

Neal Travis



Tough times, tough talk

THE cold-blooded terrorist attacks on America have been a real career booster for super-patriot and unrepentant Watergate operative **G. Gordon Liddy**. Just before the Sept. 11 outrage, Westwood One — which syndicates his daily show to 100-plus stations — chose not to renew his contract when it expires in February.

Liddy has already been bumped from his D.C. home station, WJFK-FM, and is now based at AM station WTNT (a very appropriate call sign in his case). According to newsletter Inside Radio, Liddy was getting pushed out in favor of new and younger talent, like blonde airhead **Laura Ingraham**.

But Liddy's bare-knuckle boosterism is suddenly very appealing to a lot of new listeners and, he says, he's being deluged with offers from rival syndicates. "I'm

very hot right now," he tells me. "I wish these terrible events had never occurred, but they've sent the ratings way up. I get a thousand e-mails every day."

Liddy thinks listeners are tuning in to him because we need tough talk in a time of crisis. "Remember Admiral Ernest King, who jumped about 250 seniority ranks to take over naval operations after Pearl Harbor," he says. "As he remarked at the time, 'When the shells start flying, they come looking for an SOB to lead them.'"

Liddy, who was Richard Nixon's most devoted lieutenant, thinks President **George W. Bush** is saying the right things. "But he's going to have to do what he says he will — and he must finish what his father didn't finish and take out **Sadam Hussein**."

He loves you

FORMER Beatle **Paul McCartney** remains very close to the family of his late wife, Linda. Last weekend Paul and fiancée **Heather Mills** flew to Martha's Vineyard for the wedding of Linda's nephew, **Jay** (son of New York lawyer **John Eastman**) and **Katama Guernsey**. Paul joined society band leader **Bob Hardwick** to entertain the 300 guests with a rousing rendition of "When the Saints Go Marching In" (McCartney played trumpet), then sang "The Very Thought of You" for Heather, noting "It's our favorite song." He capped the evening by crooning one of his own for the bride and groom: "I Saw Her Standing There."

Bedfellows

THESE are strange and

Beautiful cause

