

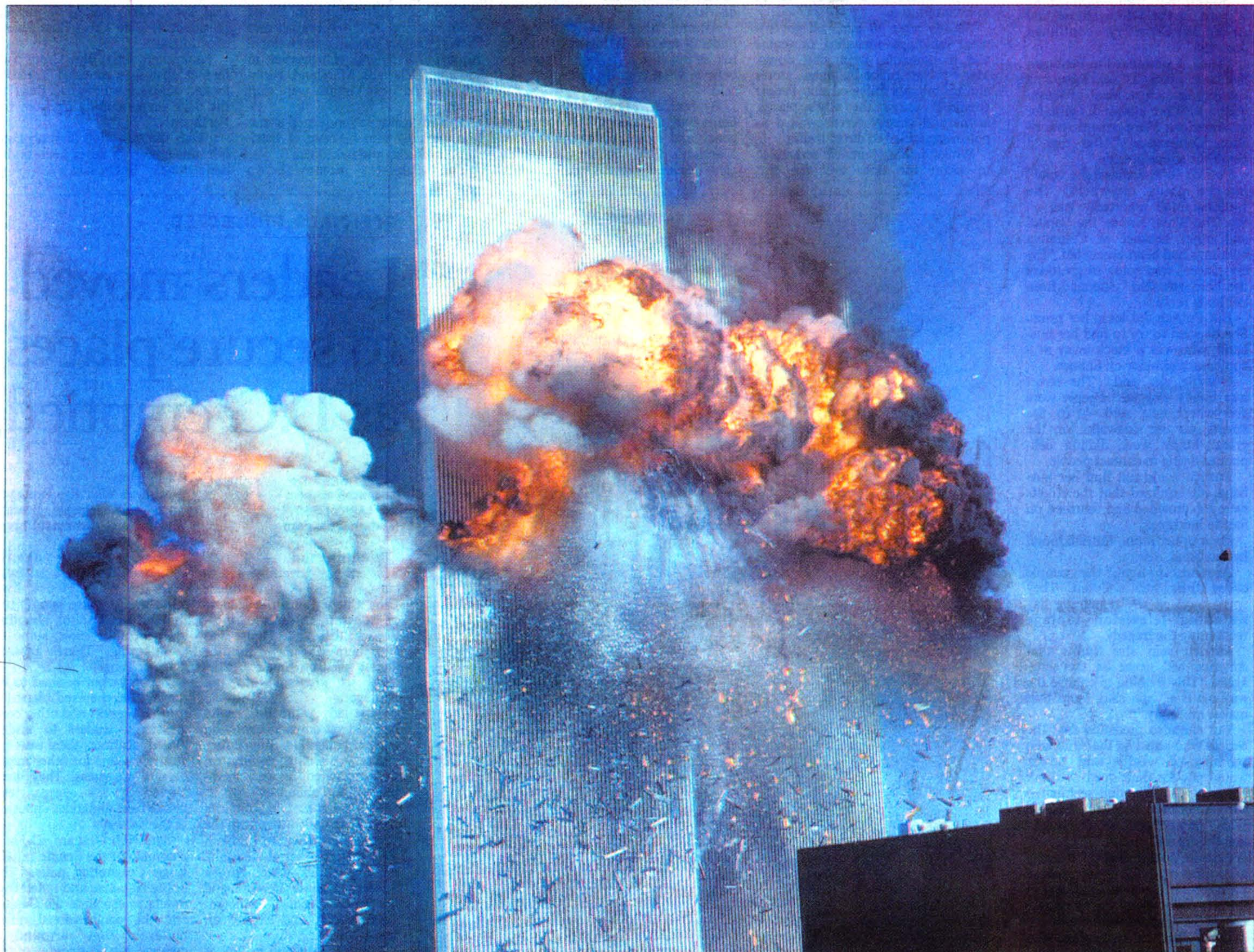
Nightmare skyscape

Proud Manhattan towers tumble,
bringing death to those within



STEFFEN KAPLAN / New York Times

Smoke billows over downtown Manhattan as the second tower of the World Trade Center collapses, as seen from Jersey City, across the Hudson River.



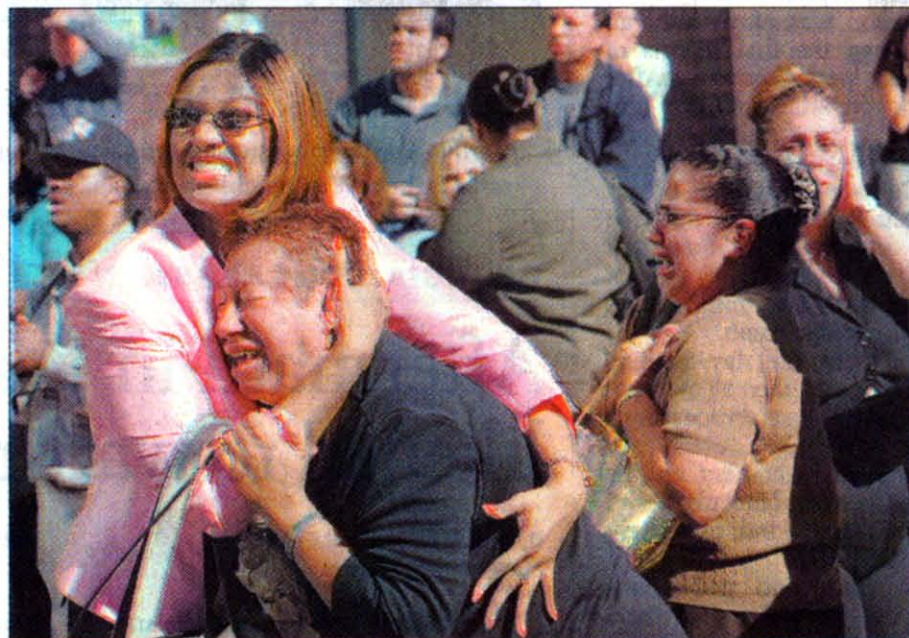
KRISTEN BROCHMANN / New York Times

A fireball erupts from the upper floors of the south tower, the second building in the World Trade Center hit by a jet on Tuesday, shocking New Yorkers, Americans and the world.

The south tower of the World Trade Center tumbles to the Manhattan streets, **uncounted workers and visitors still within.** Evacuation had been speeded up as the building began to list, but it was far from complete as the damage wrought by the jet that crashed into the building took its toll. The upper stories collapsed, bringing down the huge tower in a cloud of dust — dust that lay thick on the streets, shrouded New Yorkers who fled the scene and could be seen from afar as a massive pillar of smoke.



RICHARD DREW / Associated Press



ERNESTO MORA / Associated Press

Two women cling together (above), watching the World Trade Center burn Tuesday following the terrorist attack on the twin skyscrapers by two hijacked jets.

People jump to their death (left) from the upper floors of the World Trade Center, having made the choice — the only one left to them — of how they would die, by obliteration upon hitting the street or by the ultimate horror of being burned alive by flames they could not escape.



DAVID SUROWIECKI / Getty Images