

#### Continued from page 8

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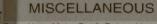
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# Former students recount attacks By BRANDIE LIFFICK

Wednesday, September 12, 2001

'These Evil Acts'

THE BATTALION

For Kevin Ward, Tuesday started on a high note. He left his downtown Washington D.C., neighborhood for an early interview with a potential employer. But everything changed when he arrived at the office and learned of the attacks on the World Trade Center.

"I was completely stunned. I was literally beside myself,' Ward said. "I was in New York

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If I look out my southeast window, I can see the smoke coming up from the Pentagon. This type of thing always

happens somewhere else, not in your own backyard.

#### - Kevin Ward Class of 1999

last week, and it seemed unreal that all of this could possibly be happening there."

Ward, Class of 1999, lives only eight blocks from the White House.

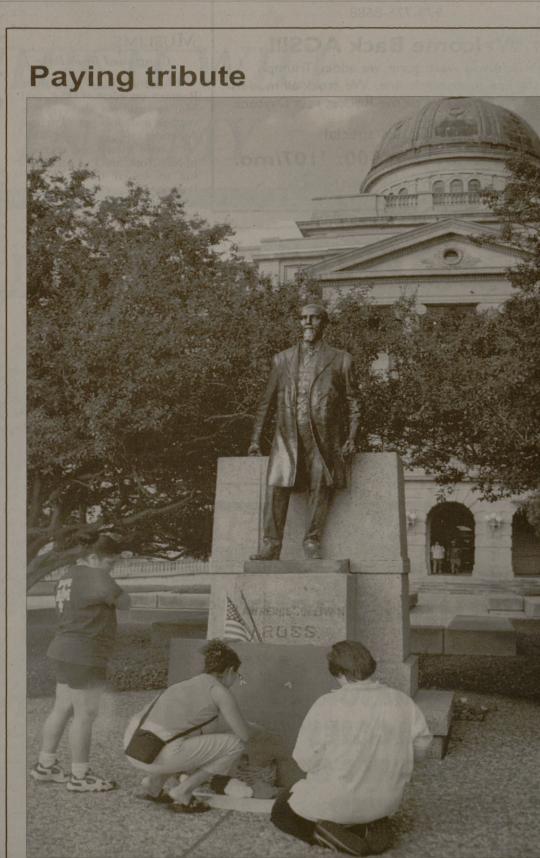
"If I look out my southeast window, I can see the smoke coming up from the Pentagon. This type of thing always happens somewhere else, not in your own backyard," Ward said. Ward said the city was

unusually quiet. "I live in a great area with a

lot of young people in it. Usually, my neighborhood is loud and fun. Today it's so quiet. Everybody's home from work, just listening to what's going on. We're all hoping that we'll wake up tomorrow and this will have all been a bad dream," Ward said. "The whole town has a quiet, eerie feeling to it.

Assistant dean of general studies at Columbia University, Sondra Medina-Kopytek, said that although the Manhattan university is approximately 7 miles the World

#### THE BATTALION



Students gather around the Lawrence Sullivan Ross bons for those affected by the attacks in New York Statue in front of the Academic Building to place rib- City and Washington, D.C., Tuesday,

CHERYL KEMPE . THE BATTALION

# Safety precautions taken by local police

SPECIAL EDITION

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#### Center, students there are already dealing with the emotional effects of the attacks.

"This has already hit students hard. Classes were canceled today to let them get home and be with their families," Medina-Kopytek said.

Medina-Kopytek, Class of 1991 is a former lecturer in the Department of Journalism. She compared the atmosphere surrounding the campus Tuesday afternoon to that of College Station when the 1999 Texas Aggie Bonfire collapsed. "When Bonfire fell, the stu-

dent body was asking themselves, 'Was my loved one working on it?' It's the same here. Students are trying to locate their loved ones and family members that worked around the Trade Center," Medina-Kopytek said. "We are just going to deal with it in the best way we know how.

#### By JON NIVEN THE BATTALION

The University, Bryan and College Station police departments are taking precautions to maintain the safety of Texas A&M, its students and the surrounding community.

UPD and BPD have increased their police forces. UPD has called in off-duty officers and plans to keep a strong force on duty throughout Wednesday

Bob Wiatt, director of UPD, said they are taking extra precautions for fear of retaliation against international students because of the widespread assumption that Islamic extremists are responsible for the terrorist attacks.

Wiatt said the University apartments are home to many international students and security has been heightened in those areas. He outlined one program that UPD currently has in place to aid international students.

"Officers are assigned [to international students] so police officers will not be feared," Wiatt said,"because some of these students come from areas where the police are not seen as friendly.' Bryan Police Chief Ken Burton said his department is prepared to take action if needed.

'We have taken a wait-and-see attitude,' Burton said. "We have made sure that we have more-than-adequate resources.

Dr. William Perry, executive associate provost of A&M, is filling in for Provost Dr. Ronald Douglas, who was at a conference Tuesday. Perry released a memorandum concerning safety on campus

"[The community's] efforts to promote safety on campus and in the community will do much to demonstrate that this University is a caring insti-

# We are not in any danger right now.

- Bob Wiatt director of UPD

tution and is one that does not condone thoughtless acts," Perry stated in a memorandum.

Although police departments are at a high level of alert, Wiatt and Burton said, things are calm

right now and residents should not worry. "So far it has been quiet," Wiatt said. "No concerns. We are not in any danger right now.'



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