

The Pilot

Friday, September 14, 2001

www.gwupilot.com

Volume 5 No. 2

Campus united in prayer

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Pilot staff

The flagpole became holy ground late Tuesday afternoon as concerned students and members of the community used it to meet for prayer following the day's tragic events.

Chords of "Amazing Grace" lifted above bent heads while one by one voices called upon the throne of God. The mixture of prayers came from students and faculty alike, crossing racial walls as people from different nationalities grasped hands to unite as one.

Students prayed with faces turned to the evening sky while others knelt or lay in weak submission.

Tears flowed as both students and faculty lifted their hands toward heaven all across the quad.

Students prayed for God's love and mercy to be shown toward the terrorists that caused Tuesday's tragedy and sought strength for the future and protection over loved ones of those directly involved.

A voice from within the crowd shared a comforting verse from 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Some students shared their feelings on the events and how they were affected. Julie Jo Nelson, a sophomore from Fairfax, Va., was told by a



Photo by Margaret O'Driscoll

friend about the Pentagon being hit by a plane. Nelson's dad works at the Pentagon.

"I was in awe, I just lost it," she said.

Nelson immediately called her mom to find out if her father, who is a Navy Commander, was safe. She was thankful to find out he had not been harmed.

Nelson's parents had met for breakfast and her dad was not in the Pentagon when it was hit.

Although Nelson has said she is "one lucky girl," she is still concerned for her father's coworkers and friends who were affected by the attack. The campus has been a tremendous support to her at this time, and she is amazed at the number of calls she has received from friends.

Another student shared that she can not believe that this type of event has happened in the United States.

Freshman Merry Leigh Miller has family in the reserves and is troubled that

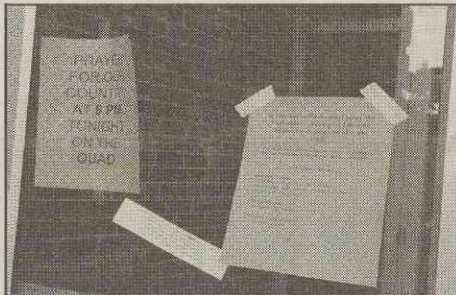


Photo by Margaret O'Driscoll

they may now be called to serve. She was in shock that this could happen to the country that everyone looks up to.

"This has brought our country to its knees," said Miller when asked how she felt about the attack.

Other students agree that this event is causing American citizens to come together and be humbled before God.

"Our roots are founded on God under Christianity," said Junior Edie Hering. "This is uniting our country in prayer."



Photo by LaDonna Beeker

Top: Students and members of the community gather at 6 p.m. Tuesday to pray for the nation.

Lower right: Senior Reed Lackey bows to pray in the back corner of Blanton auditorium. Besides having friends in N.Y., Lackey was planning on moving to the city in the fall.

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