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America's safety at risk

By [World's own Service](#)
9/23/2001

I send my sympathy and prayers to all families involved in the recent tragedies and my deep appreciation to the thousands of rescue workers. This tragedy has touched all Americans and many others around the world. This kind of terrorism and senseless loss of life needs to be stopped. Whoever is involved in this destruction should be brought to justice, as were the perpetrators of the Oklahoma City bombing. Unfortunately, this will require military action.

My only son, the loving father of my grandchildren, is a proud member of the U.S. Army in his second tour of duty, having re-enlisted last year. When and if he is sent into this conflict, I will be worried the whole time. Heaven forbid that I get that call or that knock on my door telling me that he will not be coming home. It would be devastating. But his family shall be proud of his efforts to protect America.

So I suggest to those who will undoubtedly protest against sending our men into harm's way on the other side of the world to stop this terrorism that they be the one to knock on the 5,000 doors of families whose loved ones will not be coming home because of some senseless act of terrorism.

No one anywhere can be 100 percent safe with this type of aggression going on. I ask for all Americans' support and prayers for our brave young men trying to stop these needless acts of violence. God bless America!

Danny Rainwater, Nowata

The currency of terrorists

I commend your Sept. 18 editorial, "Finger-pointing," in which you challenge Jerry Falwell who blamed some Americans for the terrorist attack because they are pro-choice, feminist, homosexual, or members of the ACLU or People for the American Way. However, I question one statement: "There is no

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evidence that American beliefs or practices involving homosexuality, abortion or civil liberties motivated the madmen who attacked America." While true, I understood Falwell's message instead to say that God was displeased with these groups and thus used "the enemies of America to give us probably what we deserve." Falwell's God would destroy thousands of innocent people for believing differently than Falwell. This is a message Jesus would never have given.

By attributing terrorist atrocities to Americans who differ from his beliefs, Falwell manages to be both un-Christian and un-American. Ironically, a gay, pro-choice ACLU member would disagree with Falwell but not blame the world's ills on him.

If there is a message from this tragedy, it is that condemnation is the currency of terrorists, including "religious" terrorists. Instead of condemnation, let us celebrate our freedom to be peacefully and safely diverse.

Dwight Holden, M.D., Tulsa

Twisted bigotry

I agree with the perspective of your Sept. 14 editorial, "Discrimination."

Once again, Oklahoma proves that we are the same small-minded, uneducated people that we appear to be. Shame on the three Tulsa men who unthinkingly attacked an Arabic man. At a time when real men would be feeling the shock and pain of the terrorist attack and searching for ways to be of help to the nation, these kind of people make a terrible tragedy far worse by illustrating that we have other types of rogues and bigots in our own midst. I support law enforcement everywhere in hunting down these people and subjecting them to the same justice and punishment as we eventually will achieve with the terrorists.

It's a shame that we can so effectively display our ignorance and stupidity so soon after our own problems in Oklahoma City. The people embodying this new, twisted bigotry against Arabic Americans must carry the humiliation of making a somewhat contained tragedy into a more complex nightmare for those in the nation who were hoping to recover from the violence.

Isaac Pisors, Tulsa

Don't bail out airlines

Let the airlines eat cake! With hundreds of millions of dollars in salaries and perks for their CEOs and boards, why should the taxpayers pay for the airlines' failure to protect the public? Customers already have paid for security, and the airlines pocket that.

The taxpayers give the airlines tax breaks, subsidized fuel and the right to operate. Now they want us to give them billions more. I say no, no, no!

Daniel T. McClure, Tulsa

Blank check

George Bush scares me! He has asked Congress for \$40 billion and 30,000 men to fight terrorism. But I am not sure he has a battle plan or has really defined the enemy beyond Osama bin Laden. I feel Bush is capitalizing on the emotions of the moment to get a blank check but has no idea how to spend it. It is not clear to me that this is entirely a military problem. We know that terrorists are found in every nation, some more than others. We know that they have some fears and hurts that are causing them to act the way they do. But until this country understands the causes, how can we say we have a battle plan that we can enumerate in dollars?

When we really look deep into the causes of terrorism we may find there are things that we should not be doing. Some of those "do-nots" may mean we eliminate things we are doing now, or at least change the way we do them. For example, we can't sell arms to one side and tell the other we are trying to be a neutral broker. We need a solution that will solve the problem, not just attack symptoms. It seems we still have to learn from what is happening in Israel that continual escalation solves nothing.

Yes, I think we are at war with terrorism, and the government states it is a different battlefield than we have ever experienced before. But they are asking for men and money just like the old battles. I pray that our president will show true leadership and guide our country in a way that optimizes a viable solution and that we don't joust with windmills.

Dave Sittler

What? Duke is 3-1!

The Picker

Not Number One!

Jimmie Tramel

Dodge Ball

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Ed Minich, Tulsa

Research debunks cruel rumors

I'd like to thank the Tulsa World for its coverage of the restoration and preservation of the Historic Brady Mansion now in progress and also for multiple articles paying tribute to W. Tate Brady.

I am specifically attempting to dispel two widespread falsehoods clouding the good name of W. Tate Brady. The first, printed June 16, 1999, that Brady planned his suicide so that his wife could collect on a million-dollar insurance policy, was a horrible, cruel rumor that I foolishly repeated before checking official accounts of his death. For this I sincerely apologize. It is well documented that Brady had been suffering inconsolably over the sudden death of his 21-year-old son. There was very little psychological or medical help available in those days for someone suffering from such grief. After four months of mourning, Brady took his own life.

The second cruel rumor, cited flyer-style and posted anonymously on poles and trees in the Brady Heights neighborhood during the annual Brady Heights Tour last year, depicted Brady as a KKK member. This was reflected by World Staff Writer Lucas Oswald's June 25, 2000, article, "Brady Heights tour keeps history alive." Extensive research involving the Internet, Tulsa Historical Society, TU McFarland Library's special collections, the Oklahoma Eagle and Brady descendants shows no evidence of any kind to support such claims.

Tim Lannom, Tulsa

Tim Lannom owns and is in the process of restoring the Brady Mansion.

[By World's own Service](#)

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-- [Web Editor Jason Collington](#)

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