

RESERVES

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Students called to active duty should initiate the withdrawal process as soon as they are aware of the change in their status, Weichold said. To his knowledge, three students have been called to duty and have completed the withdrawal process in the past week.

"We hope that students would want to come back and complete their studies," Weichold said. "As soon as they can come back, they are welcome."

Sandy Nail said A&M was her son's first love. Though he accepted admittance at another college his freshman year to play baseball, Nail said her son was "finally here [at A&M], and now he's got to leave."

Kevin Nail enlisted in the Coast Guard this summer at a New Jersey basic training camp. His mother said no one expected he would be called so soon.

"There's no telling how many kids from A&M will be shuffled somewhere," Sandy Nail said. "[Students] need to be aware of what's happening, that it's happening here on campus and that it's this close to home."

SIKHS

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According to Singh, on Saturday, a Sikh was shot and killed in Mesa, Arizona in what he calls a case of "mistaken identity" many others have been harassed in Houston.

"I am not worried because I think this community, College Station, is more educated, but there are other incidents," he said. "We would like the people to be educated about who we are and a sad thing anybody should be harassed in the aftermath of things. A lot of the people from the Middle East are decent people who shouldn't be harassed, but Sikhs have to do with it."

Ruhi Singh, a senior biomedical sciences major, is also a target of harassment. Unlike Chenan, she is worried about Sikhs becoming targets of retaliation.

"Sikhism is a religion about peace and protecting the innocent and fighting for justice," she said. "It should be totally clear that Sikhs are peace-loving people that have nothing to do with terrorism acts in the United States."

Ruhi worries about her family and friends being mistaken for Muslims because they wear turbans.

"People discriminate in really subtle ways," she said. "I have some friends who have some fun with me, but I have some friends who are afraid to work in three days because he is scared to go to campus for fear of some crazy person coming by and beating him up or shooting him."

Ruhi's uncle, Waheguru Singh is a research scientist at Lynntec. He said that he also is worried about being a target of retaliation and has friends in Houston who have been harassed because they have been mistaken for Muslims.

"I don't know if I should be worried or not," Waheguru Singh said. "I like not to worry because I think people are decent here; it will be okay. But based on what is happening in the rest of the country there is some kind of apprehension in our mind because of the appearance."

He said he has been keeping out of public places for fear of retaliation.

"People see the turban, and since we appear like the Middle East (Laden), it is normal for people to mistake us," Waheguru Singh said. "That is why we need to educate them."

Waheguru Singh said he believes no one wants to intentionally hurt Sikhs. Crimes against Sikhs are a case of mistaken identity, he said.

Ruhi said that no one should be targeted for retaliation for attacks, regardless of religious affiliation.

"We need to urge Aggies not to act in anger toward Muslims or Americans," she said. "I know people are very angry, but that isn't the way to deal with it."

Speaking from the oval office on Wednesday, President George W. Bush told reporters that no one in the U.S. should "pick on" anyone against religion.

"We don't view this as a war on religion, in any way, shape or form," Bush said. "There are millions of good Americans who practice the Muslim faith who love their country as much as we love the country, who salute the flag as strongly as I salute the flag. We're going to lead the world to fight for freedom, and we'll stand with Muslim and Jew and Christian side by side with us."

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