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Stadium construction B1



Reindeer Run B8

LIBERTY CHAMPION

Today: PCloudy 71/48 Tomorrow: Rain 63/31

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

libertychampion.com

Volume 30 • Issue 11

Christmas spectacular



NATHAN ROHRER | LIBERTY CHAMPION

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT — Liberty students and members of Thomas Road Baptist Church participate in the annual Virginia Christmas Spectacular.

Taking to the skies

Jeremy Angione
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Following in the footsteps of Amelia Earhart, the School of Aeronautics (SOA) is doing its part to add a feminine touch to the American skies with its all-female flight team, the Liberty Belles.

Considerably smaller than the SOA's National Intercollegiate Flight Association (NIFA) competition team, the Liberty Belles have a more focused goal in the Air Race Classic (ARC) as opposed to the variety of competition categories the NIFA flight team experience, according to Coach Sarah Morris.

The Liberty Belles include SOA students, dispatchers and flight instructors. This year's aviators are Charity Holland, Jessica Dyer, Jodi Jacob and Megan Grupp. Coach Sarah Morris and dispatcher Alessandra Boardman round out the six-person flight team.

See BELLES, A2

'Tis the season

Liberty works together to bless the Lynchburg area

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Every year, different organizations at Liberty University get involved in special drives giving back to the community for the holiday season. Many students take part in events ranging from a Thanksgiving food drive to the United Way campaign.

Christian Service Coordinator and Assistant Professor Darren Wu is in charge of overseeing many of the drives held on campus. He believes that student participation helps build character.

"For those that choose to participate, these opportunities help to shape their character," Wu said. "They experience the joy that comes from giving. It enlarges their view of the world and opens their eyes to the needs around them, which helps them not to be self-absorbed."

According to Wu, many of this year's drives were successful. The Thanksgiving

See DRIVES, A3

Building in destruction's wake

Liberty recruits 50 students to help with disaster relief over Christmas break

Jay Sir
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Some people may find it hard to give thanks, even without a natural disaster ripping across their backyards. On the other hand, others who have lost their houses and family know all about giving thanks.

According to their blog, the Salem Church gave some victims of Hurricane Sandy a reason to give thanks. The church in Staten Island partnered with Times Square Church to prepare a Thanksgiving meal for victims as they continue their disaster relief efforts with the intention of "rebuilding lives, not just homes."

"We want to bring the peace of God to many of the victims whose lives have been turned upside down," Pastor Ed Cole said. "I am happy to report to you that the Salem Disaster

Relief Fund and teams of volunteers from Salem continue to touch scores of lives."

Liberty University will be part of the disaster relief effort as the Center for Ministry Training (CMT) will send a team of volunteers to the Salem Church over winter break. The CMT has been working with the dean of the graduate school, Kevin Corsini, to organize a trip to New York City since before Thanksgiving break.

"Our desire is to help anyway we can," Corsini said. "In a short amount of time, we've not only gotten quite a bit of interest but (also) support to deploy."

The trip was approved by Liberty Nov. 29, and the CMT plans to recruit 50 students to help with rebuilding houses and post-disaster counseling. Students attending the trip will



PHOTO PROVIDED

RELIEF — Liberty students help with Sandy clean up.

have all expenses paid for by the CMT and will travel to Staten Island along with members from the Southern Baptist Convention from Jan. 6 to 11, according to Scott MacLeod, associate director of the CMT.

"We want to show the vic-

tims that the reason we're there is to help because we as Christians are commanded to show the light and hope of Christ that is within us," MacLeod said.

See REBUILDING, A6

Campus expansions continue into new year

Melanie Oelrich
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With the addition of the new Visitor's Center and the DeMoss Hall rooftop patio, Liberty University's recent campus expansion has been evident. Additionally, the university has broken ground on a number of other projects, including a new baseball

stadium, the Jerry Falwell Library, a Vines Center practice facility for basketball teams and new dorms on South Campus.

During an interview with the hosts of the Get Up and Go show Nov. 26, Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. expressed satisfaction and excitement for the upcoming projects.

Andrew Claudio, a ra-

dio host for the campus radio station, 90.9 The Light, divided the campus into four regions for discussion purposes during the interview — North, South, East and Main. The interview began with questions about projects on North Campus.

The major project in that area is the upcoming baseball stadium, which

will feature many new amenities.

"I think we're on schedule to get the baseball stadium finished by the next season," Falwell said. "One of the reasons we're building a new stadium instead of renovating the existing one is so that the team will be able to play this coming season and won't move into the new stadium until

it's ready. If construction is not on schedule to finish by this upcoming season, the team will continue playing at Worthington Field."

The men's soccer team will hold its games and practices in Osborne Stadium in the spring. The women's team played at the East Campus intramural fields this fall while construction was being

completed on the track that circles the field.

Aside from the improvements being made to the athletic complexes, construction will soon begin on residential dormitories.

Students are already aware of the dorm changes that will take place over

See CHANGES, A7

INSIDE THE CHAMPION

News

Liberty's ObamaCare lawsuit will be re-examined by the Supreme Court. **A3**

Sports

Men's basketball was seeking its first win against Georgia State Sunday, Dec. 2. **B1**

Feature

"She Loves Me" opened at the Tower Theater Friday, Nov. 30. **B8**

■ News	A1
■ Opinion	A4
■ Sports	B1
■ Feature	B8

Lambda Pi Eta partners with 'Gleaning'

Students from the communications honors society helped package supplies for shipment around the world

Tracie Hearne
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Liberty's communication studies honor society, Lambda Pi Eta (LPE), recently took part in a project to send medical supplies to those in need internationally through the organization Gleaning For The World.

Members from the honor society took a trip to the Gleaning For The World warehouse, located in Concord, Va., Nov. 27. Through their efforts, they were able to put together packages of medical supplies to send to individuals overseas who are suffering and unable to obtain the supplies themselves.

Ashley Addington, the vice president of LPE, said that the members packed about 50 boxes of medical supplies to send overseas. Each box contained numerous amounts of medical supplies, such as biopsy trays, epidural shots, heart trays, arthroscopy packs and shoulder packs.

"The amount that we packed would save the lives of about 900 people," Addington said. "I have never held so many medical supplies in my life."

LPE originally planned to take part in the Teddy Bear Brigade at the warehouse. This project



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

CHARITY — Liberty students Rebekah Lohr and Ashley Addington pack medical supplies at the Gleaning For The World warehouse in Concord, Va.

was started by Gleaning For The World and sends stuffed animals to children around the world.

LPE did donate a box of teddy bears for the cause. However, when they arrived, they decided

to take on the project of packing boxes with medical supplies.

Brandon Osgood, public relations specialist for LPE, explained that each year, the honor society participates in different

humanitarian efforts to help understand the importance of volunteering. He explained that the holiday season is the best time to take part in such activities.

"It was definitely an incred-

ible experience to help out with packing medical supplies. The idea that someone from another country was going to be presented a supply pack that I helped to get ready for shipping was really moving," Osgood said.

Past events that LPE has participated in include Relay for Life and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

"We also hope to develop a heart of volunteering through our members," Osgood said. "By participating with our service projects, we hope they see the importance (that) giving back to the community can do."

According to their website, Gleaning For The World's medical supplies have aided areas including Central America, Africa and Asia. They have sent shipments to more than 54 countries on five continents.

"This project really showed me that even doing small volunteer work can make a huge impact on a person in need," Osgood said.

HEARNE is a news reporter.

Museum host dies

Longtime Liberty contributor passes

Melanie Oelrich
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David Ulysses Campbell, 88, former resident of Lynchburg and contributor to Liberty University, died at home Tuesday, Nov. 27.

Campbell is survived by his wife, Faye Stump Campbell, whom he was married to for 66 years. He is also survived by his daughter, Sherry Callahan and her husband William; his son, David Keith Campbell and his wife Martha; his sister, Rebecca Campbell and her husband, Carl; three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



CAMPBELL

Originally from Lynchburg, Campbell loved kids and all things sports and was even named Coach of the Year in 1961. Additionally, he was elected to the Lynchburg Sports Hall of Fame and the Lynchburg College Sports Hall of Fame, where he attended college.

Campbell was a faithful member of Euclid Christian Church, according to the News & Advance. Most recently, Campbell retired from the Jerry Falwell Museum in DeMoss, where he served as a host from 2003 until three weeks ago. He was honored for his contribution to Liberty over the years.

A memorial service was held Saturday, Dec. 1, at Euclid Christian Church.

OELRICH is an asst. news editor.



PHOTO PROVIDED

LIBERTY BELLES — Members of the Liberty Belles Air Classic team pose in front of one of the program's airplanes.

BELLES continued from A1

Charity Holland, who is also a coach for the NIFA flight team, will compete for Liberty for the first time as an aviator and as a Belle.

"Being able to now go back as a competitor, as a Liberty Belle, will be a great opportunity and experience," Holland said. "I am very excited to represent Liberty University as a competitor next summer for the Air Race Classic."

The Liberty Belles were established in 2012 and will compete in their second Air Race Classic in 2013, according to Boardman.

The ARC is an all-female national flight competition with a flight course that spans the United States.

According to the ARC website, female aviation racing came into existence in 1929 as the First Women's Air Derby, which was replaced by the Powder Puff Derby, now succeeded by today's Air Race Classic, Inc.

"There has been great advancement of women in aviation in the last several years," Morris said. "Contrary to what many think, I have witnessed a huge level of support for women in aviation, and this is very encouraging."

Boardman said that the first requirement a student has to meet to compete with the Liberty Belles is to be a female. Besides that, aviators must have an instrument rating as a private pilot and must provide an essay and an instructor's recommendation.

According to the ARC website, the 2013 race will start in Pasco, Wash. and pass through nine cities and eight states before reaching the finish in Fayetteville, Ark.

Morris said that the Liberty Belles will face up to 50 female collegiate flight teams from around the nation.

"The Air Race Classic is a great opportunity to share the Gospel and the love of Christ with others because you become so close with many women over the weeks of the competition," Boardman said.

According to Liberty University's website, the Liberty Belles placed 27th and 28th in the 2012 ARC.

The ARC strongly support women in the field of aviation. According to the ARC website, they seek to encourage and ed-

ucate aspiring female aviators, represent the role of women in aviation and promote the tradition of pioneering women in aviation.

Boardman said that females do not realize the potential they have in aviation because they do not know that that sort of dream is possible for women, but the ARC is raising awareness and interest in aviation.

"The Liberty Belles was not only created to better the School of Aeronautics, but as a platform for young girls to see that women can fly and be successful in the field," Boardman said.

ANGIONE is a news reporter.

LIBERTY CHAMPION

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Supreme Court to revisit ObamaCare lawsuit

Liberty University's litigation against the president's health care bill will be reconsidered in Richmond

Joy Huertas
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After being dismissed from court in June 2012, Liberty University's lawsuit against President Barack Obama's health care law will be reconsidered in the fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va., according to a Supreme Court announcement Monday, Nov. 26.

Liberty filed a petition for rehearing, challenging the mandates for individuals and employers found in the bill and also raising the Free Exercise of Religion defense stated in the First Amendment and the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

"It is very rare to have the court reverse itself, but on Monday it reversed its own ruling and directed our case to be reheard at the court of appeals," Mathew Staver, founder and chairman of the Liberty Counsel and Dean of Liberty University School of Law, said. "This is a major victory and breathes new life into our challenge to ObamaCare."

When President Obama signed ObamaCare into law March 23, 2010, Liberty University filed a lawsuit against the new bill. This was the first private suit in the country. Staver and Liberty Counsel filed the suit on behalf of Liberty and



JOEL COLEMAN | MARKETING

LIBERTY COUNSEL — Dean of the Law School Mathew Staver leads the lawsuit against ObamaCare.

other private individuals.

"Originally, the court of appeals did not reach the merits but instead ruled that the federal Anti-Injunction Act (AIA) barred the court from ruling on the case," Staver said.

The AIA requires that if the law imposes a tax, the tax must first be paid before the suit can be filed, which in this case would have been after 2014. However, Liberty Counsel petitioned the

U.S. Supreme Court, and the first of the three days of oral arguments dealt with their case, *Liberty University v. Geithner*. The Supreme Court ruled in their favor but then dismissed the case in June 2012.

There are three main arguments supporting the case. The first is the challenge to the employer mandate for all employers, religious and secular.

"If we win this challenge,

ObamaCare will be disabled," Staver said.

The second focuses on the constitutionality of the law under the First Amendment Free Exercise of Religion and the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act, because it forces religious employers to fund abortion.

"ObamaCare is a significant infringement on liberty," Staver said. "It also violates our free exercise of religion and rights of

conscience by forcing people to fund abortion."

The third argument challenges the individual mandate on the same basis as the employer mandate because it too requires individuals to fund abortion.

"If you abide by your conscience and refuse to fund the murder of innocent unborn children, you violate ObamaCare and will be fined," Staver said. "In Liberty's case, the fines will be in the millions of dollars. If you abide by ObamaCare, you violate your conscience."

Because of the media currently focusing on this issue, Liberty has been featured in top news stories around the country.

"We have received emails and phone calls from around the country and the world, thanking Liberty University for taking on this challenge," Staver said.

Liberty Counsel will soon receive a briefing schedule from the court of appeals and file their briefs. They expect discussion to take place after the new year with a decision being made in spring 2013.

"We will be back before the Supreme Court in the fall of 2013," Staver said.

HUERTAS is a news reporter.

DRIVES continued from A1

food drive resulted in 612 pounds of food collected for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. This is only the second year for the drive, and Wu hopes that continue to increase in the future.

The food donated by Liberty will go to the coun-

ties of Bedford, Campbell, Appomattox and Buckingham. Sodexo and the Student Government Association (SGA) partnered to make this year's food drive possible.

Wu said that past fundraisers and drives have been successful and that he hopes to have even better outcomes in the future.

"We've always experi-

enced a good amount of participation and success with the Blood Drives and Salvation Army bell ringing," Wu said. "The participation in the United Way campaign is not as high as perhaps other businesses or organizations, but that is perfectly understandable given the fact that most faculty and staff are active members of local churches who donate through that avenue."

Although many students are encouraged to get involved in various activities through Christian service and academic classes, Wu hopes that more will choose to participate for personal reasons.

"These drives are important because they impact those that participate as well as those that are benefited from the participation," Wu said. "Times

are tough right now for many families. We should be moved enough with compassion to help others out that really need it."

As Christians, scripture tells us to help those less fortunate, and Wu believes that these drives are a way to fulfill that duty.

"These drives help to meet the needs of our immediate neighbors as they are all local organiza-

tions," Wu said.

There is still time to get involved. The United Way campaign for faculty and staff ends Dec. 17, and the Salvation Army bell ringing will continue through Dec. 24. To volunteer, contact Wu at dewu@liberty.edu.

ALLEYNE is a news reporter.



Hancock
CHRISTMAS

A festive celebration for all ages!

Friday, Dec. 14 from 6-9 p.m. at the Hancock Welcome Center

Come enjoy Christmas movies, sip hot chocolate and cider, munch on cookies, and experience many more Christmas traditions with us.

The event is free and open to the public.

Keep your thumbs on the wheel people.

PHIL'S PIX | CREATIVE COMMONS

PAY ATTENTION — Students must resist the temptation to text and other distractions when leaving for Christmas break.

Drive safe when headed home

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Confession: I have been known to play my music too loud while driving and to take curves a little too fast. But I also confess that I know that heart-stopping fear seconds from a collision, when you just manage to avoid the crash. Immediately after the crash, I immediately feel relief. In that moment, I vow to myself to never drive unsafely.

But why did I think an accident was impossible in the first place?

Apparently, I am not the only one with a confession. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drivers between 15 to 24 years old account for 28 to 30 percent of total costs of motor vehicle injuries. Because the statistics give reason behind your mom's warning be-

fore your road trip, it is time we stop driving like Allstate's Mayhem.

In two weeks, thousands of Liberty students will drive home. HealthDay, a health news service, reported in a November 2011 poll of more than 2,000 adults, young adults were most likely to drive distracted. The only way to redefine our driving bracket is to drive responsibly.

If you are tempted to use your cellphone while driving, turn it off or toss it in the glove box. As an incentive, the Governor's Highway Safety Administration reports that texting and driving is illegal in 39 states, including Virginia, and officers may issue tickets for that offense alone. The fine for texting and driving ranges up to \$500.

Another law that drivers should not break is driving without a seatbelt, which is illegal in 32 states. Before you

roll your eyes, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration stated in 2008 that 55 percent of people killed in vehicle accidents were not wearing a seatbelt.

We also tend to forget that driving responsibly has benefits. Many insurance companies offer good driver incentives. Particularly in our age bracket, insurance companies offer lower rates after several years of accident-free driving. The advantages of safe driving are too significant to be ignored, and the consequences can be fatal.

Most concerning is that the prescription for safe driving is not difficult or inconvenient. If we were diligent, the mature driver would cultivate safe habits. Why must college students insist on emulating daredevils behind the wheel?

The problem may run too deep for an easy fix, though. Driving recklessly shows

symptoms of rebellion and pride. Are we really in such a hurry that the speed limit becomes irrelevant? Is our conversation so pressing that it cannot be continued later? Are we really that embarrassed by demanding that our friends buckle up?

Have a collision with reality, before colliding with another vehicle or tree. Though we may feel invincible at times, we are not. The rules are present to keep our futures safe.

Confession: I sometimes wish every road was straight, smooth and empty so that I could drive as fast as I want. Every time that thought creeps into my mind, though, I squash it with a stronger wish — to arrive home alive.

RUTHERFORD is an opinion writer.

Standing at a cliff's edge

Can we avoid a fiscal disaster?

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The uproar that became the norm of the 2012 election season has now officially come and gone, and a new political chapter is soon to be written. In these next four years, new challenges will face Congress, many of which deal with the national deficit, the economy and how the U.S. will balance the budget. One of these issues is referred to as the "fiscal cliff."

"The 'fiscal cliff' is a term used to describe the convergence of two events on Dec. 31, 2012 — the expiration of almost every tax cut enacted since 2001 and a scheduled reduction in government spending," Forbes Magazine correspondent Tony Nitta said in a recent online article.

Grover Norquist, a lobbyist and the president of Americans for Tax Reform, has been petitioning Republicans to sign his Taxpayer Protection Pledge, which seems more interested in blocking legislation than passing it.

According to his organization's website, this pledge says that signers must "oppose and vote against tax increases" and "oppose any net reduction or elimination of deductions and credits, unless matched dollar for dollar by further reducing tax rates."

Though several congressmen have said they would not follow Norquist's anti-tax pledge, more than 200 congressmen and 39 senators of the opposing Congress have signed this pledge.

Now we patiently wait to see how many more will do the same.

To put it simply, this pledge is reckless and irresponsible. The Republican Party cannot afford to be the party of "no" for another four years. Becoming a party of glorified obstructionists makes one question the reality of their principles for the future success of the American people.

It may not be fun or easy to pay more taxes, but that does not make it wrong.

Hardly any politician is quick to say that raising taxes is part of their platform, but Republicans cannot act as though paying more taxes is morally wrong, creating an issue that cannot be compromised on in any way, shape or form.

The Republicans have the majority in the House of Representatives, and the Democrats have the majority in the Senate, so no major fix to this crisis is going to come unless both sides are willing to reach some sort of understanding.

By refusing to raise taxes in any form, Republicans are diminishing any chance of an agreement before negotiations have begun.

Even if a raise in taxes is not the best solution, it is better than no solution. It is unreasonable to expect Democrats to agree to any type of spending cuts or reforms unless Republicans are willing to compromise on their issues as well.

A recent poll by CNN with ORC International revealed that 67 percent of Americans want Congress to resolve budget issues with a combination of both tax increases and spending cuts.

The American people want their leaders to find common ground and create real solutions to their country's problems. Norquist's anti-tax pledged stands in opposition to this.

For now, congressmen should stick to only one pledge, which they pledged when they gave their oath of office. That pledge is to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States."

TELLERS is an opinion writer.

A look at the traditions of Christmas

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Everyone has traditions for the Christmas season. Ask around and you will get a variety of responses.

I know that I personally have a few that immediately come to mind. On Christmas Eve, my great uncle's house for an eclectic conversation featuring thoughts on his burnt popcorn, muses about watching — yet again — "It's a Wonderful Life" and discussions of his World War II stories, where he was a prisoner of war in a German camp. Traveling to my great uncle Asa's house was an interesting, yet always fantastic, tradition.

Another tradition I love is my extended family's Christmas party. Everyone, and I mean everyone, from my

dad's side of the family packs into one of the four siblings' house for a night of singing,



WOOLFOLK

fraternizing and reminiscing about the past year. The party usually brings in 40 or so relatives of mine, and it is always a good time.

And there are other small, quirky traditions that come to mind. On Christmas morning, you do not dare open your presents before your stocking. Our Christmas meal is eggs and sausage, no questions. Mario Kart 64 must be played for an hour on Christmas Day, minimum.

While these traditions are all well and good, when you let them get in the way of the

true reason of celebration, no matter how noble your customs may be, it creates a conflict of interest.

We should not celebrate Christmas because it is what we have always done. We should celebrate it because it marks the anniversary of the greatest gift ever given. We should not meet with our family and friends because it is what we have always done. We should meet to commemorate how God has blessed us.

Every year, my father plays a segment recorded by the legendary Johnny Cash called "The Christmas Guest."

Cash narrates the story of a man who awaits the promised appearance by the Lord himself. Three times his door is knocked, and each time he answers it only to see someone other than the Lord, such as a homeless man and a lost child. At the end of the nar-

ration, the man laments to himself, wondering why God never showed up. It is then that the Lord answers him, telling him that he did indeed visit him, three times.

I would suggest everyone search for that story on YouTube and give it a quick listen. Christmas gives us the amazing opportunity to display the love of God at the most perfect of times. Do not give because it is the Christmas season, but because of the command of God.

"Whatever you do for the least of these my brother, you did for me," Jesus said in Matthew 25.

While we can never repay the gift we have received, let us make giving back more than just a tradition.

WOOLFOLK is the opinion editor.



Tabitha Cassidy
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For those of you who have parents paying for your college education or the government giving you a Pell grant to round off what is not covered in scholarship money, this From the Desk will not really benefit you — though, you may glean some advice on how to pay off future debt, should you acquire any.

For those of us who have parents too rich for us to get an anecdotal amount of financial aid that does not accrue interest and too poor to actually pay for our college

education, we will soon be looking at a rather large amount of student loans to pay back.

The Project on Student Debt, from the Institute for College Access & Success who are trying to make higher education more affordable for students, found that two-thirds of 2011's graduating seniors had some sort of loan debt, with a national average of \$26,600 per person.

Jumping over to financial aid, at \$26,600 in unsubsidized loans with a term of 10 years, it would take \$306 a month to pay back what you borrowed for your education.

However, what is truly frightening is the additional interest you would be paying. Instead of just paying back that \$26,600, you would be paying a total of nearly \$36,733, an addition of approximately \$10,133.

To avoid this drastic amount of extra money, I have compiled a list of my top five tips to paying



CASSIDY

back debt before it starts controlling your life. If you actually follow these, then you might be one of the few lucky ones who in 10 years will not be swimming in debt and regretting going to a private institution.

First, and probably the most important tip: start paying back your unsubsidized college loans while you are still in school.

These lovely loans from the government automatically begin accruing interest the moment the loan is awarded — and at 6.8 percent, that interest

builds up fast. By paying off at least the interest you acquire on these loans, you reduce the amount of future debt you have to pay easily. Remember, next month's interest is being calculated based on what your loan amount increased by last month.

Paying off subsidized loans while still in college is not as vital, as interest does not affect them until after you graduate, and at a generally lower rate.

Tip number two: pay more than the minimum for each loan. This may seem like common sense, but believe it or not, I had no idea you could even do this before I started researching the fastest ways to get out of debt.

If you are only paying the minimum each month, you could be adding years, and thousands of dollars, onto your loans. Remember the extra \$10,133 that the average college stu-

dent would be paying at \$306 a month? If the student scrounged up \$524 a month, then he could easily pay off his loan in five years and only pay an additional \$4,852 in interest rates, a total savings of \$5,281.

The third thing you should be doing to pay off your loans might not be as easy. Give up the fancy restaurants, new designer clothes, name brand cereal and monthly concert tickets. In other words, start living frugally.

Spending \$4 on coffee each day can add up to the \$120 a month that you could be using to pay off those interest rates from tip number one.

Tip number four: make a budget and actually follow it. Chances are you have gotten bored and taken the advice of your economics 101 professor and made a budget at some point in your college career. But my hunch

is that you have not been truly following it.

A budget will help you with tip number three — not spending money on the things you really do not need. Try keeping a budget for just three months to get started.

Finally, stop worrying. There are hundreds of Bible verses reminding us that God really is in control, but perhaps the first one that comes to mind about worrying is Matthew 6:34 — "Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

Once you realize that Jesus has already paid the only debt that truly matters, everything else becomes easy.

CASSIDY is the editor in chief.

'Two and a Half Men' star causes controversy

Actor Angus T. Jones denounced his popular television show as 'filth' while begging viewers to stop watching

Andrew Woolfolk
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"Two and a Half Men," CBS Network's hit comedic sitcom, has had quite a successful run during its nine years on the network. Each season, the show has brought in more than 12 million viewers and an abundance of DVD sales.

But there have also been some low points for the show. The production crew had to deal with the psychological collapse of one of the show's main actors, Charlie Sheen, during its eighth season in February 2011. Sheen's meltdown halted production in the middle of the season, with six more shows still left to be produced.

Less than a month later, another low point for the show occurred. Sheen was fired and subsequently replaced by Ashton Kutcher. Kutcher's performance on the show brought in new viewers, but nationally-renowned newspapers such as the Herald Sun and the New York Daily voiced their opinion that the show's quality was declining.

But the show's lowest point may have come Nov. 26, when the religious website Forerunner Chronicles released a video of the show's 19-year-old star Angus T. Jones calling the show "filth" during an interview with a website spokesperson.

"I'm on 'Two and a Half Men,' and I don't want to be on it," Jones said. "Please stop watching it. Please stop filling your head with filth. People say it's just entertainment. Do some research on the effects of television and your brain, and I promise you, you'll have a decision to make when it comes to television, especially with what you watch on television. It's bad news."

Jones, who is an evangelical Christian and a member of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, went on to describe himself as a "paid hypocrite," taking part in a show that "doesn't want anything to do with God."

Hypocrite or not, Jones is well paid, earning over \$350,000 per episode, which qualified him as



J.J. DUNCAN | CREATIVE COMMONS

YOUNG AND RESTLESS — Jones said his newfound Christian values are being compromised.

the highest paid child star as recently as 2010.

Producers of the show have now said that Jones' character is unlikely to return next season, which Jones said is fine with him.

"You cannot be a true God-fearing person and be on a television show like that," Jones said. "I know I can't. I'm not OK with what I'm learning, what the Bi-

ble says, and being on that television show."

Many will question Jones' motivation. Jones said that he did not plan to try to get out of his current contract, which some say shows his true character. E! News quoted an unnamed source with connections to the show that said Jones was just trying to avoid having a meltdown like Sheen,

implying that his religious viewpoints are forged more out of fear than faith.

But the truth in his words is still there. "Two and a Half Men" is a show that features crude sexual jokes. In the first episode that aired after the controversial video, much of Jones' dialogue on the show referred to his sexual promiscuity with his

on-screen girlfriend.

It is encouraging that Jones had the guts to condemn his show's vulgar content, but only time will tell if he sticks to his morals. The question of whose actions are right lies not on the producers of the show or Jones, but on us as Christians. Admittedly, some of us watch "Two and a Half Men," and still more of us watch shows that closely resemble it in terms of their lack of virtues.

We all say the humor will not hurt us, and that we would never participate in that type of behavior, yet science conflicts with that mindset.

Research conducted by the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation in accordance with professors from California State University in 2009 found that those exposed to sexual content such as on television shows were "associated with an increased likelihood of sexual behavior and increased intentions to do so in the future."

That is not to say that everyone who watches "Two and a Half Men" will suddenly turn into a mischievous Casanova, but viewing behavior such as that displayed on "Two and a Half Men" is scientifically suggested to open the door for declining morals.

As Christians, we are called to guard our hearts. As Christians, we should be aware of the signs that will be before us in the last days. In II Timothy 3, Paul warns of those who will love themselves, crave earthly pleasures and become conceited, telling us to "avoid such people." As Christians, we are called to reach for something better.

Jones has a choice to make after the end of "Two and a Half Men." In the future, will he participate in shows like that? We have a choice to make, too.

I pray we make the right one.

WOOLFOLK is the opinion editor.



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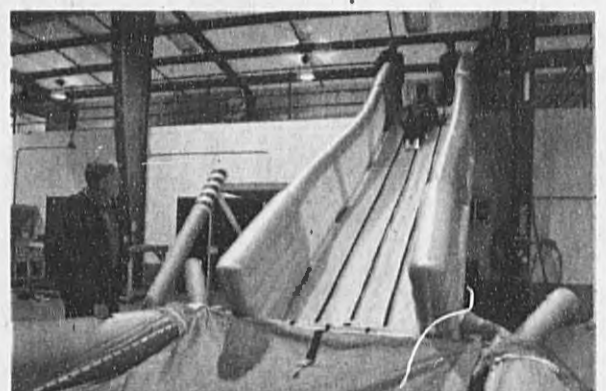
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Illuminating University Boulevard

Campus Christmas tradition continues, bringing joy to Liberty students

Samantha Boontjer
sboontjer@liberty.edu

Liberty University continued its Christmas tradition Monday, Nov. 26, when students gathered in front of DeMoss Hall to celebrate the third annual "Christmas in Lights."

The unique event gives students the opportunity to celebrate the Christmas season on their college campus.

"Christmas in Lights" is one of the most unique events that we host throughout the school year," Student Activities Promotion Manager Stephanie Ward said. "It's always hard for students to come back from Thanksgiving break and get into the swing of things, but 'Christmas in Lights' helps them feel like Christmas is right around the corner."

Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr., along with his wife, Becki, and his daughter, Caroline, joined students for the lighting of the massive Christmas tree positioned in front of the DeMoss Hall main stairway.

The night began with Christmas carols from a combination of Liberty student choirs and musicians.

"Falwell welcomed everyone and told the story of last year's Christmas tree lighting, when Arielle Bielicki, a



HOLIDAY CHEER — Students gather for the annual "Christmas in Lights" event.

Liberty student, approached him and asked if she could light the star on the top of the tree.

"It was raining and I wanted to go home, so I said 'Yes,'" Falwell said.

This year, Falwell surprised everyone with the announcement that the student who caught his water bottle would get to help light the tree.

"He said he was going to throw the water bottle and I was in a pretty good spot," Liberty freshman Christopher Taylor said. "I wasn't right in the front, but I wasn't

real far back. He threw it and

I just caught it."

Before lighting the tree, Falwell entertained students and guests with stories of the family tradition at his farm.

"What my kids like to do every year is to go outside on Christmas Eve with a 12-gauge shotgun and shoot mistletoe out of the trees," he said.

Taylor and Bielicki joined the chancellor for this year's lighting of the tree.

"The night was fun, and I enjoyed lighting the star," Bielicki said.

Becki Falwell is credited with coming up with the idea

for "Christmas in Lights."

"She thought it was almost a sin for the largest Christian university not to have a Christmas tree and lots of decorations," Falwell said.

"It creates a sense of unity in being a part of a tradition here at the university, and we love fostering relationships in that way," Ward said. "It's such an honor to take part in such an awesome event that starts the Christmas season here at Liberty."

BOONTJER is a news reporter.

REBUILDING

cont. from A1

According to administrative assistant Timothy Moroz, the team will build relationships, show

Christ's love and share the Gospel if given the chance.

"It breaks down a lot of spiritual walls when people you don't know come to help you," Moroz said. "It's hard to understand why

some of this happens, or why God allows it, but in the end, I think God knows what he is doing."

This will be the second time the CMT will travel to New York.

"I mean, whenever

you do something like this and the expenses are covered, there's no reason not to go," Moroz said. "We're pretty pumped about it."

Students interested in volunteering

can contact Moroz at tgmoroz@liberty.edu or visit the CMT office located in the Performing Arts Hall.

SIR is a news reporter.

Blood Drive

Liberty partners with Virginia Blood Services

Isaac Eder
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Students and faculty filled the back hallway of DeMoss Tuesday, Nov. 26 for the final blood drive of the semester.

Virginia Blood Services, a local blood bank that coordinates with Liberty University, hosted the blood drive. Even late into the afternoon, students were lined up, waiting to give blood.

"I was nervous to give blood because this was my first time, but it was fine and didn't hurt too much, and it was really easy," Liberty junior Katelyn Welch said.

Many students had a sense of apprehension toward giving blood.

According to Melanie Campbell, an account manager for Virginia Blood Services, fear and anxiety is the number one reason for their hesitation.

Campbell, a Liberty graduate whose parents teach at the university, was overseeing the operation. According to her, the blood bank's efforts at Liberty have been very successful. The first Virginia Blood Services blood drive at Liberty took place in October 2011.

"Liberty students are fantastic. They come out for no other reason than to give blood," Campbell said. "There's no need for incentive, even though they sometimes get extra credit and what have you."

According to Campbell, the Virginia Blood Services is local to Virginia.

"We serve three of the level-one trauma centers in central and southwest Virginia," Campbell said. "We also serve several smaller hospitals."

Campbell also addressed a common point of confusion among students, namely, that her organization is not the Red Cross, nor are the two groups affiliated.

"We're a local blood bank. The Red Cross is a national blood bank," Campbell said. "We're all serving the same purpose, and saving lives."

EDER is a news reporter.



AMERICANS FOR
PROSPERITY

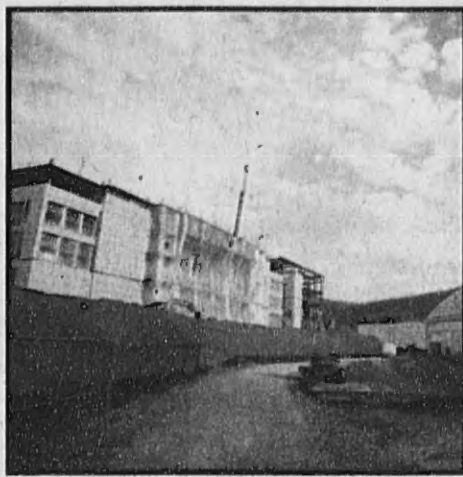
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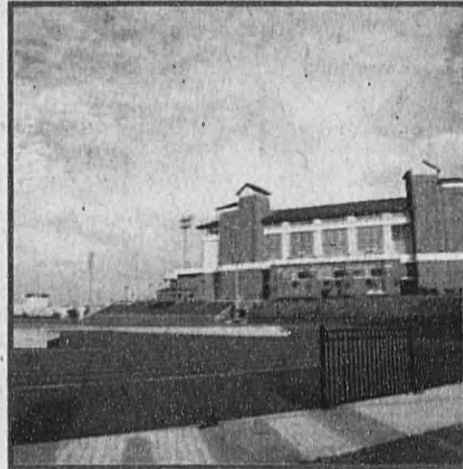


RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

SARAH NGUYEN (LEFT), RUTH BIBBY (RIGHT) | LIBERTY CHAMPION

J.F. LIBRARY — The library will include new technology and a food court.

VINES CENTER FACILITIES — The basketball teams will practice here.



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

RUTH BIBBY (LEFT), PHOTO PROVIDED (RIGHT) | LIBERTY CHAMPION

OSBORNE STADIUM — Soccer and Lacrosse will move back to Osborne Stadium.

DORMS — One new dorm is expected to replace the Circle in number of students.

CHANGES

continued from A1

Christmas break and have been given the option to move to the Annex for three semesters, according to Falwell.

"There are four dorms in the way of the first tower that will go up," Falwell said. "We've worked hard with that group — the ones that want to stay with their hall mates and roommates will be able to if they move to the Annex."

According to Falwell,

one of the new residence halls will have as many beds as the entire circle section of Main Campus currently has. Because a total of four new dormitory towers will be constructed on Main Campus, Liberty will have the ability to expand the student population.

"What most people don't know yet is that I'd like to move all 2,800 students from the East Campus dorms to Main Campus and make East Campus an area of Liberty-owned off-campus housing for up-

perclassmen," Falwell said. "If we could get the 5,000 commuter students in housing projects close-by, it would alleviate a majority of the traffic congestion on campus, and campus buses would be able to run more frequently than they do from here to the Cornerstone complexes."

Academically, the "last piece of the puzzle," according to Falwell, is the new School of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences. Administration has broken ground on Liberty Mountain and will

begin construction shortly. Those projects are expected to be completed before fall 2014.

Construction on the new Jerry Falwell Library is continuing at a steady pace, but it is not expected to be completed for another year.

"It appears that the library is coming along ahead of schedule," Falwell said. "Interior finishes will take some time, but progress is continuing without any hitches."

Additionally, there are early plans to expand the

Vines Center to accommodate more seating for convocations, concerts and other events, according to Falwell. Because of the recent purchase of Sears in the River Ridge Mall, the plan is for the city to build a new civic center there.

"In the interim, some offices will move over there, while the buildings behind DeMoss are torn down," Falwell said. "Once the center is done, expansions can then be made on the Vines Center, such as adding an upper deck and increasing the seating. Then

the Vines Center would be used solely for convocation."

Although some plans are uncertain, Falwell and Liberty administration are working to make sure these improvements will better help the campus in "training Champions."

"Whatever it is, we'll figure it out," Falwell said.

OELRICH is an asst. news editor.

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Liberty sponsors academic tour to Rwanda

A team of 21 students and faculty members visited the impoverished nation to provide supplies and relief

Tyler Eacho
teacho@liberty.edu

Liberty University sent a group of 17 students and four faculty members to Rwanda for the fourth university-sponsored trip to the African nation from Nov. 8 to 18.

Dr. Kevin Corsini, Administrative Dean for Graduate Students, and Kevin Struble, Administrative Chair of Liberty University Abroad, led the group. Kathryn Miller of the nursing department and Brandi Chamberlin from the psychology department also went on the trip.

This specific team of students and faculty members was participating in an academic study tour, although the Gospel remained at the core of the trip.

"The trip is centrally about the Gospel and living it out in tangible ways with our African brothers and sisters in Christ," Corsini said. "We have a unique opportunity as a university to make a significant difference in this war-torn country."

"We were able to bring clothes and food, like bags of rice, to many of these villages that don't have much, not even electricity," Struble said. "We brought soap and other hygiene items to one orphan village that had very little of anything, including enough food and running water."

Participants included online and residential students in the counseling, psychology and seminary programs who went on the trip to learn about the genocide that took place in the 1994 Rwandan Civil War that still affects the nation and its people to this day. Each student also took a class in conjunction with the trip in order to receive course credit.

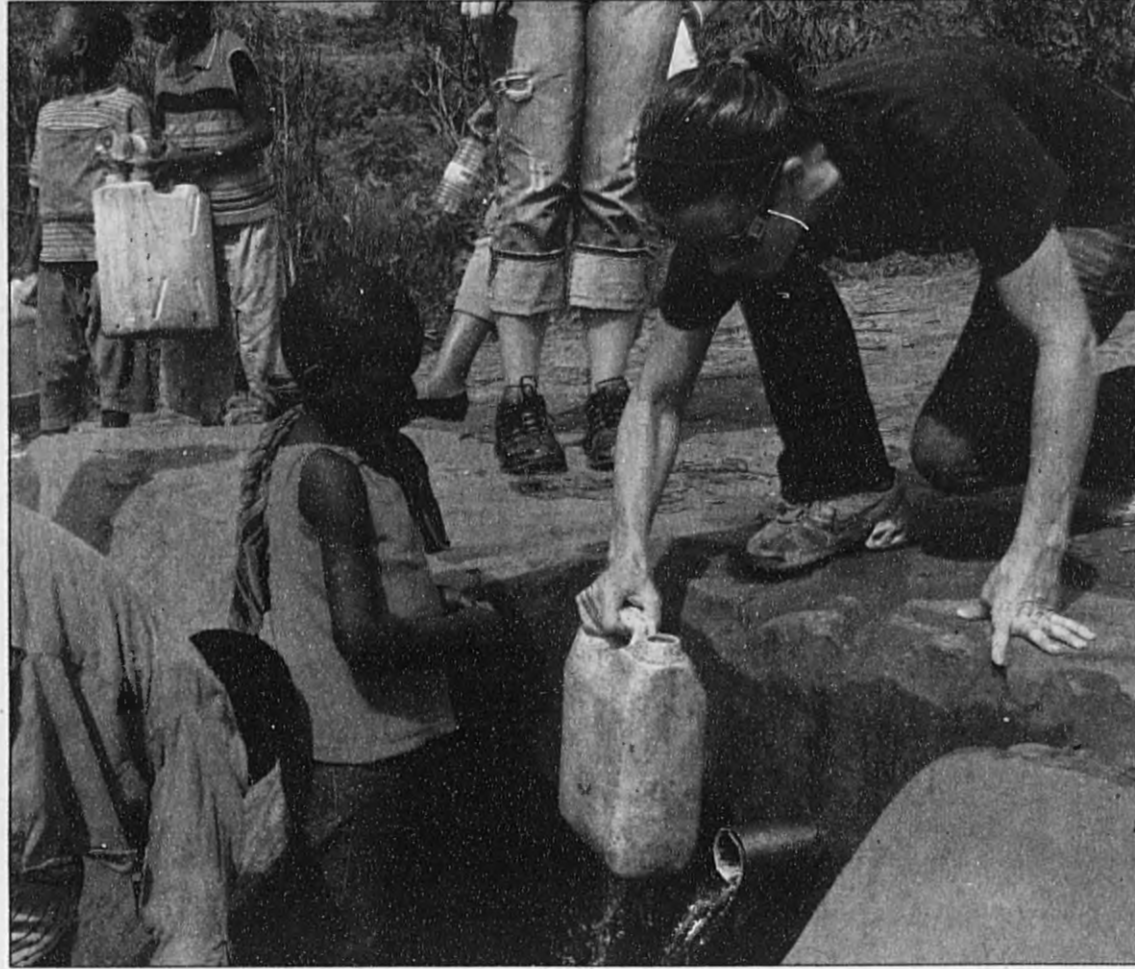


PHOTO PROVIDED

HELPING HANDS — A member of the team collects fresh water for the village.

"There is still extreme poverty throughout the country," Struble said. "However, villagers were happy to see Liberty University students because relationships have been formed through previous trips and we are helping to meet some of their basic needs."

"The children's faces light up when they see you return and recognize that you've come back to see them again," Corsini said. "It's so rewarding to see them grow each year."

Miller was brought along to assess the medical needs of the villages and the Star School that Liberty is partnering with. The

team purchased medical supplies for the school, and Miller worked with the nurse to help him learn how to meet the medical needs of the students.

"The school that Liberty has partnered with had little medical services and few medical supplies," Struble said. "One little girl had a fungus on her head that could be easily cured with Lamisil and soap, so we bought these items to help her."

Liberty also partnered with Lynchburg City schools and local private schools to collect used clothing items. The team was able to supply nearly 1,000

pounds of clothing to various Rwandan villages. These villages included widows, orphans and a village of reconciliation, where perpetrators and victims of the genocide live together. According to Struble, most Rwandans in the villages only own one outfit and many of them have no shoes to wear.

"At the school, there was a barbed wire fence so that children who were not sponsored could not get in," Struble said. "We went around the fence and gave some clothes and toys to those children too. Parents had tears in their eyes because we had

given their children something that they could not afford for themselves."

"There is one boy who, for two years, wore the same Bob the Builder sweatshirt because it was all he owned," Corsini said. "This year, the same dirty shirt was on his brother because he had outgrown it. We were able to provide them with new Liberty University shirts, which they treasured as if they had won the lottery."

Liberty also donated 40 laptops, which the team delivered to the Star School. An additional 10 laptops will be delivered to the school by a second team going in March. The school had no computers prior to the donation. Struble believes that the laptops will help educate the students and could potentially allow for future Liberty University Online classes to be offered at the school.

The team returned to the U.S. with 500 bags made by Rwandans in a vocational school. Some of the students in the school were either prostitutes or orphans taken off the streets. The Liberty University Bookstore purchased the bags and is currently selling them. All proceeds will go back to that vocational school to help more children get off the streets and receive an education.

"This trip has impacted my life in profound ways, and I am forever changed," Corsini said. "We are already making plans for a return trip with strategic partnerships with nursing, engineering, health sciences and counseling."

EACHO is an asst. news editor.

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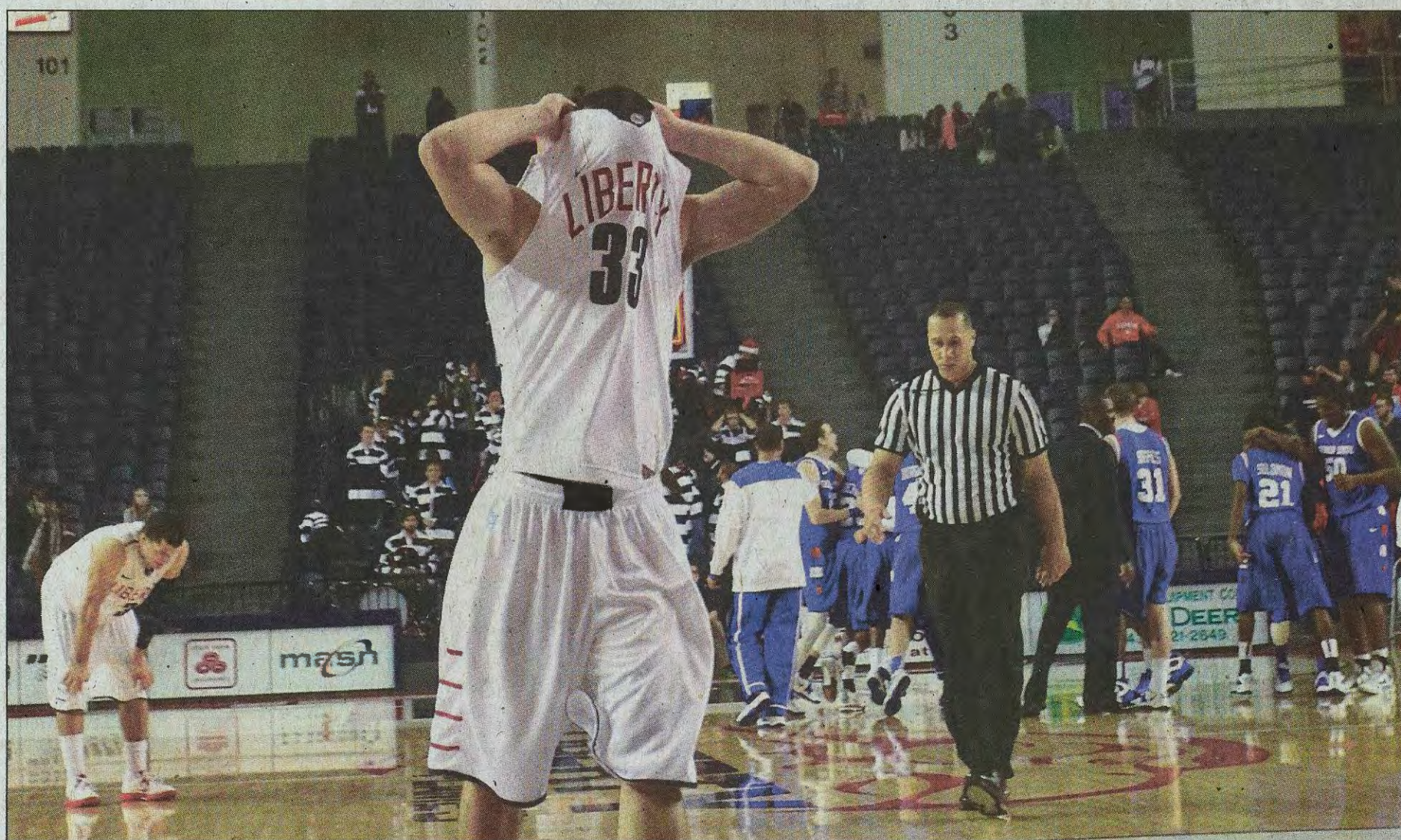
Men's D1 Hockey
Liberty 3 Oakland 7

Men's D3 Hockey
Liberty 5 Maryland 0

Women's D1 Hockey
Liberty 3 Colorado 0

Women's D2 Hockey
Liberty 0 American 5

frustration



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

WOULDA, COULDA, SHOULDA — A dejected John Caleb Sanders, 33, walks off the court after the one-point loss Sunday.

End of the road for v-ball

Courtney Tyree
cntyree@liberty.edu

The Lady Flames volleyball team fell short against the No. 8 Minnesota Golden Gophers in three sets (25-21, 25-10, 34-32) Friday, Nov. 30 in the first round of the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship.

Liberty concluded its 2012 season with a 25-8 record. The match against Minnesota was the Lady Flames seventh national tournament appearance. Liberty entered the match on a 10-match winning streak, hoping to keep it alive.

Kendle Rollins and Melissa Racz' block in the first set broke a 13-13 tie. Minnesota went on a five-point rally to take an 18-15 lead.

Minnesota's hitting average of .324, was significantly better than Liberty's .250. The Golden Gophers followed their first set win with a dominant performance in the second. Minnesota was able to pull ahead halfway through the set, going on an 8-0 run to take a commanding 15-3 lead that was too much for Liberty to overcome. Minnesota won the lopsided set 25-10.

"They got us pretty good in that second one," Pinder said. "We talked about resolve and the heart of a champion, coming out and playing strong in the third set."

Despite falling into an 11-5 deficit at the beginning of the set, the Lady Flames fought back and spurred a four-point run followed by a five-point run. Liberty took their first lead (18-17) on a block by Jade Craycraft and Loren Thomas.

Moments later, Craycraft put down a kill to give Liberty a 20-17 advantage — its largest lead of the match. The Lady Flames were ahead at the first match point 24-23, but the Golden Gophers outlasted Liberty in a marathon match-point duel. The lead was exchanged four times until Minnesota won with an ace on its sixth match-point try (34-32).

Liberty outhit Minnesota .295 to .185. Lillie Happel and Douglas posted five kills each.

Douglas finished the match with 12 total kills, and Happel finished with nine. Loren Thomas recorded seven kills and five blocks. Craycraft added 23 assists, seven kills, six digs and three blocks to the match. Gabrielle Shipe contributed 11 digs, putting her over the 500 mark for the year.

"This life journey is about creating memories, and tonight our group, although we fell short, has great memories to take with them when they take the volleyball shoes off," Pinder said.

TYREE is a sports reporter.

B-ball still looking for 'w'

Flames fall by one in final seconds to visiting Georgia State Panthers

Derrick Battle
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With 48 seconds to go, Devon Marshall hit his sixth three-point shot to give Liberty a 63-58 lead and what was believed to be the dagger against the Georgia State Panthers. However, the Panthers stuck around and clinched a 67-66 victory.

The loss gives the Flames an 0-8 record — their worst start in school history — and an 0-3 mark, which is the worst home start in 22 years.

After Marshall pushed the lead to five late in the second half, Panthers, center James Vincent converted a three-point play that closed the deficit to a 63-61 lead. With 25 seconds remaining, Marshall was fouled off the in-bound and made both free throws, giving the Flames a four-point lead. Georgia State quickly countered when guard R.J. Hunter drove down the baseline, made a dunk and received another old-fashioned three-point play.

With 16 seconds left, guard Casey Roberts was intentionally fouled and made the front end of two free throws, giving the Flames a two-point lead. Roberts missed the second, causing the Panthers to gather the rebound and call their last timeout to draw up one final play.

Georgia State guard Devonta White quickly dribbled the ball up the court and penetrated the Flames defense with 12 seconds remaining in the game. White's aggressiveness lured the Flames in the paint and left open guard Rashaad Richardson on the wing. Richardson, who has shot 23 percent from beyond the arc this season, buried a clutch three-pointer that gave the Panthers a 67-66 lead with 2.4 seconds left.

"It was a tough loss," Head Coach Dale Layer said. "I thought on that last play, we played great defense, but we left (Richardson) open. He hasn't shot well from three this season, but he made a big shot when it mattered most, and you can't take that from him."

"It is heartbreaking to lose a game like that," forward JR Coronado said. "We played a solid game, but it is sad that we went out the way we did."

With no timeouts remaining, guard John Caleb Sanders received the ball off the in-bound and heaved a half-court shot that hit the backboard and front rim.

"Well, you can't do a lot with only two seconds, but it was a tough loss today," Sanders said. "We prepared for this team all week and we worked really hard. It's just tough that the game ended the way it did."



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

TRAFFIC — JR Coronado charges through would-be defenders toward the basket.

At the beginning of the game, Liberty struck first when guard Tavares Speaks knocked down a three. This would be the trend for the rest of the first half.

The Flames hit eight shots from the beyond the arc. Marshall drained three of them and led all scorers with 12 points and an assist. Virginia Tech transfer and forward Manny Atkins led the Panthers with nine points and two rebounds.

The eight three-pointers helped the Flames jump to a 37-29 lead at halftime.

"It was one of my best games, but I would always trade in having a good game for a victory," Marshall said.

Déjà vu from the home opener against William & Mary struck fans as the Panthers opened the second half with a 9-0 run and eventually took a three-point lead

See B-BALL, B2

Stadium progresses

Olivia Witherite
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With the start of the baseball season less than three months away, the construction of Liberty University's new ballpark is slated to be completed in time for the Flames' 2013 home opener Feb. 22.

"With the athletic expansion, one of our goals was to have a nationally-prominent, known athletic program," Executive Vice President Neal Askew said. "We think

(the new stadium) is another step into that direction in securing that goal."

The new stadium, which will accommodate approximately 2,500 people with covered seating, will compete with any stadium on the East Coast, according to Askew.

Unlike the current baseball stadium's bench-style seating, it will feature individual seating. The new stadium will also offer seating down the third base line as well as suites and four indoor

batting cages. The current stadium has only two cages.

The recommendation for the new baseball stadium came from Carr Sports Associates, the company that is conducting Liberty's Football Bowl Subdivision feasibility study.

"They gave us a list of things that would make us more attractive to an FBS conference," Askew said. "One of the things that they



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

See STADIUM, B4 TAKING SHAPE — Liberty's new ballpark is near completion.

Div. II hockey comes up short

Penalties, poor line changes, trips to sin bin foil LU comeback in third period

Jay Sir
ysir@liberty.edu

Victory flirted with the Liberty men's DII hockey team but sided with Rider University, Saturday, Dec. 1.

Liberty went down 1-0 in the first period but came back to overtake the Broncs, earning a 2-1 advantage by the second period. However, Rider played a better third period, scoring two goals to win the game 4-2. Rider is ranked eighth in the DII Southeast Conference and will earn seeding points for defeating Liberty.

"I think it was a good battle," Head Coach Chris Lowe said. "Ultimately, we took too many penalties in the third, and that was what made the difference tonight. When two teams are evenly matched, you just can't afford to do that."

Heading into the third period, Rider started with two players down. The situation quickly reversed when a series of scuffles sent two Liberty players to the penalty box, and the pressure mounted on the goalie Justin Gortman. Rider capitalized on its advantage in numbers and evened the score during a power play.



TIMOTHY SUTTON | LIBERTY CHAMPION

STRUGGLE — The men's DII team came up just short against Rider University Saturday.

The go-ahead goal came a few minutes later when the Rider offense took advantage of a line switch and overwhelmed the Liberty defense. The final goal came during the dying minutes

of the game when goalie Justin Gortman was pulled out for a sixth skater in a last ditch effort to force a goal with superior numbers. The plan backfired when a pass was intercepted

and flicked across the ice into an open net, extending Rider's lead to 4-2.

"Rider's a very good team," Lowe said. "I thought we were better five on five, but they have

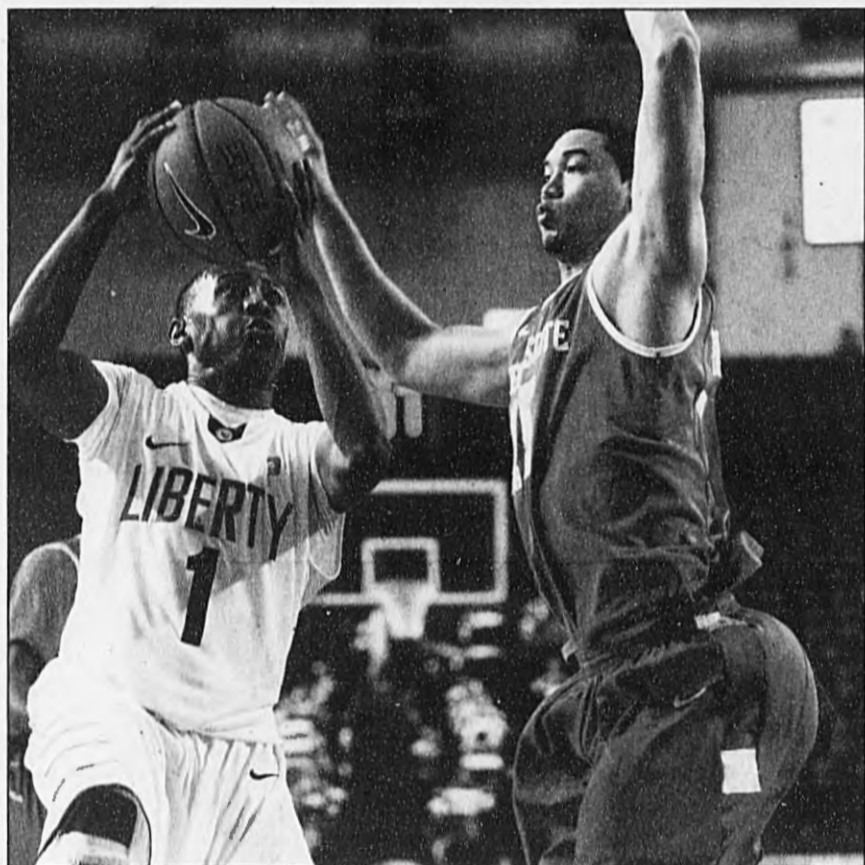
a good power play. They've got some skilled guys, and that ended up costing us. Gortman played very well in the net. The goals they got were second and third chances and power play chances, keeping us in it, and their goalie played very well."

The fall semester may be coming to a close, but the hockey season will continue over the winter break and during the spring semester. Lowe has mentioned that he has high hopes for his current squad.

"I'm excited. We're young, so we're getting better every game. We've got a couple of guys with injuries that will get back in January, and hopefully that will help us solidify," Lowe said. "This is a team that we can potentially see in the regionals, and hopefully our guys know what to expect now, and we can learn from that."

DII hockey will compete against Georgetown University Friday, Dec. 7 at the LaHaye Ice Center.

SIR is a sports reporter.



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

DRIVING — Junior guard Davon Marshall led the Flames with 25 points.

B-BALL continued from B1

with 15:37 left. Unlike earlier this season, the Flames persevered and eventually took a six-point lead when Speaks knocked down a two-point field goal, Marshall drained a three-pointer and Sanders and Coronado scored on layups with 12:43 left in the game.

Throughout the second half, the Panthers chipped away at the Flames lead. Coach Lauer said his players "played a great game, but sometimes that is not enough."

Liberty finished with three players in double figures, led by Marshall's career high 25 points. Roberts completed the night with 11 points — four rebounds, three assists and two three-pointers. Off the bench, Sanders had nine points — six assists and five rebounds.

Georgia State had four players in double figures. Atkins and White finished with 17 points apiece. Hunter had 12 points — seven rebounds, four assists and four steals.

Liberty will host Southern Virginia Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. in the Vines Center. The Flames will look to avoid their first ever 0-4 start at home this season.

BATTLE is the assistant sports editor.

What's Next

- Dec. 15 at Howard
- Dec. 18 at Iona
- Dec. 21 vs. Milligan
- Dec. 28 at Union College
- Dec. 31 vs. Western Carolina
- Jan. 5 vs. Coastal Carolina
- Jan. 9 vs. Virginia Military Institute



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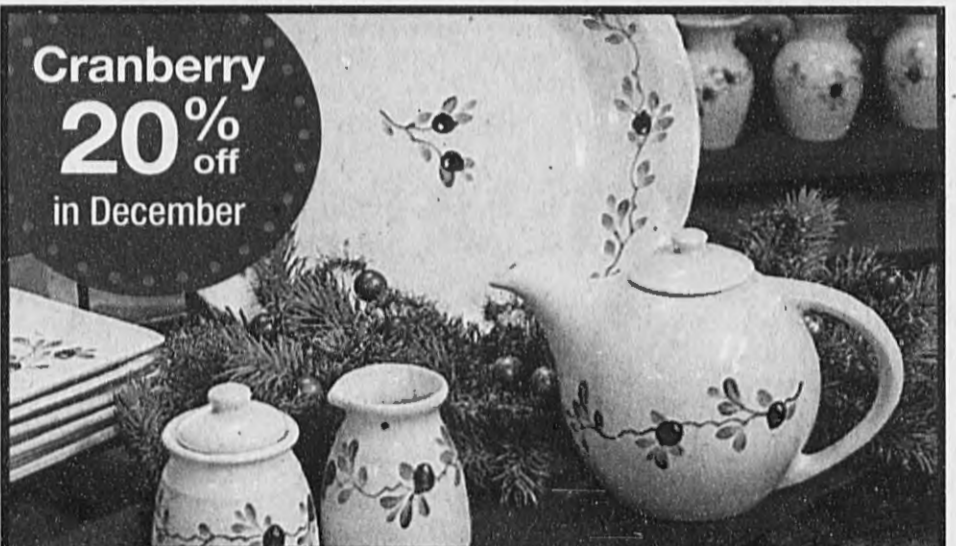
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THE TOP 5

A highlight reel of fall sports at Liberty

With another semester in the books, the Champion sports office has decided to revisit the best highlights of Liberty Athletics from the fall. Preference was given to NCAA Division I sports, and the five chosen are listed in chronological order.



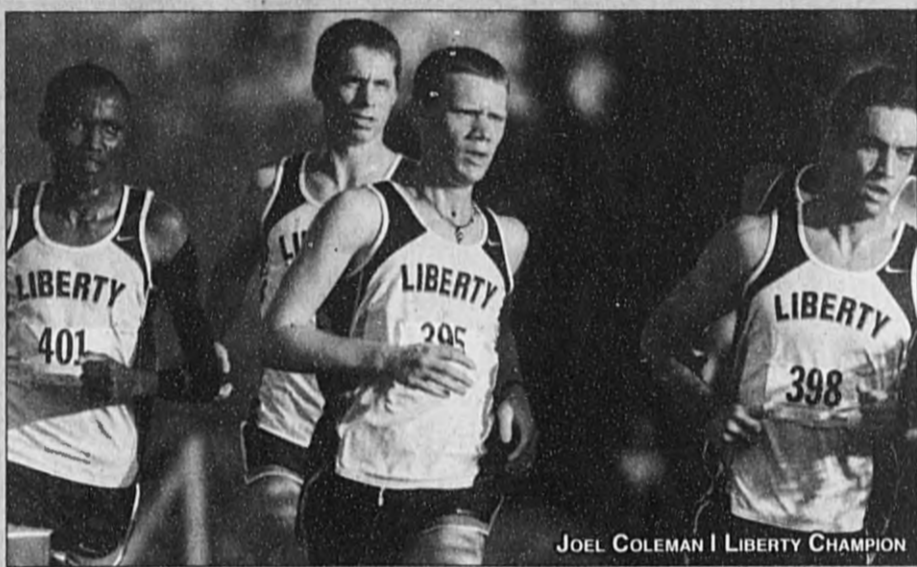
RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

Oct. 27 — Liberty Men's DI Hockey upsets No. 1 Ohio University

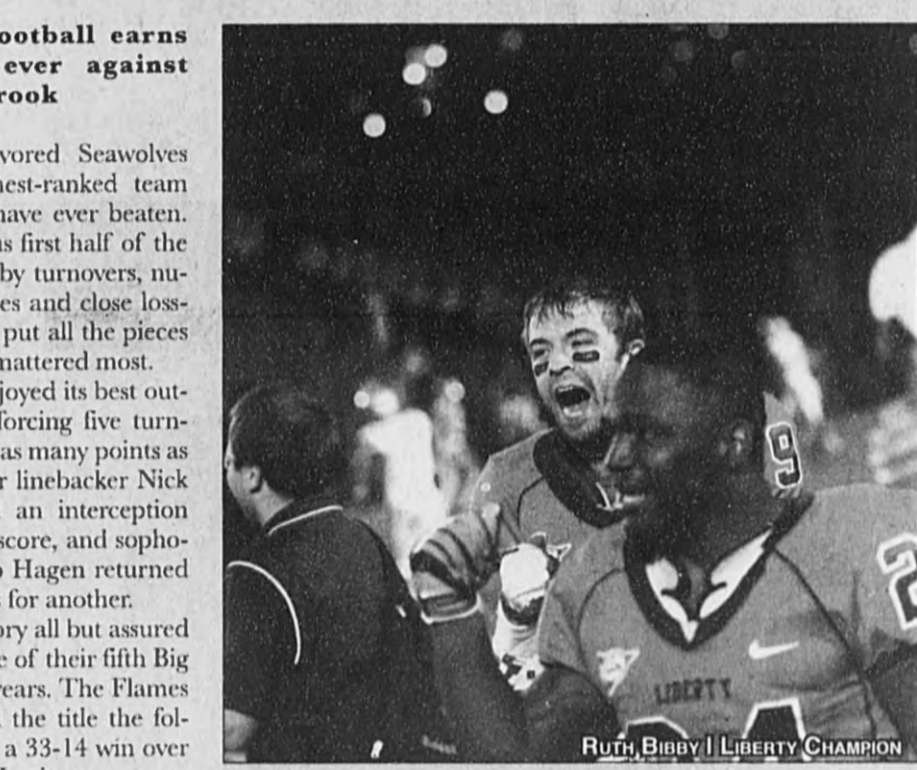
What made this victory so remarkable was what led up to it. The men's hockey team shot out to an 8-0 record to begin the season, but their remarkable start gave way to a frustrating six-game losing streak. Having been perched at the No. 7 spot in the ACHA national ranking, the Flames tumbled to No. 12. Conversely,

Ohio University was the hottest hockey team in the business. Touting an 11-0 record, Ohio was the undisputed No. 1 in the nation.

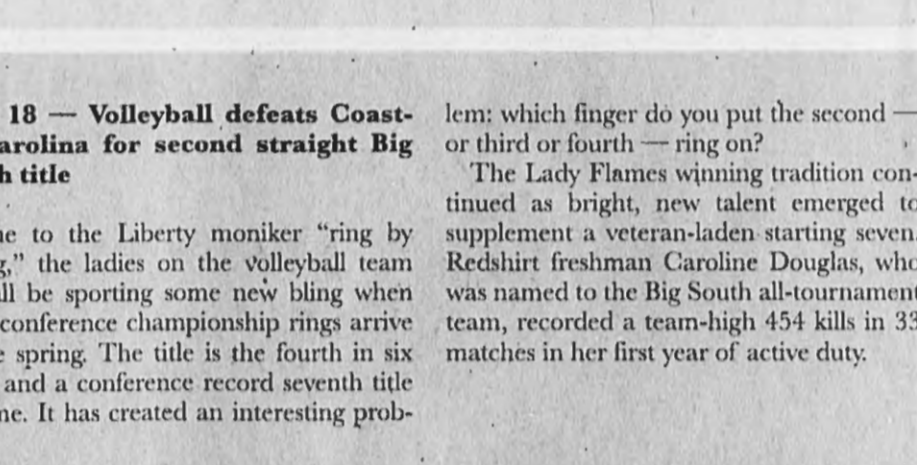
Senior Rick Turner enjoyed a stellar night on the ice, scoring once and getting credited with two assists. In total, four different skaters scored for Liberty in their 4-3 victory.



JOEL COLEMAN | LIBERTY CHAMPION



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

Nov. 18 — Volleyball defeats Coastal Carolina for second straight Big South title

True to the Liberty moniker "ring by spring," the ladies on the volleyball team will all be sporting some new bling when their conference championship rings arrive in the spring. The title is the fourth in six years and a conference record seventh title all-time. It has created an interesting prob-

lem: which finger do you put the second — or third or fourth — ring on?

The Lady Flames winning tradition continued as bright, new talent emerged to supplement a veteran-laden starting seven. Redshirt freshman Caroline Douglas, who was named to the Big South all-tournament team, recorded a team-high 454 kills in 33 matches in her first year of active duty.



Oct. 27 — Men and Women's Cross-Country capture Big South crowns

In a display of dominance that we have only come to expect from one of the winningest athletic programs on campus, Head Coach Brant Tolsma's crew took care of business at the conference meet in Rock Hill, S.C., earning a complete Liberty sweep of the cross-country events.

The top men's finisher was senior David Ricksecker, who placed second. The top seven runners — those whose score matters in the meet's scoring system —

came in second, third, fourth, seventh, 12th, 13th and 14th.

The top women's finisher was senior Jennifer Klugh, who won the women's meet. The rest of the Lady Flames top seven finishers came in seventh, eighth, ninth, 15th, 18th and 23rd. Klugh went on to greater success at the regional and national level of competition, finishing 93rd out of 253 runners who competed for the national title.

Brant Tolsma won both men and women's Coach of the Year, giving him his 51st and 52nd title. It was his eighth year in a row winning in the men's category.



JAKE MITCHELL | LIBERTY CHAMPION

Nov. 2 — Women's Field Hockey wins eighth straight game

Still a new kid on the block in Liberty Athletics, the women's field hockey team flexed its muscles in its second year of existence and produced a 16-6 overall record, including a program-best eight wins in a

row from Oct. 12 to Nov. 2.

During the eight-game stretch, the Lady Flames outscored their opponents 29-5. The team went on to place second in the NorPac Championships. Natalie Barr, an Olympic torchbearer for her native Northern Ireland, led the team in goals with 16.

Nov. 10, — Football earns biggest win ever against No. 6 Stony Brook

The heavily-favored Seawolves became the highest-ranked team that the Flames have ever beaten. After a tumultuous first half of the season grounded by turnovers, numerous key injuries and close losses, Liberty finally put all the pieces together when it mattered most.

The defense enjoyed its best outing of the year, forcing five turnovers and scoring as many points as the offense. Junior linebacker Nick Sigmon returned an interception 21 yards for one score, and sophomore safety Jacob Hagen returned a fumble 44 yards for another.

The 28-14 victory all but assured the Flames a piece of their fifth Big South title in six years. The Flames officially clinched the title the following week with a 33-14 win over Virginia Military Institute.

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Lady Flames squeak out 67-65 win

John Pearson
jwpearson@liberty.edu

Liberty's women's basketball team kicked off the Big South Conference Saturday, Dec. 1 when they took on Radford in the Highlander's Dedmon Center for the 12th time in the last 13 years.

The Flames took the lead at the end of the game when Tolu Omotola put up a basket with 43.1 seconds left in the second half, ultimately leading to a 67-65 victory over the Highlanders. Liberty moved to 4-3 overall and 1-0 in the conference. Radford dropped to 3-3 overall and 0-1 in the Big South.

The Lady Flames were

down by nine points at the end of the second half when they went on a late scoring rally that won the game. Liberty's Devon Brown got nine of her game-high 28 points in the last 4:45 of the game.

Omotola's late shot gave Liberty some much needed momentum, and teammate Jasmine Gardner helped put away the game with a free throw and two rebounds in the last 12 seconds. Radford's Da'Naria Erwin Spencer put up a seasons best 21 points, but her buzzer beater attempt during the closing seconds of the game fell short.

The Flames won the tipoff to start the game and scored the first points six seconds later when

Brittany Campbell hitting a layup. The Flames hit double digits at 11:57 in the first half when Brown had a fast break that she took down for a layup, making the score 18-8.

Radford went on an 11-0 run to take the lead for the first time of the afternoon. Their time on top was short lived, because Liberty reclaimed it just 20 seconds later. Radford went on another run, scoring 10-0 to take the lead back with 3:02 left in the first half.

With the score 31-25, the Flames made five straight free throws in 49 seconds and battled to regain control of the game. However, the Highlanders scored the last three points of

the half, making the score 36-32 when the buzzer sounded.

Radford made 48.4 percent of its shots in the first half (15-31) compared to the Flames 29 percent (9-31). Liberty out-rebounded the Highlanders 24-15, and Radford converted the Flames 10 turnovers for 19 points.

After the half, the Flames held the Highlanders and only allowed one field goal during the first 4:20 of the second half. That defensive stand allowed the Flames to tie the score at 40 until Brown swished a three-point shot from the right wing at 15:56.

The Highlanders chalked up nine straight

points to regain the lead, making the score 49-40 with 13:01 left. La-She' Walker hit a layup and Gardner scored six straight points for Liberty, putting the Lady Flames within two (53-51).

Radford had the lead by six at 61-55 with 4:37 left in the second half when Brown went on a 7-1 scoring run, putting up a three-pointer that rolled around the rim and dropped in. That tied the score at 62-all with 1:59 left in the game.

The two teams traded a pair of layups, and then Erwin Spencer split a pair of free throws followed by Omotola's key shot with 43.1 seconds left. She then blocked attempts by Avery,

and Gardner rebounded Erwin Spencer's shot.

Gardner made one of her two foul shots, and then Liberty caught Radford's rebound as the buzzer sounded. Liberty played a scrappy game to come home with their 67-65 win, making this the sixth straight victory in the Dedmon Center for the Lady Flames.

Liberty will play another road game against the James Madison Dukes Tuesday Dec. 4. Tipoff is at 7 p.m. in the JMU Convocation Center.

PEARSON is a sports reporter

STADIUM continued from B1

gave us was that a new baseball facility would totally go a long way with showing our potential."

The field will feature an artificial surface, enhancing the play on the field and making maintenance and grounds keeping easier.

"The field itself is an artificial surface. In this region, it's very important," Charles Spence, director of planning and construction, said. "Even in a dead rain, they can practice on the field. The water goes straight through with it being an artificial surface. It's state of the art."

Liberty will begin the 2013 season against Penn

State for its home opener in February. While the stadium will be ready for play, it will only feature "the bare essentials of playing the game," according to Spence.


"On schedule is to be able to play a game on February the 22nd," Spence said. "By no means will the facility be 100 percent complete. What it means is the field will be able to be played on and the seating will be there. There will be a lot of areas including the Baseball Operations Center, the offices and the suites (that) will not be totally built. There will still be sidewalks, landscaping and beautification things (to be completed). ... We'll have seats, lights, scoreboard and a field."

According to Spence and Askew, the transition should be seamless for the players, because the current stadium will still be available for locker rooms, batting cages and more.







The new field allows for the possibility of more tournament play, which was not possible at the old ones.

Liberty has made it possible to see the progress of the stadium through its live camera view and its time lapse video, both of which are available on the Flames' site, libertyflames.com.

WITHERITE is a sports reporter.



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FROM THE BOX

KYLE HARVEY
DERRICK BATTLE

Final exams are just around the corner, and as the sports desk we feel an obligation to stir the competitive drive and can-do spirit of the student body.

In this spirit, we offer to you the words of Mohammed Ali on the eve of a fight against heavily-favored George Foreman. If we prepare with the same intensity and confidence for finals, we will all deliver knockout blows to the toughest our fine professors can dish out. Best regards,

Kyle Harvey
Derrick Battle

"I done wrestled with an alligator. I done tussled with a whale. I done handcuffed lightning — threw thunder in jail.

That's bad.

Only last week, I murdered a rock, injured a stone, hospitalized a brick. I'm so mean I make medicine sick. ...

Last night, I cut the light off in my bedroom, hit the switch — was in the bed before the room was dark. ... I'ma show you, how great I am!"

-Mohammed Ali

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Professor celebrates 'Booked' launch

Students and faculty joined Karen Swallow Prior to support the release of her book at the Liberty Bookstore

Tess Curtis
tcurtis@liberty.edu

Liberty University professor and author Karen Swallow Prior took the short moments before her book launch event Friday, Nov. 30 to pose for a few photographs. A cluster of freckles gathered at the top of her cheeks, highlighting her blue eyes as a bright light flashed off her sparkling teeth when she smiled a little nervously in front of the cameras.

Thus preoccupied, the author missed the entrance of former student Abby Alley.

Alley had traveled all the way from Indianapolis, Ind. to support Prior during the event that launched her memoir entitled "Booked: Literature in the Soul of Me." Prior had to take a few moments to dab her eyes after the surprise of finding Alley in the Liberty campus bookstore before she was able to continue with the event.

"For someone as special as Abby (Alley) was at that time," Prior said, pausing for a moment to take a deep breath, "for her to come back after all these years — and all that distance — it just touches my life more than I can imagine I ever impacted hers."

But according to Alley, her former teacher was one of the most influential people in her life. Along with English professors Carolyn Towles and Laurie Nutter, Prior took her

under her wing and practically raised her during her time at Liberty.

"Other than my mother and my aunts, she's the one woman who's had the most influence on my life," Alley said. "She cultivated my love of literature, reading, writing. I wouldn't have missed this for the world."

Alley first came to Liberty as a nursing major, but her experience with Prior and her other English professors convinced her to switch majors.

"(The English program) was like a family," she said. "That's what I loved, and I still keep in touch. I don't think I would be where I am now without (having been) an English major."

"One of the great gifts of teaching is being able to influence students' lives in ways that are so far beyond what you imagine," Prior said. "You never really know how and who you will reach, and that's what really makes the gift that keeps on giving."

A few minutes after the event started, the line to get a copy of "Booked" signed was so long that a few attendants decided to stand back and let the line die down or even grabbed a free slice of Domino's pizza while enjoying the soft strumming of a guitar.

Once the line was sufficiently short, Prior took a break to read an excerpt from her memoir. The reading came from the third chapter of her book, "God of the Awkward,



JOEL READY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

MEMOIRS — Prior read from "Booked" and signed copies for readers Nov. 30.

Freckled and Strange," which is dedicated to the poet and Jesuit priest Gerard Manley Hopkins.

According to Prior, she had hated having freckles, and she was once teased at school for having "fish eyes" and large teeth. Looking through a clothes catalog one summer, she

also realized she was a "Pretty-Plus."

"My brother had always called me fat, but he was mean and stupid, so I had never believed him," Prior read. "... That was the year I started writing poetry."

Hopkins had a deep impact on her life, especially with his poem "Pied

Beauty." According to Prior, the work was "a celebration of the awkward things." Something pied is "patched or splotchy in color," and Hopkins went against tradition to equate such things with beauty.

At the end of the poem, Hopkins calls readers to praise God for the awk-

ward things such as "the freckled" and "the big teeth." According to Prior, the poem reminds us of "a certain kind of beauty that arises only from imperfection — or pain."

For whatever Cheryl Smith, however, it was the fourth chapter of Prior's book that she found the most impactful. Prior actually mailed her a copy of the book, and she took it to read on the airplane and realized that she had finished half of it by the end of the flight.

"I'm not typically a fast reader, but I couldn't put it down," Smith said. "By the end of chapter four, I actually cried — it was so touching."

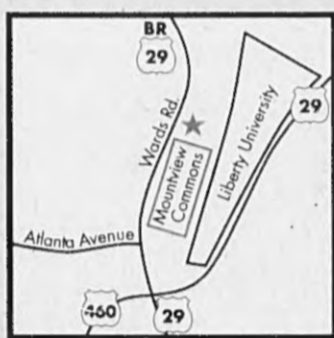
According to Smith, she introduced Prior to T.S. Poetry Press, the small New York publishing company that published "Booked." Although Prior has dubbed her book a "literary and her book a "literary and not-so-literary people."

"It was still a brilliant read, even more compelling for someone who hasn't read many books," Smith said. "I've lived a mostly utilitarian life, without giving much thought to beauty found in great works of art or literature, poetry. Writers like Karen (Prior) give me a glimpse beyond the veil."

CURTIS is the copy editor.

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JAKE MITCHELL | LIBERTY CHAMPION

FINAL PUSH — Participants showed off their best Christmas costumes while running near Snowflex.

Run, run Rudolph

Student Activities' third trail race brought Christmas cheer to runners

Melissa Skinner
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Greg Leasure
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"It's an opportunity to not only spend time with my friends but also to meet other people."

— CHELSEA HUSOVICH

Liberty students and the Lynchburg community gathered for the annual Reindeer 2-mile run, hosted by Liberty University Student Activities (SA).

The race started at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 1 at the Liberty Mountain Snowflex Centre, and awards were given out for the most creative costumes.

"I would say my overall experience was an eight. I really enjoyed the run, and SA made it really fun," Liberty junior Chelsea Husovich said. "The hills were really rough. I decided to run because my friends thought it would be fun for all of us to do it together."

Leah Durham, a sophomore at Liberty, participated in her first SA trail race in the Reindeer Run, and she finished her race in 30 minutes and 15 seconds.

"It was rough because half of the race was uphill, and part of it was on a gravel road," Durham said. "Almost everyone walked."

Durham said that she felt cold as the race was starting, but as she conquered the many hills in the course, she felt increasingly warm. After the race, she collapsed in the grass after the race to cool off.

After she had recovered from the strenuous race, Durham witnessed one of the winners of the most creative costume contest, a student dressed up as a "redneck Santa," complete with a denim shorts, fake teeth, a stuffed shirt and a duct-tape belt. Durham wore a Christmas sweater with a Santa hat and Minnie Mouse ears.

Durham said that she appreci-

ates SA hosting their trail race series because it gives her a fun way to keep running and stay in shape. Husovich also has a similar view on the races.

"I really do appreciate that Liberty does these events because it's an opportunity to not only spend time with my friends but also meet other people who are interested in the same activities I am," Husovich said.

For more information on races offered by Student Activities, visit liberty.edu/sa.

SKINNER is a feature reporter.

LEASURE is the feature editor.

A hero's heart

Sara Warrender
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Staff Sgt. Greg Copes was a Liberty University online student at home and an advocate for freedom deployed as a Marine. As a student, Copes worked on schoolwork diligently between deployments, spending time with his wife and four kids. Tragedy struck when Copes lost his life during a deployment in Afghanistan when an Afghan soldier pulled his gun on two Marines, according to the Associated Press.

Many community members rallied behind the Copes family, supporting them during their loss.

At a meeting to be held in January 2013, the Exchange Club of Lynchburg plans to accept monetary donations from the club members and the outside community to present to the Copes' family and the Wounded Warrior Foundation. In addition, the Exchange Club of Lynchburg, WSET and Gleaning For The World are joining together this Christmas season for the Heroes from the Heart of Virginia Project.

During this project, there will be multiple donation sites dedicated to gathering nonperishable items and monetary donations from the local community. Members from the Exchange Club and Gleaning For The World, as well as on-air personalities from WSET, will be on site to collect goods to benefit "Operation Homefront" located in Newport News, Va.

"One hundred percent is going to (the veterans).

We're not keeping any of it for the club," Eugene Wingfield, the coordinator of the veteran's events for the Exchange Club of Lynchburg, said.

All donations received go directly to the organization they are promoting at the time of the donation. Monetary donations from the Heroes from the Heart of Virginia Project will be given to the Wounded Warrior Foundation and the Copes family, while the nonperishable items, such as personal care products, will be collected by Gleaning For The World.


"Our club focuses on patriotism. We try to support our veterans as much as we can," Wingfield said.

For three years, the Exchange Club, WSET and Gleaning For The World have partnered to take their mission of honoring patriotism directly to the heart of the community.

"I don't want to be in a social club. I want to be in a club that works and gives back to the community," Wingfield said.

For military families, the Christmas season often brings the reality that loved ones will not be celebrating with them. Through the Heroes from the Heart of Virginia Project, Lynchburg is reaching out to those families this holiday to give them a glimpse of the honor and recognition they deserve. Collection sites are at the Forest Kroger Saturday, Dec. 8 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and the Timberlake Kroger Saturday, Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.


WARRENDER is a feature reporter.




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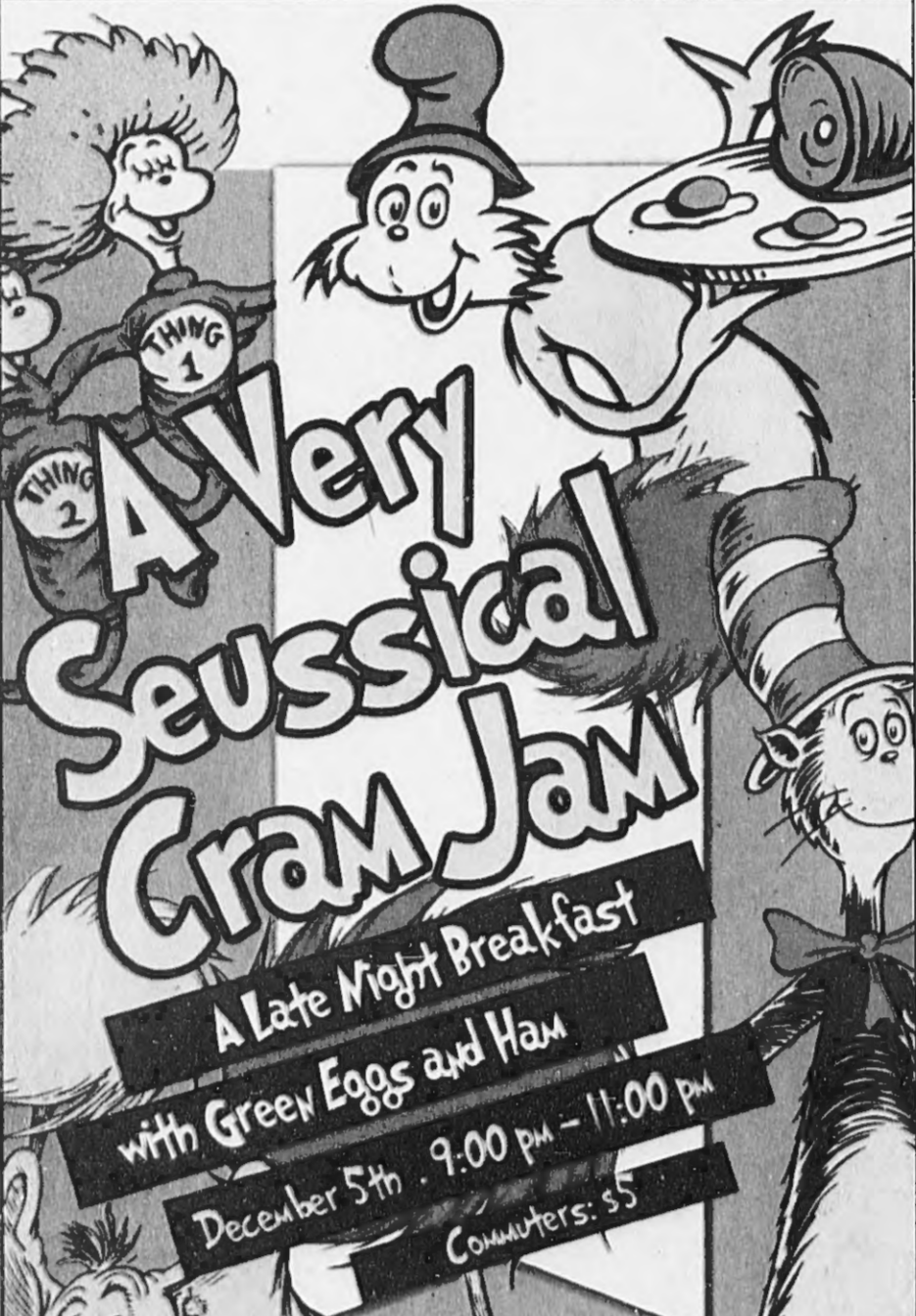




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NATHAN ROHRER | LIBERTY CHAMPION

YES, VIRGINIA — People routinely travel from all over the East Coast to see the Virginia Christmas Spectacular, now in its 42nd year at Thomas Road Baptist Church.

Christmas Spectacular sparkles on stage

Thomas Road proudly puts on 42nd round of Christmas-themed show that have become a holiday tradition

Chase Smith
csmith13@liberty.edu

Virginia Christmas Spectacular has begun, and this year's production offers a unique Christmas story for people of all ages.

According to Lorie Marsh, the director of the Virginia Christmas Spectacular, the production will feature almost 400 people including the cast, dancers, choir and orchestra.

"It's like a 'Newsies' Christmas. It's a fun story called 'Yes, Virginia ... A Christmas Letter,'" Marsh said.

Marsh said that this year's production is based on a real event in 1898 when a young girl named Virginia writes

a letter to the editor of The New York Sun newspaper.

"In our story, Virginia writes the letter asking the editor to tell the true story of Christmas in the newspaper so her unbelieving father will read it and believe," Marsh said. "The editor assigns the Christmas morning special feature story to the Chief Investigative Reporter, Henry Virginia and her friends take Henry to discover the who, what, where, when and why of the Christmas story."

The investigation into the meaning of Christmas provides the opportunity for an array of dance numbers accompanied with Christmas music in the retelling of the birth of Jesus Christ.

"The Virginia Christmas Spectacular is a holiday tradition at Thomas Road."

— CHARLES BILLINGSLEY

"The Virginia Christmas Spectacular is a holiday tradition at Thomas Road (Baptist Church) that has been loved and enjoyed over the past 42 years," executive director of the production Charles Billingsley said. "This year will be no exception as we usher in the most wonderful time of

year with a Broadway-style production set in the 1800s."

The dedication and passion of the Virginia Christmas Spectacular team can be seen by the quality of their performances.


"It has been challenging because the production is a monumental undertaking that happens every year at Thomas Road Baptist Church," choreographer of the production Rena Lindvaldsen said. "It has been an incredible joy to work with such an incredibly dedicated and talented cast, crew and production team. We are a body of believers using our unique talents to bring Christ's message to others in the community."

Marsh said that she believes the story fits with the Christmas season perfectly.


"The story is fun and entertaining, and the message is clear and powerful," Marsh said. "There is just something festive and nostalgic about a story set in the Victorian Era. I think this year's production has something for everyone."






For more information on the Virginia Christmas Spectacular and how you can purchase tickets, visit virginia-christmasspectacular.com or call 888-244-2178.

SMITH is a feature reporter.



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NATHAN ROHRER | LIBERTY CHAMPION

LOVE IN THE AIR — The popular story that students are performing has been adapted many times for the stage and for movies.

Audiences adore 'She Loves Me'

The Dept. of Theatre Arts wraps up its fall schedule with a musical love story

Sam Gum
sgum@liberty.edu

The Theater Arts Department has put on many successful shows this semester, but they are not finished quite yet. With the themes of love and Christmas floating across the stage "She Loves Me," is set to be the last production for the fall semester.

"She Loves Me" was inspired a Hungarian play called "Parfumerie" by Miklos Lazlo. Although the musical itself does not make it big on Broadway, the plot is well known to audiences through films such as "The Shop Around the Corner" and "You've Got Mail."

This romantic comedy is set in the 1930s and tells the story of two pen pals who fall in love while unwittingly working side-by-side at a perfume shop. The relationship between the two co-workers is far from a loving one, but behind the mask of pen and paper, the relationship slowly blossoms into love.

According to Natalie Cleek, the tale is one that is sure to appeal to all members of the audience.

"Everybody can relate to some type of love, and I think that's what's beautiful about it," Natalie Cleek, who plays the

"Everybody can relate to some type of love, and I think that's what's beautiful about it."

— NATALIE CLEEK

lead role of Amalia, said. "If you can't relate to us, you're going to be able to relate to someone else in the show."

As the story progresses, the relationship goes deeper between main characters Georg and Amalia. Within the heart of the story is a play on words: love at work.

"They fall in love at work ... but love is like a work in progress," Cleek said.

That play-on words spills over onto the set, with the actual stage itself being a work in progress.

"It goes from a sketch, to a watercolor, to a painting, to a finished product," Kyle Blanchard, holding the role of Georg, said.

This constantly-evolving set mirrors the relationship that is acted out on stage.

"By the end of the show, you should see a big picture of our love story, drawn on a canvas," Blanchard said.

The musical will be a new experience

for most viewers, and the tale holds many unexpected twists.

"I'm really excited for people to come see the show. The show isn't well known, and so I think nobody knows what to expect," Cleek said. "The twist of love at work, and all the paintings, is going to take everybody so off-guard."

The entire musical holds the promise of being visually appealing, not only within the set but in the costumes as well.

"The 1930s is all about the pin curls and the matching shoes and matching handbags and coats. I'm just excited for people to see the overall picture and the beauty of it," Cleek said.

Striving to always put on a good show, Cleek hopes that this year will be no different.

"People come from all over the place to see our shows, because our professors and directors (push) us to do excellent work," Cleek said.

Remaining performances of "She Loves Me" will take place Dec. 7-9 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit the Department of Theatre Arts page. Tickets can be bought at the box office or by calling 528-SEAT.

GUM is a feature reporter.

Best of Fall Convo

Jason Bailey
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The Liberty University student diverse group of speakers this fall, with commentators from across the nation coming to address and challenge students during convocation. Among the speakers most noted for leaving a lasting impression on the students are LifeWay president and author Ed Stetzer, best-selling author Frank Peretti, Pastor Sergio De La Mora and Evangelist Louie Giglio.

The hallmark of guest speakers for the 2012 convocation schedule was real estate king and businessman Donald Trump.

According to Liberty News & Events, "Trump addressed a record-breaking convocation crowd in which he praised Liberty's growth and spoke gravely to the students and faculty about the importance of the looming presidential election."

Trump also discussed the importance of being able to juggle pressure while maintaining a firm grasp on the things in life most important outside the business world.

"To be successful, you must have the ability to handle pressure," Trump said. "Say to yourself, 'Nothing really matters other than the big deal — your family and your faith.' Always have a passion. Keep your family, your life and your faith first."

LifeWay president and author Ed Stetzer was also one of the most memorable speakers for Liberty undergraduate students this semester.

When addressing the students, the seasoned pastor spoke about alarming statistics from a survey that LifeWay research had recently conducted.

"From a study of 7,000 churches, the majority of people in the majority of churches are unengaged in meaningful ministry vision," Stetzer said.

Stetzer said that Christians are too often like the audience of a show, standing off in the distance without actually serving a purpose. They come as customers of religious goods and services that are distributed the way they like. The music plays the way they like and the pastor preaches the way they want him to, but they ultimately do not get involved.

"God has called you, in the midst of your profession — whatever that may be — to minister to one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God," Stetzer said. "So I petition you not to join the hordes of passive spectators in the churches across America and around the world, but instead to live as agents of God's mission."

The LifeWay founder explained that people have bought the lie that our job is to church and pay, pray and stay out of the way. He urged students to stand and be a part of the solution.

"When you build churches like theaters, don't be surprised when people act like show goers," Stetzer said.

Best-selling Christian novelist Frank Peretti echoed Stetzer's message and theme. Wielding the energetic power of humor, wit and grim truth, Peretti talked about the effects that the misconceptions of the American church had on him in his youth and the revelation God has shown him from his experiences.

Check out the rest of the story at Libertychampion.com

BAILEY is a feature reporter.

Aeronautics accepts plane donation

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The Liberty School of Aeronautics (SOA) has recently accepted a 1931 Travel Air Plane, the same one to win the Powder Puff Air Derby, which would later become the Air Race Classic, back in 1929. This race was the first solely women's air race. David Lowe, an avid pilot whose goal is to promote aviation and future pilots, donated the plane.

"Our program has been substantially built on the generosity of many supporters who believe in the future of aviation and in our team," Dean of Liberty's SOA, Gen. David



PHOTO PROVIDED

TAKING OFF — The plane will be ready in 2014.

Young said. "The donation of the Travel Air is demonstrative of the continued support we receive and will enable us to further our goal of being one of the premier university aviation programs in the U.S."

The Liberty Belles, the women aviation team, will enter the plane in the 2014 Air Race Classic. The team first competed in the race in 2012 and will also enter in 2013.

"In 2012, the Lib-

erty Belles performed admirably for a first-time entry. We learned a tremendous amount and will build upon that knowledge to be extremely competitive in 2013," Chief Dispatcher Alessandra Boardman said.

Liberty has two teams that compete in the race, each consisting of two pilots. In addition, there is a ground crew made up of women volunteers who participate in the aviation program.

Although Young believes the plane is a great addition to the aviation school, there is a lot of work to be done before it is ready to fly in 2014.

"The plane is completely disassembled

and will take considerable effort by dedicated and committed volunteers from the School of Aeronautics and Freedom Aviation," Young said.

The Air Race Classic is a non-profit organization that caters to women pilots and hosts a transcontinental speed competition held each year. The 2013 race will be held June 18-21 and will start in Pasco, Wash.

For more information, on the School of Aeronautics or the Liberty Belles, contact Coach Sarah Morris at smorris39@liberty.edu.

BARTLETT is a feature reporter.