

Remembering September 11th

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image via Newsweek

In observance of the tenth anniversary of the events that occurred on September 11, 2001 the Meredith Herald staff asked members of the Meredith community what thoughts, feelings and images came to mind when thinking of this date. These are their collected responses.

"I was in disbelief. I remember thinking "How could this happen here? This is America." **Elizabeth Warren, Senior.**

"I was most afraid that what happened in New York City would happen to me and my family." **Sarah Acampora, Freshman.**

"After days of relentless media coverage, I couldn't stand it anymore and turned everything off. Then I noticed the silence in Raleigh. There weren't any trains or planes, all of the regular sounds had stopped. Not only that, my family was changed in an unexpected way. My sister joined the U.S. Army at age 33, and has been in service for

almost ten years." **Carmen Christopher Caviness, director of The Learning Center.**

"Since then, I see the event more in perspective- it was devastating, but tragedies like this occur all over the world, everyday, with barely any news coverage." **Cullen Cornett, Senior.**

"I lost a family member in one of the Twin Towers, so my family is now more cautious. I see the world as being more vulnerable now." **Franchesca Doblado, Freshman.**

"All day we had the TV on, watching the same footage over and over of the plane hitting the tower." **Nancy East, Senior.**

"I most remember the speech President George W. Bush gave after the terrorist attacks. I don't get scared very easily, but I was definitely shaken up by what had happened." **Barker Wiggins, Sophomore.**

"Our rights and freedoms as Americans are not what they were before 9/11 and the age of 'terrorism'. Undoubtedly, threats to US security exist, but does that really classify each of those threats as terrorism? The government and the media have instilled a sense of fear in the public. Our generation has grown up to fear this vague concept of terrorism. In some cases, efforts toward counter-terrorism have even served as justification for global policing. The term 'terrorism' has been morphed into a tool for manipulation." **Branna Williams, Senior.**

"Our school didn't tell us about it as far as I can remember. I came home and my mother said that the twin towers came down. I asked

her what the towers were and she just told me not to worry about it. I wish that I would have asked more about it, but I think my mom just didn't want me to cry." **Felicia King, Freshman.**

"I saw the second plane hit. I remember thinking that this must be a serious situation because we didn't sing in music class that day, we sat and talked about what we saw on the news. I remember my dad watching the death toll rise when I got home from school." **Cindy Kohlen, Senior.**

"The attacks were awful acts of destruction and terrorism, and it is challenging to raise a daughter in these time and insure that she is welcoming and kind to all yet mindful of some who may cause her harm." **Danny Green, Associate Vice President for Enrollment**

"I am from Fayetteville which is right next to Fort Bragg, and I was scared that something bad would happen and my home would be a target." **Sarah Gregory, Senior.**

"The long term negative results of the anger and blame our society still feels continues to be portrayed by increased racial profiling, persecution toward particular religious groups and decrease trust in our government." **Paula Meredith, Junior.**

"I was in 6th grade. I remember watching it on TV in class and 40 of us were filed in one classroom. I didn't know what was going on at the time, but I remember feeling scared and confused." **Karla Shufford, Senior.**

"At first, I heard that something had happened in New York and really did not pay much attention

to it and did not realize the gravity of the situation. In a matter of minutes we heard that something equally destructive had happened in Washington D.C, here is when I got worried. I called up my uncle who lived in DC to make sure he was alright." **Dr. Karthik Ag-horam, professor of Biological Science.**

"I was in the kitchen with my aunt and there was a picture on the front page of the newspaper. It wasn't focused but you could tell someone was jumping out of the tower head first." **Sallie Lee, Senior.**

"I have become a prouder American and a stronger individual in my faith." **Katelyn Whitehead, Freshman.**

"I never knew what a terrorist was before then. I learned what a terrorist was." **Amanda Baity, Senior.**

"In some ways we have become more aware of the affect that US policies and media have on people all over the world, in particular the Arab world. In some instances this has generated a call for more just and fair policies towards other governments and peoples and also for a more sensitive and realistic depiction of them in media and culture. Sadly, there are those who see 9/11 not as a wake up call to be better versions of ourselves and to live up to our ideals and values, but as an excuse to demonstrate American might and power no matter the consequences." **Dr. Steven Benko, professor of Religion and Ethical Studies.**

IN THIS ISSUE...

State & Local: Same Sex Marriage, Bachmann, Tata, What's Up In Raleigh

Arts & Entertainment: Duncan Trip to Mexico, Editor Interview, Campus Calendar, Ghost Hunter Interview

Campus Life: Ask Gigi, H.M.S. Pinafore, VMAs Review

Opinion: Co-educational Colleges, Whines and Gripes, Uniforms