

## THE MOURNING AFTER

## JUST FOR VARIETY

## ARMY ARCHERD

**IT'S NOT A GOOD MORNING** — and it will not be for a long time to come. “The threat level will be around for a long time,” the FBI tells me. They also warn that those in the biz who have shown hostility to forces threatening world peace are known to the cowards of violence ... It is not surprising that the biz is putting the bizness of award shows on hold. “This is a national crisis and no time to be handing out awards or to comment on what people are wearing,” Emmy producer Don Mischer told me Tuesday morning about the cancellation of Sunday’s Emmy Awards. “They will occur some time in the future, but we don’t know when. We don’t even know how many (participants) will want to fly again soon. We’re in a period of national mourning.” Among those who were to wing to L.A. for the awards were the cast of “Sex and the City,” including nominees Sarah Jessica Parker and Kim Cattrall, and “Sopranos” members Lorraine Bracco, Edie Falco and James Gandolfini. Plus “Saturday Night Live’s” Darrell Hammond and Will Ferrell. Andy Garcia, who is filming in N.Y., was to fly out to present an award. Jon Stewart from “The Daily Show” and the cast of “Everybody Loves Raymond” (who were in N.Y. this week doing a press tour) were due to fly here to be on hand at the Emmys ... The Latin Grammys were canceled; it was to have been the 40th Grammy show produced by Pierre Cossette Prods. Only once before was a Grammy show threatened, but not canceled: In 1971 the Grammys were delayed at the Shrine because of a bomb scare 20 minutes before showtime. Although the show this year was switched from Miami to L.A. because of the threat of protesters, there was no evidence of same during the rehearsals at the Forum and none at Monday night’s MusiCares tribute to Julio Iglesias at the Beverly Hilton. All Latin Grammy acts except one had arrived in L.A. before Tuesday’s catastrophe; Destiny’s Child was due to wing in Tuesday ayem from a Utah gig ... Latin Grammys producer Walter C. Miller is skedded to fly Monday to Nashville for confabs on the Country Music Awards to air live on CBS Nov. 7, but Miller does not know whether that meeting’s sked will be met. Meanwhile, his son, director Paul Miller, was skedded Tuesday to start directing the first of a series of commercials for American Airlines to be aired on “Saturday Night Live.” They were canceled. Walter’s daughter Deborah Miller directs the Rosie O’Donnell show from the GE building in N.Y.; that show too was KO’d Tuesday.

**FATE DEALS STRANGE HANDS:** Jack Sussman, senior VP of specials for CBS, caught a 7 ayem flight out of JFK for LAX Tuesday; at 11 ayem, the pilot told them there was a problem (not identifying the disaster) and they had to land at Kansas City, Mo. Sussman had covered the Michael Jackson show for a future CBS special and was coming to L.A. for the Latin Grammys. When told of the catastrophe upon landing, Sussman and seven other L.A.-bound passengers rented two cars in Kansas and drove in to L.A. — to learn there were to be no Grammys, Emmys, etc. ... What about the other award shows? Security has always been the byword for these high-profile, celeb-heavy events. After being out front at the Oscars these 55 years, I know only too well how the caution and protection have increased every year. This year is a new venue: the Kodak Theater in the Hollywood Blvd. & Highland Ave. complex. And I mean complex — there are many openings in the various structures and several streets. Acad president Frank Pierson was well aware of them as we talked Tuesday. We have both examined the buildings. He allowed that the issue of security is a real one. “No question. I have already scheduled a security meeting. It is a different situation from downtown (the Shrine and Dorothy Chandler Pavilion)” ... Another high-profile showbiz event requiring high security is the annual Kennedy Center Honors (this year, Dec. 3). Tuesday, George Stevens Jr. in D.C. had moved his staff from their Kennedy Center offices to his house to conduct business after the Pentagon and World Trade Center Towers were struck and D.C. virtually closed down. He reminded that the gala is always carefully checked because of the president’s presence as well as the celebs. Dogs check the theater from top to bottom four days ahead as well and the president arrives by a separate entrance. Stevens positively noted, “I am confident that the USA will be very functional by the time of our awards — and sooner.” And the bicoastal Stevens further said, “I’m not going to stop flying. You cannot live in fear.”

**KING ABDULLAH II OF JORDAN** was to give a small dinner party for Jack Valenti in L.A. today, with Valenti winging out from D.C. Jack, of course could not fly here; the King, a movie fan who once did a walk-on on “Star Trek: The Next Generation,” also quickly altered his plans and winged home (in his own plane, of course) Tuesday.

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## COMBAT READY

## News nets pool efforts on the crisis

By PAULA BERNSTEIN

NEW YORK — News nets abandoned their competitive ways on Tuesday in order to cover the largest terrorist attack on U.S. soil in history.

Virtually all networks carried the story live throughout the day, preempting regular primetime and latenight programming.

“It is literally all hands on deck,” a CBS News spokesman said. “In terms of the history of broadcast journalism, this is unprecedented. Every human being who is available is working.”

The spokesman added that CBS News coverage would air on the Eye web “indefinitely.”

CNN went into “full war load. We have everyone working a minimum of 12-hour shifts until further notice,” said Eason Jordan, president of newsgathering and chief news exec at CNN News Group.

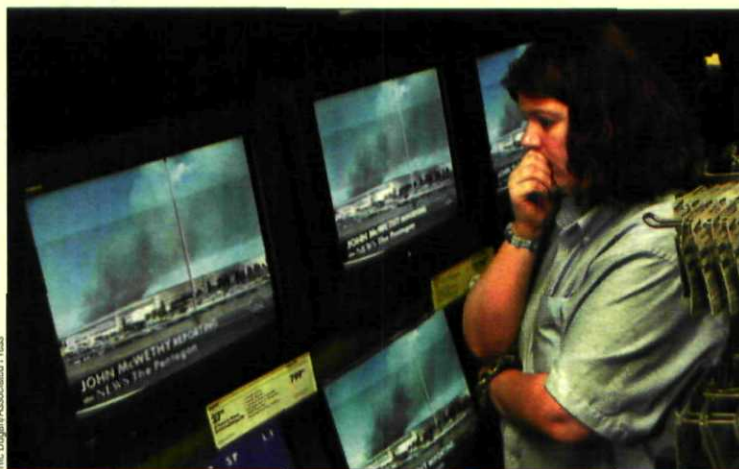
At the suggestion of “60 Minutes” creator Don Hewitt, the major television nets agreed to share all footage gathered during the terrorist attacks and their aftermath.

“Don said, ‘This is a national crisis. There should be nothing proprietary about it,’” a CBS spokeswoman said.

CBS News topper Andrew Heyward contacted CNN Newsgroup chairman and CEO Walter Isaacson and NBC News prexy Neal Shapiro, who readily agreed to share footage.

The exchange marked unprecedented cooperation among the usually ultracompetitive newsies. ABC and Fox were not contacted since they already share footage with CBS through Network News Service (NNS).

“We’re competitive by nature,



A woman watches news from a wall of TV sets at a Sears in Hagerstown, Md., Tuesday after planes crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

but given the horrific nature of what’s happened, we decided to put some of our competitive juices aside and try to do what’s in the best interest of the people, which is to give them as much information as possible,” CNN’s Jordan said.

MSNBC’s Brian Williams summed it up best when he said on-air, “It’s not a day to be competitive. It’s a day to cover a national tragedy.”

## Sibling synergy

Meanwhile, corporate synergy came into play as niche cablers referred viewers to sibling news channels or repackaged news feeds from their sister broadcasters.

Fox Sports Net and FX aired Fox News coverage, with Fox Family and National Geographic directing viewers to its cable news sibling.

ESPN broadcast ABC News’ coverage. VH1, MTV and CMT ceased regular programming and instead aired CBS News coverage of the disaster. CNN aired directly on its sister nets TBS, TNT and Turner South, while ShopNBC turned to MSNBC’s coverage.

“We view our networks first and foremost in times of tragedies like this as ways to get information to people,” said Jeff Shell, president and CEO of Fox Cable Networks Group. “We’ll continue to do this until further notice.”

National Geographic and Fox Family switched to Fox News early in the day, but returned to regular programming at 3 p.m. EDT. “Networks with family programming provide an alternative for families home with their children,” Shell said.

CNN founder Ted Turner was the one to suggest that TBS, TNT and Turner South interrupt their regular schedules to carry CNN live.

Fox News was the first to “brand” the tragedy with a “Day of Terror” graphic. The network later changed its coverage to “Terrorism Hits America.” MSNBC named the coverage “Attack on America,” while CNN used “America Under Attack.”

Throughout the day — and unlike during the first hours after the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995 — news anchors and commentators were cautious about drawing any conclusions about who was responsible for the terrorist attacks.

“The same standards apply to this story as to any other story — people need to use good news judgment. I don’t think there’s any speculation going on,” an NBC News spokeswoman said.

CNN’s Aaron Brown said, “In our reporting, we’re going to be a bit conservative. This is already horrendous, and we don’t need to make it worse.”

Because of the newsies’ restraint, little misinformation was circulated, but there were a couple of minor glitches. ABC’s Peter Jennings reported that a car bomb exploded outside the State Dept., which turned out not to be true.

CNN, along with virtually every other national broadcaster, had a transmitter atop the World Trade Center. The news net lost access to backup transmitters when the Empire State Building was evacuated.

Having lost their WTC transmitters, Gotham stations WWOR, WNYW, WNET, WPIX, WABC and WNJU (Telemundo) were knocked off the air either temporarily or all day.

(Melissa Grego in Los Angeles contributed to this report.)

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