

11

AND OTHER 9/11 WORKS

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and
Gnoetry

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For Lance Carter,
and all of the other lives
that are so suddenly cut short.

where does the evil of the year go when September takes New York
and turns it into ozone stalagmites deposits of light

— *Frank O'Hara, "Poem (Kruschev is coming on the right day!)"*

Notes on the Texts

The three texts which make up this collection were all completed around the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks, roughly between August and October of 2011, using a variety of digital methods and procedures. I think that it is important that readers are aware of the processes behind these compositions, as this information is integral to fully understanding them.

In Part 1: *Choosing Sympathy Poems and Words of Comfort*, the idea that poetry and art should primarily serve a healing role for a grieving readership, in the context of 9/11 or other similar politically charged events, is critiqued through the process of Google rewriting. The source text is an excerpt from Mark Doty's essay response to the Poetry Foundation's forum discussion, "Can Poetry Console a Grieving Public," which I have re-written by putting each phrase or sentence into Google, running a search, and taking a different phrase from one of the results. The output of this process was then heavily re-written in places to make a more coherent essay-poem. I should note, though, that the resulting text is not intended as a critique of Doty or Symborska; the first section of his essay merely provided good source material for this work.

I am grateful for Karen Alkalay-Gut's excellent essay, "The Poetry of September 11: The Testimonial Imperative," for helping me to better frame what has bothered me about the underlying sentiment in the Poetry Foundation's forum, "Can Poetry Console a Grieving Public?" Behind that question are some assumptions that bother me: Must it do so? And if it responds differently to the disaster, will this be taken as an offensive act? And what other artistic or literary responses to such events might also not be regarded as valuable because they do not treat the subject through the lens of grief? A look back at the reaction to Amiri Baraka's "Somebody Blew Up America" is very instructive on these points.

In Part 2: *///*, I am digging through some archives of 9/11 Internet poetry that have been cut-up and remixed using the Gnoetry 0.2 computer poetry program. The result is, I hope, something that engages the reader's imagination and memory while also making him or her feel a bit unsettled. Many historical, contemporary and humanist contexts missing from the source poems have been threaded by the

Gnoetry end-user into this new work in order to counteract the clichéd, sentimental and often racist sentiments of many of the source texts.

The websites that I drew source texts from are: About.com: Poems After the Attack; 9-11heroes.us; American Memory from the Library of Congress — September 11, 2001 Documentary Project; and America's Tragedy - September 11, 2001 Poems, Letters, Inspirational Items.

In Part 3: *Google News Search: dead OR died OR killed, 9/11/01 — 9/11/01*, I use a Google News search to isolate every report of death on that day in newspapers published in English and available through that vast resource. It is an act of investigation and curiosity which, far from intending to reduce the fact of the many innocents who lost their lives on that day to the terrorist attacks, instead aims to expand the scope of death, to point towards the tremendous variety and number of deaths that occur daily, and to place the public spectacle of a terrorist attack among what is too often the background noise of deaths that we tend to overlook in the course of our living. It may also serve as a supplement to *The New York Times*' "Portraits of Grief" which ran for weeks after September 11th, 2001, and which David Simpson characterized as "regimented, even militarized, made to march to the beat of a single drum" in his book *9/11: The Culture of Commemoration*.

The work to some extent also highlights the limitations of databases like Google News, which obviously cannot do much more than suggest or hint at the full realities of death or even its record, limited as they are by the constraints and values of the news sources they provide some access to (and which often now charge for full access). Finally, it deals with the truth that death, terrifying and ruinous as it can be to those close to it, is simultaneously something made ordinary and even acceptable through distance and repetition. Judith Butler's book *Precarious Life* is very eye-opening on this particular issue. I hope this work succeeds at making readers ask themselves whose deaths are forgettable and anonymous, and whose are recorded and memorialized, and why? These are not simple questions to answer.

Eric Goddard-Scovel
October 2, 2011

Part One

Choosing Sympathy Poems and Words of Comfort

Under high slabs of glass, white light-emitting diodes are threaded on 14-foot-tall metal ribbons. This laminated, structurally fortified work is a security amenity, screening the reader from the private precincts of the poem, and acting as a blast shield in case of terrorist attack:

Yahoo! Reviewed These Sites and Found Them Related to September 11th Attacks > Firsthand Photos,¹

Why jump from the 90th floor of a burning building to certain death,
One, two, skip a few,
Higher speed, lower energy,

We live with our heads held high and face the world happily,
The rest of the world might see if they could fly this high up,
We don't need to feel guilty or ashamed,

The richer nations should secure everybody equally, even if,
Tamils face particular problems that Sinhalese don't face,
For example, Well-Hidden Soldiers Of Satan Black Pope (pt. 3),

There's never enough time to,
Make loose ringlets like Lauren had,
Keys, coins, purse, (Water Serpents),
"A bunch of flowers in your pocket, Achoo! Achoo!, everyone fall down",

If they're alive, they're in the chamber,
Secure within the bounds of our social media policy,
We're just one day away from the widest opening we've ever had,
Two things that will never go out of style with white people,
Describing how Flight of the Conchords is so funny,
And adding a comma at the end of every line,

—eRoGK7

Prepare for remarkable insights into one author's behavior from a unique position at the intersection of autism and science! eRoGK7 here aims to revolutionize our ideas about what readers want and need—on their terms, not ours. And at the last moment, as this amateur video-poem reveals, it's structure seems to buckle, twisting itself in a desperate attempt to remain relevant. Like a crystal

¹The poem quoted here is a Google-mediated rewriting of each line of Wisława Szymborska's poem "Photograph from September 11," which was quoted and analyzed in Doty's article.

growing from rock, a dramatic new structure emerges from the ground like a new dialogue between contemporary living and a completely new experience of space: bodies shooting out of windows on the morning of September 11, 2001; the plastic-wrapped corpse of a prisoner beaten to death; the shrouded figure of a man wired for electrocution—all images are simultaneously unacceptable and already accepted.

What if we were a little less shocked and even less awed by events? Apathy took a big hit after 9/11, but one must wonder what it packed into that clear glass sherlock pipe. A retrospective piece by John Lundberg in the Huffington Post describes the unexpected (but long awaited by some) resurrection of popular verse after the attack:

In the immediate aftermath of September 11th, poems began popping up around New York City, some propped up in windows or taped to lamp posts. It seemed that in the turmoil of all that tragedy, poetry helped people cope with emotions that they otherwise struggled to grasp.²

Poetry anthologies and journals seemed dizzy with this sudden explosion in the exercise of verse after the attack, and took full advantage of the seeming break from their normal cultural and economic irrelevance. Amazon reviewer The Sanity Inspector was not so happy with their efforts, though, commenting on the anthology *Poetry After 9/11*, that “Unfortunately, all the poems collected here are by professional poets.”³ And while I’d certainly agree that even one bad poem in response to terrorism is too many, the various messages of these publications was regardless drowned out by the dominant institutions of the mass media, whose 24/7 barrage of messages can be easily reduced to, “There are like totally all these bearded Islamic fundamentalists, evil mustachioed dictators and Frenchy intellectual dickheads in the way of our global economic prosperity!” These institutions are not concerned with humanity or human rights, but are in reality Satanic manifestations spawned from their owners’ cultured and self-satisfied lifestyles.

So what is to be done about poets and editors who without second thought

²John Lundberg. “Remembering 9/11 Through Poetry,” *The Huffington Post*, September 11, 2010.

³The Sanity Inspector. “The world outside their navels comes a’knocking...” Review of *Poetry After 9/11: An Anthology of New York Poets* at Amazon.com. November 2, 2002.

assimilated, who added their somber strains to the TV and radio soundtracks of collectivized tragedy, comfortable in the company of Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings* on NPR and the freshly re-contextualized "September Song?" Whose writing exhibits a calculated lyric grace that is doubtless rooted in relative economic comfort and a leisurely attitude towards politics and the masses, and can only be read meaningfully as an ironic form of arrogant insincerity? Should they be summarily harassed and alienated from the mainstream, fractured in body, psyche and spirit? Why, these people are so timid that when they finally arrive at the inevitable childbirth scene, they bail out after just two pushes! The expulsion of such writers and publishers might conceivably be a righteous and joyous thing, highly beneficial to the citizenry as well as an act of enlightened mercy.

But before your righteous (and pompous) indignation carries you away, you should ask yourself what the unthinkable really looks like, what it would look like if it goes really, really bad for American writing. The force of a novel, poem or story's response to disaster comes from how it presents the reader with signs of a previously unknown or even unimaginable consciousness. Just two recent examples. The first from a short story: "Running into the street to pick up the lifeless body of something dear, the young child commented that the blood smelled 'like chocolate pop tarts'"; and this poetic excerpt:

To generate adequate
gesture trajectories
in the humanoid torso

nothing is more effective
than suggesting the potential
for another coordinated terrorist attack

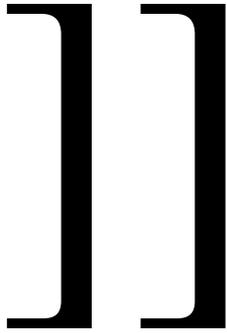
or, alternately, a series
of randomized nanodrone attacks

In the first example, the obvious is trained to swell and clog the heart imagistically with its strangeness and raw emotional power, as in "you cannot reply to this topic | you cannot start a new topic." With the second, programmable nanodrones have literally been released by the poet to swarm our reading hearts and in short order reduce us to a fine grey dust.

This is clearly evidence of a developing terrorist aesthetic in the arts. This is the literature of the End Times! In the soon-to-be post-apocalyptic environment,

the job of the poet will be to shape the reader's remains into something that can survive, something like a marble statue of a nude man eating human legs, children begging at his feet for scraps. One of the smarter children knows how to win a meal. In a 3D marble cartoon dialogue bubble coming out of her mouth, she stupifies the man long enough to nab some flesh, asking "Can you describe your innermost self in one word?" If the poet has done everything well, screens across the globe will flicker on and off, and settle, frozen, on the message, "The instruction at '0x034944db' referenced memory at '0x00000000.' The | memory could not | be 'written.'"

Part Two



1

With all of us who lost no one, we don't see that
empty space: the earth, once and for all odds.

I got a picture of you, after all odds!

Usually, I wake up, imagine you are glistening
with my small Midwestern mind, with our small
Midwestern children, friends and mothers.

When the first one falls, I stumble blindly in
the nothing ground as nothing flowers on up.

2

Their lives, and now the nation: so this is the
profane.

She wanted to hit the big time again, giant
bullet smashing her way in to save them.

Rumors flew about why there was no time to
look at the end of America's innocence.

With your flags flying high on TV, you are
always looking back.

Is all you want is to look back?

3

In my veins is terror. I breathe out whole
buildings and flocks of red wing blackbirds.

I was affected 'personally.'

It aches to look at you. We were all there, we
were all thankful and sad and screaming and wholly
imagined. And sad a lot.

Let us weep, but not like other peoples:
Afghanis, Israelis, Pakistanis. Strangers.

I'm sorry, strangers. I always looked for you
crying far away in your own foreign hells.

And it stole in, America.

4

Actions taken without regret. “He kissed my
cheek and then drove away.”

A life goes.

On a bright white line across the TV, the paper,
the snare, the forehead, the feet angled in as if nothing
had really changed.

Those who were living are now dead. We who
are still here, we have to cope.

Lord, bless the families of the world before my
eyes before they do not dream anymore.

5

The question was so natural, so up to the
ground.

People were fighting the ground, the cameras
caught it all, the terror in all of us died.

Nothing is struggling with nothing to carry but
your life, as though a nation stood as one faith.

A man with a thud. A man flying by with a
question about the things that have all passed by.

I think I miss him flying by.

6

The sky is falling from the sky where they stand
hushed and glimmering in the sky.

The skies are so very sad. Scared, sad skies.

Sad day when I look up. I look up and the sky is
filled with anxious people, trapped workers screaming
in the sky for help.

In the trees are the ground, names of citizens,
workers, ourselves.

The moon shines down on the road and I ache,
like in the sky the moon had a family. The sky so very
scared and sad.

7

Who else knows what it's like to wonder where
they're going, and when they're going to make it
where they can live happily again?

Type, "Fukushima." "Afghanistan." "Katrina."
"Somalia."

Like a cloud of concrete, the paper faces
around my heart. On Monday we had to go that
extra smile.

All the paper peeling all around, I couldn't
conceive of the world before. Now I just wish it
wasn't.

Type, "Haiti." "Iraq." "Libya." "Tibet."

No one else knows how I'm feeling, blissful in a
bright white line across the lobby.

8

On Tuesday, I will cross with a pile into the lair
of the day before.

Not a day goes by.

I could barely afford a small plane in the face,
let alone a million tears in the empty wallets of
Manhattan.

On Tuesday, I will plant some of our lives
stripped of all of the day before.

Somehow, as if we can be all that we all so
deeply believe in. Ourselves. Again.

9

A war starts, and the people are joined in many directions and through time so that nothing can stop the bombings.

Next time, stop to think about the living. What if the killers were all holding hands?

I could sing of those people, those you've met, and those you've never met, and will never meet.

It would console me, like wind being wind, like no lives to return to, no lives to come back.

10

We know, we are fashioning a monument of
tears, Gettysburg.

We are, we know, Vietnam, in ruins, a
monument to tears.

I still thirst for the tears of ashes. I wake up,
and sorrow still controls our minds. My mind.

Strangely lonesome as I close my eyes
to see everyone else's pain: *I don't want this,*
I should be one of the ash of them.

They race towards me, billowing, but I still
have to breathe, America.

I close my eyes and what should I say to them?
We know? We are? We suffer a great deal of misery
too?

11

People started running, running back into the
world in heaven in the world in heaven.

There is new space here, the moon says.

I love my heart; I close my eyes; I don't believe.

What should I believe?

I have lost the heart of my life in the thousands
that can kill any one of us.

Nothing to think, where we run from grace
that diamond in heaven.

12

I saw a bird hit a plane and sink like a hug into
a porous rubber eraser.

Our way of life: we were just standing there not
doing anything.

I was there, it was like a hug in a cloud in the
pale sky.

Empire, violence — when will they be erased
from the earth?

If you asked me how I'm doing, I'd say just fine,
but for the new architecture of ignorance.

13

On Monday, people were dying where?

Time to question their worth.

We swear revenge upon the innocent millions
who live between the dark roots of terror.

Who can really say for sure that they cannot
stand against such an obvious threat?

I am imagining how if we had those buildings
back the months would pass by, the seasons would
come and go to sleep.

Just like it was before.

14

Those men and women so brave, those brave
people who cried on that September day.

We need a quick solution.

Give blood for the ones who have died on the
land of the twin towers of concrete, glass and steel on
an island in the Atlantic.

Imagine a young mother with blonde hair who
loves to take her children shopping with her.

For the Motherland! We will prevail, oh Jesus,
yes, over the rubble of the earth!

15

The buildings may have fallen in a column.

The buildings may have been burned, bombed
and trampled on the head of a love that will never die.

The buildings may have been collapsing every
day for a decade.

No time to think anymore about the things that
happen. When will they just go away?

I look up at the statue of buildings no longer
there, glorious monument to fantasy and rage.

16

How can I feel more beautiful today?

No one wants to, you know, it's hard to be that way.

It's like nobody wants to unite.

Like it's impossible to feel what it is to be
filled with tenderness.

Remember when she hit the big time once,
the day when they called the pretty blonde girl from
the trailer park and told her she'd be a star?

Let's go back to Disney Land. Let's get on
a plane to Los Angeles.

Part Three

Google News Search,
dead OR died OR killed 9/11/01 – 9/11/01

Thousands feared dead as World Trade Center is toppled. Thousands are feared to have died inside the buildings when hijacked airliners slammed into them. About 260 more are presumed to have perished on board the planes. || United Airlines Flight 93 crashed near Johnstown, Pennsylvania, shortly after three other planes were flown into buildings in terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. Flight 93 was carrying 38 passengers, two pilots and five flight attendants, the airline said. || In Washington, the Pentagon - the heart of the US military establishment - suffered a direct hit from another hijacked passenger jet. Pentagon spokesman Glenn Flood said there were “extensive casualties and an unknown number of fatalities.” || At least 165 people have been killed and more than 900 others wounded in the Christian-Muslim clashes which erupted last weekend in

Jos, the capital of Nigeria's central Plateau State, the Nigerian Red Cross confirmed Monday in Lagos. More than 6,000 people have died in religious and ethnic clashes in Nigeria as a direct result of the confrontations over Sharia since the return to civilian rule after two decades of military dictatorship. || Two Palestinian youths were killed on Tuesday in the "ferocious" artillery shelling of the Jenin camp, the West Bank, while a third was killed in Gaza, Palestinian radio reported. || Iraq said Monday that eight civilians were killed in a weekend airstrike by U.S. and British warplanes in southern Iraq. || A suicide bomber set off an explosive in front of a police post in Istanbul, killing two officers, injuring 20 other people and creating panic in nearby Taksim Square, a popular destination for visitors to Turkey. An Australian visitor is believed to have lost an arm

in the explosion. || The day after a suicide bombing aimed at Ahmed Shah Massoud, the leader of the last remaining opposition to the ruling Taliban, conflicting reports persisted today over whether he had survived. United States intelligence officials said today that they strongly believed that Mr. Massoud had been killed in the attack. Massoud's official spokesman and close aide, Assem Suhail, was killed in the explosion, and the Afghan ambassador to India, Masood Khalili, who was visiting Massoud, was injured. One of the attackers died in the blast and Massoud's guards shot and killed the other, according to Massoud's associates. || At least two people were killed as powerful typhoon Danas bore down on Japan on Monday, whipping up violent waves and battering a wide swathe of the main island with torrential rains in the second such storm in less than

a month. || Two workers died in Gumma prefecture when they were buried under an embankment that collapsed during a highway inspection. A mudslide buried an elderly couple in their home in Nagano, 110 miles northwest of Tokyo, and a man died after he was blown off a rooftop while he was fixing an antenna. || Dead birds are being spotted throughout Cook and DuPage counties - a clear indication that the West Nile virus is indeed here. || Liquor tainted with highly toxic methanol has killed 22 people and sickened at least 36 others in one of Estonia's worst cases of alcohol poisoning. || Janice Greenburg, devoted and loving mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend died Sunday, September 9, 2001 after a courageous battle against cancer. She was preceded in death by her husband Robert Greenburg and her sister, Annette Evins. || Police are

investigating the weekend shooting deaths of two adults and two girls in a San Francisco home as a murder, though they have not ruled out murder-suicide. || A tow-truck driver was severely beaten by a crowd after he accidentally ran over and killed a 4-year-old boy, authorities said. The driver, Candelario Flores, 38, was in guarded condition after running over Fred Allen, who died instantly of head trauma. Cops said they are seeking two suspects in the brutal beating in south Los Angeles over the weekend. || A child died after suffering internal injuries when a roller coaster stopped too suddenly, an official at a county fair said. || Martin J. Bressler, Attorney, 53, died on September 8, of cancer at home in New York, surrounded by his beloved family. || After vowing in a video suicide message to put on “a hell of a show,” a young security guard who had shot

dead five people and wounded two others killed himself after a fierce gunbattle with police. “Angry and distressed” Joseph Ferguson, 20, left behind a videotape - made by a hostage who became the fifth and final murder victim - in which he ranted at an ex-girlfriend, work colleagues and his mother, who was jailed for 14 years for molesting her sons and who divorced his father last week. || Greg Ludwig, the Rochester man who is accused of selling the Ecstasy that killed a 16-year-old Ambridge Area High School student in May, was freed on \$25,000 bond yesterday while he fights charges of third-degree murder and drug delivery. The dead girl, Brandy French, became ill after taking an Ecstasy pill during the May 18 X-Fest rock concert at the Post-Gazette Pavilion in Washington County. || An alleged stalker forced his way into the workplace of a psychiatric nurse

on Sunday and fatally shot her before committing suicide, police said. || The northbound lanes of the Florida Turnpike were closed Monday after a cable hoisting a 150,000-pound support beam snapped, fatally crushing two construction workers and covering the road with debris. The workers were identified as David Knight, 32, of Pasco County, and Enrique Aguilar, 22, of Mount Dora. They were helping build a pedestrian walkway over the highway when the cable snapped. || U.S. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell is set to make his first official visit today and tomorrow to Colombia, where he will find this country of about 40 million people embroiled in a guerrilla war now financed by illegal drugs. The 37-year-old conflict, which has killed up to 40,000 people over the past decade, threatens to destabilize its Latin American neighbors and raises serious

national security issues for the United States. Drug surveillance cooperation with Peru and Colombia has been suspended since April 20, when a plane carrying American missionaries was misidentified as a possible drug flight and shot down by the Peruvian air force. || A 63-year-old Baltimore County woman with West Nile died of unrelated causes Saturday at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. The first victim, a 72-year-old man, remains in serious but stable condition at Sinai Hospital, a spokeswoman said Monday. || Jill A. Bilodeau died Sunday afternoon at UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester, according to staff there. She was taken to the hospital after being injured on a motorcycle driven by Clinton J. Allard, 21, of Grafton. They were going eastbound on Route 9 near Home Depot about 2 a.m. when Mr. Allard lost control of the motorcycle.

|| Newborn deaths remain high in poor countries. Every year, 4 million babies worldwide die before they are a month old, the international relief organization Save the Children reported Monday, one week before world leaders gather for a special United Nations summit on children. || Sixteen children under age 12 died from toy-related injuries in 1999, the most recent federal statistics show. || Fred Sager, 85, died Sunday. He was the retired owner and operator of Sager Pharmacy. Frederick Peck Sr., 84, died Monday. || Monarch butterflies living in farm fields have virtually nothing to fear from genetically engineered corn that produces its own insect killer, according to studies begun after research raised worldwide concern. || A Fijian soldier was killed and 11 others were injured yesterday when the truck in which they were traveling overturned in East Timor's Suai

district. The soldier killed, who was serving alongside the New Zealand Battalion, has been identified as Staff Sergeant Rakabu. One of the injured soldiers suffered a serious spinal injury and has been evacuated to Adelaide, Australia for specialist treatment. Other casualties were evacuated to the Slovakian Field Surgical Team facility in Suai for further treatment. || Mother gores baby elephant in latest Oakland Zoo death. The mother killed him, delivering one fatal blow to his chest with her short tusk. No one at the zoo could fathom that Lisa might have attacked the calf purposefully - as she did six years ago when she trampled her first-born and injured him within minutes of his birth. || ON THIS DATE IN: • 1971, former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev died at age 77. • 1973, Chilean President Salvador Allende died in a violent military coup. || A Texas

jury could be the first to decide whether Ford Motor Co. is liable for any of the Explorer rollover accidents that have killed and injured hundreds of passengers. Jury selection was scheduled for today in a state district court, although lawyers and analysts still expected Ford Motor Co. to settle with the family of a woman killed last year. Margarita Gonzalez, 59, died when the Explorer she was in crashed near Kerrville. Her husband, five children and mother are seeking unspecified damages for wrongful death, malice and gross negligence. || Carrie K.G. Lake Died at age 85 on September 10, 2001 after a lengthy and brave battle with cancer. || Igor Buketoff, an American conductor who specialized in Russian music and contemporary opera, died Friday. He was 87. Buketoff was best known for his orchestration of the first act of Rachmaninoff's unfinished opera,

“Monna Vanna.” || A pet shop worker died of a severe heart ailment caused by rat bite fever, a rare infection that he contracted by cutting his finger on a rat cage, doctors said. || A public memorial service for Cawood Ledford, the longtime radio voice of the Kentucky Wildcats, was postponed in the wake of terrorist attacks that struck New York and Washington. Ledford died last Wednesday after a prolonged battle with cancer. He was 75. A private funeral was held Sunday. || An inquiry into the gun battles that killed 27 people in July began yesterday with investigators pledging to interview witnesses and cops and to find ways to prevent future outbreaks. || The plane that crashed and killed singer/actress Aaliyah and eight other people in the Bahamas last month was grossly overloaded and out of balance. || William “Bill” S. Stults, age 78, of Toledo, passed

away peacefully Sunday, September 9, 2001, at his home. || A Swiss nurse who confessed to the “mercy” killing of nine elderly women in July has admitted responsibility for 18 more deaths of old people in nursing homes and hospitals, officials said on Tuesday. The original nine deaths came to light at the end of May after 10 people died in a special unit for the senile in a home for the elderly in the central city of Lucerne, where the man had worked since December 2000. || A lawsuit has been filed against the former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger over his alleged role in the death of the former Chilean army commander, General Rene Schneider, in 1970. || Funeral services are today for Miller Farr Sr., the father of two former NFL players, who died Wednesday in his Southfield, Mich., home of complications from prostate cancer. He was 88. Son Mel Farr, a

running back, played seven seasons with the Lions. Miller Farr Jr., a defensive back, played from 1965-73 for five teams. || Oklahoma court postpones execution of Mexican. Gerardo Valdez, 41, was sentenced to die by injection for killing Juan Barron after Barron made sexual advances. Prosecutors said Valdez tried to persuade Barron that Christianity condemned homosexuality, then shot him twice in the head, cut his throat and burned the body in a barbecue pit. || Mrs. Rose Bianco Paszul, 66, of Seneca Court, Schonowe Village, died Monday at Mercy Life Center in Guilderland. || Elmer DeWitt "Dee" Armel, 77, of Columbia City and formerly of Fort Wayne, died Monday, Sept. 10, 2001, at Parkview Whitley Memorial Hospital. || Aaron Wake was a 24-year-old graphic arts student in Door County when he died this summer, a butane container near his

body. Wake breathed in cigarette lighter vapors to get high but it turned out to be a lethal dose. || Milwaukee lost its most generous philanthropist in history with the passing of Jane Pettit, who died after a yearlong battle with lung cancer. She donated more than \$250 million in the last 16 years in support of sports, arts, education and social services. || A Canadian woman died during testing of the abortion pill, and enrollment in the study has been temporarily suspended, the Population Council reported. || Mr Stone, 41, denies carrying out the attack in a country lane which left Lin Russell, 45, and her daughter Megan Russell, six, dead and Josie, nine, clinging to life, near Chillenden, Kent, on July 9, 1996. || The coroner's office identified a woman killed in an automobile crash Sunday as a Huber Heights woman. Colodinia Nabors, 51, had been northbound on Philadelphia Drive about 8

p.m. when her car hit a metal utility pole near Hornwood Drive, according to sheriff's deputies. She died at Good Samaritan Hospital and Health Center. || Former Mattaponi Indian Chief Curtis L. "War Horse" Custalow, Sr., who led the tribe to an era of greater political autonomy, died Thursday. He was 85. || John Gavin Hurd, a Texas oilman and former U.S. ambassador to South Africa, died at home Thursday of heart failure. || Dennis M. Day is accused of shooting Randall Wayne McDaniel, 3700 Trail On Road, in the chest in front of 57 N. Main St., where Day lived. Day surrendered to police after the shooting, the first homicide in Moraine in a decade. || 'Psychotic,' but is Andrea Yates legally insane? Houston mom who drowned her 5 kids will find it tough to prove. || On the day five years ago that Ryan Tait Eslinger bought a gun from Kmart – which he

later used to kill himself – his face was expressionless and he spoke in a monotone. He also was drooling, Eslinger’s mother, Sandra Eslinger, told jurors in Salt Lake City’s U.S. District Court. || Shooting range is ‘menace,’ but legal. The U.S. Forest Service routinely directs gun enthusiasts to the unofficial shooting range where a 10-year-old Auburn-area boy was shot dead by his father Sunday — even handing out maps to the popular target-practice site. || Robert Nathan, an economist who helped lead the nation’s industrial mobilization in World War II, died Sept 4 at a group home in Bethesda, Md. He was 92. || As Ohio prepares to execute John W. Byrd Jr. next week, Reginald A. Wilkinson is worried that something could go terribly wrong. Convicted in the 1983 murder of a convenience store clerk, Byrd has chosen electrocution over what many consider

the more humane and less painful option of injection. Byrd, 37, maintains his innocence in the killing and says he wants his death to illustrate the brutality of capital punishment. || Jim Drake, 63, who worked with farmworker rights activist Cesar Chavez and helped organize the grape boycott of the 1960s died Sept. 3 of lung cancer in New York. || Auglaize County Coroner Thomas Fretag released autopsy results Monday for Brent E. Anderson, 37, who died after he was shot Sept. 2 on Ohio 67 in Wapakoneta. Preliminary autopsy results conducted by the Lucas County coroner's office indicate Anderson died of multiple gunshot wounds. The death was ruled a homicide, Fretag said. || The health bureau is asking Mainers to continue to report any dead birds they find to the toll-free Dead Bird Reporting Line at 1-888-697-5846. || A man accused of killing seven people,

including his girlfriend and her five children, was charged Monday with seven counts of first-degree murder. Adrian Moss, 24, is also accused of killing Ronald Fish, a man who lived across town from the other victims. Authorities said all seven were bludgeoned with a hammer and that Fish and Moss' girlfriend, Leticia Aguilar, also had knife wounds. || Lucille F Schwarzbauer (nee Isabelle), 83. Of Tuxedo Park, NY, died Saturday, September 8, 2001, in Suffern, NY. || A former security guard at Heathrow airport says he discovered a break-in at a Pan Am baggage facility early on the day that 270 people died in the bombing of a New York-bound jumbo jet, a newspaper reported Tuesday. || At least 22 people were killed and 27 others wounded after an anti-aircraft missile accidentally exploded at an abandoned military garrison in south Mogadishu on Monday.

One witness said the explosion was triggered by a man named Said Moalin Farah, who was trying to extract some copper metal from the old weapon. He was among those killed, the witness added. || Dorothy Dalsimer. Loving widow of Philip, active and devoted mother, caring and supportive grandmother, adoring great grandmother, a sister and good friend of many, died September 9, 2001 at a youthful 88. She was a cherished part of our lives. || Soraya Ali-Omar was found dead at her apartment on West Fifth Street at approximately 4:09 p.m., according to a Chico Police Department news release. Chico Police Detective Stan Duitsman said Ali-Omar died after voluntarily taking GHB (gamma hydroxybutyrate) and drinking alcohol with several people during a social gathering at a private residence on Friday night. || And now at the Philadelphia Zoo, they're dy-

ing - struck down by a disease unknown on their native coast.
A second Humboldt penguin - a toddling and tuxedoed species
beloved by children — has died at the zoo, apparently of the
deadly West Nile virus, bird curator John Ffinch said. ||

Appendix

9/11 Texts that influenced this Project

Below are many of the books, films, websites and videos about 9/11 that I read/watched during the course of this project. I don't "agree" necessarily with parts or all of some of these. It was my goal through all of this absorption into these texts to remind myself of the atmosphere of those times and my own earlier struggle to understand 9/11. There are many other items that could be added to this list; this is merely what I surrounded myself with in August, September and early October of 2011.

Books, Poems and Essays

- David Simpson, *9/11: The Culture of Commemoration*
- Juliana Spahr, *This Connection of Everyone with Lungs* and *The Transformation*, particularly chapters 7 to the end.
- Slavoj Žižek, "Welcome to the Desert of the Real" from *The Universal Exception*
- Judith Butler, *Precarious Life*
- Jean Baudrillard, "The Spirit of Terrorism" and *The Transparency of Evil*
- Art Spiegelman, *In the Shadow of No Towers*
- Karen Alkalay-Gut, "The Poetry of September 11: The Testimonial Imperative"
- Various poets, Poetry Foundation's Forum on the topic of "Can Poetry Console a Grieving Public"
- Philip Metres, "Beyond Grief and Grievance: The poetry of 9/11 and its aftermath"

Film and Video

- Internet Archive, "The September 11 Television Archive" (especially the "Understanding 9/11: A Television News Archive" selection of videos)
- CSPAN, "Tenth Anniversary of 9/11 Coverage"
- History Commons, "Complete 9/11 Timeline"
- Wikipedia, "Timeline for the Day of the September 11 Attacks"
- *Loose Change: An American Coup* (2009)
- *World Trade Center* (2006)
- CNBC, "Capitalism Survives 9/11" (broadcast on September 9, 2011)

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^{*}<http://gnoetrydaily.wordpress.com/>

[†]<http://wlal.wordpress.com/>

