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Fall 12-10-2002

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# The Liberty Champion

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY • LYNCHBURG, VA • VOL. 20, NO. 12

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2002

## INSIDE

### FIRST SOLO FLYER: Freshman

Matthew Rougeux became the first student in Liberty's aviation program to fly solo. See page 3.



**LaRUE CONCERT:** The brother and sister duo performed a free concert at David's Place on Monday, Nov. 18. See page 3.

**GIFT IDEAS FOR HIM AND HER:** Start of the Christmas season by getting the right gift. Read what students want. See page 7.

**MEN'S BASKETBALL:** The Liberty men won 66-63 over Western Carolina on Saturday, Dec. 7. See Page 12.

**LETTER FROM THE SGA PRESIDENT:** Student Government President Zach Gautier addresses the student body in his letter to the editor. See page 6.

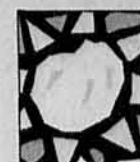
## & OUT



**TUESDAY**  
Light rain.  
High 43.  
Low 34.



**WEDNESDAY**  
Light rain.  
High 45.  
Low 36.



**THURSDAY**  
Partly cloudy.  
High 51.  
Low 35.



**FRIDAY**  
Mostly cloudy.  
High 43.  
Low 40.



**SATURDAY**  
Rain.  
High 50.  
Low 33.

## LOOKAHEAD

**BEFORE CHRISTMAS BREAK, DON'T FORGET TO:**

- Decide on a payment plan for next semester and budget accordingly.
- Study for finals like your life depends on it.
- Give Christmas cards to your friends, family and teachers.
- Pack up your toothbrush, deodorant and winter clothes.
- Come back to LU for classes on Wednesday, Jan. 15.

### SEVEN SCHOOLS DAYS TILL BREAK

Press on these last few days, then enjoy your Christmas vacation!

## TRBC seeks rezoning for purchase

By Mariel Williams, news editor

Thomas Road Baptist Church will take possession of the Ericsson building and surrounding acreage sometime after Dec. 19. However, before the ministry can begin using the facility, the church may need the city of Lynchburg to rezone portions of the property so that it can be used for church and school purposes.

Some city officials have expressed concern that the city will suffer financially if the property is rezoned. If another large corporation like Ericsson could be persuaded to purchase the property, it would bring more industrial jobs into the area. Also, any part of the property that is used by the church or its affiliated ministries would no longer be taxable, causing the city to lose thousands of dollars of revenue.

Chancellor Jerry Falwell said in a sermon at TRBC that if it is God's will that the church use the building, the church will prevail against any government opposition.

TRBC intends to allow Liberty University to use part of the facility, which contains much more space than the church can currently use. Jerry Falwell Jr., an attorney for the church, has pointed out that the growth of the university will bring more money into the economy, as it has in the past.

"According to a 1999 study conducted by Longwood College, Liberty students, visitors and employees spent \$92 million in the local economy annually," Falwell Jr. said. "That represents five percent of the \$1.7 billion in total taxable sales in the Lynchburg metropolitan area. Since that study was completed, LU enrollment has increased from 4,700 to nearly 6,000 and is likely to top 8,000 next year."

According to Falwell, bringing in another corporation like Ericsson would not necessarily be better for the economy than allowing Thomas Road and Liberty to use the facility.

"Liberty's impact on the local economy is similar to any industry that the city might attract and educational institutions are preferable to industry in many ways because they are clean and have no negative impact on the environment," Falwell Jr. said.

In any case, Falwell Jr. plans to begin negotiations with the city soon and is now attempting to schedule initial meetings.

City Councilman Bert Dodson Jr. expressed concern that rezoning might bring about a big loss to the city, but he has not yet decided how he will vote on the issue. Dodson prefers to withhold judgment, as do other council members, until TRBC makes an official request and that request is processed through normal channels.

"Every zoning issue that comes up, I let go through the process and listen to what everyone else has to say," Dodson said.

## Snowball wars begin



**SNOW DAY** — Junior Cherise Sillaman slams her roommate junior Corbie Harrison with a snow ball. Liberty and much of Lynchburg closed down on Thursday, Dec. 5 due to several inches of snow and ice.

## Living Christmas Tree opens in snow

By Jaoni Matzker, reporter

Thomas Road Baptist Church officially started its Christmas season with the first performances of its 32nd annual "Living Christmas Tree."

This year's production, called "No Room at the Inn", features TRBC worship leader Charles Billingsley and his wife Shea in leading roles. There will be a total of 13 per-

formances open to the public.

In spite of heavily falling snow, the opening performance was on Wednesday, Dec. 5, the evening set aside specifically for Liberty University students and staff to attend the show. "The last two years have been really incredible, so I'm really interested to see what they do with it this year," senior Ryan Alderfer said.

Please see TREE, page 4

## WinterFest Concert

**When:** Dec. 30 - Jan. 1  
**Where:** Vines Center at Liberty University  
**Who:** Rebecca St. James, Reliant K, Audio Adrenaline, Tait, Out of Eden and more  
**How much:** \$99 with 2-night lodging, \$65 without, \$20 for separate sessions.  
**Contact:** [www.itickets.com](http://www.itickets.com)

## Finance majors place second



**COMPETITORS** — LU's Finance Department sent a team of five to the second annual "College Fed Challenge" at the Richmond Federal Reserve Bank.

By Wes Rickards, managing editor

Currently, Liberty does not offer a major in economics. But right now, the administration can take some solace knowing that its finance students are doing better in that field than schools that offer it.

Five finance majors, Ben Adams, Huong Nguyen, Kera Walker, Kyle Phelps and Ron Schantz, went to the Richmond Federal Reserve Bank for the second annual "College Fed Challenge" competition on Nov. 18-19. Discussing policy against five other schools and seven other teams, each one comprised of budding economists, Liberty's team placed second.

"This is good kudos to the school," said Professor Phillip O'Reilly, who coached Liberty's team for their presentation. Other teams competing were Roanoke College, Virginia Commonwealth University (two teams), Virginia State University, Virginia Tech and

Old Dominion University (who also had two teams, including the winning one).

Each team had to develop 20-minute presentations for policy recommendations to the Board of Governors for the Federal Reserve, the nation's central bank. For preparation, Liberty's team had to cram the study of macroeconomics into one month.

"We developed an open-market policy based on what the Fed should do, based on current economic indicators," senior Ben Adams, a Woodbridge, N.J. native, said. "Our suggestion was to keep interest rates the same and wait to see what happens with the war in Iraq and domestic fiscal policy."

The justification for Liberty's team decision for a status quo approach was that the Fed had just cut interest rates about a month ago, and it usually takes a few months for the effects of such an action to materialize.

Please see FINANCE, page 4

## LIGHT team ministered in Argentina; El Salvador trip planned

In January team will travel to El Salvador

By Ricky Hardison, reporter

Students are gearing up for a mission trip to Santa Anna, El Salvador during Christmas break in order to boost the efforts of a local church in one of the country's major cities.

Light Ministries will be taking 18 students to Santa Anna, the second largest city in El Salvador, on Jan. 2. These workers will spend time evangelizing through singing, drama, testimonies and preaching, and will return to the U.S. on Jan. 14.

LU's new Director of Light Ministries, Tom Nylander, said that the emphasis of this trip is slightly different than previous missions to El Salvador. "The majority of the focus of this trip is to reach out to professionals in

the work place — doctors, nurses, lawyers — yet in past years our focus has been in schools, toward children and communities," he said.

During the day, students will set up ministries in hospitals aimed at interesting physicians in the sovereign message of Christ. In addition, the group is planning to rent restaurants and invite local officials there to hear a gospel message, Nylander said.

The mission team will encourage whomever they meet during the day to attend Christian performance in the evenings.

The 12 member Light band will perform songs in Spanish, and it will act out various dramas.

Please see EL SALVADOR, page 4

Team experienced answered prayers in Argentina

By Juleanna Outten, editor in chief

A LIGHT missions team ministered to orphans, prisoners, elderly and even a mayor's secretary while in Argentina over Thanksgiving break.

From Friday, Nov. 22 to Sunday, Dec. 1, Campus Pastor Dwayne Carson led a team of 16 Liberty students to Argentina, mostly in Santa Fe, a city of six million located about 200 miles north of Buenos Aires. LU alumnus Ivan Leon served as the team's translator and host.

"If God worked in the lives of the people in Argentina half as much as he worked in our own lives, He accomplished a



**OVERSEAS OUTREACH** — Junior Monica Samour holds an Argentinian child whose mouth is covered in chocolate from the M&Ms the team gave them.



# The Price is Right



By Chris Price, columnist

Sitting down to write this column, the end of the year is upon us. This is the time of the year when everyone is one stress inducing moment away from going haywire and snapping. Look funny at someone and you may find them stabbing you with a number two pencil while they spout off some history facts that they have been learning for the last five hours.

So in order to calm everyone down, I have come up with some questions we can all think on, and relax ourselves.

Which will happen first, Dustin "Screech" Diamond winning the Oscar for best actor, or Lynchburg being named "most exciting place to live, along with best drivers"?

Are the people without cell phones waiting to see if they will catch on? Are these the same people who turn off their lights at night by blowing the candles out, and cutting of their steam powered lamps?

Do people with mullets ask for a mullet when they are getting their hair cut? Or do they ask for one of the many nicknames such as camaro cut, Kentucky waterfall, or business-up-front but party-in-back? How can they sleep at night when they ask for a mullet?

Does anyone else long for the golden age of music when Milli Vanilli, and New Kids on the Block were the top dogs?

Who could beat a president running on the "naps for everyone who wants one at noon" campaign?

Why does watermelon candy, gum, chapstick, etc., not taste like a watermelon?

Is there anyone on earth who doesn't like to sleep in hotels with near subzero temperatures?

Can the rest of the dorms on the circle smell the odor that is dorm 11?

Will this be the year that I finally get a spaceship for Christmas?

What is the proper response to the old man joke of "working hard, or hardly working?"

When you feel like going off and working someone over this next two weeks, stop and ponder these thoughts. When it comes to preventing a campus crime wave, The Price is Right.

# Coffee House is coming to town

By Rachel Coleman, reporter

As students enter the final lap of the semester, Student Life is feverishly working to help give them a moment of rest and relaxation right before finals.

On Dec. 13, the weekend before finals week, Student Life will be holding its annual Christmas Coffee House in the Schilling Center. As is to be expected, the theme will center around Christmas, or more specifically, "a visit into the Student Life family Christmas gathering," according to Ira Richards of Student Life. Richards says the Coffee House will most likely include skits, bands, Christmas carols and some dance acts. "We have had several dance acts try out, which many people seem to enjoy," Richards said.

In addition, they have been approached about showing a student-created audio-visual supplement that Richards believes will fit in with the rest of Coffee House. Student Life strives to "provide top-quality, wholesome activities for students in order to supplement and, in many ways, escape their studies and stresses," Richards said. To help achieve that end, they are putting a lot of effort into the Christmas Coffee House.

Those who made it in tryouts have been announced on the Liberty Student Splash page. Student Life had to make some tough decisions about who they could put on stage, but they finally narrowed it down.

"I think variety and the ability to hold the audience's attention is the key to a good act. Originality is also very important, and when we have many tryouts that are similar, it's hard not to worry that the actual show may get boring and slow-paced, which we must avoid at all costs," Richards said.

The Coffee House is popular with students. Junior Emily McIntosh has been pleased with the quality of past shows. "Whenever

I've gone, it's been fun. Sometimes it's run a little long, but other than that, it's a good time," McIntosh said.

In order to avoid this pitfall, Student Life looked for more "elaborate and well-performed acts."

"And we do enjoy having bands and skits, as opposed to people

in this past year's Valentine Coffee House and a video in the Fall 2001 Coffee House that parodied LUPD and Marriott.

Students still remember these events long after Coffee House is done and over with. "I can't wait to see some more fake proposals," senior Kristen MacNevin said.



FILE PHOTO

**PLAYING AROUND** — Past Coffee Houses have featured bands, solo performances, song parodies, fake marriage proposals and skits, like this one.

singing Gaither Christmas Hits to a cassette track," Richards said.

Richards said there were three reasons why Student Life is sponsoring the Coffee House. "[First], it allows students to showcase their abilities and perform for their peers, as opposed to the other concerts we provide," Richards said.

Second, is to bring the student body together with "no strings attached." "It allows them to laugh and have a great time with each other and to forget about the stress of school and their lives for a few precious hours," Richards said.

And lastly it brings the students something different and memorable. Richards brought to mind different moments that particularly amused or shocked the students, such as the three staged proposals

Student Life, by their own testimony, is always trying to come up with new activities for the students. This semester they've started Jazz Night in the Courtyard,

Horseback Riding on Tuesdays and they have a plan in the works for a trip to New York City. "We always want to provide the students with the best we can possibly offer. It just so happens that according to our feedback, Coffee House continues...to be one of our most popular and well-attended events," Richards said.

Despite the popularity of the Coffee House, some students are unsure if this one will draw the crowds that Coffee Houses have in the past.

"It's a little crazy to be having a Coffee House the last week of school. We are going to be having exams and stuff. A Coffee House during the week before exams is not a conducive activity for scholarly endeavors," senior Rachel Silla said.

Richards feels that the Coffee House will continue to be a hit with the students, however. "I feel that the show is a success when it runs smoothly, it is funny, dynamic, and nothing blows up in our face at the last minute," Richards said. "We desire and hope that this Coffee House is considered a huge, huge success to everyone, and I expect that it will be a great show and we encourage everyone to come check it out."

The Christmas Coffee House will be held Friday, December 13 at 11p.m.

## Thank-You for giving

- You gave \$10,500 in the Christmas offering that is going toward The Center, The Love Kitchen and Bedford County Group Homes.

- You gave \$4,000 in the offering for Phil Skelton, seminary student, and alumnae Tasha Penn who lost most of their belongings in a fire last Monday, about a week before their wedding on Saturday, Dec. 14.

## Modern Day Hero Psychology professor DeLong awarded

By Rhiannon Berry, asst. news editor

Psychology professor Dr. Robert DeLong is the newest recipient of the Modern Day Hero Award, the 10th to be given out. Associate Dean of Men Josh Brown and Vice President of Student Affairs Mark Hine presented the award in convocation, Wednesday, Dec. 4.

Although as a high school graduate, DeLong never dreamed he would ever teach, he said it is a humbling experience for students to honor him with the nomination. "I had been informed of my nomination, but things like this always happen to the guy down the street," he said. "...Never dreamed of being selected for the award."

Brown said students nominated DeLong as a modern day hero because "he models what he talks and creates hunger in the lives of others."

According to Junior Estela Altamirano, "he is a man that loves the Lord and shows that love to his students." DeLong currently teaches three psychology courses at LU: Educational Psychology, Applied Psychology and Psychology of Adulthood. "Teaching is important to me because God placed me in teaching. I feel God wants me to make myself available to help prepare this generation to assume roles of leadership," DeLong said.

Junior Patty Ruhland said she admires how involved DeLong becomes in the lives of his students. "He's dedicated to finding what God would have us do," she said. "He really cares." John Randolph, a senior, said he is looking forward to taking DeLong next semester. "I've always been recommended to his Adult Psychology class," Randolph said.

That job of helping young people extends beyond this university. DeLong also teaches a Sunday school class for young married couples at Flat Creek Baptist Church. There he serves as the director of education, co-teaches with the pastor, counsels and fills in when the pastor is away.

In his free time, DeLong enjoys tending to his gardens, and making furniture and bird houses in his woodworking shop. He said this gives him the

opportunity to "take wood and form it into something useful and beautiful." He relates this hobby to teaching. "In teaching I hope, with God's help, to form a young life into something useful for the kingdom of God," DeLong said.

DeLong gives credit to his wife of 32 years, Janice DeLong, for being a positive influence. "She is as true to God as any person I have ever known," he said, citing that this has challenged him in his own life. "She has been the inspiration to pursue dedication to God."

Four Christian authors have made an impact on his life as well. C.S. Lewis, A.W. Tozer, Andrew Murray and Oswald Chambers have "caused me to sharpen my focus on the Bible," DeLong said.

When asked what advice he has for students, DeLong stated the importance of being a student of the Bible. "Allow God the Holy Spirit to teach you what he wants you to know about his word," he said.

He also addressed the uneasiness many college students have about their futures. "All you need to know about God's will for you life is that God wants you to be saved. After that, all you need to know is his will for today," he said. He went on to say that God gives us experiences, painful or not, to get us to a certain place down the road.

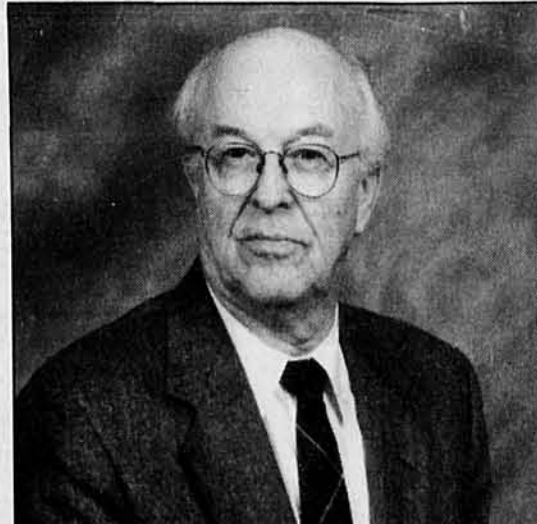


PHOTO PROVIDED

**CARING AND COMMITTED** — Dr. Robert DeLong is the newest recipient of the Modern Day Hero Award.

The award is intended for low-profile faculty members making a difference in the community. A committee of four students chooses each winner from the nominations. Those interested in nominating a professor can do so on the Dean of Men's page on the LU Web site.

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## THE PAST IMPACTING THE PRESENT



By Anthony Rago, columnist

Seeing that we are in the second week of Advent, that four week anticipation of the celebration of Christ's birth, and that this is the last issue of the paper for this semester, there is no more appropriate topic than that of the salvation God has provided.

"But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." (Gal. 4:4-5)

That phrase, "when the fullness of time was come," is highly intriguing. All was ready, from the pious hearts of Mary and Joseph, to the longing of the faithful Jews, to the organization of the Roman Empire that allowed the Gospel to spread like wildfire. For millennia God had been working according to His determined plan. The First Advent was like that time when a fruit becomes fully ripe, and the arrival of the Baby Jesus was the peak of its sweetness.

We know that is not the end of the story. When the hour had come (Jn. 17:1), Jesus was crucified, and when He rose again three days later, it was as He had foreordained (Mk. 8:31). After the Ascension, the Apostles waited for the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit and on Pentecost, God ignited the evangelical explosion He had promised through the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:16-21). God had conducted His composition throughout time so "that in the dispensation of the fullness of times, He might gather together in one all things in Christ..." (Eph. 1:11).

In this Christmas season, we know that we are the unworthy beneficiaries of this gracious gift of salvation that God had planned for us before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4-6). What is our response? It is gratitude, which comes from the same Latin word as the word "grace." This link between grace and thanks is highlighted more when we consider the words for "Thank you" in some Romance languages. In Italian, the word for "thanks" is "grazie;" in Spanish, it is "gracias."

But how do we show our gratitude? That is easy to answer, but hard to perform. Jesus said: "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (Jn. 14:15) The idea that Christmas has become materialistic is well known. However, when Christians say they should keep Christ in Christmas, they seem to mean that the story of the nativity should be related from generation to generation each year at this time, crèches should at least be allowed in one's own front yard, children should be allowed to share Jesus at school and family values should be emphasized. There is more to do. A holiday is a holy day; Christmas is Christ's Mass. In addition to the time of remembrance and public recognition, we worship God when we "present [our] bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is [our] reasonable service." (Rom. 12:1) When we diligently mortify the old man and put on the new through obedience to even the slightest command of God, we more fully realize and celebrate the purpose of this salvation God has been working in history.

## LaRue makes free appearance at LU

By Jaoni Matzker, reporter

Acoustic Christian pop duo LaRue performed their first concert at Liberty University on Monday, Nov. 18 in a crowded David's Place.

Twenty-one year old Philip LaRue and his 18-year-old sister Natalie had just finished a national tour with Christian artist Bebo Norman before taking time to perform at the event, which was sponsored by LU's Student Life and The Drowsy Poet coffee shop. The concert lasted for about two hours, consisting of a wide variety of about 17 songs from the duo's first two albums as well as their latest album, "Reaching," released this year.

Dan Portnoy, night operations manager for The Drowsy Poet, organized the concert. Portnoy said that he works with a lot of booking agents to bring artists to perform at the coffee shop because he wants to foster an atmosphere of community involvement through the coffee house.

When first approached about having LaRue perform, Portnoy was not interested because he had not been impressed by their musical style. That changed when he listened to their new album.

"[My] mouth dropped to the floor—it was amazing. They

have really grown up in their music," Portnoy said. He planned to have the concert take place at the coffee shop, he said, until LU's Student Life

Virginia Western Community College, said she found out about the concert online.

"I'm a big fan of LaRue's music," Sowards said "It's real,



BROTHER SISTER ACT — Natalie and Philip LaRue perform at David's Place on Monday, Nov. 18.

heard about it. They offered to host the concert at David's Place and make it free to the public. Portnoy enjoyed working with Student Life and suggested that this would not be the last event of this kind to take place. He said he already has several ideas for spring events.

The concert not only attracted Liberty students, but also others from the surrounding area who wanted to take the opportunity to see LaRue live. Tara Sowards, a student at

something you can relate to... their songs speak to what I'm going through."

Summer Cozzens, a sophomore at Virginia Tech came because she had missed their performance at her school the weekend before. She had just received a copy of one of their albums and became an instant fan.

"I thought the concert would be a lot bigger, but it's cozy. I'm an addict now!" Cozzens said.

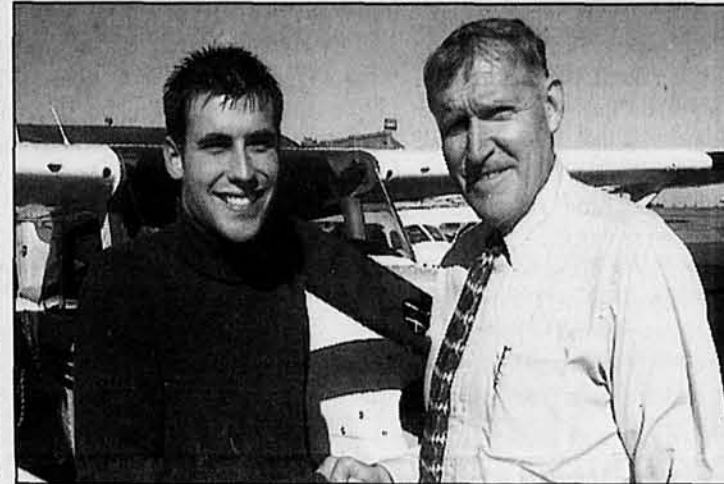
The set for the concert portrayed the relaxed, simple mood of the evening. The stage held a

loveseat, a couple of plants and candles and white Christmas lights around the room. LaRue performed the entire concert barefooted, having conversations between songs with the audience and each other. The only instruments for the evening were Philip's guitar and Natalie's keyboard, never played simultaneously. Audience members appreciated both the atmosphere and the performance. "I [liked] the acoustic setting and music," freshman Dan Keeton said. Jerry Traux, also a freshman, said he came because "It's a concert, and it's free!"

Sophomore Kathryn Guadagno said she enjoyed the concert. "It was excellent. [I liked] the fact that they went barefoot on stage," Guadagno said. Freshman Cristina Hicks said she likes LaRue's music because, "it's catchy and has a good beat to it."

Philip and Natalie LaRue talked about their new album throughout the evening. Musically they said they had a lot more creative control over this recording than over previous releases. "We used [this control] to our benefit," Philip said. They wrote all the songs themselves and said they really enjoy working together as brother and sister. Natalie said she believes "[Reaching] is the album that most represents us."

## Aviation Dept. produces first solo flyer



SPREADING WINGS — Ernie Rogers congratulates freshman Matthew Rougeux after his solo flight.

By Rhannon Berry, asst. news editor

Matthew Rougeux became the first student from LU's aviation program to fly alone on Nov. 20.

The freshman from Orlando, Fla. took his first solo flight in a Cessna 150, a plane that holds just two people, at Lynchburg Regional Airport. "I was excited to be the first one to solo," he said.

Rougeux is participating in an independent study for the classroom portion of his training, and his flight instructor is from Virginia Aviation, Inc. located at the airport.

Though Rougeux didn't begin flight classes until September 2001, during his senior year of high school, he has been around aviation his whole life. Because his father is a lieutenant with the fire department at Orlando International Airport, Rougeux has certainly seen his share of airplanes. "I really wanted to learn how to fly, so my dad decided he would let me take lessons," Rougeux said.

A missions major, Rougeux is unsure how God will use his aviation knowledge. "I do it for the enjoyment and if God can use it in my future, then it is available," he said.

Since soloing, he said he likes the freedom from schedule restrictions. "The best part about flying on your own is the fact that I can go flying whenever I want to without

having to work around another schedule," Rougeux said. "It's nice to be able to fly after class just for the enjoyment of it."

The aviation program here at LU is offered to students as a minor. Aviation Department Chairman Ernie Rogers is joined by President John Borek, assistant professor David Young and Bryan Moody, an adjunct professor, as the aviation professors. There are currently 42 students in the program, which Rogers said is "growing like a weed."

One of those students, junior Enid Mukiri is an aviation minor, and eventually wants to pursue a career as a pilot. According to Mukiri, her aviation class "is not like any other at LU."

"It's just different," she said, "there's a lot of bonding in the class."

In April 2001 when Rogers was named chairman, the curriculum was changed around. "We brought the teaching back in-house," Rogers said, "where before it was all done by Virginia Aviation."

Recently, three LU students had the opportunity to test their aviation skills. The team went to the Intercollegiate Aviation Competition in Norfolk, Va. Nov. 6-8, where they participated in activities like navigation, landing, pre-flight and aircraft recognition. This year, LU was an observing team and was not judged.

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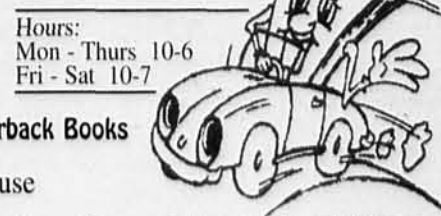
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# ARGENTINA: Students serve over holiday

Continued from page 1

lot through us while we were there," Jennifer McCarron, a senior on the trip, said.

In March 2001, a LIGHT team went to Argentina. This recent trip was in answer to a request that they return. However, in the year and a half since LIGHT last visited, Argentina's economy has crumbled, forcing middle class people to adjust to a lower standard of living. The unemployment rate is up to 26 percent, and the team saw beggars not seen 18 months ago, Carson said.

"Basic necessities become priority: food, clothing and shelter," Carson said.

While in Argentina, the team evangelized in prisons, orphanages, children homes, nursing home, grade schools and high schools.

"The Lord prepared a way," junior Sarah Musick said. "It was incredible to see the hand of the Lord in everything," Musick said the trip was bathed in prayer before, during and after. She kept a journal of the prayers that God answered.

On the streets they handed out 4,000 Gospel tracks, saying "for you" in Spanish. McCarron said that the language barrier was a challenging aspect of the trip, yet the people responded.

"People would be so patient and willing to sit with you for an hour just to hear one sentence," junior Kerry Nugent said.

According to Carson, a main focus of the trip was to encourage the church. Carson preached a message at a local church each night, from Sunday to Wednesday. He said that his purpose was to bring a message that would equip church leaders to do a greater ministry.

"The church was really encouraged and challenged, and they responded by making commitments," McCarron said.

They were able to advertise about the nightly church services on the local radio station. The church was so full on Tuesday night that there was standing room only. Carson was told that because of the economic situation, it was amazing that so many people made the effort to attend.

"You and the boys and girls who came to our

church gave us a good example of what a servant should be like. And we are very thankful for this," María Bianchini said in an email to Carson after the team had returned home. "Everybody is still talking about you."

The team performed skits, sang songs both in English and Spanish and shared their testimonies, followed by messages from Carson about prayer and integrity.

"You could just tell they had the joy of the Lord, even though they had so little," Nugent said about the church.

The most memorable moment of the trip for Carson happened on Monday. The team was visiting a grade school, and the people told them, "We cannot afford to buy books."

Carson said he felt burdened to help them and thought of taking a love offering from the members of the team. He wrote down an amount of 340 pesos, which is about \$100, that would allow them to buy 50 books. Then he specifically prayed for that amount. He did not tell anyone about the amount he was hop-



PHOTO PROVIDED

**NEW ACQUAINTANCES** — Junior Kerry Nugent gives a Bible to a young girl at a children's home.

ing for when he took up the offering.

When he counted the money taken up, it was exactly 340 pesos. "God broke 17 people's hearts with the things that break his heart," Carson said of the team members experience on the trip.

"One week of ministry and a lifetime of reality that the mission continues," Musick said.

## TREE: TRBC showing "No Room"



KENNY GIBSON

**NO VACANCY** — TRBC children's choir apologizes for the crowded facilities in the theme song of "No Room at the Inn."

Continued from page 1

This year's program features a new tree with more Christmas lights and an expanded laser light show. Last year there were 80,000 lights on the tree. This year there are 108,000. All the lights are coordinated with the music and singing of the choir.

The church's Minister of Music Linwood Campbell produced the event. "There are about 450 people involved in putting on the performance...it took hundreds of hours of practice," Campbell said. There are many students from Liberty taking part in the show. The Fellowship Gospel Choir and the Chamber Singers

both have a part in it. There are also students involved in the Tree Choir, as well as in helping backstage and acting.

Freshman Rachael Owens attended the Wednesday evening performance and was very impressed. "It was very exciting! It shared the real meaning of Christmas, and it was awesome!" Owens said. Colleen Plasters, also a freshman, was surprised by the scale and variety of the show. "It was different—I thought it was going to be [just] a play, but there was more singing," Plasters said.

Sophomore Jessie Jordan, on the other hand, was slightly disappointed. "Last year was better, just because... this year they didn't really finish the story," Jordan said. Emily Bear, a freshman seeing the show for the first time, disagreed.

"It was awesome! I don't know how to describe it. The lights were awesome. It was a very high quality performance, very smooth," Bear said.

## EL SALVADOR: January trip planned

Continued from page 1

"Everyday we're going to be in cities and villages telling people about the love of Christ," sophomore T.K. Yates said. Yates is the drummer for Light, and he said that last year's trip to Guatemala "changed my life."

"I encourage everybody to pray for us because there is power in prayer. The more others pray, the more we'll be used," he added. Good health and opportunities to witness are major concerns for the trip, Yates said.

The total cost for each student is \$1,700, but the group did not do any large-scale fundraisers to compensate for their expenses. Instead, each student has sent out prayer letters requesting spiritual and financial support.

Nylander said that this method is generally more effective in offsetting costs. "The Holy Spirit uses students seeking financial support from others to develop prayer support for the mission," he said.

Except for Nylander, who will make his fifth trip to El Salvador in January, no one else going on the trip has ever been there. The last time Light went to El Salvador was three years ago. One student going is already fluent in Spanish, but others will have to use interpreters. Some of the students are learning the "Romans Road" witnessing tool in Spanish, Yates said.

Fellow believers from The Family of the Faith church will interpret for the students. Liberty Baptist Seminary alumnus Dr. Hal Large, who has pastored there for 20 years, leads this Baptist church in a predominantly Roman Catholic area. The team will work alongside this congregation, which is comprised mainly of new believers.

"People in El Salvador have questions about God, and they want to know Christ. They are more open than they are in America because they recognize they need something more," junior Joshua McKenney said. McKenney is not going with Light, but has spent his last two summers in El Salvador doing mission work.

## FINANCE: Students present policy suggestions

Continued from page 1

According to Adams, when interest rates are cut, the Fed purchases treasury securities, which puts more money into the market place.

Additionally, the team decided that because of the upcoming war and possible tax cuts (both of which have been historically proven to stimulate economic development), it was

best to advise the Federal Reserve to take a laissez-faire stance for the time being.

Because the College Fed sought to make this competition as real as possible, teams were not able to sit in during other presentations. This ensured that no team could alter its policy suggestion after hearing another's, and to make sure that they could not get an advantage by hearing what types of questions the

judges were going to ask during the Q & A period.

"We answered all but one question directly," O'Reilly said, referring to his team's performance. "The judges said they were impressed."

This was the first time that Liberty has participated in the annual College Fed Challenge. Teams were scored on content, teamwork, responses to questions, presentation and style.

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# Opinion

“More than kisses letters mingle  
souls.”

—John Donne.

## The Liberty Champion Top 10

### Christmas Movies

1. It's a Wonderful Life
2. Miracle on 34th Street
3. The Grinch who stole Christmas
4. Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer
5. The Santa Clause
6. A Christmas Story
7. White Christmas
8. Muppet Christmas Carol
9. Ernest saves Christmas
10. A Charlie Brown Christmas

## The you nobody really knows

When you awoke this morning what was your first thought?

Did you think, nooo not morning already? How will I ever get done all I need to accomplish? Or, why won't my roommate turn off that annoying alarm?

Maybe it was something deeper like, what is the purpose in waking up? Why go through another day of existence? Will anyone even notice or care that I'm alive? Or, what if someone finds out what I did last night?

Maybe you are among the few who woke up rejoicing in a new

day, looking to the day with hope and opportunity, realizing that another day on this earth is a gift from God. You ask, "What can I do to glorify God today? How can I reach out and touch someone's life? What can I do to make the world better today?"

Only you and God know which type of person you really are. Inside of each person there is an inner man that only God really knows, whether you want Him to or not. It is the part of man that holds the secrets of his greatest desires, fears, hurts and longings.

For some this man remains hidden forever; others may open up to someone close to them but, I dare say, never completely.

This inner man holds onto words of the past that cut deep. It remembers circumstances or situations that shaped you or ruined you. It looks at life and asks, why?

Secret sins lie buried there. Secret insecurities remain. Secret pride builds a home. Secret love is held at bay. Secret anger and bitterness fester. Secret pains cut deeper.

For some, this inner man shows itself in the form of a secret life. And for most, it is a part of them that few are aware of or know anything about at all.

But yet all have one. Aside from the papers, friendships, jobs and other facets of daily life that occupy your mind, there is something else.

People pass by a say, "Hi, how are you?" By habit you answer "fine" or "busy." You don't have the time, nor do they, to talk about what's really going on. What you are really thinking and worrying about and struggling through, you don't say.

So the day goes on. You go to your classes, have lunch with your friends, go to work in the

evening and late at night settle into bed. As you lie there in the moments before slumber, your thoughts are more concentrated on what's in the inner man — the deep thoughts inside. What is your brain pondering?

Now, I know that scenario does not characterize everybody, but what I do realize is that there is truth to the concept of the inner man, more for some than for others.

The reason that I bring up this subject is that I think people often ignore its existence in those around them. You make fun of people who act strangely. You get annoyed at your friends. You get angry at people's responses to you or to certain situations.

You often don't take the time to really get to know people. You think that you are the only one who has experienced a devastating situation or who struggles with major life questions. In doing so people often treat others with less respect and care than they should.

I once heard a quote that said something to the effect of, "if you treat everyone you meet like they're hurting, you will be treating 99 percent of the them correctly."

What I take that to mean is

that almost everyone you meet is facing some type of battle or struggle completely unknown to you. Both the girl who always smiles and the boy who's cocky face hidden fears and hurts.

An awareness of this fact should cause you to view people in a different light. To look beyond the obvious shell of their skin and even beyond their personality and realize that there's a major part of them you know nothing about.

Much of the measure of a man is found in how he responds to the inner struggles, the inner man if you will, whether you are able to approach the day with joy in spite of hurts, or wallow in self-pity and ignoring the likely battles inside of those around us.

Be sensitive to those you meet. Realize that there's more than the obvious. Be genuine. Be willing to walk the extra mile with someone.

God is the ultimate healer and helper and restorer of the inner man, but the way you treat someone can be a turning point, good or bad, in their response to a situation hidden from your knowledge. You can help them to become the person who approaches the day with joy instead of the person who longs to breathe a final breath.



julesoutten

## The Liberty Champion

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

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

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

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The Champion is available online at: [www.liberty.edu/info/champion](http://www.liberty.edu/info/champion).

## A week to go with no motivation

With the semester drawing to a close, and whatever initiative I had destroyed by a week without schoolwork. I am finding it hard to get just about anything accomplished, when I have just about everything to do. So in light of all of our current situations (because I am convinced you share my problem) I am dedicating this week's article to the uninspired delinquents among us and how we may all use their time perfecting techniques to our advantage. (Then again if you are all struggling to read as much as I am to write, this article will probably go completely unnoticed)

As I sit to write my weekly diatribe on whatever seems diatribeable (I know its not a word but I don't feel like fixing it.) I decided to go undercover, that's right "a day in the life of one of those kids that somehow never seems to do anything but is still here at school year after year."

So I sit with my fingers poised over the keyboard, a deadline ahead of me and a friendly but still demanding newspaper adviser behind me. (Oh, hey Mrs. Huff I didn't know you were there—stop looking over my shoulder.)

Caught in such a dilemma as this I decided to think like a delinquent. Immediately it came to me—act stupid. Now at first you may think I'm over simplifying this or making light of those who struggle with their academics, but that is not the case.

Remember we are not talking about the industrial D' student. We are talking about slackers.

Faced with a deadline, the act-stupid-technique is the first and greatest of the delinquent's crafts. Here's how it work. Instead of shouldering the blame for laziness simply shift the blame to stupidity. Voila! I simply didn't understand the assignment, and I wasn't smart enough to figure out I didn't understand, and by the time I

thought I didn't know what was going on it was hopelessly too late. So since I didn't understand that I had an article due today for the newspaper, can't you just let me off this once? (I shoot a glance at Mrs. Huff; it's no use.)

The second of the slackers greatest tricks is to simply ignore the assignment. The day it is due, they skip class, wipe it's existence from their mind and hope the teacher never mentions it. This works right up until the end of the semester, when everything falls to pieces. This is the end of the semester. And I inadvertently already came to the Champion office, no getting out this way. (I eye the distance to the office door. Mrs. Huff eyes me.)

Bleak as my situation may seem, there is one technique, which has yet to fail even the most amateur of slackers. We have seen it in our classes, this

newspaper, and probably even in some of our own papers. Simply write about whatever you are doing at this moment. While your paper will be mediocre at best and lack any creativity whatsoever, because every writer writing about what he is doing writes about sitting there writing, it will get the assignment completed.

I had struck on a gold mine, which landed me a perfect page of text. With a sigh I leaned

back in my office chair. Yes, this assignment would have made the greatest of slackers proud of me. I had gone undercover into the inner workings of a slackers mind, analyzed their complicated mental patterns, and finished off a paper about exactly what I was doing—sitting at a desk writing. So here you are Mrs. Huff my last article of the year. And here's to the delinquents among us. Have a Merry Christmas!

“Faced with a deadline,  
the act-stupid-technique is  
the first and greatest of the  
delinquent's crafts.”



benepppard

## SPEAKUP: What was memorable this semester?



"I took a road trip home with two good friends to have fun and met up with my best friend Allison Fields in Tampa."  
—Cameo Ray, Sr.  
Orlando, Fla.



"I really enjoyed fall break...oh, wait."  
—Josh Wiedenrith, Sr.  
Boston, Mass.



"The Tuesday and Thursday treks from David's Place in the rain."  
—Adam Salvia, Jr.  
Lynchburg, Va.



"Staying up all night talking, laughing, and crying with my roommate, and then going to Cracker Barrel in the morning."  
—Dayna Toy, Jr.  
Lynchburg, Va.



"Having the chance to teach first graders at Bass elementary...my first "real" teaching experience."  
—Laura Queck, Jr.  
Tabernacle, N.J.



"Looking forward to graduating in December."  
—Adele Granieri, Sr.  
Cranston, R.I.



# Commentary

## Christmas with the Adams family

As we draw closer and closer to the holiday season, people always ask me, "Kyle, doesn't the commercialization of such a sacred holiday bother you?" And I always tell them no, because all I care about is sports. That being said, that no single sporting event --not the Bowl Championship Series, not the Super Bowl, not even the beginning of the college basketball season--will ever be as intriguing as spending Christmas Day with my family.

It is such an odd and unlikely characters (think Village People with less disco music) that it is always the highlight of my year. The "Addams Family" jokes are told and re-told until I wish my last name was something less embarrassing, like Lewinski. I wouldn't go so far as to say that we are dysfunctional, but you know something is up when instead of saying "Merry Christ-

mas" at the end of the day, people greet you with "Well, that wasn't too bad this year."

You just have to know these people. But hardly any of you do, so here is an insider's look at some predictions for another Adams family Christmas, based on the Twelve Days of Christmas pattern so they will be easier to remember.

**Twelve** is the dollar limit for the family gift exchange. This keeps the college students in the family from breaking the bank, but hopefully no one will end up like my brother Josh, who received a box of colored pencils (safely below the limit) last year.

**Eleven** different times my grandmother will complain about a certain grandson choosing to go to college in Virginia. I get the feeling that she would like it better if I went from park to park sleeping on benches, as long as those benches were in

the homeland of Colorado.

**Ten** stories that my mom will tell my cousin Heidi, who attends the University of Northern Colorado, about her college life at the very same school some 25 years ago.

**Nine** is the previously mentioned stories that Heidi has heard at least three times.

**Eight** dirty looks that my grandmother will give my uncle, Tom, who she thinks is not serious enough and immature.

**Seven** will be the number of hours that I will spend watching A Christmas Story.

**Six** Red Rider BB Gun jokes-per family member- will inevitably follow. And that's a conservative estimate.

**Five** awkward hours listening to my dad and my uncles argue cluelessly over who directed "It's A Wonderful Life." I think that after last year we've narrowed it down to either Ron

Howard, Orson Welles, or Stephen King. No, I am not making that up.

**Four** will be the number of bald or balding men at this year's celebration, which just happens to be every man over the age of 21. It's not looking too good for us 21-year-olds. Here's to 2003, my last year with hair.

**Three** hours Aunt Barbara will spend sleeping on the couch. It's Christmas Day and she is sleeping on the couch. I don't even have a joke here.

**Two** will be the number of complete sentences spoken during the day by introverted cousin Glenn. And that's a generous estimate.

**One** normal person will be at this celebration, my sister-in-law Heather, who has only been a part of the family since August. Good luck, Heather.

kyleadams

## Joy and peace fill the air

If ever there was a girl who loved Christmas, that girl would be me! As soon as the temperature drops below 50 degrees, I have whipped the Christmas music out, and I am playing it on a regular basis! Christmas just has to be the best time of the year! What could be better than a Saviour, peace on earth and goodwill toward men?



mariannemims

When does the adage "It is more blessed to give than to receive" ever ring so true as Christmas-time? For whatever reason, religious or secular, Christmas brings out the best in all people.

Outside many a store this year, there will be various charities set up to raise a little money or collect toys for the less fortunate.

People will flock to these charity workers and present them with newly purchased toys and/or money to buy toys. Why in the world do people do this? Because Christmas does something to your heart to make you a willing philanthropist. It's absolutely amazing! People like me, who try to intimidate workers at other times of the year to NOT ask me for a donation, willingly go and approach these people dressed up in Santa Claus costumes.

During World War I, on Christmas Eve, it is

rumored that the German and American soldiers ceased fighting and had a Christmas sing-a-long of sorts between the trenches in a show that during this

time of year, all men really do want peace on Earth. The feelings of love and family evoked at Christmas make war and other disputes, atrocities and evil seem so meaningless.

Finally, Christmas is a time to make people stop and think about their spiritual life, or lack thereof. For some reason, many people choose Christmas Eve as their one time during the year to go to church. Could it be that the wonderful story of God sending the gift of His Son to save a broken, depraved humanity is too compelling to ignore? The ultimate act of love, peace on Earth, and good will toward men is displayed through God's love toward us in the form of a tiny family around a manger.

Someone once said that, "the Word of God goes into the palace to remind the monarch that he is the servant of the Most High and into the cottage to remind the pauper that he is the son of God." Christmas makes us remember our place in the world and causes great reason for rejoicing...even if it's at the beginning of November!

## Letter to the Editor

### A Letter from the SGA President, Zach Gautier

A Letter from the SGA President  
By Zach Gautier

As the snow has come, winter is upon us and now Thanksgiving is behind, I have realized that many students are asking two questions: What is the Student Government doing this semester and Where is the SGA President? It is my hope that this letter will resolve these concerns.

To answer the first, we must go back to when I ran for Student Government President. During that week it became apparent that many students were dissatisfied with the Student Government as it was. There was frustration with and concern over what the SGA did for Liberty. It was because of this frustration that the Anti-Campaign became so successful. It caused the greatest student turnout in LUSGA history and it concluded in me receiving 51% of the vote. This is not said in praise to myself but rather as a reminder of the level of dissatisfaction in the process.

Unlike past SGA Presidents I made one promise during that campaign: to change how

the Student Government operated for the better. Over the summer and through the beginning of the semester my Cabinet and I began to research and analyze twenty different college and universities' Student Organizations in an attempt to recreate Liberty's for the better.

Midway through the semester I organized an Executive Council that was comprised of myself, Paul Pittman and Brian Fraser (the SGA VP's), and eight other Student Government members. The purpose of this groups meeting was to evaluate the various research and ultimately restructure the Student Government. Out of these meetings an initial proposal was devised that I believe best fulfills the SGA mission of "serving the University, students and community for the furthering of God's Kingdom."

This proposal is to be presented to Dr. Borek and his Cabinet for initial approval before the semester adjourns. The proposed structure would shift the entire focus of the SGA from legislation and general rule changes to service and accomplishing various

tasks on campus and in the community. This structure would still allow for student representation and their concerns to be voiced. This change also calls for an increase in the Student Government budget so that the SGA would be able to fund clubs and organizations on campus in an attempt to increase student participation and involvement in the Liberty Community.

Now, to answer the second question that many of you have been asking: Where is the SGA President? It is true that I have not taken a visible presence in Convocation and in other forums. This has occurred for a couple of reasons. First is the change in Convocation itself, which has forced a more rigid schedule that has eliminated my ability to do announcements except on special occasions. This has actually been a blessing because it has allowed for a concentrated focus on the more pressing matter of restructuring the SGA. Second, there has also been a conscientious attempt to change how the Student Government conducts events and activities.

The Student Government does not have the budget to put on concerts, bonfires or other expensive events. Because of this reality I had to make a decision that limited the SGA activities to those that specifically raised funds for the SGA or were a productive community service project. Two events that fulfill these requirements were Cosmic Bowling and the upcoming Christmas Canned Food drive for needy families. Both of these are important activities for the SGA and the community.

This year is a year of adjustments for the Student Government. However, it is hoped that this year of internal changes and alterations will result in a SGA that better serves the students and is a valuable resource for the University.

If you have any thoughts on the changes of this year or on University life in general I encourage you to email me at sga@liberty.edu or come by my office on the second floor of Dorm 13. In all of this I appreciate your support and input on the direction of the SGA and the University.

## Season's Greedy: Christmas Commercialized

Once again it is that time of the year where the aroma of Christmas is filling the air, although the only aroma that fills my nose is the fog and smoke of the lovely city of Lynchburg. It's time for a tissue. Much better. Now that I can smell, there is one scent that I detect, not mistletoe or holiday wreaths, but that is the crisp smell of the American dollar.

Yes, that's right folks, the American dollar. This is not to be confused with the Japanese Yen or the Mexican Peso, because I am talking about the late great American dollar. The holidays accept all forms of payment, whether cash, credit card, or check. Sorry if I sound

greedy, but I am just trying to get into the holiday spirit. Isn't that what the holidays are about: giving, receiving, spending, and more spending?

Nothing got me more in the mood for Christmas than when I was walking through the mall a week before Halloween and Jingle Bells was blazing through the mall speakers: "Jingle Bells, our stores have sales, jingle all the way! Oh what fun it is to spend

your money, wouldn't you say, Hey!" I was trying to avoid hearing the subliminal messages in the speaker telling me to spend all my money, but it was too late, I had been sucked into the holiday spirit.

The green in my pocket sud-

denly catapulted my body towards every store in my way, as if I was some kind of money spending magnet. Hours later, every penny that I had earned and saved was gone, but it was for a good cause, right?

Spending money on someone else is always a joy, especially when you know you are getting a gift in return. In fact, isn't that why we buy presents? We don't buy gifts for people because we love them or want to show them our thanks for their friendship, but because we get something really cool, or at least we hope so, in return. That is what the holidays are all about.

Don't worry; there is a point to all of my sarcastic ramblings. In all seriousness, it is a sad fact that Christmas has been reduced to commercialism, selfishness, and greed. There is nothing wrong with gathering around a Christmas tree and unwrapping

presents, but there is something wrong when that is the main focus of Christmas.

Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ, and is a celebration of His love and what He has given us, and that is His only son. Just trying to fathom that God sacrificed His one and only son so that we might live is amazing.

If Christmas were only about receiving it would be called gift-mas. We just become consumed with finding the perfect gift or wanting to know if we will get what has been on our Christmas wish list, instead of focusing on the gift of love that was given to the whole world when Jesus Christ was born on Christmas day.

Instead of being bogged down by Christmas shopping, spend some time with God and thank Him for giving us the true gift of Christmas.

## Letter to the Editor

### "The Law is still Kosher"

Dear Editor-in-Chief  
Julles Outten

There are four types of Jewish law. All are beneficial. Dietary laws keep us healthy. Social and Judicial laws maintain civility and also command eternal remembrance of the Holy Days. Temple laws allow for God's grace for our transgressions of the Law (Lev. 17:11 and 16:22). Moral laws guide our relationship with God and man.

Benefits of the law: It prolongs our days (Deut. 4:40, Proverbs 3:1-2). It makes us prosperous (Josh. 1:8). It makes us happy (Prov. 29:18). It enlightens our eyes (Psalm 19).

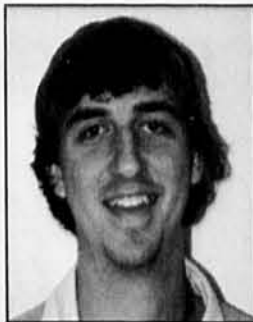
Yeshua the Messiah observed the law (Read references sequentially. 1 John 3:4, 1 Peter 2:22, Heb. 4:15, Gal. 4:4, John 8:46). He kept all customs and feast-days, and fulfilled all applicable laws of Moses. He committed no sin against the Law (Matt. 5:17-18).

David Stern in his book *Restoring the Jewishness of the Gospel* writes, "However, Acts 15 also teaches that although Gentiles were required to observe only four laws upon entering the Messianic Community, they were permitted to learn as much about Judaism as they wished and presumably to observe as many Jewish laws and customs as they wished...Moreover, it should not be thought

that the only requirement in the New Covenant makes of Gentiles is to obey these four commands. On the contrary, there are hundreds of commands in the New Testament meant as much for Gentiles as for Jews. Nor should it be thought that the New Covenant does away with moral, civil, ceremonial or any other category of law. There are New Testament commands for Jews and Gentiles in all of these categories. To give but a few examples, Rom. 13:1-7 and Acts 5:29 touch on civil obedience and disobedience, Matt. 28:19 and 1 Cor. 11:17-34 deal with matters of ceremony, 1 Cor. 5:1-6:7, 14:26-40, 2 Cor. 2:5-11 and Matt. 18:15-17 deal with order in the Messianic Community, and there are so many moral, ethical and spiritual commands that there is no need to cite them (1050 commands of all kinds, according to one enumeration)."

Mosaic Law is for Jews specifically (Ex. 19:5,6). The 7 categories of law in Gen. 9 are meant for all descendants of Noah (everyone). One category even says that all people should eat kosher (Acts 21:25 confirms kosher dietary principles for gentiles). This allows for Jews and gentiles to fellowship together. Food for thought.

Peter Vest, Sr.



joshborders



# Life!

## picks of the week

### • 12/11 Open Dorms

Open dorms will be held on Wednesday night. Guys will be welcome in the female dorms from 9-9:45 and girls are welcome in the male dorms from 10-10:45. Make sure your room is decorated for Christmas for all the visitors!

### • 12/12 University Chorale Concert

The Liberty University Chorale will be performing in the Schilling Center on Thursday at 7 p.m. Admission for the concert is free.

### • 12/10 LU Flames vs. VMI

Liberty's men's basketball team plays VMI Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Schilling Center. Come out and support the Flames basketball!

### • 12/13 Christmas Coffeehouse

A Christmas Coffeehouse takes place Friday at 11 p.m. in the Schilling Center. Come enjoy the talent of LU at this late night event. Tickets cost \$2 and can be purchased at the dining hall. Tickets at the door are \$3

## Merry Christmas Liberty University!

### Christmas Gift Ideas for the Ones You Love

Compiled by Mike Adame and Carrie Frasz

#### GIFTS FOR HER:

For centuries men have been trying to figure out what it is that women really want from them.

Although a complete answer is far from existence, you can at least figure out what they want for Christmas.

All women will agree that a well-thought out gift is unbeatable. The point is to think before you give, and to find out what she wants, not necessarily what you want to give her. Gifts from the heart go further than the wallet stretches. Whether the woman in your life is your mom, sister, girlfriend, girlfriend hopeful, wife, or just someone special...think the present out.

For those of you men who are willing to shell out the cash, here are some gift ideas of what Liberty women would like to see under their trees this year:

"I would like jewelry, clothes, perfume and a teddy bear."

—Kristen Moss, sophomore

"I need stuff for my new place off campus next semester, lots of food and world peace."

—Macayla Kirkendall, junior

"I would like a new paint job for my car."

—Kim Reyes, junior

"I want a nice camera, one that can do special effects, and a matching set of mittens and a hat—the ones I want are black, gray and white."

—Breanna Dennison, junior

"I need a muffler, an oil change, and a big steak—medium rare."

—Sara Lesley, sophomore

"I would like one of those sweaters that has thumb-holes and something homeade—I love homeade gifts."

—Cameo Ray, senior

"I always like clothes, but gift certificates are better, so I can pick them out myself."

—Jenny Bowers, junior

#### GIFTS FOR HIM:

Contrary to popular belief, men want more than just things like fast cars and beautiful women, although that's certainly a good start. Liberty University, home to a more sophisticated genre of men, desires something a bit more.

"An MP3 player."

—Dale Wheelock, senior

"A red Ryder BB gun."

—Maurice Hord, senior

"Green pieces of paper with pictures of Presidents on them."

—John Han, sophomore

"A Ford Expedition sitting on 20 inch rims."

—Silas Acosta, senior

"A National Championship for Ohio State on January 3rd."

—Jamal Jivanjee, senior

"A Playstation 2 with College Basketball 2003."

—Daniel Puffenbarger, junior

"An Armani Exchange watch."

—Kevin Park, freshman

"I would like to be with my family, and I could use an external floppy drive for my computer."

—Evan Grubb, sophomore

"Eggnog. Lots of eggnog."

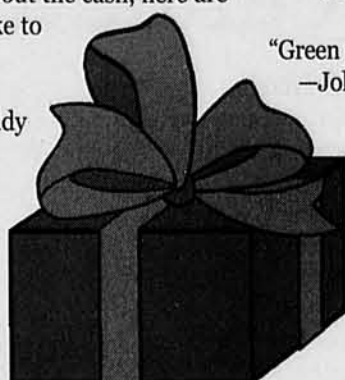
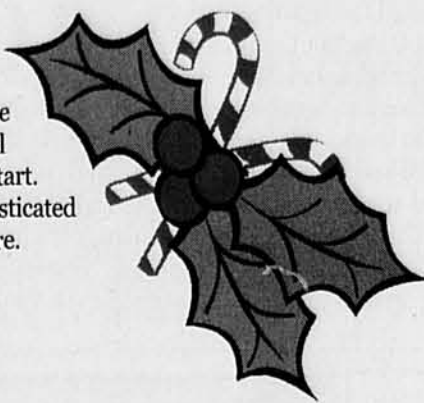
—Samy Vargas, senior

"A big cheery red Radio Flyer wagon and a British accent."

—Mark Cox, sophomore

"I want Jerry Falwell to come down my chimney dressed in a Santa suit with a bag full of goodies."

—Clint Aaron, sophomore



## Do You Know



DIANA HUNT

Hometown: Chester, Va.

Favorite Verse: Psalm 68:19 (NLT)

Favorite movie: Sleepless in Seattle

Words to live by: You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

My ideal Saturday afternoon includes: Knowing I have nothing to do and lying around and watching a movie.

Accomplishment I am most proud of: No longer having buck teeth

Pet peeves: anything that tries my patience

Favorite junk food: I like them all, I'm a junk-food-aholic, but I'm not a fatty.

If I could be any car I would be: A Jeep Wagoneer with the wood panels on the side, because they're classy

Favorite book: Morning by Morning, by Charles Spurgeon

What I look for in a boy: someone who makes me laugh

Where I see myself after Liberty: teaching high school English, definitely not in Virginia, with the SOLs (Standards of Learning).

—Compiled by Amy Jordan, LIFE! editor

### A child's perspective on Christmas morning

A short story by Mike Adame

I still haven't heard any noise yet. It must be at least six o'clock by now. I wonder what is taking everyone so long to get up. There it is! The sun! I swear I can see the sun through my window.

Oh, wait, it was only a car. Man, I hate waiting for everyone to get up before opening presents. I think I can get out of bed without waking Martha, but then again she has been sleeping light lately. Maybe I can sneak around and catch a look at some of the presents under the tree. I bet there are at least 15 under there with my name on them. Uh oh, I think she just moved a little bit. I better not chance it.

I wonder what everyone got me this year. I hope it isn't like last year, with all the tube socks and sweaters. I have never seen so many tube socks in my life! I don't even know what I did with them all. I bet they even hid some of my unopened tube socks to give me again this year. This will probably be another "year of the tube socks."

Maybe if I used the bathroom or sneezed really loud, that would wake them up. I'm sure they would hear that. I don't know if they would be able to hear the toilet flush. If I sneezed in the room, I would at least wake up Martha. But she would probably just tell me to go back to bed. She doesn't seem to have the same enthusiasm about Christmas as I do. I have always loved the thrill of Christmas!

It must be about seven o'clock. I'm starting to see the sun coming through the trees. Why won't everyone get up?!! I'm getting a little anxious now, and I can't believe I'm like this. I'm about to make a break for the door. No, I have to be better. This year I'm going to be the strong one and I'll wait for

everyone else to get up first.

Oh, wait! I think I hear something. Yes! A door is creaking. I'm not the only one up! There is someone else! Now is my chance, I'm at the door! I'm gonna make a run for it! Here goes!

"Timmy?!!!"

"Grandpa, what are you doing up?"

"Umm...I was just...checking on you! Now why don't you go back to bed until your parents wake up. You know how they like to be there when you first see your presents. Now get along to bed now."

"Okay."

Yeah, I remember those days, with the excitement building and the anticipation of Christmas morning. It seems like it's been ages since I've gotten so filled with emotion that I could hardly control myself. I mean, I can barely remember my 10th Christmas. But I do remember that youthful joy that always seems to overwhelm me during the Christmas season, and I hope that joy will remain in my heart forever.

amyjordan

#### Visions of sugarplums

Everyone, young and old alike, knows the famous Christmas poem, "The Night Before Christmas" by Clement Clarke Moore. I heard that poem over Thanksgiving, and it reminded of one Christmas season when my brother and I were younger and we put together this massive, 1500 piece puzzle, entitled "Visions of Sugarplums." This puzzle depicted the scene of Santa placing presents under the tree, with Mom and Dad peeking from behind the Christmas tree, while the little children were "nestled all snug in their beds," surrounded by stuffed animals. White puffy clouds filled with every imaginable kind of Christmas goody floated over the top of the scene depicted in the puzzle, thus signifying the sugarplums that were dancing in the little children's heads.

Some of you may be the type of Christmas enthusiast who already has your entire dorm room decked out for the holidays, with eggnog in your fridge, and all of your Christmas presents for your friends and family picked out and ready to be wrapped. Others of you may see the holiday as just another occasion when you are forced to be in the same house with

your eclectic and bizarre family members, and are hundreds of miles away from your boyfriend or girlfriend. In any event, whether the Christmas season brings joy or stress, we all still have our various sugarplums dancing through our heads.

Long before the days of the Little Debbie Christmas tree cakes, or whatever your personal favorite Christmas treat is, sugarplums, which are nothing more than plums coated in sugar, were considered to be the sweetest treat of all. Among other reasons, children would look forward to Christmastime for the sugarplums that they would get to eat. I've never actually eaten a sugarplum, and I can honestly say that I've never had visions of sugarplums, but I do have my own personal type of sugarplums finding their way through my thoughts and daydreams.

One "sugarplum" running through my head is finally arriving home for Christmas break—with the tree brightly lit and decorated, the inevitable smell

of spices and cookies baking, even the dog barking seems like a happy thought at the moment. There's something wonderful about home, especially at Christmastime. Simple things like baking Christmas treats with my mom, or helping my little brothers pick out Christmas presents are things that I am definitely looking forward to during the Christmas season.

Another sugarplum dancing through my head is the completion of all of the papers, presentations and exams that I have in the next two weeks. It is a delightful thought to me to think that I will have three weeks in which there will be no papers to write or exams to cram for. It's beautiful to know that my little i-book will be used only for the very mundane purposes of e-mail and instant messaging.

These are just a few of the sugarplums that enter my mind when I think about the Christmas season. We all



have our own unique wishes and plans for the holidays, the things that we think about as we are falling asleep, or sitting at the computer trying to write the paper that just doesn't seem to be meshing in your brain. For some, visions of sugarplums will mean the time that you spend helping out at the soup kitchen in your town, or spending a few dollars to contribute to the canned food drive on campus. Visions of sugarplums can even be so trite or shallow as the new sweater that you are hoping will be under the Christmas tree or the movie or CD that you just have to have to complete your collection.

As you finish out the semester and begin your holiday season, enjoy the anticipation of the sugarplums that find themselves swirling through your thoughts. Make the most of your "sugarplum" moments, whether it be catching up on much needed sleep, or helping your younger brothers and sisters set cookies and milk out for Santa. And while you're indulging in your sugarplums, remember the sweetest and most gracious gift of all, who came in the most humble of fashions, to bring hope and joy to anyone who wants a taste of what is truly sweet.

Merry Christmas, Liberty, and may your holiday be truly sweet—full of the hope and joy of Jesus Christ.



# The Neighbors Place—where you'll never wear out your welcome

A restaurant review by Teresa Becker, reporter

There is a place where you can hang your hat, pull up a chair and sit down to a table filled with good friends, hot food and a lot of class. A place where the smell of steak blanketed with sauteed mushrooms, onions, peppers and mozzarella cheese cooking over a hot stove fills the air. Glasses clink together as good company toasts to the evening ahead and the host smiles at the sound of people laughing and chatting about life.

It's called The Neighbors Place. "It's not home, but it's home-like. Enough to where you feel comfortable. There's nothing closer to your home than your neighbor's," owner Alex Richardson said. He wants each person who walks into The Neighbors



RUSTY MARTIN

**IN THE HOSPITALITY BUSINESS**—The staff at The Neighbor's Place makes you feel right at home.

Place to feel like a neighbor, no matter how far away they live.

Richardson and Bob Schoeneck had a vision to open a restaurant that breaks the link in the long restaurant chain in Lynchburg. The Neighbors Place is that restaurant. It's upscale, yet casual environment all under an oak wood cathedral ceiling. The high windows look out onto green grass, and depending on where you are seated, a back fire-pit porch, a front bistro area, or a front trellis garden.

"We want to give Lynchburg what it wants," Richardson said. A group of local investors helped to make Richardson's and Schoeneck's vision come into focus.

The Neighbors Place celebrated one month of service on Nov. 30. It opened its doors to the public in October with a ghost opening. Residents from all over Lynchburg have been hearing about The Neighbors Place via word of mouth.

"I'm telling all of my friends about it, and I know a lot of other people are too, which is the best way to advertise," junior Stephanie Brandt said. If people are talking, it must be tasty. Since the opening, approximately 9,000 people have walked through the doors.

LU student Lucas Darough drank up the atmosphere while indulging in a cheeseburger with fresh lettuce and tomatoes surrounded with waffle fries. "The service was friendly. They let you enjoy your meal and I left feeling satisfied, which is hard to find at a lot of restaurants," Darough said.

That's because Richardson makes it a priority to set precedence for the restaurant. "Instead of keeping up with the Jones' we wanted to be the Jones',"

Richardson said.

Richardson and Schoeneck choose each cut of meat or fish that comes into the kitchen. They choose quality pastas and seafood to serve to their guests. They make their own salad dressing, and the dessert dishes are not pre-ordered.

Each deliciously sinful dessert is made fresh in the kitchen, including the chocolate sauce, which is dribbled over the Neighbors' Mocha Mud Pie. The ice cream is made in Williamsburg, Va.

When looking at the menu, the cuisine at The Neighbors Place is "as diverse as our heritage" according to Richardson. A hungry guest can sit down to a meal that starts with an appetizer of Bruschetta and Seafood Bisque. Then move on to a garden salad or perhaps a seasoned steak salad. An entree can be chosen from one of the categories of dinner selections, "Steak and Chops," "Chicken, Fish and Ribs," "House Favorites," "Between the Bread," "Specialty Pizzas," or "Now That's a Wrap." The plentiful meal can be topped off with a



RUSTY MARTIN

**A MOOD SETTER**—Customers appreciate the delightful atmosphere when dining at The Neighbors Place.

variety of desserts. Taste a Bananas' Foster, maybe a Chambord Chocolate Torte, or Caramel Cranapple Bread Custard. The list goes on and on. "We love to cook and we love to eat. Our kitchen is on display for viewing so that you can witness our attention to details and our passion for food," said Schoeneck.

The food is delightfully filling, the atmosphere is dripping with the taste of quality, and the staff is quick to greet every guest. Richardson said this is more than a restaurant business. "We're in the hospitality business, and I love it."

## BAH-HUMBUG: A BIRTHDAY STORY

By Christine Koech, columnist

My reaction to a cheerful Christmas wish on Christmas morning is not very different from that of Charles Dickens' Scrooge in A Christmas Carol. I would, normally, on Christmas morning be upset about the previous night's events—or so my 22 Christmas years have proved.

My story begins on the eve of my very first Christmas. My happy, dream-filled sleep was interrupted by the loss of my comfortable bubble in which I lay peacefully until a spiraling force began to pull me towards a rather dreadful tunnel.

At the end of the tunnel I felt wash of cold air come over my head and I let out a loud wail. "Why! WHY! W-H-Y!" I cried, flailing my arms desperately as I was prodded and poked by unknown creatures. Finally I was rendered powerless by a constraint that was wrapped around me, a rather, warm, comfortable, oh...I could get used to this...wait, who is this? Her voice sounds familiar. I could live here forever...And so I lived for many years in the arms of this new stranger who I later learned was named 'Mom' and who was always accompanied by a rather large bearded creature who I later learned was referred to as 'Dad'.

Now, so far my story seems pointless, as I am yet to explain why Christmas morning distresses me so. You see, for the next few years, I was forced to blow out little flickering lights on colorful sticks on top of some type of little hill, which they insisted on calling "cake," and which I must confess was delicious, but I enjoyed smashing. I got used to the tradition, eventually, as well as the gift-bearing people who came to witness it every year. In fact, when I was old enough to start showing interest in the species they insist on calling "boys," I grew rather tired of the tradition. One reason for this was that people no longer remembered to bring two separate gifts for me. It is bad enough to get a prissy, overlaced frock for Christmas, it is worse when someone informs you that it will be replacing the birthday gift you have dreamed of all year long.

I would, however, like to make an exception and thank those guests who were so considerate as to include my birthday wishes on the Christmas card they sent to the whole family, "Merry Christmas to All of You, and Happy Birthday to Christine." Surely I couldn't have expected a Christmas greeting and a birthday wish both in the same year, could I? I must not forget to thank the other very special guests who sent me a pair of colorful toe socks, one sock in a carefully wrapped box labeled "happy birthday" and the other in a festive box with a Santa motif.

Ho, ho, ho, indeed.

Now, the grand finale of the evening is watching my mother put away the gifts under the tree. Christmas gift, Christmas gift, Christmas, Christmas, ooh this one says birthday...no wait it says, "do not open until Christmas."

Everyone gets to open their birthday gifts on their birthday. Why do I have to wait a whole night only to watch everyone else gleefully unwrap the completing accessory to the gift they got for their birthdays? I waited two years for my "Sweet Valley High" collection to be complete while my best friend next door got book number 47 on her birthday in September and book number 48 for Christmas.

So you see, when I finally go to bed on Christmas Eve I go to bed very sad, and I don't have much to look forward to except my Aunt Bornice's gift. Every year I got a newly knitted sweater that was too tight at the cuffs and too small at the neck. While my Aunt stood smiling in the corner, I had to squeeze my head through for 15 minutes before I got the sweater on. That's right, Aunt Bornice is to blame for my badly deformed ears.

Now unlike Scrooge, who is trapped on a storybook page, reliving his "Bah! Humbug!" days every year, I have left my selfish days behind. You see, I have come to understand that birthday gifts are not what Christmas is all about. Christmas is about Christmas gifts.

And so this Christmas I look forward to receiving that very special pair of toe socks, since my present ones have a hole in them, and I am very glad that I am too far away to have to bear the pain of one of Aunt Bornice's knitted creations.

❖ **The Bachelor/Bachelorette Auction** has been tentatively rescheduled to take place on Jan. 31.

## Campus-wide canned food drive

By Amy Jordan, LIFE! editor

If you are looking for a way to make someone's Christmas season just a little bit brighter, then get involved with the canned food drive taking place on Liberty's campus. Liberty's student government, Campus Crusades, the Campus Pastor's office, Sodexo Food Services and local churches have all come together in an effort to feed those in need right here in Lynchburg. This joint venture between these various organizations occurs through an effort to provide a full Christmas meal for 350 needy Lynchburg families. This creates a need of 3,500 cans from the Liberty community.

Students are urged to contribute canned goods, such as green beans, corn, canned fruit or even cans of soup. Along with these cans of vegetables, or other such items, a meat voucher for a local Food Lion will be placed in the basket, thanks to the contributions from the Campus Pastor's office and other local churches, so that a full Christmas dinner can be enjoyed by these families. Not only will these baskets contain food, but they will each contain a new testament bible, along with a packet containing the plan of salvation and information on the various

ministries and churches in the area.

"Campus Crusade is an integral part of this drive, because they are taking 250 of the baskets and distributing them to various apartment complexes," Student Government President Zach Gautier said. "The neatest thing about this is that thanks to the involvement of Campus Crusades this is something where there will be the building of relationships with these families, instead of just a one-time event."

The other 100 baskets will be delivered to needy families identified through several local organizations, such as The Center.

Dr. Hughes has played a large role in organizing the canned food drive, and identifying the families in need. "Dr. Hughes has been an unbelievable asset in this project," Gautier said in reference to all of Hughes' hard work.

"Of all the things to get involved with, this is one of the most valid ministry opportunities, because it requires students to give out of their abundance, or out of their limited means. It's an opportunity to give, and contributing canned goods to needy families in Lynchburg is just as valid of a ministry as giving to Uganda or Djibouti," Gautier said, in reference to why Liberty students should get involved.



## Fraser steps up as VP of Student Services

By Marianne Mims, reporter

Last Spring when the final votes were tallied in the Student Government Association elections, Brian Fraser's name was not in the winner's circle. He lost a well-run campaign for Executive Vice President to Paul Pittman.

However, this year when Amber McAllister resigned her post as Vice President of Student Services, who better to fill the position than someone who had previously sought a position in SGA? Fraser is on President Zach Gautier's Executive Committee and Cabinet already, so he seemed like the natural choice.

"I was impressed with his integrity and work ethic, and I thought he would make the perfect fit in the relationship that Paul [Pittman] and I have with that position," Gautier said.

The announcement came as a complete surprise to Fraser. Apparently, he had discussed the possibility of filling in the Vice President's position with Gautier, but at the end of the next week's Cabinet meeting, Gautier made the official announcement, which was followed the next Thursday with the Senate's approval. "I had to go before the Senate to be confirmed...After I presented myself, I had to meet [immediately afterwards] with the class officers."

The Vice President of Student Services duties entail meeting on a regular basis with the class officers, overseeing all clubs and planning events for the students that are sponsored by the SGA. Fraser felt, even as early as last year that he would be well suited for the Student Services position, but through a series of events, he ran for Executive Vice President instead. "I feel Vice President of Student

Services fits me better than Executive Vice President would have. Paul and I have no feelings of ill will, so it was a smooth transition."

Fraser did find that his job was by no means easy, though. He hit the ground running and has not stopped since taking over Oct. 29.

"When I came into the position, it was difficult at first because there were a lot of loose ends to be tied. So, my first couple weeks were quite hectic trying to get things straightened out and to try to get into step with what SGA was trying to accomplish this year," Fraser said.

Fraser is from Glenmore, Pa. where he was raised by Ron and Deb Fraser, along with an older brother, Marc. Fraser serves as an SLD on dorm 18-1 and his favorite thing to do on Saturday is to play football with the guys from his hall. Not only is Fraser a leader in SGA, but he has held many jobs before including firefighter, EMT, security guard, waiter, certified referee, assistant youth and family director at a YMCA, and working at his dad's business. It is easy to see from this long list that Fraser is multi-talented.

A sad twist of fate brought Fraser to Liberty. When he was a senior in high school, he was hit head-on by a Dodge Ram while on the way to basketball practice. The accident and the subsequent surgeries required because of it, left Fraser on his back for two months.

During the two months, he used the time to pray and do some soul searching.

"As a result of the accident...I changed the direction I was heading. I was heading toward a degree in architectural engineering at Penn State University. But, after a two month opportunity to pray, I decided God wanted me to go to Liberty University. Four months later, I arrived here and I am currently majoring in English, as well as pursuing an Associate's



FILE PHOTO

**NEW MAN IN CHARGE**—Brian Fraser takes his place as the Vice President of Student Services. Degree in Religion and minor in Business and Government," Fraser said. His future plans include law school and a possible career as a judge.

Brian Fraser wanted to be the Vice President of Student Services and by all counts is already quite a success. Events that he and the Class Officers Council are planning include: the Bachelor/Bachelorette Auction tentatively rescheduled for Jan. 31 in the Schilling Center, a Food Drive in cooperation with the Campus Pastor's Office, a donation to the United Way and the Junior/Senior Banquet, which will be the last weekend in April in Charlottesville.

Fraser is looking forward to the spring semester and a chance to have a fresh start with some kind of understanding of the job from the beginning. He will not comment on his future SGA plans, but some say he might make a good candidate for President next year.

Brian Fraser lost an election last spring, but it turns out he just ran for the wrong job!



# Lady Flames comeback falls short

By Robbie Adams, asst. sports editor

The Lady Flames suffered their second loss in a row to Alabama last Saturday afternoon, but they fought it out to the bitter end. Early shooting woes, including poor free throw shooting, led to a frustrating 67-64 defeat to the Crimson Tide in the first round of the U.S. Cellular Classic in Greenville, N.C.

Once again the Flames were subject to a hot shooting opponent as the Tide hit their opening three 3-point shots and put the Flames down by as much as 17 points early on in the first half. Liberty shot just 2-9 during that period and trailed 17-4. The Tide shot 46-percent from beyond the arc while the Flames shooting percentage fell to 15 percent with 6:04 left in the opening half as the deficit increased. The first half was fast-paced which favored Alabama's style of offense, and the Flames were unable to really get any rhythm in their

half court sets early on.

The Flames battled back late in the first half however with a full court press and aggressive defensive scheme to counter the Tides potent offensive showing. The result was a 13-4 run to end the half as the tide started to change.

In the second half, Daina Stagaitiene hit two quick three to cut the lead to 37-31 and gave the Flames some fire power from 3-point range. She would finish with 10 points on the day and 3-8 from beyond the arc.

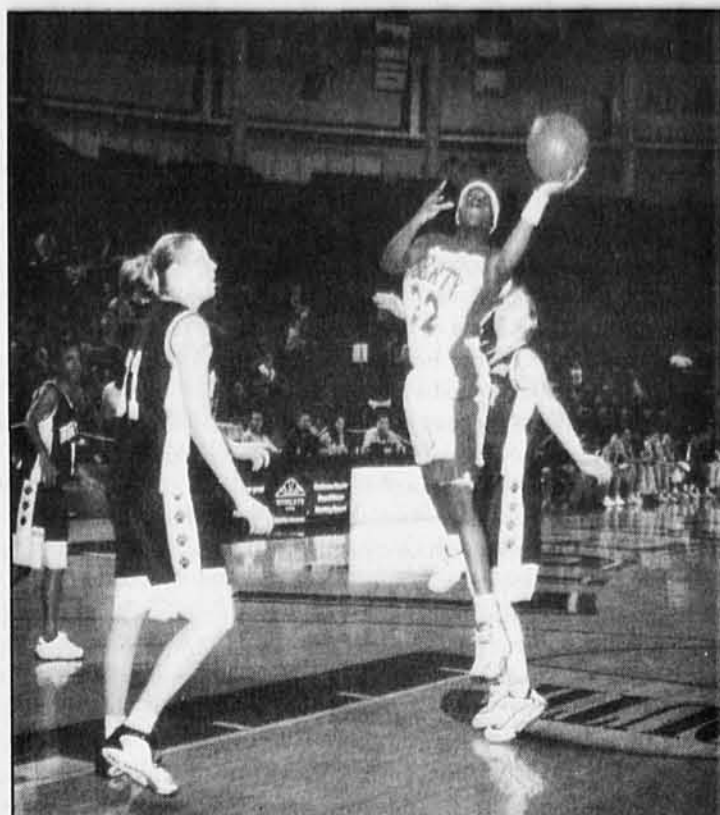
Stephanie Walker played fearlessly as she slashed to the basket and opened up the Tides soft zone defense. Walker led all scores with 15 total points on 5-8 shooting from the floor. Walker helped the Flame score 43 points on 55-percent shooting in the second half to keep give the Liberty faithful hope. The Flames also fouled out one of the Tides best shooters, Monique Bivins, with a little over five minutes to go in the game. Bivins was 3-7 from deep and

scored 12 points in just 26 minutes.

Meribeth Anderson also had a strong second half for Liberty on both sides of the floor with six points on three of four shooting, four rebounds and two blocked shots in just seven minutes.

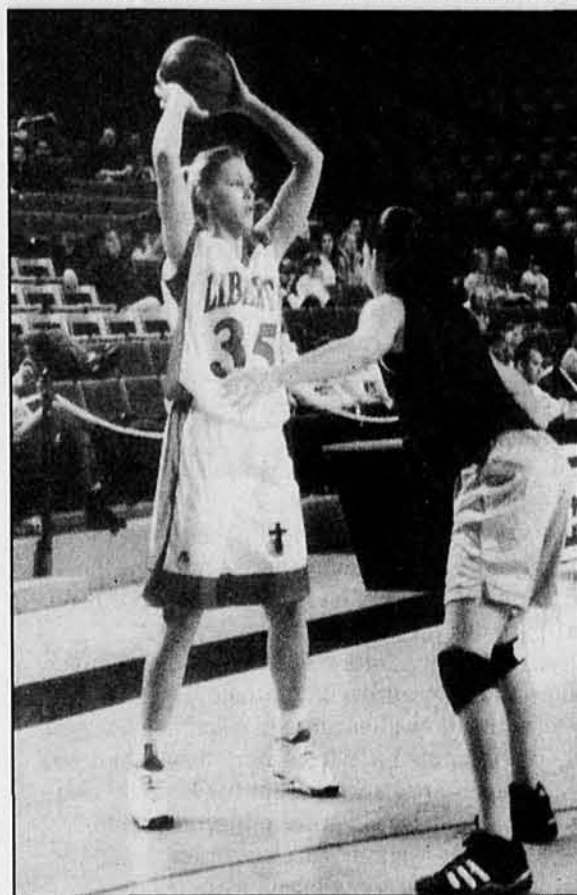
The Tide was too much however, as they hit their free throws down the stretch and Beth Vice was able to hit a 25 footer with two minutes to go to widen the lead back to six points. Kristal Tharp did hit a three with 45 seconds left to cut lead to one but the Flames had to foul after Katie Feenstra missed two free throws. The Flames did have a chance however with 12 seconds left and possession of the basketball, but a turnover prevented them from getting a shot off to attempt to tie the game.

The Flames fell to 3-2 on the season and had to settle for the consolation game. Liberty will return home to host Virginia Tech on December 14 at noon and Norfolk State on December 21 at 2 p.m.



JOHN FISHER

AIRBORN—Stephanie Walker catapults to the basket for a left-handed two.



FILE PHOTO

LIGHTS OUT—Tharp's late three sent the game in overtime, where LU waxed the 23rd ranked Cavaliers on Nov. 26.

## UVa stunned by LU in OT

From Staff reports

Trailing UVa by three with seconds remaining, the Lady Flames Kristal Tharp hit a three from the corner to tie the game and send it into overtime where the Lady Flames would come out on top 77-69.

Tharp's (20 points) three at the end of regulation culminated a run which saw the Lady Flames come back from 10 points down with just over five minutes to play.

The Lady Flames took an early lead in overtime and never trailed, finally putting the game away at the foul line.

Five Lady Flames finished in double figures and Crystal Peace finished with a double-double, 10 points and 11 rebounds.

The Lady Flames shot 43 percent for the game, but hit 8 of 16 from long range, led by Tharp and Stagaitiene who knocked down four and three three-pointers respectively. UVa's Cherrise Graham led all scorers with 20 points on 10-20 shooting.

The win was the Lady Flames first ever over a top 25 ranked team, as the Cavaliers came into the game ranked 23rd in the ESPN/Coaches poll.

With the win over nationally ranked Virginia, the six-time Big South champions finally received recognition of their own. For the first time this season, LU cracked the womenscolleg hoops.com top 50 poll, landing at number 40. Additionally, the Lady Flames picked up 22 votes in last week's Coaches poll, good enough to rank them 36th overall.

The Lady Flames next home game will be against another in state rival. On Saturday, Dec. 14 Liberty will host Virginia Tech. Last season, Tech beat LU in Lynchburg, 56-40. Stephanie Walker and Susan Foreid led the Flames scoring with 11 and eight, respectively, in the loss.

Currently, the Hokies are 5-1 on the season with wins over Washington State, James Madison and Virginia.

**LJ sportsupdate**

Compiled from various sources

## Women's hoops sign recruits

Liberty University's women's basketball Coach Carey Green recently announced the signing of three recruits, Michelle Parker, Leslie Jones and Jamie Feagin, for the upcoming 2003-2004 season. "We are so pleased to have three young ladies with strong Christian character join our program," Green said. "They are outstanding basketball players, but their Christian values and character excites us. They all have had such strong foundations put in place by their families and schools." Parker, a 5-8 guard, was ranked as one of the top 150 players in the country and was named 1-A Player of the Year in the state of Florida. The Flames other two recruits, Jones and Feagin hail from North Carolina and New York respectively. "Leslie also comes from a Christian high school and is one of the best players in the state of North Carolina," Green said. "Jamie is a tremendously gifted, strong athlete," Green said. "We enjoyed having her in summer camp, where she was an MVP and a dominating player. We also observed her in summer AAU play where she continued to be one of the top players we saw all summer. Jamie amazes us with her ability to compete at every level."

## Men's b-ball falls in OT

Liberty University's men's basketball team lost its home opener 72-67 to American in overtime last Tuesday Dec. 3.

The Flames had a 14 point lead midway through the second half but let it slip away down the stretch. Liberty led practically the entire game, and it wasn't until 58 seconds left that American tied the game. American, which had been 0-7 from three-point in the first half caught fire in the second, especially late. During a five-minute stretch, AU connected on four of its five second half threes cutting the Flames lead to three with just under four minutes to play. From there it was all down hill, as the Eagles forced overtime and continued their hot shooting into the extra period outscoring Liberty 13-8 for the victory.

## LU golf ends strong

The golf team wrapped up its season on a high note, winning the Liberty Fall Golf Classic at Crosswinds Golf Course in Savannah, Ga. The Flames second day total of 295 helped them finish three shots ahead of second place Navy and gave them a two day total of 591. Individually, LU's Paul Carey and freshman Jordan Mitchell tied for second place overall with two day totals of 145. The last tournament was the Flames only victory, but the season was a success in other ways as well.

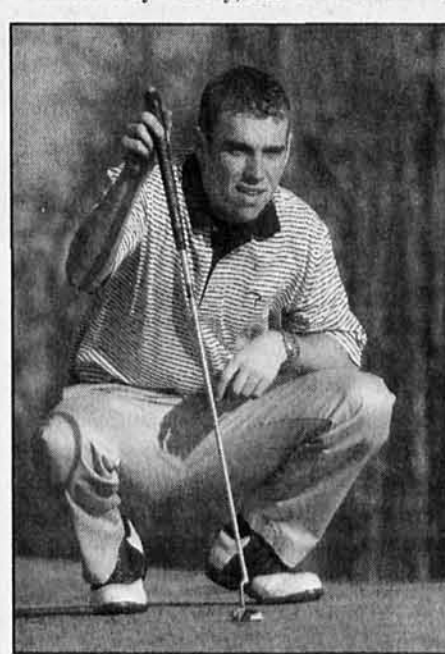


PHOTO PROVIDED

EYE OF THE TIGER—Liberty senior golfer Paul Carey stares down a gimme putt.

Earlier in the season the Flames set a new team record by firing a 54-hole 867. Junior Paul Carey set a new fall individual scoring record with a 73.2 average in 13 rounds of competition. "I am very satisfied with the fall start and look forward to a very interesting spring, because of all the experience we now own," Flames Coach Frank Landrey said.

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# Men's basketball steals top recruits

By Andrew Martin, reporter

The 2002-2003 men's basketball recruiting class started off with the signing of two solid players, Larry Blair, Jr. and David Dees. Blair, Jr. is a 6-foot-1 shooting guard from Charlotte, N.C. He averaged 24.6 points per game last season at Camden Military Academy in Camden, S.C. He also added seven assists and six rebounds per contest during his junior season.

"Larry Blair, Jr. is a big time scorer. Although he is only six foot he is a great athlete," Assistant Coach Stephon Leary said. The nation became aware of Blair, Jr. during AAU competitions. He caught the eyes of recruiters with 33 points per game average during the Bob Gibbons Tournament of Champions. Blair led the tournament in scoring, beating out the likes of UNC's freshman star Raymond Felton, top ranked point guard Mustafa Shakur and Duke recruit DeMarcus Nelson.

With the performance given by Blair dur-

ing summer tournaments, he put himself in position to be recruited by some major colleges. Georgia, North Carolina State and Wake Forest all made efforts to get Blair, but he finally decided to sign with the Flames on November 18 to honor his sister Jessica on her birthday.

This fall Blair was named to Hoop Scoop's North Carolina/South Carolina's third team while being ranked 10th overall among the state's seniors.

"I chose Liberty University because I felt like it was best for me," said Blair. "The relationship with Coach Dunton and the staff is very important. I know that I will get a great education at Liberty and will be able to grow in my relationship with the Lord."

Another guard was added to the team with the addition of Dees. He is a 6-foot-5 shooting guard from Dayton, Ohio. His junior year of high school he averaged 22 points per game and eight rebounds. He also can stroke it from behind the three point line, with a 42 percent shooting percentage.

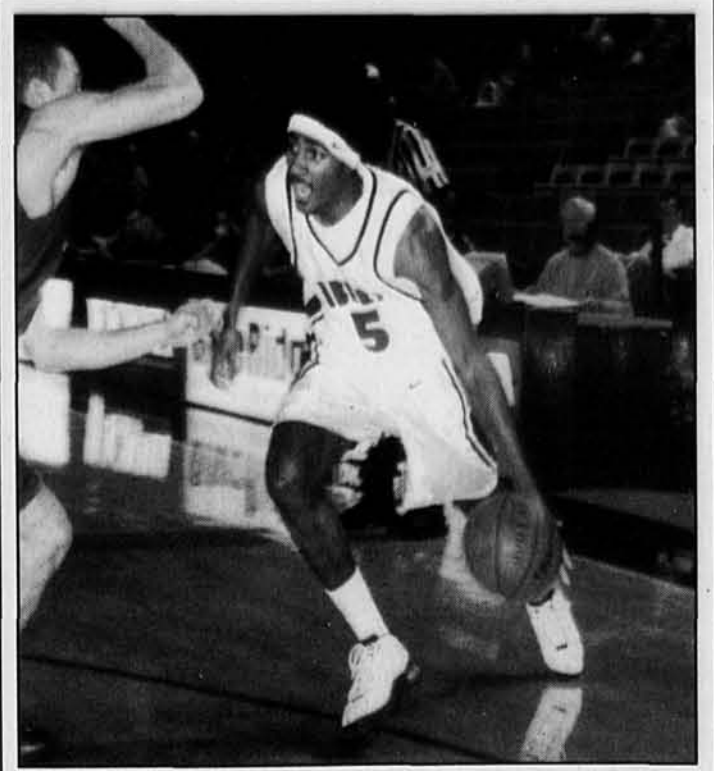
"David Dees is a 6-5 player whose best years are ahead of him. David can really shoot the ball well. He also has good ball handling skills and is a good athlete," Leary said.

Dees comes with recommendations from various recruiting services. He is noted as a kid who can shoot it from deep and also can create his own shot off the dribble.

These two players should help the basketball program head in the direction they want to go. Both are capable of stepping in right away and providing contributions. Coach Dunton and his staff are bringing in very talented athletes who can compete at an elite level.

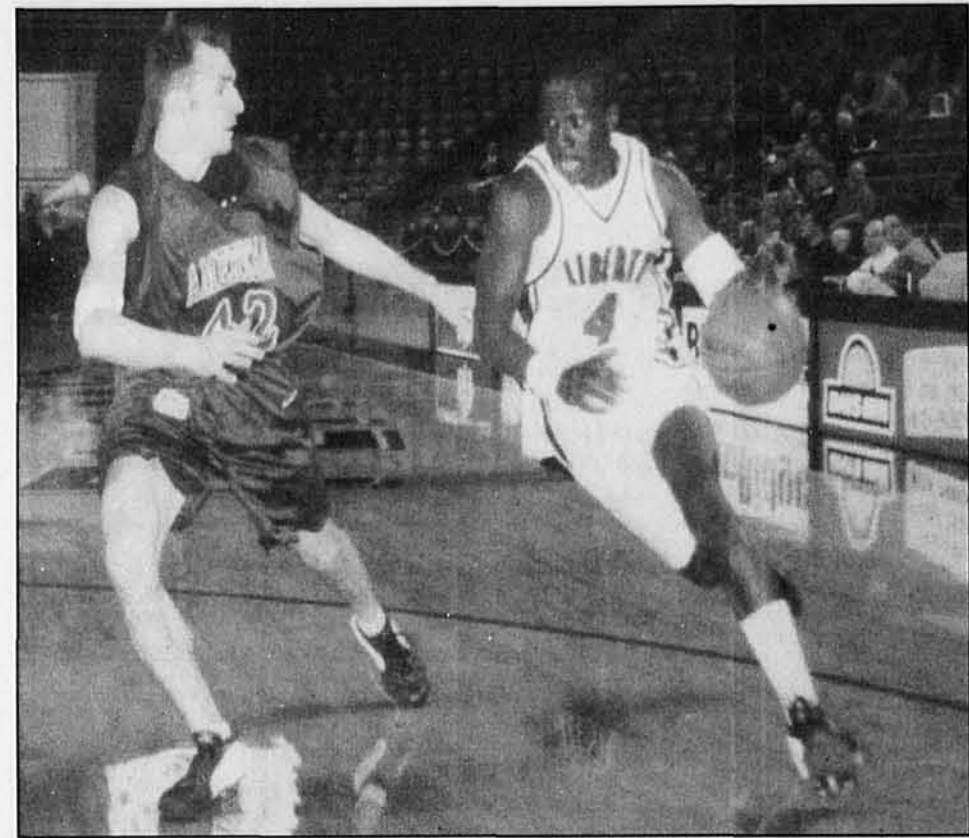
"There's no better place to recruit young men than Liberty University," he said. "LU offers what every Christian athlete and his or her parents would want for their son. The key is to make sure we're building a competitive program to compete with other big schools."

WOMEN'S TEAM  
SIGNS THREE, SEE  
PAGE 9



JOHN FISHER

THRIFT SHOPPER— Before clanging on his first free throw attempt against WCU, Gabe Martin had hit on 19 consecutive trips to the line.



JOHN FISHER

TO-THE-TIN—Vincent Okotie led Liberty scorers with 19 points against Western Carolina last Saturday.

## BASKETBALL: Men hold on for third win of the season

Continued from page 12

The first half was as closely contested as the second, despite the fact that the Flames jumped out to a 12-4 lead six minutes into the game.

However, Western Carolina put the Flames on its heels with a full court press, and a 13-5 run tied the game at 17 three minutes later. Western's Martin would score all 10 of his first half points during the span, including two three-pointers.

Two minutes later Western's Kori Hatcher knocked down a three to match the Catamounts biggest lead of the game 25-21. The Flames would come back tie the game at 33 by halftime, but no thanks to any three-point marksmanship of their own.

The Flames finished the first half 0-7 from the land of plenty

and were in the game because of their defense which held the Catamounts to 36-percent shooting in the first half and 38 percent for the game.

"We're missing some good looks...we need to move the ball better," Dunton said. According to Dunton, Mantlo and Monceaux's perimeter struggles may also be due to the fact that Western's guard's were 6-foot-6 and 6-foot-7.

However, while the Flames struggled from the outside, they dominated in the paint, outscoring Western 32-22, despite the fact that the Flames played most of the game without 6-9 center Jason Sarchet. Vincent Okotie led the Flames with 19 points, most of which came from the post, four steals, and seven rebounds. "I'm really proud of Vince tonight. He made some

plays like a senior," Dunton said.

Glyn Turner came off the bench to score nine points and grab eight rebounds.

The Flames will host VMI (3-2) at 7 p.m. tonight in the Vines Center. Liberty fell to the Keydets 68-54 in its season opener in Lexington.

**Note:** Coach Randy Dunton, who was disappointed with the support the Flames received in their home opener last week—the Flames drew just over 1,000—was much happier with Saturday's turnout. The Flames drew 3,173, their largest home attendance in more than a season.

"I felt Liberty basketball was back where it has been in the past. It's exciting again and game's are worth watching," Dunton said.

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