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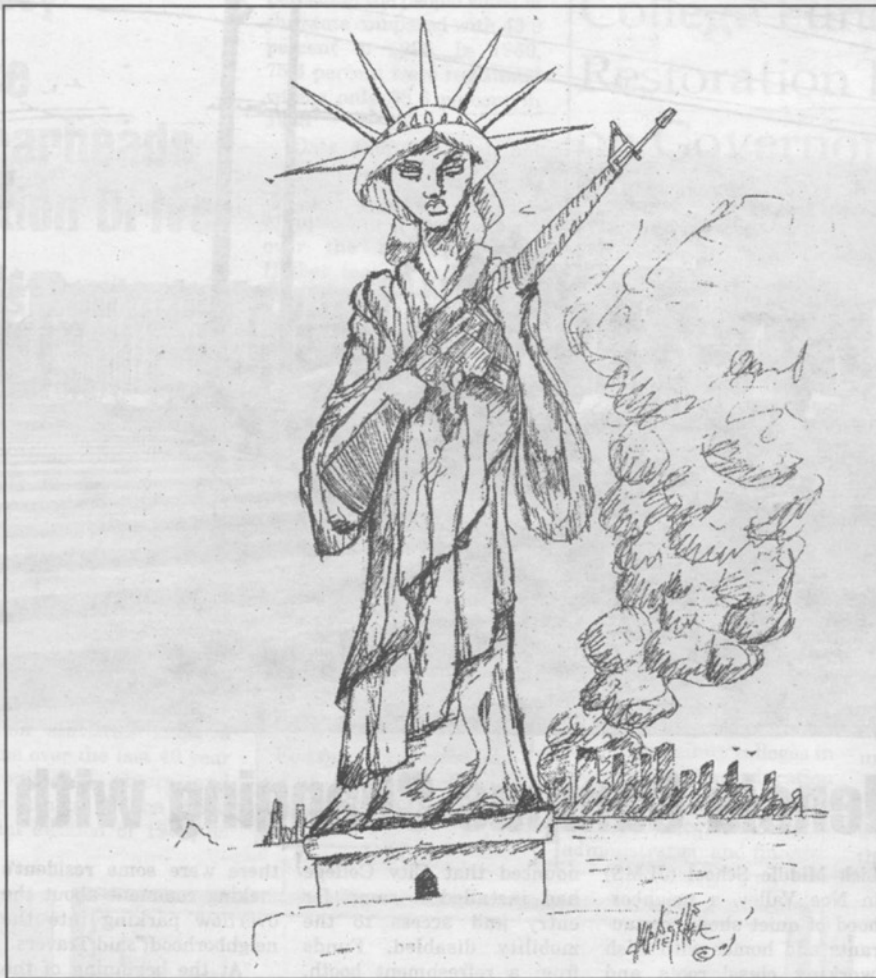
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GUARDSMAN

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What tangled webs we weave...

By Daniel Jenkins

Staff Writer

September 11, 2001. What has our own government not told us about covert operations in the Middle East? How has the media failed to report our government's actions in foreign lands? These are serious questions that should be raised.

On that awful Tuesday morning, we awoke to a new world and responded with shock, sadness, anger and a desire for revenge.

Now the media is rallying us to wave the flag and get behind our President.

But is anyone asking hard questions of our leadership? Are we even aware of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East or of the connections that the accused terrorists have to the CIA?

Do the American people realize our country played a

part in creating and empowering the people who have now become the enemy?

The United States is involved in shaping Middle East politics, due primarily to our oil interests in the region. We supported the leadership of many repressive regimes, from the Saudi and Kuwaiti royal families to the Shah of Iran. We funneled billions of dollars to Saddam Hussein during his war with Iran. It was our CIA that trained Osama Bin Laden and armed the Afghani resistance during the Cold War. And after the resistance drove the Soviet Union out of Afghanistan, the resistance went on to become the Taliban.

It's frightening that our intelligence community could have such close ties to the terrorists who seek to harm U.S. interests.

There is also speculation that Iraq might be sponsor-

ing anti-American terrorist activity. As far as Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein is concerned, the Persian Gulf War never ended. On February 26, 1991 we ran the Iraqi army out of Kuwait and then declared victory. The prime objective of removing Hussein from leadership was never achieved. Following the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, we learned that terrorist Ramsey Yousef entered the United States using an Iraqi passport.

There are many unanswered questions about the events of September 11, 2001. While whoever is at fault should certainly be brought to justice, we must remain objective and try to understand what brought us to this tragedy. We must learn from our failures and understand why we have become targets within our own homeland.

Rants and Raves

By Emilio Carrillo

Opinions Editor

In the past couple of weeks, the American audience has been inundated by a constant news stream of the New York City tragedy. The war drums are beating to the tune of national corporate broadcasters such as NBC, ABC, CBS and CNN, with very little breathing room left for alternative viewpoints. However, there are a variety of sources still available.

Since its foundation in 1949, 94.1 KPFA has been the standard bearer for progressive politics in California. This station stands alone in the small field of progressive radio. For a hard-hitting radio broadcast, tune in to Pulitzer Prize winner Amy Goodman's "Democracy Now" program. Goodman is one of many top-notch journalists who contribute material to KPFA. Fully non-commercial, KPFA relies on volunteer staffing and listener contributions.

There is a lot of information on the Internet and it can be very frustrating trying to find alternative news sources. In my opinion, two of the better online publications are thenation.com and salon.com. Founded in 1865, The Nation magazine is now available online. Check it out for in-depth political analysis with contributions from heavyweight writers such as Christopher Hitchens and Noam Chomsky among others. Another standout in online journalism is the multiple award-winning salon.com, a site based in our fair city of San Francisco. The publication churns out cutting edge journalism on a consistent basis, focusing on news, political analysis, social issues, and the arts.