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The Liberty Champion

AUGUST 30, 2005

SERVING LIBERTY UNIVERSITY FOR 23 YEARS

VOL. 23, NO. 1



Stacked Deck

Cindy Sheehan puts her son's honor on the line **A4**

Flippin' Fashion

LU's dress code changes to casual **B6**



Creation experts flock to mega conference

By Angela Franulovich
NEWS REPORTER

Liberty University hosted the 2005 Creation Mega Conference during July, welcoming scientists from around the globe as well as registrants from more than 11 countries. The conference was co-sponsored

by Answers in Genesis and Liberty University along with the Creation Research Society, the International Conference on Creationism, Creation Science Fellowship, Master Books and The Old Schoolhouse magazine.

Lecturers featured were some of the world's foremost young-earth creationist researchers and scientists, including Dr. John Whitcomb, whose book "The Genesis Flood", is credited with igniting the modern creationist movement.

Whitcomb, who made himself available to chat with attendees and autograph books during the conference, was honored by a prolonged ovation, as was Dr. Werner Gitt, the head of the Department of

Information Technology at the German Federal Institute of Physics and Technology.

Gitt, the author of "In the Beginning Was Information", argued during his lecture that the complex information required to propagate and sustain life could point only to a single, omniscient creator.

Dr. Emil Silvestru, a world-

renowned geologist, explained the known facts pertaining to the fossil record and talked about the inability of those facts to be considered evidence for millions-of-years of evolution.

"Nobody ever finds any evidence -

Please see CREATION, page A3

Campus safety: Security at LU and what you can do to help

By Matthew Warner
NEWS REPORTER

With the expansion of Liberty University's campus and the increasing size of the student body comes more potential for accidents and mishaps to take place. "As the campus continues to grow the challenges we face are different," according to Dave Young, Liberty University's Executive Vice President.

The safety of the student body is a top concern of the university and is a concern shared by many of the students who spend seven days a week living on campus. The concerns range from vandalism to taking a fall while walking to class, as expressed by Freshman Solong Askew. "The steps (behind the Vines Center) are disproportionate. It's especially bad for females, when they wear heels; the heels get caught in between the planks." Theft is also on the mind of the student population. Adam Ray, freshman, says his only concerns are about his bike and laptop. "I've heard a lot of people saying things disappeared. I'm concerned about the safety of my things," Ray said.

Young and graduate student David Pensgard agree that the most pressing safety concern on campus is car safety. "I feel perfectly safe while on campus but not perfectly safe in my car, I always need to remain vigilant," said Pensgard.

Young and the LUPD are doing everything they can to produce a safe and secure learning environment. Several safety measures are already being taken according to Young, including 24-hour security patrols and emergency response safety programs like Rape Aggression Defense and Operation Lifesaver (railroad safety), Campus Watch and escort services.

The escort service is a practical step towards safety. While the parking lot adjacent to Dorm 33 is closed, LUPD is offering a free escort from the David's Place parking lot to anywhere on campus. The escort service is for ladies and students with a handicap only.

Liberty has ongoing evaluations of current and future plans and facilities in relation to emergency and incident response. Young said, "I am also very interested in hearing the students' ideas on how we can make our campus safer and more secure."

Safety is everyone's responsibility, Young says. "All members of the university community are responsible for the overall campus safety. No one person or department can do it all. However, we do primarily look toward the LU Police Department and the Director of Safety to ensure we are all being safety conscious."

Block party kicks off semester

Joanne Tang
NEWS EDITOR



COLT FREEMAN

BLOCK PARTY — Anberlin singer Stephen Christian kept the crowd on its feet and rockin' out well into the finale.

Please see BLOCK PARTY, page A6

Tuesday was a day of celebration for students old and new, as thousands of students gathered to celebrate the beginning of a new school year. A tradition at Liberty, the annual block party marks the beginning of the semester, a last hurrah before classes, tests and late nights. Newly minted freshmen and weathered, but renewed transfer students mingled with seasoned LU veterans in the dining hall parking lot.

The first pieces of the concert stage came together as a jousting ring, moon bounce, a rock climbing wall and a bull riding arena rolled into town. Thankfully it never rained as students began to congregate. Christian Hip-Hop group Grits and rockers Anberlin provided entertainment. The band 6 Chasing 7 and acoustic guitar maven Charlene Ava were featured on the second stage. Snow cones and free pizza from Papa John's were served as dinner.

Students had fun challenging each other as they stepped up to see who could stay on the bucking bull the longest. Meanwhile, a giant inflatable slide was the diversion of choice for many, sending students careening down the bouncy slope.

"I thought the concert was good. Much better than what I had previously thought," said Billy Hankins, senior.

LU goes 'nuts: Theater brings 'Charlie Brown' to life

By Stephen Nelson
LIFE! REPORTER

The Liberty University Theatre department starts the semester off with its first production of "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown." Its curtain opened last Friday night at 7:30 p.m., with an encore performance to follow. The encore performance began at 10 p.m., and was considered a late-night activity for all students.

Before the show opened Director Linda Nell Cooper gave a prayer and said having a production this early in the semester was "a way to get the student body to come see a play before they got too busy, and a way to introduce them to the theatre." This past semester Liberty University saw the creation of a theatre major and an increase of involvement in the theatre department. All of last

season's productions were sell-outs. The stage is still setup as a theater-in-the-round, with the stage in the center of the auditorium, and the audience surrounding it. Tickets are only \$5, which is great entertainment for a low price, and would also make a great date.

"You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" follows the events of an average day in Charlie Brown's life. Based on Charles Schultz's "Peanuts" comic strip, the play includes Lucy and Linus Van Pelt, Schroeder, Sally Brown, and the lovable Snoopy. The music and light-hearted antics of the characters make the play suitable for all ages, and quite hilarious. Charlie Brown's baseball skills, Linus' love of his blanket, and Lucy's mad obsession with Schroeder are all included in this zany musical.

Cooper brought this production together over the course of 10 days. All of the actors are seniors and include: Justin Thomas Oliver, Kerianne Rice, Cheryl

Pesce, Sarah Ann Koster, Ryan K. Massey and Daniel Cummins.

Please see THEATER, page A3



MATT TRENT

'PEANUTS' — Justin Oliver plays the loveable Charlie Brown in this family-friendly take on Charles Schultz's "Peanuts."



patrick doney

THE bottom line

Before you begin reading this, you don't even have to worry about it. I'm not going to ask you the dreaded question about your summer. In fact, I don't even care about the past three months of your life. Instead, I choose to write about things that are much more fun to joke about... freshmen. You see, the youngsters on campus think they are new and exciting (you play guitar too!!!!). What they don't understand is that they're just part of a vicious cycle that reoccurs with new participants each August. Let me explain...

I love that the freshmen think that a change of scenery in their life means that their entire lifestyle will change. All of you that have never been organized need to take back the daily planner, dividers and Palm Pilot you bought last week. They'll be worthless to you in a month. If you don't like to do laundry, you'll wear clothes that stink. Just accept it. But most importantly, if you like midnight pizzas and hate to exercise, you will gain weight. Which leads me to my next point...

A few of my friends have a terrible tradition each year. They bet on which freshman girl on campus will gain the most weight in the span of one semester. I know it sounds bad, but when you consider the fact that they are actually cheering for girls to put on pounds, well... I guess it sounds even worse. The freshman five is inevitable. The freshman 47 is hilarious. Don't be that person.

Each August, there is always a select group of upper-classmen guys who find themselves wandering around campus during freshman orientation week.

Coincidence? I think not. To the girls: if a guy introduces himself and is old enough to talk about the good old days when ties were required here, stop, drop and roll out of there as fast as possible.

Speaking of the dress code, it's nice that we can finally wear jeans to class. It's beginning to be pure comedy seeing the school trying to find different ways to have Friday blue jean spirit days on campus. I loved memos like this on the LU Web site: COLLEGE REPUBLICANS TO DEBATE SONOMA STATE TECH; BLUE JEANS ALLOWED IN ORDER TO PROMOTE SCHOOL SPIRIT!!! I don't know about you, but that always got me way spirited! But I digress...

Every year, the freshmen think that they shouldn't have to park in the pit. That is, until the next year when they hop on the, "Burn the freshmen cars at the stake!" bandwagon. Just accept the fact that your car is going to get dirty for one year, and leave the parking spots open for the other 23.6 million students on campus. Then again, I saw that they're paving the pit as I speak (yes, I know I'm typing) so it's not as much of a "Pit of Despair" anyway.

So, other than the fact that the DeMoss halls have the feel of a South American soccer match and parking is just slightly better than getting a limb amputated, it's great to be back. But I'm not worried about it. Let's not act like the guys at LUPD are really looking to give tickets to any of us parking in the wrong section, right?

There is definitely no place in the world like Liberty University, and that's the bottom line.

"The freshman five is inevitable. The freshman 47 is hilarious. Don't be that person."

Cold Stone and Starbucks show Liberty the sweeter side of life

By Tanya Whelly
NEWS REPORTER

New businesses are moving into the city of Lynchburg, giving students more choice in where they want to spend their money. Students and the local community have warmly welcomed the opening of Starbucks Coffee and Cold Stone Creamery to Wards Road. These new businesses have the advantage of being positioned between the campuses of Liberty University and Central Virginia Community College. The new additions offer new options for students, giving them a

place to eat, study, or just get off campus without having to go too far.

Starbucks offers 30 different coffees from different locations around the world. Manager Eliot Gonzales says that the agenda of building a new Starbucks is not to take business away from other coffee shops but to educate the community on quality coffee. According to Gonzales, business so far has been, "...steady, but not overwhelming," and he expects that when students get situated with their schedules, the store will see more business.

Next door at Cold Stone Creamery, owners Chip and

Dana Bates have had a busy first week. According to Dana Bates, Cold Stone has had a line of ice cream lovers lined up outside its door almost every night since opening. Cold Stone is known for its freshly made ice cream and flavors with ingredients employees mix themselves on a granite stone right in front of the customer. For its grand opening, Cold Stone greeted Lynchburg citizens with entertainment and activities for children and adults. The Lynchburg Hillcats' mascot, Southpaw, stood outside the store with cheerleaders and clowns. Half of the proceeds Cold Stone made during the grand opening were donated to the American Cancer Society.

Cold Stone and Starbucks join a host of other places in the same shopping center including Gamestop and Supercuts.

Also joining the Lynchburg community in September is a new restaurant, Buffalo Wild Wings, which is being built next to Ruby Tuesdays and Texas Roadhouse. The sports-oriented restaurant will feature 35 cents wing nights and karaoke night, computer trivia and big television screens.

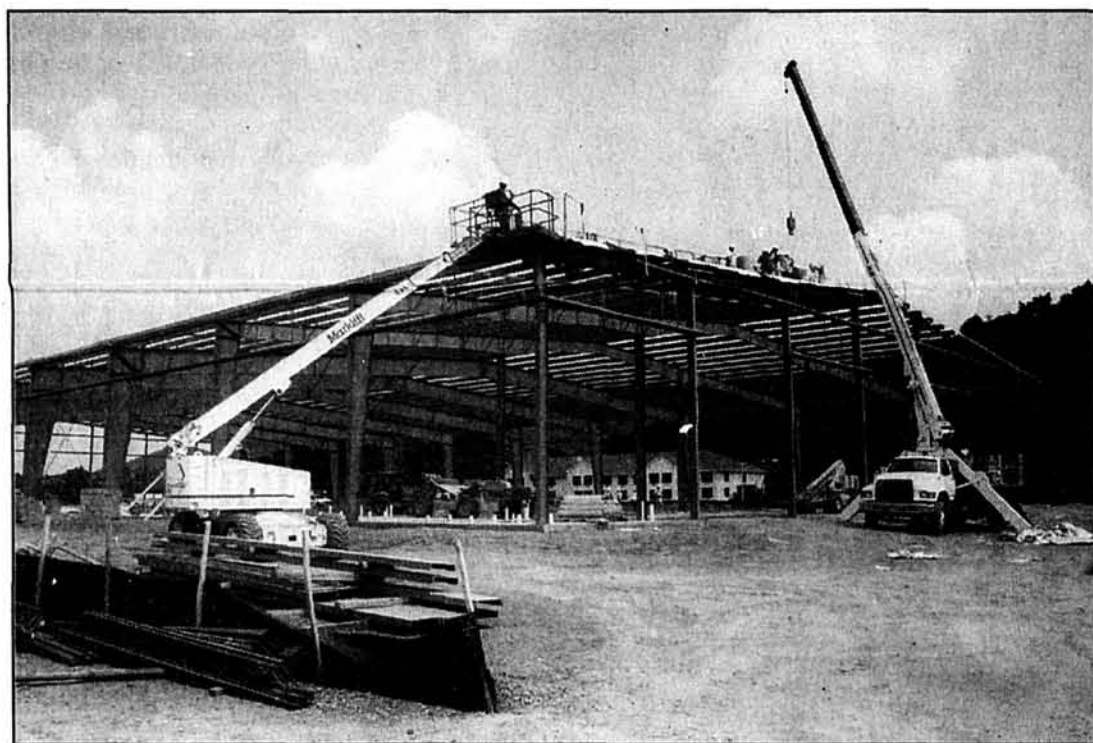
Contact Tanya Whelly at tmwhelly@liberty.edu



STEVE FINKEL

SWEET TOOTH — Two new places to fill your coffee and ice cream needs.

LaHaye ice center skating onto Liberty campus



STEPHANIE GULAMERIAN

ICE CENTER — Construction should be finished by December, in time for a January home game.

By Matt Robinson
NEWS REPORTER

Campus is receiving a new addition to its landscape with the near completed construction of the new LaHaye Ice Center.

The 2,000 spectator capacity ice center is expected for completion in December 2005, and will be home to the Liberty men's hockey team, as well as opening to the public. "It is a great achievement for the hockey team. There is an opportunity to bring more people from the community and to the university," said hockey manager Scotty Blass. The team is planning on its first game in the new center in January 2006.

Currently Roanoke is the closest rink available, however it is about an hour drive from Liberty. The new facility will keep the hockey team at home, and also provide a fam-

ily friendly activity for the community to enjoy.

"I have waited a long time, it was a goal for an ice rink to be built on campus," said head coach Kirk Handy. "The new rink will benefit the players by being closer and giving us more practice time. We will practice four times a week—more than double what we currently are. Games will be earlier, as we're expecting to start around 9 or 9:30 p.m."

According to Handy, Liberty will be the only Christian university to have its own ice rink on campus.

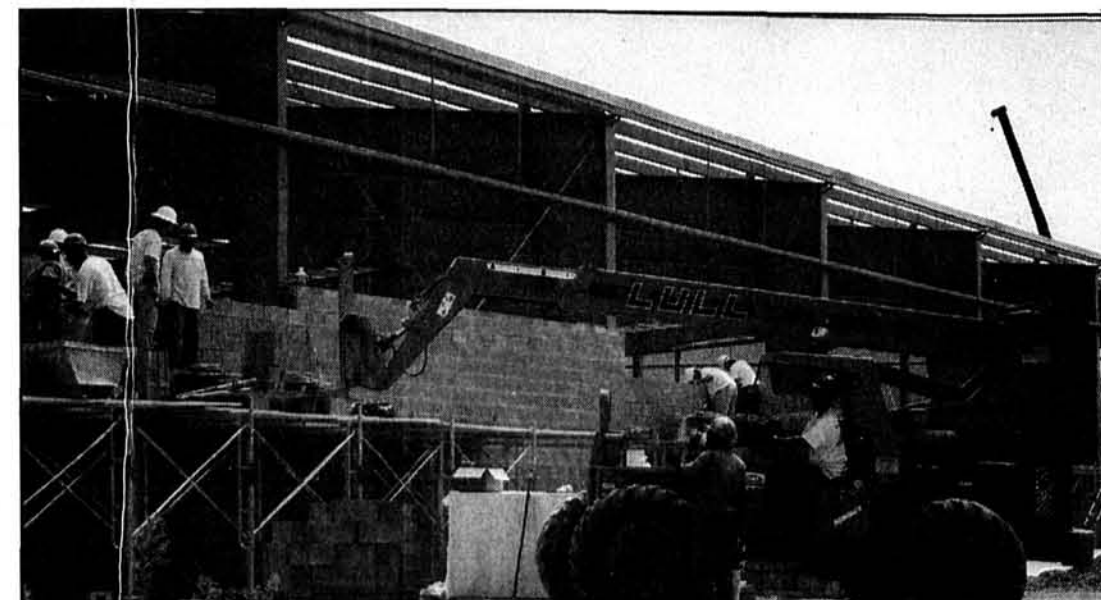
"Now that it will be on campus, it will be easier to make it to the games. It will bring in people not associated with Liberty and is exciting for Lynchburg," said recent LU alumnus Jeremy Copenhaver. The closer proximity has won over students.

Tim LaHaye, and wife Beverly made the ice center

possible through a donation.

"We owe a great deal to the LaHaye's for their generosity. It has been a long time coming. The alumni have wanted this for some time. I am privileged I will be able to play there. It is going to be the start of something great and I cannot wait to step on the ice," said player Jordan Wilson. game.

Future uses of the facility will include broomball, figure skating, female hockey league, intramural hockey, men's hockey league, and skating according to Handy. He would also like to see a Liberty women's hockey team down the road. Handy plans on having the first student home game against Indiana University of Pennsylvania Saturday, January 21, 2006.



STEPHANIE GULAMERIAN

SKATING IN — The rink will house the team and be open to intramural teams and skating.

The Liberty Champion

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Send letters to: Liberty Champion, Liberty University, Box 2000, Lynchburg, VA 24506 or drop off in DeMoss Hall 1035.

The Champion is available online at: www.liberty.edu/info/champion.

**WELCOME BACK
NEW AND RETURNING
STUDENTS!!**

Creation: Debunking false science

Continued from page 1

they find fact or phenomenon," said Silvestru. "It is the interpretation (of fact or phenomenon) that is used as evidence."

Silvestru believes that a world-wide flood offers the most comprehensive explanation for the phenomenon observed in the fossil record.

Dr. John Hartnett, a researcher for the European Space Agency's PHARAO atomic clock project, lectured on the cosmological evidences that support biblical accounts of creation. Hartnett's lecture was so popular that attendees lined the lecture room walls in DeMoss Hall and sat on the floor.

Another conference favorite was Dr. Russell Humphreys, a retired Sandia National Laboratories researcher who now works for the Institute for Creation Research. Humphreys is perfecting a creation cosmology, outlined in his book

"Starlight and Time," that many creation scientists consider groundbreaking. After Humphreys' presentation, attendees were so interested they took up time in the next lecture to ask Humphreys' questions about the earth's magnetic field, rapid reversals and decay rates.

Dr. David DeWitt, associate professor of biology at Liberty University and director of its Center for Creation Studies, presented the molecular evidence for creation and debunked the man-from-ape myth that continues to permeate evolutionary teaching despite the fact that many evolutionists have long discarded it themselves.

DeWitt, an Alzheimer's disease researcher and National Institute of Health grant recipient, as well as the biology chair for the Virginia Academy of Science, told the "Champion" last spring that he was humbled to be included in the conference line-up.

Answers in Genesis president Ken

Ham closed the conference by encouraging attendees to view science as both a career and ministry.

Ham praised Liberty University for standing fast in the face of compromise within the Christian education system.

"We are so thrilled that there are Christian universities that take an ardent stand on a literal Genesis," Ham said.

According to DeWitt, the conference attendees displayed "a great deal of interest" in Liberty University and its creation studies program, and several teachers and professors were interested in adapting its creation studies curriculum for their own schools.

Highlights of the conference including pictures, blogs and videos, can be viewed at www.creationmegaconference.com. DVDs of the conference will soon be available at www.answersingenesis.org.

Contact Angela Franulovich at afanulovich@liberty.edu.

SGA starts semester with vision meeting

By Angela Franulovich
NEWS REPORTER

Liberty University's Student Government Association will hold its first meeting of the school year on Thursday, Sept. 1 at 4:45 p.m. in DeMoss Hall 1090.

SGA president, senior Chris Gaumer, says the "Vision Meeting" is a non-committal opportunity for students, as well as faculty and administration, to learn more about SGA and its goals for the coming year.

SGA members comprise a student senate, which is an open forum to address student concerns. Bills calling for campus change or reform are written and voted on by the senate, and then passing bills are forwarded to the university's administration for consideration.

Having lobbied heavily in the past to relax dress codes with some success, such as abolishing the collar-under-sweater requirement last year, Gaumer hopes the recent dress code changes will provide an opportunity for the SGA to refocus and work harder to improve other aspects of campus life.

"We're here to make life better for the students," said Gaumer.

Calling the SGA the "student's voice to the administration," Gaumer said that every student is invited to join. "You don't need to be a government major," he added.

The SGA also elects individual class officers and holds Student Court, a forum in which students can dispute campus moving violations issued by the LUPD.

Gaumer hopes that this year will be marked by increased student participation, allowing for a "strong" Student Court that can expand to hear student re-

primand appeals as well as moving violation appeals.

Junior Anna Chaffins, Vice President of Student Services, hopes the participation increase will include a large number of incoming freshmen. Chaffins said freshmen representation is important because they often "see things with different eyes because they are new (to Liberty)."

SGA involvement is also an excellent way to get involved in Liberty's social scene, according to Chaffins.

"We do a lot of fun activities," she said.

According to the SGA's Web page, those activities include hosting the annual Battle of the Bands, the Midnight 5K Run, the Junior/Senior Banquet and the holiday canned food drive. The SGA also enters a float in the Homecoming parade each year.

SGA executive officers spent a lot of time this past summer reaching out to the community, according to Gaumer, and have secured corporate sponsorship for SGA events from several organizations and businesses such as Starbucks.

Students can also complete Christian Service requirements through SGA involvement.

The SGA will elect individual class officers during their Sept. 8 meeting. Anyone interested in becoming the president or vice president of his or her class can obtain additional information and an application during the Sept. 1 Vision Meeting. The submission deadline for class officer applications is Wednesday, Sept. 7.

Contact Angela Franulovich at afanulovich@liberty.edu.

It's the pits: Parking woes and hassles

By Chelsea Franklin
NEWS REPORTER

"Where are we supposed to park?" That's the question on the mind of many main campus residents. The answer may have come at an inconvenient time but most students agree that it's worth the inconvenience to have the parking area infamously known as "The Pit" paved.

"We may not have anywhere to park now but when the parking area is complete we will have a close place to park that doesn't leave our cars dusty and scratched up like before. However, it has been a hassle since the parking area wasn't paved before classes started," said Sarah Morse, senior and resident of Dorm 33.

The majority of hassle for students comes in the fact that students have resorted to parking everywhere imaginable. Students have been parking in roadways, on sidewalks, in grassy areas and in any other open space they can find.

"I have been employed with the Liberty University Police Department for 25 years and I have never seen students leave their cars parked on the roads like this before," said LUPD Lt. Terry D. Bonawitz.

The police department first began warning all students to move their vehicles to a designated parking area to avoid being ticketed. On Wednesday, August 24, the Liberty Police Department began ticketing cars that violated the emergency exit code which states that cars cannot block roadways. Bonawitz also warned that now cars left in the roadways will be towed at the owner's expense, and that all other vehicles breaking parking regulations will be ticketed as well. He also recommended parking in P-1 or David's Place parking areas as alterna-

tives until the pit is complete. For information on parking regulations, students can visit the Liberty Police Department Web site. The web address is: www.liberty.edu/administration/lupd.

The parking area is estimated to be complete within the first few weeks of classes. Many students are wondering why the project wasn't complete before the school year began.

"We would like to have started the project earlier but the money only became available late in the summer. We apologize to the student body for any inconvenience the construction may have caused," said Randy Johnson, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor. Nearly \$400,000 dollars were needed to pay for the paving of the parking area. Once the funds were made available, the administration allowed the project to begin with a "better-now-than-never" mindset. The contract for the project went out to two main businesses. The rough grading has

been made possible by Best Grading, and the stone and paving by Padgett Enterprises.

Other parking options are being discussed at this time as well. The nearest plan the campus can expect to see put into progress is a plan to pave the David's Place parking area. With the city still making final decisions about regulations and permits, the plan is still under deliberation. Once the total cost has been estimated and plans are more definite, the project will begin. Since student admission is growing annually, university administration has also considered the possibility of adding a parking garage. However, since the building of a parking garage will come at a great expense, the project will continue to be delayed until absolutely necessary.

Contact Chelsea Franklin at cnfranklin@liberty.edu.



BULLDOZER — Paving for the pit continues.

Theater: Snoopy is top dog in 'Charlie'

Continued from page 1

The entire cast are veteran LU actors, and either have a major or minor in theatre. When asked how rehearsals went Koster said, "The cast is small, and really close knit, which made rehearsals go smoothly and everything gelled really nicely when it came together." Through impeccable chemistry the cast has made the on-stage bantering, singing, chasing and punching seem ordinary for these "peanuts."

"You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" was a joy to see on stage, and it will only run for one more weekend. The cast provides side-splitting laughter and tender warmth that can only be found on the LU stage, Pesce said, "It was a challenge to play an animal, but I loved to be spur-of-the-moment and creative, and that's what Snoopy is both spur-of-the-moment and creative." The theatre season starts off with singing and dancing straight from Snoopy's doghouse, and continues with "Once On This Island" and "Guys and Dolls."



BOLD BEAGLE — Cheryl Pesce plays the lovable pooch, Snoopy.

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OPINION

"The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."

President Abraham Lincoln
THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS, NOV. 19, 1863

Stacked deck

Mother should honor son's political beliefs



aliciawotring

In the early-morning hours of April 4, 2004, an Army convoy just outside Baghdad, Iraq, came under attack from a Shiite militia group using rocket-propelled grenades and small arms. Eight soldiers were killed. Among them was Specialist Casey Sheehan. He was 24 years old.

However, it is not Casey's sacrifice that has spotlighted his family name, but rather his mother's anti-war protests. In the name of her son, Cindy Sheehan is demanding a meeting with President Bush. She is camping outside Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas, saying she won't leave until he agrees to meet with her or returns to the White House. She wants the meeting for two reasons: The chance to tell him "how much this hurts," as she stated in a television ad, and to persuade him that the United States should immediately withdraw its troops from Iraq.

Cindy Sheehan is a grieving mother, and no one can deny her that. It's reasonable that she is upset over her son's death. But Cindy Sheehan has turned her son into her cause. She is using her son's death to further her own political agenda, and by doing so, she is dishonoring her son by disregarding his beliefs.

In Cindy's television ad, which can be viewed on the Gold Star Families for Peace Web site, www.gsfp.org, she says to President Bush, "You said he died for a noble cause. What cause?"

The cause is to bring security to the U.S. and freedom to the Iraqi people. That's the purpose of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and that's the cause her son willingly gave his life for. It is her attitude that trivializes his death, not President Bush

and not the war. There are people all over this world, especially in America and Iraq, who are thankful for her son's sacrifice. To them, he is hero.

Casey had reenlisted in the Army in 2004 with the knowledge that he would probably be sent to Iraq. According to an editorial in the Los Angeles Times by David Gelernter, he volunteered for the mission where he lost his life. He had no obligation to go, no obligation to take part in combat, but he chose to do it. He willingly gave his life for it.

Would Casey Sheehan be demanding immediate withdrawal from Iraq were he alive today? No. He believed in his cause. But his mother is devoting herself whole-heartedly to send the message that there is no cause. Wouldn't her efforts be put to better use promoting her son's cause, honoring his life and his death by supporting him? Regardless of her feelings about the war or about President Bush, she should have an obligation to her son to share his views.

In an article published in the Vacaville Reporter three days after Casey's death, Cindy said, "He told us, 'I'm trained, I'm ready. Don't worry.' He was always ready to serve." In the same article, family friend Karla Kennedy said that he really believed in what he was doing. Two months after Casey's death, Cindy met with President Bush. According to an article in the Washington Post on Aug. 13, Sheehan described the President then as being "sympathetic."

But now, 16 months after Casey's death, she's not even addressing what Casey believed, and furthermore, she has accused President Bush of acting callously towards her during their first meeting. Why does Cindy need to meet with President Bush again to tell him "face to face how much this hurts?" Bush knows. He meets with grieving families all the time. The reason she wants this meeting, and moreover the publicity, is to further her own agenda. The bottom line is that this protest isn't about Casey; it's about her political point of view. If anybody questions her, she simply plays

Casey's death like a political trump card.

Cindy Sheehan has every right to be upset over her son's death. But she does not have the right to disregard her son's opinions and use his death to her advantage. Nobody would be listening to Cindy Sheehan if it weren't for the fact that her son died in Iraq. She would be just one more anti-war protester in a group of many. She should instead be honoring her son by telling the world what he believed. Casey's paternal family (excluding his father) has even distanced itself from Cindy's protest. A statement sent to the press as printed in the Washington Post from Cherie Quartarolo, Casey's aunt, on behalf of his paternal grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins, said, "We do not agree with the political motivations and publicity tactics of Cindy Sheehan. She now appears to be promoting her own personal agenda and notoriety at the expense of her son's good name and reputation."

The real story that should be told is about a soldier who sacrificed his life for his country. That's what Cindy Sheehan should be telling the world right now, not that the war is "senseless." She has a right to voice her own opinion, but not in the name of her son. Her son believed in what he was doing. He is a hero. Gelernter drew a compelling comparison between this and President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Lincoln said, "The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." I hope in the future all recognition of the Sheehan name goes to Casey — a true American hero.

Contact Alicia Wotring at aawotring@liberty.edu.



Lauren Hultz

SpeakUp: What is your worst summer job experience?



"I was working at a pizza place and accidentally cut my finger causing me to get my first stitches."

—Nick Castro, Soph.
Frederick, Md.



"I worked in a cornfield this summer in weather that got as hot as 100 degrees."

—Andrew Borsay, Sr.
Waterloo, In.



"...this past summer at the Quinnipia University Polling Center in Connecticut. It was the most boring job ever."

—Veronica Gibson, Sr.
New Haven, Conn.



"...working two jobs this summer meant I did not have time for family or friends."

—Melissa Toeppe, Jr.
Chesapeake, Va.



"One summer, I took pictures of every house in the city for the tax assessor's office."

—Stan Barringer, Soph.
Evansville, Ind.



"One summer, I cleaned out an old trailer that had rats, spiders, and snakes in it."

—Dominique Brown, Sr.
Tampa, Fla.

COMMENTARY

A new perspective on environmentalism

It seems to me that within Christian conservative circles, anytime the issue of environmentalism is raised there is a rush judgment to toss off any such idea as radical, tree-hugging paranoia. Global warming is merely a construct of extremist groups with a reckless disregard for the practical function of society. Unfortunately, this attitude has helped to foster a polarized political spectrum when it comes to issues revolving around the environment. However, looking at these issues from the right perspective will prevent that divide. The truth is that as conservative Christians, we ought to cherish the world that God has given us and elect government officials who share this belief.

A great theme of Christianity is that of stewardship. God grants man things to use and take care of for his glory. Whenever stewardship is spoken of in a sermon, it often refers to money, or various other temporal commodities that God gives us. I submit that the Earth should be counted among those things, and should be handled accordingly. If we truly recognize God as the individual who gave us dominion over this world, it seems that out of reverence to his creation, we should give the environment consideration in how we go about our lives.

While I am advocating a more centrist, objective approach to environmental issues, I do not believe that considering this world an object for stewardship justifies radical, reckless



davidernest

activism and policy decisions. Instead, we should make pragmatic, thoughtful choices when handling these issues, instead of tossing environmental concerns aside at first glance. How then, should this mindset guide our policy? Simply stated, we must objectively weigh the alternatives and make the best choice; ergo, it is okay to take or not take an action because the dangers to our environment outweigh the benefits of the alternative. Recently, the potential loss of the porcupine caribou in Alaska was considered against

drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve. Scientists concluded that drilling would have no such adverse effect, so the Bush administration included ANWR drilling in the recently passed energy bill.

This mindset has obvious implications for the larger global warming debate. The evidence on both sides of this conflict is extensive, but the problem is the lack of long term data. We know for a fact that temperatures have fluctuated throughout history for various reasons. However, what raises concern now about a possible rise in temperatures is that this is the first such occurrence since the industrial revolution began expelling large quantities of carbon diox-

ide into our atmosphere.

A University of Alabama global temperature report published by the Cooler Heads Coalition (an independent group aiming to debunk the "myth" of global warming) actually showed that temperatures had increased an average of .16 degrees Celsius in the past five years. The research also showed a 25 year trend showing an increase of .08 degrees per decade. As an objective conservative, my inclination after seeing studies like these would not be to take radical, drastic measures. Instead, we should take precautionary steps in the event that these recent rises in temperature are not just another unrelated fluctuation. It is always better to be safe than sorry.

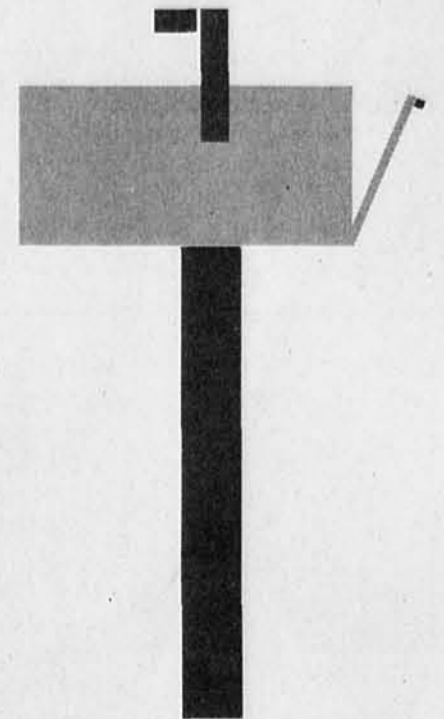
"...we should make pragmatic, thoughtful choices when handling these issues, instead of tossing environmental concerns aside at first glance."

The notion that environmentalism is exclusive to extremist liberal interest groups, and that Christians should dismiss these issues as "junk science" is too hasty and could cause

potential harm to this world that God has entrusted to us. The theme of stewardship undoubtedly extends to this great creation which He has left in our hands. As Christians we have a duty to evaluate our stances on these issues and remember that all we have, including this Earth, is ultimately God's.

Contact David Ernest at davernest@liberty.edu.

Do you have something you would like to say?



Then send us a letter. Please email davernest@liberty.edu or drop your letter by The Champion office at DeMoss Hall 1035 and ask for Daye.

Stem cell source debate a matter of life and death

Recently, Tennessee Senator Bill Frist went before the U.S. Senate in an attempt to clarify his views on embryonic stem cell research. Frist spoke in great length on what he believes to be the great promise of embryonic stem cell research. He then urged the senate to pass a bill expanding federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. He believes that more money given for research on embryonic stem cells might result in the discovery of cures for people suffering from Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and a variety of other ailments. However, closer examination will show that not only is stem cell research unethical, but it yields no better results than adult stem cell research.

Before I delve into the issue of stem cell research, I need to first define what a human embryo is. Many people are confused about when an embryo becomes a human being. Some think an embryo is only a potential human being or just a blob of matter. This could not be further from the truth, especially from a biblical point of view. In Psalm 139, the psalmist writes, "For it was You who created my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb... I was made in secret... Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written and planned before a single one of them began."

According to the National Academy of Sciences, a human embryo is a "developing human from fertilization...until the end of the eighth week of gestation." Wikipedia dictionary defines stem cells as "progenitor cells which retain the ability to differentiate into other cell types. This ability allows them to act as a repair system for the body, replenishing



joshdavenport

other cells as long as the organism is alive." Human embryonic stem cells have an important role in forming many different types of tissues. Embryonic stem cells are also capable of producing more than 200 types of tissue in the human body. Some scientists believe that research on embryonic stem cells holds great potential of new treatments for diseases, and if congress will expand federal funding of embryonic stem cell research, they will have the resources necessary to conduct further research for potential cures to many debilitating diseases.

Everyone was at one point an embryo. Though it sounds silly for those in the medical and scientific field to question at what point an embryo becomes human, it is precisely what they have been doing. What constitutes life and humanity is not reducible to a stage of development. The ability of an embryo to bring forth life makes it human.

By some estimates, there are over 100,000 frozen embryos in cryo-banks throughout the U.S., most of which come from fertility clinics. This is "surplus" of frozen embryos that are going to waste because the mother used some of these embryos for childbearing and no longer needs the remaining ones. The question then becomes "What happens to the remaining embryos?" Many are simply discarded without regards for the sanctity of life. The misconception here is that these frozen embryos are destined to die, an end that does not need to be the case. These embryos can and have been adopted. Frozen embryos offer hope for families facing fertility problems. When a family has been successful in having a child through in vitro fertilization (which involves removing eggs from a woman, fertilizing them in the laboratory and then transferring the fertilized eggs into the uterus a few days later), the remaining embryos are frozen in storage. These frozen embryos still have the possibility to become a child for an infertile couple. A family might then adopt the embryos, just as they would a child, and can enjoy the experience of pregnancy and childbirth. In fact, there are many agencies dedicated to embryo adoption. One such organization is Snowflakes Embryo Adoption Agency; a

Christian agency committed to bringing the miracle of life to those who, for some reason, cannot conceive. Thus, these life breathing embryos do not necessarily need to be discarded as useless cells. They all have the potential to bring forth life.

Furthermore, many scientists are overlooking the progress adult stem cell research has made the past few decades. Adult stem cell research has been occurring for over 40 years and has shown far greater promise than embryonic stem cell research. Scientists have found that adult bone marrow stem cells can develop into almost any human tissue type and reproduce exponentially without losing their growth potential. Stem cells can also be obtained from children, umbilical cords and cadavers. These cells have been used to treat people suffering from multiple sclerosis, lupus, arthritis, stroke, immunodeficiencies, anemia, corneal damage, blood and liver diseases, heart attack, cancer, cartilage and bone damage. Adult stem cell research is just as effective and has a net benefit of avoiding the ethical dilemma facing embryonic stem cell research.

As Christians, we need to be aware of the major issues of our day. We need to think through each ethical and moral issue we face. There is no excuse for any Christian to be ignorant of an issue that deals with the sanctity of life. We need to be aware that there is more promise in using taxpayer dollars to fund adult stem cell research rather than embryonic stem cell research that ends life. It is always better to respect all life than to destroy life. Proverbs 31:8-9 says, "Speak up for those who have no voice, for the justice of all who are dispossessed. Speak up, judge righteously, and defend the cause of the oppressed and needy." Once we come to the realization that life is a gift from God, we will then look at the issue of destroying embryos in a completely new light. The taking of innocent life to help others is never justifiable and we would be morally wrong as Christians to stand by and let it happen.

Contact Josh Davenport at jmdavenport@liberty.edu.

LISTEN UP!

IT'S YOUR TURN TO DECIDE

- On Sept. 19, Iranian government officials will be meeting with the International Atomic Energy Agency to discuss Iran's newly rekindled nuclear program, Foxnews.com reports. Iran insists that its aims are for peaceful use of nuclear power, and not to enrich uranium that would be used for an atomic bomb.
- ABCNews.com reports that Dr. Terry Bennett, a New Hampshire medical doctor has been reprimanded by his state medical board for suggesting that his patient lose weight. Dr. Bennett told his patient that she was "fat", and justified it by saying that, "Part of my job is to tell the truth...If you're noticeably obese, I am going to tell you that you will have future health problems."
- Zookeepers in XI'AN, China are beginning to worry about the health of their smoking chimpanzee, according to Foxnews.com. The now 26-year-old female has been smoking for 15 years, and has been more frequently since the death of her mate earlier this year.
- According to NASA's Web site, a mission to send the space shuttle Atlantis to the International Space Station is scheduled for March 2006. The mission, STS-115, will be the next flight to continue building the space program and station before the shuttle fleet is retired in 2010.

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Block party: Starting off on a good note

Continued from page 1

As students filled the hillside, GRITS took the stage and burst with energy, jumping around on stage with their blend of Christian philosophy and rap music. They performed their popular hits "Ooh Ahh" and "Here We Go"; songs many students heard for the first time. The group caused controversy when one of the lead rappers, while lauding the racial diversity

on campus, said the campus was becoming "blacker" every year and commented that the campus was finally becoming racially diverse.

There was a visible wave of discomfort as students stopped to contemplate the comments made during the concert. Many took offense, while some simply shrugged it off and continued their night.

"It was a weird thing to say," said junior Amy Sublett. "I don't think he meant it in a

bad way."

"I thought they could have said it in a more polite way," said Lacon Burns, junior.

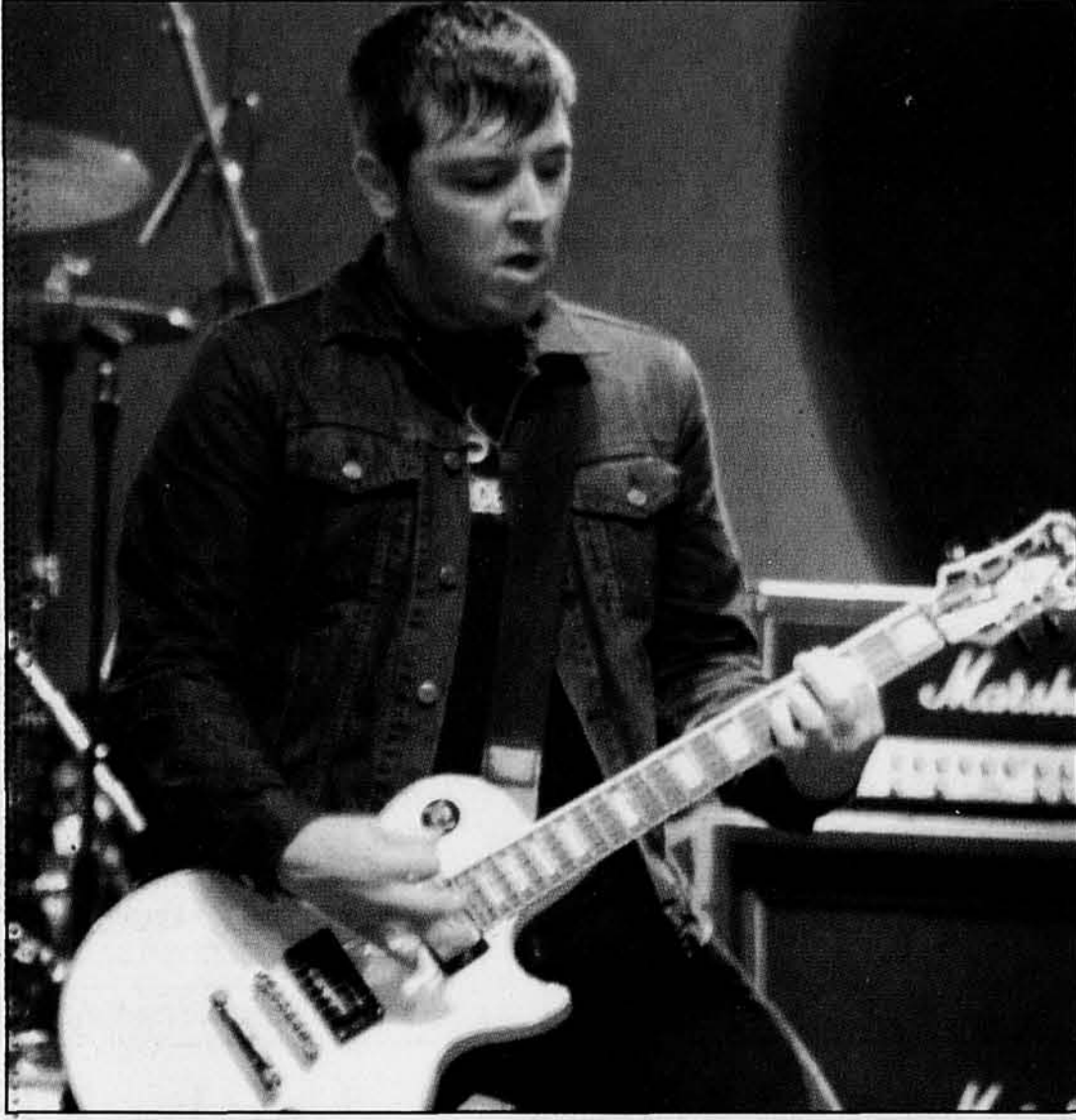
Anberlin provided an alternative rock crunch to their set, blazing through several of their most popular songs and even covered The Cure's classic, "Love Song." They took students off the hills and into the crowd as they finished the night strong.

"Anberlin was great live, and I can't wait for them to come later in September," said

Tracy Foss, junior.

As the block party drew to a close, the grand finale of fireworks shot into the night sky with a loud whistle and exploded with a pop, showering purples, greens, yellows and blues into the sky.

Contact Joanne Tang at jtang@liberty.edu.



COLT FREEMAN

ANBERLIN — The Christian rock group wowed the audience with a balance of hard-driving guitar and drums.



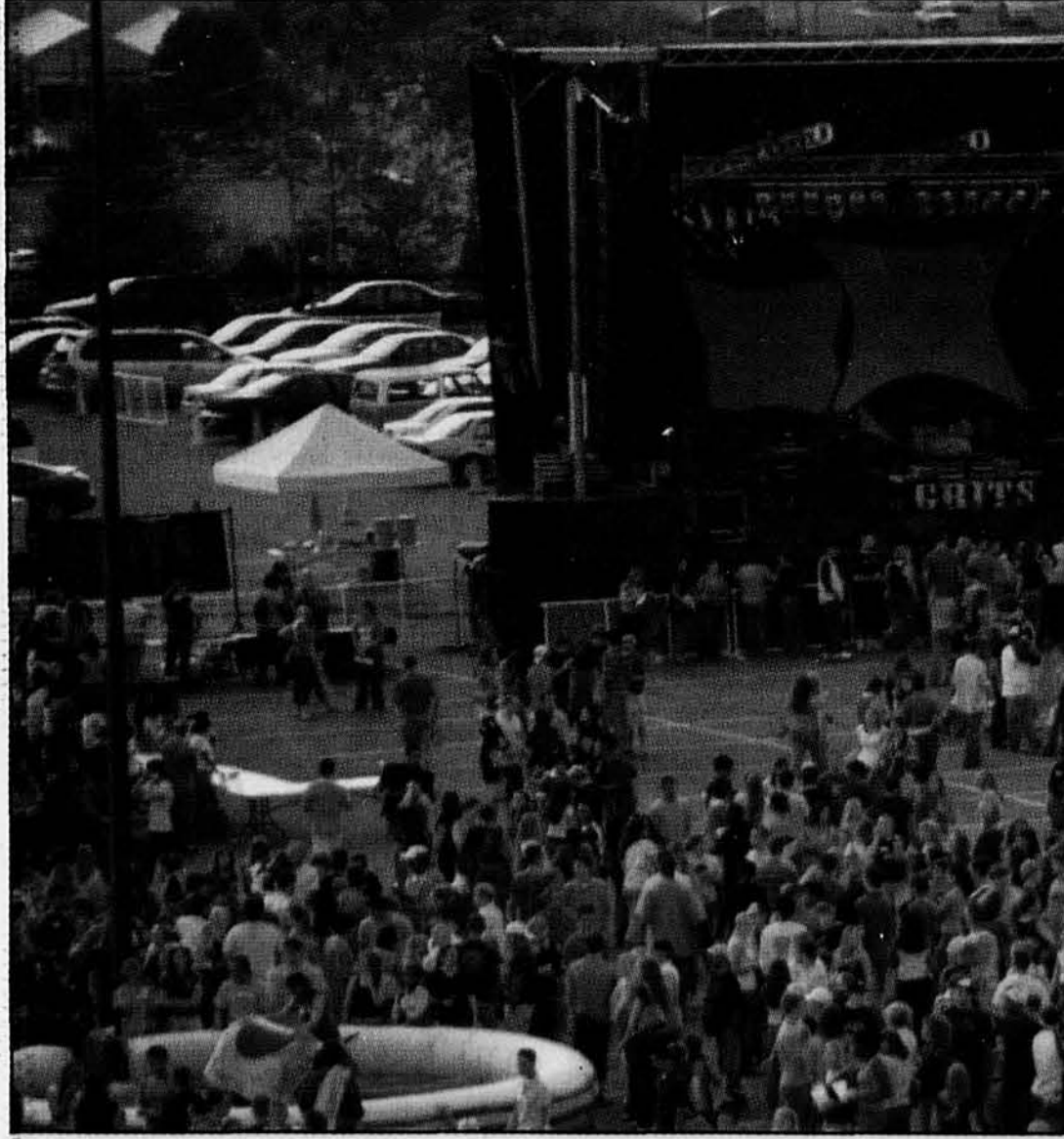
COLT FREEMAN

GRITS — Spinning out hit after hit, the Christian rap group entertained audiences with rhythm and rhyme.



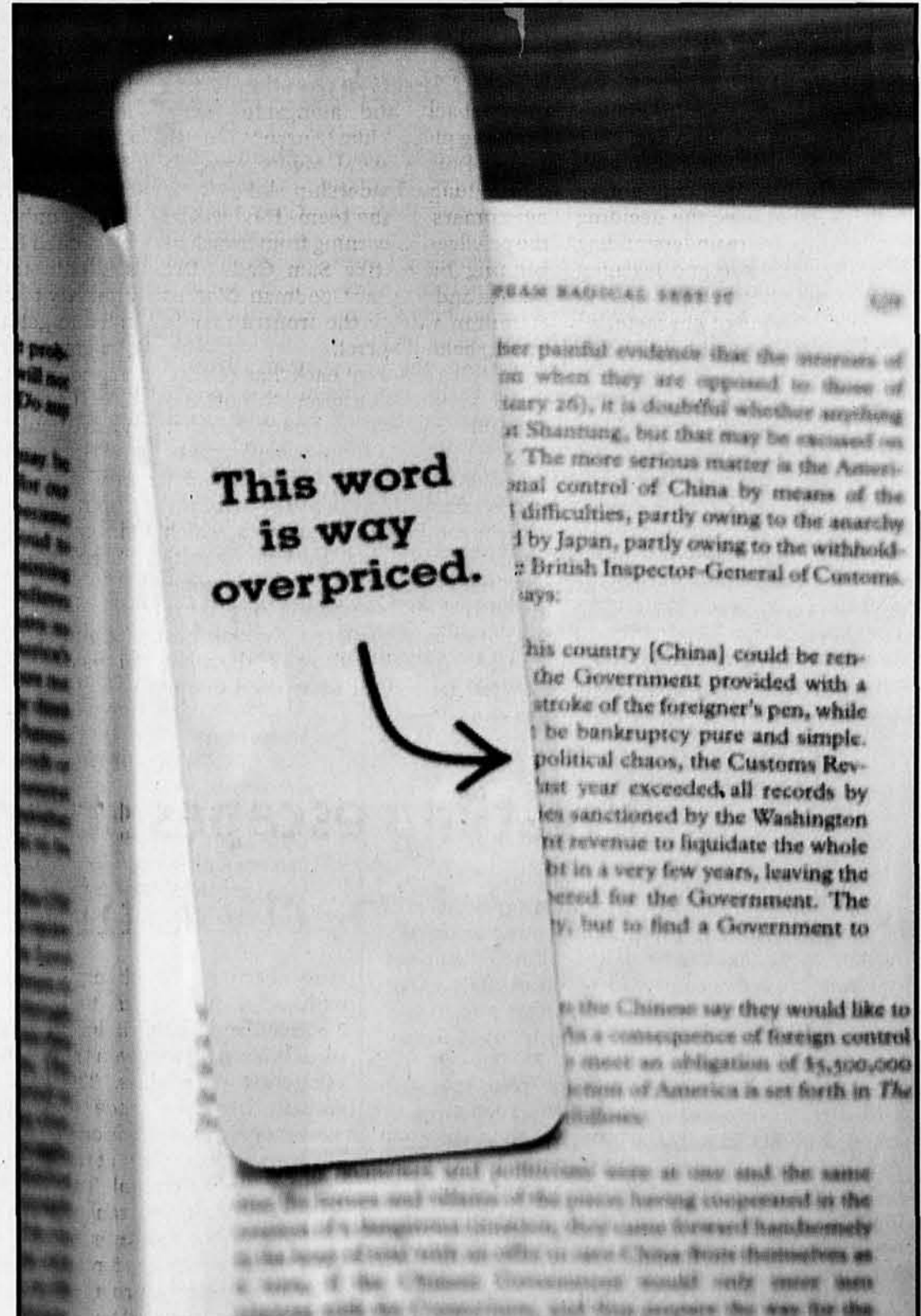
COLT FREEMAN

BALANCING ACT — Players and spectators enjoyed the games and attractions at the block party.



COLT FREEMAN

FESTIVAL FUN — Thousands of students celebrated the beginning of the semester at the block party.



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