

President Harden  
speaks out to the  
University

Expressions by  
faculty, staff and the  
student body



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Photo provided by Josh Hager

## Devastation on the Homefront

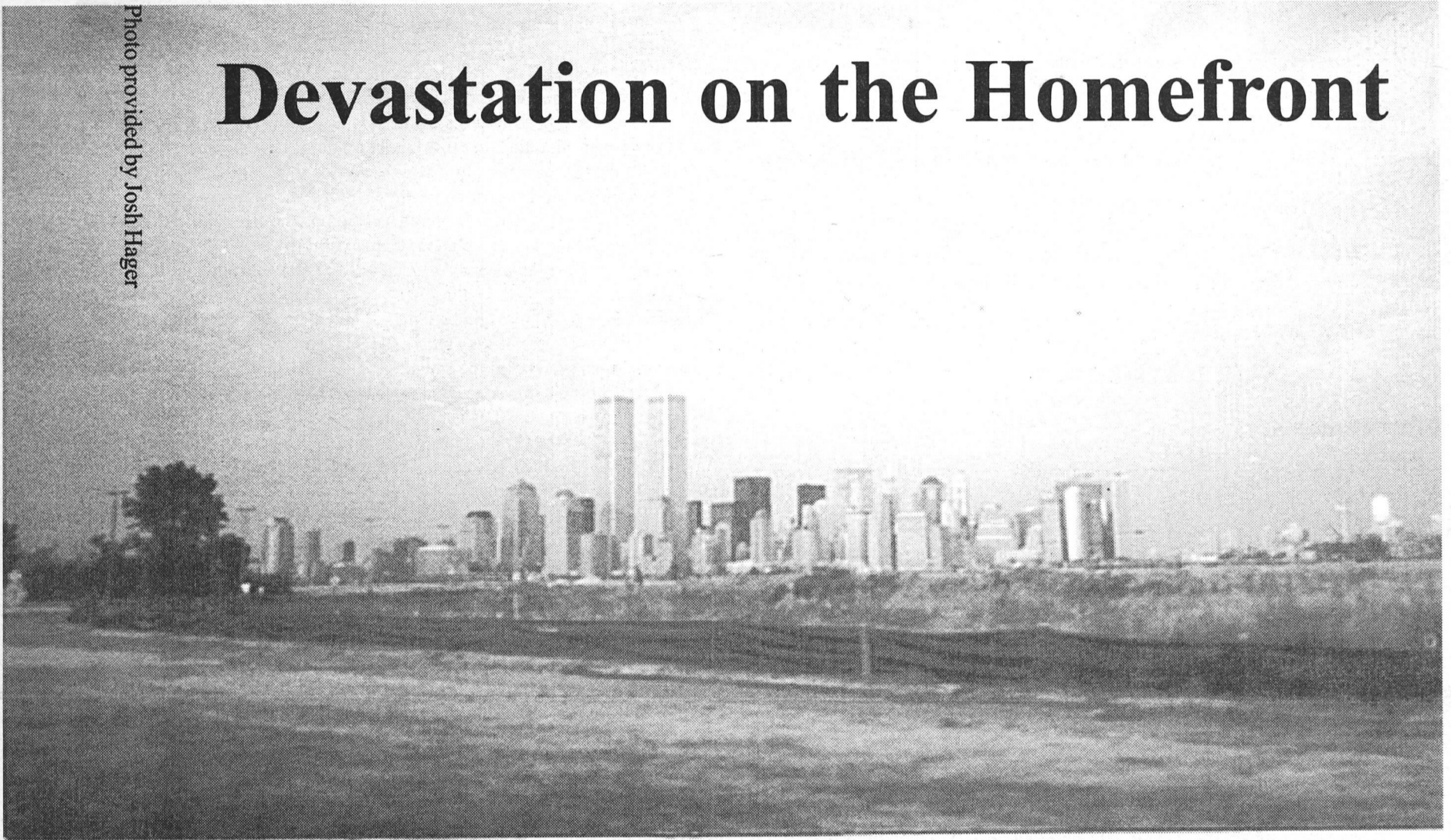


Photo courtesy of Atlanta Journal Constitution



# Special Edition

## ONE NATION...UNITED

We are one nation with a diverse population. Americans are people whose unity becomes especially evident in times of great crisis. Although we are stunned by horrendous acts of hatred which are hard to understand, we must always hold ourselves to higher standards of conduct.

Our nation represents freedom and religious choice.

Even though it is discouraging to see what hatred and evil can do to people's hearts, it is also inspiring and uplifting to observe the outpouring of goodness. Individuals risking their own lives to help victims, acts of kindness, and the way we support one another are truly American traits.

There are decent people of all religions, nationalities, and worldviews. We must make sure that, after witnessing such horror, we do not allow our actions to be distorted by fear and hatred, but driven by our higher ideals and love for our country and each other.

God bless the United States of America

Dr. Thomas K. Harden  
Clayton College & State University, President

## Floating

By Jonathan Gillespie  
(visit my website at [student.claytonstate.net/~csu12323](http://student.claytonstate.net/~csu12323))

I can see her sitting there, feet not quite reaching the floor as she works intently on her masterpiece, the young Georgia O'Keefe taking to her canvas with utter concentration that is so rare in youth. She's working on a new masterpiece. It's a butterfly with beautiful blue wings sitting on a pretty purple tulip. Maybe her tongue curls around her upper lip now and then—she wouldn't care. All that matters in the world is the beautiful butterfly she's bringing to life. She has pretty green eyes.

And light blonde hair.

This is hard.

When you write novels, as I do, you start to love to write anything and everything. It turns into a wonderful diversion from the entire drab and dull world which forces its bills and bank statements, its board meetings and bombs upon you in a definite, deliberate assault on your daytime.

Normally, if I let my mind go for a while I can "see" someone, completely and utterly, before they ever begin to enter the pages of one of my books. I hate that gift right now, because I can so easily see this girl I've never met on one of the stories of the World Trade Center.

And, she's sitting there, drawing a butterfly. She's smiling. One of her teeth is missing in the front, right side of her jaw. I don't know if one of her parents brought her to work with them, or if she's staying with mom or dad a little while longer because of a dentist appointment later on. I don't know.

I want to warn her. I want to go back in time and yell at anyone and anything; yell at them and let them all know that death is calling, riding towards them on a dragon with screaming passengers and thousands of gallons of explosives in its volatile belly. The hammer of hate incarnate is about to shatter the glass of the world's ignorant bliss. And, this girl didn't do anything to deserve it.

But, I can't warn her to run. The tower shakes on its foundations. It's a strange feeling for her...the floor feels like the trampoline in her yard, all inconsistent and dizzying. The lights overhead flicker a few times, but stay on. Maybe all is okay. She can hear people screaming in the distance.

The early morning light, so pure and radiant just a few moments ago, begins to cloud outside. She walks up to the window to look down.

She struggles to grasp what she is seeing for the next few minutes, but she's so young that her own inability to comprehend it keeps the evil of it all away from her. She thinks the orange plume is kind of pretty. And there are people flying.

The steel titan gives way beneath her feet. A cavalcade of paper and insulation flies out shattered windows.

And, a butterfly, a butterfly of blue wings, floats on the wind for a while. It's high here, in and amongst the blue blanket of the sky. There's a dull wail from somewhere below in the streets. A sickening thud.

For a while the butterfly floats...a jagged orange slash of crayon marks its wings where a hand that had been holding it was suddenly jerked in another direction.

It floats for a while, halfway between heaven and earth. Its presence there in the sky is impossible.

And, then it falls.

## I know not what the future holds, but I know who holds the future.

By: Tiffany Cavin

In recent days, even prior to September 11<sup>th</sup>'s activities, this phrase has become my daily motto.

As I'm sure many of you do, I often find myself wanting to have control over the future and knowing what's at store. I find myself worried about who I'm going to date, what I'm going to do after I graduate, how I'm going to get my bills paid this month, when I'm going to find time to run all those errands I need to run, and other such things life's day to day happenings cause you to worry about.

Not only did I worry about these things and what was going to happen - I wanted to know what would happen and have tomorrow planned out exactly - second by second. If things didn't go as I plan for them to I find myself frustrated, irate, distraught, and so forth. Until I reminded myself that I can't know what the future holds, only who holds the future.

And yet now all of those things I used to worry about and think was a huge ordeal - seem so very tribal. Yet I must still remind myself that I know not what the future holds, but I know who holds the future.

At times like this so many people look for someone to give them answers, tell them what they should do, they want to understand why, and all the other questions you and others have in their heads at this very moment. I wish I had the answers you longed for but I'm afraid I don't. All I can tell you is that you can't know what the future holds, only who holds the future.

I also will not tell you whom or what you should believe holds the future. I believe in what I believe and my beliefs are right for me - but they may not be for you. Whether you are Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Mormon, a Jehovah Witness or any other religion - at a time such as this all you can do is know who holds your future, you can't know what the future holds.

I can't tell you if we are going to go to war, whom we will be going against, how long it will last, how many more lives we will lose, if there will be anymore attacks. I don't know what the future holds. I only know who holds the future.

Now that you know what I can't tell you, let me tell you what I can tell. As so many who lost their loved ones have said on the news recently, "appreciate those you love." Appreciate your parents, spouse, kids, siblings, grandparents, family, teachers, classmates, friends, co-workers and everyone else you come in contact with. Appreciate them and let them know that you appreciate them. For you know not what the future holds, but you know who holds the future.

Never hold grudges, always come to peace. We have been harshly awakened by the fact that we could die at any unexpected moment. Don't have grudges when you die. Don't have grudges with someone that dies. Come to peace. "I'm sorry" is one of the simplest and most meaningful phrases in the world. And in a world where our safety has been jeopardized, we do not know what the future holds, only who holds the future.

Tell those you love that you love them. Say "please" and "thank-you." Tell those you haven't seen in a while that you miss them. Call an old friend just to say "hello." Visit your grandparents and other family members you do not regularly see. Tell that special someone how much they really do mean to you. You don't know what the future holds, but you do know who holds the future.

If you know anyone who is in, was in, or will be in any branch of the military tell him or her thank-you. Tell them how much it means to you that they are representing you and protecting your freedom. Tell them that your thoughts and prayers are with them as this is a trying time for them. Tell them how much respect you have for them, as they are willing to die for you and your country. For tomorrow may be to late as we do not know what it holds, only who holds the future.

Pray. Mediate. Do whatever your religion believes in doing to the one you believe holds the future. Get at peace with whomever you believe in - you never know today could be your last day here on earth. Only the one you believe in knows how long you will be here. For you know not what tomorrow holds, only who holds the future.

Patriotic. If you are already a patriotic person - stay that way. If you are not a patriotic person - become one. This is a great country in which we live - freedom is an unimaginable thing to some people and yet we take it for granted. Show your patriotism in any way you possibly can. Support your country and it's decisions. Now is not the time to argue amongst parties, to bash the President, now is the time to come together as one to represent our country. We must be patient and work together as one. We don't know what tomorrow means, only what the future holds.

As our President quoted the 23 Psalm, "As I walk through the valley of death I will fear no evil." He does not know at this moment what tomorrow will hold for neither him nor our country. He does know who holds it and he is asking our country to turn to Him. This is all we can do. We need to do so.

We do not know what the future holds, but we all know who holds the future.

## “On Top of the World”

By Michelle Lawrimore  
Assistant Editor

I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to see Manhattan from its highest point, the World Trade Center, back in March of 1999. I've heard so many people saying lately that they had always wanted to go to New York and see the incredible views from the top of the famous buildings, and now they know they never will be able to. I would like to try to share my experience with all of you by painting a picture in your imaginations.

Riding a rollercoaster of turbulence through the overcast New York sky, I remember praying that the flight would end safely and soon. We had been bouncing across the fluffy gray and white street for at least half an hour, and the journey was beginning to lose its charm. The dull roar of passengers complaining, with an occasional, “oh-my God!” from someone terrified by the turbulence, was affirmation to me that I was not the only one growing tired of the uneasy ride. As we approached our destination, the plane ducked beneath the clouds, just in time for all of us to be welcomed to New York by its most famous representatives. The complaints suddenly turned to “ooh’s” and “ahh’s” as we stared in disbelief at the southern tip of Manhattan. The twin towers, of course, stood out from all the others, being the largest buildings on the island. Feelings of excitement and pride filled my chest so full I felt like it could burst. I could not put the reasons for my feelings into words at that moment, but I believe I can now.

The towers of the World Trade Center were not only very famous and productive buildings; they were American icons. The World Trade Center symbolized American achievement and economic brilliance, both of which are advantages that we have because of our freedom. It symbolized American achievement, because we were able to build such enormous structures, and also because we knew that we could fill two buildings of that size with workers. Workers, who would shovel the coal into America's steam engine, further increasing the pace of our economic and intellectual growth. It symbolized economic brilliance, because America has the best economy on the planet. Anyone can work, and workers have the freedom to choose their own jobs. People can earn money and buy whatever they want or need. We are so lucky to live during this time when America is so prosperous.

The view of the majestic buildings from the plane was only an appetizer for me. I had to know what it was like to be inside. I visited the center on a sunny afternoon. I took the elevator up to the observation deck. The rapid increase of altitude as I ascended actually made my ears pop! The observation deck was really just one open floor surrounded by glass, with a small movie theater in the center that was playing a short video about the history of the World Trade Center. Just outside of the theater was a miniature model of Manhattan, built exactly to scale. It was so realistic that I had to get a picture of it. Everytime I show my New York pictures, people always ask how I got such a clear aerial shot, and I have to tell them that it is just a model. *Was* just a model, now is just a memory of someone's artistic genius now buried in the rubble.



After watching the movie, I slowly made my way around the entire perimeter of the room, seeing all of the amazing views that I could. To the North, I saw the Empire State Building, standing proudly, just shorter than its younger brothers. The buildings in between seemed like children looking up to their fathers with respect. Preceding the construction of the World Trade Center, the Empire State Building, built in 1931, had been the tallest building in New York, symbolizing America's progress and success at that time. The World Trade Center signifies America's constant desire for forward progress, and its ability to outdo and improve itself again and again.

To the East, I saw the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges, which serve as arteries, pumping life from the heart of Manhattan to the rest of the world. To the West, I felt like I was seeing God's view of New Jersey. I could see what seemed to be the entire state. The curve of the world was all that kept me from seeing further. To the South was the most profound sight of all. I could see the queen of Ellis Island, The Statue of Liberty herself. Although she is an enormous and powerful symbol of our freedom, she seemed like a miniature figurine sitting in the Atlantic Ocean's curio cabinet, as I observed her from the top of one of her greatest achievements.

Even though the buildings are gone, the drive that inspired them is still very much alive. America will recover. It will continue to thrive, and it will produce even greater assets than ever before.

## In a Single Heartbeat

By Scott Taylor  
Part-time Faculty, IT Department  
Former Editor-in-Chief, Bent Tree Student Newspaper

It is hard to imagine that our lives can change as they did, in a single heartbeat, that thousands can be silenced in a single moment, and that the entire nation could all be brought to a stand still, in an instant. My heart at this moment is heavy, and there is nothing that can lighten the load it bears.

I have watched and seen the footage of this terrible tragedy since day one at the first hour and still can not truly find the words to describe what has happened. I have listened to the talk shows and heard the words of my fellow citizens, the words of dismay and the words of anger, but still there is not a word, or group of words, in our vocabulary that can truly describe the events that have occurred in our nation.

I have often prayed at night for God to get me through the next day, and to protect my family, but I often forget to ask God if he will protect others in our great nation. I believe that this is a time in our nation when we all must turn to our God, or Gods, and ask them for a swift end to this tragic time. We must ask daily for the safety of not only our loved ones, but for the safety of all in our great nation. I love America and will continue to love and cherish my freedoms and my country. There are those who will say they hate America, but we must show through our faith that love is stronger than hate.

Everyone in this great nation has come from some other country. Maybe not recently, but all of our families came from other countries. We all came to America to have our basic freedoms, our basic liberties, and the ability to live the life we choose to live. We came to America to live together in peace. That unity of peace has been tested, but we will pass the test. We will rebuild, and we will continue on with our lives united as one. We will never let go of what happened on Tuesday September 11, 2001, but we should allow ourselves to grow stronger from it. We should allow ourselves to still carry on and continue to be the great nation that we love. We should prove to the rest of the world that nothing can silence the heartbeat of hope and love that we all share as Americans. God Bless.

## To Members of the Clayton State Community:

The onset of events that our nation has experienced in the past few days has left us with unbelievable memories that touched the very heart of the notion of community here and world-wide. Our campus comprises a proud and steadfast community of students, faculty and staff from around the world that value and respect one another.

It is characteristic for grief and concern to manifest itself as anger in circumstances such as these. It is imperative that we maintain our community by refraining from undertaking in anything that would reduce us to less than what we are. Let us remind one another to not fall prey to the oppressions of racism, bigotry and hatred. Let us turn to one another for support, understanding and compassion.

The Office of Diversity Programs & Disability Services, The Office of Counseling & Career Services and our Public Safety Department are available to those individuals who may desire solace at this time.

Sincerely,  
Deborah H. Greer  
Director of Diversity Programs & Disability Services

## Last words

I sent an e-mail  
about a phone call  
about a cell phone  
up in the tower

He called his mother,  
a last transmission  
“It's getting smokey  
I need a way out.”

Another forward,  
from out in Brooklyn,  
describes the debris  
blown past her window

The nighttime streets,  
in eerie Autumn,  
swirl notes and papers  
not meant to travel

Unintended,  
last words and letters,  
the leaves blow eastward,  
toward the river

—Greg H.

Greg Hampikian, Ph. D.  
Associate Professor in Biology  
and Program Coordinator

# Special Edition

## Just Another Day...

By: Faisal Zaman

It was just another normal day in the busy suburb of Atlanta. Never expecting anything to change; routine was the name of the day. It was through a random act of boredom that I switched the radio station to 99x on the morning of September 11. It was about 9 o' clock in the morning. All I heard was the morning DJ gasping in horror at what he was watching on "CNN Live." I thought it was just another practical joke the station was playing that morning. I had time to kill, so I walked downstairs and switched the TV on. The unfathomable was staring me right in the face. And, a few minutes later, the second plane hit the other tower. We all know what happened in the devastating hour that followed. I'm not going into detail about what happened the rest of that day. I'm not going to mention how many people were in that building when they tumbled down hundreds of feet. I'm not going to state my political position and go into a frenzy about how the American government should launch nuclear attacks at every problematic country and region there is, and how that will start the beginning of the end.

September 11 has now gained the privilege of being called the most tragic and grievous day since Pearl Harbor. Thousands of lives... lost. Hundreds of firefighters and officers... missing. We are reminded of these facts everyday, day after day, and we will be reminded of them for the rest of our lives. Our shock will fade and our anger will rise. Our anger will rise and so will our drive to find who was responsible and show them how strong the American government is. What we really mean by strong is how hard we can hit them. But, who is it that we will hit? I use the word "we" through this paper with great meaning. Who does "we" represent? You assume Americans. That assumption is wrong.

## EXPRESSIONS...

"As people's emotions move away from shock and despair to anger, which is a natural response, we must be very careful about the direction of that anger. I am very concerned about a backlash against people who are here in our community. As much as each of us as individuals do not want to be judged superficially by the color of our skin, our gender, or our accents, we should not judge others in such a fashion either. The truth will be known. Be patient, and let it be known."

Dr. Susan Henry

"I was angered on Tuesday as I realized the new chapter of history that had been opened, a chapter I had hoped and prayed my children would be guarded from. However, as I look back on my generation's history of Vietnam and the civil rights movement and my parents' generation of the Great Depression and World War II, I am brutally reminded that history can indeed unfold before our very eyes and this will be my children's experience in living history."

Carol Lee

Instructor of American History

"My prayer is that people will not allow this event to cause them to close themselves off from Islamic people, or worse, cause them to be hostile towards people based simply on their religion or nationality. Hate and vengeance take very little creativity. I hope we will all work hard to make sure that we do not make incorrect assumptions about people we do not know."

Catherine McClarin

Assistant Vice-President for Enrollment Services

"No evil prevails. We shall overcome."

John Preston

Professor

"My prayer goes out to the people who have lost loved ones. The most anxiety I feel right NOW is how the country responds to this crisis. We must now all pray diligently that our leaders will make the right choices in response to this crisis."

Patricia Hughes, Student

"This is a tragic event but we must remember not to return evil with evil. I believe that justice must be served but it needs to be done wisely and with much prayer. Yes, we are dealing with people who may not believe in the sanctity of life, but we-as Americans-do believe and have to hold tight to that belief and not move too swiftly as to destroy other innocent victims in other countries. Also, don't let this turn us against our fellow Americans who may be of other Nationalities. United we stand but divided we will fall."

Michelle Lyke, Student

"Let us pray fervently for all of those involved, and let us be thankful for all that we have."

Mike Faulkner, Student

"It hurts me to see the lives of everyone in America torn apart by the tragic event that happened. Families were torn apart and friends were lost, but America as a whole will come together to overcome this horrific event."

Jennifer Mayfield, Student

"There are so many people that were affected by this tragedy. Although the places where the events occurred are thousands of miles away, it seems as though it happened right next door. People in this area have family and friends in the areas of the crashes. This sadistic act of terrorism took place very far away from us, but the effects of such brutality is felt deep within each of us. We as students have led a very sheltered life thus far concerning domestic war-

I am a Pakistani, born and raised in the United Arab Emirates in the Middle East. I am a person who came to this country for the same reason millions of others did. Freedom. "We" are not only Americans. "We" are Indians. "We" are Jamaicans. "We" are Chinese, and Japanese, and Taiwanese, and German, and Romanian, and Russian, and Slovakian. "We" are people. So when "we" say go and attack and kill and bomb people, "we" only kill ourselves. Killing is not the only answer. Taking innocent lives is not the only road to Justice. Every finger started to point towards Osama Bin Laden just a few hours after the incidents. Granted, he is an extremist and a fanatic; but, people were beginning to get blamed too fast. He gives Muslims a bad name. I am a Muslim. He does not represent anything a Muslim stands for. Muslims do not represent violence; they represent peace. Muslims do not take lives in cold blood; they value it. And because of Osama Bin Laden's actions, millions of people have begun to see his face in Muslims around the world. Extremists and terrorists will always have a reason to attack a country: money, power, jealousy, policies. The list will never end. It only gets publicized when the world's greatest nation, instead of a small village on the border of Scandinavia, becomes the victim. I hear people all over say that "we" need to bomb someone, that "we" need to go and kill, just like they did. Do people have no dignity and self-respect? Do they have no value for life? Do they not learn from past experiences? Overconfidence is what let this happen. Overconfidence is what brings the greatest powers to their knees. I feel just as much sorrow and grief for the people whose lives were lost, and as much hope for the people who could still be alive. Just because I am not American does not mean I don't value life. This is what people fail to understand. It's not race, or religion, or politics, or ideologies. It's life.

I remember hearing a saying of an ancient samurai warrior. "The greatest victory is not defeating an army of 100 on the battlefield. The greatest victory is defeating an army of 100 in the battlefield of the mind."

fare. That life ended on September 11 and will never again be regained. My thoughts and prayers go to each victim, each family member, and each American who lost a piece of his or herself on that tragic day."

Laura Holt, Student

"This horrible tragedy has fallen upon all US citizens whether they are directly involved or not. The awful attack in New York and Washington has made me very sad and angry. This is the time we all need to come together, as we have, for all of the lives lost, those still unaccounted for and for the friends and family members of any involved. God Bless America."

Sara Toth, Student

September 11, 2001, is a day that will go down in history. As time passes, those who lived through this tragic day will always remember their exact thoughts, emotions, and prayers that went out to those who suffered and those who lost their lives.

A feeling of freedom and bravery fills the hearts of Americans as we watch our flag fly with pride. As Americans, we will not let anyone or anything affect our nations unity. My deepest thoughts and prayers go out to those who are suffering the loss of loved ones.

God Bless America,

Jill Bedsole and Heather McCammon  
Students

In such atrocious times we must take great pains to be sure that we — unlike the terrorists who devastated New York and Washington D.C. — do not lose our humanity. However, a retribution must be exacted that would ensure an end to terrorism throughout our World.

Keith Bleckley, Student

I am sending out a prayer not only for all the victims of this tragedy and their families, but also for every man, woman, and

child who has felt the discord and uncertainty that has inevitably been instilled. Even in our despondency, I am urging every person to not let their fear and anger stew into ignorance as we remember that Americans come in every color and denomination. May we all rise above the evil spirit of hatred. God Bless Us All!

Christie Donaldson, Student

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John Shiffert  
Scott Taylor



REMEMBERING  
AN  
AMERICAN  
TRAGEDY

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PERSPECTIVE FROM GEORGIA STATE GOVERNMENT-  
*REPRESENTATIVE GAIL BUCKNER, CLAYTON COUNTY*

CLOSING REMARKS-*KEVIN DIXON, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF  
THE BENT TREE NEWSPAPER*

PERFORMANCE BY CCSU MUSIC STUDENTS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2001

12:00PM - 1:00 PM

**"America"**

O Beautiful for spacious skies;

For amber waves of grain

For purple mountain majesties

Above the fruited plain!

America! America!

God shed his grace on thee,

And crown thy good with brotherhood

From sea to shining sea!

O Beautiful for heroes proved

In liberating strife;

Who more than self their country loved,

And mercy more than life!

America! America!

God mend thine every flaw,

Confirm thy soul in self control,

Thy liberty in law.