

# Professors discuss similarity to Pearl Harbor

Erin Boyd  
Pilot staff

A Reuters reporter called it "another date that will live in infamy." Tuesday's attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C. have many comparing the American tragedy to the infamous Japanese bombing on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

Gardner-Webb students are among those likening the Sept. 11 events to those experienced by their grandparents in World War II almost sixty years ago.

"I don't think I can compare the two because I never lived through Pearl Harbor," said Junior Emily Crocker. "But, this is an event that will mark our generation for the rest of history just like Pearl Harbor marked our grandparent's generation. This will be our generation's Pearl Harbor."

Gil Blackburn, vice president, dean of academic affairs and historian, confirms that Tuesday's attacks have reminded people of Pearl Harbor.

"Even though Pearl Harbor

was bombed over half a century ago, the attack Tuesday will dredge up old feelings," he said.

Blackburn compared Tuesday's suicide hijackings to other events that occurred during World War II.

"The attacks Tuesday were of the same nature of the Kamikaze attacks by the Japanese at the end of World War II," he said.

Though Blackburn did cite these similarities between the nature of Tuesday's blow and World War II attacks, he was quick to point out that the bombing on Pearl Harbor and the Sept. 11 tragedy contain many differences.

"We knew who the guilty parties were in World War II," said Blackburn. "The attack was from a different nation in a formal war," he said.

Tony Eastman, professor of social sciences, also noted that though the historical significance of both events is the same, the core of these two American adversities are very different.

"From all indications at this

point, this was done by a group of people who did resemble the Kamakaze attacks of World War II, but this is the only similarity. This was a personal blow," said Eastman.

"Tuesday's event was worse than Pearl Harbor," Eastman continued. "It was an historical event of the magnitude of Pearl Harbor, but it was much worse because of the barbaric instinct against it. The Japanese had a plan—they had a military objective. Those responsible for Tuesday's attack had no plan except to kill American citizens," he said.

Blackburn and Eastman both agree that the reactions of the American people to Tuesday's attacks are strikingly similar to the responses people had to the Pearl Harbor attack over fifty years ago.

"There is a melting of heart and spirit that is very, very similar to Pearl Harbor," said Eastman.

"People reacted in the same shock to Pearl Harbor as was shown after Tuesday's attack,"

Blackburn said.

Blackburn and Eastman stated that looking at historical events can give some indication as to what the American people may experience in the coming weeks.

"After Pearl Harbor, everything added up to a fit of national hysteria," said Blackburn. "The country suddenly galvanized in support behind the government to prosecute Japan and destroy them," he said.

"You can expect war after this," said Eastman.

"I think the people who did this have misjudged us," Eastman continued. "I don't think they know American history or the American character. They don't realize that we will bind up our wounds and we will bury our dead—but then we will exact a revenge—a cost for what they've done to us. Our history is one in which we are slow to go to war, but once in war, we fight it with the full rage of our people and I think we have now seen the full rage of the American people," he said.

Blackburn stated that good

things can come from tragedies such as the one the American people have recently experienced.

"Good things can happen from bad things like this. Events like this may cause students who have been drifting through life to reevaluate their whole perspectives on life and to understand life is precious and should be treated with reverence," said Blackburn.

Eastman believes that Tuesday's events may serve as a test to shape the character of the United States.

"I think this is one of those events in history that shapes a country. First, it will test its character. If it comes up lacking, it will begin to be shaped into a stronger character," he said.

Eastman continued, "The only difference between generations [of the American people] is that one was tested by World War II, one by the Korean War, one by Vietnam—the generation of Gardner-Webb students has not yet been tested, but I have the full confidence that when it is, they'll pass the test."

## Henderson stresses need to be aware

Monica Houser  
Pilot staff

Terrorism. It is on everyone's mind, considering the events of Tuesday. But, what does it mean, and how can terrorism affect Gardner-Webb students and the nation? Though these questions may continue to haunt America, the answers are becoming clearer as time passes.

According to social science professor Anne Henderson, terrorists of some sort have attacked the United States every few years since 1945.

Henderson said that terrorism cannot be prevented unless the United States is willing to step down from its position as the major world power and as global enforcer, which, she stated, will not happen.

Henderson stated that this brings to light the fact that terrorists, in general, will never achieve their goals because they "want things that are not going to happen."

According to Henderson, attacks have increased and have inched closer and closer to home in the past 20 years. In 1983, a

terrorist group bombed a U.S. Marine base in Beirut, killing 240 people.

Then, terrorists hijacked and exploded a plane over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988, killing 270 people.

In 1998, terrorists attacked the U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, killing 224 people.

Last year in Yemen, the U.S.S. Cole was struck by terrorists killing 17 sailors.

However, Henderson claimed that this most recent attack is "fundamentally different" from all previous attacks.

"The sheer size and scope of the attack, the coordination and organization of almost-simultaneous attacks indicates a large terrorist organization," she said.

Henderson said she "draws some comfort from the fact that, most likely, these terrorists have exerted their maximum force, and the attack could've been infinitely worse."

She also stated, "Americans need to know the danger of being citizens of the most powerful nation in the world, and it is important to understand what is going on in the world."

Are you interested in any of the following positions this year at *The Pilot*?

Designers • Reporters • Photographers • Advertising manager • Business manager

Contact: Prof. Bob Carey ext 3803



CAROLINA FAMILY CARE, P.A.

**DEEPAK R. GELOT, M.D.**

*"Family Practice Dedicated to Quality Personalized Care"*

*Comprehensive Care for Infants, Children and Adults*

- Physicals: Executive/Sports/School and Pre-Employment
- Gynecology and Women's Health Care
- Colonoscopy
- Bone Density Testing
- Cancer Screening
- Minor Office Surgery, Cryosurgery
- Diagnostic Procedures
- Lung Function testing (Spirometry)
- Cardiac Testing (Treadmill Exercise/Holter Monitoring)
- Hearing testing (Audiometry)

• Accepting New Patients and Their Families •  
Most Insurances accepted

707 West King Street  
Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086  
(704) 734-0001

327-A West College Avenue  
Boiling Springs, N.C. 28017  
(704) 434-0101