

DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2001

You can stem the flow

Just as New York needs investment from Washington, it needs the same from ordinary Americans. That's the message President Bush spread in his visit yesterday. The folks who live here know the city is up and working — but the word has to go out to the rest of the nation and the world.

This is not a place to be shunned. It is not just a gaping hole with thousands dead, but the vibrant home of 8 million people. Those 8 million continue to grieve for the murdered, but they know that just by living their daily lives, they are defying the sick and perverted designs of the murderers.

By using the media spotlight that follows him, the President has let it be known that New York is moving on. It will triumph. America will triumph. And Americans are bonded in that resolve, be they the powerbrokers of Wall Street or first-graders at a school near Ground Zero.

If Osama Bin Laden gets CNN in whatever cave he's hiding in today, he'll see the images of those children declaring their love for their country. The spirit of any one of those innocents is more powerful than a thousand of terror's so-called martyrs.

Speaking of the enemy, Bush said, "Americans must know that their government is doing everything we can to track down every rumor, every hint, every possible evildoer. And therefore, Americans ought to go about their business."

That's exactly the right prescription to help heal our wounded national psyche. Nearly 70 years ago, another President warned the country that "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself." America must look today, every day, to Franklin D. Roosevelt's words, for never have they been more applicable.

America also must continue to look to our current commander-in-chief. By coming to this city twice in three weeks — first to stand amid the smoking ruins and yesterday to encourage our recovery — he has proved to be a powerful voice for New York. In exactly the show of support that's needed, major organizations are moving conventions to the city. And Delta Air Lines is giving away 10,000 tickets to encourage tourism here. So listen to your leader, America. Follow your leader to our town. We are waiting.

On Sept. 11, the nation threw its arms around New York in a protective embrace. New York is opening its own arms now and saying, "Thank you." And, "Welcome."

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