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National terrorist crisis unites campus, students wait for answers

LEESHA AUSTIN AND
JAMIE TUNNELL
Features Editor, News Editor

The campus processes the shock of the first large-scale terrorist attacks on American soil.

As Meredith students rolled out of bed yesterday, sat in their early morning classes and drove to school in traffic, they turned their radio and television stations on to deliver the shocking news of four hijackings, three resulting in the devastating loss of our World Trade Center, damage to our Pentagon and over 1000 fatalities.

The community heard reports from eye-witnesses and government officials on every level from CNN and local stations. Viewers watched as

buildings collapsed to the ground, leaving America in a state of shock.

Horrified Meredith students and faculty sought comfort by discussing the tragedy throughout the day. And some joined in prayer in the courtyard as well as during the two campus prayer vigils held yesterday at 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Many discussed the events in relation to their class' area of study.

According to senior Cary Weaver, her American Literature professor Lou Rosser opened the floor to her students and encouraged them to share their feelings toward the tragedy with the other members of the class.

"Ms. Rosser told us that now was a time for prayer no matter who we believe in," said Weaver.

Christy Sadler, a junior taking Romantic Poetry with Dr. Jean Jackson, vice president

for Student Development, shared that Jackson discussed the fact that most cultures and generations have experienced war, and many, including some of the greatest thinkers among us, have used poetry to express their feelings.

"Dr. Jackson did a good job of comforting us and showing us that poetry could provide solace," added Sadler.

In Model United Nations, Dr. James Piazza, professor of history and politics, and his class primarily focused their discussion on Osama bin Laden and his history of terrorism, according to senior Courtney Arrington.

She added, "Dr. Piazza said that whoever was behind the attacks was very well-organized and had substantial monetary funds."

Students and faculty at neighboring N.C. State University (NC State) also discussed the attacks in several of their class-

es, according to Junior Brannon Richards, a civil engineering major.

"In my Materials of Construction class we discussed theories behind what actually caused the World Trade towers to collapse," stated Richards. He said that the most popular opinion was that since the steel-framed towers survived the impact of the jets, they were most likely weakened by the high-temperature flames, fed by the jet fuel. The weight of the debris in the center of the tower combined with the weakened steel likely collapsed the structure. The weight of each story probably collapsed the story just below until the tower was leveled."

Ultimately, in spite of efforts to analyze different aspects of the attacks, students and facul-

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Tuition to increase again

Freshmen will pay over \$18,000 for tuition by 2003

CHRISTINA HOLDER
Editor in Chief

President Dr. Maureen Hartford introduced a tuition model covering increases over the next three years to faculty members at a meeting Friday, Sept. 7, 2001 in Kresge Auditorium.

According to Hartford, the increases in tuition will contribute to the costs of an increase in faculty, faculty salaries, financial aid, technology, inflation, the organizational structure of the college, some plant renewal and the Science and Mathematics building.

According to the proposed

model, by fall 2003, entering freshman will pay \$18,065 per academic year--not including room and board--to attend Meredith. Current sophomores will pay \$16,700 by the time they are seniors in the 2003-04 academic year.

Currently, for a freshman entering Meredith in 2001, tuition is \$14,465. When she is a junior in 2003, she will pay \$18,065. This is an increase of roughly \$2,000 per year or a total of \$3,600 over a three year period.

The tuition for upperclass students--defined as current sophomores, juniors and seniors-- for the 2001-02 academic year will rise but not as much as for freshman.

The smaller increase is attributed in part to the smaller technology fee upperclass students pay because they are not included in the Meredith Tech-

nology Initiative. The Initiative, launched this year, will provide every entering class beginning with the class of 2005 with an IBM wireless laptop computer.

Currently, upperclass students pay \$800, while freshman pay \$2,165 for the technology fee.

However, the tuition models work under a phase-out mode. Eventually every student will pay the same amount of tuition as current sophomores, juniors and seniors graduate.

Those students who are current sophomores and juniors--those who will be most affected by the tuition increase and who currently pay a base tuition of \$13,100--will pay \$15,100 when they become juniors and seniors, respectively, in the 2002-03 academic year. For the 2003-04 year, seniors will then pay \$16,700,

and the tuition model will phase out. In 2005, the current freshmen will be seniors and all students will pay the same amount of tuition.

Hartford said that beyond 2004 a "more normal level of increase would depend on inflation."

Hartford, who sent letters to students about the tuition increase yesterday and met with the Student Government Association to address student concerns last Thursday, emphasized the need for more fundraising to balance the struggles of increased tuition.

"The less dependent we are on tuition," said Hartford, "the less of an impact this would have on students."

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