

**America on alert**  
The aftermath

# Fliers tell poignant one-page life stories

## Loved ones seek info on the missing

By Gregg Zoroya  
USA TODAY

NEW YORK — It began as a practical and desperate way for relatives and friends to find thousands who vanished in the rubble of the World Trade Center Tuesday. But these "Have You Seen" fliers collecting across this city now carry the same kind of emotional impact as the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., or acres of AIDS quilts.

New Yorkers are riveted by the hasty but intimate details that families scribbled on these photocopies, those particulars that might — just might — identify a loved one who in their minds' eye is still wandering and confused, or pinned and buried — but still alive.

So we know that Jeffrey Medina, 29, suffers seizures and Justin "Jud" Molinari has huge dimples (as his smiling face on the flier photo bears witness), that Kristine Bordenabe is eight months pregnant and the inscription on Noell Maerz's wedding band (his wife, Jennifer, is also expecting) reads, "NM&JM, 11/11/00."

The faces are plastered across television vans, bus stops, mailboxes, chain-link fences and subway stations, and along the stone walkways of parks or brick walls of hospitals. Some family and friends even wear them on their clothing, like living billboards.

More than a thousand faces look out from fliers taped to one blue wooden construction barrier that was already in place. The wooden wall runs along First Avenue at 27th Street and then 150 feet down the covered walkway to the bronze doors of Bellevue Hospital, where many of the injured from the disaster were treated.

The display there, as at other sites around the city, keeps growing. The hospital now must handle crowd control and coordinate media coverage.

Hospital spokesman James Saunders concedes the wall display has "taken on a life of its own." Bellevue has given the blue barrier a name: "Wall of Prayer."

And officials are already contemplating some means of preserving the images, perhaps in the design of the future outpatient clinic.

Thomas Roma, a well-known documentary photographer and director of photography at Columbia University's School of the Arts, says the fliers are some of the most moving, authentic works of self-expression that he has ever seen.

"These pictures have been called into service, picked from piles of photos to express the essence of a person," Roma says.

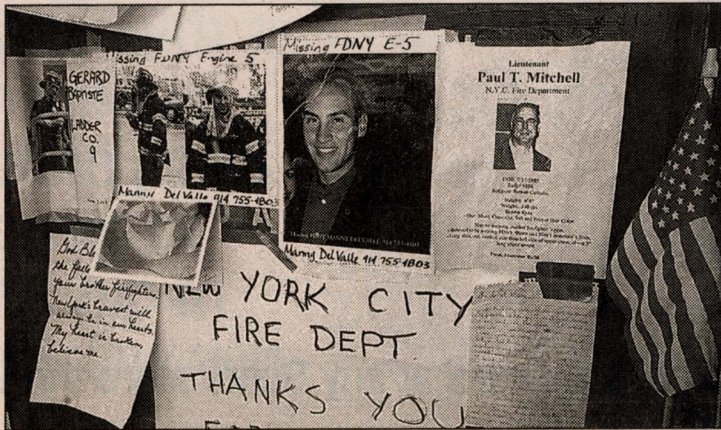
Those who come to look are moved to tears as they step from one flier to the next. Jaw muscles tighten, couples embrace and many are compelled to leave flowers, messages or lighted candles, while others bow heads, sing hymns or listen to impromptu sermons.

"I saw it on the news and knew when I rounded the corner over there that it was going to be over-



By Tim Dillon, USA TODAY

**A plea from a son:** A poster for Roland Pacheco, who is missing, graces the wall outside Bellevue Hospital in New York.



By Tim Dillon, USA TODAY

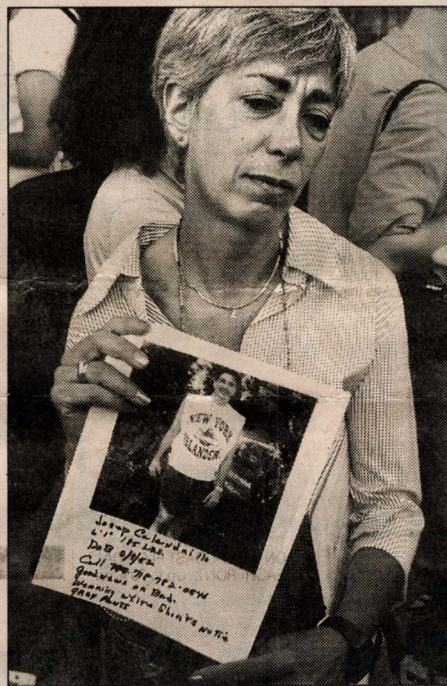
**Honoring the heroes:** A makeshift shrine to missing New York firefighters has been posted outside the firehouse of the 5th Battalion.

whelming," says Scott Asiel, 28, a real estate developer, his voice barely audible and tears welling in his eyes. "Everyone's seen all the images on TV and the wall-to-wall television coverage for the last four days. But this puts a human face, thousands of human faces, on what's happened."

The public is kept blocks away from the core of destruction, what has become known as Ground Zero, the apocalyptic and still-smoking ruins of the collapsed Trade Center towers. Barred from that, they are drawn in ever-greater numbers to the places where the fliers are posted. The Bellevue site is one. Another major location is the medieval-looking 69th Regiment Armory on Lexington Avenue, where distraught families have been registering missing loved ones.

Here, the posters blanket walls inside and cover portions of the exterior. Faces dot the buildings across the street and for more than a block in either direction.

Already commemorated in chiseled stone on the armory are names of the nation's bloodiest moments: Gettysburg, Chancellorsville, Meuse-Argonne and other battles. Below those names are now the handmade fliers that

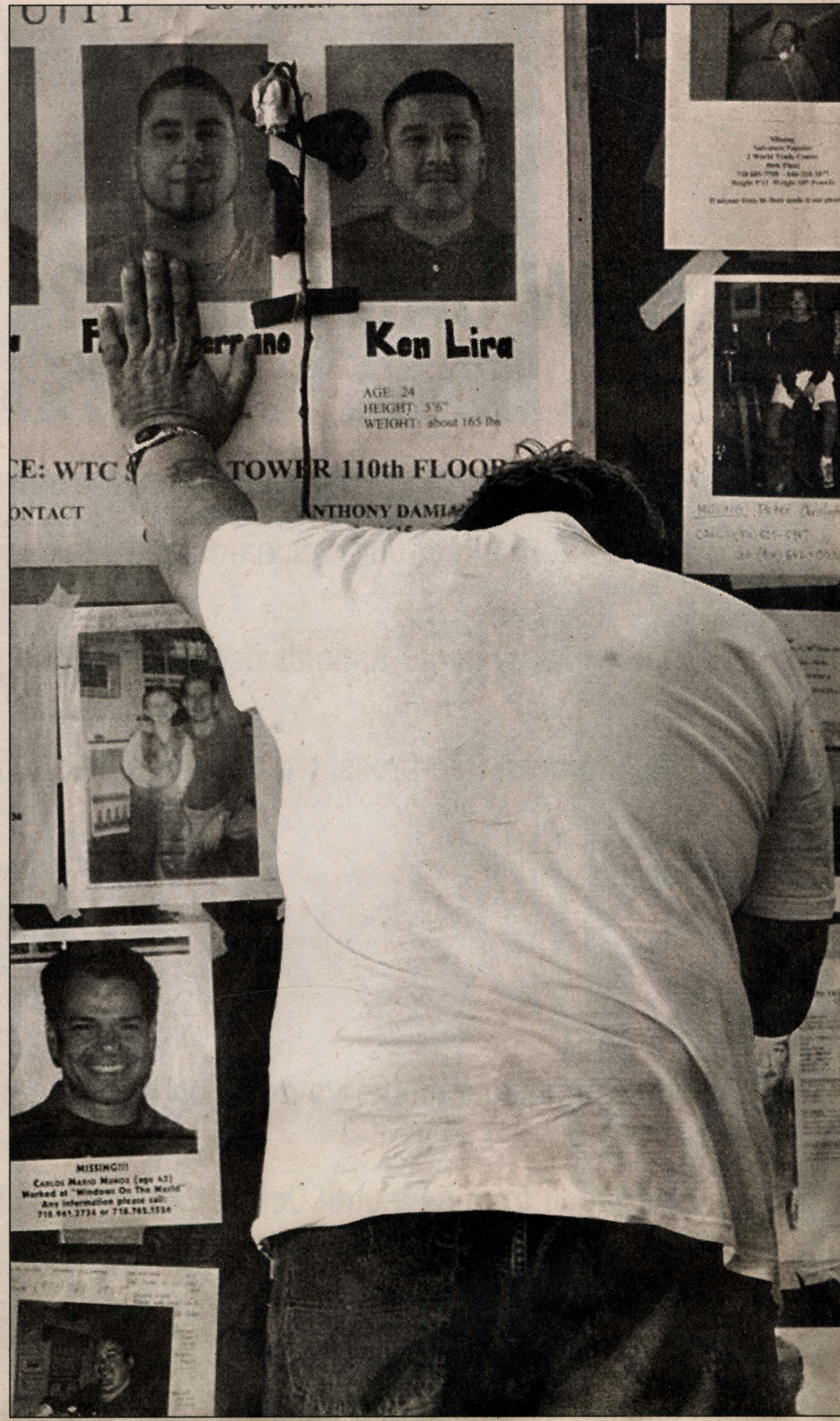


By Tim Dillon, USA TODAY

**Unanswered questions:** Trudy Calandrillo holds a photo of her brother Joseph.

speak to America's latest horror.

Driving straight through to this spot from Northern California — taking 48 hours in a Chevy Suburban SUV — are six members of the non-denominational Pathway Church from the city of Brentwood, outside Sacramento. They've brought food, supplies and a check for \$9,000 for a relief organization. And they came to the armory because they saw the crowd gathering here to see the faces, as a flock in need of minis-



By Russell Boyce, R

**Leaning on faith:** A man braces himself against a wall outside Bellevue Hospital that is covered with posters of people missing in the aftermath of the attacks on the World Trade Center.

tering. "I just knew that wherever there are people, I felt that God would want us to be with them in this place," says Patrick Tayco, a youth pastor.

Here and there, as hundreds filter by, the occasional knot of family members will step out to fill a space with another homemade handbill.

One at the Armory is Crossley Williams, Sr., 56. His fliers bear the face of his only son, Crossley Williams, Jr., 28, a financial analyst working for Fiduciary Trust on the 97th floor of Tower 2. Father and son spoke with one another Tuesday morning minutes after the first plane hit Tower 1 and the younger man said he would evacuate.

Then the second plane hit Tower 2. "He was the perfect son," the elder Crossley says.

"This," he says of the fliers at the Armory, "is a monument of hope."

Traditional boundaries of privacy have fallen away. Not only are phone numbers made public, but tattoos, birth marks, chipped

teeth, scars and even the presence or absence of circumcision are laid out for all to see.

The photos are often captured moments of informality, a father holding his daughter, friends arm-in-arm, someone in a moment of reflection at his desk.

Timothy Byrne, who was on the 104th floor of Tower 2, sits relaxing on a couch, looking happily into the camera. Below the picture is the name and phone number of his dentist, who will have dental records.

Precisely what Craig Nelson Gibson wore to work on the 85th floor in Tower 2 is there — blue, long-sleeved Ralph Lauren shirt, dark navy trousers, black belt and shoes.

And Michael "Mickey" Cunningham — the parent, with his wife, Teresa, of a two-week-old son — has a tattoo of Mickey Mouse on his right arm and is wearing a Bulova.

The inscription on the watch: "Madly, passionately T."

Contributing: Dennis Cauchon