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Special
Edition

The Student Newspaper of Alfred University

Disasters shatter NYC, DC, PA

AU students react to tragedy

BY ALISON SAVETT
NEWS EDITOR

Hundreds of AU students, combined with staff and faculty, sat silently captivated by the television in the mailroom; they were hearing the latest breaking news on CNN early yesterday, Sept. 11, 2001, a day which will surely go down in history.

Murmurs throughout the day were heard in all crowds of people around campus who wanted to call friends and family, even acquaintances, in New York City, the site of what used to be the twin towers of the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan.

Regardless of where students were when they heard the news of the terrorist attacks, they were completely aghast. Those who cried in Powell Campus Center were hugged and comforted by friends. Gasps were heard as students watched on live TV the second of the twin towers implode.

The sight of the Pentagon engulfed in

flames and the billowing smoke from the WTC brought sophomore Kelli Fogg to ask, "What about all of the firemen there?" Her concern is real, and even she admitted it was a bit eerie; seconds later, CNN flashed scenes of firemen and policemen running.

Along with stifled snuffles, those gasps were about the only thing heard on the bottom floor of Powell early yesterday morning. But emotions weren't all peaceful as someone cried out obscenities as a photo of President George W. Bush was broadcast.

The President decided to cut his visit to a Florida elementary school short and declare an "apparent terrorist attack." Also mentioned around this same time was the fact that secretary of defense Colin Powell was cutting his trip, to Lima, Peru, short as well.

"I was just so shocked," said sophomore Amy Yachup, who was watching the news on the big screen in Nevins Theater. Suddenly, her attention focused on the screen, as they

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Alfred community gathers for support

BY ASHLEY BRENON
A&E EDITOR

AU students passed by flags hung at half-mast in honor of the victims of terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. en route to a community meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the McLane Center.

The meeting was called Tuesday afternoon to offer support and information to the members of the University community while encouraging them to measure their responses to the day's events.

Once inside, the mood was funeral-like. Students exchanged supportive embraces

and sympathetic half-smiles as they shuffled in. Low voices discussed endangered family members and global politics in small groups.

Faculty stood on the fringes, seemingly holding the students together, while the men's soccer team, dressed in matching gold T-shirts, sat together on the top row of the bleachers.

President Charles M. Edmondson stood before a panel of faculty and staff as he opened the evening with regret at having to meet so many students for the first time under such ominous circumstances.

"We may be safe in this beautiful valley," Edmondson said, "but our society is not."

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WTC Tragedy: Surprise or predictable?

BY PATRICIA STRICKLAND
STAFF WRITER

Throughout yesterday anyone could hear murmurs of "how could this happen to us?" and "how could this happen here?" According to terrorism expert Mark Yardley, in a *Washington Post* release last night, "This is a stunning security and intelligence failure."

In the last several years there has been a significant drop in U.S. National Defense outlays. In 1989 approximately \$370 billion was spent on our national defense, but by the year 2000 that amount had dropped to around \$278 billion. That's a reduction of roughly 25 percent.

At the same time, our government assumes the role of policing the world and our military forces are deployed around the globe at an alarming rate. Between 1950 and 1989 the U.S. deployed Army troops overseas eight times. From 1989 to 1999 our Army forces were deployed over 30 times. According to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in an American Forces press release in June 2001, "We have under funded and over used our forces ... and we are steadily falling below acceptable readiness standards."

Said on CNN, some officials were "blasting the intelligence community for not anticipating the attacks on the WTC and Pentagon." Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pennsylvania, blamed a lack of intelligence resources and "a complacency that has set in America over the past 10 years" for the lack of warning. Could an attack like this have been anticipated? Many believe so.

In comments on CNN, Sen. John Kerry, D-

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...Community Meeting

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He continued that a terrorist's success lies not in the number of lives he takes, but rather in the extent to which a community allows him to disrupt the fabric of their lives.

Edmondson reported that a young man, appearing to be of Middle Eastern descent, was assaulted at around 10 a.m. Tuesday. Although the nature of the assault, physical, verbal or otherwise, was not disclosed, Edmondson was firm.

"If we tolerate [an assault], we let the terrorists win the victory that has eluded them," Edmondson said.

"We are not going to behave like the people that started all of this today," he said.

Reverend Laurie DeMott, AU Interfaith Advisor, gave an invocation emphasizing peace and the strength derived from calling on inspirations of faith to guide behavioral decisions.

Tom Rasmussen, professor of political science, divided the nation's worries into personal and social problems.

Each person has to come to terms with his own vulnerability and uncertainty in what tomorrow holds. Socially, America has to seek retribution while considering the effects of its policies. America's "heavy footprint" often makes enemies, said Rasmussen.

Bob Myers, professor of anthropology and

public health, stressed the importance of a strong supportive community structure. "Violence begets more violence," he said.

Myers drew an analogy to help students form a response to the damage with little information. "If you are lost in the woods, you remain calm, sit still and assess the situation," he said.

"As the nation must not be a global gun slinger, we must not be local gun slingers," Myers said.

Finally, Norm Pollard, director of the Counseling and Student Development Center, offered advice on how to cope with the emotional pain of the situation.

"Do what you need to do to feel safe," he said. Connect with family, sleep with the light on or invite friends over, he suggested. Use the faculty and staff support available, he continued.

"The goal is not to be scarless. We will each remember this day forever. The goal is to have as little scarring as possible," said Pollard.

Edmondson closed the meeting with encouragement to keep the fabric of the community intact by continuing commitments on campus.

Classes, athletic, social and co-curricular events will resume today. ○

...AU Reacts

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were replaying the video of the second airplane crashing into the south tower of the WTC.

Brooklyn native Adriaan Doering-Dorival wiped his eyes as the scenes were being shown on CNN. "Now I am really concerned," he stated. Doering-Dorival commented that his family was near the site of the crashes.

Counselors from the psychological serv-

ices on campus were available in several locations in Alfred yesterday, dealing with what CNN called "America Under Attack."

After hearing that this event has been referred to as the second Pearl Harbor, junior Andrea Sanyshyn stated, "We can read about Pearl Harbor over and over again, but now we know how the country felt. All I want to know is, why?" ○

Tragedy hits U.S.

BY ALISON SAVETT
NEWS EDITOR

When people awoke on Sept. 11, no one could have guessed they would hear a well-known terrorist condemn an act of violence. However, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat publicly denounced the acts of violence committed in the United States yesterday as "I send my condolences to the president, the government and the people for this terrible incident," said Arafat on CNN. "We are completely shocked. It's unbelievable."

At approximately 8:45 a.m., a hijacked plane en route to Los Angeles from Boston crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. Not too long afterwards, a second plane crashed into the other tower of the WTC, something which was caught on many different cameras.

Only 40 minutes later, another aircraft crashes into the Pentagon, the "major military center of the US," as stated on NBC's live coverage.

Later still, a Boeing 767 United Airlines flight crashed in Somerset County, 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. This plane was also allegedly hijacked.

As the day progressed, confirmations came through about the hijackings. Barbara Olson, wife of Solicitor General Ted Olson, a conservative commentator and attorney, alerted her husband from her cellular phone that the plane she was on was being hijacked Tuesday morning, Ted Olson told CNN. A short time later the plane crashed into the Pentagon. Barbara Olson is presumed to have died in the crash.

Olson's flight was American Airlines flight number 77 from Washington Dulles International Airport to Los Angeles.

With all four flights, officials believed that groups of three to five hijacked the planes, according to CNN early this morning.

A 60 foot gaping hole was left in the Pentagon, and all 24,000 employees were evacuated.

Atop the list of suspects is Osama bin Laden, a well known terrorist who is believed to be in Afghanistan. However, according to CNN, Afghanistan's Taliban ambassador to Pakistan has condemned the string of astonishing terrorist attacks on the

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Disaster-Related Campus Events Schedule

- Women's Issues Coalition and Student Senate-sponsored Candlelight Vigil at 8:30 p.m. in front of King Alfred
- Lambda Chi Alpha Emergency Food Drive — drop off food on the first floor of Powell, Bacchus D or 8 Park St.
- Support gathering at 7 p.m. in Nevins Theater
- Area blood drives TBA

...Attacks

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United States. "We want to tell the American children that Afghanistan feels your pain. We hope the courts find justice," said ambassador Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef.

A New York City police official on CNN called the area around the WTC "like a war-zone." Ten thousand emergency personnel rushed to the Manhattan fires and eventual collapse. Rumors that debris hit a close elementary school were confirmed late last night.

On CNN, witness Patty Sabka stated that there was an "eerie snowcover" over lower Manhattan. What she was referring to was the ash, debris and rubble which fell all over the city.

After evacuating all government-related buildings in New York as well as Washington, DC, larger cities around the nation were also evacuated in response to the terrorist attacks of the early day.

As the story continues, New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani stated on CNN, "There were a tremendous number of lives lost. I never thought I would see something like this ... Our thoughts go to the victims and their families." ○

...Surprise

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Massachusetts said that he had no doubt in his mind that it was Osama bin Laden. "It's very much in keeping with the threats he has made," said Kerry. "The intelligence community has known all summer they have been building up for some kind of attack." Kerry stated that he had been briefed just weeks ago by CIA Director George Tenet that several attempted attacks or plans for attacks had been "thwarted" this summer. Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, also stated on CNN: "This looks like the signature of Osama bin Laden."

According to the *Associated Press*, bin Laden has allegedly been linked to the suicide bombings on the USS Cole in 2000, the 1998 simultaneous bombings of U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, Africa, the 1995 bombing at an American run Saudi training center in Riyadh, the WTC bombing in 1993 and the 1992 attack on U.S. servicemen in Somalia.

This past May, a N.Y. jury returned guilty verdicts against four followers of bin Laden, reported Mark Riley in *World News*, over the



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The Editor-in-Chief would like to accredit Sarah Guariglia, Alison Savett, Catherine Kevett, Ashley Brenon & Patricia Strickland for this Special Edition of the *Fiat Lux*.

Will we learn from history?

How many times within the past 24 hours did you say or hear the phrase: "It looks just like a movie." Well, you can't just put down your popcorn and walk out of the theater on this one.

Thousands of people who stood outside the World Trade Center in downtown Manhattan had no other choice but to watch in horror as one of New York City's immense symbols of financial power fell from grace.

Perhaps Tom Brokaw was correct in labeling our nation as an "innocent America." Our innocence comes from our arrogance. Are we so superior that we are untouchable, and we cannot be attacked on our land?

Not since Pearl Harbor have we experienced a surprise attack on our own soil. It may be convenient to label yesterday's tragedy as the second Pearl Harbor, but that isn't at all accurate. At the moment, the United States is not at war. At the time of Pearl Harbor, the world was certainly heavily involved in warfare. It was easy then to point the finger and be certain of who was to blame. In this situation, blame is flying everywhere, with no certainty to claim.

Interestingly enough, the bullets used to pierce our own hearts were manufactured by our own American companies. The hijackers utilized our fuel-loaded planes as "flying bombs" and reportedly brought along only a few knives with them.

Imagine being a pilot in one of the four hijacked planes as it crashed to its demise. So, pick your poison: death by a terrorist; or forced suicide by a plane crash, carrying a number of passengers' deaths along with you. Or did the pilots even have the chance to ponder this moral responsibility?

Not even in movies do we see frightened people leaping out windows 50 stories above the ground to their deaths. You want choices? Well, these jumpers were choosing between plunging 50-plus stories or being trapped in a burning, unstable structure, either of which would have guaranteed a fatal end.

If we do want to connect Pearl Harbor with yesterday's attacks, then let's use it as a learning tool. The United States was quick to ostracize all citizens of Japanese heritage. We need to be careful not to categorize an individual as part of a whole. In fact, we shouldn't play investigator when we do not know the specific details.

Last night at the community meeting in McLane Center, President Charles M. Edmondson mentioned with disappointment the assault of a young man in Alfred who appeared to be of Middle Eastern descent. How are we to know that this man is in any way affiliated with terrorism? Who's to say that he didn't know someone stuck in One World Trade, as well?

In our community, we see Edmondson denouncing this sort of ignorant behavior. Have we seen anything in the news about the United States government doing the same? No, rather we hear President George W. Bush's intent of "hunting down" and punishing the perpetrators of these acts of terrorism.

Secluded Alfred may usually be seen as a follower in societal trends, but in this case, Alfred is home to innovative thinking. Our nation should heed the wisdom of Alfred's leaders and humble itself in order to overcome this crisis. ○

—Catherine Kevett, Copy Manager and Judy Tsang, Editor-in-Chief

1998 bombings of two U.S. Embassies in Africa. U.S. Embassies worldwide were placed on alert in fear of an attack by bin Laden in response to the trial.

According to NBC bin Laden is the top suspect. Terrorism expert Sean Anderson of Idaho State University stated to MSNBC that it was "99.5 percent likely that bin Laden's organization was behind the strike." Two senior Clinton counter terrorism officials

told NBC that bin Laden's organizations is the "only organization with motivation [and] capability to execute a mission like this."

"No one else but bin Laden has the capability to do this," one said. "No one."

Who is definitely responsible still remains to be proven. What could have been done to prevent this tragedy is something the U.S. will examine for months to come. ○