

Editorial

Elon community grieves as one over the horrors of an unforgettable day in human history

Where were you when it happened? We were coming out of class in the communications building. We glanced at the flat screen TV hanging in the hallway, seeing the twin towers engulfed in flames and smoke. Was it really happening? Reality hit. We walked to College Coffee and the news was repeated. We hugged our friends. We prayed, we cried and we mourned.

Most likely, we will all remember where we were when terror rained down on the United

States Sept. 11, 2001. It will be a day that we tell our grandchildren about, that we remember years from now, that will make us shudder in reverence.

And while we will each have different memories of this day, where we were, what we did, whom we lost and how we felt, we share a commonplace - Elon. We were here, as a community, mourning the incredible loss, trying to make sense of an entire day full of truly senseless acts. We were here talking, crying and expressing our

fear and anger for a country that is supposed to be invincible.

In the following weeks, we should not forget that we are here together, each of us mourning, each of us looking for a way to find resolution and assurance. We can find truth in all of this. We can recover, begin to understand what happened and learn great measures from the horrible tragedy we watched unfold on live TV. And we can do this together.

Where were we when it happened? We were at Elon, mourning as a community, reaching out to students and staff who lost family members, praying for those who died and learning important lessons about life. We were here, together.

Moral cultures may be relative, but human civility is a global imperative

Josh Davis
Opinions Editor

I was waiting in the checkout line of Harris Teeter Monday night when a lively dark-skinned girl around the age of five eagerly squeezed her way between my cart and the candy shelf. Her mother, a large demonstrative woman dressed in beautifully wrapped and beaded African garb, reached around the magazine rack and with one quick wrench of her daughter's arm, returned the screaming girl to her side. A light public beating of the girl ensued.

It is important to point out that while this woman wasn't necessarily following "African" tradition, the fact that she appeared "un-American" raises an important point. Ear-

lier in the century, a similar event might have resulted in an unfortunate public racist outcry. Today, however, the mystery of "culture" is much more easily tolerated and/or confused with outright apathy for human kindness.

No apologies came from the mother for her or her daughter's actions. No concern was given to their public appearance. In fact, very little attention was given to the event at all. People of all types in the store simply turned away as the poor girl was being brutalized in front of me.

In this current age of individual segregation, it's become a basic rule that you just don't comment on how people raise their children. Perhaps in light of Tuesday's tragedies, it is time that we did. All traditions and cultures aside.

Although diversity has always

existed on some small level in the U.S., recent past decades have revealed a growing campaign for the positive "multi-division" of society. Nations are divided into ethnic groups; ethnic groups are divided into religious sects; religious sects are divided into economic classes; economic classes are divided into civil rights organizations. The list goes on and on, and unless you belong to one of the divisions, your opinion on them is worth about as much as a five-year-old girl at a candy rack.

Each legitimate division has its own jurisdiction, and in the name of freedom, divisions are being created simply because they have "the right to be." It's what I call a dumbed-down society of diverse ignorance.

A slowly evolving multi-cultural intelligence is being trashed in exchange for the civil liberty to be righteously pointless and/or destructive. For example, MTV has confused the campaign to "Fight for your Rights" as a privilege for some "Jackass" to run through a street intersection in a g-string. Meanwhile, thousands are simultaneously dying at the hands of fanatical world terrorists.

Perhaps Tuesday's attack on this proudly heterogeneous nation will teach children of the world that some cultural convictions are never worth human sacrifice. May we all pray for the future of our world's youth.

It was hoped to be a day of celebration ...

September 11, 2001

Stephen Dignan
Columnist

It was hoped to be a day of celebration as mirthful chatter bounced off bricks above the soft swelled of the fountain.

Friends greeted one another with smiles and warm embraces and fellows talked of coffee and of recent travels.

Youthful faces raised silver instruments to their lips and batons twirled gracefully while flags waved and rifles twirled in the air.

Then heads turned. Excitement and enthusiasm withered as unseen tears dotted faces now streaked with sorrow and uncer-

tainty.

Heads bowed. Words wafted through the air above a sea of wrinkled foreheads and trembling lips.

Heads lifted and as feet shuffled drooping forms here and there, a few darted with anxious faces wondering aloud if family members were okay.

And the band played on. Solemn looks stared out between glittering instruments as the Star-Spangled Banner became a dirge.

For the next few moments, the occasional strained laugh or forced smile dotted a scene of sadness, and the morning that was to be one of celebration, quietly came to a close.

The views and ideas expressed in Opinions are not necessarily those of The Pendulum, its staff, or Elon University.

One must 'experience' Elon to realize our true ranking

Jennifer Guarino
Managing Editor

In the past week, the U.S. News and World Report, "America's Best Colleges" guide has created a lot of mixed emotions. Administrators across the country crossed their fingers and waited for the numbers to be released.

These numbers are a big deal. A senior vice president at Hobart and William Smith College was fired last year when she failed to submit new data to U.S. News, which caused the school's ranking to fall.

At Elon, we're celebrating the tremendous climb we've made. In six years, the university has jumped from 39th to 9th.

Has Elon changed that much in six years? The quality of students who enroll has increased, but at the core, isn't Elon still the same place?

An education isn't just what is taught in the traditional classroom. It's the Elon Experiences - study abroad, service learning,

leadership, undergraduate research and internships. It's the community environment, where we know people by name and have our professors' home phone numbers. We know we're getting a quality education in a great atmosphere.

Do those numbers tell us anything we don't already know? Nope. Elon is just beginning to gain national attention for the education and learning environment it has provided students for years.

Did we choose to attend Elon because we saw Elon moving up the U.S. News rankings? Probably not. A big book of numbers doesn't replace the feeling of visiting campus and knowing this is the place you belong.

The numbers reported to U.S. News measure important things, like alumni giving rate, faculty salaries and retention rates. But what's much more important, is the education we are receiving. At Elon, we aren't identified by our social security numbers. Should the success of our school be measured by numbers?

THE PENDULUM

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