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Battle shots

Photojournalist Sam Dean speaks to students about his two-month assignment in Afghanistan.

See page A3

'America has spoken'

Nation's decision on Election Day reflects the people's character.

See page A8

Muscle Flex

Find a gym with the workout program that fits your body the best.

See page B6



The Liberty Champion

SERVING LIBERTY UNIVERSITY FOR TWENTY-ONE YEARS VOL. 22, NO. 8

NOVEMBER 9, 2004

Election Jubilation Long wait to Bush victory

By Megan Joiner
NEWS REPORTER

Students flocked to DeMoss 1113 and 1114 on election night for a Student Government Association "election party." SGA broadcasted FOXNews Network's coverage of the 2004 presidential election on six large screens, colored states on two big maps as candidates won and served students ice cream and soda.

"SGA wanted to hold a bipartisan election night event to show coverage and celebrate our President, because whoever wins, we need to back him up 100 percent," Jeremy Roberts, SGA president, said.

As Fox News reported the voting outcomes in each state, students cheered or booed. There was a party atmosphere as students walked around and met people from their home states, or discussed their presidential preferences with one another.

"I voted for Bush because I believe if you are a Christian, you need to vote for someone with Christian values," freshman Daniel Williams, from New Jersey, said.

"I voted for Bush. I'm a Libertarian, but Bush's views on the economy appealed to me," freshman Zach Olson, from California, said.

"I voted for Michael Badnarik (the Libertarian candidate). I couldn't in good conscience vote for Bush or Kerry after this race and the job they've done

the last four years," junior Josh McGraw, from Florida, said.

"I voted for Kerry because I agree with him as far as abortion goes and tax cuts. The wealthy don't need tax cuts, but the middle and lower classes do," sophomore Tycaria Sample, from Virginia, said.

"I voted for Bush because of his stands on different issues. I supported his education plan and the 'No Child Left Behind' act. I really think that Bush has done a decent job in the Iraqi war. A lot of terrorists are over there and we're capturing people. His stands on protecting marriage and protecting the lives of the unborn are solid," Timothy Purkey, a junior from Pennsylvania, said.

The big event of the night was a visit from Dr. Jerry Falwell and one of Lynchburg's representatives to the Virginia House of Delegates, Preston Bryant.

Falwell flew in from a previous speaking engagement in Pennsylvania to address the students about the election.

"I think it's a light and darkness issue. When you consider the welfare of unborn children, the definition of the family, the safety of our children and grandchildren fighting against terrorism, I think it's a no-brainer. We need George Bush. If Bush wins, it's the evangelical Christians that did it," Falwell said.



Soldier's testimony:
Marine chaplain tells a story of hope during Iraq.
See page A6



ADAM BISHOP



ADAM BISHOP



SUSAN WHITLEY

CELEBRATION — TOP: The room of students erupts in applause as election results come in over FOXNews. BELOW LEFT: Students bow their heads in prayer during the long wait. BELOW RIGHT: Dr. Jerry Falwell spoke at the election night event.

Please see ELECTION, page A4

O'Donnell hired by Bush team

Debate coach helped President in final stretch

By Sara Lesley
NEWS EDITOR

A large "W" sign hangs on the wall directly behind Brett O'Donnell's office chair. The sign serves as a small reminder of the whirlwind of the last crucial months of the Bush campaign.

"LU is very proud of Dr. O'Donnell," said Dr. Jerry Falwell. "One of our own leaders was called to

assist the President of the United States. I can think of no greater honor."

As the director of the LU debate team for 15 years, O'Donnell built the most successful debate program in intercollegiate debate. The LU teams won 14 national rankings championships, more than any other team on the debate circuit.

O'Donnell was contacted by the Bush-Cheney campaign last May after a chance discussion with Karl Rove, the special advisor to President Bush, when he spoke at graduation.

"It was happenstance," O'Donnell said. "I kind of half-jokingly said, 'you ought to hire me to help prepare the President for the debates.'"

A few days later, O'Donnell got a call from Rove.

"Were you serious?" Rove asked him. "Well, sure," O'Donnell replied. "You're

hired," Rove said. O'Donnell was immediately put to work. He analyzed videotapes of John Kerry and John Edwards' debating styles.

"Then I was asked to review the President and his debating style," O'Donnell said.

After the election results came in and Bush declared victory, O'Donnell breathed a lit-

tle bit easier.

"It gives you a sense of accomplishment. There were so many moments I can remember that at the end of the service at Thomas Road, Dr. Falwell had talked about how important the election was," O'Donnell recalled. "I can just remember my palms becoming sweaty because I had just been hired by the campaign."

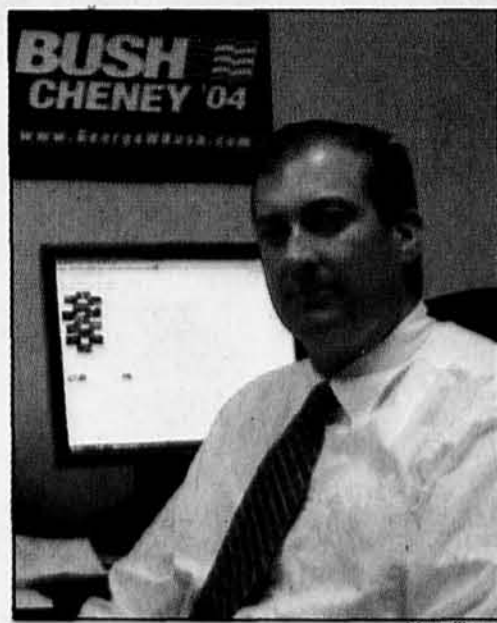
As a veteran debate coach, O'Donnell is no stranger to tough competition and steely nerves. However, the campaign debates were

much more than just an "educational game," as he refers to LU debate.

"When you lose a debate, you're disappointed that you lose, but there isn't any effect to it. But losing in these debates could have been everything. This election was terribly important," he said.

O'Donnell assisted the campaign team in a range of capacities. He analyzed every single presidential debate since they were first televised in the 1960s. "I put together sort of the 'best-of, worst-of moments across those debates and to talk about how presidential debates affect the election." He presented his findings to President Bush and his debate team.

Please see O'DONNELL, page A4



MATT TRENT

PRESIDENT'S MAN — Bush campaign signs hang proudly in debate director Brett O'Donnell's office.

Debater's game
Liberty hosted the largest inter-collegiate debate tournament over the weekend.
See page A3

Caner's courage: Muslims hear gospel

By Richard Gretsky
NEWS REPORTER

Last month via Trinity Broadcasting Network, Dr. Ergun Caner spoke to 86 countries about his conversion to Christianity from Islam.

"It is the first time that a former Muslim has testified of his faith in Jesus Christ as a convert from Islam...without disguise and without pseudonym," Caner said.

"The technology has not been there until now," said Caner's TBN contact, Scott Smith.

Caner was given eight minutes to share his testimony before those in the

Middle East in control of the television stations could cut the signal and turn off the broadcast. He included his father's name to show his heritage and show that he was not scared. His Web site was on the screen in case anyone had any questions or comments. After this, Caner quickly went into his testimony that Jesus was not only a prophet, but prophet, priest and king.

Included in the eight minutes was a quote from Caner in relation to Jesus and false Islamic belief.

"You either revere him as God, or reject him as an outright fraud," Caner said.

"You cannot simply respect

him as a good man."

Muslims believe that Jesus was only a prophet, and that anyone who converted from Islam to believing in Jesus as the Christ deserves death.

According to Caner, Muslim law states that any Islamic convert to Christianity is sentenced to death by either being buried up to the waist and stoned or beheaded.

Caner, however, is not scared of the ramifications.

"The man of God is indestructible until the will of God in his life is complete," Caner said.

Please see CANER, page A6

Lynchburg prepares for flu season

Vaccines unavailable to adults in light of shortage

By Angela Franulovich
NEWS REPORTER

As flu season looms on the horizon, health officials stress precautionary measures in the face of dwindling vaccination supplies.

Despite recent newscasts that report an expected increase in the amount of flu vaccine available in Central Virginia, the Lynchburg City Health Department said that it does not expect to receive any additional doses this year, and the doses they have are reserved for high-risk children

and will not be administered to adults.

According to Light Medical Office Manager Connie McCall, the vaccination is not available to students on campus either. "We ordered 500 doses from the overseas suppliers and we couldn't get any," she said.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention listed flu activity across Virginia as "sporadic" for the week ending Oct. 30.

Locally, Light Medical has confirmed only one case on campus while the Lynchburg City Health Department has treated two people for flu-like symptoms without lab confirmation.

Health Department Nurse Manager Wanda Guthrie said that the low infection rate so far is not a reason for optimism, though. "It's still really early in the season," she added.

Please see FLU, page A4





a where's waldo world, plastic people AND SEMESTER OVERLOAD

aaron j. bauer

What I like most about school spirit days on campus is that you can walk outside to the courtyard and feel as though you have entered the last page of a "Where's Waldo?" Book. Those were interesting books. What other book has led children to stare at one page for hours and hours looking for one small red and white hat? Maybe the Cat in the Hat, but that's a stretch I think. What would a Where's Waldo convention look like? I'll save that thought for another day or let you come to your own conclusions.

I went as Waldo once for Halloween when I was in elementary school. The idea was for me to hide all day from everyone and see if anyone could find me. They never did. Some are still looking.

I didn't dress up for Halloween this year. I've always thought it would be good to go as a mannequin but that would get really boring standing still for hours and hours with the same expression on my face, lonelier than the third verse in a Baptist hymnal.

I do, however, remember a time when I was about four years old and we were walking through the mall and I touched the knee of a mannequin (as children

often do) which was sitting on one of those benches.

Funny thing though: mannequins are not normally sitting down outside of the store. Turns out it wasn't a mannequin. So, the lady looked at me and I ran, just a little freaked that mannequins actually did move. Don't pretend you've never done that. I'm sure there are several other people who, as children, wondered if perhaps mannequins were real people trapped in a frozen state and in a moment of total abandonment and inhibition reached out and poked the

foot of a plastic person.

At this point in the semester everyone's brain goes on overload, swamped with stresses and classes, eager for a break. Freshmen probably take it the hardest unless they visit home a lot. Seniors are probably just as bad off because they are eager to be done with it all anyway.

Typing a simple one page paper becomes difficult and strenuous and after a while your brain turns to Jello and your fingers are very hard to move.

So, this column has actually taken me a very long time to write. Strange...but not as strange as George Clooney playing Batman...that's a touchy subject for me...don't go there!

"At this point in the semester everyone's brain goes on overload, swamped with stresses and classes, eager for a break."

Future Trial Lawyers Assoc. prepares case for mock trial

By Mike Brady
NEWS REPORTER

The Liberty University chapter of the Future Trial Lawyers of America will be competing in the South Atlantic Regional Mock Trial Tournament this coming January.

"I think it's an excellent way to strengthen the pre-law specialization," said Dr. George Buzzy, the FTLA faculty advisor and government professor.

The event will be hosted in Greenville, S.C., on the campus of Furman University, under the auspices of the American Mock Trial Association. Each team will compete in four mock trials over the course of two days, from Jan. 28 and 29.

Last year's tournament marked the first time a team from Liberty had competed in any mock trial competition. Many teams from universities in the southeast will compete. Entrants from last year's tournament including teams from Duke University, UNC Chapel Hill and the University of Georgia, among others.

The team made a strong showing and was recognized as one of the outstanding new schools of the tournament. This year the FTLA is working towards not only competing in the mock trial, but also finishing in the top eight, securing them an opportunity to compete nationally.

"I think it provides the students invaluable experience in a courtroom setting," Buzzy said. As the advisor to the organization, he coaches students on courtroom decorum and provides general counsel to the

team. The wisdom gleaned from his 16 years of experience as a trial lawyer is a tremendous asset to Liberty's FTLA.

"Dr. Buzzy is an amazing professor," senior Brandon Osterbind said. Osterbind is a government major and FTLA leader.

He credited Buzzy for helping prepare the students for success in the mock trials and believes the team will have an even stronger performance in their second time around.

"Mock trials teach you a lot of things," said Osterbind, noting the extensive research and outside-the-courtroom preparation that goes into competing at the mock trials. Members of the FTLA generally meet once or twice a week throughout the school year in order to keep each other on task, with the regularity of meetings increasing to three to four times a week in the days leading up to the competition. At the mock trial, students have to be ready to argue either side of the four contrived cases that they have been assigned, only being notified of their role as prosecuting or defense attorney a half hour before the mock trial.

Once the mock trial begins, the students proceed as they would in a normal courtroom, making

opening statements, introducing evidence, cross-examining "witnesses" provided by both teams and resting their case to a panel of two judges. The judges are generally local attorneys that volunteer their time.

The students are challenged to present good cases in a professional fashion and forced to think on their feet as they respond to the statements of witnesses, object, and develop their cases. This experience provides students an opportunity to test their skills against other students that are likewise pursuing a career in law and gives them a "step up on the competition for entrance into law school," said Osterbind.

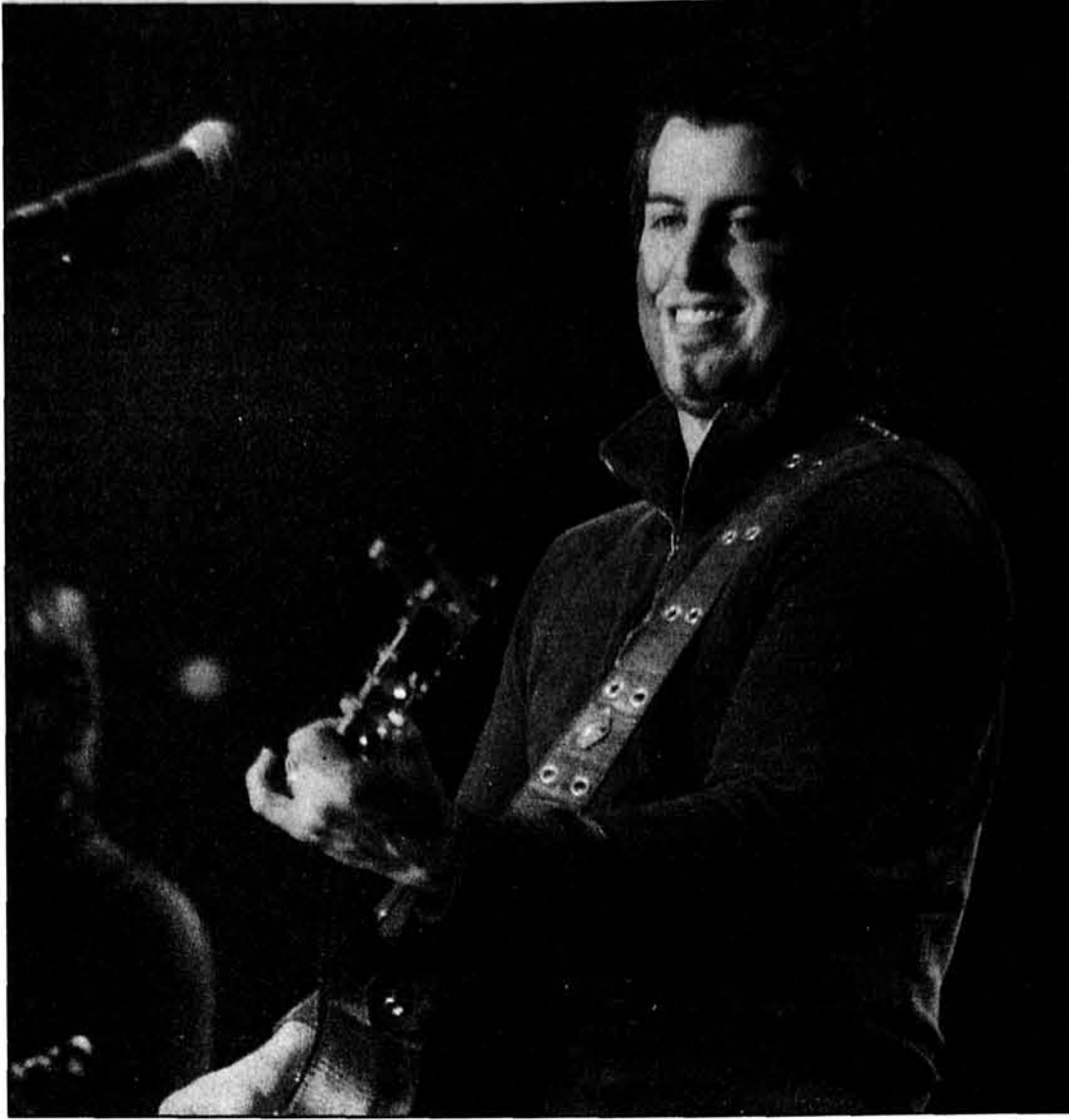
However, students who do not plan to pursue a law career can also gain experience from participating in FTLA. "You don't have to plan on being an attorney to get something out of this," Buzzy said, adding that theater, psychology and communications majors can stand in as witnesses during the mock trial.

Students interested in joining FTLA can contact Buzzy at gbuzzy@liberty.edu before Thanksgiving break.

Contact Mike Brady at mhbrady@liberty.edu.



COURTROOM DRAMA — FTLA members show off their award during their first appearance at the South Atlantic Regional Mock Trial Tournament last year.



SUSAN WHITLEY

CAMP COMES BACK — Artist Jeremy Camp performs last year with the Newsboys Adoration Tour.

'Restored' Camp returns

By Julia Seymour
OPINION EDITOR

Jeremy Camp brings his honest, worshipful style of Christian rock back to the Vines Center this Friday night as he headlines the Restored Tour with guest artists Building 429 and Adam Watts.

The concert, which begins at 7:30 p.m., will feature music from Camp's soon-to-be-released album, "Restored," which he said is a continuation of his personal, experience-driven style of music.

"I think that in a lot of aspects, fans will be surprised by it," Camp said about his latest music. "I've grown spiritually and I have entered a new chapter in my life," he said.

The title of his new album alludes to the restoration from brokenness to blessing that Camp feels God is working in him.

After his wife Melissa died from cancer, Camp went through a very intense period of grief. His debut album, "Stay," resulted from that time. But now Camp has a new wife, Adrienne, and a new daughter, Isabella Rose Camp who was born Sept. 25. Out of these new experiences come the fresh lyrics and sound of "Restored."

This will be Camp's second visit to Liberty University and he is looking forward to being here. He was part of the Adoration tour last year with Rebecca St. James and the Newsboys. Fans of Camp's music were left craving more of his sound after his short set last semester.

"Camp is not afraid to talk about God and call Him by name..."

Christine Sperry
SENIOR AT LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

"Last year, fans got only a small taste of his (Jeremy Camp) music and we were left salivating for more. It was great for Student Life to bring him back this year headlining his own act," senior Phil Cobucci said.

Cobucci thinks Camp's real life lyrics and focus on God make his music a favorite to many.

"He writes it all, and he doesn't leave God out of the picture," he said.

Senior Christine Sperry agrees.

"I like how open and real his lyrics are.

You know what he means and what he was going through when he wrote a song," she commented. "Camp is not afraid to talk about God and call Him by name, whereas some other groups seem to leave God out."

Joining Camp for Friday's concert are Building 429, which one jesus-freakhideout.com reviewer describes as "worshipful southern rock acoustic," with lyrics we can relate to, and solo artist Adam Watts.

Tickets for the concert are \$7 in advance with an LU ID and \$10 general admission or at the door. Purchases can be made at the LU bookstore, the Student Life office, 90.9 The Light or at New Life Christian Bookstore and The Mustard Seed. Doors open at 7 p.m. For more information call (434) 592-3148.

Jeremy Camp's new album, "Restored," is set to be released on Nov. 16.

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

Following the infantry one snapshot at a time

Photojournalist speaks at LU

By Tim Dalton
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

For around two months, Sam Dean traded in his jeans and cowboy boots for tan-colored clothing and a bulletproof vest. Armed with three cameras, Dean accompanied Company C of the 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry to Afghanistan.

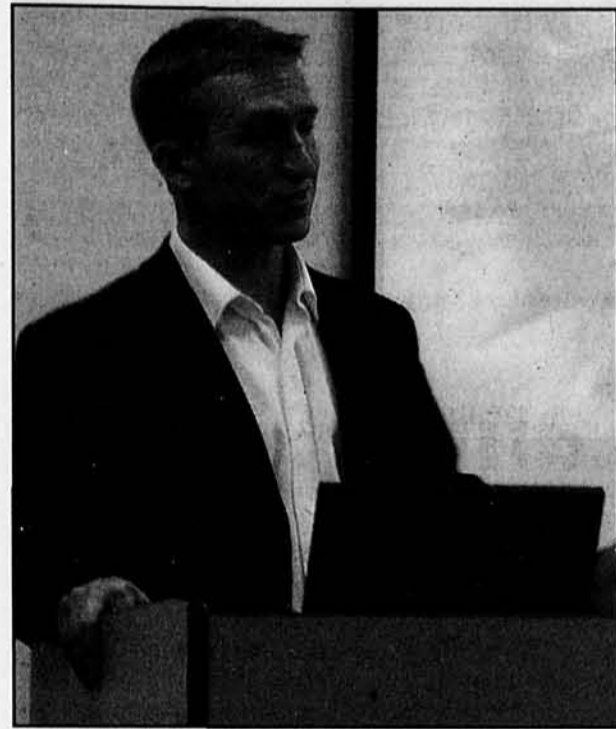
Dean, a photojournalist with the Roanoke Times, visited Liberty University last Thursday to speak with students about his experience.

"It was pretty exciting to me," Dean told the crowded room in the DeMoss Building. He scanned

through and explained many pictures, beginning with one of Company C walking through downtown Bedford before departing.

Dean noted that the soldiers were part of history. He said that they were the first members from the division to be deployed overseas since D-Day. Dday.org reports that Bedford suffered the greatest loss in proportion to the town population and therefore was chosen as the site for the D-Day Memorial.

Another photo portrayed three soldiers saying goodbye to their loved ones. Dean also had to say goodbye to his wife, Nicky.



JESSICA PADGETT

PHOTOGRAPHY 101 — Photojournalist Sam Dean teaches students his craft and tells stories from his time in a war zone.

Nicky admits to being against it when Dean first conceived the idea of accompanying the troops but she soon changed her mind. She said she realized he was going for the right reasons. Dean said he and Nicky prayed, and God opened the door for him to go.

Typically, Dean wears jeans, boots and to button-down shirt to work. But in Afghanistan, he wore tan clothing with a bullet prove vest.

"The vest had armor plates in it to protect against high-powered rifles.

The normal vest only protects against handguns," Dean said. The outfit was topped off with a helmet similar to the soldiers'. In all, he was carrying 30 to 35 pounds of extra weight, not including his cameras, lenses and batteries.

Dean faced several dangers while in Afghanistan. "Driving was the most dangerous," Dean said. He explained how the area was covered in mines. He remembers seeing children that were missing legs and knowing immediately what caused it. The company lost two men in a mine incident during Dean's time with them.

His most dangerous day, which he laughs about now, occurred when the company was raiding a Taliban compound. The company was joined by supportive Afghan troops, one of which was a little "trigger happy," Dean remembers. The Afghan soldier nearly shot Dean by accident. "He almost hit me in the backside," Dean said.

Dean showed several pictures of troops with Afghan children. He found it striking that the children did not ask for candy.

"They wanted a pen and something to write on. To them it was more precious than anything," Dean said. He said that the children were eager to learn because the opportunities to do so there are meager.

A picture of children gathered around a soldier with a balloon show the simplicity of the country. The children had never seen a balloon before. Children weren't the only ones though. Dean remembers seeing a grandmother practically run-



JESSICA PADGETT

WAR PHOTOS — Photojournalist Sam Dean of the Roanoke Times shows a slide presentation of his work in Afghanistan. Dean followed the 116th Infantry Division for two months.

ning over children to get to the balloon.

"A picture can be more than a face," Dean notes. He showed the students a picture of a soldier's hands holding an embroidered message that he received from home. It read, "Evil prevails when good men do nothing."

"I wish all people could get along and hold hands but it won't happen. I'm glad people decide to defend our country," Dean said.

The trip affected Dean's view of life in America. He said it made him more aware of his mortality. After returning home, he says he looks at being stuck in traffic or waiting for food in a different way.

"My faith took on a whole new meaning while Sam was gone," Nicky said. She remembers feeling detached from the situation most of the time while Dean was away.

"God gave me peace," she said. She also got a perspective on what

soldiers' wives go through. "It's just a drop in the bucket compared to others," she said. She found it humbling knowing Dean was only gone for around two months while many soldiers spend considerably longer periods of time away from home.

Dean is a graduate of the University of Montana. He majored in Journalism with an emphasis in photography. He attributes the photography in National Geographic for sparking his interest in photography as a child. As a senior in high school, he was interested in art and English. He also enjoyed painting. Around this time, he got his first camera.

Some of Dean's inspiration comes from Maggie Steber, a photographer for National Geographic, whom he met at a workshop. He admires her sense of artistry and ability to show a story.

Contact Tim Dalton at twaldon@liberty.edu.

Liberty plays host to largest annual ADA tournament

By Joanne Tang
NEWS REPORTER

The first bus rolled up to a stop in front of DeMoss and students started filing out of the vehicle. They took out one huge Rubbermaid container after another, many of them plastered with stickers. Then they unloaded their personal laptops containing within their shiny cases invaluable research materials. They put them on the curb and focused on finding their tournament room.

This same scene was repeated as 26 universities and colleges descended on campus. This past weekend, Liberty hosted the largest American Debate Association tournament, the 18th one to take place at Liberty.

Schools attending included Wake Forest University, Harvard University, Catholic University, the U.S. Naval Academy and George Mason University.

"We've got some of the finest institutions in America at our tournament," said Dr. Brett O'Donnell, the director of LU debate. "It's an extremely important function for us."

While Liberty's own top ranking debate team did not compete, the excitement of victory could still be felt.

Many schools brought more

than one debate team, and the total number of debaters swelled to 90 teams, each team consisting of two debaters. The competition goes on in this fashion, with one team from each debate going forward and the other being eliminated.

The culmination of this debate is reached when six teams are left and each competition level will debate for the top prize, an acrylic flame trophy with "Liberty University" engraved on it.

On Saturday night, a banquet was held for the debaters and their coaches. Dr. Jerry Falwell stood at a podium and spoke about his testimony, as well as the election. Falwell gained applause at the mention of the New York Yankees and applause at the mention of Roe v. Wade. He then opened the forum up to a question and answer session.

Many asked questions regarding the election, some asked about his beliefs on the Bible and some were merely curious about Liberty.

"Bringing them here lets them see what Liberty is about and gives us a chance to show them Christ's love," O'Donnell said.

At the banquet, speaker awards were announced to individuals who showed great oratory skills and grasp of the subject. There

were 30 awards in total, 10 for each of the competition levels.

The top three in each level were Mary Washington University for the Novice level, University of Pittsburgh for Junior Varsity and Wake Forest University for Varsity.

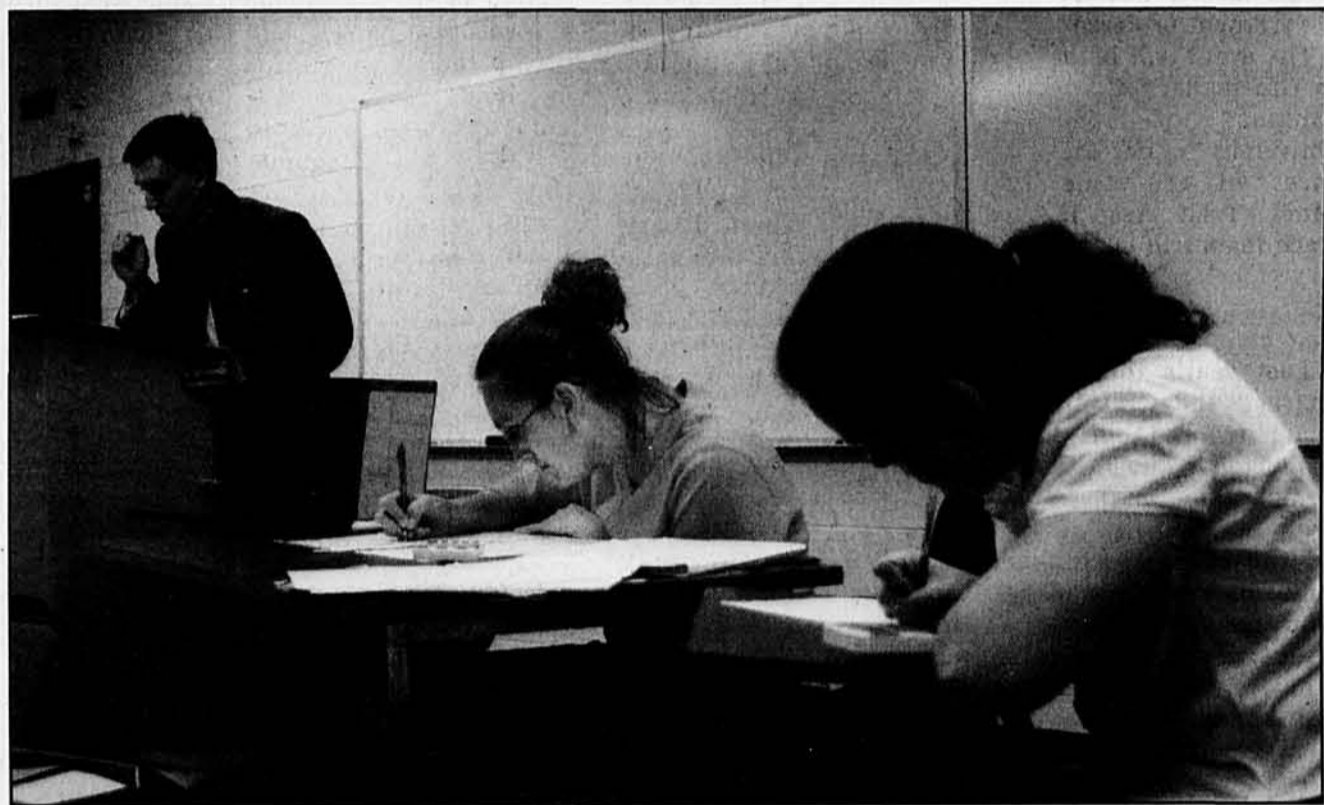
"It brings greater involvement

with the academic community that can only improve Liberty as an academic institution," junior Ingrid Sciscoe said.

According to O'Donnell, more than anything else, the tournament allows other schools to experience a Christian atmosphere.

"By hosting a great tournament and hosting Christian love, it opens up doors for opportunities to be a witness."

Sara Lesley contributed to this story. Contact Joanne Tang at jtang@liberty.edu.



MATT TRENT

ARGUE YOUR CASE — A debater goes through his points during the American Debate Association tournament at Liberty this weekend. Twenty-six colleges and universities from across the U.S. competed in the tournament.

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Election: Students gather to cheer on their candidate

Continued from page 1

Falwell chided those who used false ballots during the election, and said that he had heard from Karl

Rove, senior advisor to President Bush, that the Republicans must win by a substantial margin to offset undetected "phony ballots."

"Let me make it clear, we have not

yet won, but we are headed in the right direction, praise the Lord, and Florida is in the bag. We must have 270 (electoral) votes, and we could have 300 votes," Falwell said around 10 p.m., to a chorus of cheers from the students.

"This is so encouraging to see this many kids interested and caring about the future of their country, because many of them, I pray one day, will be the movers and the shakers of the government," Falwell said.

Bryant, a graduate of Lynchburg Christian Academy, was also present to excite students about the election.

"The college students at Liberty University absolutely made a difference in

my elections. College students make a difference," Bryant said.

Bryant praised Bush for his conservative stands on abortion and the sanctity of marriage.

"You have two very clear choices for so many issues. It boils down to one's moral beliefs. It's like night and day, black and white," Bryant said.

The election party ended around 11 p.m. with neither candidate having a clear lead.

Students returned to their dormitories and homes to watch their own televisions or listen to the radio. By Wednesday morning, Bush had a clear margin of victory, but no one was sure if Kerry would willingly concede Ohio and its 20 electoral votes. Students were preparing to watch a power struggle much like the election of 2000.

However, at the end of Wednesday's convocation, Falwell was handed a note saying that Kerry had conceded Ohio and the presidency and George W. Bush would serve another term in office.

"I think the election ended exactly as God planned it. God's will is for Bush to serve another term," freshman Lauren Porter, from Georgia, said.

Yet some students were disappointed in the election outcome.

"I voted for Kerry because I firmly believe that being pro-life is bigger than just the issue of abortion. I believe that issues like gun control, poverty, healthcare for all children and the environment are all pro-life issues. I'm disappointed (Kerry lost), but God is in control," junior Kris Adams, from Maryland, said.

The overwhelming majority of students at convocation roared in approval when Falwell announced that Kerry conceded.

"I'm pretty stoked Bush won. I'd rather have a president who knows what he believes instead of a guy who agrees with every side," junior Nate Bodkin, from Maryland, said.

Contact Megan Joiner at mjoiner@liberty.edu.



ADAM BISHOP

WAITING FOR A WINNER — Students applaud election returns as they pop on the big screen on Election Night. Dr. Jerry Falwell said the evangelical Christian vote turned the tide for President Bush's re-election.

O'Donnell: Doing his part for the Bush team

Continued from page 1

He also wrote the majority of the 32-page agreement for the formats of the Bush-Kerry and Cheney-Edwards debates.

According to Rove, O'Donnell's "hard work and preparation for the debates sent the President into the final stretch of the campaign with a wind at his back."

In addition to working with the Bush debate team, O'Donnell also

said. According to O'Donnell, President Bush was simply tired from a long day of helping with the hurricane relief efforts in Florida.

"Having worked inside the campaign, the President really is a compassionate person, and I think that his work up there is very important to him, so he spent a good portion of the day doing things that were exhaustive to him," O'Donnell said.

He added that most of the public do not realize the strain a presidential debate involves. "Both candidates have to debate for 90 minutes with no notes, only from

memory, and under the pressure cooker of the presidential campaign."

According to O'Donnell, the media played up the first debate as a bad note for Bush.

"I think the President really acquitted himself very well in the second and third debates," he continued.

"Even though he didn't 'win' the debates, he did win the arguments of the debates," O'Donnell said. "I think that's reflected in what happened in the election this Tuesday. Some people may have said that John Kerry was a better debater; I think ultimately they decided that George Bush was right."

Contact Sara Lesley at slesley@liberty.edu.

"Some people may have said that John Kerry was a better debater; I think ultimately (the voters) decided that George Bush was right."

Dr. Brett O'Donnell
DIRECTOR OF LIBERTY DEBATE

influenced the presidential speech-writers. "There were several things I've written that have turned up

in the president's speeches," O'Donnell said. He would often analyze the debates and write on what Bush needed to stay on the campaign trail.

Before the debates took place, O'Donnell worked behind the scenes at the Republican National Convention, where he worked with Sens. Zell Miller, Elizabeth Dole and several others to prep them for their speeches.

"The convention is scripted from second to second to make sure the production is successful," O'Donnell said.

The three presidential debates, though, were O'Donnell's primary responsibilities. "I don't think the performance of the first debate reflects poorly at all upon the preparation team," O'Donnell

FLU: Guard against the germs

Continued from page 1

McCall stressed that it is important for students to take the threat of a flu outbreak on campus seriously. "Everyone should keep their dorms as clean as possible and use Lysol and antibacterial soap," she said. McCall also warned that students should not eat or drink after one another even if they are symptom-free.

The CDC reports that the average flu infected adult is contagious from 24-hours prior to the onset of symptoms to seven days after symptoms first appear. The best way to avoid an outbreak, they stress, is to isolate infected individuals.

Many students, however, find isolation difficult in light of rigorous academic responsibilities and dorm life.

Junior Kim Salaices said that she attended classes while sick with the flu last year. "If you're taking a full load and you miss one day, you're in trouble. Especially if you don't know anyone in class to get notes from," she said.

Salaices is taking 18 credit hours this semester and said that if she gets sick again, she will have no choice but to attend class. "Lots of people show up when they're sick. I can't afford to miss class," she said.

The CDC lists practical containment precautions on their Web site for people who cannot reasonably isolate themselves while infected. The list recommends keeping a 3-foot distance from others, if possible, and coughing and sneezing only into a tissue, then promptly disposing of the tissue in the trash.

The CDC also recommends strict hand washing for the infected individual to reduce the likelihood of leaving the virus on communal surfaces such as door handles.

Prescription antiviral medication taken within two days of the onset of symptoms can reduce symptoms and shorten the illness' duration by one to two days while also reducing the risk of contagion to others, the CDC reports. According to their guidelines, if someone is at high risk for complications from the flu, antivirals can also be effectively prescribed as a preventive measure in the event of an institutional out-

break. For people who are yet symptom-free, the CDC recommends these common sense precautions during the flu season: avoid close contact with people who are sick, wash your hands frequently and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

Contact Angela Franulovich at afanulovich@liberty.edu.



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Field trip brings William Faulkner back to life

By Linda Laferriere
NEWS REPORTER

Six Liberty University English students and four faculty members traveled to Oxford, Miss., to the hometown of William Faulkner last weekend.

"I am a big William Faulkner fan. I believe that he is the greatest writer ever. The first novel I read was 'As I Lay Dying,' and after reading that I saw his amazing character perspective. I wanted to see where he was coming from," senior Anna Bennett said. Bennett hopes to pursue a career in writing when she graduates in May.

The group from Liberty University toured the town of William Faulkner to see where he lived, worked, went to church and where he was buried.

"I got to travel through Faulkner's house and touch everything that I saw. Afterwards a Faulkner scholar came and talked to us. It was like I was hearing about Faulkner from his best

friend," said Bennett.

Dr. James Nutter of the English department planned this trip because he "wanted to give students the opportunity to be taught outside the classroom and to study the author in his neighborhood, and to hear from the scholar in that area."

Nutter has planned English department field trips for the past four years. In 2002 the department traveled to Cooperstown, N.Y.

English students also traveled to such places as Concord, Mass., Walden Pond, Hartford, Conn. and Williamsburg, Va., and studied people like Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe.

The trips are always open to any English major, or Sigma Tau Delta member.

Everyone involved agreed that the trip was a positive experience that enabled them to understand more about the person they consider to be "America's greatest writer."

Faulkner wrote from the

1920s through the 1940s. He wrote about being a Southern gentleman during WWII.

Faulkner used a fictional county, Yoknapatawpha, which is based on Lafayette County.

"I am from Texas, and things that Faulkner, who started the Southern Renaissance, writes about are important to me, and it was just a really fun trip," Jared Mink said.

"I wanted to expose the students to Southern culture," said Nutter.

Nutter made sure that the group was exposed to Southern culture by taking them to a Southern style restaurant at which they were served fried catfish.

Erik Drylie had been on two literary field trips before this one. He has traveled with the English department to Concord, Mass., and Jamestown, Va.

"Traveling to Mississippi and back was a long way to travel in one weekend, but it was fun. We had some great faculty with us. The faculty



PHOTO PROVIDED

FISH FRY — English students and department faculty indulge in Southern fried catfish at Taylor's restaurant in Oxford, Miss. The group toured Oxford, Miss., which is the hometown of writer William Faulkner.

members were really cool. It was good of them to take us down there," Drylie said.

Bennett had always wanted to travel to Oxford to see where Faulkner lived.

Driving to LU from Texas, she often thought that she would love to stop in Oxford.

"It was really nice to be with other English majors and to be able to get to know them

personally and start crossing the lines with personal information," said Bennett.

Contact Linda Laferriere at ldlafferiere@liberty.edu.

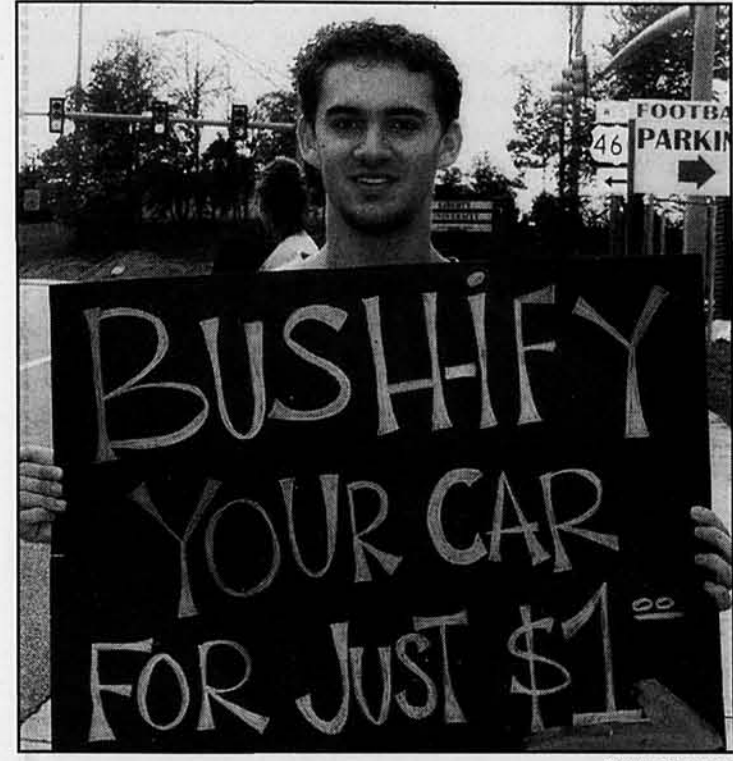


PHOTO PROVIDED

BUSHWACKED — Sophomore Jonathan Lesley holds a sign for the Alpha Lambda Delta fundraiser to paint pro-Bush messages on student cars.

Honor society offers helping hands

By Aja Burden
NEWS REPORTER

Greeks are more than just toga parties and secret oaths. Alpha Lambda Delta is an academic honor society here on Liberty's campus. It is focused on academic excellence and helping others.

Established in 1924 at the University of Illinois, Alpha Lambda Delta is an honor society built on strong intellect and community service. Students who achieve a GPA of 3.5 or higher in their freshman year are eligible to join. The Greek letters stand for Allélois Lampádia Diadósousin, which means "We shall pass our torches on, one to another."

"It's all about getting smart

kids involved and helping out in the community," Faculty Advisor Dr. Marilyn Gadowski said.

The Liberty chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta has 300 members this year. For 159 of its members, it was the first time they had even heard of Alpha Lambda Delta.

"After my freshman year, I received a note in the mail saying that I was accepted. I was like 'Great! What is it?'" said ALD historian Joyanne Tomlinson.

"ALD is not as well known on campus," said Liberty chapter president Alex Mason, "but it should be."

This year the Liberty chapter is making itself more visible. Saturday it made its first major attempt with the "Bush-ify Your 'Car" campaign. Members stood near the Campus North parking lot and held up signs encouraging voter enthusiasm. Dozens of people participated and allowed their car windows to be decorated with

slogans such as "Honk for Bush!" "Don't Mess With Texas" and "Luv Ya Dubya."

The most original slogan of the day was a request from a British student, "Brits for Bush."

The next day ALD members continued their community affair by helping out at the Thomas Road Baptist Church Kid Carnival. ALD members dressed up in costumes and passed out candy on a hallway decorated much like a Monopoly board. Power Rangers and princesses collected their bounty as the ALD members cooed and awed at adorable children and original costumes.

"The purpose of this organization is serious but the way to fulfilling that purpose is so much fun," Gadowski said.

Some members helped out at kiddie booths and managed games for the younger children such as "Rubber Duckie."

"I enjoy ALD because it's a great opportunity to meet people and learn new

things," sophomore Amanda Jennings said.

For the remainder of the year, ALD has events planned such as hosting pizza and ice cream for the kids who frequent The Center in downtown Lynchburg. They are also organizing the Adopt a Grandparent campaign which gets college students to spend time with the elderly.

As Christmas looms near, they will work with Operation Santa, an organization that keeps children hopeful by replying to Santa letters in the post office. ALD has already helped out at Habitat for Humanity and sold cotton candy at an LU football game.

"The thing I like about ALD is the fact that it is willing to get involved in the community even though it is an academic society," said sophomore Brian Collins.

Contact Aja Burden at ajburden@liberty.edu.



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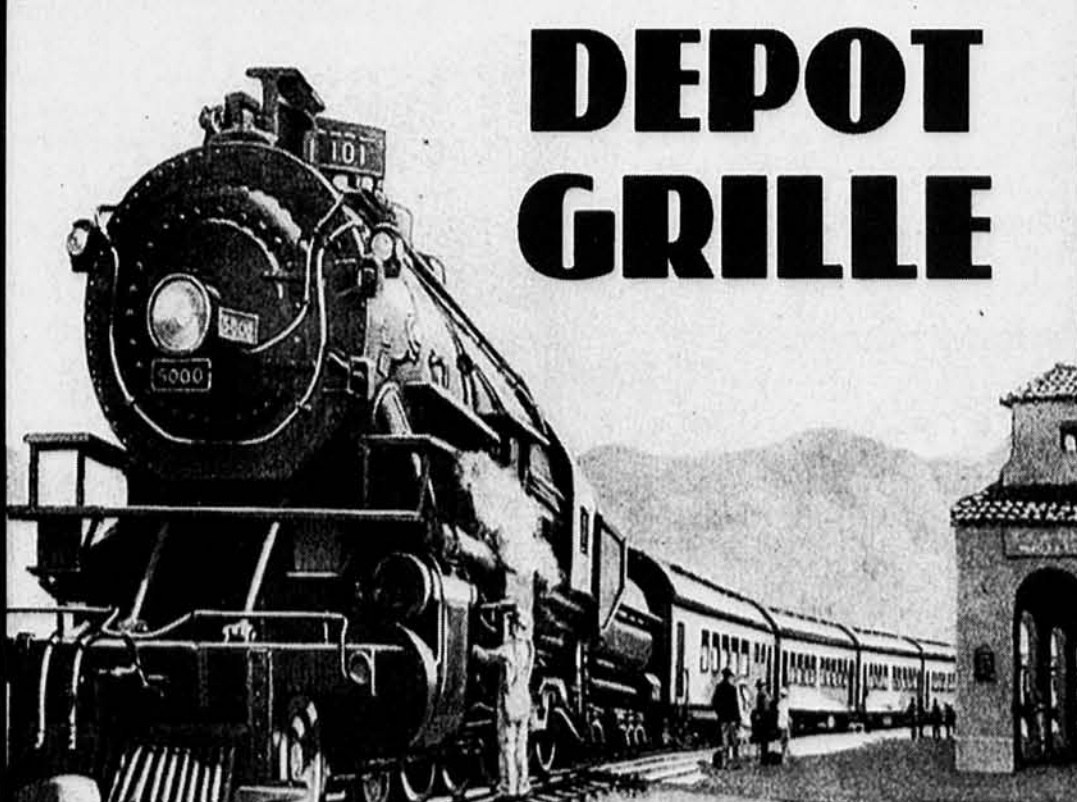
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'A Table in the Presence' Caner: Liberty 'spurs me on' to be a strong witness

Author and Marine chaplain Lt. Carey Cash tells his story

By Alicia Wotring
COPY EDITOR

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou are with me...Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies."

These famous words from the 23rd Psalm served as the inspiration for the title of Lt. Carey Cash's book "A Table in the Presence." Cash came to Liberty last week to share his experience as a chaplain serving with the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment during the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003.

"Our battalion had been in the Northern Kuwaiti desert for 40 days," Cash said, beginning his story. Late on March 17, the men received an order from their battalion commander: "Gentlemen, this is it," he said. "You have five hours to get your gear packed. We're going north."

By the next day the Marines were just south of the Iraqi border ready to invade.

Military strategy would have suggested a pre-dawn attack for the forces entering Iraq. However, their orders came hours before expected.

"To this day I will never, ever forget the moments that followed. It was like I was watching a movie," Cash said.

Before they crossed the border, Cash prayed with his men.

"After all of the planning, all of the strategy meetings...it had come to this—a prayer," Cash said. "For 40 days God had drawn us into that Kuwaiti desert. But if we know the Bible, we know (the desert) is a preparation and a place where men hear God. God was preparing for us a table in the presence of our enemies."

He said that when the Marines came to the enemy stronghold, the Iraqis started surrendering en masse.

Then on April 10, 2003, the Marines were sent to take over Saddam Hussein's Presidential Palace, where the last



FREEDOM FIGHTER — Lt. Carey Cash talks about God's protection and grace over the soldiers in Iraq.

stronghold of Saddam's insurgents was hiding out.

As the convoy approached the city, they came under enemy fire.

"At 4 that morning, in the dark...Saddam's last (regime) let loose on that convoy," Cash said. Cash said the men there said it looked like a laser show. The ambush lasted 10 hours.

"Here's the miracle," Cash said, "By every military assessment...our battalion should have sustained (major) casualties and an unknown number of dead. By the end of the day, only one man had been killed...75 injured, many of which will come to full recovery."

In spite of the ambush, the Marines' operation was successful and the following day they moved into Saddam's palace.

Cash is now a chaplain on the USS San Jacinto stationed in Norfolk, Va. He and his wife Charity, of 12 years, have five children.

Christian Service Director Lew Weider met Cash at a National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces last December in Washington, D.C. when he invited Cash to speak.

"I wanted him to speak to our students

because I knew he was a good communicator, he was strategically involved recently in the war in Iraq (and) he personally experienced the protective hand of God during the war," Weider said. "(He) could give our Liberty family a different side of the war that's not being told on CNN."

Students also appreciated Cash's message.

"The thing that meant the most to me was just to be able to hear how God is working in the lives of America's troops in Iraq," junior Justin Snyder said. "Cash's stories were a side that you never hear in the secular media. I found myself getting lost in his war stories to the point that I forgot that I was in convocation."

Cash concluded his message by speaking of God's protective power of the troops in Iraq. "It wasn't luck; It wasn't good fortune," Cash said. "It was the Lord Jesus Christ who knows something about battle. The one conclusion that cannot go unspoken or unsung is that our God delivers us."

Contact Alicia Wotring at aawotring@liberty.edu.

Continued from page 1

He also stated that staying secure includes using caution. "Caution is best defined by avoiding a problem before it starts," Caner said.

The Liberty professor downplays his character in this matter.

"I'm not a courageous man," Caner said. "I'm a coward, I'm a flat out coward. I think that courage is defined as a coward who stands just a little bit longer than he normally would."

Smith believes that Caner did a tremendous job. "I thought it was great. It was very articulate and very bold," Smith said. "You can say things without being inflammatory, and that's what he did."

"I'm hoping that it will get all kind of doors to open up," Smith said.

Caner has the same hope. That is why, when he saw this opportunity, he felt he had to take it.

"How can I tell my students to go into all the world and not do it myself?" Caner said. "I don't trust a man who only stands up when everyone else does."

There was another reason that aided in his rationale to go through with this ministry. "I want my sons to know that their father was a man of conviction rather than a man of convenience," Caner said.

Smith suggested that Caner was made for this time. "God has just prepared him and put him through life circumstances that have uniquely positioned him for these

opportunities," Smith said.

Some in the past have testified of their faith to Muslims through television, but all had either blurred out their faces or used fake names. Caner has never used either of these.

"Paul didn't go under a pseudonym," Caner said. "So many of my brothers are dying. I think (using a pseudonym) is an insult to the memory of those who have died standing up unapologetically for Christ."

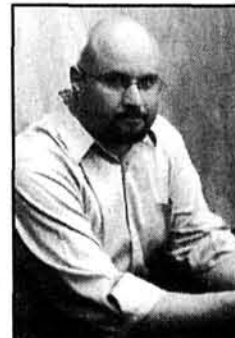
Caner referenced Jesus Christ's example of character and stated he desired to live similarly. "I don't want a fight, but I won't back down," Caner said.

There have already been numerous results. Over 1,000 e-mails have been sent to Caner, approximately 75 percent of which have been "hostile." The rest of those have been positive, Muslims who had never heard of another Muslim converting to Christ.

Caner hopes that this will spread and continue to change lives in the future, the lives of those who don't know Christ, and also the lives of those who do and might be afraid to serve Him.

"Quite frankly, I'm tired of Christians cowering in corners," Caner said. "That's why I'm glad I'm at Liberty. A lot of schools have students and faculty with intelligence, but very few have the courage that I have seen here. This place spurs me on."

Contact Richard Gretskey at rrgretskey@liberty.edu.



CANER

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Commentary

Curse fails to topple Bush

This past weekend while I watched my beloved Washington Redskins face-off against the Green Bay Packers, something unusual happened. Don't worry, I was still crying like I usually do every Sunday when I watch the Skins. I am talking about something so unusual that even their former coach, George Allen, was rolling in his grave. They almost won. Before you start to figure out how a win would have helped my toilet-bound team, let me just help you out. This game was more significant than just a fight for a notch in a column of wins and losses. This game has national implications.



brianchidester

RA, I am kidding.) In actuality, I pleaded with him to buy my soul, but he said he ran out of space after everyone in Boston sold their souls for a World Series victory this year.

Even though my trip to hell ended in disappointment, what the Devil said got me thinking. I wasn't worried anymore. I figured if the curse the Red Sox suffered through, after trading that fat guy who hit home runs, could end this year, then this football game could be just another loss for the Redskins. But then Tuesday night, the exit polls started coming in and things didn't look good. It looked like Bush was out for the count thanks to the Redskins, so I turned off the TV.

But then something miraculous happened. My roommate brought me an MTO from Sheetz and everything was better again. Let me explain: even though every college student knows the miraculous powers of an MTO, this specific sandwich was special. This 12-inch monster on wheat was just too much to handle and as I bit into it, I dripped all over my remote control. So as I cleaned it off, I pressed the on button and much to my surprise, Bush was on his way to victory. It was a great moment, not just because Bush won, but because the curse of Redskins was broken.

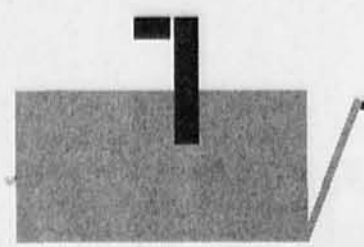
So the moral of my story is, instead of worrying about curses, grab an MTO from Sheetz and let your worries melt away as the sandwich fills your stomach.

Contact Brian Chidester at abchidester@liberty.edu.

You see, every game the Redskins play before Election Day has meaning beyond the obvious. The story goes that if the Redskins win, then the incumbent will stay in office. However, if they lose he gets kicked out like Michael Bolton at a rap concert. It gets worse...the results of the game have never been wrong. Never. So now you must be able to understand why I stood in disbelief as the clock ticked down with the Redskins losing by 14 points. Could it be? Could the Redskins have single-handedly ruined the future of our country by letting some tall, spoiled Bostonian wrangle our Oval Office gun-slinger?

At that moment in time I was in absolute disbelief. So I did what any rational Liberty University student would have done in this situation. That's right. I sold my soul to Satan for Bush to re-elected. (Now, before you call an

"Could the Redskins have single-handedly ruined the future of America by letting some tall, spoiled Bostonian wrangle our Oval Office gun-slinger?"



a letter from a soldier...

Editor's note: This letter was sent to Liberty alumnus Allison Fields Wicker from her husband Josh Wicker who is a Liberty student currently on active duty in Iraq. It is run with permission in honor of Veterans Day and to remind everyone to pray for the troops in harm's way.

Wife of mine,

We had two contacts today about 25 minutes apart. First one: we were rolling down a terrible road behind a dilapidated town, poor and falling apart. I started hearing gunshots and thought someone had either just taken a pop shot at us or someone in the patrol was shooting a car that had passed our kill line (that happens a lot). But a few seconds later, shots rang out again coming from the town. At best this was a haphazard attack. Maybe a few people jumping on the opportunity to get lit up by some Marines, I don't know. I just know I saw muzzle flashes coming from three buildings and opened up on them. Immediately the patrol stopped and everyone got in on the action. We handled the situation pretty well and followed all the expected response exercises (becoming the aggressors instead of the ambushed). Two bad guys down, zero good guys! The whole episode was about 25 minutes.

We rolled on, dropped off about half of our men ("the BEAST" my team, was playing taxi today), and proceeded home. We got about two minutes down the highway that is in our AO and got hit by an IED and took rocket fire. I am always the gunner in our fourth vehicle and for the third time since we have been here, the fourth vehicle was picked as the primary target of the insurgents' IED. God was protecting us though, and they didn't know it. Just as the IED went off we were passing a truck and that truck took the brunt of the explosion. I felt the blast just as I heard it so I knew it was close. The shrapnel came through the armored windshield causing glass and bits of shrapnel to enter the vehicle. The driver was struck in the face (he got hit the hardest) by shrapnel on his right cheek and his jaw was broken by the force. My right calf took some of the leftover force and little pieces of glass from the window. At the time it felt worse than it was. I also got a piece of shrapnel in my shoulder. It came through my flak jacket and stopped. I have a hole in my blouse and skivy shirt the size of a quarter, but the wound had no shrapnel in it and it looks more like I fell and skinned my knee on asphalt. Crazy. I told you God was protecting us. Our Staff Sgt. didn't get hurt at all. My right side was in so much pain that I couldn't man the gun. I looked down and saw that our driver was hurt much worse and I prayed that God would help me stay in the fight physically and mentally because we were immobile and a perfect target for small arms fire. It seemed like I heard a voice saying, "Step up to the plate, Josh. You have to." And the pain went away. I could stand on my leg with no pain and I forgot about my shoulder wound.

The time element is a little sketchy at best but about two minutes later a rocket was fired at our stationary lead vehicle landing about 100 meters short. I saw the dust clouds from the firing point and engaged it with the M-19 (machine gun that fires grenades). When the dust settled I saw nothing. I don't know if he drove away in his truck or if I destroyed the truck. I hope I blew it away. Some time later, I shot at an FO (forward observer) but missed low and right. He disappeared.

Doc came to our vehicle and treated our driver and the passenger in the truck. Mostly bandages. No one knew I was hurt until we got back to base.

It was crazy—the emotions going through me as we rode back. I wanted to kill everyone I saw out of fear. And then I was also thinking I should wave at everyone like normal so they would think everything was fine and we were invincible. I was shaking and laughing and crying and praying all at the same time, kind of like our wedding day as you walked up the aisle. I started singing to God as we rode and I looked into the people's eyes (so many filled with hate) knowing that they couldn't touch me unless the God of the angel armies allowed them to. And to tell you the truth, anything an Almighty God wants is going to be just fine with me too, because He is good, He loves me and I trust Him. It is good to be on His side.

All that to say that I am fine. Just some bandages on my calf and one on the shoulder. I almost forgot. On the way back Staff Sgt. was driving and he yelled up to me to say a prayer for us. I did. I started yelling out a prayer and the power of God filled our truck. All fear vanished and courage rushed in. Gotta go. Out of time.

Love you,
Josh

LISTEN UP!

IT'S YOUR TURN TO DECIDE

- President George W. Bush defeated Sen. John Kerry in this year's presidential race. In other elections, South Dakota Sen. Tom Daschle, the Senate Minority Leader, lost his seat to Republican John Thune. Democrat Barack Obama defeated Alan Keyes to win an Illinois senate seat.

- This past Saturday, anti-Bush and anti-war protesters took their cause to the streets of downtown Seattle, according to [Komotv.com](http://komotv.com). The protest was organized by the group Not In Our Name.

- According to a Reuter's article on the New York Times Web site, President Bush will continue to push for a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage in his second term as President.

- The Grantsburg, Wis., school board has amended their school's science curriculum to allow for the teaching of alternative theories of biological origin, CNN.com reported. Wisconsin laws mandate the teaching of evolution, but do not prevent individual districts from teaching other theories in addition to evolutionary theory.

- Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who was taken to Paris for medical treatment last week, was reported by CNN.com on Sunday to have been in a coma for three days.

- The Christian Post reported that Proposition 71, a controversial proposal to use \$3 billion in California state bonds to pay for stem-cell research. The passage of this bill allows scientists to run around the President's ban on federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research.

- Florida voters amended their state constitution this year by voting to require parental notification in cases of minors wanting to get abortions, Christianpost.com reported.

- All 11 state constitutional amendments that sought to ban same-sex marriage were passed, according to Foxnews.com. The 11 states were Arkansas, Utah, Oregon, North Dakota, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Ohio and Oklahoma.

- According to the Associated Press, jurors in the Scott Peterson trial are back to work deliberating the case. The jury was sequestered over the weekend in a hotel to prevent jury tampering and media influence.

- An article on SeattleTimes.com said that the Center for Disease Control and Prevention announced that the flu season is off to a slow start but it is too soon to tell if it will pick up or not.

Students need philosophy class

During high school and college, students are bombarded with standardized testing and classes that require them to remember facts of history, literature and science, but rarely are Americans engaged with questions of philosophy. Today's culture considers a person to be smart if he can rattle off dates and names that would make any jeopardy contestant proud. While today's students might be factually smart, their knowledge of serious ideas and arguments is lacking.



robertsisk

The problem goes deeper. Society puts wealth in arithmetic, science and English, but not the art of logic, which was the historical foundation for all of the studies listed. To understand history we must first understand why, not when Columbus sailed the ocean blue. One might argue that philosophy is boring, but when you look at it as discovering the meaning of life what area of study could ever be more important?

I think the biggest culprit in dumbing down America comes from philosophy itself. Naturalism took a dominant role in modern thought as of the last century. A Naturalist believes that all things can be proven scientifically. While many things can be proven by fact, someone has to think of what topics to research and why they are important. Do you think anyone cared that the earth might be round before philosophers debated?

Plato, Socrates and Aristotle would all be rolling in their graves if they knew that the only thing most Americans remember about them is their names, and a few might know the time period in which they lived. Ironically, philosophers wanted us to remember their ideas that set the standard for logical thought, and we cannot get past the togas.

My friend Joe Reitz told me when I was signing up for my first philosophy class that, "Philosophy is thinking outside the box, but the box does not exist. Instead you are trying to understand where the non-existent box is."

I did not understand him then either, and in fact I wanted to skip philosophy all together, but I took the class anyway. Now, I think it might have been the most important class I have ever taken. The ideas I learned helped me understand the things that were going on around me. I think it is time that Americans take a deeper look into philosophy. By doing

this we would gain so much more knowledge then by memorizing our multiplication tables.

Contact Robert Sisk at rjsisk@liberty.edu.

"People who possessed the ability to present an argument logically were viewed as artists."

TCOR NEWS REPORT



JONATHAN PARRISH

Opinion

"We have one country, one Constitution and one future that binds us. And when we come together and work together, there is no limit to the greatness of America."

President George W. Bush
2004 ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

American Values

Observations of the 2004 election



jasonpope

Election 2004 is over and America has chosen to re-elect President Bush. In this very close, nail-biting election process, it is being reported that issues of morals and values are what gave the President his winning edge. An election coverage article on myway.com reported that "Bush was favored by 61

percent of people from all faiths who attend services weekly; they made up 41 percent of the electorate."

It is possible that America's voice at the polls reflects her citizen's position on such traditional values as marriage and human life, though we remain sharply divided. However, I have my own set of observations of what the election outcome says about America, and how it applies to my Christian perspective. Here they are:

America is bigger than big shots

Frankly, I become nauseated at the press coverage allotted actors, musicians and other persons of so-called influence each time they have a political opinion. Headaches and political opinions have a lot in common: we have all had one, some are worse than others and media attention is rarely necessary.

On Nov. 2, as I stood behind a curtain and pressed a button for George W. Bush, Bruce Springsteen's anti-Bush concert and Eminem's profanity-laden comments to Rolling Stone magazine were the last things on my mind. Instead, I was thinking of how America is bigger than any media hype, that Americans have brains and a day set aside to use them to elect a national leader. I also thought of how we, as Americans, know that our country was founded by men who believed that God was bigger than anything, including America. As a Christian, I still believe that.

America is smarter than propaganda

Source after source has shown that the movie Fahrenheit 9/11 reports either inaccuracies or truth blown out of proportion. Yet countless individuals used this "documentary" to validate their anti-Bush stance. Michael Moore's film and countless other false or unsubstantiated evidences, which I'd "Rather" not mention, were brought to the forefront to try and tarnish Bush's record.

Our election results show that America is not a nation of blind citizens tossed about by the latest propagated lie. Specifically to the believer, God has given an even greater assurance through the Holy Spirit to ease our minds about those things that are right, even when we are bombarded with information to the contrary.

America needs genuineness more than eloquence

If you can overlook the sad eyes and self-debate sessions of John Kerry, you may agree that he is a decent speaker. President Bush, on the other hand, has had to work quite a bit in the past four years to show improvements on his delivery. But do delivery and articulation decide the presidency? America says, "No."

I have heard even the most democratic news commentators struggle with Kerry's genuineness. Perhaps the most honest and believable thing he has said yet was during his concession speech. In reference to the election, he said, "the outcome should be decided by voters, not a protracted legal process. I would not give up this fight if there was a chance that we would prevail." I appreciate these words from the senator and his peaceful realization of an unsuccessful run.

Despite our façade obsessed, plastic culture, we have an inborn need for authenticity. Genuineness is still held as a need and a value in America, and as Christians, this need is ultimately fulfilled in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

America is tougher than evil threats

That's right, it takes more than the latest episode of "Bin Laden's Scariest Home Videos" to sway America. However, I must admit that his taped appearance did have an effect on me: it made me want to vote for Bush twice. One of the

proudest moments I have had in a long time was after the bloodthirsty dastard issued his warning to the red states. To see the mass of red days later on the electoral map made me know that we are not intimidated by threats to our security by those who hate freedom and truth.

Strength and the pursuit of righteousness in the face of adversity are two important values, especially for the Christian who knows that our security is ultimately in God's hands. May those who live this truth be strong as to influence the rest of our nation.

Did values decide the presidency? And if so, which ones? It is hard to say. Ultimately, we as citizens have made the decision regardless of our individual influences. As President Bush said, "America has spoken." These statements about the majority of America should be a source of common ground and unity. Kerry appropriately stated in his concession, "In an American election, there are no losers, because whether or not our candidates are successful, the next morning we all wake up as Americans."

Contact Jason Pope at jdpope@liberty.edu.



JASON POPE

SpeakUp: What did you think of the 2004 media election coverage?



"I thought it was interesting how the different networks projected the remaining states the morning after the election."

—Clyde Sleigh, Sr.
Los Angeles, Calif.



"I think that my state is stupid and that they need to upgrade from absentee chad ballots, but at least the Christians got out to vote."

—Jessica Erklitz, Jr.
Galion, Ohio



"I felt that the exit polls were set up by the liberals so that people would that everyone was voting for Kerry."

—Matt Burkey, Sr.
Ligonier, Pa.



"I think the coverage was much more thorough and projections were made in a timely manner."

—Stephanie McNeilance, Sr.
Novi, Mich.



"I found it to be rather biased towards the democratic party."

—Christie Quarton, Fr.
Netherlands Antilles



"This year's election coverage was kind of like Smarty Jones' first loss: lots of hype leading up to the event, but disappointing."

—Mike Sandal, Soph.
Newark, Del.

Sports

Paul Troth recaps an amazing Major League Baseball season.

Pat Doney talks about his trip to the "Holy Land": Yankee Stadium.

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Page B2

PAGE B1

NOVEMBER 9, 2004

lusports04@yahoo.com

The Liberty Champion

(434) 582-2124

Cross-country success

By Evan Falat
SPORTS REPORTER

The Liberty men and women cross-country teams were very successful last weekend competing in the New Balance Big South Championships in Winthrop, S. C. For the second year in the row the men's team placed second at the championships, while the women's team jumped from last year's fourth place finish to a second place finish this year. In the nine team conference the men's standings saw High Point University capture first place with thirty points, Liberty was second at sixty-one points, and Coastal Carolina was third with seventy-four points. Coastal Carolina won the women's competition with thirty-two points, with the Lady Flames second with forty-nine points, and High Point with seventy-five points.

Flames freshman sensation Josh McDougal won his sixth consecutive race, capturing his first Big South title in a time of 23:49. McDougal won by 25 seconds and in the process also set a new course record, breaking the previous record of 24:13, which was set by Alan Webb in 2001. In addition to being the Conference Runner of the Year McDougal also received the Rookie of the Year award for being the top freshman runner in the Big South Conference.

The Flames second runner was junior Evan Falat who finished in seventh place overall with a time of 25:37. Falat and McDougal both were named to the All-Conference team for finishing in the top 10, while Falat was named to the conference All-Academic team and also was honored as the Big South Scholar Athlete of the Year.

Please see CROSS-COUNTRY, page B3

Flames crush the Keydets

By John Davis
SPORTS REPORTER

The Liberty running game got a complementary performance from the passing game and defense to make easy work of the winless Keydets at Alumni field Saturday afternoon, beating Virginia Military Institute 38-17.

The win is the second in a row for the Flames making the prospect of finishing with a winning record this year very feasible at 4-5 with two games left to play. If the Flames win out, it will be the second time in two years that the Flames end the season on a four game winning streak.

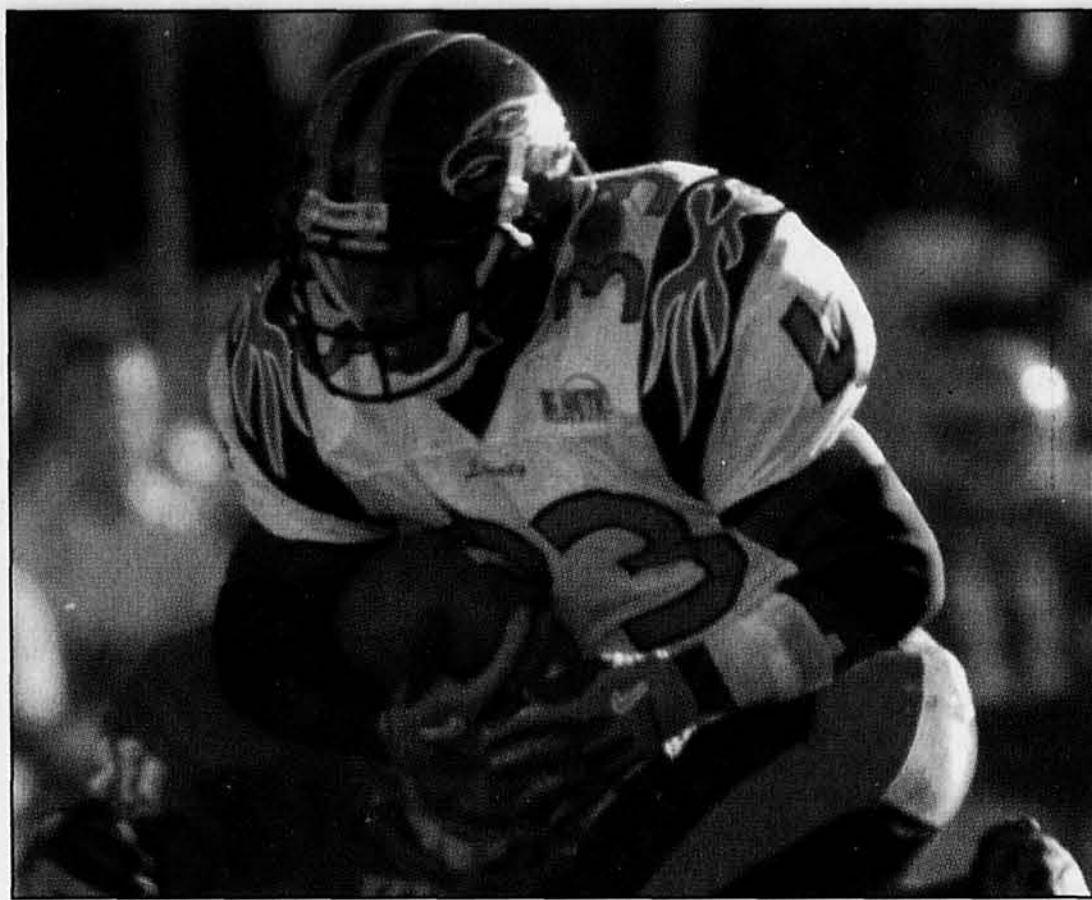
Liberty generated 511 yards of total offense with 370 yards coming on the ground, while only allowing 320 on a very productive night on defense. Though the special teams had some

blunders, they played well enough not to deter from the dominant offensive performance.

Dre Barnes picked up where he left off against the Keydets. In his career Barnes has rushed for 202 yards as a sophomore, 211 yards as a junior, and now 180 yards as a senior against the Keydets. Barnes again burst into the record books, and now adds Liberty University all-time leading rusher to his list of accomplishments.

"It's another accomplishment where the credit goes to the offensive line," said a modest Barnes. "It looks like it's an individual accomplishment, but the offensive line deserves the credit. It's success for the team, not just myself."

Please see CRUSHED, page B2



MICHAEL TROXEL

BIG GAME FOR BARNES — Dre Barnes carried the ball for 180 of the team's 370 rushing yards. The Flames had 511 total yards.

Upgrading Williams Stadium

By Andrew Stevens
SPORTS REPORTER

The Liberty University football program took another step in the right direction at the most recent home game against Charleston Southern. Prior to kickoff a groundbreaking ceremony was held in the North end of Williams Stadium, for a new Football Operations Center.

The new Football Operations Center is set to open prior to the beginning of the 2005 season. A generous 4.5 million dollar donation by the Art Williams Foundation helps to make construction possible on the New Football Operations Center.

The 40,000-square-foot facility will be a state-of-the-art two-story Jeffersonian facade building. The building will house a new team locker room on the first floor, along with a weight room, training room, an equipment storage and distribution area, laundry area, and mechanical and janitorial storage rooms.



MICHAEL TROXEL

BEGINNING THE PROCESS — Dr. Jerry Falwell joins in the ceremonial ground breaking for the new football building. (L to R) Executive VP Dave Young, Dr. Falwell, Athletic Director Ken Graham and Head Coach Ken Karcher begin the building process.

On the second story of the new facility will be coaching staff and administrative staff offices, meeting rooms, a video editing room, a multi-purpose

room, kitchen, academic area with a computer lab, along with a reception area displaying the history and tradition of the Flames football program.

"This building will allow our football team and coaches to have the ultimate facilities necessary to compete at the highest level," said Dr. Jerry Falwell. "It will also be a great recruiting tool, as high school

athletes come to visit Liberty as one of their allowed visits. Coach Karcher feels this will put him on a pretty even keel with other schools, as we compete for other athletes," added Dr. Falwell.

"This new football center means that we will be able to compete with any 1-AA school in the country," said Athletic Director Ken Graham. "This is a building our recruits are going to want to see, and be able to realize the program is up and running and that it is one of the best in the area and the nation as far as 1-AA programs are concerned. In other words having a building like this will show recruits that we mean business that we are trying to get our football program on the right track and compete for the playoffs. Without a building like this there is always doubt that you are really dedicated to doing what you say you are going to do," added Graham.

"This building will allow our football team and coaches to have the ultimate facilities necessary to compete at the highest level," said Dr. Jerry Falwell. "It will also be a great recruiting tool, as high school

Please see New Facility, Page B2

Life At Liberty

Football

at Chattanooga

Sat. 1:30 p.m.

Volleyball

at UNC Greensboro

Tues. 7 p.m.

Men's Soccer

vs. High Point,

Tues. 7 p.m.

Ladies Soccer

vs. UNC Asheville,

Sat. 2 p.m.

Going on the defense for Liberty

C.J. Moore leads the Flames' defense

By John Davis
SPORTS REPORTER

Florida has a reputation for producing some of the best high school football players in the country. Its prospects come out faster, stronger and more mature than average players in the country. It also has a reputation of being flashy, and while sitting down with C.J. Moore of our Flames, I learned that it's a reputation that's well deserved.

"In Florida one of the things we learn young is you look good you play good," said Moore. "As Florida boys, we got to be flashy. It started with Deion Sanders at FSU, and I know I add to that stereotype but it's how I get ready to play."

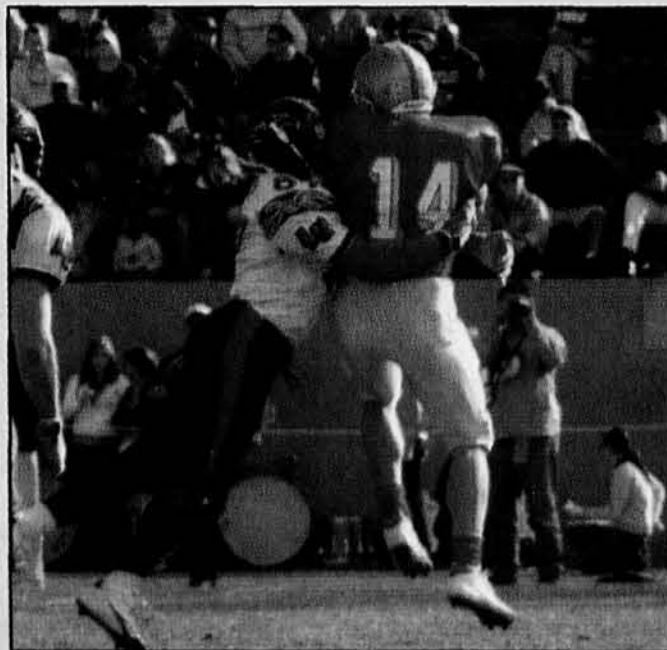
It's that attitude that made college scouts take note of a lanky junior at Manatee High School. At 6-foot, 1-inch, 178lbs he was arguably one of the biggest hitters in his conference. Moore had a red flag that

walked with him during his junior season that he still has a tough time talking about.

"My grades weren't that good my freshmen and sophomore year so I had a lot of catching up to do. That scared a lot of schools off," said Moore. "I just loved to play. I knew everything else would work itself out if I took care of business on the field."

Taking care of business could be an understatement for a guy who seemed to blossom more every game during his senior season spawning serious interest from South Florida, Louisville and a host of other schools that head to Florida for prospects.

"I was a late qualifier (by NCAA standards)," remembers Moore. "I didn't qualify until the summer. A lot of schools just didn't think I would make it. But when I did, Liberty was still there: that goes a long way."



MICHAEL TROXEL

Please see MOORE, page B2

TOUGH DEFENSE — C.J. Moore anchors the Liberty Flames' defense.

The Bottom Line



tpdoney@liberty.edu

By Patrick Doney

We all need a break every once in a while. So, I decided that I needed a break from all the Red Sox hats that represent fair-weather fans on this campus. Where better to mourn with other Bostonhaterites than in the motherland: New York City...

* Yankee Stadium is a shrine. A shrine surrounded by not-so-shrineful things. Bums, rundown businesses and, well, more bums fill the area that has so much rich tradition, yet looks more like downtown Lynchburg with real freaks. After a few brief incidents of homeless guys following us (three girls and me) and getting lost on subways (by the way, I've decided subways are the transportation version of Satan, without exception), we finally made it to the stadium to see that tours aren't given until Nov. 7th.

* Awesome. We went into the shop where one of the girls bought a Derek Jeter jersey (Girls, is he really cute, or just rich and famous? I wonder if that makes him more attractive?), when I noticed a section of shirts that were 50 percent off. These guys were still selling shirts that said "The Curse Lives," and another that had a picture of Babe Ruth saying, "Don't Wake Me Up. They're Gonna Lose Anyway." I asked the guy if they were selling well these days. His response was n't printable.

* I went to the ESPN zone in Times Square and had a blast. If you've never been, you've never lived. I was watching three college football games at once, while listening to the girls at the table talk about how cute Kirk Herbstreit is, all at the same time. We have a "Zone" in Anaheim, but this was massive. Imagine a four-story sports paradise with a floor full of life-size games, with three floors of big screen TVs. After leaving, I have decided that I now can die a happy man.

* Okay guys, you knew this was coming. Will I accept that I was wrong about the Red Sox? Yes. Will I accept criticism from those that never made a prediction in the first place? No! If you wouldn't go out on a limb to say who you thought was going to win, you can't laugh at me for being wrong. How many of you picked the Sox to come back down 0-3 against New York? None of you. Don't lie, even you Boston fans were beginning to burn your "Reverse the Curse" T-shirts and hats. I'll end it with poetry: *'Tis better to have loved and lost than to never have loved at all.* My version: *It is better to have picked against the Red Sox and been wrong than to be a bandwagon fan and never have had an opinion in the first place.* Using poetry to prove a point rocks, and that's the bottom line.

Crushed Keydets: Flames beat VMI

Continued from B1

Sam Gado was also exceptional as he finished the day with 23 carries for 166 yards and three touchdowns. As well as a key fake punt carry on fourth and seven in the first quarter that he took 37 yards into VMI territory.

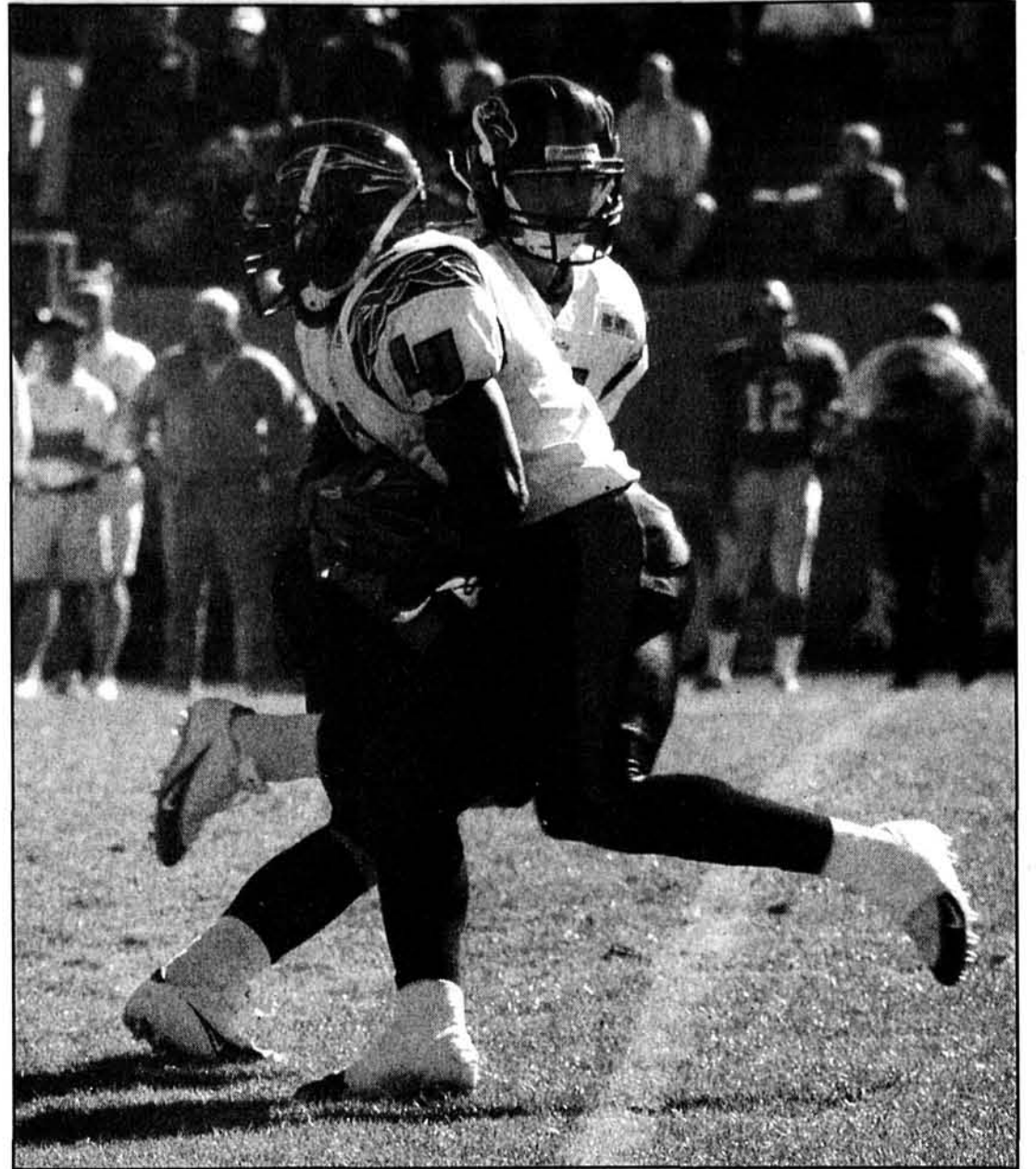
"It's been a great privilege to play with the Nigerian Nightmare (Gado)," said senior captain Sean Boyle. "He's stepped up big time to replace an excellent back (Goodman) and the team rallies around him because he wants to win."

That play would set up the team's first score, a 20-yard touchdown pass from Brock Farrel to Dre Barnes for just the Flames third touchdown pass of the season. Farrel would finish the game a respectful 10-19 for 172 yards and two scores.

"Brock played a good game in my mind," said Head Coach Ken Karcher. "He managed the game well and made some key throws. Hopefully, we can build on that during these last two games."

The Flames had the game pretty well in hand all day only getting a threat from VMI at the end of the second quarter when they scored their first touchdown with just three seconds remaining in the first half making the score 21-10 going into half-time.

"The coaches told us to stay hungry and stay focused and realize that these are military men and they're not going to give up," said cornerback Jordan Alford. "We knew that they would be playing hard until no time was left on the clock and we had to win the game in the



MICHAEL TROXEL

GROUND ATTACK — Sam Gado was a big part of the Flames' running game that amassed 370 yards against the Keydets.

third."

That is just what LU did as the Keydets didn't even sniff the end zone during the third quarter. Their first drive went three and out, and the Flames were backed inside their own 10-yard line.

They took the ball at the ten and put together an 18 play 90-yard drive that took more than eight minutes off

the clock. The drive would end with a Zacry Kolegue 19-yard field goal that gave the Flames a 24-10 lead.

The Flames would score once more in the third and once in the fourth to make the score 38-17 and keep the Flames in second place in the Big South Conference.

The defense was paced by the front seven. The defensive lineman and linebackers

held VMI to just 86 yards rushing, and they recorded three sacks. Nick Vaughn and Jordan Alford tied with the team led in tackles at eight. Shane Lancaster recorded his first career interception late in the fourth quarter.

John Davis can be reached for question or comment at jhdavis2@liberty.edu



MIKE TROXEL

PROCEEDING WITH THE PLAN — Dr. Jerry Falwell speaks before the ground breaking on new football operations center located at Williams Stadium.

New Facility: Building begins

Continued from page B1

Football facilities at Liberty in general have come a long way since the program began in 1973. Known at the time as Lynchburg Bible College, practices were held on Treasure Island, and the program's first games were played at Brookville High School and Lynchburg City Stadium.

"Back when the program first started our football offices, our locker room, and our practice fields were located on Treasure Island, said Graham. "Treasure Island was an island the university actually owned, that was also used for camps during the summer. At the end of the 1985 season there was a flood and the island was wiped out all together," added Graham.

The flood on Treasure Island forced Liberty to move the football offices, locker rooms, and practice fields on

campus. In 1986 the Hancock Athletic Center was built. A few years after the completion of the Hancock Center, Williams Stadium was opened in the middle of the 1989 season. Also completed around that same time was the home locker room that the football team currently uses.

In the next ten years Liberty's Board of Trustees would like to move the football program to the Division 1-A level. Obviously in order for this advancement to take place, some changes and improvements to the football program and the facilities would have to be made.

"Our Board of Trustees has determined that we want Liberty to go to the Division 1-A level in the NCAA, and this building is one more step in that direction," said Dr. Falwell. "We will also need to add about 30,000 seats to Williams Stadium sometime down the road, and there will also be other neces-

sities, but this is a huge step in that direction," added Dr. Falwell.

Some requirements for advancing a program to the 1-A level are an average attendance of 15,000 fans for home games, and the scheduling of five 1-A opponents for home games. Liberty has played a few 1-A teams each of the past several seasons, however all of those games have been on the road.

"We would have to get a lot of money raised or do some fundraising to get the extra scholarships that we would need to be 1-A," said Graham. "You have to average 15,000 people at home games, and since our stadium only seats 12,000 right now we would have to make some additions to that. The main thing is that we have to be competitive where we are, before we can move up to the next level," added Graham.

For more information on Liberty University football be sure to check out www.LibertyFlames.com

Cross-country: Second place for men and ladies

Continued from page B1

Finishing third for the Flames was Clint Jackson who covered the 8-kilometer course in a time of 25:57 and finished in 11th place overall. Freshman Drew Ponder ran an exceptional race as he was the Flames fourth runner and finished 19th overall in 26:35. Senior Jason Brown was the final scorer for Liberty as he ran a time of 26:47 and was 23rd overall. Christian Nichols and Chris Lyons were the Flames sixth and seventh finishers. Nichols finished in 34th place with a time of 27:14, while Lyons was 43rd in a time of 27:53.

Finishing nine seconds behind Lyons was Travis Campbell who ran a time of 28:02 and placed 46th despite only running in his second cross-country race of the year. Freshmen Nate Edwards and Tim Beasley were the final finishers for the Flames. Edwards finished in 56th place in a time of 28:30 while Beasley was 64th with a time of 28:59.

The Lady Flames received many strong individual performances in Saturday's race. Freshman Danielle Jordan was impressive as the top finisher for the Lady Flames. Jordan finished fourth overall in a time of 18:24 and was named to the All-Conference team. Also named to the All-Conference team were Samantha Pelletier and Sarah Roberts. Pelletier ran very tough in her final cross-county conference race as she finished in sixth place, three seconds behind Jordan in 18:27. Pelletier was also honored for her efforts in the classroom as she was named to the conference All-Academic team. Roberts, a freshman, finished in 10th place overall and crossed the finish line in a time of 18:49.

The fourth and fifth finishers for the Lady Flames were freshman Asia Ramey and Carol Jefferson. Ramey ran a time of 19:07 and finished in 14th place while Jefferson was one spot back in a time 19:12. Senior Melissa Blackstone was the sixth runner for the Lady Flames as she finished in 18th place in a time of 19:21, while Chelsey Swanson rounded out the top seven, finishing 30th in a time of 19:43.

Piper Newby, Sally McEnany, and Meleia Johnson were the eighth, ninth, and 10th runners for the Flames. Newby finished 33rd in a time of 19:51, McEnany was 40th in a time of 20:09, and Johnson was 45th in a time of 20:31.

Flames Head Coach Brant Tolsma commented on the conference race noting that he was "pleased with the overall outcome and that the team has made good progress over the course of the year." Tolsma also noted that the future continues to look bright for the Flames as the Lady Flames had four freshmen in their top five, while the men had three freshmen in their top five. I

Tolsma also notes that he is optimistic about the Flames chances to improve on last year's finishes at the NCAA Southeast Regionals which take place in two weeks in Greenville, N.C.

Moore: Defense is the name of the game for this Flame

Continued from page B1

It was then Linebackers Coach Bernard Clark who first discovered and brought Moore to the coaching staffs attention after attending a few Manatee practices. Clark took his assessment to former Secondary Coach Donald Smith who knew it would take special circumstances to sign Moore.

"What I saw was a guy who played football the way it is supposed to be played," said Smith. "I knew that he had the type of talent that would take us to where we wanted to go. I knew that if he applied himself he would be a great player."

Applying himself would prove to be a lot harder than Moore bargained for. When he got to Liberty he was bombarded with defensive schemes, formations and a very thick defensive playbook.

"As a safety I have to know the defense," said Moore. "So it automatically put pressure on my shoulders to grow up and get ready to play. But I took it as a challenge, I believe in my abilities."

Though it took him some time, C.J. finally got familiar with the playbook and in turn realized where he fit in the defensive scheme. Smith described the transformation as a dim light that all of a sudden shined bright.

In his very first start against Delaware State, Moore would provide a major spark finishing with four solo tackles, a fumble recovery, an interception (that he would return for nine yards) and a wonderful celebration after his first career interception.

The freshmen would go on to finish the year with 36 tackles, two interceptions, and one forced fumble. Not bad considering he was struggling everyday to adjust to the rules and regulations of the university.

"I had a lot of ups and downs outside of football that year," said Moore. "The reason why I didn't complain is because we had a close knit freshmen class, and we knew that eventually we would get better."

One move that pushed the team to get better was Coach Ken Karcher's hiring of Defensive Coordinator Steve Carson after the 2002 season. Carson put a premium on toughness, and though C.J. was a tough player Carson questioned his work ethic, and leadership qualities, which he admits, were lackluster before Carson's arrival.

"He brought the best out of me," said Moore. "He didn't allow me to skate through, and soon he didn't have to question my work ethic, I just played ball as hard as I could and he recognized that."

In 2003, Moore would start the season red hot, after barely running due to a nagging groin injury that ended his season after just two games in 2002. He spent his off-season putting weight on his lanky frame and for the first time in his career he was 190 pounds. The extra weight would due wonders for his durability as the red shirt sophomore didn't

miss a start that season.

The results spoke volumes of a healthier, heavier Moore, who looked dominant at times. He would finish the season with 73 tackles, three interceptions, and three forced fumbles to earn a spot on the Big South first-team defense.

One of Moore's best games came against Norfolk State where he finished with 12 tackles, an interception, and 2 pass breakups in only three quarters of work. He was named Big South defensive player of the week, for his efforts.

"I learned that if I play hard, forget about making mistakes, and just cut loose, I can really contribute and be a force on defense," said Moore. "I matured and made strides in my technique, and it showed on Saturdays."

However, anytime a player has a good season there is more expected of them and with expectations comes pressure. With a more experienced team, the coaches wanted more leadership from Moore to go with his strong play.

"C.J. Moore is experienced and he is the quarterback of the defense," said Karcher in this season's outlook. "I look to our secondary to really improve as they made great strides last season."

This season has seen Moore all over the field on defense making bone jarring hits and keeping the Flames defense exciting to watch. Opposing coaches have taken note of how well he is playing and tailoring their game plans to compensate.

"They have a player at safety," said Coastal Carolina's Head Coach David Bennett on the Coastal Carolina Web. "We have to try and get him in the open field and limit his opportunities to defend passes."

So far opposing offenses have been unsuccessful in trying to neutralize the red shirt junior safety. Through eight games Moore has recorded 72 tackles with a conference best 34 solo stops, one interception, five pass breakups and a conference best three forced fumbles, making him a front-runner for Big South Defensive Player of the Year award. He'll let you know it too.

"I've been blessed by God," said Moore. "He gave me the ability, and Liberty gave me the opportunity. I just want to make the best of it, and have fun."

Liberty's "Minister of Defense," will be returning for his senior season as one of a few experienced players next year and will have to really up his play to help compensate for the youth the team is expecting on defense next year. If he stays healthy and plays with that same flair and style he'll be dancing his way into the university record books.

John Davis can be reached for question or comment at jhdavis2@liberty.edu



SUSAN WHITTELEY

KNOWING the NATION

A Look Inside National Sports



By Paul Troth

Liberty University Football has enjoyed much success and growth over the past 20 years. Fans have seen Liberty go from being a little NAIA school and playing in Lynchburg City Stadium to playing in the spacious Williams Stadium with the foothills of central Virginia in the backdrop. In that time, Liberty has now become a member of the NCAA and plays the toughest competition at the Division 1-AA level year in and year out. With the addition of the new football facility breaking ground in the end zone this year, fans can see the growth of Liberty football with their very own eyes. Imagine however a Saturday in the future seeing the Flames football squad lining up against in-state powerhouse programs such as UVA and Virginia Tech. Picture a stadium that holds 30,000 screaming fans cheering and filling Liberty Mountain with such energy that the whole city comes to experience Flames football in full force. Even Dr. Jerry Falwell has made it clear that he wants to be in the stands the day that Liberty lines up and plays Notre Dame in football.

Obviously this is a great vision for the future and one that is definitely on the minds of the people in charge here at Liberty. Athletics Director Kim Graham said, "We've always had a plan to go from 1-AA to 1-A but we have never set a number of years or date on it specifically because we first want to become competitive at the level we are at first."

The university has already made great strides in reaching the top of Division 1 athletics with both basketball teams making the prestigious NCAA tournament and many other athletic teams competing in other NCAA tournaments over the past few seasons at the highest level.

So what is holding the football team back from making that next big step in the college football world? The answers lie in the basic rules set by the NCAA to allow a university entrance into the division I college football scene. To date, there are 117 Division 1 football teams across the country. Each university has to apply to the same set of rules when dealing with participation in Division 1 football. One of the major rules set down by the NCAA governing body states that a university's stadium must be able to hold 30,000 seats and must average at least 15,000 in actual attendance at home games. This rule has been adjusted over the years because schools were simply selling tickets and not putting fans in the seats to adhere to the rule. In fact according to ESPN some schools are trying new ways to put fans in the seats and it involves entertainment.

At Middle Tennessee State, a university that has only been a division I-A member

since 1999, they offered a free concert by rap star Big Boi from the group Outkast after the game. The plan was to put fans in the seats and it did. For the first time this year the university reached the 15,000 attendance requirement with an attendance of 16,718 people. The stipulation for the free concert however was that the fans had to be at the game from start to finish.

Currently Liberty's Williams Stadium is able to hold 12,000 people and the average home crowd this year has averaged about 10,000. These numbers would obviously have to improve in order for the Flames to reach the I-A level of competition.

The second rule set by the NCAA states that a university must be able to supply 85 scholarships for athletes. The number of scholarships that Liberty gives out currently on its football team is 65. The key ingredient in both rules set forth by the NCAA involves money. The budget would have to be significantly adjusted and more revenue would have to be found in order to pay for a 30,000-seat stadium and 20 more scholarships for student athletes.

The following explanations show how a university can go about obtaining division I-A membership from the technical aspect, but the one underlying factor that goes into all of this is how the team does on the field.

The teams that have made the jump from Division 1-AA to 1-A have been either champions or highly competitive at the Division 1-AA level first. Current 1-A members that were 1-AA members a few years ago include Marshall, Florida Atlantic, Troy State and Bowling Green.

Graham stated that, "We need to be good enough to make the playoffs, whether that is receiving an automatic bid by winning our conference when we get six members or by receiving an at-large bid based on a nine or 10 win season." Obviously making it to the playoffs would add more revenue to the program and gain more national recognition in the years to come.

Currently Head Football Coach Ken Karcher has scheduled the very best that Division 1-AA has had to offer in order to prepare the program for the highest level of competition and learn to win at the 1-AA level first before trying to reach the next level. This year the Flames have played the four-time national champions in Youngstown State, the perennial powerhouses of William and Mary and Lehigh, and have proved top be one of the top teams in their conference. Fan support has grown each year and this is encouraging. Hopefully these small steps will add to future wins and growth in allowing Liberty University to be a Division 1-A member in college football.

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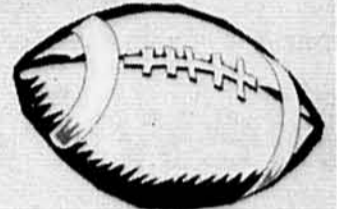
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Hitting the road to South Bend, IN

Andrew Stevens share the experience

By Andrew Stevens
GUEST COLUMN

Two weekends ago, God blessed me with the opportunity to fulfill a life-long dream and attend a football game at Notre Dame. Thanks to my RA, who was gracious enough to take my girlfriend and me home with him to Indiana, my dream was fulfilled.

Sitting in the shrine to college football that is Notre Dame Stadium, I could not help but think of our own football program at Liberty.

The football program at Notre Dame did not get to the point where it is now overnight. That is something that people fail to remember. There are plenty of universities around the country that do not even have a football team. We as students should consider ourselves privileged to have a football team to cheer for each fall.

For a program that got started in 1894, Notre Dame did not appear in a bowl game or win a national championship until 1925. Keep in mind that Liberty did not field a football team until 1973. To expect our program that has only been around for 31 years to dominate year in and year out is unrealistic.

For a program that has been around for 110 years, it is much easier to recruit athletes to a school with a household name like Notre Dame. Granted, the Fighting Irish are able to recruit some of the top athletes in the country, but remember we do not put just anyone out on Liberty's field. Our football team is

full of highly talented athletes who work very hard to earn their spot on the team, as well as show a dedication to morals and values off of the field.

One of the most glaring differences between football at Notre Dame and here at Liberty is the overwhelming attendance of the student body. Football at Notre Dame is in no form or fashion a social event. You don't see students at Notre Dame leaving at half time or earlier. Also, the students in South Bend are actually a part of the game. They stand the entire game, they cheer and yell and are truly a 12th man. For a school that only has a little over 11,000 students, the spirit displayed at Notre Dame was truly impressive and a true factor in the game.

At Notre Dame they are playing for an invitation to a Division 1-A bowl game. Here at Liberty, our football team is playing for an invitation to the Division 1-AA playoffs. The Big South Conference does not have enough schools that participate in football as members of the conference for the conference champion to earn an out-right bid to the Division 1-AA playoffs. So, the only way for the Flames to earn a playoff bid is to get an invitation from the NCAA. This makes it much more difficult for our football team to make the playoffs each season.

We have all heard at one point in our lives, the phrase "patience is a virtue." Anyone who truly follows football knows the same thing is true with any college football program. Even

schools with a long history of winning like Notre Dame go through periods where wins are hard to come by. The Fighting Irish have had losing records three of the past five seasons and have not won a bowl game since 1993. Every school goes through hard times, not just Liberty.

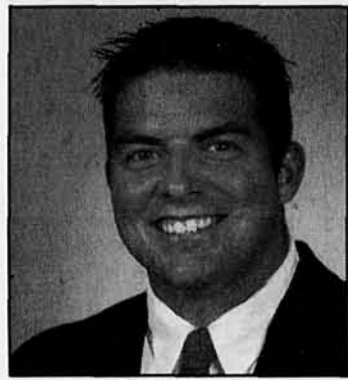
With the Flames in the thick of the race for the Big South Championship this season, now more than ever is the time to truly get behind our football program. Sure, you may not see our guys on ESPN playing Oklahoma anytime soon, but you will see them giving all they have week in and week out to represent our student body, our university and most importantly Jesus Christ.

I realize that our football program has a long way to go before we reach the stature of schools such as Notre Dame. However, to think that our football program is incapable of making major improvements over the next several years is wrong. In order for those changes to happen, we as students need to get out and support our team every chance we have. So, the next time the Flames are in action, paint your chest, wear some red and come out to cheer LU on to victory.



NOTRE DAME TRADITION — The "Touchdown Jesus" has become part of Notre Dame Tradition over the years.

MLB's crazy season at a glance



By Paul Troth
SPORTS COLUMNIST

What a season! It's been almost two weeks since Boston pitcher Keith Foulke fielded a comeback to the mound and threw the final out to first base clinching the first World Series title for the Boston Red Sox in 86 years, and I am still in disbelief. I'm not necessarily in shock at the Red Sox winning the World Series; it's how they won that has continued to leave me baffled. Just when I think that I can explain this wonderful accomplishment of a team coming back from an 0-3 deficit in the league championship series, sweeping the World Series and thus ending the 86-year curse of the Bambino, I come back to a thought that this is all a dream. Should I really be shocked though? If you look at the entire 2004 year in

review, the surprise of the Red Sox makes more sense when you see that 2004 was a year of great feats and even greater surprises around the league as a whole.

Barry Bonds, arguably the best player in baseball, added to his home run greatness and offensive clout when he reached the storied 700 Club. Only three other men in the history of baseball have hit over 700 home runs: Babe Ruth, Hank Aaron and Willie Mays. Bonds once again finished atop the league in offensive statistics with 45 home runs, 101 RBIs and had a batting average of .362. What continues to amaze fans and experts alike about Bonds is that he is getting better with age and putting up great numbers despite leading the league in walks the past four years. In fact, this year he set another record with the most walks in a season with 232. Look for the all-time home run record of 755 home runs to be surpassed by the living legend that is Barry Bonds.

Bonds wasn't the only player making history with his bat this year. Up in Seattle, despite being on the worst team in the west, Ichiro Suzuki gave fans reason to come out and watch.

The reason was Suzuki's chase of the single season hit record. The previous owner of this record was George Sisler who owned the record for 84 years with a single season hit total of 257. Suzuki broke the mark by getting 262 hits this season. The record may not seem very impressive at first glance, but consider the fact that it has stood for 84 years and that Suzuki broke the mark by a whole five hits.

All these records and great plays fail in comparison to the biggest story of the 2004 season, the Boston Red Sox. The Sox won the World Series, but it was how they won the World Series that will forever etch their name in the history books. The first three games were dominated by the Yankees as they outscored the Red Sox 32-16 in three games including a massacre in game three where the Yankees won 19-8. Down 3-0 going into Game 4 the Red Sox were facing elimination and the odds were against them. No team had ever come back from a 3-0 deficit to win a series and in order to win the series the Red Sox would have to win on the road. In Game 4, the Red Sox were down to their last out when Bill Mueller drove

in the tying run in the ninth, and in the 12th inning David Ortiz finished off the comeback with a two run walk off home run to send the series to a fifth game.

The next night the flair for the dramatic was once again provided by David Ortiz, who is called "Papi" by his teammates, when in the 14th inning he hit a bloop single to drive in the winning run and send the series back to New York for Game 6. Shifting back to New York of the already intense series would get a big dose of drama when the injured Curt Schilling would take the mound in Game 6 to avenge his performance in Game 1 of the series. With his ankle visibly bleeding from the seachers on his ankle, Schilling pitched seven innings allowing just one run and winning Game 6 forcing a seventh and deciding game.

In Game 7 the Red Sox would waste no time in putting up runs when in the first inning David Ortiz would hit a two run blast off of Kevin Brown and start the route for the Red Sox. Johnny Damon would homer twice in the game with one of them being a grand slam. At the end of the night the Red Sox would put up 10 runs en

route to a 10-3 win and clinch their first World Series birth since 1918. Fans were partying in the streets in Boston and the players were celebrating like they had won the championship already, but there was still a World Series to be played and a team in the St. Louis Cardinals who had the best record in baseball.

If there was any doubt about the Red Sox ability to maintain their momentum going in to the first game of the World Series it was quickly put to rest in Game 1 when they put 11 runs on the board in route to an 11-9 victory in Game 1. Really that first game was the best chance the Cardinals had to win in the series because the next three games would prove to be all Boston and a clean sweep for the title. The dangerous Cardinal bats never woke up and the clutch pitching of Pedro Martinez, Curt Schilling and Derek Lowe, proved to be too much for the St. Louis batters.

After winning handedly in Games 2 and 3, the tension was high going into Game 4. Could the Red Sox end the 86-year drought and break the curse of the Babe? Would the ghosts of Bucky Dent and Bill Buckner come

back to haunt the Red Sox? Many Red Sox fans were not comfortable even with a 3-0 lead because they knew that with their luck they would be not only the first team to come back from a 3-0 deficit to win a series, but also they could be the second team to lose a 3-0 lead. All of the worries and bad thoughts would soon come to an end in Game 4 when in the very first inning leadoff hitter Johnny Damon hit a home run to put the Red Sox up 1-0. The lead would grow to 3-0 and that was all starting pitcher Derek Lowe needed. Lowe pitch seven scoreless innings and closer Keith Foulke would finish the deal when on the final out he would field the comeback pitch to the mound and toss over to first base to close out the greatest playoff run in the history of baseball. The Red Sox won eight straight to finish the post-season and break the curse.

To truly savor the moment and show how much this championship means to the Sox, Boston "unintentionally" opens up their season at home next year when they will receive their championship rings in front of their home fans in Boston... and the New York Yankees.

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Women's soccer finishes season

High Point upsets the Lady Flames 3-1 in Big South Tournament play on Thursday

By Megs Fatkin
SPORTS REPORTER

The Liberty Women's Soccer team suffered a disappointing, season-ending loss in the first round of the Big South Conference Championships. The Flames were defeated 3-0 by High Point on Thursday at Blackbaud Stadium in Charleston, S.C.

Liberty was number four going into the tournament and faced the fifth seed High Point Panthers. High Point was last year's Big South Champions but fell 0-2 to Liberty during the regular season this year.

The Flames were playing against fierce winds in the first half but played strong defensively and were able to keep High Point from scoring. The teams combined for eight shots in the first half. With a 0-0 tie at half-time, things looked good for Liberty as they would be playing with the wind for the second half and knew they could play better.

The Panthers, however, would come up with a second-half surge during which they would score three goals. Carolyn Bader opened the scoring for the Panthers at the 53:10 mark. High Point notched their second goal as Jen Evans scored at 54:29, less than two minutes after their first. Amy Anzovino finished off the scoring for High Point at the 55:41 mark, giving them a 3-0 lead and the win. It took High Point less than three minutes to secure their victory.

The Flames battled until the dying moments of the game, trying everything they could to find a goal.

"I haven't seen a team ever play that hard after being down by that much," said Flames assistant coach Ben Strawbridge. "It was just a bad three minutes."

"When all the shots we were taking were going straight at their keeper," said Liberty's Head Coach James Price, "we knew it just wasn't going to be our day."

Though Liberty outshot High Point 13-9, they were unable to find the back of the net.

"The bottom line is High Point was a better team than us today," said Price.

High Point went on to defeat the number one seed UNC Asheville 3-1 in the semi finals on Friday. They then took on Birmingham-Southern in the finals but after a scoreless 110 minutes, BSC squeaked out a win on penalty kicks.

Birmingham-Southern will receive an automatic bid by the Big South Conference in the first round of the NCAA Tournament starting Nov. 12.

The Liberty Flames will take some time off before coming back to start preparing for next year.



Susan Whitley

HEAD BUTT—Kendall Bartholomew and the rest of the Lady Flames watched their season end early when they were upset by the fifth-ranked High Point Panthers, 3-1 last Thursday.

Five Good Minutes

WITH LARA BARTELOMEO

By Jesse Houk
SPORTS REPORTER

How did you hear about Liberty?

I was recruited by Coach Pierce who is the assistant coach on the volleyball team. He saw me at a few volleyball camps and e-mailed me information about Liberty.

What made you decide to come to Liberty?

I honestly didn't want to come to a Christian school. I've gone to a Christian school for pretty much my whole life; besides my senior year, in which I was home-schooled. And then my last year of club, I didn't want to play for a secular coach anymore, just because it was too difficult. So I decided I wanted a Christian team that had the same standards and principles that I live by and a coach that could understand that.

What was the most difficult thing about going to college so far from home?

I really miss the beach. I mean, we have Virginia Beach, but that isn't comparable. I miss my family and friends a lot. Most of my friends stayed in California. California is just a fun place.

What are a few things that you enjoy about your team?

They are just a fun group of girls to be around. And five of us are from California, so we have a lot in common.

You have never played the position of libero before. What did you think when Coach Pinder asked you to play that position? Were you confident?

I was kind of disappointed because I wasn't setting. I have been setting for pretty much my whole life. I was really confident with that, but there is a lot of pressure on the setter. So the change took a lot of pressure off and libero is a lot of fun. I still don't know if I want to go back.

So do you want to stay there?

It all depends. If they recruit another setter, then I'd love to stay there, but if not, I'll move.

What does the rest of the season look like for the volleyball team?

Well, we've won five in a row, so that's exciting.

Were you excited about being named the Big South freshman player of the week?

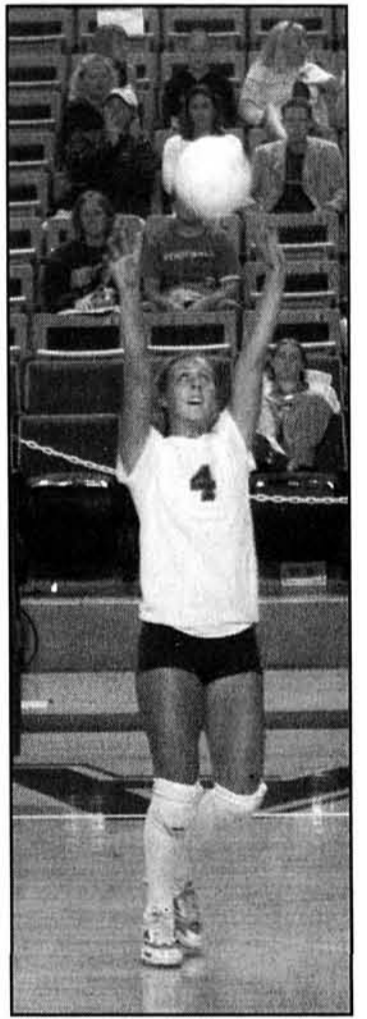
I don't really know, I still don't know what it means. It was just exciting to see my picture on the Web and in the paper.

When did you become a Christian and how?

I grew up in a Christian home all of my life. So I've had that example of how to live. But I was at a camp one year with my friend. I really didn't know a lot of people and when my friend left me to go snowboarding I felt like I didn't have anyone, but it was then I realized that God is the only one I need. And actually, two years ago, a girl on my Orange County volleyball team had cancer, and she died a year ago. She was a setter too. She really inspired me to think of what I was living for.

Has Liberty been a place that has promoted or improved your walk with Christ or have you felt like you sometimes get fed too much?

I don't think there's ever too much. Sometimes we just get too complacent. And our coach always reminds us how blessed we are to be here. And it's very true. It's just a matter of perception and how you take it in.



MICHAEL TROXEL

NICE SET—Lara Bartelomeo has helped the Lady Flames this season, despite only being a freshman.

OPERATION: Christmas Child



This Christmas you can share the love and hope of Jesus Christ with a needy child in a country like Sudan or Iraq by using a simple shoe box. Operation Christmas Child is an easy missions projects that anyone can participate in. You can be instrumental in helping a needy child overseas to receive literature in his or her own language. What an opportunity to share the gift of God's Son, Jesus Christ, with the world.

Prayer is vital to the success of Operation Christmas Child. Please prayerfully consider what part you can have in this ministry. By taking part, you can have a vital impact for the cause of Christ.



With your help, joy can be brought to millions of needy children worldwide. Shoe boxes can be picked up at the Liberty Champion office. After deciding whether your gift will be for a girl or a boy, you can fill the box with a variety of small items. Suggested gifts include toys, school supplies, hygiene items, candy, gum, and other non war related items. Please include a \$5 donation to help cover shipping and other costs.

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All shoe boxes must be delivered to the Champion office by **November 12th**. Don't miss out on this fun and fulfilling opportunity to share the real meaning of Christmas. What a perfect gift to give in honor of Jesus' birthday!

Complete details are in the Operation Christmas Child brochure, which can be picked up in the Liberty Champion office. Any further questions can be directed to **Sue Matthews @ 582-2128**.



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Life!

Students have many options for staying in shape

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By Emily Scheck
LIFE! REPORTER

As the holidays approach, thoughts turn to family, fun and food. From family get-togethers to Christmas parties, end of the year celebrations are notorious for their large variety of savory yet unhealthy treats.

While many believe they gain considerable weight during the holidays, studies show that average weight gain from November to January is a mere pound. However, "The weight gained over the winter holidays isn't lost during the rest of the year," said Jack Yanovski, head of Growth and Obesity for the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. The holiday bulge is not inevitable. Eating healthy servings of nutritious food and spending time at the gym each week will help reduce the risk of unnecessary weight gain.

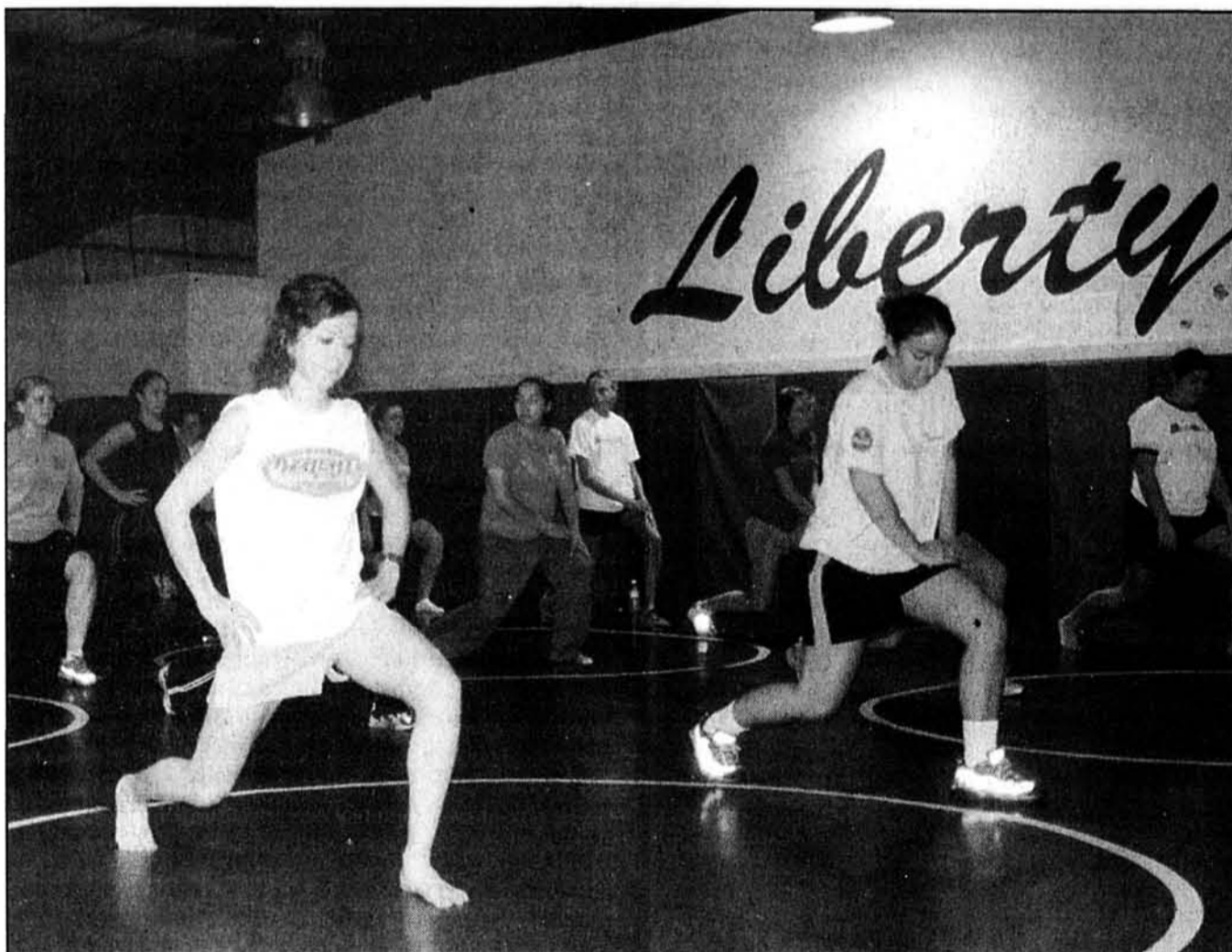
Proper preparation for the holidays includes consistent use of a fitness facility. Lynchburg offers a number of well-established gyms, customized to the needs of the individual members.

Gold's Gym

Located on Wards Road, Gold's Gym is the largest co-ed gym chain in the world, with 500 facilities in 43 states and 25 countries. First opened in 1965 in Venice, Calif., Gold's Gym received international attention when featured in Arnold Schwarzenegger's "Pumping Iron" 12 years later.

Offering aerobics and kickboxing classes along with personal training and free weights, Gold's 1,200 plus Lynchburg members can finish off a tough workout by relaxing in the sauna or enjoying a cold smoothie from the juice bar. The Lynchburg Gold's Gym offers "beautiful Blue Ridge scenery as you go for a stroll on our treadmills or soak up the heat in one of our saunas," as stated on their Website.

Located minutes from LU's campus, students can join from October 2004 until May 2005 for a \$200 fee. With a variety of payment plans available, Gold's works with students to find the best plan for each individual. However, different needs may require a different facility.



STAYING FIT—The budget-minded student can participate in exercise classes offered at LU. An hour session of kickboxing costs 50 cents.

Jamerson YMCA

With the mission "to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all," the YMCA is the largest not-for-profit community service organization in the United States. First opened in London by George Williams in 1884, the Y quickly spread throughout Great Britain finally coming to Boston in 1851. Now with 2,500 facilities nationwide, the Y serves almost 19 million people across the U.S.

Offering aerobics classes, personal cardiovascular and strength training as well as free weights and two heated indoor pools, the Jamerson YMCA is located at 801 Wyndhurst Drive. With over 12,000 members, the Jamerson Y is currently adding 4,000 square feet of wellness center space, including a state-of-the-art cycling center.

While members pay a \$150 joining fee followed by monthly installments of \$37, college students pay only half the regular joining fee to obtain a YMCA membership. With facilities in downtown Lynchburg and

Bedford, students on and off campus have easy access to quality fitness facilities.

"The Jamerson Y provides a variety of quality equipment that enables me to make the most of my workouts," said YMCA member Jeremy Leary, a senior at LU.

"When I go to work out, I don't want to spend my time waiting for machines to be free," said senior Laura Rhodes, a member of the Jamerson YMCA.

Lifestyle Fitness

For students who feel the same, Lifestyle Fitness Center may be the answer. Located at 110 Vista Centre Drive, Lifestyle was started in 2002 by former Courtside Athletic Club director Michael Zealand.

With an emphasis on personal training, Lifestyle aims "to provide personal attention and guidance in each member's health and fitness," said Zealand. Utilized by the Liberty track team, Lifestyle's training pool includes an underwater treadmill used for joint rehabilitation and strength training. With nutritional counseling and Biometrics, a weight management program combining nutrition and exercise, Lifestyle

is able to alter their programs to meet the need of the individual.

Students can join Lifestyle's 200+ plus members for \$38 a month, with a one-time evaluation fee of \$30. New members receive two one-hour training sessions with a certified physical trainer, enabling every individual to get the workout that is right for them.

"The staff at Lifestyle is among the most experienced and professional..." said Biometrics Nutrition and Fitness Chairman Robert Karch. Both personable and knowledgeable, the Lifestyle staff includes LU junior Chasity Hinken and senior Lindsey Marie Yates.

Curves

Dedicated to providing affordable, one-stop exercise and nutritional guidance to women, Curves has become the largest fitness franchise in the world. Founded by Gary and Diane Heavin, Curves first opened in 1992 in Harlingen, Texas. Now with 8,000 locations worldwide, Guinness World Records named Curves "the world's largest fitness center franchise."

The unique, 30-minute exer-

cise program includes cardiovascular and strength training as well as "a sense of support different from any other health club," said Curves employee Kim Jarvis. The hydraulic-based machines are situated in a circle, structured for circuit training that allows members to utilize each machine in 30-second intervals.

Load-bearing activities maintain bone density while aerobics and strength training serve to burn fat and raise metabolism.

Exclusively for women, Curves provides a sense of security for women who feel uncomfortable in a co-ed environment. With facilities on Old Forest Road and Timberlake, Curves provides Lynchburg ladies with an easy solution to battle the bulge. Students who purchase a three-month membership for \$99 can join more than 600 Lynchburg ladies who are benefiting from their time spent at Curves.

"With great determination, a healthy eating plan and daily workouts at Curves, I have been able to stay on track and lose more weight than I ever thought possible," said Maureen Duncan, who has lost 112 pounds since joining Curves.

If money is tight from college expenditures and purchasing Christmas gifts, there is no need to fret. While joining a gym enhances a workout, students have on-campus options that cost next to nothing.

Campus Workouts

Whether across campus or around the Vines center, running for 20 minutes a day raises the metabolism and helps shed stubborn flab. Throughout the year, Shape Ministries and Student Life offer kickboxing classes that combine stretching, strength training and aerobic workouts at 50 cents a class.

Students can overcome the holiday bulge through proper exercise and a healthy diet. Duane Alexander, M.D., Director of NICHD said, "Development ways to avoid holiday weight gain may be extremely important for preventing obesity and the diseases associated with it."

Contact Emily Scheck at escheck@liberty.edu.

christineprice readers respond to the single shoe mystery

In the Oct. 26 issue, I asked if anyone knows if single shoes end up on the side of the highway. I got some interesting responses and thought I should share them with you.

I'll pull this car over

When I was about 10 years old, I went on a cross-country road trip with my best friend's family. My friend, his two brothers and I were being rather loud and obnoxious in the back seat and eventually got on the nerves

of my friend's father, who was driving. The father sternly told us to be quiet or he would pull the car over. After a few moments of silence, the horseplay started again. This process continued a couple cycles before my friend's dad finally pulled the car over. He got us all out of the car, lined his boys up and lectured them on the importance of listening the first time. He concluded by saying that he did not want to hear another word until he said so. We all got back in the car, and about 30 minutes later, he said that he would turn the radio on. We listened to a radio drama in silence, and once it was over the father told us we could speak again. Immediately, my friend's oldest brother said "Uh, Dad?" "Yes, son?" "Back when you took us out of the car, my shoe fell off. We left it on the road."

Josiah Hager

Road rage at its finest

I might have a solution to your highway shoe problem.

They are the result of drivers with really bad road rage. I have actually seen someone (not me) take off a shoe and throw it at another person's car while driving. It might not account for all the shoes on the road, but I did witness it, so I think I could be on to something (although I'm pretty sure it was a Michigan driver, so it might be an isolated case).

Joe Stauffer

Thanks, guys, for sharing your stories. There are a few other mysteries I would like solved and I would appreciate any input.

Can anyone tell me who chose the room numbers in the DeMoss Hall? The only thing I've come up with is that he or she is mentally unstable or has a really twisted sense of humor.

And, can anyone please tell me why Ashlee Simpson is famous?

Contact Christine Price at cdcoffey@liberty.edu.

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY THEATRE PRESENTS

The Secret Garden

The Tony-Award winning musical

FINAL WEEKEND!

Thursday, November 11, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 12, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 13, 2:00 & 7:30 p.m.

TICKETS

\$6 students

\$8 faculty and staff

\$10 adult

\$5 child

The Lloyd Theatre Box Office is open Mon. - Fri. from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and one hour prior to each show.



LU students take a bite out of the Big Apple

By Sara Lesley
NEWS EDITOR

Last weekend, 80 Liberty students took a break from the books and hit the streets of New York City. Student Life sponsored the second annual trip for four days at Doubletree Suites in Times Square.

For many students, this was the first time they had laid eyes on the Big Apple.

"It is an amazing experience, especially if you've never been to New York," said senior Aimee Hughes. "It's a political center, a financial center and a cultural center of the entire United States."

"Times Square was so huge. This was my first time in a big city because I'm just a little country girl," said freshman Holly Townsend.

The group stayed at Doubletree Suites in the heart of Times Square, thanks to some coordination from Student Life.

"Overall, the NYC trip was a great success," said Chris Misiano, the associate director of Student Activities. "It is very affordable, the hotel is very elegant and you're promised to have a great time."

Misiano was in charge of the trip and accompanied the students on the nine-hour bus ride to the city. "While I was there I



BIG CITY, BIG LIGHTS—LU students spent four days touring NYC. Many took advantage of the discounted price offered by Student Life.

PHOTO PROVIDED

was able to see the ground zero site—a truly sobering experience," Misiano said. "You can't really understand the devastation that took place there until you see it with your own eyes."

Students took advantage of several activities in the downtown area.

"We walked 20,000 miles and we went to the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty,

saw ground zero, Saint Paul's Chapel... walked up and down 5th Avenue—we did pretty much everything," said Hughes.

Hughes had been to New York City twice before this trip, but she said this time she had more freedom to relax and experience some new things. "I loved going to the Broadway show, '42nd Street.' It was absolutely amazing—the dancing, the singing, the

music."

From Chinatown, to Little Italy, to Greenwich Village, New York City provides an array of several cultures. "My favorite part was Little Italy, because I've always wanted to go to Italy," Townsend said. "Even though it was in New York, it was a little taste of it, literally." Townsend said she and her friends indulged in brick-oven pizza, pasta and

Italian desserts.

"I also ate New York cheese-cake," she added. "It was so delicious, I lost all train of thought."

Misiano said that students can look forward to another New York City Student Life trip next fall. "Everyone had a good time and agreed that they wanted to come again next year," he said.

"I think everybody, regardless of whether you go to Liberty or not, should visit New York City. It's so unique, yet it defines our country at the same time," Hughes said.

She added that Student Life coordinated the trip efficiently, but allowed students to have the freedom to do what they wanted.

"I didn't feel like (Student Life) was babysitting us. They let us have our fun and let us enjoy the trip," Hughes said. "The whole way up there, they were very good at getting us there and getting us back quickly. It was very well organized."

According to Misiano, Student Life is planning several road trips for next semester, including possibly two trips to Washington, D.C. and maybe Richmond, Va. For avid skiers, Student Life will sponsor weekly trips to Evergreen this winter.

Contact Sara Lesley at sllesley@liberty.edu.

The Central Virginia Bridal Showcase attracts the marriage minded

By Rachel Jones
LIFE REPORTER

Brides flocked to the Schilling Center this past weekend for the 7th Annual Central Virginia Bridal Showcase. The show included more than 50 different booths, a bridal fashion show and door prizes. This event, sponsored by Celebrations, a bridal shop located on Wards Road, is a helpful tool for all brides-to-be in the area.

Brides were given a red heart-shaped pin with the words, "Bride to be" printed on them in white letters. As the brides and their guests walked through the doors, they instantly entered a wedding wonderland. Love songs played in the background and white lights covered in tulle wrapped their way around the large gym.

Brides and their mothers roamed through the building getting ideas for their special day. Bride-to-be and Liberty law student, Jillyan Rutledge was impressed with the event.

"I just wanted to see what there was available out there. I haven't really planned anything yet. The bridal show is very nice, and they have a lot of helpful stuff."

Jennifer Redwood, a local who plans to get married on April 2, also enjoyed the Bridal Show. "I have never been to a Bridal Show before. It's fun, and they have free giveaways."

Brides had many different booths to peruse throughout the four-hour event. Vendors such as Merle Norman, Mary Kay, Lia Sophia, Creative Memories and Awe lined the gym. Many participated in door prizes to giveaways such as jewelry, free facials and much more.

There were also some unique-booths such as the marriage insurance booth,

where Linda Ware, a Sunday school teacher at Hyland Heights Baptist Church, questioned passersby on whether they had marriage insurance.

After a confused answer of no, Ware explained that although marriage insurance is not a real thing, couples could use the marriage

insurance program at their church to grow closer to God and their future mate.

"This is a very important program that helps couples work out some of this big marriage issues before they actually get married," Ware said. "I think that this is a very important tool left out of most marriage processes."

Another booth that appeared at the Bridal Show was the YWCA Church Street Bridal.

This non-profit organization receives dress donations from major bridal shops all over the country and sells them in their shop for a substantially discounted price. All of the money made in this shop goes directly to the YWCA and their programs to help the women of Central Virginia.

A vendor that attracted the attention of most guests in the Schilling Center was the After Hours Formal Wear booth. They offered

exceptional savings on tuxedos for the groom and groomsmen. Brides were offered the chance to either spin a wheel to get money

without the off of the price of the tuxes or spend 15 seconds in a Fun Machine Cash Cube. Inside the cube, brides attempted to grab as much fake money as they could while the fan inside the cube blew the money in circles around them. The more money they were able to grab, the more they were able to save towards the tuxedos for the wedding.

Not only mothers and sisters of the bride walked the rows of booths, but fiancés as well. Girls everywhere were pulling hesitant men behind them.

Ryan Szumierz, a junior at Liberty who plans to be married in August of 2005 attended this event with his fiancé. "I came so that I could find out how much this wedding will cost, and

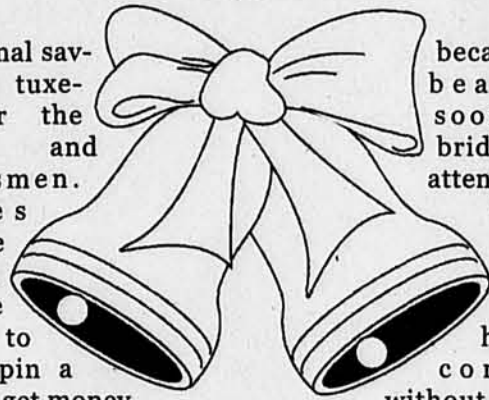
because my beautiful soon-to-be bride is attending."

The event would not have been complete without the much-anticipated bridal fashion show. The show included dresses for the bride, bridesmaids and flower girls as well as tuxedos for the groom and groomsmen.

Brides watching the show had a wide variety of dresses to choose from and were encouraged to pick a favorite.

Brides all over agreed that this show was helpful in their quest for the perfect wedding. With the photographer booked, the cake decorated and the flowers chosen, the brides can relax knowing that they are ready for the most memorable day of their lives.

Contact Rachel Jones at rljones2@liberty.edu



CLIP ART

November 9-16 Campus Calendar

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
11.9	Southern Baptist Convention Recruitment Marine Recruitment Job Correspondence Workshop, 4 p.m.	DeMoss Hall DeMoss Hall DH 2013
11.10	Southern Baptist Convention Recruitment Winterfest Volunteer Meeting, 9:30 p.m.	DeMoss Hall DH 1090
11.11	Registration opens for juniors Kappa Delta Pi Chapter Event, 4:30 p.m.	DH 1114
11.12	Friday Night Witnessing, 6 p.m. Native American Heritage Month Event, 6 p.m. Liberty Fashion Expo, 10 p.m.	DH 1101 DH 1104 Campus North 1500
11.13	L.O.V.E. Women's Morning Fellowship, 9 a.m. Men's Basketball v. West Virginia State, 7 p.m.	DH 1172 Vines Center
11.15	Registration opens for sophomores	
11.16	American Red Cross Blood Drive	

JEREMY CAMP RESTORED

**Liberty University
Vines Center
Friday, November 12th**
Doors open at 7:00PM
Show starts at 7:30PM

Tickets:
\$7 in advance with LU ID;
General \$10; Floor \$10;
(More at the Door)

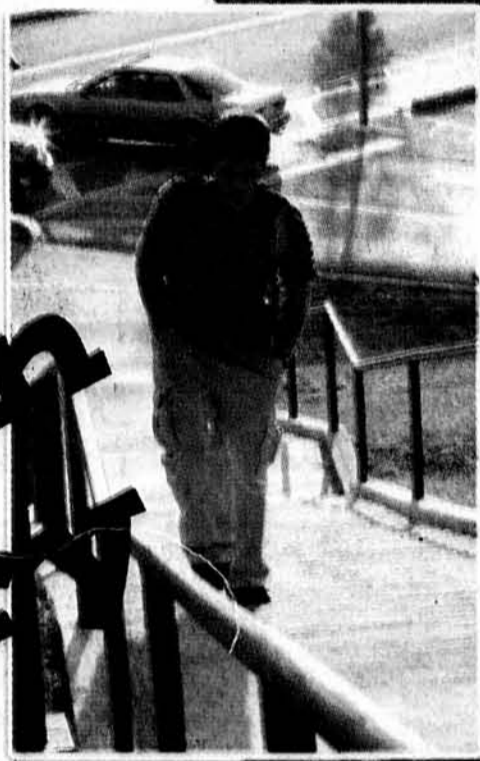
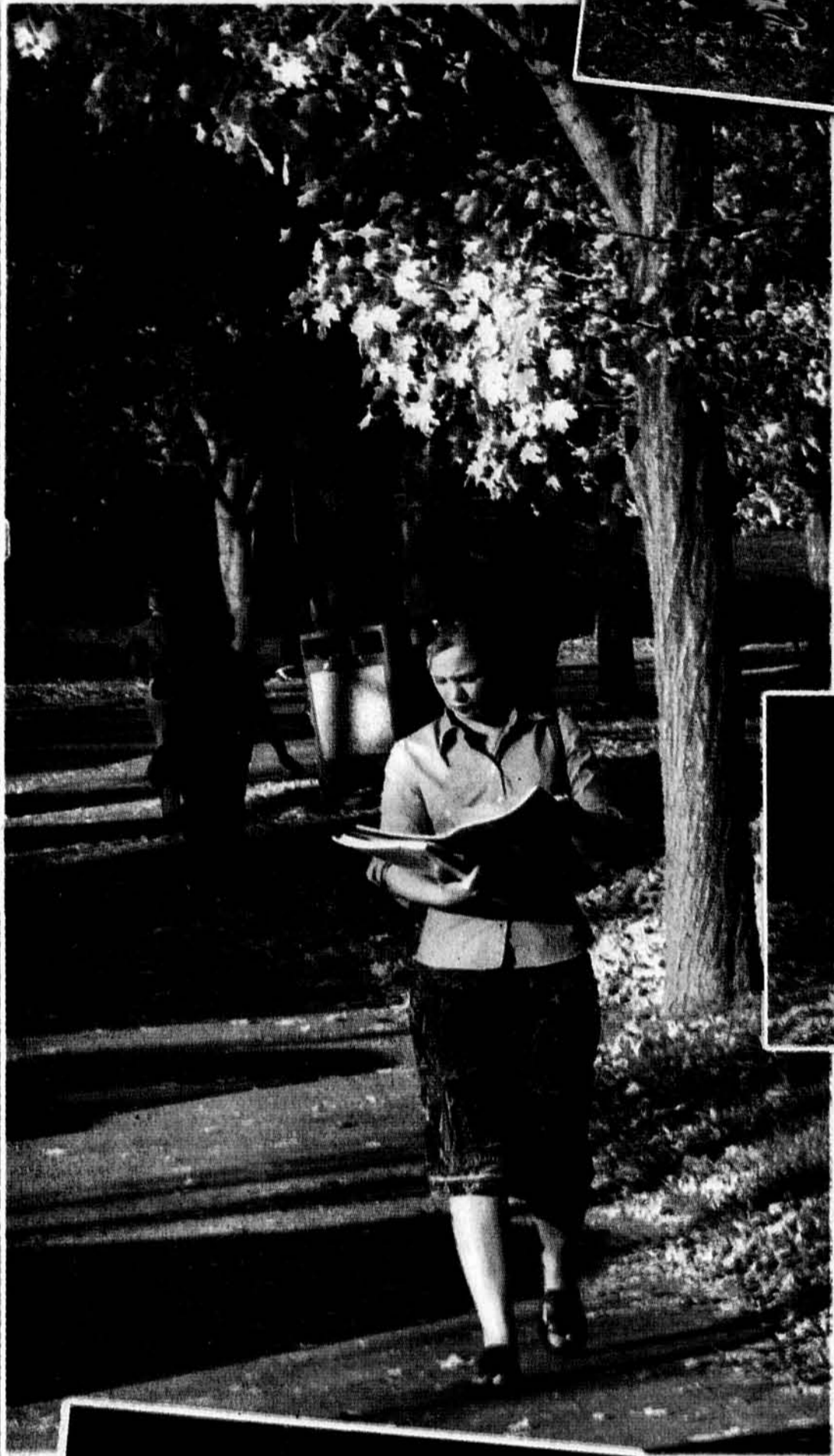
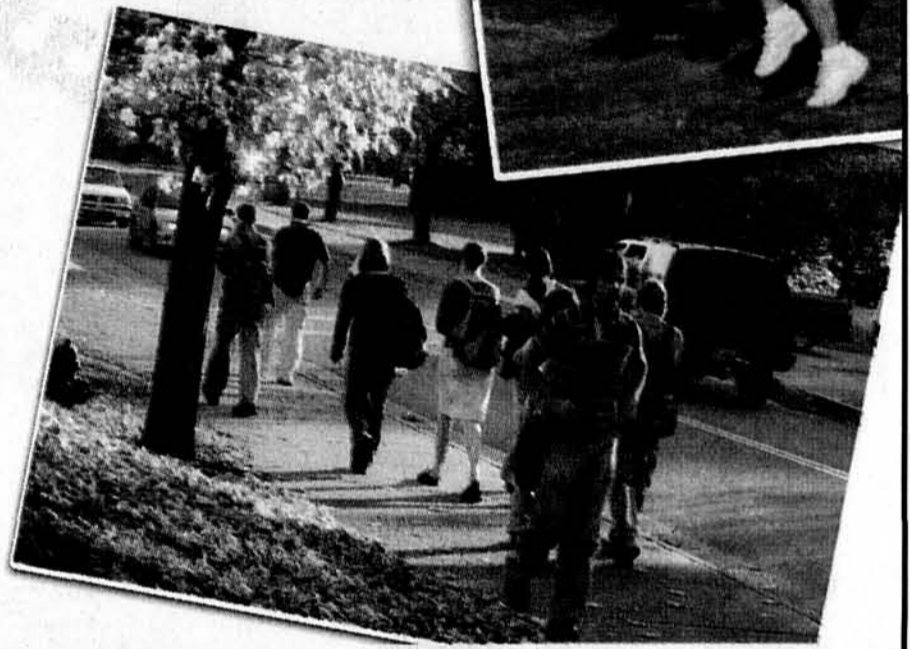
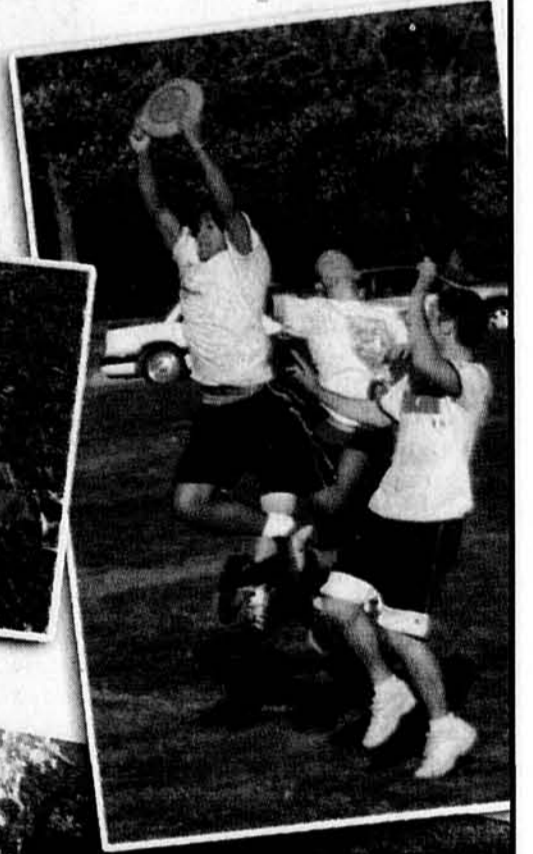
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