

EXTRA THE NORTHERNER

UNDER ATTACK

Campus in shock President Votruba sees “teachable moment” in wake of attacks

By Susan Bartels
News Editor

As Northern Kentucky University students, faculty and staff reeled from the news of a terrorist attack on U.S. soil, top administration personnel began discussing plans on how best to handle the sensitive situation.

University President James Votruba said the university's focus will be in three areas. First, making clear to students and their families that this is a safe environment. Second, helping students process and learn from these events. Third, making sure students feel secure and there is no backlash directed at any student, not only from within but also from outside the campus.

“We’re being sensitive to the fact that we have a large international student population,” Votruba said. “We want to make sure that as things unfold, and nationally, if people start pointing fingers, that those fingers aren’t directed at students from other countries.”

At 12:58 p.m. Votruba issued an e-mail to the entire university encouraging everyone to take the opportunity to create “teachable moments.” He stated the campus would remain open and all precautions were being taken to ensure safety. He also requested faculty and administrative supervisors to not penalize students and staff who choose to leave campus.

Campus security, administrators, staff and physical plant employees were asked to be on alert to things that may look out of context. Also, the bookstore is making sure all students keep backpacks on them and not leave them unattended.

“To be honest,” Votruba said, “we don’t know what to expect and we want to be prepared.” Several meetings were arranged on campus to help students deal with the situation, but most of the student issues will be

dealt with in the classrooms. Votruba believes students need a chance to interact with each other and with faculty in normal classroom settings.

“This is an up-close and personal campus,” he said, “and I think it ought to be an up-close and personal environment we create to deal with this.”

Right: Smoke billows from the World Trade Center after being hit by two hijacked jumbo jets.



Susan Bartels/The Northerner

Above: Katie Robbins, a junior Applied Cultural Studies major, watches the World Trade Center terrorist attack on television in the Natural Science building.

“These acts shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve.”

-President George W. Bush

Timeline of Events

9:03 a.m. A second plane crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center

9:43 a.m. A third hijacked plane struck the Pentagon in Washington D.C.

8:45 a.m. The first report that a hijacked commercial airliner crashed into the World Trade Center north tower in New York City.

9:40 a.m. The Federal Aviation Administration shut down all air traffic in the U.S. for the first time in history.

10:05 a.m. The south tower of the World Trade Center collapses.

ALPHA UNDER ATTACK

Campus organizations console students

Shocked students find havens among their campus groups

By Scott Wartman
Executive Editor

Almost immediately after the two planes crashed into the World Trade Center towers on Tuesday, student organizations at Northern Kentucky University responded immediately by consoling the shell-shocked student body.

Once Pi Kappa Alpha fundraising chairman Jim Miskinn learned that his girlfriend who attends New York University

was okay, he approached Student Government Association to set up a relief fund for volunteers and workers involved in the rescue effort in New York City.

SGA is trying to reach out to the students and to what they can, SGA President Katie Herschede said.

"Each of us feels affected," Herschede said. "We are doing whatever we can do to let the students grieve in whatever different ways they need to."

SGA also is bringing Hoxworth Blood

Center on Campus on Thursday. The blood drive will last from 8:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Counseling and spiritual support will be provided by the Baptist Student Union, said BSU campus minister Bill Ellis. Within two hours after the suicide bombing, Ellis said over a thousand people visited the chapel to pray. Ellis said the BSU will work with the university to set up counseling for students. More importantly, Ellis said the BSU will give students a way to cope with the tragedy.

"Our initial reaction was what can we do and we can't do anything," Ellis said. "A place like this serves a focal point for people to pray for those who lost their

lives." BSU hoped to see a counseling session at Kentucky Hall in Norse Commons.

Two organizations, the office of International Student Affairs and Students Together Against Racism, are working to prevent the damage the terrorist actions could cause to ethnic groups, particularly Middle Eastern ones. S.T.A.R. Co-President D.J. Carter said it is a mistake to jump to conclusions and the terrorists could be of any ethnicity.

"It is a really weird time and no one is innocent," Carter said.

S.T.A.R. hopes to hold forums and dialogues at NKU in the near future to ease tensions, said Carter.

An e-mail was sent out to international students on campus by ISU Director Viki Kimball to prepare the students for anti-kinship they may receive by other people. Kimball said the Oklahoma bombing posed a similar situation, because of many people assumed it was done by Middle Eastern people. She said the ISU hopes to soften this potentially volatile situation.

"We want to make sure people are aware that anyone could have done this," Kimball said. "This is a tragedy that everyone will get through together."

Students who want to help out in any way should e-mail Miskinn at J.Misk@hotmail.com.

Delta and Fidelity affected by attacks

DELTA AND FIDELITY REMAIN OPEN IN SPITE OF WORLD TRADE CENTER TRAGEDY

By Rick Amburgey
Features Editor

Although planes were grounded and the stock markets were closed down Tuesday in reaction to the terrorist attacks, the Delta Air Lines' and Fidelity Investments' campus offices stayed open for business.

Bill Lamb, coordinator of Employee Relations at Northern Kentucky University, said the on-campus branches of Delta Air Lines and Fidelity Investments saw changes in business in light of the national crisis.

"Fidelity did not have much activity today because most of their clients were watching this on TV. Contrasting that, Delta was overwhelmed," Lamb said.

Lamb said Delta asked employees to work overtime Tuesday and Wednesday to help handle the increased volume of phone traffic.

Bea Powell, supervisor of Delta Air Lines, said they are using employees trained on sales calls because of the high volume.

"We are trying to accommodate [customers] for tomorrow or future days. There's not much more we can do today than that," Powell.

Supervisors at NKU's branch of Fidelity Investments declined to comment, but referred to a statement made by Fidelity's corporate office:

"Any market orders placed after 4 p.m. ET on Sept. 10, 2001 will be canceled. You may enter limit orders to buy or sell securities, which will be executed as soon as practicable when the exchanges reopen, in accordance with exchange rules and regulations."

The United States Securities and Exchange Commission closed the stock market following the attack on the World Trade Centers, located in New York City's financial district.

"Given the risk to our employees and to the employees of our member firms, we felt it was best to close," Harvey Pitt, chairman of the SEC, told Reuters Tuesday.

At press time, it was unclear if the financial district will be open on Wednesday, Sept. 12. The next official business day will open at the prices that were effective at the close of the day on Monday, September 10.



Students took a break from classes and gathered around TV sets around campus to watch the devastation unfold.

NKU students react to terrorist attacks

By Susan Bartels
News Editor

"Shock!" No other word was said more often by the students of Northern Kentucky University as reports spread across campus of the terrorist attack on New York and Washington D.C.

Students, faculty and staff stood glued to televisions, stunned by what was unfolding before their eyes. In a sociology class in the Natural Science Building, students gasped in disbelief as news videos replayed a 737 plane crashing into the World Trade Center and smoke billowing from the Pentagon.

"I can't imagine trying to get out of there," said Katie Robbins, 20, a junior applied cultural science major. "I'm wondering if it's going to happen to Cincinnati."

On the second floor of the Landrum Academic Center, a political science class had stopped and students from a class next door had filtered in, all interested in the television reports. Political science professor Dr.

Adalberto Pinedo said it was obvious it was a well coordinated attack. "It's shocking," he said, "I'm just horrified at the thought of one of those twin towers collapsing and the casualties."

Downstairs in a newswriting class, instructor Felix Wiaternitz was keeping the students' minds on the news by having them visit Web sites that pertained to the current situation. In the corner of the room, the television continued to keep everyone updated.

Elias Hajjar, 20, a junior journalism major, has a brother-in-law who works for a radio station across the street from the World Trade Center. He could hear his brother-in-law's voice broadcasting on the television.

"I was afraid at first," he said, "but hearing his voice makes me feel better."

Hajjar, who has a Middle Eastern background, also stated he didn't think he would suffer any backlash from other Americans in the event it was a Middle Eastern terrorist group.

"It doesn't concern me," he said. In Nunn Hall, students gathered

around the television in the third floor lounge. "It's ironic," said John Daniels, 30, senior law student. "A show a few days ago talked about an attack on the World Trade Center and how vulnerable they are."

On the plaza, students stood in groups discussing the situation and their feelings. "Yes, it scares me," said Donald Porter, 18, freshman information systems major. "It's in our back yard."

Jim Steers, 21, a junior political science major, said he didn't think a war would start. "It's just terrorism, there's no country involved," he said.

Safety was a concern for many students. They mentioned being near the international airport as well as General Electric and Proctor and Gamble.

International students Sonja Wickel from Hamburg, Germany and Omar Hackl from Vienna, Austria said they feel safe. They didn't understand why this area could be targeted.

Rising gas prices only just rumors ... for now

By Rick Amburgey
Features Editor

Drivers lined up at local gas stations Tuesday in response to rumors of rising gas prices.

The wait for gas at the Highland Heights BP service station, located across the street from campus, was more than an hour during the busiest time of the day. News stations in the area reported rumors that gas prices would skyrocket and there would be gas shortages.

Northern Kentucky University junior Heather LaBrecque waited until late to get her gas to try to avoid the long lines.

"I waited until late because the lines were just insane," she said.

LaBrecque said she hopes the prices do not continue to rise.

"I'm just praying it doesn't go sky high tomorrow because I'll definitely be checking out the bus schedule," she said.

Robert Jones, who is employed by August Groh and Sons, a janitorial company, proposed an alternative - taking money from the government instead of raising gas prices and the cost of living.

He said it costs \$2,700 monthly to make a living to support his family.

"Making 10 bucks an hour, you're lucky to have enough money for gas to make it back and forth to work on," Jones said.

NKU student Jeremy Gabis, cashier/manager at AmeriStop Food Mart in Erlanger, said it was very hectic on Tuesday.

"They ran out of gas early in the afternoon [Tuesday]. It was amazing to see people stocking up on groceries," Gabis said.

Gabis said AmeriStop's gas prices at the Erlanger location rose from \$1.51 to \$1.89.

"AmeriStop stays competitive with their gas prices, but I don't know how high they are going to go with them," he said.

NKU alum Joe Gebelt said he got gas at about 6:30 Tuesday afternoon and paid \$1.79 per gallon. Gebelt said he had to wait about 25 minutes to get gas and he heard gas station employees say they were running low.

The management of the Highland Heights BP was unavailable for comment.

10:10 a.m. A portion of the Pentagon collapses.

10:45 a.m. All Federal office buildings in Washington D.C. are evacuated

11:10 a.m. A Boeing 767 was hijacked southeast of Pittsburgh.

10:10 a.m. United Airlines reports that flight #93 crashed in Somerset County in Pennsylvania, southeast of

11:18 a.m. American Airlines confirmed reports that flight #11 (81 passengers) and flight #77 (58 passengers) were hijacked and crashed.

UNDER ATTACK

Student waits, worries while professors caution overreactions will lead to violence

By Scott Wartman
Executive Editor

Tuesday morning started out like most mornings for Northern Kentucky University student Joel Pena. He sat down for breakfast in the International Student Union office, where he is the social chairman, when someone turned on the television. What he saw filled him with fear. The World Trade Center being consumed by smoke greeted Pena and instilled him with fear.



Joel Pena

in New York was safe. "My knees felt like rubber," Pena said when he heard the news of his brother's safety.

Even though Pena knows his brother is safe, he said he still has many fears about the bombing. Pena said he is afraid this will cause a war and there will be animosity toward foreign students, particularly those from the Middle East.

"As part of ISU, I want to make sure people don't blame our Muslim students," Pena said. "I want people to take a moment of silence and think of the people that were lost."

Faculty members have expressed other concerns regarding the bombing.

Responding with violence would only provoke more violence, said sociology department chairman Dr. Jerry Richards. While he said there will be a big push to respond with physical force, that would only worsen the situation and diplomacy and prosecution is the proper action.

"It is going to take a great deal of maturity to effectively deal with the situation," Richards said. "I hope people learned some lessons and I hope it will lead people to find peaceful solutions."

Dr. Dean Minix, chairman of the political science department, said that as a result of the bombings, increased security in all facets of life could conflict with First Amendment rights.

"I asked my class how many people would willingly submit to being searched before they enter Florence Mall," Minix said. "Many said it was an outrage." Ironically, Minix first heard about the bombing when teaching an honors class on terrorism. One of the students broke down in tears when she first heard of the bombing, Minix said.

When American history professor Dr. Leon Boothe first saw the scene of a plane crashing into the WTC building, thoughts of Pearl Harbor came to mind. Boothe said this is different than Pearl Harbor, however.

"This will make Pearl Harbor pale in comparison," Boothe said. About 2,300 died in Pearl Harbor. As of Tuesday night, the estimated death toll for the terrorist attacks exceeds 10,000. This makes it the worst act of war on U.S. soil since the Civil War.

Boothe, who lived through World War II, remembers the fury of the public after Pearl Harbor and predicts it will be very similar to these bombings. Like Pena, Boothe said people might direct their anger on Middle Eastern people.

"We have to temper our anger," Boothe said. "I worry that it will be like the Oklahoma City bombing where people blamed those from the Middle East. They are very innocent people too."

North Poll

"Where were you when the news came out about the World Trade Center?"



Christina Malone
Environmental Science, Jr.

"I was in my car this morning. I'm really upset with the whole issue and now I have to go to work at Delta!"

Chad Groeschel
Art/Nursing, Jr.



"I was in the art building. It is shame to find out that 1/2 to 1/3 of that was killed in Vietnam and that some people don't even know where the Pentagon is. It is a hard lesson."

Rie Hummel
Mental Health and Human Services, Sr.



"I was working in at a children's homethis morning. I think it's terrible all those innocent people had to die."

Ray Alinghaus
Engineering, Fr.



"I was in the Science and Technology building this morning. It really pisses me off. I want to know it happened, who did it?"

Laura Burns
Elementary Education, Jr.



"I didn't think it was as serious as my boyfriend was saying. I also looked it up on the Internet. I was also scared because it was a terrorist attack. It's unreal."

New York City remembered

By Rick Amburg
Features Editor

The only place New York native Nancy Gnecco can see the World Trade Center twin towers now is on her computer's screen saver.

"I can't look at it anymore," she said. Gnecco said she is traumatized and shocked by the recent terrorist attacks on the United States.

"I'm just a New Yorker in shock. I honestly feel raped of American pride, because of the attack and the President's lack of response," Gnecco said. Gnecco, whom *The Northerner* found via an Internet directory in order to provide the NKU community eyewitness accounts, said she watched the events unfold from her rooftop.

"There is not one cloud in the sky, except this white maze immersing towards Brooklyn and a purple/grey/brown cloud puff over Manhattan," she said.

Gnecco stayed at home on Tuesday and yet had a feeling of exile - there was chaos in the streets, the phone lines were down and the subways were not running. Her only means to communicate was via the Internet.

She said she left the TV on, only to be constantly reminded of the somber reality as the media replayed the collapse over the twin towers and remembers the Oklahoma City Bombing and thought it was bad. Yet, it seemed so distant to her even though it took place on American soil.

"You think it isn't going to happen to you, and now it did," she said. Gnecco said it is so upsetting is

because this was the first time the World Trade Center was attacked.

"Our country was not ready for this, our defenses are down and no one cares."

Gnecco said the event was so painful because New York City has always been a part of her life. She remained about a time she spent in the area that has now become just a memory.

"I used to walk through the halls of the World Trade Center, because I used to hang out there all the time in Battery Park, and it's such a shame," she said.

Despite all the time she spent in and around the World Trade Center, there is one thing she said she never did, she now regrets.

"I never went to the Observatory Deck, and now no one will," Gnecco said.

Americans nationwide were affected by the attacks in New York. Even residents of Washington, DC, which was also attacked cited the NYC attack as extremely traumatic.

John Richards, Washington DC resident, said he was shocked that something like this could happen in present day on American soil.

"I'm 22, so Pearl Harbor was something taught in history. Sadly now, this will be a part of history," he said.

People nationwide encountered problems with internet connections and getting phone calls to go through, particularly calls from cellular phones.

Symone Williams, a Washington DC native now living in Florida, for school said she tried all day Tuesday to contact friends and family.

"I've talked to one person since this morning, and I can't get through to anyone else," she said.

A month for terror

September is a month that marks the anniversary of several events that include or are linked to terrorism.

Some of these events include:

* Sept. 6, 1970 - The commercial aircraft - TWA, Swissair, and BOAC - were hijacked and were demanded to be taken to the Jordanian airport by the PLPF. These three planes carried more than 400 hostages. This event has been dubbed "Skyjack Sunday."

* Sept. 11, 1922 - A British mandate was proclaimed in Palestine, despite Arab protests. This lasted until 1948 when the United Nations established Israel.

* Sept. 11, 1972 - The Munich Summer Olympics, dubbed "The Olympics of Terror" ended. For 21 hours hooded gunmen of a Palestinian faction on live television. The hostages were Israeli athletes, 11 of which were killed during the getaway and fight with German anti-terrorist units.

* Sept. 28, 2000 - Ariel Sharon, former leader of right wing party, Likud, visited the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem on the eve of the Jewish New Year. The visit upset a number of Arabs, both Israeli and Palestinian.

This information was gathered and partially taken from foxnews.com

DPS steps up campus patrols

By Scott Wartman
Executive Editor

In response to Tuesday's suicide bombings in New York City and Washington D.C., Department of Public Safety officers will work overtime to make sure students feel safe from any trouble or tension and are able to get off-campus without trouble, said DPS director Jeff Butler.

Officers will work 12-hour shifts and continuously patrol the University plaza and Norse Commons at least until Friday.

"We are in a state of heightened awareness," Butler said. "We are working on the concerns that everybody in this country are sharing."

According to Sgt. Mike Nutini, Tuesday afternoon passed without any incidents of unrest on campus.

Butler said he doesn't foresee any problems arising on campus but DPS should be alert just in case.

President James Votruba said he is concerned for the emotional state of students and is keeping public safety officials on alert making sure people can get off campus if they want too.

"We want them to feel secure and be secure," Votruba said. Mainly, Butler said he hopes the DPS will give the students a feeling of security.

"We are looking for information and concerns of people," Butler said. "We are generating a sense of calm."

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11:26 a.m. United Airlines reported that flight #93 was hijacked and crashed southeast of Pittsburgh.

11:18 a.m. American Airlines confirmed reports that flight #11 (81 passengers) and flight #77 (58 passengers) were hijacked and crashed.

EXTRA UNDER ATTACK



'Make no mistake, the U.S. will hunt down and punish those responsible for these cowardly acts.'

-President George W. Bush

Cheryl Ritchie/The Northerner



Top: Rescue workers search for survivors at the World Trade Center. Above: The Pentagon burns after a commercial jet crashed into it early Tuesday.

Photos by The Associated Press