

Students offer helping hand for victims of terrorism, prepare for war

By GARY SUTTON
Staff Writer

In the past, Austin Peay students have been referred to as apathetic. After the tragic events of Tuesday, September 11, we can safely now remove that title.

Many student organizations whipped into action quickly this past week to help those who were affected. Being so far away from the tragedy and unable to work hands-on in New York or Washington D.C., many organizations did what they could from home.

The school of nursing ran a donation drive. With the donations, they were able to make care and comfort packages for the rescuers and volunteers in New York.

"Nursing is about wanting to help," said Kathy Martin, director of the school of nursing.

Donations have been received from all over the state, and the packages were sent off this past Tuesday.

However, that was only Phase I of the School of Nursing project.

Phase II will be comprised of the same care packages, as supplies will be needed for the long term as well.

"The students and faculty wanted to help," said Martin.

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity set out to collect money for the Red Cross and has blown past expectations.

"We saw that they needed help, not only with blood, but with money as well," said Doug Bell, president of Phi Beta Sigma.

The fraternity has raised over \$1,000 that will go to a needy cause, thank in part to a \$250 donation from the Zeta Phi Beta fraternity.

Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity plans to add to Phi Beta Sigma's efforts in the upcoming week.

The fraternity will hold a "Balanced Man" Auction on Sept. 24, the first day of its "Cinco de Seuss" week.

All proceeds will go to the American Red Cross.

"The Brothers of TN Sigma Tau Alpha realize that the nation is going through a tough time and we feel that it is time for all Americans to stand together," said Daniel Watson, president of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

"Everyone can do something, whether it be donate money, time, food or clothes.

"We all can make a difference. The key is to come together out of love of for America."

Also, the Student Government Association is trying to organize a blood drive in the upcoming weeks. With the current rush to donate, SGA hopes to keep the blood flowing.

"SGA plans to support the university through this tough time," said Gavin Roark, SGA vice president.

"The tragedy that happened on September 11, 2001 will not be soon forgotten.

"The students, faculty and staff of Austin Peay will unite and support one another through the upcoming days."

Many students however, are still wondering what they can do to help out.

For more information online, go to <http://www.redcross.org> or <http://www.helping.org>. If you would like a number to call for blood donations, the best number for information is 1-888-BLOOD88.

Terror hits home, campus unites

Community joins hands, hearts for days of remembrance

Students gather for day of remembrance on Thursday

By STACY MURPHREE
Staff Writer and
SARAH REED
Features Editor

With souls aching and hearts heavy following the Sept. 11 attacks, Austin Peay students, faculty and staff gathered around Browning's flagpole last Thursday to remember those affected by the tragedy and to pay tribute to the U.S. Armed Services.

Remarks were made by APSU President Dr. Sherry Hoppe, Louise Morales, president of APSU's Student Government Association, and Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Wendell Gilbert (BG-Ret.).

A moment of silence was observed for those who lost their lives. In addition, Jim Alexander, collegiate ministry specialist at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry, and Tim Gunnells, campus minister at the Church of Christ Student Center, led prayers.

With the United States and Tennessee flags flying at half-staff, the ROTC joined the crowd in saying the Pledge of Allegiance, and Allen Henderson, associate professor and chair of the department of music, honored the country by singing "God Bless America."

"Words seem so inadequate. Our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones in New York and Washington," Hoppe said.

"Our military has never been more needed or more valued than now. We are here to pay tribute to them."

Hoppe realizes how important it is for the

University to recognize the impact a tragedy like this has on a nation.

"It is especially important for Austin Peay because so many students, faculty and staff are so intimately connected to Fort Campbell," Hoppe said.

Throughout the service, speakers encouraged the crowd to be united.

"This is not a time to hate. It's a time to mourn and be united."

"Let us make Austin Peay an example to our nation of how all races come together and live in harmony," Morales said.

"It is very important for us to acknowledge that something awful did happen that day. We may not be able to cope with or understand it, but we do not need to be afraid to discuss our feelings and how this has affected us," Morales said.

"This is our nation. This is our home. It has been violated," Morales said.

Gilbert reiterated Morales' sentiments.

"We, as Americans today, must be prepared to sacrifice, endure and overcome this new threat. We must come together and unite behind our President," Gilbert said.

Students agree unity is vital at this time.

"It is time for us to unite as a university," senior Kelley Heflin said.

"No group of words can make it better. This is a time to unite and come together as one."

"We need to put aside our differences and embrace each other," said Gavin Roark, vice president of APSU's SGA.



Photo by Bill Persinger, APSU Public Relations

APSU joins the nation in a day of remembrance on Thursday following the terrorist attacks on America.

Students gather for national day of prayer on Friday

By STACY MURPHREE
Staff Writer and
SARAH REED
Features Editor

In response to President Bush's declaration of a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance, Austin Peay students, faculty and staff again gathered around the flagpole outside the Browning Building last Friday in an effort to somehow heal their pain.

"Our desire is to come together and remember those who have fallen and died," said Jim Alexander, collegiate ministry specialist at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry.

"God is still present in the midst of maniacs doing unspeakable acts. God will see us through this. He will guide us and protect us always. Nothing they do separates us from God," said Stan McCormick, pastor of Central Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church.

McCormick read Romans 8:39, which says, "Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Adrian Merriweather urged the crowd to keep the President in their hearts, minds and prayers. She sang "His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me" to inspire the crowd.

"God will help us and watch us through this. Let us love through the power of God," Merriweather said.

The crowd joined together in singing "Amazing Grace," "America the Beautiful," "God Bless the USA" and "The Star-Spangled Banner" to honor our country and military.

"I can stand in strength because I know in all of this there is a most high God above everything evil. He is still in control. He is the most high God and has the answer," said Dr. Jennifer Meningall, vice president of Student Affairs.

"Pray for our armed forces and those making decisions. The most high God will continue to let us know what direction to take," Meningall said.

Jessica Sitton and Casey Parks of the Baptist Collegiate Ministry read Scripture to encourage the crowd.

Sitton read Psalm 46:1, which says, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

"It is important to come together and lift up the situation in prayer. That is the only way we will be able to get through this," said Parks, sophomore elementary education major.

Campus ministers reiterate the importance of faith during this difficult time.

"God is in control when things are out of control. That



Staff photo by Johnny Sparks

The APSU community gathered around the flag for an hour of prayer and praise Friday.

is when most of us look to Him," Alexander said.

"It is crucial to allow people to work through grief. It is important for students to seek the Lord and trust Him," Alexander said.

Dr. Charles A. Becher, interim director of the Wesley Foundation, agrees.

"It is important for us not to allow hatred and anger to overtake us. I remember Jesus on the cross when He said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are

doing,'" Becher said.

"It's not easy to forgive, but I'm also reminded that we are admonished by the Lord to let people know who we are by our love. We are to love and pray for our enemies," Becher said.

Before concluding the service, the crowd joined hands and prayed.

"Make us an instrument of love," Chris Reed, director of Student Affairs business programs, said.



Staff photo by Tammy Sparks

APSU joins nation in prayer on Friday.

Editorial

Bidanec: Tragedy strengthens America

071 CAMPUS

We asked you ...
What should the United States do
in response to the terrorist attacks?



April Thacker

"We need to put our total faith and trust in George Bush. We did elect him and he is our leader. I think that any decision he makes should be respected and honored."

Matt McCurdy

"It was an act of war. I think we should take military action."



Mike Doss

"I think whatever response the United States has to this should be very quick and intense in order to keep people from doing this again and thinking they could get away with it ... It would not bother me to see the country that caused this to be a smoking glaze when we are finished with it."



Lindsey Wetherill

"I don't think we should just go and bomb an entire country, but we should definitely seek out who is responsible and take action on them."



Rick Johnson

"You can't go blowing up the whole world because a few people come and blow up us. You've really got to weigh your decisions and see what the right thing is to do."



Kerri Baggett

"I think they should do something. I just don't know exactly what."

By ASTRID BIDANEC
Former Editor in Chief
APSU, Class of '00

The attack and utter destruction of the World Trade Center towers and part of the Pentagon shook America to the bone.

Disbelief of the pictures of a plane crashing into New York's highest building changed to confusion when the second plane hit tower two. The third plane destroyed part of America's sacred intelligence and military center, the Pentagon.

If America had not figured it out yet, most viewers began to grasp the connection of the three events at this point. A fourth plane going down in Pennsylvania into flames made the nation wonder what else was in store on this tragic day.

At what point did we realize the planned attack was no accident or coincidence? No matter if it was



BIDANEC

plane number two or three that finally rang the bell, we were still all helplessly watching as the tragedy unfolded. The many emotions washing over all of us are still almost impossible to put into words.

How do you describe something that has never happened before and was never ever supposed to happen anywhere, but especially not here in America?

Reality seemed like fiction coming true and multiplied by 'x.' What Tom Clancy thought up for his novels seemed to have provided the breeding ground for the most horrific idea to mankind rooted in a sick mind full of hatred.

Hatred of what? Was it democracy, the American way of life, or were the towers simply too high? It seems impossible to justify the terrorists, acts or feelings towards the United States.

"What does not destroy us makes us stronger."

ASTRID BIDANEC
regarding the crisis facing America

The days after the attacks bring no relief as missing persons fail to be recovered and losses are being still being guessed. The former sense of security and joy of life seems to be gone forever, but glimpses of hope rekindle the fire that is so characteristic of all Americans.

Compassion and kindness pouring out from all over the country and abroad help heal the bleeding hearts, even though the scars will remain in the years to come. America mourns and the rest of the world offers its shoulders to cry on.

Except for the followers of a mad man driven by hatred. Our pain shall be their joy.

What does not destroy us makes us stronger. The time of mourning and rebuilding will pass and our glory will once again be shining bright enough the whole world may bathe in it once again. The crime committed against us will be

avenged. If not in earthly ways, certainly by God as he is witness to our pain and suffering.

Retaliatory action by the against an enemy that has no means seems to call for unconditional means.

When the search for terrorists and their hives in the will hopefully lead to the spiritual leader, who then stand trial, too. A great change, however, is the existence of numerous terrorist hives, organizations all over the throughout history. The flowers bloom. The nature of the change is that terrorism, never sleep never will sleep.

A new way of life in America elsewhere is not going to enter the root of the evil, because that is impossible as banishing weeds the face of the earth. We however, tend to the lawn and extinguish the weed as best we can, realizing whenever we grow doing so the weeds will return stronger than before.

Shared name, commonalities stop terrorism

Osama Karam plans to keep his name

By OSAMA KARAM
Guest Student Columnist

During my stay of about two years in New York, I on countless occasions would visit The World Trade Center just to marvel at "Big Business" and the lifestyles of those who truly make the economy what it is. I can remember the faces of so many, the flirtatious smiles of executive women and the serious stares I received from possible CEOs who obviously just had no time. These days I picture those faces staring into more faces as they turned and jumped from buildings filled with images that in an incomprehensible way convinced them to take such action.

I cannot begin to put into words what I feel they must have seen, and struggle to ensure myself that God does exist. I do believe in God and ask that the prayers of all are

answered and that blessings are bestowed on those who have left and those who feel they have nothing left.

In the pursuit of the almighty dollar, somewhere at some point in time we lost our pursuit of the Almighty period and our level of humility and humanity has never been as high.

As terror and devastation begin to make way for rage and revenge there are lines being drawn to distinguish those who appear to be American and those we are just not so sure about. Unfortunately I'm on the wrong side of this line. People are the world to me, they are the most important factor in my happiness and are the only factor in my sadness.

For the most part I can't keep from smiling and hope that circumstances allow me to smile once again. Classmates are an extremely important factor in education, they motivate me to be better than what I am, whether they are conscious of this or not I do take this time to thank them. The friendly exchanges and smiles I once received are not as frequent and very far between, and I do understand. A concentration on marketing has given me the opportunity to learn from the best college has to offer. Every single professor and staff member in the Kimbrough building has extended

their hands and asked if I needed anything.

I have never in my life known such good people, and struggle to thank them in words that clearly convey a level of appreciation that I have for their open-minds, understanding, support, and professional as well as personal conversations that they have allowed me to hold with them. They have been a blessing in my life.

There are many Americans today who are not being treated as such. Americans who have shared in the tragedies we have faced together and also the memorable moments we hold dear to our hearts, those who have fought in the front lines and those who stand in line to donate blood and aid their countrymen and women. The perception of these people whom may have an Arabic ancestry, or believe in God in a different light has been dimmed and regarded as enemy lines. This is not a time in which we blame each other or distance one another, if anything we have to become closely niched. A people divided are a people conquered and easily infiltrated. Ignorance will breed fear and resentment that is ill-advised and far from the truth. If this takes place then what these terrorists have done is accomplish their missions and objectives. People need to

learn to ask questions and not politically correct ways of thinking out who is what and how.

I happen to have Egyptian parents who have lived in this country for over thirty-five years however I am American. There are no two ways about it. This is my country and I do not stand for any other but my own, and to the fact that I am sharing heart sick and furious at the act of Osama Bin Laden is a devastating to me as the act themselves.

I do understand that people do not smile my way for quite some time, especially because of my name.

I have thought about changing and have even asked professors to call me by my last name because the shame I have felt.

I have since changed my name will not allow a man of such stature to rob me of what I own.

He will not take from me my country, countrymen, patriotism, name.

My name is Osama spelled exactly same way, but with an exact different presentation.

I happen to share a particular of letters, organized in a particular order to make a particular name with a man who is particularly terrible. The commonalities right there and a world of difference begins.

Separation of church, state crucial

Services alienate some students

By HOLLI FROEMMING
Former Editor in Chief
English Literature and Mass
Communication Major

This last week, the terrorist attacks on the United States provided us striking evidence for why the need for separation between church and state is so crucial. Although we do not know who committed these crimes, and I'm not even going to speculate on who it might be, the reason behind it is most likely tied to religious fanaticism. Countries all over the world are led by some kind of religious order of government where other minority religions are oppressed. For example, before all this happened, a group of Christians were going to trial in Afghanistan for trying to convert people to Christianity.

America prides itself in being the "land of the free," and a place where freedom of religion is a civil liberty that all people are granted.

This, however, was not seen in the country after the disasters this week. President Bush got on national television putting the situation in Biblical terms of good and evil; he compared our situation to "walking in the valley of the shadow of death." Even at Austin

Peay, this idea of separation of church and state is not adhered to.

At a unity gathering on campus Thursday, school officials gave us speeches on how we need to unite as students to mourn the loss of life and not give way to racial intolerance as a result of Thursday's attacks. The unity ceremony, however, was extremely hypocritical.

After a moment of silence, Dr. Sherry Hoppe had the campus minister from the Baptist Student Union open us in prayer. Being a Christian, I found this rather disturbing because it assumed that everyone there was a Christian. I had friends there who do not believe in the Christian God and I could tell they were uncomfortable with the prayer. During the service, Dr. Allen Henderson, chair of the music department, got up and led the crowd in song, "God Bless America." I felt it would have been much more appropriate to sing the "Star Spangled Banner," our national anthem, to show our national pride in the country. The ceremony was closed in prayer, led by the campus minister of the Church of Christ student center. During the prayer, the minister acknowledged that the God he was praying to is the only true God and there were no others as great as He. After the prayer, a friend turned to me and said, "I didn't know his God was greater than mine."

The event was said to be an event to unite the student body. These acts, however, excluded any student who does not believe in the Christian God. Can you imagine going to something promoted as a unity ceremony and those leading it "commit the service" to some

figure that you didn't believe in as a su-preme being?

Personally, I believe in the Christian God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, but at the same time, I believe that a unity ceremony at a public university is not the place to bring that in. A moment of silence, where all involved could pray or meditate or worship in their own right, would have been sufficient. While we don't prosecute those who practice other religions as they do in some countries, we exclude them from the right to be able to unite with fellow Americans, which in my opinion, is just as cruel. On another note, I am grieving over the loss of so many lives in America. The loss of lives is something that is hard for anyone to bear. A lot of people are talking of revenge, how to retaliate for what has been done to us. Bush has said, and many others have regurgitated his words, that we will make no distinction between "the terrorists and the countries that harbor them." This attitude was brought into the unity ceremony as well. I understand that anger is part of the grieving process, but I don't understand how retaliation will help us get through this hard time. Tens of thousands of people are dead; why do we feel we need to cause the death of tens of thousands of more humans? How can we say that our loss justifies creating loss elsewhere? I know we can't just do nothing; that is not practical nor is it feasible, but we need to find those responsible and deal with them; not going around blowing up innocent people and causing more devastation in the world.

People refer to this world now as the "global community." We have

seen this in the fact that so many nations have called or written to U.S. to offer their sympathy and condolences. With that in mind, how can we act as if killing people in another country would not hurt the entire global community as well? Are we trying to say that OUR is more important than theirs? How will killing more people help my suffering? These are questions I'm asking myself and I can't come up with answers. I have to say I am glad not president and I'm not in charge. This would be a tremendous difficulty, I think we need a nation, to be cautious in our actions and not jump to conclusions. We need to make rational decisions and think about lives. People are no matter where they live and their government is. Everyone's family who would grieve their loss. The perpetrators of these crimes need to be brought to justice, but those who have nothing to do with it, businessmen and street vendors, doctors, and others need to pay for the actions of a few. Do we say it would be reasonable to bomb the state of Tennessee because 12 KKK members were here and do hateful things? No, we need to conclude by saying this: DO need to unite. We need to make sure that race, creed, color do not interfere with our understanding that we are human beings. It is devastating what happened; let us not retaliate or inflict more devastation on the country by hiding behind our patriotism and let us not inflict more devastation on the world as a whole.

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God bless America?

At such a crucial time, the question arises: Is God still on America's side?

By T.J. LUSK
Sports Editor

Honor. Nobility. Goodness. If there exists a nation in this hostile world truly deserving of such distinctions, it is the United States of America.



From sharing its wealth through foreign aid to sacrificing its sons in foreign conflicts, America's history of kindness, generosity and good will toward its fellow countries is unparalleled.

Without question, we are citizens of the most charitable nation on earth.

And when viewed in the light of such righteousness, the horrific events of Sept. 11 appear even more shocking, more evil.

Who would want to do such a thing to us? we asked. What reason could we have possibly given them? For most, the questions were too difficult to answer.

Hurting and confused, many of us have turned to the heavens for our answers, as well as our refuge.

And though we are shaken, our

prayers are said with confidence and assurance — firm is our belief that our righteous God will hear our righteous cause.

But ... is it? Is it possible — dare we even consider? — that the events of Sept. 11 were not only allowed by God, but had his full approval?

Is it actually possible that America — whose will is often coupled with that of God in the minds of its citizens — is no longer protected by God's watchful eye?

Is God still on America's side?

only God — is the God who wrote the Bible. It's a fact.

Many are undoubtedly offended by that, and that is unfortunate. However, I have no say in the matter.

God is the Lord and his Bible is perfect — He said so (Isaiah 45:21; II Timothy 3:16), not me.

How does God see us?

So what reason would God have for turning against his most righteous nation?

Is God not a God of infinite love and mercy, slow to anger and eager

"... thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. ... be zealous therefore, and repent."

JESUS CHRIST
Revelation 3:17, 19

Can we really say?

It's certainly an interesting question; but can it be answered?

After all, 'God' has come to mean so many different things to so many people these days.

Granted. But while I totally respect people's right to believe what they choose, many of those beliefs (gasp) are simply false.

That's very unpopular, I know.

But really: Are we so deluded as to think that our choice to believe something somehow makes that belief truer?

The absurdity of such a notion is frankly laughable.

And the simple truth of this matter is that the real God — the

to forgive?

He most certainly is. (I, for one, would be in some real trouble if he wasn't).

But something he certainly is not is the big, sappy Santa Claus In the Sky that so many make him out to be.

His word proclaims him, and he declares himself as the complete God: infinitely loving and merciful, yet equal in judgment and righteousness.

God's fuse is long. Very long.

But make no mistake: You burn it long enough, and perfect patience eventually gives way to perfect judgment. You can count on it.

And it just so happens that this "One Nation, Under God" has been continually consuming God's fuse for over a century now.

Our rap sheet is long and illustrious:

We've slaughtered 4,000 babies every day for the past 28 years.

We've torn God's title of Creator away from him and given it to a primordial puddle of crap. (Where'd it come from, Science Dept.?).

We've made it OK to be gay, OK to be a mother out of wedlock, OK to have sex in any context, OK to do anything that's "right for me."

Basically, we've spent decades making a liar out of God by denying his truths and his judgments and called it "progress."

In his own words: "Shall I not visit them for these things? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?"

It will. It has to be.

What's the verdict?

So, did God want those planes to crash into those buildings on Sept. 11? Is a great judgment on America just around the corner?

Those are two questions I wish I could answer. I hope neither is true.

But if God is who he says he is, they're both very possible.

Lord knows we've given him more than enough reasons to let that long-fused bomb go off right in our faces.

And while it may not happen over our nation's current situation, it's guaranteed to happen sometime.

But when it finally does, we'll never be able to say he didn't give us a million chances to right our wrongs.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land."

ON CAMPUS

We asked you ...
What should the United States do in response to the terrorist attacks?



John Howard

"We need to come together as one. It is not a issue not an issue of race anymore. It is an issue of Americans versus foreigners."

Jennifer Goddard

"Pray to God."



Jo Baldwin

"We should find whoever is responsible and bring them to justice, but I don't think anymore innocent people need to be hurt."



Brean Rhoades

"The United States should support its president and military because they are the ones defending our country for us."



Tara Rachunok

"I think we should support the president no matter what decision he makes and just pray."



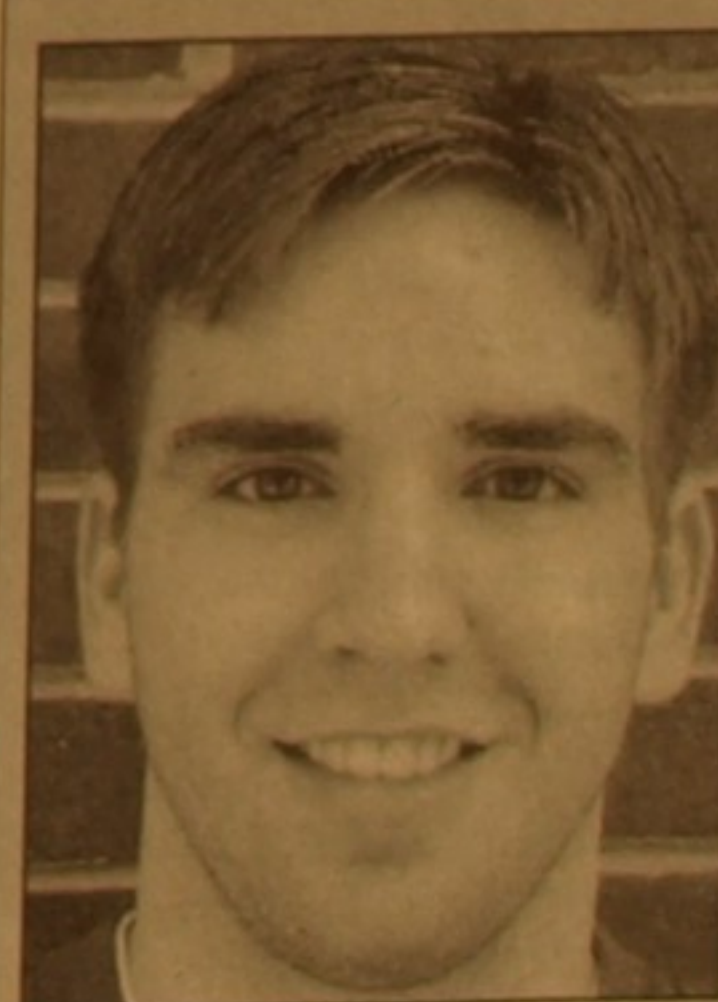
Jennifer Hollyfield

"I think they should find out who is responsible and make it a lake."



Zach Roe

"I think we should pray to know the will of God."



Arthur McCray

"Basically, my way may seem kind of rough, but after we find out where he is and who is harboring, I just think we should bomb them. I don't think we should send the infantry in there and risk American lives."



Truman set standard, stand by your President

By JOSIE CURTIS
Staff Writer

Although President Harry S. Truman no longer lives, his written decree for the day of Aug. 6, 1945, forever dwells in the memory of the world.

The eyes of the nations were on Truman when he chose to deploy the atomic bomb that ended World War II but cost many innocent Japanese civilians their lives.

Many centuries after the death of President George W. Bush, the



CURTIS

world will remember the actions he chooses to take in answer to the gutless acts of terrorism executed on Sept. 11.

Bush says the U.S. will "hunt down and punish" those responsible for these acts of violence.

To reply with force to "an act of war" is the natural response, but as the leader of an international superpower, Bush should demonstrate caution and precision in retaliation instead of simply seeking vengeance.

Bush is displaying these qualities essential for his position of global leadership and influence.

CNN Headline News reports an ABC national poll reveals the American people are willing to risk considerable American military

casualties in full-force retribution against the perpetrators of the attacks.

The Senate authorized Bush to "use all necessary and appropriate force" in a 98-0 vote on Sept. 14.

America is demanding blood. The people are saying "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."

Under this extreme pressure that commands quick action, Bush is exhibiting caution by allowing time to disclose the necessary details to clarify the various causes of the attacks.

He is also illustrating precision through his authorization of the painstaking process to gather clues to the exact identity of terrorists.

In the wake of tragedy and the call for blood, Bush recognizes the need to thoroughly evaluate the

Attacks change lives, leave scars forever

By RENE BRITT
Guest Writer

My house, which lies in the flight path of inbound planes to Nashville

International Airport, was eerily quiet after Tuesday morning and I couldn't help but notice the absence of noise.

To fill its place, however, was my television, to which my eyes and ears were glued.

I am horrified, shocked, angry, sad and above all, I simply can't believe that the United States was targeted in the worst terrorist attack in history.

Since Tuesday, I have been asking myself and others around me, how did this happen?

To answer doesn't require simply putting puzzle pieces together, but



BRITT

requires a unique and careful understanding of geography, culture, foreign policy, Islam and how each of these elements acts in conjunction.

In the days since the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, I've educated myself as best as I can using the Internet, back issues of Time and Newsweek, and even dusting off the globe that rests atop my bookshelf in order to better understand the situation.

The other thing I've spent much of my time considering is the American way of life.

Aside from minor threats and Operation Desert Storm, which many Americans would claim did not affect their everyday way of life, my generation has never had to face such a unifying issue.

There is a part of me that has always wondered how our generation would change if we had.

Well, I no longer wonder; our unifying issue is on our doorstep.

I wonder too, if all our country's

teaching, often preaching, of embracing diversity, exercising tolerance and practicing acceptance hasn't just come to slap us in the face.

But in my heart, I know all of those words are one of the things that make the U.S. a beautiful country with beautiful people.

I, like many of my friends and family, do want revenge; but I want careful, exacting revenge and I'll hope and pray every day that the United States' military actions are successful in eliminating this threat with as little collateral damage as possible.

For me, I know there will be some changes.

I'll no longer fly to visit my family in New Jersey, Louisiana, New York and Maine with as much abandon as I had in the past and my husband who travels regularly will not be accumulating the frequent flyer miles that he used to.

I have had moments since

Tuesday when I had to turn off the television and give myself a few minutes to attend to my own life, which continues in spite of my country's crisis.

Saturday morning, I was driving to pick up my husband who had been away for five weeks.

I resolved to be in a happy mood. On my way, I put in my favorite CD and started to sing as loud as I could. But then I came around a bend on 65N and caught sight of an American flag at half-mast.

My heart got stuck in my throat and the happy lyrics never made their way out.

My life, our lives, have all changed permanently.

The flights over my house have resumed. But now I listen carefully, bionically, trying to hear a warning difference in the sound of the engines; hoping the plane's progress is normal, but bracing myself for disaster.

Victory may be long," Bush said.

The United States military is ready for this fight, and we as Americans and as lovers of this freedom are ready too.

This fight may take long, but our flag has flown high for 225 years and I don't plan on changing that.

All over the world, people are flying our flag over their churches and over their capital buildings. The British Prime Minister said after the attacks, "Today we are all Americans."

So I say this to you, America, as well as the world: Stand up for freedom. Stand up for each other.

As you drive down the street in the next weeks and months, take time to look around and see what this country is, and what this world will be: free.

Citizens buy all flags during historic week

BY DAVID BROCKMAN
Guest Writer

With the attacks on the World Trade Towers and the Pentagon, the United States has lit a fire of Patriotism and has vowed to defeat this new enemy known as Terrorism.

I went to Wal-Mart and then to Lowe's on Friday looking for any type of

American flag; I couldn't find anything.

Who would have thought that the day would come when your country's flag would be sold out?

Isn't that great!



BROCKMAN

Americans have stepped up and told this new enemy that we will defeat them. We know they are watching us. What a sight — an entire nation with one agenda: defeating terrorism.

I would be terrified. During the Civil War, soldiers would rally around their company's flag in time of despair or while in conflict when they needed something steadfast to fix their eyes upon.

Today, we are no different. This time we are fighting an enemy we can't see. One who, as President Bush said, "Hides in the shadows."

We, as Americans, have picked up the flag and have given each and every one of us a reason to keep our heads up; and through the dust and smoke it has remained red, white and blue.

Not all of us could rush up to

New York and help, but we can fly this great flag in this great land, and if the workers at the crash sites see us so far away flying the same flag, they will know we are helping.

As I was driving on my search for a flag to buy, all along the road I noticed marquee signs and hand-made posters reading "God Bless America" and "We stand behind our Nation", and flags on every building and on many of the cars that passed by me. I couldn't help but cry. To me, that's help.

I can only imagine what the soldiers felt after watching the flag raised at Iwo Jima or what it was like to see an American flag on the moon, but just wait till we hoist our flag, a flag of victory for the entire world to see.

"You will be asked for your strength, because the course to

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

"The flag still stands for freedom, and they can't take that away." (Quote is by Lee Greenwood from "Proud to be an American")

On the morning of September 11, 2001 the people of America rose from their beds with the unparalleled sense of security they had come to expect. Never again will we awaken the same way.

As the World Trade Center's Twin Towers fell victim to the same laws of gravity and physics that they had seemed to defy for so long, America did not just lose a potent symbol of our capitalistic successes and social progress during the past century, that would have been too easy. The citizens of America lost the dominating ideals that had permeated, perhaps far too deeply into, the national psyche; America is far too big, too powerful, too well loved, and too important to the rest of the world to be utterly blindsided by a such ruthless and bloody strike upon its defenseless civilian population.

Although increased security and

intelligence gathering are necessary and prudent actions in response to this great tragedy, we must make sure that the rights and freedoms that have made this country unique and beloved by so many are not sacrificed during this process. The right for any American to voice praise, concerns, criticism, or outrage at our government, no matter what the general public consensus may be, must never be sacrificed. One of the cornerstones of this nation has always been the freedom of every one of its citizens to express their own opinion without fear of arrest or oppression by any agency. If we allow this attack to harbor a breeding ground of hate, mistrust, and resentment towards our own citizens, then this attack would be a rousing success, and every breathe a disgrace to the memories of all who have died to assure us these freedoms.

We must also pay careful attention to what methods the government is using to spy upon its citizens. Violations of privacy, without reasonable suspicion, would be just as an egregious

offense to those whom have made the ultimate sacrifice as the afore mentioned concern. Every American must be confident in the knowledge that the government is in place to protect its citizens, not persecute them. Despite the common predispositions of people to react with fear and suspicion, we must be sure to progress with patience and decisions made upon rational thought rather than knee-jerk emotions.

In this time of great mourning and loss, the citizens of America can rest easy in the knowledge that we always have been, and always will be, a country that has come together and supported each other during times of great peril. This assault on civilization and peace must be vindicated, but we must not lose sight of what makes us such a beacon of hope to many struggling nations; we are a peoples who believe in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Benjamin Scott

While the staff of The All State welcomes all letters to the editor, poetry submissions will not be eligible for publication.

Dear Editor:

I have had a number of reactions to the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

While these are personal thoughts and reactions, they are colored by my chosen profession.

Also, these thoughts and reactions may seem a bit rambling; I think that we all are feeling a bit rambling these days.

First, I have heard a number of people, both in person and on television, say how angry they were at the airlines, the government, and usually most of all, at the security companies for "allowing this to happen."

I can understand the anger resulting from losing a loved one and the anger resulting from a perceived loss of security, but the anger is misplaced if it directed toward the airlines, the government, and the security companies.

Remember, an attack such as this has never happened before.

Many people (I'm among them) never imagined such an event could even take place. To castigate groups for not knowing something like this would happen is unfair at best and small-minded at worst.

Also, the hijackers purposely hid the knives they used in the attack.

While we would hope that airline security would catch them, if the knives were well-placed with outlines broken up, it may be very difficult to do so.

Were the security folks lax? I don't know, but I will give them the benefit of the doubt.

I don't become angry with Grandma because she was swindled out of \$2,000; I am angry with the person who would do such a thing.

In the same vein, now is not the time to take out our anger on Muslim Americans.

Many of our community members are suffering along with us.

And, while our country has a great history and ability to pull together in times of trouble, it also has a record of having an "us or them" mentality.

We have a tendency to define who is on the right side and who is

on the wrong side by race, ethnicity, or religion.

However, tolerance is a cornerstone of democracy.

Tolerance is a key to human rights.

We need to be tolerant of our neighbors regardless of race, religion, or gender.

If we don't, we become the monsters that the terrorists believe we are.

I also echo many of the statements made by our elected officials.

Now is not the time to reduce any of our freedoms. We can reduce the risk of terrorist attacks such as the one Tuesday.

However, such a reduction comes at the reduction of our rights and freedoms.

While I believe the police are great and serve a very important function, I do not want to live in a police state.

I want to see the basic premise of innocent until proven guilty, law enforcement to have probable cause and a valid warrant before taking people away.

We could make things safer by taking away such freedoms. We live the risk that comes with being free.

Finally, we have endured a time of mourning and reflection. It is time to start the healing process and return, as much as we can, to normal.

There will be upheaval and uncertainty in the coming days. I all anticipate that.

However, right now, today, is time to start moving back to normal.

To that end, I suggest that everyone, when you get home tonight, put in your favorite CD, turn on the radio to your favorite station, or, if you are as I am, put on your favorite record.

Turn up the music and dance. Invite your neighbors over for a talk. Smile a little, enjoy life for an evening. We certainly deserve it.

Rick Grieve, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Psychology

Dear Editor:

As I look at the events that lead up to the destruction of the World Trade Centers in NYC, one has to look at why the terrorists did what they did and what do we as (Americans) do to fix the problem.

As you can see, I did not specify any ethnic group I use the word American.

I know that we have a lot of problems in America concerning ethnicity, but the terrorists did not destroy the world trade centers because of the ethnicity of the American people.

They destroyed the trade centers because of the land that America gave to Israel and the disrespect they believe that America has

shown to them.

So as Americans, we have to look at the true history of America and understand why these terrorists and other people want to destroy America.

One book I would recommend is "Lies My Teacher Told Me By," James W. Loewen.

This book could give you some insight into the American experience.

Then after you read and understand the American experience then do some history on yourself.

Peace,

John C. Howard

Sociology Major

Osama Bin Laden,

To convince sixteen of your brother's to give up their lives in a massacre of thousands, you must be a very persuasive leader indeed. How Patriotic?

To slaughter innocent lives in the name of god and the protection of his children. How Holy?

If the death of innocent civilians is the test of patriotism, we need only look to recent history to find the greatest patriot of all, Adolph Hitler.

If god's gift to man is love, then

convincing you brother, whom you love and share god's love with, to sacrifice his life to a cause is not Holy, it is sacrilege.

If you are a religious man and a leader of patriots, then realize the mistake that has been made, the death of people around the world through violence, only pleases Satan.

Surrender yourself to a neutral Government.

May God Help Us All,

Todd Campbell

Dear Editor:

Shock. Fear. Anger. Silence. These are all emotions we as an American family felt and continue to feel. How could this happen? I do not think we will ever be able to comprehend what has gone on.

On September 11, 2001 the unthinkable happened. Most of us have been glued to our television screens, with tears stinging our eyes. We wait for good news. Some of us are waiting to find out that none of this is true. It seems surreal. The horrible fact is, it is true, it did happen. America is a country that believes in peace and freedom. This was not supposed to happen here. For most of us, this is the first encounter we have had with something like this.

My heart and prayers go out to the families of the people who have

lost their lives, those who are injured, the medical and rescue personnel and to our leaders. I cannot imagine what the people who were involved were thinking or feeling. I also cannot comprehend how the families and friends are feeling. I do know that we will prevail.

If any good has come of this horrific incident, I would say that we have come together as a nation. I pray that this will continue from now on, not just for a few more weeks. I hope that we will become "one nation under God." He is the only one who can get us through this tragic time. The unthinkable has happened. God bless America and keep us united.

Brooke Stroup

Nursing Major

Dear Editor:

Growing up in America, we have always been sheltered. Most of us have never had to experience war, and the terror and heartache that go with it. On Tuesday at 8:45 all of that changed. I no longer felt safe and secure. I no longer felt that nothing could happen to me. For the first time in my life I was actually scared to be living in the US. The terrorists tried to break our country apart on Tuesday, but that actually brought this country

closer together. Never in my life have I seen so many people brought together by one single event. After attending the memorial service on Thursday, I realized that every single person there was grieving in their own way. My sympathies are with the families of the victims tonight, along with my prayers to those still working through the wreckage.

Jennifer Pecor

Freshman

Dear America:

I could not wait for this night to fall. I could not wait to get home and sit here as the Nation slips into a quiet and troubled sleep of emotional exhaustion, so that I could cry. I can sit here coughing and sputtering at the thought of the brave captains who refused the will of their terrorist at the cost of their own lives. I can sob uncontrollably as my mind replays the small and delicate people plunging from the tops of buildings into the open arms of angels.

My heart breaks as I imagine the brave men and women who dove into a fresh war zone to try to save lives only to have own lives become a toss up in a new battle. I was so proud of the people who cared more about their hurting neighbor

than their own self-preservation. And most of all I was so thankful that there were no empty seats at my dinner table tonight.

I can also get angry with those who could rejoice at the death of so many humans, not only Americans, human beings! I refuse to stay angry though. I just want to help and to heal. That's the attitude we need to have to stay strong and get through this.

We are all praying for New York and America. To all the victims we wish you only comfort and a helping hand from every direction.

God Bless and comfort all of you who are hurting and all of you who are helping.

Sincerely,

Erica Krampitz

To all APSU Community:

On behalf of the Coptic (Egyptian) Christian students at Austin Peay State University and the community in Clarksville, I want to express grief that is beyond words, to Our Nation the United States of America. What happened on Tuesday September 11th is indeed very tragic.

This irresponsible terrorist action is a shame to the entire civilized world.

Our hearts and prayers go out to the innocent victims in the World Trade Center; Pentagon and also to all innocent victims of terrorism throughout the whole world.

It is happened that The Eleventh of September is The First day of the Coptic

Martyrdoms year, those Martyrs of the terrorism of the Roman Empire 284 AD.

Dear Editor:

As an historian, allow me to suggest a course for the long-term resolution of the crisis that we face today.

In 1945, the United States after four years of grim conflict helped bring down two of the most predatory and fanatical countries ever: Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan.

The latter state had sent to their deaths suicide bombers by the thousands; the former had deliberately murdered innocent people by the millions.

Yet, within five years, both of those formidable enemies had been transformed through Allied occupation policies.

By putting into place democratic, indigenous governments, we remade those countries. The entire world has been the beneficiary.

Dear Editor:

There exists within the darkest recesses of our minds an icy wall that blocks us off from our fellow human beings. This frozen wall's base is made of ignorance and it is built on hatred, prejudice and bigotry. It cannot survive in the light, the light of reason, knowledge, understanding and compassion. When faced with this bright light it melts and fertilizes the seeds of the future.

We must relentlessly bring the light to bear on this wall.

We do this by striving to understand and emphasize with our fellow human beings regardless of race, creed, religion or sex.

We chip away at this wall when we share our knowledge with our children and teach them to respect

Of course it is hoped that the perpetrators of evil will be found out and will be punished and brought to justice.

We pray to the Lord to grant us the serenity, strength, wisdom and spirit of consolation so that we stand up in unity and pride, with our other fellow

Americans, to do what we have been best at, to lead the world towards freedom, progress and peace.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called the sons of God." (Matthew 5:9)

God Bless America,

Adel Salama

Associate Professor

Electronics Technology

Might we not now repeat this extraordinary success?

I suggest that we—this country and all the civilized nations who side with us—state as a matter of policy that any regime supporting terrorism will be replaced by a government congenial to basic human values.

To choose but one example, I believe that many Iraqis would be happy to see Saddam Hussein removed.

Such a policy would demand time and effort, but might it not offer our best chance for lasting success?

We stand on the moral high ground.

Let us seize the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Dr. Malcolm Muir, Jr.,

Professor of History

all people, to strive for knowledge and understand that we are one race, the human race. We turn a spot light on this wall when we make a personal stand against people are involved in disparaging behavior, actions or even evil idle talk against others. Our institutions of knowledge, schools and universities, must be beacons of light emphasizing unity, departing the knowledge which are the tools all people use to dismantle this dark wall. Religions, all religions, must allow the light of God to shine down and melt this wall preaching unity, love and freedom of worship. This Wall between us all must fall.

Dan W. Dagovitz

APSU student

Dear Editor:

The Twin Towers fell today. The Pentagon followed. An unnamable amount of lives were slain.

Now, those of us left standing, in our homes with our families, at school with our loved ones, have approached the time to question why.

For what reason has this tragedy occurred? Is it worthy of the deaths of so many?

As Americans, every one of the people who died today and those who might die in the days to follow, stood as symbols for the ideals America was built upon, the most important of which is our religious freedom. We're all symbols, whether we want to or not, just by living here we support rights such as the right to worship as we please. However, as we have seen today, there are those who are threatened by these very human rights. The

world over, so many people are held captive by their own governments, afraid to pray, terrified to speak, scared to fight. Their voices, their cries for freedom, go silent. And yet, here in America, we take these liberties for granted. Until today.

Today is the day that we mourn for those who died for our freedom. Today we pray, because we can.

Tomorrow we fight.

"America's Tragedy"

Sept. 11, 2001. This day of distinction will be forever on our minds. At this early time, no idea of the amount of destruction can be estimated. No number of deaths and casualties can be assumed.

As most of us were waking up, or getting ready for class, just going about our daily lives, at 8:45 A.M., a hijacked airliner crashed into one of the Twin Towers. Eighteen minutes later, a second plane crashes into the other tower.

Dear Editor:

For the greater part of the twentieth century, America, as well as the European countries, have been pouring money into the Middle East. We buy their oil, thus making their citizens rich beyond the dreams of avarice.

During WW II we sent American and European troops to fight the Nazi war machine that was interested only in the oil of the region. We gave Middle Eastern and North African countries loans after WW II to help them set up modern economies and rebuild the smoking ruins of what had been the battlefields of North Africa. Before we left the area, we trained their military officers, doctors, and engineers so that these people would be able to lift themselves from the dark ages that they seemed to be mired in.

When Afghanistan was invaded by the USSR, we smuggled money, medical supplies and weapons in to them so that they could defend themselves from the "Evil Empire" of Soviet aggression. The U.S. and European doctors went to Pakistan to set up field hospitals for the Pakistani civilian population and the Afghani war wounded. When the Afghani won their freedom, what was the result? The "godless" people of the west were ordered to leave Afghanistan. The "heathen" doctors were deported from Pakistan in favor of there own poorly trained (but Muslim) doctors.

The people of both countries will spit when an American walks

by now.

When Kuwait was attacked Iraq, and Iraq was threatening take the Saudi kingdoms as well, we defended them both with an alliance of predominant American and European troops. of the Middle Eastern troops were armed with the latest U.S. technology.

Now the same countries defended from Saddam Hussein and the people we gave money and resources to fight for their freedom are tiring to decide whether or they should help us find the monster that have attacked us with remorse.

True, not all Arabic people are blame, also true, not all of Muslim faiths are responsible. It is a nation any country that has allowed terrorists to live and train in their borders, and any country that giving monetary support to terrorist should now be treated exactly what they are: An Evil state who has declared total and unrelenting war on the United States of America.

We should and must respond a total and concerted way, should and must respond to this of war in such a drastic, overwhelming way that any one who seek to bring the war on terrorism to this country will be deterred by the violence with which we respond. This is the only way which we can insure the freedom and peace of America in the future.

John H. Doss

Student, APSU

Both now are ablaze. At 9:43, another plane careens into one side of the Pentagon. And finally a fourth commercial airplane impacts in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, apparently headed for Washington DC.

We all sit by our screens, hoping, praying for survivors. And we plead for ourselves, our safety. Is the attack over? What is to come?

These unidentified terrorists have hit us in our hearts, killing thousands of innocent civilians, hundreds of firefighters and police men and women, simple people just going about their daily lives. President Bush called them "cowardly" and promised to "hunt down and punish those responsible."

After our initial mourning, our feelings turn to anger. We want to know who is committed this vile act and we want vengeance. There are

numerous references to a terrorist named Osama bin Laden, who is believed to be hiding in Afghanistan, a country held captive by a militant Islamic cult called the Taliban.

In June of this year, bin Laden reportedly said in a video he made "its time to penetrate America through Israel and hit them where it hurts most."

No government official would formally admit to his relation to the attacks at this point.

However, our nation will stand tall.

Now more than ever, we are united against our enemies, helping our fellow neighbor in any way we can. We will defend those who are attacked and defend the ideals America built.

Kristin Hall

America represents world of diversity

BY NAYDIA SPEARS
Guest Writer

I love being an American. Some people refer to America as the "big brother" or "police to the world" and others commonly know her as the land of opportunity. To me America represents a world of religions, cultures, and beliefs brought together for one reason: freedom.

The horror of Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001 will forever live in the minds, hearts, and history books of the American people. Eight days have passed now and almost 5000 American citizens are missing, presumably buried in the debris of the New York City tragedy. Since that morning I have found



SPEARS

myself crying, reflecting, and praying for the future of the America I call home. I've continued to ask myself how this could happen. How could four commercial American planes be hijacked on our own soil? How could a plane bolt straight into the Pentagon?

As a political science major and a firm believer in liberty and justice I am eagerly awaiting the reciprocations of our American National Government. These "evil doers," as President Bush put it in an interview with CSPAN, "and those who harbor them will pay for their actions against the American people." We, as a people and as a country, will not allow such actions to go unpunished.

Each morning as I awake I don't worry about bombs being dropped on my doorstep or men with guns barreling through my door and killing my family. Even after Tuesday's tragedy, my hopes are

high.

As I begin to think about how far America has come over the past 200 years, I realize that there is no battle too big for us to fight, and no foreign enemy strong enough to kill us.

The Twin Towers and Pentagon attacks were both drastic efforts to diffuse our economic and defense systems from their foundation, but the attempt was a failure.

America was founded on the principles of equality, liberty, and faith in God, all of which cannot be destroyed by a bomb or the destruction of a building. All across the country men, women, and children are lighting candles, raising flags and bowing their heads to pray.

As I was watching a newscast tonight while finishing this article I glanced over and saw a photo taken at the scene of the, now fallen, twin towers. It was a picture of three fire fighters raising an American flag

onto one of the many piles of debris. I couldn't help but wipe a tear from my eyes.

Some would argue that America brought this on themselves and that we deserved this. But I argue, how many children deserve to lose a mother or father? How many innocent American people truly deserve to die?

From a political standpoint the next steps for America are very crucial. They will be a deciding factor in how the public supports our current national government. I believe that many American people just want the comfort in knowing that "America's New War," as reported by CNN, is being won.

As the billions of dollars in repair work continue and the unity of the American people ceases to end, I find peace in knowing I am part of such a phenomenal nation. From the words of a popular song, "There ain't no doubt I love this land, God bless the U.S.A."

Children deserve freedom

By ALICIA ARCHULETA
Staff Writer and Photographer

With the events of Sept. 11, 2001, I was taken back to a time when another Bush was president, and the enemy was in a country I had never heard of before.

Like many of the people in Clarksville who were here during Desert Storm, the idea of Fort Campbell deploying soldiers is not unfamiliar.

I remember the effects it had on the city and the people. While I will admit this is a completely different time and circumstance, I cannot help but be reminded.

I was ten years old and scared that my father, then a recently retired sergeant first class, would be sent back to fight these people who were fighting about something I did not even understand.

I was afraid the fathers and mothers of some of my best friends would be shipped out and never come home.

These were and are thoughts children should never have to think, but we did and they do. As a young adult, I am now afraid boys and girls I grew up with will be sent to fight and defend all we grew up believing.

I am afraid my baby cousins will grow up in fear of planes and people that look different than they do. I am afraid these terrorists will continue to assault the United States until they think they have made their point.



ARCHULETA

I am afraid of those stupid people in the United States who like to pull copycat stunts.

Yet as afraid as I am, I believe in the ideas America stands on and that freedom and liberty will prevail.

I believe freedom for all is more important than anything. I believe to fight and protect is a necessary evil when being attacked. I believe in the right to speak your mind even if it does not fit the mold.

The enemy is no longer in a country I have never heard of. I am older and know more about how things happen, but I am still confused.

In times like this, Americans pull together and show the patriotism usually saved for the Fourth of July.

I have not heard the national anthem this many times since Whitney Houston released it as a single after the Super Bowl.

I had not heard the Lee Greenwood song "God Bless the USA" in years. In the last week, I have heard it at least three times for every year I did not hear it. I still get so choked up when that song begins that I will leave a store or change the station on the radio.

Why does it take a tragedy like this or the Oklahoma City bombing to bring our country together? Why?

WE THE PEOPLE need to show a united front in peacetime as we do in war so that our enemies do not think they can break our spirit and country in half so easily.

As Americans, we have come together in joy and sorrow and now in possibly the biggest battle of our history. United we will stand and divided we will fall, cliché maybe... true always.

Crandall: I cried just two, not one more

By KRISTIN CRANDALL
Staff Writer



CRANDALL

I never thought I would cry over someone I didn't know, especially not over someone I had never met or even heard of — but I did.

I spent early Tuesday morning watching reruns and being the accomplished channel-surfer I am, took full advantage of a commercial break to test the batteries in my remote control. As I scan the channels I see a flash across the screen that reads "Breaking News" bordering the bottom and a large building, which I would minutes later learn to be the WTC

north tower, with thick dark clouds of smoke pouring out of the windows.

Even as I watched the second airliner crash into the World Trade Center's south tower, the reality hadn't yet set in. Had I known of what was to come I would have never shown up for my 10:00 class.

Now, almost a week later, we have learned the identities of the hijackers, the victims aboard the planes and the number of the victims on the ground. The area surrounding where the WTC towers used to stand has been fittingly named "ground zero." Streets are filled with ash, soot and debris. Poles, car windshields and walls have become billboards for families searching for lost loved ones. American flags have found home hanging from windows, truck beds and rooftops.

I became attached to the story, I spent hours glued to the television, and hours upon hours at my computer reading updates. Throughout the entire week I hadn't shed one tear, now I've shed two.

I learned that a few of the victims were only three years old. My first tear, for the ones who were much to young. The mothers and the fathers, sisters and brothers and sons and daughters — all gone sooner than expected.

My second tear was for the country. Churches were packed Sunday. I've heard more people say "God bless you" and "you're in my prayers" than I ever have before. And although it is wonderful to hear these things and to see so many people in church, it was horrible that it took this terrorist attack to bring us together. Days

before, people were their own first concerns. Now there are people arm in arm holding candlelight vigils, singing, decked in red, white and blue, waving flags, crying with tears streaming down their red cheeks. Why we couldn't have been so concerned for one another before all of this is beyond me and I have personally found that to be one of the saddest points of all.

My only hopes are that we, as a country do not rush into a war. A war is not something to be rushed into, we cannot just attack out of anger and hatred, that is when we will be most vulnerable. We must be sure of who to attack and plan out a merciless revenge — one they have brought upon themselves.

Granted, I was deeply saddened by the events of Tuesday, but my tears were few; I cried just the two and not one more.

Events of past week horrify America

By KALEN MCELHENY
Staff Writer

The events of last week horrified the U.S. and sent millions of people into a state of grief and shock.

Americans, in the past decade, have become increasingly arrogant in regards to their safety while traveling over seas and domestically. Most seem unaware that anything of this magnitude could affect America.

This can't happen in our nation, we said. After all, this isn't the Gaza strip, and we did nothing to provoke such an attack.

As a nation, we tend to stand out while visiting other countries, and in an animosity towards us has been growing, whether we realized it or not.

Shock and grief have quickly returned to anger and some outraged Americans have already begun to retaliate against members of our

society solely based on their ethnic backgrounds.

Regardless of right or wrong, it is our nature as Americans to expect instant gratification. Why have we waited so long to take action?

In the past week, news coverage by CNN has revealed Paul Bremer, former chairman of the National Committee on Terrorism, saw proposals last June set forth to enhance security on US aircraft.

The proposals included newly reinforced doors leading to the cockpit, giving the pilot additional time to alert air traffic controllers and utilize a locked box containing a knife, or possibly another weapon.

According to CNN news reports, the FAA is now giving a two-week deadline to manufacturers who design these doors for immediate use in all US aircraft. With all the legislation needed to be passed, why now do we immediately cut all the red tape? It leaves me to ask lawmakers, why couldn't this have been done last June when originally proposed?

Another shocking admission, also aired by CNN, was business flights, both domestic and

international, are rarely checked. Does this make Americans feel safer?

It leads back to our need for instant gratification. We don't want to wait two hours in line for our luggage to be checked, so we live in a figurative bubble until something breaks through it. It brings us all back to the reality that we are like all people in all countries, and many things can and will penetrate America's bubble.

Some fear that alerting the public to such terrorist threats last year would have meant mass hysteria, the same reason that citizens were kept in the dark about the crash site at Roswell, New Mexico. I now fear that aliens landing in Roswell would have been a relief in comparison to the loss of lives we face in the US today.

Residents of this country are resilient, but should not be over zealous in their resiliency. Those who seek immediate justice must understand the delicacy of our situation.

Other countries have swiftly come to our aid, including Pakistan, an unlikely ally. We will be waging

a war against an almost invisible target, who seems to make a mockery out of our lives. Usama bin Ladin and his followers may not realize that by killing civilians, they have attacked the wrong target.

As civilians, we do not put forth laws affecting other countries; we often have no knowledge of such delegations. It now becomes a problem fiercely uniting the leaders of this country and those who follow them.

It is hard to understand why bin Ladin's followers would do something so degrading to a civilization that has welcomed them.

Many members of his regime have been living within our country, undoubtedly forming relationships with American citizens.

Why would a person given rights and freedoms unattainable in their own country, harm a nation that has taken them under its wing?

This is a question that will undoubtedly remain unanswered.

But hope remains for Americans who have been hit head-on, and who continue to keep their heads up high in a unity felt worldwide.

APSU bounces back with defiance

By KATIE LITTRELL
Guest Writer

Terrorists hijacked four planes,

then proceeded to fly them straight into several very important buildings.

Meanwhile, I was enjoying a morning of relaxation by sleeping late, completely oblivious to the event covered on every television and radio station.

When I awoke, around ten, my regular cartoons had been replaced by coverage of the breaking news.

I stared in awe at the bright screen, as my cereal became a soggy mess.

I tore myself away from the horrible scene to attend my next class, finding the usual buzzing Austin Peay campus glued to any television set that could be found.

The scattered students walked in small groups, talking of nothing but the tragedy.

Even most teachers abandoned their usual lectures for open discussions about the event.

Countless prayer meetings were held, on and off campus, and American flags, along with other symbols of patriotism, were

numerous occurrences.

Austin Peay mourned right alongside the rest of America, and I, for one, have never felt more pride in our school.

Many Universities cancelled classes, as well as businesses that cancelled work, etc.

Austin Peay, however, chose to continue on with things as if we were having another normal day. I admire that.

We can not let these terrorists strike us with so much fear that we alter our lives, because if we do that, then they have already succeeded in winning their war against America.

Days have passed, and I, along with the rest of America, am anxiously glued to the television for a chance to learn more of the horror as the information is released.

For instance, goodbyes were said via cellular telephones by passengers aboard one plane, causing me to feel even more of the pain shared by those passengers.

Five firemen were found alive in a buried sports utility vehicle last week, with my reaction being a sense of pride because we have people that are extremely dedicated and caring out there.

I also get a feeling of hope, one that all Americans must share, that even if the worst happens as we all fear, America will stand tall under any circumstance.



LITTRELL

Sept. 11, 2001, marks an unforgettable day

By LINDSEY REEVES
Editorial Page Editor

Sept. 11, 2001 will be a day that few will ever forget. Such as in my mother's childhood when John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

The frequently asked question of "Where were you?" will resound for many years to come. As for myself, I was sitting eating breakfast studying anatomy and physiology when the words that will resound in my ears forever were spoken. "Oh my God!" "Is this a joke?" "Dear Jesus help us." "This cannot happen in America."

As many others in the cafeteria realized that the pictures displayed on the over head televisions were not fake. As the second plane tore through the other tower it seemed as though a cloud of horror had settled not only into this room on campus, but to the entirety of Austin Peay State University as a whole.

For the United States of America, this tragedy had struck as quickly as the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 and had brought the horrors of such an incident to the generations of today.

Throughout the day as I walked around campus, it seemed as though everyone wore a mask of sheer shock and disbelief. The feeling of such seriousness has not been present in such mass quantities in my lifetime of

memories. As I saw people huddled together crying over the deaths that had occurred, it seemed that there was now a bond that could not be severed between all races that were united in that moment in time.

As Woodrow Wilson said, "We cannot be separated in interest or divided in purpose. We stand together until the end."

As for my personal beliefs I could not fathom the support that the citizens of The United States have done and are still doing. From giving blood, going through the wreckage trying to find those who are living, giving canned goods, donating heavy machinery, the emphasis is not on ourselves but the needs of others.

As President Bush said in speech to the nation, "A great people has been moved to defend a great nation."

Even though the entire nation does not have family that was killed or hurt, we all are touched to the inner core because of this horrific incident. As for myself, I am not a very emotional person, but as the names and faces were displayed on the television of those we know were killed there was tears brimming in my eyes.

As the faces stared into my eyes, I noticed that there was not a specific type of individual that was murdered. From White to African-American, from young to old, all

types of various individuals lost their lives on that day.

As President Bush said in his address to the nation, "Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror."

To be able to comprehend the possibility of terrorists killing those of their own race let alone others is one of the hardest aspects for me to understand. But there is one portion of this incident I can understand, the unity of a country that has been long divided. Those individuals, who thought they would break the United States down by doing this act of insanity have done the opposite they had hoped for. We are not a nation that is falling apart, nor are we in panic.

We are as President Bush said, "Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve."

We as a nation have embraced each other, with no reference to race, gender, or age. We as a nation are going to make it through this time in our lives, never forgetting those who have lost their lives to this tragedy. And as I drive throughout the streets of Clarksville, Tenn. I see signs that say, "God Bless America." And I know that we will not forget, we will concur, and we will strive to do

our best, we will remember, because we are The United States of America.

The All State

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Casualties of war: Truth, justice, freedom

By ALBERT RANDALL
Professor of Philosophy

So many times in the past, Austin

Winston Churchill identified the first of the spiritual-moral casualties of war when he said: "The first casualty of war is truth." However, truth is but the first casualty. The second is justice and the third freedom. Truth, justice and freedom can not be separated. This is revealed by realizing that terrorism and any kind of oppression—physical, economic, intellectual or spiritual—is always supported by injustice defended by lies. Democracy cannot survive if

We must guard against our fears and anger condemning millions of Muslims for the actions of extremists who distort the teachings of their holy book, the Qur'an.

WHAT HAPPENED IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON.

(a) every effort at peace must be explored; (b) noncombatants such as civilians, women, children, the ill and the elderly are not to be harmed; (c) food bearing plants are not to be destroyed, that is, no scorched earth, agent orange

While our national leaders face difficult political and moral challenges in bringing to justice these terrorists, all Americans face serious moral and political challenges. We must set aside our fears, anger and animosity and work for revenge. We must reject stereotypes and untruths that are already being heard in our community condemning all Muslims for the actions of a few. Reflect on the following questions: would you respond tomorrow if you pass a Muslim woman wearing the chador (head covering) in downtown Clarksville or in the Mall?" If Clarksville or other communities where Muslims are subject to harassment, then we have destroyed the very democracy our ancestors courageously fought through the First Amendment. Ironically, those who are harassing become what they claim to despise: they have become terrorists. We have the power to see that truth, just as we have the freedom to do not become victims of war.

HELP WANTED

Help us revitalize the Austin Peay newspaper and campus community in 2001-02.

The All State

• Serving the APSU Community since 1929 •