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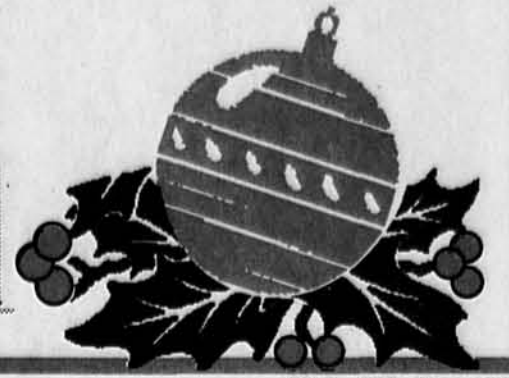
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The Liberty Champion



Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.

Tuesday, December 9, 1997

Vol. 15, No. 13

Falwell calls for greater student responsibility

Chancellor asks for approval of future demonstrations

By **MATT SWINEHART**
Editor in Chief

LU Chancellor Dr. Jerry Falwell pleaded with students in convocation on Wed., Dec. 3 to be more selective when it comes to their participation in future rallies.

The plea came as a result of the Nov. 10 rally at E.C. Glass High School. The rally, which saw five high school students make professions of faith in Christ, also saw a small handful of LU students enter the high school and lie about their identity.

Since the event, Operation Rescue National Director Rev. Flip Benham, Students Active for Life and Truth Director John Reyes and LU freshman Jeff

Brown were all indicted by a Lynchburg Judge for trespassing and disorderly conduct. If found guilty, the three men could face penalties of \$2,500 and spend up to 12 months in jail.

Brown, however, said that he was "wrongfully indicted," and that he had no part in organizing the event. He speculates he was inappropriately linked to the event from his quotes appearing in local newspapers and television broadcasts.

Benham, after being indicted for trespassing and disorderly conduct, told reporters that it means, "they must want us back at that high school."

Event organizers and participants were not the only ones affected. Falwell cited "a great deal of damage" to the reputation of LU as a result of the rally. "I've spent the last two weeks trying to repair it," he said.

Please see "Falwell," Page A5.

Flames bow to Irish



TED WOOLFORD

IRISH SETTER—Seniors Stacy Collier and Ashley Fletcher scout Notre Dame before their NCAA tournament match.

The Liberty University Lady Flames Volleyball Team lost its opening round game in the NCAA tournament to the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame, 15-9, 15-3, 15-2. For more on the Flames' trip to Arkansas and tournament results, please see **V-BALL** on Page B1.

Outside vendor to take over bookstore

By **JASON INGRAM**
News Editor

Continuing the wave of change that has swept over the campus this semester, the Liberty University Bookstore will receive a facelift over the semester break, a move that the administration hopes will increase service to the student body and faculty.

Vice President of Administration/Information Technology Dave Young said that the university solicited bids from each of the major bookstore vendors and is "currently in negotiations" with one vendor who will expand upon the existing facility.

In a written statement that appeared on the Liberty website, Young said that by subsidizing the bookstore, the university hopes to address two areas of concern.

"We have two goals," Young said. "First, to provide service to our students, faculty and staff. Second, to enhance financial returns to the university."

According to Young, the size of the chosen vendor affords Liberty many benefits, among them a wider array of services and a greater volume of merchandise, which would result in price reductions.

"What you gain from a vendor who has volume and is overall larger in business scope is that

Please see **BOOKSTORE**, Page 2

The Way in a Manger



Christmas Tree returns holiday emphasis to Christ's birth

By **JENNIFER PILLATH**
Copy Manager

The tell tale signs of Christmas have already hit Liberty's campus. You can see it in the white lights wrapped around each dorm window and hear it in the Nat King Cole tunes piping over your neighbor's radio. But what about Christ's birth?

Thomas Road Baptist Church gave Liberty students the chance to remember what Christmas is truly about at its annual "Living Christmas Tree" college night on Thursday, Dec. 4. In its 27th year, the production featured a play entitled "On Wings of Love" which tracked the problems of two teenagers in the 1990s.

Robbie Hiner, the show's producer, decided to set this year's program in the 1990s because of the problems that all families are facing.

"Every home in America has struggles," said Hiner. "[This program] will make people leave here thinking about it."

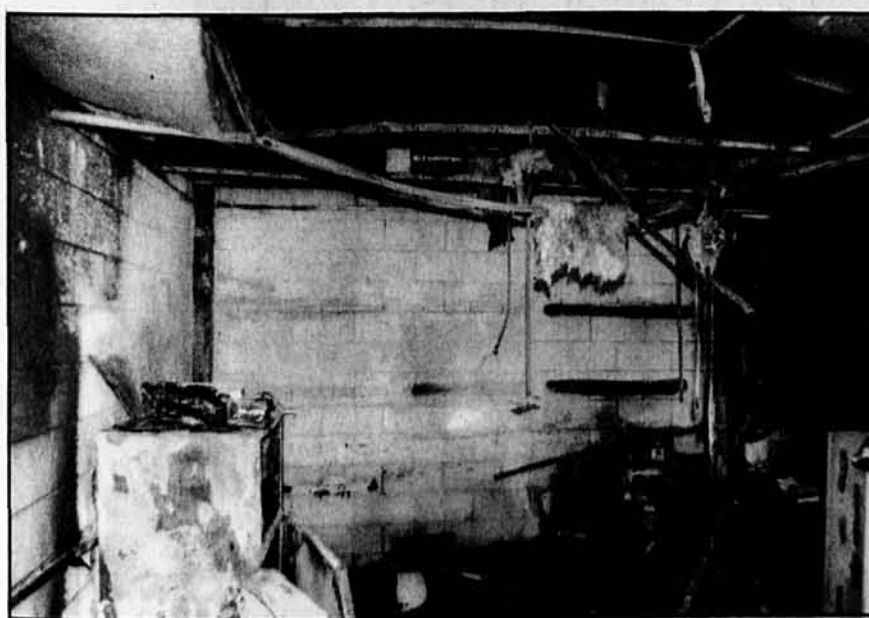
Timothy, a guardian angel played by Tim Goodwin, escorted the audience

Please see **TREE**, Page A2



LEZAH CROSBY

GRAND TRADITION—Actors and singers for *The Living Christmas Tree*, including Santa Claus, bustle around the set between songs. Now in its 27th year, the Tree literally employs a "cast of thousands" and utilizes some 90,000 Christmas tree lights.



KEN PEREZ

HOLY CEILING, BATMAN—After the Nov. 19 fire, SH 162 looked as if it had been the victim of an experiment gone awry.

Blessing in disguise

Fire opens door for changes

By **JASON INGRAM**
News Editor

The fire that gutted a laboratory in the science hall one week before Thanksgiving break and caused at least \$1 million in damages could do little to quell Liberty's holiday spirits. The administration, faculty and staff banded together to make the most of the disaster, utilizing the clean slate left by the blaze to make several changes to the existing facilities.

Authorities believe that the fire began between 2:30 and 3 a.m. on the morning of Nov. 19, when an electrical system in SH 162 developed what Young called "a short of some kind." The Lynchburg Fire

Department quickly brought the flames under control, and the fire was completely snuffed out by 4:30 a.m., when Young arrived on the scene.

"As I understand it, the one lab, room 126, was almost totally destroyed and everything in it, except for one snake," Young said. "He had to be one tough snake."

Although the blaze was contained to 126, the smoke from the fire entered the ventilation system and filtered throughout the science hall, leaving an ebony film on walls, furniture, computers and other equipment.

"The majority of the damage - if you want to call it that - (is) because of the smoke damage done," Young said.

After assessing the damage, the administration secured the services of an outside contractor and computer restoration specialists to aid in the cleaning process. All of the pipes and wires contained in the ceiling were cleaned by hand. All of the computers in the three SH computer labs were disassembled and cleaned by air compressors.

Among the damaged computers were several outdated 286 models, which Young said were, "hardly worth the time and effort to clean." Graciously, the university's insurance company agreed to replace the aging units.

"That's the kind of good thing that has

Please see **FIRE**, Page A2

Words of Wit

"Those squeaky doggy toys ... I wonder if they come 'ear-shaped?'"

Laurelei ponders Christmas gifts for ex-heavyweight champ Mike Tyson.



Wed.
Chance of T-storms.
High 50,
Low 34



Thur.
Partly cloudy.
High 44,
Low 26



Fri.
Partly cloudy.
High 45,
Low 28



Sat.
Partly cloudy.
High 51,
Low 30



Sun.
Partly sunny.
High 56,
Low 36

Inside:

Here & There **pg. A2**

Preparing the perfect portfolio **pg. A4**

Randy longs to return to the Northwoods **pg. A6**

Rick offers a different perspective **pg. B6**

Matt has a Christmas wish **pg. B6**

Laurelei's list of Naughty v. Nice **pg. B1**

Convocation:
No convocation for the remainder of the semester.

Here There

Christmas Story: David's Place will be showing the Christmas flick, "A Christmas Story" on Friday, Dec. 12 at 10 p.m. and 12 a.m. and again on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Peculiar People: Peculiar People, along with special guests Blank Page and Coco B Where will be performing at the Fishbowl at the Lynchburg First Church of the Nazarene on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 10 p.m. Admission to the concert is \$3 at the door, and free pizza is included.

Open dorms: Open dorms for the fall semester will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 9. Female dorms will be opened from 9-9:45 p.m. for male visitors and male dorms will be opened from 10-10:45 for female guests.

Coffee House: Student Life will present its Christmas Coffee House on Friday, Dec. 12 in the Schilling Center #2.

Send postings a minimum of two weeks prior to the event to Jason Ingram c/o Liberty Champion.

Shows begin at 9:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. Tickets will go on sale Thursday, Dec. 11 in the Reber-Thomas Dining Hall and will cost \$2 in advance and \$3 at the door.

Christmas party: Student Life will sponsor its Christmas Party on Dec. 9 in the Reber-Thomas Dining Hall. The party will include opportunities to win prizes and to have pictures made with Santa Claus.

Study break: The Marriott staff will be hosting "Stop the LOONINESS: A Study Break" on Thursday, Dec. 11 in the Reber-Thomas Dining Hall from 10-11:30 p.m.

Christmas open house: The Spiritual Life/Campus Pastor's Office will sponsor its annual Open House on Thursday, Dec. 11 from 1-4 p.m. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served. The Campus Pastor's Office is located in Dorm 2.

"Tree" debuts at TRBC

Continued from Page A1

through the play and attempted to help solve the dilemmas of the two families. The character emphasized the importance of the Christmas season. "Now more than ever we should demonstrate God's love for us," he said.

Preparations for the program began in January of this year when Hiner began composing the script along with his writers. Some of the inspiration for the play came from the now popular CBS television program "Touched by an Angel".

"Lots of times I dream a lot of things in my head. To dream something and see it on a stage is a real kick," said Hiner.

The end of the play marked the beginning of the second half of the production. The traditional living Christmas tree, made up of choir members and synchronized lights, highlighted the evening. With a technical crew of 35 to 40 people along with about a month of work, the 90,000 Christmas tree lights danced and moved in correlation with the music.

All of the work for the technical side of the tree is done prior

to the production, with a computerized program running the actual light show. Jon Daggot, in charge of the tree lighting design, stated that Thursday night was the smoothest the technical work had ever gone.

Audience members were taken through every realm of the Christmas season during the second half of the program. Through arrangements of "White Christmas" and "O Holy Night", every facet of Christmas was highlighted. However, it was Christ's birth which remained the center of the program.

Hiner stated that more than

anything, he hoped that people would take this story home with them.

"Christ did come, did sacrifice, and gave everything for us," said Hiner.

The elaborate nativity scene at the conclusion of the program brought the reality of Christmas closer to all those in attendance.

"The play gave meaning to salvation," said Dr. John Borek, Liberty president. "I had no idea it would be this spectacular; it exceeded my expectations."

Performances of "The Living Christmas Tree" will continue through Sunday night, Dec. 13.

Fire affords upgrades to labs

Continued from Page A1

come out of this," Young said.

Included in those "good things" are new wiring and carpet and freshly painted walls, all of which were covered by Liberty's insurance policy. According to Young, the administration had planned to revamp the science hall along with the proposed DeMoss Hall renovations. The fire essentially afforded the university the opportunity to receive literally hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of renovations for a mere \$10,000 deductible.

"What we've done is try to capitalize off of this situation," Young said. "It is regrettable that

we had this tragedy, but the good Lord had a plan."

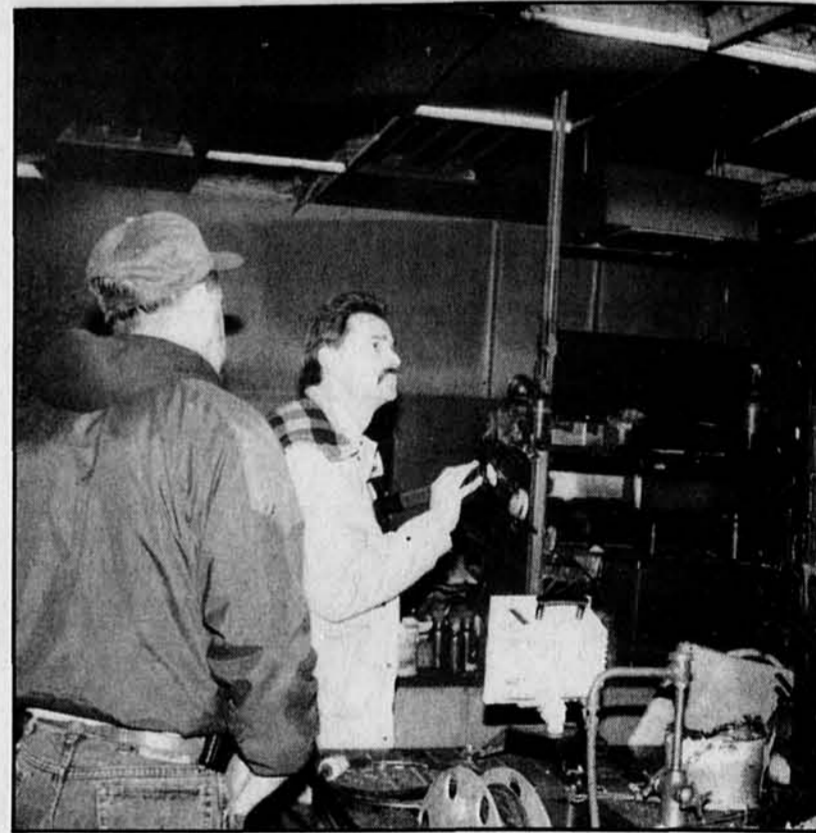
To Young, the only thing more impressive than the exhaustive effort put forth by the laborers and volunteers was the spirit of community that arose from the ashes.

"The other thing I thought was really interesting was the way the team came together to work the challenge," Young said.

Despite the presence of clean-up crews and equipment, Young said that the number of actual classes missed due to the fire was "minimal."

According to Young, the willingness of outside contractors and volunteers to work over the Thanksgiving holiday played a major role in getting classes "back online." That spirit, coupled with the blessing that the new equipment brings, left a lasting impression on Young.

"I think the fact that we came together as a team like we did helped bond us as a group," Young said. "I think that those two factors combined were the really positive aspects of this."



TED WOOLFORD

HOT TOPIC—Workers survey the damage done to SH 162 during the recent fire.

Bookstore to get a facelift

Continued from Page 1

(the vendor) can provide items at a greater discount rate," Young said.

Young also said that, as a result of Liberty's partnership with the vendor, the bookstore will be completely remodeled, a process which will include converting current storage and office space into display areas.

"Another added benefit, due to the size of the organization, is that they can put money into improving the facility," Young said.

In addition to the "efficiencies" for the student body, faculty and staff, subsidizing the bookstore will generate revenue for the university by purchasing merchandise in greater quantities. Plus, Young said that the vendor's ability to provide a greater diversity of goods will spur student interest, therefore increasing revenue.

Despite the myriad benefits that a major vendor would bring to Liberty's campus, the decision to form a partnership with the selected vendor has been met with a measure of controversy,

primarily because many of the vendor's retail outlets market pornographic magazines.

In response to the controversy, Young stated that, "(the university) will have right of refusal with the bookstore here" and that Liberty would "never compromise (its) doctrine or beliefs, regardless of the level of service or profitability."

LU's partnership with the vendor began on Dec. 8 and many - if not all - of the changes should be evident when the student body returns for classes in January.



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**The Liberty
Champion**

Salute committee considers designs for senior class ring

By JENNIFER PILLATH
Copy Manager

Symbols, traditions and legacy—the very heart of an institution. The goal of the recently formed Senior Salute Committee is to combine these factors into a single element; a school ring.

The committee, chaired by Registrar Barbara Boothe, has been at work since September in order to develop a uniform ring for Liberty students and alumni. This ring will contain symbols that represent the history of Liberty University.

"(We want) to begin to build tradition around the ring and what the school means," commented Boothe.

The committee includes a fair representation of faculty and students. Boothe stated that the goal was to receive input from all levels of the university. There are also Liberty alumni who are participating on the committee.

In the attempt to receive a large range of opinion, the committee surveyed various students and faculty to find out what was

important to them. Ranking high on the survey were items such as the school seal, the Bible, the cross and the flame. Some not so popular items included the spirit rock, the Mansion and Dr. Falwell.

The committee is working with a Josten's representative for the actual design of the ring which will be revealed in the first week of March. Until then, it is up to the committee to decide between several preliminary sketches, among which a final decision will be made by January.

The price for the ring will run between \$300 and \$400, and will be available in either a traditional setting or a dinner ring.

At the time of the presentation, a written history of the symbols on the ring will also be presented. Boothe commented that this will help to explain the significance of the chosen symbols.

The second function of the Senior Salute Committee is to plan for a Senior Salute Week during the spring semester

which will honor seniors and their graduation.

"We want to say 'we appreciate you,'" said Mike Stewart, Dean of Student Life and part of the committee.

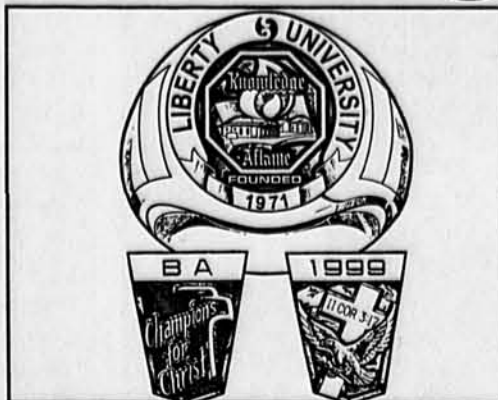
Although the week is still in the planning stages, events include the possibility of casual dress day, senior skip day, a formal chapel for seniors, a trip to Monticello or a mini-block party.

"We are still in the baby stages," said Boothe.

Stewart commented that he would appreciate receiving any input from seniors. "We want to see what it would be from a senior's perspective," said Stewart.

Seniors who have any ideas or suggestions for the committee can contact Dean Stewart at extension 2131.

Regardless of what the week will entail, Boothe assured that the university wants the Senior Salute Week and the ring to become part of the already rich history that Liberty possesses.



WITH THESE RINGS - Pictured are artist's renditions of the rings being considered by the Salute Committee for the LU school ring.



VP Bailey introduces hotline for student complaints, concerns

By CREIG RAIKES
Champion Reporter

Liberty students now have another option to express their concerns to the Student Government Association. SGA Executive Vice President Daniel Bailey has established the "Veepline," a 24-hour recorded message to take complaints or other concerns from students.

According to Jeff Coleman, executive assistant to Bailey, Bailey is paying for the Veepline out of his own pocket.

"Daniel Bailey is funding the line personally, with no money from student government or the administration," Coleman said.

The SGA is hoping for a "rapid response" to each student concern. Complaints and other comments should be answered within a 24-hour period. In its first week, the line is receiving only one or two messages a day. A public relations push including fliers and commercials on C-91, the Liberty radio station, is expected to gain more notoriety for the line during the spring semester.

Other members of SGA have been very supportive of Bailey's Veepline. Dorn Senators have been given information on how to respond to complaints.

"It's an idea that would have come up eventually," Coleman said. "I would hope the Veepline would not be an issue."

This hotline is just one step toward getting students more active and aware of student government.

"There is record enrollment in the Senate and record attendance at the meetings," Coleman said. "This is due to the Senate becoming a more credible and professional organization."

The Veepline can be reached toll free by dialing 1-888-481-7865, 24 hours a day.

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SARENA BEASLEY

BEST EVIDENCE—Several plastic bins containing the debate team's "evidence," or arguments, sit at the ready. The team will face some of its stiffest competition over the holidays.

Debaters to put ranking on the line in holiday tournaments

By **SUZANNE McDUFFIE**
Champion Reporter

When most students will be singing carols, celebrating the holidays with loved ones and basking in the glow from a Christmas tree, the Liberty Debate team will be competing in some of their most difficult tournaments of the year. However, the price of winning is sacrifice and this year the debate team wants to be number one.

The team is facing outstanding schools such as George Mason University and Michigan State. According to the Debate Director Dr. Brett O'Donnell, they "cannot afford any glitches - the varsity teams must have outstanding performances from here on out."

Liberty is presently fifth in the NDT rankings, ahead of highly

populated universities with as many as 25,000 students enrolled. Their ranking is very commendable in light of the fact that Liberty is a smaller school and that the team had to face the loss of vital senior debaters. However, freshman and No. 2 debater, Rob Burns said, "I'm not satisfied. We need to push hard next semester so we can win another National Championship."

Rather than considering their disadvantages, the team is pushing on not only to the nationals but also toward winning the American Debate Association Championships for the fourth consecutive year, which would give Liberty a record in that division.

O'Donnell believes that their success is very likely. He has seen tremendous improvement on the team and he was very pleased when

his best varsity team composed of Rob Burns and Bill Lawrence was asked to compete in the Redlands Round Robin Tournament.

Only the top 21 debate teams in the nation are asked to attend this contest and Burns was the only freshman in attendance. With talent like this, a number one ranking, which is based on an objective accumulation of points won at eight of the teams best tournaments, is not far from sight.

The results will be announced in March and the team will have to contribute "a tremendous amount of time and work," O'Donnell said. Though it is difficult for students to travel and show their support at the various tournaments, O'Donnell said the team needs and would greatly appreciate prayer from the entire student body.

Belden instructs students on portfolio preparation

By **LANCE OLSHOVSKY**
Champion Reporter

Faculty member and Director of Internships Glen Belden addressed the COMS Club on Thursday, Dec. 4 to help students prepare for job interviews and put together the perfect portfolio.

Many people apply to a company and have the opportunity for an interview. However, when the job seeker goes to the job interview and is unprepared, they are not successful in the interviewing process.

"Research has shown us that the greatest obstacle (in an interview) is the lack of preparedness," Belden said. "The thing not to do in an interview is be unprepared."

The best way to be prepared for an interview, according to Belden, is to research the company that has offered the interview.

One way to research a company would be to call and ask for information about the company. Another way to research would be to talk to people who work for the company to find out what working conditions at the

company are like and to get an overall feel for employee morale.

According to Belden, although the interview will be the determining factor in whether or not the interviewee obtains the job, a portfolio will also carry some weight.

Belden said that in a portfolio, only three to five working samples should be included.

"You may have 20 or 30 work samples, but choose only three to five that are correct for the position you are applying for," Belden said.

Once the work samples are chosen, Belden said the portfolio must be superbly packaged.

In order to customize a portfolio, Belden said that a reflection statement sheet should be included with bulleted information.

The information should include a brief description of the element and the context which it was created for and the competencies developed in the work.

The Career Center has three books that are helpful in putting portfolios together and Belden stressed the importance of students using the Center.

Christmas.

The first six letters say it all.

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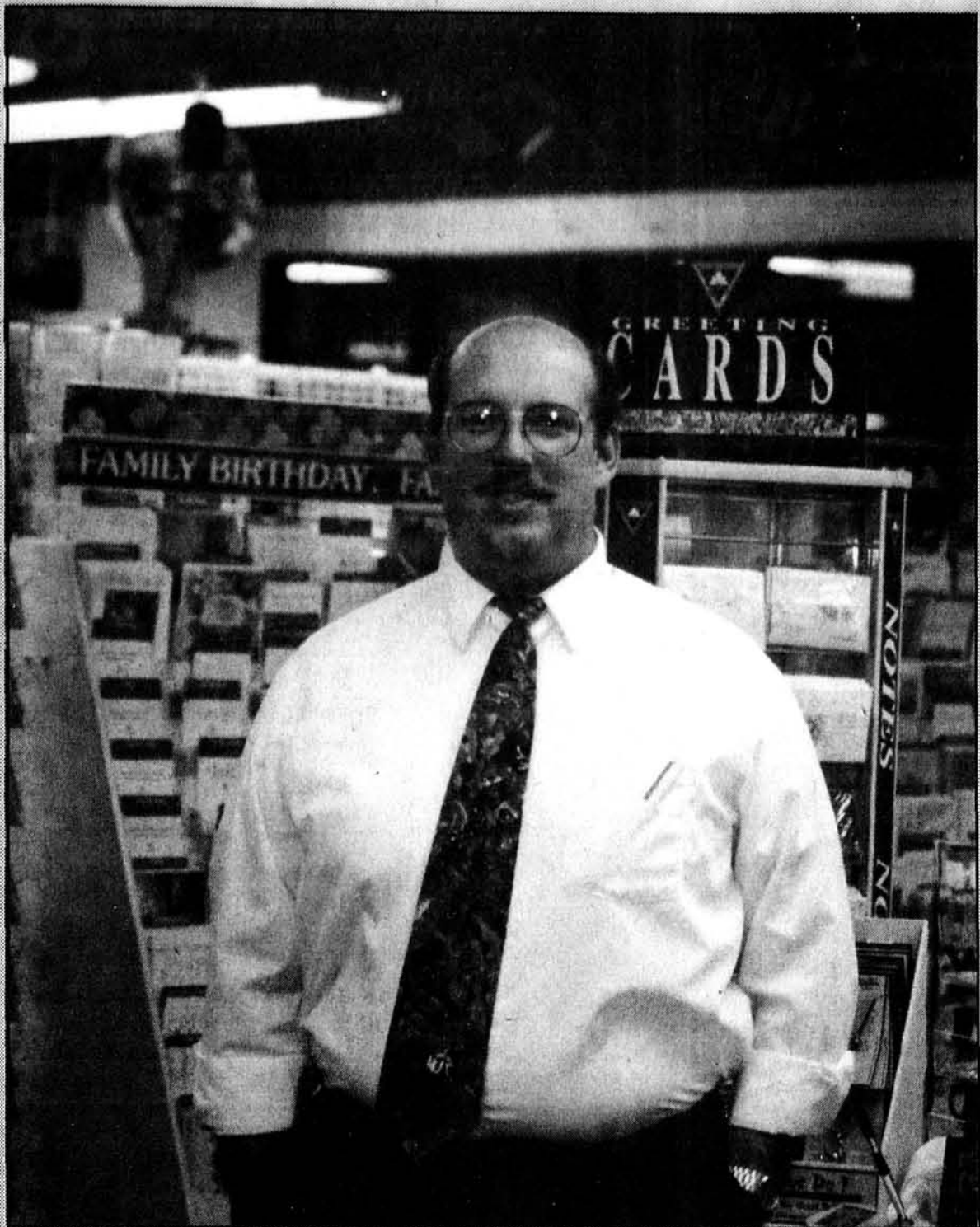


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Moving Day



MYLES LAWHORN

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE ... —Liberty Bookstore Manager Dennis Ratliff takes one last look around the ol' store. An outside contractor moves in next semester. For more on the changes coming to the store, please see OUTSIDE on Page A1.

English profs to bring lit to life with Europe trip

By JENNIFER PILLATH
Copy Manager

The land of Shakespeare and Charles Dickens will come into better focus for Liberty students with the assistance of the English Department's summer trip to the British Isles. The 16-day trip, which will begin on May 12, is being coordinated by Dr. David Partie and Dr. Trina Ruth of the English Department.

This Europe trip will be focusing entirely on the countries of Britain and Ireland, and will therefore provide a more in depth look into the culture and history of the region.

"There's nothing better for the adventurous person than to go to another country," Partie said. "It is an enriching experience."

For the second year in a row, Partie has chosen to use the EF Educational Tours for the trip. Through this tour agency, students will be accompanied by experienced tour guides during their stay. The agency also arranges for accom-

modations and two meals a day as part of the trip fee.

The organizers of the trip hope that students will benefit from their experiences in Europe as well as adding to the education they have already built here at Liberty.

Ruth mentioned the impact that Princess Diana's death had on her earlier this year.

"We could really identify with the people ... it brings it intimately closer," said Ruth.

Westminster Abbey, the location of Princess Diana's funeral, will be one of the stops on the trip. Students will also have the opportunity to visit Dublin, Killarney, the Scottish highlands and London. Stops in these towns include an optional tour of Stonehenge, a stop at the House of Parliament and a look at Big Ben.

Students who are interested in participating in the trip may contact Dr. Partie at extension 2439 or Dr. Ruth at extension 2086. All those who wish to participate in the program should have their first payment and forms completed by Dec. 31.

Falwell asks students to show caution in future demonstrations

—Continued from Page A1

"Our graduates have come to me saying 'Pastor, we've had a great witness here, and it's just smashed.'"

Referring to Thomas Road Baptist Church, Falwell said that "we got thrown out of one high school, and we're holding our breath that we don't get thrown out of any more."

In his address, Falwell stressed how much he admired "the students who stood up for what they believe in."

"I'm absolutely sure that those students who went to E.C. Glass went there with

noble motives," Falwell said. "I believe the overwhelming majority who went there had no intention of breaking the law — although you did by not getting a permit — or hurting the reputation of Liberty University."

Falwell said that E.C. Glass officials did not overreact to the situation. If the tables were turned, he said, "our response would have been at least as harsh as theirs."

The LU administration was caught off guard by the protest as well.

Despite the damage and public relations challenges the rally

has brought to the university, Falwell said he is not "mad" at anyone.

"We have the greatest student body in the world — bar no one," he said. "I make mistakes; you make mistakes. We made a mistake."

"I ask you, from now on, (that) all demonstrations must be approved by the administration," Falwell said.

Liberty University wrote a check to the city, reimbursing it for the overtime hours worked by the police officers at the rally.

"We have the greatest student body in the world - bar no one."

—Dr. Jerry Falwell
Liberty Chancellor

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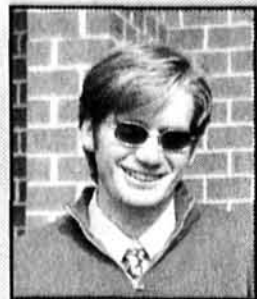
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Have a Happy 23rd Birthday Dawn! I Love You! -Jason



RANDY KING

Ode to Home as per Tom Whitecloud

The moon glares down on the empty courtyard. The clouds are silver tipped in its light. And there is a winter wind blowing in my heart.

Ever since yesterday, when against the setting sun I saw geese veering southward. They were flying home ... Now I attempt to concentrate on my studies, but I keep seeing them flying across the pages. Going Home.

But home is over the mountains, and I am here. Here where fall lurks in the lowlands, and winter never sneaks down from the mountains.

In my Minnesota, blue winds dance across great white fields of snow and careen over frozen lakes. Daybreak flows into dusk without noon. The long forests are cloaked in white and it is bitterly cold. The dark rural nights are eerily illuminated by the Northern Lights.

Here the trees, still adorned in their brown grave clothes, speak the difference loudly. Strangely, I miss the sight of shorn branches, clad only in a crystal coat of ice, raised in futile defiance against the stark sky.

In my mind winter should be embodied in all things. All of nature should reflect that sense of slumber or even death that is true winter.

Home, with its softly glowing fires and warm fellowship, is enhanced by the lack of life and its vital ingredient, — warmth — outside.

I will soon carelessly throw my belongings into my tired car and began the long drive home.

Weaving through stony gaps and saddles I'll make my way through the Appalachians to the fertile lands to the west.

On the straight, broad highways through the farmlands I will push my automobile hard, seeing the first traces of familiarity in the heartland towns.

Around Indianapolis I'll fill the tank for the second time, bracing myself against the biting wind that travels unhindered across the barren fields.

The 24-hour drive home allows plenty of time for thinking. I mull over the entire semester, judging my actions by the consequences they harvested.

Somewhere between the temperate hilltown of Lynchburg and my home nestled up against a wooded ridge in central Minnesota, I switch mindsets.

It is usually as I speed through the rolling hills and occasional bizarre rock formations of southern Wisconsin that I feel the change.

I notice that my mind is interpreting the scenery differently than it has all semester.

It is in the serenely northern terrain of the Badger State that I once again start to think like my people.

Between Eau Claire and Saint Paul I descend and, crossing the Minnesota River, I am in the land of my birth.

But Minnesota is a divided state, there are the Twin Cities and there is the rest of the state. It is not until I am past all the bedroom towns of Minneapolis/St. Paul that I feel the homing instinct gear up.

Soon I am rolling up River Road, the ridge on the left and the Long Prairie to the right.

Against the tree-clad shoulder of the river ridge I see the warm lights of home beaming out on the darkened snowfields. Then, I am home and I think of the geese.

-based on "Blue Winds Dancing".

Life!

CHAMPION



C H R I S T M A S T R A D I T I O N S



SARENA BEASLEY

"WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS" — The Champion staff wishes everyone a safe and happy Christmas.

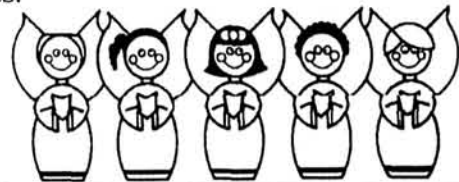
How the Champion staff celebrates -

By THE CHAMPION STAFF
Champion Editors

Christmas stockings hung by the fire with care. Shiny presents tumbling out from under the brightly lit evergreen. The smell of Christmas candles mixing with the aroma of fresh-baked sugar cookies. These are all common sights and smells that people experience as soon as the calendar is flipped to the month of December. But, there are some other memories and traditions that hold a special place for many. That is the personal family traditions.

It could be Uncle Bob singing his rendition of "O Holy Night" with Aunt Gladdie on the harmonica, or making sleds out of aluminum-lined cookie sheets. No matter how corny, crazy or ridiculous the tradition is, it is still special. Why? Because it is shared with the best people in the world, your family.

The Champion editors also have a few family traditions that they would like to share with you. So, please, sit back and enjoy or act like you enjoy, our Christmas memories.



Every Christmas morning we line — up according to age — before walking into the living room to discover what "Santa" had brought us. Unfortunately, I am always stuck second to the end because of my age.

After we find our treasures, we spend hours unwrapping, laughing and remembering. It is a highlight of Christmas that will be passed on to my family one day, however, this time I will get to be in front of the line.



THE BETTER LIFE!
EDITOR, MS. BECKY WALKER.

Before the horizon turns the dull pink of dawn, our household is up for Christmas Day. My parents have set a 6 a.m. rule for opening presents, but that doesn't stop my brothers and sister from shaking boxes. Still sleepy, the rest of us stumble into the living room where a wonderland of presents has appeared overnight. The gifts from the kids come first, for these are the most meaningful. They're the ones that we have bought with our hearts.



PURE WISCONSIN
COPY EDITOR, JEN PILLATH.

My brother and I travel back home to Clifton, N.J. to visit friends during Christmas Break. We often go to NYC, being that the Big Apple is only 15 minutes away. We don't bring much money, so we try to find, "free entertainment." This mostly includes waiting outside TV shows and Broadway plays to try to catch cast members. We rarely buy anything or pay to see a show, but we still have fun.



THE TALL SILENT
DISTRIBUTOR TYPE,
BRIAN WOOLFORD.

When we were all younguns, my sisters and I would wake up at the crack of dawn ... only to go downstairs and stare at the unwrapped gifts. A seeming eternity later, when my parents rolled out of bed, we tore open our presents in a mad frenzy of paper, bows and candy canes. Now that we're more mature, we sleep in 'til noon, sip some java and take turns opening our presents. There is still an occasional paper fight, however.



ED-IN-CHIEF SUPER-
HERO, MATT SWINEHART.

When my family wakes up Christmas morning, presents aren't first on the agenda. As we all sit around the kitchen table, my mom brings out a homemade coffee cake with a lit candle and little Christmas card cutouts of the manger scene taped to toothpicks and arranged on the cake. We sing Happy Birthday to Jesus and spend a few minutes remembering the true reason that we celebrate the season.



THE SPORTS EDITOR
GURU, LAURIE MILLER.

Mother initiated the tradition of the family Christmas feast when we moved back to Minnesota. Our table is laden with both the traditional turkey and ham and many sorts of wild game meats. Mom and my sister Vickie prepare several pies. Our humble kitchen is as polished and well-dressed as the celebrating family dining in it. Gifts are opened in turn near the fireplace with all observing.



SARCASM INC.,
RANDY KING, LIFE!
EDITOR.

We always open one present on Christmas Eve night.

Then on Christmas morning, Dad reads the Christmas story from Luke 2, and we rip open the presents.

I'm the oldest of 12, so it's not hard to imagine how much wrapping paper is left afterwards. The living room looks like a hurricane hit it. It's fun watching the "little kids" open all their presents.



ELEPHANT KISS-
ER/OPINION EDITOR,
RICK BOYER.

Normally we wait until the last minute to buy a tree — Christmas Eve to be exact. We are normally so busy shopping and working that the tree is the last thing on our minds.

By the time Christmas Eve arrives people are giving trees away so we actually save money in our procrastination.

Christmas Day usually consists of a big lunch at a nice hotel restaurant.



PHOTOGRAPHY
PATRON SAINT, TED WOOLFORD.

When I was little, my dad always told us that he had a direct phone line to Santa.

About the time I started to question the reality of Santa Claus, dad said that when you quit believing in Santa he quits coming.

Do I believe in Santa Claus now, you ask? You bet your sleigh bells and your eight tiny reindeer I do!



PHOTOGRAPHER
LADY-IN-WAITING,
LEZAH CROSBY.

Several years ago our traditional family Christmas get-together became too large for my grandparents' home. So we moved the celebration to my Papa's and Nanny's second home. There is a field near this house where I used to stand and, by the light of the North Star, pray and thank God. The tradition stuck, and now every Christmas night I walk in the field, find the North Star and pray.



EL RICO SUAVE
NEWS EDITOR, MR. JASON INGRAM.

Feliz Navidad! mi amigos. Our family has a Christmas fiesta. We mix American traditions with Mexican themes. On Christmas Eve, Father dresses as El Poncho Grande and does a Texan's version of the "Mexican Hat Dance." We eat Mexican casserole and Spanish rice just before we break the pinata. Then we gather around for the Christmas story before we open our gifts. And no, I'm not Mexican.



OUR LADY OF PHOTOGRAPHY,
SARENA BEASLEY.



JOC Opens up . . .

By LORI BRIDGEWATER
Life! Reporter

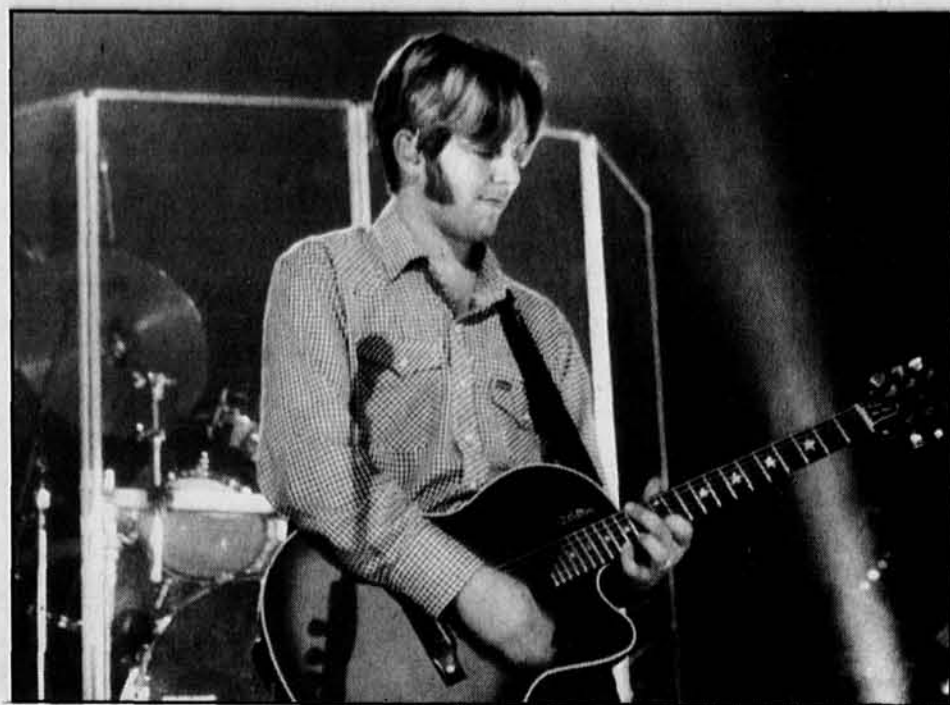
But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us" (II Corinthians 4:7).

"This power is from God" ... Jars of Clay has become somewhat of a Christian music phenomenon with their receiving secular airplay and going platinum on their debut album. "This all-surpassing power is from God and not from us" ... What power? The power to build bridges between Christ and the lost.

"We see ourselves as called to a ministry of bridge-building," Odmark said. "Jars of Clay has been given a unique opportunity in our music to take our beliefs to places where Christianity normally doesn't get to go," he said.

"Our music is building bridges; we are a first or different brush with Christ for those people who aren't Christians. Our focus is not a relational focus with the fans, but just a ministry of asking questions, probing and thinking of things that the people haven't thought of before."

"But we have this treasure" ... Jars of Clay has received many testimonies from those who have heard their



Lezah Crosby

ACOUSTIC ACROSS AMERICA — Jars guitarist Stephen Mason strumming it up during the concert last month.

music, whether at Christian concerts or at bars.

"We get told all the time by Christians that we have encouraged them to share Christ with their non-Christian friends," said Odmark. Jars have also

heard many testimonies from those who have been saved from hearing about Jesus at a bar or nightclub.

Jars have also been given the opportunity to build relationships with secular bands, enabling Jars to share Christ in the way they live their everyday lives while on the road.

"We know we are where God has called us to be," said Odmark, "and we have been rewarded for our obedience."

Jars of Clay's new album, *Much Afraid*, has mirrored some of the things that they have been going through as a result of that obedience. "Much Afraid" was taken from Hannah Hurnard's classic, *Hind's Feet on High Places*," said Odmark. "The character in the novel, *Much Afraid*, journeys from a place of fear to a place of faith. In the Christian world, we are generally a people motivated by fear and not love. God has been pushing me individually to look at my uncomfortable areas and allow Him to heal those areas that are hard for me to deal with."

This journey from fear to faith and love has been tedious, and has not yet ended for Jars of Clay. But in the end, they know that Jesus will lead them to "the high places."



MICHAEL SPIEGEL

FOR FINANCIAL ADVICE ... — Robert Mateer advises LU's FMA chapter.

FMA play\$ the market

You see them on TV, walking down Wall Street in their suits and carrying their briefcases. In Demoss Hall, you see students watching CNN with the fast moving line along the bottom of the screen. What is all the fuss about? The stock market is on the mind of many if they have invested their hard earned money, or if they are finance or business majors at Liberty.

The Finance Management Association began in 1990 at Liberty to bring students together in the world of business and finance. It is an international organization, with the headquarters in Florida, that began in 1970 to help those who wanted a career in finance.

The chapters all over the world use networking to keep in contact with other chapters to help each other with ideas for activities and speakers. Liberty's chapter boasts approximately 20 regular members.

The association focuses on career development, speakers, presentations and stock market simulations. FMA is the second Liberty club to have a home page as well. Students can look them up at <http://www.liberty.edu/clubs/fma>.

"The big thing in business is making contacts," said Vladimir Dinovich, the president of FMA and a senior at Liberty.

In October, the club had its first organizational meeting and members elected the officers. FMA brings speakers in from banks, insurance companies and brokerage firms to help students make those contacts. The club wants to get involved in Lynchburg as well.

"Next semester, we're hoping to get involved with some small businesses that need consulting," Ben Douma, the vice president said.

FMA is tentatively planning another investment simulation for students on campus, somewhat like last year, for next semester.

On a bigger scale, last year five Liberty students competed in the Collegiate Investment Challenge. They had \$500,000 to invest and competed with other universities across the United States. While none of the students won the competition, it was a good experience for them.

The club tries to give students exposure to what they will need when they graduate from college or try for their master's, which many finance majors do.

"We try to give them a firsthand experience through bringing speakers in, taking trips and competing in investing money," Kevin Harvey, last year's president said.

According to Dinovich, students cannot close themselves off to the world of business and finance. They need to keep learning about it and keep making contacts.

Dinovich also thinks that investment is relevant to all students, not just those interested in business and finance. Anyone is welcome to join the club. The membership fee has been waived and all a student must do is fill out an application form. Interested students can talk to Robert Mateer, the advisor and a professor of finance. Any questions can be e-mailed to fma_liberty@yahoo.com.

— Marianne Gillespie



Lezah Crosby

MAIN MAN AT THE MIC — Jars lead singer Dan Haseltine croons to the crowd at the Vines Center.

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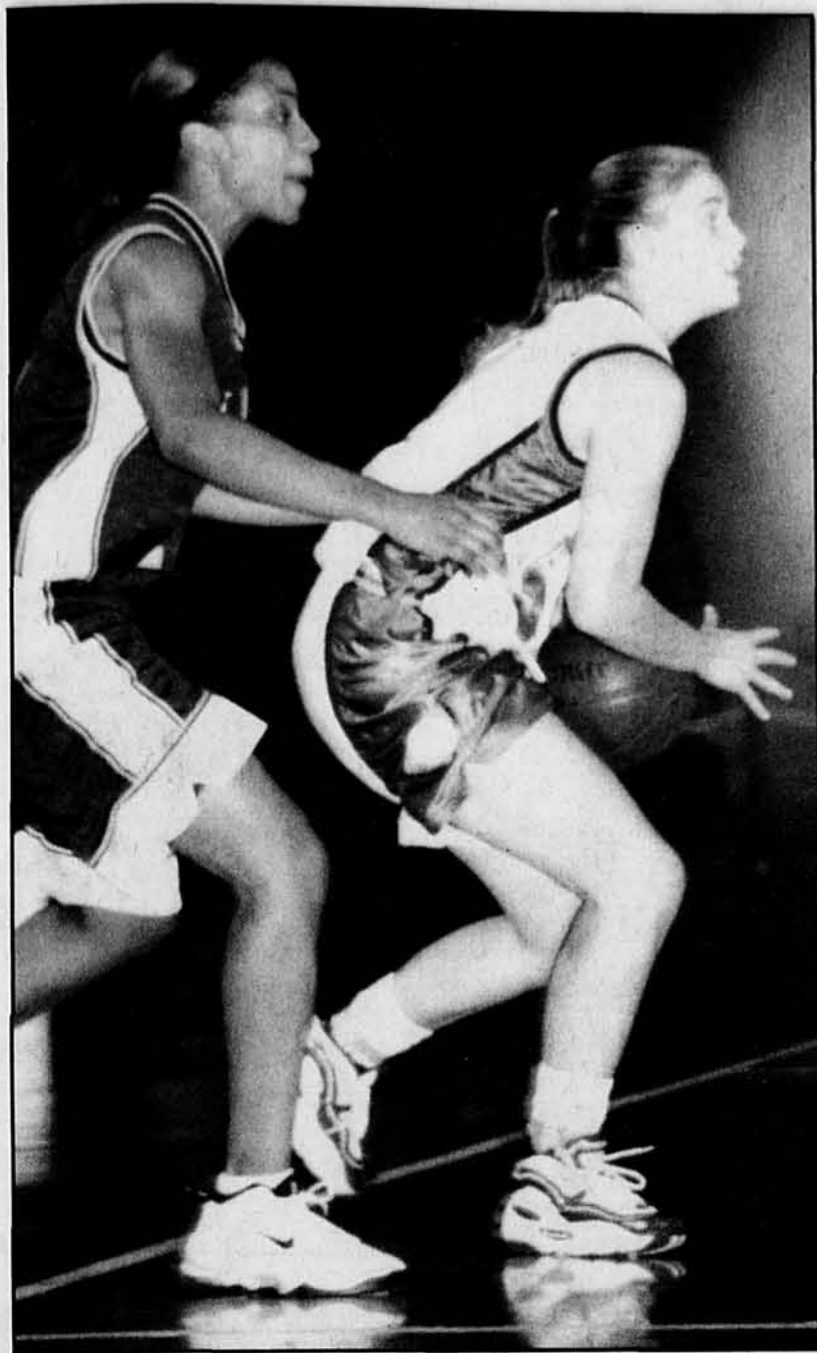
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Belk
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Hockey blanks WM 13-0
— Page B5

The Champion Sports

Liberty sports tidbits
— Page B4



TED WOOLFORD

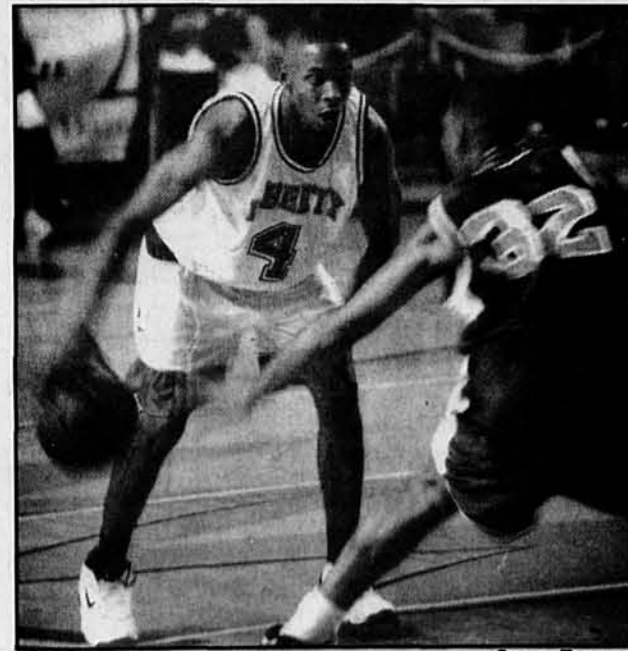
NO LOAFIN' AROUND — Irene Sloof jumped in off the bench, and tallied 17 points and six rebounds in Liberty's win over Virginia Intermont. The LU freshman lit her fire from three-point-land where she bucketed four of four.

Last-second blooper costs Liberty a win vs. Norfolk State

By **MATT KEENAN**
Champion Reporter

The LU men's basketball team continued its six-game skid Thursday, Dec. 4, as the visiting Spartans of Norfolk State entered the Furnace and poked away a win from the Flames 70-68.

With eight seconds on the game



SHAWN ELDRIE

CAN'T TOUCH THIS — LU guard Larry Jackson stares down his opponent, before making a move. Jackson tallied 17 points vs. NSU.

— Please see Men's, Page B4

clock, Larry Jackson hit a three-pointer for Liberty (1-6) to tie the game at 66. On the ensuing possession, Kevin Perry, of Norfolk St. (2-4), dribbled up the LU sideline when a most unusual blooper occurred.

In the excitement of the moment, Flames interim head coach, Randy Dunton, got carried away ... and a little too close to the action. Dunton

was pointing and yelling for his team to pick up their defensive assignments. When the NSU point guard passed by him, LU's coach accidentally poked the ball out of Perry's hands with his clipboard earning a technical foul. Perry drained the two free throws to seal the win for Norfolk.

"In a basketball game there's going to be ebbs

W-hoopsters go 6-0

Bench nets 40 in 56 pt. wallop of Va. Intermont

By **LAURELEI MILLER**
Sports Editor

Frustration filled the eyes of Virginia Intermont's Lady Cobras as they struggled against a bigger, stronger Lady Flames squad Saturday, Dec. 6. Liberty dominated the NAIA Div. II Cobras 96-40.

VI — a school of 700 students — entered the game 8-1 averaging 86 points per game, but it was used to playing smaller Christian colleges, and the visiting Cobras' strike didn't faze the Flames.

The win boosted Liberty's perfect record to 6-0 for the season.

Despite being odds-on favorites, the Lady Flames knew they were facing a consistently offensive team and refused to take the game lightly. With a tight, scrappy defense, Liberty took the Cobras out of their game-plan.

Everywhere a VI player turned, it seemed like LU hands and bodies were already there. The stiff Flames defense caused the Cobras to rush shots and miss dozens of routine layups. The visitors sunk only 27 percent of their shots in the game.

"We just really D'd up and took them out of everything they wanted," Reeves said.

Liberty's starters built up a 53-15 lead by halftime, and watched through most of the second half as Reeves sent the bench out to finish the job. And finish they did contributing 40 points and revealing the Flames' impressive depth.

"Virginia Intermont wanted to play us," LU Head Coach Rick Reeves said. "When they scheduled this game, they had a little girl from Timberlake Christian on the team, and since then, she transferred schools, so now I think they wish they hadn't called and set it up. But that's why we played them," Reeves explained.

Frosh Flame Irene Sloof led the

reserves on both ends of the court. She finished with 17 points and six rebounds. The Netherland native proved "perfectly" dangerous from behind the arc. She nailed four of four shots for 12 points.

"I got a little bit of confidence after I hit my first shot," she said.

Liberty's top-scorer Elena Kisseleva who averages 22.2 per game, muscled five boards and bucketed 20 points in just 19 minutes of play (only five minutes in the second half).

LU's Sarah Wilkerson tossed up fancy hook shots as she went five for six and netted 12 points in her 15 minutes of action. She also snagged four of Liberty's 15 steals from the Lady Cobras.

Sharon Wilkerson failed to sink a basket in six tries, but she grappled for rebounds pulling down seven to lead the team.

"To show you how much character our team has," Reeves said,

"Sharon Wilkerson averages 19 points, and she didn't even look to score tonight because she was trying to get better in some other areas of her game. She's not all caught up over how many points she scored ... Sharon Wilkerson will go out and score 20, 25 points when we really need it."

The Lady Flames racked up some impressive team numbers. They made 55 percent of their field goals, 43 percent from three-point-range, and the LU girls knocked down 75 percent of their shots from the charity stripe.

"We just had fun," Kisseleva said. Kirstyn Bliss added 13 points to Liberty's mass, and Flori Willie sunk all five of her shots plus one free throw for 11 on the night.

"I told our kids, 'Don't play the scoreboard. Let's play to get better,'" Reeves said, "and I thought we did a good job doing that."

The Flames face Cedarville in the Vines Center Dec. 13.



laureleimiller

If I doled out all the presents ...

If there really were a Santa, I think it'd be great fun to be him — especially when it came down to *what* I should give to *whom* for Christmas.

I know I won't ever be granted such an opportunity, but I'm practicing ... just in case. If I were buying all the presents in the world, here's what some people might get from me:

- Latrell Sprewell: a year's supply of crossword puzzles and a visit from Miss Manners herself. After trying to strangle his coach, the NBA gave him a lengthy vacation. So, he'll have plenty of time to learn a thing or two.

- Mike Tyson: lots of things to chew on. Gum, those juju fruits that get stuck in your teeth and one of those squeaky doggy toys ... I wonder if they come "ear-shaped?"

- Dennis Rodman: Makeup-remover, kool-aid flavors that match his hair and a ticket to the circus so he can see how closely he resembles a clown.

- Gus Frerotte: Brain surgery or a trip to the mental health clinic. For those of you who missed it, in the Redskins game vs. the Giants, after a touchdown run, Frerotte thought it might be fun to head-butt cement (slightly padded) ... so he did ... and exited the game with a jammed neck. One game later, he broke his hip, but kept playing because he didn't realize it until the next day. Hmmm, wonder why?

- Scotty Pippen: more money and the credit he deserves. Last year, he held the Bulls together and kept them winning when Michael Jordan was hurt. How come Jordan, who makes 10 times the salary and gets all the acclaim can't do the same without Pippen? Who's worth more?

- Mike Mussina: a competent pack of relief pitchers. He performed so well in the AL Championship Series, and watched his leads dwindle at the hands of other Oriole mound-warmers.

- Barry Sanders: a ride in my sleigh. After all that running, he deserves a chance to sit back and relax. That's all his linemen do!

- Venus Williams: the name and number of a good hair-dresser, or maybe a craft class so she can learn how to put all those beads to good use. She's an awesome tennis player, it's amazing to me that her trademark hair-do doesn't detract from her athletic efforts.

- Cal Ripken: a bottle of Grecian Formula. My hero the Iron Man should look as young as he plays. I'd give him a supply of vitamins to keep him going strong, but the ones he's already taking must be the best. Maybe I should ask him for some!

- Jerry Jones: a thank you note. I've never been a fan of the Dallas Cowboys, and he's single-handedly destroyed the entire organization.

V-ball tangles with the Fighting Irish in NCAAs

By **KERRY RODRIGUEZ**
Champion Reporter

The first round of the NCAA volleyball tournament pitted the champions of the Big East against the champions of the Big South at Fayetteville, Ark.

In their first appearance at the NCAAs on Friday, Dec. 5, the Lady Flames (26-9), were overpowered by the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame (24-8) in a three-game sweep 15-9, 15-3, 15-2.

In the first game of the match, Liberty hung with its fierce opponents. LU's Leana Miller and Anthonia Akpama teamed-up to keep Notre Dame's defense on its toes while Athena Sherwood and Kyrie Dorn covered the floor defensively. Liberty's efforts came up short, as the Irish put down 11 more kills to win the game 15-9.

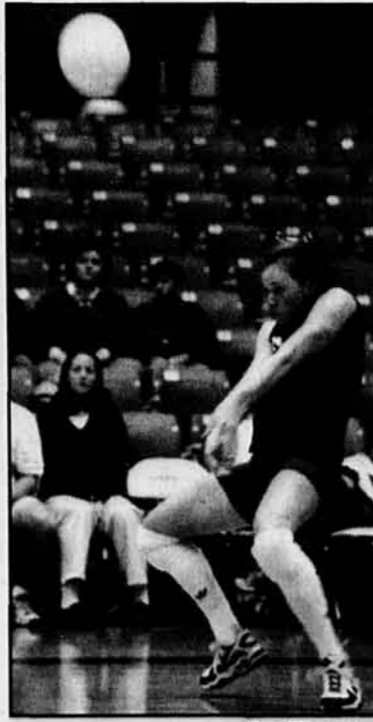
"The girls kinda psyched themselves out after the first game," Head Coach Chris Phillips said. "We played well in the first game but ... we didn't pass very well, and you can't win like that. We didn't do a good job adjusting to what they did."

The Lady Flames fought valiantly in game two, but points became harder to earn. Sherwood came up big on both the defensive and offensive end, but the Irish blew out the Flames 15-3.

In the decisive game, Akpama, Miller and Sherwood, topped the LU stats again while Notre Dame attacked with various players. Liberty was out-killed 20 to nine. For the match, Miller led Liberty's offense with nine kills. Akpama contributed eight and Sherwood slammed six. Defensively Sherwood led with 11 digs; Miller scooped six.

The road to the NCAAs was full of triumphs. This squad of girls became the winningest volleyball team in LU history. For the first time, Liberty went undefeated on home court and captured its first Big South title, and a berth to the NCAA Tournament.

As Phillips departs, she and her team can look back on a journey both profitable and rewarding.



TED WOOLFORD

BUMP — Christy Cherry handled the ball in the backcourt as Liberty fought Notre Dame in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

LU players named to All-Independent team

By **MARK HOGSED**
Champion Reporter

For Liberty's football team, 1997 marked a breakthrough season. After several average seasons, the Flames finished this year with a 9-2 record and a near trip to the Division I-AA playoffs.

LU's only losses came to Hampton University on Oct. 11 and Hofstra University on Nov. 15. Both of these schools finished in the top 15 I-AA national rankings and received a playoff berth.

Liberty relied heavily on tough defense and a balanced offensive

attack during this successful season. Several LU players were recognized as top performers among the Division I-AA Independents.

On the offensive end, the Flames had two first team All-Independent

LU All-Independent Selections

First team
WR - Courtney Freeman
LT - Trey Sartin
DE - Rodney Degrate
ILB - Jesse Riley

Second team
ILB - Jamie Christian
FS - Torrey Rush

selections: senior wide receiver Courtney Freeman and senior left tackle Trey Sartin.

Freeman finished the season with an impressive 31 receptions accumulating 912 yards for an average of nearly 83 yards per game. He also scored six touchdowns for the Flames.

Sartin is the biggest man on the LU squad standing 6-foot-8-inches, and weighing in at 301 lbs. His Goliath-like presence and blocking ability as an offensive lineman opened up holes for the backs and

— Please see **LU Players**, Page B5

10 CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR A SPORTS NUT

1. A collection of big, weird, tacky hats shaped like anything from hockey pucks to rubber ducks.
2. Scuba gear to retrieve golf balls that have drowned.
3. Long underwear for those frigid moments: downhill skiing (tumbling), Lambeau Field blizzards, or when crazy people think air conditioning means they should reproduce Alaska.
4. Lifetime subscription to "Marsh Illustrated."
5. Marshmallows to toss at opposing basketball players!
6. A remote control that senses when a spectacular play is about to occur ... and flips to that channel.
7. Ten gallons of salsa and a truckload of tortilla chips to munch in front of the TV.
8. Binoculars to catch a decent view from the cheap seats.
9. Seats on the 50-yard-line for the Humanitarian and Insight.com bowl games. (What in the world? Next they'll ar the "Toilet Bowl!")
10. The ultimate tailgating party cookbook.

National Football League

31 Baltimore Ravens(5-8-1)
24 Seattle Seahawks(6-8)

Jermaine Lewis returned two punts for scores in Sunday's game. Lewis returned punts of 89 and 66 yards for touchdowns, becoming only the tenth player to do so.

20 Chicago Bears(3-11)
3 Buffalo Bills(6-8)

After being booed for throwing two interceptions in the first half by the home crowd, Erik Kramer passed for two touchdowns. The Bears were helped on defense by the return of Alonzo Spellman, who was suspended for failing a steroid test.

26 New England Patriots(9-5)
20 Jacksonville Jaguars(9-5)

Drew Bledsoe was 26 for 35 for 234 yards in the victory over the Jags. He also threw two touchdown passes to keep the Pats' in first place of the AFC East.

30 Kansas City Chiefs(11-3)
0 Oakland Raiders(4-10)

The Chiefs' defense held the struggling Raiders to 93 total yards and five first downs. Kansas City can claim home field advantage throughout the playoffs by winning their final two games.

17 Green Bay Packers(11-3)
6 Tampa Bay Buccaneers(9-5)

The Packers clinched their third straight division title with the win over the Bucs. The win also gave Green Bay a first round bye in the NFC playoffs.

31 New York Giants(8-5-1)
21 Philadelphia Eagles(6-7-1)

Danny Kanell was 14 for 27 for 153 yards including three touchdown passes. The Giants can win the NFC East division with a victory Saturday at the Meadowlands against the Washington Redskins.

35 Pittsburgh Steelers(10-4)
24 Denver Broncos(11-3)

Kordell Stewart threw three first half touchdown passes to Yancey Thigpen. The game was highlighted by Stewart's 9-yard touchdown run with 1:57 remaining in the game.

28 San Francisco 49ers(12-2)
17 Minnesota Vikings(8-6)

Steve Young threw for two touchdowns and rushed for another as the 49ers handed the Vikings their fourth straight loss. Sunday's win was San Francisco's first victory against a team with a winning record.

38 Washington Redskins(7-6-1)
28 Arizona Cardinals(3-11)

Jeff Hostetler, in his first start of the season, was 18 for 34 for 347 yards and three touchdowns. Hostetler replaced Gus Frerotte who was out with an injured hip.

22 Indianapolis Colts(2-12)
14 New York Jets(8-6)

Colt's runningback Marshall Faulk ran for a season-high 123 yards and a touchdown on 23 carries. The win was the Colts eighth in its last nine games on the road against the Jets.

34 St. Louis Rams (4-10)
27 New Orleans Saints (5-9)

Isaac Bruce caught nine passes 144 yards and two touchdowns including the game winner. Bruce moved into third place on the Rams career list with his 16th game with 100 or more receiving yards.

14 Atlanta Falcons (6-8)
3 San Diego Chargers (4-10)

For the second week in a row, rookie runningback Byron Hanspard returned a kickoff for a score. Hanspard returned a 99-yard kickoff return for touchdown at the start of the second half.

— Brian Woolford



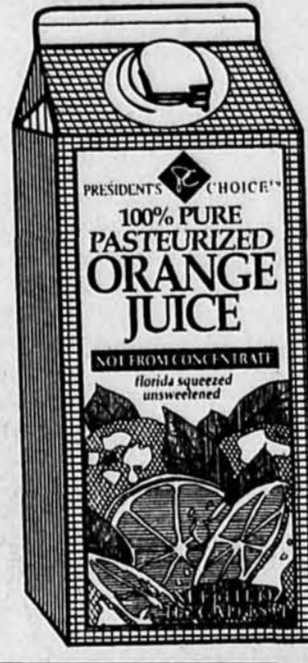
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SPORTS COMMENTARY

All I want for Christmas is a Cleveland win

By **MARK HOGSED**
Champion Editorialist

As I sit back and ponder the fast-approaching holiday season, the age-old question comes to mind: what do I really want for Christmas? Aside from the obvious — peace and good will for everyone, my two front teeth and a new truck — one thought remains solid in my mind.

All I want for Christmas is for a Cleveland professional sports team to win a championship.

As a native of Canton, Ohio — just an hour south of Cleveland — and an admitted sports junkie, I have spent 22 years as a die-hard fan of the Cleveland Browns (both former and future), Cavaliers and Indians.

I have suffered through more than my share of sub-par seasons and some very good seasons that ended in disappointment. The most popular phrase in reference to Cleveland sports is "wait 'til next year!"

This phrase has become so popular because Cleveland teams have come oh-so close in recent years to the prized championship trophy, yet could not vault over the proverbial wall. This wall has appeared in the form of the Denver Broncos, Michael Jordan (along with his sidekicks, the Chicago Bulls), the Atlanta Braves and the Florida Marlins.

Let's start with the Browns. In 1986, the Cleveland Browns finished the regular season atop the AFC Central Division, with a 12-4 record. They soared through the playoffs and met the Denver Broncos in the AFC Championship game.

The Browns played tough and owned a seven-point lead with less than two minutes

Dear Santa,
Don't worry about that stereo I wanted this year. Do you give trophies?
Cleveland kinda needs one ...



drunken, bare-chested fans in Cleveland Stadium's "Dawg Pound" cheered the Browns on, the Broncos started from their own two-yard-line facing what seemed to be an impossible journey. John Elway accomplished the impossible. He led Denver's offense on a 15-play, 98-yard series, known as "The Drive," which resulted in a touchdown. Denver won the game and a trip to the Super Bowl on a field goal in overtime. "Wait 'til next year!"

In 1989, the Cleveland Cavaliers met the Chicago Bulls in the first round of the NBA playoffs. Cleveland was picked to go the finals after winning a club record 57 regular season games.

Game five, the deciding game in the series, came down to mere seconds.

As expected, Michael Jordan caught the inbound pass with three seconds left, took two dribbles to the foul-line and released one of the prettiest shots in the history of basketball. "The Shot," as it is known in Cleveland, hit nothing but the bottom of the net.

"Wait 'til next year!" The Cleveland Indians, who have not won a World Series since 1948, are the most recent victims of the "Cleveland Curse."

In 1995, the Tribe won a Major League best 100 games in a strike-shortened season. This fairy tale season, however, ended in a second place finish to the Atlanta Braves in the World Series.

This past season, the Indians had another chance to reign as world champs, but were ousted by the five-year-old Florida Marlins, in a tough seven-game series.

These two near misses for the Tribe should be known as "The Shaft."

"The Drive," "The Shot" and "The Shaft": three different scenarios, three different sports, yet one common bond ... Cleveland, Ohio.

Through good seasons and bad, whether champions or not, I will remain faithful to my teams, but I look forward, with excited anticipation, to that glorious day when my 1997 Christmas wish eventually comes true and Cleveland fans everywhere can join together as one and drink from the sweet cup of victory.



Cards are for Christmas

By **DANIEL WHITE**
Champion Editorialist

As the Christmas holiday approaches, one must think about what he or she wants for Christmas. Several things are on my wish list like new clothes, and maybe a new tie to wear here at Liberty University. But one item on my list this Christmas, and on the list of collectors around the world, is sports cards.

I was young when I started collecting cards, and now I own over 8,000 of them. Some people own a lot more than that, but I don't collect cards because they're valuable, like one Grant Hill card valued at \$30 and rising. Money is not the reason. Collecting cards can be fun for the college student.

You may even see a Liberty face or two on imprinted on these cards. LU's two athletes who have made the most noise as pros are Eric Green and Sid Bream. I own 12 Green cards, a couple of Bream cards and yes, even a Julius Nwosu basketball card.

In my research, there are only three known cards of Nwosu, who averaged 14.3 points per game in his three years at Liberty.

Despite nailing 56 percent of his attempted field-goals in college, only two cards picture him in a pro uniform. Julius played for the San Antonio Spurs and this past August was cut in the pre-season by the Toronto Raptors.

Green, according to his rookie card, is a huge tight end with good quickness and sure hands. Leading Liberty with a career high of 62 catches for 905 yards and 10 touchdowns in his senior year at Liberty, Green was drafted in the first round by the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1990.

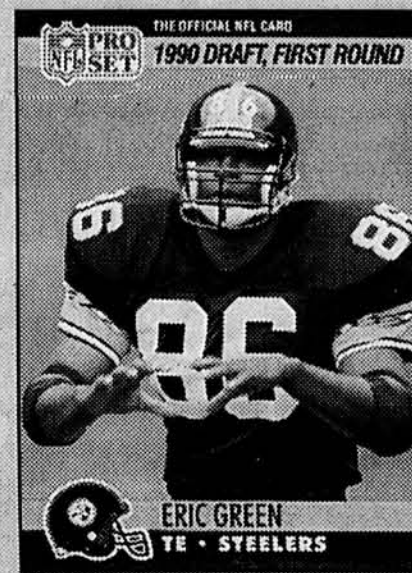
LU's former football star has played for the Pittsburgh Steelers, the Miami Dolphins and now he

plays for the Baltimore Ravens. So far this season, Green has made 54 catches for 474 yards. That's an average of 8.8 yards per catch, and he's currently fourth on the team with three touchdowns.

There are some other cards that I've been looking for. For example, Dwayne Carswell, a former Flame who plays for the Denver Broncos, has 10 receptions for 94 yards and one touchdown this season.

And James McKnight, who according to John Madden on a recent NFL televised game, "has great star potential for the Seattle Seahawks." Averaging nearly 20 yards per catch, this wide receiver has 26 receptions for 487 yards and four touchdowns on the season.

I'll also be searching for Peter Aluma and Rodney Degrate cards when they come out in the near future. If you find them, remember watching their performances at Liberty and hang on to them, for one day they could help pay for your child's college tuition.



Give them a chance

By **DERRICK BANDY**
Champion Editorialist

They are worthy. They are first in their division and 13th in the country. Who? you ask. They are the Flames hockey team ... or should I say, the Flames hockey club. The hockey club may just be the most strong-willed, competent group of athletes at Liberty who are not an NCAA team.

The word "club" is relevant to these hockey players because it means the players don't receive scholarships, and they have to sponsor themselves.

Now, there are numerous Christian athletes here at Liberty. However, there aren't many LU athletes who have to raise the funds necessary to purchase their own sporting equipment. I know there aren't many who have to travel from game to game by car.

An abundance of Liberty athletes on other sports teams receive scholarships, while there aren't any in the hockey club. Even the hockey

coach is a student, and he is not compensated for his services.

I'm not using the "temper tantrum technique." No one is whining. The hockey club only wants to plead its case.

Jim Black is a freshman who plays several positions on the hockey team, and he is optimistic about the Flames' NCAA prospects.

Jim hopes the Flames will soon obtain a playing facility, which is a major reason why the Flames are not an NCAA team.

"We base everything on a good testimony to Christ, and it is unfortunate that we are not receiving the benefits that are needed to prosper," Black said. "But we have faith and we are patient."

The club must travel to Roanoke — about an hour from Lynchburg to practice.

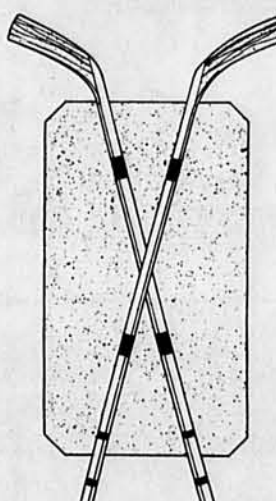
Black said, "I'm not expecting a facility to fall from the sky, but it

would be great to acquire a skating facility so we could practice ever day and not once a week. If we could practice day in and day out, with the young talent we have, this team would be awesome."

Black believes in having faith and patience, and he appreciates the sacrifice that some of his Canadian teammates make.

"I admire Jeff Lowes and some of my other teammates who could have taken a scholarship in Canada but chose to attend Liberty," Black commented. "That takes determination."

If some day the Flames do receive the necessary funding to build a playing facility, that would probably be enough to receive NCAA credentials. Until then, the Flames hockey club must be content with being the most strong-willed and competent group of athletes at Liberty.



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What's "aflame" on the Liberty sports scene

LU gridders Anderson, Clark join hoop team

Liberty's Interim men's basketball Head Coach Randy Dunton announced that former football players Ben Anderson and Brian Clark will join the team as invited walk-ons.

"Certainly with the lack of depth at the forward position, it's positive to have Ben and Brian come out and participate on the team," Dunton said. "They both will be important role players in the scheme of putting solid practices



Brian Clark

together. As far as actual game roles, that will be determined by the level of efficiency within our system." Both Anderson and Clark join the team with past playing experience in high school where they garnered All-Conference, All-District and All-Region honors at Chapin High School and Atlantic Shores High School respectively. Anderson also collected two-time All-State honors in South Carolina.

Primal Rage finishes in top 8 of IMS East

Liberty's Intramural Sports flag-football champions Primal Rage, participated in the Nike UNC Wilmington Flag Football Tournament.

This tournament is one of the largest on the East Coast with an automatic bid into the National Championships held in New Orleans, La.

Primal Rage faced returning nationally ranked teams including the defending East Region

Tournament Champions from North Carolina Central. Last year's National Champions from the University of North Florida were also in Primal Rage's bracket.

Of the 42 teams entering this year's East Region Tournament, Liberty's representatives made it to the quarterfinals, placing them in the top eight in the East. Liberty finally succumbed to 1996 National Runner-Up, Coastal Carolina University.

Surgery keeps Benjamin out for the season

Interim Head Coach Randy Dunton announced that Marvin Benjamin, a 6-foot-7-inch, freshman center, will not participate in the 1997-98 basketball season due to an extensive knee injury that will require surgery.

"We're going to go forward with surgical treatment to repair the ACL so that he may be 100 percent for next season," Liberty Certified Basketball Trainer Brian Sennett said. "When looking at what's in the

best interest of Marvin, we decided that this is the best possible solution at this time."

Benjamin was rated one of the nation's Top 50 prep players last year. He played at DeLaSalle High School in Minneapolis, Minn., as a junior where he was All-Metro and All-Conference. He transferred to Redemption Christian High School in Troy, NY, his senior season. There Benjamin averaged 15 points, seven rebounds and two assists.

Caldwell calls it quits for personal reasons

Gabriel Caldwell, a 6-foot-3-inch, 185-pound swing player from Austin, Texas, has decided to leave the LU men's basketball team for personal reasons.

"It's unfortunate that with as much adversity as the team has faced already, another hurdle has presented itself," Interim Head Coach Randy Dunton said.

"To the credit of the staff and players, it has strengthened our commitment to fight through the difficulties

with a stronger resolution to each other in representing Liberty University," he added.

Caldwell played in 28 games and started 12 last season. He averaged 3.9 points and 2.4 rebounds and was one of the top perimeter defenders on the squad.



Gabe Caldwell

Degrate, Everson earn post-season honors

The Eastern College Athletic Conference named Liberty University defensive lineman Rodney DeGrate to the 1997 ECAC Division I-AA All Stars Second Team. DeGrate is a senior from Waco, Texas, who muscled 73 tackles, (45 unassisted) and seven sacks for the Flames who finished the season 9-2.



Rodney DeGrate



Jarrod Everson

Fellow defensive lineman, Jarrod Everson, was named to the 1997 GTE University Division Academic All-District III football team.

Everson, a junior exercise science major, hails from Warner Robbins, Ga.

District III consists of all Division I and I-AA schools in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. To be eligible, a football player must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.2 in the classroom and be a starter or key reserve on the field.

The 23 players selected are now eligible for the National Academic All-America team.



Ted Woolford

CHEESE — The Lady Flames pose proudly with their trophy after annihilating University of Maryland Eastern Shore 72-36 in their first Lady Flames Classic title. Liberty appeared in the 7-year-old Classic's championship game just once before. LU's Elena Kisseleva was named tourney MVP. Sharon Wilkerson and Kirstyn Bliss also made the All-Tournament Team.

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Players receive post-season recognition

— Continued from Page B1

receivers to gain as many yards as possible. Defensively, Liberty's team earned two first team and two second team All-Independent selections. First team selection Rodney Degrate, senior defensive end, closed out the '97 season with 73 total tackles. Degrate did a solo job 45 of those times and seven sent the quarterback to the ground. The 305 lb. force drew double coverage in many games freeing up a teammate who could nab the tackle. Junior inside linebacker Jesse Riley, also a first team selection, made any offensive back

think twice about trying to gain extra yardage. He led LU's defense with 101 tackles, 66 of which were solo. Riley also compiled one sack and one interception this season. The second team All-Independents included sophomore inside linebacker Jamie Christian and sophomore free safety Torrey Rush. Christian finished the season with 89 tackles and a pair of sacks. Rush racked up 82 tackles and intercepted two passes for LU. He also broke up six plays. These six players added to Liberty's exciting year of football and, with the help of teammates and coaches, they produced an unforgettable LU season.



TED WOOLFORD
GENTLE GIANT — Trey Sartin greets a young fan.

Flames hockey blasts WM 13-0

By PAUL PIERSON
Champion Reporter

The LU Flames were undiplomatic toward the William and Mary Governors Friday, Dec. 5. Sticking to LU's phrase of being "politically incorrect," the hockey team outshot, outskated and outscored — not to mention outclassed — the Governors in a 13-0 landslide at the Roanoke Civic Center.

In denying WM the equal opportunity to pursue happiness, LU increased their conference record to 5-4, and improved to 7-10 overall. Flames goalie, Cory Walyuchow performed outstandingly in goal as he recorded the shutout with help from a tenacious Flames defense.

Shots of 10 Flames wizzed past WM's goalies. Hat-tricking his way onto the scoreboard, Captain Neil Nicholson led the scorers including Jeff Lowes, Bobby Zaal and Kirk Handy.

Less than a minute after the opening whistle, Lowes slapped his first goal of the night into the net. Just 30 seconds later, Zaal recorded the Flames second ringer of the night. Lowes added another goal as did Nicholson and Mike Spradlin to close out period one, 5-0.

Precise passing, great communication and a will to win helped Liberty pick up the much needed win. "We took a lot of shots and had good passes," Coach Corrado Puglisi said. "The confidence was there and we just went out and had some fun."

The second period witnessed a comeback by the Governors like the one by Ross Perot in the '92 elections ... there wasn't any. Standing in front of the blue line, Nicholson directed the puck past the offense and defense, not to mention the goalie to open the scoring feast of the second period.

After Handy handed in his first of two goals of the night, LU defenseman Christopher White

redirected a Nicholson shot into the goal for his only goal of the night. White later left the game due to an injury. He stated, "It's great to have the confidence to go out there and do your best and come away with a victory." Government major Zaal dictated the Flames last goal of the period past the "un-governing" WM bodies.

Handy and Nicholson scored on conservative shots while Liberty's Jim Black and Jon Schubert liberally closed out the game with consecutive goals less than five seconds apart. "The lines were clicking, our passes were connecting and our confidence was at it's best," Lowes said.

The Flames skaters will have to wait until '98, (January 23) @ the Roanoke Civic Center to continue defending their ACC Championship crown.



FILE PHOTO
LIBERTY ON ICE — Jeff Lowes finds a path through the mob.

Men's team loses close match with Norfolk State

— continued from Page B1

and flows and positives and negatives, and you've just got to do the things to win — and obviously I didn't allow that to happen for our players in the last 25 seconds," Dunton said.

Norfolk St. held the lead for all but 17 seconds of the first half. Poor shooting continued to plague the Flames who shot 28.6 percent from 3-point range for the game. "We still have to become more efficient as a basketball team in the areas of team defense and shooting," Dunton said. "Obviously, our shooting is not where it needs to be right now."

Besides being the Spartan's hero of the game, Perry had the highest scoring game of his career night against the Flames. Entering the game, Perry averaged just 3.5 ppg, but he wound up leading all scorers that night with 28 points. Perry's numbers were staggering as he hit 7 of 9 from the field, 3 of 4 from

3-point-land and 11 of 14 from the line.

"I think my slump was God's way of humbling me and bringing me back down to earth after riding so high in the pre-season," said Perry.

Perry's teammates Damian Woolfolk and Sean Blackwell added 22 and 10 points respectively for the Spartans.

Jackson continued his stellar senior season to lead the Flames offensive effort with 17 points, while Nic Wright, Jay Boykin and Jeremy Day also scored double digits.

Liberty out-rebounded the Spartans by a 38-24 margin before a sparse crowd of 2,069. One bright spot for LU was their accuracy from the charity stripe. The Flames nailed 18 of 22 from the line for an impressive 81.8 percentage.

"I don't know how a team can out-rebound someone by that margin, shoot that well from the line and lose the game," Dunton said.

The win for NSU should raise them

from their 305th Associated Press power ranking in a pack of just 307. Liberty held a 225th rank entering the game.

"This win was just tremendously important for us," NSU Head Coach Mike Bernard said. "This is our first year in Division I, and I think it's important to make a mark like this in the state of Virginia."

On Nov. 26, Liberty dropped a 98-70 decision to the Texas Longhorns. Jackson led the Flames with 22 points while Day added 17.

Monday, Dec. 1, the Virginia Tech Hokies downed the Flames 80-47. Jackson netted 17 points and Mark Reed chipped in 10.

"We're not that concerned with our record right now," Dunton said. "We're playing the toughest schedule in the history of Liberty basketball." He also said at a recent LUAA meeting, "The important issue is that ... we're still undefeated in the Big South."

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OPINION

The Liberty Champion

The Official Newspaper of Liberty University
Established 1983

"...Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty" (2 Corinthians 3:17)

Science Hall fire has been inconvenient, but ...

It has certainly been frustrating since the fire in Science Hall, trying to get homework done, finding professors to sign add/drop forms, and doing all the things we're used to doing freely.

The daily battle of learning where class is today, the struggle of trying to find temporary faculty offices, and the frustration of the faculty while working out of cardboard boxes have not made life any easier. The timing of this, as final projects are wrapping up, only adds to the irony of it all.

Yet in spite of the frustration, in spite of the frayed nerves, we're getting through it. The library has taken up much of the slack by staying open 24 hours a day. We have just over a week left before Christmas break. It looks as though we'll make it.

In the end, Science Hall will be the better for the reconstruction. It'll be freshened up and modernized for more convenience. It'll be practically a brand new building now.

Indeed, as Romans 8:28 says "all things work together for good, to those who are the called according to His purpose." Let's be thankful that the damage was no worse and that God can bring good out of the biggest frustrations in our lives.

How about a holiday from Thanksgiving on?

Here's a suggestion for the reader's consideration. The two week period between Thanksgiving break and the semester's end seems to us a bit counterproductive. No one really does their best work with a break just past and another two weeks away. Just about the time we get settled in and back to the grindstone, it's time for break again. How about a change in the holiday schedule? Here's one suggestion.

Why not have a break from just before Thanksgiving 'til just after New Year's, say January 3? This would avoid the costly travel expenses of going home twice in two weeks and allow us to enjoy the whole holiday season instead of half of it.

We could start the fall semester a week or two earlier in August, and come back a week or two earlier in January. After Christmas and New Year's, home is a bit anticlimactic anyway. Why not spend most of January at school, and get the whole holiday season at home? It would make both semesters a touch longer, true, but we can handle it.

It's just a thought.

Merry Christmas to all!

As we enter the final two weeks of the Christmas season, we're all distracted with the pressures of final exams and projects. Once that's over, we'll be swamped with preparations to go home for Christmas.

When we get home, the yearly rituals of gift buying, decorating and eating will take all of our attention. In the middle of the action let's take time this season to stop and reflect, to enjoy the simpler pleasures of the Christmas holiday.

Most importantly, we're thankful for the gift of God's Son and salvation through Him. But family, fun, memories, music and so much more all help to make Christmas what it is. Take time to enjoy them this year.

Merry Christmas, and we'll see you next semester!

Quotes of the week...

"Call unto Me and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

— Jeremiah 33:3

"Attempt great things for God; expect great things from God."

— William Carey



A different Christmas story this time: Lest we forget

We all know Christmas is the story of a baby who was God's gift to the earth. Let me tell you a different Christmas story. Chinese obstetrician Win Yong tells of her experience enforcing China's one-child-per-family policy. The story is adapted from Focus on the Family's September 1997 newsletter.

"It was Christmas Eve. Like millions of Chinese, my parents were Christian. I thought of the times we had celebrated this holy day together and hearing my father whisper the story of the Christ child, as I drifted off to sleep."

Yong awoke to a knock at the door, and was called in to the hospital delivery room to "take care of something."

"When I reached the delivery room, a bedraggled woman was struggling to sit up in bed. 'Don't! Don't,' she shouted."

(The woman had been eight months pregnant with her illegal second child. She'd been forced to the hospital and given an abortion. But something had gone wrong.)

"Cries were coming from an unheated bathroom across the hall. As the obstetrician in charge I had the duty of ensuring there were no abortion survivors. That meant an injection of 20 milliliters of iodine or alcohol into the soft spot of the infant's head. It brings death within minutes."

"The midwife held the syringe out to me. I froze. The child's mother looked at me with pleading eyes. She knew what the needle meant. All women knew. 'Have mercy,' she cried."

"I went across the hall to the bathroom. Next to a garbage pail with the words 'Dead Infants' scrawled on the side, was a perfect 4 1/2 pound baby boy. His lips were purple from lack of oxygen. Gently I cradled his head in one hand. The skin there felt wonderfully warm, and it pulsed each time he wailed. My heart leapt. *This is a life, a person, I thought. He will die on this cold floor.*"

"The midwife pressed the syringe into my hand. I argued with myself. *This is just a routine procedure. It isn't wrong. It's the law.*" Then Yong stopped. "This is Christmas Eve," I thought. *I can't believe I'm doing this on Christmas Eve!* I touched the baby's lips. He turned his head to suckle. 'Look, he's hungry,' I said. 'He wants to live.'"

(At this point Yong asked her supervisor for permission to treat the baby and was furiously rebuffed.) "Now filled with foreboding, I headed back toward the delivery room. A man grabbed my arm. 'Doctor,' he pleaded, 'this is the son we've always wanted. Please do not kill him.'"

"I gathered up the crying baby and laid him in an infant bed. Under an ultraviolet heat lamp, with the help of oxygen tubes, his hands and feet soon turned pink.

Carefully I wrapped him in a soft blanket.

"The midwife prepared another syringe. 'Don't do this,' the mother cried again. I hurried to her side. 'I don't want to harm your baby — I'm trying to help.' The woman began to cry. 'Dear lady,' she said softly, 'I will thank you for the rest of my life.'"

"I looked at the baby. His cherubic face was ringed by a halo of black hair. *This life is a gift from God,* I thought. *No one has the right to take it away.* The thought became so insistent that I had the impression it was being said by someone else. I wondered: *Is this how God talks to people?*"

"I went to see the supervisor again. 'I'm sorry, but I can't do this. I feel it's murder, and I don't want to be a murderer.' The supervisor's voice exploded. 'Take care of the problem at once. Don't bother me again!'"

"With my heart beating wildly, I returned to the delivery room. The baby was still asleep, but when I touched his mouth he wakened to suckle again. 'Still hungry, little one?' I whispered. My eyes filled with tears.

"Suddenly I felt terribly alone. I went to the phone and dialed. Both parents listened at one receiver as my words poured out. 'I keep hearing God's voice,' I told them. 'This is a life,' it says. 'You cannot be part of a murder.'"

(Both parents supported Yong, though they reminded her of the terrible price she might have to pay.)

"I hung up and hurried back. There, beside the baby's bed, my supervisor stood with a syringe. 'Don't give that injection,' I shouted as I seized the syringe."

Yong's supervisor finally called in a top Communist official. "He looked at me and said sharply, 'Do you realize it is illegal for this baby to live?' None of us has the right to decide that," I said.

"You admit then, that you are breaking the law? If so, I have the right to have you arrested right now!"

"Desperately I searched for an out. I had been on call more than 24 hours and couldn't think clearly. I felt queasy. 'I am off duty,' I said weakly. 'My shift is over.' 'Not true,' he said. 'You haven't finished your tasks.'"

"Please," I said. Then I began to cry. My legs buckled and I fell to the floor. The last thing I remember was a spreading blackness before my eyes.

"When I came to, it was almost noon. *The baby!* The tiny bed was empty. Despite all my efforts, the little boy had been killed."

When I heard this story it sickened me. Your tax dollars and mine, through Planned Parenthood, paid for that killing. Your gutless Congressman and mine voted to allow it to happen. Now you know. What are you going to do about it? Merry Christmas ...

Santa, or anyone who cares, here's my Christmas list

By nature, every year for Christmas kids ask for toy trucks, Barbie dolls and video games. In a nutshell, kids ask for only tangible items, things that can be picked up, pushed, kicked and braided.

I used to be the same way. Growing up, I recall asking for such items as Sega, footballs, basketballs, Legos and even a Davy Crockett coonskin cap.

So, did my list change as I grew up? Sort of. Sure, there are still things like clothes, a car, a Macintosh computer, compact discs and Sega games (some things you never out-grow).

Infiltrating their way into my Christmas list this year are some things that are, well ... abstract, intangible. But they all are worth their imaginable weight in um ... imaginable gold. So now, with no further ado ... my 1997 Christmas list:



MATT SWINEHART

1. First of all, I'd like for Ohio State — or any Ohio sports team for that matter — to finally win its respective championship.

Year in and year out, the Buckeyes football team has a plethora and a half of talent — more so than any other university. Yet, year in and year out, it winds up choking in the big game.

2. This one hits a little closer to life at LU. I'd like to see that blasted train track disappear. I know you can't see something disappear, but I think I might lose it if I come on the back side of campus one more time to be stopped by another train. Seriously, I've never had so much angst against a transportation vehicle before. I often find myself contemplating how to rid the world of these evil behemoths known as locomotives. Just look at the etymology of the word: "loco" + "motive" = crazy motive! (Not really, but they sure are annoying!!!!)

3. All the doors throughout campus would work properly. It's rather embarrassing and frustrating to try to open a door for a young lady or even yourself and have your arm jerked out of socket because the door is jammed. What's the deal? Aren't doors supposed to close and open?

4. This is a personal one. Champion editors would get at least equal treatment — in regard to homework due dates — as do athletes and those associated with athletic teams. We put in more work than they do and we're still expected to have our work in on time. Gulp!!!

Sorry profs, sometimes we just have to get lazy on you and sleep four hours a night. While most of you give us generous extensions, there are still those of you who just don't get it ... We're the hardest working group of students on campus.

5. This could help eliminate the need for wish number four. The Champion office needs more, faster computers. Yes indeed, it's no shock to computer users to know that our current system is slow, tedious, troublesome and outdated.

It's not that we're not thankful for these computers, printers and the like, but it's inevitable that somewhere around four to five hours a week are spent just fixing various problems with our Macs.

Well, that's my list. Greedy? Self-seeking? Impersonal? Yes, but it's all in good fun. Besides, you haven't read my final wish yet:

For all the boys and girls of the world to join hands around the world and lift their voices in harmony together. Sniff ... sniff. Tissue, please?



Rick Boyer

Speak UP "What do you want for Christmas this year?"



"I want a man for each of the 12 days of Christmas."

—Shannon Prior New York, N.Y.



"Tickets to a Pistons-Nets game."

—David Lawrence Detroit, Mich.



"I would like all my family to be together."

—Jenny Robinson Pittsburgh, Pa.



"Jill."

—Eric Barber Sebastian, Fla.



"A Kemper snowboard and a lift ticket to Colorado."

—Paul Pierson Toledo, Ohio

—Photos by Myles Lawhorn

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Please address letters to "Editor, Champion" and drop them off in DH 113 or mail to: Liberty Champion, Liberty University, 1971 University Blvd., Lynchburg, VA 24506.

COMMENTARY

Victims are not at fault in Ky. shooting

By SUZIE FULKS
Champion Editorialist

There is no excuse for what happened on Dec. 1 at Heath High School in Paducah, Ky. Three are dead, five are injured. How are we going to stop this from happening again? 14-year-old Michael Carneal said, "It was like I was in a dream, and I woke up."

No, Carneal knew exactly what he was doing. He remembered to bring his ear plugs as he shot his own classmates that fateful morning with a semi-automatic handgun.

He even brought extra firearms, including two shotguns and two rifles and hundreds of rounds of ammunition. Authorities still question whether others may have been involved.

The major news media outlets have been trying assiduously to make the case that Carneal was the butt of too many jokes. He was picked on too much.

Of course he had to strike back somehow, and he reacted violently. He cannot be held responsible for his actions.

Somehow they were beyond his control, just an equal and opposite reaction.

Sorry, this was not insanity; this was meticulously planned and there is no excuse for what happened. No one else is to blame for what Carneal did. Three girls lie dead and another paralyzed from the waist down because of his actions.

The students were just beginning their day, as the days before, conducting a prayer meeting. Carneal walked in and began shooting recklessly at anyone who was near him.

Why? We may never know the answer. But do we really think any answer he may give may cause justification? There isn't one.

According to Kentucky law, in order to receive the death penalty, a person must be at least 16 years old. McCracken County Commonwealth's Attorney Tim Kaltenbach is asking for the maximum the state will allow, life — without parole for 25 years.

Carneal has been charged as a juvenile with murder, attempted murder and bur-

glary. He allegedly stole the five firearms from a neighbor's home.

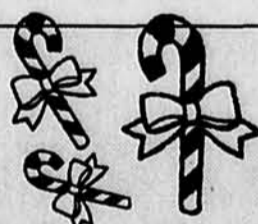
What is happening to this younger generation? Teenagers are becoming murderers and they are showing no remorse for their actions.

What can be done to stop this continuing problem? From 1990 to the present there have been at least 10 incidents nationwide in high schools of kids shooting classmates or teachers.

Not long ago, kids only had to worry about being caught hanging out in the halls or chewing gum in the classroom; now they have to worry about whether somebody in their school has an arsenal.

There needs to be accountability for such horrific actions. If a person is old enough to do the crime, then he is old enough to do the time. We cannot continue allowing such things to happen.

Carneal murdered three innocent people in cold blood, without remorse of any kind. There needs to be a message sent out that such actions will not be tolerated. And our judicial system needs to send it.



Candy Canes

or

Coal



- ✦ To the volleyball team for its efforts throughout the season and in the NCAA Tournament. Good run, girls!
- ✦ To the administration for applying the same Liberty Way to athletes as to the rest of us.
- ✦ To the library staff for sacrificially staying open 24 hours a day for homework purposes. Thanks!
- ✦ To the students who protested at E.C. Glass (at least the ones who weren't disruptive). Just get a permit next time!
- ✦ To the secretaries in the registrar's office for being so polite to students. Yes, we do appreciate it.

- ◆ Two lumps to the vandal(s) who painted graffiti on sidewalks from the hill dorms to the cafeteria.
- ◆ To the business office (you'll see why if you have to reschedule your classes in January for not paying now!)
- ◆ To the trains that block the back entrance ... or maybe we shouldn't give them any more. They run on the stuff!
- ◆ To students who know the Liberty Way and still ignore it. If we'd judge ourselves, we wouldn't be judged.
- ◆ To the weather in Lynchburg. Who's dreaming of a brown, 75-degree Christmas?

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On December 9, join Student Life and our *little helpers* for a Christmas Party that will ring 'til the new year!!

- Come to the dining hall during dinner for gifts (a.k.a. "Free Stuff"), games, giggles, and even a picture of you with the Big Guy himself! (Santa ... or Dr. Falwell? Stop by and find out!)



Dec. 9

Open Dorms

202

Decorate your hall, and **GUYS**, clean your dorm rooms 'cause you're having ...

COMPANY

Tuesday, December 9.

Men may visit ladies' dorms from 9 - 9:45 p.m.

Ladies may visit men's dorms from 10-10:45 p.m.

Coffee House

Clear your calendar for Friday night, Dec. 12, for all the creatures will be stirring ... A cup of coffee that is!



Christmas Coffee House will be held in the festive setting of Schilling Center #2. Join host Matt Gallagher, and some of the best holiday acts under the tree.

Tickets go on sale Wednesday, Dec. 10, in the Reber-Thomas Dining Hall.

Stop the LONINESS

Food Service will be hosting "Stop the LONINESS: A Study Break", Thursday, Dec. 11, in the Reber-Thomas Dining Hall. The study break will be held from 10 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. Come relax and convalesce while faculty and staff assist in the service!

Tentative Spring Events

Concerts: Caedmon's Call, Geoff Moore, Small Town Poets, Out of Eden, Audio Adrenaline, Bebo Norman, The Supertones,?!

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