

NEWS & OPINION

Sorting Through the Memories: Remembering September 11, 2001

By Jessica Autumnne Smith
Decree Columnist

It is hard to believe that five long years have passed since the dreadful terrorist attacks of Tuesday, September 11, 2001. Much like Kennedy's assassination in 1963, Patriot Day (as it has come to be called) will forever be remembered as the event that lowered all flags to half staff; the defining event of an entire generation.

Our generation. Yours and mine.

Almost everyone recalls exactly where they were and what they were doing when they first heard the news, "America has been attacked." I, like most of you, was in class at the time, a tenth grade geometry course to be specific. I didn't want to believe what I had been told. It couldn't possibly be true. Such things were supposed to be limited to history books and dated newspapers, not unfolding before my very eyes.

The "Day the Eagle Cried" is remembered across America with a mixture of sorrow and pride. Grief for those lost to us, sympathy for those in mourning, pride for the courageous emergency responders who braved the

rubble of the crumbled Towers and the flames of the broken Pentagon to search for the fallen.

September 11th has inspired, even saturated, the popular culture around us. Country music alone, as a single genre, has produced hundreds of songs concerning the events of that historic day; only a few being: the controversial "Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue (The Angry American)" by Toby Keith, the powerful "Where Were You When the World Stopped Turning (On That September Day?)" by Alan Jackson, the defiant "America Will Survive"

by Hank Williams Jr., the emotional "Have You Forgotten?" by Darryl Worley, the proud "Where the Stars and Stripes and the Eagle Fly" by Aaron Tippin, the determined "America Will Always Stand" by Randy Travis, the heartbreaking "One Last Time" by Dusty Drake, and the bold "This Ain't No Rag, It's a Flag" by The Charlie Daniels Band. Other genres have also produced equally inspiring songs, of which there are too many to list.

Several movies concerning September 11th have hit the small and silver screens, including "United 93"

and "World Trade Center," neither of which I have seen, feeling it too soon and too sad. Documentaries and specials have been made, poems and novels have been written, speeches and memorial services have been held; that day is always, if not directly in our field of vision, never quite out of earshot. As thousands of bumper stickers proclaim, "We will never forget." President Roosevelt's words concerning Pearl Harbor said it best; September 11th will forever be in our hearts and minds "a day that will live in infamy."

Students Frustrated by Financial Aid, Business Office Dealings

By Jessica D. Jones
Decree Opinion Editor

Before I rant and rave, I would like to say Thank You to the two ladies (Ms. Crystal Johnson and Mrs. Vikki Fleming) in Financial Aid, who helped me through my situation. You all never stopped helping me.

Now back to my campus-wide complaint... "They" say you should have all your things in order before you come to school. "They" say if everything is in order, then you will go through the administrative process with no problem. I have come to find out that the North Carolina Wesleyan Administrative offices say a lot of

things and THEY AIN'T TRUE—bad English and all. For many students, the administrative process was "hell in a hand basket."

I have been at NCWC for four years now and I have never had a problem covering my tuition, whether through loans or through grants. However, in my last year there were no loans and grants. I owed the school \$8,000 plus! Unfortunately, my family does not live near an oil well or run their own company—No offense to anyone whose parents might be well off—but in this case there is no reason to keep up with the Joneses. So imagine my surprise and anger when I was told that I owed this much money—are you freakin' kidding me! And that is not one of the words that I wanted to use either. However, I remained cool. I walked into the Financial Aid building crying and begging them for help.

Imagine how shocked I was when money came raining from the sky. Mysteriously and magically, \$5,000 was found, because my mother was turned down for a parent plus loan. Wait, it gets better: then out of nowhere popped up a scholarship for \$3,000. I was happy for the hand-out; after all, I

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we've become complacent and we don't need to forget this."

Senior Shannon Hiott said that she was a junior in high school at the time of the attack. She noted that the media has kept her attention focused on the event. "My heart goes out to all the families" victimized by the attacks.

Brandi McKinney, a senior, said that she had visited New York City just before 9/11. "Just the thought that I landed in Laguardia and flew over the World Trade Center make me feel so lucky," she said. "I'm still in disbelief that the towers are gone. I still get chill bumps when I see it on television."

She added that "I support all the troops that are still out in the Mid-East fighting for America."

James Parrigin, Reference and Instruction Librarian, was in Ohio at the time of the attack. "I was

preparing to teach English 111 at the University of Akron in Ohio," he recalled. "They closed down the school that day which is extremely rare for a large university."

Freshmen Doug Roenker was thinking about his father on the anniversary. "I think about my Dad, because he is a firefighter and he went up there to help out when it occurred," said the Virginia Beach native.

Mike Davis, a sophomore, said he still feels deep sadness for the victims of the attack.

Lauren Johnson expressed concern that Americans have started to forget 9-11. "Do a poll and ask people what day did it occur and I bet you will get a lot of people saying, 'Oh, yeah thanks for reminding me.'" The freshman added that there "is not enough patriotism" in America.

Jennifer Evans, a junior, had a similar view. "I still feel very

patriotic; however I do believe there are some people who have forgotten the lives that have been lost, but I rejoice because there are still people who remember."

The anniversary was not on everyone's mind. "I don't think about it," said Jenna Davis, a junior.

And some choose not to think about it. Said senior Allen Strickland: "I will put it to you like this—I'm not going to see the movie."

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average at 901. The average high school GPA has risen to 3.0 compared to 2.8 in 2005. The first-year students include eight valedictorians, compared to last year's five.

This past year, NC Wesleyan implemented an interview process that was used to determine which marginal students should receive an admission offer. "We accepted about 100 fewer students this year

Annual Day for Wesleyan Sets Record

North Carolina Wesleyan College raised a record amount of \$510,560 from the Rocky Mount and Wesleyan alumni on September 12, a day officially proclaimed "Day for Wesleyan" in Rocky Mount by City Mayor Fred Turnage.

The total represents an increase of almost \$7,000 over last year's figure of \$503,652.

This year's Day for Wesleyan marked the 25th year for the annual fundraising event and was held during the 50th anniversary year of the College.

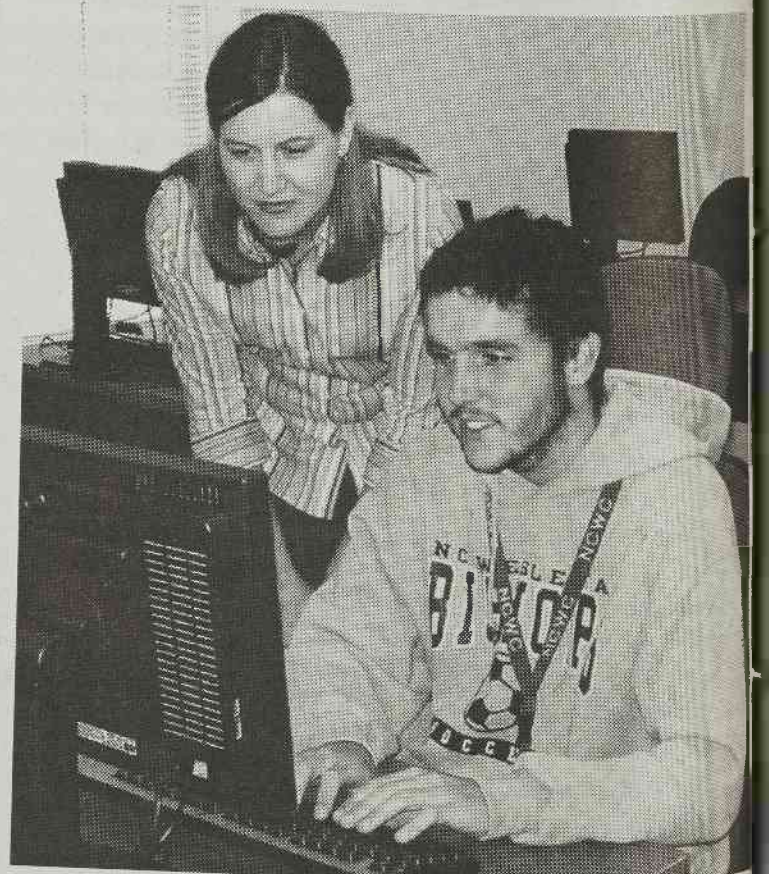
President Ian Newbould said, "The support this college has had for 50 years is amazing. The community has made this college what it is, and Day for Wesleyan is a reflection of that support."

Tom Maze, Director of Development and Alumni Affairs, said, "Tuition and fees cover only about 70 percent of the cost of educating students. This additional funding is vital to the College and helps provide scholarships, library resources, computers, and many other ongoing needs."

"This important day is a great start to our Annual Giving campaign," Maze added, noting that the campaign lasts through May 31, 2007.

During the Day for Wesleyan, nearly 100 volunteers from the community visit or contact more than 500 area businesses and individuals to ask for their support. In keeping with tradition, this year's Day for Wesleyan began with a breakfast for volunteers in the College's Dunn Center for the Performing Arts, where helpers received instruction packets before heading out to make their calls.

than last year as a result," Sherman said. The interview is set up after the application is ready to be acted on and it is determined that the college needs more information to make the best decision for the students. The students are invited to campus to meet with the admissions committee and student support. Then the committee meets to discuss and make a recommendation to reject or accept the candidate.



Luke Oakley, of England, is one of several new international students in this year's freshmen class. He's shown here with Dr. Lisa Kirby, his English professor, in one of the computer classrooms located at the new Gateway Technology Center, which opened this semester.

THE DECREE

since 1960 "of, by, and for the Wesleyan community."

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JD: "I was open to new experiences and relocating."

JS: "The change of scenery is a plus. And after being interviewed a lot, Wesleyan fit what I wanted in a college."

Each of our new RD's has at least three years experience as Resident Assistants or Resident Directors, and have worked in similar areas out of the campus life. They each have degrees to back up their experience and expertise. Anderson has an undergraduate degree in history education and a masters in adolescent growth and development from Old Dominion University as well as a masters from the Golden Gate University in public administration. Duerr has an undergraduate degree in counseling and education from Valley Forge Christian College, and is working on finishing her masters from Geneva College in Higher Education and Counseling. Steinas graduated from the State University of New York (SUNY) of Cortland with a degree in history and social studies secondary education.

When I noticed that the

RD's had some kind of degree or experience with teaching, I asked them why they didn't just teach instead of living on campus and dealing with residential problems. Each came up with a response that fit their personalities to the "T."

"I'm too ADD to teach in a classroom setting," said Duerr. "And, I prefer living and learning with students because I can get the full experience of the individual development, the variety and interaction, and the challenges I face daily."

Anderson had this to say: "I stopped working at the high school after two years for two reasons. The first reason is because I don't agree with the No Child Left Behind Act; it's a numbers game. I want children to grow in their own right. The second reason was because the schools required me to teach the same lessons over and over again; it was tedious and driving me crazy."

Added Steinas: "I wanted to be near the fun, youthful vibe of campus life. I wanted to get the full experience."