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The Liberty Champion

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY • LYNCHBURG, VA • VOL. 17, NO. 12

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1999

INSIDE

► **TWO OUT OF THREE:** Read about men's basketball action as they beat Towson and James Madison and fell to Albany last week. They're picking up speed on page 12.



► **EVANS TO SPEAK AT GRADUATION:** LU announces its commencement speaker. Take the news home to your parents.

Read it first on page 2.



► **THE NEWSBOYS RETURN:** See what Senior Drew Wooddell thinks of the

Newsboys' latest album "Love Liberty Disco" on page 6.

► **I DON'T LIKE GIRLS WHO WEAR ABERCROMBIE AND FITCH:** Chris Edwards suggests a boycott. Stop Abercrombie's porn marketing targeted towards college students. Read how on page 8.

OUT&



► **TUESDAY**
Mostly Sunny
High: 49
Low: 36



► **WEDNESDAY**
Mostly Sunny
High: 52
Low: 30



► **THURSDAY**
Partly Cloudy
High: 56
Low: 37



► **FRIDAY**
Scattered Showers
High: 56
Low: 37



► **SATURDAY**
Scattered Showers
High: 53
Low: 35

ABOUT

► **CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT:** Relish the sounds of Christmas at Lynchburg College, Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. in the Snidow Chapel.

► **THE NUTCRACKER:** Treasure this beloved ballet, Dec. 11 and 12 at 2 p.m. and Dec. 10 at 8 p.m. Tickets are from \$7 to \$12. Call 804-846-3804 with questions.

► **DISCOUNTS TO "TIS THE SEASON":** Get a \$2 discount to this classic concert when you bring in special foods Dec. 18-19. Call 804-846-8451 to find out which foods to bring.

► **LISTEN TO THE CHILDREN:** The Children's Choirs of Central Virginia will perform a cantata at the First Presbyterian Church on Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Graduations filling Lynchburg hotels

By Melinda Fleming, copy editor

The date of this year's graduation is causing many problems for parents and family of graduating seniors.

The May 13 graduation date is the same date college seniors at other Lynchburg colleges are graduating. This scheduling conflict among the colleges has been difficult for parents and families who are trying to find hotel rooms for the commencement weekend.

According to Dr. Boyd Rist, vice president for academic affairs, this year's graduation date was chosen during the 1997-1998 academic year following an extended discussion among the deans and the members of the administration.

"The principal factor in setting the date was to ensure that the semester

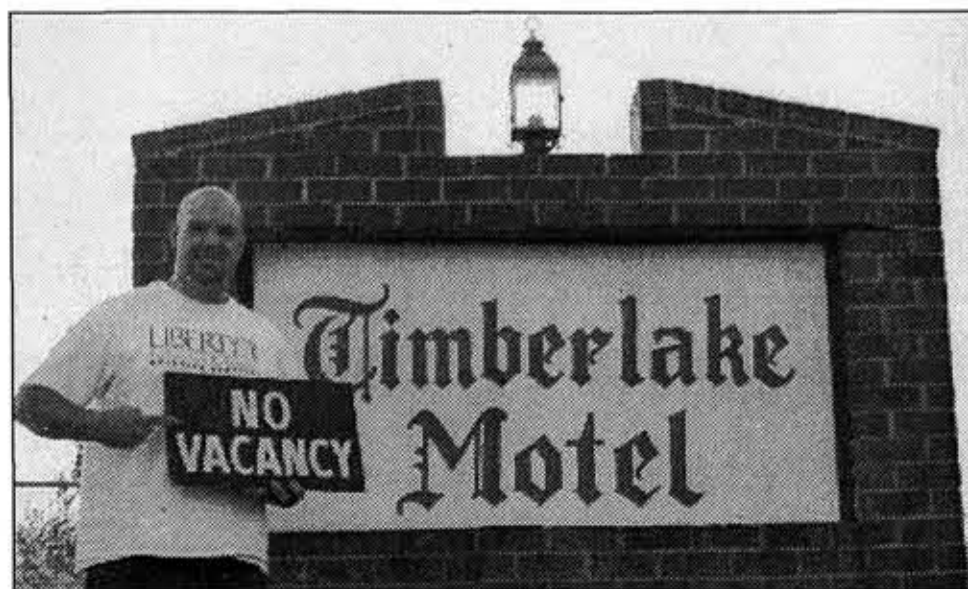
contained the appropriate number of instructional weeks and hours. Federal as well as state academic guidelines require that a stipulated minimum standard be met," said Rist.

Parents and family of graduating seniors have been calling local hotels only to find that the room size they need is not available or that there are no rooms at all.

Paul Heckman, general manager of Wingate Inn, said, "We have 131 rooms. All rooms with two queens (beds) are gone and everyone is paying in advance."

Heckman also said, "We have had several parents who have decided to write to the city of Lynchburg to complain about this. We've had to send people as far away as Richmond

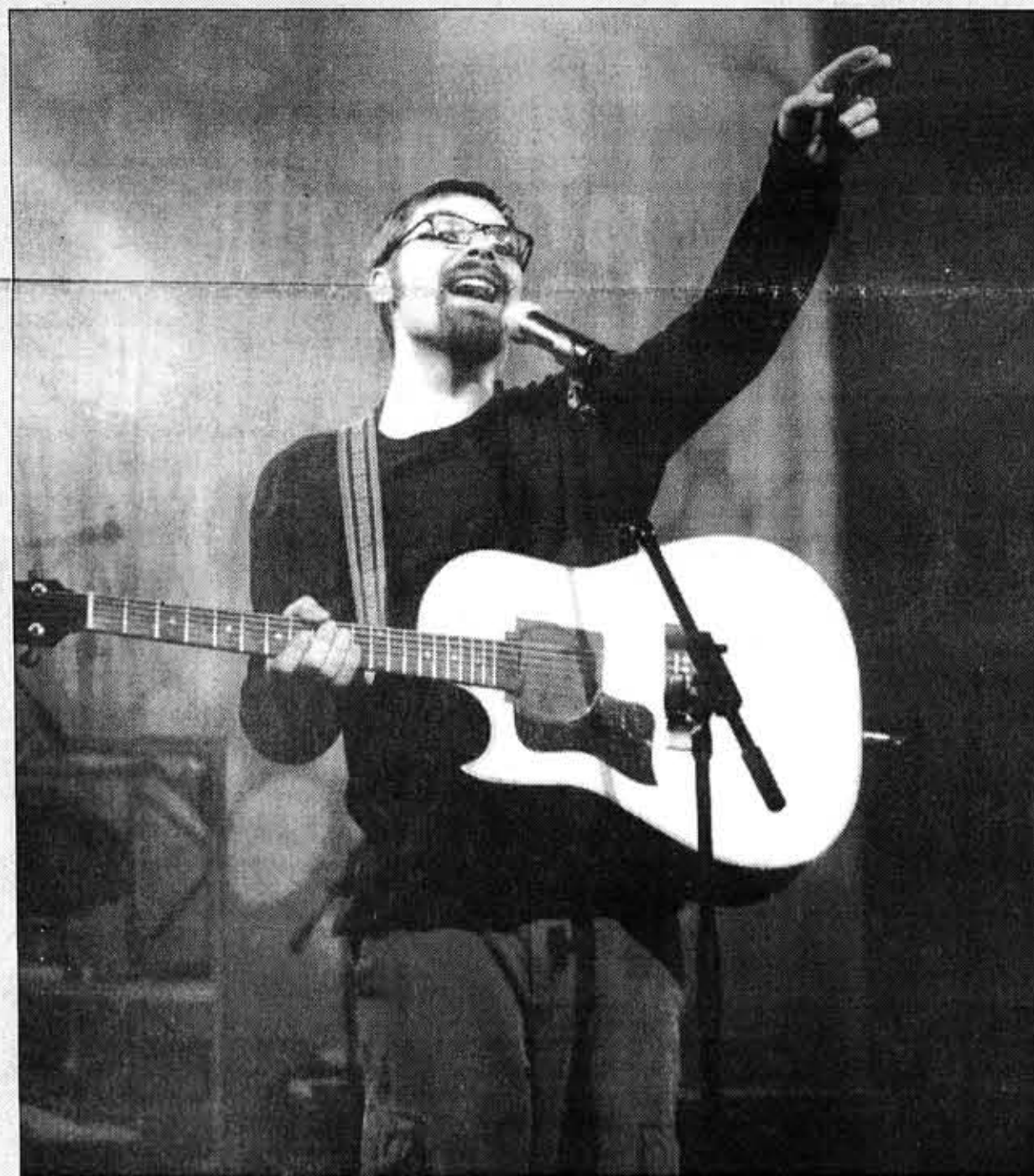
Please see VACANCY, page 2



BRIAN DAVENPORT

NO ROOM IN THE INN — Because all five Lynchburg area colleges scheduled graduations for the same week, the hotels are overpriced and practically booked. Timberlake Motel (above) does have vacancies and will begin booking in January.

Singing with Third Day



MATT HJEMBO

MAC ATTACK — Third Day's lead singer Mac Powell encourages fans to join in song, as he sings to a standing-room only Schillings Center crowd, Nov. 18. Read about the Third Day concert and Jennifer Knapp and Chris Rice's joint performance Dec. 3 on page 4.

SGA tackles two bills packed with controversy

SGA debates R-rated movies and year-round Christmas tree lights

By Melinda Fleming, copy editor

The Nov. 18 Student Government Association meeting was one full of tensions and frustrations that remained unresolved until the next SGA session which was held Dec. 2.

The Nov. 18 meeting began with a warning from Michael Kostiew, SGA vice president, about the heated debate over the "Film Art Appreciation Act" which was to be debated that night.

"You'd do better to abandon the quarrel rather than let the flood waters come over you," Kostiew said.

Kostiew continued, "This issue is not worth breaking fellowship with fellow Christians over."

Before the controversial "Film Art Appreciation Act" was debated by the SGA, another bill was introduced.

The "Decorative Lights Act" was proposed by the Honorable Lathena Nuckols and the Honorable Marianne Mims. This act would allow students to hang Christmas lights in their rooms all year long.

Before Thursday's meeting, the lights were only permitted in the resident halls from Thanksgiving break until the day residents left for winter break.

While Liberty has banned the Christmas lights due to safety reasons, Nuckols and Mims contended that Lynchburg Fire Marshall Michael Thompson believes that extension cords pose a greater threat than Christmas lights and extension cords are not restricted in dorms.

However, Sen. Roy Simmons, sophomore class president, opposed the bill when he said, "People can't pick up their own garbage in here. I seriously doubt they'll turn their lights off during the day."

The "Decorative Lights Act" passed with a vote of 64-44 with five abstaining. It was vetoed by Dean of Students Greg Dowell.

The next bill up for debate was the "Film Art

Please see R-RATED, page 3

Liberty allies with SBC for new millennium

By Suzanne McDuffie, news editor

After 28 years of independence, Liberty University has finally allied with the Southern Baptists.

The covenant agreement motivated the SBC to affiliate with Liberty because it gave the convention a fully-accredited Baptist college to promote for all the Southern Baptist youth. Secondly, Liberty opened a slot for two Southern Baptists nominated from the Conservatives of Virginia to join LU's board of trustees.

Meanwhile, Liberty looks forward to the 47,000 Southern Baptist churches recognizing it as the institution of choice. LU President Dr. John Borek said this will contribute to Liberty's goal to double its enrollment.

With the help of the Southern Baptists and other recruiters, LU hopes to have 10,000 students within the next five years.

Borek also said SBC churches can designate a portion of their budget toward funding institutions such as Liberty.

"While there is no commitment from the SBC, we anticipate some churches designating funds for LU, which can be used for scholarships and for other purposes," Borek said.

However, Doyle Chancey, SBC executive director-treasurer said in a Nov. 17 Baptist Press article, "Neither SBC of



Virginia nor any of its affiliate churches are obligated to send Liberty University one penny. We want to clarify that in no way, subtle or

overt, have we said that the SBCV will be sending Liberty University any money."

LU Chancellor Dr. Jerry Falwell said in the same article that LU joined the SBC for fellowship rather than the funds.

"I am not here to offer you money or to ask for it," Falwell said. "What I am here for is to partner with you in reaching a lost world for Christ."

Already, Liberty has many ties with Baptists. More than 2,900 of Liberty's 5,100 students identify themselves as Baptists. Two members of LU's Board of

Trustees — Dr. Jerry Vines and Dr. Bailey Smith served as SBC president, and 2,000 of Liberty's alumni are senior pastors. Falwell said more than 700 of those graduates serve in Southern Baptist Churches.

Borek and Falwell said the reason LU has abstained from SBC affiliation in the past is because of the convention's liberal tendencies.

"We are deeply grateful to God for what has been happening in the Southern Baptist Convention in the past two decades regarding its return to historical orthodox Christianity and strong emphasis on missions and evangelism," Falwell said in a Nov. 16 Baptist Press article.

Please see SBC, page 4

LU names grad speaker

By Shauna Malcom, reporter

Graduation for the class of 1999-2000 will be held May 13. Dr. Tony Evans, co-founder and senior pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, will be the commencement speaker.

"I'm glad to know Liberty has already chosen a speaker and I am pleased to know it is Tony Evans," said senior Lauren Adare.

Evans is also the founder and president of The Urban Alternative, a national organization that seeks spiritual renewal in urban America. The Urban Alternative radio broadcast, "The Alternative with Dr. Tony Evans" can be heard daily throughout the United States and in 40 countries.

Evans is also a guest speaker at Bible conferences and crusades all over North America, including

speaking engagements for Promise Keepers. In addition, Dr. Evans serves on the board of incorporate members for Dallas Theological Seminary, as well as the board of the National Religious Broadcasters and the Urban Evangelical Mission.

Evans served as chaplain for the NFL's Dallas Cowboys and he is presently chaplain for the NBA's Dallas Mavericks.

Evans has degrees from Carver Bible College, Dallas Theological Seminary, and Eastern College. The pastor has been recognized by colleges and seminaries with honorary doctorates.

Evans is also the author of many books including the recent "Who is This King of Glory," and "The Perfect Christian."

He has been honored for his family values by the Family Research Center.

Vacancy: looking for room

Continued from page 1

in the past when this kind of thing happens."

According to Rist, LU and Thomas Road Baptist Church aided some family members of graduating seniors in the past.

While some local hotels do have rooms available, the prices have been raised substantially.

"Rates are more because, as a hotel business, we're dealing with the law of supply and demand," Heckman said.

According to Rist, those family members who are unable to find local hotel accommodations may receive help from LU.

"I believe student affairs and other offices on campus will

assist to the maximum extent possible in finding hotel accommodations outside the immediate Lynchburg area and in homes locally," said Rist.

A resolution to the scheduling conflict has not been found, according to Rist. The office of academic affairs welcomes any constructive input from students and others on the matter.

"To begin the semester a week earlier would be difficult because of intensives and student travel considerations," Rist said. "To prolong the semester an additional week in May is unnecessary, and would interfere with student work and ministry schedules in the summer."

Wingate revolutionizes hotel stays

By Melinda Fleming, copy editor

The hotel of the future has arrived and it is not only on the cutting edge of technology, but it is also right down the street.

By the end of next year, the Wingate Inn will be completely updated with advanced in-room Internet capabilities, cordless phones and a business center designed specifically for the traveling businessman.

During Wingate Inn's "Media Day" on Nov. 17, John Paul Nichols, president and CEO of Wingate Inns International, Inc., said, "Though our building may look like a Hampton Inn or a Courtyard, our experience is meant to be different."

The focal point of the experience Wingate is creating is geared toward the businessman.

"Wingate Inn is built for business. Approximately 65 percent to 75 percent of our guests carry laptops," Nichols said.

The updated hotels will have Internet



capabilities that will allow guests to hook their laptops up to modems installed in the room, which are up to 50 times faster than a standard 28K or 56K modem.

Nichols said, "Even during premium hours, it (the modem) will still be at least 20 times faster."

When connecting their laptops to Wingate's in-room modems, the guests will not have to reconfigure their laptop or search for a new access number to log onto the Internet.

According to Nichols, in-room modem access costs \$9.95 to \$17.95 at day at other hotel chains, but the Wingate provides it free

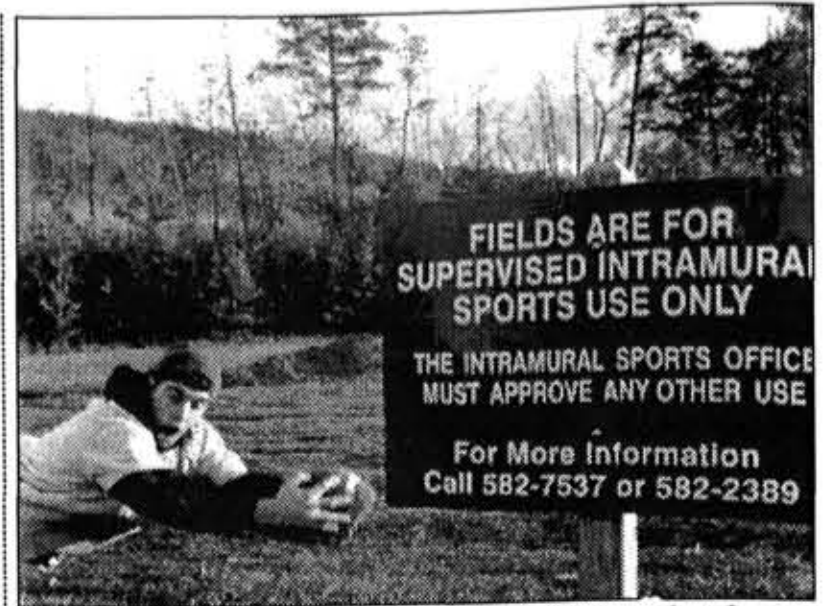
of charge to guests.

In a news release from Wingate Inn, Nichols said, "In becoming the first nationwide hotel chain to provide this amenity, business and leisure travelers staying at our hotels will have access to the same advanced technology that's available to them in their home or office."

Another new feature the hotel has added is a business center. The center is a separate room in the hotel that contains a fax machine, copier and a printer. The guest can use these machines free of charge.

For added convenience, the guest will have a cordless phone in their room and two phone lines that will allow the guest to spend time on the Internet or download files without tying up the phone lines.

Dave Hamel, area general manager, said, "It used to be 'location, location, location,' and now it's service and how much time we can save you."



GET OUT OF THERE — John Santana, freshman, makes one more catch before leaving the fields until they can be re-seeded and replenished.

Intramural fields closed for reseeded

By Parrish Ritzenthaler, reporter

Many students have asked why they can't use the intramural field. Ed Barnhouse, graduate assistant for the intramural sports program, said it's only temporary.

"We are in the process of re-seeding and fertilizing the grass for the spring," said Barnhouse. He said it's impossible to be doing that when students are running all over it.

"We just want to give the grass a good two months to grow," he said.

Barnhouse also said that the signs, which are up around the field, were put there for outsiders who want to use the field. He said there are a lot of

people who want to come in and use the field, but the intramural program tries to minimize use to keep the field available for the students only. According to Barnhouse, these signs are permanent.

Eddie Bell, an LU student, said, "I think it's a good idea that they are re-seeding the grass but they should have told us before now why they have blocked it off."

Barnhouse also said that the reason intramural sports are still played at that location is because it's the only place they have.

At this point, there are dorm fines for those students who trespass without permission from a staff member of intramural sports.

Convocation '99

props

1. Truett Cathy's "Eat More Chicken" Cows
2. Toni Nolan trying to speak to Tia Carter, while giving her \$100.
3. Ringing keys to "Jingle bells" with the LU chorale.
4. Chris Stewart's Jeep Wrangler
5. LCA band serenades Liberty students.

drops

1. Anonymous student's accidental fall that interrupted speaker.
2. No machine guns during military emphasis week.
3. Senate Re-enactment (yawn)
4. Mobbing 78-year-old Truett Cathy, Chick-fil-A CEO.
5. Super Praise Band, though dead, still haunts us all.

Jessica reflects on life as a columnist in a non-sappy, entertaining and educational way on page 6.

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DORM 23 LIGHTS UP WITH CHRISTMAS CHEER — Student Jesse Connors led the effort with help from Wal-Mart and his building mates.

MATT HJEMBO

Raising funds

Paperweight sale to boost SGA future, fund special projects for students



MATT HJEMBO

INCENTIVE TO RAISE FUNDS — SGA will give away a Jeep Wrangler to motivate students to raise money for its budget by selling paperweights.

By Chris Edwards, editor in chief

The Student Government Association has sponsored an opportunity for students to win a Jeep and raise funds for the student body.

The group is sponsoring a paperweight sale for \$30 each. The goal is to raise \$400,000 for use in various projects.

The "Treasures of Jerusalem" paperweight features the image of the Jerusalem Cross, consisting of five separate crosses inset with a stone from Mount Moriah.

"It's definitely a team effort," said Chris Stewart, student body president. "To reach all our goals, we need each student to sell at least five paperweights."

So far, Stewart said around 100 paperweights have been sold.

If the sale — approximately 22,000 paperweights — reaches

its goal, SGA will be able to appropriate nearly \$200,000.

Stewart says the group will refurbish the dorm common's areas, turn the first floor of Dorm 13 into a student lounge.

They will also purchase fitness equipment for Dorm 33 and give funds to Woody Galbreath toward student weight room additions.

Additionally, if the goals are met, a Jeep Wrangler or a comparable car will be given to the winner of a drawing. Students will be entered for each paperweight they sell.

The top male and female fundraisers will receive \$2,000 cash. The runners-up will take \$1,000 cash and the SGA will draw for five \$2,000 scholarships.

Distribution for the paperweights sold this semester is Friday, Dec. 10 from 11-4 p.m. in Dorm 13.

R-rated: SGA flunks bill to change LU's movie policy

Continued from page 1

Appreciation Act." This controversial bill would allow LU students to view R-rated movies without any resulting penalties.

The debate began with interpretation of the bill from its author Sen. Derrick L. Bingham.

Bingham argued, "Film is an art form and it's even considered an art form by the university because Liberty has two film classes."

Sen. Nathan Blackmon, one sponsor of the bill, said, "I feel I am old enough to decide what I can and cannot see. I don't need Liberty University telling me what I can and cannot see."

Sen. Julie Buntz, who opposed the bill, raised the question of age eligibility on a federal level.

"Everybody here at Liberty is not 18 years of age. I wouldn't say that the entire student body has reached that state of maturity," Buntz said.

Sen. Karen Powers, an opponent of the bill, said, "A lot of R-rated movies are soft-core pornography. We would be putting Liberty's stamp of approval on R-rated movies."

After much heated debate, the members were called upon to vote. Just as the voting process was coming to an end, an LU police officer interrupted the meeting and told everyone in the room that they must leave

due to a meeting sponsored by YouthQuest that was going to be held in the same room.

When the members met again on Dec. 2, presidential liaison, Jeremy Miller updated the crowd, on behalf of SGA president Chris Stewart about the incident.

The movie bill decision was brought before the senate at the Dec. 2 SGA meeting. According to Kostlew, "The votes were destroyed last week." Kostlew informed the members that the session would be conducted as if the meeting from two weeks ago had never ended.

The voting process proceeded uninterrupted and the "Film Art Appreciation Act" failed with a vote of 77 nays, 24 yays and 11 abstaining.

RAD classes teach defense techniques to students

By Stephanie James, reporter

LU women developed skills to protect themselves from violent attacks during a recent weeklong Rape Aggression Defense class, taught by community education prevention specialist Karen Phillips. Classes were held in the Schilling Center Nov. 15-19, from 5-8 p.m.

Phillips said that the course helped students become aware

of defense tactics, which may avoid 90 percent of attacks.

The students were taught how to strike, how to kick four different ways, defensive postures and how to get out of a choke hold. Phillips began the class with a lecture about safety, purpose and developing a defensive mindset. She called using personal weapons such as voice, which she called "verbals," a woman's natural strength in defensive warfare

against attackers.

"Now being at college, as a woman it is important to know how to take care of ourselves," said freshman Heather Giltreath.

The last day of class, the students applied what they learned with a pretend attacker. The students received a "Basic Physical Defense for Women" booklet and a key chain for completing the class.

"I used to be so scared when

I walked back from the computer lab late at night and now that fear is gone," said junior Susan Allenbaugh. Allenbaugh said she now knows what tactics to use if she is attacked.

Phillips said an 85-year-old woman recently graduated from the class.

"Anybody can defend themselves. We do not have to be victims," said Phillips.

Phillips said she tries to teach the class once a semester.

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nationalupdate

Compiled from Champion sources

Seattle recuperates from days of riots and anarchy

The battle in Seattle is over. After days of protesters blocking streets, anarchists vandalizing downtown and riot police hurling tear gas, the Emerald City is slowly returning to normal. The people protesting the World Trade Organization have begun to scatter.

Citizens are literally picking up the pieces of their city — broken glass, torn-down street signs and burned dumpsters.

Most downtown businesses have reopened, though clerks still outnumber customers. Boards on storefront windows are being taken down and new glass panes installed. City workers are scrubbing away graffiti. Police have taken off their riot gear, and residents are no longer fearful. They're just tired.

"It's time for us to start the healing process," Mayor Paul Schell said. "We need to start talking in terms of peace."

Leukemia pill spurs life

A study being presented to the American Society of Hematology this weekend shows remarkable, preliminary results in the treatment of a common form of leukemia.

"I can't think of another example where we've had such dramatic results so early in a clinical trial," Dr. Brian Druker of Oregon Health Sciences University told ABCNEWS medical correspondent John McKenzie.

The study involves a drug called STI-571, taken once a day in pill form by patients with chronic myelogenous leukemia, which accounts for about a seventh of the new leukemia cases.

Billboard artists end semester

By Rick Clark and Suzanne McDuffie

The closing concerts of 1999 have included a plethora of sounds. From Jennifer Knapp's alternative folk-rock to Chris Rice's acoustic beat, to Third Day's alternative style, the concerts have filled students' weekends.

Knapp performed hit songs Friday night from her "Kansas" compact disc that has sold 300,000 copies. Knapp has spent 80 weeks in the top 25 Billboard Chart for Christian contemporary music.

Because of her chill attitude, Knapp is able to minister to secular crowds as well. Lilith Fair featured her song "Undo Me" on its 1999 compact disc. She has also promoted Tommy Hilfiger's cosmetic line.

During the concert, even Knapp's jokes had an edge. When nobody laughed at her sharp wit, Knapp said, "I don't know why I thought that was funny. It must have been the prozac."

When Knapp and Rice sang duets, their performance moved the crowd.

"The Cartoon Song" was definitely the night's favorite. Students sang along with lyrics such as "fa-la-la-la-la-la-lalujah"

from Rice's Smurf imitation.

"This song was not meant to be a theological statement," Rice said.

Michael W. Smith's Rocktown Records selected Rice as its debut artist because of his creative and humorous lyrics.

Meanwhile, Third Day packed out the Schilling Center Nov. 18. The room was charged with record number crowds who heard Third Day and Five O'clock People perform as they were finishing up the Time tour.

The night opened with Five O'clock People, a West Coast band, who played coffee shop style music. This led to Third Day's opener for its new album, "Time," which was released Aug. 24.

With only two more shows left on the tour after Liberty, the bands welcomed the cozy atmosphere that the crowded Schilling Center had to offer.

"I am glad that the show was in the Schilling Center rather than the Vines, because it was more personal," freshman Nick Seim said.

However freshman Ben Edwards, complained about the heat. And freshman Nick Frishmuth, said the seating was uncomfortable.



MATT HJEMBO

JAMMIN' WITH KNAPP — Hit singer Jennifer Knapp gets into the music as she entertains thousands of students and community members Friday.

"What happened to the Vines Center?" he asked.

One tour sponsor is World Vision, which is an organization that allows people to sponsor children in the Third World.

"It is great how Third Day will spend a few minutes of the show talking about World Vision...it is an outreach to the lost since their own ministry is designed to encourage the saints rather than an evangelistic crusade," senior Aaron Peterson said.

Peterson is not the only person

to acknowledge the band as an encouragement to Christians.

"One of our goals as a band has always been to challenge Christians to dig deeper and to know what they believe and why they believe it," guitarist Mark Lee said.

As the concert began to close Powell read a passage out of Matthew 7 to encourage the audience to not only confess Christ but live it.

"We've got to get to know Christ," Powell said.

Towns authors new book on Christ

By Parrish Ritzenthaler, reporter

Dr. Elmer Towns, teacher and co-founder of Liberty, has written a book called "The Son," which was nominated to the Library of University Of Virginia contest.

"The Son" is a fictionalized account of Christ's life. The contest gives awards each year to Virginia authors in seven writing fields. It is currently ranked the No. 1 prepublication seller for Regal Books.

Towns has written numerous books, ranging from children's stories to books about the church and spiritual growth. He said he doesn't like to make a big deal about how many books he's written.

"I really don't know how many," he said. "That way I don't have to tell anyone."

Towns said he writes books because he wants to communicate.

"Almost every course I teach ends up in a book," he said.

He said after all the study and research that goes into teaching a course, he might as well write it down.

Until about 10 years ago, he wrote almost all his books about church programs. Now, he has taken a different view.

"Today I don't think the church needs programs, it needs spirituality," he said.

His latest books are written about revival, prayer, and how to know the Lord on a personal level. One book, "Names of the Holy Spirit," was written for churches to study the Holy Spirit. It won a Gold Medallion Award, given to the No. 1 Christian author in the nation.

"Books written to the heart is where you hear from people," he said. "My books have been a unique

blend between the heart and the head."

Once he sent a 250-page manuscript of one of his books, "Fasting for Spiritual Breakthrough," to a pastor in Tennessee. The pastor asked Towns to come and teach the contents of the book to his church.

Towns agreed to come for a Saturday. The church was so receptive, they organized a corporate prayer and fasting ministry. For six months, while the church fasted and prayed, 998 people received Christ and the Sunday school attendance added 257 people. Overall, attendance rose from 1,200 people to more than 3,000.

Currently, Towns is creating an index for his "Encyclopedia on Evangelism," which he plans to have finished in two weeks.

"The Son" is available at the LU bookstore.

SBC: affiliating with Falwell's university

Continued from page 1

Borek said Liberty is the only fully-accredited liberal arts university affiliated with the SBC. Falwell also affirmed this fact.

"We do not enjoy the endorsement of a major con-

servative denomination. I think we need the SBC as much as the SBC needs us. So in my heart and mind, this is a good match," Falwell said.

Borek said because more Southern Baptist students will come to Liberty, they will understand the theology and

world view of this institution.

However, he said that students of all denominations are always welcome.

"We are not exclusively Southern Baptist. We are Evangelical Christian and we are only affiliated with the SBC," Borek said.

Read Bill Murray on page 8. He's new, he's fresh.

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Special Ski Program Announced For Liberty University Students, Faculty and Staff.

We are pleased to announce the establishment of a special Liberty University Ski Program which is being made available by Winterplace Ski Resort, near Beckley, West Virginia. Liberty University Students, Faculty and Staff wishing to take advantage of this special ski program must present their Liberty University Identification Card when purchasing lift tickets or renting ski equipment.

SPECIAL PRICES ARE:

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	All Day Open to 10 pm	Twilight 3 pm to 10 pm
Lift Ticket	\$22.95	\$20.95
Rental Equipment*	\$19.95	\$16.95

Weekends and Holidays

	All Day Open to 10 pm	Night 5 pm to 10 pm
Lift Ticket	\$40.95	\$24.95
Rental Equipment*	\$19.95	\$15.95

* Rental Equipment includes skis, boots, and poles. Deposit Required)

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 ~Road Trip to D.C.
 ~Valentines' Coffee House
 ~Newsboys
 ~The Urban Tour

Life!

picks of the week

12/7. University Chorale concert.

The University Chorale, under the direction of Professor Ruth Foley, will perform at 7:30 p.m. at Thomas Road Baptist Church's Pate Chapel, ext. 2318.

12/7. "Carols By Candlelight."

Annual Christmas concert at Lynchburg College. 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Snidow Chapel, Lynchburg College. Free admission.

12/10. Christmas Coffee House.

Get ready to party at the annual Student Life sponsored Christmas Coffee House. 11 p.m., \$2, ext. 2131.

12/10. "The Christmas Post."

Rivermont Avenue Baptist Church presents a Christmas program based on the works of "Saturday Evening Post" artist Norman Rockwell at 7 p.m. Free tickets available from the church office. 845-6023.



TED NEUMANN

IT'S ELECTRIC — The Living Christmas Tree tells the story of Jesus' birth and death with a blend of classical, gospel and contemporary music.

The Tradition Continues...

Thomas Road Baptist Church presents 'Batteries Not Included' in the 29th annual of the Living Christmas Tree

By Scott Romanoski, reporter

Thomas Road Baptist Church continues its annual holiday tradition of nearly three decades this year with 13 performances of the Living Christmas Tree.

This year's drama, entitled "Batteries Not Included," presents a narrative loosely based on the potential Y2K problem and how one high-tech New York City family deals with the loss of modern conveniences.

Liberty alumnus Mark Lowry makes a guest appearance along with Children's star Tinky-Winky.

The program culminates with choir members singing from a 30-foot Christmas Tree and a live nativity scene.

"It's two and a half hours of laughter, tears, musical excellence and visual stimulation," said Robbie Hiner, minister of music.

Hiner also said that this year's production has the best music of any previous show.

The music in the program consists of a blend of classical, gospel, contemporary and Celtic music.

Church members and staff began working on the program last February, with the bulk of the work

starting in the fall.

"It just got more intense. I like working backstage and seeing it all come together," said Paula Johnson at the church's music department.

Mary Elness, who also works in the music department, described the program as a team effort.

"There are many more people that make it work than there are seen on stage," she said.

Elness and Johnson both mentioned several church members who donate time and resources to the program without much recognition.

One couple, Jon and Connie Daggett, stopped all their freelance lighting work to devote the time to program the tree lights.

Elness and Johnson also mentioned the staff of the Liberty University cabinet shop as indispensable to the production. They built the set.

"They have to build, haul and rebuild several times," said Johnson.

With the many hours of pressure and preparation that goes into the production, those involved do it for more than entertainment purposes.

"The only reason I do it is so people will be drawn to a saving knowledge of Jesus," Johnson said.

Elness and others involved feels the same.

"The real motivation is that people come and pull something different that will lodge in their hearts for good," she said.

Others in the program feel the same way.

"It's a great way to witness to people through drama and music," said Jim Kopco, who is participating in the program for the third time.

"This is my second year in the Christmas tree, and each time there is never a dull moment," said choir member Josh Ruiz. "It's a lot of fun, and in the end, it's all worth the work."

The cast of about 325 people will continue to present the program this weekend. Show times include 7 p.m. performances Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. matinee performances on Saturday and Sunday. The cast will present the final performance on Sunday at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$16 at the Thomas Road Bookstore.

With all the preparation involved in the program, one choir member sees her role in the performance as more of an act of devotion.

"It's my birthday gift to Jesus," said Doris Perry.

The Newsboys love liberty — but will Liberty love disco?

By Andrew Wooddell, reporter

Coming this spring to Liberty's campus is a Christian band that has just released a disco album. Rubbish, you say? Oh, no — it's the Newsboys!

Touring the country and playing gigs in their inflatable dome that seats 3,000 screaming fans, the Newsboys have never been a band that plays to the status quo.

"Love Liberty Disco" is their eighth album in 11 years, and one thin holds true on each album — their sound always changes, but the message remains the same.

It may not always be tactful, but they don't compromise on their faith to sell records.

"Love Liberty Disco" is no different. The songs on this album tackle such issues as self-image, spirituality, responsibility, the human need for love and God's love

for us.

The title track, which started out as a between-songs jam, focuses on the fact that love, freedom and family are three key points in the Christian faith.

"These are things we have in the body of Christ, and we need to be sharing them with our neighbor. We find that a lot of people are confused about faith, about the world, and about eternity," lead

vocalist Peter Furler said.

"Everyone's Someone," is a good song about everyone's individual identity.

The chorus line, which says, "when it all comes down, everyone's someone," focuses on the teenage struggle with self-image and self-importance.

The next song on the album, "Say You Need Love," builds on the foundation of

"Someone," by telling listeners where to go to get that love we need. The song has a classic '70s disco groove and an eternal message. "Say You Need Love" is a bright spot on a good album.

Some of the song ideas for "Love Liberty Disco" were drawn from the group's travels through very poor areas of Mexico last year. They said these experiences changed their lives and their outlook on the rest of the world.

"That really changes you big time. It keeps your perspective in check," said keyboardist Jeff Frankenstein.

"I Surrender All" is not a remake of the well-known hymn, but an entirely new song the group wrote as a prayer to God.

The ending line of the song is one of the most memorable on the album: "He doesn't love us because of who we are. He only loves us because of who



COURTESY OF SPARROW LABEL GROUP

DISCO FEVER — The Newsboys newest album, "Love Liberty Disco," is their eighth recording. The band will perform at LU on April 1, 2000.

He is."

The tune "Forever Man" speaks of the eternal soul each person has.

As Christians, we're all looking forward to reuniting with Christ in heaven. The chorus says the Creator's hands made us, and He is the one who has saved us.

We would be hard-pressed to find another album with a bla-

tant message such as this one.

The words are much more meaningful, because the group allowed the music to be a bit mellower, and that lets the words shine through.

I'm giving "Love Liberty Disco" a 9.3 out of 10.

Do yourself a favor and buy a good album this holiday season. Make this Christmas a

disco Christmas for you and yours.

Senior Andrew Wooddell has played music for 18 years. He has performed alongside such groups as Aaron Jeoffrey, Newsong, Truth, PCD, Third Day and Reality Check and currently plays guitar with Eternal Praise. His reviews appear regularly in the Life! section.

jessicamiller

Into the wild blue yonder ...

Well, here we are. The end of a semester. A year. A decade. A millennium.

The final issue of the Champion until the 21st century. And my final column as Life! editor.

Okay, okay. I promise not to make this some kind of doleful goodbye column — especially since I'm not actually graduating 'til May.

But because the close of my column-writing efforts has arrived more quickly than I'd imagined (next semester I'll become the assistant editor of the Champion, a position whose sole affliction is that it lacks

the weekly freedom of 20 blank column inches), I'd like to share a few of my final observations on life.

Perhaps we could title them, "all I ever needed to know I learned in the newspaper office."

Here they are (in no particular order):

- Space is money, time is money. My desk is made of money.

[Just wanted to see if you're paying attention.]

But if there's one thing I've learned in my work with the

Champion, it's the value of an inch of column space or an hour of purposeful work. Learn to use them wisely.

- A fully-functioning computer and a printer that prints can make your Monday (and Tuesday and Wednesday....)

- Chocolate doughnuts (especially the kind with the custard inside) make excellent bargaining tools with your co-workers when you're behind deadline.

(They also have the most vitamins of all breakfast confectionaries. This is why they're such a hot commodity.)

- Save your work — every minute or so if you value your sanity or at



Opinion

“Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are stiffened.”

-Rev. Billy Graham

The Liberty Champion

Liberty leaves its mark on the 20th Century

As we prepare to usher in the new millennium, many in Liberty's family are looking back, and seeing nothing but miracles.

It's almost impossible not to see the work of God here on Liberty Mountain. Just 28 years ago, there was nothing but trees and a dream. Now, we are progressing toward building an additional three floors to the Arthur S. DeMoss Learning Center.

However, the effect of Liberty's coming of age can be felt beyond the borders of Lynchburg. Countless pastors are ministering to congregations throughout the nation. Children from all over America are being instructed by teachers trained at Liberty. Scores of our graduates are missionaries leading people to Christ in remote locations around the globe.

The far-reaching impact of Liberty's graduates is evidence of the uniqueness of the school. Upon graduation, students have the training to bring the gospel into their field of choice, whether it be the ministry, politics or journalism. It is through those "Champions for Christ" that Liberty has been able to leave its mark on the 20th Century.

Christmas comes early for Liberty students

Liberty University has jumped the gun on the Christmas season, as the past few weeks bear witness to an administration burst of holiday cheer.

Whether it's new mattresses and furniture for the dorm rooms or badly-needed asphalt for the P1 parking lot, Liberty gave students something to be thankful for and hope for future improvements.

Also, in the spirit of Christmas, let us not forget the gift of "Liberty.net."

So, on behalf of the students of Liberty, we say thank you to every furniture-mover, pothole-filler, and technology person who had a part in blessing the students. Your "presents" are greatly appreciated.

Quotes of the week:

"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations."

-Psalm 100:4,5

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."

-William Arthur Ward

"Never mistake knowledge for wisdom. One helps you make a living; the other helps you make a life."

-Sandra Carey

More than clothes? Boycott A&F

Liberty students looking for the latest apparel from Abercrombie and Fitch this Christmas should expect a lump of coal — especially when Mom and Dad find out about the "other content" in the Christmas "magalog."

According to a report in Thursday's USA Today, the \$6 book has a cartoon of Santa and Mrs. Claus engaging in sado-masochism, several nude male and female models, sprinklings of the f-word and sex tips from a "rockin' sockin' porn star."

The magazine, titled Naughty or Nice, is shrink-wrapped — a la other "adult" magazines — and carries the message: "Editor's note: Due to mature content, parental consent suggested for readers under 18." Store officials have said the item is unavailable to people under 18, due in part to outrage from the Michigan Attorney General over the recent edition.

Attorney General Jennifer Granholm called the catalog "a Playboy for kids."

The state of Michigan notified the retailer that sales of the magazine to those under 18 is illegal in the state. After receiving complaints from parents, Granholm's office sent youngsters between 10 and 14 years old to the store and were able to purchase the quarterly without question. Parents are also questioning the content because of the immense popularity of the clothes among high school and middle

school youth. The USA Today story said kids around the country are clamoring for a peek at the banned item.

But, public outrage — especially among Abercrombie's target audience of college students — should extend beyond turning their heads at this particular item.



chrisedwards

Liberty students should stop buying and wearing their Abercrombie — even if it means hanging up their favorite wear and slinking to the ranks of the "not-quite-so-cool."

The reason? A&F spokesperson Hampton Carney told the Chicago Sun-Times that his company makes no apologies for its marketing technique and has aimed at its target all along — the 18-to-22-year-old college student.

"The A&F quarterly, since the fall of 1997, has been the cornerstone of communication to our customer ... The whole time we've made no mistake — this is adult stuff. We are trying to keep it as cool, editorial, edgy and sexy as possible," Carney said.

For those with standards, nude models in a clothing magazine do nothing for shoppers looking to buy the latest overpriced A&F sweater for their little sisters.

More troubling is the apparent lifestyle Abercrombie has attempted to propagate through their marketing efforts. A slick Web site features the same pictures with

too much skin for a place supposedly selling clothes.

Besides an online shopping area, the site features a "lifestyles" section, where loyal patrons concerned about their image can download the approved calendar, load up a screen saver and send "e-postcard" of scantily-clad college-aged students frolicking in suggestive positions. You can also download MP3s of acceptable Abercrombie music and check out various snowboarding Web sites of extreme importance.

The only place you can really find the Abercrombie name on a piece of clothing is a shot of random males in their underwear. The name is stitched on the elastic band.

The last fashion faction to highlight its name on underwear was Calvin Klein. His billboards of young boys in their "CK's" were removed from New York City's Times Square after a public outrage over his entire advertising campaign featuring youth models. Many called the ads a form of child pornography.

Interestingly, the same photographer — Bruce Weber, whose style is Greek godlike images, which means buff men prancing around sans clothing — now shoots for all of the A&F catalogs.

Quality clothes are one thing. Supporting pornography and smut — by blazoning the Abercrombie logo across your chest and on your hats — is another. To those who know of A&F's marketing techniques, your clothes support its efforts and endorse its lifestyle — even if it's subtle and unintentional.

SGA: a semester of progress

When the students of Liberty elected Chris Stewart as president of the Student Government Association last year, even they didn't know what to expect. The truth is, we have elected many presidents and senators in the past, with little change as to the membership the organization would attract. SGA was consistently a group where politically-minded students ushered in bill after bill without giving them a second thought.

However, this year has been different. Due to a massive campaign launched by Stewart and his staff, scores of students, who in the past would have never joined SGA, joined. In addition, the bills these students authored were mostly about topics their peers genuinely cared about.

Also, much different from the past, when the pieces of legislation were brought up, debated and voted on, SGA kept everyone informed as to the progress of the bills as they ascended the necessary levels of administration in search of final approval.

So, as we look back on a semester's worth of SGA activity, it is interesting to see the impact of the organization thus far.

*Casual Dress Act: This bill was authored with the intent of allowing students to be in casual dress while conducting business in the Student Service Center. Unlike past years, where such a bill would be passed with instant unanimous consent, this bill was debated on prior to its approval. Even though it was ultimately vetoed by Dean Greg Dowell, it at least shows the willingness of SGA to think before sending bills to the administration.

*Senior Dorm Curfew Extension Act: One of the differences between living in the

senior dorms and other halls is the regularity with which hall meetings take place. Sometimes they are held on nights other than Thursday,

and sometimes they may not be held at all. Because of this, the Curfew Extension Act seeks to allow residents of the senior dorms to have their curfew changed from the current 10 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

This act is currently being considered by the administration.

*After Hours Study Hall Act: As most students know, group projects are a big part of college life. Because the library closes at 11:30 p.m., and many projects require groups to meet well into the night, many students find it difficult to meet after hours. This bill was written to allow Science Hall 135 to be reserved by students who need to work together past curfew. This bill is also awaiting a decision by administration officials.

*Film Art Appreciation Act: It seems that every year we hear about a bill in SGA that targets the current university policy towards movies with an R rating, and every year it fails. Last year, a similar bill was passed by the Senate, vetoed by then-President Alfred Thompson, and then finally defeated — by just one vote — in a veto override attempted by the Senate. But while it was much less dramatic, this year's stab at the movie policy also ended in failure, with the Senate voting 77 nays, 24 yays and 11

abstaining. In a 40 minute debate session, Senators took turns examining not only the proposal itself, but also the impact

passing such a bill would have. The two sides can be easily summed up: those crying for more freedom, and those seeking the protection of Liberty's distinctives.

These bills are just a sample of what has been produced by this year's SGA. The impact of the organization, however, can be felt in spectrums other than legislation.

The work SGA did in conjunction with the administration is partly responsible for the creation of new Internet connections available for students from their dorm rooms. This is a clear example of SGA taking real student concerns to the administration and working to find a solution.

Even though SGA has its faults, it has improved in virtually every area in a very short amount of time. Chris Stewart, his administration, and the senate are to be congratulated. Their work on behalf of the students of Liberty University has come closer to "power, prestige, and professionalism" than any other SGA in recent memory.

Bill Murray is currently a sophomore majoring in Government with a pre-law concentration. Previously, he has worked as a production assistant on several nationally-syndicated television programs. After writing commentary pieces in the past, he will now be assuming the role of opinion editor for the Champion.



billmurray

The Liberty Champion

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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.

Letters and columns that appear are the opinion of the author solely, not the Champion editorial board or Liberty University.

All material submitted becomes the property of the Champion. The Champion reserves the right to accept, reject or edit any letter received — according to the Champion stylebook, taste and the Liberty University mission statement.

Send letters to: Liberty Champion, Liberty University, Box 20000, Lynchburg, VA 24506 or drop off in DeMoss Hall 110.

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SPEAKUP!



"I'm going to take a long walk off a short bridge. Lord willing, to make sense of it all!"

-Eric Neff, Jr.
Virginia Beach, Va.



"Go to New York."

-Alisha Mananhar,
Jr., Nepal



"In my basement with three generators, 17 bottles of water and lots of canned food."

-Bethanie Gross, So.
Philadelphia, Pa.



"I have no idea yet, I'm still planning."

-Jenny Lee, Sr.
Cincinnati, Ohio



"I will arrive in Cambodia on December 31 and get over jet lag."

-Daniel Henrich, Prof.
Lynchburg, Va.

Photos by Jessica Peterson

sportsupdate

Compiled from the Associated Press

FSU, Virginia Tech ranked 1-2 in final BCS standings

Florida State and Virginia Tech finished 1-2 in the final BCS standings and will go to the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 4 to play for the National Championship. The Seminoles and Hokies beat out Nebraska, which meets Tennessee in the Fiesta Bowl. Michigan plays Alabama in the Orange Bowl; the Rose Bowl features Wisconsin and Stanford.

Legal woes jeopardize Smith's contract

Leon Smith's recent legal troubles in Chicago could nullify his \$1.45 million contract with the Dallas Mavericks, an NBA official said.

Smith, 19, was charged Saturday with two counts of criminal damage for allegedly ruining a car belonging to his former girlfriend's mother and smashing out all the windows. Officials say the event happened Friday after Smith was released from jail for threatening his former girlfriend with a gun.

The rookie forward's contract, "may well be avoidable at this point," NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik said in Sunday's edition of The Dallas Morning News.

Former Globetrotter Gates dies at 82 after illness

William "Pop" Gates, a former player-coach with the Harlem Globetrotters, who was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame for his play in the pre-NBA days, died Thursday of heart failure. He was 82.

Gates suffered from arthritis in recent years. He fell in his Harlem apartment and died as he was preparing to go to the hospital for treatment, according to his wife, Cleo Pennington Gates.

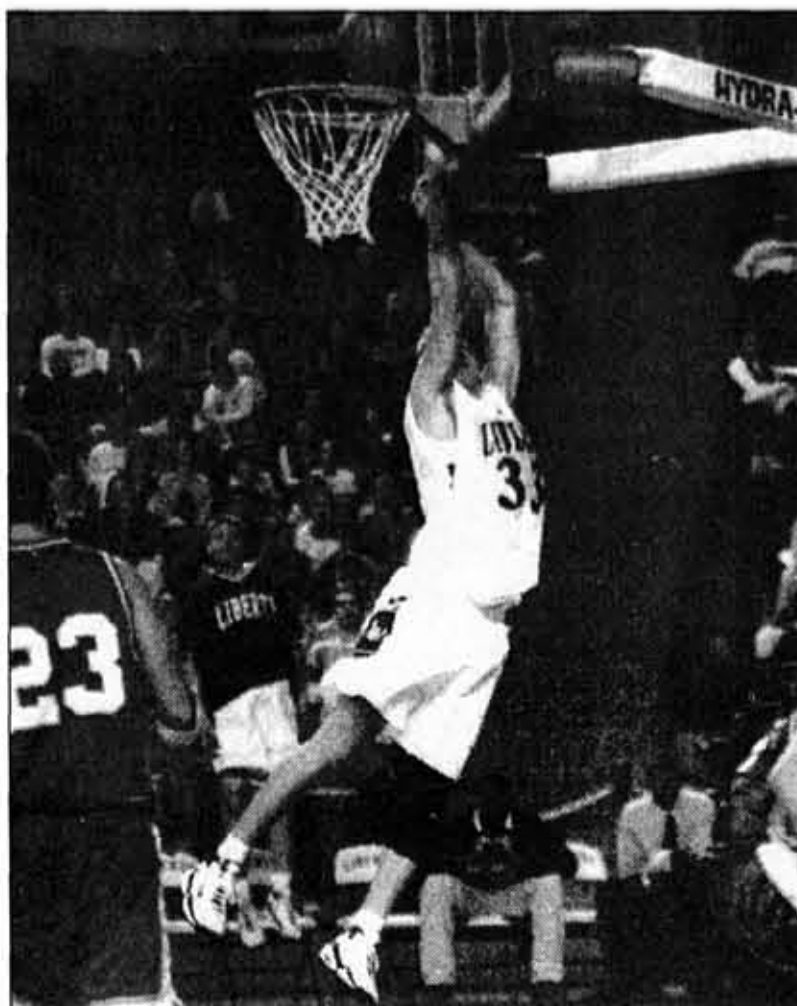
Gates became one of the first black athletes to sign a professional contract after leading Benjamin Franklin High School to the New York City championship in 1938.

NBA takes \$20,000 bite out of Barkley

A \$20,000 fine isn't going to shut Charles Barkley up.

Barkley, fined by the NBA on Thursday for criticizing an official a night earlier, said before the Houston Rockets' 109-96 win over Los Angeles Clippers that he will continue to "defend himself."

It is not the first time he has been fined for ripping an official. Barkley already had been fined \$5,200 and was suspended without pay for one game this season after getting into a fight with Shaquille O'Neal.



REACHING FOR THE STARS — Forward Nathan Day makes a layup in one of the Flames' home games this week. Liberty won two of its three games.

Intramurals: "Boys" play in championship

Continued from page 12

when you win at Liberty, but up against Ohio State there's no reason but God to beat such teams," said Ed Barnhouse.

"It's great for LU to be represented so positively in such a

secular setting. The Boys talk to the players after the games, and after the last win both teams prayed together. It was an awesome testimony, especially as the news cameras were taping the event," Stewart said.

The Belcher's Boys will represent Liberty in the Target Flag Football National Championship presented by Mentadent

and Nestle Crunch in New Orleans Dec. 26-30 with 200 other teams from across the nation.

The championship game will be played in the New Orleans Super Dome, home of the New Orleans Saints and the 2000

Nokla Sugar Bowl.

"Once you click as a team it's just remembering your job, not a real matter of practicing, but we will start practices next week," said Curtis Zackery.

Since they won the Maryland tournament, the travel expenses are being covered by the tournament and LU Student Life.

"Everyone is very excited, we feel like we are all involved," Stewart said.

"It's great for LU to be represented so positively in such a secular setting."

—Mike Stewart,
Dean of Student Life

M'Basketball: Flames win two, lose one

Continued from page 12

Kenneth Anaebonam also played well, posting a double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds.

"The crowd really helped us out ... I want to thank them," Williams said following the game. "When you play close games like that it makes you closer and helps you come together as a team. It'll just make us better down the road."

Caldwell echoed Williams sentiments, saying that, "the crowd," was what really inspired the team at the end of the game.

The men ended their five-game home stand by playing Albany at the Furnace on Saturday night. For the first time this season, the Flames played extremely sloppy basketball, and it cost them in the end.

Unable to stop the Great Danes three-point shooting,

and shooting a weak 31 percent spelled defeat for the men for the first time this season. The men fell behind by 13 points at halftime, and were never able to recover.

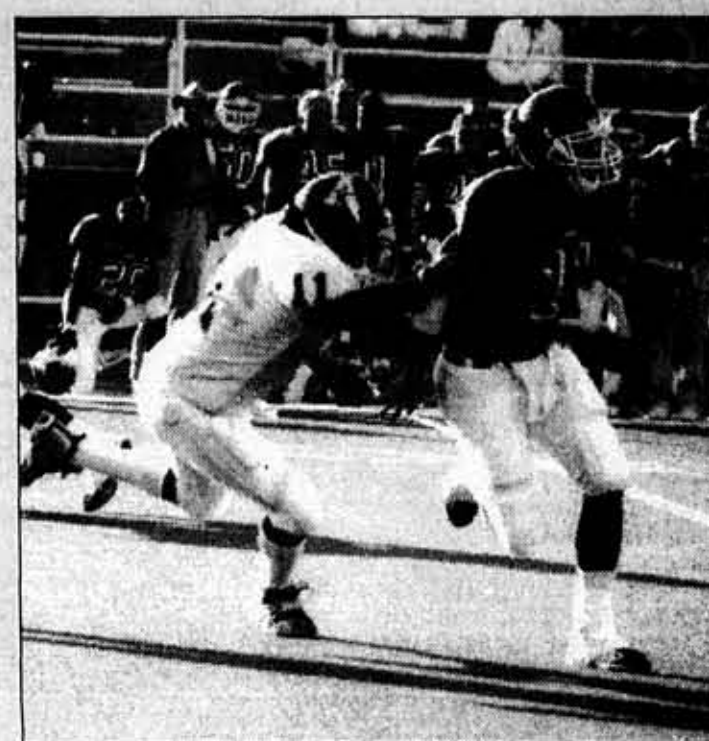
Though Liberty put on a few runs, they weren't able to pull any closer than 11 points in the second half.

Though the men struggled on Saturday night, they will have excellent opportunities to rebound with upcoming games against both Richmond and Virginia Tech.

The games will be real tests for the Flames, as they play their first road games of the season against two formidable opponents.

Carl Williams has begun the season on a tear. He is averaging 20.2 points per game, and ranks second in the NCAA in steals with 5.2 per contest.

LU makes final effort



GOT YA! — Quarterback Biff Parson escapes a tackle in Liberty's final game against Appalachian State Nov. 20.

Horseback Riding at Master's Inn Cross Creek Ranch

Regular Trailride

45 min. to 1 hour
Trailride at a walk through woods and across beautiful open fields

Advanced Trailride

1 1/2 to 2 hours
Adventurous trailride at a walk through woods and across creeks

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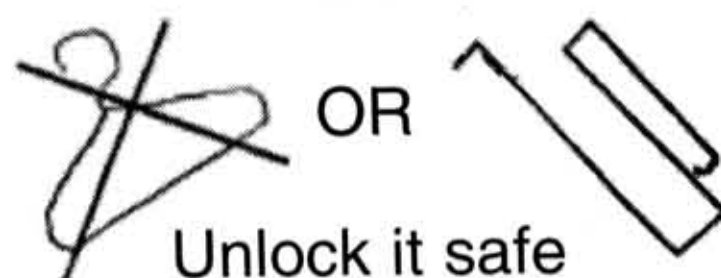
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LU dusts UVa., 6-4

By Brooke Hermann, assist. sports ed.

LU overcame an early two-goal deficit to defeat UVa., 6-4, in club hockey Saturday night in Charlottesville.

The Flames (7-1-1) were scheduled to play Friday night as well but Radford "just decided not to play," said defenseman Chris Lowes.

Saturday, the Flames struggled offensively in the first period as UVa. slapped them a 2-0 deficit until junior center Jeff Lowes scored with a minute left in the first period.

"Coming out of intermission we just wanted it more," said Chris Lowes.

The Flames were led the rest of the night by senior right-wing Kirk Handy, who racked up four of the five goals the Flames scored in the rest of the game.

"It was not an easy game ... it was really rough," Chris Lowes said. "There was a lot of fighting."

The Charlottesville Ice Park hosted more than just fighting as Liberty was determined to beat the Cavaliers.

The rest of Saturday night's game was back and forth but freshman goalie J.T. Turner successfully kept the Flames' goal safe.

"J.T. kept us in the game ... he was just awesome," Chris



MATT HUENNO

TAKIN' IT DOWN THE ICE — Left-wing Roger Turner heads for the goal in Saturday night's game against UVa. The Flames won 6-4.

Lowes said.

Junior left wing John Schubert scored empty net to seal the win with 30 seconds left on the clock.

Schubert played a strong game all night.

"We played with real team unity and that was a key factor in winning," Chris Lowes said.

With the Atlantic Coast Collegiate Hockey League tournament still almost three months away, the Flames are optimistic about their chances to

be successful in this year's competition.

"We are looking really good this season," Chris Lowes said.

The Flames have rescheduled the Radford game for Saturday night at 11 p.m. in Roanoke.

The Flames will return to action after Christmas break on Jan. 15 at the Roanoke Civic Center against the University of North Carolina at 11 p.m.

Volleyball: Akpama tourney MVP

Continued from page 12

Akpama was a unanimous choice for the Tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Akpama and her teammate Kyrle Dorn were also named to the All-Tournament Team.

The loss to Florida ended the

collegiate careers of three incredible LU seniors in Akpama, Dorn, and Sherwood.

Known as the "Triple Threat," Akpama, Dorn and Sherwood have helped the Lady Flames post a 93-41 overall record in their four years, with a 39-11 record in the Big

South Conference.

The senior class has led the program to four 20-win seasons, two Big South championship victories and has distinguished themselves as the best four-year class in the history of the Liberty University volleyball program.

Softball announces early signings

By Douglas Stewart, reporter

Lady Flames softball continued to build on an already solid foundation recently as Head Coach Paul Wetmore announced that Lauren Hahn, Lindsay Schwind, and Alison Thompson recently signed a national letter of intent for the 2000-2001 academic year.

With the recent signings of Hahn, Schwind, and Thompson, the future appears bright for LU. Hahn is a 5-foot-9-inch outfielder from Tomball High School in Magnolia, Texas and according to Wetmore is expected to bring skill to both the field and the plate.

"Lauren will be a fine addition to our outfield, bringing not only a very strong arm but also a quality bat to the plate," said Wetmore.

As a junior, Hahn tallied eight doubles and four triples, while

driving in 21 runs and leading the Cougars with six home runs.

Hahn chose to attend Liberty over Louisiana Tech and Stephen F. Austin.

Schwind is a 5-foot-9-inch utility player from Wilmington Christian High School in Wilmington, Del.

According to Coach Wetmore, Schwind's diversity as an overall player is one of her best features on the field.

"Lindsay can play anywhere on the field. Her offensive power will add another dimension to our program," said Wetmore.

A four-year starter at various positions, Schwind was Wilmington Christian's offensive player of the year as a freshman and an honorable-mention all-state selection as a sophomore.

Schwind was also recruited by Drexel, Mount St. Mary's and Rider.

Thompson is a 5-foot-6-inch

right-handed pitcher from Elverado High School in Vergennes, Ill., and a three-time all-conference and all-South team selection. The right-hander compiled a 22-4-1 record last season with a 0.91 ERA, while leading Elverado to a regional championship.

The addition of the talented Thompson should make a definite impact on the LU squad immediately.

"We expect Allison to step right in and be a contributor to our strong pitching staff," explained Wetmore.

"She brings a strong work ethic and a commitment to excellence."

LU finished last season with a 33-23 record and finished in 2nd place in the competitive Big South Conference.

The Lady Flames begin their spring season with a Feb. 12 date against North Carolina.

Liberty's first taste of success



ARCHIVES

HAD A SWINGIN' TIME AT THE BIG DANCE — The 1994 men's basketball team made the first Liberty appearance in the NCAA tournament. For more on Liberty's history see the tabloid insert.

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Ladies: Flames snag important win

Continued from page 12

LU (2-3) then headed to Richmond for the 1999 Wachovia Women's Invitational Tournament. The Lady Flames faced off against Richmond University for the first round of the tournament. Liberty used a quick start to propel themselves into a 7-0 lead over the Spiders.

The first half concluded with Liberty ahead of RU by a 50-34 count. Sharon Wilkerson had the hot hand in the first 20 minute frame and finished the half with 18 points.

Liberty started the second half where they concluded the first as LU escalated its lead to 28 with 14:31 left in the game with a jumper by Kisseleva. The Lady Flames never looked back and eventually went on to web the Lady Spiders with a decisive 93-75 victory.

The entire starting five finished the game with double-figures in the scoring department. Wilkerson led all scorers with 30 points (career high), Kisseleva finished with 17. Sarah Farley had 13 points, Zandrique Cason added 12, and Michelle Fricke notched 11.

Liberty then moved on to the championship game to face a stiff test in the No. 11-ranked Notre Dame Fighting Irish. The Fighting Irish (4-1) defeated No. 12 University of North Carolina to secure its spot in the final game.

The Lady Flames challenged the Fighting Irish throughout the first half. The Flames played close with the Irish and ended the first half trailing 39-36. Cason and Farley chipped in 11 points a piece in the first half.

Notre Dame opened the second half with a 13-6 spurt to take their lead to 52-42. In that stretch, all-American, 6-foot-5

Inch, center Ruth Riley dominated inside, scoring eight points courtesy of two layups and four free throws.

Riley continued to have her way on the inside against the inexperienced Lady Flames post players.

The Lady Flames never made a run at the lead again but kept things within 12 points throughout. The Lady Flames closed the gap to 68-59 with 5:01 remaining in the game, but the Irish went on a 12-5 run to balloon its lead to 80-64, spearheaded by Riley's six points.

Liberty ended up falling to Notre Dame by the final score of 85-68.

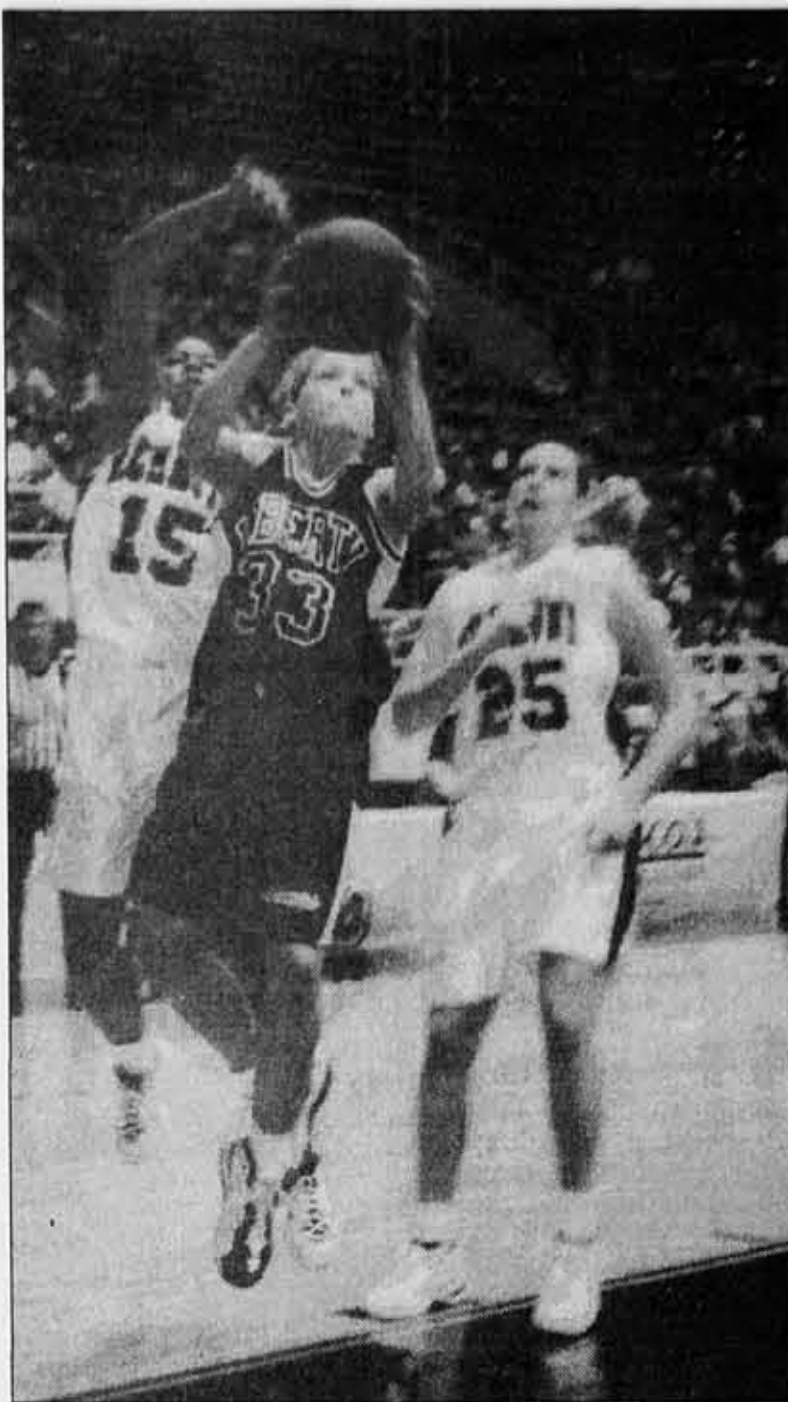
The game was much closer than the score indicated as the Flames kept LU close for the majority of the game. According to Green, the major difference was the amazing play of Notre Dame's Riley, who finished the game with 32 points.

Although the end result did not quite go as planned, senior Sarah Farley believed the team was fortunate for the opportunity to compete against a top team like Notre Dame.

"We're going to take so many positive things out of this tournament. To play North Carolina or Notre Dame was a great thing for us. As for a confidence level, we can play with anyone if we just go with the stuff that we do well," said Farley.

The Lady Flames also were able to make definite impacts on the tournament officials as Sarah Farley and Sharon Wilkerson were recognized for their outstanding play and were named to the All-Tournament Team.

LU will now return for three consecutive home games against Boise State, East Tennessee State and Kentucky. According



SHOOT TWO — Sharon Wilkerson goes up for two points against Richmond in Saturday's game in the Wachovia Women's Invitational.

to Green, these games will be a tall order for his squad and he and his team will need fan support to help their cause.

"The next few games will be a strong test and it is important for the Furnace to heat up and make some noise for us," said Green.

LU signs recruits

By Tarant Judge, reporter

The Liberty men's basketball team announced the signing of Street and Smith preseason All-American J.R. Nicholas.

Nicholas, a 6-foot-4 inch, 210-pound, point guard/shooting guard from Ridgeview Christian High School in Stuart Draft, Va., has officially signed a national letter of intent for the 2000-2001 academic year to attend LU.

"Nicholas is a great scorer, rebounder, defender and was one of the top 50 players in the country as a junior last year," said Head Coach Mel Hankinson.

Nicholas averaged 30 points and six rebounds a game as a junior at The Covenant School in Charlottesville.

He was a Virginia Independent Conference selection in 1999, a Street and Smith preseason All-American and a top 25 Adidas selection by Bob Gibbons All-Star Sports in 1998. He was invited to participate in the Nike and Adidas Select Camp in 1998 and 1999, assuring him top 100 status nationally.

The Lady Flames have been doing some sound recruiting of their own. Coach Carey Green has announced the signings of Crystal Peace and Monique Leonard for the 2000-2001 season. Peace is a 6-foot, multi-positional player from Berkeley High School in Moncks Comer, S.C.

A three year starter in high school, Peace averaged 18 points, 10 rebounds, two steals, two assists and three blocks per game as a junior.

Leonard is a 5-foot-9-inch combination guard/forward from Santaluces Community High School in Dantana, Fla. She averaged 23 points, 13.6 rebounds and 6.6 assists per game last season.

Throughout her career, Leonard was a three-time all-conference, all-area, and her team's most valuable player. Leonard was also a first-team all-Sun Sentinel team honoree.

Liberty plans to let their 2000-2001 recruiting class help it improve and fill the holes that are needed to bring home the Big South title.

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Accounting (PT) Jerry Falwell Ministries seeks to hire a student intern for its accounting department. The individual should be an accounting major who has completed and performed well in twelve semester hours of accounting courses. Primary responsibilities include managing accounts payable using Peachtree Accounting Software, and communicating with vendors. Please send resumé and cover letter to: Jerry Falwell Ministries, Attn: Ashley Brooks, 3805 Wards Rd., Lynchburg, VA 24502

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Champion Sports

DECEMBER 7, 1999 • PAGE 12



brookeherrmann

Pressing On

The saltiness of the Atlantic Ocean splashed in my face as I mounted my Yamaha 750 waverunner and made my escape into the waves over Thanksgiving break.

Now as I sit here in the Champion office staring at the computer screen, I think of the escape I am going to make from this position next semester.

This semester I tried (as all the editors in this office do), to be "super student" by obtaining an editor's position at this paper, hold a respectable GPA, keep up with my friends, and pull off an incredible movie for my COMS video production class.

Next to impossible was the duty I tried to uphold.

The Champion normally has a sports editor and an assistant sports editor. This year the sports editor did not return and I was hired to fill a gap that I was unable to fill. My grades hit an all time low, my friendships suffered and something had to give.

I gave.

So in a meeting with my editor in chief this week we both agreed that I would not try the impossible of taking on the sports editor job, that will be filled by a much bigger man than I. I salute him. Remaining on staff here at the Champion as assistant sports editor will allow me to help this new lost soul, and still enjoy the work of putting together a respected university paper.

To all of you who have never held an editor's position, let me tell you what an amazing job it is.

The power of being able to write your opinion every week in a column, the honor of press box seating and the ability to learn how to edit a sports section of a newspaper is a great experience.

Baseball season is what I know and love best, so all of you "Brooke Herrmann Assistant Sports Editor" fans I will continue to take up space in the sports pages of the Liberty Champion, you just will not be seeing my face on the front page of Sports.

Instead there will be a young man with much more knowledge and time that he can offer to his readers.

Just as great athletes finish their careers and the few and the proud are elected into the Hall of Fame, there are others who are good and forgotten. One set is remembered and the other set is a part of the history that makes up sports.

Sure one group is better than the other group but the other group is still important to their game. Contrary to common belief, they did play an important role although they were not the super star, or in my case the "super student."

Another semester as assistant will give me the experience I need, still let me have my "love of the game," and still learn all there is to learn in this field. I encourage you to press on, reach for the stars and always trust that God will help you do the impossible as he helped me this semester.

Belcher's Boys represent LU

By Brooke Herrmann, assist. sports editor

The Belcher's Boys, the LU flag football champions, took first place in the University of Maryland regional Target Flag Football Tournament presented by Mentadent and Nestle Crunch on Sunday Nov. 21.

Liberty's eyes turned from the Flames regular football season to the successful intramural football season.

"Intramural sports are huge outside of your regular college play," said Mike Stewart, dean of Student Life.

The Belcher's Boys won their pool play on Saturday, advancing to the

finals by beating Rowan University 61-6, Lynchburg College 64-6, University of Massachusetts 47-0, and South Florida 46-41. The championship game featured Liberty and a team from the University of West Virginia. The Belcher's Boys led West Virginia at halftime, 27-26, and held them scoreless in the second half to win the game 40-26.

The Belcher's Boys consist of 12 young men who have had no experience playing organized football. The team members are Brandon Schaffer, Seth Hitchcock, Jim Watkins, Kirk Dodson, Jon McLaughlin, Scott

Lewald, Curtis Zackery, Craig Richardson, Drew Cook, Ed Barnhouse, Israel Emory and team captain Jeremy Emory.

"I guess we're impressive, but flag football and regular football are totally different and they demand totally different skills," said sophomore Jim Watkins, sophomore teammate.

The success of Liberty's intramural sports is not as bizarre as one may think. Three years ago this same team took fifth. Last year, it placed third.

The Belcher's Boys name came from an LU grad who started the team

years ago, Eric Belcher.

The Boys are a part of the largest flag football association in America. The NIRSA (National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association) includes teams such as James Madison, George Mason, University of Delaware, University of Connecticut, Virginia Tech, Villanova, and Ohio State.

"No one ever thought we would go this far. Fifty-four teams from everywhere are in it to win and you know you're good

Please see INTRAMURALS, page 9

Men take two of three

By Tim Holland, reporter

The men's basketball team finished last week with a 4-1 overall record. The Flames opened the week strong posting wins over both James Madison and Towson, but suffered its first defeat of the season at the hands of the Albany Great Danes.

Tuesday evening, the men played host to James Madison and hoped to defeat them for the second time in school history. The men began the game flat, but were able to get into the flow of the game before the end of the first half. Behind solid team defense and some consistent shooting, the men were able to take a three-point lead into the locker room.

The second half began much like the first half ended with the men executing very well, extending their lead on the Dukes. The Danes made one final attempt to steal the game from the Flames, but clutch free throw shooting down the stretch clinched the win for the men. The Flames were led by Carl Williams and Chris Caldwell who scored 24 and 16 points respectively.

"It was just another step to where we want to go," said Williams. "We're always trying to get better, but we know we made a lot of mistakes."

The men welcomed Towson to the Vines Center on Thursday night, and hoped to duplicate their entire win total from last year in only four games this year.

The game was a seesaw bat-



JOHN FISHER

AIR WILLIAMS — Senior point guard, Carl Williams successfully completes a layup in last Monday night's game against JMU.

tle from start to finish with neither team able to establish a commanding lead throughout the game. With the outcome in the balance, Brian Barber missed two free throws for the Tigers, and sent the game into overtime.

The Flames dominated the

extra period, outscoring Towson 10-2, and assuring themselves of their first 4-0 start since 1991. The Flames were once again led by Williams and Caldwell who combined for 42 points.

Please see M'BASKETBALL, page 9

Women's Basketball comes back strong

By Douglas Stewart, reporter

On paper it would appear that the Liberty University women's basketball team had a bad week.

However, with close losses at the hands of Campbell and Notre Dame and a steam-rolling victory over Richmond, all signs indicate that LU is very close to getting back onto the right track.

The Lady Flames opened up the week against the Campbell University Fighting Camels, a solid team that upset Liberty last season.

LU was unable to find any kind of redemption as the Fighting Camels used aggressive rebounding and timely shooting to overcome the Flames for consecutive seasons by a score of 64-59.

Campbell jumped on top early, held a firm grip on the lead and took a 33-25 advantage after 20 minutes of play.

After LU scored the first four points of the second half, the Fighting Camels rolled off an 11-4 run to extend their lead to 44-31 within the initial five minutes of the second half.

The stubborn CU squad made it difficult for Liberty to stage a comeback.

However, LU made several attempts to get within striking distance of the rock solid Campbell lead.

The CU lead was cut to six with 5:47 remaining in the game and it looked as if the tides were about to turn.

But Campbell's Sara Moore hit back to back three pointers to elevate her team's lead to 12 and knock the wind out of the Lady Flames' sails.

"Those two shots were daggers right there. We worked hard to get back into the game and just like that we were behind by 12 again," said LU Head Coach Carey Green.

LU could not overcome Moore's threes and the Fighting Camels went on to secure their win.

The Lady Flames were led by sensational freshman Michelle Fricke, who finished with 23 points and 10 rebounds in her first collegiate game, Elena Kisseleva finished with 16 points.

The Camels leading scorer was April Cromartie who scored 24 points and picked up 10 rebounds.

Please see LADIES, page 11

Volleyball spikes Big South Tournament

By Douglas Stewart, reporter

The Liberty University Lady Flames volleyball team hoped to re-enact the story of David and Goliath as it entered the NCAA Division I Volleyball Tournament against the Southeastern Conference Champions and No. 4 ranked Florida Gators (30-2, 14-0).

No miracles took place as the Lady Flames (22-9, 12-2 Big South) dropped three straight sets, 15-4, 15-1, 15-2, and fell to the aggressive Gators in front of 1,296 fans at the Stephen C. O'Connell Center in Gainesville, Fla. last Thursday.

Liberty's defense got off to a good start as they contained Florida in the early part of game one and took a 4-3 at one point in the match.

However, the Gators awoke and ripped into the Lady Flames by scoring 12 unanswered points to take the initial win and steal the early momen-

tum from LU.

Florida Head Coach Mary Wise felt that her team's ability to combat Liberty's defense in the first game was key in the three-game victory.

"There was a point in game one when Liberty was digging so well. They had 19 digs. We felt that Liberty gave us their best knockout punch at 4-4," explained Wise.

According to LU Head Coach Chris Phillips, passing may have been the determining factor behind her team's loss.

"We played very well in the first game, unfortunately our passing broke down early and we didn't retain

it very well. If we could have passed better we could have stayed in the game," Phillips said.

Senior Athena Sherwood agreed

with her coach. "Our passing went bad and their size got the best of us. They are a very quick team," said Sherwood.

Liberty's 5-foot-11-inch star killer Anthonia Akpama, who finished the match with 8 kills, felt that her own errors were the problem, not the size of the Florida players.

"Florida had some good players. Their size didn't really effect my hitting, it was just my own fault," she said.

"We felt that Liberty gave us their best knockout punch at 4-4."

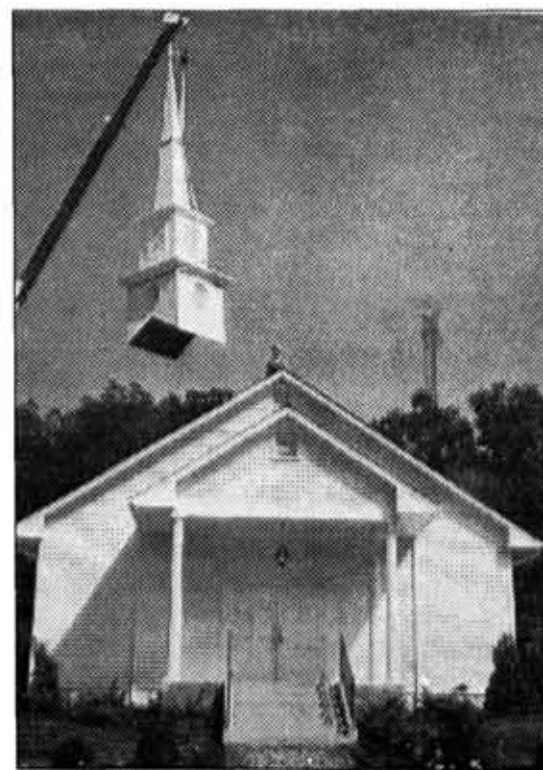
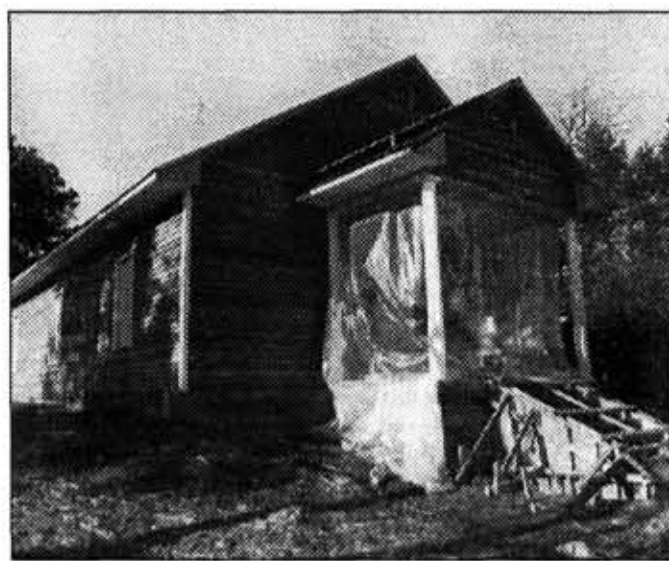
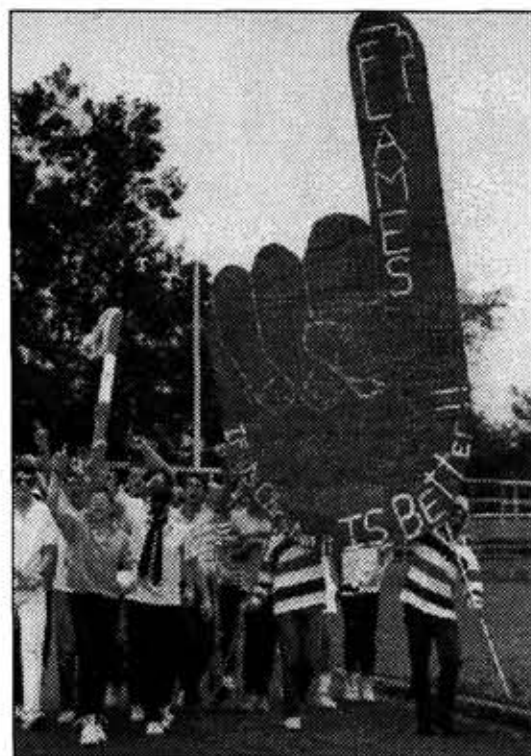
- Mary Wise

University of Florida head coach

Please see VOLLEYBALL, page 10

as ^{The Liberty} Champion DECEMBER 7, 1999 SPECIAL INSERT *Time* goes by...

A look at the past, present and future of Liberty University



The Liberty Champion

Sorting through the pieces of LU's history

As the world prepares for the unknown of the year 2000 and the dawn—albeit in 2001—of a new millennium, organizations around the country have taken time to remember the past, highlight the present and recast the vision for the future.

The nation, as a collective group, has celebrated the last 100 years through the media. Television specials and newspaper inserts celebrated the good, bad and ugly moments of our history.

Liberty University originated in 1971, a mere 28 years ago. For most organizations, that's a short time. But, here at LU, rapid expansion and the hand of God have guided a dream of Chancellor Dr. Jerry Falwell into the world's largest evangelical Christian university.

There have been so many special moments in Liberty's history that an eight-page insert will not do justice to the evolution of this educational institution. But, with the assistance of Professor Deborah Huff's advanced news writing class, the Champion hopes to take a look at some of the special bits of Liberty's past, present and future—from the early years on Treasure Island to SACS accreditation, the introduction of online registration and beyond.

For a comprehensive look at the first 25 years of the University, check out a copy of the anniversary book, developed by librarian Diane Sullivan and others. The pictures in this insert were gathered from her work on the book.

Consider this just a taste of what the Lord has done.

Snapping shots



“ My dormitory left much to be desired too. It was an old downtown hotel. I was on the fourth floor. No TV. No phone. No air-conditioning. And our beds were those metal jobs they'd purchased from an insane asylum.

—Mark Lowry, LBC graduate, 1980”

The Liberty Champion

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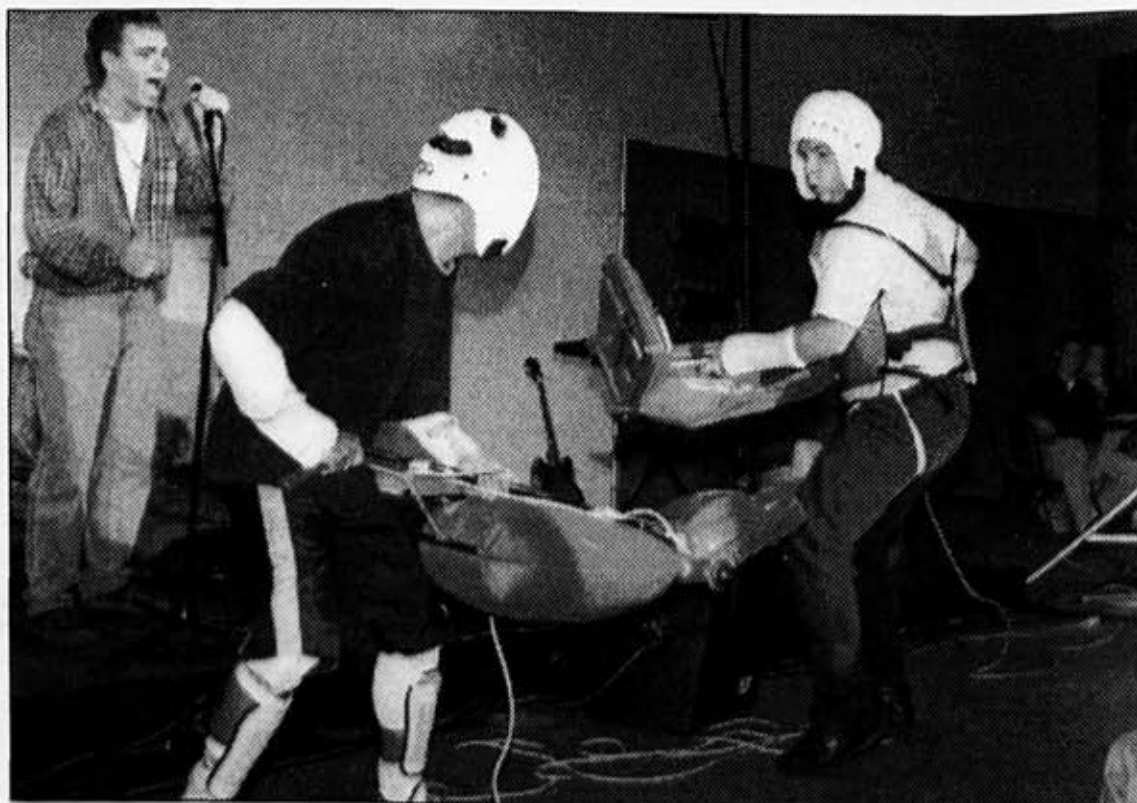
On the Cover

(Top) Early students show their school spirit on the way to a football game. (Center) The first graduating class in 1973. (Center Right) One stage of construction on the B.R. Lakin Prayer Chapel. (Bottom Left) The Liberty family rallies on the steps of the Capitol. (Bottom Center) Former Lt. Col. Oliver North spoke at Commencement in 1988. (Bottom Right) The steeple is lowered on to the finished Prayer Chapel.

Member of Associated Collegiate Press since 1989; All-American 1991-92; First Class 1992-93, 95

Best All-Around, Association of Christian Collegiate Media 1997-1998

AP



of life at Liberty



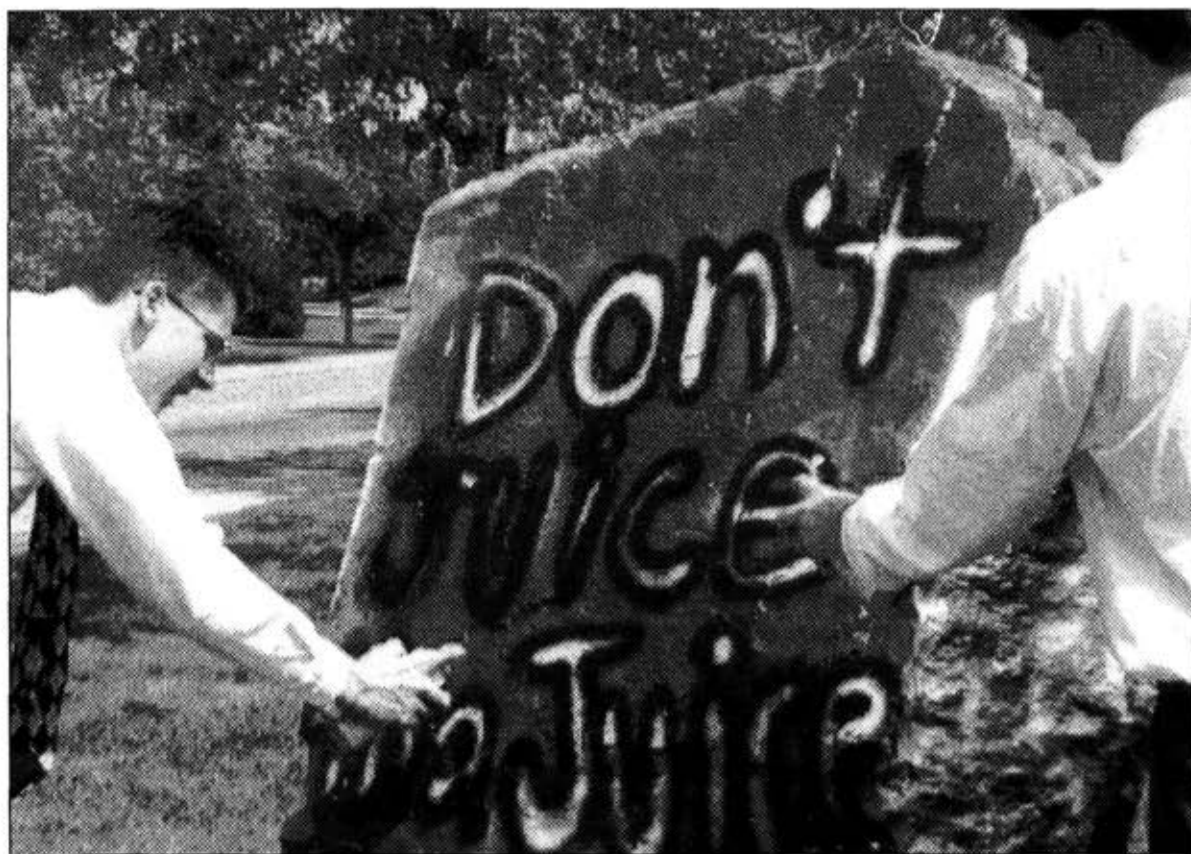
“ When you come to Liberty, you take a vow of poverty. He (Jerry Falwell) takes the vow, you take the poverty. ”

-Sam Rutigliano, Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel, 8/23/99



“ He said that they might let me in because they didn't have any students. The first person I heard sing was a big, chubby man named Doug Oldham. ”

-Robbie Hiner, graduate, 1974



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF LIBERTY ARCHIVES

PICTURES ARE WORTH A BUNCH OF WORDS — (Top Left) Students enjoy a random snowfall. (Bottom Left) Vacuums are vogue at one of the first Coffee Houses at David's Place. (Top Center) House Speaker Newt Gingrich speaks at Liberty after the Republicans took over the House in 1994. (Above) Students express their opinions about the O.J. Simpson trial on the Spirit Rock. (Top Right) Liberty Chancellor Dr. Jerry Falwell poses for a promotional picture (Bottom Right) President Ronald Reagan spoke at Baptist Fundamentalism '84.

“ If the Democrats win, I don't know what will happen to us. ”

-Dr. Jerry Falwell, Time Magazine, 9/2/85



'Living in a miracle'

From the downtown campus to the development of the Mountain — the early years of Liberty Baptist College

By Hannah Ladwig, copy editor

It was inauspicious, the college catalog that had no pictures of students and a picture of a library showing five bookcases only partially filled.

But on the cover was a picture of a church, and the caption said "Lynchburg Baptist College, another ministry of Jerry Falwell and Thomas Road Baptist Church." It was the start of something only Jerry Falwell, and God, ever dreamed of.

Falwell met Dr. A. Pierre Guillermin in the spring of 1967 and discussed their philosophy of Christian education. Guillermin, president of Southern Methodist College in South Carolina, left the college to help Falwell start Lynchburg Christian Academy. Falwell later appointed him to be the first president of Lynchburg Baptist College.

In 1971, Falwell announced to his TRBC congregation that he was going to start a liberal arts college. He used as his text 2 Timothy 2:2, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

He made this announcement after Elmer Towns, a former Bible college president and professor, agreed to come.

"I was preaching in Canton," Towns remembered. "And the pastor came up to me and said 'You need to start a college with Jerry Falwell.' This was before Jerry even asked me."

Towns said after he got back to his room, he called Falwell. What Towns didn't know, is Falwell had first called Towns' home to ask him if he wanted to start a college. When Falwell answered the phone, he assumed Towns had heard about his plan, and was agreeing to come to Lynchburg.

"He was already thinking, 'what do you want to call this college,' what would be its purpose, and I frantically started writing things down," Towns said. "We decided to start a liberal arts college that night. At the end Jerry asks, 'can you have the catalog to me by Monday?'"

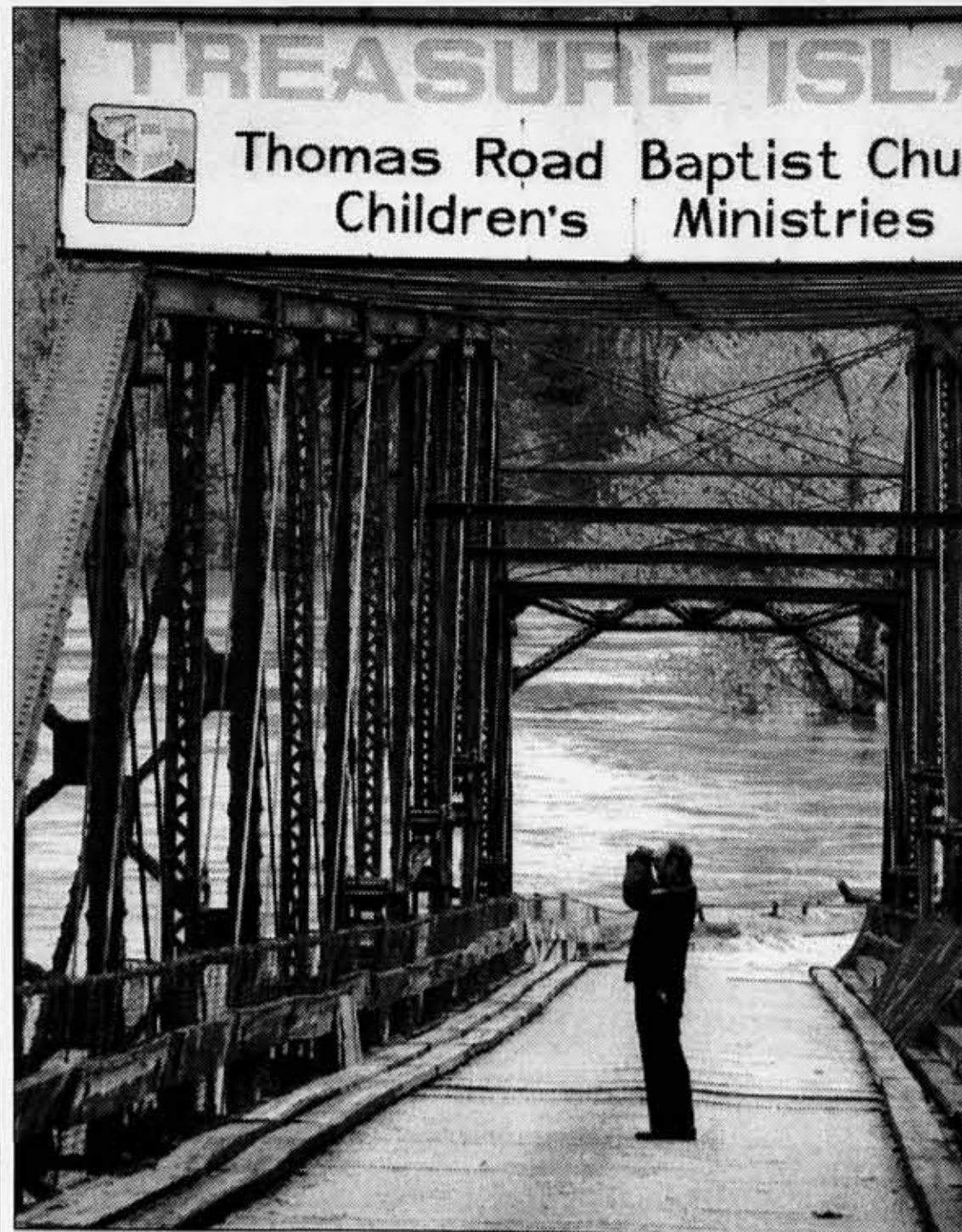
Towns finished his teaching contract, and came to Lynchburg June 1. Already, eight students had signed up. The number grew to 154 by August after Falwell announced a free trip to Israel for all full-time students.

The catalog Towns wrote was thin, but even though it only gave four majors (Christian Teacher, Christian Worker, History and English), many of the same policies Towns developed are still in force today.

"We planted an acorn in the ground," Towns said. "But the whole tree was contained in that little acorn."

Towns envisioned an honors program, community service and core courses.

Back then, the entrance fee was \$100 per semester, and the students paid \$20 a week room and board. They met in the Sunday school classrooms of Thomas Road, and they slept in the four-room houses across the street. Towns estimated about 50 students stayed in the "dorms" and ate



THE EARLY DAYS — An onlooker takes a picture of the fallen Treasure Island bridge. A 1980s flood wiped out the early dormitories of Liberty Baptist College.

their dinners in the church cafeteria.

The second year started with 420 students and 22 faculty. It was the year Liberty Bible Institute started, headed by Dr. Harold Willmington.

Willmington was teaching at Trinity when Falwell asked him to come and teach a seminar on the Life of Christ.

He said even though the school was just starting, he received a positive first impression.

"Falwell had charisma oozing from his fingertips," Willmington said. "He asked me if I would start a Bible institute and a seminary. I prayed, decided it was the will of God, and the rest is history."

Willmington said the theory behind the Institute was it was for "people who wanted more Bible, but they didn't want to dissect frogs."

The Institute had 52 students its first semester and grew from there. Willmington estimated Liberty Bible Institute has sent more than 900 graduates out as pastors, missionaries, youth workers and evangelists.

One thing Willmington said sticks out in his mind about his first few years at Liberty was the attitude of the students.

"They were pioneers taking a chance," he said. "The school was not accredited, and it had not one building. They believed Jerry's word that one day



RIDING THE SHORT BUS — Early LBC students were transported to and from the various locations that comprised the school. Classes met in area school buildings. Students stayed in an old hotel downtown.

this would be a great university."

His wife, Sue Willmington remembered how the college handled overcrowding that year. TRBC owned an island on the James River, called Treasure Island, where the church held summer camps. The college was so desperate for space, they assigned students to live in the cabins, and they built new ones. The problem was the cabins weren't finished by the time students started coming back.

"They would come in with their suitcases and say they wanted to check in at their dorm," she said. "A carpenter would walk up to them and say, 'You want a dorm, start painting.' And they would, because they wanted to be here."

Towns estimated about 200 students ended up working on the dorms before they were finished.

Ed Gomes, current dean of commuter students, came to Liberty in 1974 on one of the first basketball scholarships. By the time he came, the college had grown so much, it had outgrown TRBC and was also meeting in old school buildings all over Lynchburg.

"We were scattered, but we were still unified," Gomes remembered. "We were united in our mission to be champions for Christ. We were caught up in what God was doing through us."

Gomes said he vividly remembered the busing at Liberty. Some of the students were staying at a hotel in downtown Lynchburg, while others were still in houses across from TRBC. More were staying in the cabins on Treasure Island.

Buses would take students from their dorms to their classrooms. Gomes estimated spending about 40 minutes each day riding the buses. Others said they spent up to two hours.

"They were really old Sunday school buses, with holes in the floor and you could see the road," he said. "But we would spend our time on the buses singing."

By the time Falwell had raised enough money to build classrooms on Liberty Mountain (see answer to prayer story,) most of the busing problems were solved. But the students had no place to meet for chapel except for Thomas Road, so three times a week they spent about an hour being bused back and forth.

Falwell considered this a waste of time, and in

1978 he got an evangelistic tent and set it up almost exactly where the Arthur DeMoss Learning Center is today.

In 1978, Dr. David Beck arrived in Lynchburg to set up Liberty's department of philosophy, which they needed as a step in the accreditation process.

"It was so cold," he remembered. "It had heaters at the top, but they didn't do anything for the floor."

Beck said he came to Liberty because he knew it was where God was leading him, and it was "the opportunity of a lifetime" — to build a philosophy department from a Christian perspective.

"I remember shivering in chapel on icy chairs listening to great speakers," Beck said. "It was there we resolved to make this work."

Towns said he thought the school was so successful was because of the platform Falwell had with Thomas Road Baptist Church and his TV ministry, the Old Time Gospel Hour.

He said people wanted to give because they wanted to be a part of something great after they died.

"The common people built Liberty University," he said. "They felt a kind of affinity for it."

Mrs. Willmington said she thought the University's success was also based on the type of men Falwell surrounded himself with. She said the men he hired were all men of experience who shared the same vision he did.

"They weren't 'yes-men,'" she said. "Falwell felt confident enough to have leaders with him."

Beck said he is surprised how many years he has stayed at Liberty, but he said he knows this is where God wants him, and he enjoys seeing God work through people.

"We let Jerry dream his dreams," Beck said. "And then we let the Lord put them together."

Another early student, Jerry Edwards, came to the Institute in 1979. He remembered trying to drive on the unpaved roads, and he remembered the teachers, how they taught not only knowledge but how to live. He said they were always strengthened by the ways they saw God working.

"I came because I had a hunger to learn God's Word," he said.

"And it was like living in a miracle."

History shows growth

A brief overview of the highs and lows of Liberty's 28 years

By Shauna Malcom, reporter

With over 25,000 alumni all over the world, Liberty University started with only 154 students in the fall of 1971.

Students in 1971 only knew Liberty as Lynchburg Baptist College and the first class met at Thomas Road Baptist Church. Only four full time faculty members and several unpaid part-time faculty members taught the 154. By the end of the year, enrollment had risen to 305 full-time and part-time students.

By the second year, attendance was at 484, busing students from camping shacks on Treasure Island. The population grew because of the Liberty Bible Institute opening in 1972 and the Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary opening in 1973. Hundreds across the nation enrolled in its first years.

Lynchburg Baptist College's third year was an unprecedented year. The college purchased an old six-story hotel to accommodate such growth. One hundred and fifty men lodged in the Kennedy House, which was an abandoned local hospital. Thomas Road Baptist Church members even opened their homes to the students.

In 1974, enrollment hit 1,000. The first graduating class had degrees in youth, church work, music, pastoral studies, television radio & film, finished in 1975. The school awarded 27 bachelor of science degrees and 30 Institution diplomas.

Forty-nine states and ten countries were represented in '76. LBC's attendance was 1,500 with a total of 2,000 including the Liberty Home Bible Institute, a correspondence course and counterpart of LBI. The following spring, 403 students graduated.

Attendance continued to increase as 1981 ushered in 3,000 students.

Founder Jerry Falwell, established a goal of planting or assuming and revitalizing 5,000 churches by the turn of the century. By 1983,

more than 200 Lynchburg Baptist graduates had planted churches in the United States and Canada in the past eight years. Almost 400 young men assumed pastorates and 250 gained positions on various local church staffs.

The 1984-85 school year recorded 4,566 students from 50 states and 30 foreign countries. In 1985-86, there were more than 5,000 students.

On May 6, 1985, Liberty Baptist College became Liberty University. Another milestone occurred in September of '88, when Chronicles of Higher Education named LU the largest private university in the state of Virginia. Over 11,000 students were enrolled in the resident and adult education program including more than 5,700 in the Liberty University School of Lifelong Learning (LUSLL).

Liberty continues to draw students in from around the world. According to Admissions Office reports, over 64 countries have been represented in the past 28 years. The minority population has grown 15 percent, which is lower than previous years. Canada and Korea have the greatest representation of international students on campus.

"The number one recruitment tool is our 'College For A Weekend,'" said Barry Armstrong of Admissions. Seventy percent of the prospective students actually attend Liberty University. Over 100,000 high school students have been told about Liberty by mail or voice in this year alone.

The Admissions office described College For A Weekend, CFAW, as a big asset to Liberty.

"The more familiar you are, the more comfortable you are," said Kelly Caro, admissions counselor. "The students are here for more than one day and make friends with our students."

And that is how Liberty University has grown. From a small number of students meeting at the church to a thriving campus on Liberty Mountain, students come and go, leaving their marks on this campus and the world.



BEFORE THE HANGAR — A look at the Liberty courtyard when the university still flew the flags of all 50 states each day.

Borek prepares for future growth at LU

By Jessica Miller, Life! editor

Adaptation. Flexibility. Responsiveness.

According to President Dr. John Borek, these three attributes complete the trio of success for Liberty University's transition into the 21st century.

"We must seek and embrace positive change," Borek said in the Nov. 15 edition of "The President's Message." "Of course there will be no change in our vision (of) Bible-based instruction ... (but) we must be current and relevant, using the explosion in information technology to complement our strengths."

Borek sees technological competence, along with the upcoming construction on the Arthur S. DeMoss Learning Center, as two of the building blocks in his goal to fulfill Chancellor Jerry Falwell's vision of 10,000 resident students and 15,000 external degree students by 2005.

He said the University plans to hardwire all of the dormitories and distribute computers to nearly every professor on campus. These are examples of the institution's technological progress.

When Borek arrived in Lynchburg in the fall of 1997 as president of the university, he held several long-term goals in addition to his short-term goal of ensuring the institution's competitive accreditation status.

"I wanted to ensure that Liberty had the met the demand for Christian higher education by building a strong academic and spiritual foundation," Borek said.

Now, he looks toward the 21st century and the fulfill-

ment of this goal through projects such as the cooperating agreement the University signed recently with the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia.

The agreement affiliates Liberty with the Southern Baptist Convention, but will not alter the LU policy in any way.

"More than 47,000 Southern Baptist churches will now have LU as an institution where they can send their men and women to receive higher education," Borek said.

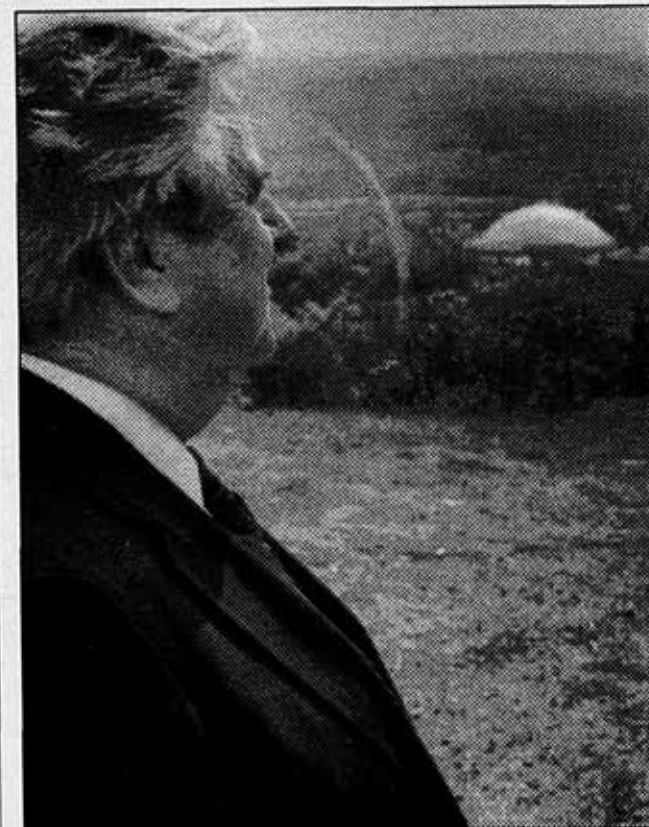
He also has future plans for several on-campus projects, such as the completion of the baseball fieldhouse, the expansion of the Visitor's Center and the creation of new dorms and a new student center to enhance the physical resources Liberty University offers.

"A student center is something we need very much on this campus," Borek said. "We need a central facility where students can gather."

Borek sees the student center possibly becoming a reality in the area behind the Vines Center, where the building could be combined with a parking deck.

Yet no matter what kind of physical resources the University offers, Borek still sees Christ-like service for students as a top priority. He cited the rearrangement of the Business Office into the Student Accounts Office as an example of the importance of student service.

"Students who come to our institution deserve kind, Christ-like treatment," Borek said. "We are committed to improving service to all our students so that the world can see that Christians can do it better."



LIBERTY ARCHIVES

THE VISIONARY— Founder and Chancellor Dr. Jerry Falwell looks out at the Vines Center.

University plans online check-in, hard wiring

By Corrie Duis, reporter

The 21st century will feature a period of significant growth for Liberty. This expansion may lead down several avenues, including campus facilities, business and finance and student population.

One of the faculty's largest concerns is keeping up with the outside world, as technological advances continue to progress in society. Ernie Rogers, executive director for enrollment management, said steps are being taken to make the campus as computer-oriented as possible.

"We're trying to modernize our infrastructure to increase growth," Rogers said.

The university will take major steps in this area, since customer service will soon be automated.

Beginning in April 2000, online registration will be available for returning students. Soon after, students will be able to check their personal status concerning business accounts, financial aid and grades by typing their I.D. number into a computer logged on to the university's Web site.

Additionally students' dorm rooms will be equipped with Internet wiring-including two outlets in each room-by fall 2000. Due to electronic registration, physical check-in will become obsolete.

Senior communications student Joe Telford believes the registration and check-in adjustments will relieve a lot of stress and tension from students.

"One of the major problems with regis-



LIBERTY ARCHIVES

CHECK, CHECK— Early Liberty students check in in the Schilling Center for the start of a new semester. Administrators hope to have online class registration for April 2000. The university will also develop student access to personal accounts through the LU Web site.

tration now is that we have to get so many signatures," he said. "It's hard when you have so many things to get done and you have to go back and forth to your adviser and other offices so many times."

Rogers promised the new system will be "so much better that students won't even remember how the business office and registration is now."

Another major area of growth underway is the much-talked about addition to DeMoss Hall. Construction could begin next semester, and the four-story project should be completed within the next five years. Also the traffic ramp from Route

460 is now in its closing stages. The ramp is located behind "the pit" and is considered a university project.

Rogers believes the facility additions and office restructuring will affect student retention more than recruitment. This factor will in turn affect enrollment numbers.

"Recruitment is expensive, but retention is cheap," Rogers said. Retention is also what many professionals consider the key to an organization's success, which is why changes are important in meeting students' needs, he said.

"In any large organization, change is not drastic," Rogers said. "It takes time to

build consensus."

Although Liberty's vision-training champions for Christ will remain unchanged in the next century, Rogers believes a small portion of that goal will be achieved by providing students with excellent care and service during their academic years.

"My personal vision is to provide the best customer service possible for students," Rogers said. "And we're going to do that."

Academic adaptations

A glance at the development in the educational program at LU

By Scott Romanoski, distribution manager

In Liberty's (then Lynchburg Baptist College) first catalogue in 1971, a student had the option of majoring in four subjects: Christian Teacher, Christian Worker, History and English. Each program required a minimum of 144 semester hours, including general education requirements.

The following year brought about several changes in academics. The institution added majors in music and communications. As part of the scholastic program, each student had the opportunity to tour Israel. The number of hours required dropped to a minimum of 128 for a bachelor of science degree.

Dr. Boyd Rist, vice-president for academic affairs, explained the change as following a trend in higher education.

"We had to recognize that many other quality institutions were delivering comparable programs requiring fewer total semester hours," Rist said.

The 1973-74 school year brought about the addition and grouping of majors into seven categories. They included religion, communications, education & psychology, music, natural sciences (biology), social science (history), and television/radio/film (broadcasting).

Major changes came to the programs in 1976 with the addition of business, math, church music, pre-seminary and political science.

Majors in 1979 totaled 27, including pre-nursing and home economics. Minors, which numbered 32, included pastoral counseling, journalism, secretarial sci-

ences, anthropology and Latin American studies.

Liberty's program changed considerably in 1983 and 1984. The school began to award the associate of arts degree and the bachelor of arts degrees. New majors included finance, human resources, journalism and telecommunications.

The School of Education began to offer master's degrees in 1983, and the School of Religion followed with its programs in 1985.

As another monumental change in 1985, the university began to offer classes through the external degree program.

The Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary, in 1987, began to offer the doctor of ministry.

The next major change came in the 1991, with the addition of a sport management major and an urban ministries minor. It also saw the introduction of GNED as part of required general education classes.

Rist saw this addition as a key part of developing a distinctively Christian education.

"These classes represent an effort to help students formulate a distinctively Christian worldview," Rist said.

In the mid-1990s, Liberty added exercise science, computer science and recreation majors to the curriculum. The school also expanded programs at the master's level by adding a master of business administration and additional concentration in the seminary and School of Education. A doctoral program in education was added in 1999.

By 1994, partly due to financial reasons, some existing majors became concentrations as departments were combined. This



LOOKS THE SAME — Students study in the now-A. Pierre Guillermin Library. The university has developed its academic program tremendously since 1971.

affected specifically the current communications studies major.

The speech, journalism, public relations, advertising and broadcasting majors combined to form the current communications studies program.

"There were commonalities," said Communications Department Chairman Cecil Kramer, noting specifically communication theory classes.

According to Communications professor Dr. Steve Troxel, the nine concentrations in the major became four. He added that combining journalism and broadcast journalism seemed logical.

Troxel added that the 1994 change took place in four days of intense planning which resulted in a 50 percent reduction of course offerings.

While both Kramer and Troxel regret the loss of the speech pathology program, they both see the current program as successful.

"We should not go back to the way things were," said Troxel, noting the current strength of the department in relationship to peer universities.

The department plans to split the media

graphics specialization into two specializations in the fall of 2000.

Other departments, which have changed, expanded or cut their programs, include music and the seminary.

Rist said the sacred music major was dropped due to low enrollment. He noted that 10 students were majoring in the program at the time it was discontinued.

The seminary recently added a praise and worship institute. Classes focus on worship issues, Biblical models of worship, the worship leader and tools for the contemporary worship leaders.

According to Rist, the program caters mostly to those already in full time ministry who desire additional training. Classes are currently offered at the institute and the master's level.

Rist also added that this institute teaches issues and practices associated with contemporary church music while the music department provides program training in classical and traditional music, developing those techniques and skills associated with this repertoire.

Accreditation renewal key to Liberty's academic status

One event that stands out as vital to the future of Liberty was the reaffirmation of accreditation in December 1997.

"Accreditation is a voluntary process which ensures students and other external constituencies that there is a level of quality in each major area of University operations that is comparable to other institutions of higher learning," said Dr. Boyd Rist, vice president for Academic Affairs.

Regional accreditation came about after many years of prayer and persistence. It was a stated objective from the founding of the school in 1971.

An accredited school is considered comparable to other accredited colleges and universities, ensuring the quality of the educational program and the resources to support it.

In December 1980, the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) first accredited the university. Every 10 years the process occurs.

Following the self-study and SACS team visit, Liberty

was placed on probation in 1996 by the Commissions Committee on Criteria and Reports.

While the committee had a number of concerns, its principal focus was on the financial resources necessary to create and maintain a stable educational environment. "We had to do tangible things to reduce the debt," Rist said. "In the same time period, a university planning committee was established to formulate a strategic plan."

Financial donors played a major role in the debt reduction. Dr. Rist noted that it is rare for donors to step forward for the sole purpose of eliminating debt. Liberty was blessed of the Lord at a critical point in its history to have individuals do just that.

Following a concerted effort by all sectors of the Liberty community, the university met all accreditation standards and was reaffirmed by SACS in December 1997.

This was a historic year for Liberty. Not only did it become an accredited institution but it also welcomed its second president, Dr. John M. Borek. Former Vice President and chief financial officer at Georgia State University, Borek had also worked extensively with SACS on

committees and team visits since the 1970s.

"Dr. Borek brought to us his long-running experience with SACS and an understanding of what kind of effort was needed to meet accreditation criteria," Rist said.

Visiting teams and the Criteria and Reports Committee of SACS were not interested in what institutions will do in the future. Recommendations must be addressed in the context of actions taken with appropriate documentation.

One of these dealt with the mission statement. In response to that recommendation, Liberty faculty and staff developed, and the Board approved a more concise mission statement: "To produce Christian-centered men and women with the values, knowledge and skills required to impact tomorrow's world."

"As the 20th century comes to a close students should reflect on a decade of challenges met and overcome which have prepared the way for Liberty to be a leader in higher education in the new millennium," Rist said.

Researched by Heather Estes, reporter

Flames sports makes impact in pros

By Dave Kurtz, reporter

In the last 30 years, many athletes have left Liberty and entered the professional ranks. A few have excelled at their craft and deserve to be remembered as Liberty's best of the century.

The most notable Flame to ever lace up his spikes is Eric Green. Green played football for Liberty from 1985 to 1988. When Green started, most people would not have given him a second thought as pro material. After all, he was playing on a Division II school that posted a 3-4-1 record in freshman year.

In 1988, during Liberty's first season as a Division I-AA school, the team earned a 8-3 record, and finished as the 20th-ranked team in the country according to The Football Gazette.

Flames offensive coordinator Bob Leah said Green "was our go-to guy. Whenever we needed yards, we called a play to him."

During that season, Green had 92 catches for 905 yards and 16 touchdowns.

Because of the team's success and Green's play, he became the Pittsburgh Steelers first round draft pick in the 1990 National Football League draft. He is the only Flame to be drafted in the first round in any sport.

He was named the NFL's Rookie of the Year in 1990, and was selected to the NFL's All Rookie Team by a number of organizations and media groups including the Play-



LIBERTY ARCHIVES

PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION—Tight end Eric Green (86) is one of the three former Flames to reach the National Football League.

ers Association, USA Today, UPI and Pro Football Weekly.

That same year, he earned a trip to Hawaii to play in the Pro Bowl, the NFL's version of the All-Star Game.

Since then, Green has played for the Miami Dolphins, Baltimore Ravens and is currently with the New York Jets.

Another player to have success professionally is Dwayne Carswell. Carswell played football for Liberty from 1991 to 1993.

He helped Liberty go from a record of 4-7

in '91 to 7-4 the following year, which resulted in the Flames being ranked 19th in the country at the end of the season. In Carswell's final year, the team posted a 6-5 record.

Liberty Athletic Director Kim Graham said Carswell "always worked hard and never quit trying, and now the hard work is paying off in the pros."

After going undrafted in the 1994 NFL Draft, he signed as a free agent with the Denver Broncos.

In 1997, Carswell was selected as cap-

tain of the Broncos' special teams, a position he still holds.

He also became the first Flame to play in the Super Bowl. Not only did he play, but he became the first Flame to win a Super Bowl, after helping the Denver Broncos upset the defending champs, the Green Bay Packers, in Super Bowl XXXII.

Liberty baseball has also seen its fair share of success over the past quarter century.

Since its beginning in 1976, Liberty has seen 28 players either drafted or signed to play for major league teams. Of those players, four have made it to the "Big Show."

Doug Brady, Lee Guetterman, Randy Tomlin and Sid Bream all played in the Major Leagues for a portion of their careers.

As an Atlanta Brave, Bream holds the single most recognizable moment in sports history involving a Flame. He scored the decisive run to beat the Pittsburgh Pirates in the final game of the 1992 National League Championship Series.

In the bottom of the ninth inning in Game 7, Bream scored the winning run on a close play at home plate, where he barely beat the tag from the Pittsburgh catcher. The resulting scene shows teammate David Justice choking Bream in joy, as his teammates ran into a mob.

With the future looking brighter for Liberty's sports teams it may not be long before we are talking about the 21st century's star alumni.

Early growth leads to increase in campus ministry outreach

By Michelle Kennedy, reporter

The founders and students of Liberty University have witnessed many changes on campus but sometimes the most significant changes are those not physically seen. Spiritual growth has greatly contributed to the young champions LU has been sending out into the world for the past 28 years.

In the 1970s, Liberty students were bused from their dorms, located in downtown Lynchburg, for the services held at Thomas Road Baptist Church.

With the expansion of Liberty in the early 1980s, administration knew they would have to find a solution to accommodate the growing student body.

In 1986, Campus Church was established. The Schilling Center, which was the main athletic facility on campus, was chosen to use for early services on Sunday. Although LU Chancellor Dr. Jerry Falwell continued to preach to the student body, he was quickly becoming more difficult to schedule, due to his growing public sta-

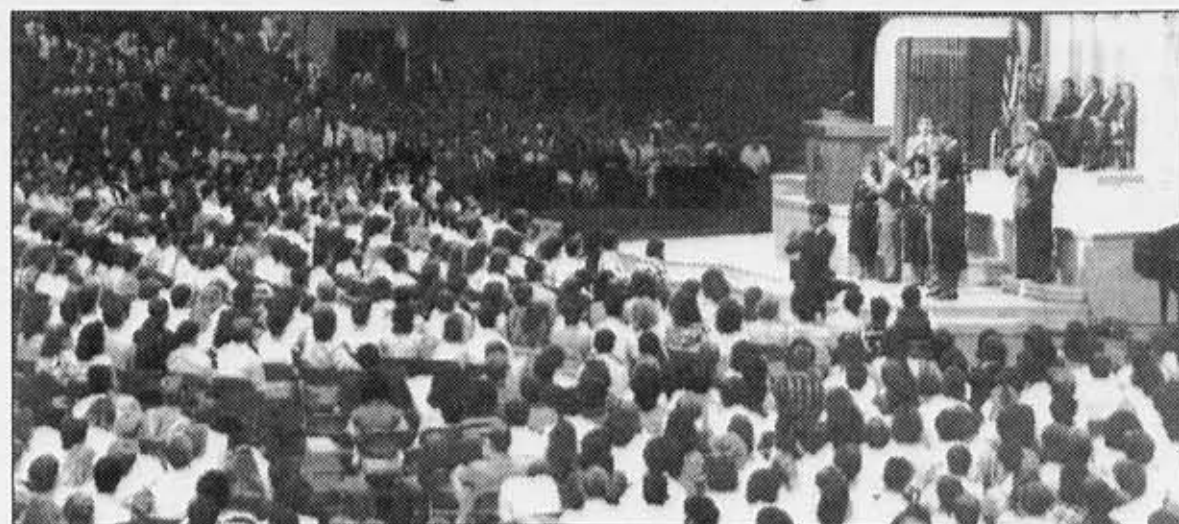
tus.

Shortly after the establishment of Campus Church, students began to express their desire for a campus pastor. They needed an individual they could relate their concerns and prayer requests to on a daily basis. Their requests were heard and in 1988 the Campus Pastors office was established.

"It was established so that there is an office that focuses all of its attention on the spiritual growth of Liberty," said Dwayne Carson, associate campus pastor.

Before 1988, resident directors served as the "pastors of discipleship," and the Residence Life Office generated most of the spiritual influence, Carson said. Now it is the leadership team—two resident assistants, two spiritual life directors and prayer leaders—on each dorm floor influencing students.

"Spiritual growth is a team effort," said Carson. He stated the importance of the prayer leaders because of their ability to spend one-on-one time with students.



LIBERTY ARCHIVES

EVERYBODY WORSHIP — Students attend Chapel in the Schilling Center before the construction of the Vines. The spiritual growth on campus caused the university to establish the Campus Pastors office in 1988.

"Ultimately personal needs being met are more important than anything else," he said.

When Carson came to Liberty in 1984, there was one prayer leader for every eight students. Now, each prayer leader has four students to meet and pray with—allowing for a more hands-on ministry.

Spiritual growth has also come from another source—which has

been in existence since Liberty was established—the music ministry.

"The biggest change I've seen is in the style of music. The meaning and the message have stayed the same," said Fitu Tafaoa, associate director of Light Ministries, a missions arm of LU.

Tafaoa said he believes the spiritual growth comes from the students involved in this ministry

who see this as a chance to grow and bond with others who share the same desires.

"Our ministry is four-fold: to encourage, equip, expose and evangelize," said Tafaoa.

With an expanding student body change is inevitable, but every year LU grows stronger spiritually due to the people and prayers involved.