

SEPTEMBER 2001/Between Friends Part One

By John Alexander and Laurence Wilson

WHY WE LIKE IT: *911 introduced a new 'Age of Anxiety' and changed the comfort zone of the USA (and by extension the globe) forever. What follows is an absorbing account of the events seen through the correspondence of two friends. Because their communication is through email you might call it something like 'virtual belles-lettres'—an updated spawn of the Romantic epistolary. The letters between the two close friends, one in NYC and one in Toronto, begins on the day of destruction and last until Nov. 29. Numerous exchanges detail the events immediately following the attacks and there are human stories that touch us deeply—a man who fell 70 stories only to break both legs—most others were not so lucky. A penetrating CNF account of both the physical and emotional havoc suffered by New Yorkers and empathized by a world shaken to its boots. The style leans towards the dramatic and 'Between Friends' could just as easily be read as a theatrical script—there is starkness to the whole thing that is not far from the bare stage. This is a serial submission. Part Two will be published in Issue 7.*

BETWEEN FRIENDS

**Written and Compiled
by
John Alexander and Laurence Wilson
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BETWEEN FRIENDS

September 11, 2001- Tuesday- Bayside, Queens- Mid- Afternoon-

John Alexander wrote to Laurence Wilson:

Hello Laurence:

What a fucking nightmare.
The cops have done excellently.
The place is under a controlled siege.
They have buses nose-to-nose blocking streets where
they don't want people to go.
Every fucking truck is being stopped and checked.
Cars that are simply standing, waiting to pick up
someone are physically "assaulted" by the cops to
move, move, move and keep moving.
Fire trucks, cops everywhere- every intersection.
Very sad.
This is obviously a second Pearl Harbor.
It will radically change foreign policy.
Remember, you have an extremely conservative

“Southern” president in charge.
There are two aircraft carriers on the way to NYC Harbor.
The Air Force has jets in the air over NYC, challenging all planes and the jets are free to shoot down any plane that neither respond nor comply.
More later.
John

September 11, 2001- Tuesday- Toronto, Ontario- 7:03 PM-

Laurence Wilson wrote to John Alexander:

John, hello!...thank you so much for connecting at a time like this!

Maurice and I have been watching since about 9:30am and have been amazed that one minute you have normalcy, two landmark buildings and the next you have chaos and no buildings!

...John, how could they not know about this?...and more importantly, how do you recruit four terrorists prepared to commit suicide and able to fly 757/767's...what a scouting department!...the NFL Combine should be so effective!

John, I'm so happy to hear you're safe...hope you're cool and coping... stay in touch...we'll be thinking about you!...regards, Laurence

September 12, 2001- Wednesday- Queens- Mid-Morning-

John Alexander wrote:

Laurence:

It is the truly classical example of the barbarians at the gate.

I've always lived by the rule that- "I really don't give a fuck who they are or how they live or what they do as long as they follow the rule of law and don't revolt."

I think that what should come out of this in terms of policy is that continental security has to take precedence over national sovereignty. Reports- in part- have it that they were operating out of Portland, Maine via Canada.

I think that the RCMP and the Canadian equivalent of the CIA- I think that there are also 4 letters in that abbreviation- need to begin to see the problem as an hemispheric problem.

I have mentioned to you before that I am particularly concerned about Canadian immigration policy- and I say this as someone who lived in Canada for a while- as a child- and not only have formatively fond memories of life there (hell, if my parents would've stayed longer and introduced me to hockey, as a 17 year old junior defenseman

I would have been 6' 1" 185 in 1964- damn, boy, the Lindros of his day)- anyway, it is particularly disturbing to me about a country that I consider a second home, that immigration policy (and, again, we've talked about this) that so many people are being let into the country- Canada- who really don't give a fucking flying shit about Canada at all. This WTC bombing should be seen as a wake-up for Canadian immigration policy. If this shit does not get destroyed at the root, what makes the fucks in Ottawa or T.O. think that the CN Tower might not be next?

That goes for the Euros, too. When is it going to be the lottery win for the Eiffel Tower or Parliament or Red Square?

Why, because the Americans can be hit?

This fucking hemisphere needs a policy.

I know that it is the sentiment in NYC- even before the WTC destruction- that immigration- in the U.S.- is too fucking lax; I know it sounds xenophobic.

Canada is particularly perplexing to me; a friend of mine was Eastern European, his wife was from the Balkans, he got a Ph.D. in the States, went to work for an international think-tank in Europe, wanted to immigrate to Canada- and the immigration people told him that for each of his family members (4) that they had to have \$25,000. in the bank/person.

Yet on the other hand it seems that any crackpot fuck can get off a plane- probably in Montreal- walk through customs and fucking disappear.

Again, I'm not blaming anyone, but we need a hemispheric policy.

I think that something is wrong when customs agents in T.O. ban books coming into Canada with titles like "Hot, Hotter, Hottest!" thinking that it is sexual material (when in fact it is an hot pepper cookbook) and the same agency lets in scores of fucking people who don't give a fuck about Canada- and you know, if they don't give a particular fuck about Canada, they probably don't give a fuck about democratic/parliamentary institutions or the rule of law.

Yes, it is disturbing to watch Canadian immigration policy undermining a wonderful country- and I'm talking about Canada- that I have loved since I started going there as a wee little one.

Again, for Ottawa and T.O.- we don't even want to start about Vancouver- this is as clear a wake-up call as there is going to be.

We need, again, an hemispheric policy- we are an "island" we can work to keep a lot of the crazy fucks out.

I don't think that George W. is going to allow himself to go down in history as the fuck who let anybody get away.

I would not be surprised to see tactical nukes being used in Afghanistan or some other such place.

NYC was already becoming xenophobic even before the WTC- it is going to really get cranked up now.

The still unsettled issue that is being downplayed in Manhattan is the possible introduction of bio or chem contamination on the planes. Anthrax is often mentioned.

Like I said, yesterday, what a fucking mess.

I told one health professional that I am particularly close to- when they said that their hospital was deemed an emergency receipt institution- you won't see anything. It will be bi-polar. There will be the smoke-inhalation cases and the dead. The locals with

scratches and cuts will be treated in Manhattan, but the seriously injured, they will be few and scarce.

Talk to you later.

John

September 12, 2001- Wednesday- Toronto- 1:15 PM-

Laurence Wilson wrote:

John, hello!...thanks for your mail today and your views on the need for continental security and today's currently useless immigration policies!

...because of misguided liberal views, our immigration policies enable the wrong kind of people to move much more freely than should be permitted...all in the guise of civil liberties vs. sanity... unfortunately because of indifference, incompetence and this country is too often, too tolerant and allows a flow through for undesirables: people, drugs, money, toxic waste and several other harmful evils...

I'm not sure this will soon change...we're genetically coded to be tolerant, liberal pacifists!

...John, how fortunate, it appears, this was a low tech operation and didn't involve missiles or bio/chem contamination!...only some good ol' fashioned Molotov cocktails

Y2K-style!...but the toxins/asbestos and contaminated water will be a danger for months and longer!...

...here are some thoughts from your friend in the great white north:

- * the trauma and the emotion are just now beginning to become evident
- how managed the media is!...tiny drops of minutia but no insightful analysis only the giant spin machine spewed by mindless, unintelligent talking heads... nothing investigative which would be a sign of intelligence!
- will any of the steel, rebar end up in Canada's steel mills?
- * who were the airport collaborators who let these guys through to gates to the planes?...why aren't they in custody right now!?...every airport has its clan of gate people and baggage handlers on the take...it's the second oldest profession and has been around in stables, ports, stations and borders since the beginning of the ages
- is there anything more important than that black box in a Penna. farm field?
- or, the ground to air tapes of air traffic controllers?
- * Kabul, Afghanistan Tuesday, September 11, 6:00pm ET... those bombs had to be the actions of on-the-ground CIA operatives with the ties to Northern Alliance who oppose the Taliban...it couldn't have just been the Northern Alliance launching a few scuds
- didn't the civilian crowd on the scene at the Westin Copley remind you of the unauthorized gawkers who were at the jail in Dallas with Oswald/Ruby!?...don't they use police lines and secure the area these days in Boston?!
- will there be a number of "mysterious" disappearances in the next year of Bin Laden, Castro, Gaddafi-types...ethnic cleansing under the guise of retribution?
- the type of stuff on the net never ceases to amaze me!...flightexplorer.com is one site and another is ifccfbi.com
- 17,000 travelers stranded in Newfoundland today...
- who owns the company(ies) contracted out to supply gate checks around the world...are they ultimately a part of this and other conspirator groups?
- Vero Beach, Boston, Providence, Daytona, Venice, Coral Springs...serendipity/groping vs. proactive/proficiency?

- did those buildings collapse or were they demolished by explosive detonations?...they looked a lot like those old Las Vegas casinos that were blown up?
- why didn't anyone know those buildings would tumble from explosives or structural compromise and who ordered those fire/police people into the zone?
- here's the Gordian knot: a failure to know what you don't know
- is it just me noticing but are all the talking heads white?
- will this story last nine days- the usual cycle of "big stories"?

...I know you would have been the forerunner to Lindros if you had stayed in Canada!:)...keep the faith...regards, Laurence

P.S....I think CSIS is the Canadian intelligence gathering you're thinking about?

September 12, 2001- Wednesday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

My Dear Young Man:

Yes, yes, yes- to everything.

You know, I am living less than 5 miles from LaGuardia; sometimes there are so many flights- the bedroom faces westward toward LaGuardia- that I have to drop the curtain to keep the lights out of the room; there was- before all this (BAT) a time when there was a takeoff every forty-five seconds around the clock; so what I'm saying; I was at the ocean, today; a stretch of national recreation land called Breezy Point; maybe 3 miles from JFK; there were no airplanes at all; it reminded me of when they turned off Niagara Falls; to walk from the parking lot to Breezy Point proper- along the beach- and believe it or not, now after Labor Day, basically uninhabited- it's a couple of miles out and a couple of miles back; anyway, no planes, none on the way out at 5:15 PM; but, my good man, on the way back, three B-52's, very high; all headed eastward; my guess; on to bases in

Turkey- and easy bombing run to Afghanistan; a coordinated B-52 (yes, shades of North Vietnam) and cruise missile attacks on the camps in Afghanistan and probably Pakistan; I went past lower Manhattan, today, on the Queens side of the East River, you cannot get into Manhattan by car or foot- from the south or east; the smoke over the island was very surreal; still black smoke coming out of office buildings; though, because the WTC faces- with a gap- to the southwest- it was impossible to see any rubble or damage; just smoke; the funny thing about this whole fucking thing is that these radical Muslims have really sounded the true come to the starting block call for Islam as a religion; this bombing on such a horrific scale in the name of religious zealotry- holy war- whether they realize it or not- will call Islam to the blocks; either they will show that they are a bona fide religious belief system for the next millennium or they will demonstrate that they are the religious equivalent of the Neanderthals; a belief line that grew out of the Judeo-Christian crucible and either evolved into that which will be a viable, compassionate religion or whether it is truly just some dead branch of the J-C tree; the choice is theirs; the moderates in Islam HAVE to come forth and unilaterally condemn this action as NOT being in the name of Islam and Allah; short of that shit; they're fucked; it will increasingly be seen, then, as simply a tribal religion that has hatred at and as its core principle.

Again, you are right to be concerned for Canada; perhaps the WASP-ANGLO establishment in Canada really doesn't give a flying fuck for anything Canadian, but just for themselves; the fucks probably all have either Swiss or off-shore bank accounts as we speak; you know, maybe in some small way, that is "the French problem;" maybe the real core of the French problem is that they refuse to be bought off like the rest of Anglo Canada? I don't know; I hope that you don't feel that I'm off-line here; but like I said, I love Canada; the only teacher who ever reasoned with me was in a 2 room schoolhouse in this fishing village on Lake Erie- so, in some ways, I feel like I have latitude; so, keep up the fight (remember when we talked- some two years ago- that at that time we had less than 1,000 weeks to live) and die knowing that you did the best that you could to try and protect and preserve something you cherish; the Euros know that they better not fail us on this fucking one; not after getting their fucking asses out of their last "problem;"

Putin better fucking step up to the plate as well; and if the fucking Chinese ever want any sort of normalcy- they better get really fucking smart really fucking fast; yes, the cops are out all over; b & whites (actually they are blue); unmarked; off duty; national guard- though the locals have been excellent in this existential moment; no gouging, no looting; for NYC- very civilized; I heard today that my step-daughter who lives in Brooklyn had an appointment at the WTC set for yesterday- a job interview- at 5 PM (lucky for her it wasn't at the usual time of interviews, like 10 AM); saw Ehud (as in Barak) on TV today, from London; very supportive, very encouraging- and, "...oh, by the way, let me tell you my laundry list of terrorist groups that the Americans should kill off; well, there is Hamas and Hezbollah..." please Ehud, we know who they fucking are, and okay, we will do your dirty work for you; analytically, Laurence; policy wise; if I were advising Bush; I suppose a couple of Arab civil wars would probably be good to foment; yeah, and maybe get all of those countries at each others' throats, again; it will give them a distraction and kill off some fair portion

of not only the general population, but the young and foolish terrorist types; but GWB hasn't called yet; so I wait and watch the plumes in the western sky.
More later from the battle front;
John

September 12, 2001- Wednesday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

One thing that I forgot:

There is an extremely tragic aspect of the destruction of the WTC that is being "skipped over" by the media, probably for the sake of sanity;
when you piece together the accounts, and films and stories- Laurence, there were a great- emphasis on great- number of people who jumped rather than be burned alive;
one story of a man who climbed out of a 70-something story window and actually tried to shimmy down the side of the building; he made it down three stories before he fell backwards to his death;
another man and woman- maybe a couple, perhaps an office romance- held hands and jumped from the 81st floor;

a firefighter on the ground who was killed by someone who jumped and landed right on top of him;
a woman who jumped and before she hit the ground hit a signage structure and then ceased to be recognizable as a woman;
the people on the scene said that they always landed on their backs; the sound became unmistakable;
these are the very true and tragic choices that people were faced with; either die from the smoke and jet fuel on the 82nd floor- or be courageous and jump;
very sad;
anyway; ambulances going by all night long; sirens only at intersections, but it has become part of the aural landscape;
reporting to you from the new American theme park called, "Disasterland."
(but, with branch parks opening very soon in other parts of the world)
John

September 12, 2001- Wednesday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

By the way, I forgot to share,
Laurence, Americans are still "cowboys;" yes, we may have been bucked off the fucking horse in Vietnam, but that cowboy mentality is very much alive and well in the American psyche.
Not since Pearl Harbor have the Americans had the moral high-ground to truly ride, again.
The Gulf War came close, but that was an economic concern, with military actions being set against weekly polling support holding it in check.
Frankly, we know that all the Euros are morally bankrupt. It would be nice to have Canadian support.

NYC was probably the wrong place to attack, because this now puts the liberal voices into the southern-conservative camp, and no voice will speak against military action. Particularly no NYC liberal voice. It is a metro area of over 22 million people. They have been galvanized to be cowboys, too.
More later.
John

September 13, 2001- Thursday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Laurence:

Tonight; they arrested one fuck at JFK trying to get on a plane impersonating a pilot; and another at LaGuardia trying to get on a plane impersonating a crew member.

Need to get them.

John

September 14, 2001- Friday- Toronto- 8:49 AM-

Laurence Wilson wrote:

John, hello!...thanks for your mail yesterday!

...I like your acronym BAT- before all this!...and your musings about: a walk on a Long Island beach with B-52's above; the blockade of Manhattan; the terrorists as, "the religious equivalents of Neanderthals"; living only 30,000 days on this planet; what a team the Euros, Putin and the Chinese might be; Ehud; jumping, shimmying down, and holding hands on the jump, landing on their backs and the unmistakable sound; the eerie aural scene; "Disasterland" and branch parks opening soon...

...John, you're the shrink- why do some people flee and survive and others not?...and also who jumps and who doesn't and why?

- how long have these guys been vacationing in North America?
- all that dust was concrete turning into dust
- between 12/24 terrorists on the four planes and a huge support group still on the ground...and nobody connected the dots?
- I was at Penn State when Kennedy backed down the Russian ships during the Cuban Missile Crisis...he threatened to attack if they didn't turn back...I thought about how I'd get home when war began...I actually thought walking would be best...I'm sure many of the 250,000 stranded travelers from all over the world had the same compulsion to get home and were/are frustrated by being stranded
- can Barry Bonds still get 72 home runs if more games are postponed/cancelled...the conspiracy people will love this one!
- is there anything more inspiring than a flag, an anthem and a lit candle?
- have the last two days seemed as quiet, gentle and as slow and quiet as Sundays?
- how about that J. C. Watts speaking out for the use of force to resolve the attack
- how many Canadians will be entangled in the "harbouring" web?...and Americans for that matter?
- by the time everyone gets home, there will be some huge bills to pay as people leave the airport parking garages!:)
- you'll know we're back to normalcy when the networks resume their regular programming...they've already taken some hits because they haven't been able to launch their season premiers!
- CNN's videophone quality certainly improved between day one and day three!...and how wonderful it is that we can have text, audio and/or video conversations with each other on the net!...John do you have videomeeting capabilities on your PC?
- who was that guy who sang "Amazing Grace" to Congress at Tuesday night's prayer vigil?...wow!

- John, how did they get out the WTC windows to jump?
- more surgical-type face masks on day 3...the wind could become significant
- will we know more about Al Qaeda as the days go by?
- “through the tears of sadness, I see an opportunity” - Bush
- how much longer before the U. S. visits Afghanistan?
- was Osama the QB and Saddam the coach?...or is it all Saddam?

...John, just a few more musings from the north...connect again from the front when you can...take care, be fine...regards, Laurence

September 14, 2001- Friday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Laurence:

Of course I haven't yet mentioned about being awakened by fighter jets in the middle of the night.

Obviously, with 20 U.S. cities- and probably T.O., Montreal, Gander, etc., having fighter jet protection- and Laurence, you all may think that T.O. doesn't have it, but they're probably sitting right out there on the U.S. side of Lake Ontario- there is big shit that we don't know about going on.

This last e-mail is more problematic (in a good sense) than the one that I totally agreed with.

Oh, by the way, I am going into Manhattan, tomorrow, and see how far down to Ground Zero I can get.

Why do some flee and others don't?

And, who jumps/who doesn't and why?

To start; some guy climbed out onto the outside of something like the 70th something floor; grasped the exterior structure- then the building collapsed; he rode the external structure all the way down to the ground and "walked away" with only two broken legs; hell, Laurence, the fucking shock and terror- no pun intended- of being 70 stories up and out alone should kill you from shock!

Anyway, he made it, and good for him;

The original question; it is tied to the second about jumping; I am writing a short story about my encounter with the Georgia Patrol at about 4:15 AM and looking down a shotgun because they thought I was someone else; the question, do I freak and get pissed or am I cool; it is, I believe, instantaneous; in my situation, I had "more time" to think/react than those folks who might have tried the 2 stairwells, found them blocked, saw the flames consuming their associates (though, they are now saying that so many remains will probably not be found because when the jets hit and the fuel tanks exploded the people were- and I quote- vaporized. Sad to say.

It is probably part genetic part extreme existential moment; getting out of the 81st floor is something that probably has three finite possibilities; stairwell number one, stairwell number two or the elevator;

I told a General Practitioner once who kept asking me all of these personal questions; I said, "...do I ask you about your sex life; to wit, one has to live with dignity, grow old with dignity and then be prepared to pass on with dignity; sometimes we don't have a lot of time to think about dignity; sometimes we simply have to decide- they decided to jump; the same holds true for fleeing- maybe more so than jumping; I would categorize the decision to jump as a philosophical decision; to flee or not to flee; Laurence, very Jungian; the collective unconscious; how strong is it in you and how much in touch with it are you; - my point exactly; there are too many of these fucks "vacationing" in North America; - the concrete, yes; and the drywall; and the ceiling tiles; and the carpets; and probably the vaporized folk;

- Laurence, years and years from now it will be a perfect acetate overlay for Pearl Harbor and FDR; did they know, why didn't they stop it; maybe its like plate tectonics; volcanoes can let off pressure, rumbles can do the same, but sooner or later- tectonically- and, again, based on my remarks about Islam being at the crossroads- maybe this is the final societal shakeout that began hundreds and thousands of years ago; maybe it is, maybe it was inevitable; Hitler was a barbarian at the gate- and you know the sequence of events; right now I'm kind of pooped, but I think you know what I mean;

by the way; storms passed through here last night; the thunder/lightning woke me up (along with the jets) was it a bomb?

Yesterday, NYC had 90 bomb threats called in; everyone is gun shy;

today, the U.S. Congress rescinded the bar that kept the CIA and friends from working with anyone who had a criminal record;

Laurence, I have walked a lot of places- some very long- if these passengers don't fucking like it, well, then, get out and fucking walk;

Barry Bonds will probably do it; (He's resting, the pitchers aren't working, they'll be rusty- ops, I delivered up a homer; in other words; pitchers will skill-wise stagnate faster than the batters;

-is there anything more inspiring than a flag, an anthem and a lit candle?; yes, a flag, a lit candle and the "Battler Hymn of The Republic;" (far more vengeful; you know, the Civil War did happen, comparatively, so long ago; but what that song does is bring together both the Northern and Southern sentiments- albeit in different ways- to the front;

-yes; it has been very quiet; we have hit the Muslim fucks so many times on Friday nights (a call to prayers) or at "Ramadan-time" that they are probably expecting it; so what would I tell Bush to do? I would tell him to reverse Pearl Harbor; Sunday is the Christian day of rest; on what would amount to- what was it- 8:05 AM Eastern on a Sunday; I would hit the fucks; okay, that's my prediction; we will hit them on a Sunday morning; at either the same "Pearl Harbor Time" either for us or at their time (actually irrelevant);

-J. C. Watts is running for president;

-I don't think a lot of Anglo-Canadians or Anglo-Americans; but some fair proportion of the other folk;

-hey, this is fucking America; sue the air-fucking-port!

-yeah, and I keep expecting to see commercials when Dan Rather or Peter Jennings takes a break;

(Peter Jennings- now that is one hell of a fucking success story!!!);

-Laurence, maybe you can be so kind as to tell one relatively ignorant fuck what videomeeting is all about?

-I don't know who sang "Amazing Grace" but I'll try and find out;

-as I understand, some windows- throughout the tower, because of the g's and force of the impact were blown out; I have also read that people knocked them out themselves;

-yes, today, I got surgical masks to take with me into Manhattan tomorrow;

-we will know what we need to know;

-George W. will not go down in history as the same kind of president that John Quincy Adams went down as; also, I think that George W. does have unresolved issues from his father and the Gulf War and the inability to "put Saddam away." He will put Bin Laden away;

(by the way, I understand that Putin and Bush are close to agreeing to allow American- maybe NATO- forces to use Russian bases in Central Asia for attacks on Afghanistan; the price, the trade- the quid pro quo- Russia will be admitted to NATO;)

-yes, George W. is more correct than he and his uptight librarian wife understand; we are now living at a truly cosmic moment in the history of man; sort of like the discovery of fire; the wheel- and, I'm sorry to say, if you remember the scene from "2001" with the ape at the beginning- the weapon;

Laurence, we are on the verge of possibly, just possibly setting the world onto the path of harmony and peaceful coexistence; though, similar to your concerns about Canada in our conversation in Richmond Hill- it may exhaust America; I think that we are tired,

Laurence; it has been a long haul- all things considered- since the Civil War; I have no doubts that we will crush the fucks- maybe it's me- but I think we are collectively tired; I understand that this is bringing us closer to the Russians and the Chinese- and, yes, the Brits are wonderful; they are truly our friends in the world, maybe our only tie-dyed-true-friends;

Chretien; if only Canada as a whole was like Jean- you're more than our friends, but Canada is always so quiet; so cautious; the Brits could be terror bombed so much more easily- but they are always- vociferously- there with us; not that we need it, but, please Encourage the Monarchists to be FUCKING monarchists in sentiment AND word/deed; hey, you love the Brits? So be like the Brits;

-also I understand that the windows were breakable with desperate force;

-Afghanistan? I'll guess- for symbolic purposes- somewhere around Columbus Day weekend- actually your Thanksgiving- and I don't know what the Brits or the EU are celebrating; it will be much along the lines of Normandy; threat; threat; threat-GO!

-It is already decided that Afghanistan as a whole would only take a stick of dynamite to send it back to the Stone Age;

-there are the Ravens and the Bengals; Saddam will die;

Laurence; this has been a tiring week; the Middle Eastern fucks think that we are weak and fat; but put differently, who would you bet on, a fat cowboy or a "towel-head?"

And as someone at an hospital on Wednesday told me that they were in an elevator with two men in the back and another nurse; the two men were speaking in a foreign language; the other nurse said, "...you know, considering what has gone on around here, I don't think that it's such a good idea to be talking in a foreign language. We speak English around here, why don't you try it..."

Laurence, there will be some serious death on both sides.

More from the front lines when I get back from Manhattan, tomorrow.

John

September 16, 2001- Sunday- Toronto- 8:47 PM-

Laurence Wilson wrote:

John, hello!...thanks for your mail of the 14th...I've been walking the beach since then and have only now had a chance to gather up all my day by day notes from each of the days and put them into a cogent form to pass along!

...first some thoughts on your e-mail:

- you're right, "we know nothing!"...the media presents less than 10% of reality

- the story about that guy riding the collapse down from the 70th floor and sustaining only two broken legs has got to be bull!
- It's good Congress rescinded the former rule about not working with criminals!...you can't talk to a tennis player about covering a kickoff and you can't knife Osama with a guy from Harvard!...only truly evil minds can do truly evil deeds
- I like your Bonds story
- you're right, the "Battle Hymn" does rouse the soul!
- can Watts win it?...and does Powell become the first one?
- videomeeting is when you and I turn on our PC's and talk live like Nick did on CNN from Kabul...don't you have a little web camera on top of your PC to shoot your picture to my screen?...it usually costs about C\$80
- it would be good for Russia to be in NATO!
- I never thought of W. having any unresolved issues from his pop's inability to dust Saddam!...you're right it makes sense!...maybe W. gets both Saddam and Osama!
- Afghanistan is already in Barney Rubble time!
- the Americans aren't tired John!...all that stuff since the Civil war has just been regular season stuff...this will be the playoffs for the survival of the planet!
- I love your elevator story

...now John, here's some more thoughts, feelings and impressions from your northern observer:

DAY 4

- will they build or not build on the WTC site?...should they?
- will they build a black wall with all the names on the WTC site?
- will there be more names on it than on the black walled Vietnam Memorial?
- they passed the plate at that church service, it looked strange...never miss an opportunity I guess!
- I bet Turner would have donated a bundle, like lots of other have, if he didn't have to worry about payments to Jane!
- it rained most of the day...and they've been pouring on the fire hoses yet its still smoking!
- my sister in Jacksonville, Florida says she's never seen as many flags flying
- how would things be if Gore were in the chair?

- “the middle hour of our grief” – Bush
- to play or not to play...do you not play and appear to be giving in to terrorists or do you play and appear to be disrespecting the dead?
- maybe this event is intended to show us there’s only one planet and we’d better start playing together rather than fighting each other or it’s the end of the earth
- isn’t the first step: implementing the “Cuban Solution” against Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Iran, Colombia, Algeria, Panama and Libya?
- “the commitment of our fathers is now the calling of our time” – Bush
- CNN changed it’s title from “America Under Attack” to “America’s New War” on Day 4
- 19 Arabs on the 4 planes are identified!
- contrails in the sky over Canada for the first time since Tuesday...many in the late day heading west

DAY 5

- “recreational bitching” about the power, impact, and arrogance of the U.S....is still a game played by dipsticks!
- forget about “Survivor”...this gives new meaning to the words “reality TV”
- for the first time since Tuesday I feel like reading newspaper accounts of the horror
- here’s an example of a wrong right solution: “let’s go to the top of the building, the sprinklers will put out the fires and the helicopters will pick us up!”

- “we’ll smoke’em out of their holes” – Bush
- by Saturday night September 15 the TV networks have returned to regular programming but MLB, NFL, CFL and others weren’t playing?...and won’t until Monday 17th?
- what will the Pennsylvania and Pentagon airplane voice recorders, found yesterday reveal?
- “Operation Noble Eagle” – the name given today to the call up of 50,000 reservists...the acronym is O.N.E.!
- 5,000 people still reported missing, 260 dead from the four airplanes, 124 reported dead at the Pentagon and only 159 dead at the WTC...do they seem like comparatively low numbers to you?
- John, where are they putting that 22,000 tons of debris from ground zero?...and they say that there’s more than a million plus tons yet to come!

DAY 6

- how successful will the Pakistani politicians be when they meet the Afghan government and ask for the Taliban to deliver Osama Bin Laden in three days?
- 180 N. Y. deaths, 115 identified, over 5,000 missing as of noon Sunday
- what’s up in Tajikistan?...why the heck haven’t they “signed up?”
- how important it would be to know the precise timeline!!...when? did who? know what? was happening? how? did they respond, why?

- I wonder who the very best thinkers are in the world? And are they providing needed knowledge and wisdom to the U.S. and its allies to solve this?
- if the timeline for understanding what happened Tuesday morning is important, then, what's very much more important is what's the timeline from today to say, one year from today?...and have the best thinkers put that gameplan together step by step? Or are there just a bunch of woodbutchers flappin' their lips?
- why no news on what the Penn and Pentagon black boxes revealed?...they were found yesterday?
- 88% of people polled support military intervention to retaliate...wow!
- how will the markets open tomorrow?...more importantly, where will it close?
- what does the assassination last week of the Northern Alliance guy have to do with all this?...if that was round one and the attacks were round two, what's round three?
- what happened in the 12 minutes between the FAA warning and the plane crashing into the Pentagon?
- Rosh Hashanah begins September 18..please don't let this be another day of horror!

John, hope all's well and that you'll send a bit when you return from Manhattan...regards,
Laurence

September 17, 2001- Monday- Toronto- 4:51 PM-

Laurence Wilson wrote:

John, hello!...here's some more from your northern observer but first where the heck are you?

- my niece in St. Louis sent me the attached words to a Randy Newman song from the '70's...powerful!

- the singing of anthems at baseball games in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia were strange because there was mostly clapping at the end and not the mighty roar that usually follows...America is still bruised for sure!
- the CFL plays three of its four games tonight after they were cancelled on the weekend...they still haven't decided when a fourth cancelled game will be played...what matters when you decide when to reschedule you need to consider stadium, travel, hotel and television!...the CFL made a wrong right decision!...none will be televised!!
- the Dow Jones was down 684.81 to 9820...about the same 7% it fell in '63 and '42...including today it'll take three days to determine what's up but there are no recessions during war!

...be in touch when you can...regards, Laurence

Sheri R. Maxwell wrote:

My new favorite song attached. It's off an old Randy Newman album that was released in the early '70s...srm

No one likes us; I don't know why.
 We may not be perfect, but heaven knows we try.
 But all around, even our old friends put us down.
 Let's drop the big one, and see what happens.

We give them money; are they grateful?
 No, they're spiteful, and they're hateful.
 They don't respect us, so let's surprise them.
 Let's drop the big one and pulverize them.

Asia's crowded; Europe's too old.
 Africa is far too hot, and Canada's too cold.
 South America stole our name.
 Let's drop the big one; there'll be no one left to blame.

We'll save Australia; don't want to hurt no kangaroo.
 We'll build an all-American amusement park there.
 They got surfin' too!

Boom goes London! Boom, Paree!
 More room for you and more room for me.
 And every city the whole world round
 Will just be another American town.

Oh, how peaceful it will be! We'll set everybody free!
You wear a Japanese kimono babe, Italian shoes for me.
They all hate us anyhow, so let's drop the big one now.

Randy Newman

September 17, 2001- Monday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Laurence:

First I will bring you up to date, then I'll respond to your e-mail.
By the way, did I tell you that George W. was a cowboy; today he's saying that he wants bin Laden "Dead or Alive."

Saturday- September 15, 2001-

Took the Long Island Railroad in from Queens; if you sit in the front car you can see the track ahead;
damn, Laurence, the guy went through the tunnel under the East River at about 100 mph!
I said to myself, if he turns one of these bends and there is a train there we're all dead!
fuck riding in the front, again;
lots of cops at Penn Station; maybe a hundred; standing around; walking;
I got out at W 34th Street, walked east to Broadway and then headed south;
cops at every intersection;
got to the 26th Street and Lexington Ave. Armory;
cops, troopers, lots of military;
vigils to the missing and the dead; lots of pictures, grief counselors on the street;
preachers on the street; armory guarded by the military;
returned to Broadway, went down to Union Square Park; many vigils, candles, people praying, singing; crying, looking for anyone that can help them find their missing (fill in the blank);
continued south on Broadway to Canal Street;
Laurence, if you've ever been on Canal Street- lots of fucking deals; leather coats for \$15.00 USD- you name it; normally it is a zoo;
Saturday it was beyond that;
cops, troopers, some military, bulldozers, cranes, ambulances, reporters, supporters- in fact it was far faster- and probably safer- to get out in the street and walk (which I did) than stay on the sidewalks;
the closer you got to Ground Zero (and Canal Street began the northern boundary of the "freeze zone") (by the way, Giuliani said today that he's gotten calls from all over the country from people all over the country asking how they could help. He said in an interview that he tells them to come visit NYC and spend money.)
I worked my way down below Canal Street; after that the entire place is taken over by the military with a smattering of NYPD
I got to within 2 blocks of the site; saw the façade of the WTC;
brought a mask, had to wear it, the fumes were getting bad;
the streets had that white washed over pale to them; most of the WTC debris has been cleaned up but in locked parking lots there was lots of debris as well as in grassy demolished sites;
I hadn't even thought about picking stuff up, but once I realized what people were doing, I said, what the hell; got a business card from some guy from the 104th Floor- ironically the Boomer Esiason Foundation- he was President; that was three blocks away; it was at the base of some bushes in a greenspace; found lots of economic paperwork; also found a picture of two people;
saw a pair of a woman's shoes in the debris; along with computer parts; Xerox parts; all in all very strange;
everyone was civil and respectful;
It was an interesting experience; I really got a chance to feel what was going on;

Now to your e-mail;
no, the guy riding the façade down was true, has been in the papers;
- yes, you're right, you can't limit your hand; if you're going to fight evil, you must at least have evil consultants;
- Watts is some years away; he needs a "political moment;"
- Powell has it if he wants it;
- no, right now I don't have videomeeting; shall I say, the circumstances are a bit costly, at the moment;
- you're right to put it into football playoff analogy terms;
- that land is so valuable; they've already been talking about rebuilding- bigger and higher- fuck the terrorists;
- I'll go with the wall, but it should be blood red;
- passing the plate- Laurence what the fuck else is new;
- Ted and Jane had big-time prenuptials; no loss there;
- Laurence, it's still smoking today;
- yes, lots and lots of flags, even for NYC;
- you know, I voted for Gore, but I think we need a cowboy; Al is not a cowboy; Lieberman would have died of fright;
- you respect the dead to a point and then play;
- I agree, we are only one planet;
- I am not sure what you mean by the Cuban Solution; but I think that counter-terrorism should be exactly that; these hijackers have families and friends and wives and lovers; they need a distraction; start killing some of them off
- yeah, recreational bitching should reconvene their next meeting at the base of either WTC Tower 1 or 2;
- definitely reality TV;
- top of the building, the sprinklers will work; many people suffering guilt when they survive and the person at the next desk perished; was it simply the choice of picking the right stairwell; or was it something that goes back to the savanna's of Africa; do you have to see the lion before you start running or simply sense; the time in between was probably the difference between life and death- why should it be different; because we wear suits instead of loincloths? Please!
- voice recorders PA/Pentagon/ the passengers fought back;
Laurence, I told someone today that we were truly lucky; these were fucking stupid Arabs; Laurence, just think if some group had the efficiency of the Germans? God help us all; thank God they were fucking stupid Arabs (or towel-heads as they are called around here);
- the numbers are out; you know the NY Times ran a floor by floor of the WTC Towers; believe it or not; most people got out in that small space of time; the numbers could have been as high as 50,000;
- they are putting it where they put all the NYC garbage- on Staten Island at a closed dump- hell, no ski area there!
- bin Laden and the Pakistanis, my guess, bin Laden will either buy more time saying he's doing an internal investigation (like its some sort of business), anyway, he'll come up with some fucking scapegoat(s) who will confess to operating independently and offer them up as a ruse;

- Laurence, I don't want to sound arrogant, but Tajikistan- what the fuck is that a drink?
- I personally don't think that there was as extensive a time-line as they think; I think that because Islam and the jihad are so tribal, the disturbing thought is that these people are around all of us, having been prepared, maybe five years ago to be called on; I think that in the spirit of guerilla warfare it would behoove them to have them trained and ready and then the plan goes down in a couple of days;
- the U.S. needs some very unique thinkers;
- international time-line; the banks have to get together; countries need to be held accountable; a worldwide sort of Interpol- intelligence agency has to be formed; the only time-line is when the last terrorist is dead;
- the market will struggle; but I know people who have to invest in the market, they just want the stock prices to fall a bit more; it will rebound within a week;
- round three was probably going to be a Taliban push on the Alliance; got distracted, Bush came on strong with the Pakistanis and the cowboy shit; GWB has threatened to overthrow the Taliban if they don't get their shit together;
- 12 minutes; caught unaware; though, I'm sure you've been to D.C.; tougher to shoot down decisions there than even in NYC;
- helicopters were out last night;
- carriers are still around;
- I see that T.O. and Montreal are figuring into this;
- again, I will leave you with the thought; they are not sent here with a mission; they are sent to do various different recons and then wait; once the recon data is in place all it would take would be a month or two; the five year shit is a very Western way of seeing a Middle Eastern zealous mind; it is not cause/effect; the reason that they were so much like us was because they actually were; if the call never came they would have lived and died with us; there is a different mindset here;
- the U.S. gov. and the world needs to take a page out of the velociraptor manual; learn and adapt, adapt and learn and then strike;
you're a good guy, Laurence;
keep it up.
take care from your southern cousins,
John

September 18, 2001- Tuesday- Toronto- 1:53 PM-

Laurence Wilson wrote:

John, hello!...wow, what a compelling story of your trip to the WTC area!...glad you took the time to write it...I wonder if our grandchildren will have a chance to read our exchanges?...here's some thoughts on the one week anniversary...I wanted to send this at 8:48am!...a little late though:

- vigils to the missing and the dead

- * police, grief counselors, troopers, preachers, military on the streets...how strange that sounds
- how desperate and disconsolate those people on the street must be not able to find family, friends and loved ones!
- how amazing there's no looting!...where is Boomer by the way?...no sports or entertainment people talking on the networks...if they are our "role models" why aren't they "role-ing"?
- September "Mourn" not morn!
- * "do you have to see the lion before you start running or simply sense"...John, I like that one!...I like all your insights!...thanks for sharing!
- and John, you're right, still smoking!
- what I meant by the Cuban solution is you wall them off- no trade, no aid, no immigration, totally put an embargo on everything and tightened it down daily...Cuba would have withered much more if the USSR didn't step in...but without any country saving the terrorist havens they'd knuckle under...and all the while you're doing that you're pickin'em off one terrorist at a time!

Take care, be fine...regards, Laurence

September 18, 2001- Tuesday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Laurence:
 Thanks for the latest e-mail.
 I will respond to it, but tomorrow.
 Today I am pretty pooped.
 Maybe the entire thing is catching up with me.

By the way, two of the NYC papers had bin Laden's picture on the front cover as in the old west with the caption above and below it saying,
"Wanted/Dead or Alive"

You know, North America has experienced this kind of terror before. Way back on the frontiers of NA when the Indians were going crazy plying terror on the settlers. Like I always have said to you, we got all the violent Indians (and now we get the fucking violent Arabs! What is wrong with this picture? How about if we give you folks some money to "adopt" some of the violent ones?)

Except in the East; a lot of them were violent; not so much on the coast- that was the lure- "...oh, come wonderful white settler; we will give you food so that you don't starve..."

what they didn't say is that they knew that the Iroquois Confederation would make life a bitch for the white folk.

But more in response, tomorrow.

I need to get some sleep.

Two hours on the Verrazano coming in; 2 hours on the Lincoln Tunnel coming in- and I'm talking about the wait in line to get in across the bridge or through the tunnel;
John

September 19, 2001- Wednesday- Toronto- 7:29 PM-

Laurence Wilson wrote:

John, hello!...thanks for your mail yesterday...here are some thoughts about your info:

- lots of newspapers with the "Wanted" poster here too!...

- * you're right the last terrorists were the Indians and just before/during their time the Yanks and Rebs were at each other perpetrating huge attacks of terrorism against each other...on American soil!
- John, is that gridlock traffic jam still going on?...how do people get/to from work/school?
- the market was up 100+ and ended 17 down on Tuesday and then today, closed down 140+...big drop Monday – day 1 and basically flat – days 2 and 3!...tomorrow will be a key day...maybe a slight rise?

...now, some additional observations from the north!...hope all's well and that your coping mechanisms are all still finely honed as ever!...a week has passed and we're still wondering what the hell will happen...some thoughts as dusk has ended:

- can anybody be alive there?...and why is there still smoldering and smoke?
- wow, 62 countries around the world lost people in last Tuesday's tragedies!
- now 50,000+ tons of debris removed as of yesterday!
- how about that Osama and his pals trying to profit in the market by short selling and puts on United and American Airlines!...that's real sucking and blowing by Osama?...maybe Saddam too??
- on Monday a German company RWE Ag bought New Jersey based American Water Works Co. Inc. for US\$4.6 billion...last month American Water Works bought Azuria, a Hamilton company once part of Phillips Environment...RWE supplies water to about 50 million people in Europe, North and South America...did Osama profit by Trading in American Water Works too?
- there seems to be a German connection in this whole scenario: terrorists were there before/after trips to U.S. and some of the pilot training schools in the U.S. had German employees...wazzup?
- was there a 5th plane?
- how would you feel if the last message you heard on your v-mail was the farewell of the person on this planet you loved the most?...by the way, do you push "save" or "erase"?
- John, is New York the greatest city in the world?
- do you like what Giuliani is doing? Pataki?

- John, are there individuals you see? hear? know about? that are making a difference in New York? America?
- have you ever seen such quiet in the stands following the National Anthem at MLB games?...eerie!
- and John tell me about what you've seen? Felt? During any sports events you may have checked out in the last couple of days
- who individually and/or which group is feeling the most pain?...and will be the most affected by this in the long run?
- people say, "we'll never forget!"...but they will!...they've forgotten 14,000 Americans were killed at Antietam in Maryland!...in the Civil War Americans killed thousands of other Americans...this is not the first incidence of terror on American soil...Americans have been terrorizing and killing in America, for years and after every loss of lives people say, "we'll never forget this" but they do!...when will we forget this one?

...John, take care...connect when you can...be safe...
regards, Laurence

September 20, 2001- Thursday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Dear Laurence:

Yeah, a strange mix with the various people around the Armory; and that doesn't include those people reading the missing posters or those giving out free food and drink or the tons of reporters and their cameras not to mention the tourists and the locals; yes, very desperate and disconsolate;

Union Square Park; at the north end there is an outdoor market and at the other there is the outdoor vigil; when I first- first time- got there, I came into the market end, beginning to wonder if I had read the map correctly; I even checked the park name sign; yep, Union Square Park; and, too, in between the market and the vigil were some homeless folk; very strange;

- yes; very amazing, no looting;

- good thought; where is Boomer and everyone else? And that's just football; what about the Yankees, Mets- hey, the Knicks; Ewing? Checketts; Grunfeld; hockey folk?

- NYC is the home of the NBA, NFL, MLB;

- home of the MLBPA; NBAPA;

you're right;

where are they?

- yes, they do need to be cut off; if everyone could do it to South Africa they can do it to some other country, too;

talk to you soon

John

September 20, 2001- Thursday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Laurence:

- yes, terrorism may have been conveniently forgotten here in America, but it is just beyond the horizon;

the Indians; Cochise; Geronimo; Pancho Villa; the white folk on the Indians; the British and the French getting their North American allies to create terror on each other and the middle colonists;

- and there was climatic terror; are there tornadoes in Europe; a lot of earthquakes; hurricanes hitting; think about the pioneers across the center of NA; just out for a walk and then it starts thundering in the distance; you look up and the skies are clear; then it starts thundering a little more and before you know it 2 million bison are stampeding; not to mention the prairie fires that just swept through whenever;

- the Civil War; even more mayhem;

- the market; I think people are going to see how low it can go before the smart ones buy at a steal;

- personally, I think people can still be alive;

they say that earthquake victims can live for up to 2 weeks;

- why the smoldering and smoke; as I understand it; when the buildings- all of them- came down they buried a hell of a lot of vehicles; not to mention the vehicles in all of the parking garages in the area; well, they are saying that as they uncover debris there are still little fires down there that once uncovered and given oxygen then burst out and eventually ignite the gas tanks of the cars in the garages; anyone want to guess on how many cars were in the underground garages around the WTC complex?

- yeah, 62 countries represented; amazing;

- short selling and puts; Laurence, think about this- and there are a couple of things operating here at the same time; I said to someone 2 days ago that if the Arabs were really smart and want to really get the country second-guessing they would hire Anglos to suicide the planes; in addition, I believe that to truly begin to understand something it is necessary to put your hand in the bag and turn it inside out; but the short selling and puts; consider this; maybe this wasn't a terrorist attack at all; maybe it was meant to look like one; maybe it was just one colossal way to make out in the markets; I guess it would all depend on how much folk were trying to profit; maybe the Arabs are simply (no racism intended here) the willing dupes; maybe bin Laden didn't do it nor did Saddam; maybe they were just stupid enough to do it so often that they would get (like Oklahoma City) blamed; and you have to wonder if McVeigh were not such a fucking idiot and sloppy with that license plate, would we still continue believing that the Arabs hit that, too; continuing; if this attempt to manipulate the market is plausible, consider this; there is/was a grand scale to the planning of this; I don't think it took five years, but the scope may be greater than bin Laden or Saddam might have ever conceived of in their little mickey mouse minds; there is a scope and a breath to this venture; lets turn the bag inside out now; if I was thinking that if the Arabs were really smart they'd hire Anglos to do their dirty work, why not the other way around; why not the Anglos- or some other non Arabs- hiring the stupid Arabs to do their dirty work; there is, again, a scope of this that rivals the final solution- and thus, with the bag turned inside out, maybe there is your German connection; or maybe broadening the bag, the fascist connection; the plan had elements of sneakiness (the Japanese); over-arching design (the Germans) and on and on;

- I understand there were suppose to be an undisclosed additional number of planes that never reached critical mass of action;

- you probably save it onto a separate tape and then erase it;

NYC has done well in this crisis; for as big and potentially unmanageable as it is they seem to have the capability to me; I guess we have to judge places on the criterion I use for people; as Rosanne Cash said, "...heartaches are heroes when their pockets are full..." well, I believe you can tell more about a person when you see how they deal with a crisis than you can tell about them over years of good times; the same holds true for cities; this was a crisis of phenomenal magnitude; not just in sheer numbers but considering the media play in a metro area of 22+ million folk; as you know the streets down there are tortuous; some of the streets are so narrow that a large Lincoln Town Car would have trouble making it down them; NYC has done well; maybe the greatest- or at least one of the greatest; I guess that now we are upping the criteria; major disaster have become a prime criterion; New York and London have to be right up there at the top; Moscow and Tokyo came close but no cigar; Berlin can get some points, but they were the bad guys, the same for Tokyo; Mexico City- zip; Buenos Aires, Rio Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, New Delhi, Jerusalem- anyone I'm forgetting? I Guess NYC and London are in class of their own;

- yes Giuliani is doing a great job! Pataki is being smart about letting Rudy take the lead; the press glows on him; Rudy got a bigger ovation than George W did when they toured the WTC site;

- by the way, did you see that Rome has withdrawn its Olympic bid for 2012 in favor of NYC?

- Rudy is making a difference here- big time; Colin Powell, nationally/internationally; Ashcroft is presenting himself well; has a good mid-southern accent; very easy to handle; The NYPD Commissioner is doing a great job; David Letterman did well to do what he did;

- Tagliabue should drop the blackout rule for the rest of the season; where is George Steinbrenner?

- I'll tackle the pain & affected question, tomorrow;

- did you know than in a vault(s) under the WTC there is 11.8 metric tons of gold and 30.2 million ounces of silver? And, do you know who owns the depository under the WTC (maybe not the gold and silver, but at least the depository)? It is called ScotiaMocotta (no space) Depository owned by Scotiabank of Toronto. They believe that they'll eventually get to it, but debris removal estimates think that it will be six months of debris removal before they can get to the shopping concourse beneath the towers; talk to you, tomorrow.

John

September 24, 2001- Monday- Toronto- 8:06 PM-

Laurence Wilson wrote:

John, hello...thanks for your mail of the 20th!...sorry I haven't been able to get back to you until now...it was our guy time at the beach...wish you could have been there!...here are some more thoughts...

Day 10 – Thursday, September 20, 2001-

- ouch, after four days of trading the Dow finished down 383 at the close on Thursday...that's 1200 points in the four days of trading since Monday's reopening!
- "we will not tire, we will not falter and we will not fail"- Bush
- * 6,333 now reported missing in New York, with 241 dead...in Washington 189 are reported dead and only 111 have been recovered...no survivors have been found in more than one week
- Pakistan has 140 million Muslims, many side with their Muslim brothers and sisters in Afghanistan and is it any surprise Pakistan won't move against Afghanistan's Taliban to bring bin Laden to justice?
- it rained again today in New York
- wow!...\$25 million dollar reward for information leading to bin Laden's capture!
- a new Cabinet-level position in charge of Homeland Defense
- Saudis, Egyptians and Jordanians all of whom have lots of Muslims, will all have a tough time when the US and their allies flatten Afghanistan...they'll be angry

Days 11 and 12 – Friday and Saturday September 21-22, 2001-

- the performers finally held their concert...on day 11!...it was huge!
- the fish rots from the head down...
- so, step one in the retaliation is all the diplomatic cut off financial, social, communication, trade, immigration and other activities, then the military stuff like air strikes, then assassinate, then big air bombs, then take the big

Schwarzkopf-like initiative using land, air and sea invasion and in a couple of days it'll be over

- and it's likely the Afghans will quickly crater just like the Iraqis!...they'll simply be outmuscled...unless they play the chemical/bio card which Saddam didn't or the Muslim axis steps in!
- assassination has for centuries been the way to create dramatic change and to clear the collective sinuses of the country and world and change directions quickly!...Caesar, Jesus, Lincoln, the duke in Bosnia, Kennedy, the kids at Kent State!...they and others were swiftly dispatched and forever altered the world's psyche...so assassinations will be in!
- and what do those voice recorders say?
- last night in his address to Congress Bush named many of the countries aligned with the U.S. but didn't mention Canada!
- how much does all this have to do with the oil conspiracy i.e. create a crisis and thereby keep the price of oil up?

Day 13 – Sunday, September 23, 2001-

- wow!...who is Rev. Calvin Butts?
- “a field of dreams turned into a house of prayer”- the ‘Prayer for America’ held at Yankee Stadium today
- there is still smoke rising from the rubble!

- John, what do you think the militia is thinking, planning now?...and what will they do?...and Hell's Angels?
- now 100,000 tons of debris removed and it's only one-tenth of the total!
- total reserves called up now is only 10,303!...

Day 14 – Monday, September 24, 2001-

- how powerful the impact must be on you!...we all talked about it on the weekend...the huge impact on all your senses!...one end a market, the other a vigil and all those various types of people in between!
- how insightful you're connecting the walk across America by homesteaders, the storms, then the buffalo stampeding, then the prairie fires, then Indians and opportunists...those settlers were truly amazing!
- so, for the first time the market came back today 380+ points after the 1400-odd drop of last week
- your list of world class cities was great!...and I hadn't seen that Rome stepped aside to NYC for the 2012 Olympics!...wow, that's how NYC will get rebuilt!...wonderful!...there will be a lot of payola but that's how it works!
- I hope you're right that there will be survivors somewhere under all that pile of debris!...and the water being poured on the pile to exhaust the fires in part assisted by the exploding gas tanks of cars in those parking lots...I hope you're right that people will be found!
- I like your "turn the bag inside out"...the big driver in most wars is religion...nearly always closely followed by money...in every war, opportunists make millions and so when they catch those guys who shorted the stock they'll catch the people who did this!
- John, that's why Bush today ordered all countries to reveal financial records..."we will starve the terrorists"...so, they will also, follow the paper trail and at the end of it will be the vermin who did this!"
- John, in this "War Against the Terrorists" they'll get the terrorists and a lot more than just those guys too...one of the other good things this will do it'll be the biggest "War on Drugs"...the financial records will lead to the drug money and those guys will get erased too!
- terrorism is of course financed mostly by drug money (and of course oil!)
- Steinbrenner is too Cleveland to be amongst the classy in NYC!...like a lot others you mentioned, he sure is a nowhere!
- and no John I hadn't heard about Scotia Bank's 12 metric tones of gold and 30 million ounces of silver in the underground World Trade Center vaults!!

...John, connect when you can...regards, Laurence

September 26, 2001- Wednesday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Hello Laurence:

You asked who individually/group-wise is feeling the most pain and will be affected the most by this in the long run...

I think that the people who are trying to find/longing for those who are missing are feeling the most pain- hands down, beyond a doubt. Escape stories take a far back seat to- and deference to- those who have either lost somebody- kind of like, second, and those who have someone missing; the uncertainty; the lingering hope- actually the lack of closure.

"Affected?"

EVERYONE; concentric circles; like a rock in a pond or into a still Lake Ontario; are the ripples gone when you can no longer see the? Or do they, in their own way wash up on a shore somewhere however slight?

We will all be affected; me here, you there- people in Pakistan, Afghanistan, U.K.: I think that the magnitude of this is still incalculable for everyone (by the way, I hear that HAMAS has suspended suicide bombing because of what happened in Lower Manhattan; in their estimation, it has given the concept of suicide bombing a bad name;)

I would like to elaborate more but I do want to carry it over into your most recent e-mails. So, more on this later.

Take care,

John

September 26, 2001- Wednesday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Laurence!

To catch up on a few things, here;

you know, the two-three days after 9/11 were so both so full and so empty that both, now, have their influence;

for the longest time, the skies were literally silent; again, being less than 5 miles from La Guardia where a plane was both landing and taking off every 45 seconds around the clock- well, the absence made it strange;

now, when you hear an airplane- a jet- and there were jets even before 9/11 that I thought were struggling to get up into the air- to hear a jet, coupled with the proximity (oh, by the way, the smell was in the air, again, this evening; the smell of lower Manhattan; probably the pulverized concrete, dry wall, and human remains;) of the attack, coupled with both the television and the real images; well, when a jet takes off, you stop and look up; also, for the two-three days after the attack; the sirens were nonstop; 24 hours a day; talk about being affected; now when you hear a siren, you- still- automatically think that they have found this horde of survivors and are taking them to the hospitals; then you think about 9/11 and all the sirens, etc;

MOVING ON TO YOUR E-MAIL

-the stock market will rebound; its opportunism at its best;

-no survivors, Laurence; just atomized human beings; no bodies- at least no bodies of the over 6,000 that are missing; just dust; kind of adds new meaning to the old from dust to dust;

-140 million Muslims; okay; remember, I believe it was your niece's lyrics e-mail;

-yes, it rained and it made it all more difficult;

-I don't know what the Canadian papers are saying; but here it was not for the capture, it was \$25 million (US) (Laurence, I couldn't resist the temptation- or \$13.95 Canadian- hey, only quoting one of your fellow countrymen in Canadian Bacon, Dan Aykroyd);

-strange isn't it; now we have a Cabinet level position in charge of Homeland Defense- almost sounds Germanic;

-we're not going to flatten the Afghans; I am hoping that the GWB admin is using some good counter-terrorism tactics; I heard that bin Laden has left the camps, on horseback for the hinterland; fearing of course the predictable (historically) U.S. strike; but, hey, where would you rather have him be; sequestered in a camp or out riding a horse with how many- maybe 2-300 hundred- tops?

I hope the "Bush-ites" (yes, a lost tribe) are slick and crafty;

really it brings together two dominant themes of the U.S. Civil War; do we "Grant-em" or do we "Lee-em?"

Grant would use superior force to crush his enemy; Lee (and Stonewall Jackson who was critical to Lee) would use deception and cunning; I would like to see both threads brought together that would perhaps even heal American military strategy dating back to the Civil War;

of course, we shouldn't forget that other significant strategies since the Civil War- but I suppose that GW already has that person's personality ingrained; I'm talking about the other George (and it would be interesting to know his middle initial), namely Patton; Patton was a cowboy; truly; there were no obstacles that could not be surmounted; only a defect of will- we shall see;

I am guessing that GW will use the Grant approach to "flush them out"; what better thing than to get OBL (hereafter Osama) out in the open and then take the Stonewall Jackson (which Patton really emulated on a mass scale- moving tanks and a major army- as long

as they could get moving) approach and surgically take him out with the least amount of collateral damage;

-yes the fish does rot from the head down and terrorists die just like all other human beings; Laurence, I am sure you know that the terrorists are playing off that we are fat and lazy; however just like our cousins- and perhaps your distant siblings- the British, America is a very violent- almost sociopathic, if need be- country; let me ask you; who would you bet on; the terrorists or the direct descendents of the British violent mentality? Hmm?

-I think you will see the resurrection of CIA covert operations; I have no doubt that they are chomping at the possibility to be able to walk up to someone in a phone booth in Istanbul and blow their brains out; I think that you'll see a lot of commando shit; bomber, cruise missile, jet supported, but commando shit;

-everyone wants a piece of Afghanistan; the Pakis, the Russians. the Iranians;

-Laurence, I like the thought of the "collective sinuses"- very, very appropriate!

-yes, truly, what do the recorders say?!;

-GW mentioning Canada; the Canadian government- as opposed to the Canadian people- I think, the government is running scared; they have let so many undesirables into Canada that it is appalling; and I'm not just talking post 9/11; you know that I've said this before that date; they need to get some balls and stand (up) for something other than their own self-preservation (remember, Laurence, having lived in Erieau- I have vocal exemptions); I have no doubt that they are literally afraid of offending their Muslim community by VOCIFEROUSLY siding with the U.S.); Laurence, they are running scared; they thought that they can buy off everyone; the WASPS with the money, the people- the citizens of Canada; I am sorry to say that the government is bankrupt- though I think Jean is also a cowboy; I guess not to mention because as our "closest friend"- and fucking protected by the fucking ocean- as opposed to the Brits who are open to immediate retaliation by the Arabs in their country- and those nearby; going back to our conversation in Guelph; Laurence, don't worry for your country, worry for your government so that the transition to what comes next will be smooth; don't worry for the Canadian people; they are hardy and resilient and probably have as much potential to be as violent as us; remember Brian Tobin and the Spanish fishing fleet; remember our conversations on that? Yeah, yeah, knock the Americans, knock the Americans- what the fuck, the Spanish are stealing the fucking fish? Blow them out of the water a la (do notice my "tip of the hat" to your bilingualism) the U.S.; Ottawa needs backbone or a radical change;

-I do not know who Rev. Calvin Butts is?

-yes, smoke still rising from the rubble- I smelled it faintly, today;

-they had an interview with a number of officials in Blount County Alabama; they say that if worse comes to worse they are ready to "lock and load;" (this was on National Public Radio);

-the militia, etc.; Laurence, it will only take one more act of terrorism to set them in motion against all middle Easterners in the U.S.;

-hey, I read that the U.S. pilots want to carry guns; I told you this is a cowboy society;

-yeah, a big impact on the senses; it is part surreal, part everything that I have always preached about we will always have barbarians at the gate; I know that it is tragic that so many are missing but the loss- the missing- of the missing buildings is immense; I have

only been here slightly over a year; I am not fond of NYC; it seems that a lot of the people I have met are basically assholes; but to do that to the buildings; even more than the Pentagon; I know that it sounds insensitive, but in some ways the buildings being destroyed like that on every fucking television station on the air- of course for the 2 of 3 that were knocked off the air because their transmitters were on the WTC towers; -you breath the smoke and you think about the people; the, again, atomized folk; not that it is new to the world, but it is more significant; -yeah, nothing like the Olympics to rebuild and even make better a city; -people being found; I am beginning to get the sense that there won't even be a lot more bodies found; all vaporized- gone- up in less than smoke; -you're probably right about the terrorist money leading to the drug money; they'll kill off both of them; sorry I missed the get together in September; hope that the invite stands for the future; talk to you soon,
John

September 27, 2001- Thursday- Toronto- 7:32 PM-

Laurence Wilson wrote:

John, hello!...thanks so much for your mails of the 26th...now, here are some thoughts on the observations in your mail of the 26th:

- like you, I too have stopped in my tracks to look up at airplanes flying above!...they're not what they used to be!...in the past, you wondered where they were going, who was aboard and as a means of transportation but today you view them as a weapon and a threat...they are no longer just taken for granted because now they could dramatically impact our lives!
- it must be even more impacting on you watching the so many flights out of LaGuardia!
- sirens!...I'm sure for you the sound will never be the same!
- * for sure, the best example on the planet of human opportunism is reflected by the market...it's still the best sport in the world...everything else is so mickey mouse...
- dust to dust...you're right but they just got to the end game a lot faster!
- * no John not US\$25 million or C\$13.95 but rather US\$25 million or C\$600 million and 3 billion lira!
- Homeland Defense – does sound Germanic and what did we have before this bunch? Was there nobody looking out for the Homeland?
- Bush-ites...very good John!...and Grant-em/Lee-em too!
- wow nice All Star team: Grant, Lee, Jackson, Patton, Bush!
- you know maybe it's Sitting Bull and Cochise we need?
- interesting that those Brits you were talking about were the very first men to actually engage the opposition!...I'd bet on the guys whose heritage includes going to battle in skirts, with paint on their faces and largely armed only with blood-curdling yells!...my kind of defense!
- commando stuff is in the business referred to as the “wet trade”
- John, this is not a government here...this is a bunch of people pretending!...they can't work anywhere else, run for office and play follow the wind!...it's hard to know what we stand for since we've seldom taken the hard line on anything!...blowin' in the wind should be the national anthem!
- Butts is the black guy who spoke at the “Day of Prayer”...you should find out about him!...he was grrreat!...and who sang “Amazing Grace?”

- Mullah Mohammed Omar, the Taliban supreme leader...I wonder if his people are getting his messages like we're getting Bush's?
- John, the Alabama "lock and load" stuff was way outdone by the Governor of South Dakota today!...red neck, white socks and Blue Ribbon beer!...a gun in every pocket for his people!...yeehaw baby!
- I wonder if there will be a spate of quiet militia takeouts domestically?...in addition to the foreign soil takeouts...will a Charles Bronson-like reincarnation rise up?

...you're always invited!...regards, Laurence

September 30, 2001- Sunday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Laurence!

No! I haven't forgotten our correspondences.

It's just that I've really come to be very exhausted, lately.

Went out to Breezy Point, yesterday, (I will send you a map, tomorrow) walked the three-four miles out there; got to the jetty; laid down on a granite rock and fell into this relaxed-with the ocean "breaking" on the rocks behind me- kind of fugue state; very relaxing; you see, we are on an island, here; only a couple of ways onto Long Island and a couple of- the same- ways off; again, to disrupt the food or water or power or gas- would send things very quickly into a nightmare world for about 8 million people; not really good; need cash on hand; need water on hand; need dried milk, dried beans, canned food- you get the picture- and that doesn't even begin to entertain the thought of how the fuck are we going to get off this fucking island and onto the mainland; And, we're not even talking about self-protection?! What time is it?! Time to take a trip to Pennsylvania?
-went to Jones Beach last weekend; saw at least one trooper there with his 9mm pistol; reassuring but tiring at the same time;
Family tells me that it is time to get out of the "jungle;"
sorry, but I am pooped;
more tomorrow;
John

September 30, 2001- Sunday- Toronto- 9:23 PM-

Laurence Wilson wrote:

John, hello!...hope all's well?...have you been to Manhattan lately?...fewer and fewer profoundly impacting sights, sounds thoughts these days as we watch, worry and wait to

see what's next?...here's what percolated to the surface over the weekend as I watch and read less and less about 9-11 these days...one thought though – when you look up the word “unbelievable” in the next dictionary you'll see a picture of the WTC!...some thoughts, feelings and impressions:

Day 18 – Friday September 28, 2001-

- 17,000 reservists have now been called up
- * 20 of 20 of those who obtained fake drivers licenses to haul hazardous waste have been detained – wow!
- anything more from Gov. Janklow, South Dakota?
- how in the heck did they find three letters in three different places, written in Arabic, which connected the terrorists?
- after the debacle at Apache he never again attempted a mass action, but his small war parties were continually in action against travelers, prospectors and settlers living on remote, unprotected ranches...a description of Cochise's strategy after Capt. Thomas Roberts successfully used mountain howitzers firing twelve pound canisters which burst above the Apaches and killed them with falling shrapnel!
- Cochise died in 1874 – his grave site is unknown
- to the throb of drums and the chanting of seated warriors, four dancers came out abreast, circled the huge bonfire four times, separated into pairs and danced south and north of the flames...four times more they repeated the routine...the number four and the cardinal points of the compass were sacred to the Apaches and found a place in most tribal rituals...Chief Gokhlayeh and his people before their attack on the Mexicans in Arizpe, Mexico to avenge the killing of his wife, three children and mother...after the battle he became known as Geronimo!
- the largest group Geronimo ever led was one hundred followers
- terrorists are made – not born!
- Geronimo died in 1909 – he is buried at Fort Sill...

Day 19 – Saturday, September 29, 2001-

- maybe Jesse should go to Cincinnati and fix that before he mediates the Taliban/OBL situation?

- paranoia runs deep
- John, isn't it interesting how this Germany thing keeps coming up?

Day 20 – Sunday, September 30, 2001-

- John, don't forget to say "rabbit" when you change your calendar so it reads October 1st tomorrow...it'll bring you good luck!
- lastly, the full moon is October 2nd – the Harvest Moon!...you remember the song, eh?

...take care my friend...regards, Laurence

October 2, 2001- Tuesday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Laurence:

Again, I will respond in detail to your e-mail, later, today.

But just a thought;
if you were the Joint Chiefs and the Russian Joint Chiefs, do you want a series of days
with a full moon or do you wait for the new moon?
If we are having a full moon here, are they having a new moon there?
I guess I would opt for full darkness with night vision/infrared goggles.
more later,
John

October 2, 2001- Tuesday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Laurence:
By the way, I found out;

it is a full moon all over the world;
now,
I really never thought a lot- personally- about this X-Files "Shit",
but,
this could make me wonder;
maybe its because I'm left-handed and don't really grasp things like this;
hmm,
I guess, the conventional wisdom would say no full moon attacks, but, does "Stonewall"
get his say?
More later,
John

October 8, 2001- Monday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Laurence:
I will definitely respond tomorrow.

I went over one of the bridges for the first time, today, since 9/11.

Very strange.

Mucho (that's NAFTA talk) apprehensive.

Sort of like realizing that you might win a "lottery" that you really don't want to win.

Actually, I will respond tomorrow because TODAY I bought new ink-jet cartridges so that I can print out our messages so as to respond more coherently.

The last week or so has been a time to weigh options and choices and alternatives; NYC is unique in that 4 of the 5 boroughs are on islands. There has been much talk about chem/bio attacks; the gas masks are all sold out but I have to go up to upstate to see my mother this weekend, so I will try and get some up there.

Otherwise, it is a matter of planning for some very real contingencies; not necessarily because they will happen but because you have a metro area of 22+ million people to contend with; we already have the Cipro (anti-anthrax) prescription, the antibiotics; we have begun to store up dry food and canned food and water; not, as I said around here today, to endure a siege, but to get us through the possible initial turmoil until we can leave;

leading us to "exit strategies;" they are both important as well as they have to be realistic; though simply it is a FIRST matter of getting back onto the MAINLAND; I know it sounds doomsdayish, but remember this place is a precisely and delicately run place; it wouldn't take much to send it into turmoil;

as you can begin to imagine it is very stressful around here;

though, I don't think that NYC- directly- will be the focus of the next attack;

as far bio/chemical releases- hell, LA with the smog would be the place; no, I think that the next symbolic target will be a person; Giuliani, Bush, Powell, Blair- maybe even Putin; I think that Jean is safe;

by the way, whatever happened to that guy who strangled his assaulter? Where is Brian Tobin? Larry Smith- naw, only kidding!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I know that he doesn't muster criteria but I think that Tony Blair deserves a Congressional Medal of Honor.

I am so proud and taken by the Brits; of all the fucking spineless countries out there, the U.K. makes all the losers meaningless; I hope that Tony is well protected- AND THAT NOBODY- 'ey, dhere'- CAN SNEAK INTO HIS HOUSE AT FUCKING NIGHT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

On this end we really have three unmet priorities; the gas masks; an actual standard weapon and a good old fashioned- silent- stun gun; we could probably do with a navy-ish inflatable raft- you see the mentality around here- and, you know what, this is real serious shit; went to the store today- COSTCO- if you know the discount chain; people have been buying water until it is sold out;

so, you can see why the entire thing is exhausting;

Laurence, this is a religious war; sort of like a left over from the crusades; there is ABSOLUTELY no clean way out of this thing;

but, fortunately for the West we do possess the ultimate capitalistic weapon- the neutron bomb; it kills people with destroying property and/or the means of production; this really magnifies my Neanderthal religion remark;

I think that a lot of fucking third-worlders are going to die as a result of this;

talk to you, tomorrow

John

October 9, 2001- Tuesday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Laurence!

I hope that all is well. I think that my missing correspondences with you date back to Days 15-17 (if it predates that, do let me know).

-yes; air-marshals; gun-fights on airplanes; though I have heard that the idea that a gun fired will crash the airplane is off-base; that it won't;
-yeah, a couple of things have precipitated resoundly; airplanes; sirens; they will never be the same; even today, you find yourself catching yourself when a paramedic truck goes by that they found someone;
-yes, the market; they are talking here about devising a system so that the next fuck-ups that come along do not disrupt the market; fuck all of these third world idiots;
-homeland defense; we got into too much democratic theory; lets not let the fucking barbarians use our own intelligence against us;
-yes, we need some good North American Indian thinking;
I am not impressed by the jihad bullshit; Laurence, even in historical retrospect, what is more terrifying, the fucking Indians on the warpath or a bunch of fucking stupid Arabs shouting death to America? Gee whiz?!

Hey, burn the fort, destroy the WTC- we've been there before.

-Tony Blair, redux; good for Tony; good for the world; perhaps, historically, he missed his "moment." Maybe this is it; the man truly stands out;
-the Canadian people have the genetic- no offence (do notice the spelling)- resolve to be more wise than their own government; you folks are in transition; I think that Canadian politics has been looking for- searching for the "watershed" person to bring all of Canada, together; Stockwell ain't be it, though he may have looked the part; Preston was a fucking caricature waiting to be ridiculed; actually, if he wasn't so fucked up with his myopic agenda, Lucien was very charismatic; if he could only be pan-Canadian, he would have been brilliant; he would have surpassed Trudeau; by a landslide;
okay; my prediction; Lucien will have a conversion; he WILL become pan-Canadian; Laurence, with a few well placed confessions he could be revived on a national scale; he has the personal power to be, well, actually, I know it sounds corny, Canada's Abe Lincoln; born in Ky; a slave state-blah, blah blah;
-the U.S. national vigilante/militia profile; all this country needs is one more serious terrorist attack; and it will not be good to be Middle Eastern in the U.S.;

OKAY! NEXT E-MAIL: DAYS 18-20:

-no I haven't been to Manhattan lately, but I will be going tomorrow;
-Laurence, they found the letters because the fucks are stupid;
-thank-you so much for the Indian info; very interesting;
Osama's a fraud; my prediction; I was never comfortable with that video clip of him shooting that gun and being driven back by the recoil; it tells me he knows shit about guns; he's got the money, he's got the stage- but he's just a puppet for other people running the show- what a stupid fuck;
-by the way; just read today in the NY Times about a blind guy on the 71st floor whose dog took him down the stairs and out!
-also another story about window washers who got stuck in a elevator/cut through dry wall/punched out bathroom tiles- their escape took 95 out of the 100 minutes that were available;
-Jesse is a fuck up;

-I think that we're up to date;
Talk to you soon,
John

October 11, 2001- Thursday- Toronto- 11:53 AM-

Laurence Wilson wrote:

John, hello!...thanks for your mail of October 9 catching us back up...my last mail to you was October 1st and it covered days 18-20...so your mail of the 9th gets us back on track!

...now the new title above, i.e., U. S. Attacks – War: Day #4 refers to the air bombing attacks on the terrorists which began Sunday October 7th – War: Day #1...so, with reference to your mail and recent events here are some thoughts, feelings and impressions:

- I'll take the Indians (MLB and vs. Arabs!)
- Tony is really sounding good!...the old story: some guys crumble when it's hot in the kitchen...some guys rise up!
- wow!...I like your Lucien notion...you're right he could be the one but he needs a make over and in the backroom a coach to encourage and empower
- vigilante/militia and Hell's Angels get my vote for air marshal duty!
- OBL recoiling with the rifle is a good insight...you know, you're right he doesn't look/sound like the main man!...if not OBL then who?
- good stories about the courageous blind man and his dog and the window washers!...profile high-rise window washers for me will ya!...they've got to be unique doing that job day after day!
- John, a whole new phase began Sunday with air forces bombing to make way for the ground guys to roll in then, the picture I see is the same one I remember when the Iraqis either turned back running or came forward with hands up while tons of equipment was abandoned in the desert while oil wells they lighted burned in the night until Red flew in to cap them!
- only difference here will be: there's no iron and no wells!...only poppy fields to light up and won't that be a party!
- as in any war the codebreakers and encryption specialists will be the unsung and unknown heroes!...the whole world is wired and Muslims in every country can only be mobilized if communication via satellite, CNN or net are effective...no communications, no co-ordination, no mobilization, no win!
- John, key question: which country will be targeted next?...the choice will say a lot!...Iraq, Syria (not likely since they're now a member of the UN Security Council!), Iran, Jordan, Indonesia...got a pick?
- there are lots of Muslims in the Caribbean...it'll be interesting to see if there are riots/protests there?
- Anthrax in Florida, Typhoid in California...lady bugs in Ontario!:)

...John be well, connect when you can and we'll keep an eye con the unfolding game...regards, Laurence

October 11, 2001- Thursday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Hey, Laurence!

Again, I am really exhausted from thinking and planning for over the horizon contingencies. I am not complaining- because people in NYC have been both good and kind to me at this moment in my life- but I do have two additional "responsibilities" to

contingency plan for. Obviously, each additional variable is no longer additive but exponential particularly when the age of the variable either increases or decreases significantly.

Today, I spent a goodly amount of time trying to hunt down three gas masks in the States. Very hard to find and get.

I have come to realize that there is a danger with over-complicating contingency plans; water is now secure, food is getting there; sewage for the short run would present a serious problem; cleanliness- for hygiene's sake as well.

It is not very cold during the winter in NYC; even last year I made the remark that you really don't need heat here during the winter; oh, it might get a bit nippy on a couple of days; but you could survive without a problem;

winter is coming here, too; a factor in contingency planning; getting off the island is a major problem; will probably get one of those military inflatable rafts and get across Long Island Sound;

the gas masks do not insure survival as much as they can buy you time; time to get out; again, I'll respond to your e-mail tomorrow; but to touch on a few points;

I hear that there are jets (Canadian) over T.O. and Southern Ontario; NYC and at least D.C. has them 24/7;

you guys are in it, Laurence!

the next place; a couple either separately or together; I would not be surprised if the Taliban launch an counter-offensive attack into Uzbekistan, at the bases there; that with-maybe- in conjunction with an additional attack; if they were smart they would keep the ire focused on the U.S.; but their need for drama and that ever greater "rush" will probably lead them to "branch out" their attacks; I am guessing that along with the counter-offensive incursion into Uzbekistan there will be an attack on the U.S.; my guess either and or the Capitol/White House and a person(s) GW and/or Rudy ALONG with an attack on something symbolically British perhaps Parliament and also an attempt on Tony; along with an attack in Moscow- maybe a suicide plane into the Kremlin along with an assassination attempt against Putin; GW, Blair and Putin in one days work; enough bullshit to enflame the entire Muslim world and really send this into a religious war; enough for now; got to try and sleep;

there is access to some undeveloped property about 3/4's of the way out Long Island-going east; probably need the food, water, an ax, a tent and the boat; driving off the Island would burn up a tank of case just waiting in line; and then if the power is out you won't be able to refuel; big trouble;

there is an entirely new thrust in the world of neo-survivalism;

I left NYC with a NYS map, a NYC map and a map of Connecticut; just in case the city goes to "Lockdown Status."

Oh, by the way, I hear that Rudy gave some Saudi prince his \$10 million dollar charitable check back because the prince said something about the U.S. should reexamine its priorities in the Middle East;

Heard a story today from some iron worker at the WTC site who said that they took a steel beam out today that was completely cherry red, looking like it just came off the line in some steel plant; and yes, the fires are still burning;

tomorrow, my good man;

John

October 14, 2001- Sunday- Toronto- 9:27 PM-

Laurence Wilson wrote:

John, hello!...thanks for your mail of the 11th...did you ever think that your focus would be on: gas masks, water, food, sewage, cleanliness, winter heat, and an inflatable raft to get off the island!...it's hard for me to imagine it has come to this!...neo-survivalism!

...here are some thoughts, feelings and impressions from Thursday, October 11 to Sunday, October 14:

- yes, John there are lots of planes flying high!...you can see them in particular at sunset when there's moisture at their height and their contrails criss cross the sky
- Uzbekistan, Capitol Hill/White House, GW/RG, British Parliament/Blair, Kremlin/Putin and Pak-man...yikes!
- I saw the Prince and Rudy on Larry King...they didn't appear together but Rudy stood fast in rejecting the dough and the Prince seemed hurt!
- John, it's more than a month and it's still burning...that's hard to fathom...
- also, only 445 bodies recovered, 388 of them identified and 4688 still unaccounted for...there must be thousands of families and friends riven with angst!
- interesting that the Queen is silent...and what's China's position?
- almost a month to the day and anthrax is a word on everybody's lips...first only Boca Raton...then on the 11th New York and on the 12th Reno, Nevada...many days ago you and I were mulling about bio/chemical "bombs"
- tabloid, NBC, NY Times, Microsoft...I'd say the revenge-seeking sickos, not OBL are in the game!
- civility is not a sign of weakness- Bush asks each American child to give a buck to Afghan kids and the U.S. stops the bombing of Afghanistan on Friday, October 12 because it's a Muslim day of prayer
- Nigeria, Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka are other places to watch
- searching for the most wanted terrorists and trying to thwart the least wanted bacteria
- Polaroid seeks Chapter 11 and on Friday a Japanese company announces disposable digital cameras!
- 680 million pieces of mail per day through the U.S. Postal Service!
- for the first time ever planes from other countries – members of NATO – are flying over the continental U.S. to protect the skies

- finally they've identified the thugs running a company that's supposed to provide airport security but instead is merely a front for illegal drug, arms and people movement!...it's just the tip!

...John, take care, be safe, savvy counts...regards, Laurence

October 18, 2001- Thursday- Toronto- 8:37 AM-

Laurence Wilson wrote:

John, hello!...I know you're very much in an altered state so I just thought I'd connect to give you a "puppy hug and warm fuzzy" as an old consultant friend of mine used to say thirty years ago!...here's some poop:

Monday, October 15 to Thursday, October 19

- how about Bayer the huge German Pharma company!...they hold the patent on Cipro, it expires in 2003 and it's the only medication to combat anthrax!
- as of October 16th 27,802 reservists have been called up
- finally!...on October 16th the NY Times releases AA cockpit transcripts from Flight 11...it's five weeks after the crashes, where the heck are the others?
- after 10 days the U.S. has dropped 2,000 bombs
- the wrong right solution: EPA launches huge ad campaign advising parents to smoke outdoors...duh!...why not spend the money on getting parents to stop smoking – period!
- Bush goes to Shanghai on the 17th...and Powell has been in Pakistan/India since Sunday!...they're traveling!
- are they always mentioning NY and the Pentagon but seldom mentioning Pennsylvania because they really shot the plane down, but made the take charge passengers the heroes?...have you watched the movie “Wag the Dog”?
- anthrax...thousands and thousands tested...but only 5/6 confirmed cases and one death...
- anthrax, typhoid...small pox!...now, the weapons of choice!

...John, be well...connect when you can...regards, Laurence

October 20, 2001- Saturday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Hey, Laurence!

Be assured that I've not forgotten or overlooked our correspondences; though, survival as well as the psychological well-being around me (I think they may be going through post traumatic shock syndrome);

I will get back to you ASAP

John

October 24, 2001- Wednesday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Laurence:

Would you believe that it is still smoldering?

I see that they've dropped the "Q" word. As in quarantine- for smallpox. More later.

John

October 27, 2001- Saturday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Laurence:

It has come to me;

it was the Saudi's that did this;

they have everything to gain on both sides of the coin;

in fact, the folks they are talking to on both sides of the coin are so diametrically distant from one another that they would never- ever- get info on the other. The Saudis did it because they wanted to prove to the Islamic radical/fundamentalists in their country that they have not sold their souls to the infidels; this is all very pathetic; the U.S. is beginning to stoop to the level of a bunch of towel heads;
put differently; if the Saudi govt. talked to the U.S. and then talked to the radical fundamentalists- who the fuck would know?
More later,
John

October 31, 2001- Wednesday- Toronto- 12:14 PM-

Laurence Wilson wrote:

Friday, October 19, 2001 to Tuesday October 30, 2001

John, hello!...I've been a long time getting back...thanks for your mail of the 24th and 27th...let's see now, where to begin?

...well, first some comments on your mail:

- no John, I can't believe it's still smoldering!...a month and a half later!...and after all that water they've poured onto it!...no fire anywhere has ever had that much water poured onto it!
- will there or won't there be another germicide released?...you think smallpox?
- good, plausible logic on the Saudis!

...now, some other stuff:

- why do I read in the papers, see on the tube that this many or that many civilians were killed?...they only talk about "civilians killed"...if I believed the media" civilians – 100+, Taliban soldiers – 0!...duh!
- I thought they'd have dropped some much bigger bombs by now!...bombs that cause really big plumes and fright
- who are the kooks behind the anthrax crap?...surely, it's 4/5 different weirdos not some grand design by OBL/Saudis?
- it took Schwarzkopf six months to line up his ducks and then a month to dust the Iraqis...is all this light weight stuff that's going on merely the "set up"?
- and again, why no details on the four black boxes?
- and what's this "new" attack?...more plans/buildings? The World Series/NFL?...what?...I can't believe there's a long range gameplan!...maybe some singles here and there but no grand slam homers like 9-11!
- where is Gary anyway?...remember prior to 9-11 the media feeding frenzy was Condit...does anybody take the talking heads – anywhere – seriously?...duh!

...you ok?...all going well?...connect when you can!...come here when you can!...regards,
Laurence

October 31, 2001- Wednesday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Laurence:

Chandra Levy is now old news!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

She's probably hiding just to get back at Condit!!!!!!!!!!

She wants him to sweat and make his new campaign all about her!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

John

October 31, 2001- Wednesday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Laurence- I've got some time;
the smoldering; imagine, again, each floor had 45,000 to 50,000 sq. ft. of office space
times 110 floors times two buildings;
now throw in all the paperwork, the computers, fax machines, copiers, carpeting, ceiling
tiles, think about how much wiring was in those buildings; it had to be easily in the

10,000's of feet; not to mention the shopping concourse below; how many decks of parking; cars; plastic; gas tanks; all the paint and on and on and on;
-I am not sure that the Middle-Easterners are doing the anthrax;
-yes, smallpox would be the next logical thing;
-I agree about the reporting of civilian deaths- it is bullshit; same old 'Nam shit all over, again; I mean what the fuck does it take to blow some two-bit bunch of stupid fucks into oblivion (I know, I know, spoken like a true American);
-you're right about the anthrax weirdos;
-lets fucking hope this is the fucking set up to something; just when I thought that GW was out of John Quincy's shadow- here we go, again,;
-yes, of course the four black boxes;
-friends in Chicago tell me the authorities are freaked; there was a piece in some magazine called New York; the writer wrote about the confluence of so many coincidences that had to have taken place on 9/11; he questioned the probability of it all happening like it did;
-no, there's no long-range game plan- they're Arabs; it was said that within minutes of the first plane hitting, the FBI got a court order to wire tap the entire system- I would imagine that it came from the Supreme Court; they have arrested scores of Middle Easterners who called each other congratulating themselves on what they had accomplished; how fucking stupid can you get; but more on that later; a treatise on stupidity;
-Condit is still running for office, again;
John

November 9, 2001- Friday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Laurence:

My reason for getting to you is that I see that OSAMA has gone and done it. He has actually come out and said that Putin should be dead.

Hmm, not quite at the top of his class, I would imagine.

Like I said before, good old Vladimir is not a Tony or a George W. He is a hardcore cookie who ran the KGB. I will give Osama until Christmas. If I were Putin I would tell the boys that I want Osama as a Christmas present. I do not care how you do it, just do it. By the way, I heard on the radio, yesterday, that the plane that crashed in Pa. was suppose to be heading to the nuclear reactor at Indian Point NY- 35 miles up the Hudson from NYC. They had some nuclear scientist on the radio who said that if that had happened and the plane had breached the core and the uranium had gotten out into the Hudson (it sits on the Hudson), that there would have been a radioactive steam cloud of biblical proportions (his words). He went on to estimate 600,000 deaths and NYC being permanently uninhabitable.

Also, they said that the fires at the WTC will burn for at least another 4 to 6 months.

Talk to you later.

John

November 10, 2001- Saturday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Laurence:

After the "Osama-ism" wherein he said that Putin must die, I will go one better on the predictions.

He- OSAMA- will in some manner or form call the Iranians and/or their president ad/or their spiritual leader(s) infidels;
-that is my prediction; of course, if Putin can get it done by Christmas, the Iranians can get it done by the U.S. Thanksgiving.
All we have to do is sit back and watch.
What a dumb fuck.
John

November 11, 2001- Sunday- Toronto- 7:57 PM-

Laurence Wilson wrote:

John, hello!...thanks for all the grrreat mail of the 31st, Nov. 9th and 10th and a belated "Happy Halloween"...some pretty fancy costumes around here, not many kids but that

wasn't unusual, there have been fewer and fewer in recent years as the neighborhood ages...first, some thoughts on your mail:

- when you put it like you did about what all is on a floor, in a building and then everything below ground you're right – “it's like a small town”...
- casualty reports, increasing reserve call ups, gobbledy gook from the media, no big, significant military “wins”...it does remind me too of Nam!
- Condit's affair- now there's a flashback!
- Levy:)
- ...and Condit will win it too!
- it would be interesting to look at a copy of that magazine article your Chicago friends were talking about!
- every time I use “treatise on stupidity” I'll credit you!
- I was watching that baseball game in which Bush delivered a heck of a throw!...and I liked the guy with the “Mr. November” sign!...what a game that was!
- wow!...that Indian Point story makes sense because I remember hearing lots of buzz about protecting nuclear plants around here!
- and do you think Putin will get him by Christmas?...wouldn't it be grrreat if Putin or the Iranians were the ones to dust OBL?

...John, now some other stuff:

- well, they found the gold on October 31, an appropriate “treat” after OBL's “trick!”
- * how about that eagle flying after the national anthem, the tattered flag from the WTC and “America the Beautiful” at the seventh inning stretch at Yankee Stadium!...will the eagle and the ATB carry over to other sports?
- sixteen people now being treated, the fourth anthrax death recorded Oct. 31 and more sites or suspected sites...although not much in the last 7/10 days...maybe it isn't OBL but it looks a bit more like some sort of plan?...who might it be John?

- have you seen a number lately for the people receiving treatment for anthrax exposure?
- a friend of mine says that post 9-11 the Saudis placed a 15B order with Boeing!...doubling the size of the Saudi airline...he suggests the price of keeping the world price of oil low is to keep the Saudi royal family in power, the rest of the Saudi people oppressed...while maintaining religious-based control...sounds like the way religion has been used throughout Europe for much of the past 1000 years
- VP Dick Cheney takes a couple of days off to go hunting in South Dakota!...you're kidding!
- 1147 people have been detained in the US since 9-11!...with all these detainees can't they find out what the heck is going on?
- too bad the Yankees couldn't get it done!...that would have been a heck of a parade!

...John, be well...connect when you can...regards, Laurence

November 12, 2001- Monday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Laurence:

I'll respond in a couple of days- but I'm still alive.

So ironic; the Rockaways- if you ever received that map that I sent you- are on the same peninsula- Breezy Point is only about a mile down the road, down the beach, down the peninsula- from where this plane crashed..

Needless to say, I'm still alive; though, I think people are getting a little more shell-shocked..

You know, maybe there is something cosmic about everyone around here stopping to look up (even before this crash) to see what the plane "was up to."

Talk to you soon.

John

November 28, 2001- Wednesday- Toronto-

Laurence Wilson wrote:

John, hello!...it's been a long time since we've connected!...hope all's well and that you had a nice US Thanksgiving?...I just can't get into all that's happening in the war!...too much on too many fronts and too much info to process!

Laurence

November 29, 2001- Thursday- Queens-

John Alexander wrote:

Laurence:

Well, all the stuff that I was typing to you just suddenly went off into the ozone. Maybe you'll get it maybe not.

The war, its like being a sports fan; the offenses are complex, the defenses are complex, does your favorite team stop the other guys or do they not; the offenses and defenses now have specific names; like "cruise" and "B-2" and "apache" and Special Ops (the equivalent to special teams?); you see the point; very much like sports; you're in their home stadium; you have a hostile crowd; you're from the east but you're playing in a different time zone; its like Miami going to Buffalo in December- you go from 80 degrees to 22 degrees, snow and wind; the accommodations are passable; its like going to play baseball in Montreal- hell, nobody speaks fucking English; need I go on?

more later,

John

November 29, 2001- Thursday- Toronto- 10:22 AM-

Laurence Wilson wrote:

John, hello!...thanks for your mail today!...grrreat stuff comparing sports and war!...lots of good football people and war people went on to be good business leaders!...sports, war and business they're a good connection!...some family!

...I once knew a guy whose three favorite sports were bullfighting, boxing and WWII!
...regards, Laurence

AUTHOR'S NOTE:

(1) *"What inspired your submission?" At the moment- on the afternoon of 9-11-01, I just decided to send an email to my friend. The fact that it took off and endured wasn't planned at all. Just like the deer, it just happened. Actually, it wasn't until it got to the 10th anniversary did it "come to me" to re-process the emails. The most important thing was that I never deleted them. Just had to go back.*

(2) *"What issues, themes, did you want to explore?" Nothing planned. Just relay to my friend in T.O. the scope, depth and gravity not only of day-today life but, also, of all that I set out to experience."*

(3) *Stylistic and literary influences?" Hard to say. It varies based on the genre. It's even harder to say when you're talking about a genre- in 2001- the email, where I- we- were "talking" but without uttering a discernible sound.*

I don't know.

That's about it.

Again, it wasn't planned. It just happened, just like the deer.

Best,

John

P.S.: Here's an anecdote from my T.O. partying days- A bunch of us are partying along Front Street. I say, "You know, it's late, I've got to get going back."

They say, "Why? It's only 1 AM"

To which I respond.

"No, it's 1 AM here in T.O. In Bflo, it's 3:30 AM because that's what time its going to be when I get there."

AUTHOR'S BIO: *John Alexander has "wandered" portions of North America for a good portion of his life.*

Thus, when asked once- "Where did you grow up"- his answer was that different aspects of him "grew up" in the different places that he has lived.

These places include- Chicago, Concord and Knoxville, Tennessee, Erieau, Ontario, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, New York, Athens and Milledgeville, Georgia, Rocky Mount, North Carolina, and in Queens.

Recently. after spending years in New York City, John Alexander has temporarily relocated to the hamlet of Getzville, New York. He lives- and writes- there in the company of his two favorite pets, "Bunny" and "Roma."

Most recently, John Alexander has appeared in Clockwise Cat (5), Ygdrasil (Cd), Syndic Literary Journal, The Bitchin' Kitsch, Danse Macabre du Jour (2), Straightjackets

Magazine, and Hackwriters: The International Writers Magazine (U.K.). He also co-authored the online novel, entitled, "A Vow of Silence." It can be found at- www.avowofsilence.net