

HIGHLAND ECHO

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A time of CHANGE

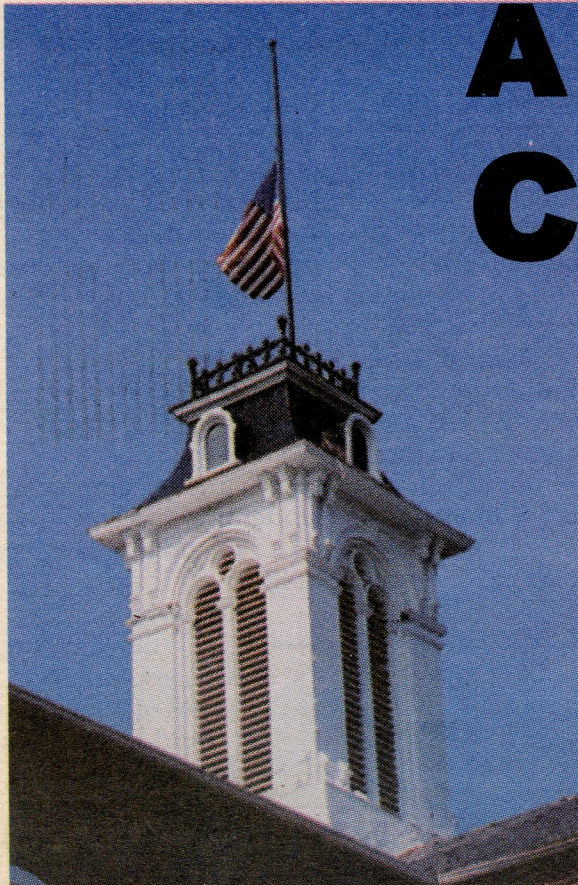


photo by April Braun

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One week. Only a brief instant in the entire spectrum of time, yet in that one week so much has changed. Two financial giants have been erased from the city skyline, and our nation's symbol of military power lies with a gaping hole in its belly.

Tucked away in the safety of the Smoky Mountains, it seems that we are too far removed to be touched by the tragedies of last Tuesday. As we all know by now, though, this is not the case. Maryville College alumni are currently living and working in New York City.

Countless students come to our campus from the Washington D.C. metropolitan area and have friends and relatives working in the Pentagon. Administrators, professors, staff and students all have some connection to the horrible reality forced upon us

out for some sort of comfort, remembering its graduates and hoping that our loved ones are all safe at home, far from the rubble in Manhattan and Arlington. Many students, faculty and staff, upon hearing Tuesday's news, thought of recent graduate Amye Cole, class of 2001, who is now living in Manhattan and working at the National Presbyterian Office, housed in the United Nations building.

On the morning of September 11, Cole was riding the subway to work as always, completely unaware of the events that had transpired. Upon arriving at work, Cole and her co-workers learned of the news, and there was discussion that the UN building could become a possible target.

The building, only 40 blocks northeast of the

just one week ago. The entire campus mourns, the nation tries to stay strong, and the whole world feels for our loss.

In the wake of this recent

tragedy, our college community has found itself reaching

World Trade Center Towers, was evacuated approximately 15 minutes after the attack. It was some time later that Cole was finally able to contact loved ones here in Tennessee to reassure them of her safety.

Now, a week later, life "appear[s] to be getting back to normal for those not directly affected by the events of Tuesday," said Cole. The city is forever changed, but businesses are slowly reopening, and life is returning to some semblance of normalcy.

So many people have come together that on several different occasions Cole waited in line for hours to offer assistance only to learn that she and hundreds of other New Yorkers were simply not needed. "They had more volunteers than you could ever imagine," said Cole.

In addition to the outpouring of citizens wanting to help in any way possible, Cole made sure not to forget to mention those people and organizations working behind the scenes. The Salvation Army, among others, is currently gathering clothing and money to add to the relief efforts. Local restaurants have also been donating meals to the rescue workers.

We, the Maryville College community, have been watching all of these efforts on television, listening to them on the radio and discussing them in various forums and classes. For many, the weekly chapel service on Tuesday provided "a time of prayer and reflection" for those in

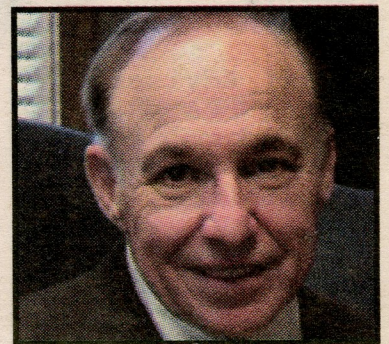
search of some answers, said Campus Minister Anne McKee. Typically, the chapel attendance is fairly low, but McKee noted that in times such as these people have been known to seek out a way to "find strength."

At a prayer service held Tuesday evening at 9 p.m., approximately 100 members of our community gathered to pray, to mourn and to simply come together. At noon on Friday, our National Day of Remembrance, 100 to 150 people once again sought comfort in knowing that they were not alone during this time of suffering as they congregated in the Center for Campus Ministry.

McKee hopes that "in our fear we would have a sense of reassurance of God's presence and comfort, that we would be able to ground ourselves in our faith and remember our basic values."

This week, fraught with grief, has in many ways changed our nation and each one of us forever. In some ways, however, the week has also taught us that our community is still alive, standing united and strong.

The Highland Echo would like to provide its readers with a chance to voice their feelings about the recent tragedy by encouraging the submission of letters, poems or artwork. Please address all works to box 3110.



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