

THE PENDULUM

Informing, entertaining and inspiring the Elon University community since 1974

Volume: XXIX ISSUE: 5 DATE: 9/20/01 www.elon.edu/pendulum

Students gather to reach a clearer understanding of terrorism

Mandie Danielski
Reporter

Students, faculty and staff gathered in McKinnon Monday evening for a forum to reach a clearer understanding of last Tuesday's terrorist attacks. Professors from the political science, history, religion and philosophy departments attended to students' concerns about the future of America and tried to allay students' confusion about the tragic events.

Discussions opened with questions about Israel's dealings with terrorism. "In Israel, people are at the mercy of terrorists," Philosophy professor Dr. Yoram Lubling said. "They combat terrorism by living."

"Israel hasn't had anything of this magnitude," Dr. Rudy Zarzar of the political science department said. "The question is whether this mega terrorism or super-terrorism will become the norm. I'm talking of course about chemical/biological warfare and nuclear warfare."

Dr. Jim Pace of the religious department said the U.S. needs to use past Israeli experiences with terrorism to our advantage if we are

to react properly to Tuesday's attacks. "Maybe we need to be suspicious of everybody, as is the case in Israel," he said. "Even though you may not be a terrorist, your life is limited a lot of innocent people [in the Middle East] pay for what terrorists do."

"It's funny that what happened Tuesday has already been reduced in three seconds to the Israeli-Palestine conflict," Lubling reacted, "as if this will somehow help us justify terrorism. We did not do anything wrong. We should not examine this from the standpoint of guilt. The U.S. succeeded in keeping Israel alive for 50 years—What would be the alternative? If there was no state of Israel, would there be no problem?" He described this assumption as ignorant. Dr. David Crowe responded by reminding students, "We're talking about two very different cultural worlds. Certainly the Israeli-Palestine conflict is key, but not all of [the problem]. In many parts of the Middle East, being pro-American is dangerous."

Zarzar explained there are many motives for terrorism. "Nobody engages in terrorism for the sake of terrorism," he said, "just like nobody engages in war just for the hell of it. I just don't buy that." He said there is never one objective to terrorist acts, listing several kinds of terrorism such as cyber, international, domestic, abortion, techno, ecological, economic, holy, and lastly, political. "Objectives vary," he concluded. "The goals are infinite."

Dr. Brian Digre of the history department then listed several possibilities about the country's role in the Middle East that encourages an anti-American sentiment, including American support for Saudi Arabia and the stationing of troops there, as well as the continuation of economic sanctions against Iraq and Iran.

"Terrorism can also be about a power problem," said Pace. "Those who don't have it resort to

terrorism as a means for power. It's a human problem of ego. Is Osama bin Laden a cause? Well, in answering that question we might be swatting mosquitoes when we need to drain the swamp."

There will always be something or someone else. There will always be groups who use terrorist tactics instead of conventional tactics."

Zarzar opened up discussion to foreign policies that might better relations between the Arab and Western worlds. "We tend to underestimate the role the U.S. plays in creating conditions," he said, "which create many enemies... We're always sending a signal that we're going to whip somebody's bottom if they don't do what we want. This results in tremendous resentment against the U.S."

He cited a need for more humane foreign policies, "sensitive to the needs, feelings and interests of people.

We need not to act as the bully of the neighborhood. We need to move in the direction of humanity. [We] should not impose our will in the name of democracy at the cost of others."

He then defended his position to students saying, "If you want to throw eggs on me, go ahead. I can take a bath!" Crowe also said that perhaps the U.S. becomes involved in certain foreign policy that we should not.

Lubling rebutted, counting events in history where the U.S. made change for the better. "Terrorism might be as important as Nazism," he said solemnly, stating that a hands-off approach to foreign policy may not be the answer, criticizing the ever-popular attitude, "It isn't our business."

"We are perceived as the most generous, most enlightened nation in the world," Lubling said.

TERRORISM

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Elizabeth Sudduth /News Editor

Flags remain at half mast as the Elon Community remembers the victims and their families loss in the tragic attack. For student responses to the national crisis, please see the opinions section, on page 2.



Amy Cowan/ Assistant Photography Editor

Nearly 150 students, faculty and staff gathered Monday to discuss terrorism and other matters related to the attacks on New York City and Washington D.C.

AIDS Quilt arrives today

Megan Turner
Reporter

Four hundred eighty panels, which display the names of AIDS victims, will be on display in Koury Gym today until Sunday. Embroidered with candles, flowers, hearts and words such as, "Your love will stay with me forever," and "Can't smile without you," the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt remembers more than 43,000 people who have died from AIDS.

Although viewing the quilt will be the main event, during the viewing there will be a continuous reading of the names of the people on

the quilt. There will also be areas to summit new panels for the quilt as well as places to purchase merchandise and make donations to the AIDS' cause.

The quilt was originally scheduled to appear at Elon last spring but the event was delayed when the NAMES Project relocated its headquarters from San Francisco to Atlanta.

The AIDS quilt was also displayed at Elon in 1997 and was hosted then by Biology instructor Michael Ulrich, who had hopes to bring the quilt project back to campus.

AIDS

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