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1999 -- 2000

Liberty University School Newspaper

8-31-1999

08-31-99 (The Liberty Champion, Volume 12, Issue 1)

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The Liberty LIBERTY UNIVERSITY . LYNCHBURG, VA . VOL. 17, NO. 01 TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1999

STUDENT LIFE TAKES THE DIVE: Check out the photo spread of this year's annual block party

hosted by Student Life and keep an eye out for some familiar faces. See page 7.



LET'S GO O'S! Hit the road with Student Life as they travel to Baltimore's Inner Harbor.



Friday. See page 12.

Get all the details inside. See page 3.

PLAYOFF RUN? Check out the Flames as they make their

first run toward the playoffs against Virginia Union on

▶ SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST? Evolution takes a back seat in Kansas, while media frenzy accuses religious right. See page 8.



TUESDAY Mostly cloudy. High: 77



WEDNESDAY Partly cloudy. High: 79 Low: 60



▶ THURSDAY Partly cloudy. High: 78 Low: 62



FRIDAY Mostly sunny. High: 80 Low: 61



SATURDAY Mostly cloudy. High: 76 Low: 58

ALL- NIGHT PRAYER: The campus pastors office will hold a night of prayer preceding this year's Spiritual Emphasis Week on Fri., Sept. 3. The prayer meeting will be held in the prayer chapel.

> SEW: This year's Spiritual Emphasis Week (SEW) will be held Sept. 5-8 in the LU Vines Center. Rev. Tony Nolan will be the main speaker for the week. Services begin at 7p.m.

F CHEERLEADING TRY-OUTS: JV cheerleading try-outs will be held Sept. 9 from 5-7 p.m. for this year's squad. The tryouts will be in the LU cheerleading room.

▶ KALEIDOSCOPE: Lynchburg will host its annual two week festival beginning Sept. 9. The festival will include arts and crafts and games and will include the Virginia Ten-Miler.

INSIDE Falwell to meet with gay activists

By Hannah Ladwig, copy editor

Liberty Chancellor Dr. Jerry Falwell, widely known for his stance against homosexuality, was approached August 17 by gay activist Rev. Mel White, who asked him to tone down his anti-gay rhetoric. White said both sides had been making accusing statements that weren't true, and he wanted to tone down the violence from both sides.

Falwell said he had never advocated violence against any individual or group, but he said he and his staff would continue to watch that they not make any statements which could be perceived as violent.

"However I want to be clear that I still consider homosexuality to be an abomination of God, and I will still preach that," Falwell stated. "If I didn't publicize the gay and lesbian agenda, I would be derelict in my obligation. My conscience didn't change, and no changes will be made at Thomas Road Baptist Church or Liberty University as a result of the meeting."

One result of the meeting is that White will be bringing 200 of his followers to meet with Falwell Oct. 22-24. Initially, he had planned on bringing 5,000 to picket TRBC.

"We accomplished a lot in the first meeting." White said. "The purpose of the October gathering is to show that Christians of all beliefs can disagree but still be loving."

White had worked closely with Falwell and with Pat Robertson and Billy Graham as a writer until 1991 when he announced that he was a homosexual. Now he co-chairs Soulforce Inc., a religious group that supports gay rights. He is also considered to be the nation's most-recog-

"We are not coming to argue about the Bible; we want to come and share stories," White said. "Unless we come together and share our stories, nothing will change."

nized homosexual clergy member.

Michael Johnston, a former homosexual, said that

White has a much higher agenda than that.

"He is a wolf in sheep's clothing," Johnston said. "His long-range goal is for mainstream Christianity to accept homosexuals who profess to be Christians as being okay."

Johnston became a Christian in 1989, but not before he had contracted HIV. He is a spokesperson for Truth & Love, an organization that reaches out to gays and lesbians to help them leave the homosexual

"Falwell's position is correct," he said. "He wants to reach out to Mel. He wants to plant seeds in the hearts of these people."

Fred Phelps, an anti-gay activist, and his followers will also be in Lynchburg in October. But he is coming to picket Falwell and White. Phelps picketed TRBC last November for being too soft on gays.

On his website, godhatesfags.com, he called the meeting "Falwell's love fest with Mel White," and said his group will "picket Falwell and White and their vile associates at this heathen dinner in Lynchburg on

Please see WHITE, page 3

The heart of a servant

Death of Darrin Wenger saddens fellow students

By Chrissy Remsberg, asst. editor

"What am I gonna be when I grow up? And how am I gonna make my mark in history? And what are they gonna write about me when I'm gone? These are the questions that shape the way I think about what matters. Well, I have no guarantee of my next heartbeat ...

Darrin Wenger was committing the words of this Chris Rice song to memory before he passed away from an unexpected heart attack, on Aug. 20, 1999.

A funeral service was held for Darrin on Aug. 24 at First Emmanuel Baptist Church of Charleston, S.C. Ed Gomes, dean of commuter and graduate students, attended the service. He said the support for the family was overwhelming.

Jason Ingram, a Liberty alumnus, was a former dorm mate of Darrin's as well as a pallbearer in the service. Ingram said the funeral was unlike any he'd ever

"It was not a solemn occasion. There was a lot of laughter," Ingram said.

Ingram said his recollections of life in the dorm with Darrin were always tinged with laughter, and the laughter filling the funeral service that day was indicative

of the kind of person Darrin was. "He was notorious for playing practical jokes. You knew when Darrin was around something



FINAL MONTHS — Darrin joined 70 other Liberty students and faculty who traveled to Europe for two weeks, just months before his tragic

was gonna happen," Ingram said.

Dr. Stephen Kerr, band director, also attended the funeral service. He said the band members, LU students and other school representatives were seated together. Kerr estimated there were approximately 80 people from Liberty in attendance.

"There was just a large number of people who went to support Darrin's family." Kerr said. "I was just really touched at the number of people that Darrin's life had touched."

Music was a huge part of Darrin's life, and he was involved with the Spirit of the Mountain Marching Band. His parents knew of his passion for music

and it was their desire that he be buried with his drumsticks as well as an embroidered insert of the "Spirit of the Mountain" in the lid of the casket.

Kerr said the band members would also recognize Darrin's contributions to the band in several different ways. There will be a tribute to Darrin during the opening game where his instrument and hat will be placed along the sideline throughout the halftime performance. In addition to that. Darrin's position will be marched open during the entire fall semester.

Please see SERVANT, page 3

Nolan slated for fall SEW

By Suzanne McDuffie, news editor

This years Spiritual Emphasis Week, held Sept. 5-8, has been preceded and motivated by a vision shared by Campus Pastor Rob Jackson and the Spiritual Life team. Their dream encompasses three objectives: salvation, revival and renewed passion for spreading the gospel.

Led by Rev. Tony Nolan, minister of single adults and young singles at First Baptist Church Woodstock, Ga., SEW could revolutionize this campus. Nolan has produced a number of series which include "Doing the Dating thing Right" and "Christianity - It's all good."

Liberty had initially scheduled Jay Strack to host SEW, however, due to health problems including shoulder reconstruction and knee surgery, they asked Nolan to replace him. Nolan agreed. Jackson said Nolan "has an uncanny ability to communicate to this age group with his passionate walk and love for the lord."

Nolan said "80 percent of high school grads drop out on God their first year of college." He said they stop going to church and they misinterpret the freedom of independence as freedom from being a slave to Christ. He hopes to show colleges students "how to have a real good time" worshiping God.

During the services, the band Brother's Keeper, made up of former Liberty students, will entertain with musical hits such as "Rain On" and "What Would Jesus Do?" Jackson said during the week of orientation, there was an "incredible response from new students (shown by their) depth and passion for the Lord." He believes that freshmen and transfers have already been prepared for this revival and SEW will "plow even deeper" into their spiritual commitment.

Jackson went on to share his "heartbeat for new. fresh movement and genuine revival that this ... country can't contain." He said that only four percent of "builders" (5-22 year olds) accept Christ. That means the majority of society will never experience the joys of

Nolan continues to fast and pray in preparation for this event. Likewise, the Spiritual Life team has spent hours praying for this revival, through staff meetings, prayer walks and on an individual basis.

Additionally, on Sept. 3, the annual night of prayer will take place at the prayer chapel. Campus Pastor Dwane Carson encouraged all students to participate in prayer for SEW and other important issues.

Liberty alumnus performs magical illusions

By Hannah Ladwig, copy manager

Liberty alumnus Kevin Spencer wowed students with a magic show Friday night as he showed them the difference between illusion and reality-in several different ways.

"This is reality." he said at the beginning, holding up a copy of Lynchburg's newspaper The News & Advance. He began to rip up the paper. "And this is illusion."

He ripped the paper into small pieces, and then with a wave of his hand, made the paper whole. "See," he said smiling, "This is reality."

Later during the show he called Julie Loughrin on stage to "help" him



REAL OR ILLUSION? — Kevin Spencer prepares to saw Liberty student in two before the eyes of the audience.

with a different trick. He told her to examine a lemon to make sure it was genuine, then he told her to put it

in a clear shopping bag. He then took a dollar bill from another student, tore it in half. had the student write his name on one half and then burnt the other half. He then had the

student slice open the lemon with a penknife. Inside the lemon was the supposedly burnt half of the dollar bill. It completely matched the half the student had written his

"I have no idea how he did it."

Loughrin said in wonder. "The dollar was just there."

Spencer suggested the students not go to Wal-Mart to try to find more lemons with dollar bills inside them.

Spencer graduated from Liberty in 1982 where he met his wife and personal assistant, Cindy. Since then, he has become one of the most sought-after magicians in the United States.

He has been named Performing Arts Entertainers of the Year for the past five years by a group of about 4,000 entertainment professionals. This award has only been won by one

Please see MYSTERY, page 2

SGA gaining ground in representation

By Suzanne McDuffie, news editor

The "We are here to represent" Student Government Association (SGA) administration has taken its seat here at Liberty University. Led by President Chris Stewart, Executive Vice President Mike Kostiew and Vice President of Student Services Garrett Robinson, the threesome has worked all summer to establish a government that represents the student body.

So far, Stewart has concentrated his efforts towards recruiting senators. According to Stewart, half the halls didn't even have one senator last semester. Because SGA needs 175 representatives. Stewart printed 200 applications, and they're already gone. More have been printed and with the influx of calls. Stewart anticipates 500 applicants before the deadline.

In order to become a senator, students must have 50 percent of their dorm halls sign a petition. If more than two people run from each hall, the residents in that dorm will have an election during FOCUS. Kostiew said so many people wanted to join the legislative body, that SGA has considered increasing the representatives to three senators per hall.

Meanwhile, Stewart's fund-raising attempts

have met mixed results. Area corporations have responded to his requests, but negotiations are still in process for budget allotments from the university.

Stewart researched SGA budgets of other institution's such as Harding University. Oral Roberts, Union University and Oklahoma Baptist, because they were comparable in size and philosophy to LU. He discovered that those student governments received their funding from their university.

With new offices in dorm 13, the new administration also has new leadership. Former SGA advisor Mike Stewart, dean of student life, suggested Dean of Students Greg Dowell assume the position. Dean Stewart said he wanted to make this transition "in order to give (SGA) more attention." He said he couldn't give as much attention to SGA as he thought it deserved because of other responsibilities.

This year's SGA schedule of events includes Midnight Madness with the men's basketball team, working 1999 home football games and T-shirts for the senators.

In addition, Dr. John Borek Jr., university president, requested a senate task force form and a survey of LU students to discover ways to



PRESIDENT IN ACTION — Chris Stewart and his SGA crew work towards student representation.

recruit and retain students as well as suggestions to better the community. Stewart said he knows in order to accomplish these goals, SGA needs a reliable legislative body. He said just like the senate is the foundation of the government in America, so LU's SGA can't function without student representation.

Magic: Spencers thrill

Continued from page 1

other magician, David Copperfield. The Spencers have held this award longer than any other touring artist. They have also been named Best Touring Production, Best Major Performance, Best Variety Artists and Best Performing Arts by those who book entertainment for colleges and universities. They have toured five countries and more than 200 cities.

So why has he come and performed at Liberty for the past four years?

"Because they keep asking me," he said. "Liberty is always a fun crowd. And its the only Christian college where I perform."

For his final trick, Spencer invited four students to come on to the stage to watch closely for anything fishy. One of the students was Miranda Lettery. Cindy handcuffed Spencer's hands, tied him in a bag, and then padlocked him in a box.

Cindy stood on the box, and



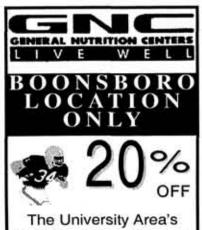
TED NEUMANI

MYSTERY OF MAGIC — Students involved in Spencers illusions.

then dropped a red cloth around her and the box. Suddenly she disappeared, and Spencer reappeared. Spencer opened the box, untied the bag to reveal Cindy, locked in the

"I didn't see or hear anything." Lettery said. "Everything looked solid. I don't know how he did it."



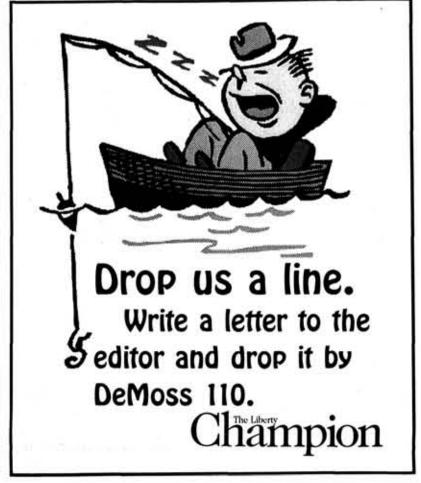


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Inner harbor tour scheduled

By Scott Romanoski, reporter

Are you tired of the small town atmosphere of Lynchburg? Do you long for the excitement and culture of the

Three motor coaches will leave Liberty University for Baltimore free of charge on the morning of September 11. Students will have the opportunity to visit the Inner Harbor and attend an afternoon ballgame (Orioles vs. Mariners) at Oriole Park at Camden Yards, for a \$13 fee, according to Dean Michael Stewart.

Boyer stated that Baltimore's Inner Harbor offers many worth-

while attractions such as the National Aquarium, the Maryland Science Center, boat rides, ESPNZone, Hard Rock Café and the "Harborplace and the Gallery" mall and restaurant complex. Boyer called Oriole Park one of the nicest stadiums in the country, and it is just a short walk from the Inner Harbor.

Students must pay a \$10 deposit to reserve a bus seat if they won't be attending the ball game. The



INTERNET PHOTO

GOING TO BALTIMORE - Student Life will host a trip for LU students to go to

deposit will be returned the day of the trip.

"I wanted to do something different. My goal was to bring something different for the students." Bover said.

Boyer also encouraged students to contact Student Life with ideas for activities. Students can reach Student Life by calling 582-2131 or email Boyer at jboyer@liberty.edu.

DP to renovate Cafe

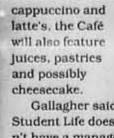
By Scott Romanoski, reporter

In conjunction with the "One Year, one Month, one Week" anniversary of David's Place, the Student Life office plans to celebrate the grand opening of the Cafe @ David's Place.

Previously, David's Place housed the Substation, now located in The Hanger. The new Café will feature a venue different from the subs and pizzas of the previous owners. The Café @ David's Place will feature a world-class coffee shop.

Place will soon see patrons from the new shop. "We really want to serve great coffee," said Matt Gallagher of the Student Life office. Gallagher also mentioned that the coffeehouse will "fit the atmosphere at David's Place.'

According to Michael Stewart, dean of student life, the atmosphere will compare to that of local establishments such as The Drowsy Poet and Percival's Isle. In addition to coffee,



Gallagher said Student Life doesn't have a manager for the facility yet. He did say for now Liberty students would run the Café after taking a training program

The Cafe' was introduced as part of last year's renovations, which

changed the image of the almost forgotten student union and increased student use of the building. Often on weekends, the lines to use pool tables and computer games reveal the popularity of DP.

White: Gay pastor to visit TRBC

Continued from page 1

Oct. 23, reminding souls that God is not mocked."

Falwell sees himself as caught in the middle, trying to act as a mediator between White and Phelps.

"No matter what he says, he is going to be criticized," Johnston said of Falwell. "Ninety percent of what Phelps believes, most Christians believe in, but his presentation is not Christlike. He is motivated by hate."

"Phelps has no desire for reconciliation," White said. "He only wants to draw attention to himself."

Sunday, after the meeting, White and his group will be attending the service at TRBC. He wants to mingle with the church members, to show them they are not any different. But according to Falwell, they will not take any part in the serv-

White will train his group in nonviolent protest techniques before they come. He said he has invited homosexuals from around Lynchburg and their families. Falwell said TRBC is prepared for whatever might happen. He said TRBC already has an aggressive outreach to homosexuals.

"We train our pastors on how to witness to gays and les-

bians," he said. "My congregation knows how to love the sinner but hate the sin. We want to show these people God's love and His forgiveness. When they truly experience God's forgiveness and salvation, they will renounce the homosexual lifestyle."

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A FRESH LOOK - The seating area in David's



Look for the dining and entertainment issue on Sept. 14.

Featuring:

- Restaurant reviews
- Entertainment ideas

Darrin: picturing a servant

Continued from page 1

The marching band has also created an award in honor of Darrin. Band students who exhibit traits of a servant will win The Darrin R. Wenger Servant's Heart Award .

"(The award) will be presented to the student in the marching band who demonstrates those characteristics that Darrin demonstrated," said Kerr, "Especially, selflessness, always being willing to work and go the extra mile and just always there to work and lend a hand."

Maurice Zaffke, director of Academic IT, said Darrin's work ethic was an essential part of his work as an academic lab assistant. Zaffke said Darrin exhibited a servant's attitude in all that he did.

"(Darrin) was training (in the computer labs) to serve the students and that's the context God took him in," Zaffke said.

Zaffke, the lab assistants and other ITRC staff took up a donation for the family, which will be sent to assist in any way possible. The ITRC staff also held an informal memorial service for Darrin on Mon., Aug. 30 during . their usual staff meeting.

All who knew Darrin were impressed by his godly attitude and servant's heart and his death came as a shock. At the end of marching band practice on Aug. 19, Darrin began having trouble breathing and then he collapsed. A fellow band member performed CPR while others called 911.

Later that evening, Darrin was admitted to Lynchburg General Hospital in stable condition. Word of Darrin's illness spread among friends and family.

While those who knew him best offered up prayers for his recovery the Lord called him home. Early Aug. 20, Darrin suffered a heart attack brought on by a blood clot in his heart.

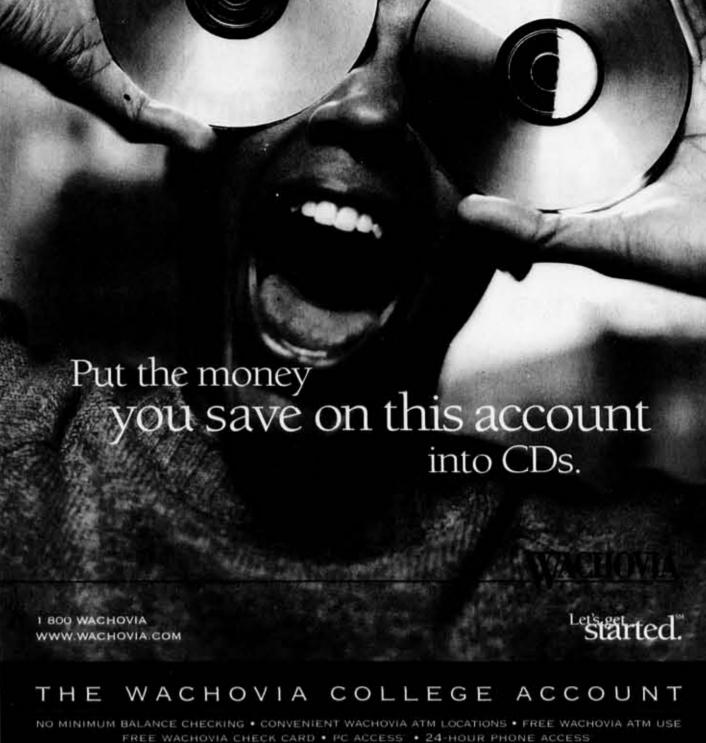
"...In those hours I knew that I had been with one of God's hidden ones whose strength lies in nothing explainable by personality or heredity, but in Him who is Rock, Fortress and Might, who is, 'in the darkness drear their one true light,' whose distant song of triumph steals on our ears sometimes and makes our hearts brave again and our arms strong. Praise to God for such living flames of His love." -Elisabeth Elliot





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Academic expansion continues

New courses and academic programs improve occupational choices for Liberty students determining future careers

By Chrissy Remsberg, asst. editor

The start of another academic school year brings with it many new faces and challenges. Among these additions. Liberty will be adding some new courses and majors to its curriculum.

"The year ahead, in terms of new programs, will be a year of review, consolidation and analysis of what we have before we take a major leap forward into many new programs," said Dr. Boyd Rist, vice-president for academic affairs.

Rist said the Masters program for Business Administration was implemented last year. Now, this course of study is offered only through LU's External Degree Program, but eventually it will be available for all students. Also last year, the Masters of Education program was expanded from being only a campus program to include

Finally, the EDD in educational leadership has been approved and additional courses will be added to that field of study as well.

In the seminary, Rist said there were also several improvements. A Master of Arts in religion with a concentration in worship studies has been added primarily for the EDP. Another concentration in leadership is scheduled to be added to the program next spring.

Majors have also been added and are under development within the school of communications. For instance, teaching English as a second language is now offered as an undergraduate major.

According to Rist, teaching English as a second lan-

guage "appears to be a program that has pretty high demand. We have the faculty here already with the appropriate credentials to offer the major."

An undergraduate major in athletic training is also under development and will be phased in slowly, according to Rist. While he anticipated the major being fully implemented next year. Rist said new courses are being offered within the school of education, which will

The year ahead ... will be a year of review, consolidation and analysis of what we have before we take a major leap ..."

> Dr. Boyd Rist Vice President for academic affairs

count as credit toward the new major.

Finally, Rist said the university hopes to offer Spanish as a major about a year from now.

"The faculty senate approved that major last year and whether we're able to begin to offer it next year is contingent upon faculty hiring," he said. "We need to find a doctoral level faculty member, at least one in the area, and with the people we already have we think we're in a strong enough position academically to go ahead with that major."

While dorms are filling up and campus church is packed out, Liberty's student body is not the only area of the university experiencing growth. LU continues to take huge strides academically bringing expansion in many of its schools.

Dennis menaces the coast



REMINISCING HURRICANES PAST - LU students relish the muddy havoc caused by Hurricane Fran in September '96. Now Hurricane Dennis nears the Carolinas and Virginia. According to the National Weather Service, Dennis is a category three hurricane that is dropping five to 10 inches of rain upon anything in its path.

Changes in faculty aid in LU's

By Chrissy Remsberg, asst. editor

The growth within the student body as well as the academic programming of Liberty University has contributed to the growth within the university's faculty, staff and administration. Additions have been made in almost every school of the univer-

"We have added faculty in every school with the exception of business and government," said Dr. Boyd Rist, vice president for academic affairs. "Some of those individuals are replacements for people who have chosen to take on new academic assignments elsewhere. Some of them are new because of growth in various programs."

Among those taking on new positions, Barbara Boothe, formerly the school's registrar, now holds the administrative assignment of director of planning, research and assessment. Boothe received the assignment after Dr. Ellen Black left her former position. According to Rist, Black has accepted a vice presidency with Dr. John Maxwell's organization in Atlanta.

"However, we're happy that Dr. _Black will continue as an adjunct professor in the school of education and will teach for us from time to time and may help us out with various administrative assignments "from time to time," Rist said.

Dr. Karen Parker, who has been appointed acting dean of the school of education, has filled the other vacancy left by Black. Corey Leverette assumed the position of registrar on July 1, filling the position formerly held by Boothe.

While these adjustments have been made within the administration many new faces can also be seen in the classrooms. Sandra Oughton, a new communications teacher, said she has enjoyed her first weeks here at LU. She has spent much of her time preparing for the graphic design and desktop publishing classes she teaches, she said she looks forward to seeing more of LU and getting to know students.

While Liberty students adjust their schedules and study habits to new classes and roommates. the university's faculty and staff prepare for the year ahead. LU professors and administration have prepared for a challenging academic school year.



Got a bright idea? Write a letter to the editor and drop it by DeMoss 110

Champion

What's Labor Day all about? Read Jessica's column, page 5

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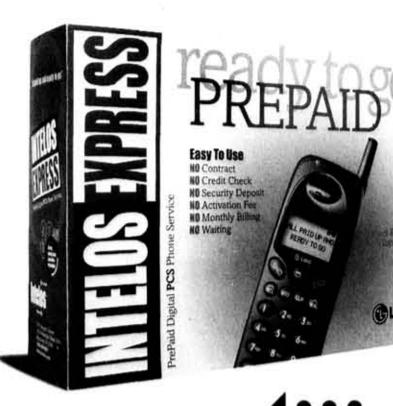
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picks of the week

▶ 9/1. The Drowsy Poet open mike.

Show your talent from 7:30 - 10 p.m. at The Drowsy Poet's open mike poetry and music night. Call 846-6604 for more info.

> 9/4. Soccer Midnight Madness

Come out at 11:30 p.m. to the soccer field to meet the men's and women's soccer teams, win prizes and play some soccer. Call x2105 for more info.

9/5. Lynchburg Hillcats baseball.

The Hillcats take on the Salem Avalanche in their final game of the season at 6:05 p.m. in City Stadium.

▶ 9/4-5. Smith Mountain Lake canoe trips.

The final canoe trips will be held 8:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday and 6-8 p.m. Sunday. Call (540)297-6066 for more info.

There's no excuse for boredom with Student Life's Fall 1999 activity lineup



READY FOR SOME REAL FUN? — (Above) Jennifer Knapp is set to jam on Dec. 3 in the Schilling Multi-Purpose Center. (Below) Students enjoyed a game of foozball at David's Place.

By Jessica Miller, Life! Editor

kay, freshman seminar's over. Mom and Dad have gone home. And you finally got your fave pic of Leonardo DiCaprio to stay stuck to the wall with a golf-ball sized wad of sticky-tack. Now what do you do with all your free time?

Whether you want to just test the waters of college living or dive in full force, Mike Stewart, dean of student life, or affectionately known as the "Dean of Fun," invites you to participate in the fall schedule stuffed with activities for even the bravest adventurers.

Intramurals

For those looking for fun and competition, a wide range of intramural sports offers the opportunity to both exercise and fellowship. Sports on the Fall 1999 roster include flag football, tennis, basketball, outdoor soccer, softball, beach volleyball and floor hockey.

Any student not already playing the same sport for LU is eligible to participate in the intramural program. For example, a football player may not play flag football, but may participate in another sport. This year, one faculty

member, staff or graduate student athlete per team and sport may also participate in the intramural program.

"Last semester, we had a couple of people who wanted to play and this was basically to accommodate them," said Steve Chamberlain, assistant director of intramural sports.

David's Place

When you need an indoor break, head for David's Place --- the campus hot spot that offers everything from billiards to board games.

"We're not making money on anything here." said Matt Gallagher, student life graduate assistant of operations. "We just offer fun, entertaining and new activities for people."

Open late every Friday night until 1:30 a.m., David's Place also houses a cafe that will open on October 23, at the David's Place one year, one month and one week anniversary party.

The cafe includes a stage where students may be permitted to perform karaoke or original acts while grabbing a cup of coffee or a cappuchino.

For traditional Student Life fare, Coffee House is always a favorite. Two are scheduled for the

Fall semester. On Oct. 29, a single Masquerade Coffee House is scheduled for midnight in the Schillings Center, a change from the double shows of previous years.

We strive not to have the same things over and over," said Jeff Boyer coordinator of student activities. "We have comedy, some drama and all different types of music."

A Christmas Coffee House is also scheduled for Dec. 10 at midnight.

Concerts

Last but not least, the semester's schedule is packed with three big concerts that are coming our way.

The first features Caedmon's Call, a band that debuted in the No. 1 spot on Billboard's prophetic HeatSeekers chart with their "40 Acres" cd. This LU favorite with its cult-like following will be playing along with Bebo Norman on Sept. 25 in the Schilling Multi-Purpose Center, the location for all three concerts.

The second show headed our way is a campus favorite. Third Day, along with five o'clock people and Selah will perform at 7:30 on



Finally, Jennifer Knapp and Chris Rice will perform on Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m.

The best part about these concerts? "We're giving students the opportunity to see award-winning artists for free," Boyer said.

Boyer also invites all students to drop off ideas for activities or feedback on previous ctivities in the Student Life office in David's Place. This fall, Student Life is offering something

for everyone. So sink or swim, come join the

Liberty students learn the language of love

By Doug Kruhm, reporter

ome students spend endless hours in a silent library cubical chanting unfamiliar verbs to learn Spanish.

But for participants in Liberty University's Summer Spanish Institute (LUSSI), learning was an exciting challenge of mixing class and ministry while submerged in the Hispanic culture of Guatemala.

From May 15 until June 13, a four-week intensive course in the heart of Central America focused on learning the principles of the language, then exercising their mental muscles in the toughest practice arena -

the local residents of Llano Verde, a small village in Guatemala.

LUSSI was the brainchild of Dr. David Towles, professor of modern languages. Towles has led many mission trips to Central America in past years but felt a need for a more pronounced Christian presence in Central America. Towles teamed up with Ambassadors International member Carlos Vargas, founder and director of Esperanza de Vida (Hope of Life), the 1000-acre hilltop ministry in Llano Verde where LUSSI was based.

More than 40 students and faculty comprised three separate teams. Academic team members spent their mornings equipping

their minds with new nouns and irregular conjugations.

The health and nursing team, headed by Dr. Joseph Mix, associate professor of health services, and aided by Mrs. Lois Borek, set up a free clinic for the people devastated by Hurricane

Mitch tore through the country in 1998, erasing rivers, changing landscapes and spreading disease. A blood pressure check, a pulse check and a small overthe-counter medical remedy, provided by the team, usually assured patients of good health.

Finally, a construction team helped build a new orphanage in Esperanza de Vida. Painting walls and shoveling future concrete footers kept this aggressive group quite busy.

The groups came together for a Christian ministry in the form of a small vacation bible school was available for the youth of the village. In the evenings, the team performed mime skits. both locally and in other towns.

"We made such an impact but they also made an impact on

us," senior Melissa Berry said. According to Berry, the success of the mission was evident by the plethora of thanks from the local children that came in forms of all kinds, from personal letters to hugs.

"You can see the love that they had. They don't have very much and they're content. I will remember that love for as long as I live," Berry said.



A SPIRITUAL WORKOUT - Melissa Berry grins for the camera with her new vacation bible school friends.

jessicamiller **Summer's grand finale**

For students across America, Labor Day means one thing: back to school. For the rest of the world, however, September's first Monday marks the

national Labor Day holiday. Like many, I usually count the unofficial last weekend of summer as merely a grand finale to a season of poolside parties and backyard barbeques. But when I decided to find out why we get a random national holiday in the beginning of September, I found that the official birth of Labor Day extends far

beyond a justification for relaxation. The first roots of Labor Day began to sprout in the little town of Pullman, Illi-

nois in 1880. A tiny company town outside of Chicago, Pullman was the feudal child of its namesake proprietor. George Pullman, president of the railroad sleeping car company. Pullman residents were Pullman Railroad employees, drawing their Paychecks on the Pullman bank, buying food from the Pullman General Store and paying rent set by

Landlord Pullman. For more than a decade the little town functioned without a hitch. But in 1893, the Pullman Company was sucked into the nationwide economic depression. Production sunk as layoffs skyrocketed.

Pullman fired hundreds of employees. paying those he retained only a fraction of their former paychecks while maintaining rent levels.

With their purse strings fraying, disgruntled Pullman employees demanded lower rent and higher pay. Their strike caught the attention of the American

> Railway Union and initiated a nationwide strike of railroad workers. The strike soon ballooned out of control as rioting mobs of Americans joined the workers.

By 1894, the strike had become a national issue. President Grover Cleveland, facing interrupted mail trains and nervous railroad executives, declared the strike a federal crime and

deployed 12,000 troops to break it. The strike ended on Aug. 3, 1894.

President Cleveland now faced an unsettling decision. He knew that in September 1892, New York City workers had taken an unpaid day to march around Union Square in support of a "labor" holiday. And his harsh methods of settling the railroad dispute made appeasing the American workers a political priority, as 1894 was an elec-

tion year. So when he received a bill calling for a national holiday called "labor day" only six days after the end of the Pullman strike, he seized the chance for reconciliation. Labor Day became a national holiday to celebrate the work-

ing person. Needless to say, Grover Cleveland was not reelected.

So what's this have to do with us? In the 1990s, we've long since forgotten the political sensitivities that created the Labor Day holiday. Everyone who can takes a vacation on that first Monday in September. Friends and families gather for the annual backyard bash, kids beg for the final visit to the neighborhood pool and students breathe the last essence of summer as

they dust off their schoolbooks. And in these actions, the holiday remains the annual monument that

that its creators meant it to be. A tribute to the fact that we are interdependent workers, a unified body of

many parts. A chance to reflect on where we've been and where we're headed. And the opportunity to give summer a grand farewell.

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Block Party 199

The seventh Annual Block Party had something for everyone. From the Psycho-Swing to the batting cages, thrill-seekers climbed, swung and whirled. Free Icees, coffon candy and Kettle Corn were available for refreshment as old friends and new friends geared up for a semester full of excitement.



WE'RE GONNA PARTY LIKE
IT'S 1999 — (Left) James
Mills conquers the Vertical
Edge. (Below) One of the most
popular Block Party rides was
the Gyroscope.

THE LAST HURRAH
— (Above) Juniors
Kenny Queen and
Seth Huber slurp
down some Iceas
as junior Jusy Lee
looks on. (Right
and above right) A
fireworks display
ended the evaning.



Photos by Matt Hembo

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In China we can criticize Darwin but not the government. In America you can criticize the government but not Darwin.

> -Chinese paleontologist, as quoted by Berkeley law professor Phillip Johnson 99

Champion 1

Checking in a pleasant surprise this year

Most students breezed through miniscule lines to get through check-in a week ago. That is, if they had to stand in any lines at all.

Just a few years back, however, "check-in" automatically meant long lines and frustration. A few hours in line was considered good time.

Whether we've lived here long enough to remember those days or not, let's not take Liberty's vastly improved organization for granted. Check-in's become nothing more than another minor errand to run.

Before we even arrived at school, most of us could take care of our finances and vehicle registration in our pajamas at the kitchen table, once the forms arrived via snail mail.

Most of the few who did get stuck in the check-in process got stuck because of their own mistakes, or because of unavoidable circumstances.

As we start this new school year, let's realize how good we have it here, and appreciate the massive preparation and effort it must have taken to turn what used to be a chore into a breeze.

Recent deaths should bring life into focus

As students returned for the new semester, the news of two deaths back to back sent waves across the Liberty family.

A band member passed away after a blood clot formed in his heart. A professor's daughter died in a car crash. One right after the other.

It's easy to feel a detached sympathy for the family members and friends, to say a quick prayer, and to lament the unexpectedness of it all.

But make it personal. Ask yourself the age-old question, "what if that

King Solomon wrote of death. "One event happens to the righteous and the wicked; to the good, the clean, and the unclean...." He went on to say, "...a living dog is better that a dead lion. For the living know that they will die: but the dead know nothing."

A realization that your time on this little blue globe is limited leads to the realization that your time is precious. Once it's up you won't have any more chances to earn that "well done, my good and faithful servant."

One reason King Solomon's writing is so profound is that he writes about

things we all can see, if we looked a little deeper. We all know we'll die. We even know that any of us could die at any time.

But do we know it so well that it makes a difference in our lives? That it causes us to make a difference in others' lives?

Quotes of the week:

"For since by one man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive." -I Corinthians 15:21-22

"Death is more universal than life; everyone dies but not everyone lives."

hampion

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The Champion encourages community members to submit letters to the editor on any subject. Letters should not exceed 400 words and must be typed and signed. The deadline is 6 p.m. Wednesday.

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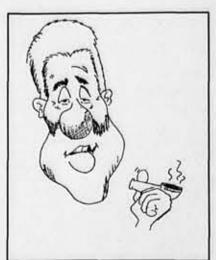
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Cartoon by Neil Morée

Silence really can be golden

Citizens in the Appomattox County School District recently asked their

school board to begin the class day with two minutes of silence for prayer and post the Lord's Prayer at all county schools. A News and Advance report said a committee was being formed to consider the requests.

Meanwhile, the American Civil Liberties Union, defenders of all

things neutral, has stated they will sue the school board if the new proposals are implemented.

chrisedwards

According to Walter Krug, the school superintendent, Virginia law allows a moment in silence, as long as the purpose is not specified for prayer.

So, the proposal made by the people of Appomattox may not fly. The push for prayer in schools should be a different fight. How-

> ever, my question for the ACLU is: what's wrong with silence? I mean, silence is ultra-inclusive. No one talks. If someone does

silence. Even more evidence is their recent rash of lawsuits against the Boy Scouts of America,

talk, you don't have

including the defense of the gay scoutmaster who won his case against the organization in New Jersey. The school district in Katy, Texas has

become one of the first to implement a moment of silence this school year. According to the a report in the Houston low the inclusive pill: silence.

Chronicle, the "event", one minute of silence, is to take place as soon as possible in the school day. It will be an individual activity. Everyone will stay seated and silent. The school will not tell the students what to think about.

Laws of this nature shouldn't be counted on to promote moral revival in the schools. The recent push to post the Ten Commandments and discount evolution are good for promoting an education based on truth. However, placing all hope in laws that promote nothing but silence can only guarantee a deafening roar of continued school miscondut, laws or not.

Friday, a group of Christians asked the board in Campbell County to add a minute of silence to the beginning of the day. The same day, the ACLU announced their intent to sue in Appomattox. Maybe the ACLU should keep their hands out of the matter and swal-

Evolution really a belief system

I used to wonder why evolution was considered "religious" by Christians, since it only deals with scientific obser-

But evolution tries to prove that God was an unnecessary element in the beginning of life. A god who is unnecessary is not a god. How could he be allpowerful (a necessary trait of Godhood), and yet be unnecessary? How could we know he existed, if He never

involved Himself in anything?

If that were the case, His existence would have no effect on us, nor would it mean anything for us, morally, physically, or spiritually. We might as well live as if He didn't exist. So, if evolution were true, any god who was there would be of no consequence, and would therefore not be a god.

Evolution doesn't offer anything to worship, nor does it give any rituals or moral codes. But it does consider the cause, nature, and purpose of the universe, like any other "religion."

With this in mind, I saw the media's coverage of the Kansas School Board's ruling in a new light.

For those of you who depend solely on the Champion to get your news, the Kansas School Board stirred up the nation earlier this month when it ruled to remove evolution from standardized tests, no longer requiring teachers to teach the subject.

The knee-jerk interpretation of most commentators was that this is a move orchestrated

by the religious right, a sect of society that blindly believes what it wants to. contrary to obvious truth.

A few of their editorials cite specific examples of evolutionary "proofs," but the majority assume that evolution's credibility is as obvious as the sun in

the sky. Without realizing it, they fall into the same trap they accuse Christians of: they accept a wholly unproven,

exclusively "religious" view, and seek to enforce that view on others.

> The Kansas School Board addressed bigger issues than academic freedom. intentionally or not. They touched on the church's fight to uphold the most basic of Christian principles.

The fundamental, essential assertion of evolution is the impractibility of any belief in a legitimate God.

Journalists are correct that the religious right is fighting for its beliefs. But so is the religious left.

SPEAKUP!



There were short lines in express."

James Mills, Jr. El Paso, Texas



"I was in regular check in and it was very long."

-Tetrin Betz, Fr. Chillocothe, Ohio

How was your check-in experience?



christinaloh

"It took me only three minutes in express."

Josh Kee, So. Charleston, W.Va.



"Long, but it was expected."

Marion Rhodes, Fr. Dallas, Texas

Photos by Ted Neumann





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Football: Nationally-ranked Marshall a tough test

Continued from page 12

averaging 11.9 yards per catch, Heilig is expected to put up great numbers again in the upcoming season.

Junior Christian Newsome, returns at quarterback. In 11 starts last year, he completed 160 of 360 passes for 2,245 yards, threw 11 touchdowns and was intercepted 16 times. Backup Biff Parson "is a great prospect," Rutigliano said.

Darryl Gamon. a senior starting tackle selected to the 1-AA Pre-Season All-Star Team, and Ben Martin, a three year starter at tackle and guard will add the experience on the line.

Jerome Wicker, Sammy
Choice, Jamie Christian. Billy
Seals, and Torrey Rush will lead
the defense. Wicker was moved
from defensive end to outside linebacker with Choice and Christian.
Seals will be moved from outside
to inside linebacker. Rush, a 1-AA
Preseason All-America pick by

Sporting News, will defend at strong safety, where he led the Flames last year with 196 tackles. Rutigliano is hoping for more speed with Wicker and Choice moving outside.

As for special teams, newcomer Jay Kelley has big shoes to fill in replacing four-year starting kicker Phil Harrelson. Punter Ben Rogers expected to do well again this season after finishing with a 39.9-yard average last season.

"We plan to start off early, we can't afford to lose anyone. We need to stay healthy," Rutigliano said.

Helping the cause are the Flames' new staff members. Jarrod Everson, a '98 LU grad, will be the defensive line coach with John White, and Terry Lantz. Chris Vaszily joins the Flames part time after serving two seasons as the defensive back coach and assistant strength coach at Itawamba Community College. Joe Jauch serves as running backs coach



BLOCK MORE, TALK LESS — Flames football players practice their blocking skills during a recent practice session behind Hancock Center.

after a stint at William Campbell High School.

Liberty opens with Division II
Virginia Union at home on Sept.
4. Then, the Flames travel to
Huntington, W.Va. to face 24thranked Marshall, a I-A squad.
"As a coach it's very important
not to focus on Marshall too
much. It's an art not to be too
over prepared or too under prepared, never underestimate
your opponent. They're ready,
the throttle is down," Rutigliano

said. Despite the ups and downs the last four years, the Flames still covet their first-ever playoff berth.

Rutigliano has high hopes, starting with his leader. "Newsome is taking us up this season," Rutigliano said.



Virginia Union (0-0)

VS.

Liberty (0-0)

WHEN: Friday, 7:30 p.m.
WHERE:Williams Stadium, L'burg
SERIES: Liberty leads, 1-0
COACHES: Virginia Union (Willard
Bailey, 17th year, 123-54-6);
Liberty (Sam Rutigliano, 11th
year, 63-46)

in the huddle: Liberty captured the last meeting between the teams, 16-8, in 1997. In that game, Walt Heilig ran for 196 yards on 33 carries and two touchdowns ... This game marks the revival of the Flames Sports Television Network. For the first time since 1994, all five home games will be televised locally.



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Lady Flames: Tech set for Wednesday

Continued from page 12

the LU lead at the beginning of the 2nd half when Sheila Murphy snuck a goal past Liberty keeper Amy Moxley. Talented sophomore Nancy Davis got the LU offense on the board again with a beautiful set up pass from junior Cheryl Jones at the 65th minute. Four minutes later, Coffey scored once again to ice the game and earn herself an impressive hat trick in just her first game in a Liberty uniform.

According to team leaders senior Cheryl Handwerker and junior Michelle Small, the win and the overall solid play was important for several reasons. "This game was good because it will build our confidence, and it will also help the new players get ready for the rest of the season," said Handwerker. "We were able to come out strong and set the tone for the rest of the year, which is really important," said Small.

It appears that the nine freshmen picked up this year will become an integral part of the Liberty squad this season. "I really don't have to worry about our freshman, they are quite a confident bunch. They have to try to focus on playing smart and things should be alright," said Head Coach James Price.

The Lady Flames will begin to channel their confidence from Saturday's victory toward Atlantic 10 powerhouse Virginia Tech on Wednesday. "Tech will be a totally different game than tonight's game. It might be our toughest game. That game will show us where we are as a team," said Price.

The Lady Flames host the Lady Hokies Wednesday at 4 p.m. They finish the week with a Saturday game at UNC-Asheville. On the 6th. LU will play host to Appalachian State. The early strecth will be a good test before Big South play begins in earnest.

Three LU alums in NFL this year

Carswell looking for third straight Super Bowl McKnight, Green catching up with new teams

By Tarant Judge, reporter

Coach Sam Rutigliano has developed and trained many special athletes since moving from the Cleveland Browns in the 1970s to LU. Three former LU stars are playing in the NFL this year: wide receiver James McKnight of the Dallas Cowboys, tight end Dwayne Carswell of the Denver Broncos, and tight end Eric Green of the New York Jets.

McKnight, signed as a free agent from the Seattle Seahawks, is currently fourth on the depth chart, behind Michael Irvin, Rocket Ismail, and Ernie Mills.

Dwayne Carswell has been with the twotime defending Super Bowl Champion Denver Broncos for five years.

This year without John Elway at quarterback, he will be used to open up holes for Pro Bowl running back Terrell Davis. Carswell continues to be one of the most valuable reserves on the Broncos roster, spelling All Pro tight end Shannon Sharpe and captaining the special teams.

In New York, the main focus is on Green. Reporters have rated Eric as the best athlete out of the three Liberty graduates. The 6-foot-5-inch, 279-pound tight end has moved from Pittsburgh to Baltimore to Miami in the past three years but should play a big role in the newly installed West Coast offense of coach Bill Parcells.



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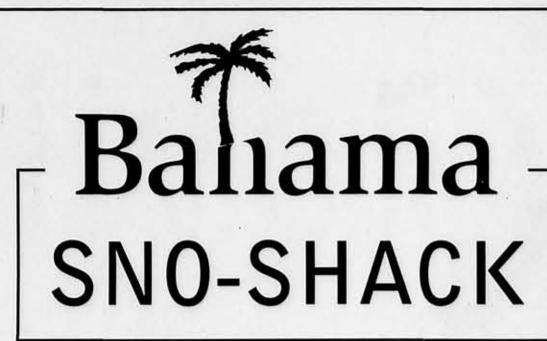
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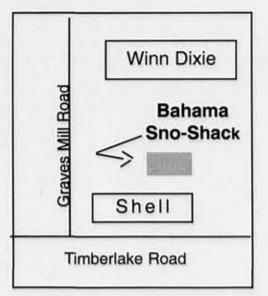
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- ▶ 9/6 App. State at LU, 4 p.m.

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Got God in your game?

Normally you wouldn't find a spiritual discussion in a sporting publication, but at Liberty you can find a spiritual discussion anywhere. Football for example has been tied to religion through out time.

Take Reggie White. Anyone who has paid attention to the NFL knows what a Christian he is, and the fact that he is an ordained Baptist minister. Never afraid to tell the press about the God he serves. For example, when he tore his hamstring in 1995 and was supposedly out of the season but was practicing with the team 24 hours later. Reggie White told the Packer Plus, "You guys just don't want to believe me, God healed me. He healed me!"

White's faith has spread like wild fire through out the lives of his former teammates including Robert Brooks. Nicknamed the "Minister of Defense", he's been known for his amazing play on the field and his walk with Christ off of it.

Then there's Barry Sanders, who will forever remain one of the best running backs the NFL has ever seen. He's broken many rushing records, but has rarely broken his Christian testimony, as his teammates know. There is a difference in being a "Christian athlete" and being an athlete who is a Christian. Reggie White made Christ first in all he did. On the other hand, an athlete who is a Christian can be found in church on Sunday and not living a godly life during the week.

As our own Liberty athletes come out of the blocks, I'm excited about the impact they can have on other universities just as the "Reggie Whites" and "Barry Sanders" of pro- football have had on their peers.

Christian Newsome has the power to lead the Flames to not only a victorious season on the field, but a victorious season in the Lord's name. Nine out of ten opponents this season are secular colleges, bringing opportunities to win souls for the kingdom of heaven and glorify Christ in our game. We need to seize the chance to use football as a common ground.

Watching the "Ben Andersons" of Liberty rise up and go out I pray that they will be the next positive influence for Christianity in the limelight of the secular world of sports. How awesome that would be to see more NFL players or any other pro sport players for that matter, make such an impact and be able to say they are graduates from Liberty University. Reggie White fans are aware of the fact that he's from Tennessee and Barry Sanders fans know he is from Oklahoma State University, how miraculous it would be to get Liberty's name out in that line up. As fellow students we have the power to be a part of this witnessing experience through our prayers and support. so come out and see the Flames take on Virginia Union on September 4.

Football ready to turn the tide

Health, experience key to LU's happiness: a first-ever playoff bid

By Brooke Herrmann, asst. sports editor

Down, set, hike, has been heard for weeks of double sessions as the Liberty Flames prepare for their upcoming 1999 season.

With 17 starters and 45 lettermen returning, the Liberty Flames have a strong nucleus to start the season. The Flames have suffered from roller-coaster syndrome in recent years. In 1995, the Flames went 8-3 and fell to 5-6 in 1996. In 1997, they were back on top at 9-2, only to fall again to 5-6 last season.

"We're back to the rotation. Now it's time to go 10-1," said head coach Sam Rutigliano, who is in his 11th year with the Flames.

A look at this year's team:

Offense

The power running back combo of Stacey Nobles and Walt Heilig, known as "Thunder and Lightning" to Rutigliano, hold the keys to a potent offensive attack.

Nobles, a three-year starter, is only 188 yards away from becoming the Flames' all-time leading rusher. With 11 touchdowns on 246 carries in 10 games, "Thunder" also completed 125 yards on 18 receptions and was selected to the Division I-AA Pre-Season All-Star Team.

Heilig, also a senior, carried 65 times for 503 yards, with six touchdowns, and held a 7.7 yard per carry average last season. Leading the team in receiving with 32 catches for 381 yards and four touchdowns.

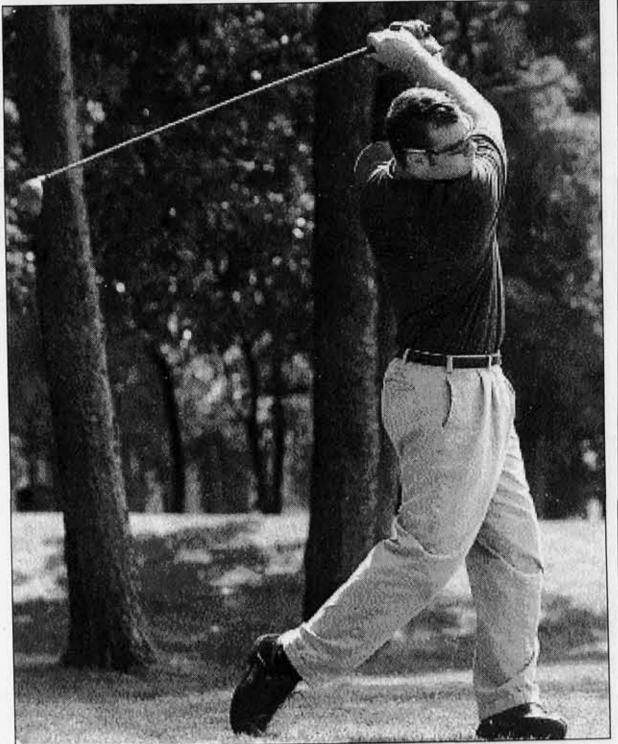
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TED NEUMANN

"PUSH, PUSH!" — Flames linemen work out with the blocking sled during a recent practice. Liberty will tackle Division II Virginia Union in the home opener September 4 at 7:30 p.m. before traveling to 24th-ranked Division I-A Marshall on the 11th.

Taking the long route



R. DAVID DUNCAN III/THE NEWS AND ADVANCE

WREAKLESS DRIVER — Liberty senior Brian Nash, formerly a tight end on the football team, gave up his football scholarship to attempt to qualify for the long drive world championships in October. After a drive of 352 yards, Nash failed to qualify by three yards on Friday in Monroe, NC. He'll try again in Pittsburgh on Sept. 11.

Intramural signups in progress

Rule changes will add faculty and post-grads, limit the play of game staff to ensure fairness.

By Chris Edwards, editor in chief

Two changes in participation rules highlight the start of the Student Life intramural sports season for the fall semester.

One graduate student, faculty or staff member may play on each team in each sport, a change from previous seasons.

"Last semester, we had a couple of people who wanted to play and this was basically to accommodate them," said Steve Chamberlain, assistant director of intramural sports.

To combat complaints about fairness in competition, Student Life has limited the participation of their intramural staff. Staff members may now participate in only two sports per academic year. In addition, only two staff members can compete on the same team.

"A lot of people complained that the staff members got preferential treatment when they play." said Chamberlain. "Now, nobody can say that they (intramural staff) win all the time because they are on staff."

In addition, intramural results will be posted on the Student Life web site each Monday.

Signups are taking place for flag football and tennis through Wednesday. The manager's meetings are Sept. 6 for tennis and Sept. 7 for flag football. The seasons start on Sept. 13.

A softball tournament will be held on Sept. 15-18, while a beach volleyball tournament is also scheduled that weekend.

The outdoor soccer season begins on Sept. 20, coed volleyball will start on Sept. 27 and a floor hockey tournament is scheduled for Nov. 12-13.

Students may sign up at the Student Life offices in David's Place or the intramural trailer, located behind dorm 32. All manager's meetings will be held at the intramural trailer. For more information, contact Student Life at ext. 2389.

Lady Flames open with impressive win

By Doug Stewart, reporter

The Lady Flames soccer team opened their 1999 season in style with a torching of the Lenoir-Rhyne Lady Bears , 5-1, Saturday at Liberty Soc-

The Lady Flames dominated play throughout both halves and showed that combining talented freshman with a solid base of returning players could be the key to a successful season.

The combination proved explosive early as freshmen Alicia Davis opened up the scoring with a goal at the 11:42 mark. Before the Lady Bears could recuperate, fellow freshman Lauren Coffey extended the LU lead to 2-0 when she received a pass from sophomore Nancy Davis. Coffee struck again with a perfect header that sailed past Lady Bears goalkeeper Jordan Reed and into the net.

Liberty continued to keep the pressure on the Lenoir-Rhyne defense by setting up nice plays and switching the field smoothly throughout the rest of the 1st half. The half ended with the Lady Flames in command by the score of 3-0.

The Lady Bears began to claw at

Please see LADY FLAMES, page 10



JOHN FISHER

LOOKING ON — The Lady Flames soccer team takes in the action during a 5-1 win over Lenoir-Rhyne Saturday. The team will face one of its biggest tests of the early season when they host Virginia Tech on Wednesday at 4 p.m.