — because the nation can afford it, and the city alone cannot. Sept. 11 saw an attack on all America, not just New York. But it is New York that bears the deepest scars — emotionally, physically, financially. Washington must fulfill its moral and fiscal obligation to safeguard the city through additional aid and loan guarantees. New York must not be forced to cut police, fire, sanitation or educational services as tax revenues decline.

As for the actual reconstruction, speed will be essential. Planning and design should be well under way as the rubble is carted off. And red tape — like the land-review process, environmental reviews and nuisance lawsuits — must be kept to a minimum.

It can be done. The Empire State Building went from back-of-the-envelope sketch in 1930 to ribbon-cutting in 1931. The city's first subway was built between 1900 and 1904. More recently, the world's busiest freeway was reopened three months after being destroyed in California's 1994 Northridge earthquake.

We must embrace that spirit. David Rockefeller, the leader of downtown's revival 40 years ago, says, "We have to find again the power and will to move to implementation quickly and decisively." And with billions in federal emergency aid, the resources are there.

Leaders worldwide are eager to draw the blueprints to replace the WTC. How many buildings eventually will rise, and in what configuration, can best be determined through an accelerated competitive process. In addition, a memorial to the dead, perhaps utilizing twisted shards from the twin towers, should grace the site.

But the best memorial would be to clear the steel and concrete and re-create a thriving business center. And that means more than merely replacing what has been destroyed. New office space should be complemented with restored and expanded transportation links to make downtown attractive to new businesses. The reconstruction authority, working with the Port Authority and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, should tap federal and state funds to:

- Shore up the N and R Broadway line subway tunnel, now buried under tons of debris. And rebuild, as quickly as possible, the collapsed tunnel between the Cortlandt St. and Rector St. stations on the No. 1 line. The MTA says the work will take more than two years. What are they digging with, spoons?

- Reconstruct the \$850 million PATH train station directly under the towers and replace the shattered underground wall that keeps the Hudson River out. PATH carried more than 80,000 riders a day into the Financial District.

- Enhance downtown ferry service, rebuild an expanded ferry terminal at Battery Park City and outfit larger ferries and a bigger fleet.

This also is a chance to realize visionary projects. The city should:

- Build the Second Ave. subway from 125th St. to the Battery. This crucial north-south artery would make downtown access convenient for thousands and ease the crush on the Lexington Ave. line.

- Run Metro-North trains south past Grand Central into downtown to create a seamless trip from Westchester and Connecticut. A new station could be built, perhaps, as one developer suggests, under the glass-roofed Winter Garden in the World Financial Center.

- Extend the Long Island Rail Road from Brooklyn's Flatbush terminal under the East River so riders can go straight downtown.

- To drastically reduce truck traffic, build a rail-freight tunnel from Brooklyn to Staten Island or New Jersey. The founding mission of the PA in 1921, this tunnel would boost the share of goods that arrive here by train to 35% — from only 2.5% today.

With the city opened up for major surgery, our circulatory system — communications — also should be upgraded. Whole areas south of Chambers St. can be rewired with fiber-optic cables to support financial services companies, high-tech and others that need huge bandwidth. Make the Financial District a "smart neighborhood."

This is not a wish list. It is a to-do list. All of the above can be realized. New capacity. New transit services. New technology. In short, a new downtown rising like a phoenix from the ashes.

Daily
News
9.29.01

It could take 1 year to get site cleared

By DAVE GOLDINER
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

The World Trade Center cleanup will take up to a year, twice as long as previously thought, Mayor Giuliani said yesterday.

"The amount of time they need to remove and clear the site will range anywhere from nine months to one year," he told a news conference.

Clearing surface debris from the estimated 1.2 million tons of rubble will take months.

But the mayor said that will be child's play compared with the task of pulling heavy steel beams from the 110-story towers that were rammed deep into subway tunnels and bedrock.

So far, 133,024 tons of debris have been removed in 8,977 truckloads, Giuliani said.

Metal theft probe

In another development, Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik said a grand jury investigation has begun into possible Mafia involvement in the theft of 250 tons of scrap metal from the twin towers site.

Organized crime investigators are looking into three sites where the metal was taken — two in New Jersey and one on Long Island, Kerik said.

The evidence has been turned over to the Manhattan district attorney.

Officials said the count of the missing in the World Trade Center now stands at 5,960.

Relatives have applied for 565 death certificates, and 306 bodies or parts of bodies have been recovered.

The observation deck on the 86th floor of the Empire State Building, closed since the terror attacks Sept. 11, is scheduled to reopen today.

A telephoned bomb threat forced the evacuation of the landmark building and surrounding blocks yesterday, but the call proved unfounded.

The wrenching succession of funerals and wakes continued around the region, with at least 16 more funerals or memorial services scheduled for today.

Giuliani praised suburban residents for turning out in force to honor those who died in the attacks.

"It was very comforting to the families to be able to see thousands of people showing up out of respect for their loved ones," he said.

Downtown, economic havoc was apparent.

Court, business closed

Along with businesses and restaurants, the disaster forced the indefinite closing of the Department of Motor Vehicles traffic court on Rector St.

The cases have been delayed, forcing lawyer Jeffrey Levine to lay off two office workers in his practice.

"The little people are being hurt, not just the Wall Street people," said Pamela Smith, an office administrator for Levine. She is now working part-time.

Abby Lydon and her husband live in Battery Park City, send their child to Public School 234 on Greenwich Ave. and own Moran's, an Irish restaurant on Rector St.

The landmark restaurant sits in the Red Zone — where downtown streets are closed off — and customers have no way to get to it. The family is living in a hotel. PS 234 remains closed.

"Our whole life is down here and everything is up in the air," Lydon said. "We have to start all over, and I'm not sure how."

Daily News
9.29.01 Page 10 of 2



DAUNTING TASK The tough, dangerous work of removing the wreckage of the World Trade Center terrorist attacks goes on day and night, with Mayor Giuliani saying it could take a year.

Photo 2012

Landfill might become a monument

■ Some envision
a memorial at
Fresh Kills for
victims of the Trade
Center disaster

By DIANA YATES
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

For the last 30 years of its life as Gotham's garbage dump, the Fresh Kills landfill swelled relentlessly skyward, gradually obliterating local views of Lower Manhattan. Until Sept. 11, only one city landmark — the Twin Towers — could still be seen above the enormous mounds of trash.

Today that reference point is gone, and the rubble that was the World Trade Center is coming to Fresh Kills. To commemorate the enormity of the loss, some believe that the former landfill would make a fitting site for a memorial to the disaster.

"It's absolutely stark and very, very beautiful," said Harvard landscape architect Niall Kirkwood, one of those promoting the idea. "It's of a sufficient size and scale."

Kirkwood said the expansive beauty of the site, its views of Lower Manhattan and the fact that much of the rubble from the World Trade Center may be buried there make Fresh Kills an ideal site for a memorial park.

"It's actually a 19th-century idea — the idea that a park or a type of park becomes a place of healing," he said.

Six design teams selected to participate in a city-sponsored competition to develop a master plan for Fresh Kills are already grappling with the implications of the presence of the World Trade Center debris at the former dump.

"Certainly, it's going to have a huge effect on what we do," said landscape architect Tom Leader, of the Berkeley, Calif.-based Tom Leader Studio, a member of one of the teams.

Leader said it is difficult to get perspective on the task so soon

after the World Trade Center attack.

"It requires you to think more about what's happening in Lower Manhattan, as well as what's happening at Fresh Kills," he said. "They're kind of linked in a way they weren't before."

Still recovering from the loss of communications in its downtown office, the Department of City Planning, a primary sponsor of the competition, is working with the Sanitation Department to address the new conditions at Fresh Kills. City Planning spokeswoman Robin Stein said the agency is putting together a statement on the matter, but could not comment further.

Frank E. Sanchis III, executive director of the nonprofit Municipal Arts Society, another sponsor, said his organization would leave it to the city to determine what should happen at Fresh Kills.

But the art society and others in the preservation community also called on those involved in removing the rubble to safeguard that

part of the World Trade Center's blasted metal skin that remained standing after the attack.

Crews started removing the seven-story husk Tuesday night, but Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani said the removal would be done as carefully as possible to save it for a potential memorial.

Giuliani said the remaining wall of Tower 2 needed to come down to clear the way for continuing rescue work. But he added, "what comes down is going to be preserved" in case it is decided later to turn it into a memorial.

As cranes pulled parts of the wall down Tuesday night, acrid smoke and dust kicked up by the operation filled the air. Dozens of people gathered behind police barricades and watched as chunks of the skeletal frame fell upon the debris pile.

Jean Parker Phifer, president of the Art Commission that approves works of art for city-owned property, said preserving the skin is reasonable.

"These are remnants of the at-

tack that have resonated with a lot of people, and portions should be saved so that in the future when we get to the point of deciding what is an appropriate memorial, those pieces have not been carted away," Phifer said.

The ultimate disposition of the rest of the debris is also important, Sanchis continued. "I don't think of it as rubble. I think of it as remains. No matter how hard you try, you can't sift out everything."

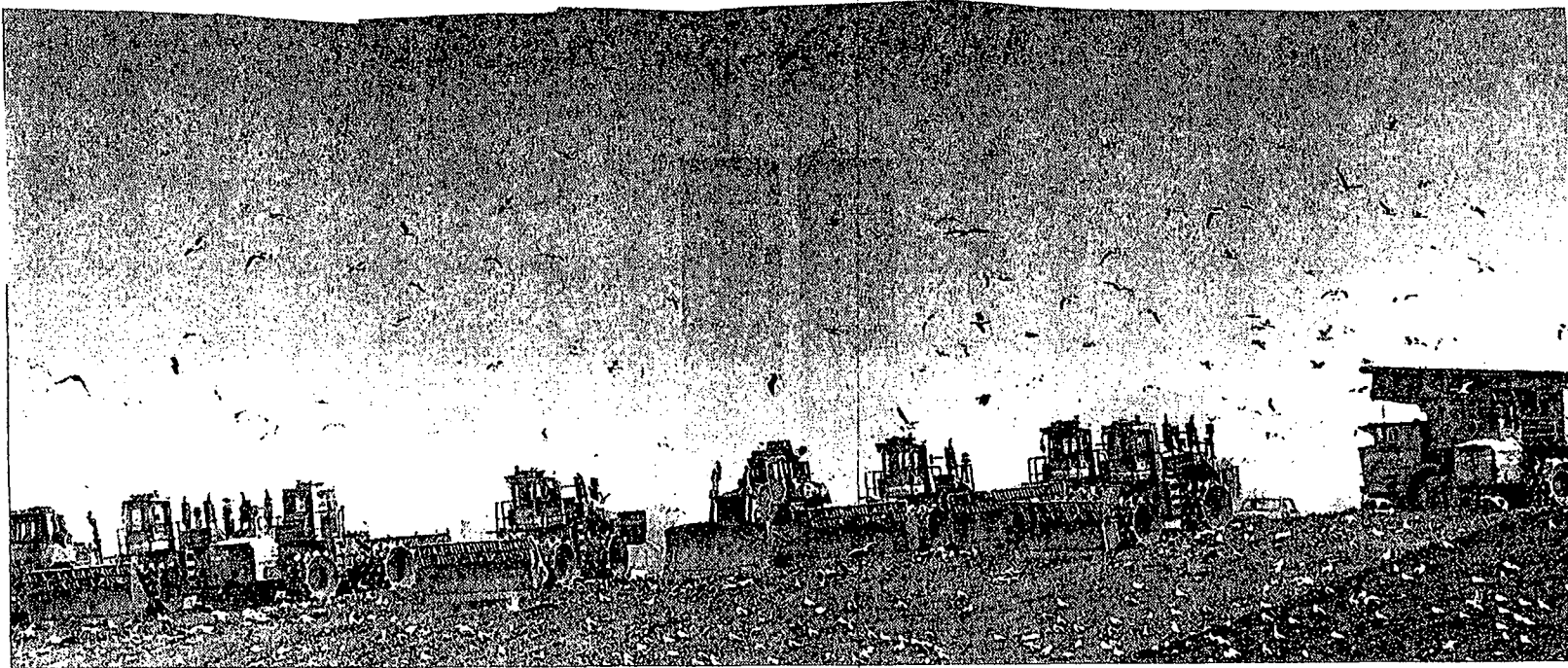
Anyplace the debris is buried becomes "sacred ground," he said.

Sanchis said he believes there will be several monuments to the disaster, including one or more short-term memorials in Lower Manhattan. Several artists have proposed creating pillars of light where the Twin Towers once stood, for example.

If all or most of the debris from the World Trade Center is buried at Fresh Kills, "there definitely should be something there. It's not going to be the only memorial," he said. "But it's inescapable."

Those associated with the land-

SI Advance
9.27.01
Page 1 of 2



ADVANCE FILE PHOTO

The Twin Towers overlook the sanitation vehicles at the Fresh Kills landfill in a 1996 photo. The towers eventually were the only city landmark that could be seen above the landfill.

fill design competition stress that the winning team's proposal will provide only a starting point for a master plan for Fresh Kills. The community will be invited to participate in the process of developing any long-term proposals for the site.

And the idea of a memorial already has some local proponents.

One Rossville resident, a volunteer worker in the criminal investigation now under way at Fresh Kills, believes the hills of buried waste overlooking the Arthur Kill can no longer be called a dump.

"I wouldn't call it a landfill anymore," said James, who declined to give his last name. "It should be a Fresh Kills memorial."

Searching the wreckage for personal items and body parts convinced him that the site should be revered as a burial ground.

"I hope to God they put all of [the disaster debris at Fresh Kills] and make it a memorial," he said.

(Associated Press material was used in this report.)

Plants May Rise for a Concrete-Starved Manhattan

By CHARLES V. BAGLI

City officials and construction executives are considering building concrete plants on the waterfront in Manhattan for the first time in more than a decade because traffic jams on bridges have stalled trucks' delivery of concrete to building sites and have idled hundreds of workers.

The city is also considering providing police escorts to help clear the way for the 79,000-pound trucks as they rumble between concrete plants in Queens, Brooklyn and the Bronx and destinations at commercial and residential projects in Manhattan.

Concrete trucks must deliver their loads within 90 minutes of leaving the plants, called batch plants, or risk rejection by safety inspectors. But this week the trucks have either shown up late or have given up and returned to their plants, according to developers, construction executives and concrete producers. The closing of some tunnels and the new security and traffic regulations used at the city's bridges since the attack on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11 have wreaked havoc not just on rush-hour traffic but also on the delivery of concrete and other construction materials, they said.

"It's impossible to deliver our product to Manhattan on time," said John Quadrozzi, president of Quadrozzi Concrete Corporation in Queens. "All the arteries are jammed, and you can't get through. Concrete dies. We're also having problems getting materials to our plants."

Anthony V. Carbonetti, the mayor's chief of staff, said yesterday that the Giuliani administration was "very, very close" to identifying a site for a temporary cement plant on a pier on the west side of Manhattan.

The city will probably provide the site at no cost to the concrete producers, who Mr. Carbonetti said would build the plant themselves. Construction could be finished in several weeks.

"Our industry is not looking at this as an opportunity to make a windfall," said Carmine A. Valente, president of the Association of New York City Concrete Producers. "It should be a city-sponsored, not-for-profit plant."

Mr. Valente, who is also president of Jenna Concrete in the Bronx, estimated that earlier this week, fewer than one-third of the more than 300 trucks a day that deliver concrete to projects in Manhattan were able to deliver their loads. On average, 3,000 cubic yards, enough for 11 miles of sidewalk, is



Andrea Mohin/The New York Times

A concrete truck stuck on Eleventh Avenue yesterday. Construction crews in Manhattan have been idled by concrete delivery delays.

Continued on Page D4

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2001

P. 102

C I T Y

Relief Sought for Concrete-Starved Manhattan

Continued From Page D1

delivered each workday in Manhattan.

Traffic was lighter yesterday because of Yom Kippur and prohibitions on single-passenger automobiles at some tunnels and bridges, so more concrete trucks were able to get to Manhattan work sites yesterday. But concrete suppliers expect the problem to get worse on Monday, after the Yom Kippur lull.

Concrete is the lifeblood of most construction projects. Dozens of masons, carpenters and lathers who spread the concrete at a job site are left waiting when the concrete trucks fail to show up. Contractors, in turn, are unable to continue to erect the steel frame of a building when they cannot pour the concrete slabs for each floor as the building rises.

"If we can't get the concrete, we've got to stop the job," said Bruce Barwick, president of Columbus Centre LLC, the development company building AOL Time Warner Center at Columbus Circle, the largest construction project in the city.

For much of the week, he said, concrete trucks were unable to reach the site, where four enormous deck cranes loom high above the nascent skyscraper. In an effort to make up for lost time, Mr. Barwick put dozens of workers on overtime last night and arranged for up to 60 trucks to deliver concrete from 6 p.m. to midnight, presumably when traffic on the bridges would be light.

Rocco Tomasetti, president of Empire Transit Mix in Brooklyn, said that the number of daily truckloads

**Trucks, job sites,
and miles of bridge
traffic in between.**

he delivered to apartment buildings under construction in Manhattan fell from 125 to as few as 25 this week, although he said he was back up to about 100 yesterday. His trucks have been using the Midtown Tunnel because the Williamsburg Bridge was closed to commercial traffic.

"Today was the first day since Sept. 11 that was decent," he said.

But the suppliers say it is hard to survive in their competitive business, where profit margins are thin. The suppliers say they may have to shut down their plants until a solution is found.

The concrete plants that serve Manhattan are in industrial areas of Queens, Brooklyn and the Bronx. There, the mixture of sand, cement, stone, water and chemicals that compose concrete is poured into trucks. The strength of the concrete can vary considerably, depending on its use. But if the mixture sits in the drum of a truck longer than 90 minutes, it becomes too soft or too hard and fails to meet specifications. The larger suppliers follow the progress of their trucks with satellite tracking systems.

In 1987, the city closed a concrete plant it had helped establish at West 57th Street and the Hudson River because of problems with the private operator. Only rusting hulks remain



Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times

Once trucks are loaded, like at Jenna Concrete in the Bronx, the concrete goes bad in 90 minutes.

at what were once privately owned plants on the Hudson River at 26th Street and on the East River at 127th Street.

Mr. Ferrara and Mr. Quadrozzi have plants in Red Hook or by the Gowanus Canal, near the entrance to the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, which provided quick and easy access to Manhattan until it was closed to all traffic except emergency vehicles.

Mr. Ferrara said that he hopes a Manhattan plant would solve the industry's problems until New York regains its footing. "But it's not going to be normal for a long time," he said.

P. 20 of 2



Edward Keating/The New York Times

THE SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS Firefighters on the rubble two days after the collapse of the twin towers. Gradually, a rhythm descended upon the rescue efforts and order emerged from chaos.

Ground Zero Diary: 12 Days of Fire and Grit

By C. J. CHIVERS

The last of the big fires erupted at 3:30 a.m., a rushing orange-and-red wall that swiftly overwhelmed the ruined Marriott Hotel. Dozens of firefighters sat in office chairs in the open air at the corner of Liberty and West Streets. Their faces were brightened by flames. Some slept, slumped backward in fire-retardant coats.

This was a command post, the night after the attacks on the World Trade Center. It was also a triage center, although there were no wounded to treat. Mixed in were doctors and nurses and an actor from "The Sopranos" who helped drag out the dead. A young man with a ponytail dangling under a Con Edison helmet weaved his way through. He was sneaking snapshots of human remains.

"I've got some unbelievable stuff," he said. "Want to buy some?"

In the hours after the twin towers came down, as Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani began imposing a media blackout at the rubble, hundreds, then thousands, of people converged at ground zero. They were a mismatched mass of motives and skills: police officers, firefighters, part-time soldiers, bureaucrats, dog handlers, contractors, military veterans, staffs from emergency rooms, civilian survivors still coated with stinging ash, chaplains, massage artists, utility workers, misfits and thieves.

Stepping from the confusion and wreckage around them, they bonded on a first-name basis and strung together the tens of thousands of small deeds that transformed the nightmarish bedlam into a new city within the old. To spend 12 days among them — 6

as a volunteer digging and lugging trash, 6 more as a reporter covering the National Guard — was to be privy to a universe more bizarre and more ordinary than the vignettes that found their way out.

The inhabitants of ground zero ate together in abandoned restaurants and beside piles of putrid garbage, they fell asleep together wherever they could, they sobbed and prayed together, and, as they became familiar with Lower Manhattan's emerging new landscape, they shared directions to working phones and bathrooms that were not splattered with vomit.

Much of what happened is lost. But there were actions on the ground and words in the air, traveling in profanity-laced shouts and mumbled prayers, that are burned into memory, captured by cameras, written on scraps.

The restoration of order began slowly, with tasks that could seem necessary and nonsensical at once. Eventually, a village emerged.

The people who were there in the predawn gloom, the last hours of pure chaos, can close their eyes and remember it all. The remains of the north tower to the left. The remains of the south tower straight ahead. A ladder truck to the right, spraying at the unrelenting fire chewing through the looming Deutsche Bank building. Profiles of firefighters, some resting, some working, some sitting as straight as if it were the first day of school.

The ears remember: predictions of the bank building's imminent collapse (*that one's gonna go!*)

A smell: your own stale breath under a damp respirator. A memory in the spine: that tingling in anticipation of the next insane sprint, just like when the towers fell down.

NYTIMES 9/30/0
PAGE 1 OF 3

STOUT W.....

Behind the assembled chairs, on South End Drive, was a stack of perhaps 10 smashed police cars and fire trucks. Their windows were shattered. Their frames were bent. A few still had flashing lights and working radios, which called out ghostly traffic to anyone walking by.

Already there were pockets of order. At the command post, three volunteers — Tommy Sullivan, his brother John and Peter Dusenberry — handed out fresh fruit and bottled water and insisted on introductions. The message was implicit in the eye contact: *We are here. What do you need?*

The taste of an apple, even one gritty with ash.

Others had assigned themselves to chores no one else had thought of yet.

Behind the exploded windows of 3 World Financial Center, Dennis Castellano, a Standard & Poor's manager who was on the PATH platform under the trade center when the first plane hit, had returned. He was making sandwiches with lunchmeat salvaged from restaurant kitchens.

At Liberty and West Streets, Dr. Brad Kaufman, an emergency room doctor from Jacobi Medical Center, in the Bronx, sat with his legs crossed, as calm as if he were taking in the opera. He nodded to a building's shell. "My wife works there," he said.

His tale, like uncountable others: She had made it out on foot and run along the river all the way to Midtown. It took half the first day for the two to contact each other. Why not go home to her? "I'm hoping for survivors," Dr. Kaufman said. "There could be patients to treat."

Already there were pockets of grief. In a market near the command post, doctors had gone through, seeking supplies. Bereaved firefighters followed, looking for beer. Three of them gathered in the dancing shadows, their faces alternately orange and black, and began the first of the wakes.

They had been off duty when the planes struck and had dashed from private lives to rubble, stopping at firehouses along the way and grabbing anything that had been left behind. They wore other men's gear. One had boots several sizes too big. Another was in street shoes.

Their fire companies had been devastated. They could find no one familiar to report to and little equipment to use. They drank beer and watched the Deutsche Bank building burn. "I think all my guys are dead," one said.

Another firefighter, reclining in a puddle, said he had approached a Special Operation Command chief who seemed to be in charge. He didn't recognize the man. "I looked him over and was like, 'Who the hell are you?'" he said. "He looked me back and said, 'I'm the SOC chief. I'm the only SOC chief left.'"

Already there were pockets of rage. Al Sapienza, the actor who played the gangster Mikey Palmice on "The Sopranos," had pedaled to ground zero on his bicycle. Now he took a brief break from hauling body bags.

"Anyone," he said, "who would use the name of God" — he paused — "to kill inno-

cent women and children" — he paused — "does not deserve to live among us in a world of laws and just people."

Already there were pockets of smart management, led by men who resisted the urge to push on and decided instead to regroup. Companies of firefighters moved into the Platypus furniture store. One by one, the men dropped into posh beds. The entrance was a crunching carpet of shattered glass. The air smelled like perfumed candles and potpourri. The showroom was noisy with snores.

A few stayed up and smoked cigars. One said a friend since high school was among the first firefighters to die. He had been on the plaza before the collapses. People trapped by flames hundreds of feet overhead were leaping clear. A jumper came down on his back.

There was silence. Then the firefighters spoke, going back, way back, to autumn afternoons when they played football together as teenagers. Curses were muttered in the dark.

On a wall, someone had traced a message in the dust: "Dad, I came looking for you. Matt."

Sunrise came, turning billowing smoke pink.

From the New York Mercantile Exchange, a man in a parka jogged up and made an offer to any takers. "I got a boat if you need a ride out of here," he said. "I can get you to Jersey."

A fresh shift of police officers arrived. Their uniforms were clean. Their faces were shaven. Their eyes were bloodshot. They had black bands over their badges. They formed a ring of security that tightened each day.

I walked out, threw away my suit, slept, put on jeans, walked back, found a shovel, started to work.

A rhythm had settled in, the life of the zone. Ironworkers would cut through the I-beams in the piles. Men with buckets or shovels would come through. Then the ironworkers again. Now and then a body, or some part of a body, would emerge, and the firefighters would bag it and begin the long march to the morgue tent.

The walk took them through the food stations.

Sometimes hard hats came off for re-



Tyler Hicks for The New York Times

Workers sifting through debris, searching for bodies and possible survivors.

Page 2 of 3



Edward Keating/The New York Times

Firefighters sleeping near the search scene. Some had arrived wearing other men's gear. One had on boots several sizes too big.

spect. Sometimes no one noticed in time. What day was it? Sometimes no one knew. Thursday, right? Thursday. Sure.

There was progress. Someone swept up the glass from the floors in the buildings. Someone mopped water in the lobbies. Someone stacked mountains of trash. Someone handed out helmets and gloves. It went like this: stop anyone, ask him to lift this beam, drag that bag, move those boxes. He'd do it. When someone asked you, you did it, too.

Gradually, the edges were coming back.

By Thursday the 13th, Mr. Castellano, still there, had coordinated with the Salvation Army and Cross-Cultural Solutions, a nonprofit organization from New Rochelle, N.Y. Meals became more organized. Hot plates once a day, then all the time. That night there was cr me br   e from the Tribeca Grill.

The volunteers forced meals, water and pastries on all who passed by. They traded snippets of names: Mia, Tom, Amy, T. J., Phil.

My brother, Matthew, arrived from Albany. He's a former Marine Corps infantryman. He walked down the West Side Highway. The cops let him pass. He found me in a windowless building, opened an olive-green pack and pulled out gifts. A toothbrush. Clean pants. A pair of combat boots turned soft as velvet from years of forced marches. He urged sleep. Then he went looking for a way to pitch in.

A storm came through before midnight, and the winds whipped abrasive ash from the roofs and swirled it around. Down-drafts and dust devils, stinging in the eyes. People's lungs felt like they had just smoked 10 packs of Luckys. The taste of smoke lingered even after licking big

beads of toothpaste.

Until the rain showers, which turned the ash into a muck like wet cement and made the air clean. The place was coming back.

Crowd-control efforts swung between too loose and too tight. One day there were too many volunteers. The next, someone overcorrected and there were too few.

At one breakfast, four women who had spent the night struggled to keep up. They were in mad disbelief. "We need people," pleaded Angelica, who had not slept from the day before. "We've got to have more."

On Friday the 14th, hints of good humor emerged, or maybe it was crime. At Johnny's Fish Grill, construction workers commandeered the bar. One slid open the cooler and shouted with delight. "Look at this!" he said, plucking out a long-necked bottle of beer. "Two hundred beautiful bottles of juice!"

For a few hours, there was a speak-easy in plain view of the police. Tables were still set for a lunch crowd that never showed up. The men leaned forward on stools. Their forearms left imprints in dust. They passed out free drinks and lit one another's cigarettes.

The cops shut them down.

Later, much later, by the morning of Sept. 22, the ash and the glass was gone, bagged up or rinsed away. There were more food tents, rings of chain-link fences, rows of Porta Potties, a new set of National Guard sentries and a forest of cranes crowding the air in the shattered urban amphitheater where the World Trade Center had stood. There were several places to get back rubs.

But not yet. On the night of the 14th, the inhabitants were still seeking crannies for sleep.

In those quiet moments, anyone could be a chaplain, as long as you had ears.

He said his first name and then he said he had dug up two decomposing corpses. He was a tradesman. He was scared and his body had given up. He slid off his soaked pants and socks, and sat on the edge of his cot in a hallway outside the Brokers' Loft restaurant, eyes bulging and streaked with grime, a tough middle-age guy in his underwear, about to break down.

Five times, he said, he had to sprint out when the whistle blew and everyone thought something else was coming down. Was it a building? Which one? The pile? Who cares? Go! Which way? Go!

Five sprints for your life were enough for one man. His legs were cramped. His mind was jumpy. Now when he worked he served food, standing by the overhanging glass in a building that had been frantically evacuated several times, too.

Those two-block dashes had resembled Civil War retreats, a dream of stained uniforms swirling together amid random sounds: panting, footfalls, the plunk of a dropped helmet, high-pitched single-syllable swearing, the rustling of your own clothes as you tried to extend your stride.

He was confused. Where was the line between exuding confidence and being a fool? "It's the weirdest thing," he said. "One minute they say, 'Everything's fine.'"

He thought about it. "The next minute they scream, 'Run!'"

He put his head on a cot and was asleep within minutes. At dawn, when people began dressing and stretching in the makeshift barracks, he stepped into his pants and said he was going back to the pile.

Page 303

Engineers Seek to Test Steel Before It Is Melted for Reuse

By JAMES GLANZ
and KENNETH CHANG

The huge steel columns and beams of the World Trade Center are being hauled off to be melted and recycled before engineers can inspect the twisted metal, which they say could hold important clues on how to build safer skyscrapers in the future.

The city has signed a contract that allows two New Jersey firms to recycle the estimated 310,000 tons of steel from the trade center site, including some 90,000 tons from each tower.

Kenneth Holden, commissioner of the department of design and construction, said the deal would help to recoup at least a tiny part of the original value of the towers and to dispose of the wreckage in an environmentally responsible way. He could not provide an estimate for the value of the steel. Ultimately the money would probably go to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which owned the buildings.

But some engineers, including a team assembled by the American Society of Civil Engineers, say that examination of the steel could allow them to piece together the precise chain of events that led to the collapse of the buildings.

"If we don't collect the unbelievably valuable data, it will be a second tragedy," said Dr. Abolhassan Astaneh-Asl, professor of structural engineering at the University of California at Berkeley and a member of the engineering society's team. Dr. Astaneh-Asl is also the recipient of one of eight grants awarded yesterday by the National Science Foundation to investigate the disaster.

Commissioner Holden said that while agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the office of the city medical examiner did inspect the steel for crime scene clues and human remains, no engineering examinations were taking place.

Mr. Holden said that while he would probably not object to allow-

ing engineers to perform such examinations, his first priority was clearing the site so that human remains might be recovered.

"Our focus right now is moving steel out to see if we can find bodies alive or dead," Mr. Holden said.

Some of the steel is already being cut up for recycling at the two firms that were awarded contracts: Hugo Neu Schnitzer East in Jersey City and Metal Management of Newark.

"We thought they were going to be held for at least a while until we could get to them," said Dr. W. Gene Corley, senior vice president of Construction Technologies Laboratories in Skokie, Ill., and the leader of a 12-member team from the civil engineering society that would like to study the wreckage. "If they're recycling all of it, that would make it more difficult."

Dr. Corley said it was most important to set aside the parts of buildings that were near the spots where the airplanes slammed into them.

How the girders bent could tell the engineers which part of the buildings failed first. Microscopic analysis of the steel could tell them how hot the fires burned. Taken together, such information could yield insights on how to construct buildings that are more resistant to attack.

"These failures occurred very quickly, and some of the evidence for this is contained in those columns and beams," said Dr. Richard J. Fragaszy, program director in civil and mechanical systems at the National Science Foundation.

The two recycling firms said that they would be willing to accommodate the inspections if they could be done quickly, but that they were not aware of the project.

"If they want representative samples, I think that's fine," said Bob Kelman, senior vice president and general manager of Hugo Neu Schnitzer. "We'd be happy to assist."

The trade center steel has attract-

ed interest in other quarters. Yesterday Police Commissioner Bernard B. Kerik confirmed a report in The New York Post that investigators were looking into accusations that organized crime figures, in the confusion after the attack, had carted away as much as 250 tons of scrap metal to yards in New Jersey and on Long Island. Mr. Kerik said the metal had been recovered. In any case, such small amounts of steel are unlikely to have a significant impact on the recycling operation or on any engineering inspections, should they eventually take place.

James A. Rossberg, director of the civil engineering society's Structural Engineering Institute, said he had tried to contact the city this week about the possibility of doing the inspections.

But Mr. Holden said he had not received that request. In the after-

math of the attack, phone lines running to the city's command center near ground zero were often not working properly and city officials had to deal with more immediate crises. Mr. Rossberg said he faxed the request again yesterday.

"We're trying not to be intrusive, certainly," he said, adding that there were "a number of issues that are taking much greater priority."

Still, some engineers said that the analysis effort should not hamper recovery work and that if it were not undertaken soon, important information would be destroyed.

Late yesterday, Mr. Holden said that the request from the society had finally reached him. "I just got handed a letter literally 60 seconds ago," Mr. Holden said at 5:40 p.m. He said he would consider the request over the weekend.

New York Times
Sept. 29. 01

State workers flee WTC smoke

Scores of jittery employees at the state attorney general's office a block from Ground Zero were sent home early yesterday when shifting winds filled their building with a strong smell of smoke, officials said.

More than 900 state workers are employed at the 40-story building at 120 Broadway.

The smoke apparently was caused by fires smoldering in the World Trade Center wreckage.

Attorney General Eliot Spitzer's office occupies seven floors of the building, said Steve Solomon, a spokesman for Silverstein Properties, which owns the building.

Daily
News
9.29.01

Smoother travel for car pools into town

By LEONARD GREENE

After a successful start Thursday and Friday, the city resumes carpooling restrictions tomorrow in Manhattan.

As was the case last week, drivers of single-occupant passenger cars will be turned back at any Manhattan-bound bridge or tunnel below 62nd Street between 6 a.m. and noon.

Mayor Giuliani said 59th Street Bridge traffic was down 38 percent Friday, and Manhattan Bridge traffic was down 30 percent.

He said the biggest impact was felt along Queens Boulevard, which leads to the 59th Street Bridge. At 9:30 a.m., the backup was less than a mile. Two days earlier, the line of vehicles stretched four miles.

"That was the major cause of concern," Giuliani said.

The new rule got mixed reviews from drivers, but city officials and transportation groups hailed the carpool effort, saying it was an important first step to get the city rolling again.

On the first and second days of the restrictions, many motorists stayed away from the city due to the Yom Kippur holiday.

The affected crossings are the Brooklyn, Manhattan and Williamsburg bridges to lower Manhattan, and the 59th Street Bridge and Queens-Midtown and Lincoln tunnels into Midtown.

The Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel remains closed to all but emergency vehicles, and the Holland Tunnel is open only to New Jersey-bound traffic from Varick and Watts streets.

New Jersey-bound trucks remain banned from the tube.

Commercial trucks, government vehicles, taxis and cars carrying emergency workers and essential medical personnel are exempt.

Alternate-side parking remains suspended through Wednesday.

NY POST
9/30/01

Car pool rules get green light

Giuliani says they're working well, so he'll keep them

By PETE DONOHUE
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

The city's car-pool requirements at a half-dozen bridge and tunnel crossings has worked well and will remain in effect, Mayor Giuliani said yesterday, as the Holland Tunnel reopened to New Jersey-bound traffic.

More travelers seem to be heeding officials' warnings that drivers without passengers would be turned away between 6 a.m. and noon, prompting some to switch to mass transit — "which also might have been why it worked," Giuliani said.

Manhattan-bound drivers won't have to worry about the car pool restrictions today or tomorrow — they don't resume till Monday.

The anti-gridlock plan had a noticeable impact on traffic volume yesterday: 11,000 Manhattan-bound vehicles passed through the Lincoln Tunnel between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m., down from 19,000 on an average Friday in September, according to the Port Authority.

But Monday could be the biggest test to date of the car-pooling ban, officials said, because an increasing number of workers are returning to their offices, the Jewish holidays have ended and authorities continue to im-

pose sweeping safety checks of vehicles entering New York.

"The city should consider continuing the ban while we are in a state of emergency, there are security checkpoints and significant parts of the transportation system are out of service," said Lee Sander, a former city transportation commissioner who is director of the Rudin Center for Transportation Policy and Management at New York University.

Easing delays

Police said most motorists complied yesterday with the prohibition against driving solo, which went into effect Thursday morning at five crossings and extended to a sixth yesterday.

Delays at the affected crossings — the the Queensboro, Williamsburg, Manhattan and Brooklyn bridges and the Lincoln and Midtown tunnels — were at or near normal levels seen before Sept. 11, according to Jonathan Kaplan, executive

producer of broadcast service Shadow Traffic.

Traffic within Manhattan also was lighter — another goal of the car-pooling plan.

"It's beautiful today," said Richard Pasak, a carpenter from Middle Village, Queens, at Second Ave. and E. 53rd St. His commute took just 33 minutes. "Wednesday was so bad, I turned around and went back home."

Deliveryman Bernard Lopez, 51, of Clifton, N.J., said it took him just 10 minutes to go from 30th to Houston Sts.

"There's no question about it — traffic is lighter. It has made for an easy day," he said.

By 9 a.m. yesterday, police at the approach to the Brooklyn Bridge had turned away 20 or so solo drivers. By 10 a.m., about 80 solo drivers were turned away from the Lincoln Tunnel, the Port Authority said.

"Most people are complying," said a police officer at the Sands St. approach to the Brooklyn Bridge. "They know what to do."

Cabbie Gary Garcia, 50, heading into Manhattan from Brooklyn, was ecstatic at the small number of cars ahead of him.

"It's excellent," he said. "It's going to be a great day. For a

time, we couldn't make a living. We couldn't get around." In the last two weeks, it has taken him up to two hours to get to the Brooklyn Bridge. Yesterday, he got there in far less time.

Pooling resources

Marc DiPietro, 41, of Montclair, N.J., joined forces with several co-workers at a midtown Manhattan accounting firm and car-pooled.

Their commute began in DiPietro's driveway. From there, he traveled to Belleville, N.J., and picked up Sara Wygle at her home, as well as Nora Blum, who drove from her house in West Orange, N.J.

"We came in together, and we might keep doing it," said DiPietro, who was idling in his Jeep Cherokee in Union City, N.J., approaching the Lincoln Tunnel.

"It took some planning, but it worked out," he said.

"The worst part is agreeing on a radio station," Wygle added.

Conductors on trains from Trenton estimated yesterday

that they were about 15% to 20% more crowded than usual, and they became even more packed at Newark Penn Station, the last stop before Manhattan.

At Shea Stadium, where 4,000 parking spots were available for those intending to switch to the subway or pick up car-poolers, about one in five people got on No. 7 trains.

The parking lot, free Thursday and yesterday, will cost \$2 per car starting Monday.

Leonard Fig, 57, who works for an insurance company, parked at Shea and headed to the subway. "I'm happy to do it," he said. "The country needs all of our help. We all have to be good citizens and participate."

But some were disgruntled.

"I don't have anyone to car pool with," complained Stephanie Hunte, 28, of East Flatbush, Brooklyn, who was turned back at the Brooklyn Bridge. "It's ridiculous. I'm just trying to get to work."

"I don't have anyone to car pool with. It's ridiculous. I'm just trying to get to work."

STEPHANIE HUNTE

Daily News
9.29.01

AMERICA'S ORDEAL

Verizon: 75% of Lines Restored

By Pradnya Joshi

STAFF WRITER

Verizon Communications said it is continuing to restore telephone service in lower Manhattan and now estimates that it has service to about 75 percent of the 300,000 phone lines served out of its 140 West St. building.

The phone giant also is reaching out to families who lost loved ones in the terrorist attacks by providing them cassette tapes of their final voice-mail messages.

Verizon is not certain exactly how many unrepaired phone lines still need to be fixed and how many served buildings have been destroyed, but technicians are continuing repair efforts, said spokesman Jim Smith.

"Now, they're at the hard part," Smith said, adding that the out-of-service lines will be much more difficult to repair due to cables that may be pinned under buildings or lines that are severely damaged. Technicians are literally reconnecting phones line by line to the company's computer switches to restore service.

In addition to the lines in the damaged but still-standing West Street office, Verizon said about 32,000 phone lines operated inside the World Trade Center.

However, customers who have either permanently or temporarily lost their office or home phones can have their calls rerouted using "call forwarding," a feature that late last week was restored to lower Manhattan.

Verizon is not charging customers in the downtown area monthly fees or setup costs for call forwarding. However, customers will have to pay either 10.6 cents a call if the number is being forwarded to another New York City number or long-distance charges if the calls are being forwarded outside the city or state.

Verizon also will also send cassette recordings of voice-mail messages family and friends received from those affected by the Sept. 11 attacks. Normally, voice-mail messages are only saved for seven to 30 days before they are deleted due to the computer memory required to store the recordings.

Customers who have the correct voice-mail pass-

word can call a Verizon representative, who will arrange to make a cassette tape of the desired messages.

Verizon also will arrange for the cassette recordings even if messages were left in voice-mail systems in other parts of the country such as California, provided that the callers are authorized to access the system.

Phone customers can call the customer-service number on the bill and Verizon Wireless users can call 888-466-4646 to request copies of any recordings. Smith said the company occasionally has provided such recordings from messages of loved ones who had died but this is the first time the company will do so on a large scale.

And in another reminder of the disaster, Verizon said that in the coming months, phone books will still contain the old numbers and addresses of World Trade Center businesses and other damaged buildings. The company will be including a letter on the cover explaining that the phone books were printed in advance of the disaster, and also that it is doing so in hopes of tracking down those businesses and individuals who have relocated.

If those listed in the phone book request it, Verizon will either forward calls to a new location or will set up a recording informing callers of the new contact information.

Newsday
Sept. 30. 01

CON EDISON KOs HELMET FLAG DECALS

By JOHN LEHMANN

A Con Edison bureaucrat ordered workers at ground zero to remove hard hats showing American flag decals, saying that such patriotic gestures "defaced" the safety equipment.

Workers were stunned when told that company safety specialist Phyllis Burnett issued a memo on Friday, insisting it was "against Corp. Policy" to stick decals on hard hats or paint them.

"I have observed employees displaying there [sic] support for America on there [sic] hard hats, by placing decals of the flag or painting the hard hat red, white & blue," Burnett's e-mail said.

"I understand the reason for this, but it is against Corp. Policy to put any decals or paint our hard hats.

"Please have your field crews replace all defaced hard hats ASAP."

The e-mail was sent to Con Edison safety administrators.

One worker, who declined to be named, said Burnett's edict was unbelievable.

"It just seems so unpatriotic," he said.

Manny Hellen, president of Local 1-2 Utility Workers Union, which represents Con Edison workers, said yesterday the e-mail was "absurd."

"It would clearly send out the wrong message to workers who

have worked around-the-clock trying to restore electricity down there," he said.

Burnett could not be contacted yesterday, but Con Edison spokesman Joseph Petta said the e-mail was supposed to be a "safety reminder," rather than a directive.

"It would be unfortunate if such a memo cast a shadow over the company's efforts over the past three weeks," he said.

Petta said the company had given workers small flags to attach to their identification cards and had not issued a general ban on displaying American flags.

But he said decals and paint could make it difficult to detect cracks in the hard hats and could reduce their resistance to electricity.

"We have spoken to a manufacturer to try and get helmets already imprinted with flags in such a way that safety is not compromised," he said.

The Con Edison move follows an uproar over a similar order by an executive at the News 12 television network to ban journalists from displaying American flags.

Pat Dolan, who ordered the ban, went on air to apologize for any concerns after the network's phones were filled with viewers complaining. The ban was dropped.



POWER OF AMERICA: A Con Ed worker shows his patriotism near ground zero. His real flag is OK — but the company has asked crews not to paint or put decals of flags on their helmets. Pool photo

NYPost 10.1.01

✓ Electric Submetering For Co-ops

To the Editor:

Regarding the July 8 "Your Home" column on proposed electric submeters for co-ops and condominiums ["The Case for Electric Submetering"]:

Building managers are said to resist installing these equitable and energy-conserving individual devices partly because of "the expense of getting monthly meter readings."

Why must the readings be monthly? Con Ed, for one, bills many consumers quarterly and sometimes on an estimated basis when, for example, meter readers cannot gain

access.

It would seem, then, that co-op and condominium owners could certainly be billed, without hardship, on some sort of estimated basis each month, and adjustments made when the meter is actually read, perhaps on a semiannual basis.

CARLETON H. FREEDMAN
Brooklyn

NYTimes
9.30.01

LIKE GIANT SIEVE OUR PORTS LEAK

Less than 2% of cargo inspected

By AL GUART

Seaports around the nation remain ripe targets for terror, with millions of cargo containers entering the country without being checked, concerned federal officials told The Post.

While inspections have been beefed up since the terrorist attacks, less than 2 percent of the 6 million cargo containers that are shipped into U.S. ports annually are opened for inspection, U.S. Customs officials concede.

And the agency's inspectors do not routinely board ocean tankers loaded with flammable and hazardous chemicals, sources said.

"The seaports are wide open," a Customs official told The Post.

"We should be boarding every ship, speaking with the captain and checking all the paperwork."

Some officials fear a container stacked with explosives or other harmful products could be unloaded from a ship and transported on a tractor-trailer through populated areas without ever being checked upon its arrival in the country.

Customs officers last week began working with National Guardsmen and Port Authority cops to conduct more thorough inspections of containers at ports in New York and in Newark and Elizabeth, N.J., before cargo is road-transported.

A Customs official said at the time they were "searching for some type of weapon. We believe it is

either in the United States or is about to be introduced here, and we're going through everything."

On Friday, the National Guard drove a mobile X-ray van to the Port of Newark to help speed inspections, sources said.

But security at many local wharves still remains lax. A Post photographer was unchallenged at the Port of Newark last week as he took pictures of the wharves, buildings and container-unloading operations.

It is a worrying weakness in security at one of the nation's gateways — particularly after a security bungle involving photographers in lower Manhattan in June, a lapse first exposed by The Post in a story published July 1.

On that occasion, three men who appeared to be of Middle Eastern descent were arrested after being spotted acting suspiciously and taking pictures of downtown government buildings. The men were released by the FBI after

taking little more action than confiscating their film and checking their immigration status.

Poor security at wharves and the limited inspection of cargo containers were highlighted in an address by former Sen. Warren Rudman to the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee on Sept. 21 — 10 days after the terror attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"We were shocked to hear that the Customs Service currently has the capacity to inspect only 1 or 2 percent of all shipments received from overseas in our country," Rudman said. "This has to change."

Rudman said the opportunities for terrorists to sneak weapons of mass destruction through non-inspected shipments into the United States would continue to rise, with the volume of containers arriving at our ports expected to double within four years.

Ports in the New York-New Jersey region handle about 1.7 million contain-

ers each year. Customs sources say the volume has already grown beyond the 400 inspectors assigned to local ports.

Customs spokesman Dennis Murphy confirmed only a small percentage of all containers were inspected, but said the agency used an electronic system to track all incoming cargo. He said containers were identified for inspection based on the cargo inside and the origin and destination of the shipment.

"We know a great deal about the containers that arrive," Murphy said. "We have used these systems to look for illegal drugs, and we're applying those systems today to any movement of terrorist or terrorist products."

NY Post
9/30/01

500G traced to hijack plotters

By ANDY GELLER

The hijackers who carried out the worst terrorist attack in U.S. history hatched their plot in Germany and had a \$500,000 bankroll, investigators confirmed yesterday.

German authorities announced the arrest of three suspected terrorists believed linked to fugitive Said Bahaji, a former Hamburg student charged with helping plot the attack.

Investigators believe Bahaji — who has been charged with 5,000 counts of murder — and Ramzi Binalshibh, who has also vanished, helped provide apartments, visas and passports for three of the hijackers.

The three, Mohamed Atta, his cousin Marwan Al-Shehhi and Ziad Samir Jarrah, hatched the plot in a second-floor student apartment in Hamburg, investigators say.

The FBI found that \$500,000 flowed into U.S. accounts used by Atta and other hijackers, and was spent on hotels, rental

cars and airplane trips.

Previous reports said the terrorists had access to \$500,000, and the attack cost no more than \$200,000.

German prosecutors said the three suspected terrorists arrested in Weisbaden are charged with plotting violence, weapons possession and forging documents.

The suspects, identified only as Talip T., 27, of Turkey, and Wadee al A., 24, and Shahab al A., 26, of Yemen, ran a Web site that had an e-mail address for Bahaji.

A search of Talip T.'s apartment turned up weapons, fake credit cards, maps of German cities, computers, mobile phones and an open-return plane ticket between London and Islamabad.

Meanwhile, The New York Times reported today that the CIA sent teams to Afghanistan three years ago to try to persuade the anti-Taliban opposition to capture and perhaps kill bin Laden.

THE TERROR PROBE

KEY DEVELOPMENTS



■ German authorities announced the arrest of three suspected terrorists thought to have links to a fugitive being hunted in the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

THE HIJACKERS



■ The hunt is on for Said Bahaji, a former student in Hamburg suspected of helping plot the deadly attacks.

NEW LEADS



■ The FBI is pursuing more than 100,000 leads in an investigation that is focusing on Osama bin Laden's sympathizers in Germany, England and the United Arab Emirates.

OSAMA BIN LADEN



■ His 19-year-old son, Mohamed, spends his days moving furtively through desolate regions of Afghanistan, assault rifle in hand. He is being groomed to play a key role in his father's terrorist organization.

THE OFFICIAL LINE



■ Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson says the U.S. is prepared to take care of any kind of biological attack, telling "60 Minutes" tonight that eight staging areas around the country are each stocked with 50 tons of medical supplies, including vaccines, antibiotics, gas masks and ventilators.

NY Post
9/30/01

Battling Bioterror

Government's readiness is challenged as fear escalates

By Laurie Garrett
STAFF WRITER

With public anxiety about bioterrorism on the rise, gas mask sales soaring and talk shows rife with alarming claims, the head of the federal department of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson, yesterday said America is prepared to deal with any kind of biological attack.

But public health experts throughout the nation say yesterday's comments, made on the CBS show "60 Minutes," don't reflect a 2-week-long gag order that's kept them from getting specific information about preparedness from such agencies as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, leading to confusion and concern.

"I've had people calling me. They can't get through to the CDC, because the CDC isn't allowed to talk to anybody. They can't get through to HHS. And they're just terrified," said Dr. James Curran, dean of the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University in Atlanta.

"I think it's stupid," he said. "I think the CDC ought to be responding."

Dr. Steven Wolinsky, chief of infectious diseases for Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago, agrees. He said that as soon as he saw the videotape of the jets slamming into the World Trade Center, he decided to set up a meeting with leading infectious-disease doctors in the Chicago area to make sure they were ready.

"But we are meeting the same difficulties [as other health professionals]

because we don't know who to deal with" on the federal level, Wolinsky said.

No government authority has explicitly said that members of the suspected terrorist network believed to be responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks have plans for a biological assault inside the United States. But the issue moved strongly into the public consciousness last week following announcements by Attorney General John Ashcroft.

Last Monday, Ashcroft said there were indications suspected terrorists had looked into renting crop dusters. One day later, he said suspected terrorists had obtained licenses for trucks that can carry large tankloads of dangerous materials.

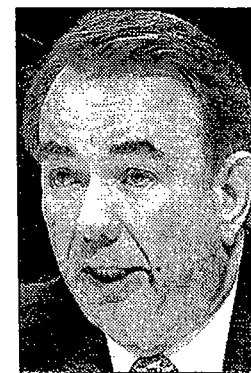
By Wednesday, doctors and pharmacists from Montauk to Honolulu were reporting runs on the antibiotic ciprofloxacin, the preferred prophylaxis for anthrax infection. Gas mask sales were vigorous nationwide, and by the end of the week most Internet distributors reported they were sold out.

Finally, on Saturday, Newsweek added an exclamation mark to the activity with the release of a poll saying that almost half of Americans are "not too confident" that government in this country is prepared to handle an attack with biochemical weapons. And just over eight in 10 in the poll, which surveyed 1,000 adults, thought the use of such weapons is at least "somewhat likely."

Despite these concerns, attempts by the media — and even most health professionals — to get specific informa-

'We've got to make sure that people understand that they're safe. And that we're prepared to take care of any contingency . . . that develops from any kind of bioterrorism attack.'

— HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson



tion from the CDC have been fended off since the Sept. 11 attacks. Sources have told Newsday that Thompson has given orders that his office is the only place that can release information.

But calls to Thompson's office during this time have not been returned.

Yesterday, on "60 Minutes," Thompson said: "We've got to make sure that people understand that they're safe. And that we're prepared to take care of any contingency, any consequence that develops from any kind of bioterrorism attack."

He said eight staging areas around America are each stocked with 50 tons of medical supplies — including vaccines, antibiotics, gas masks and ventilators — that can be moved within hours to the site of a bioterrorist event. The secretary also said that 7,000 medical personnel are ready to respond.

Yet public health experts point out that those steps — placing drugs in stockpiles and putting physicians on

alert — are merely standard operating procedure under guidelines for emergency response drawn up during the Clinton years.

Missing, they say, is detailed, logistical information that can guide their efforts locally.

"It's really bad," said Margaret Hamburg, now head of the Nuclear Threat Initiative in Washington, D.C., and a former assistant secretary of HHS and New York City health commissioner. "This is when they need to provide leadership, a visual presence . . . the voice of the surgeon general comforting people."

One issue that may be affecting that presence, sources in government say, is the amount of time now being taken by top health officials to cement a role within the anti-terrorism hierarchy.

Dr. Scott Lillibridge, a bioterrorism expert for the CDC, was named as Th-

See BIOTERRORISM on A6

BIOTERRORISM from A4

Thompson's special assistant for bioterrorism preparedness in July. He was supposed to begin Oct. 1, but the Sept. 11 attack moved up that timetable.

He says he's just now beginning to assess the role HHS should play in the newly created Office of Homeland Defense, headed by Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge.

President George W. Bush announced the creation of the Office of Homeland Defense just 12 days ago. Since then, Congress has allocated \$40 billion to rescue and recovery efforts for the three sites affected by the terrorist actions, as well as the new preparedness effort. Barely had the president finished his address when a power scramble began within the federal government, sources say, with several agencies competing for power and funds.

Thompson, Lillibridge and other HHS officials have been preoccupied with their role in that debate. "It's unlike anything I've seen in any major departmental activity," Lillibridge told Newsday.

Before Sept. 11, the relative roles of both HHS and combating bioterrorism in Washington counterterrorism pecking order were substantially lower than that of the Departments of Justice and Defense with bioterrorism considered "an interesting, worrisome theory," according to Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.).

Now, though, "nothing can be dismissed," Durbin told Newsday. "There's a great deal of concern from Washington, on down to the grassroots."

The fact that the terrorists were on suicide missions, coupled with their deliberate targeting of civilians "was ob-

viously very sobering," Hamburg said. "It removed hopes that terrorists might have a threshold beyond which they wouldn't go in terms of causing damage and disease."

So the argument within government now, experts say, is who should hold the primary responsibility for heading off such an event and dealing with it once it occurs. Should it be law enforcement or the military, who have long experience with other terrorist weapons? Or should it be public health officials?

"I sure hope that we understand we're not going to deal with bioterrorism with the military," answers Dr. D. A. Henderson, who heads up the Center for Civilian Biodefense at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. He argues that any bioterrorism event should first be dealt with as an epidemic, and that health officials should have the final word on any decisions taken early on.

Dr. Christopher Davis, chief scientist for the Arlington, Va.-based Veridian Systems, Inc., agrees. When a large number of people get influenza, "by and large the police aren't involved. The military aren't involved. So the answer is we build a system we can actually use on a day-to-day basis to protect ourselves from emerging diseases," both naturally arising, and deliberately released.

After all, Davis insists, the ultimate police and military goals of finding the culprit are unlikely ever to be achieved in a bioterrorist assault. America must "raise the bar" to battle bioterrorism, he says, bolstering the public health infrastructure so significantly that terrorists see little chance that certain diseases would kill tens of thousands of people.

This won't be easy, other experts note.

Battling . . .
P. 2013

For more than three decades, public health at all levels has suffered budget cuts, lost valuable personnel, and seen its legal and political clout diminished. Why? "As Americans we haven't had an epidemic to point to and say, 'See that? That's what we're facing,'" Wolinsky explained.

One key to the public debate will be an honest assessment of just how real the threat of bioterrorism is, experts suggest. Are international terrorists capable of using diseases as weapons? Is it part of their schemes? What sorts of microbes might they use, and how would they use them?

Those questions now form the basis of vigorous argument among the roughly two hundred bona fide bioterrorism experts in the world today.

Henderson, who led the successful fight to eradicate naturally arising smallpox, argues, "We know Iraq has a terribly sophisticated operation — there's no question about that. We've got the Russians out there. After Sept. 11, I've had some very serious additional concerns. I think what changes the equation is you've got educated people, long-term planning, timing, coordination — all of these things suggest that you've got potential at a level not seen before."

But Jessica Stern, a terrorism expert at Harvard, says Sept. 11 demonstrates more than anything else, "the lethal capacity of low-tech weapons. If I were in government I would be thinking of low-tech bioweapons and low-tech chemicals."

Ronald Atlas, president-elect of the American Society of Microbiology, concurs. "All you have to do is infect some of your people with smallpox, send them out and you've got an epidemic," he argues.

"If you've got 40 or 50 people who are out there, committing suicide, you've got an epidemic," Atlas told Newsday. "I don't have to get anthrax from a laboratory, I can just go to [Africa], to an elephant outbreak and get it from the carcasses."

"We can increase security," he said, "but all sorts of things are out there in nature."

As for more exotic agents, germs that have been genetically modified into superbugs, Davis says terrorists need not know anything, even the difference between a bacteria and a virus. They just need enough cash to buy killer microbes from unscrupulous scientists who until recently worked for the massive Soviet biological weapons program.

In January 1991, Davis was part of a small British-American inspection team that was the first group of Western scientists allowed inside the Biopreparat laboratories. What he saw — about 52 death laboratories and test sites employing about 60,000 scientists and technicians — left Britain's Davis a changed man. "The world is full of hazards," he says.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Battling...
P. 3 of 3

MASKS LITTLE HELP VS. CHEM-BIO BLITZ

By GREG SEIGLE

New Yorkers who have purchased expensive gas masks to protect themselves from a possible chemical or biological terrorist attack have probably wasted their money, experts say.

Masks would be useless in the face of nerve agents that kill on contact with the skin, the experts warn.

To be totally effective against a chemical attack involving agents such as Sarin or VX gas, a mask would have to be worn in conjunction with a fully protective body suit, experts said.

Full-face masks, which are in short supply in the city and before Sept. 11 were selling for \$50 to \$100, do offer some protection against a biological attack. But wearers have to be diligent, the experts warned.

Biological warfare involves the releasing of bacteria and viruses into the air. The spores can take up to three days to incubate in the body before any symptoms appear.

That would require wearing a mask around the clock to lessen the chances of inhaling any lethal pathogens that had been released into the air.

"Unless you are prepared to

wear a mask all the time, you are probably wasting your money getting one," said Dr. Simon Whitby, the head of peace studies at Britain's Bradford University.

Although the prospect of biological and chemical attacks on the city cannot be ruled out, top biochemists say it is highly unlikely to happen in the near future.

The reason is that most chemical and biological weapons are difficult to disperse with any widespread effect.

"A chemical or biological attack that produces the number of casualties as the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington is highly unlikely," said Mike Powers, the lead analyst for a recently concluded bioterrorism study for the Centers for Disease Control.

"Sarin and VX are more lethal but a good deal more sophisticated, and therefore less likely for a terrorist to carry. Anyone who tries to load them in a crop duster will likely wind up dead."

The big danger, experts like Powers agree, is smaller, isolated attacks in enclosed spaces like subways and shops.

"What we're more likely to see are more simple types of



FACE FACTS: A cop downtown wears a gas mask, which is more helpful against dust than any poison-gas attack. Reuters

chemical or biological weapons that produce hundreds of casualties, if any," Powers said.

And the fight against weapons of mass destruction is well under way in the United States.

The Department of Energy and associated institutions and industries have already developed devices that can detect chemical weapons.

With Post Wire Services

NY POST
9/30/01

Rx for death

The agents of biological warfare that terrorists might use:



ANTHRAX

Symptoms/Effects: A bacteria spore. Lethal if inhaled, but not contagious. Fever, fatigue, coughing and shortness of breath, chronic sweating within six days. Death within 36 hours of severe symptoms.

Treatment: Massive doses of antibiotics within three days of exposure can improve chances of survival. Must be taken for 18 months prior to exposure to be effective.



SMALLPOX

Symptoms/Effects: Highly contagious virus. Headaches, backaches, vomiting and high fever 12 days after exposure, then rash and lesions on face, arms and legs. Without vaccination, 35 percent die within two weeks.

Treatment: Treatable if vaccine administered early. Regular worldwide vaccination stopped in 1971. Only 15 million doses available.



Chemical and biological warfare expert Dr. Alistair Hay demonstrates protective gear and a device to inject nerve gas antidote.

AP



PLAGUE

Symptoms/Effects: Contagious bacteria. Fever, chills, headache and eventually circulatory failure and hemorrhaging within 24 hours. Death within 3 days.

Treatment: Antibiotics within 24 hours of exposure.



BOTULISM

Symptoms/Effects: Bacteria. Deadly when inhaled or ingested. Blurred vision, slurred speech within 12 hours. Weakness over next 24 hours, then paralysis affects respiratory muscles.

Treatment: Vaccine widely available; treatable with antibiotics if administered soon after exposure.



TULAREMIA

Symptoms/Effects: Weaker bacteria. Ulcers, fever, swollen lymph nodes, weight loss, headaches and, usually, pneumonia. Death in 5 percent of cases.

Treatment: Antibiotics highly effective if administered soon after symptoms begin to appear, usually about three to five days after exposure. A vaccine also exists.



EBOLA

Symptoms/Effects: One of a string of viruses (another is Marburg) that cause hemorrhagic fever. Severe chest pain, shock and bleeding from orifices within days. Weaker victims can die within seven days.

Treatment: No cure or specific therapy is known.

NY Post 9/30/01

SOME EXPERTS SAY U.S. IS VULNERABLE TO A GERM ATTACK

LACK OF PLANNING CITED

Many Question Public Health Infrastructure's Ability to Deal With Bioterrorism

By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29 — The United States is inadequately prepared to confront bioterrorist attacks, according to a broad range of health experts and officials. The nation must develop new vaccines and treatments, they say, but it must also fortify its fragile public health infrastructure, the first line of defense in detecting and containing biological threats.

Bioterrorism — the intentional release of potentially lethal viruses or bacteria into the air, food or water supply — poses daunting technical challenges, and experts say it would be difficult to carry out a successful attack. Still, many believe it is inevitable that someone will eventually try it in the United States.

In the weeks since the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, much of the discussion about bioterrorism has centered on a shortage of antibiotics and vaccines. But the bigger problem, officials agree, is a lack of basic public health infrastructure and preparedness that could thwart a terror attack or limit its effects.

Doctors are poorly trained to recognize symptoms of infection with possible biological weapons, like plague and anthrax, which can resemble the flu. Many of the nation's hospitals lack necessary equipment — in some cases even simple tools like fax machines — to receive or report information in an emergency. Though a number of federal agencies have established bioterrorism response teams and procedures, and there has been steady improvement in laboratory facilities around the country to test and identify biological agents, the result is a patchwork, set against a larger patchwork of cities, counties and states with their own reporting requirements and plans.

"For bioterrorism, the No. 1 inadequacy, if you had to rank them, is the inadequacy of our public health infrastructure," said Senator Bill

Frist, Republican of Tennessee. "That is a product of about 15 years of neglect."

In a report issued last week, the assassinations.

There have been an array of unsuccessful attempts to target Mr. bin Laden and disrupt or destroy Al Qaeda, American officials say. The Clinton administration even considered mounting a secret effort to steal millions of dollars from the bin Laden terrorist network by siphoning it out of the international financial system, but discarded the scheme because of objections from the United States Treasury about the implications for world finance.

The United States launched cruise missiles against a meeting Mr. bin Laden was believed to be attending, encouraged Mr. Massoud and other Afghan leaders to try to capture him, and received a secret report from one Afghan group last year about its failed attempt to assassinate Mr. bin Laden.

The United States also led an international effort to shut down Afghanistan's airline, which American intelligence officials believed was being used by Al Qaeda to ship money and personnel around the world, while also pressuring other nations to arrest and disrupt Al Qaeda cells.

"This was a top priority for us over the past several years, and not a day went by when we didn't press as hard as we could," said Samuel R. Berger, national security adviser in the Clinton administration. "But this is a tough, tough problem. I think we were pushing it as hard as we could. And I think the Bush administration is handling it in a smart way."

But until the devastating attacks on New York and Washington, the American-led efforts to hunt Mr. bin Laden lacked the sense of urgency that prevails today. American intelligence and law enforcement officials grew complacent about the threat of a domestic attack by Al Qaeda, failed by their own admission to share information adequately or coordinate their efforts, and were caught by surprise on Sept. 11.

Washington did not build a strong international coalition to focus on defeating Al Qaeda, which was seen by other nations largely as an American problem. Banks in Europe and the Middle East repeatedly balked at American pressure to cut off Al Qaeda financing, while wealthy individuals in Persian Gulf states — sometimes in the guise of donating to Islamic charities — continued to provide financial support to Al Qaeda.

At the same time, Al Qaeda was rapidly evolving into a larger and more complex terrorist threat, making it difficult for the United States to keep up with its scope and abilities.

Mr. bin Laden's great achievement within the terrorist world has been to forge alliances with other Islamic extremist groups under the umbrella of Al Qaeda, providing them financing, training and a sanctuary in Afghanistan, while encouraging coordinated action.

The United States had only a hazy

understanding of Mr. bin Laden's growing significance before 1996, when an Al Qaeda insider, Jamal Ahmed Al-Fadl, defected to the United States and began to describe the extent of Mr. bin Laden's plans and objectives. Based largely on Mr. al-Fadl's information, a federal grand jury indicted Mr. bin Laden on terrorist conspiracy charges in June 1998, just two months before the twin bombings of the American Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

The embassy bombings forced Washington to recognize that Mr. bin Laden had become a major national security threat. Sometime after the bombings, the C.I.A. began its efforts to work with Mr. Massoud against Mr. bin Laden, American officials said.

The officials declined to provide many details of the effort. But officials say that C.I.A. officers secretly traveled to Mr. Massoud's mountain stronghold in northern Afghanistan and opened talks in an effort to fashion an anti-bin Laden alliance.

Current and former officials said that Mr. Massoud was promised large sums of money if he and his rebel fighters could find a way to get to Mr. bin Laden. Short of capturing the terrorist leader, Mr. Massoud was asked by the C.I.A. to provide intelligence from inside Afghanistan about Mr. bin Laden and his organization, officials said.

It remains unclear even today whether Mr. Massoud — more interested in toppling the Taliban — ever made a serious effort to go after Mr. bin Laden. He would have faced enormous obstacles in doing so, considering that Mr. bin Laden was based in territory controlled by the Taliban and its military forces.

The effort to work with Mr. Massoud followed the most direct and open American effort to kill Mr. bin Laden. It came on Aug. 20, 1998, two weeks after the embassy attacks in East Africa. President Clinton ordered cruise missile strikes on a complex near Khost, Afghanistan, where the C.I.A. had learned that Mr. bin Laden was scheduled to be meeting with 200 to 300 other members of Al Qaeda.

NYTimes
9.30.01
Page 1 of 3

Some

The sea-launched cruise missiles slammed into the camp only about an hour or so after Mr. bin Laden left the conference, American officials believe. According to former senior Clinton administration officials, some 20 to 30 Al Qaeda members were killed, temporarily disrupting the organization.

But the attack failed in its unstated but clear objective, which was to kill Mr. bin Laden.

One consequence was that Mr. bin Laden drastically improved his own security measures. Realizing that the United States had collected solid intelligence about his physical movements, he cut back on his use of electronic communications. American officials say he now tends to talk to subordinates only in person, and they then pass on his messages to others in the organization.

"He has become more sophisticated by becoming less sophisticated," said one former senior American official.

In addition, he moves frequently, traveling between Kandahar, the Taliban stronghold in southern Afghanistan, and the rugged Afghan countryside farther north, American officials say. "He became much more secure in his communications, and the only way to track him was to have people on the ground," said one former senior American official.

The Clinton administration has been criticized for not following up on its first missile attack with an all-out effort to get Mr. bin Laden. But former officials said that they lacked

the "actionable intelligence," or precise information about Mr. bin Laden's whereabouts, to launch another attack.

"The main focus was location, location, location," said one former administration official. "We had intensive intelligence gathering efforts to track him."

In addition, the logistics of launching an attack by special forces in one of the most remote regions of the world also presented formidable obstacles. "We had a number of contingency plans, but logistically it was a nightmare," said a former senior Clinton administration official.

Still, another Afghan group, not connected with Mr. Massoud, did re-

port to the C.I.A. last year that it had attempted to assassinate Mr. bin Laden. American officials said. The

group, which the officials declined to identify, reported that it had attempted to kill Mr. bin Laden by assaulting a convoy in which he was thought to be traveling. They reported that it turned out that Mr. bin Laden was not in the convoy.

The reported assassination attempt was not approved or planned with C.I.A. assistance, American officials said. But the officials did say that the group had carried out the attack knowing that Washington had a great interest in either capturing Mr. bin Laden or having him killed.

Washington has also attempted to

target Mr. bin Laden's finances. One idea briefly considered by the Clinton administration called for a clandestine effort to drain money out of bank accounts that could be tied to Al Qaeda. But former Clinton administration officials said that Treasury Department officials opposed the idea, fearing that it might damage the integrity of the financial system.

"Treasury was not enamored of the idea," noted one former Clinton administration official. Another former administration official said that the idea was flawed because stealing money from a bank account would in most instances leave the bank liable to make up the loss to the individual, thus hurting the bank rather than depriving Al Qaeda of money.

But the United States did mount an international effort to curb Mr. bin Laden's access to the financial system. In 1998, President Clinton invoked emergency economic powers against Mr. bin Laden and Al Qaeda, giving the United States the power to freeze assets of any individuals or institutions working with or assisting the terrorist group. In 1999, the Taliban was added to the list, and American officials were surprised to find that the Taliban had actually left large sums of money in banks in the United States, mostly in older Afghan government accounts. Eventually, American and international pressure led to United Nations sanctions, and effectively shut down international flights by Ariana Airlines, the Afghan government's air carrier, which American intelligence had concluded was being used by Al Qaeda as its conduit to the Persian Gulf and the rest of the world.

In 1999, officials from the White House and the Treasury Department traveled to the Persian Gulf to try to pressure governments to shut down Al Qaeda's banking relationships. But they achieved only mixed results.

"Where we didn't have success was when other countries delayed or denied that there was a problem," said one former official. "Sometimes it was because of a lack of political will, sometimes because those countries didn't have the legal or regulatory frameworks they needed to really know what was going on in their financial institutions."

Former Clinton administration officials say they sympathize with their successors in the Bush administration who now confront Mr. bin Laden, and defend their own efforts as the best possible in a world that lacked the current sense of urgency about Al Qaeda.

"It was something that we focused on on a daily basis, and pursued with vigor, and I think we accomplished quite a lot," said former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright. "I think we took it as far as was possible to go at the time, and I think what we did has provided the basis for things the Bush administration is trying to do now."

Page 20 of 3

Army Tightens Security at Nation's 8 Chemical Arms Depots

By DAVID FIRESTONE

ANNISTON, Ala., Oct. 1 — Seven months ago, trying to imagine the worst thing that could happen to a huge stockpile of deadly chemical weapons near here, officials at the Anniston Army Depot pretended that a jetliner had accidentally crashed into one of the bunkers that hold aging rockets packed with nerve gas.

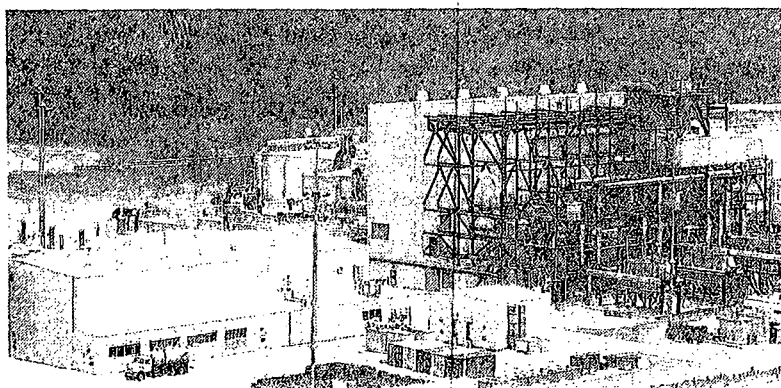
They propped the frame of an old military bomber near one of the igloos, as the steel-and-concrete bunkers are known, and emergency workers wearing protective suits and masks went through the exercise of trying to contain the gas and treat the casualties, participants said.

Today, the possibility of a jet crashing into a chemical stockpile no longer seems as theoretical as it did then. Aware that people living near the nation's eight chemical weapons depots have become much more nervous since the Sept. 11 attacks, the Army has tightened security at them, sending in hundreds of troops to guard the perimeters.

The Army has also imposed strict no-flight zones over each depot, making any aircraft flying nearby an intruder, unless it has military clearance, Army officials said.

"And there are some other measures being taken that I can't discuss with you," said Miguel Morales, a spokesman for the Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, based at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. Mr. Morales refused to discuss reports from residents near the depots that they had seen military jets patrolling over the depots.

"What's important is that the stockpile is safe and secure," he said. "We have added troops to enhance our force protection, but it's not because of an imminent terrorist strike or anything like that. It's just a general precaution in light of what's happened, and it makes everyone on



Grant Blankenship/The Gadsden Times

The mayor of Anniston, Ala., says residents are now eager for the Army to burn chemical weapons at its depot there in the incinerator, above.

or near the post feel safer."

Army officials have acknowledged that natural disasters or accidents — including jet crashes — could expose many people to the aging chemical weapons, which the Army is slowly destroying. In an interview with The New York Times in June, Lt. Col. Bruce E. Williams, commander of Anniston Chemical Activity, urged the nearby community to accept the \$1 billion incinerator recently built on the depot to burn the chemicals because of those dangers.

"Those M-55 rockets are extremely fragile munitions," Colonel Williams said then. "We think we can continue to store them safely, but you can't escape the fact that if there were a one-in-a-million earthquake, or lightning strike, or a 747 crashing on an igloo, the damage would dwarf the worst-case thing that could ever happen at the incinerator. The only real protection I can offer this community is to destroy this stockpile, and destroy it quickly."

Colonel Williams would not discuss the subject today, but a spokeswoman said the training scenario envisioned that a falling jetliner would

hit only one igloo and release its plume of gas. (The depot has 1,300 igloos, but only 155 contain chemical weapons, making it difficult for an attacker to know where to strike.) She said the number of casualties would depend on the contents of the igloo and the strength of the wind.

The extra security at the depot meant that a visitor could not get close enough to determine what protections had been added in recent days. But nearby residents and officials said they were grateful for the extra troops. Though they remained nervous, many believed that the Sept. 11 attacks had reduced the hesitation around Anniston to begin burning the chemicals, now scheduled to start in late spring.

"What I'm hearing now is, let's get rid of that stuff as quickly as possible," said Mayor Chip Howell, who appeared this morning at the opening of a new restaurant downtown. "That jet crash scenario doesn't seem so far-fetched anymore."

David Stephenson, the owner of the new restaurant, The Crossing, said the possibility of a terrorist strike against the depot had been a con-

stant topic of conversation in town.

"People have been very concerned," he said. "But I think the extra security will make people more comfortable."

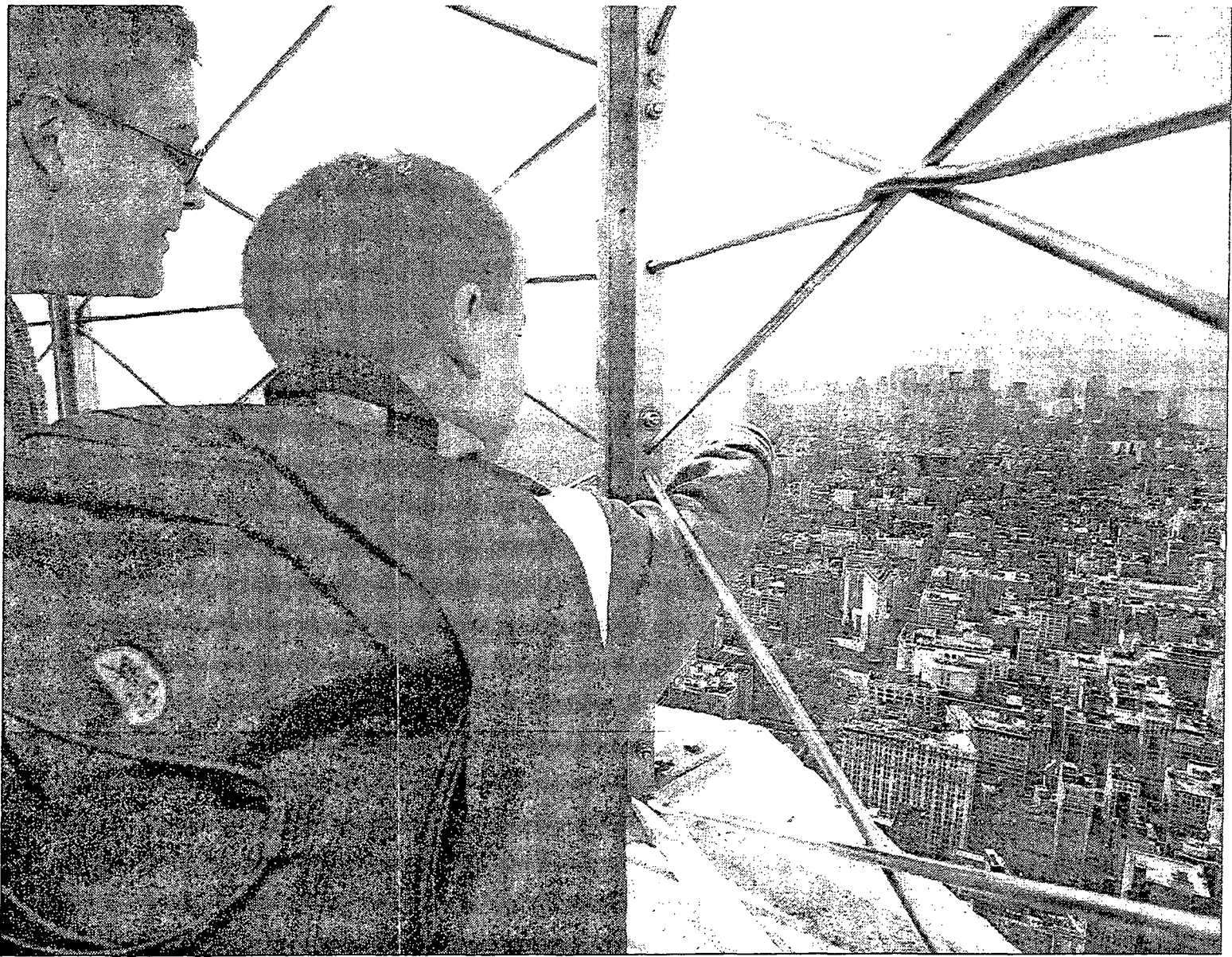
Similar precautions are being taken at the other chemical depots. About 100 soldiers from Fort Carson, Colo., were sent to the Deseret Chemical Depot near Tooele, Utah, which stored about 44 percent of the nation's chemical weapons until it began burning them in 1996. A similar contingent was sent to the Blue Grass Army Depot, near Richmond, Ky., and to five other depots.

But the Anniston depot, which holds 7 percent of the stockpile, or 2,254 tons of gas, has the largest nearby population of any depot. Many residents have been concerned for years about the dangers of incineration. Critics, citing the Army's own planning documents, say the deadline of 2007 for disposing all the chemicals at the depots is unlikely to be met, and the General Accounting Office, an agency of Congress, recently criticized the Army for leaving thousands of residents at high risk in case of an accident.

Emergency officials in Calhoun County, which includes Anniston, have unsuccessfully sought 35,000 protective breathing hoods from the Army, and say they have been besieged with requests for gas masks from residents since Sept. 11. But they have no masks, and neither do local surplus stores.

"I'm glad they've got troops out there now, but there's only so much they can do to defend against a plane crash or a rocket attack," said James Eli Henderson, a county commissioner who once worked at the Army depot. "But in the meantime, our sheriff can't even get protective suits for his department from the government. And if anyone's going to need one, it's those guys."

NYT
10/2/01



SIGHT FOR SORE EYES: From the observation deck at the Empire State Building, which reopened yesterday, John Gay and son Logan look where the Twin Towers stood.
N.Y. Post: Jim Alcorn

Emotions high at reopened Empire State

By SIMON CRITTLE

The Empire State Building observation deck officially reopened yesterday, hosting a sad stream of tourists who gazed at empty space where the World Trade Center once stood.

"It's terrible to look out there now and think of all those lives gone," said Yvonne Chard of Cardiff, Wales.

Chard, who is vacationing in New York, considered canceling the trip — but decided she had to show support for the city.

"Why should bin Laden win?" she asked angrily.

"That's why I've come up here today. I don't even like heights ... But I felt I had to do this."

Also on the 86th-floor observation desk of the 102-story build-

ing that has regained its title as New York's tallest skyscraper was Jean McDonald, 73, part of a 42-strong seniors tour group from Minnesota.

"It's so sad," she said as she looked downtown from her perch high above 34th Street and Fifth Avenue.

But she viewed the reopening as a positive sign that both the city and the nation are returning to normal.

"It is a unique and special experience to be here on the first day since the tragedy," she said.

Joan Carroll of Wyoming said, "I just don't know how it could happen here," as she looked at the ravaged skyline.

The view — which still includes smoke rising from the trade center rubble — was not

the only reminder of the devastation downtown. The Empire State gift shop still sold little skyline ornaments, many of which featured the Twin Towers as their centerpiece.

The deck did not host quite as many visitors as usual for a Saturday in September. A building spokesman expected about 10,000 to show up before closing time — compared to the 13,000 who would have been there before the trade center tragedy.

But those who braved the long waits to clear the increased security said they were not worried about spending the day at another high profile New York landmark.

"They want to show they're not going to be stopped," Mayor Giuliani said. "They're not going to

be affected, they're not going to be even psychologically intimidated by all this — and that's very typical of New Yorkers."

It was the first visit for Swedish tourist Johansson Lennard, who was grateful he had once seen the spectacular view from the trade center observation deck.

"Some people might be scared to go up today," he said. "But I think it is quite safe."

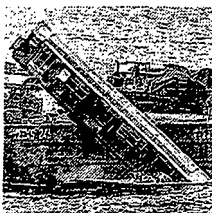
The observation deck had opened for a test run of a few hours on Sept. 15. After today, it will close through Friday, then reopen for the Columbus Day holiday weekend.

The top of the building will remain illuminated at night in red, white and blue through the end of November.

NYPOST 9.30.01

NEW YORK

MANHATTAN: SUBWAY CARS AS REEFS



South Carolina's Department of Natural Resources has signed an agreement to take 300 old New York City subway cars to build artificial reefs and is awaiting a decision from New York. With the reefs as a habitat, more fish "will have a chance to grow," said Bob Martore, the agency's reef coordinator. New York officials developed the plan because of rising disposal costs for the cars. In August, dozens of subway cars were dumped in the waters off Delaware. The transit authority is considering the same for South Carolina, Virginia and Georgia. (AP)

NUT
10.01.01

S.C. creating subway 'reef'

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina has become the second state to agree to drown old New York City subway cars to create artificial reefs where fish can find a cozy place to breed.

Earlier this year, dozens of subway cars were dumped in the waters off Delaware so fish — instead of commuters — can pack in like sardines.

Georgia and Virginia also may offer watery graves for the cars' final resting places.

New York officials floated the plan because of rising disposal costs for the cars.

Ocean dumping is cheaper than stripping asbestos from the cars and disposing of them as scrap. Transit officials estimate a savings of \$20 million.

Some states have rejected the city's offer because of the asbestos. But officials in South Carolina, which is taking 300 cars, say there's not enough of it to pollute the ocean or contaminate fish.

Post Wire Services

NYPOST
9/30/01

OREGON: ACCORD ON RIVER CLEANUP The City of Portland and local businesses signed an agreement to analyze pollution in the Willamette River, the first step in a cleanup that will take years. The Environmental Protection Agency declared the river a Superfund location, a designation reserved for the country's most contaminated sites, after discovering high levels of mercury, tar and other toxic substances in the sediments. The city has agreed to pay \$850,000, or 25 percent of the cost of the \$3.4 million analysis; the federal government and at least 10 businesses that operate in the harbor will cover the remainder.

Matthew Preusch (NYT)

NYTimes
9/29/01

Editorial/Op-Ed**The New York Times**

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NEWS	September 29, 2001		
International National Politics Business Technology Science Health Sports New York Region Education Weather Obituaries NYT Front Page Corrections Special: A Nation Challenged	Helping Farmers Help Nature With timely help from an unexpected source — the Bush administration — Americans who have long wanted to overhaul the government's discriminatory and wasteful farm programs suddenly have a fighting chance to succeed. In what is shaping up to be the first big legislative struggle since before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the House is expected next week to take up a \$171 billion, 10-year farm bill. There are two competing measures on the floor, and the choice between them is stark and clear. One bill, reported out of the Agriculture Committee, represents the old way of doing things. It would sock the taxpayers for nearly \$20 billion annually in farm subsidies that are advertised as helping the family farmer but in fact are channeled mainly to big producers and agribusinesses. The subsidies encourage further consolidation in the industry, crop surpluses, low prices and — because of those low prices — demands for yet more government money down the road. The competing bill, sponsored among others by Wayne Gilchrest of Maryland and Sherwood Boehlert of New York, both moderate Republicans, and Ron Kind, Democrat of Wisconsin, would trim the subsidies and devote more than \$5 billion a year to conservation programs with incentives for farmers to restore wetlands, improve habitats for endangered species and hold the line against urban sprawl by preserving open space. The bill starts from the powerful principle that farmers and ranchers are stewards of half the country's land, and should thus be encouraged to act wisely. One reason the bill has a good chance is that it spreads the money around. Older programs benefit only one-third of all farmers, mainly in Midwestern and plains states. The conservation incentives in the alternative bill would be available everywhere, giving it appeal to members of Congress from the Northeast and big states like Florida. The alternative bill has also received a boost from a report published Sept. 19 by the Agriculture Department arguing for a major shift in priorities from traditional subsidies to conservation. The report showed in graphic detail how the current \$20 billion program distorts the market, pushes land prices to artificially high levels and threatens current as well as future trade agreements. Although Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman has yet to choose between the rival bills, her	READERS' OPINIONS Join a Discussion on Today's Editorials	
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Secretary Ann Veneman has yet to choose between the rival bills, her bold report, coming as it does from an administration not known for its environmental zeal, can only help the cause of those who wish to jettison a failed system.

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Flying and Eating

Q. *I understand that the common nighthawk, though increasingly rare, still appears in New York during the summer. Where might I observe these acrobatic insect-eaters?*

A. Look up at the street lights, where moths, mosquitoes and all manner of flying insects gather at night. Nighthawks swoop down on these darting, dancing whorls with their wide beaks open, feasting on the wing. This "hawking" can be observed on Manhattan streets and parks as well as in the parking lots and shopping centers of the other boroughs, said Starr Saphir, a field ornithologist associated with the Audubon Society. "There are enormous numbers of insects above our heads of a spring or summer evening," she said. "We have the prey, and the predator going around catching it, and we may be completely unaware."

The body of a nighthawk is comparable in size to a blue jay's, with a wingspan that approaches two feet in length, and conspicuous white patches beneath each outer wing. Their flight is a series of fluttering jumps followed by long, graceful glides, and Ms. Saphir described their song as a very loud, nasal "pee-ugg."

Not that there are many nighthawks to see. They visit the city while migrating to South America, and are rarely seen here after September. Their numbers have dwindled, in part because of the widespread use of insecticides and the loss of open fields, Ms. Saphir said. The species, however, has learned to nest on flat, gravel-covered rooftops, which may help to explain its continued presence in the city.

NYT
Sept. 30.01

Following the Water

Droughts have spawned some of history's great human migrations. But drought can have an effect on a micro level, too. Witness what researchers have discovered about the activity of cyanobacteria in the desert.

Cyanobacteria (sometimes called, misleadingly, blue-green algae) are photosynthesizing organisms, usually unicellular, that often grow in long, threadlike colonies. In the desert, cyanobacteria, with fungi and lichens, often make up the organic crust that develops on rocks and soil.

Studying soils from badlands in Spain, researchers from Arizona State University and Bordeaux University in France have discovered that some cyanobacteria migrate within the soil as the moisture level changes. Cyanobacteria just beneath the surface appeared on the surface within minutes after the soil was wetted, and disappeared as the soil dried out.

Adding compounds that inhibited energy use by the cyanobacteria stopped the process completely, indicating the organisms were not just hitching rides on the water, via surface tension, as it moved. The researchers, writing in *Nature*, say the ability of cyanobacteria to follow water may be crucial to their survival in harsh conditions.

NYT
10/2/01

West Nile Infects 2 Nassau Residents

By Bryn Nelson

STAFF WRITER

Two Nassau residents have been preliminarily diagnosed with the West Nile virus, marking the first suspected human cases in the county this year.

Suffolk has one confirmed case.

A 75-year-old Valley Stream woman experienced a fever and confusion on Aug. 28 and was hospitalized two days later. She has since fully recovered. The other patient, a 77-year-old East Meadow man who showed symptoms of fever, muscle pain, nausea and confusion on Sept. 14, was hospitalized the next day. He remains listed in critical condition.

Nassau County Department of Health spokeswoman Cynthia Brown said results of confirmatory tests for both patients, being conducted by the state Department of Health, may not be available for several weeks. The county is continuing to track an unspecified number of other potential human cases, she said.

Last week, New York City Department of Health officials confirmed the city's fourth and fifth human cases of West Nile viral infection this year in a 69-year-old Brooklyn woman and 51-year-old Queens man. Both are recovering. The Suffolk case was diagnosed earlier this month: a 49-year-old Nesconset woman, who has since recovered.

Although most individuals infected with the virus remain symptom-free or experience only mild symptoms, those at least 50 years of age are at greater risk of a more serious illness, including potentially fatal brain swelling.

Brown said Nassau County has no immediate plans to spray pesticides. She cited low mosquito counts, windy conditions and cool temperatures as factors that reduce both mosquito activity and the effectiveness of any pesticide application. Guidelines suggest spraying in the absence of rain when

the temperature is no lower than 60 degrees Fahrenheit and the wind is less than 10 miles per hour, she said.

Nassau County officials have intensified their surveillance in both Valley Stream and East Meadow, both of which have reported West Nile activity in either mosquito or bird populations. The county may also apply more treatments to destroy mosquito larvae.

Health officials warn that, although cooler weather has reduced the threat of West Nile infection, two consecutive frosts are required before the remaining mosquitoes are killed or forced into an "overwintering" state of inactivity. Until then, the number of infected humans — especially in warmer regions — is expected to climb.

West Nile activity has now been confirmed in 25 states, the District of Columbia and the Canadian

province of Ontario. Among humans, 33 confirmed or presumptive West Nile infections have been reported from seven states, including New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Maryland, Georgia and Florida. Of those patients for which ages are available, more than 80 percent were at least 50 years old and more than half were at least 70 years old. Several remain hospitalized. One death has been reported: a 71-year-old Atlanta woman.

In Florida, where officials have confirmed seven human cases and issued West Nile health alerts for nearly three-fourths of the state, Reuters reported that flight restrictions in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks have hampered aerial pesticide-spraying efforts, forcing mosquito-control workers to use slower and more costly ground spraying.

News day
Sept. 29.01

Genetic Modification Taints Corn in Mexico

By CAROL KAESUK YOON

In a finding that has taken researchers by surprise and alarmed environmentalists, the Mexican government has discovered that some of the country's native corn varieties have been contaminated with genetically engineered DNA.

The contaminated seeds were collected from a region considered to be the world's center of diversity for corn — exactly the kind of repository of genetic variation that environmentalists and many scientists had hoped to protect from contamination. The result was unexpected because genetically modified corn, the presumed source of the foreign genes, has not been approved for commercial planting in Mexico.

Scientists expressed concern that the foreign genes could act to reduce genetic diversity in the country's native corn varieties and in the wild progenitor of domesticated corn, known as teosinte. If any of the foreign genes are very advantageous, plants carrying those genes could begin to dominate the population. In such cases genetic variation will be lost as the diversity of plants not carrying the foreign genes decreases or disappears. Whether that will happen or has happened remains unknown.

In addition to being one of the world's most important crops, corn is viewed with a near religious reverence in Mexico, with seeds of native varieties passed down from generation to generation. Until now, scientists said researchers had assumed that these varieties, some of which are grown only by subsistence farmers in remote areas, were pristine.

"These are the extremes, the places where you would really not expect to find contamination," said Dr. Ignacio Chapela, a microbial ecologist at the University of California at Berkeley, saying the results are an indication of widespread contamination. "The only reason they found it there is because that's the only place they've looked."

Scientists said the results also indicated that crop genes might be able to spread across geographic areas and varieties more quickly than researchers had guessed.

"It shows in today's modern world how rapidly genetic material

can move from one place to another," said Dr. Norman C. Ellstrand, evolutionary biologist at University of California at Riverside. He said the real worry was that other foreign genes — like pharmaceutical-producing genes being developed in crops — could also find their way quickly and unnoticed into distant food sources.

Genetically engineered corn, known as Bt corn because it produces the insecticide known as Bt, has been in use by farmers in the United States since 1996.

Mexico's Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources made the announcement on Sept. 18 that contaminated corn had been found in 15 different localities. The announcement credited Dr. Chapela with the initial discovery but described only the results from government-led research. Neither Dr. Chapela's team nor the Mexican teams' work has yet been published.

Scientists assume the native corn became contaminated through interbreeding with Bt corn, but how Bt corn may have come to be planted in Mexico remains a matter of speculation. While not approved for planting, biotech corn is legally imported into Mexico for use in food. Greenpeace, calling the contamination a form of genetic pollution, is calling on Mexico to ban all importation of genetically modified corn.

The Mexican government has not disclosed exactly what genes were found. Exequiel Ezcurra, the director of the National Institute of Ecology, which worked on the study, did not respond to requests for an interview. But Dr. Chapela, who is familiar with the Mexican work, said the researchers had identified the presence of DNA sequences from the cauliflower mosaic virus. This DNA is used nearly universally in genetically engineered plants and does not produce Bt insecticide.

As a result, it is still unclear whether any of the contaminated corn has the ability to produce the Bt insecticide.

Scientists may eventually be able to quantify the biological effects of the contamination, but some say the cultural cost in a country where corn is a symbol of the Mexican people may be harder to measure.

"The people are corn," said Dr. Chapela, who is Mexican, "and the corn is the people."

NYT
10/2/01

Husavik Journal

Gad, Alligators! Is Iceland Balmy, or

By DONALD G. McNEIL Jr.

HUSAVIK, Iceland, Oct. 1 — Here on Iceland's northern shore, the arctic grouse are already wearing their white winter coats as the snows fringing the peaks prepare to creep into the lanes of this tiny fishing town.

Who! say the city fathers. What an excellent place to raise alligators.

Sometimes it seems as if fish aren't the only things being smoked in this northernmost of northern settings, with smoke and gases hissing from the volcanic area at the edge of town.

Actually, the idea of turning Husavik into the Everglades of the Arctic is not as wild as it sounds. The "Krokodil Plan," as it is called by locals, reflects this town's inventive determination to survive.

Husavik is a town of only 2,500 people, which sounds infinitesimal but is nearly 1 percent of Iceland's population, so it is the equivalent of an American city of 2.5 million. But Iceland's rural fishing towns are dying as fish stocks shrink, conglomerates in bigger towns like Akureyri buy up the remaining fish quotas and young adults slip away to Reykjavik, the capital.

Husavik is striving mightily to avoid that fate. With three refitted old oak fishing boats, it has become the whale-watching center of Europe, attracting 24,000 visitors this year, up from zero in 1995.

Its tiny new whaling museum is moving from a former fish freezer to a former sheep slaughterhouse. To keep industries afloat, the town's companies adapt. They buy shrimp from Norwegian ships to keep the shrimp-packing plant running. They import oak logs from Maine to cut into flooring for continental Europe because the cost of steam-drying the lumber is almost zero here.

That free volcanic steam, in fact, is what makes bringing alligators here possible, as well as making Husavik one of the most environmentally correct spots on the planet.

The town gets all of its heating for houses and most of its electricity out of the ground. About 12 miles inland, there is a geothermal field whose deepest wells produce water at 248 degrees Fahrenheit.

The superheated water flows through an insulated high-pressure pipeline to a turbine plant that generates 75 percent of the town's electricity. Then it runs through a network of house radiators and frost-

Plain Barmy?

fighting pipes beneath the sidewalks.

Pure glacier water flows through the turbine plant, too, as a coolant. It emerges at a temperature of 77 to 86 degrees, then flows into a couple of man-made ponds perched on the cliffs above Skjalfandi Bay. Despite the weeds that thrive in the warm water, some Husavikians swim there in winter, drifting through the ghostly steam.

Reinhard Reynisson, 41, the mayor, wants to nudge the swimmers back to the municipal pool and replace them with alligators. The alligators would eat the waste from the fish-packing plants, among other things.

Better than that, the reptiles would attract tourists looking for the total whale-gator-shrimp-cocktail experience. The alligators would not crawl out at night to terrorize downtown revelers since the cold would make the reptiles sluggish before they hit the highway. And they would not mix with local species because Iceland's lava fields and tundra do not even support snakes.

There is one drawback: Florida experts say that alligators, once full-grown, would not be satisfied with fish scraps.

No problem, says Mayor Reynisson. Once they stop cooperating, he said, people will eat the gators. Or skin and freeze them so others can.

"You know those charts that show cows for butchers?" he asked. "The ones that say 'Here is steak, here is ribs'? One of the butchers in town made me one for alligators."

He got the initial idea, he said, from an article in a United States Department of Energy magazine about

Colorado Gators, a fish farm 7,500 feet up in the Rockies in Mosca, Colo., that uses alligators to eat its waste and now holds alligator-wrestling contests, alligator rodeos and family fun events like throwing catfish to alligators.

So far, the plan here is in very early stages. The town council is exchanging letters with the nation's chief veterinarian and the agriculture department, which has a few questions about how this all fits into the ecosystem.

There are some hurdles of national skepticism to clear. Besides the arctic fox, Iceland has almost no native land animals. Polar bears stick to

Greenland, the feral reindeer in the east are imports, as are the chestnut horses with blond manes seen everywhere and the sheep that look like cotton balls with horns. The country has no zoo; even dogs used to be banned in Reykjavik.

"I don't think the government likes the idea really," said Johannes Sigurjonsson, the former editor of the now-defunct Husavik paper. "It's too new, too crazy. But there's no opposition in town."

Indeed, there is some enthusiasm. Thorotur Asgeirsson, a retired fisherman in his 70's who still spends Sundays chopping frozen herring into bait for his son's boat, said he foresaw another environmentally friendly use for the newcomers. Digging graves is hard work in Iceland, where only 1 percent of the volcanic landscape has enough dirt to farm.

"They can cut down on that expense," he said. "Now they can just throw old guys like me to the crocodiles."