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News

SSSCIENCE:
Dr. Reichenbach shakes up NASC 315, an environmental science class. Read how. See page 2.



Life!



I DO:
Find out how to announce your engagement in the Champion. See page 5.

Sports



SIGNED ON: Read all about the new stand-out baseball recruits. See page 7.

Weather

TUESDAY
Sunny.
High 56, Low 34.

WEDNESDAY
Scattered rain.
High 57, Low 43.

THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy.
High 54, Low 31.

FRIDAY
Partly Cloudy.
High 44, Low 34.

SATURDAY
Sunny.
High 52, Low 31.

SUNDAY
Mostly sunny.
High 54, Low 31.

The Liberty Champion

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY • LYNCHBURG, VA • VOL. 19 NO. 12

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2002

international update
Compiled from various news agencies

Two Marines killed in helicopter crash

A helicopter crash likely caused by mechanical problems left two U.S. Marines dead, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said. Five others were also wounded when the chopper crash-landed in a mountainous region of Afghanistan Sunday morning.

The CH-53E Super Stallion, accompanied by another chopper, was on a resupply mission. No evidence indicates that the accident occurred due to attacks by opposition forces.

The five survivors are in stable condition.

Bush's first year proved memorable

President Bush closed his first 365 days in office Sunday, Jan. 20. His most memorable achievement of the year was his ability to act decisively and unify the nation after the great tragedy of the Sept. 11 attacks. He emerged from a disputed election that he barely won, to receive one of highest approval ratings ever for a U.S. president.

In addition, Bush able to improve education for the country, lower taxes, reduce the marriage penalty, eliminate the death tax and enact environmental legislation to clean up abandoned areas in urban cities, according to White House spokesman Ari Fleischer.

WTC victim count less than half initial estimates

New York City officials are determining the final count of the people killed in the attacks on the World Trade Center. The count stands at 2,893, less than half of the 7,000 estimated dead immediately following the Sept. 11 attacks, police said.

Due to mistakes and duplicated missing-person reports, the death toll was over-estimated but they are very close to a final count.

The total includes 309 missing with no remains identified or death certificates issued. In another 1,958 cases, no remains were identified but death certificates have been issued.

500,000 return home after volcano erupts in Congo

After a volcanic eruption last week, half the city of Goma, Congo has been burnt or destroyed. Tens of thousands of Congolese shuffled their way across a field of still steaming lava to their homes Sunday, Jan. 20.

Despite warnings from the local military and U.N. not to return, many of the 500,000 displaced people returned home just three days after the Mount Nyiragongo volcano disaster. They refused to remain as refugees in Rwanda.

Fowler added as campus pastor

By Chrissy Hannabass, reporter

Liberty University students will have the opportunity to grow spiritually this semester, with the fresh perspective of a new campus pastor.

Professor of Bible in the School of Religion, Dr. Donald Fowler, has taken the position as campus pastor. Fowler will be leading the worship service for students every Sunday at 10 a.m. in the Schilling Center.

Fowler was introduced as a campus pastor by Carson on Jan. 13 during the Sunday night worship service.

Fowler has taught for 25 years and served as a pastor for eight years. He has taught in America, as well as overseas. In addition to his job as campus pastor, Fowler will continue to teach several courses this semester. He is teaching New Testament Life, Inductive Bible Study, Old Testament Backgrounds and Acts.

"He's extremely personable and willing to lend his time to get to know the students," junior Robin Snyder said.

der said.

Fowler recently served as a pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Altavista, where he resigned about a month ago.

"I think because Dr. Fowler has assumed a leadership role in a church previously, he would be the right man for the job," senior Erika Ehrich said. For several years, while at Calvary Baptist Church, around 150-180 students attended his services. Fowler began to visualize a more effective ministry, to minister to college students. He proposed an idea to Campus Pastor Dwayne Carson, and Fowler's proposal was accepted.

"I think I'm most effective in my ministry with college students," Fowler said. He began his ministry as campus pastor on Sunday, Jan. 20.

Fowler has several goals for the students this semester. His primary goal is building relationships. "I think all of us in full time ministry develop ministry views, mine in its most simple form is building relationships that change us and grow us," Fowler said.

According to Fowler, the benefit of campus church at LU is that the messages are completely focused on college students. "His teaching of the Word is very practical, challenging and motivating," Snyder said.

Another advantage to campus church is that it allows students without transportation an opportunity to attend a Sunday morning worship service.

"I think it's necessary (campus church) because a lot of students, especially freshmen, don't have a way of transportation and I think it is important for the campus to provide that for students," Ehrich said.

Sunday evenings services are led by Carson; Wednesday evenings, the services are led by Dr. Danny Lovett. One of Fowler's greatest concerns as campus pastor is the students that are not attending church. He believes the campus church would make it more convenient for students to attend.

"I think he's going to be an incredible asset to the campus pastor's office," Snyder said.

Frosty and friends



LET IT SNOW — Students found a friend in the Intramural field. Saturday, Jan. 19, saw a snowfall of two to three inches in Lynchburg.

Student center coming soon

By Mariel Williams, reporter

While Kodiak Constructors, Inc. puts the finishing touches on the new DeMoss Learning Center, administration prepares for yet another building project. Work on the new student center is expected to begin this spring.

The student center will serve a variety of purposes. It will hold an athletic center, food court, lounges, theater and many other facilities for student use. This new building project was made possible by a donation from Liberty supporters Tim and Beverly LaHaye last spring. Like the Arthur S. DeMoss Learning Center, it will be built by Kodiak Constructors, Inc.

The center will be two buildings, both located between the Vines Center and DeMoss. The rear building will be an athletic center. It will hold basketball courts, aerobics rooms, fitness equipment and a swimming pool. The other building contain a food court, lounges and other facilities.

An exact groundbreaking date for the new buildings has not yet been decided on. "We desire to start this semester," Student Life director Jeff Boyer said. Construction will begin as the design is complete and funding is in place.

Until now, Student Life and the Department of Field Operations have been involved in getting certain preliminary tasks out of the way.

"We've done the site engineering, and the architect has drawn some plans," Director of Field Operations J. O. Renalds said. Site engineering, he said, generally takes a couple of months.

The plans for the proposed center have been submitted to the Lynchburg municipal government for approval, and last fall the crew began studying the foundation conditions underneath the proposed site. City approval is also time-consuming, Renalds said.

Please see CENTER, page 2

Parking issues remain unchanged

By Julieanna Outten, asst. news editor

Countless improvements and additions are changing the face of Liberty University. Some sacrifices must be made along with the changes; most notably is the restructuring of the parking system.

Parking will change again, once ground is broken for the student center in 2002, but the exact changes and ground breaking time are not yet known, Vice President of Finance and Administration David Young said.

"We'll wait until they tell us what day ground breaking begins and then we'll

formulate what we have to do," LUPD Lt. Bobby Bray said.

Possible changes include closing P-2, the dining hall lot, to all students during regular class hours and requiring commuters to park in P-1, the upper religion hall lot, or P-16, the lot by David's Place, LUPD said.

"Parking at LU is adequate for students but may not be right outside their dorm or classrooms," Young said.

"Not that they're necessarily coming anytime soon, but parking decks have been discussed," SGA President Clark Jones said.

In addition to a parking deck, another

long-term plan is a lot across Rt. 460 with a transport system, Young said.

Students asked about paving the Pit by Dorm 33 at last semester's class convocations. Vice President of Students Affairs Mark Hine explained the great expense involved in paving the Pit and how that area is space to grow on in the future. However, administration is looking for ways to lessen the dust problem.

Young, along with Jones, noted that colleges such as UVA, Va.Tech and UNC-Greensboro require students to walk nearly a mile to get to class because parking lots are so far away.

Sloan added that at UVA and Va.Tech

illegally parked cars do not get a ticket; they get towed away. Such colleges often do not allow freshmen to have cars on campus.

In general, students agree that parking at Liberty is a big problem.

"I think comparing it to other schools is not fair or correct," Corey Wright, senior commuter student, said. "They [other colleges] were built hundreds of years ago when there were no cars but Liberty was built 30 years ago. They should have compensated for the fact that students would be driving cars."

The Price is Right



By Chris Price, columnist

Since I am just getting back from a break where I did absolutely no work for a month, my brain is a little frazzled. My Christmas vacation consisted of getting up at noon, going to lunch, shopping at the mall, meeting up with my buddies for dinner, finding something to do all night and going to bed at 4 a.m., only to wake up at noon and start the whole cycle all over again. This may sound great, but after week number two, you feel like you are the biggest loser on the planet. When you awaken to empty Mountain Dew cans at your feet and a half-eaten bag of Cheetos in your hand, you realize that you really are sad and pathetic.

I tell you all that so that you can understand that my brain is not functioning properly yet. That is why I am resorting to what those who write these kinds of columns often do when they are stuck—the random thoughts column. I know this is the easy way out, so I am just being up front about it. Give me a break, the hardest thing I had to do the last month was determine if I smelled bad enough to have to take a shower. So here we go with my random thoughts.

*Michael Jordan and Jerry Rice are in their late 30s and are still performing at a high level for professional athletes. Chris Price is in his early 20s and gets short of breath climbing stairs and walking to class. I hate my life.

*President Bush finally begins to overcome his skeptics by being such a commanding leader, then nearly chokes to death on a pretzel while watching football. That is the worst luck ever. I don't think I could think of a more embarrassing way to almost die if I could. If that happens to me, just let me die; it would be better than having to live with that.

*I went to the first day of class without one school supply. I took notes with a borrowed pencil, and wrote them down on the inside of a folder that I had from last semester. Why do I continue to live like this? I have the responsibility level of a third grader.

*Why do the people at haircutting places even ask what you want done to your hair? They never listen anyway. Never have I gotten my haircut the way that I have said. I would much rather them tell me that they are going to charge me the 20 bucks and do whatever they feel like anyway. At least that way I am not surprised when I look in the mirror when it is over. I may just be bitter because when I was at home over break a lady gave me a flattop. I didn't ask for it; she just did it. My big, messy, seldom-washed hair was lying on the floor looking at me with hurt in its eyes. It felt betrayed. I shed a tear as I walked away.

*There is not a more satisfying feeling in the world than being helped to your feet after you have eaten your weight in Buffalo wings, while Osama bin Laden is eating dirt and sticks while he is holed up in a cave. The man has millions of dollars, and I have about \$20. This just proves that money can't buy you happiness, or food when you are constantly peaking out from the pile of rocks that you are hiding in praying that someone doesn't spot your lanky self, because you went and messed with the wrong country!

When it comes to random thoughts columns the Price is Right.

Science class gives students new experiences

By Chris Sheppard, news editor

Spelunking. Capturing newts. Electro-shocking fish. Is this the description of some new TV reality show? No. This is Dr. Norman Reichenbach's Environmental Science class in action this semester at LU.

NASC 315 will be offered every Spring semester. The prerequisites for the class are Bio 101 or 110 and Math 110. The class is an integrative study.

"This subject (environmental science) is often times viewed as being sort of a subject that primarily attracts New Age individuals, people who are rabid environmentalists. Yet as Christians, I think we are stewards of God's creation and we need to take a real strong role in helping people understand what that means," Reichenbach said.

The class will take several field trips outside the LU campus. One of the trips will be to an abandoned mine to monitor the populations of two species of salamander: the cave salamander and the long-tail salamander. The populations of these salamanders have been decreasing due to the fact that the salamanders' babies hatch out in the one pool in the mine where crayfish have been eating all of them.

"We'll be catching some of their babies and seeing if we can raise them up back at LU. Then

we can release them back into the mine. Hopefully, this will help increase their numbers," Reichenbach said.

The class will also monitor the body temperature of bats that are hibernating in the cave. The class will use an infrared sensor that allows the students to check the bats' temperatures without touching or disturbing them in their hibernative state.

Another field trip will be to King Fisher pond to seine for newts in order to estimate their population size. Students will drag a net across the pond to collect the newts and then mark them using a dye that is injected into their legs. Students will then take the information and estimate the size of the newt population.

The class will also take multiple trips to Rutledge Creek near Amherst to study the effects that a sewage treatment facility has on the creek and its aquatic community.

The class will electro-shock the fish and dip-net for aquatic insects both upstream and downstream from the facility to see if there is a difference in the



REICHENBACH

communities.

To electro-shock the fish, students will use a generator that is worn like a big backpack. After everyone has chest waders, the person with the backpack electroshocker will place a probe into the water. This probe is a fiberglass pole with a switch and a metal ring at the bottom. When the switch is pressed the probe introduces electricity into the water. This stuns the fish while other students capture the fish by using a dip net with fiberglass handles that prevents the students from getting stunned.

"It is the technique the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and different state agencies use to assess fish populations," Reichenbach said.

In addition to the field trips, the class will conduct an aquaponic experiment where the waste of the fish feed the plants in the system. After the water flows through the plant system, essentially the water has been purified and returns to the fish tank nice and clean.

Senior Charity Laughlin is taking the class because she wants more experience in science. "I knew girls who took the class last year and they all raved about it," she said.

"I want them (students) to learn to think critically about our environment and how we can be wise stewards of God's creation," Reichenbach said.

Second floor of DeMoss now open

By Julieanna Outten, asst. news editor

Just one year after beginning construction on the Arthur S. DeMoss Learning Center, the building stands near completion. As of Tuesday, Jan. 15, the second floor was ready for classes and the new nursing facilities, the Career Center and College of General Studies opened Monday, Jan. 21.

According to J.O. Renalds, Director of Field Operations, seven classrooms on the second floor are in use this semester.

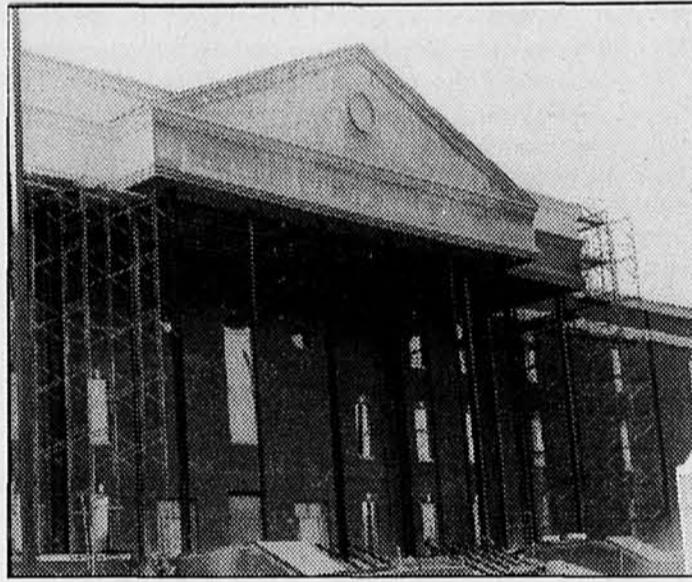
"The weather has cooperated and everything is coming together," Renalds said.

Friday afternoon nursing students and faculty moved everything in to the new location in time for classes on Monday. The Career Center and College of General Studies staff was also busy moving boxes to their new room in DH 2106.

Various touch-up jobs remain to be done on the second floor, but according to Renalds, it should be completely finished within a month or two. The Liberty University debate team will then move into its new facility and during the summer the Information Technology Resource Center (ITRC), the computer lab, will be moved above the library on the second floor. Many faculty offices will also be moved upstairs.

The elevator and the four staircases closest to the Vines Center are open for access to the second floor.

On the outside, the final roofing cap needs to be put on, the cement steps poured and the columns for the portico set. When these will be finished will depend on the weather. It must be more than 40 F for the columns to be



JENNY GIBSON

DEMOSSTANDS TALL AND PROUD- Construction continues on the DeMoss building. Class are now being held on the second floor.

set in place. They should be completed within the next few months, according to Renalds.

The top two floors will be finished at an unspecified later date.

For the departments moving to the second floor, the additional space is the greatest advantage.

"It's huge, and it has so much potential," Kathi Murphy, a senior nursing major, said of the nursing facility. They now have three labs instead of one. Each lab was designed for a specific purpose, that includes one for the critical care program just started this semester.

Murphy said the space was needed because the nursing program at Liberty continues to grow.

"Now we have a home. A place to relax and study together," Mary-Virginia Weissinger, a

senior nursing major, said. They now have a student lounge with furniture donated by Centra Health, a kitchen, a conference room, classrooms and offices for the nursing department.

"We certainly are blessed with the space, but we still have a big wish list," Caroline Porr, nursing professor, said. "There's a lot of equipment we just don't have."

Big plans are made for a merged library and computer lab facility to be on the second floor but will not be implemented until the summer.

"The library and ITRC are basically going to function together," Carl Merat, associate dean of the library, said.

The upstairs area will serve as the new location for the computer labs and other Information Services.

"We hope to make the new facility a focal point for people to think and act. We want it to be a dynamic area," Merat said.

According to Merat, the open computing lab is intended to be "a social learning facility" where students can study together and have quality discussions. Some things are still in the proposal stage, but they hope to have couches and light reading material in the area as well.

Offices for the Center for Computing and Information Technology faculty and the new administrative offices for Information Services will also be upstairs.

As the year goes on, improvements and changes will continue to be made as the final touches for the second floor are put into place.

Center: plans continue

Continued from page 1

According to Renalds, many changes will have to be made to the building site itself, before construction can get under way. There is more than just dirt and pavement occupying the foundation site: utilities under Eagle Run will have to be moved. Telephone lines, electric lines, as well as water and sewer pipes will have to be relocated before construction can begin.

"It's going to push some parking elsewhere," Renalds said.

The administration is considering several options for replacing the parking along Eagle Run, but has not yet made a final decision. The parking issue will probably be resolved over the summer. Eventually, most parking and roadways will encircle the campus.

The SGA has been involved in planning the center since Spring 2001. Student body President Clark Jones and his cabinet have met with the architects and administration several times in the last year to discuss student needs.

"We began this whole [decision making] process with a student

body wide survey last year," Jones said. "The students as a whole had a say."

The SGA representatives were able to make several changes to the building plans. They suggested changes in room sizes and office locations, as well as the restaurant chains that students would prefer to have in the center.

"I really feel that we have a good mix of administrators that are very wise in their decision making and of student input," Jones said. Jones was happy with the level of SGA involvement permitted by the administration. The student representatives were involved "pretty much from the ground up," he said.

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Book-buying service made available to students

By Laurie Williams, reporter

A new book-buying service was made available to LU students this semester. The service allowed students to pre-order and pre-pay for their books so that the books would be together and waiting for them at the beginning of the semester.

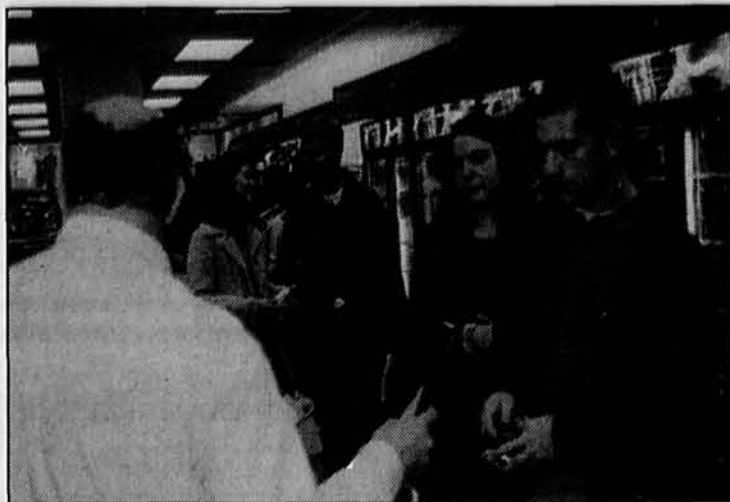
Sounds too good to be true? Not at all, junior Atmee Riley said.

"It really was easy. I just walked in and picked up my box of books," Riley said.

Although they were not able to advertise on the Splash page, the staff at the store put up posters and gave out fliers during book buy-back last semester. Students could pick up order forms from the bookstore, fill them out and either fax them or drop them back off at the store.

The forms asked for basic information about the students' classes and preferences such as: for which classes they wanted books, if they wanted new or used books and even options to purchase an LU T-shirt or pocket dictionary. Students also had to provide a method of advance payment.

"The staff was able to get everything together before the book rush and since it was already paid for, all the student had to do was come pick up his or her books,"



BUYING BOOKS — Lines in the bookstore await those students who did not take advantage of the pre-order and pre-pay book service now available.

MICHAEL TROXEL

assistant manager Adam Bonus said.

The advantage to this method of buying books is that the student is guaranteed first pick of all books at the lowest price with no chance of sell-outs. There is no extra charge for the service and so far, everyone involved has been pleased.

"It takes the lines away for the students who use the program," Bonus said.

Only about 20 people took advantage of the program this semester, but the staff is expecting a better turnout next semester as more students hear about the new plan.

"At Liberty, many new measures have been taken in the last year to shorten lines and lessen confusion. This is just one more step, with hopefully many more to follow," sophomore Jonathan Merritt said. He did not use the new system this year but plans on using it in the future.

"I would definitely use this service again," Riley said.

For next semester, the staff at the bookstore plans to advertise on the Splash page and make Web forms available for students to fill out online instead of dropping off at the bookstore.

Although there are not yet specific dates, students can expect the forms to become available around May and remain online throughout a majority of the summer break.

CSER began Jan. 20 with few new additions

By Kristy Mullendore, advertising manager

Are you planning to finish out the school year serving in the same Christian/Community Service as last fall? If so, you do not need to re-register but simply to pick-up a blue log and evaluation sheet from the CSER office in RH 126.

CSER officially started Sunday, Jan. 20. The registration deadline for this semester is Friday, March 1. After this date, there will be a late registration fee charged directly to students' accounts.

Students are automatically re-enrolled in the CSER they signed up for last semester. However, they are required to pick up a new log sheet so that the CSER office can confirm that students plan to complete the same CSER as last semester.

Some students find it inconvenient to have to stop by the CSER office to get a new log sheet. "It's annoying," sophomore Leah Collins said.

Students can change their CSER, but they must first have the permission of their current CSER supervisor and go to the CSER office to complete appropriate forms.

According to Lew Weider, director of Christian/Community Service, requiring students to come to the CSER office and pick up the log and evaluation sheet also serves "to remind students that the CSER they signed up for last semester is a year-long commitment."

Weider emphasized that students must come to the CSER office to change or drop their CSER for the semester. When the Add/Drop period began Jan. 16, students had the option in ASIST to drop their CSER. Weider learned of the problem when a student came into the CSER office and told them she had dropped her CSER online.

The problem was quickly corrected and students no longer see their CSER credit

in ASIST. However, Weider said he has no idea how many students may have dropped their CSER online.

He said students who did drop their CSER online should "let their supervisor know they dropped so they won't be expecting them" to stop by their office. He also cautioned that full-time students must register for another CSER, or plan to make up the CSER credit over the summer.

The option to complete a CSER credit over the summer is a new feature of the CSER program added last semester and has brought a good response from most students.

"[The summer option] doesn't put as much pressure on us to find a CSER during the semester when we're busy with schoolwork. We can put more time and effort into our Christian service [during the summer] because we don't have so many other obligations," senior Sammy

Mitchell said.

Students must still register for the CSER before actually performing the service. For more information on the new summer option, student can contact the CSER office.

The last day of CSER for the spring semester will be Sunday, April 1. Log and evaluation sheets must be completed by this date and turned in to the CSER office no later than Monday, April 29.

The CSER office offers a listing of service opportunities that can be accessed at the CSER Web site: www.liberty.edu/academics/religion/ccservice/index.html.

Weider said they are working on improving the Web site, making it easier for students to learn about CSER opportunities offered. Improvements include providing e-mail addresses of CSER supervisors and links to the Web site of participating organizations, if applicable.

Do
You
Know



Crystal Lopes

Age: 22

Home: Auburn, NH

Major: Psychology

If you could build your house anywhere, where would it be? Glorious Italy

What's your favorite article of clothing? That would have to be my pajamas.

What's the last CD you bought? You need money to do that!

What time do you wake up in the morning? I never really wake up.

What's your favorite TV show? Between "Simpsons" and "Friends."

What's your favorite kitchen appliance? The refrigerator because it holds the key to my heart.

Scariest moment of your life? I think right now is pretty scary.

What's the most exciting thing you have ever done? Spent a summer in Toronto, Canada being a youth leader.

Favorite children's book? "Mister Pine's Purple Horse."

If there was a movie made about you, who would play you? Wow, can anyone really duplicate me?!?! I'll go with Jessica Alba.

- Compiled by Chris Sheppard, news editor

BE AWARE OF CLOSINGS AND DELAYS IN THE WINTER MONTHS

The winter months can bring treacherous weather conditions, sometimes causing emergency closings of Liberty University.

In times of adverse weather, notifications of campus delays and closings will be made through the following means:

- Television stations - Channels 7, 10 & 13
- Radio stations - WRVL, WWMC-91, WVTF-89, Q99 and Spirit FM.

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Opinion

“ A gossip goes around spreading rumors, while a trustworthy man tries to quiet them. —Proverbs 11:13 ”

The Liberty Champion

Springing back into action

The dorm rooms are full, Marriott is in full swing and Lynchburg is back in business. Spring semester 2002 has begun. The first week of classes is out of the way, your day planner is already full of projects and papers and sleep deprivation has kicked into full drive. By the way, how are those New Year's resolutions holding up? Remember those promises you made while throwing back a glass of sparkling grape juice? With all of the fuss of a new semester starting up, most of us have probably forgotten the commitments we made on New Year's Eve or some other time over break.

Many have theories as to why New Year's resolutions always fail, hence they no longer make them, or excuses as to why Christians shouldn't participate in the tradition of resolution making. I have to agree with my hometown youth pastor who said that we should all take the opportunity to better ourselves, our walk with Christ and make commitments that will make us better Christians. We don't have to wait until New Year's Eve to finally commit to whatever God has laid on our hearts, but if there is one pagan tradition that Christians should encourage, making New Year's resolutions should be one of them. A fallen humanity striving to be better? In the words of Martha Stewart, "it's a good thing."

True, without Christ, being a good person can't get anyone anywhere on the eternal ladder, but becoming interested in how one can be a better person leads many to church and in search of the ultimate goodness—God.

Also, there are plenty of Web sites that e-mail its subscribers reminders of their New Year's resolutions and send them useful information and links to help them achieve their goals. What would happen if I registered with the resolution to be more Christ-like? Someone working for that Web site would have to do the research on what it means to be more Christ-like, how I can achieve this and then e-mail it to me.

It's a new semester, whether you are itching to be walking across the stage in May to begin a new life or are finally adjusting to the LU environment in which God has placed you. If you didn't make a resolution on New Year's Eve, make one now. God gives us a fresh start every morning.

Christian journalism— a necessary responsibility

I've known for as long as I can remember what I was going to major in once I got to college. Writing—it's always been what I've loved. And I couldn't imagine not doing something I love.

I ran across a quotation in a COMS Theory book once that describes my feelings about writing. It sums up why I love to write and want to do it for the rest of my life.

"Writing is thinking—the mysterious process of the brain, acting in conjunction with the heart and soul—whereby we form and reform our thoughts and try to communicate and make sense of the world."

I believe God placed that desire in my heart. I'm excited to see how He uses it for His glory. As much as I love writing and think that it's my gift, I've never taken it as seriously as I probably should.

Just recently, I've thought about what a powerful thing writing really is. I always knew it was a powerful way to express my feelings and emotions. I probably communicate best through writing.

I guess I never really realized how big a responsibility Christian journalists have. And how big a need there is for more of them.

I heard about a program called the World Journalism Institute and was just completely blown away by it. They train Christian journalists to fill the void in the secular media. It's the first program that I've ever heard of that is doing this. They take it so seriously. Journal-

ism is not just a fun little job where you interview famous people, get a big byline on the front page and perhaps get on TV like it is to some people. My eyes were really opened when I read part of its mission statement—the reasoning in doing this.

"A focused, rigorous and highly theological approach to Christian journalism is needed to train Christians journalists to 'stand in the gap' (Ezekiel 22:30) and be 'watchmen' for our society. God's fingerprints and footprints are on everything that exists." Christian journalists need to inform a lost public of that.

It goes on to say that, "The ultimate justification of an evangelical press is the illumination of God's Word and of its demands upon our generation."

The mission statement finished up with a story of how Dr. Henry asked the Evangelical Press Association in 1984, "Who trembles when God goes to press?" He answered his own question. "Nobody trembles."

An explanation is given on its Web site, www.wji.com. "Today, almost 20 years later, there is not only no trembling, there is no noticing when the Christian journalist goes to press. The World Journalism Institute, along with other quality journalism programs, can

challenge this cultural irrelevance."

It makes me proud to be called into this profession and excited to be a small part of this tremendous responsibility. I am so excited that I'm applying for the summer program. What better thing for me to do after I graduate than to go to this awesome program and get additional training?

While I have known since I was young that I wanted to be a writer and major in Communications with a concentration in Journalism, I didn't really have any idea what to choose as a minor. Nothing interested me as much as journalism. I felt lucky to know what I was

going to major in. A lot of my friends have gone from one major to another.

I had always wanted to take a youth class. I had just never had the room in my schedule to take one. I finally had room in my schedule to take Youth 201 last semester and am taking Youth 301 this semester. I absolutely loved these classes. I wish I had known earlier that I wanted to be a youth minor.

I'm wondering how God is going to put my two interests together. I would love to work in a ministry setting using my writing somehow. Maybe at Focus on the Family or a youth organization...I'm excited to see how God is going to use me and privileged that He uses ordinary people to do His work.



dianabell

A classic story of opposites attract

In the beginning Lucy and Ricky ruled the dominion of odd-couple dynamic duos. Then came Batman and Robin and soon followed Pinky and the Brain. This semester brings a horse of a different color.

Think fire meets ice, peanut butter meets pickle between two slices of bread and you've got the cutest version of Siskel and Ebert ever produced...Traci Lawson and Johanna Price.

Traci, the established editor of Opinion/Commentary section, claims the title of quiet intellectual, future Mrs. Jeremy Hitt (call her if you need a "Hitt man") and protector of the common good.

Sidekick novice Johanna takes charge of upkeep of the Batmobile while using every opportunity to persecute the assistant sports editor. A sharp tongue and quick wit are her weapons of choice.

With graduation looming in the near months, our two superheroes prepare to take on the "enemy" (aka—the real world). Traci stands strong while frantically searching for a job in feature-style or technical writing which will allow our fearless leader to walk the aisle of matrimony.

Johanna is storing up ammo for the media career that lies ahead while keeping a low-profile with one potential "partner replacement." In the meantime, she remains student by day, Wes-slayer by night.

Johanna: So Traci, how does it feel to be on the homestretch, preparing for the eternally-binding contract that joins you to another person, a man no less...eww. (Johanna notes the presence of Wes Rickards in the room).

Traci: After five years of dating, it's about time! Seriously, I can't think of anyone else I'd rather run this race with and I can't wait to get started. The real world is what I find scary.

Johanna: Touching, excuse me while I wipe a tear (sigh, gag).

Traci: How is your sanity holding up so far with a new editorship at the Champion, an internship at WSET and managing the Coms lab?

Johanna: Sanity? Was I ever acquainted with such an entity? Does the loaded water gun in my bookbag answer your question? But walking across the elevated cardboard "stage" in May will almost make all the stress worthwhile. What about you? You're the one picking out flowers and tasting wedding cakes and other disgusting things like that! I do think that lends a certain amount of mental instabil-

ity.

Traci: Huh? Were you talking to me?...oh yes, wedding planning (Traci reflects). I just want everything really short and simple. I just want to be married...among other things. Do you really think it's worth \$50 just to shake Dr. Falwell's hand? I think I have paid plenty to the man over three and a half years.

Johanna: Oh, the things I could say. I refrain. Dr. Falwell is worth \$50. I mean, think of all the hands Dr. Falwell has shaken over the years. Therefore, by shaking his hand, I have technically shaken the hand of Larry King, Larry Flynt, Larry the cucumber, pick a Larry, any Larry. But back to more relevant issues. Any words of warning for the new editor on the block, besides stay clear of all people named after ocean sealife?

Traci: Relax, go with the flow. You are a duck, young grasshopper. Let things roll off your back. Don't expect perfection (Johanna's nose crinkles), "the Champion" is a work in progress (thanks Com-S 234).

Johanna: I can be a duck...quack, quack, Aflack! But for now Traci, the world awaits, in need of our mastery, our skill, our irrepressible beauty (evil laugh).

In unison: Until next issue young Champions, good semester to all.

So, Johanna and Traci, although dissimilar, will mask up, ready to leap DeMoss in a single bound and rescue young freshmen from Marriott indigestion, all the while fending off young fans (no autographs, please).

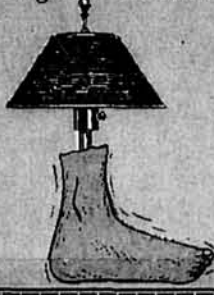
Stayed tuned each week to see what one of them has to say.



johannaprice, tracilawson

Thought of the week:

Lamps shaped like a human foot were exchanged by the ancient Romans as New Year's gifts, in the belief they could prevent missteps during the coming year (Ripley's Believe It or Not).



The Liberty Champion

Policies

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

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

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

Send letters to: Liberty Champion, Liberty University, Box 20000, Lynchburg, VA 24506 or drop off in DeMoss Hall 1035.

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

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SPEAKUP What was the most interesting gift you received for Christmas?



"A three-carat diamond ring from my boyfriend of two years...oh wait, that didn't happen."

—Crystal Carey, Jr. Sterling, Va.



"A 20-inch TV and a Nintendo 64. I now have something to do in Lynchburg."

—Adrian Giordano, Fr. Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.



"A 1996 Pontiac Sunfire."

—Brad Lohr, Fr. Madison, Va.



"A blow-up Troy Aikman doll."

—Josiah Chaves, Jr. Hardwick, Vt.



"A trip to Colorado because now I'm going to be moving there."

—Carrie Seaford, Fr. Lincolnton, N.C.



"A phone shaped alarm clock because I have a problem with getting up and my dad thought it would be good."

—Jesse Foutz, Fr. Goodview, Va.

photos by Mike Troxel

Life!

picks of the week

► **1/25 Gilbert and Sullivan Players' HMS Pinafore.**

An Academy of Music Preview of New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players' HMS Pinafore. At the E.C. Glass Auditorium. Call 846-8499 for more information.

► **1/29 Babcock Season.**

The Richmond Ballet presents the Babcock Season. It will be held at the Babcock Fine Arts Center at Sweet Briar College. 7:30 p.m. Call 381-6120 for information.

► **Beauty and the Beast.**

The animated Disney classic returns bigger than before. The remastered favorite can be seen at the Imax Dome & Planetarium in Richmond. Tickets are \$10. Call 800-659-1727.

► **1/25-26 Monster Truck Challenge and Thrill Show.**

The Salem Civic Center welcomes these monster trucks that are sure to thrill the young and old alike. Call 540-375-3004 for ticket information.

Find a gym that's right for you

By Lindsay Bryan, reporter

Getting in shape plagues the priority list of many students, particularly at the beginning of a new semester. People want to start the semester strong with daily devotions, actually reading assigned homework, eating healthy foods and developing a steady workout routine. The campus gym upgrades its facilities last year to accommodate the students' fitness fervor, but some individuals see working out as a time to temporarily break away from campus, homework or stress.

Lynchburg may not be "night-life" friendly, but it certainly offers a variety of options for serious gym-goers. "I am a member of Newfitness Gym for Women located at the Timberlake Plaza about 10 minutes from LU," junior LeeAnn Bisulca said. "They allowed me to transfer my \$250 a year membership to my hometown over Christmas break and the summer. I love the fact that I don't have to join a separate gym at home while my membership here goes to waste. They have lots of locations across the nation where students are able to transfer their memberships."

According to junior Carrie Pankake, Gold's Gym has large weight training and cardio areas, an aerobic room, childcare, saunas and tanning beds available to its members. The flat rate is \$36 a month, but they offer discounts under the student plan. When asked what makes Gold's Gym more appealing than other gyms, Pankake said, "The staff is really down to earth, and it's only about five minutes away from LU on 29 south."

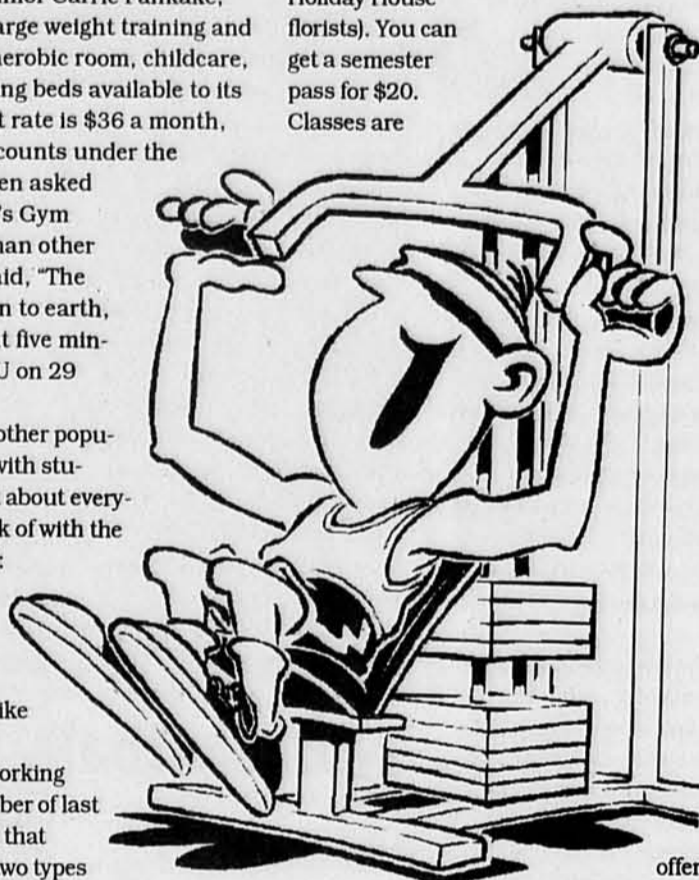
Courtside is another popular fitness facility with students. "It's got just about everything you can think of with the exception of a pool: tennis courts, racquetball courts, Nautilus equipment. You name it," senior Mike Garvin said.

Garvin began working there early in October of last year. He explained that Courtside offers two types of memberships. A gold membership costs \$52 a month and gives the member free reign of all the facilities. A silver membership is \$38 a month, but a silver member must obtain permission before using the tennis, racquetball or basketball courts. With their LU ID, students can purchase a silver membership for only \$30 a month.

The YMCA, TUF's and other gyms are also options, but Gold's Gym, Courtside and the Newfitness Gym for Women seem to be the most popular among LU students.

Another way to get in shape without joining a gym is kickboxing. Classes are offered in the wrestling room in Schilling (second floor above the

Holiday House florists). You can get a semester pass for \$20. Classes are



Looking for something to do this semester? Check out what Student Life has planned.

- Feb 3**—Super Bowl Party at David's Place, 6 p.m. Come watch the game (or just the commercials) with all of your closest friends in David's Place on a huge screen with some free snacks!
 - Feb 5, 12 & 26**—Trip to Wintergreen Ski Resort—leaving at 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$39 for the lift ticket and \$26 for rentals. A beginner lesson is included, which if you are like me, you'll need.
 - Feb 8**—Coffee House at 11:30 p.m. in the Schilling Center, tickets \$2.
 - Feb 16**—Winter Jam Concert (Newsboys and New Song) at 7 p.m.
 - Feb 22**—Band Night at David's Place at 7 p.m. Come hear your favorite Liberty band play in David's Place.
 - March 27**—Lincoln Brewster Praise and Worship Concert, 7:30 p.m.
 - April 6**—Cherry Blossom Festival DC Trip. Usually about \$5 to reserve your seat on the bus. You will get it back when you get to D.C. so you have money for lunch or snacks or whatever.
 - April 13**—Jars of Clay & Jennifer Knapp Concert.
- For more information call Student Life at ext. 2131 or check out their Web site at <http://www.liberty.edu/campus/studentlife/index.cfm>

Engaged? Want the world to know?

For just \$5, you can have your engagement announced in the Champion in our special Valentine's issue on Feb. 5. Pictures must be submitted to the Champion office (DH 1035) by Jan. 29. If you have an especially creative, interesting or funny engagement story, let us know! Pick up a form from one of the bulletin boards around campus.



Jay and Joe: lighting up the airwaves

By Lee Ann Livesay, Life! editor

Liberty has a new sound on Tuesday nights. From 11 p.m. until 1 a.m., "The 11th hour with Jay and Joe" airs on 90.9, The Light, educating Liberty students about different kinds of music that are "out there." The music featured on the show is "modern rock with a little hip-hop tossed in," Jay Sholes, one of the show's deejays said. They play music from bands like P.O.D., East West, Spoken, Justified and Lifehouse.

Joe Padron, the show's other deejay, was already doing a radio show for his COMS 399 practicum, and when the time slot following it opened up, Padron and Sholes decided to give it a try. Sholes had some past experience as a deejay, besides being very interested in both music and in radio, so Padron gave a CD to Jamie Hall, the station manager, who allowed Sholes to join Padron on air.

Both deejays are graduates of Liberty and are presently working on their MBA's. Sholes works as a graduation coordinator in the Registrar's Office of Liberty. Padron is a graduate assistant in the sports information office.

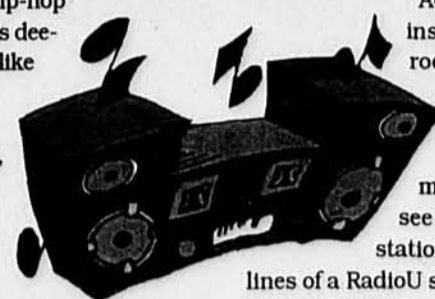
Featured on the show is the 11th Hour "Love Song,"

which is played every night around midnight. The song's title is "Do Your Feet Hurt" by MXPX. "It was initially dedicated to an unnamed individual and quickly became a favorite of not only Joe and I, but also the listeners," Sholes said. "And has become a tradition." Padron says the 11th Hour Love Song is something that he looks forward to in the show.

According to Padron, the show was inspired by his co-host Jay, who loves rock music and RadioU, an online Christian rock music site. Both Padron and Sholes desire for Christians to know about some of the "great Christian music out there," Padron said. "It doesn't see much air time on a regular Christian station. We try to format our show along the lines of a RadioU show. It's up-to-date music, with some old school too."

Radio and music is something that both of the hosts enjoy doing. "I started off doing radio because I needed it for a practicum, but now Jay and I do it for the love, well, maybe not for love, but for fun," Padron said.

Well, whether for love of music or just for the love of fun, the 11th Hour is definitely a hit with its listeners. "It's pretty enjoyable. I enjoy the music they play and the dialogue, the way they mix it up," junior Josh King said.



leeannlivesay

Is there life in Lynchburg??

I decided that after living in dorms for three years, in addition to this past summer where I lived in the dorms at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., that I was through with dorm life. Of course, the fact that this summer I lived on the fourth floor of a huge castle/dorm with no elevator and no air conditioning in a city that was built on top of a swamp where the average temperature during the summer is 100 degrees, didn't affect my decision at all.

So, I found a couple of Liberty girls who needed a third roommate and decided to move in. And, as Ed Gomes had so graciously given me permission the semester before to move off, I was set.

In order to sustain my freedom, I had to face a price. Ever heard, "there's no such thing as a free lunch?" Yeah, well, this definitely applied in my case. In order to live off campus, a definite positive for me, I had to deal with the negative, I had to get a different job. I had worked in the Registrar's Office as a work-study for several semesters, but I could not make enough to pay rent, utilities, cable, phone,

etc., so I had to get a different job. And I found one that's not so bad. I work at a hotel as a front desk clerk, which means I don't do a whole lot and get paid for it. The negative part of it is that I have to work third shift on weekends and I can't hang out with my friends when I have to be at work.

Now, I'm sure that at this point you are wondering what this has to do with the title. Well, I'll tell you.

Bills don't stop coming because it's Christmas. I still had to pay rent, utilities, phone, cable, etc., over the break. So, in order to pay for all of this, I came back to Lynchburg early. My parents very well may have given me money to cover it, but I thought that I'd be a big girl and do it myself. I arrived back in Lynchburg a couple of days after Christmas and went back to work.

For the first week or so, I was home by myself. My roommates had also gone home for Christmas and weren't back yet. So, for the first few days, between

working and church, I had nothing to do besides sitting at home not doing a whole lot. After last semester, that was great. I needed a few days to chill, but that's what I had done over the break as well. I needed something to do, so I worked on my resume, getting it ready to be sent to various places where I would like a job, but there just wasn't a whole lot else for me to do.

So, basically, the entire two weeks that I was in Lynchburg before school started were spent working, and I worked about 50 hours each of the two weeks, and generally wasted time. As my roommates and I have way too many movies at our house, I watched quite a few of those. I cleaned the house some.

But I didn't do anything much while I was back that required leaving the house.

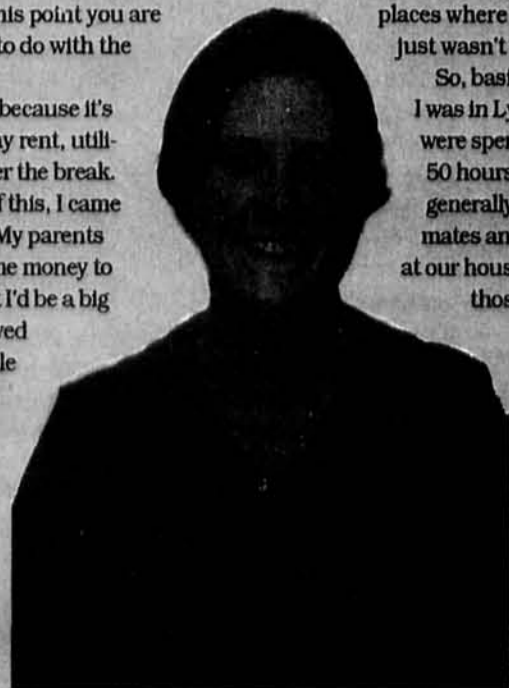
Now, part of this was because after coming home from work every day, I didn't feel like doing anything, but another part is because I only know a few people who live in Lynchburg, and unless it's just

hanging out with my friends, there's just not a whole lot to do around here.

Now, since school has started and all of my friends are back in Lynchburg, I've found lots more things to do. I went to Movies 10 three nights last week. I think the problem in Lynchburg may not be that there's nothing to do, but in that there was no one for me to do anything with. Which makes complete sense.

But why then is it that my friends and I always end up hanging out at my house or going to Movies 10 to watch whatever might be showing? Because, I guess, it's fun. I mean, Lynchburg isn't known for its night life, but my friends and I always end up having all kinds of fun no matter what we do.

So, I guess this means that whether or not you think there is something to do in Lynchburg is based on your perception of it. And how easily entertained you are. I am rather easily entertained and try to have fun no matter what I'm doing, so finding stuff to do in Lynchburg is not always that hard. I'm content chilling at my house with a bunch of my friends making dinner, watching movies and occasionally playing ball outside with some of the kids in my neighborhood. Lynchburg can be great fun, you just have to find the right people and be creative!



Rookies pacing Flames basketball

By Chris Humphreys, reporter

Liberty University basketball players have captured five of the last six Big South rookie of the week awards, a period that began Dec. 17 and ended with the most recent announcement that came on Jan. 14.

The men's team earned the honor twice and the women's team has earned the award each of the last three times it has been given by the Big South Conference.

Travis Eisentrout, a 6-foot, 185 pound freshman guard from Berlin, Pa., earned the honor twice during the stretch—Eisentrout received the award on consecutive weeks. The first came on Dec. 17 and the following came over

the break on Jan. 8. Eisentrout is the second leading scorer on the team with a 9.3 points per game average. Eisentrout also leads the Flames with 37 three-point field goals.

"He is just a great shooter. He is a team player and he knows his contribution to the team is shooting the ball," coach Mel Hankinson said of Eisentrout.

"As he learns the system he is only going to get better," Hankinson continued.

Three different Lady Flames won the three rookies of the week awards. On Dec. 17 Daina Stagaitiene, a 5-11 freshman guard from Alytus, Lithuania, won the award for her play against Hampton. In the Flames' only game of the

week, Stagaitiene scored 15 points all of which came on three-point field goals. Stagaitiene averages 5.1 points per game and is second on the team with 35 assists.

"She is an excellent free throw shooter and a three-point threat. She sees the floor so well and is a good passer. She really helps us at the point guard and two guard positions," coach Carey Green said.

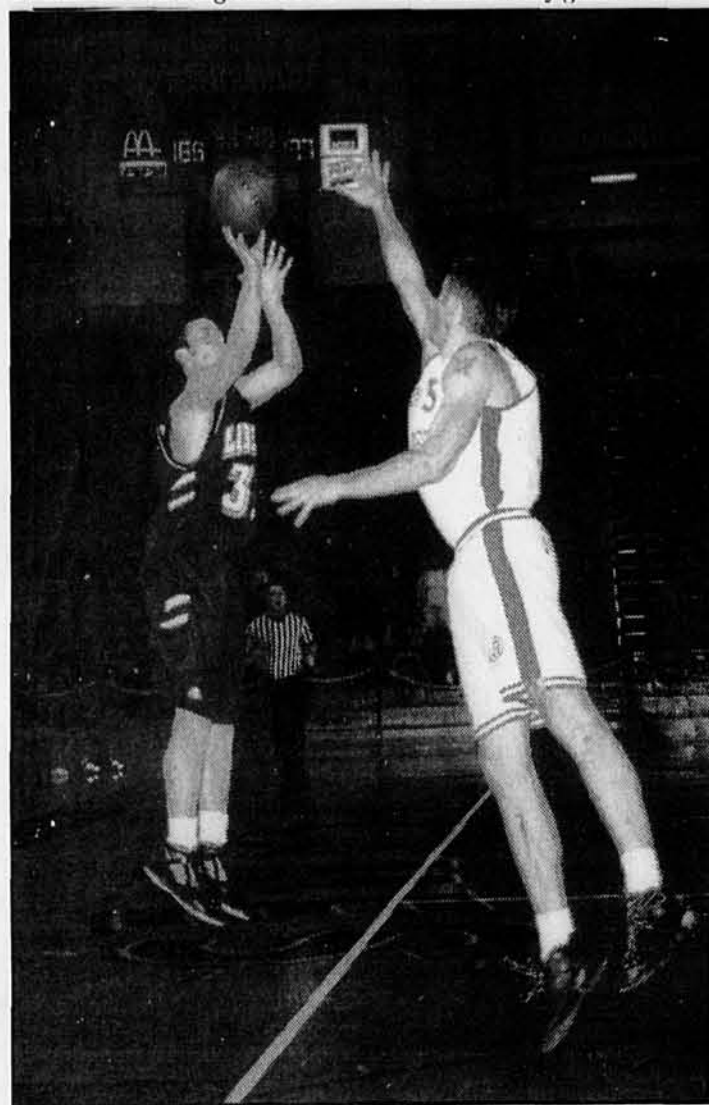
The following week, Jan. 7, Stephanie Walker, a 5-8 freshman guard from Richmond, Va., won the award. Walker leads the team in scoring at 9.8 points a game, and according to Green, is the quickest player on the team. Green described Walker as "explosive offensively" and said, "Walker is a very good athlete and a slasher to the basket. She is a great one-on-one player."

This past week, Jan. 14., Kristal Tharp, a 5-11 freshman forward from Chillicothe, Ohio, was named rookie of the week by the Big South. Tharp averaged 7.7 points and 4.0 rebounds in the three victories the Flames recorded the previous week. Tharp is averaging 7.1 points a game for the season.

"She is an extremely good outside shooter with tremendous range. She has a scorer's mentality and sometimes you really need someone who is willing to take shots," Green said of Tharp.

Green continued his praise of Tharp by saying, "If they are in a zone and she's in the game she is going to bust them wide open."

The future looks bright for these freshmen. Hankinson said of Eisentrout, "The most exciting thing about him is his best years are ahead of him." Green said of Stagaitiene, Walder and Tharp, "I'm thankful they all chose Liberty because those three can dominate."



JOHN FISHER

FROM WAY DOWNTOWN—Freshman Travis Eisentrout's ability to drain a three-pointer has earned him two Big South Rookie of the Week honors.

Flames struggle over break

By John Farel, sports editor

Although the conference season is just underway, the Liberty Flames men's basketball team has already eclipsed last season's total number of losses, and at 3-15 their conference schedule is just getting underway.

Going into Christmas break the team's record stood at 1-7, with its lone win coming against Division III opponent Shenandoah University. Since then it hasn't gotten much better. The Flames have gone 2-8 with wins over Big South foe, Coastal Carolina and Tusculum.

"It's bad enough for these kids going into the league having played the schedule they've played...now going into the league, they're not going to get a reprieve because the league is so experienced. Now the good thing about it is that they're youth and next year lots of folks lose a ton of people. They're going to look a whole lot better next year," Hankinson said.

Aside from the Flames three wins, many of the losses have looked the same for the Flames, as the deficits have been between 15-25 points. In four of the games over break the Flames have actually won either the first or the second half.

However, only against Air Force was the game close down the stretch, as the Flames trailed by three with just under seven minutes to go. In all the games the Flames have averaged around 21 turnovers, with no player—with the exception being Mats Persson who is averaging just seven minutes a game—having more assists than turnovers.

The Flames have also struggled from the field, with their top three scorers, Caldwell, Eisentrout, and Okotte, averaging 38-percent shooting. Tops in field goal percentage are Phillip Ward and David Watson who combine to shoot around 61-percent from the field. However, they've taken just 113 shots combined.

From three-point range the Flames have improved from last season, but their opponents still make nearly double the number per game and at a higher percentage, including four games in which opponents hit more than 10. At the free throw line the Flames are

also trailing their opponents shooting 62-percent compared with 72-percent by their opposition.

The slow start has also hurt the Flames in the rankings. Last season they finished 275 out of 325 teams. This season they are currently ranked 321 in the same poll. Winthrop and Radford are currently ranked highest among Big South teams at 243 and 229 respectively.



JOHN FISHER

GO TO THE HOOP—Vincent Okotte bests three Winthrop defenders en route to a layup.

W'Basketball: Sets back Winthrop, 74-64

Continued from page 8

Coming up big for the Lady Eagles in a losing effort were Kia Bell, who came off the bench to score 17 points and 10 assists and Janette Arrington, who added 14 points.

During the first half of the game, Winthrop bested Liberty with hot shooting—the Lady Eagles had a .480 shooting percentage heading into the

intermission—but could not carry the same touch into the final 20 minutes.

Winthrop went cold in the latter half of the game, shooting 11-of-37 (.297 percent), which failed to have an answer for Liberty's .625 shooting clip in the second half.

The victory gives the Lady Flames their sixth straight win and improves LU's record to 10-6, with a 4-0 mark in Big South Conference play.

Winthrop's defeat leaves

them without a win in conference play and sends its record back to 4-12.

The two teams will square off for a rematch on Feb. 7, this time in Lynchburg.

Liberty plays its next game against High Point on Thursday night, a game that will be held in the Vines Center at 6 p.m., an undercard contest that will come before each school's respective men's teams face off at 8:30.



JOHN FISHER

DEFENSE—Senior guard Laura Rollyson sizes up a Virginia Tech player during a game earlier this season.

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Track & Field team competes at LC

By Dominic Sasso, reporter

The indoor track and field team went to Lynchburg College to compete against athletes from North Carolina A&T, Norfolk State, and Virginia State last Friday.

Local colleges from North Carolina, and central Virginia competed at the event.

Liberty's men's track team swept the long jump event with Chad Wilson. He won the long jump with 24 feet 4 inches. Liberty did not stop with first place at all. Sam Brunt placed second, Nick Anderson was third, Kevin Octave fourth, and Lawrence Johnson placed a respectable eighth place in the long jump.

In the 55-meter sprints Sam Brunt made it to all the way to the finals in the 55-meters, but was unable to finish due to injury.

Gulfaly Christolin and Lawrence Johnson

“...We are looking forward to tearing up the track for this season.

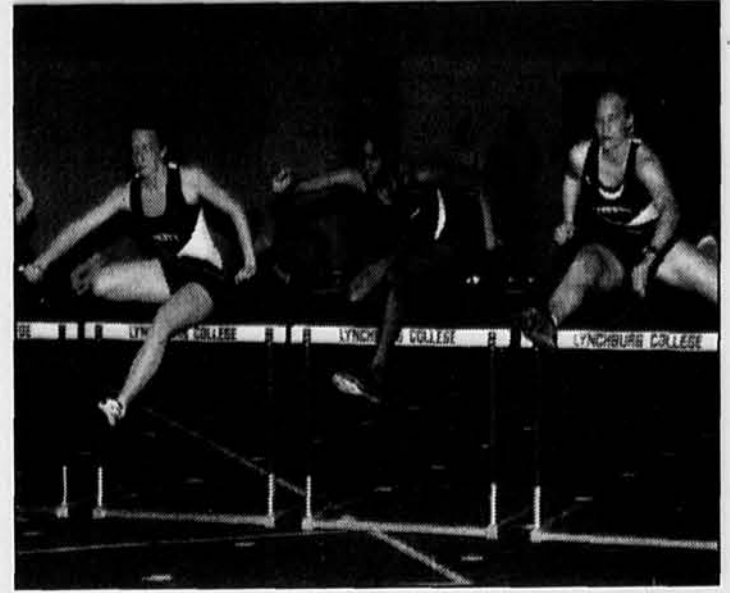
-Junior sprinter Lawrence Johnson

won their respective heat in the 55-meter. Tessa Sturgill placed second overall in the 55-meter hurdles. Freshman Ricardo John-

son won his heat in the 400-meter dash. Christina Henry took fourth over all in the 55-meters sprints.

“Although we did not have our best performances I feel it was a good start for the new year. Now I feel we have something to build on for the indoor season. I thank God that we don't have any major injuries, and we are looking forward to tearing up the track for this season,” Lawrence Johnson, a junior from Virginia Beach, Va., said.

” Next week the Liberty track team travels to UNC-Chapel Hill to compete against teams in the ACC.



JOHN FISHER

CLEAR IT — Three Liberty runners hurdle their way to the finish line.

Baseball announces 2003 recruiting class

By Kyle Adams, reporter

The Liberty baseball team hopes to build on their recent success with the signing of six new recruits for the 2003 season. The Flames have already signed three high school seniors along with three transfers out of junior college, and are interested in recruiting two or three more quality athletes

before summer.

Faced with the daunting possibility of having to replace as many as seven starters from a 2002 lineup dominated by upperclassmen, coach Dave Pastors stressed the Flames need to land some solid position players. The coaching staff feels that this upcoming class of recruits will provide everyday talent in the field to

complement the team's young pitching staff.

First baseman Josh Carter of Hagerstown, Md., will compete immediately for playing time. At 6-5 and 210 pounds, he already has the physical tools to contribute both offensively and defensively. After three years of high school baseball, Carter has blasted 17 home runs and has hit at an average of .513 for his career.

Phillip Laurent comes to Liberty from Springfield, Ill. He will be counted on to provide an explosive left-handed bat for the Flames after seeing action as a pitcher, first baseman and outfielder in high school. Laurent has posted an impressive .591 career batting average along with 31 home runs through his first three seasons at Calvary Academy. Laurent's high school coach is former Flame and White Sox infielder Doug Brady.

The lone pitcher in the group is Phillip Thompson of Ringgold, Va. A lean 6-5 righthander, Thompson joins the Flames after a standout career at Dan River High School. Thompson earned first All-Piedmont District honors after a junior season in which he compiled an 8-3 record. Thompson also struck out 51 batters in 68 innings of work

while posting an ERA of 1.05.

The Flames' coaching staff has high hopes for Thompson and expects him to adjust quickly to the college game.

Junior college transfers Jeremy Boles and J.T. Surles will add experience to the Flames outfield, and are expected to compete immediately for positions left vacant by seniors Marcus Maringola and Steve Baker. Boles transfers to Liberty after two years at Young Harris Junior College in Ga., where he hit .378, drove in 24 runs and led the conference with 37 stolen bases in his freshman season.

Surles comes to Liberty from Fort Walton Beach, Fla., after spending two productive years as a right fielder at Okaloosa-Walton Community College.

A third junior college transfer making his way to Liberty is infielder Ben Williams, also out of Young Harris Junior College.

As a high school senior, Williams was drafted by the Seattle Mariners, but instead opted for junior college where he was a Second Team All-Region selection. In his freshman season at Young Harris, Williams drove in 57 runs in 56 games while hitting .368 with eight home runs.



JOHN FISHER

CURVE— Sophomore pitcher Nat Osborne and the rest of the Liberty baseball team will be joined by standout recruits for the 2003 season.

sportsupdate

Compiled from various wire services

Parcells says 'not interested' to coaching offer

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers, fresh from firing head coach Tony Dungy, tried to make a deal with former Jets head coach Bill Parcells. For months the rumors have swirled that a deal was imminent for Parcells to take the Bucs to the next level. However to the surprise of everyone including the Bucs, Parcells has officially said, "No, thank you."

Some say it may be because of his family and others say he thinks he can get into the Hall of Fame and that accepting the job may hurt his chances.

Jordan makes return to Windy City

Michael Jordan made an emotional return home to Chicago last Saturday, but this time in Washington blue. Given a three minute ovation at the start of the game, Jordan was remembered by the fans for the six championships that he brought to the city and not the fact that he now plays for the Wizards.

Jordan and most current Bulls players are in agreement that he can take a game over at anytime. However, Bulls forward Ron Artest has made some negative comments about how he can shut down Jordan.

Jordan only scored 16 points and committed a career-high nine turnovers but the Wizards still won, 77-69; Artest scored 14. The Wizards' win was its 19th of the season, matching its total from last year.

"Rodman Jr." finds home

Leon Smith signed a 10-day contract with the slumping Atlanta Hawks this week. Smith was heralded to be the next Dennis Rodman after the Dallas Mavericks drafted him in the first round in 1999. Smith had some emotional problems after his girlfriend broke up with him. According to CNN.com, Smith was arrested on one occasion, passed out on the floor after attempting to commit suicide by taking more than 250 painkillers. At the time of his arrest, he was wearing green war paint on his face and told the officers that he was an "Indian and was fighting Columbus."

He was released by the Mavs soon after without playing in a game and has since gone through a long road back to the NBA. The 6-10 Smith played in the CBA where he averaged 18 points and 15.3 rebounds. The Atlanta Hawks are looking for some spark to rectify their dismal season and they hope Smith can fill that role.

Smith played nine minutes in his NBA debut last Thursday night, scoring two points and grabbing three rebounds during a 94-91 loss against the Chicago Bulls.

Cuban's restraint crisis

The NBA fined the Dallas Mavericks' owner Mark Cuban \$500,000 this past week. He received this fine when he stated that a particular referee "was not fit to run a Dairy Queen."

Cuban made these remarks in response to what he thought were some questionable calls late in a game. David Stern, the NBA commissioner, was not amused at these comments and quickly slapped Cuban with the largest fine to an individual in sports history.

Cuban, who is a 42-year-old billionaire, just shrugged the fine off in an ESPN interview and plans to continue supporting his team. Cuban later added, "The only way that I will think of changing would be if my comments hurt the team or my actions became bigger than the team."

Charlotte to lose buzz?

After a long search, the Charlotte Hornets seem to have struck a deal with the state of Louisiana to relocate its franchise to New Orleans, pending the approval of the NBA.

The Hornets have attempted to leave Charlotte because of dwindling attendance and revenue, and the city's refusal to provide for a new arena.

In New Orleans, a state-of-the-art arena can be made "NBA ready" soon. This also marks the third time since 1979—the year the Jazz left for Utah—that the city has tried to land an NBA franchise, as it has failed to get the Timberwolves in 1994 and the Grizzlies last year.

Fifteen of 29 NBA owners must agree to the move, and also must pass through the Louisiana state legislature. The League is hoping that a deal could be finalized by late April.

If everything is approved, the Hornets could begin play in New Orleans as early as October.

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Champion Sports

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TRACK & FIELD
 1/25-26 Blue Heaven T&F
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WOMEN'S B'BALL
 1/24 vs. High Point, 6:00
 p.m.
 1/26 at Radford, 7:00 p.m.

MEN'S B'BALL
 1/24 vs. High Point, 8:30
 p.m.
 1/26 at Radford, 4:00 p.m.



John Farel

NCAA RUMBLE

A lot has happened in sports since my last column over a month ago. In college football Miami won the National Championship over Nebraska in one of the most lopsided title games you'll ever see. Although no one should be surprised based on the BCS criteria for picking the title game.

There was no way Nebraska deserved to be playing, based simply on the fact that they were blown out by Colorado just a few weeks prior. Oregon, which put on a strong showing in its bowl game, a 38-16 thrashing of Colorado, would have been a much better contender. But, as we all know, the only real fair way of picking a national champion is a playoff format, which, may or may not, ever happen.

It would certainly be much more intriguing than the formula we have now. As it is, the teams just sit around for three or four weeks after their final game waiting to play in a bowl, so the playoff format probably wouldn't have to extend the season.

Also, an eight-team playoff eliminates problems like the ones this year with BYU, which was undefeated until late in the season and left out of the BSC because of its "cupcake" schedule.

Which brings me to my next point—Steve Spurrier and the Florida Gators. Spurrier takes a lot of flack for pounding small schools and for occasionally running up the score. But playing in the SEC he can afford a few of those games because that's by far the toughest conference in college football. Just look at what the Gators did to ACC champion Maryland, 56-23. Spurrier may be able to succeed at the college game, but how will he do now that he is the new coach of the Redskins?

Some say his wide-open brand of football is like the Bills run and shoot offense of the early and mid 90s that took them to four Super Bowls, but others say it will never work in today's game.

Back to Maryland, aside from the fact that they were blown out in the Orange Bowl it's been a great year in sports for the University—an Orange Bowl and Final 4 all within 12 months. Not to mention the fact that its basketball team will no doubt finish in at least the top 10 this season. They'll also be in the running for the ACC championship, even though they've had problems with Duke in recent history (blowing a 10-point lead with 1:30 during last season and a 22-point lead in the Final 4). In its most recent contest Duke won pretty convincingly after a close first half, which included an unbelievable 25 lead changes.

In addition to Maryland, I see four other ACC teams going to the Tournament this year: UVA, Duke, Wake and NC State. Yes, NC State, which hasn't seen an NCAA tournament since the days of Jim Valvano. The Pack is 4-2 and off to its best start in years. Notice, UNC is not included for obvious reasons. They have a slew of losses to inferior teams, and they were nearly beaten by Binghamton. Not only will they miss the NCAAs for the first time in over 20 years, but they will finish last in the ACC, behind Clemson, FSU and Georgia Tech.

Clemson or FSU are probably the best of the rest in the ACC, and I say that knowing that Clemson lost to Winthrop, which will probably win the Big South for the fourth straight season. Winthrop has started out slow, but they are beginning to peak. One surprise has been the 5-0 start of UNC-Asheville, which had just three wins entering conference play. However, I do expect it to be Radford and Winthrop once again battling it out come March.

Lady Flames down Winthrop

Liberty comes from behind to post its sixth straight victory

By Wes Rickards, asst. sports ed.

Following its come-from-behind victory against Winthrop last Saturday, the Lady Flames sent a message to the teams of the Big South.

Katie Feenstra's back.

Playing in only her second game of the season, Feenstra scored 18 points, including a crucial eight as the game was winding down.

Trailing by nine at the half and by as many as 12, Liberty clawed its way back into the game before ultimately posting a 74-64 win over its host, the Winthrop Lady Eagles.

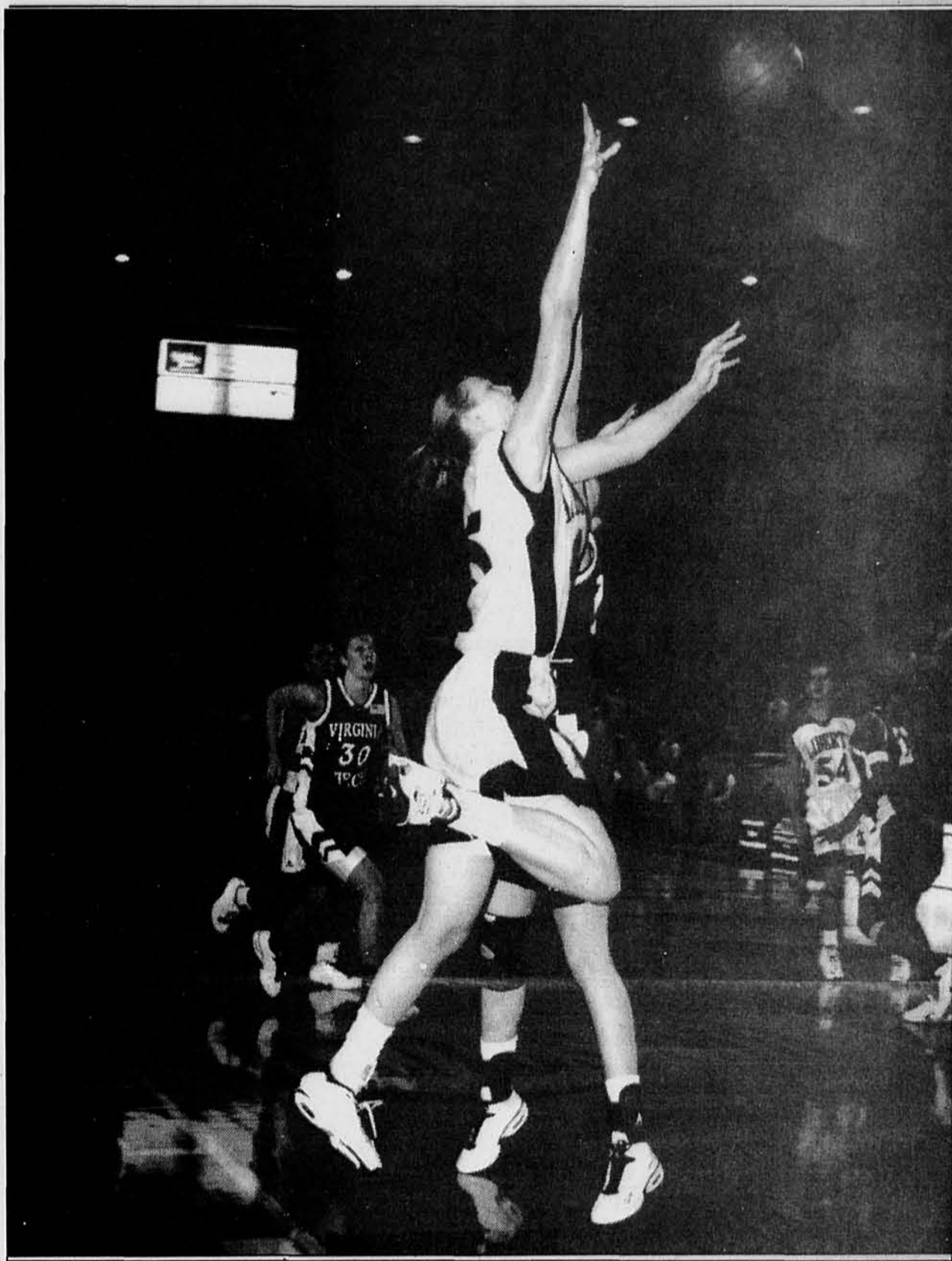
A 19-5 run capitalized by a three-pointer from Laura Rollyson put the Lady Flames back in the game in its waning minutes. The Lady Eagles later tied the game at 63 with 2:01 remaining by a dramatic three-pointer from Tawander Whittington.

Winthrop would only manage to score one more point for the remainder of the contest, which was dominated by the play of the 6-8 Feenstra.

Feenstra converted on four clutch free throws during the Lady Flames' next two possessions and put back a missed free throw to give Liberty a six-point lead with 52 seconds remaining.

Winthrop, who built its lead on the long-range shot (shooting 13-for-26 for the game, including a 7-for-12 clip in the first half), failed to net any in the final minute as the game drew to a close.

Feenstra's 18 points led all scorers; she also grabbed six rebounds, had two blocks and shot a perfect six-for-six clip from the free throw line. Crystal Peace contributed 16 points for the Lady Flames, and reigning rookie of the week, Kristal Sharp added 10.



JOHN FISHER

Please see W' BASKETBALL, page 6 THE AIR UP THERE—Junior Meribeth Feenstra engages in a dogfight for the basketball against Virginia Tech earlier this year.

"More experienced" Eagles rout Flames

By John Farel, sports editor

After picking up its first conference win at Coastal Carolina on Jan. 14, the Liberty Flames carried the momentum into Saturday night's home contest against the defending Big South Champion Winthrop Eagles.

Unfortunately for the Flames, they were unable to sustain the momentum for long. After taking an early lead, several Winthrop runs, keyed by a full-court press, left the Flames quickly in the dust. Winthrop had an eight point lead at the half, but the second half was a different story as the Eagles built a 20 and eventually 30-point lead on its way to an 81-48 victory.

Flames Coach Mel Hankinson described the game as a matchup of "youth versus experience."

"Experience, just physically wore down youth," Hankinson said.

Winthrop's roster consists of three All-Conference players, plus last season's Rookie of the Year. "I think they have at least nine returners, we have nine new players," Hankinson said.

Despite the decided experience edge for Winthrop, back-to-back blocks by Phillip Ward and a three-pointer by Chris Caldwell the Flames had the crowd roaring and a 12-7 lead five minutes into the game. However, Winthrop responded with an 11-2 run to take an 18-14 lead, which they would not relinquish. With five minutes to go in the half the Flames cut the lead to two, at 24-22, but they would get no closer. Winthrop scored 10 of the final 14 to take an eight-point lead into the half.

"I thought our guys fought really hard in the first half. You could feel the intensity of their (Winthrop) experi-

ence and their overall athleticism and toughness takeover the game," Hankinson said.

The Flames shot just 29 percent from the field in the first half, but kept the game close thanks to 11 points from Caldwell and seven from Vincent Okotie.

Though leading by eight, Winthrop played poorly in the first half, shooting just 36 percent and 2-12 from three-point range.

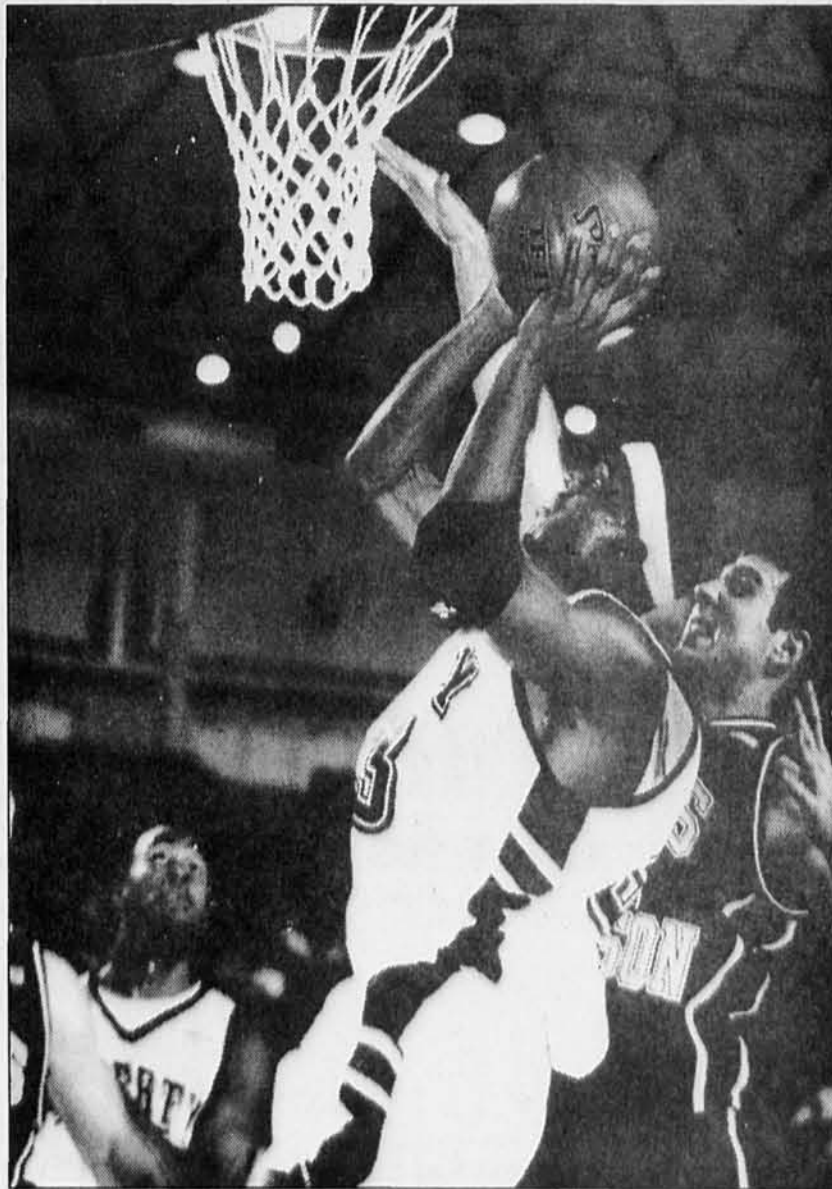
Winthrop's second half onslaught was largely due to its defense, which held Caldwell scoreless and Okotie to just two second half points. "They keyed on Chris, you could see that during the game...that means either Rob or Torin have to pick up that slack and that really has not been their role," Hankinson said.

In addition, the Winthrop pressure forced 25 Flames' turnovers including a combined 11 by point-guards J.R. Nicholas and Caldwell. "Your two point guards have 11 turnovers; that's a sure formula for failure," Hankinson said. "They made up their mind to press us the whole game and wear those guys down. Plus, they're very quick."

However, it was more than just defense, the Eagles finally began connecting on their three-point shots, knocking down eight in the second half. Winthrop's three-point barrage was well-balanced as four players finished with two treys.

"When they played Radford...they were missing shots. Tonight they were making those shots," Hankinson said.

The loss dropped the Flames to 1-3 in the Big South and 3-15 overall. Winthrop improved to 2-1 in the conference and 7-8 overall.



JOHN FISHER

STRONG LIKE A BULL—Senior David Watson powers his way to the hoop against JMU.