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**Jonathan Baines**, a new freshman for fall 2008, will appear on *American Idol* on Feb. 12 and 13. Look for the full report in an upcoming issue of the *Champion*.



## LEARNING TO SWIM

Stepping outside the Christian bubble A4

# LIBERTY CHAMPION

25th Anniversary

(TUESDAY, January 22, 2008 VOL. 25 NO. 12)

### A GLIMPSE OF STUDENT LIFE



VIA DOLOROSA

## Walking in Christ's footprints

Liberty students experience the Holy Land

By **Daniel Martinez**  
NEWS REPORTER

The Bible came alive for 93 people associated with Liberty as they toured various biblical sights during a week-long tour of Israel just prior to the start of the spring semester.

Dr. Ergun Caner, president of the Liberty Theological Seminary, led a group that "included residential and Distance Learning Program students from 24 states and two from Japan," according to the Liberty University Web site's press release on the trip.

Please see **ISRAEL, A6**

## Crisis in Kenya: 'People are losing the hope to live'

By **Drew Menard**  
NEWS REPORTER

Political unrest and violence have plagued Kenya over the past month following the controversial presidential elections of Dec. 29. According to MSNBC, re-elected Mwai Kibaki claimed victory after a contested turn of events in the closest election in Kenyan history.

Kibaki's opponent, Raila Odinga, held an established lead in the early stages of the election on Dec. 27 after most of the country's key voters had cast their ballots. Polls were delayed significantly afterwards in some areas.

After discrepancies from these areas were uncovered, including an alleged 100 percent voter turnout in some places, incumbent Kibaki surprisingly shot past the opposition and gained a narrow lead. After the unprecedented turn of events, Kibaki quickly claimed victory and banned live TV broadcasts.

Odinga and his supporters refused to accept this decision and accused the president of rigging the election.

Please see **KENYA, A3**

Kenyan students weigh in on recent events in their home country

Kenya has only been free from British rule since 1963.

## News Briefs

### WAR ON TERROR

"We are engaged in an idealistic struggle," President George W. Bush commented on Jan. 16 regarding the purpose of his recent trip to the Middle East. "The extremists embrace an ideology based upon hate and intolerance, as opposed to an ideology based on liberty, which promotes hope and tolerance and respect."

### NFL

The New England Patriots earned an 18-0 record with their 21-12 victory over the San Diego Chargers on Sunday. The Green Bay Packers and NY Giants went into overtime, with the Giants winning 23-20 after kicking a 47-yard field goal. Trying to preserve their perfect record, the Patriots will face the Giants on Feb. 3 for Superbowl XLII. See B4

### PRICE OF GAS

Oil spiked to a record high \$100 a barrel on Jan. 2 although prices have receded over the past week.

### STOCKS

Fears of U.S. economic recession sent stock prices plunging Monday at exchanges in London, Paris, Frankfurt, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Seoul and Bombay.

### 2008 ELECTIONS

Mitt Romney swept Nevada's Republican primary while Hillary Rodham Clinton edged out Barack Obama for the Democrats on the Jan. 19. In South Carolina, cold weather was not enough to prevent Republicans from nominating John McCain by a 3 percent margin over Mike Huckabee.

### BRUTALITY IN KENYA

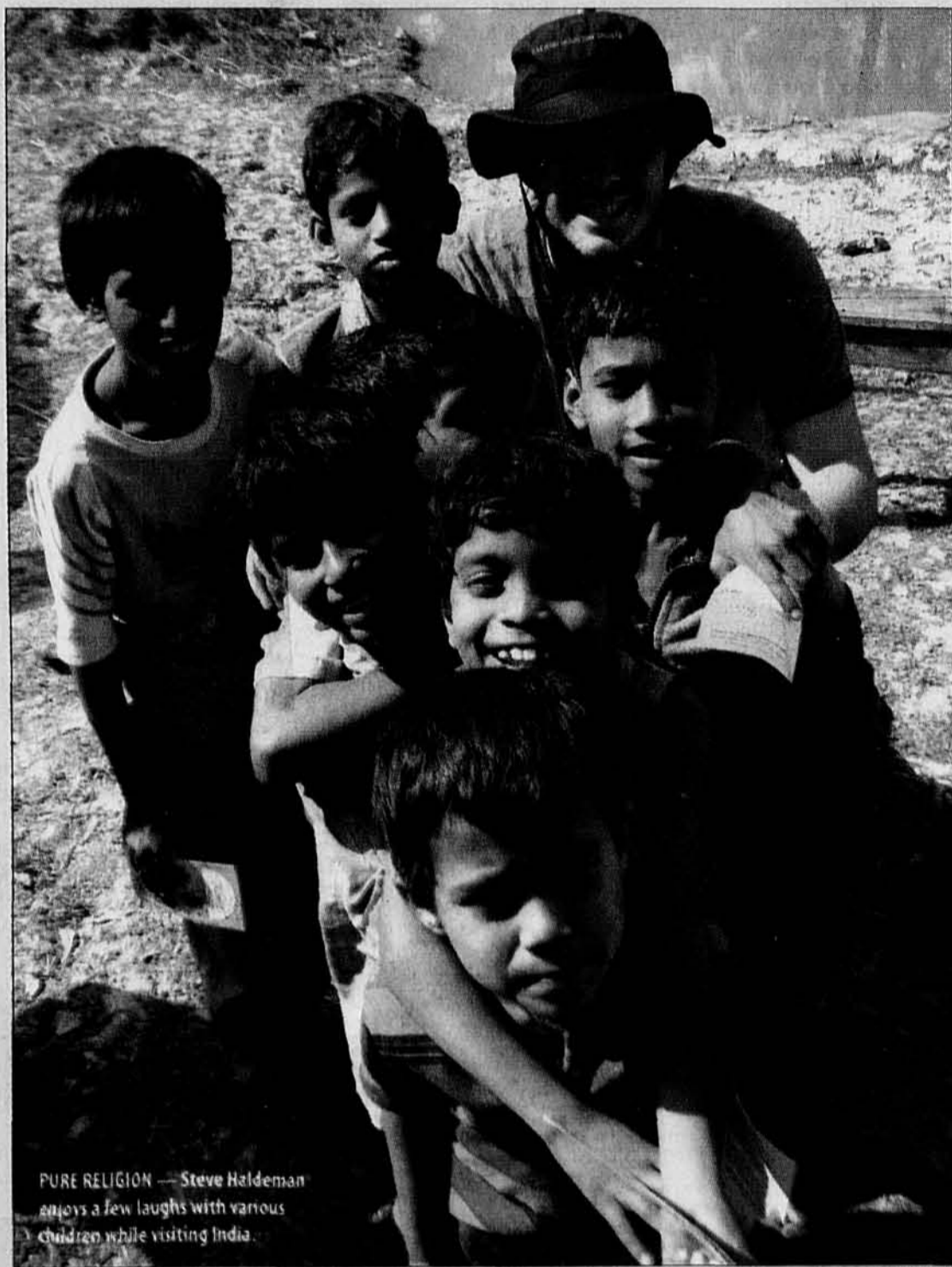
Several Kenyans were "beaten and hacked to death with machetes" in Nairobi on Sunday, providing further evidence that tribal unrest continues to plague the nation of 37 million, according to recent reports from the AP. See A1

### CULTURE

Honor Black History Month with Center4ME over the next few weeks.

### LU LIBERTY UNIVERSITY MISSIONS

## Ministering to India



PURE RELIGION — Steve Haldeman enjoys a few laughs with various children while visiting India.

LUKE GARVEY

### "We went with the intention of serving"

By **Stan Barringer**  
NEWS REPORTER

Two campus pastors and 24 Liberty students experienced a holiday of dust, grime, intense heat, poverty and overcrowding in the busy streets of India. Pastor Johnnie Moore led a missions team to Kota, India, while Scott Ray and his wife, Rebekah, led a team to Calcutta. Light Ministries organized both trips, which were held over Christmas break.

"We spent most of our time working and serving a movement of Indian Christians that have Christian schools, seminaries, and orphanages throughout India," Moore said. "We went with

the intention of serving these believers in whatever way we possibly could."

His group served with poor children in Kota, the desert state of Rajasthan, which was ruled by at least 150 kings prior to India's 1947 independence from Great Britain. It is now one of the nation's most impoverished regions.

Moore's team partnered with Light Ministries, the Helms School of Government and private donors to purchase clothing and gifts for Indian children. Moore said some aid organizations estimate that as many as half of the world's impoverished children live in India.

Please see **INDIA, A3**

## Honoring God while saving money: Liberty starts recycling

By **Jennifer Schmidt**  
NEWS EDITOR

Students may have recently noticed small "huts" on various parts of campus or cardboard collection boxes in offices and dorms that say "white paper." All of these tangles are the outgrowth of two years of planning and dreaming to create an established recycling program at Liberty University.

Almost 14 tons of waste are produced daily at Liberty based on statistics from the United States Environmental Protection Agency that estimates the average person produces five to seven pounds of trash per day.

Project Coordinator Sheri Pruitt has registered Liberty for the RecycleMania competition that officially begins on Jan. 27.

Please see **RECYCLE, A3**

## NEED TO READ

### CREATED EQUAL

Lynchburg city is currently holding rallies to promote racial diversity **LIFE B6**

### NEW YEAR, NEW FACES

Enrollment for the spring semester topped record numbers **NEWS A2**

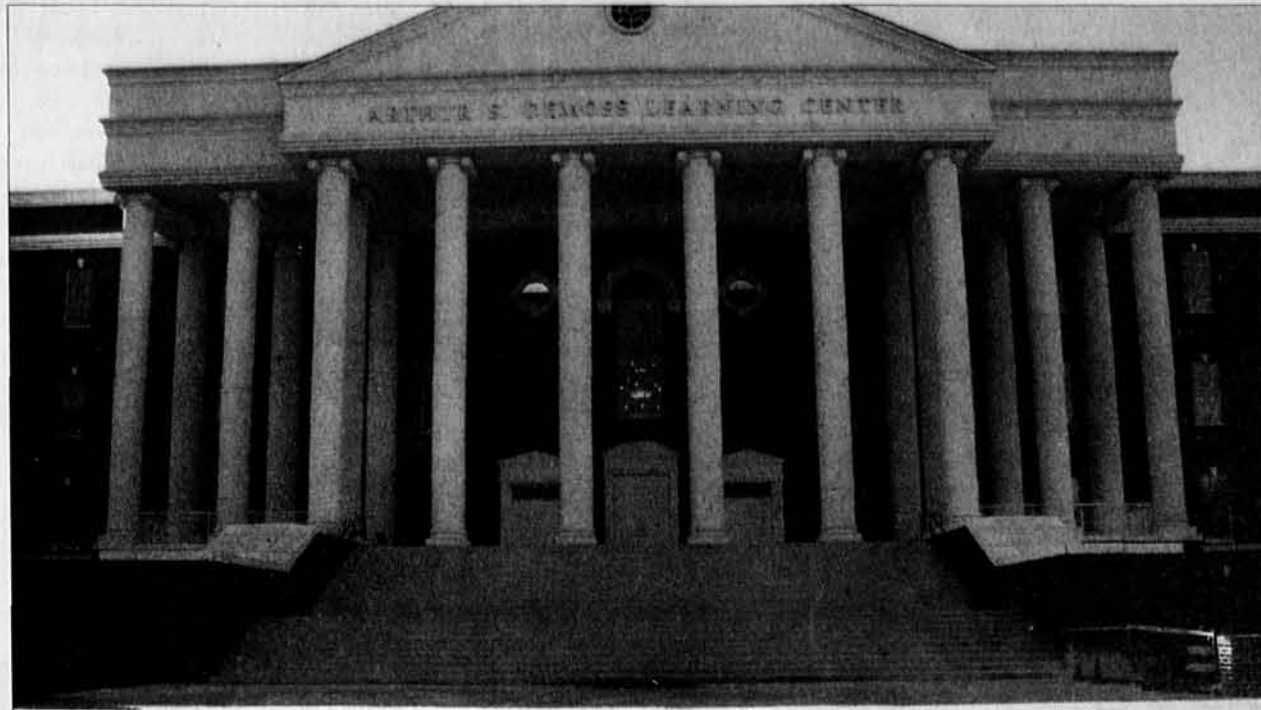
### CAN A TAX BE FAIR?

Learn more about Gov. Mike Huckabee's FairTax plans **OPINION A5**

### LADIES OF LIBERTY

The Lady Flames basketball team continues its winning ways **SPORTS B1**

# DeMoss fountain construction moves full steam ahead



**NEW HEIGHTS** — Slated for completion in April, the new fountain will be 19 feet tall.

NICK POOLE

By Charles S. Goss  
NEWS REPORTER

Construction of the new fountain area in front of the Arthur S. DeMoss Learning Center is progressing well, according to Director of Planning and Construction Charles Spence.

"We really don't need to be done until the fountain arrives in April," Spence said in an e-mail. "We are well ahead of that schedule."

The fountain is being constructed, as promised by the late Chancellor Jerry Falwell, in honor of those who donated money to see the second through fourth floors of DeMoss completed, according to Spence.

To date, the third and fourth floors of DeMoss are not yet complete.

When finished in April, the fountain will not only contain seating areas for students and visitors, but there will also be a new bus stop established for the Liberty transit system, according to Spence.

Buses traveling southbound

will stop at a specially constructed shoulder, allowing students direct access to the front of DeMoss. The new transit area was completed over winter break.

The construction of the fountain has removed a portion of the DeMoss parking lot.

According to a previous Liberty Champion issue, the fountain will feature three columns with water flowing out of the top and down the sides. "Liberty University" will be etched in brass lettering along the outside edge of the fountain.

The names of the various donors will be displayed within the fountain area.

An eagle, the school's mascot, will rest atop the tallest column. The entire fountain will be 19 feet tall. The fountain's columns will bear a close resemblance to the white columns supporting the entrance to DeMoss.

Contact Charles S. Goss at csgoss@liberty.edu.

## Record amount of students join LU for spring

By Mattison Brooks  
NEWS REPORTER

Liberty welcomed 625 undergraduate and 130 graduate students this past week with the grand total of 755 becoming the largest spring enrollment in the school's history. Of the undergraduate students, 250 are freshman and 210 are transfers, striking a healthy balance between those familiar with college life and those new to the environment. One hundred and sixty five students returned to Liberty after being readmitted.

As with any year, the new students and the transfers have begun to settle into new routines found at Liberty, each doing so in their own separate ways. One student has

found solace at a popular Liberty location to deal with the busyness of classes and studying.

"I really enjoy being at the student center," freshman Calvin Simmons of Washington D.C. said, calling it a "great place where I can relax, hang out and meet people — it's good stuff."

Liberty's first snow day of 2008 last Thursday also provided an unexpected, but much appreciated, day off for the new students.

"It was great, a nice break. I spent the day sledding on trays from the Rot," returning junior Chris Easton said, who also noted that it was his "most memorable experience so far" at Liberty.

Other students have looked at their relatively short university ex-

perience as a good chance to grow and have applauded the environment.

"I wanted to be educated in a Christian environment. The professors here are very strong in their faith, and it's been a new experience to grow in education and spirit. I'm very happy to be here," freshman Sui Tin Sung, an international student from Myanmar, said.

The dorm life has also been a talking point amongst the students, with friends being made as well as disagreements over whose stuff goes where.

"Yeah, it's been full of variety," freshman Anthony Tompkins joked about getting situated in his new room. "Friends have been made, but it's hard to break in halfway

through the school year."

Another student shared the same sentiments.

"It has been hard getting used to sharing spaces with others," Sung admits. "But I have made friends, and it seems to be going well."

Others have still found their new situations to be almost comical. "Yeah, I like my roommates," Simmons said, although he noted the diversity and differences in cleanliness between the three of them.

With a good start to the spring semester at Liberty, and with one week under their belts, things will continue progress and move forward for every individual at Liberty this year — that is, until the cycle begins again next semester.

Contact Mattison Brooks at embrooks@liberty.edu.

### Enrollment Statistics

- This semester 625 undergraduate and 130 graduate students joined Liberty, totaling 755 new students on campus this spring.

#### Undergraduate Students

- 250, or 40 percent, are new freshmen

- 210, or 35 percent, are transfer students

- 165, or 25 percent, are re-admits from past terms (returning to Liberty)

## Food for thought: New diner to serve up Falwell nostalgia

### Doc's Diner Menu

- The diner's menu items are currently being named by students.

- Log onto Facebook.com and visit the group "Doc's Diner Coming to East Campus" to submit your name ideas for menu items.

- Ideas so far include the "Moral Majority Burger" and "Flaming Fish Sticks."

By Dominique McKay  
NEWS REPORTER

In two months Liberty University will be opening its newest eatery — Doc's Diner, named in honor of the late Dr. Jerry Falwell. Construction on Campus East is underway on the diner and, according to Liberty Dining Services, the theme of Doc's Diner will revolve around Falwell's lifetime achievements at Liberty University and Thomas Road Baptist Church.

Elizabeth VanWingerden, resident marketing manager of Liberty Dining Services, said even the names of the items on the menu will be modeled after what she terms "Libertyisms" — names particular

to life at Liberty. VanWingerden said the students who have good suggestions and creative names of menu items can go to Facebook and join the group entitled "Doc's Diner Coming to East Campus" to make their suggestions known.

Although no royalties will be given out for selected suggestions, they will be featured on the new diner's menu for years to come.

Sophomore Maggie Insley said she thought a "Jerry Jr. Burger" would be a good name for a junior cheeseburger. A "Macel Milk Shake" sounded like a great item to sophomore Amanda Stewart.

According to VanWingerden, Liberty Dining Services is planning a soft opening for the diner in March

right after spring break so that Liberty students will be the first to savor the food and environment. VanWingerden added that they are also planning on accepting meal points and meal swipes as payment from Liberty students with meal plans.

Freshman Josh Davis, a resident of Campus East said, "Dr. Falwell loved his food," noting that the diner was a good way to honor him.

Davis also made the menu suggestion of the "Moral Majority Burger."

"It could be the veggie-type burger that is really good for you," he said.

Sophomore Markus Andrew Mizesko, also a resident of Campus East, said, "I think the better the

food service, the more honorable it will be of Dr. Falwell and the less aggravating it will be for students who are trying to get grub with top quality service."

Mizesko made a few suggestions for the menu including "Jesus' Basket of Bread and Fish" and "Flaming Fishsticks."

Liberty Dining Services is planning on a grand opening to the general public in the fall semester of this year after students return from summer break, although this is subject to change.

Contact Dominique McKay at dgmckay@liberty.edu.

## LIBERTY CHAMPION <sup>25th Anniversary</sup>

1971 UNIVERSITY BLVD. LYNCHBURG, VA 24506 (434) 582-2124

Faculty Adviser Deborah Huff  
Ad Director Sue Matthews

Editor in Chief Jenni Thurman

### SECTION EDITORS

Copy Editor Jen Slothower  
News Jennifer Schmidt  
Asst. News Joy Gilmour  
Opinion Will Mayer  
Life! Amanda Sullivan  
Sports Eric Brown  
Asst. Sports Jake Peterson

### GRAPHIC DESIGN & WEB

Graphic Design Natalie Thurman  
Graphic, Ad, & Web Guru Jesse Perry

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Photo Editor Alex Towers  
Asst. Editors Brett Hastie  
Nick Poole

Distr. Manager Ben Lesley

### POLICIES & INFO

The Champion encourages community member to submit letter to the editor on any subject. Letters should not exceed 400 words and must be typed and signed. The deadline is 5 p.m. Friday. Letters and columns that appear are the opinion of the author solely, not the Champion editorial board or Liberty University.

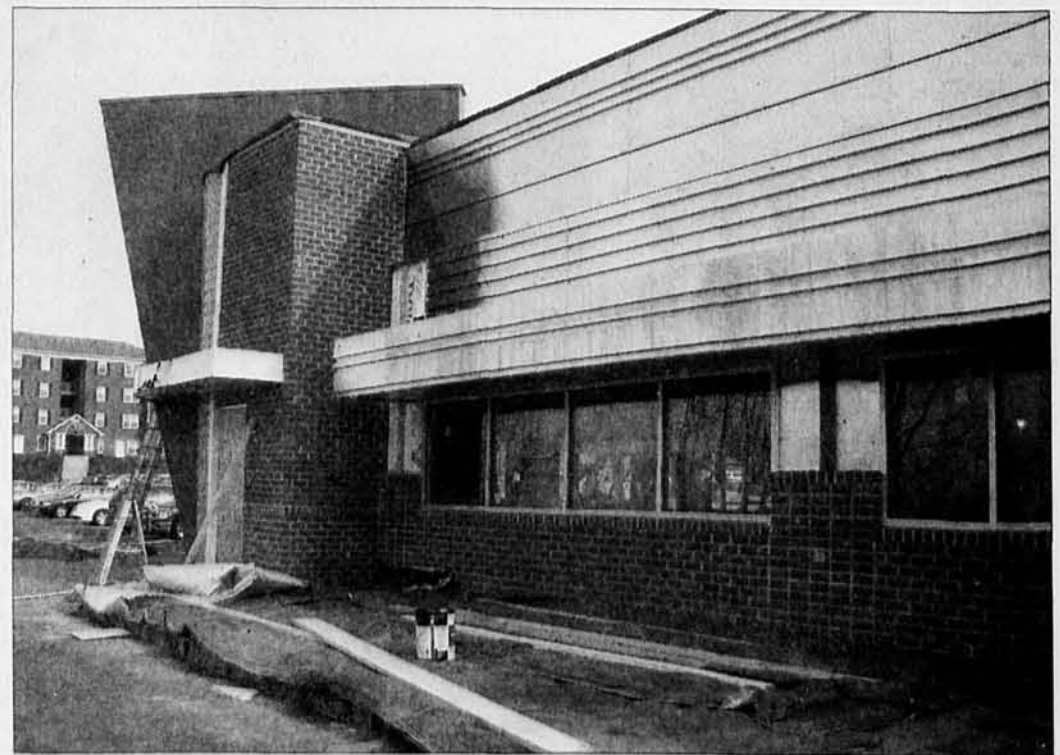
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Liberty Champion  
Liberty University, Box 2000,  
Lynchburg, VA 24502

or drop off in DeMoss Hall 1035.

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



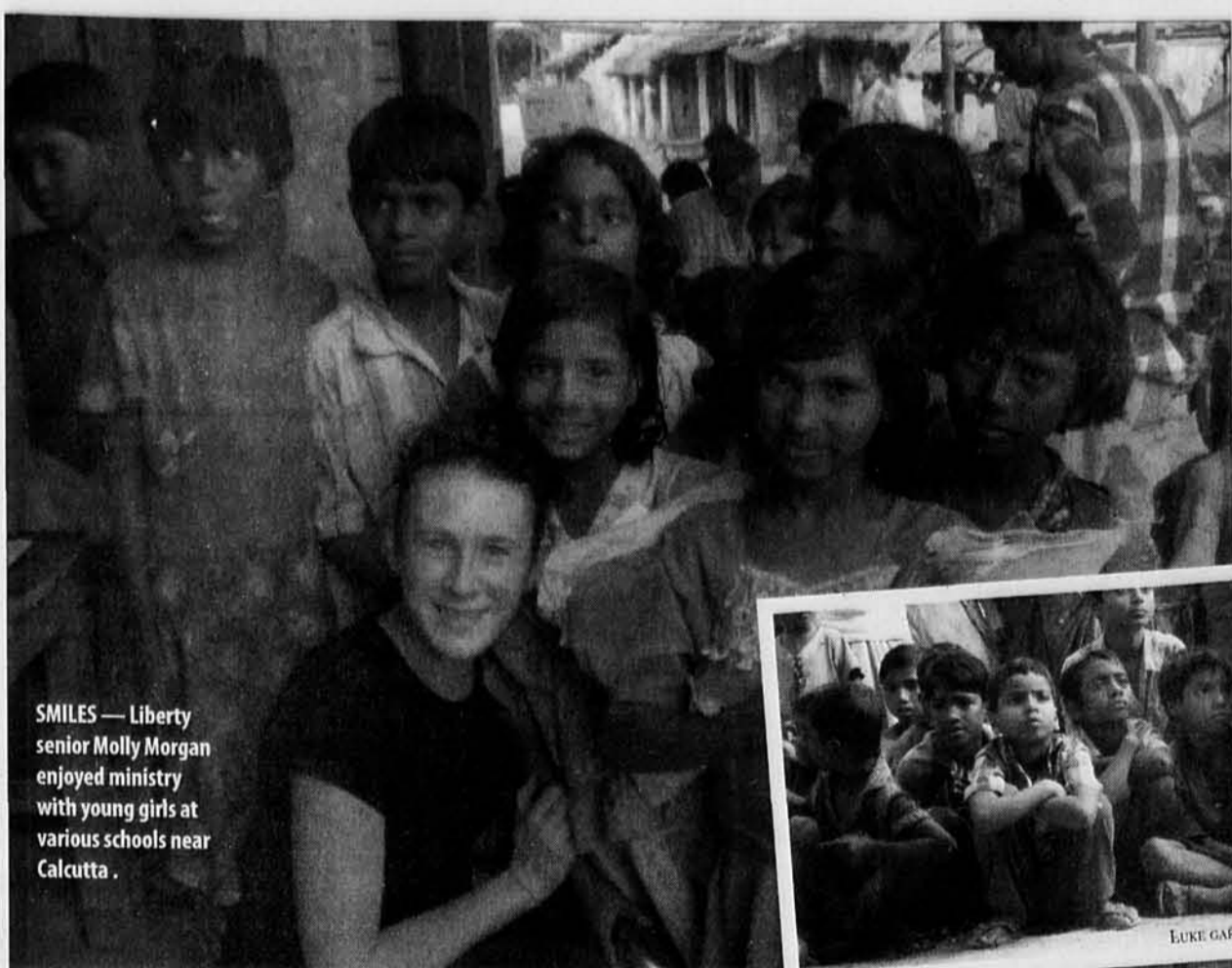
COMING SOON — Doc's Diner should be in business shortly after spring break.

CHARITY FOYSTER

## WINNERS!

The Dec. 4 issue of the Champion featured a notice on A2 that offered a coupon for a free large one topping pizza from Domino's to the first four students who could correctly recite the names of the eight reindeer. Below are the names of the winners. Be sure to check the paper for similar contests in the future.

1. Justin Bernard, Master's of Religion, Denver, Colo.
2. Justin Smith, Communications/Advertising, Billings, Mont.
3. Patrick Ryan, Biblical Studies, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
4. Justin Scott, International Politics/Policy, Rocky Mount, Va.



SMILES — Liberty senior Molly Morgan enjoyed ministry with young girls at various schools near Calcutta.



PHOTO PROVIDED



FAR FROM HOME — Sharon Langat (left) and Loise Wanjai are both natives of Nakuru, where most of their family members still reside. Nakuru is roughly two hours from Nairobi, where the violence has been centered in the past few weeks.

PHOTO PROVIDED

## KENYA: Tribal conflict continues

Continued from A1

The country's two largest tribes — the Luo, who support Odinga, and the Kikuyu, who support Kibaki — have been rivals since the country's independence from Britain was gained in 1963.

"This makes it more evident that there are tribal lines there," senior international relations major and Kenyan native Sharon Langat said.

Division between the two opposing parties quickly boiled into continued violence. Mobs of people crowded streets, destroying property and looting in protest of the election. Police responded with heavy force, firing into the mobs and killing men, women and children without distinction.

In the town of Eldoret, a church containing woman and children was burned down. According to Time magazine, nearly 600 people have been reported dead as a result of this conflict, although many sources estimate the figure to be well over 1,000. Over 250,000 civilians, mostly women and children, have been displaced.

"Police come in with the guns and attack people," junior Loise Wanjai, a Kenyan student studying at Liberty, said. "They will do whatever it takes to break (the protests) up."

Odinga's party recently has gained more power in Parliament, which has helped calm the violence by providing diplomatic peace. Tensions between the tribes still remain very high and countless people are homeless without basic necessities.

Unlike its neighbors, Kenya is known to be a peaceful country with a strong democracy and a thriving tourist economy. Since the recent turmoil, the economy has experienced nearly \$1 billion in losses. The tourist industry has

suffered greatly and stores are running out of supplies due to looting and road blocks.

"It is unfortunate to see that Kenya is joining the rest of the world as a fatherless country," Liberty graduate student Grace Kang said.

Having grown up as the child of missionaries in Kenya, Kang's father remains in the country.

"Churches are being filled, (people) are losing the hope to live, neighbors are killing neighbors and children are learning to become more bitter," Kang said.

Wanjai fears that the country will experience major setbacks because of the crisis.

"They have built up so much," she said. "The country will have to start all over again."

Kenyans have since become more aware of the extent of government corruption in Kenya even though President Kibaki said in his 2002 campaign that he would rid the government of corruption. Various discrepancies in this election have cost him much of his credibility in the eyes of the people.

"He does not have the confidence of the people. As president, you need that," Langat said.

Kibaki and Odinga have struggled to come to any agreement due to the incumbent president's hasty claim to victory and his opposition's unyielding defiance. Kibaki sent out police with a shoot-to-kill policy to stifle the protestors.

"(The President) doesn't care about what is happening, he just wants to stay in power," Wanjai said.

"I appreciate how Americans come together," said Langat. "I want that for Kenya. I am going into politics, and that's what I'm going to fight for."

Contact Drew Menard at ajmenard@liberty.edu

## INDIA: "It's always an adventure"

Continued from A1

Moore and his team worked alongside Hopegivers International (HI) founder M.A. Thomas, who addressed Liberty's convocation on Oct. 8, 2007, and his son and HI president Samuel Thomas.

"Most memorably we spent time with Drs. M.A. and Samuel Thomas. Both men have undergone steep persecution and imprisonment for Christ. Each has narrowly survived more than 20 threats of assassination by radical, anti-Christian terrorists, and they anticipate that they may die a martyr's death," Moore said.

Moore said his group witnessed strange scenes while in the country.

"A trip to India is always an adventure. I was hit in the face with a rat. Our team took pictures with a camel caravan. We slept four different nights on trains. We watched a Hindu man carry his dead child to the banks of the Ganges River to toss her in hoping the polluted waters would take her to heaven," he said.

Eighty percent of India's population follows the Hindu faith. Christianity shares a tiny minority along with Islam, Jainism and Sikhism.

Kota is part of the northwestern Indian state of Rajasthan which borders Pakistan. Moore's team traveled to several cities in the region, including Kota, Varanasi and Agra.

Varanasi is regarded by Hindus as their most sacred city, and it lies

on the banks of the Ganges River, which is also considered holy. Agra is home to the world-famous Taj Mahal.

On the other side of India, the Rays labored with a second Light Ministries team in Calcutta. Twelve students joined them for nine days of concentrated ministry from the Bangladesh border to the Ganges River delta.

"The trip was very intense. We did in between three to six ministry outreaches each day," senior Luke Garvey said of his first foreign missions trip. "The first five days we were in the city of Calcutta. The next four days we sailed south on the Ganges River aboard the 'Salt & Light,' a boat owned by Christ Mission Ashram."

Christ Mission Ashram, headed by 2005 Liberty University seminary graduate Dr. Sukrit Roy, is a Calcutta-based program for training and planting native pastors throughout India.

"Christ Mission Ashram is a well-oiled machine," Ray said. "We hit the ground running, not wasting time figuring out what to do."

With a population only a third of the size of India's largest city Bombay, Calcutta nevertheless suffers severe overcrowding. Calcutta is one of the most densely populated cities on the planet with approximately 85,000 persons per square mile.

The Indian government's online profile of cities said crowding in Calcutta has reached "intolerable proportions."

According to a 2001 Indian government census, the residents of Calcutta are predominantly Hindu (80 percent) with less than one percent identified as Christian.

"Even when our boat got stuck in the Ganges River for eight hours because we had to wait for the tide to come in, we walked four miles to a nearby village to preach and minister to many who probably had never heard the gospel," senior Molly Morgan, also a first-time missions worker, said.

"The memory that sticks out most is God's saving grace and His mighty power to save even through the language and culture barriers," Morgan said.

The primary language of eastern India is Bengali, which created a significant language barrier for the team. Nevertheless, they were able to communicate the gospel to many villagers. They held large gospel gatherings and handed out Bibles — so many Bibles, in fact, that they ran out at one point.

The team agreed that the hardships of third-world living were well worth the payoff for witnessing changed lives.

"Here in the states we have really complicated gospel message," Ray said. "In India we had to get back to the basics. The greatest lesson I've learned from my trips to India is the power of the simplistic presentation of the Gospel."

Contact Stan Barringer at sbarringer@liberty.edu

### We Want YOU!

- Volunteer to be a Conservation Advocate (CA) on your dorm
- Earn CSER credit as a Conservation Director (commuters may apply!)
- Join the Care for Creation Association (CFCA)
- E-mail recycle@liberty.edu to sign up for any positions
- RECYCLE and put your white paper in the box
- Develop a stewardship mindset towards all of God's creation

### Did You Know?

- Liberty collected 14 million pieces of recyclable paper last year
- The average person produces 5 pounds of trash per day
- Fifty percent of residence hall waste is recyclable material, according to some estimates

## RECYCLE: Liberty enters national competition

Continued from A1

Although there are multiple categories available for competing schools, Liberty will compete in the "Largest Rate on a Targeted Commodity" category. Liberty's targeted commodity will be paper and cardboard as Liberty already records high amounts of recyclable paper. Last year alone, through collections at Campus North and various offices, over 74 tons, or 14 million pieces, of paper were collected.

With the new inclusion of students and dorms in collection efforts, Pruitt believes that Liberty can do well in the national competition. Liberty will compete most closely with the 16 other schools participating in Virginia, including neighboring schools Longwood University and Lynchburg College.

With a total of 372 participating schools from 46 states, RecycleMania 2008 has more colleges involved than ever before. Only 201 schools joined the competition last year though combined efforts from across the nation collected an estimated 41.3 million tons of recyclable materials.

Ray Lowman, described by Pruitt as "the most valuable member of the (recycling) team" due to his 35 years of recycling experience, outlined step-by-step basics for students regarding the competition: "Break down the cardboard boxes, sort your paper and don't use the collection boxes for any other purpose. We really need the cooperation of students not to toss trash into the recycling

containers."

Students can put white and colored paper into the select boxes that can be found on their residence halls. Student volunteers called Conservation Advocates (CA) will take those boxes to the various collection sites on campus once a week.

Anyone interested as working as a CA should e-mail recycle@liberty.edu. Positions as Conservation Directors (CD), those who oversee specific dorms and CAs, are also available, and CDs will receive CSER credit for their work. Students concerned with the overall recycling effort and encouraging Christian stewardship on campus can join the Care for Creation Association (CFCA).

Pruitt suggests that students of a decidedly Christian university should be concerned with being good stewards of creation.

"We are recycling not so much to be 'green minded' for that sake, but to follow Biblical mandates to care



STEPHANIE JEWETT

COLLECTION EXPRESS — Conservation Advocates are responsible to drop off recyclable materials, such as boxes of white or mixed paper, to one of the seven collection facilities that were built around campus over the past few weeks.

for the world," Pruitt said.

Collection efforts will also foster "greater funs to go back into the recycling program," Pruitt said.

"Good for our economy" is the number one reason cited by the National Recycling Coalition on a list of top ten reasons to recycle. The list states, "American companies rely on recycling programs to provide the raw materials they need to make new products."

The list further notes that an aver-

age of 1.1 million jobs are sustained through recycling efforts, collection and "reuse enterprises."

The competition officially ends on April 5, and national and state winners will be announced shortly thereafter. Students interested in tracking weekly totals can visit www.recyclemania.org. Offices in need of collection boxes can request them at recycle@liberty.edu.

Contact Jennifer Schmidt at jschmidt@liberty.edu

opinion. "If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you."  
John 15:19 (NIV)

## Learning to swim: The dangers of evangelical subcultures



By Jen Slothower  
COPY EDITOR

I do not know how to swim. When I was a child, I would kick, scream and cry to keep my mother from sending me to swimming lessons at the town beach. By the time I was in fourth grade and still a beginner – a very big beginner compared to the rest of the kids – she gave up. I am still terrified to stick my head under water.

Often, I have heard that the best way to learn how to swim is to get thrown in and have to figure it out yourself. Sometimes, I wish someone had done this to me. But most times, I am quite happy far away from any water.

Evangelical Christians often make the same mistake that I did. Instead of putting themselves in difficult situations and having to learn

how to live, they allow themselves to remain in a comfortable place. Christians do not force themselves into the water, and often they are not considerate enough to force other Christian brothers and sisters in, either.

The effect has been disastrous. America is now host to a massive evangelical subculture, a pocket of Christians who can live, eat, breathe, learn and work without the pressures of a secular world. They train their workers for two purposes: one, to remain and strengthen the body; or two, to go out into the secular world and lead it to Christ. Often, the result is that those within the body never get a grasp on real life and those outside the body find a world that is difficult for them to understand.

Some call it the "bubble effect," and many rebuke Christians for

their subculture. The idea is not all bad, however. Christian institutions provide safe havens for maturing Christians until they are ready for the world. The problem comes when those Christians linger inside for too long, or when they do not receive any training within the body that will help them when they finally step into the world.

In his book "People of Faith: Religious Conviction in American Journalism and Higher Education," John Schmalzbauer explains that the evangelical subculture in America began after the Scopes trial, when evangelical beliefs were lambasted by the mockery of an evolutionist crowd that declared the creationists intellectually inferior.

As a result, evangelicals turned inward, distancing themselves from the professional world. Instead, they used schools, radio shows and

independent publications to reach their own type. Although this attitude began to relax in the 1970s, remnants can be seen everywhere in America today.

The evangelical subculture has two major flaws. First, by focusing inward and not outward, Christians are less equipped to reach the unsaved world.

"... The isolation of the evangelical subculture prevented its members from fully engaging the academic and cultural mainstream," Schmalzbauer said. "Although the evangelical empire of Christian colleges and universities, campus ministries, publishers and broadcasters was truly vast, it reached an overwhelmingly evangelical audience."

This problem is apparent to Christians already. Marvin Olasky, the editor of *WORLD* magazine (which serves a largely Christian audience) agreed that many evangelicals are "preaching to the choir" by bringing up the same issues and not reaching outside the Christian audience. "But that's okay," he said, "because the choir needs to hear it, too."

Nevertheless, the choir has a different destiny than the unsaved world, and Christians would do well to remember the mandate of Christ to spread his name and glory to everyone.

While not reaching the unsaved is an obvious flaw of the evangelical subculture, the other key problem is that Christians themselves are often given a partial experience in life – one in which they rarely experience the whole world and spectrum of humanity that their own God created.

By focusing inward, it becomes easier for Christians to focus on themselves or their distinct body of Christ rather than the entire world in which they live.

C.S. Lewis once said, "A man who has lived in many places if not likely to be deceived by the local errors of his native village; the scholar has lived in many times and is therefore to some degree immune from the great cataract of nonsense that pours from the press and the microphone of his own age."

Whether it is digging into the annals of the past or exploring the current times, Christians must be willing to step outside of their usual structures to see the entire world – a world which God created and still controls.

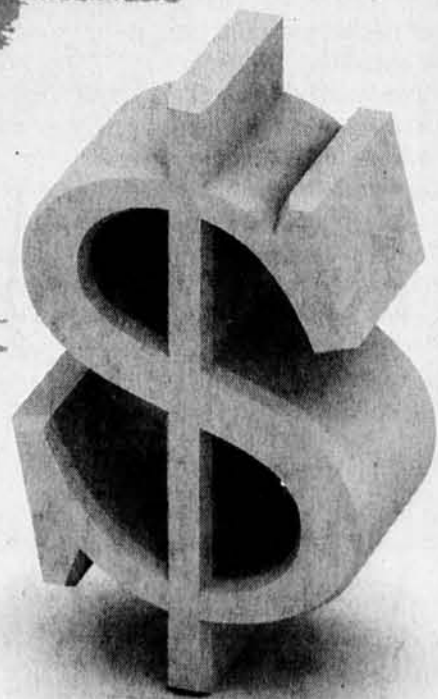
While a huge evangelical subculture still abides in America, some parts of that system have done much to reach out to the world and to prepare its members to see beyond their comfort zone. Liberty University, for one, has many ministries that place its students in the world before they graduate so they can get a clear understanding of who they will be ministering to after graduation. Liberty also does not restrict its enrollment to evangelical Christians.

Many other organizations have made great strides toward pushing the church into the world (without being of it) instead of being a separate entity that occasionally reaches out.

The real responsibility, however, lies in the individual Christians. They have a choice. On one side is a comfort zone, a Christian abode which will always be safe. On the other is a menacing world – where God has already promised them victory.

Now it is their decision whether they will jump in the water and learn how to swim.

Contact Jen Slothower at  
jrslothower@liberty.edu



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## a tad askew

By Will Mayer  
OPINION EDITOR

In a couple of weeks the Super Bowl will be played. Viewers will be able to see the biggest game of the year, the best commercials of the year and what was once the longest pre-game show in history. But something changed this year and the new longest pre-game show is for the presidential election.

I know there has been a lot of coverage. You have heard commentators weigh in on John Edwards' hair, Hillary Clinton's pantsuit and Mike Huckabee's bass skills, but

I am going to throw my two cents into the mix. After all, what does another two cents matter to a multi-trillion dollar budget?

Surprising as it may be, I do not believe that the most important issue of the campaign year involves which candidate has the backing of Chuck Norris or which candidate has the support of our country's daytime talk queen, Oprah Winfrey. I believe the most important issue is the socialization of our country that would take place if any of the three democratic frontrunners were to win the election this November.

Programs like Galactic Health-

care, where the United States provide healthcare to all our citizens and all our galaxy's illegal aliens, will virtually remove the free-market aspect from our country's medical field. With the addition of this and other programs, the tax burden in this country will soar as the government seeks to move closer to a perfect redistribution of wealth. Whether you call it progressive, compassionate liberalism or required gratuity, it's still the same thing: socialism.

Societies around the world have proved that socialism damages nation's economical success. It is not the idea of socialism that makes it fail; people make it fail. After all, don't ants live in a socialist community? Everything is shared between them. However, in the human world socialism is not very efficient.

Why does it work in the ant world? I think it all boils down to memory. Humans are very apt

creatures when it comes to remembering things. Ants have very short term memories and without long term memories they cannot hold grudges. They cannot think "Hey, George is still standing over there. He's been there for two hours playing his ant Wii. How come he can stand around while I work, and he still gets a share of the food?"

The only thing ants can think is: "Food. Food. Build. Human foot!" Socialist economies are not as successful with people because, as people, we begrudge those who choose not to put in as much effort and obtain the same reward. Many people make up for it by slacking off themselves.

We became a fallen people in the Garden of Eden. Satan tricked Eve into eating a fruit she was not supposed to eat. I am sure she thought about it for awhile. She reasoned, "No, I shouldn't eat it, God told me not to eat it," and the like. You see,

if Satan tried to convince the ants to eat the fruit, he would come down as a beetle. He would tell the ants about all the wonderful things they could gain by eating the fruit but they would forget what he was saying, and then they would eat him.

People are not as forgiving as ants. There will be less qualified doctors working in a country where the government regulates their offices and their pay. If our country moves further toward socialism, there will be more business owners abandoning the United States for a country with a more favorable tax code. The plan that the Democratic frontrunners have for our economy is dangerous for the future strength of America. Unless, of course, socialized doctors start performing brain surgery. Then perhaps, Americans will not have any memories left after all.

Contact Will Mayer at  
swmayer@liberty.edu.

## UNRAVELING THE FAIRTAX: An explanation of what it is and what it can do for tax payers



By Caleb McAllister  
OPINION WRITER

The idea of a FairTax plan has recently come under scrutiny. For the most part, interest has been from supporters of leading Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee. Many voters, however, remain unsure of what exactly the plan involves.

Huckabee writes on his official campaign Web site that the FairTax plan "will replace the Internal

Revenue Code with a consumption tax. We'll be taxed on what we decide to buy, not what we happen to earn. We won't be taxed on what we choose to save or the interest those savings earn."

Basically, the FairTax plan proposes to completely eliminate the income tax and replace it with a federal sales tax – allowing Americans to spend all of their paycheck, rather than just the percentage left after income tax is withheld.

According to fairtax.org, "It

abolishes all federal personal and corporate income taxes, gift, estate, capital gains, alternative minimum, Social Security, Medicare and self-employment taxes and replaces them with one simple, visible, federal retail sales tax administered primarily by existing state sales tax authorities."

The proposed federal sales tax would amount to 30 percent of the pre-tax prices, or 23 percent of the post-tax prices. In other words, an item that originally costs \$1 would cost \$1.30 after the tax was applied.

It is possible that the side effects of implementing the FairTax plan may be beneficial. According to Leo Linbeck's article "FairTax Facts" in the Dec. 26, 2007 Wall Street Journal, the plan "will remove significant price disadvantages suffered by American producers competing with tax-free imports. Eliminating corporate income taxes and capital gains taxes, which the FairTax would do, would likely make the American economy the most desir-

able place in the world to do business."

Also, Linbeck explains that the plan "eliminates all loopholes, gimmicks, exemptions and deductions from the federal tax system. Under the FairTax, Congress would no longer be able to reward friends, punish enemies or manipulate behavior through the tax code." Supporters of the FairTax plan claim that this frequently motivates the opposition of major institutions of business, politics and so forth to the plan.

Several objections to the FairTax plan have been raised. One of the most common is the sharp jump the economy would experience in retail prices – at least initially.

Theoretically, however, the drastically eased tax burden on manufacturers and employers would translate to lower prices in the long run.

Additionally, consumers would be able to spend their entire paycheck, rather than just the portion remaining after taxes are taken out.

Opponents of the FairTax plan also mention the possibility that one main consolidated tax would encourage the expansion of a black market system to try to dodge the tax. Proponents, however, claim that enforcing a FairTax type plan would still be far more feasible than is enforcing the current convoluted tax plan. Additionally, under the FairTax plan, many who currently do not pay taxes – such as drug dealers, and others who do not report their income to the government – would at least pay taxes when they make purchases.

It appears that much of the debate regarding the FairTax plan eventually degenerates into little more than a "Yes it will – no it won't" type argument. It will be up to the voters to decide whether the ambitious tax reform plan – and the candidate who now champions it – is visionary or naïve.

Contact Caleb McAllister at  
cjmcallister@liberty.edu.

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# Israel

93 people embark on week-long tour of the *Holy Land*

Continued from A1

The trip, which lasted from Jan. 7-14, was labeled by the press release as "unique, in that it allows DLP students to meet one-on-one with a professor and tour the land where Jesus walked."

Caner also lectured each night to the students.

"The trip was through Du-Car tours," sophomore Sarah Amoss said, who heard about the trip in her Theology 202 class. "It's a husband-wife business: Duke and Carlene Westover."

While in Israel, the group visited many sites familiar to readers of Scripture, including the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Jerusalem, Golgotha and the Valley of Jezreel.

"We saw a lot of different sites. The two most powerful sites were Antonio's fortress, where Christ received his cross, and the garden tomb, which is next to Golgotha," senior Nick Poole said.

"I loved how I was able to connect with the Holy Land and the Scriptures. The Bible became three-dimensional to me," Amoss said.

"It really gives a Bible student a mental picture of the land of the Bible," Ian Kyle, Caner's assistant, said. "After seeing it, one no longer has to imagine the landscape and the scenery, because you have a visual reference to go back to."

"It was fun to meet other students on the trip who were sharing the same passion," Amoss said when asked about her favorite part of the trip. "It was also really fun to get to hang out, joke around and chat with Dr. Caner. We acted like a big family and enjoyed great fellowship with each other."

On his favorite part of the trip, Kyle said, "It has to be the praetorium where Jesus was given the cross to carry up to Golgotha. It was very moving to touch the stone floor that was once covered with Jesus' own blood."

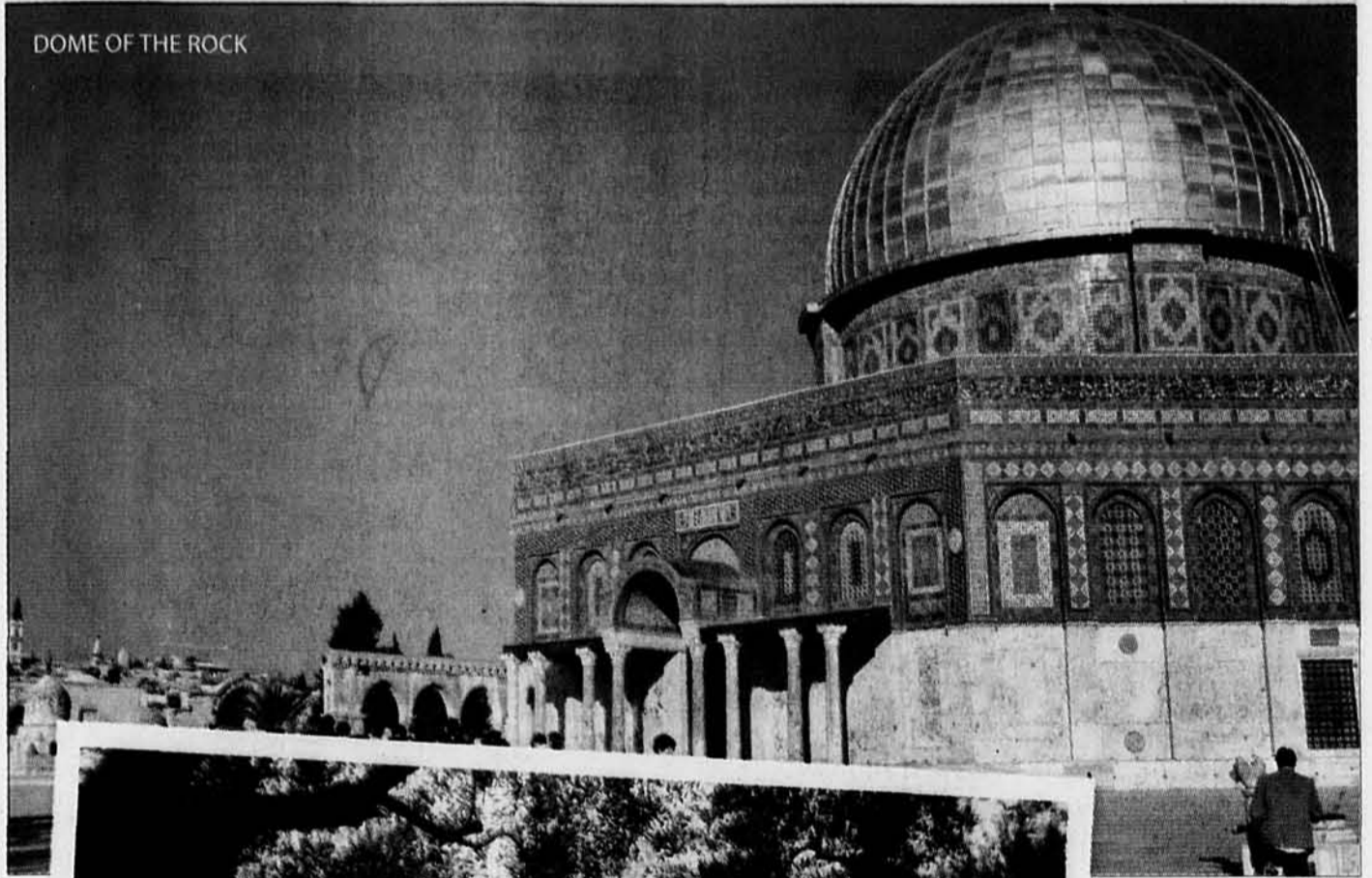
"I would encourage every Christian to go if they are able."

"I have already encouraged a lot of students to go next year," Amoss said. "Israel is beautiful, the people are welcoming and friendly, and it is perfectly safe to go in the areas where the tour takes you. It is a life-changing adventure and lots of fun."

"Overall, the thing that impacted me most about the trip was coming back and allowing the trip to marinate - especially with reading my Bible from a more objective perspective from having seen what I'm reading," Poole said.

Contact Daniel Martinez at [dpmartinez@liberty.edu](mailto:dpmartinez@liberty.edu).

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## Brown's Beatdowns, B2

Sports Editor Eric Brown wants to know: "Why is everyone hatin' on the Cowboys?"



## National Sports, B4

What happened in the world of sports this weekend? Jen Slothower recaps Australian Open action and previews the upcoming Super Bowl matchup.



**CRA-ZEE FRAZEE**—Junior forward Megan Frazee grabs one of her seven rebounds in last week's non-conference victory over George Mason. Frazee also dropped in 18 points as the Lady Flames cruised to a 69-54 win, improving their record to 15-2 and earning votes in the ESPN/USA Today Poll.

BRETT HASTIE

# Lady Flames improve to 15-2, extend winning streak to four

By **Miranda Fielder**  
SPORTS REPORTER

With their non-conference schedule winding down, the Lady Flames are becoming well-prepared for the remaining 13 conference games to come.

Jan. 15 brought joy to the court for Head Coach Carey Green and Lady Flames with a 69-54 win over the George Mason University (GMU) Patriots.

By the end of the first half, junior forward Megan Frazee scored 13 total points while senior guard Courtney Watkins contributed five. With 7.9 seconds left on the clock, the Lady Flames successfully completed a play in which Frazee knocked down a three, making the score at halftime 33-31 over GMU.

"That last-second play was like a painting," said Green. "It was as if Picasso was out there. The girls had been practicing that play awhile, and it worked out."

As the second half started, the Lady Flames were noticeably more aggressive and communicated well.

"We wanted to maintain intensity, especially throughout the second half," said Green. "We also showed patience and discipline. As a team, though, we did become stagnant in our movement at times."

The Patriots did try and stick with the Lady Flames, but the players, along with the coaching staff, were prepared for GMU's style of defense.

"We noticed that GMU had the tendency to stick man-to-man," said Green. "They did run a few zone plays, but they were unsuccessful."

Frazee led the way for Liberty with 20 points while Watkins tacked on 14 of her own.

Now that the Lady Flames are moving on to conference play, Watkins and her teammates are pulling together and looking toward their biggest goal.

"Team unity is the best it has been," said Watkins. "We all are self-motivated and encourage each other. As a team we have a goal of being undefeated in the Big South."

Green also feels that there is team unity amongst the girls.

"What motivates the girls, no questions asked, is the mission statement," said Green. "It's clear on who we are and how we glorify God on the floor, in competition, and in life. This all requires team unity."

Team unity seemed to have worked for the Lady Flames while on the road at Charleston Southern University.

Junior guard Rachel Hammond was determined to bring home the win.

"Everyone was wired for this game, as this is the start of the second half of our season," said Hammond. "Everyone came out ready to execute. We are all very focused and have been sustaining our intensity all the way through practices."

On Saturday, Liberty dominated the Lady Buccaneers 82-53, jumping out to a 38-25 lead after the first half. Junior Megan Frazee scored 16 of her game-high 24 points in the first half, while Watkins tallied eight points of her 12 in the opening stanza.

The win, which marked Green's 200th career victory as head coach of the Lady Flames, was highlighted by a second half that saw Megan and Molly Frazee score 11 of the first 19 points, giving the Lady Flames a 68-34 lead, which they would not relinquish.

"It's always great to start conference play off with a win, especially when we can steal a victory on the road," said Green. "I was pleased with how we played. We played approximately 33 minutes of Lady Flames basketball. In the second half, we came out and set the tempo by attacking the basket."

Megan Frazee led all Lady Flames in scoring with 24 points, while Molly Frazee and Watkins each recorded 12. Hammond contributed 11 points off the bench in the victory.

The Lady Flames will put their 27-game win streak over Coastal Carolina on the line on Monday night as they travel to Conway, S.C. for a match up with the Chanticleers. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m.

Contact Miranda Fielder at [mbfielder@liberty.edu](mailto:mbfielder@liberty.edu).

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[www.liberty.edu/champion](http://www.liberty.edu/champion)



## LU Women's Hockey B3

# Flames beat Charleston Southern for first Big South Conference win

By **Jeffery Scott**  
SPORTS REPORTER

After dropping its Big South Conference opening game to UNC-Asheville by a score of 74-70, the Liberty Flames men's basketball team followed with yet another close game loss, this time at the hands of conference powerhouse Winthrop by a score of 55-48.

After the first half, the Eagles pulled away. Liberty battled back to cut the lead to 42-40 with eight minutes left in the game, but Winthrop put together a 9-3 run, capped by a Michael Jenkins three-pointer that pushed their lead to 51-43 with 1:23 left in the game.

Senior Tee Jay Bannister made a three-pointer and hit two free throws to cut the deficit to three at 51-48, but Winthrop's Taj McCollough scored on two consecutive possessions with 18 seconds and three seconds left to go, securing the win for the Eagles.

Junior Anthony Smith led all scorers with 17 points, and senior Alex McLean scored 10 points and grabbed nine rebounds. McCollough totaled 10 points and Mantoris Robinson had nine points and seven rebounds for the Eagles.

On Saturday at the Vines Center, the Flames looked to get back on track after the two game skid with a win against Charleston Southern.

The Buccaneers came in fresh off of a 16-point win against Radford and looked to end a five-game road losing streak. From the onset, the Bucs matched the intensity of the Flames, playing solid defense and running the fast break well. The Flames, however, started to pull away with back-to-back three-point buckets by sophomore Kyle Ohman and freshman Jeremy Anderson putting the game at 17-11.

Later, Bannister found a spectacular one-handed alley-oop jam to put the Flames ahead 21-13. Liberty stretched its lead to 10 with nine minutes left in the half, capped off by a McLean free throw. Liberty led by more than 14 at one point, but Charleston Southern put together a strong run to cut the lead to four at the end of the first half, 34-30.

Smith led the Flames in scoring in the first half with eight points, followed by McLean with seven to go along with five rebounds. Sophomore B.J. Jenkins was solid with six points and three rebounds.

Buccaneer forward Omar Carter shot 50 percent from the floor and totaled 10 first half points. Fellow freshman Shelton Carter added eight points.

In the second half, Liberty made it an issue to put the ball in the paint and let McLean go to work. McLean scored the Flames first five points of the half. Bannister sliced and diced the Buccaneer defense and found his teammates, adding five assists to his three in the first half.

Smith hit a three-pointer to push the lead to 52-37 with 12:22 left in the game. He hit another to leave the score to 60-41, and after technical fouls were assessed to both teams, Liberty grabbed its first 20-point lead at 62-41.

Charleston Southern would chip away at the lead, however, cutting the deficit to 10 with 5:55 left in the game. That was as close as they would get, though, as the Flames tightened up on defense and pushed the lead back out to 17 with another Smith three-pointer. A Bannister free throw left the lead at 16 as regulation ended, 79-63.

Please see **BASKETBALL, B2**

### previous week in sports

19 <sup>TH</sup>	M BASKETBALL vs. Charleston Southern	79-63	W
19 <sup>TH</sup>	W BASKETBALL vs. Charleston Southern	82-53	W
20 <sup>TH</sup>	WRESTLING at Wendy's Big Classic Duals	0-3	L

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### LADY FLAMES VS. PRESBYTERIAN







Although most of us are gearing up for the Super Bowl match up between the Patriots and the New York Giants, I am still pouting over the Cowboys' early exit from the playoffs. There, I said it, and I am sure there are many who are happy with the current playoff situation. Even though my Cowboys are not playing in Super Bowl XLII, I understand these things happen. I can overcome having to watch the painful loss to the Giants. What I have not been able to grasp is why the NFL picked on the Cowboys so much this season. On top of that, the media criticized them more than any other team in the league.

It began when Terrell Owens scored a touchdown during the game against Miami and proceeded to celebrate in a way that mocked the Patriot's "spy gate" scandal, resulting in a fine from the league. That one did not surprise me; however, another fine Owens received later in the season did.

For several weeks Owens could be seen waving a piece of cloth known as the touchdown towel. This towel displayed the wide receiver's logo embroidered on it along with his signature. Eventually the league fined Owens for waving the towel on the sidelines. It is one thing to celebrate in the end zone, but the sidelines? Give me a break. I am surprised the NFL did not make Owens cover the cost of the popcorn he poured down his face during the Packers game.

I love the league's double standard when it comes to celebrating. Bengals' wide receiver Chad Johnson can parade in the end zone during the first game of the season sporting a Hall of Fame jacket, and it is okay. I guarantee if Owens had tried to pull that same stunt, the league would have slapped a Texas-sized fine on him.

Don't get it twisted — I like Chad Johnson. I like what he brings to the game, and I think he is extremely entertaining. On the other hand, I do not believe he

should have got off the hook with his touchdown celebration. Joe Horn can get fined for using a cell phone and Owens can get fined for just being overjoyed after a score, but for some reason Johnson remains unscathed. His celebration was no different than the average. In fact, I would say it was far worse.

Many end zone shenanigans are purely off the cuff. Johnson's, on the other hand, was no doubt a planned spectacle. On top of that, his actions were highly disrespectful towards guys who endured so much to make it into the Hall of Fame. Sure, Johnson is an excellent receiver, but he is by no means a Hall of Famer, nor should he place himself in that cat-

egory. While the No Fun League (NFL) continues to be an annoyance with its incessant fines, there is another group that is twice as irritating, the media. During the entire month of December, the media focused on Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo like a sniper, ready to pull the trigger at any moment. It is no secret that Romo and pop star Jessica Simpson are more than just good buddies, but her name should have never been mentioned on any sports station. It is sad that a young woman cannot even watch her boyfriend play football without being criticized for it. To think Simpson and her pink No. 9 jersey caused Romo to lose the Eagles game is absolutely absurd.

Then there is the trip to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Apparently mini vacations are forbidden during the bye week, too. It kills me that everyone seemed totally oblivious to the fact the tight end Jason Witten and his wife also joined the couple in Cabo. I did not see him do anything spectacular in last week's game and yet Romo is the only one being ridiculed for taking some time off. Maybe it is because he is the quarterback of the Dallas Cowboys. Maybe it is because his girlfriend is Jessica Simpson. Whatever the reason, when you combine all the criticism Romo and his teammates received this season, "America's team" does not seem that American anymore.

Of course, Romo is not the only one receiving criticism. In years past, a 13-4 record could allow a coach to keep his job for many years. These days a coach can have the best record in football and still get canned because he missed the Super Bowl by a game or two. For Wade Phillips, he cannot even lead his team to a winning record in his first season as head coach without rumors of him losing his job.

Yes, his contract is only good for three years and owner Jerry Jones is hopelessly devoted to Jason Garrett, but that does not mean Phillips should get the boot just yet. Bill Parcells failed to lead the Cowboys to a 13-4 record during his stay in Dallas, and his job was rarely in question.

I could rant all day about the injustice shown towards the Cowboys, but for now the situation will continue to remain the same. Despite the fact I do not like Tom Brady, I believe he said it best: "You alleviate a lot of criticism by winning."

In order for the Cowboys to escape the critics, they must win. With that said, the ball is in their hands. Whether or not they can catch it next season remains to be seen.

“When you combine all the criticism Romo and his teammates received this season, “America’s team” does not seem that American anymore.”

— SPORTS EDITOR ERIC BROWN

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

# BASKETBALL: Men ready to pounce Panthers

Continued from B1

Liberty shot 46.2 percent for the night on 24-for-52 shooting. The Flames had an above average night at the charity stripe, going 22-for-25 for a solid 88 percent.

The Buccaneers shot 23-for-58 for 39.7 percent and had 14 turnovers. They also shot 8-for-24 from three-point land, good for 33.3 percent.

Smith led all scorers with 22 points and grabbed seven boards. McLean put up 16 points and also had seven rebounds. Jenkins contributed 13 points and eight rebounds. Bannister received 16 points and made only one shot from the floor but went a remarkable 12-for-12 at the free throw line to go along with eight assists. Currently, the senior point guard is averaging just over seven assists per game, ranking him fifth among all NCAA Division I players in the nation.

Omar Carter had 21 points for Charleston

Southern, and Shelton Carter added 13 points and seven rebounds.

Coach McKay, pleased with the win, attributes the intensity of the second half to the play of his star guard Bannister.

“When Tee Jay is good, there’s not many better players on the floor,” McKay said after the game.

Smith had high praises of Bannister as well.

“Tee Jay is a great point guard, and I love playing with him.”

Bannister beamed when asked about his chemistry with Smith.

“I love playing with Smitty,” Bannister smiled. “He always has a knack for being in the right place at the right time.”

The Flames play host to High Point University on Saturday, Jan. 26. Liberty tips off against the Panthers at 9 p.m. in the Vines Center.

Contact Jeffery Scott at [jdsconfig@liberty.edu](mailto:jdsconfig@liberty.edu).

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Graphic by Adam Konop

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# Flames dealt pair of losses from Davenport



**HOME SWEET HOME**—Senior Aaron MacKenzie and the Flames will return to the LaHaye Ice Center this weekend for a pair of games against Robert Morris College before hitting the road yet again, this time for the University of Oklahoma.

By Will Luper  
SPORTS REPORTER

While the students of Liberty University have all come back and gotten into the swing of things, the Flames hockey team has been out on the road for one final weekend away before returning to the LaHaye Ice Center. Unfortunately, the Flames will be returning after suffering two losses from the Davenport Panthers. Liberty lost 3-2 on Friday and 4-2 on Saturday.

Junior Josh Ahier and the team captain, sophomore Zac Bauman, both scored for the Flames on Friday night, but it was not enough to overcome the Panthers and their goalie, Chris Joswiak.

"We had our opportunities," said coach Kirk Handy. "We hit two cross-bars, we had a few missed breakaways. We just came out on the wrong end of things."

The Panthers, known for a devastatingly efficient powerplay, scored three goals with the man advantage. The Flames, however, were unusually quiet on the scoreboard when the other team was penalized, scoring only one powerplay goal in their eight chances.

"Special teams is what killed us," said Handy.

Less than three minutes into the game, the Panthers were up by a goal, a lead they would not relinquish throughout the evening.

"After the first 10 minutes, I thought it was a pretty evenly matched game," said Handy. "They got the bounces, though. Dodgson had a great opportunity on a breakaway, but their goalie made a great save. Immediately after that play, they brought it down the ice and scored."

It was not a goaltending issue, though.

"Binnie played great for us tonight. It could've been a lot worse, but he kept us in the game," said Handy.

Saturday night, the Flames ended the first period down 3-0. After 40 minutes of play, the Flames still had not scored a goal but allowed the Panthers one more to push their total to four.

When asked how hard it is to come back from that, Handy said, "Well, we went down 4-0 and then got ourselves in a bit of trouble penalty-wise. We had problems scoring goals tonight. It's hard for us to pull ourselves out when we dig a hole that deep."

During the second intermission, Associate Head Coach Jeff Boettger challenged his team to get some goals on the board and to keep the opponent from getting any more. Freshman Kyle Dodgson and junior Pete Masterton answered the call, both scoring a goal in the third period.

The Davenport powerplay continued to be lethal on Saturday as the Panthers scored three of their goals with the man advantage again. When most of the penalties came in the third period, though, the Flames penalty killers shut them down.

Handy said, "One positive we can take from this is that in the third period, we got two goals on the board to their zero."

Unfortunately, it was not enough as the Panthers swept Liberty this weekend.

It may be the fact that the Flames have been on the road so much lately, and it could be that they have not had their fans cheering them on in the LaHaye Ice Center.

Senior goalie Dalton Stoltz elaborated, "I was talking to some of the guys today, and in all honesty, in all of my years playing hockey, I don't know if I've ever been so excited to get back to our home arena. We love our fans and how supportive they are of us, and it's great because we're growing as a hockey school together. We can't wait to get them behind us because that is who we thrive off of."

For the Flames, that chance to thrive will come this Friday night at 7:30 p.m. when Liberty faces Robert Morris College at the LaHaye Ice Center, where they have not played since Nov. 30.

Contact Will Luper  
at wluper@liberty.edu.

## Next Games

MEN'S hockey

**H** Robert Morris College

WOMEN'S hockey

Maryland Monarchs **A**

## No. 2 Rhode Island too much for Lady Flames

By David Hunt  
SPORTS REPORTER

With a smaller squad but a bigger heart, the Liberty Lady Flames women's hockey team put up a weekend battle with the Rhode Island Rams. While Liberty fell 3-1 on Friday night, the 16-member Liberty squad rallied back to a tie game on Saturday, matching the Rams 1-1.

"We knew what we were coming into tonight," assistant coach Scott Bloomfield said. "They are a tough team, but we also had to battle the stiff legs that come from a Christmas break of no or little hockey."

The Flames had to go up against a Rhode Island squad that was nearly three times its size, and the size difference certainly played a role on the Lady Flames' legs.

"They kept switching lines when we couldn't," Bloomfield said. "It was a tough situation to be in and, of course, it wore a lot of our players down, but they played with heart out there."

While Friday night's competition saw the Flames lead slip away in the second period, the team put on a strong comeback.

Andrea Joyce, the nation's current point leader with 62 total points, knocked in a spinning goal halfway through the second period only to see an onslaught of three Ram goals burn the Liberty net.

"We sat back too much," said stand-out goalie Patti Smith. "On Friday's game we were too passive and too laid back. We really skated well tonight (Saturday) and held our own, even without as deep of a bench."

Smith picked up the pace Saturday night with a wealth of saves and diving catches, protecting the Lady Flames' goal with passion.

"Patti played incredible tonight," Bloomfield said. "She showed, as she has all season, that she has what it takes to compete at the Division I level at a superb level."

"I've never seen us play as hard as we did tonight," Smith said after the game. "I'm tired from all of the shots sent my way but hey, I have fun when there's a lot of action because otherwise I get kind of bored back there!"

On Saturday, the Lady Flames went out and scored quickly in the first period (after only seven minutes) and held their lead into the third period when the Rams scored with 12 minutes on the clock.

"It started getting a little more physical at that point," Smith said. "Both teams had a lot of energy, and we wanted the win pretty bad."

The physical nature of the game saw Sarah Wilson exit the game with a possible broken wrist and defensive player Kerri Porter land a pair of penalties.

While the ice certainly saw some red-hot skates, the score remained a dead heat, even as the game went through a five minute overtime session.

"We really worked hard during overtime," said Joyce. "We were determined to not give an inch, and we didn't. We just couldn't drop one in, either."

Before this weekend, Liberty was sitting in fourth place in the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) standings. With a strong performance against Rhode Island, they were hoping to get bumped up in the standings before the next ranking comes out.

"Our goal now is to make it to nationals," Joyce said. "We really want to show that we can compete and help put Liberty hockey on the map."

With a strong showing against Rhode Island and a schedule that matches them up against the Maryland Monarchs away (Jan. 26-27) and Penn State at home (Feb. 1-2), the Lady Flames will certainly have the opportunity they are seeking.

Contact David Hunt  
at dhunt@liberty.edu.

# Patriots seek perfection, Blake battles down under

By Jen Slothower  
COPY EDITOR



**FOOTBALL**

On Dec. 29, 2007, the New York Giants could not stop the New England Patriots' march of inevitability as the Patriots stopped the Giants at home 38-35 and completed their perfect regular season, 16-0. In two weeks, the two teams will meet again in Super Bowl LXII, where New York's Eli Manning will look to continue his team's road winning streak against a New England team flirting with destiny. If New England wins, the Patriots would be the first team in history to go 19-0 in a season and only the second since the 1972 Miami Dolphins to have a perfect season.

The Giants toppled crowd favorite Green Bay and its veteran quarterback legend Brett Favre in the cold confines of Lambeau field, winning 23-20 in overtime. Their trademark defense picked off Favre twice, and the Giants did not turn the ball over at all, which has been a recurring trait of their postseason run. Manning's favorite target on the night was wide receiver Plaxico Burress, who had 11 receptions for 154 yards. The Giants' running game recorded 134 yards.

The Patriots won their AFC Championship in unusual fashion for the team. Reigning NFL Most Valuable Player Tom Brady threw three interceptions in the game (half as many as he tossed all season), and his wide receiver counterpart Randy Moss had only one catch throughout the game. Running backs Laurence Maroney and Kevin Faulk came through in the clutch, though. Maroney rushed 25 times for 122 yards and a touchdown, and Faulk caught one key pass

after another en route to first downs and 82 yards of receiving on eight catches.

After the game, New England's veteran linebacker Junior Seau complimented the fans, saying, "These Bostonians are the best fans ever." In a couple of weeks, the fans' team will have a chance to be called the best ever.

**TENNIS**

Snow may fall in Lynchburg, but in the other half of the world, it is a good time for tennis.

Defending champion and No. 1 player Roger Federer is chasing his 13th Grand Slam title at the Australian Open, but he almost exited the tournament embarrassingly early. In the third round he faced Janka Tipsarevic, and it was four and a half hours later before Federer ended the slugfest, 6-7, 7-6, 5-7, 6-1, 10-8.

Andy Roddick lost early for those routing for Americans (a round three loss to Philipp Kohlschreiber), but rising star James Blake still remains. For those who are not familiar with Blake, he is currently No. 12 in the world. In what he called his "biggest comeback," he came from two sets down in third round action to Frenchman Sebastien Grosjean before blistering back. Blake took the third set 6-0, fought back from a 4-1 deficit to take a hard fourth set 7-6, then broke Grosjean twice in the final set to win 6-2. Grosjean was no match for Blake, the American hero who in the past has recovered from a broken neck and the death of his father. Blake advanced to the quarterfinals with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 win over Marin Cilic.

Federer and Blake were in their quarterfinal match at press time.

On the women's side, both Serena and Venus Williams have made it to the quarterfinals with neither dropping a set so far, but the women's field is packed with both perennial heavyweights and upstart challengers.

Contact Jen Slothower at jrslothower@liberty.edu.

# Grapplers fail to devour triple at Wendy's Classic

By Thomas Lourdeau  
SPORTS REPORTER

The Liberty Flames wrestling team fell to 3-8-1 on the season after dropping three matches at the 19th Annual Wendy's Big Classic Dual at Ashland University on Sunday.

The Flames managed just four points in the match thanks to a major decision in the 149-pound weight class by freshman Scott Clymer over Kalen Knull of Northern Illinois, a school which boasted two nationally ranked wrestlers on their roster (No. 11 Pat Castillo at 133 lbs. and No. 13 Duke Burke at 174 lbs).

Things did not get much better for the Liberty as it faced off against No. 15 Illinois and was unable to get on the scoreboard against the wrestling powerhouse. Saturday's shut-out marked the first time this season the Flames were failed to get on the board in a dual match.

Seven of the 10 Illinois wrestlers came into the day ranked nationally. Despite the shut-out, the Flames managed to make most of the matches competitive, taking seven of the 10 matches three full periods.

It was not until the final match of the day against Purdue that it seemed Liberty had found its stride. After two consecutive wins by decision put the Boiler-makers up 6-0, junior Tim Harner pinned Matt Redmond in the first period of the 133-pound match to tie

the score. Three matches later at 165, sophomore Chad Porter secured an 8-5 decision over Jason Martin. Sophomore Aaron Kelley followed with a pin of Nick Corpe in the first period, giving Liberty a slim 15-13 lead.

However, losses by decision and a technical fall in their next two matches put the match out of reach for the Flames, who were unable to regain the lead despite an 11-0 major decision victory by sophomore Patrick Walker. Liberty lost the match 24-19.

The Flames will have a chance to pick up victories when they host four other schools in the Schilling Center this Saturday at 10 a.m. Schools scheduled to compete include Messiah, The Citadel, Davidson and Bucknell.

Contact Thomas Lourdeau at tlourdeau@liberty.edu.



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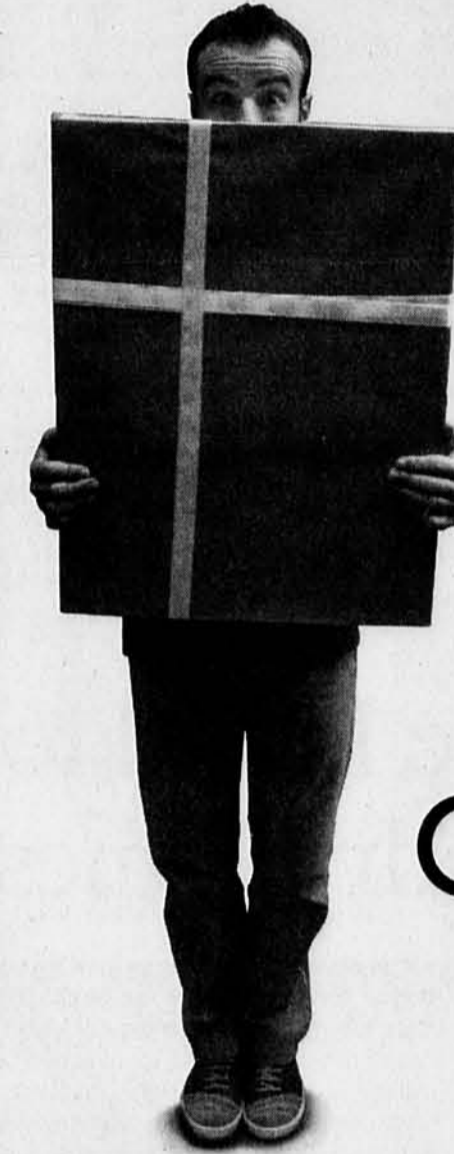
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## Selah clinches prestigious title, ranks in top 10 yearbooks

By Aubrey Blankenship  
LIFE! REPORTER

Liberty University's 2007 yearbook, Selah, recently won the highest national recognition possible. Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) awarded Selah a Collegiate Crown Award, placing it among the top ten yearbooks in the country.

Each year CSPA, based out of Columbia University, reviews student publications for overall excellence. The Crown Award is recognized by all media outlets as an official source of media, and each yearbook is evaluated based on style, content, writing and editing, as well as accurate representation of the university.

Selah entered the competition each of the past four years but nev-

er placed as a finalist. Each year the Selah staff carefully considered the critiques sent back with the yearbooks and tirelessly implemented changes that factored into the 2007 win.

To yearbook advisor Carrie Barnhouse, Selah's achievement is a dream come true.

"I had two goals when I began my position as advisor," Barnhouse said. "The first was for the yearbook to become a student-led publication. This has been achieved as students now only need guidance and assistance. The second goal was that we would be nationally recognized as a Crown winner. This is a huge accomplishment."

Selah now ranks among state universities such as Texas A&M University, the University of Miami, North Carolina State University and Kan-

sas State University. Liberty stands as the only current finalist never to have previously won a Crown.

Much credit is due to the dedicated 2007 Selah staff, headed by Editor in Chief Sabrina Carter.

"We are unified by the purpose of representing the student body, with the ultimate goal of glorifying God and showing his work here at Liberty," Carter said.

Over the course of the year, the Selah staff worked collectively non-stop to produce an award-winning yearbook marked by class and maturity.

"We have shown that Liberty is not cliché or behind the times, but an amazing school with incredible people," says Carter.

Adding to the content of the 2007 Selah was an eight-page tribute to Dr. Falwell. An accurate reflec-

tion of 2007 could not have existed without an acknowledgement of the man with the vision for the university.

Barnhouse and the staff now look ahead to another promising year. They plan to learn from the past and branch out with fresh ideas that will incorporate all of the student body, including distance learning students.

"I am so glad that we won," Barnhouse said, "but now we need to keep up our momentum and provide students with something to be proud. 'Who are the people who make up Liberty?' The 2008 Selah will paint how each student is unique but fits into the overall grand scheme of the Liberty family we have here."

Contact Aubrey Blankenship at [anblankenship@liberty.edu](mailto:anblankenship@liberty.edu).

### Free Portrait Week

• Free professional photos are offered for students from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Jan. 21-25

• Free cap and gown photos are available for graduating seniors

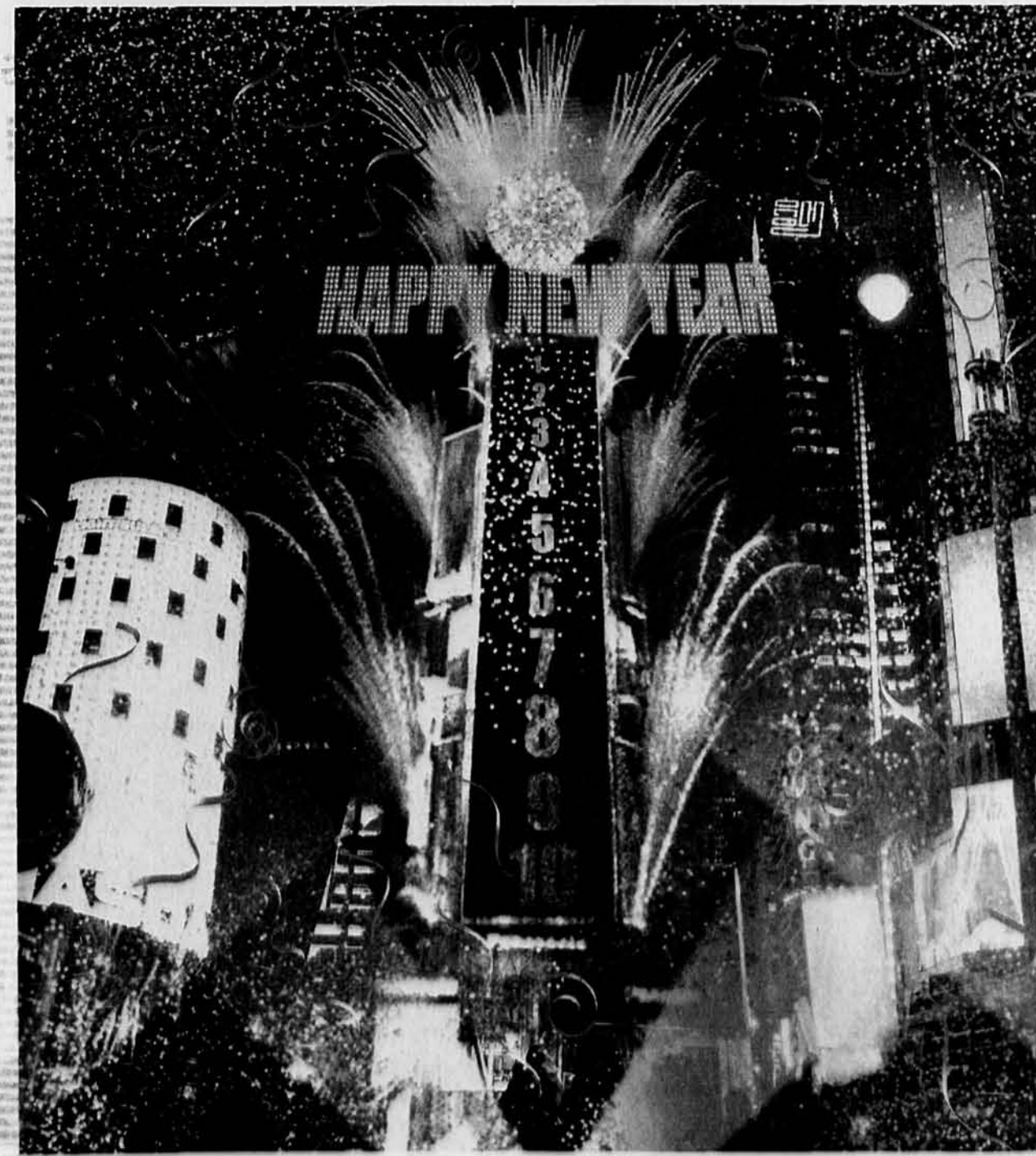
Monday: Tolsma Indoor Track

Tuesday & Wednesday: Back Hallway of DeMoss

Thursday and Friday: Reber-Thomas Dining Hall

## NEW YEAR, NEW YOU?

Students share their top New Year's resolutions and revolutions



By Claire Melsi  
LIFE! REPORTER

With the drop of the dazzling Times Square countdown ball, the explosion of fireworks and the roar of crowds celebrating the past, present and future, another year began. January 1 ushered in an annual time of resolution and desire for change.

"I was going to be like, 'I will lose weight, I will be in better shape and all that stuff,' but nobody actually keeps that. So, I decided to try not to be angry about little things and made a resolution to start hiking to relax," said junior Danielle Williams.

For many students on Liberty's campus, it was important to set realistic and achievable goals like Williams for the new year.

"Mine would be to take each day at a time. Sometimes we get ahead of ourselves and make resolutions like 'I'm going to get straight A's, lose weight, never do this or that.' One day at a time will make everyone's resolution come true," said junior Danny Garcia.

Four out of five people who make resolutions eventually break them, according to a poll conducted by time management firm Franklin-Covey appearing in the New York Times. Approximately one third do so by the end of January. The article contends that setting less vague objectives leads to a greater likelihood of success.

For some, failed resolutions of the past have led them to skip the tradition altogether this year.

"I honestly did not make a New Year's resolution. I never actually follow through with them, so I figured I would just save myself a step," said freshman Emily Dorner.

She was not the only student to shrug off the annual custom.

"I didn't make a New Year's resolution because I never can keep one. I just get too easily distracted and forget. Like, if my resolution was to get in shape, I wouldn't remember until I went to bed that I didn't work out that day," said freshman Kristina Eckart.

The top resolution among most students was to strive for a deeper and more personal relationship with the Lord. Some students made this commitment along with a secondary plan to get more exercise or put an end to the holiday gorging.

"My New Year's resolution is to build a stronger relationship with my Lord and Savior. It is to be patient and learn to trust God's plan for me," said sophomore Stephen Barnes.

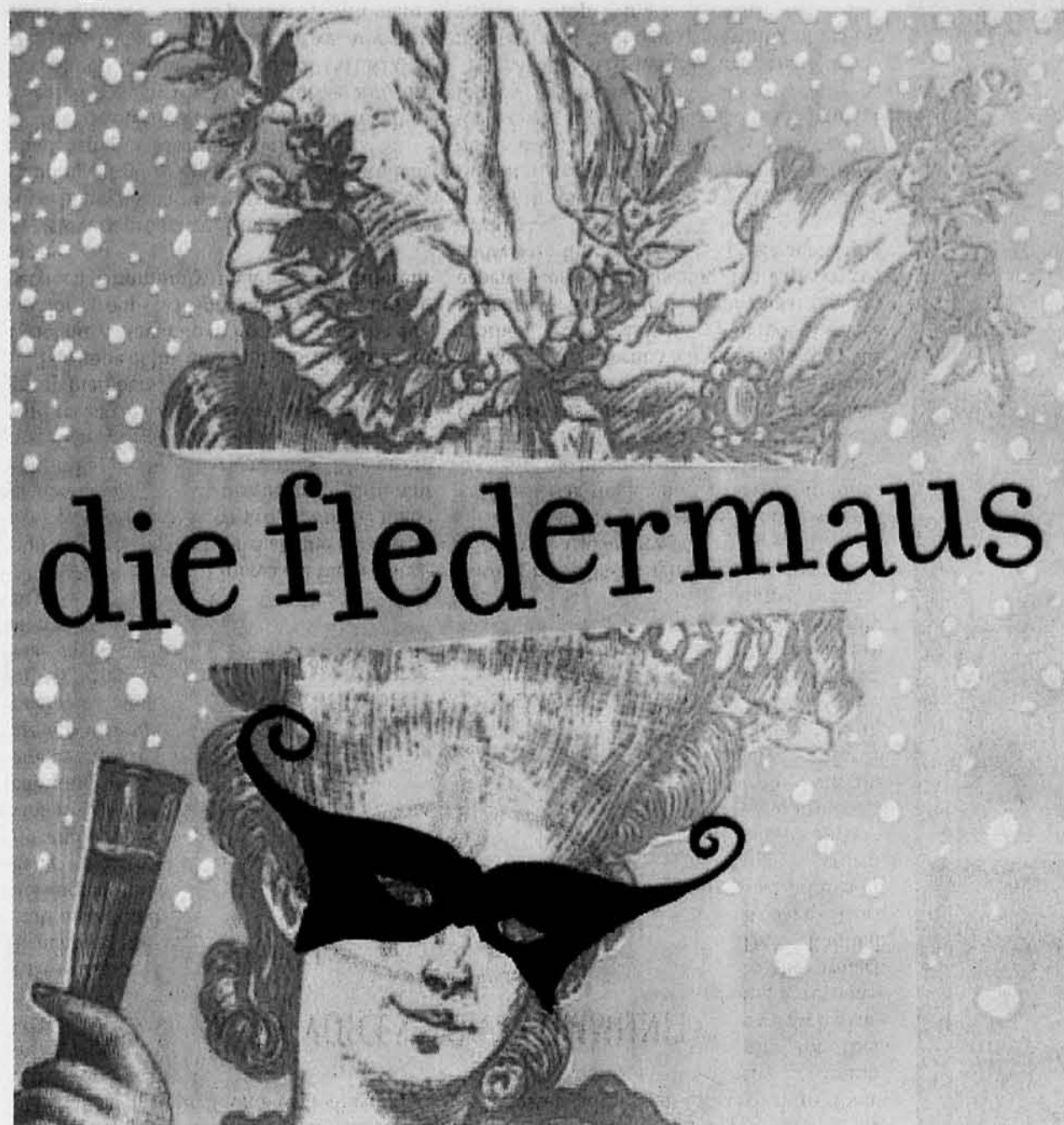
Many students, like Troy Gonda, also expressed a desire to allow God to change them, rather than attempting to take control themselves.

"I would not exactly call them resolutions but revolutions," said Gonda. "The time change itself will not change me, but rather God will change me in due time. I did not pick anything specific but left open all aspects of who I am to be changed. I chose to try it God's way this time because I'm sick of wrestling with myself and what I want to do. I'm anxious to see how God works."

From the crackle of the fireworks of 2008 until the cheer of the masses in 2009, only time will tell whether resolutions will be kept, forgotten or simply disregarded. Regardless, with recognition of the fact that they are not alone in their struggles for change, the flexible futures of Liberty students look promising.

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

# Opera 'Die Fledermaus' returns to university's stage



By Anna Blevins  
LIFE! REPORTER

The opening of the new opera, "Die Fledermaus," otherwise known as "The Bat," brings a whirlwind of comedy and entertainment to Liberty University's stage. The opera takes place in Vienna, Italy in the 1890s. "Die Fledermaus" consists of three entertaining acts.

The first act opens in the Eisenstein home, where the audience is introduced to a wide array of characters. Eisenstein, played by both Danny Heiss and Christopher Culpepper, is leaving for an eight-day incarceration. Despite the lightness of his sentence, he is distraught and dramatic over being imprisoned.

Eisenstein's friend, Dr. Falke, convinces him to attend a ball on his last night of freedom. Act two follows the leading roles to the ball. Finally, act three brings the opera to a close at the town jail. What unfolds throughout the opera is the groundwork for a unique practical joke that will keep the audience laughing.

Dr. Wayne Kompelien, the director of "Die Fledermaus," began directing the opera in 1989. The very first opera that was performed on the Liberty stage was "Die Fledermaus," and it still remains a timeless classic. Dr. Kompelien said that most of the cast were vocal performance majors.

"I do not want their singing to be compromised while acting," he said.

Dr. Kompelien said that he works to meld the singing and acting.

The cast of "Die Fledermaus" is very unique in that it has two separate casts for its leading roles. Each cast performs on a different night. Jennifer Statler, who plays Adel, a chambermaid, says that the two different casts allow more opportunity for people to participate as well as for the singers to rest their voices. She said that each member has worked extremely hard, putting in effort last semester as well as the beginning of this semester.

Most students do not know what to expect when they see an opera. Dr. Kompelien says that the student response has been very positive, however. He said that he understands that students often come in with a certain connotation or stereotype, but he hopes that they leave with different outlook.

"Opera is not a dirty word, but a rich art form. It will draw you in and captivate you," he said.

Dr. Kompelien went on to say that he hopes that students will broaden their horizons, become culturally aware and enrich their lives by seeing an opera, symphony or similar production. The opera runs Thursday through Sunday, Jan. 23-26.

Statler said, "Die Fledermaus" is one of the best known comedic operas, and I highly recommend it for a good night of hilarious entertainment."

Contact Anna Blevins at  
aclebins@liberty.edu.

## Many voices, one community: Lynchburg hosts Community Dialogue on Race and Racism

By Jennifer Maxfield  
LIFE! REPORTER

Over 800 Lynchburg area residents gathered at E.C. Glass High School to kick off of the community dialogue on race and racism on Jan. 18. The project hosted discussion groups made of community members with diverse ethnic and social backgrounds.

According to Community Dialogue Coordinator Margaret Schmitt, "The city of Lynchburg is experiencing a rapid increase in cultural diversity."

She said the community dialogue is a response to an increase in racial tensions within the city of Lynchburg.

According to Schmitt, the fast-changing cultural environment and exploding population are creating new tensions between a variety of races. City of Lynchburg officials also noted an increase in gang activity and related violence. The community dialogue groups are a much-anticipated step in working to ease racial tension within the city.

The kick-off event increased the registration for the community dialogue groups to over 600 people. Each group will be made of about eight to 12 people from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. The group members will share personal experiences with racism, expressing concerns to the other group members.

The hope of the dialogue coordinators and Lynchburg Mayor Joan Foster is that the discussion groups will promote understanding between community members of different races.

"It's very proactive, I hope it can help the (Lynchburg) area and work towards understanding," said Ashworth University student Chad Ramey, who attended the event.

The idea of study circles came as result of research done by the Martin Luther King Jr. Lynchburg Community Council (MLKCC) and the Neighborhood Executive Advisory Council, both of whom partnered with members of the Lynchburg City Council to discuss solutions for easing racial tension.

The mission of the community dialogue groups is to promote understanding about the experiences of the different races in Lynchburg. City officials hope to improve the attitudes of different racial groups within the city. One goal of the community dialogue groups is to brainstorm and implement prac-

tical ideas for improving race relations across the Lynchburg area.

Even after it was postponed from Jan. 17, because of inclement weather, the response to the kick-off event overwhelmed the dialogue coordinators and Lynchburg City Officials. The full auditorium earned mention from several of the speakers. Community Dialogue Working Group Leader Gloria Preston was the Mistress of Ceremonies. Select members of the E.C. Glass High School Choral Department performed "Seasons of Love" from the Broadway play "Rent." Students from the Dance Theater of Lynchburg gave several dance performances of a variety of genres ranging from modern dance to tap, under the direction of Keith Lee.

Foster addressed the crowd to thank the community for their overwhelming response to the project. Dr. Kahlilah Brown-Dean also addressed the crowd, adding encouraging remarks from both the late Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King. Brown-Dean is a Lynchburg native, a graduate of E.C. Glass High School and a professor at Yale University.

Dr. Steve Robbins of S.L. Robbins & Associates, was the keynote speaker. Robbins presented a different approach to stereotypes and biases by incorporating Louis Festinger's Cognitive Dissonance Theory of Communication. He immigrated to the United States at the age of five from Vietnam along with his mother. Robbins grew up in Los Angeles and draws from a lifetime of racial tension experiences when sharing his experiences and vision for change with people across the country.

"By the end of the study circle, people find they have much more commonalities than differences," said the Associate Director for the Center for Multicultural Enrichment at Liberty, Daveta Saunders.

According to Saunders, the discussions ultimately lead to the brainstorming of action steps for improving community race relations.

For more information about the study circles, visit [ManyVoicesOneCommunity.com](http://ManyVoicesOneCommunity.com) or contact Melany Pearl at Liberty's Center for ME. Pearl is the Director of the Center for ME, and a Board Member of the MLKCC.

Contact Jennifer L. Maxfield at  
[jmaxfield@liberty.edu](mailto:jmaxfield@liberty.edu).



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