

TERRORISTS OVERWHELM THE WESTERN WORLD

C. Knight

Thewisestudent@yahoo.com

While students are attempting to concentrate on academics, the world outside our campus swarms with news and reports about war and Terrorism. Since the Attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and Pennsylvania many students are worried about the future of our country. Osama Bin Laden is the man allegedly responsible for the fear that spreads on our Campus and abroad.

Who is Osama Bin Laden? According to the website, www.msnbc.com, Bin Laden was born on July 30, 1957, the 17th of 20 sons of a now deceased Saudi construction magnate of Yemeni origin. Bin Laden gained prominence during the Afghan war against the Soviet Union. In 1989, when the war ended, he returned to Saudi Arabia to work in the family business, the Bin Laden Construction Group, but his radical Islamic contacts caused friction with Saudi authorities. As a result of his opposition to the ruling Al Saud family, Saudi Arabia revoked his citizenship in 1994 and his family disavowed him, though some of his brothers have reportedly maintained contact. In 1996, under strong U.S. and Egyptian pressure, Sudan expelled him and he returned to Afghanistan, where he has lived under the protection of the Taliban. On June 7, 1999, bin Laden was placed on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted List and a \$5 million reward was offered for his capture.

Many students are wondering why Osama Bin Laden, has Attacked America. Further the answers lie in a "Fatwa" Issued by bin Laden on Feb. 23, 1998, against all U.S. civilians and military.

A Fatwa is: "The ruling to kill the Americans and their allies — civilians and military — is an individual duty for every Muslim who can do it in any country in which it is possible to do it, in order to liberate the al-Asqua Mosque (in Jerusalem) and the holy mosque (in Mecca, Saudi Arabia,) from their grip, and in order for their armies to move out of all lands of Islam, defeated and unable to

threaten any Muslim."

A junior Marketing Major says, "We should be prepared to deal with Osama Bin Laden and his affiliates because we don't know who they are" The terrorism that our nation has seen since the Sept. 11th attacks has many students considering and reconsidering Flying. However, Emmanuel Basknight, who is flying Delta later this month, said, "I feel safe."

When students were asked about the United States going to war with Afghanistan, a Sophomore in Pre-med Biology said " (I feel that) in a way (going to war) had to be done because someone had to pay for what was done here, but also a lot of innocent people will die and they had nothing to do with it (the September 11th attacks)."

To make matters worst, more lethal attacks have been made on Americans. Recently Anthrax Poisoning or acts of Bio-Terrorism have been reported throughout the United States. NBC nightly news anchor Tom Brokaw has had mail sent to him that contained this deadly bacterium.

According to the website, www.bt.cdc.gov, Anthrax "is an acute infectious disease caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*." The Center of Disease Control website made this comment about Anthrax:

"Direct person-to-person spread of anthrax is extremely unlikely, if it occurs at all. Therefore, there is no need to immunize or treat contacts of persons ill with anthrax, such as household contacts, friends, or co-workers, unless they also were also exposed to the same source of infection."

A senior, Criminal Justice Major, said "I had never heard of Anthrax until I saw a story on the news. From now on I will always be careful about all mail that I receive".

In the days that have passed since Sept. 11, students, and the nation at large has changed. As the President of the United States and our extensive military strikes back, and our nation launches its attack on Bin Laden forces, we're all attempting to continue with our studies and normal lives.

"MOVING BEYOND THE ROOTS OF RACISM"

Jessica Barrier

White_dov@hotmail.com

The "Moving Beyond the Roots of Racism," forum conducted by Mr. Forrest, Parker was held at Elizabeth City State University on September 27. Mr. Parker is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Virginia Educational Council on Multi Ethnic Concerns. Mr. Parker summed up the focus of his speech when he said, "To move beyond the roots of racism, you have to understand your own biases and prejudices." "America was built on a homogenous mindset...based on similarities, not differences," he added. He went on to explain that society discourages differences through the process of assimilation. According to the American Heritage Dictionary, "assimilation" is defined as "the process whereby a minority group gradually adopts the customs and attitudes of the prevailing culture."

Mr. Parker gave an example of assimilation using his personal experience as a basketball official. His boss told him he had to shave off all of his facial hair in order to be allowed to officiate. Also, all of the basketball officials were prohibited from wearing glasses; if their eyesight was impaired, they had to wear contact lenses. These stipulations about appearance did not affect how well the officials directed the game, but rather were only aesthetic requirements. However, Mr. Parker did not want to shave his beard, but he did so because he wanted to keep his job as an official.

While the rules Mr. Parker faced in order to work as a basketball official were minimal, the obstacles many individuals face when they attempt to enter the workforce are much more serious. Mr. Parker said, "Twenty years ago, there were only eight or nine jobs open for females. And even though there are more women in college now than men, women and minorities still have a hard time getting a job."

Mr. Parker said that because of past prejudices like those affecting women, the government initiated affirmative action. He said, "Affirmative action is an official

acknowledgement to the fact that we have an un-level playing field. People who are qualified afford a chance to get their foot in the door. While there is still a door of opportunity for women and minorities, it is much smaller than the door of opportunity for the males and majority." He addressed the audience, "You [women and minorities] have to work harder to receive the job you deserve but the door is still open for you."

Mr. Parker also addressed the issue of people generally isolating themselves by living among their own group. For example, Latinos, Catholics, and African Americans all live in separate sections of the same city. Mr. Parker said, "I can ask any taxi cab driver to carry me to each area and he would know exactly where they were located." He added, "America is not a melting pot, but rather a salad. We stay within our comfort zones and we live in isolation. We know most people only on the surface."

When students asked for advice about how to solve these and similar issues, Mr. Parker offered "The Ten Commandments of Human Relations" as a guide to help individuals build better relationships and networking skills, and to overcome personal prejudices. The ten commandments are:

1. Speak to people or at least acknowledge their existence.
2. Smile at people.
3. Call people by their name.
4. Be friendly and helpful.
5. Be cordial.
6. Be genuinely interested in people.
7. Be generous with praise.
8. Be considerate with the feelings of others.
9. Be thoughtful of the opinions of others.
10. Be alert to give service.

As Mr. Parker advised, we must take the time to recognize our own biases and work toward becoming more unprejudiced individuals if we are to "move beyond the roots of racism."

A YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR ON THE RISE

DeTra Stith
depot9@hotmail.com

Elizabeth City State University has a new rising star in the business world. Many professors already knew who he was before they ever saw him; he had made personal email contacts with many of them. He is so affable that he has made his presence well known with fellow students on campus as well. This successful businessman is the sole owner of Summers Internet Consulting. This freshman Computer Science major is Timothy Summers, a 17 year-old who has started his own business.

Summers Internet Consulting specializes in internet marketing, advertising, international trade, internet set-ups, secretarial assistance, partnerships, promotion, and e-commerce. Tim Summers also has another branch to his business called Soundeast Music Group, which discovers and produces talent. The company has another branch that deals with a clothing lines that includes, Unity, Y.E.S., Malik Maricio,

and S.I.C. Wear. Summers also sponsors a clothing line called Kornerboy with L'shawn Smith, and Curtis C.J. Overton. This clothing line will debut in November of 2001.

Summers has done marketing for many customers, including auto body shops, and now he has clients from rotary clubs and Smith Barney clubs. He has done websites for radio stations and databases for other companies. He is the youngest member of the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce, and sometimes it

seems as if he intimidates the older businessmen.

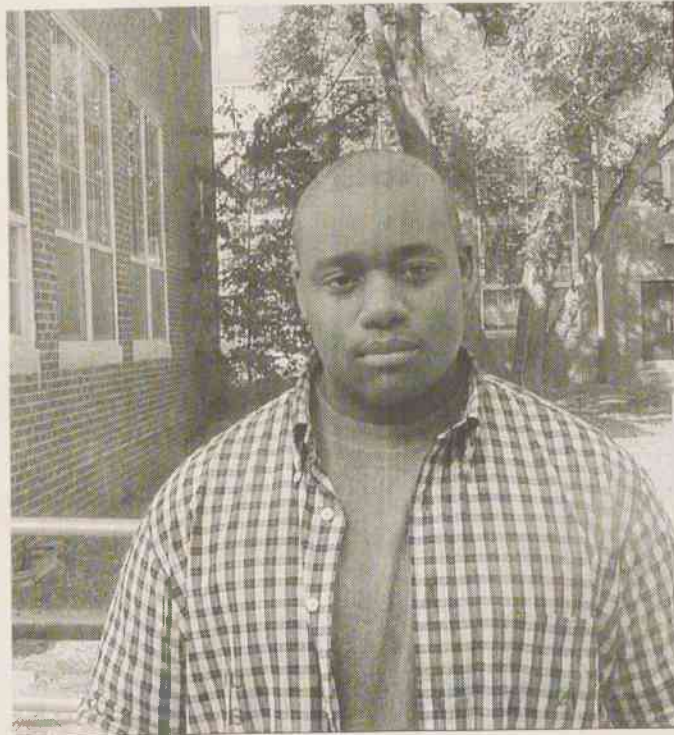


photo by Inger L Parker

He says that he has always been business-minded and driven to succeed. In high school he burned CDs and sold as many as 100 copies in one day. After a while, he wanted to start a business and make more of a profit

"I'm not trying to compete with any other person in the business, because I'm trying to do my own thing," say Summers.

The business skills began when he was only 12 and was selling jolly ranchers in middle school. He says that he has always been business-minded and driven to succeed. In high school he burned CDs and sold as many as 100 copies in one day. After a while, he wanted to start a business and make more of a profit

off his products. When he was in high school, he had an even stronger desire to start his own business. He asked his peers at Northeastern High School, to invest in his business. One student invested \$32.00 and from there the business expanded.

Summers' said that his inspiration comes from his parents and his grandparents. They were all business-driven as well, and encouraged him to pursue his dreams. Summers look up to Microsoft's Bill Gates, Michael Dell (owner of Dell computers), and Sean (P. Diddy) Combs as role models. One day he said that he hopes to be the next Bill Gates. "I would like to have a big name in the technological business. Those people know the rythm of the business, and that is what Gates is known for," he said.

Many people did not believe Summers would make it in the business world, but he wants to let people know that his is optimistic and is only getting stronger. He is ready to meet more challenges and weather every storm. His ultimate dream is to own his own empire and be internationally known. This is just the beginning.