

Speziale

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lice. By the grace of God, we made it back before they closed the subway."

As soon as they reached Brooklyn, all passengers were told to get off the subway. "They said that if we had any breathing problems, we should stay underground."

Dr. Speziale and the three sisters went into Brooklyn but weren't sure how to get to the residence. "We headed toward the river and people were screaming, 'Turn back, turn back. You won't be able to breathe.' It was probably the most frightening experience of my life," said Speziale.

The four women tried to get on a bus, but all of the buses were completely packed and no one was getting on or off. Dr. Speziale finally managed to place a call on her cell phone and someone agreed to come and pick them up.

"It took two hours for them to get across Brooklyn. During that time we sat at a street corner. I was wearing black slacks and I was covered in ash. One thing I want to share with you is that

"We headed toward the river and people were screaming, 'Turn back, turn back. You won't be able to breathe.'"

Dr. Helen Speziale
on her experience Sept. 11

there was no sound. People walked silently in a daze. You could hear a siren in the distance but the dense smoke was overpowering. I was very concerned about the other women. Two of them had something to cover their faces with, but I did not."

The four women were picked up and returned to the residence where 25 to 30 sisters live. "At that point they were afraid of germ warfare and so we had to remove our clothing and shower off. We later learned that it was probably asbestos and I guess I'd rather that," Speziale

said. "That night we were very afraid when we saw the news about the bombing in Afghanistan. We feared the retaliation. All night we could hear the planes going by overhead and we knew there were fighter jets there. Later we heard that they were also flying in people who needed to be there."

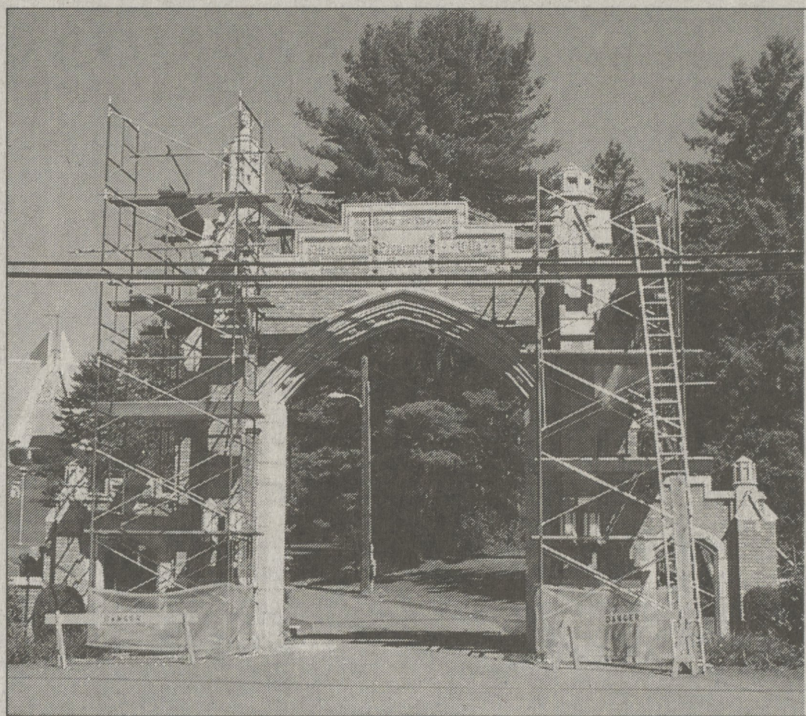
Dr. Speziale made it back to Pennsylvania on Wednesday on a six-hour trip via the Verrazano Narrows Bridge and a trip through southern New Jersey. Although her initial fear was for her son, who is a college student in Boston, she later learned that her other son, a resident of Clearwater, Florida was close enough to President Bush to hear the air-raid sirens.

"I'm sure I'll never be the same," said Speziale. "You will never convince me to pick up a weapon against another country. I would never want to wreak on others what I saw — the terror in people's eyes. I know I want retribution for this act but I'll have to think a long time about what form it should take."

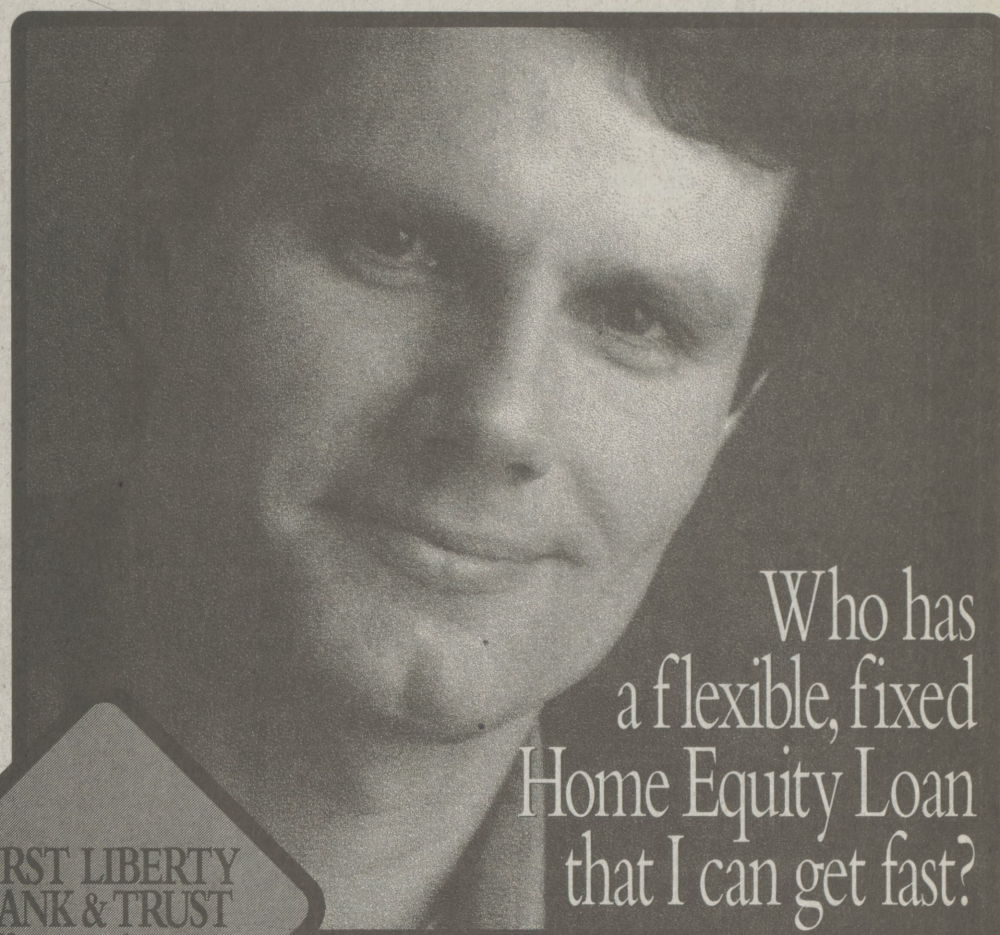
Restoration of Misericordia arch begins

DALLAS - Restoration work has begun on College Misericordia's entrance arch. The arch is a familiar gateway to generations of Misericordia graduates and area residents. Masons will shore up the 70-year old structure to preserve it for the future. Scaffolding is installed, and work is expected to last several weeks.

Another renovation project recently completed on campus was the dismantling of the tennis courts, located near Misericordia's north entrance. The aging courts made way for over 50 new parking spaces to serve students and visitors. Workers completed the project before the start of the semester. Community members, students and staff utilized the courts free of charge. New tennis courts are planned as part of additional campus renovations and athletic field construction over the next year.



Workmen installed scaffolding and began restoration of the entrance arch to the College Misericordia campus last week.



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