

# Daily life came to a standstill: everyone glued to their TVs

Kate Houston  
Reporter

Sept. 11, 2001. It is a date that will live in infamy in the pages of not only American, but of world history. Just as we asked our parents what they were doing when Kennedy was shot, our children will listen to our stories of this generation's Pearl Harbor. Although this campus is hundreds of miles from being directly affected, many Elon students have friends and family from both New York and Washington, D.C.

While the world grinded to a standstill and held its breath as the death toll skyrocketed, Elon was no exception. Although classes continued, Sept. 11 was not just another day.

"I was taking a nap, and my friend from home called and asked if I had talked to my parents," freshman Zack Kevit said. "I had no idea what she was talking about and when she told me what happened, I thought she was joking."

Kevit ran next door to watch his neighbor's television. "Everyone in the hall had the news on," he said. "I just couldn't believe what was going on."

Kevit, who lives in Springfield,

VA, about ten miles out of Washington, D.C., became extremely worried with the news about the Pentagon.

"Although my parents don't work in the Pentagon, most of the families in my neighborhood have at least one parent that works there," he said. "I went to my hometown friend's dorm and everyone from home was online asking who had or had not heard from their parents. Everyone was concerned for everyone else."

Freshman Jennifer Lane was at College Coffee when she heard the news. As a piccolo player in the marching band, she was given only vague information about the crashes when a moment of silence was called.

"We were getting ready to play and the band director gathered us together and told us not to freak out because he didn't really know how bad it was but two planes crashed into the World Trade Center and another one in the Pentagon," she said. "It didn't seem like a big deal at first."

After playing "The Star Spangled Banner" instead of their rehearsed music, Lane headed home to find her roommate sleeping in bed.

"She's from right outside Washington, D.C., and she didn't seem too upset about the World Trade Center,

but when I said 'Pentagon' she sprang out of bed and grabbed the phone," Lane said. "She kept dialing forever and ever, but couldn't get through. I watched her freak out for about an hour until she finally heard from her dad. I felt so bad for her because she was so upset and there was nothing we could do for her."

Lane, like most people, sat glued to the TV as the story unraveled. She was stunned, and couldn't believe what she was seeing.

"Something that big and prominent is not supposed to fall," she said. "It's the kind of thing you watch and your whole heart just drops into your stomach."

"I was playing Play Station when my roommate came in and told me," freshman Marc Krwawecz said. "We watched TV and everything sank in for about an hour. Then I realized that my cousin works across the street from the World Trade Center. I called my mom and left a message."

Krwawecz worried for a few hours until his mom called back to let him know his cousin had gotten out in time, but had seen everything. "It makes you think," he said.

Krwawecz noticed the difference around his dorm in Jordan Center.

"People are usually outside frolicking," he said. "But it was empty and quiet outside. Everyone was glued to the TV."

Life around campus, around the nation and around the world was not only different

that day. "Everything's different," Krwawecz said. "Class syllabi are changing, and our nation as a whole is pulling together and going through some major changes."

Krwawecz's roommate, freshman Dan DeTour, thinks his attitude about life is a little bit different since that fateful Tuesday. "We have to appreciate life more," he said. "You just never know what's gonna happen."

Kevit's attitude about the whole thing has been through some changes as well. "At first I was really angry," he said. My first reaction was that



Photographer: Elizabeth Sudduth

A flag hangs outside Chandler dorm. Students displayed their patriotism several places on campus.

I should go join the Marines and kill people. But I calmed down and decided that just wouldn't work right. It was just such a big waste of life. Now I find myself taking more time to appreciate life. I'm paying attention to everything I've always taken for granted."

The effects from the tragic events were immense, they are still present and they will live with us forever. But by joining together and sharing memories of the event, the country and Elon can begin to heal.

## Editor's Note:

September 11 is a day none of us will ever forget. I wanted to cover this important event, but offer some new angles, rather than the recount of the days events and the ever increasing number of missing victims.

It is important to be fully educated about all of the issues that surround news events, not just the sensational aspects of it. I hope that you have educated yourself on the issues related to the terrorism acts, and you can gain new information or perspective from these articles.

Even though it has been more than two weeks since the tragic events occurred, as I edited these stories I still felt shock accompanied by deep sorrow. I suspect these feelings will never fade. No matter how much we are exposed to the tragic events, they might lose some of their shock value, but all of it will never disappear.

- Katie Bonebrake



## Victim Update

### New York

Estimate of missing persons: 6,398

Confirmed dead: 287; 224 have been identified

Number of persons on board crashed planes: 157

### Pennsylvania

Number of persons on board crashed plane: 44

### Washington

Confirmed dead at the Pentagon: 189

Number of persons on board crashed plane: 64

- Statistics gathered from CNN.com

## Next Week's Focus Topic:

# Rave Culture

If you are interested in writing an article or have any suggestions for future topics call x7247 or e-mail [Katie.Bonebrake@elon.edu](mailto:Katie.Bonebrake@elon.edu)