

## FROM WHERE I STAND

REFLECTION ON SEPTEMBER 11

Jackie Roy  
Staff Writer

Discussing September 11 with Americans is a touchy subject for the English. I couldn't quite understand it at first, but now I realize that it's because many of the English are still in awe over the magnitude of the event. Even those who feel we deserved it and won't hesitate to tell me just that, will always conclude with, "but it's very sad about everyone who died." However, many people just don't know what to say to me and to the others on the program. Being that we go to school in New York is probably half the reason; England is such a small country they can't grasp that we're six hours away from the city and they usually just look at me confused when I try to explain how large the state is.

What could contemporary British compare the September 11th disaster with? Bloody Sunday? Bloody Sunday was when police opened fire on Roman Catholics who were protesting the British government's Protestant policies in Ireland. While discussing Bloody Sunday with my class, one of my professors here began the discussion by telling us that while Bloody Sunday was horrific, it was nothing along the scale of what September 11th was like. She said this while looking at the floor, not even daring to make eye contact with any of us until she stopped talking about the twin towers and continued discussing Bloody Sunday. Granted Bloody Sunday was horrid, I can't even imagine how terrible it must have been watching people get shot in the back as the crawl away, bleeding, for help. However, fewer than 20 people died as a result of Bloody Sunday, which, for the Irish, is still a sore subject. You can't compare Bloody Sunday, to smashing airplanes full of people into buildings resulting in thousands of deaths. The British are always looking for how they can hold the upper hand, always trying to outdo the U.S., but in terms of recent catastrophe, not much can compare.

Besides, the English have more to worry about: mainly the fact that Tony Blair agreed and committed military force along with George Bush to topple Saddam Hussein. Whether to support the U.S. in the attack on Saddam Hussein without UN approval has been much debated in the papers and with the English people I meet, whom, upon learning I'm American, are only too ready to give their own opinion about what Great Britain should do. I usually just listen calmly, nodding my head, in a "yes I see where you're coming from" sort of way. My American friends here and I usually will chat on the Tube (the London subway) about our opinions on the headlines we see, often pertaining to whether to support the U.S. We think nothing about the fact that when we open our mouths, it's a dead giveaway that we're Americans.

Not being in the United States for the one-year anniversary of September 11 is a subject on which I'm torn. September 11, 2001 was a day when all of St. Lawrence came together, comforting each other, especially those who had family who worked in New York. The true sense of being a member of the St. Lawrence community was felt on this day as CNN blared from every room and professors, allowed us to talk about it in a variety of contexts, whether I was in my Introduction to Canada class where Dr. Thacker discussed how he felt Canada reacted to the United States or in my English classes. While I'm not naive to the fact that there are many groups right in London that do not like Americans, I feel extremely safe here in London, far away from the U.S. I'm sure that necessary safety precautions are being taken; it must be my own paranoia after watching the events last year. I do know one thing for sure: on September 11, I won't be quite so chatty on the Tube, really hoping to blend in with the rest of the English, remembering my nation's huge loss one year ago.

**Gloria Steinem will be speaking at  
Laurentian Leadership Weekend!**

**Tickets now available at the U.C. Desk.  
September 21, 2002 at 7:30 p.m.  
Gunnison Chapel**

## Students for Justice in Palestine

Students for Justice in Palestine is an organization dedicated to ending U.S. financial and military support for war crimes committed by the Israeli government against the orchestrated a campus Divest from Israel campaign to ensure that St. Lawrence University does not and will support Israeli companies or U.S. companies that sell arms to Israel or financially support Israel's criminal apartheid regime.

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## THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2002

**SAINT:** The organizers of the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. Great work bringing the entire campus community together!

**SAINT:** The Residence Learning Communities Staff for making the first few weeks back on campus so easy for returning students.

**SAINT:** The family of Alex B. Zack '02. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of grief.

**SINNER:** Things on campus not functioning, such as the clothes dryers in Sykes and the ice cream machine at Dana.

**SINNER:** Whoever has been stealing things on campus: three bicycles, magic cards and a CD rom. Better lock your doors; nothing's safe anymore.

**SINNER:** The fires burning at Fort Drum since when is shooting live ammunition at dry brush during a drought a good idea? Are these the guys protecting our country or trying to destroy it?

**QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK:** What do you think should be done with the Green Wall? And do you support the idea of using it as a space for art on campus?

**SUGGESTION OF THE WEEK:** Get out and enjoy the last few days of nice weather before the snow sets in.

**QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK:** "May we as a people live in hope."

- Litany on Mourning and Healing  
Service of Remembrance

## The Return

People often say that, "culture shock" is a good thing. It means learning, expanding your mind, and thinking new ideas. From my experience with other cultures, it is fun, hard to get used to, and rewarding.

But far worse than the culture shock of being in another country is the shock of coming home. Some of you may have read my column last semester; it was based around what I was experiencing during my semester abroad in Kenya. I now sit in front of my computer contemplating something interesting to say and can only think of being back at St. Lawrence.

Being in Kenya and Tanzania was great. All that was required of us was to learn, be culturally aware, make mistakes, recognize our mistakes, live, observe, and take in. I learned more in one day in Kenya than my three years thus far at St. Lawrence University. (So that's my advice—go abroad!!) Before going to Kenya we were warned that things there would be different and we shouldn't expect the "norm". All

## BEYOND THE HILL

Sophia Hasenfus  
Columnist

of that preparation appeared silly once we arrived and realized that all we had to do was try and we would have a life changing experience. I now wish that we had had weeks of preparation and training for coming home.

Stepping off the plane into America was bad enough. The highway, the parking lot, the smog, the power windows, the rest stop, the language. My head was spinning and all I could think of was getting back on the plane. We passed billboards and advertisements and McDonalds and Dunkin' Donuts. We listened to the news and I got filled in on what I had missed in the four months away from America. And then it occurred to me: nothing. I missed nothing. America was the same and I had to fit myself back into it. Nothing had changed and I

had to stay. I spent my first few weeks at home wondering if anyone in America is happy. Many people I met in East Africa wanted the American dream. They wanted to come here for an education and a job and a life. After two hours back in fast-paced, food on the go, hyper-technology and overconsumption, I wanted out.

After a summer of getting used to it, I came back to St. Lawrence. I thought that home was bad! Who knew what I was in for at school? Our campus, the land of the white and rich and lazy.

Things I can think of that changed while I was gone:

1). The House of Brotherhood and Sacred Circle are gone.

2). There is a hole with a big green wall for University "improvement."

As long as we are happy with things that way, I guess it might as well stay that way. But go abroad and the same-ness will be a shock to you, too. St. Lawrence University is truly a bubble for those of us who are that fortunate.

## Photos of the Week



Photo by Kathryn Courcy



Photo by Kathryn Courcy

Photographer Bill McDowell made a presentation in the Brush Gallery on Monday September 9, 2002 at 4:30 p.m. His work will remain there until September 21, and deals with subject matter regarding New York's Adirondack Park.