4 a VARIETY.CO M DAILY VARIETY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 200

THE MOURNING AFTER

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T S NOT A GOOD MORNING — and it wilI 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 Sundayt 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 fry 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 "Sopra-nos" members Lorraine Bracco, Edie Falco and James Gandolfini. Plus "Saturday Night Live Is" Darrell Hammond and Will Ferrcll. Andy Gar-cia, who is filming in N.Y., was to fly out to present an award. Jon Stew-art 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 ev-idence 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 t cat-astrophe; Destiny Is Child was due to wing in Tuesday ayem from a Utah gig... Latin Grammys producer Walter C. Miller is skedded to fly Mon-day to Nashville for confabs on the Country Music Awards to air live on CBS Nov. 7, but Miller does not know whether that meeting » 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 Air-lines to be aired on "Saturday Night Live." They were canceled. Waltcrt daughter Deborah Miller directs the Rosie O'Donnell show from the GE building in NY.; that show too was KOld Tuesday.

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ATE DEALS STRANGE HANDS: Jack Sussman, senior VP of specials for CBS, caught a 7 ayem flight out of JFK fbr LAX Tuesday;
at 11 ayem, the pilot mid them there was a problem (not identifying the disaster)and they hadm lark! at KansasCity, Mo. Sussman 1W covered the Michael Jackson show for a future CBS special and was coming to LA. for the Latin Grammys. When told of the catastrophe upon landing, Suss-man and seven other LA-kurkl passengers rented two cars in Kansas and drove in to L.A.—to learn them wem 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 Os-cars 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 — them am 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 DC. had moved his staff from their Kennedy Center offices to his house to conduct business after the Pentagon and World Trade Cen-ter Towers were struck and DC. virtually closed down. He reminded that the gala is always carefully checked because of the president^ 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 pos-itively 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. Ybu cannot live in fear."

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ING ABDULLAH II OF JORDAN was to give a small dinner
party for Jack Valenti in L.A. today, with Valenti winging out from
DC. Jack, of course could not fry hem; the King, a movie fan who once did a walk-on on "StarTrek: The Next Generation," also quickly al-tered 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 aban-
doned their competitive ways on
Tuesday in order to cover the largest
terrorist attack on US. 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 mini-
mum of 12-hour shifts until further
notice," said Eason Jordan, presi-
dent of newsgathering and chief
news exec at CNN News Group.
At the suggestion of "60 Min-
utes" creator Don Hewitt, the major
television nets agreed to share all
footage gathered during the terror-
ist attacks and their aftermath.
"Don said, 'This is a national
crisis. There should be nothing pro-
prietary about it,' " a CBS spokes-
woman said.
CBS News topper Andrew Hey-
ward contacted CNN Newsgroup
chairman and CEO Walter Isaacson
and NBC News prexy Neal Shapiro,
who readily agreed to sham Ibotagc.
The exchange marked unprece-
dented cooperation among the usu-
ally uncompetitive newsies. ABC
and Fox were not contacted since
they already sham footage with
CBS through Network News Ser-
vice (NNS).
"We're competitive by nature.

A woman watches news from a
Hagerstown, Md., Tuesday after pi
Center and the Pentagon.

wall of TV sets at a Sears in
anes crashed into the World Trade

but given the horrific nature of
whalt happened, we decided to put
some of our competitive juices
aside and try to do what? in the
best interest of the people, which is
to give them as much information
as possible," CNN's Jordan said.
MSNBCt Brian Williams
summed it up best when he said on-
air, "Itt not a day to be competitive.
Ift a day to cover a national tragedy."

Sibling synergy

Meanwhile, corporate synergy
came into play as niche cablers re-
ferred 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.
"Wt^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."

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National Geographic and Fox
Family switched to Fox News carry
in the day, but returned to regular
pmgramming at 3 p.m. EOT. "Nct-
works 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 un-
like during the first hours aAer the
Oklahoma City bombing in 1995
— news anchors and commenta-
tors were cautious about drawing
any conclusions about who was re-
sponsible for the terrorist attacks.
"The same standards apply to
this story as to any other story —
people need to use good news judg-
ment. I don't think there t any spec-
ulation going on," an NBC News
spokeswoman said.
CNNt Aaron Brown said, "In
our reporting, we're going to be a
bit conservative. This is already
horrendous, and we don't need tog
make it worse." "
Because of the newsies' re-
straint, little misinformation was
circulated, but there were a couple
of minor glitches. ABCa Peter Jen-
nings reported that a car bomb ex-
ploded outside the State DepL, 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 Em-
pire State Building was evacuated.
Having lost their WTC transmit-
ters, Gotham stations WWOR,
WNYW, WNET, WPIX, WABC
and WNJU (Telemundo) were
knocked off the air either temporary
ily or all day.
(Melissa Grego in Los Angeles
contributed to this report.)