

THE RETRIEVER WEEKLY

"Boast not thy self of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." —Proverbs 27:1



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Life After Tuesday: Campus Mourns Tragedy, Loss

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Monday we were an apathetic campus, studying for exams and quizzes, deeply concerned about the prices in the Pub and the add/drop deadline for biology class. Tuesday we were glued to CNN, frantically dialing friends

and family in New York and only concerned with the who, what, why, where, when and how flying at us from the national news media. Whether in class or in the UC Plaza, there was only one conversation to be had last week: the terror that struck the heart of the nation.

Hundreds in the Gameroom last Tuesday gaped in disbelief as the World Trade Center towers

crashed to the ground, the shock never seeming to fade with each new gruesome angle. Over a thousand people lined the walls of the UC Ballroom at Tuesday's teach-in. Students draped flags over their balconies, in their cars and even across their backs. All testimony that the horror ripping through America firmly held UMBC in its grasp.

"Three days ago I had no

thoughts of patriotism ... but the next morning I woke up and instantly became an American. This government was my government, my country was attacked, my people were slaughtered," said senior Gage Ulman to a crowded plaza at the candlelight vigil Thursday night.

The campus was crowded Tuesday afternoon with distressed students, cell phones in hand, attempting to connect with family and friends. With many cellular networks clogged, students packed computer labs and lined up to use payphones in desperate efforts to reach loved ones.

"I was frustrated by the fact that it took me over an hour and a half to get in touch with my family in New York City just to see if they were OK," recalled Scott Liss.

Even after most people confirmed their friends and family were safe, many students found it difficult to concentrate in class, too preoccupied with the horrors of the suicide plane crashes to think of much else. Many professors cut lectures short or dismissed class altogether, even before the university's official announcement at 1 p.m. canceled the afternoon's classes.

"I'm speechless. This is so huge, it hasn't sunk in yet. It is hard to focus on anything, everything has been taken up by this. I can't even figure out where my classes are anymore," said senior Vicki McGowan.

The university collaborated with student leaders to organize events aimed at providing support to the campus community. Among the demonstrations were a teach-in, a candlelight vigil, a speak-out and a memorial service.

"I am very impressed with the level of awareness of all the students on campus. I believe the candlelight service last night was the height of UMBC's development," said President Freeman Hrabowski Friday night. "The students at this school have done a superb job of organizing events to deal with this tragedy."

The various programs were well attended by students, faculty and staff. Many spoke of a need to reach out to each other. "We should keep speaking to one another and make an effort to go up to someone we don't know and say hello and ask what they think about what has happened,"

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Zachary Handler / Retriever Weekly Staff

Crying in the Candlelight: Hundreds of students gathered in the UC Plaza Thursday night to mourn those that died in New York, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania.

BSU to Rehold Elections, Draft New Constitution

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The Black Student Union will elect a chair and a vice chair next Wednesday, Sept. 26. The electees will be charged with running the BSU and drafting a new constitution. Any student claiming membership can vote. Representatives of the Office of Student Life and the Office of Student Affairs will be present at the meeting next week, but only to "facilitate the process."

"The SGA wants this to be handled as a student matter. We

don't want to set the precedent of the administration stepping in to handle our problems," said Kevin Sherwood, co-chair of the SGA's Special Committee on Black Student Union Elections.

After the constitution is revised, the BSU will formally elect a new executive board.

The SGA officially placed the BSU on probation and froze the organization's funding Aug. 28, pending the election of a new executive board. According to Sherwood, the probationary status of the organization will be lifted Oct. 1, the first SGA

Senate Meeting after the elections Sept. 26.

The Student Government Association had ordered the BSU to hold elections Oct. 3. The new executive board would have rewritten the constitution.

"To do the elections and then do the constitution doesn't set the organization up for success," said Patty Perillo, the director of Student Life, after the final agreement was arranged Monday afternoon.

Problems with the BSU's

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Dahlia Naqib / Retriever Weekly Staff

America the Beautiful: UMBC Alum, Martin Taffe of Catonsville, shows his patriotism on Frederick Rd. See Page 14 for this week's Focus on September 11, 2001.

Opinionpage 7 Featurespage 11 Focuspage 14 Sportspage 24	Inside Tracy Williams examines religion's effect on the recent terror hitting the nation and Adam Hopkins castigates LaRouche.	Katherine Nunez gets illuminated, Anna Kaplan goes on the air with WMBC and Jeremy Wustner-Brown takes a look at High Zero.	The UMBC campus mourns, remembers, and copes with the aftermath of Tuesday's attacks on NYC and D.C.	Dana Cookson receives Athlete of the Week honors and an update on the UMBC Sailing Club Team.
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Campus Feels Nation's Pain in Aftermath of Tragedies

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said sophomore Neda Bolourian during the speak-out Wednesday.

As the newsreels played over and over on the networks and reality began to set in, students' reactions varied. Some were left speechless, such as freshman Shaan Akbar. "I don't know what to say, words can't describe what I am feeling."

Still others raged with anger at the attacks, seeing vengeance as the only way to heal their wounds. And even through the weekend, students could be seen consoling their grief-stricken peers.

Generosity infected many on campus this week as well, with strong support for the Red Cross and other relief funds rippling throughout the community. SGA posted flyers encouraging students to donate blood and even tried to coordinate shuttles to local hospitals.

"There's been quite a response ... from spare change to \$20s," said senior

Sheetal Ajmani, who helped circulate a donation box for the Red Cross throughout the crowd at Thursday night's vigil.

Even the away messages and buddy icons of AOL's Instant Messenger took on a new tone in the aftermath of Tuesday's loss of life. Calls to arms, prayers and remembrances have replaced the standard "out to dinner," "gone to Giant" and "studying" messages. American flags and Red Cross symbols replaced animated silliness as students' icons.

As the week passed, it seems some of the campus did forget, or at least moved past the pain and horror felt Tuesday. While students wept in the UC Plaza during the vigil, others ate dinner in the Pub and studied for exams like any typical Thursday night. "We are planning on stopping by," said freshman Shantay Clarke, who sat with friends in the Pub during the vigil. Some insisted they satisfy their hunger first, while still others maintained

they were unaware of the program.

On Friday night, the continual news broadcast of CNN was replaced by a television movie on the USA network in a lounge in one of the university residence halls. In the Gameroom, CNN was on, but no one was watching.

Perhaps the shock is wearing off, but for many, the reality of the attacks is far from over.

To Carol Roos, an army reservist who attends classes at UMBC, the prospect of war is a very real one. "The only thing that was running through my mind was the scene in the movie Pearl Harbor, where the planes were flying over houses in a bright sunny day. I already imagined myself getting a call from my unit and being shipped off. ... All I could do was to pray." Roos has been put on standby, but is not among the thousands of reservists called to duty in the past week.

Other students have friends and fami-

ly in the military. In addition to coping with last week's tragedy, they also face the reality that the lives of their loved ones might be sacrificed in seeking justice for the attacks on Sept. 11.

"My whole family is in the military and I am scared of going to war cause I don't want to lose them," said one woman who stood up and spoke at Friday's memorial service.

Whatever political or military decisions may come from last week's attacks, the nation's wounds are deep and the healing has only begun.

Hrabowski reflected his hope for the future at the candlelight vigil Thursday: "We light this candle as a symbol of the hope that must never end ... hope that your children must never feel the way you feel today."

Jennifer Schildroth contributed to this article.

AIM's Sympathic Voice

Although seemingly removed from the turmoil and emotions of the real world, the away messages of AOL's Instant Messenger even took on a new voice in the aftermath of Tuesday's loss of life.

"We have often looked back to history with awe at how ordinary men and women rose to the occasion and performed extraordinary deeds," stated senior Jim Bailey's away message Wednesday afternoon. "Now, in our own time, immeasurable tragedy and disaster has visited us. It is time for us to follow the example of our ancestors. Take the proud heritage that is your birthright and show the world that out of many we are truly one. We are a great nation. Just like on December 7, 1941, the sleeping giant of America has been awakened. Justice will be sought and found."

"What can you do?" asked senior

Flissy Bunch in her AIM info. "PRAY ... LOVE ... and DONATE BLOOD!" she answered.

"God help the people hurt by today's events. I guess that means all of us in a way," said senior Leah Concannon.

"I cannot even begin to put into words the events of today, as I would not be able to come close to describing what occurred, what I feel," stated senior Matt Siegel's info Tuesday. "I would imagine that we all feel similarly about this, so you know how you feel, you know how I feel. I am glad that all my friends and family are still with me, and my heart goes out to those who lost someone today."

"I hope that I never forget this, I hope that no one does," stated the away message of senior Pat Meyer, Political Science and Philosophy Major. —Scott Daugherty

Arbutus, Catonsville Unite During Tuesday's Tragedy

DAHLIA NAQIB

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

UMBC alum and Catonsville resident Martin Taffe said he couldn't sleep at all the Tuesday night of the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. The only therapy, he said, was a three-hour session of waving the American flag on the Frederick Road overpass the next morning and running, jumping and screaming cheers as passersby honked their horns in support.

And when neighbors and other Catonsville residents visited and thanked him at the Junction Station on Edmondson Road where he works as a bartender, Taffe realized that he also has helped other community members deal with the tragedy.

"I guess if you see some maniac on the street yelling, it just might give you what you need to get through the day," said Taffe, who got some help that morning from Maryland Delegate Don Murphy

Murphy, also a Catonsville resident, saw Taffe as he was driving his kids to school and immediately went home to grab his flag and joined him.

Although Murphy had donated blood, he still felt an urgent need to help out. "I figured it was the least I could do — it was all I could do," said Murphy, who has since received phone calls from locals who said they cried when they saw him.

The people of Catonsville and Arbutus have, as have others across the nation, gathered under the flag, which now decorates mail boxes and store fronts all over town. "In one minute we're arguing about our differences and the next minute we're united under that flag," said Murphy.

Bill McDermott, an employee of 20 years at Arbutus's Little Abner's liquor store, is also seeing a more closely unified people in Arbutus. "I don't know how many other countries rally like we do, but it seems that people are really getting together to help others out," said McDermott.

McDermott, who doesn't know Taffe, is one of many who takes comfort in the flags he has left hanging on the overpass.

To do their part, the Arbutus Fire Department is hosting a spaghetti dinner at the fire hall this week and donating the proceeds to the New York fire departments that responded to the attack.



Dahlia Naqib/Retriever Weekly Staff
Patriotic Cheer: Maryland Delegate Don Murphy and area residents wave flags to show their support of their country.

Muslims Fear Discrimination

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With over 80 countries represented in the demographics of the student body, many commended the MSA's decision to take preemptive measures.

At last Tuesday's teach-in, Professor Lou Cantori of the Political Science Department acknowledged that it is not uncommon in times of international crisis for some individuals to lash out at certain segments of the community. "You are educated UMBC students," Cantori reminded the crowd, indicating that a higher level of respect and tolerance is expected of the UMBC community than American society at large.

Throughout the week, university officials and student leaders have emphasized the need for unity on campus. "As many people throughout the world cry for war, we here at UMBC cry for peace. Peace among all races," said SGA Sen. Dalali Dzirasa at

Thursday's vigil.

The same message has not been so clearly expressed throughout the nation. Ethnically motivated attacks and harassment have made their way into the headlines. So far these incidents have been largely isolated, and government officials, much like UMBC leaders, have denounced them.

"History has taught us that bigotry will not bring back what we have lost, and serves only to divide us," said Sen. Tom Daschle (D-TX) in a press release issued Friday. Daschle warned Americans to avoid the mistakes made after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Jackie Zimmerman, a 21-year-old senior, agreed with the senator's views. "I can understand that people need something to be angry at ... but it's so misdirected," she said.

Dahlia Naqib contributed to this article.