

# Alec Soth's Archived Blog

September 14, 2006

## A must read

Filed under: [media](#) — alecsothblog @ 7:56 am

In response to the Frank Rich/Thomas Hoepker [controversy](#), one of the 'young' New Yorkers in the picture wrote to Slate:

"A more honest conclusion might start by acknowledging just how easily a photograph can be manipulated, especially in the advancement of one's own biases or in the service of one's own career."

Read the full response [here](#).

### 3 Comments

1. ...therefore, if I used my photoshop skills and put some 'shocked composure' onto their faces, would I be allowed to publish it, seeing as it would be closer to the truth? Oh dear, but then we will have lost the interest.

*Comment by [Philip](#) — September 14, 2006 @ [8:29 am](#)*

2. i agree that the motives of many who ran to their cameras that day certainly deserve some examination.

*Comment by [j zorn](#) — September 14, 2006 @ [3:04 pm](#)*

3. I was a young New Yorker that day and I grabbed my camera and took photos because it was what I knew how to do. It was a way to filter the disaster or to be able to process it in some sort of rational way during an irrational, chaotic day. No radio, no tv, no telephone. No information.

I think Alec said it best: "Why is it such a big deal in Germany?". You cannot blame the photographer for how an image is interpreted. Take a look at the people who are trying to interpret it a negative way.

*Comment by [William K.](#) — September 18, 2006 @ [12:58 pm](#)*