



Pulling Together

UNC Students 'Harambee' in order to cope with America's tragedy

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with contributions from Ndidi Okeagu

In the midst of national tragedy, the UNC-CH community joined together in a sense of family, solidarity and patriotism.

On Sept. 11, two hijacked planes slammed into the World Trade Center twin towers in New York City. UNC-CH students and Americans alike, watched in horror as smoke pilfered from the buildings then gasped as the long-standing icons crumbled to the ground.

Nearly an hour after the first attack, another hijacked plane slammed into a cor-

ridor of the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. A fourth plane, which officials said might have been aimed towards the White House, came down in a field outside of Pittsburgh, Penn. Two hundred sixty-six passengers, pilots and staff died on the four planes, which were destined for California.

As of press time, officials in New York City said an estimated 6,333 people were reported missing and presumed dead. Pentagon officials reported 189 persons missing and presumed dead. In the weeks following the tragedy, much of the investigation of the terrorist acts has centered on

Osama bin Laden, an exiled Saudi dissident who is also a suspect in other terrorist attacks against the U.S. including the 1999 bombing of the U.S.S. Cole.

Bin Laden is presumed to be in hiding in Afghanistan under the protection of the Taliban, a devoutly Muslim religious militia that controls about 95 percent of Afghanistan. As of press time, President George W. Bush issued an ultimatum for the Afghanistan's ruling Taliban to hand over Osama bin Laden and his terrorist followers or face possible military retaliation. But hours after his speech to Congress on Sept. 20, the Taliban rejected Bush's demand.

But at UNC-CH, leaders encouraged the community to fight against the terrorist acts through solidarity and giving, not violence.

"It is important that we do so, for we are here this noon in a moment of reflection and meditation to contemplate the tragic events that have confronted our nation, our world and our own community, to offer our support and consolation for those in