

A GENERATION DEFINED BY

TERROR AND 'HEARTACHE'

DAJSIA BUBB, 18, BRIGHTON

Bubb, a UMass-Amherst freshman, was a third-grader at Jackson Mann School in Allston.

THEN: "I was at recess in elementary school. School ended early that day and we didn't know why. They rushed us into the building. My teacher started crying. ... It was crazy. I didn't know what it was, but I was scared."

NOW: "9/11 has made me more tolerant and aware of how Americans treat others. We are absent-minded and selfish in some ways. I want to make a difference in the world when I get older. We are the United States; we are supposed to accept and love everybody."

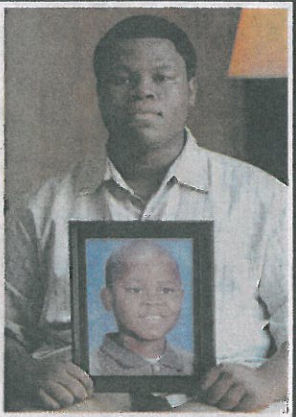


MICHAEL CREESE, 18, ROXBURY

Creese, a Wentworth Institute of Technology freshman, was a third-grader at the Henry L. Higginson School in Roxbury.

THEN: "I remember it like it was yesterday. We were doing work sheets. Our teacher stepped out, and she came back with the most horrific (look on her) face. They didn't tell us anything, but we knew something was wrong because they canceled recess and they never canceled recess. They sent us home, and my mom tried to explain it to me. There were tears running down her face, and I told her I didn't understand."

NOW: "It made me realize that the world is not as perfect as a child would imagine. As an adult, it makes me want to be as involved as I can."



NICOLLETTE ECHEVARRIA, 22, CHELSEA

Echevarria, a Bunker Hill Community College student, was an eighth-grader at Williams Middle School in Chelsea.

THEN: "We were switching classes, and then the teachers shouted, 'Head back to your main classes,' and they locked the doors and we turned on the news. They let us use our phones to call our parents. We had a couple teachers who were crying because they lost some of their friends on the flights. Our parents were calling worried. Everyone was real quiet. Taking it all in."

NOW: "People are different. People should be accepted for who they are, what they have to offer as a person."



JAMES GRASSO JR., 20, NEEDHAM

Grasso, a junior at the UMass-Amherst, was a fifth-grader at Newman Elementary in Needham.

THEN: "I was walking home from the bus stop. I remember it being weird at school. (A friend yelled out the window) and said terrorists flew planes into the World Trade Center. It's weird growing up with something like that being in your childhood."

NOW: "It makes my generation more globally aware. A global society was (significant) in my education. My generation has grown to understand that these events are important and to pay attention."



HAMZA ABDUL, 21, CHELSEA

Abdul, a UMass-Boston junior, was a sixth-grader at Williams Middle School in Chelsea.

THEN: "All of a sudden, it just changed the views of Muslims. I'm Muslim myself. I'm from Somalia. We have nothing to do with Pakistan and Afghanistan, but when I tell people Muslim, it shakes things up."

NOW: "I'm Americanized, even though I'm Muslim. I feel like I'm stuck in the middle with the Muslim jokes. It's tough to overcome at times."



In their eyes: Coming of age in new world

By TENLEY WOODMAN

Shock. Anxiety. And a desire to better the world. For local young people who have come of age since Sept. 11, childhood memories of that monstrous day have given way to adult resolve.

MILAGROS ARIAS, 18, WEST ROXBURY

Arias, a Bunker Hill Community College student, was a third-grader at the Patrick Lyndon School in West Roxbury.

THEN: "I was supposed to come back to the U.S. from Dominican Republic, but our flight was canceled. My mom called the airline. She didn't tell me what was going on. She told

me we would be there for two more weeks. I didn't know what was going on until I came back my teacher told us. They told us about protection and the anthrax masks."

NOW: "I like knowing what other countries are doing and what we are doing. You can't be in the world and not know what is going on. It frustrates me when people say ignorant things. You need to educate people. I might want to be a history teacher."



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Watch the children of 9/11 talk to Katy Jordan at bostonherald.com