
2004 – 2005

Liberty University School Newspaper

Fall 12-7-2004

12-07-04 (The Liberty Champion, Volume 22, Issue 10)

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"12-07-04 (The Liberty Champion, Volume 22, Issue 10)" (2004). 2004 – 2005. 9.
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Meet the Nutters

The husband and wife team in the English department have served Liberty for several years.

See page B4

Killer Video Games

Opinion takes aim at the latest online game which features target practice at President Kennedy.

See page A6

Creation vs. Evolution

LU biology professor Dr. David DeWitt debated an evolutionist from Sweet Briar College on the radio.

See page A4



The Liberty Champion

SERVING LIBERTY UNIVERSITY FOR TWENTY-ONE YEARS

VOL. 22, NO. 10

DECEMBER 7, 2004

Blast injures LU soldier

By Megan Joiner
NEWS REPORTER

Growing up, Bradford and Jonathan Garrigues were inseparable. They worked together on the job. They played together in a jazz band. They competed together on the Salisbury High School cross country team in Salisbury, N.C.

Now, at ages 23 and 21 respectively, they are fighting together with the H&S Company, in the engineering platoon of the 1st Division, 3rd Battalion of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Both boys joined the reserves two weeks before September 11, 2001. They trained that summer, and then trained one weekend a month. The "weekend warrior" role was not bad, and they were getting money for school.

Then, in late May, the boys were called to active duty.

Jonathan left for Camp Geiger, just south of Jacksonville, Fla., for three weeks of combat training this past June.

After three weeks, Jonathan rejoined Bradford, who had already completed his combat training, and they left for Camp

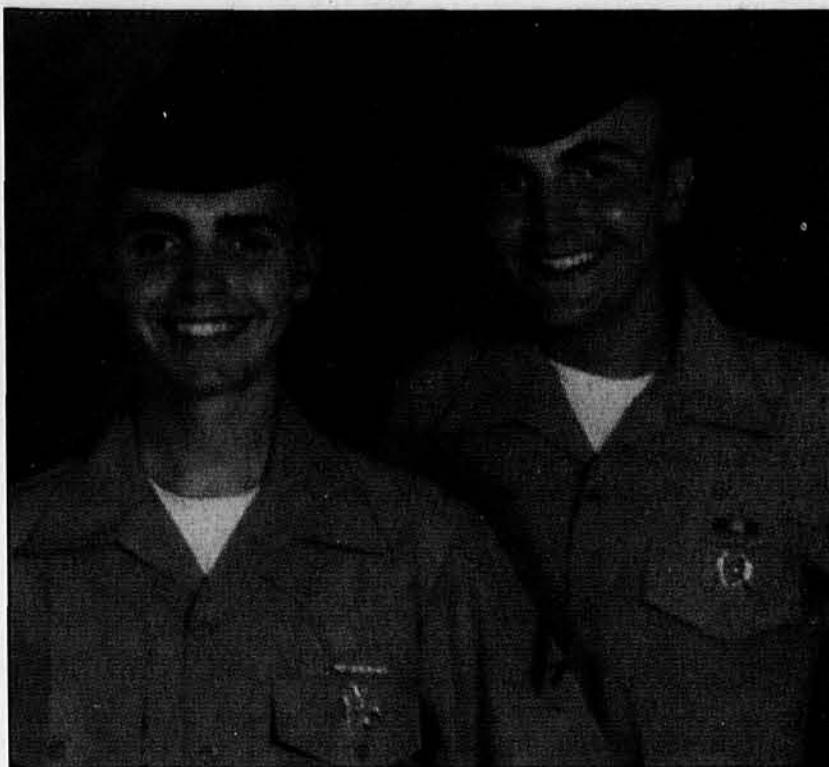


PHOTO PROVIDED

BROTHERS — Marines Bradford (Right) and Jonathan Garrigues were called to active duty last May. When fighting in Fallujah, a grenade exploded, injuring Jonathan.

Pendleton, Calif. Bradford, who had been studying to be a history teacher in hopes of becoming a cross country coach, left his wife of one year, Sarah Keene Garrigues, a former RA at

Liberty. Jonathan was still undecided about his major after two years at Liberty.

"We'll come home war heroes before you know it," Bradford reassured the family. He could

not have known how true those words were.

On Aug. 28, Jonathan and Bradford arrived in Iraq. Their outfit had been stationed near Fallujah for almost two weeks before their arrival. Fallujah, a city almost 90 miles from Baghdad, has been a stronghold for insurgents throughout the war.

Over 100 American soldiers were killed in Fallujah in April when insurrection flared and the U.S. and Iraqi allies lost a large measure of control. The city is a haven to plan and organize resources for attacks in Baghdad and other cities in the Sunni Triangle.

Upon arriving in Iraq, the boys were greeted by an explosion. They were in a convoy when a bomb went off by the road only two trucks behind them. No one died, but the bomb damaged their ear drums. Jonathan and Bradford had not even been in Iraq for a week when seven Marines were killed by a car bomb.

Please see GARRIGUES, page A3

Brother killed in combat

By Richard Gretskey
NEWS REPORTER

David Houck, the brother of Liberty senior Micah Houck, was killed in Fallujah just over a week ago.

Micah Houck is not yet sure how his brother was killed. He suspects, however, that it was in Fallujah. Based on a report he read on the FOXnews Web site, there was a team of five firemen who were ambushed in Fallujah and two unnamed soldiers had died.

Although it is not known for sure where or how it happened, Houck is confident that it must have been an ambush.

"David was so good at what he did, so it had to be an ambush," Houck said. "He was always the one on the front lines...taking the risks."



DAVID HOUCK

Please see DEATH, page A3

Court denies gay marriage appeal

By Sara Lesley
NEWS EDITOR

Last Monday, the Supreme Court denied to review an argument to protect traditional marriage.

Liberty Counsel, a conservative litigation organization based out of Orlando, Fla., represented the case before the Supreme Court.

The case challenged the ruling of the

Now, Liberty Counsel is shifting gears and taking the issue of gay-marriage to the American people to have a federal Constitutional amendment.

"Marriage will be defined by someone," Staver said. "I would rather have it defined by the people of the United States instead of the judiciary."

Mathew Staver
PRESIDENT OF LIBERTY COUNSEL

the U.S. Supreme Court denied to even hear his case, it will help build support for it in the long run.

"I think the case actually adds momentum to the constitutional amendment," Staver said.

Since 2003, Liberty Counsel and several other conservative action groups have been strategizing about passing a federal constitutional amendment to define marriage between a man and a woman.

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Please see COURT, page A2

LU swells City's economy

By Christine Coffey
LIFE EDITOR

Every fall the Lynchburg economy gets a giant boost from the 15,000 college students who pump money into it. Some businesses are directly affected by the student population, but there are many indirect effects. With LU being the largest of the local higher education centers, its impact is the greatest.

In 2002, the Longwood Small Business Development Center did an Economic Impact Study for LU. The study showed that LU students put approximately \$38 million into the Lynchburg economy. The study also estimated the impact of the entire LU institution, not just the students, to be about \$112 million per year. This study tracked financial statements for the 2001 to 2002 school year when LU only had about 5,200 residential students.

"You can imagine with the current enrollment figures, Liberty University's economic impact has increased substantially," said Dr. David Young, executive vice president and chief operating officer of LU.

The 7,700 resident students at LU represent over half of the student population in the area. The other portion is accounted for at the four schools within a 20 minute drive: Central Virginia Community College, Randolph-Macon, Sweet Briar and Lynchburg College. Lynchburg is home to 65,000 people, making LU students a sizeable portion of the population.

Besides attracting students who spend money in the community, LU is also one of the largest employers in the area. Maureen Robinson, who works in Liberty's Human Resources department, said that almost 2,200 faculty, staff and student workers are employed by LU.

Rex Hammond, the president of the Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce, recognizes the importance of LU in the community. "I've had the benefit of seeing some of the expansion plans for Liberty. I'm greatly impressed. They're an important part of our economy and will be even more so in the future," he said.

Many businesses can attribute their

success in part or whole to LU's presence in the community. Some employ strategies to attract students while others simply choose to locate their stores as near to the school as possible.

All Macado's restaurants, for example, are built within walking distance of a college campus. "Every Macado's is located near a college. The restaurant and its menu and prices are geared toward college students," said Sandy Anthony, manager of the Lynchburg Macado's.

Being near Liberty is just one of the reasons the owners of the Wingate hotel

chose to build where they did. "We're very close to LU which is a built-in advantage for several reasons," said Wingate Manager David Hamel. He stressed that most of their guests are business people, but they do benefit from events held at Liberty.

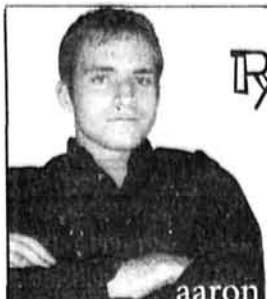
"We have peaks whether it's Super Conference, College for a Weekend or graduation, but our steady business comes from business people."

Please see ECONOMY, page A2



ADAM BISHOP

BAKE SALE — The Daily Grind coffee shop in Wyndhurst is a popular spot among Liberty students.



RANDOM REALITIES, senseless blogging, and snow hazards

aaron j. bauer

Many people have commented that my articles are too random to be read or even understood. The flow is perhaps of nuisance to some people. But to this, I argue that randomness should by this point be a way of life, a subset of reality. We all are used to watching some tear-jerker Nick and Jessica Christmas Special interrupted by Mentos commercials and dancing toothpaste. We accept it and move on. That is random. This is random too, although in print form.

I do not understand the purpose of the Blog. It makes no sense. Why would anyone post their life

story on the internet for everyone to read? That's as crazy as turning a 17 page children's book into a 90 minute animated movie completely devoid of plot and substance. There are some things that are best left undone. Shoelaces are not one of them.

The Christmas shopping season is in full swing. I never know what to buy people. My younger brother likes video games, so I usually buy him books. That's the great irony of Christmas morning. We all suppose we have made it perfectly clear as to what we would like for Christmas only to trot downstairs and unwrap yet another George Foreman Grill. You can't com-

plain, because after all, it's the thought that counts. Of course if that were true, no one would buy anything. Instead we would post messages on our Blog that says, "Thinking of You This Holiday Season".

But of course, the key of Christmas is not found in receiving alone. No, the true spirit of Christmas, we are told, is in giving. The stores give us gifts of discounts. We give them gifts of money in order to buy gifts to give gifts to people who give us gifts. It's cyclical, spiraling into the great

void of economic prosperity and commerce.

It is December and as of yet, there has been no snow. I realize that people love snow and would like

to see it fall gently onto their eyelashes, but I must confess I have been praying against it. I do not enjoy driving in Lynchburg in the snow because (1) drivers in Lynchburg scare me and (2) drivers in Lynchburg who drive in snow scare me more. I am however praying that we have snow once everyone is safely home next to a fireplace with hot chocolate in hand watching a 24 hour marathon of "A Christmas Story". Then, let it come down.

So, have a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year with season's greetings and yuletide cheer along with all the happy holiday clichés you can think of. And to all a good-night.

*"Why would anyone post
their life story on the internet
for everyone to read?"*

LUPD receives \$5,000 grant

By Joanne Tang
NEWS REPORTER

Take a brief walk to the road behind the dining hall, where it leads to the railroad tracks, and one will see that the long string of cars is the norm. Not only are there a lot of cars, they often pile up because the gates lower and trains pass by and occasionally stop completely. Recently, the Department of Motor Vehicles rewarded \$5,000 to the Liberty University Police Department and these funds will contribute to Operation Lifesaver, a program designed to educate students about railroads and the importance of safety.

"The railroad runs along the length of the campus and we've actually seen people crossing when they shouldn't have," said LUPD Detective Joseph Vega. Because of the presence of a railroad and loading station near the campus, new precautions are being taken to ensure the safety of all students. The money will go toward presentation equipment, advertisement for

Operation Lifesaver, and items like T-shirts, key chains and pamphlets in order to spread the word about railroad safety to not only Liberty students, but to other schools as well.

LUPD, in conjunction with the Dean's Office, will be holding presentations on railroad safety next semester during hall meetings. These presentations, hosted by Vega and Cpl. Kassi Allen, will shed a more realistic light on the dangers of railroad accidents. Vega hopes that students will be able to

understand the seriousness of safety around railroads.

Operation Lifesaver was started in 1972 and in its 32-year history, it has served to teach people all over the country about railroad safety and precautions. The Liberty University Operation Lifesaver campaign is operated by Maj. Gregory Berry. Since Liberty is so close to a railroad, it was necessary to become involved in the campaign to keep students safe. Even though there is a gate that lowers whenever a train rolls by, sometimes students have been known to bypass the gate. "We've seen people lift the gate and drive through," Vega said.

In addition to railroad safety, there will be increased police presence in order to curb speeding on campus, which has led to accidents and more risk for pedestrians. LUPD urges all pedestrians to use the crosswalk when crossing streets and for drivers to obey the speed limit and beware of people walking.

Another aspect of safety on campus is the plan to install security cameras in the East Campus tunnel, a way to provide safety for people walking through. Another idea being considered is the installation of an emergency phone inside the tunnel.

The entire Operation Lifesaver campaign will run through Sept. 30, 2005.

Contact Joanne Tang at jtang@liberty.edu.



ADAM BISHOP

RR CROSSING — The money will be used for railroad safety.

Court: Denied marriage case

Continued from page A1

Staver said that there is a good chance the amendment will pass, noting that 17, statewide referendums to protect traditional marriage have already passed, including traditionally liberal states such as Hawaii, California and Oregon. In the last election alone, 11 states overwhelmingly voted to protect traditional marriage. Several other state legislatures have acted to put a referendum up to the voters to define marriage between a man and a woman in 2006. "If you combine the referendums and the legislatures that

have acted on this issue," Staver noted, "there are 43 states against gay marriage."

To amend the Constitution, two-thirds of the state legislatures, which is 38 states, must ratify a bill passed by the Congress. Staver said that the hardest issue will be getting the required three-fourths vote in both the House and the Senate before the states ratify.

"It's going to still be a battle, but it's going to be a lot easier after November 2," Staver said. Both the House and the Senate won a Republican majority in the past election.

Staver is also the vice

chairman of the Moral Majority Coalition, formerly the Faith and Values Coalition. The name was changed at the requests of several people within the organization to link it to the Moral Majority of the 1980s. "The Moral Majority Coalition will work with a lot of pastors and church leaders to help them on information regarding the federal marriage amendment," Staver said. "The Moral Majority Coalition will be really working to mobilize leaders in each state."

Contact Sara Lesley at slesley@liberty.edu.



MATT TRENT

TALKING POINTS — Senior Han Tan works at 90.9 The Light as the production director. Tan won the Award of Distinction from The Communicator Awards, an international awards competition.

90.9 production director wins international award

By Sara Lesley
NEWS EDITOR

Tan Chung Han, also known as Han Tan, "The Asian Sensation," "The Beast from the East," and "The Asian Persuasion," has another name to add to his growing list. Tan just won the Award of Distinction from The Communicator Awards. The award was given to him for a project he did for 90.9 The Light.

The Communicator Awards is an international awards competition for professionals in the communications field.

As the production director at 90.9, Tan oversees every production at the studio. "Han walked into the station his first semester here and started asking questions," said 90.9 station manager Jamie Hall.

Less than six months later, Tan became the production director. "He puts in a lot of time even when

he doesn't mean to be," Hall said.

Tan enjoys the work he does at 90.9 and hopes this award will help him with his career after he graduates this May.

"What I love about production, both audio and video, is the fact that you get the raw material and it is in your hands to make some meaningful and significant whole," Tan said.

When he called his mother with the news, she cried. "My mom was ecstatic."

As soon as Tan receives the award, which is being enscripted with his name right now, he plans to ship it off to Malaysia to his family.

"It means more to my family than to myself," Tan said. Of the nine children in Tan's family, he is the only one to leave the country to pursue an education.

Tan says he makes his education valuable by how much time and energy he puts into it. When his

father became bankrupt in 1998, Tan had to work in the market to support his family. He could only go to school one day a week. In Malaysia, students graduate from high school by passing a final exam at the end of the year.

Tan studied intensely for two months before he took the exam. "By God's grace, I passed with flying colors," he said.

Tan works diligently because of his experience in high school and his strong work ethic instilled in him by his parents. "A lot of this drive and determination to succeed comes from my dad," Tan said.

He credits his mother for always keeping him steady, especially when times were difficult. "She always told me to keep my feet on the ground and not to wrestle my morals."

Contact Sara Lesley at slesley@liberty.edu.

The Liberty Champion

1971 University Blvd.
Lynchburg, VA 24506
(434) 582-2124

Faculty Adviser Deborah Huff
Ad Director Sue Matthews

Editor in Chief Jason Pope

SECTION EDITORS

News Sara Lesley
Asst. News Misty Maynard
Opinion Julia Seymour
Life! Christine Price
Sports Pat Doney
Asst. Sports Tim Dalton

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PHOTOGRAPHY

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

Garrigues: Brothers fight beside each other

Continued from page 1

"They were told the war was over, but for the people over there, the war is not over, and I want people here to pray for my boys and all the other people over there," Debbie Garrigues, the boys' mother, said.

Jonathan emailed in late October, saying, "I can't tell you what we will be doing, but trust me, it's gonna be huge, and I'm gonna be in the heart of it. Turn on the news in about a week or two, and that's all they are going to be talking about! I miss and love all of my friends and family and would love to write more, but time is limited and preparation for something on this large a scale is very time consuming."

Shortly after reading her son's email, Debbie sat down with a cup of

coffee and picked up the newspaper. The headline proclaimed "U.S. Marines Preparing for Assault on Fallujah."

"The Marines are getting ready," the article began. "Troops are disassembling and cleaning weapons, stocking up on supplies, studying tactics and participating in drills in preparation for a large-scale assault."

"This battle," an 11-year Marine veteran said in the article, "is going to be written about in history books."

Debbie was convinced that the battle was what Jonathan had been talking about in his email.

On Nov. 8, U.S. forces launched a large-scale offensive in an effort to retake Fallujah from the insurgents. Almost half of Fallujah's 100

mosques were being used as fighting positions and weapon storage sites. Many soldiers were killed or severely injured by rebels with homemade bombs, car bombs and grenade launchers.

The Marines also discovered several surface-to-air missiles, capable of taking down an American plane.

On Wednesday, Nov. 17, 1st Sgt. Rick Casey called Debbie and informed her that Jonathan had been injured, but it was not serious. He mistakenly told her that it had to do with his shoulder and arm.

"And he said six boys from that platoon had been injured, and I was the only one who hadn't heard. I was just bawling over the phone...I cried and cried," Debbie said.

On Nov. 20, the Marines returned

to their base to resupply and Jonathan was able to email his mother. He was unharmed and thrilled about the experience.

The Marines were performing "sweeps" - door-to-door searches for rebels and weapons - on Nov. 16. Jonathan's unit came under attack from insurgents on a rooftop, so Jonathan lay down on the ground and began firing back, covering his unit.

After his unit was safe, Jonathan jumped up to follow them, but a rebel threw a grenade off the roof. The grenade fell 10 feet away from him, and shrapnel tore into his leg.

"I caught some (shrapnel) from an enemy grenade in my leg," Jonathan wrote, "but I had to keep running because the guys on the roof were shooting at me. Once I got a couple of blocks up I pulled up my pants leg and pulled the metal out.

Thinking back I would have kept the metal but it was so hot I instinctively threw it down. Oh well...it didn't even bleed. Shrapnel is really hot. I didn't even have to leave the fight. All is well. Do not worry about me. Tell everyone about it - it was pretty exciting!"

Debbie is not too sure about the "exciting" part, especially since Jonathan held up the phone to let her hear mortar fire the last time he called.

Jonathan, however, is delighted to be receiving a Purple Heart. He has also heard that Purple Heart recipients receive free in-state college tuition.

"That is what I have been told by several people, but I don't want to believe it until it is solid. Wouldn't that be a blessing like no other? I have decided when I get home to focus everything on school," Jonathan wrote in an email.

He is considering transferring from Liberty to N.C. State and pursu-

ing a degree in engineering.

Both Bradford and Jonathan would like everyone to know that the war is going well, and that they are glad to serve.

"Don't believe everything that the media says. Conditions here are not dire. I've never been more optimistic about the war in Iraq than since I arrived here," Bradford emailed.

"Both boys voted absentee for Bush," Debbie said. "They think very highly of the President."

As for Jonathan, his injury is healing nicely.

"The rest of the platoon is back at our firm base but I am staying in Fallujah until they pull everyone out... hopefully just a few more weeks..." Jonathan wrote on Nov. 30.

Sporadic clashes are still reported in Fallujah, even after the American offensive ended. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld warns that the resistance has not been quashed, and will only gain strength as Iraq's Jan. 30 election draws near.

"I'm proud of them - as proud as I can be that they're serving their country," Debbie said.

For now, she prays that her boys will return safely to the United States in March.

"I want people here to pray for my boys and all the other people over there."

Debbie Garrigues

MOTHER OF BRADFORD AND JONATHAN GARRIGUES



PHOTO PROVIDED

WEDDED BLISS — Bradford Garrigues smiles with his new bride, Sarah Keene Garrigues, a former RA at Liberty. They were married just a year before he left for Iraq. His brother, Jonathan, is on the far right.

Death: Family loses soldier

Continued from page 1

After high school, David Houck went to college to please his parents. After that, it was four years of running away from God and family. Then, after years of searching for himself, he joined the Marines two and a half years ago.

"He called my dad and said he joined the Marines," Micah said. "That really said to all of us that he was trying to find direction."

It wasn't until David was done with his first tour of duty that Micah would realize the change that had went on in his brother's life.

"He wanted me to give him a hug," Micah said, simply.

"All four years he didn't want to touch me. That really showed me that there was a change - that something happened in Iraq that brought him around-back to God," Micah said.

Then, last Friday night, two Marines in dress blues walked to the front door of the Houck's North Carolinian residence.

"As soon as my wife and I saw the dress blue uniforms, we both knew what it was about," Bob said.

Bob Houck, the father of David and Micah, served as a casualty assistance officer when he was still in the Navy. Basically, his job was to do the same thing that those two Marines were to do that night, inform and console families whose military family members had died.

Through this difficult news, the Houck parents believe that they will see their son again. "We know where he is and we have confidence in God that we'll see him," Bob Houck said.

In the midst of all that has happened, Bob and his wife Beth are trusting in the

Lord and seeking ways to serve him in the midst of their sadness. "Well, we've been praying and looking for opportunities to preach the gospel," Bob said.

So far, Bob and Beth have conveyed the gospel message to news crews at WBT TV Charlotte, Time Warner News 14, two teams at WCNC and numerous newspaper reporters. They're not done preaching to others.

"We're looking forward to the memorial service where we'll be able to share the gospel," Bob said.

The Houcks take none of the credit for the results of anything they have been able to do, whether it is telling of the gospel of Christ or simply surviving.

"It's the Lord's work. I can't tell you that I'm dealing with this in my own strength, 'cause I can't," Bob said.

According to Bob, people in the area have reached out with support in a number of ways. Some have sent them cards, some called, and there have even been some who do not know the family who have asked to be a part of the memorial service to honor their son.

Bob and his family believe that they could not be content with the matters of life if it weren't for the Lord.

This same strength in the Lord is a theme for David's life. That is why the family chose to entitle the memorial pamphlets "Amazing Grace."

Aside from ministering to many outside of the family and many in, Micah hopes that this all has an effect on his youngest sister, who ran away from the family and had not seen David in two years.

Outside of the family, others have been comforted in their own life situations

when hearing that of David's and his family.

In that same vein, while on leave between his first and second tour of duty, David encouraged his father that he felt like what he was doing was the right thing to do.

"Dad, I know that here in the states you're hearing lots of negative, but dad, don't believe it. Because I've been with (the Iraqi) people and they're worth it. And if I have to give my life, if that's what it takes, then they're worth it."

Because of that conversation with his father, and others with various family members, the family believe that David was where he needed and wanted to be.

"My brother wanted to be there," Micah said. "Regardless of everything, those Marines know that what they're doing is worth it. He was willing to give his life for it, and he did."

According to Micah, this was in line with his brother's personality and character.

"Knowing David, he died the way he wanted to," Micah said, on the front lines, and fighting for the well-being of others."

Bob and his son Micah now have a deepened care for the people of Iraq, the people their loved one died fighting for. "David is off my prayer list now," Bob said. "He's in Heaven. In his place on my prayer list is the Iraqi people."

"They're definitely worth the sacrifice and they're worth our prayers," Micah said.

Despite losing David, the Houck's joy, hope and desire for ministry still remain in their hearts. They don't worry about David; they know they will see their beloved son and brother again one day.

Contact Richard Gretskey at rrgretskey@liberty.edu.

Economy: LU's impact

Continued from page A1

Other businesses that do not have the advantage of being so close to LU try to draw college students through other methods. Businesses like Pier 1, Papa John's, the YMCA and the J. Crew Clearance store all offer discounts to students who can show a college ID.

William Maddox, an employee at the J. Crew Clearance store, said that most of their business comes from college students.

"With Liberty University having the largest amount of students from any of the area colleges, they obviously make up the largest percentage of our business," Maddox said.

Lynch's Landing, an organization that aims to turn downtown Lynchburg into a cultural center, tries to attract businesses that will attract students.

"We are hoping that by creating a more vibrant atmosphere downtown, local college students will want to spend more time and money in the downtown area," said Terri Proffitt, executive

director of Lynch's Landing. "We have several new restaurants that have opened and a variety of new businesses have located in the Riverviews Artspace building."

With college students making up such a large portion of the Lynchburg population and so many businesses vying for their patronage, some wonder if Lynchburg could be considered a college town.

"It's not a college town in

the traditional sense like Chapel Hill, but there's a strong case to be made that our economy is substantially driven by higher education," Hammond said.

Whether Lynchburg is a college town or not, it's clear that Liberty is a driving force in the local economy. With plans for expansion, their impact will only increase in the coming years.

Contact Christine Price at cdcoffey@liberty.edu.



ADAM BISHOP

EAT OUT — Wards Road restaurants, such as Fazoli's, get plenty of LU traffic.

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Coffeehouse hypes up packed Schilling

By Aja Burden
NEWS REPORTER

Coffeehouse 2004 — "That's A lot of Christmas" boasted lighted trees everywhere and gigantic paper ornaments hung from the ceiling.

Students wore their best, or worst, Christmas apparel.



GOT THE MOVES — Two members of the returning dance team break it down for the packed Coffeehouse show.

Sophomore Brittney Moore and friends were clad in self-made 3-D sweaters. Brianna O'Brian and Stephanie Taylor wore red Santa dresses. "My sister gave us these outfits," O'Brian said.

Christmas music filled the night. Even acts that initially had nothing to do with

Christmas somehow managed to sneak the holidays into the theme. Host Nathan Cooley frequently appeared clad in everything from Christmas PJ's to a tuxedo and hosted holiday games such as "untangle the Christmas

lights."

Lines waited outside the door despite tickets being sold out earlier that day. The room was packed from wall to wall. Many students stood or even sat on the floor to see the show. "We probably sold about 2,400 tickets," said Student Life worker Jono Morrow.

Performers spent countless hours practicing their skills for an occasion such as this. "It's so much fun to do. We never know what kind of talent we'll find," said Student Activities Director Ira Richardson.

The Tans, a group named after Liberty's own resident Malaysian, Han Tan, were one of the highlights of the evening. "It's fun! It's a great opportunity for all of us to play our instruments together," cheered Tans drummer Theresa Jackson.

Self-made groups such as "Blake and Morgan" and "Blue Grass Christmas" made their debuts. The rock band Bon Rossi took the opportunity to spoof on the 80s band Bon Jovi and wore huge rock star wigs which they proudly



GO OUTSIDE — Luke Smith and "Friends" serenaded the audience with a song about a boy named Larry and his horn.

showcased during their clever performance with head banging. The night was set ablaze by the popular returning dance group who has yet to come up with a name and finished off with a team of

LIGHT singers who performed "Santa Baby." "Most of us are seniors so we had to get up there and perform one last time" said singer Whitney Baker from musical group,

Light.

Liberty students waited all semester for the only coffeehouse production. The delay was due in part to the redesigning of the Schilling Center. With the postponement, Student Life had plenty of time to make this coffeehouse as elaborate as possible. "We wanted to just overkill on Christmas" said Richardson, who has worked with

Coffeehouse for five years. It took eight people to plan the venue and two full days to set up the Schilling Center for the night.

"I think this Coffeehouse was amazing. Definitely the most attended and most talented we've had," Morrow said. The next Coffeehouse will be April 1.

Contact Aja Burden at arburden@liberty.edu.

LU creation scientist debates Sweet Briar evolutionist

Angela Franulovich
NEWS REPORTER

Several Liberty University students who listened to the "Evolution vs. Creationism" debate on 105.9 WLNT's Morningline show Dec. 3 were frustrated by how the 20-minute segment played out.

The featured opponents were the director of Liberty University's Center for Creation Studies, Dr. David DeWitt, and Sweet Briar College's assistant professor of biology, evolutionist Dr. Jeff

Janovetz.

While none of the students accused the Morningline of discriminating against either speaker, most thought it unfair that Janovetz was allowed to open and close the debate, essentially dominating the allotted airtime.

"It seemed like he (DeWitt) was being interrupted and then at the end they said 'sorry — out of time' before he could even give a concluding statement," said senior Wes Redman.

According to Liberty

University's Professor of biology Dr. Daniel Howell, Janovetz's statements comprised almost two thirds of the airtime allowed to both speakers.

To further compound their frustration, all of the students interviewed thought

Janovetz's arguments were philosophical rather than scientific.

"I expected it to be an overview of the science on both sides, but it seemed like the issue (as presented by Janovetz) was science versus religion," said second year graduate student Tracy Stiegletz.

Also of concern was the apparent incorporation of logical fallacies in Janovetz's argumentation.

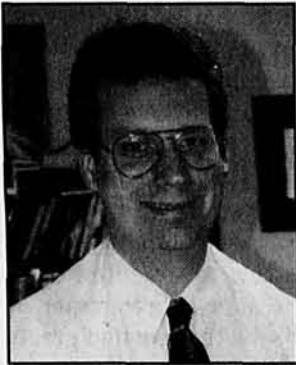
"It was offensive," said Redman, referring to Janovetz's choice to attack DeWitt's credibility as a scientist rather than addressing DeWitt's scientific objections. This type of reasoning error is called "ad hominem," which is Latin for "argument to the man."

During the debate, Janovetz

also stated (falsely) that all of DeWitt's scientific research was published privately and for-profit rather than peer-reviewed, alluding to less than pure research and lack of scientific credibility.

DeWitt, however, is the recipient of a National

Institute of Health research grant and has published numerous works in scientific journals during the past 11 years.



DEWITT

During a post debate interview with the Liberty Champion, Janovetz asserted that the only scientists qualified to refute evolution were those who actually specialize in the field of evolution.

"Just because someone is a scientist, it doesn't make them an expert on evolution," Janovetz said.

But when pressed to propose a theory for the origin of life that he found acceptable, Janovetz refused to speculate as a biologist, stating that the origin of life was "a question of chemistry, not biology."

DeWitt is a chemist. Janovetz is not.

Janovetz then went on to reject the qualifications of 18 Ph.D.s from the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech, mostly chemists, who recently signed a brief in support of the Cobb County Georgia school board's decision to place disclaimers on their ninth grade biology textbooks.

The disclaimers are stickers which state that "Evolution is a theory, not a fact, regarding the origin of living things. This material should be approached with an open mind, studied carefully and critically considered."

Among the Ph.D. signatories that Janovetz was quick to dismiss as "not qualified" was a five-time Nobel Prize nominee, Dr. Henry F. "Fritz" Schaefer, who the science citation index lists as "the third most cited chemist in the world."

When asked why a chemist would not be qualified to dispute evolution, given his earlier statement that the origin of life was "a question of chemistry, not biology," Janovetz would not elaborate. Instead, he called the question a "clever" attempt at "semantics."

According to DeWitt, many members of the secular scientific community are closet creationists, including some that

he knows personally. They fear stepping forward, he said, because to do so would risk their job and career.

"I would like to see teachers given the freedom to point out the holes (in evolution) without losing their job," said DeWitt.

Professor of biology Dr. Charles Detwiler said that postmodern thought is behind the lack of credibility attributed to creation scientists by materialists.

"In our culture, the word 'reputable' means someone that you (personally) hold in esteem. If he is a materialist, he will not esteem anyone whose views are different than his own. If he encounters a creationist, that person simply will not be considered 'reputable' to him," Detwiler said.

True to Detwiler's predictions, Janovetz later told the Champion that he did not know of a single "reputable" scientist who believed in creation.

"This debate was a spiritual battle and not a scientific discourse," said DeWitt. "My prayer was that the people who listened would be touched by the truth," he added.

Contact Angela Franulovich at afanulovich@liberty.edu.

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Commentary

A stressed generation

Finals are fast approaching, and a plethora of important assignments are due. It seems as if many of the students at Liberty are half-stumbling, half-running to class to turn in papers still warm from the printer and to quickly take tests before the information crammed into their minds fades away. So many people are stressed out, burned out, high on caffeine, low on sleep, full of worry and seem nearly ready to crawl into a corner and stare at the wall for a few days. So if you recently found a gray hair, or if the people at the Jazzman's Cafe know your face, name, the balance of meal points on your card and what kind of drink you want before you step forward to order, or even if you suddenly started crying while asking for help from one of the computer lab assistants, then you are probably stressed out.

We live in a society that is teeming with people struggling with stress, pain, heartache and worry. Our fast-paced, caffeine addicted, drive-through culture honors those who have the most responsibilities, the fullest resumes, the most detailed planners and the endurance to handle everything. Growing up in this environment has made us into young multi-taskers who are under a great amount of pressure and not much room for error. This situation is also true of Christians. Despite the fact that we are forgiven of sin through grace and that God gives peace that passes all understanding, it seems that many Christians have an innate desire to constantly be doing. We put on pedestals those who are constantly involved in ministry, who do the most service and appear to be the most spiritual.

As young people whose generation will change the present and define the future, we have to ask ourselves if the way in which we are going about our stressed-out lives is actually correct. Many young people today have grown up too quickly, taken on too many responsibilities, lost their innocence at too young an age, and are thus living as adults too soon. So many people, especially students, struggle with issues of drugs, sexuality, identity, meaning, purpose, value, academics, family struggles, past abuse and a variety of other problems that force us to grow and mature, sometimes before we feel that we are ready to.

We all need a reminder during times of stress that we are young. This might seem like a silly statement, but it is an important fact to realize. The period of youth in life was designed by God, and it needs to be utilized to its greatest potential. We



amelia wigton

have to remember that we are not fully adults yet, that we are young and that this time is short and precious. Ecclesiastes 11:9-10 says, "Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, And put away

evil from your flesh. For childhood and youth are vanity."

God wants us to be obedient to him even while we are young, to be responsible and to not do things that will hurt our future. But he also wants us to follow our hearts, to be cheerful and to realize that we will not be young forever. Ecclesiastes 12:1 also says, "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them.'" Practically everyone that I know who went to college, whether they are middle-aged or if they just graduated, have told me that life gets much more difficult after the diplomas are handed out. Although stress levels seem high now, they will get more intense for many of us after school.

This should not give us fear for the future, because God knows what we will face and he has promised to give us endurance. However, apprehension over a more stressful future should give us a desire to enjoy the opportunities of being young. Many times I have been concerned that the pressures of life have made me feel as if I am older than I really am. We need to remember that we will not be young forever, and that we should enjoy the opportunities and experiences that God designed for the young while we still can.

We are a generation that is under stress, that has great burdens and that is trying to cope in a pressure-filled world. Life should not be only about surviving, but about really living. Perhaps those who watch us would be more drawn to Christ if they saw us not just enduring hard circumstances, but actually enjoying life, living with passion and just having fun. One day we will look back on this time and we would have better memories if we would responsibly and obediently take advantage of the relative freedom that we enjoy now. We hopefully will be able to remember that we used our time wisely, that we had great fun and great experiences, that we learned important lessons, and that we built great relationships.

Contact Amelia Wigton at amwigton@liberty.edu

"The period of youth was designed by God, and it needs to be utilized to its greatest potential."

Head to Head The differing philosophies of Ben and Marshal

Ben Walker

Participants on reality TV shows are the modern equivalent of a court jester. For centuries mankind has found members of a society that are easy to mock and have been entertained by the ridiculous antics of those willing to sacrifice their dignity for attention and other dubious motives.

So what makes people think that reality TV is anything different? Should we now begin to think that we are above laughing at those willing to make a mockery of themselves? I vote no. In most cases, the recipients of such humiliation on reality TV play a role that they have willingly signed up to play. When they are being made the butt of a joke or are unaware of the real premise of the show, we must keep in mind that these shows are pre-recorded and the only reason the program is being aired is because in the end, after the "victim" has learned of the truth about their situation, they have signed an agreement to let the show air anyway—often because of relatively generous compensation.

All this aside, the main reason I advocate watching reality TV is because it is good for my self-esteem. Just watch one episode of...well, anything on FOX and you can hit me in the face with a brick if you do not feel your self-respect rise to at least twice what it was before. Reality TV builds self-esteem while simultaneously entertaining the viewer with effects comparable to watching a movie while taking Prozac, and it is considerably cheaper. Poor, smart students should take this into consideration. Would a sensible, cheap person say no to such a bargain? I thought not.

Marshal Hauser

Reality TV seems a contradictory title to be labeling the latest television craze. I would venture to guess that most of us have never been stranded on an island without food or shelter, but in front of a film crew. I would also guess that none of us have been offered more than a few dollars to eat a plate full of worms. But my real problem with reality shows is not the non-reality element to them, but the exploratory nature of the shows. What would you do for "X" amount of money? This often brings to light a few ethical questions.

With the election still fresh in our minds, I can't help but notice that some of the most important issues have been moral ones. Both political sides took very distinct and opposite ideas to moral questions. I find it interesting that the popularity of such reality shows might be attributed to the nation's decline in accepted moral behaviors.

As Americans, we spend more money than just about any other nation on entertaining ourselves. Sports heroes get ridiculous amounts of money to "play." And as our demand for entertainment has grown, it seems that the line between right and wrong has become more blurred. My argument lies in the fact that many of the shows are built upon some person's complete humiliation. I do realize that some would argue that those who sign up deserve what they get, but that seems beside the point. The fact is these shows endorse a certain kind of behavior like lying and deceiving all for the sake of entertainment. And unfortunately, as we, the general public, become bored with the latest reality television, newer ones are forced to be more and more shocking, which generally means another moral or ethical standard will be sacrificed.

So as these things take place, we need to imagine where they might be in several years and what the effect will be on us. Perhaps down the road we will be endorsing the humiliation of the poor and hungry by making them do dehumanizing things for food or money.

LISTEN UP!

IT'S YOUR TURN TO DECIDE

- On Monday, Ukraine President Leonid Kuchma endorsed a package of election reforms, reported United Press International. This came after Ukrainian supporters of Viktor Yushchenko camped out for two weeks in front of government buildings insisting on the passage of election reforms according to FOXNews.com.

The protesters originally gathered to protest the election results, which had given the victory to Viktor Yanukovich. The first effect was to get the Ukrainian government to agree to hold a new election on Dec. 26.

- Doctors in the Netherlands have admitted to practicing euthanasia on terminally ill infants by administering a lethal dose of sedatives, Christianpost.com reported.

- The Committee to Save Merry Christmas, chaired by Manuel Zamorano, is calling for a boycott of stores like Macy's and Bloomingdales because they are using politically correct terms like Happy Holidays and

Seasons Greetings in their store displays according to Christianpost.com.

- On Sunday, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist announced his prediction that a bill to overhaul U.S. intelligence would be voted on this week, according to CNN.com.

- Five American soldiers in Iraq who refused to go on a supply run in October because they considered it too dangerous are not facing court-martial, the U.S. military said Sunday according to CNN.com. Instead of a court-martial, the Army will use nonjudicial punishments such as fines, reprimands, or reduction of rank.

- Twelve people expelled from the military because of their homosexuality will file a lawsuit against the military's practice of "don't ask, don't tell," according to FOXNews.com.

- After criticism from Democrats regarding the accuracy of abstinence-only curriculum, Senator Majority Leader Bill Frist is encouraging a review of the curriculum CNN.com reported. The Federal government spends \$170 million on these programs every year. Democrats have challenged the programs saying that they are misinforming and misleading students.

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Opinion

"With a little help from 3-D technology, Oswald's path can now be retraced and his shots re-fired in the ignominious and nauseating contest entitled 'JFK Reloaded.'"

BENJAMIN CATES

Killing a president

Perverse game recreates JFK's murder



benjaminsates

The date was Nov. 22, 1963, and it was a beautiful fall day in Dallas. Lee Harvey Oswald sat by a window in the Texas School Book Depository. He stared through the sites of a single-barrel rifle and rapidly fired three shots at President John F. Kennedy. One of the bullets fired struck the Presi-

dent directly in the head. And before the afternoon was complete, it was apparent that Oswald had assassinated the 35th President of the United States. And now, you can do the same.

Last month marked the 41st anniversary of President Kennedy's assassination. It is a day Americans would like to erase from their archives. Still, the moment stands embedded in history, representing one of the most horrifying acts in recent times.

To commemorate the event, a Scottish company, Traffic Management, has developed a game in which you can personally attempt to shoot the President. For a small fee of only \$9.99, players can go online and personally take part in the assassination. With a little help from 3-D technology, Oswald's path can now be retraced and his shots re-fired in the ignominious and nauseating contest entitled "JFK Reloaded."

By the way—the player who amasses the most "points" wins. According to Time Magazine, points are given out based on how well the player accurately recreates Oswald's actions. Points are deducted if the player injures a bystander, shoots into a passing car or assassinates the First Lady. The ultimate prize plays to the tune of \$100,000.

Kirk Ewing, general manager of Traffic, claims that the game was invented in order to give players an accurate display of history and to prove, as the Warren Commission has attempted to, that Oswald acted as the lone gunman in the assassination. Ewing told the London Times that the experience "brings history to life and will stimulate a younger generation of players to take interest in this fascinating episode in American history." Ewing also calls Traffic's creation a "docugame," a term suggesting both accuracy and amusement.

The site has already received over 500,000 hits in its first week of existence. Does that sound like people flocking together to receive a history lesson? Umm, no. It sounds more like a conglomeration of detestable fools salivating at the mouth for entertainment. Has human kind sunk so low?

For the record, history wasn't all about glorifying Oswald and demoralizing the President. But now the player of "Reloaded" can, metaphorically speaking, become Oswald. What honor! What distinction! If Traffic did not wish to exalt the assassin, the company should have constructed a game in which Jack Ruby greets Oswald with a handgun. But that would be too easy and less amusing. Why? In part because when a gun is thrust into one's abdomen, there is little room for error. And that would not be entertaining. Why shoot Oswald when you can shoot Kennedy? These are the implausible situations that inventors of such garbage must ponder.

"Reloaded" brings us to a serious question: How far is too far? Certainly video games offer entertainment and many have captured very historical moments and brought them to

computer and television screens. For instance, games representing World War II and Vietnam exist. But never has such audacity been displayed as in "Reloaded."

In giving players the opportunity to assassinate the President, Traffic has built a monster. Players are now staring through the crosshairs of Oswald's sniper rifle at one of history's most revered and beloved characters. President Kennedy represented so much of what America should be all about. He embodied the spirit of a thriving democracy that sought to be built around social equality and giving self to service. And when Ewing and the engineers at Traffic seek to destroy that image and offer people the chance to take part in Oswald's crime, every American should draw the line there. That is going too far.

The antics of "Reloaded" display just how ridiculously violent video games have become. Florida's Herald-Tribune reported last week that Grand Theft Auto, an intensely popular game, allows players to "win extra points by killing a prostitute." I do not attempt to blame all of the world's violence on television, movies or games. But there comes a time when society begins to become infected by the brutal and vicious acts bestowed upon it. Senseless violence can only be permitted for a season before kids and young adults begin to actually believe it is morally acceptable.

The game's experience should be demoralized on all fronts. There should be a public outcry concerning such gruesome images. The media, voicing its power, should seek to address the situation on a nonstop basis. But sadly that will not happen. Give the situation a few months and it will be all but forgotten. "Reloaded" will ultimately go down as just another video game, just another money-making, profitable scheme.

There are several underlying goals Traffic has in marketing the game. First of all, it seeks to stir controversy. Once people begin to converse over the game, they naturally become curious. Then they will be lured to the site. Secondly, the creators of "Reloaded" are seeking profits from the game. Do you really think for a minute that their main goal is to promote history? Na. It is all dollars and not much sense. At the going rate it will not take long to profit from history's misfortune.

Ewing and his cronies do not pursue historical truth in their game. While the Warren Commission ultimately ruled Oswald acted alone, there are many theories that suggest otherwise. What about the men on the grassy knoll? Why was security so light on that autumn day? And then there is the "magic bullet" that somehow found its way throughout the President's motorcade. Many such theories are credible and could be proven true eventually. Traffic is only hiding behind the Warren Commission's claims in order to promote their filth.

The Kennedy family must be outraged beyond belief. A spokesman for Sen. Edward Kennedy called the new game "despicable." The Kennedy family is one that has been forced to publicly deal with much tragedy. The death of our President is now being exploited to realms of utter astonishment.

I refuse to believe that we, as a society, reached the place where we are numb to such exploitation. I hope that there will be reform in such areas of entertainment in the future. Unfortunately, there has been a huge slide in the entertainment world toward demoralization.

A game where players can actively take a part in the recreation of President Kennedy's assassination is not only twisted, it borders on perverse. It is the equivalent of actively guiding a digital 747 into New York's World Trade Centers. Perhaps, a few years from now, a game maker will let you be the Muslim extremist who hijacks a plane and eventually kills thousands of innocent Americans. If so, don't be alarmed. It would all be based on history. It would all be in the name of education.

Contact Benjamin Cates at bdcates@liberty.edu.



JASON POPE

SpeakUp: What is the worst Christmas gift you have ever gotten?



"My grandma gave me a fuzzy, itchy, Bill Cosby kind of sweater. I never wore it."

—Matthew McDaniel, Soph. Manassas, Va.



"I'm not a dog fan, and my brother got a dog for Christmas, and it shed all over and barked at night."

—Karalyn Seifert, Soph. East Longmeadow, Mass.



"My mother's friend from work gave me a purple shirt because she thought I was a girl because of my name."

—Aubrey Tindle, Sr. Palmdale, Calif.



"One of my mom's friends gave me a really ugly vest and skirt that she had made."

—Sarah Freel, Fr. Lynchburg, Va.



"I was given a card with nothing written in it with \$20 along with a CD holder that cost \$1."

—John Pistello, Fr. El Paso, Texas



"Having my fiancé in Iraq for Christmas."

—Jamie Sylvester, Sr. Pikesville, Md.

ADAM BISHOP

Sports

Knowing the Nation The Bottom Line

Paul Troth talks about the "Iron Man" of the NFL, Brett Favre.

Pat Doney recaps a year of laughing and being misunderstood.

PAGE B1

DECEMBER 7, 2004

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The Liberty Champion

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McDougal finishes successful season

By Andrew Stevens
SPORTS REPORTER

After completing his freshman season as a member of Liberty University's cross-country team, Josh McDougal knows a thing or two about success.

McDougal, a native of Peru, N.Y., finished his impressive season with a 13th place finish at the NCAA Cross Country Championships in Terre Haute, Ind.

"I'm always disappointed when I do not win," said McDougal of his performance at nationals. "It was my first NCAA Nationals and most of the guys up front were juniors and seniors, so they did have a lot of experience. I went out a little faster than I feel I should have. If I went out a little more conservatively, I would have been about five spots higher at least."

Along with competing in the NCAA Nationals, Josh accomplished quite a few feats this season, as well. He

became the first ever Liberty and Big-South Cross Country All-American, and the first freshman All-American on a Liberty cross country or track and field team. McDougal also became the first freshman to win the Big South Championship, and he was also named Big South Freshman and Runner of the Year. McDougal also managed to break four course records this season and was named Big South Runner of the Week numerous times.

"My accomplishments this season mean a lot to me," said McDougal. "I really did not expect to come in and perform to the level that I have. The Lord has really blessed me. I just try to keep it in perspective because I know without his blessings, none of this would have happened."

Despite his tremendous amount of success this season, humility has not been hard to come by for McDougal.

Please see SUPER SEASON, Page B2



SUSAN WHITLEY

LEADING THE UPSET — Katie Feenstra helped lead the Lady Flames past the Top 25 Kansas State Lady Wildcats for one of the biggest wins in school history.

Lady Flames dominate Top 25 team

By Jesse Houk
SPORTS REPORTER

The Lady Flames basketball team traveled to Manhattan, Kan., last weekend to take part in the 10th annual Commerce Bank Wildcat Tournament. Joining the Flames in the tournament were Tennessee State, New Hampshire and the host of the tournament, the Kansas State Wildcats. The tournament proved to be an enormous milestone in the history of Lady Flames basketball. Not only did the Flames take the tournament in dominating fashion, but they also beat the highest ranked team in school history when they knocked off 17th ranked (ESPN/USA Today) Kansas State.

What made the victory over Kansas State so impressive was the environment in which the game was held. It was a game that took place on the Wildcats home floor with Liberty fans greatly outnumbered.

"It was hostile. Our fans were outnumbered six to 6,000," said Coach Carey Green.

It was an environment in which no other team had won on in the past 35 games. What gave Liberty the ability to come in a snap such an impressive win-

ning streak?

"We just stayed focused in a pretty hostile environment," said Green. "None of our players were shaken. Whether a starter or someone coming off the bench, we were never rattled."

Liberty opened the tournament on Friday night with a very impressive win over a Tennessee State team that was previously 3-1. Green wasn't worried about his players overlooking the Lady Tigers in anticipation of playing Kansas State.

"I was not at all worried (about the players overlooking Tennessee State). It was an opportunity to come out with some intensity and effort. We looked at it as a chance for a confidence boost."

Unfortunately for the Lady Tigers of Tennessee State, the game was pretty much over before it started. A smothering defense that caused Tennessee State to shoot nine percent in the first half and a commanding offense pushed the Flames out to a 19-2 lead to start the game was just too much. The Flames never looked back as they went on to defeat the Lady Tigers 74-38. A strong inside presence and balanced scoring were the keys to the game. Liberty owned the paint as they outscored Tennessee State 38-12 and out

rebounded them 60-36. The Lady Flames also had three players in double digits. Katie Feenstra had a double-double with 17 points and 13 rebounds. Kristal Tharp added a season high 15 points and Rima Margeviciute, had a career night, chipping in 14 points.

Saturday night's game against Kansas State also saw Liberty jump out to an early lead as the Flames went ahead 10-2. Unlike Tennessee State, the Wildcats came rolling back with a much anticipated run of their own to cut the Flames lead to 14-12. A focused Flames team fought through the noise of the crowd and a reenergized Wildcats team to take a 34-25 halftime lead.

As the second half began, Liberty began to see its nine-point halftime lead dwindle down to two after only two minutes of play. With the momentum of the game swinging towards the home team, the Flames, under the direction of Green regrouped and went on a 21-3 run; it was a run that the Wildcats would never recover from. Throughout the rest of the game the Lady Flames maintained a comfortable lead and ended up pulling off the upset, 77-56.

Please see UPSET, Page B2



PHOTO PROVIDED

PUSHING TO THE FINISH — Josh McDougal made the best of his freshman season. He was named Big South Runner of the Year and competed at Nationals.

Life At Liberty

Men's B-ball

vs. Old Dominion

Tues. 8:30 p.m.

@ NC State

Sat. 2 p.m.

Women's B-ball

vs. Virginia Tech

Tues. 6 p.m.

@ Duke

Sun. 1:30 p.m.

Men get first win in overtime

By Megs Fatkin
SPORTS REPORTER

The Liberty men's basketball team looked strong as they held a double-digit lead for most of the game on Saturday night at the Vines Center. However, a late rally would keep the Shenandoah Hornets close and end up sending the game into overtime. The Flames were able to shut down the Hornets in overtime and pick up an 86-82 victory and their first regular season win.

"It is great to get a victory," said Head Coach Randy Dunton. "Right now with our youth and inexperience, you have to learn by fire in these events. Especially when you play a team like (Shenandoah) that is going to be able to spread you out. I thought the guys really played bold and got stops at the end, and then played great overtime."

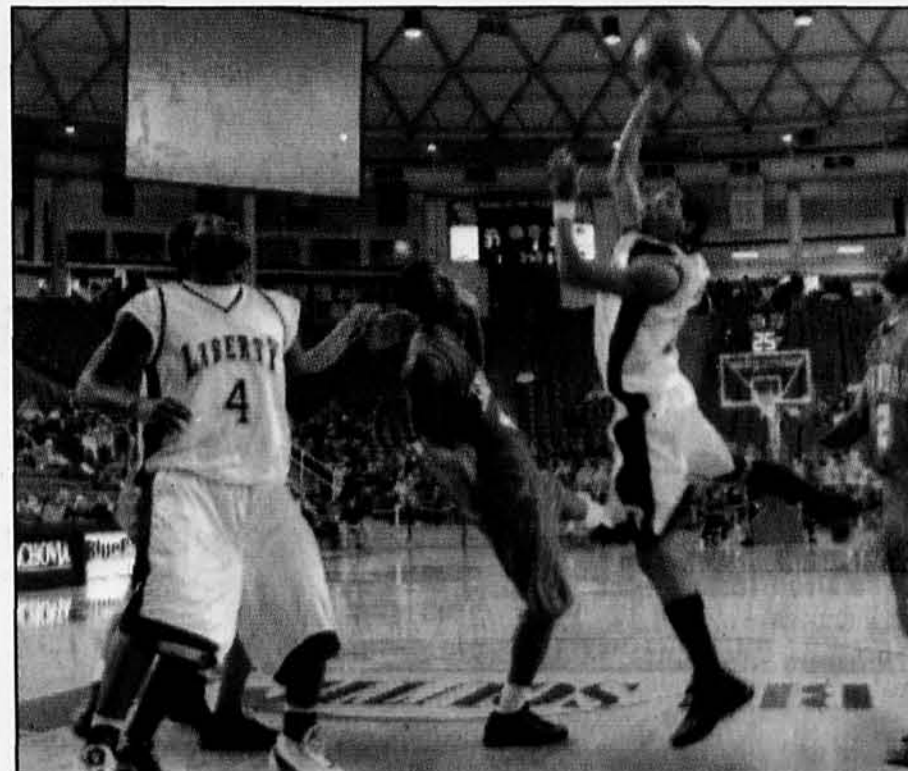
Liberty looked like it was going to take this game early as it led by double-digits in the first seven minutes of play.

In fact, the Flames would increase their lead to 12 with less than six minutes remaining in the half. The Hornets were able to bring the score back to a single-digit difference, as they were down 37-28 at halftime.

The Flames returned to their double-digit lead quickly in the second half and would maintain around a 10-point advantage for a large part of the half. With seven minutes remaining on the clock, Liberty was still ahead. However, the Hornets were able to take the lead for their first time in the game at the 2:26 mark. Shenandoah scored 13-unanswered points to take over the Flames 68-66.

Shortly after the Hornets put themselves ahead, sophomore Larry Blair was fouled and went 1-for-2 at the line. Sophomore David Dees grabbed the rebound off the missed attempt and found Blair who hit a jumper and put Liberty back ahead 69-68.

Please see FIRST WIN, Page B3



MICHAEL TROXEL

BLAIR TAKES TO THE AIR — Sophomore Larry Blair helped lead the Flames to their first win of the season. He scored 23 points as the Flames defeated Shenandoah, 86 — 82.

The Bottom Line



tdoney@liberty.edu

By Patrick Doney

Is the semester already over? They say that life gets faster and faster the older you get. I must nearly be 60 by now. But seriously, it has been a great year so far with an unbelievable opportunity for writing. From LU sports to fair-weather Red Sox fans, it has been a great Fall 2004 season. Let's look back at what we've been able to talk about so far...

What a night! The Fall 2004 Coffeehouse was my third here at Liberty, but I think it was by far the best. Each time I go, I get more and more impressed with the talent we have here on campus. Not just musical talent (i.e.—the "My Hero" group, John Mayer's understudy and Han Tan dreaming of a white woman), but video production as well. Love LUPD like we do, but the video of them cracking down on Sodexo cups was ridiculously funny. All in all, it was a great night and I think the student body packing out the Schilling was a tribute to that.

Convocation this semester has had its moments, as well. None better than the student body's reaction each and every time the big boss man himself, Dr. Jerry Falwell, makes his way on stage to preach. The best "celebration" for Dr. Falwell came last year when about 30 seconds into his sermon, the Chancellor was interrupted by a blow horn (LUPD is still investigating, I'm sure). But the "bad boys" of convo aren't the only funny thing about Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. It cracks me up when people cheer for themselves or their friends when they're mentioned or seen on the big screen.

Here's a classic example of a convo...

Speaker: "I remember when I was in Vermont once..."

Freshman (thinking): "I have a cousin that went on vacation in Vermont once!"

And there comes the annoying screech from the top row of the Vines Center.

Here's another example...

Concert Choir on stage, girl with red hair pops on screen...

Girls in section 107 thinking: "Oh my gosh! A girl with red hair sat next to me in Freshman seminar two years ago! Ahhhhhh!!!!"

After a full semester of writing, I feel very good about the state of this column. After a sometimes funny, sports-only article last year, The Bottom Line has developed a nemesis with a bad vocabulary, plenty of hate...and hate-mail, as well as a pretty consistent readership around campus this year. Love it or hate it, thanks for reading TBL this semester (Speaking of hate-mail, did anyone notice the fence that was put up on the wall on East Campus? I wonder if they had any intentions behind that... hmmm). A fence on that wall makes the world and East Campus a better place, and that's the bottom line.

Upset: Ladies beat Kansas State

Continued from page B1

Much like Friday night's game, a team effort and balanced scoring led to the victory. Preseason All-American Katie Feenstra did not disappoint as she scored 22 points and was also recognized as the tournament MVP. Tharp (named to all-tournament team) took her game to the next level as she scored a season-high 26 points. She also established herself as an outside threat by hitting four crucial three pointers. Margeviciute, (named to all-tournament team) had another career night with 16 points, and is becoming a serious threat for the Lady Flames. Roli-Ann Nikagbaste pulled down 13 rebounds and Diana Staugaitiene, had seven assists. Green praised Staugaitiene for her ability to lead the team.

"I wouldn't want to go into battle without her (Staugaitiene). Daina was running the floor like a floor general. She was flawless and kept us under control. She controlled the entire tempo of the game," said Green after the game.

"Our players executed the game plan almost flawlessly. We missed some shots, we made some turnovers, but we stuck to the game plan. We had 6,000 fans screaming against us, but we stayed focused and never got rattled. Those girls showed one of the best displays of staying focused that I've seen in all of my coaching," said Green.

"Katie Feenstra is an All-American candidate. Why would I want to go away from her? I don't want to go away from

her. Other people are stepping up though. We are not a one dimensional team," proclaimed a very enthusiastic Green.

Liberty looks to carry the excitement of this win into tonight's game at the Vines Center at 6 p.m. against Virginia Tech and onto the Dec. 12 game against the Duke Blue Devils.



BIG WIN — Diana Staugaitiene and the Lady Flames dominated Kansas State 77-56 last Saturday.

Super season: Ends for the Freshman

Continued from page B1

"I have never been a really cocky person; I'm actually a little quiet and shy," said McDougal. "My parents have always taught me that running is just a small part of my life, it is not who I am. What I do out on the course stays out on the course; I try to keep it that way. If my run is going great, then I will be happy, but if my run is going bad, then I am not going to try and tie that in to how I live my life. I do not feel that just because I have won all these races that I am going to be cocky or I am better than anybody else."

After having such a successful season and coming just short at nationals, McDougal can only hope to get better.

"In track, it is all based on time and not necessarily places like it was in cross-country," said McDougal. "I am looking forward to that because I feel I am going to run faster times now than I did in high school. Basically, it is about more commitment and faith in God. I train hard,

but there are always ways that I can train harder. I need to try to get better sleeping hours, eat healthier and just try to make sacrifices in other areas of my life."

After this season Josh is realizing more and more how realistic the possibility of winning a national championship actually is.

"I want to win a national championship really bad," said McDougal. "I would actually like to win more than one before this is all done. Coming to Liberty, I wanted to win at least one, and I thought (it) might happen by my junior year and hopefully by my senior year. Now I am thinking that I could win one maybe even my sophomore year. Knowing now that I am one of the top guys in the country really motivates me to work harder. If I was 50th or 60th, I would still be motivated to work harder, but knowing that people see me as a favorite gives me that extra edge."

Despite being recruited by Stanford and Ivy League schools, McDougal's decision to come to Liberty has been reaffirmed by his success this season.

firm by his success this season.

"I have had a lot of friends who went to other top schools who asked me why I chose Liberty," said McDougal. "I had a few people tell me that I was not going to amount to as much as people who went to other schools. After being the top freshman at nationals and going undefeated for most of the season, I haven't heard from any of those critics in a while."

More important than any of his accomplishments this season is what McDougal's success has done for his walk with Christ.

"I always knew that God blessed people but sometimes it's hard to see that in your everyday life," said McDougal. "Since I have signed with Liberty, I can really feel God's hand of blessing has been upon me and that I am in the center of his will. That has been just a real testament to me."

For more on Josh McDougal and the Liberty Cross Country team, check out www.LibertyFlames.com.

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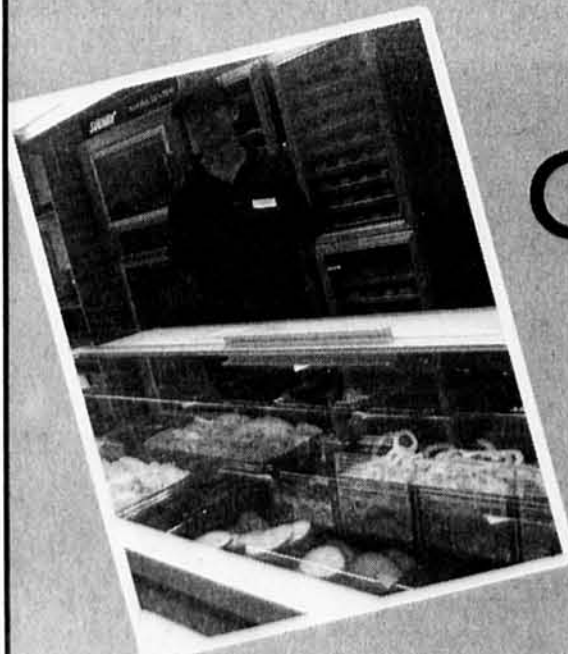
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KNOWING the NATION

A Look Inside National Sports

By Paul Troth



Against the St. Louis Rams last Monday night, Brett Favre was solidified as one of the greatest quarterbacks to ever put a uniform on in the National Football League. It wasn't his three touchdowns or 215 passing yards that propelled him into that category, it was what happened as soon as he stepped on the frigid turf of Lambeau Field that cemented his greatness. Favre made his 200th straight regular season start as the quarterback for the Green Bay Packers; something that can only be described as remarkable.

Throughout his 14-year NFL career, Favre has given fans plenty to cheer about. He is the only player in NFL history to win three straight league MVP's, he currently ranks fourth all-time on the NFL's career passing yardage with 48,272, he is second in career touchdown passes with 365 behind only Dan Marino and has made throws that can only be described by most as "superhuman."

To put this achievement into perspective, you simply have to look at one statistic during Favre's streak. Since Favre took over for the injured Don Majkowski on Sept. 27, 1992, 178 other quarterbacks have started a game in the NFL. The Chicago Bears have had a record 18 quarterbacks start a game during that time, and even the Houston Texans who were an expansion team in 2002 have had three quarterbacks start for their franchise. Favre, who has outlasted all of them, defines toughness.

His toughness isn't just shown on the gridiron, where he has played the past two seasons with a broken thumb on his throwing hand. In his personal life, Favre has battled back from adversity on more than one occasion. Last year Favre's

father, Irvin, passed away and 24 hours later he played one of his best games, lifting his team to a victory over the Oakland Raiders. Earlier this year bad news struck again when Favre's wife, Deanna, was diagnosed with breast cancer. During these tough times, however, Favre has used football as an escape and played through the pain and has found a way to be an example to all who watch this man play on Sundays.

Brett Favre is the greatest quarterback of all-time; period. No other quarterback has started more games than he has, and this is at a position that is constantly susceptible to injury based on the amount of hits taken. He is third all-time in winning percentage trailing only behind Joe Montana and Terry Bradshaw. No one can knock him for not winning the big one, because he did that in Super Bowl XXXI. Some may argue that other quarterbacks have won more than one Super Bowl which should rank them higher. I wouldn't disagree with this statement, but of those quarterbacks who have won more than one Super Bowl how many were the face of the NFL for a 5-10 year time frame? Brett Favre is the NFL. He exemplifies everything the league is. His toughness speaks for itself. His play has been at the highest level since he started in 1992, and he continues to get better with age. The throws that he makes seem to defy logic, whether it is a 20-yard laser right through the defense or an innovative play that brings back memories of the sand lot, Favre continues to give fans reason to cheer.

The legend of Brett Favre will continue to grow, how much, only time will tell.



MICHAEL TROXEL

THROW IT DOWN! — Shenandoah's Onyie Onunaku watches David Dees throws down one of his two big dunks in the Flames 86—82 victory over the Hornets. Dees had 22 points and a career best 12 rebounds in the win.

First Win: Flames get first victory at home

Continued from Page B1

The Hornets had a chance to take the lead again but junior Rashad Robinson came up big and blocked the shot. Dees then added two and gave the Flames a confident three-point advantage. Shenandoah was not done, however, less than 15 seconds later, senior Kenneth Purnell hit a three-pointer from the corner to tie the game 71—71 and send it into extra time.

Liberty scored seven of the first eight points in overtime including two three point

shots, one by each Blair and freshman Evan Risher. The Hornets got within four points but could not catch the Flames. The win was Liberty's first of the year and moved the Flames to 1—3 on the season.

The Flames had chances early on to put away the Division III, Shenandoah, but did not.

"It is still way early (in the season)," said Dunton. "This is a team that has a huge learning curve. They just need to make sure that they are focused on their attitudes and their efforts towards competition."

The Flames are going to have to focus now on preparing for their next game against Old Dominion.

"We're going to work really hard to get ready for Tuesday," said Dunton. "We are going to try to be a little more physical with the way that we approach things. We know that it is a great team that is coming in here."

The Flames take action today at the Vines Center. Tip-off is set for 8:30 p.m. following the women's game against Virginia Tech at 6 p.m.

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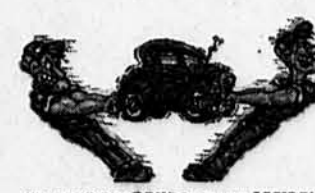


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Life!

The Nutters: Their life, love and service at Liberty

By Joanna Apgar

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There are some people that love to learn and there are some people that love to teach. There are some people that love their jobs and there are some people that love their co-workers. There are some people that love their students and there are some people that love their families, which would also have to include their pets. Professor Laurie Nutter manages to balance loving them all.

At a glance her office is full of flowers and holds a relaxed yet professional feeling. Earthy greens and multi shades of brown are accentuated by speckles of deep red. Two bookshelves huddle in the corner carrying the weight of textbooks, novels, random knick-knacks and two photographs, one of Mark Twain the other was her beloved shepherd chow mix Frankie.

Naturally we talked of her passion for learning and books, art and history. "I have an enormous passion for correcting wrongs in the world. If someone is hurting I want to fix it. I guess I have this passion for righting wrongs because whether it is an animal or a person, I want them to have the most that they can have in life."

Mr. Nutter's take on the conduct in her classroom is very much based on the same concept.

"I don't like to see people in pain. I don't like to see animals in pain."

Dr. Karen Prior is an associate professor of English at LU who used to share an office with her. "Students appreciate her passion and the depth of her concern for them not only as students but as people," Prior said.

Mrs. Nutter went to school where she made friends but still felt very alone, so she began to delve into learning

as a way to cope. "Students have actually said that when teachers take an interest in them that they want to learn more. My propensity to do what I do actually comes from a place of pain." When she began teaching, Nutter decided she never wanted her students to feel the way that she had. "I wanted to put away the notion that you had to feel isolated in the classroom—that you have to feel like you're lesser than anyone, I want to connect with students, make that relationship, get rid of the gulf that separates a student from learning."

Junior elementary education major Sarah Lucas, who has developed her friendship with Mrs. Nutter since her first day as a college student in freshman seminar, said she is... well... "Nutter!" Lucas finds Mrs. Nutter to have a sincere concern for not only her student's academic well-being but their prayer requests as well. "She sets high expectations for her students. She really wants her students to excel."

Mrs. Nutter didn't start out this way. At a young age she said that she took a look at her abilities and said to herself, "I think God has prepared me in this way and has given me a love and a talent in this place so I probably need to do something in that direction. I need to do something with words and language and ideas and so I have known for just years and years and years that I wanted to do something in that area."

As Mrs. Nutter's undergraduate years at Tennessee Temple came to a close, she had no



MEET THE NUTTERS—Dr. and Mrs. Nutter both started teaching at Liberty shortly after they were married in 1985.

idea what she was going to do next. She met her future husband, Jim Nutter, in February of her junior year in college. Then two weeks before graduation in 1984 the job she had planned on fell through, and it came time for her to decide to go back to Texas or come up with another plan.

"I knew if I went to Texas I was done with Jim because I knew I wasn't going to try a long distance relationship from Texas to West

Virginia. So I thought, 'I have to decide what I want to do with him,' and I decided I wasn't done with him yet. I didn't know if I wanted to marry him, but I wasn't ready to be done with our relationship. So Jim said come here and work on your master's." She took his advice and got her master's in English. "It was God who worked it out that way, because I

knew that would give me a chance to pursue my relationship with Jim."

In 1985 the newly wed Mr. and Mrs. Nutter moved to Lynchburg where Mrs. Nutter started working in advertising and Jim filled a teaching position at Liberty. Then quite unexpectedly she got a phone call. "Jim was already working here. Dr. Gribbin called me and offered me a job. I had never considered teaching."

Mrs. Nutter agreed to teach some classes as an experiment, expecting only to work at it for a short time and then to move on. "I kept feeling like there is so much to learn there's a better way to do it...there is a better way to understand it...I can do better at this, and so I kept wanting to try and eventually I fell in love with teaching. I feel like it was a calling, and I sort of tripped through the door. And here I am."

"I like having the relationship (with students) because I think first and foremost it is an aid to them growing and being able to learn the subject matter, but being able to grow as a person, too. So I just want to do anything I can do to facilitate their growth as a student, and their growth as a person and their growth as a Christian."

Contact Joanna Apgar at jjapgar@liberty.edu

By Misty Maynard

ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Hidden away in the very back corner of Dorm 17 is Dr. Jim Nutter's office. Darker, natural shades of brown and blues dominate the color scheme in the office. With three tall shelves full of books, an antique-style globe, a large, broad desk and a comfortable sofa pushed against the wall opposite it, the set-up is perfect, scholastic, but not intimidating. A picture, standing alone, catches my eye, a smiling young woman in her wedding dress perched on a tall filing cabinet, beams upon the room.

For Dr. Jim Nutter, life has been good. At 15, Dr. Nutter became a Christian and, while many find the transition from unbeliever to born-again Christian difficult, he faced little trepidation as he refocused his life. An all-American boy, he played basketball, baseball, and ran track, sports becoming the focus of his life while a young man growing up in a small town in West Virginia.

Of his childhood, Dr. Nutter remembers most fondly those camping trips he took with his family to Myrtle Beach as well as camping with the Scouts. "I spent two weeks on a pontoon boat when I was 14 with the scouts and that was probably the highlight of a non-family thing," he said.

Dr. Nutter's father worked in at Kiser Aluminum Factory for a while, a position held by many in the small town. People trying to make a living would work in the aluminum factory, join the military, or go to college, according to Dr. Nutter. He originally intended on enlisting, but was persuaded to go to college to become a high school English and math teacher as well as a basketball coach.

It was during those first few college years that Dr. Nutter met Laurie, the girl who would one day become his wife. As a junior at Tennessee Temple, he was enrolled in a science course which required him to go on a field trip. Though they were not in the same class, they both happened to board the same bus on the same Saturday morning to go dig fossils. Laurie impressed him deeply that day, it took Jim sev-

eral months before he asked her out.

"Guys are very, very superficial and I remember...putting her on a pedestal. Took me a year to ask her out...it's just one of those things. I never thought I was in that caliber of a league...kind of, kind of marrying above yourself sort of thing," Dr. Nutter said. "I consider myself very fortunate."

One of his greatest life achievements was convincing Laurie to marry him.

"He's a romantic, sentimental and very thoughtful person," Laurie said about her husband.

Dr. Nutter impressed Mrs. Nutter with his willingness to serve through whatever means he could. According to Mrs. Nutter, he is a person "who sees a need and meets it."

"He's very definitely a servant, and I think his spiritual gift is giving," she said. Whether he is giving up his time to help a student or taking a mentally-handicapped man from church to a basketball game, Dr. Nutter is reaching out to help whoever has a need.

Their marriage, in the summer of 1985, was a milestone in his life. His greatest academic achievement, however, was completing his doctorate at the University of Mississippi, or "Ole Miss," as he casually refers to it, in 1993.

Dr. Nutter decided to come to Liberty soon after he had completed his master's degree at Marshall University.

Transitioning to LU was not very difficult. His friendly, outgoing nature helped him to make friends quickly, but Nutter did have a slight problem with age.

"When I first came, I kept being mistaken for a student. I was 24, and I would go to help with registration and they wouldn't let me in. I was carded and had to show my ID. A couple years after that I grew a full beard and that helped a little with the age thing," Dr. Nutter said.

His love for the students has helped him to develop strong relationships with the student body. First on a professional level, then on a personal level, Nutter gains their respect through his instruction and their confidence through his easy-going and optimistic attitude.

"He was very engaging to listen to. He was funny," former student Hannah Wiedeman said. "He encouraged us to think for ourselves. Well, he encouraged thinking in general, but he wanted us to be creative."

Dr. Nutter's friendship with the

students lasts not only through the semester, but many years. In December he had the unique honor of serving as best man in a former student's wedding—illustrating how much of an impact he had had on the student's life.

Ten years from now Dr. Nutter hopes to still be at Liberty, still being faithful to his students, to his wife and to God.

"What has God been teaching me lately? To be faithful in the small things, in the details of life and to be consistent. He's shown me about putting priorities first," Dr. Nutter said, "In 10 years I hope I'll still be doing what I'm doing, only hopefully doing it better."

Contact Misty Maynard at md-maynard@liberty.edu

julias Seymour Separation of Santa and State: A Christmas Satire

It seems that every year around Christmas, at least for the past couple of years, there arises an argument over whether or not religious decorations such as nativity scenes should legally be displayed on public property. Some argue that objects of a religious nature have no place on public grounds, and I must say that I completely agree.

The concept of removing such religious objects from properties is of course based on the idea of separation of church and state, which ironically is not found anywhere in the Constitution or any other founding document. But what does

that matter? Everyone in this fine country deserves not to be offended. It is a basic right not to have another's views foisted upon yours in the form of plastic molds with lights inside. So in order to prevent people from being convicted that there is a God who cares how they live their lives I am willing to advocate such a prohibition.

I propose that we rid the public square of all such objects giving sinners guilty consciences. Remove the nativity scenes from public parks because the baby Jesus unobtrusively placed in front of the courthouse or police station causes too much mental anguish for others. And angels will have to go too because we don't believe in them. In fact, since candy canes can be used as a religious witnessing tool they cannot be displayed on public grounds either. And while we're at it, bells call people to church so

they have a religious connotation and will have to be banned. Last of all, Santa Claus himself was based on Saint Nicholas, and the term saint is given to one by the church, which means goodbye to Santa. I guess that rules nearly everything out except for poor old Frosty the snowman. He'll be lonely, but that is not what really matters. The point is that no display of Christmas decorations should be offensive to anyone. The state must be neutral in such matters.

And while we're on the topic, Christmas carolers will no longer be able to sing traditional songs of the season on public property because too many of them deal with the previously mentioned things to be prohibited like Jesus, God, angels and Santa. No more "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," no "Little Town of Bethlehem," no "Jingle Bells," "No Santa Claus is

coming to town." I don't think we could even allow "Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer." So we will have to end caroling altogether.

Come to think of it, we'd better just stop calling Dec. 25 Christmas, since Christmas has "Christ" in it and that is blatantly religious and patently offensive. I guess we'll just have to call it something else, like Evergreen Day or "celebrate whatever religion or absence of religion you want to" day.

I suppose since we are banning the public display and support of a Christmas with any religious significance, we should probably just get rid of it altogether. No one will really want to celebrate Evergreen Day anyhow. Let's just make it a normal day, save gift-giving for birthdays and get rid of the whole winter vacation, shopping rush and family gatherings in late December. That



would be so much better and that way no one will ever be offended again by a nativity or a Santa. That's separation for you, the separation of Santa and state. Have a merry holiday-less winter everyone!

Contact Julia Seymour at jaseymour@liberty.edu

Taking some of the stress out of finals

By Emily Scheck

LIFE REPORTER

From intense stress to exuberant celebration, final exams bring a roller coaster of emotions for the average college student. Many times the uncertainty that precedes an exam lingers afterward, as students leave class asking each other, "What answer did you put down for the question about...?" For students who can relate, do not get discouraged. With some helpful tips and preparation, the hassle of finals will be much less traumatic.

As the semester draws to a close, many students panic at the thought of a comprehensive semester exam. "It gets overwhelming, trying to recall information from September for five different classes," said Laura Rhodes, a senior at Liberty. Keep in mind that finals are only one component of the final grade. By determining the weight each final carries, students may realize their exam will have minimal effect on their overall grade. While it is unnecessary to panic, displaying a lackadaisical attitude is not the answer either. Students should do as well as they can, rather than aiming for the minimal points required to pass the course.

Take a break

Many times students will forgo physical activity during exam week, claiming there is not enough time to study. It is critical to continue such renewing activities as exercising or socializing, as studying sessions are most effective with intermittent breaks. However, a 15-minute study session followed by a two-hour video game break is not the answer!

"Ultimately, every student



ADAM BISHOP

GROUP TIME—Many students form study groups to prepare for finals.

must find his or her own way of preparing for different types of examinations," said Dr. Dennis Tamburello, professor of religious studies at Siena College. When it comes time to sit down and study, students have a number of effective study methods to choose from. The key to any method of effective retention is repetition—and not overloading the brain. Long cramming sessions are generally ineffective, as the brain can only retain so much within an hour.

Prepare during the semester

Preparation begins during the semester by taking more notes and thoroughly reading the course text. Begin studying at least three days in advance, reading over notes and text the first day, then creating a master outline of important material on the second day. When provided with

a study guide, focus on the review questions. The night before the exam, go over the master outline, focusing on the weakest areas of retained knowledge.

The University of California at Riverside stresses the importance of studying in an out of the way place. "Avoid the mass hysteria at the student union and flee from people wanting to borrow your notes," UCR's Web site said. By studying alone, students will be able to concentrate of the information most difficult for them.

Get some sleep

Prone to pulling all-nighters before an exam, students must keep in mind that sleep is essential for good exam performance. Cramming the night before leads to a superficial or confused knowledge of the material covered. Study in advance in order to get a good night's rest before a final. As

finals week stretches on, it is critical for students to use the days on which they have no exams to get a head start on any upcoming finals.

Arrive early

Arriving late to an exam can increase anxiety and cause embarrassment; students must remember to set their alarms the night before, considering they may need every minute of the period to finish the exam. Carefully read all the directions rather than moving immediately to the first question, as many times teachers want a selection of questions answered. Read each question carefully, until it is clear what the teacher is asking. If something seems unclear, ask the teacher what they are looking for. Remember to maintain a steady pace throughout the exam, leaving more time for essay questions and less for True/False.

Stay focused

While taking the exam it is critical to shut out distractions in the classroom. It does not matter who finishes first, as many people have different test-taking abilities, and many times people finish quickly due to an inability to answer the questions. After days of preparation and dedicated studying, it is critical to move on after the exam is completed. There is no point dwelling on what you got right or wrong; instead, forget about it and move on the next exam. Once that last final is complete, it is time to enjoy the holidays and not stress about what could have been.

Contact Emily Scheck at escheck@liberty.edu

The Glass Menagerie

By Linda Laferriere

NEWS REPORTER

The Glass Menagerie, directed by Neal Brasher, has hit the stage. The play, put on by the Liberty University Theater Department, only stars four actors, all of whom are very grateful for the chance that they have to perform. In spite of the fact that all four actors spread from freshman to senior, each one feels like they have a deep connection with one another.

Rehearsals have been going on for the past six weeks. For the last three weeks the actors have been practicing every day. One day the cast even had to eat dinner on the stage. The cast stayed during part of the Thanksgiving break to make sure that they would be prepared for Dec. 3, which was their opening performance.

"Acting is not something that you get into, it gets into you," Katrina E. Hatcher, who plays Amanda Wingfield said.

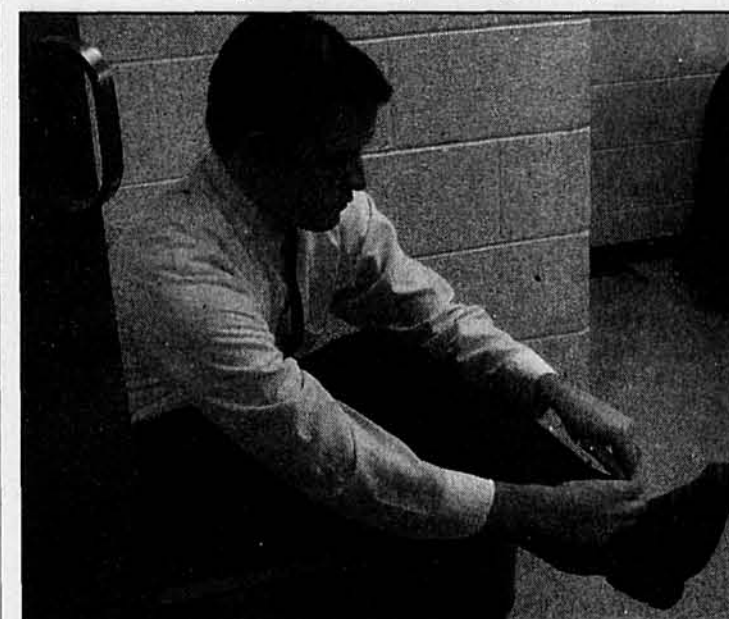
Hatcher said that she has thoroughly enjoyed working with this cast. With only four people in the play, she feels that it was easier to get to know the other actors better. Katrina is a sophomore, but this is her first year at Liberty, so she did not know any of the other actors before rehearsals started. Hatcher even said that Erika Smith will be one of her bridesmaids at her wedding. Smith is a sophomore and plays the part of Laura.

Aaron Bauer is a senior and it is his 12th show at LU. Aaron plays Tom, the narrator, and he is telling the story from memory.

Ryan Massey is a junior who has enjoyed acting from a young age. "You can only do so much work, and theater adds a nice distraction," said Massey.

The show continues on Dec. 9, 10 and 11. Students are encouraged to go to the box office in the fine arts hall ahead of time to get their tickets. All of the shows are at 7:30 p.m., except for an extra matinee showing at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 11.

Contact Linda Laferriere at ldlaferriere@liberty.edu



JESSICA PADGETT

BREAK A LEG—Aaron Bauer prepares for his role as the narrator in the Glass Menagerie.

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