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Dan cries on 'Late Show' with somber Letterman

By ERIC LENKOWITZ
and DAVID K. LI

In his first show since last week's attacks, funnyman Dave Letterman was all serious business last night, bringing hardened newsman Dan Rather to tears twice while discussing the hatred the terrorists showed toward America.

Letterman at times questioned whether he should even be there during his straightforward, 10-minute monologue, in which he shared with the audience his feelings on last week's events.

Rather, his first guest, began to shed tears as they reflected on the attack and the reasons behind it. They went right to commercial break.

The second time Rather choked up, while discussing the matter further, they stayed on the air. *Letterman took* Rather's hand and told him that, under the circumstances, "it was human and natural to cry."

The only other guest on the show was "Live with Regis and Kelly" host Regis Philbin. As Regis left the taping, he stood behind an American flag and saluted the crowd on an outside balcony of the Ed Sullivan Theater. (See photo on Page 53).



DAN RATHER
Tearful appearance.

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, producers of ABC's "Politically Incorrect" resumed taping their popular late-night show, but with one less guest — host Bill Maher left one seat open, in memory of conservative commentator Barbara Olson.

Olson was killed last week on her way to tape the show when the plane on which she was a passenger was hijacked and sent crashing into the Pentagon.

She was the wife of Solicitor General Ted Olson.

Cop: 'I didn't know if I was dead or alive'

By LARRY CELONA

Emergency Service Unit Officer Mark Demarco crawled out of hell toward a pinpoint of light.

Demarco and other ESU cops were standing in the lobby of the south tower of the World Trade Center *last Tuesday morning* when the sky fell in.

"The walls shook and the ceilings came down," Demarco said of the horrific collapse. "I couldn't breathe. I lay on the ground, and debris was piling up on my back."

Crying, Demarco recalled how he thought of his wife and children, sure he was going to die.

"After a while, I looked up; it was total darkness, and I didn't know if I was dead or alive," he said. "*There was a little spot of light, and a few guys were able to crawl out.*"

Incredibly, Demarco and about six other ESU cops survived at the very center of the collapse.

But at least two cops who were with them didn't make it out.

And every day since then, Demarco and his mates have returned to that spot to dig, hoping to come upon Sgt. Mike Curtin and ESU Officer John Dallara still alive.

Demarco and the other cops who keep going back to dig for their colleagues and other victims have a motto: "We haven't lost anyone yet," they tell each other, suggesting that as long as they continue searching, there is still hope.

Bill Beaury, another ESU cop who keeps going back to the rubble, said, "It's very frustrating, and it's very difficult.

We know they are still in there, and we're trying our hardest to pull them out.

"When you walk out of the hole and you see all the people clapping and cheering for you, it sends chills up your spine," he said. "You feel like going back and doing another 15 hours."

Officer Marco Corovic was off duty the day of the disaster, but he rushed to the scene as soon as he got news of the terror attack.

Now, he returns every day to dig through the shifting rubble.

"All I'm thinking about right now is about my friends that are in there, and regardless of the risk, we're going to find them."

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