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# THE LIBERTY CHAMPION

SERVING LIBERTY UNIVERSITY FOR 24 YEARS

FEBRUARY 6, 2007 VOL. 24, NO. 13

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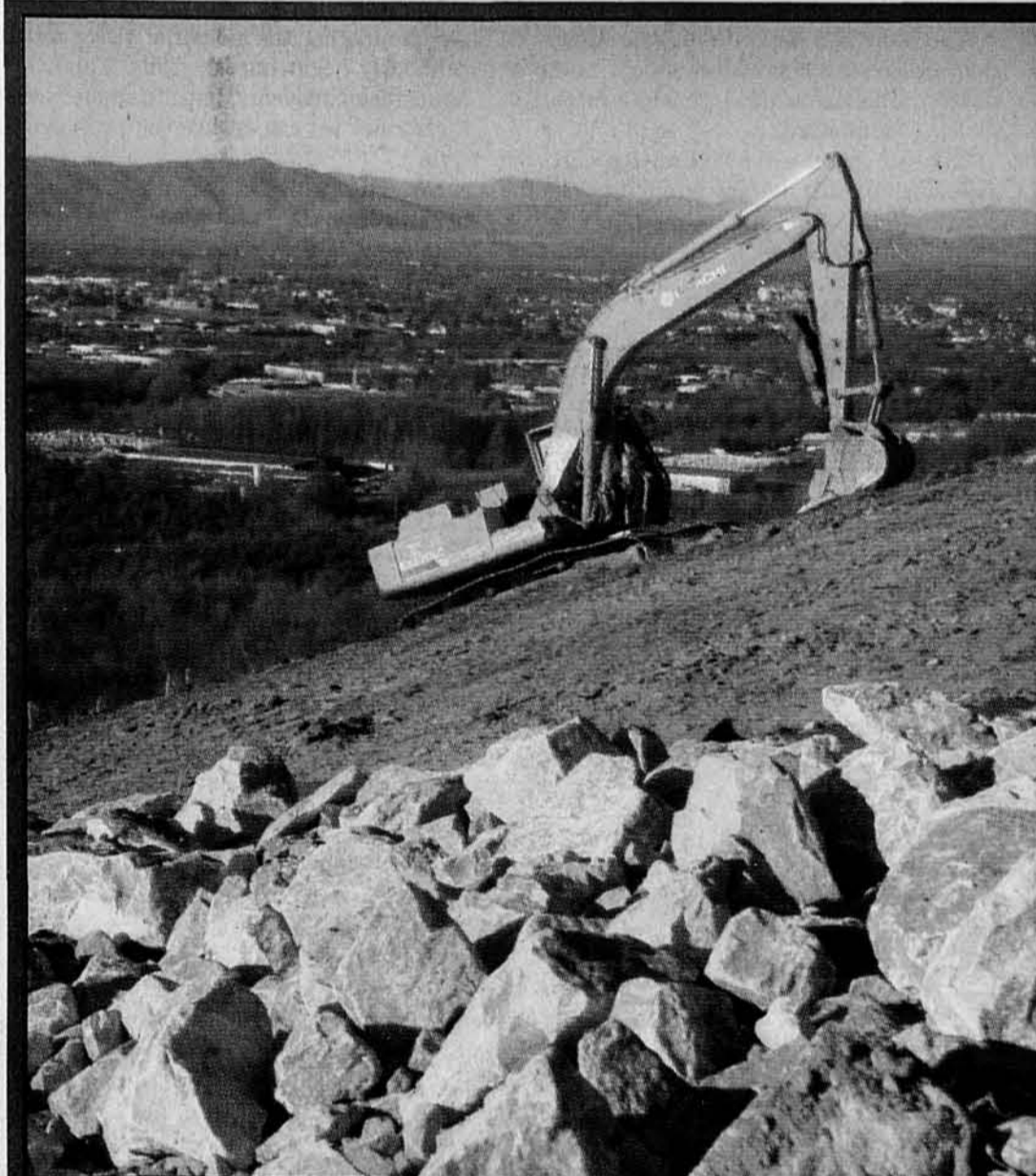


## Spiritual weather

Opinion discusses revival and being constantly in season. **A4**

## Chucky B comes back

Billingsley returns to Liberty for more music. **B5**



## Mountain monogram on schedule

By Amy Field  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Over the past few months, Liberty students have watched LU's monogram, piece by piece, appear on a nearby mountain. As a round, thickly forested area was cleared out and has now evolved to an L and a U design, among the most frequently asked questions is, "What in the world is going on up there?"

When workers cleared the area for the monogram, they cut all the trees by hand because of the extreme slope of the land making it too hard for cutting machinery to do the work. Then, landscaping fabric was laid down in advance of the rock and plants. The initials of the university will be created with red brick chips on a contrasting background of white gabion stone.

"What we're going to do is fill in the L and the U with the brick so they'll stay red all year round," said Lee Beaumont, Director of Auxiliary Services. Japanese Barberry and other flowering plants will outline the lettering. The process making the initial design of the monogram into a reality may be one of the most challenging projects Liberty has embarked upon recently.

Please see MONOGRAM, page A6

## GLTC and LU go off campus

By Erin Fitch  
NEWS REPORTER

From now on, Liberty students can leave their cars and walking shoes at home for some off-campus trips. The buses that have been circling campus are now servicing Wards Road shopping hot spots such as Wal-Mart, Kohl's, Subway, Target and Best Buy.

Thanks to LU Transit Services, all-too familiar dilemmas such as these can finally be resolved -- without having fuzzy teeth.

Students can use the new Wards Road line from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. on Saturday. Sunday will operate on an abbreviated schedule, with services starting just before noon and ending around 9:30 p.m.

Please see TRANSIT, page A3

MAKING A MARK — Earthmoving equipment works at the monogram site on Candler's Mountain. ALEX TOWERS

## James MacDonald sends convicting message to students at SEW

By David Thompson  
NEWS REPORTER

The musicians played softly in the background. The students stood for the closing of the service as James MacDonald climbed the steps to the platform.

The subdued strains created a sweet atmosphere of worship as he offered his final words.

"By God's grace, I've kept my promise -- I've not wasted your time," he said, recalling the pledge he made to students during Monday's convocation.

"You do the things that we've talked about this week, you can make a large, large difference in your relationship with Jesus Christ," he said, adding that "that's what Spiritual Emphasis Week is all about."

MacDonald's messages found a welcome home in the hearts of many of the students in attendance. Sophomore Ashley Gillman talked about the impact that the week had on her.

"James MacDonald really impressed me in

the first (convocation), where he said, 'I don't care if you guys remember who I am, this message is from God,'" she said.

MacDonald's message of personal revival centered around Hosea 6:1-3, in which the prophet exhorts believers to come back to God. In part, it says, "Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn us, that he may heal us....(His) going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth" (ESV).

In his opening message, MacDonald laid out a blueprint of what his messages and the entire tone of Spiritual Emphasis Week would be.

Monday night's message, entitled "God on the Throne: A Picture of Power," saw MacDonald speaking on the holiness and the set-apart nature of God.

That night held special significance for some of the Liberty community, as alumna Meredith Andrews, who led worship during her time at Liberty and now sings for MacDonald's church, announced on Wednesday night that her brother came to

know the Lord following Monday night's service.

Tuesday's message was a combination of two sermons on sin and repentance.

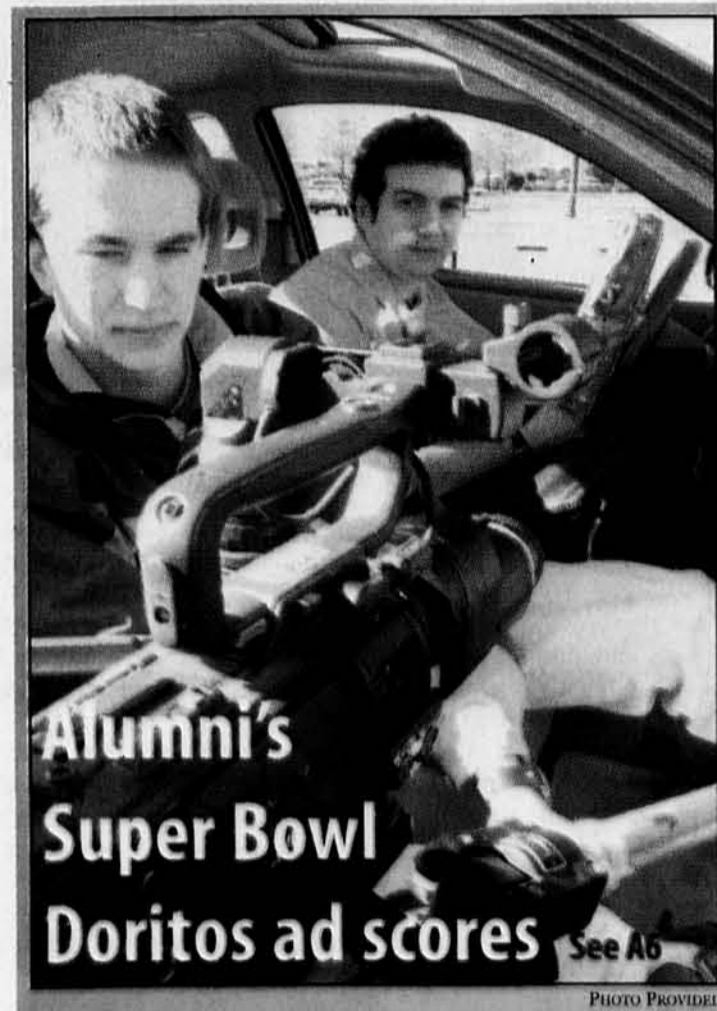
"You can't handle it," he said. "You say, I don't want to go in the dirt -- well, we've got to go lower, or we're not going to go higher."

At Wednesday's convocation, what would normally have been his message on Christ's atonement and gift of grace was set aside for another sober, convicting message.

Please see SEW, page A3



RAIN DOWN — Dr. James MacDonald spoke to an audience of all ages at Thomas Road Baptist Church during Spiritual Emphasis Week. His theme was personal revival. ALLYN LITTLE



Alumni's Super Bowl Doritos ad scores See A6

PHOTO PROVIDED

## Civic Center proposed

By Dave Allison  
NEWS REPORTER

Recently, there has been a lot of buzz about the possibility of Lynchburg getting a civic center that would be jointly operated by Liberty University and the city of Lynchburg.

Local talks of a Lynchburg Civic Center were sparked again when the Lynchburg News & Advance ran a story about Liberty's willingness to donate land and become the primary tenant of such a facility, if it were to be built by Lynchburg or Campbell County.

According to the article, the facility could be built close to one of the two proposed tunnels behind the Liberty baseball field or near the intersection of 460 and 29 south.

In an interview with the

News & Advance, Jerry Falwell, Jr. said that if the city does not build a civic center, Liberty may look into building its own because "a town this size needs a civic center."

There are many steps ahead of Liberty if a civic center is proposed. Lynchburg City Manager Kimball Payne said, "A civic center would have to be multifunctional, because they can vary. Most are entertainment venues for concerts, sporting events, circuses, mud truck races and rodeos."

"Liberty's stance on the sale of alcohol and its refusal to allow secular bands to play on campus would not be an issue if Liberty had no ownership of the facility," said Falwell, Jr.

Please see CIVIC, page A2



By Joanne Tang  
NEWS EDITOR

Though the political climate was temperate last week, Mother Nature was not, as a series of tornados destroyed homes in central Florida and flooding in Indonesia left hundreds of thousands homeless.

Last week seemed to be eclectic, with a video of a screaming bride traveling around the Internet and Punxsutawney Phil making his annual, albeit shadow-less, appearance.

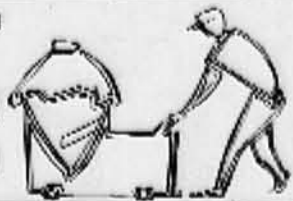
Here is a round-up of last week's news.

**Jan. 28, 2007** — Anti-war protesters seeking to have their say in Washington, D.C. make their way to the Capitol Hill building and are allowed to spray paint on a portion of the steps.

Police assembled to bar them from getting close to the steps but were commanded to let them through.

Please see POLITICS, page A3

# BEST SERVED COLD ...OR NOT AT ALL



★★★★★★★★★ Dave Thompson ★★★★★★★★★★

Do any of us actually believe that if a black cat crosses our path, we'll be cursed with bad luck? Do we believe that if we break a mirror, we'll get it for seven years? Here's one -- do any of us sports fans really believe that if, in the fifth inning, we mention that a pitcher has a perfect game going, we'll jinx it? Well, okay, some of us may be guilty on that one.

So, if those superstitions are just laugh-offs, what's the big deal with Punxsutawney Phil? We've made up a whole day to a groundhog superstition. I don't think I need to go any further than the college student's best friend, Wikipedia, to state my case.

*In fact, it seems the only time we don't criticize the weathermen is when they predict a "wintry mix," and school is delayed because of it.*

First things first, that rhyme scheme would give our English department apoplectic fits, though perhaps that can be blamed on the rough translation from "Groundhogese."

Now I know why free verse is so popular.

Here's my next question. Why do we trust a groundhog more than we trust our own weathermen? Seriously. We laugh it up when they predict rain and it doesn't, unless of course we planned on the beach that day, in which case things get nasty. We're put out when "mostly sunny" is predicted, and it pours. In fact, it seems the only time we don't criticize the weathermen is when they predict a "wintry mix," and school is delayed because of it.

But how many times is Phil actually right? Do we even have a rough estimate of his accuracy? No. Why not? Because we don't care. He's Punxsutawney Phil! Of course he's right.

The dude's a groundhog, for crying out loud! But he has an "inner circle," a movie named after him, and he has a whole day dedicated to him, leaving him to bask in the glow of real fame. Aren't days supposed to be dedicated to dead humanitarians, and abstract philosophical or religious concepts? Punxsutawney Phil has attained a cult status that most human beings outside of the antichrist will never attain.

So, my question is, why do we put so much stock in this superstition? Why not just believe that if you don't cover your bald head it will start raining? Or let's just go back to believing that if a cat washes itself on your doorstep, the clergy will visit.

Contact Dave Thompson at [dbthompson@liberty.edu](mailto:dbthompson@liberty.edu).

In the entry on Mr. Phil, the author states, "Punxsutawney Phil fans say that there is only one Phil (all the other groundhog weathermen are impostors), and that he has made weather prognostications for 121 years as of 2007. They say that every summer, Phil is fed a sip of the mysterious Groundhog Punch, which magically lengthens his life for seven years. This is done by Inner Circle members. According to the Groundhog Club, after making the prediction, Phil speaks to the Club President in 'Groundhogese,' which only the Inner Circle appear to understand, and then his prediction is translated for the entire world."

Here was Phil's forecast for this year: "El Nino has caused high winds, heavy snow, ice and freezing temperatures in the West. Here in the East with much mild winter weather we have been blessed. Global warming has caused a great debate. This mild winter makes it seem just great. On this Groundhog Day we think of one thing. Will we have winter or will we have spring? On Gobbler's Knob I see no shadow today. I predict that early spring is on the way."

## CIVIC: LU may build center

Continued from page 1

Payne went on to say, "Of course, you'd have to look at support staff as well, kitchens for concessions, etcetera." According to Payne, "Such a facility would run 50 to 70 million dollars."

"I'd be glad to look at building one, but how are we going to pay for it?"

Payne described the math that needs to be considered. "The city would have to borrow the 70 million, or so, to build it then need to service the debt and maintain the facility, already you're looking at 8 to 9 million per year that needs to be generated to keep the facility open," he said.

Payne said that he would like to see how cities like Roanoke, Salem and Charlottesville manage their civic centers and use those as comparable models for any center proposed in Lynchburg.

"But until then, the city (of Lynchburg) would have to tell me to look into this," he said. As of yet, the Lynchburg City Council has not considered the building of a civic center.

"The city of Lynchburg has polled citi-

zens of the area in the past and the vast majority has always identified a civic center as the one thing Lynchburg needs most," said Falwell Jr.

"However, city government has always chosen to use its discretionary funds to subsidize downtown revitalization projects instead."

Payne said that if everything goes smoothly between Liberty and Lynchburg, the city could expect a civic center in five years. However, he added that he did not think such a project would "happen that quickly."

Freshman and Lynchburg resident Kavin Kramer said that a civic center would benefit the Lynchburg community.

"We wouldn't have to drive an hour to see major productions or concerts and the like," he said.

"Lynchburg is right in the middle of the Bible Belt and would bring conferences like Acquire the Fire or the Passion Conference. I think those would be popular."

Contact Dave Allison at [dallison2@liberty.edu](mailto:dallison2@liberty.edu).

## Legislation may open door for stem cell research in Virginia

By Jennifer Thurman  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A controversial bill that would allow funding for embryonic stem cell research at state universities will be proposed by Democrats in the Virginia General Assembly during the next legislative session.

Del. Brian J. Moran, D-Alexandria, the House Democratic Caucus chairman, is sponsoring the bill that, if passed, would open a gateway that could prevent a ban on embryonic stem cell research in the future.

According to Moran's spokesman, Jesse Ferguson, the package will sanction embryonic stem cell research under the Code of Virginia, as reported by the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

"The hope and opportunity that embryonic stem cell research provides should never be closed to thousands of Virginians suffering in silence," Moran said.

"Now we have a real chance to cure the incurable, and it's morally wrong to close the door."

Sen. Janet D. Howell, D-Fairfax, and Sen. Creigh R. Deeds, D-Bath, are co-sponsoring a separate bill in the Senate.

If passed, the bill would allow state funding to be set-aside in the Christopher Reeve Stem Cell Research Fund.

"We need to make sure the commonwealth of Virginia leads the way on this cutting-edge research that will save lives," Howell told the Times-Dispatch.

The Senate bill would include other meas-

ures to ban therapeutic cloning of stem cells and require consent for donation of embryos for research.

However, according to Dr. David DeWitt, professor of biology at Liberty University, Virginia Democrats are missing the point.

"Now we have come to a place where evil is called good, and good evil," said DeWitt.

Although embryonic stem cells have been at the forefront of scientific research since 1998, they have yet to produce major medical advancements.

According to Dr. Roy C. Ogle, a stem cell scientist at the University of Virginia, it may take years to discover the true potential of embryonic stem cells.

"We must first do experiments in valid models eliminating the potential risks and then cautiously begin human trials. This will not occur for many years, but the sooner we start the sooner we can realize the promise," said Ogle.

For conservative Christians, however, years of embryonic stem cell research mean the loss of millions of tiny human lives in the name of medical research, said DeWitt.

"(Politicians) want us to believe that voting against this bill means voting against helping suffering people. They forget about the multitude of suffering embryonic people who will die with no guarantee of success from the research," said DeWitt.

Contact Jennifer Thurman at [jthurman@liberty.edu](mailto:jthurman@liberty.edu).



ANOTHER ONE FOR THE BOOKS — STD president Alaina Hohnarth congratulates an inductee.

## Sigma Tau Delta welcomes fresh faces

By Amanda Sullivan  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A great honor was given to 28 LU students on Feb. 2. These students were honored for their hard work and dedication by an induction into the Zeta Tau chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society.

Students claim that being inducted into STD is one of the best things ever experienced on Liberty's campus. Richard North, a senior, recently won a battle with cancer. He said being accepted into STD was "a surprise, an honor and an encouragement."

When asked if school would be more challenging, North's response was, "I just take it as it comes," the same attitude with which he fought his battle with cancer.

Because STD is such an involved group, many students do believe that school will become more challenging simply because of time management.

By being a part of STD, students are required to complete three events per semester, two service projects per year and one fundraiser per year.

This semester, STD's service projects will include filling baby bottles with money to benefit the Blue Ridge Crisis Pregnancy Center.

Students also participated in Operation Care, which aids Evergreen Baptist Church in its ministry to the military overseas. Each month, individual boxes containing devotional books, canned fruit, beef jerky and toiletry items are sent out.

"It was a good ceremony, and I especially enjoyed Professor (Matt) Towles' speech about self-education," said Liberty junior Kyra Marken.

Towles challenged students to "not see this as the only education you will get" as he encouraged the newly inducted members to never stop learning.

Towles claimed that 9th grade geometry was what drove him to pursue literature.

His love for literature has spanned from that 9th grade experience to the privilege he now



CATCH A BOOK — Professor Matt Towles recalled how he "borrowed" books from his high school library. His love of books came from reading "Catcher in the Rye," taken in his first heist.

enjoys — being able to be here, at Liberty University, talking and debating with students.

Towles' challenge to the inductees included asking students to "get involved" and "to be something that a lot of us, as professors, hope that we are."

Above all, Towles challenged students to remember the institution at which they were learning, stating, "You can get a Harvard education at Liberty, but you can never get a Liberty education at Harvard."

Contact Amanda Sullivan at [amsullivan3@liberty.edu](mailto:amsullivan3@liberty.edu).

### THE LIBERTY CHAMPION

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# SEW: Students should "go higher"

Continued from page 1

"I'm not going to preach grace to people that I haven't preached sin to," he said in closing on Tuesday night, noting that he wasn't even sure of the exact message that he would preach.

He decided on a sermon regarding the acceptance of suffering and a warning against growing bitter and losing the opportunity for repentance.

Wednesday night provided the uplifting message that the previous messages had all alluded to, though it began with the sober announcement that "God has made no provision for you to live the Christian life."

"I definitely was filled (Wednesday) night. I feel like my cup has been filled to the top again," said Gillman. "I don't want it to be an emotional thing. I want it to last."

Liberty sophomore quarterback Brock Smith, who also attended the Wednesday night session, was particularly impressed by the way MacDonald addressed the spiritual realm. "A lot of people don't really believe in...spiritual warfare," he said. "It'll be interesting to see how people react to what he said."

The main text of the message was Romans 7, in which Paul speaks of the sinful nature that still lives within him.

Even so, several other verses were explored, including Ephesians 5:18, which admonishes believers to "be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit."

Following the message, MacDonald offered a prayer over the congregation, but the worship team continued to

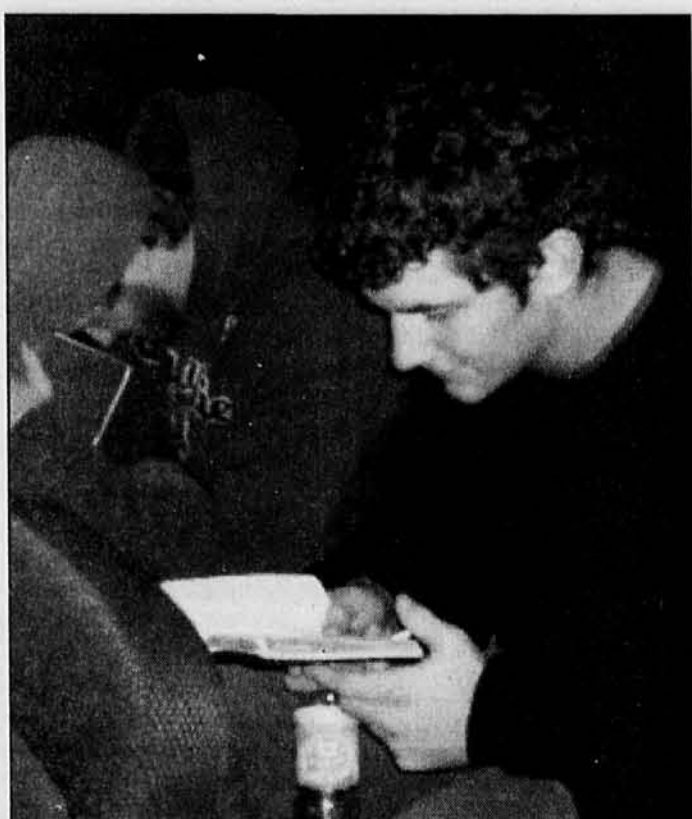
play for another half hour. Afterwards, a contingent of students stayed in the sanctuary for a time of prayer and silent reflection.

Furthermore, Liberty students were not the only people who were touched by MacDonald's messages.

Tyler Veak, an Instruction Librarian at Liberty whose only experience with Spiritual Emphasis Week was Wednesday's convocation, was very much impressed by MacDonald.

"That was one of the best messages I've heard," he said. "The way that the Christian responds to trials is probably one of the most important things to learn."

Contact Dave Thompson at [dbthompson@liberty.edu](mailto:dbthompson@liberty.edu).



CHARITY FORSYTER

PREACHING GRACE — Many students were convicted by MacDonald's messages throughout Spiritual Emphasis Week. Among other topics, he preached on sin and repentance, suffering and living the Christian life.

# POLITICS: The world spins

Continued from page 1

**Jan. 28, 2007** — Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee announces his intention to run in the presidential race. Huckabee served as governor for more than 10 years and spoke to Liberty students in October.

**Jan. 31, 2007** — Boston citizens and police are in a frenzy when strange magnetic boxes appear all over the city, prompting response by local police.

The boxes were part of a marketing campaign by Turner Broadcasting to promote one of its Cartoon Network shows, "Aqua Teen Hunger Force."

**Feb. 1, 2007** — France initiates a public smoking ban all across the country. About 15 million smokers live in France, and the decision is causing debate and anger from many citizens. The decision comes in light of statistics showing France suffers from 88,000 deaths per year caused by smoking.

For now, the ban affects hospitals, offices, schools and airports, but in one year it will be changed to ban public smoking in restaurants and bars.

**Feb. 2, 2007** — Punxsutawney Phil peeks out of his habitat and sees his shadow, signaling that spring will come soon. The tradition has been going on for more than 100 years.

**Feb. 2, 2007** — The mayor of Macon, Ga. Jack Ellis announces plans to legally change his name to Hakim Monsour Ellis, after converting to Islam in December at a ceremony he attended in Senegal, a country in western Africa.

**Feb. 3, 2007** — Riots break out between fans at a game between Catania and Palermo, two Sicilian teams. One police officer is killed as many fans and police officers are injured. The incident prompts Italian soccer federation officials to cancel upcoming games, which has not happened in more than 10 years.

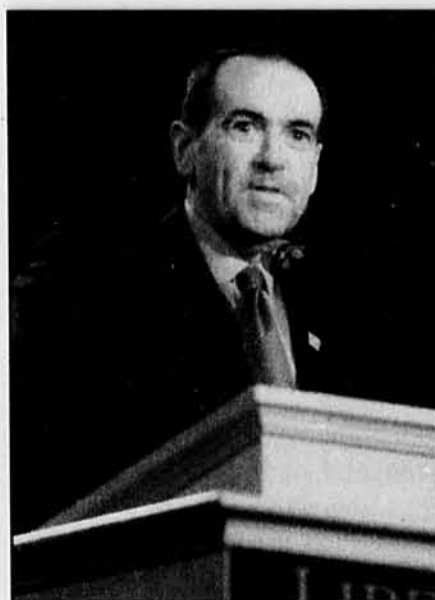
**Feb. 4, 2007** — President Bush makes his first appearance at a Democratic congressional retreat since 2001. The president made jokes and encouraged a partnership between the parties, in order to achieve goals that will benefit the American people.

**Feb. 4, 2007** — After nine months of British control of NATO troops,

American and four-star Gen. Dan McNeill is leading 35,000 troops in a strike against enemies in Afghanistan. Among the NATO troops, 26,000 of them are American.

- From various news sources.

Contact Joanne Tang at [jtang@liberty.edu](mailto:jtang@liberty.edu).



ALEX TOWERS

PRESIDENT HUCKABEE? — The former governor of Arkansas has placed his name in the running for the presidential bid.

# TRANSIT: Safety and convenience in one package



DANIEL ALLEN

DROP BY ANYTIME — Popular retail spots such as Best Buy are now more convenient for students.

Continued from page 1

The buses depart for Wards Road from LU transit stops at the Campus East clubhouse, East Dorm 24, Main Campus Dorm 5 and the Keyhole.

Lee Beaumont, director of LU auxiliary services, said the move is Liberty's way of trying to accommodate the students who

might have difficulties traveling off campus.

"A lot of folks don't have cars," said Beaumont.

Yet, for those students with vehicles, rising on-campus parking fees have also been troubling. Both Beaumont and Tyler Falwell, project manager of LU transit, emphasize the bus service as a viable

alternative to help accommodate all students.

Students who cannot afford \$300 worth of parking all year long, or even \$30 for a tank of gas, can find feasible solutions for their needs thanks to the buses.

Falwell added that another concern of the administration is keeping students safe on campus.

"This is more than a convenient tool -- it's a safety tool," said Falwell. "It helps calm the nervousness of parents to see the steps LU is willing to take to make sure their son or daughter is looked after in the best way possible."

Brothers Jeremi and Jason Sanchez, who are freshman students from Florida, enjoy the transit system and were very enthusiastic about its off-campus expansion.

Neither brother has a car, so the buses are useful tools for them besides just getting around the school.

"We also use it for recreation," said Jeremi Sanchez. "It gives you an excuse to meet new people."

At the time, the two were already planning their first bus trip to Wal-Mart the next day, not for anything to shop for in particular, but just for the mere pleasure of getting off campus.

Freshman Dan Kelly, who already uses the on-campus transit service, also plans to use the bus system to go shopping off-campus.

"I'd probably use it to go to Wal-Mart once a week, minimum," said Kelly.

Falwell said this latest expansion is just the start of more to come.

"The next thing we're looking into is the experimental route of apartment complexes," said Falwell, who would like to see

stops at some of Lynchburg's most heavily commuter-populated apartment complexes, such as County Green and Walden Pond.

The new route to apartment complexes could be created either by the end of this semester or by the start of next semester, according to Falwell.

With the opportunity to serve such areas, he also anticipates a decrease in the amount of traffic and parking on campus. "Just leave your car on your property and come on over," said Falwell.

However, some students see a few kinks that still need to be ironed out for the bus service to work well for them, such as overcrowding and confusing time schedules.

Freshman Justin Melvin complained he has been late for class waiting on a bus that was not already filled to capacity. "I missed two buses just this morning," he said.

Sophomore Leigh Detzel also said the transit system can be unclear to her. "The red and blue buses aren't clearly labeled. It's confusing to me."

Falwell admitted the transit service is still "getting the wrinkles out" and encourages student feedback to help communicate how LU transit can better serve their needs.

One way Falwell said this communication can be accomplished is to e-mail suggestions, questions and complaints to [transit@liberty.edu](mailto:transit@liberty.edu).

"We want to take student input seriously," said Beaumont. "This service is really for the students."

Contact Erin Fitch and [eeefitch2@liberty.edu](mailto:eeefitch2@liberty.edu).



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# OPINION

*"Being a Christian is more than just an instantaneous conversion — it is a daily process whereby you grow to be more and more like Christ."*

— Rev. Billy Graham

## Drawing closer to Christ

### The need for spiritual emphasis every week



karimitchell

Spiritual Emphasis Week ended and a number of students made a commitment to follow Christ. It was beautiful to see so many of God's children kneeling at the throne, surrendering their hearts and their lives to the King of Kings. There was a revival at Liberty last week. Here, we call it Spiritual Emphasis Week.

process is necessary and will draw us closer to Him so that He may wrap His love around us and burn in us a passion and desire to bring Him glory and honor.

And the last reason that we need revival is because we have been spiritually starving ourselves. For those who don't go to church, you should. For those who do, pray that your heart is receptive to the message. We often have our guard up, not really wanting our world to be turned upside down. Sitting there in the pew, we allow our minds to wander, refusing to accept responsibility for the feeding of our spirits.

There's a certain consciousness about the state of our spirit. There's an emphasis on it, so we have a certain expectation when we attend services.

Christians should wake up every morning with the same expectation. God wants to work in our lives every day. There are times when we need to wait on God, but how often do you think He is waiting on us?

He wants to work, but we lack faith or we are disobedient when that still small voice is tugging on our heart.

Our God is omnipotent and He loves us. If only we could grasp what seems like such a simple concept! We would never need revival if we truly knew the meaning of those words. We would never need revival if we knew God and could comprehend even a fraction of His goodness.

Unfortunately, we are humans living in a fallen world. We will never truly know God until we are with Him in heaven. However, every day we seek God is another day spent in communion with the Father. This fellowship with the Father is the only thing that makes this temporary life worth living. And the only way to maintain this communion is to revive our spirit daily, not just during special services or on Sundays.

My challenge to all who read this, as well as myself, is to desire a deeper commitment with Christ on a daily basis. Remember the feelings you felt during Spiritual Emphasis Week. Desire that conviction every time you attend church, every moment you spend in prayer. Don't allow yourself to be captivated by sin. Don't be a lukewarm Christian. Don't starve your spirit.

Contact Kari Mitchell at [kdmitchell2@liberty.edu](mailto:kdmitchell2@liberty.edu).

But shouldn't there be an emphasis on our spirits every week?

According to dictionary.com, a revival is the restoration to life, consciousness, vigor or strength. When it is used in reference to a church, it means an awakening. As Christians, why do we allow our spirits to go dormant, in need of an awakening? I think revival is needed for at least one of three reasons.

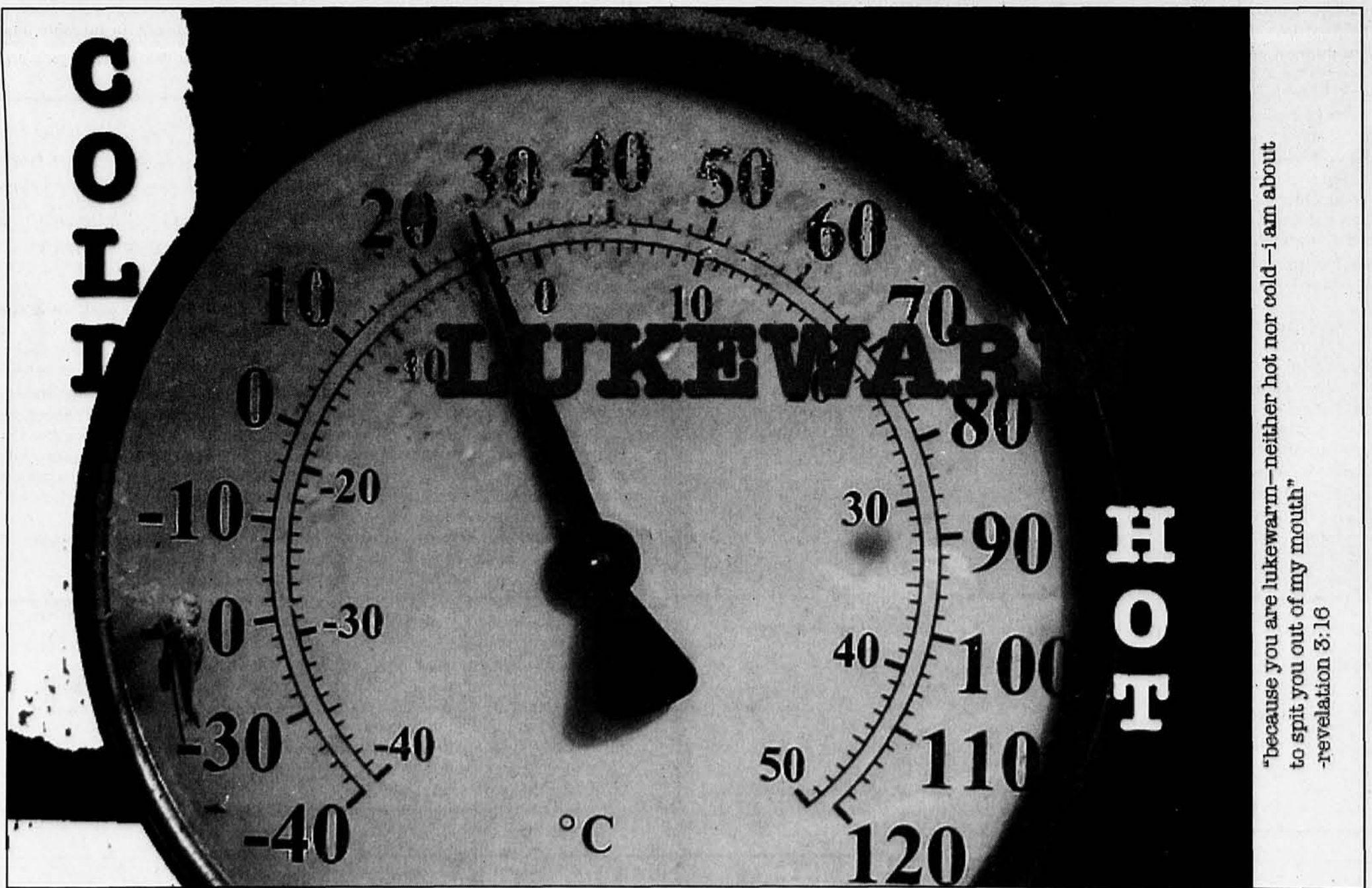
First, we allow ourselves to be captivated by sin. In the book of Romans, Paul tells us of his struggle. His heart delights in the law of God, but his flesh is captivated by the law of sin. We must be aware of this conflict so that we do not give into sin and allow it to have dominion in our heart.

Another reason we need revival is because we are bored and have become lukewarm Christians. In Revelation 3:16, God said that he will spew us from his mouth when we are neither hot nor cold. He doesn't want us to become content in our Christian life. The Lord wants to continually mold us and shape us and bend us and break us so that He may conform us to be more like Him. This

Paul tells the church in I Corinthians that he was speaking to them as babes in Christ. Hebrews 5:13-14 says, "For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." We can not remain as babes. He wants us to grow, but it is our responsibility to feed our soul.

*"However, every day we seek God is another day spent in communion with the Father."*

Spiritual revival is a good thing. The key to its effectiveness is our mindset going into it. We hear so many good services during the year, but tend to forget the content once we leave the sanctuary. The pastor may say something that evokes emotion, but that's all it is — emotion. There's no desire for a deeper commitment. But when we go into Spiritual Emphasis Week, or similar revival serv-



*"because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth"  
-revelation 3:16*

HILARY DYER

**LISTEN UP!**

IT'S YOUR TURN TO DECIDE

• The U.S. government has responded to the appeals of 9/11 rescue workers who aided in the recovering of persons and clearing of debris at the World Trade Center, who have asked for financial funding and medical care.

The workers and their families have been promised \$25 million in federal aid, according to a Reuters report. In the years since the attacks, numerous rescue workers have suffered from chronic illnesses and respiratory problems. A recent study by the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York reported that 70 percent of rescue workers surveyed attained new or worsened existing respiratory illnesses since working at Ground Zero.

• The Virginia General Assembly is backing a resolution to convey a formal apology for imposing slavery upon African-Americans, according to the Richmond Times-Dispatch. The resolution was proposed by Delegate Donald McEachin and in its original wording requested

that the General Assembly "atone for the involuntary servitude of Africans." It is currently being revised.

• The YouTube Web site will no longer be allowed to host any unauthorized video clips from Viacom Inc. networks, such as Comedy Central, MTV and Nickelodeon. Viacom Inc. requested that all clips from Viacom Inc. networks be removed from YouTube immediately, reported the Associated Press. Federal copyright law currently allows online services to host video clips from other networks, so long as the service complies with any demands to remove the content, according to the AP.

# COMMENTARY

## DNA speaks truth: gender cannot be redefined



jennithurman

In the beginning, God created man and woman. While the two genders can easily be distinguished by anatomical differences, God also branded each gender with uniquely different chromosomes – genetic material that tells the story of who we are as individuals. Recently, the transgender community has attempted to hijack what it means to be a man or a woman by labeling themselves as a separate gender. Such an agenda has the potential to pervert the concept of gender and fuel consequences of an unforeseen magnitude. Is it discrimination to require transgender people to stick with their God-given gender?

Transgender individuals do not feel that their gender identity matches with their assigned gender. Many transgender people undergo so-called “sex reassignment surgery” in an attempt to match their anatomy with their gender identity. However, the surgery can never alter the 46 chromosomes that tell whether an individual is a man or a woman. A transgender individual may feel that he or she has swapped genders after the surgery. However, the presence of chromosomes will always act as God’s safeguard against those who attempt to butcher His creation.

Despite the ability of chromosomes to reveal the true gender of an individual, transgender groups are persistently pushing the notion that gender identity supercedes all other gender disclaimers. A Florida district court said in the case *Kantaras v. Kantaras* that “chromosomes are only one factor in the determination of sex and they do not overrule gender

or self identity which is the true test or identifying mark of sex.” The court’s decision is preposterous – how a transgender person feels about their gender is not any type of identifying mark.

The Transgender Law Center recently published a resource guide designed to help transgender people confront discrimination in public bathrooms. Christopher Daley, director of the TLC, stated in a press release that “public bathrooms are the place in society in which we are most regularly segregated by gender.” The very idea that Daley has just recently been struck with the fact that gender is segregated is mind-boggling. Daley will be shocked to learn that genders have always been “segregated.” In fact, there are two of them – male and female.

The TLC press release also stated, “Transgender people, including people whose gender expression isn’t stereotypical, are regularly alienated . . . simply because they are prevented from using the correct bathroom or because they are harassed while doing so.” Since when has being a man or a woman been stereotypical? Gender is not a fashion trend that loses popularity with every passing decade. The transgender community is attempting to brand the new “cool” in the gender genre by labeling men and women as old news, and the worse part is that America is beginning to fall for their act.

New York is currently considering the addition of a rule that would allow transgender people to change the gender on their birth certificates. A New York Times article discussed the dilemma of Mariah Lopez, who was born a man,

but requested a new birth certificate after deciding to become a woman. “The thing is, I don’t even remember what it’s like to be a boy,” Lopez told the New York Times. The fact of that matter is that even if Lopez does not mentally feel like a man, he is still a man. Simply amending a word on a birth certificate cannot change the concreteness of something as permanent as gender.

The court’s decision is preposterous – how a transgender person feels about their gender is not any type of identifying

*“The court’s decision is preposterous – how a transgender person feels about their gender is not any type of identifying mark.”*

mark. In 2002, New York City amended its human rights laws to protect gender identity. Title 8 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York states that, “It is the law and policy of the City of New York to eliminate discrimination based upon an individual’s ‘actual or perceived’ gender.”

The code goes on to define gender identity as “an individual’s sense of being either male or female, man or woman, or something other or in-between.” Could someone please define “something other or in-between?”

The following public service announcement might just rock your world – there are no “in-between” chromosomes.

Gender is not a choice, so why should we let transgender people sign away their God-given identity with a scribbled John Hancock? Demanding that transgender individuals correlate themselves with their true gender is not discrimination. It is common sense.

Contact Jenni Thurman at [jthurman@liberty.edu](mailto:jthurman@liberty.edu).

## Parents should have the right to discipline children

The sweet land of liberty will soon need to combat a bill in order to hold on to all of its current freedoms. California Legislature is about to encounter a proposal pushing to retract a parental right that has been around since the dawn of civilization. The controversy began when Assemblywoman Sally Lieber, a Democrat from Mountain View, Calif., recently announced her plan to draft a bill to ban the spanking of children less than three years of age within the state. The San Jose Mercury News reported that if the bill is passed, those violating the new law would face up to a year long jail sentence or a fine of up to a \$1,000.



clairemelsi

Some question why an adult who injures another is punished but not an adult who physically punishes a child. To set things straight, there is a difference between physical abuse and appropriate physical punishment. Despite the popular belief that everyone is inherently good, from a biblical standpoint all are depraved sinners who need to not only be taught not to do wrong but how to do right as well. Once a person reaches adulthood, his or her general concept of right and wrong has already been formed. A child is still learning to interpret the world around him. If the child’s guardian feels that it is necessary to spank him into not just submission, but genuine understanding, then the practice of spanking would actually be beneficial for society.

When it comes down to it, if someone wants to abuse a child, he or she is going to do it no matter what. Laws have already been set into place to deter those with ill intentions, and taking it a step further seems more like liberalism than precaution. Besides, how in the world is the government going to monitor when a child is and is not being spanked? If a neighbor reports hearing a cry from next door, who is to say the screaming child was not just throwing a tantrum? The law could potentially harm families innocent of breaking the regulation.

Although laws against child abuse are a necessity, creating laws that control how parents nurture the development of their children is asking for trouble. Boundaries must be drawn. Individuals are supposed to have the right to privacy.

The government cannot and should not tell parents how to raise and discipline their children. If the government begins to control the disciplinary action between child and parent, it’s plausible that eventually parents would only be allowed to put their children in time out for no more than two minutes due to “potentially harmful psychological effects.”

*“I have yet to see adults who were appropriately spanked in their younger years emerging to complain about the negative physical and emotional outcomes.”*

Perhaps the legislature will agree with the sentiment that it does not take a village to raise a child. Many gentle and loving parents spank their children.

I have yet to see adults who were appropriately spanked in their younger years emerging to complain about the negative physical and emotional outcomes. Hopefully the popular state on the West Coast will be able to maintain all of its current freedoms and liberties for at least a little longer – despite what its children may prefer.

Contact Claire Melsi at [cmelsi@liberty.edu](mailto:cmelsi@liberty.edu).

Readers, please send your comments and responses in a Letter to the Editor. email: [liberty.opinion@gmail.com](mailto:liberty.opinion@gmail.com)

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# MONOGRAM: Construction quickly moves forward

Continued from page 1

"It's a process that includes different staging areas, places where dump trucks will haul their loads of rocks and unload them," said Beaumont.

"Workers with machinery take the rocks from the staging areas and move them to the correct areas."

Although the process might sound simple, the recent weather has been making work a bit more exciting.

"Conditions must be perfect in order for workers to continue their construction of the monogram," said Beaumont.

"That's why it takes so long, because it has to be extremely dry. If it rains once, it takes days and days of sunlight and warmer weather, since the wetness freezes at that altitude."

Workers have been out in 20-degree weather, often with bitter wind chill, but they still work from 8 a.m. to the late afternoon.

Because the workers are doing the construction at such a steep angle with heavy machinery, they are in danger of sliding down the side of the hill if conditions are not right.

"These dump trucks are just carrying the (lighter) brick chips now, but when they carry the white rocks, they weigh about eight tons," said Beaumont.

"We have to keep blading the road (up here) with our bulldozers because the trucks put big ruts in it. They're so heavy."

Dump trucks full of stones from Appomattox and bricks from Salem reach the top of the monogram's hill and unload a thundering avalanche of rocks at staging areas almost every two hours.

"(Bricks) that aren't hard enough are crushed up and sold as brick chips," explained Richard Thompson, the president of Thompson Trucking, Inc., the company that is hauling the materials for Liberty up to the top of the mountain.

The entire time it takes for a truck to make the journey to Lynchburg, navigate up the compacted dirt road to the top of the monogram, unload and then return to Appomattox takes around two hours.

When university officials began planning the monogram, they took many things into consideration to make the project the best that it could be.

"We deliberately picked the steepest part of

the mountain facing the city, because that gives you the best view," said Beaumont.

"If you look at it from the Wachovia (Bank) parking lot, you can see it head-on. You get a great view of it."

The hilltop will also be a part of a new trail renovation project, benefiting students.

"We're going to improve existing logging roads — we're going to make a Liberty Mountain trail system," said Beaumont. "We might gravel a few roads, but we'll create mountain bike trails and running trails."

Young trees will be planted when the rest of the monogram is complete, staggered around the perimeter of the monogram, said Beaumont, just to "fill things in a bit so you can still see it."

The diameter of the monogram is 530 feet, almost twice the size of a football field. The L and U are both 150 feet long.

Jerry Falwell Jr. was inspired by the other schools' mountain monograms he saw while in Utah last summer.

"In Salt Lake City, a huge 'Y' for Brigham Young University is etched on the face of the Wasatch Mountain Range overlooking the city," said Falwell Jr. He is pleased with the progress of Liberty's logo and how the monogram looks.

"Once lights are installed and the plants have matured, I think the monogram will become the identifying landmark for both Liberty and the Lynchburg area — just as the Mill Mountain Star is for Roanoke."

Contact Amy Field at [afield@liberty.edu](mailto:afield@liberty.edu).



GRAPHIC BY CALEB ATKINS



PHOTO PROVIDED  
**BOLD, CRUNCHY, SMOOTH? — Nick Dimondi (in the driver's seat) and his co-workers produce the award-winning 'Live the Flavor' Doritos commercial shown during the Super Bowl.**

## LU alum gets 'cheesy' for Super Bowl

Victoria Friedrich  
 AD MANAGER

If you watched the Super Bowl on Sunday night, then chances are you saw the Doritos commercial at the beginning of the game. The commercial was the winner of the Doritos "Crash the Super Bowl" contest. Beating out four other finalists, "Live the Flavor" creatively used the Doritos bag as a car airbag.

The male actor in the commercial is Nick Dimondi, a Liberty alum who graduated in 2006.

The commercial was a collaborative effort by the brains behind "5 Point Productions" based out of Cary, N.C.

Dimondi, Weston Phillips, Dale Backus, Cori Backus — the female star of the commercial — and Barrett Phillips found out about the contest just days before the deadline.

They spent hours brainstorming before coming up with final concept for the commercial.

Once they had the idea, a script was written and it was time to shoot the commercial. Their budget? \$12.79, the cost of four bags of Doritos.

Dimondi explained how they came up with the rest of the equipment needed. "Our company already had the equipment for more than a year, and we were just resourceful for getting all the other things we needed," he said.

"We used all our own cars for the shots, borrowed a fog machine and Dale was on

his rollerblades for the along-side shots of me."

The result was more than any of these young hopefuls could have imagined.

After making it to the final five commercial finalists, the team was brought to Miami, Florida to meet with their competition.

"We met all the finalists and had a blast," Dimondi said. "They are all cool people and a fun group to talk to and get to know."

Dimondi says they knew their biggest competition was "Check Out Girl" which also aired during the Super Bowl. The commercial was produced by a team in Hollywood who had access to tremendous resources compared to Dimondi and his team.

The future seems bright for these young talents and their production company. Dimondi explained a little about their future plans.

"The future is something that is fast approaching and we are doing our best to make sense of it," he said.

"We can see ourselves doing a myriad of things, from TV commercials to TV shows to movies....There are lots of possibilities."

If you missed the commercial or just want to see it again, log onto [www.crashthesuperbowl.com](http://www.crashthesuperbowl.com). Want to find out more about the team's production company? Log onto their Web site at [www.5pointproductions.com](http://www.5pointproductions.com).

Contact Victoria Friedrich at [vfriedrich@liberty.edu](mailto:vfriedrich@liberty.edu).

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 At the top is Wintergreen Resort.

**LU Student Activities**

# Sports

## Wrestling

Liberty defeated King College 47-3 last Tuesday and will face VMI on Feb. 15.

## Baer's Blathers

Matthew Baer rates the top teams with new coaches in the NFL for 2007.

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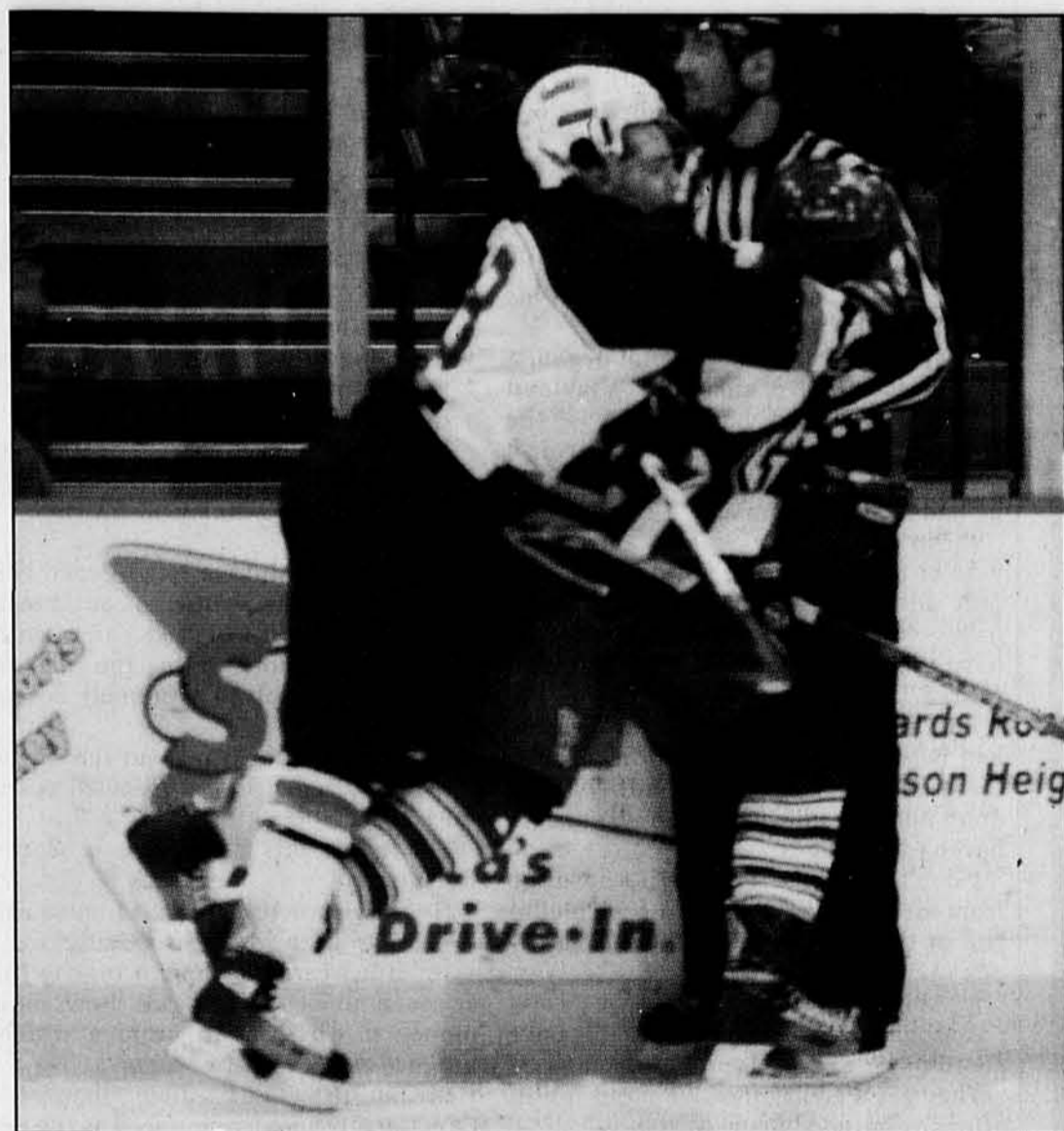
Page B2

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## No. 8 Flames hockey sweeps Wildcats in LIC



CALEB ATKINS

**HAND TO THE FACE** — A Liberty player slams into a University of Kentucky player as the Flames slapped the Wildcats around both games this weekend. The Flames now set their sights on performing well in the Navy Tournament.

By Will Luper  
SPORTS REPORTER

After deftly taking care of Virginia Tech last week, the Liberty Flames hockey team looked to continue its winning ways when it faced off against the University of Kentucky this weekend.

Liberty accomplished that with ease, coming off the weekend with two more wins under its belt.

Going into Friday night, Flames Head Coach Kirk Handy was looking for disciplined hockey and taking care of business on the Flames' end of the ice.

"We want to commit to our own zone, having a defensive mind first," he said.

For the first several minutes, it was all Liberty as the Flames dominated in the offensive zone.

Freshman Zac Bauman nearly scored off a face-off just 30 seconds into the game.

However, Wildcats starting goalie Drew Matchak was there to close the door.

Matchak looked impenetrable until freshman Kyle Dodgson broke through on the power play, roughly eight minutes into the game.

Kentucky would not quit, though. Just 36 seconds later, sophomore Chris Protenic gathered a loose puck in front of junior goaltender Dalton Stoltz and shoved it home.

It was then that the newly combined line of Bauman, Dodgson and sophomore John Langabeer went to work.

Coming in off the left face-off circle, Bauman snapped a shot right through Matchak's legs to make the score 2-1 in

Liberty's favor going into the first intermission.

After taking 23 shots in the first period alone, the Flames came out in the second just as trigger-happy.

Bauman, who was in front of the net, redirected a shot by junior Rob Niemi to make the score 3-1.

The rest of the second period was quiet on the goal front until Langabeer redirected a shot from the blue line to make it 4-1 with .07 seconds left on the clock.

In the third period, new-to-the-team freshman Ryan Hoeffler got his first goal for the Flames on a tap-in.

Fellow freshman Josh Ahier deked Kentucky's goalie out of position and passed it into the crease, where Hoeffler was waiting.

The Bauman, Langabeer and Dodgson line ended with a combined total of eight points as the Flames won by a score of 5-1.

After Friday night's game, Handy said that he was "looking for that extra 20 percent that it takes to win a national championship."

Kentucky Head Coach Rob Docherty said that he just wanted to see his team "play a full 60 minutes of hockey."

The first period of Saturday's game looked to be a much more even affair, as the Wildcats came out of the gates with an offensive-minded strategy.

Junior Mike Binnie started in goal for the Flames and made a couple of beautiful early saves.

Please see HOCKEY, page B3

## Men stretch Big South win-streak to four games

By Eric Brown  
SPORTS REPORTER

The Liberty Flames men's basketball team con-

tinued to have success as it picked up two conference wins at the Vines Center last week.

After this week's action,

the Flames are now riding a four-game winning streak.

Liberty kicked off the week with an 80-65 victory

Tuesday night over UNC-Asheville.

The Flames hit 10 of their first 12 shots, giving them an early 9-1 lead over the Bulldogs.

Excitement came in the form of senior Larry Blair when he hit a layup and scored his 2,000th career point just three-and-a-half minutes into the game.

"Larry has been a special player for us," said Coach Randy Dunton. "He is barely a 6'0" guard and yet he finds dynamic ways to put the ball in the basket.

"He has been the heart and soul of the program for the past four years. We appreciate the work he puts in and the dedication to the team."

Liberty continued to make plays on both ends of the court as it led by 19 with just over eight minutes remaining in the half.

The Bulldogs tried hard to keep themselves in the game, but by the end of the first half the Flames had a 38-24 advantage.

Excellent shooting and great defense contributed to Liberty's first-half success as they hit 16 of 27 from the floor and held the Bulldogs to just 34.6 percent shooting.

The Flames remained consistent in the second half as they outscored the Bulldogs 29-24.

As a result, they went on to pick up another conference victory, extending their record to 4-4 in the Big South.

Although Larry Blair's milestone gave fans something to cheer about, it was junior Dwight Brewington who led the team with 16 points, six rebounds, three assists and two steals.

"He brought a lot of energy off the bench in the first half," said Dunton. "He continues to hit the offensive glass and cause his opponents problems. He was very solid defensively and also rebounded well on both ends."

Strong bench scoring from Brewington, junior Russell Monroe, redshirt-freshman Tyler Baker and freshman B.J. Jenkins played a huge role in the Flames' victory over the Bulldogs.

The team's ability to create shots opened up scoring opportunities all night long.

"We're getting easy shots because of defense, but we are back at home too," said Dunton.

"It is always easier to eat mama's cooking than to live on the road. It is a comfort zone for the guys."

The Flames remained in that comfort zone as they battled the High Point Panthers on Saturday.

Dunton knew going into the game that the Panthers' guards Arizona Reid and Mike Jefferson would present some problems for the Flames defense.

A seesaw battle took place the first 10 minutes of the game as Liberty and High Point matched one another, score for score.

Please see WIN STREAK, page B4



RICH COLEMAN

**AIR BREWINGTON** — Dwight Brewington soars through the air for a high-flying dunk. Brewington and the Flames have been on a tear of late, winning their last four contests within the Big South Conference.

## Ladies win two more to remain tied for top spot in the BSC

By Mitchell Malcheff  
SPORTS REPORTER

A week after handing Radford its first Big South loss, the Lady Flames defeated the UNC-Asheville Bulldogs on the road Saturday, 66-62.

The Bulldogs had won eight of their last nine games and — along with High Point — was tied with the Lady Flames for first place in the Big South Conference.

Liberty started off the

game sluggishly, beginning the game by shooting one of 12 from the field and committing six turnovers in the first seven minutes.

A Bulldogs 3-pointer with 12:42 left in the half gave Asheville an 8-2 lead. The Bulldogs continued their hot shooting from behind the arc, with four different players hitting a 3-pointer in the first 10 minutes of the half, capped off by an Ashton Barton trey with 9:45 left.

The Lady Flames hung tough, though, and put together a 12-0 run of their own, keeping the Bulldogs scoreless for nearly five minutes.

A free throw from junior Allyson Fasnacht with 35.3 seconds remaining in the half gave the Lady Flames a 30-23 lead that would carry into halftime.

The Lady Flames were led in the first half by sophomore Rebecca Lightfoot, who tallied nine points on four-of-four shooting.

Lightfoot, who scored a career-high 13 points a week before against Radford, finished the game with 11 points.

The Flames defense was the story of the first-half, forcing 15 turnovers.

The Bulldogs, who did not attempt a foul shot in the first half, connected on five of 10 3-pointers in the first half despite shooting just 33.3 percent from the floor.

Please see FIRST PLACE, page B2

**Life At Liberty**

**Men's Basketball**

vs. Charleston

Southern

Sat. 1 p.m.

**Women's Basketball**

vs. High Point

Sat. 3:30 p.m.

**Track and Field**

Liberty Quad

Fri. 4 p.m.



# FIRST PLACE: Ladies stay tied atop BSC standings

Continued from page B1

Liberty started the second half strong, taking a 35-25 lead with 16:18 remaining after a 5-0 run.

The Bulldogs were only able to muster one more basket before another run from the Lady Flames.

The run gave Liberty a 43-28 lead with 13:29 remaining.

Seven straight points by the Bulldogs got them right back in the game.

It then took just over a minute for Asheville to cut the Lady Flames lead to 43-35.

Liberty quickly stretched its lead back to 11 points with four straight baskets, capped off by a putback from senior Jamie Feagin.

Asheville managed to stay within striking distance due to a spectacular second half from the foul line.

The Bulldogs made 15 of their first 16 free-throws of the second half.

A pair of Rachel Williams charity-stripe tosses cut the lead to 52-45 with 8:12 remaining.

The Bulldogs would get no closer until a

late seven-point surge cut the Flames lead to 63-60 with 1:35 remaining.

Senior Michelle Parker split a pair of free-throws at 1:10 to give the Lady Flames a two possession edge.

Neither team would score again until a Bulldog lay-up with 19.7 seconds remaining cut the lead to 64-62.

Parker came through for Liberty with a pair of foul shots just a second later and the Lady Flames went on to win by four.

The team was again led by star forward Megan Frazee.

The sophomore had 16 points and hauled down seven boards.

Senior Karolina Piotrkiewicz scored each of her 11 points in the second half.

Monday night's results against Birmingham Southern — in their last visit to the Vines Center as a member of the Big South Conference — were not available at press time.

The Lady Flames (13-8, 5-1 BSC) will face High Point at 3:30 in the Vines Center on Saturday.

Contact Mitchell Malcheff at [mjmalcheff@liberty.edu](mailto:mjmalcheff@liberty.edu).



## baer's blathers

matthew baer

Since the closing of the NFL's 2006 season, several head coaching changes have been made. Whether they were fired or just left their respective teams, six teams will have new leaders in 2007.

Those six teams are Miami, Dallas, Arizona, Oakland, Atlanta and Pittsburgh.

Here is a quick overview of each team, ranking the best opportunity from six-to-one, with one being the best job to have).

### 6. Oakland.

The Raiders have finished with a paltry record since their last Super Bowl appearance in 2002.

This is what they have done since. In 2003 they finished 4-12, 5-11 in 2004, 4-12 in 2005, and 2-14 in 2006.

Art Shell, hired by Al Davis before the 2006 season, lasted just one year in his second stint with the Raiders.

Davis dismissed Shell and began a search for Shell's successor. Oakland found 31-year-old Lane Kiffin — the University of Southern California's offensive coordinator — and announced he had been hired on Jan. 23.

Kiffin most likely will go through a year or two of ups and downs, as he has only added one coach that Shell didn't have — offensive coordinator — and will have to add another, as Fred Biletnikoff retired.

Biletnikoff, the wide receivers' coach, had been with the organization for over three decades as a player and coach. I don't understand why personnel changes haven't been made.

I don't think I've ever seen a team go from the basement to the top with all but two of the same personnel as the previous year.

### 5. Arizona

Arizona hired ex-Pittsburgh offensive coordinator Ken Whisenhunt on Jan. 14.

They get a good offensive mind for an offensive-minded team.

With Larry Fitzgerald, Anquan Boldin and Bryant Johnson on the other side of laser-armed quarterback Matt Leinart, and Edgerrin James there to run the ball, Whisenhunt has set himself up for success.

"The Whiz's" biggest problem will be whipping that defense into form.

Arizona was 29th in total yards allowed per game last season, and it doesn't matter how much you score if you can't hold the opposition.

As the old adage goes, "Defense wins championships."

### 4. Atlanta

After firing Jim Mora, Jr. on Jan. 1, the Falcons hired Bobby Petrino just seven days later.

Petrino — the former University of Louisville head coach — comes into a team that has some troubled waters.

With one of the best athletes in the game, the Falcons have a great running game. The problem is, that athlete — Michael Vick — is their quarterback, and he doesn't play like a quarterback.

Yes, he can throw some, but I don't believe he will ever get Atlanta a ring.

Petrino's biggest task will be converting that team into a balanced attack instead of a one-dimensional offense.

The NFL saw what they could do through the air against Pittsburgh and Cincinnati, but got away from it after the Bengals game, losing four straight.

The defense is a little below average at 20th in the league in yards per game. So Petrino will have some work there as well.

His best move was dumping all but three of Mora's staff.

This team should be a playoff team, and if Petrino plays his cards right, they will be contenders in 2007.

### 3. Dallas

There is nothing wrong with this team — other than Terrell Owens.

Bill Parcells is a Hall of Fame coach who has previously dealt with several big-mouth players, including Keyshawn Johnson.

Even Parcells couldn't contain T.O., though, and that helped force his hand into retirement.

Dallas has a foundation of strong players with Julius Jones, Tony Romo, Jason Witten and Terry Glenn, as well as a solid defense.

That foundation will help the next coach become a winner. But whoever this team brings in needs to know how to handle T.O.

I really think Dallas is waiting for Ron Rivera, the defensive coordinator of the Bears.

They announced on Jan. 31 that they were going to wait until after the Super Bowl to announce a coach.

Indication? Maybe.

Even with a new coach, the Cowboys should be able to make the playoffs again in 2007, most likely winning the division.

### 2. Miami

On Jan. 3, Dolphins Head Coach Nick Saban decided he wanted to continue his role as the world's biggest liar when he changed from not wanting the Alabama head coaching job to eventually accepting it.

Saban bolted the 'Fins and sent owner Wayne Huizenga into a frenzied search for a coach.

The reason this job is No. 2 is because of Huizenga.

He will do anything — and I mean anything — to get a winner in Miami.

He didn't care how long it took to find a coach and doesn't care how much money it will cost to build a winner, because that's what he wants.

On Jan. 18 — 15 days after Saban left — Cam Cameron was announced as the new head coach.

Cameron was the offensive coordinator for the offensive juggernaut in San Diego.

Miami had the fourth-best total defense in 2006, and that shouldn't change in '07. Cameron should get that offense clicking and help this team contend.

### 1. Pittsburgh

What could be better than taking over a team just one season removed from a world championship?

Well, for Mike Tomlin, nothing. On Jan. 5, Bill Cowher retired as the coach of Pittsburgh.

Cowher had coached in Pittsburgh for 15 full seasons — that many years are not frequented in the NFL, except in Pittsburgh.

The Steelers' coaching search included five candidates.

Somehow the 34-year-old Tomlin came to the surface, even though he had just one year as a coordinator.

The reason this job is the best comes down to two main factors.

First, the owner, Dan Rooney, loves to stick with a coach, even through rough times.

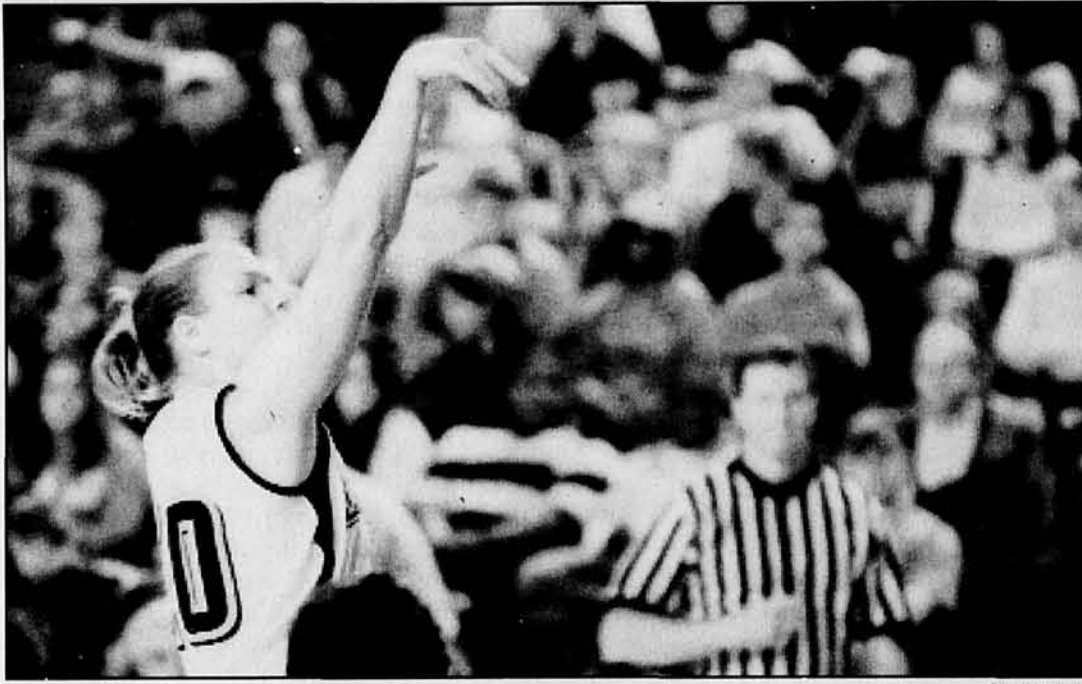
Cowher and Chuck Noll were the only head coaches since 1969 — a ridiculous fact.

Second, there is a solid foundation of players on both sides of the ball.

Although several coaches have left or been let go, the new staff should restore this team to glory in its fight for the division win.

Whether they get back to glory or not is up to Tomlin.

Contact Matthew Baer at [mdbaer@liberty.edu](mailto:mdbaer@liberty.edu).



CALEB ATKINS

DRAINED IT — Junior Allyson Fasnacht has averaged just over nine points and three rebounds per game during Liberty's three-game win streak. Liberty's game against Birmingham-Southern was not available at press time.



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## The Countdown Continues.....



# 4 weeks until SPRING BREAK!

# Track and Field sets more records on way to victory

By Jennifer Schmidt  
SPORTS REPORTER

This weekend, Liberty's track and field team divided their efforts and traveled to two different meets, coming home with personal records and more conference ratings.

Nine Flames athletes traveled with Track and Field Assistant Head Coach Lance Bingham to the New Balance Collegiate Invitational held in the Armory Track of New York.

Senior Arlene Zelinskas continued to improve her standings in the Big South as she set a new conference record in the 60-meter hurdles with a personal best of 8.54.

"Arlene stumbled a bit in the beginning of the race, but she ran one of her best. She still has more room for improvement, but it was an excellent race," said Bingham.

Zelinskas also performed well in the high jump as she nailed a 5-6.25 jump in the competition to garner a second place finish.

"I'm not surprised when I set personal records because I've only done track since my junior year of high school, but setting conference records has come as a surprise," said Zelinskas.

"The 60-meter hurdles is my favorite event because it has a lot of technical aspects to it. High jump is the same way, and because of my background in gymnastics, I have a strong body awareness to help me improve with these events."

Junior Jon Hart held his own in the weight throw competition with a personal best of 61-8.5, which placed him third in the event. Sophomores Matt Parker and Philip Leineweber also had personal bests, as Parker had a 8.42 in the 60-meter hurdles.

Leineweber also sped to a 48.55 in the 400-meter dash, a time which now ranks him second overall in the Big South Conference.

"Phil ran very smart in a crowded race. It's not always about running as hard as possible, but also

finding a good strategy and holding to it, and that's what Phil did," said Bingham.

The rest of Liberty's track and field squad traveled to the Winter Relays held in VMI's Cormack Field House.

"This was a good tune up week for us to stay on track and to get our people ready for the Big South competition that's coming up in the next two weeks," said Head Coach Brant Tolsma.

For the men, there were several first place finishes as sophomore Andy Bartels threw a personal best 45-3.75 in the shot put.

Junior Clendon Henderson also recorded a personal best, as he registered a 54-6.75 in the weight throw. In addition, freshman Donald Manns won the triple jump crown with a jump of 44-6.75.

Liberty's women also recorded multiple first place finishes in both field and running events. Senior Caitlyn Sutterfield and freshman Lacey Cunningham took first and second place, respectively, in the shot put.

Clearing 9-5.75, sophomore Emily Funderburke took home a first place finish in the pole vault while Marie Williams, a junior long jumper, won first with a jump of 16-10.75.

On the track, freshman Brittany Heath took first in the 400-meter race with a time of 1:05.00.

The women's 4 x 400-meter relay team also excelled as they won with a finishing time of 4:12.89.

In the 800-meter race, Lady Flames sophomore Rebekah Ricksecker and freshman Ashley Teer took first and second place, respectively. In reference to the team's upcoming meets, Bingham said, "We encourage the athletes to put themselves in the position to be ready with their spiritual and physical focus."

"They're all developing in the process of using athletics as a way to conform themselves to the image of Christ."

The upcoming Big South Championship will be held at Clemson University on Feb. 17 and 18 and will be an opportunity for Liberty to win its 50th overall conference title in both cross country and indoor and outdoor track and field.

Contact Jennifer Schmidt at [jschmidt@liberty.edu](mailto:jschmidt@liberty.edu).



PREPARED TO DEFEND — Goalie Dalton Stoltz and forward Kevin Hendrix stand ready to guard the goal against the University of Kentucky Wildcats. The Flames took both games on the weekend, outscoring the Wildcats 13-4.

## HOCKEY: Men hope for smooth sailing at Navy Tournament

Continued from page B1

Dykstra, newly moved to defense to be paired up with Semenyna, showed why he had been playing forward as he caught a pass and took off towards the Wildcats net, faking Matchak out of position and putting a backhanded shot into the net, giving the Flames an early 1-0 lead.

Four minutes into the second period, a miracle goal by Kentucky tied it up and gave the Wildcats hope.

That hope was destroyed shortly afterwards, though, as Semenyna took a shot from the blue line that beat Matchak over his right shoulder.

Kentucky got within one goal when Binnie got beat stick-side with roughly eight minutes left in the second peri-

od, and a frustrated Semenyna received a penalty directly after the goal.

That proved not to matter, however, as Langabeer scored shorthanded with a backhand shot to make it 4-2.

Langabeer scored once again in the second period off a stunning solo effort as he split Kentucky's defense and popped it past a surprised Matchak with only 20 seconds left in the period.

The third period was entertaining on all sides as tempers began to boil over.

Flames captain Jon Ziegler scored on a breakaway, Semenyna scored his second of the game and Langabeer completed a hat-trick as Liberty won the game 8-3.

After the game, Handy gave credit to number 28.

"Langabeer is a solid hockey player night-in and night-out," he said.

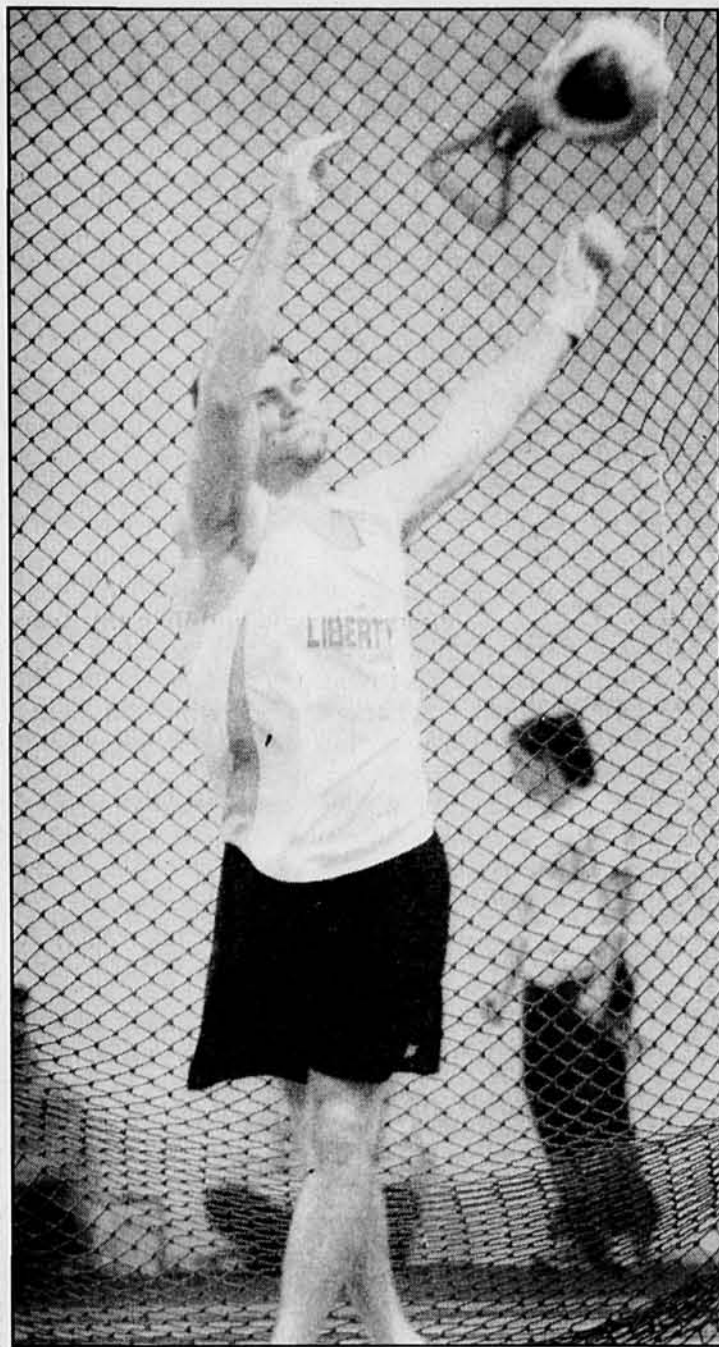
In regards to his new line mates, Bauman said that they were "working well in the corners, and had great communication."

The crowd at Friday night's contest had a moment of silence for long-time Flames Hockey supporter Rick Lowman, who passed away recently.

His family was in attendance and got a chance to speak with the team after the game.

The Flames (24-6) will travel to Annapolis, Maryland, to participate in the Navy Tournament on February 10-11.

Contact Will Luper at [wlu-per@liberty.edu](mailto:wlu-per@liberty.edu).



FLINGING THE ROCK — Junior Clendon Henderson makes his throw during Saturday's competition. Henderson finished first overall in the weight throw.

## Women's Tennis dominates NC A&T

By Adam Trent  
SPORTS REPORTER

Though the weather was cold, the Lady Flames tennis team had no problem bringing the heat against the North Carolina A&T Aggies, winning 7-0 on Saturday night. With the win, Liberty starts the season 1-0.

Liberty began the night by sweeping all three doubles matches to take the doubles point.

Senior Jonita Randolph and junior Martyna Hanusz took an 8-3 decision in number one doubles while sophomore Ekaterina Kuznetsova and freshman Daniela Dimas won an 8-2 victory in number two doubles.

At number three doubles, sophomore Livia Branco and freshman Aimee Wood scored

an 8-3 victory to complete the trifecta.

After easily taking the doubles point, the Lady Flames moved into singles action, where each match quickly turned into a rout.

At number one singles, Randolph routed her opponent 6-2, 6-0.

"My main focus was to have a victorious attitude and give a complete effort on every point," said the team captain Randolph.

Kuznetsova rolled 6-1, 6-1 while Hanusz cruised 6-0, 6-1. The rest of the match played out just as smoothly. Dimas and Branco both won 6-0, 6-0 decisions and freshman Christine Pettit drove the final nail in the Aggie coffin with a 6-1, 6-0 route.

"The key to the match against North Carolina A&T

was preparation," said Liberty Head Coach Chris Johnson. "The girls worked super hard last semester and at the beginning of this semester. I was not surprised to see them take care of business in their matches."

"I think winning this first match was very important (as far as confidence goes)," said Randolph. "The girls were a little nervous. I think getting this first win will prepare us for future matches and gives us momentum to start the season and heading into our next match."

The men's and women's teams, which each hold 1-0 records, will both play their next match at Norfolk State on Wednesday, Feb. 7, starting at 11 a.m.

Contact Adam Trent at [jatrent@liberty.edu](mailto:jatrent@liberty.edu).

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# WIN STREAK: After four straight conference wins, the Flames look to maintain top-four spot in tournament

Continued from page B1

Blair, the Flames' leading scorer, picked up two early fouls, causing him to sit out the majority of the game.

However, Liberty stood its ground as Baker and Brewington hit back-to-back 3-pointers.

A foul from High Point guard Tim Burns sent Jenkins to the foul line where he capitalized on a 3-point play of his own, giving the Flames a 23-15 lead over the Panthers.

The Panthers answered the Flames' 9-0 run with a 15-5 run of their own, which was led by Reid.

"They came back, but we still came at them," said Brewington. "We did not take a step back. We just kept on going forward."

Liberty came out of halftime with a 33-32 lead over the Panthers. The defense played a huge role in the second half as they held High Point to only 39 percent shooting in the period.

The opening minutes mirrored the first period as both teams traded points. The Flames decided to turn things up a notch minutes later as Brewington scored six straight points, giving Liberty a 47-42 lead.

Blair would later cap off a 10-0 run with a jumper of his own as the Flames looked to pull away from the Panthers.

"We knew we had to put them away,"

said junior Rell Porter. "We had to shut them down, get a stop, get out and run."

The Panthers stayed within striking distance in the first part of the second half.

However, Liberty went on a 13-0 point run and took an 84-63 lead with just 2:32 remaining in the game.

During this run, Blair made two key free throws, becoming the number two all-time scorer in Big South history.

With time winding down, the Panthers could not contain the Flames' explosive offense, which scored 63 points in the second half, giving Liberty a 96-79 victory and extending its winning streak to four games.

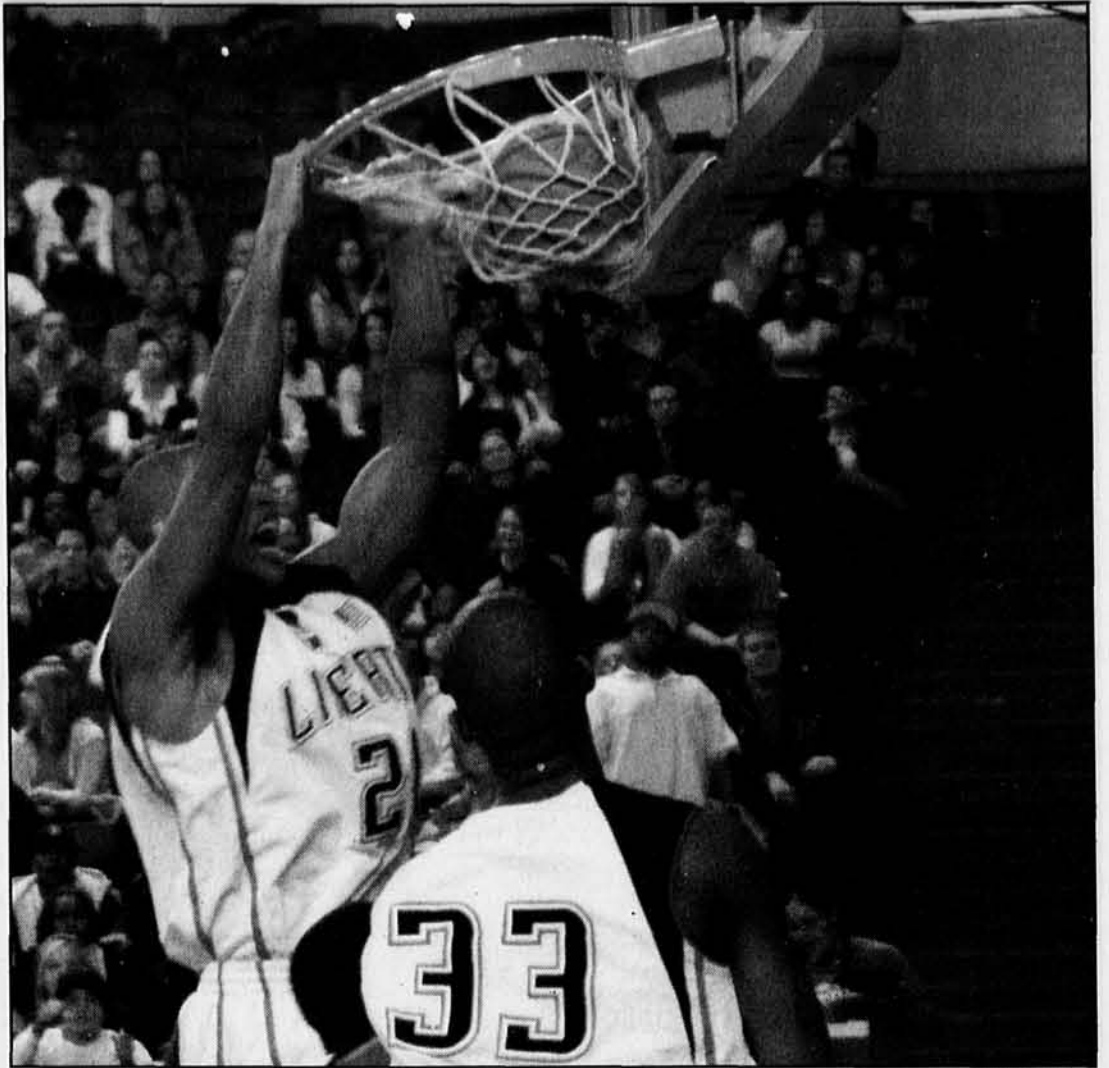
Brewington once again led the team with 28 points followed by Blair with 20 and Junior Alex Mclean with 16.

"Tonight was Brewington at the best that I have seen him on the floor," said Dunton.

"(He was) athletically blocking shots, getting putbacks and rebounds and doing the things I believe he can do night in and night out."

The Flames (12-13, 5-4 Big South) now leave home and carry their four-game win streak on the road against the Winthrop Eagles tonight in Rock Hill, S.C., in the Winthrop Coliseum at 7 p.m.

Contact Eric Brown at [ebrown@liberty.edu](mailto:ebrown@liberty.edu).



**DUNKING THE COMPETITION** — Junior Alex Mclean throws down a monster jam during Liberty's 80-65 drubbing of UNC-Asheville. Mclean finished with 13 points and seven rebounds in the Big South Conference matchup.

RICH COLEMAN

# Wrestling puts on show for spectators in Schilling

By Jake Petersen  
SPORTS REPORTER

Head wrestling Coach Jesse Castro described the moment as "surreal."

What he was alluding to was the electric atmosphere in the Schilling Center that was created by hundreds of fans at Tuesday's wrestling match

against the Tornados of King College.

With many fans in the stands cheering on the Flames, the team responded by winning six out of the first seven weight classes.

The only defeat came to King College's Derek Harrison in the 174-pound weight class over freshman Jonathan Campbell.

It would be the only win for the Tornados as Liberty won the next three matches, including dominating performances by the freshmen duo of Chris Daggett and Rory Bosek.

Both wrestlers won by fall. Daggett, wrestling in the 184-pound weight class, pinned Josh Goodson at the 2:17 mark

in the first period of his match. Bosek, though, in one of the more entertaining matches of the day, pinned Joey Kenney at the 5:13 mark.

Castro felt Bosek, who previously wrestled at 187 pounds but has since been moved up to the 197-pound slot and was 3-13 on the season before his win, was instrumental in the Flames success with his impressive victory.

"Rory has been struggling a little bit this season but he performed great today. It was a really good win for him," said Castro, who was a former grappler for Liberty.

Junior Christian Smith entered the match in full force, opening up a 7-1 advantage on P.J. Puriefoy after a pair of takedowns and three back points.

Smith was able to end his match in style, finishing off Puriefoy in the second period by fall and securing six points for his team.

In the very next match, freshman Sam Walters was able to use a strong third period to propel him to a major decision victory over Kwinten Brown in the 133-

pound weight class, increasing the Flames lead to 10-0 after two matches.

The Flames then shifted into cruise control, winning the next four weight classes before Harrison's victory.

Picking up his 30th win on the season was 141-pound sophomore Tim Harner, whose defeat of Shad Rissler 10-2 protected Liberty's lead.

Freshman Aaron Kelly followed up Harner's performance with an even better one, pinning Marty Erickson in the second period for his 16th win of the season.

Freshman Shaun Smith followed with a 9-4 win over David Johnson and fellow freshman Chad Porter picked up a win in the 165-pound class for his 10th victory of the season, pinning Josh Hardin in the first period.

Heavyweight freshman Patrick Walker closed out the match with his 22nd win of the year, this one by forfeit as the Tornados were unable to field a wrestler.

For the day, the Flames produced five victories by fall and two by major deci-

sion en route to their 47-3 victory.

Castro applauded the fans that made it out to the Schilling Center for the match.

"Whenever you're at home, it's always an advantage, and to have a supporting crowd like this really assisted in our victory."

"This is our second home match, but it's really our first one in front of a packed crowd because most students were home for (Thanksgiving) break," he said.

"I wrestled here at the very same place many years ago and to see this, it's like déjà vu all over again," Castro added.

The win brings the Flames record to 12-6 heading into this weekend's Eastern Regional Dual Meet to be held in Dover, Del.

The Flames will be hosted by Delaware State and will be joined by Duquesne University, Millersville University and fellow Big South Conference member Gardner-Webb University.

Contact Jake Petersen at [jtpetersen@liberty.edu](mailto:jtpetersen@liberty.edu).

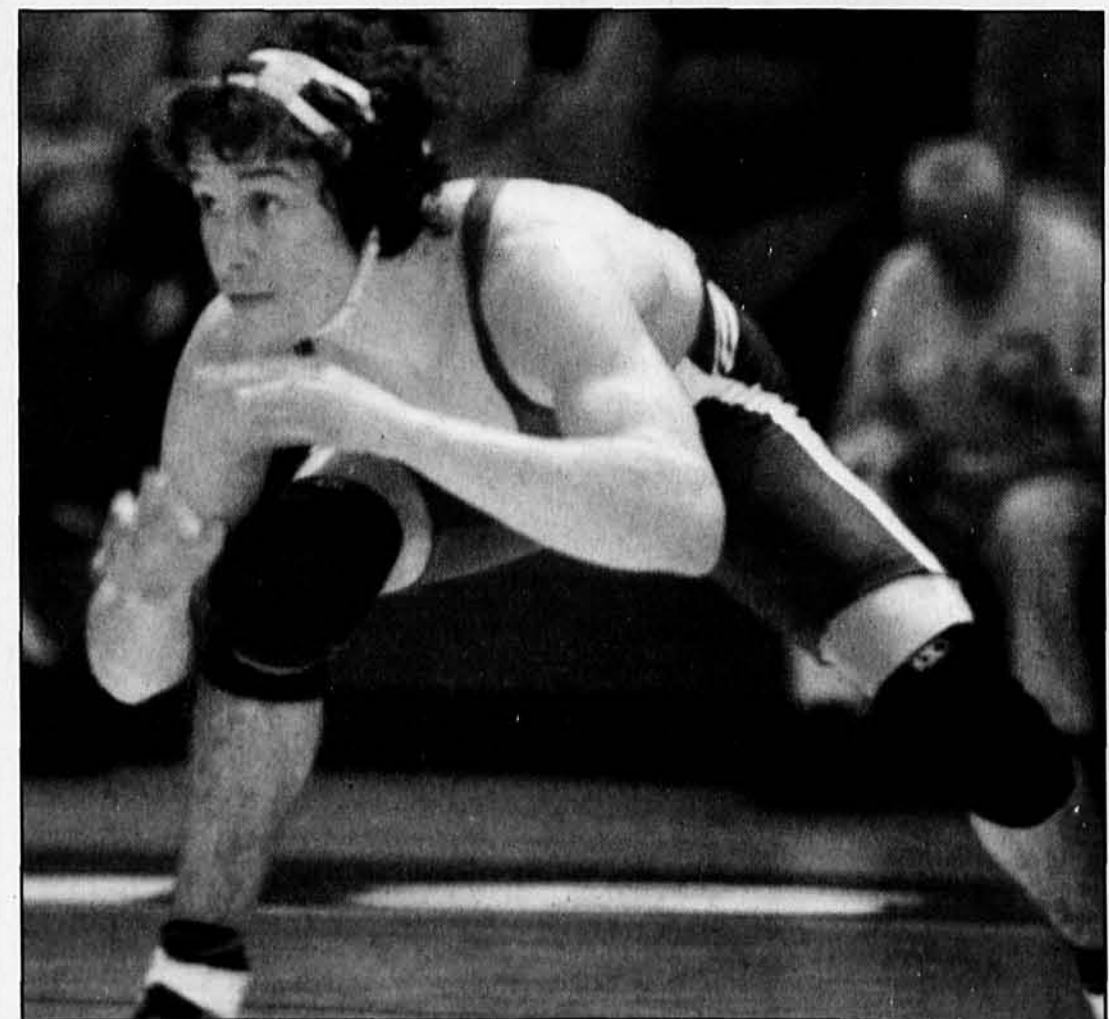
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**READY TO DEFEND** — Junior Christian Smith prepares for his opponent in last Tuesday's match against King College. Smith defeated P.J. Puriefoy by fall in the 125-pound weight class. Liberty's next match is Feb. 15.

ALEX TOWERS

**Did you know?**

In Jamaica and Ethiopia, today is known as Bob Marley Day.

— [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)



**Quote of the week:**

"An artist must be agree to choose what he does, certainly, but he must also never be afraid to do what he might choose."

— Langston Hughes  
African-American poet, novelist and playwright

# Liberty's Center4ME celebrates Black History Month

By Leslie Hagar  
LIFE REPORTER

Americans have recognized black history since 1926. What is less known is that black history had barely begun to be studied — or even documented — when the tradition originated. African-Americans have been in America at least as far back as colonial times, but it was not until the 20th century that black people played a more prevalent role in history books.

According to [www.blackhistory-pages.net](http://www.blackhistory-pages.net), the celebration of Black History Month and the study of African-American history began with Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Woodson was born to parents who were former slaves. He spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at 20. He graduated in two years and soon went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. Woodson was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the black American population, and when African-Americans did figure into the picture, it was generally in ways that reflected the inferior social position they were assigned at the time. Woodson dedicated his life to changing that.

"Black history month is a time of unity, awareness and exposure," said Associate Dean Daveta Saunders of the Center for Multicultural Enrichment. "Unity is a big thing our office promotes. This month will bring blacks together but it is also for (other) nationalities as well."

Saunders said, "Some of the events we have lined up for Black History Month are fun. But we also have events provide awareness. They may make people uncomfortable but they are events that can

give you things to learn for when you are out in the workplace."

One of the events students can be involved in includes a trivia contest. Beginning Feb. 2 and continuing every Friday of the month is a quiz that will test your knowledge of African-Americans. The questions can be found in Connections Weekly or on the splash page. The winner will receive a \$10 gift card to Wal-Mart.

"If you win all four weeks, that's \$40 — and \$40 goes a long way at Wal-Mart," said Dean Saunders.

The following events will also be taking place in February to celebrate Black History Month:

On Wednesday, Feb. 7, the Black Student Initiative (BSI) Forum will host and event called, "What's in a Name?" It will take place at the Center4Me (Dorm 20), beginning at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. The event will focus on the issue of derogatory name-calling across cultural boundaries. All are welcome to join in this candid conversation.

On Friday, Feb. 9, there will be a reception for convocation speaker Bishop Wellington Boone, also at the Center4Me, starting at 12 p.m. The reception is also free and open to the public. Bishop Wellington is a nationally recognized platform speaker for Promise Keepers, and the author of best-selling popular Christian books like "Your Wife is Not Your Momma," "Breaking Through," "My Journey With God" and "The Low Road to New Heights."

On Saturday, Feb. 10, the LaHaye Center will host a Reunion of the African Diaspora. The reunion begins at 12 p.m. and there is an admission cost. Ticket prices are \$3 for adults, \$2 for Liberty students with ID and \$1 for children. The reunion will celebrate

African culture that has spread throughout the world. Proceeds will go to the Daniel Dakum Scholarship Fund.

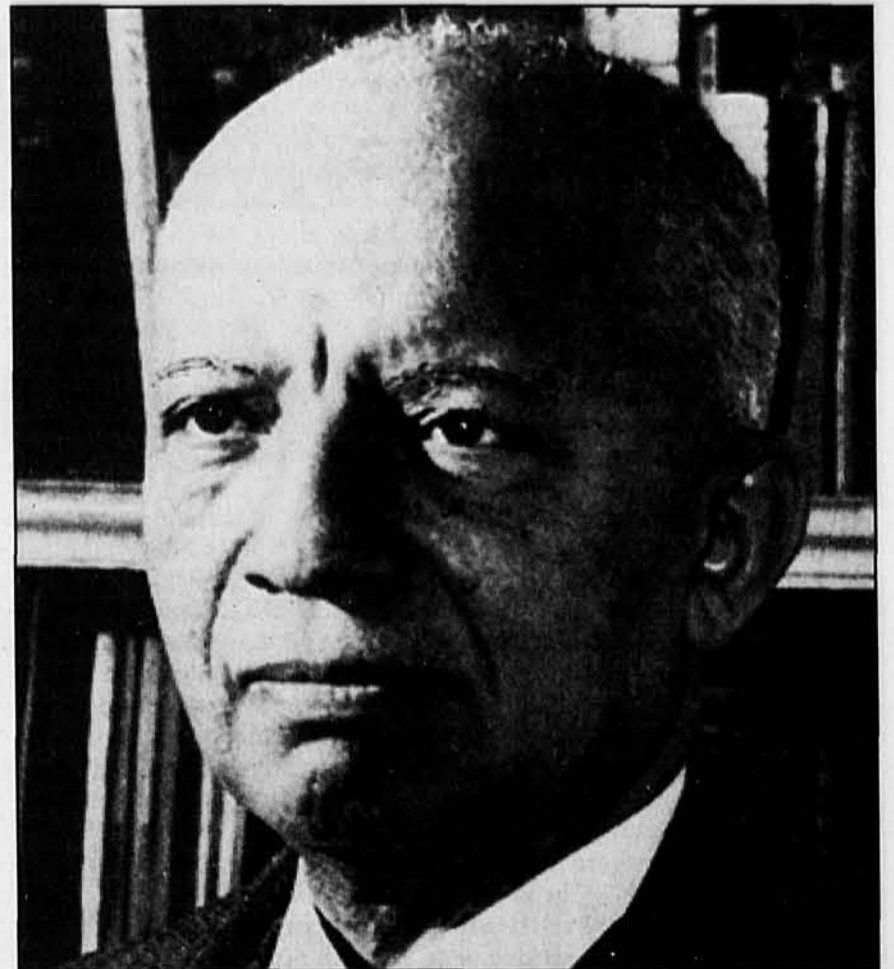
Monday, Feb. 12 is "History of the Black Church." Dr. Oneal Sandidge, an adjunct professor, will speak on the history of the black church. He will be speaking in Religion Hall, Room 104 beginning at 7 p.m. This is a free event that is also open to the public.

On Wednesday, Feb. 14, the BSI will host a forum called, "Who Will You Bring Home?" The forum will discuss interracial dating along with abstinence and the blessings of waiting until marriage. It will take place in the Center4Me at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

A benefit concert for the LU Fellowship Gospel Choir will take place on Saturday, Feb. 17, in Pate Chapel at Thomas Road Baptist Church. It is entitled, "Praise is What We Do," and the proceeds will go to the "Meet Me in Africa" missions trip. General admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students with their ID.

A BSI Forum, "Where Are You?" will be held in the Center4ME on Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. At this event, the forum will discuss popular TV series like, "A Different World" and "College Hill" and discuss which college Liberty University is most like. The event is free and open to the public.

There will be a "Legacy Tour" on Saturday, Feb. 24 to Baltimore. The event costs \$15 and is for Liberty students only. On this trip, students will spend the day touring four African-American sites such as the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Reginald F. Lewis Museum, Eubie Black Jazz Institute and Royal Theatre Monument. The cost of transportation and admission to museums is included.



BLACK HISTORY — Dr. Carter Goodwin Woodson, a Harvard graduate, historian and author, is known as the "Father of Black History."

There will be "A Different World Marathon" on Monday, Feb. 26, in the Center4Me starting at 8:45 p.m. There is no charge for admittance and the viewing is open to the public.

On Wednesday, Feb. 28, students and staff are encouraged to wear red or green with black on a day known as Solidarity Dress Day in order to show appreciation for the contributions of African-Americans.

In another event on the 28th, the BSI will host a forum called "What Now?," which will cover topics such as the role of Liberty students in contributing to the legacy of African-Americans. The forum will begin at 6 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

While February is designed specifically for black history,

Saunders wants people to know that the multicultural center also celebrates events related to other cultures.

"We don't deal with people of different races. We deal with different cultures. Everybody is a Center4Me. Everybody has a culture. We all come from different regions (and) different religious backgrounds," she said.

Center4Me's future events include Hispanic History Month and Irish History Month, to name a few.

For more information on Black History Month and the multicultural center, visit: [www.liberty.edu/studentaffairs/multiculturalenrichment/](http://www.liberty.edu/studentaffairs/multiculturalenrichment/).

Contact Leslie Hagar at [lahagar@liberty.edu](mailto:lahagar@liberty.edu).

# Charles Billingsley returns to LU



JESSICA WEBER

WELCOME BACK! — After arriving in Lynchburg, Charles Billingsley will be singing in convocation on February 19.

By Natasha Kormanik  
LIFE REPORTER

Fans of performer Charles Billingsley will be happy to know that he will be returning to Liberty University and Thomas Road Baptist Church for the spring semester. He has spent the last 18 months at Dr. David Jeremiah's Shadow Mountain Community Church in San Diego.

Billingsley's decision to return to Liberty was made in large part due to his belief that California was not his ideal place to raise a family. "The whole time in California, we were able to accomplish a lot, but in the end I felt like we left our home," he said. "Home is where the heart is, and my heart is in Lynchburg."

Billingsley, who became popular as a member of the award-winning contemporary Christian music group NewSong before his career went solo, will be joining artist-in-residence Alicia Williamson-Garcia when he begins work for LU and TRBC starting Feb. 18. "The Lord is leading him back, and we're happy to have him back," said Garcia.

Members of TRBC will not have to wait long to enjoy Billingsley's powerful, melodious voice. After arriving in

Lynchburg, he will sing at convocation on Feb. 19.

In addition, according to Lynchburg's "News & Advance," Chancellor Dr. Jerry Falwell believes that, with both Billingsley and Garcia, the music programs at LU and TRBC will be enhanced, making this "our best-watched year ever on television."

Campus pastor David McKinney, who worked with Billingsley for three years prior to Billingsley's time in San Diego, said that with the artist's assistance, the music programs at LU will definitely be strengthened.

"He has an amazing ability to influence the 2-yr-old and 92-yr-old at the same time," said McKinney.

He added that Billingsley's history and years of traveling have given him an enormous amount of experience and knowledge and a broad range of perspectives to bring to the Worship Department at Liberty.

"He has taken ideas from each church, built relationships with each church and brings a wide, broad perspective of what church worship is," said McKinney.

Starting this August, Billingsley will begin to train students in becoming worship leaders, allowing students majoring in worship to

engage with him in conversation as they explore the meaning and history of worship.

McKinney said that Billingsley, who has an amazing heart for worship and for people alike, will be able to, "train worship leaders to go into the 5,000-member church as well as the 50-member church."

"We'll see a guy with a genuine, heartfelt worship attitude," said McKinney.

Garcia, who has known Billingsley for 20 years, corroborated McKinney's statements as she said, "He's got a lot of experience to share with the students and that's what we're doing. We want to give the students a lot of hands-on application, and Charles brings that with him."

Billingsley, however, is still living in California with his wife Shea and sons Caleb and Cooper. He does not plan on moving back to Lynchburg permanently until after his kids are out of school in June.

McKinney said, "We're very excited to have him back."

Garcia agreed. "Charles has a sweet family too — we love his wife and children. It feels like family coming home, that's what it feels like," she said.

Contact Natasha Kormanik at [nkormanik@liberty.edu](mailto:nkormanik@liberty.edu).



MICHELLE QUARANTOTTO

**FUN WITH POTTERY** — All Fired Up, a pottery painting workshop, is located at 4119 Boonsboro Road, Suite 125 in Lynchburg. The studio has an assortment of pottery pieces that customers can choose from to personalize and decorate.

# All Fired Up and ready to paint

By Hilary Sutton  
LIFE REPORTER

I am not an artist. I was never good at copying Looney Tunes cartoons or drawing the faces of classmates. My artistic endeavors never went further than drawing landscapes in church, and by landscapes I mean a tree, a sun, a butterfly and a bug in the grass — all with smiling faces of course. Because I realized early on that my gifts and talents lie elsewhere, I never really pursued making beautiful things with my own two hands — that is, until I discovered All Fired Up.

All Fired Up is a paint-your-own pottery studio located off Boonsboro Road. Upon entering All Fired Up, you will see walls lined with shelves filled with pottery pieces just waiting for you to decorate. Options go from the more practical—plates and bowls—to the less-frog figurines and statues of small children. They have over 200

shapes to choose from, so you are sure to find something exciting.

All Fired Up is the perfect Friday night activity for a group of friends looking for something to do. They do not charge for the time it takes you to complete your piece, so it is a perfect relaxing environment to get creative. In addition, prices are relatively inexpensive. Pieces range from \$4-\$50 and the firing process is equal to 40 percent of the cost of your piece.

All Fired Up will even host parties. For parties, the host receives a variety of discounts and painters receive 20 percent off any item of \$12 or more. All Fired Up also hosts special ladies' nights, when complimentary chocolate and soft drinks are offered. On these nights, studio fees are half-price, and groups of eight or more can reserve the party room at no additional charge.

If the idea of painting your own pottery sounds a little intimidating,

keep in mind that All Fired Up requires no talent. A plethora of stencils, samples, brushes and sponges await your use. This is a fun outing for both the artistically challenged and the next Picasso.

On my first trip to All Fired Up, I chose to decorate a coffee mug. As an avid coffee drinker, I thought it would be useful. After much deliberation, I settled on a palette of Van Gogh-esque colors — blues and golds. I tried to imitate Van Gogh's "Starry Night" and found that even though my rendition looked more like a child's finger painting than a timeless masterpiece, I was still having fun laughing and hanging out with friends while I was decorating my new treasure.

After a few days, I returned to All Fired Up and picked up my self-decorated mug. It was not quite as pretty and organized as some of my other friends' pieces, but it was my own work and I was

proud of it. Even now, my favorite mug in the cabinet is my All Fired Up mug that I decorated myself. A fun weekend activity with friends with a reward of my own handiwork that I can use again and again — what could be better than that?

All Fired Up is located at 4119 Boonsboro Road, Suite 125 in Lynchburg. For reservations you can call 434-384-0004 or send an e-mail to allfiredup@varah.com.

Contact Hilary Sutton at [hlsutton@liberty.edu](mailto:hlsutton@liberty.edu).



MICHELLE QUARANTOTTO

**PARTY TIME!** — All Fired Up hosts parties and ladies' nights with free chocolate and soda.



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