

September 11 One Year Beyond

West holds flag raising, homeroom activities, moment of silence

Yusra Ghazi
Editor in Chief

This morning, in commemoration of the events of Sept. 11, West administration planned a special flag-raising ceremony followed by a 20 min. extended homeroom to pay respect and homage to those affected by the terrorist attacks.

Prior to this commemoration, teachers were provided with student brochures and teacher materials, produced by social studies teacher Chris Schwarz and English teacher Dana DesJardins, that give suggestions as to what may be discussed in classes on Wednesday.

The flag raising ceremony, conducted by Schwarz, began at 7:10 a.m. at the east flagpole. Later, after the Pledge of Allegiance in homeroom, a chronology of Sept. 11, 2002, was read, followed by an announcement of the day's activities, a student reflection and information about the creation of a "911 Retrospective" video.

At approximately 7:35 a.m. regular homeroom announcements and activities commenced, preceding a reading of an excerpt of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's speech "The Four Freedoms" by Schwarz. Excerpts from the same speech were simultaneously read by New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg at Ground Zero.

At exactly 7:48 a.m., the same time as one year earlier when an airplane crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City, all homerooms participated in one minute of reflective silence. Homerooms were dismissed at 7:50 a.m.

There were no plans for having a commemorative assembly because, as Principal Roger Stein stated, "We wanted to keep the day as normal as possible."

Also, no extra security precautions will be taken on Wednesday. There have, since last year, been significant additions to West's security

Profiteers seek to capitalize on tragedy with tasteless products

Brian Sandalow
Managing Editor

With the one-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 tragedy upon us, many people will be looking for ways to help deal with their immense grief. Some will turn to television specials to help them reflect. Others may just prefer to ponder the date without any outside help.

There are, however, companies out there that want the consumer to believe that anointing urinal cakes with Osama bin Laden's likeness on them will help America recover. While possibly amusing, that and other products fall under the umbrella of profiteering, or capitalizing on a tragedy or war.

For the last year, the American public has been blitzed with products and promotions having to do with national pride. Some, such as American flags, were being sold 200 years before Sept. 11, 2001, and will be sold for years beyond. Others, such as bumper stickers proclaiming "God Bless America," were scarcely seen on Sept. 10, 2001, and will be rare again when more wounds are healed.

Senior David Moreno draws the line on products like those.

"Profiteering is just so sleazy," Moreno said. "Especially with Sept. 11, it feels like people are profiting off a tragedy."

Moreno also pointed to the books about the World Trade Center that were released after Sept. 11, many with horrific and gruesome images.

"Those books are just low," Moreno noted.

Another form of profiteering that has come up and has been mocked by social critics is the proclamation that "not buying a product is letting 'the terrorists win.'"

Senior John Ostrowski holds disdain for this marketing ploy and offers advice to all Americans.

"The way we don't let the terrorists win is to just go on living our lives the best we can. That doesn't involve buying a product you normally wouldn't."

While Ostrowski may have been thinking about a conventional product, he might not know what one internet vendor is marketing. In his column yesterday, the *Sun-Times'* Richard Roeper recounted the recent shilling of a metallic halter top with an American flag design with the slogan: "Be proud to be an American—Show Them!"

Incredible.

Reverberations of Sept. 11's terror still felt twelve months later

Becky Bloom
Editor in Chief

The wake of Sept. 11 left the nation in turmoil. Family members and friends were missing. People were afraid to fly. The economy experienced a severe downturn. Every day looked like July 4—American Flags were everywhere. One year later, the impact of 9/11 is still evident throughout the country, and Niles West is no exception.

"I had no family there, and no contact with affected people. I was affected, though, because of all of the news coverage and patriotism," senior Dina Knorr said. "America is pulling together. The school is also more unified. The students pulled together to talk about the issue."

Freshman Paul Goldman feels safer after the events of Sept. 11, but notes a decline in the vigor of patriotism following Sept. 11.

"There really isn't anything to fear anymore with so much security," Goldman said. "Also, while it is very good to show patriotism, the heat has subsided a little, and people don't feel the need to show their patriotism [by putting up flags] anymore."

Junior Ben Grover disagrees. "People actually have a lot of pride," he said. Furthermore, Grover believes Americans were strongly patriotic, even before Sept. 11.

"But, it only started showing on 9/11. As for patriotism, nothing's changed," he noted.

Junior Vanessa Jeske does not see any significant differences in the country since Sept. 11.

"People are more nationally aware, but besides that, I don't think anything has changed," Jeske said. "It's sad, but it's over."

Among the fallout of Sept. 11 is the fear that America's response to the tragedy might bring the country into war.

"I'm really concerned that the anger and grief caused by Sept. 11 may lead us to the brink of war," social studies teacher Janet Kelsey said. "People need to mix their spirit of patriotism with some deep questions of what we need to do. We need to examine what we're doing before we run off and attack Iraq."