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Liberty University's first SnowFlex Skopes is from August 21-25.

LIBERTYCHAMPION

Tuesday, August 26, 2008 • Vol. 26 No. 1

Check us out online at www.liberty.edu/champion.

NEWS BRIEFS

OLYMPIC RECAP

Amid the protests decrying China's human rights record, the Olympic host country successfully concluded 15 days of Olympic action with a grand closing ceremony. America's Michael Phelps dominated the games, winning an Olympic record of eight gold medals, contributing to the United States winning total of 110 medals, according to foxnews.com. The summer games will take place in London in 2012, while the 2010 Winter Games return to North American soil in Vancouver, Canada.

RUSSIA CEASE-FIRE

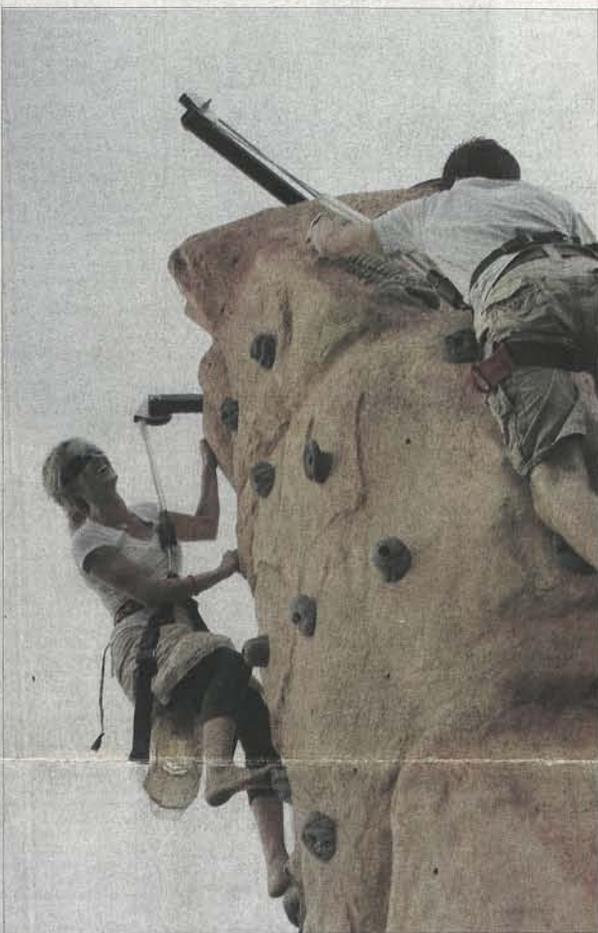
Although an uneasy cease-fire has been brokered between Georgia and Russia, volatile tensions still simmer due to disputed borders. The U.S. and Europe have been forced to sit on their hands because of their reliance on Russia for gas and oil supplies.

MISSING!

A mission to climb Western Europe's highest mountain peak ended in tragedy after an avalanche swept down the Mont Blanc range. Eight climbers are missing and presumed dead. The avalanche roared down a route that is often used to the summit of the 15,780-foot Mont Blanc.

ELECTION2008

Sen. Joseph Biden was announced as Barack Obama's vice-presidential candidate on Saturday. The Democratic National Convention began Monday in Denver and concludes Thursday evening with Obama accepting the party's nomination. Sen. John McCain has yet to declare a running mate.



THE HEIGHT OF FUN — Students enjoy one of the activities provided for free at the Block Party. Full story on B5.

Q&A with Dr. Ron Godwin newly named vice chancellor



By Natalie Lozano
NEWS EDITOR

While students were away from campus for the summer, Dr. Ron Godwin moved to a different role within the campus administration. On July 1, Jerry Falwell Jr. gave Godwin the title of vice chancellor. Godwin took a few minutes to explain the transition and what his responsibilities at Liberty are.

HOW DID THE PROMOTION CHANGE YOUR ROLE ON CAMPUS?

GODWIN: Well, it did and it did not. Previously, we had an administrative structure where of course everybody reported ultimately to the chancellor and founder (Jerry Falwell Sr.). The only difference is now Jerry Jr. is responsible for oversight over all divisions of the university. I serve as second in command over all divisions of the university as well... I work directly for and with the chancellor, as he needs me where and when.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT WORKING FOR JERRY JR.?

GODWIN: It is very, very similar to the way I worked for and with Dr. Falwell Sr. I enjoy working on those projects that are most important to the chancellor and now I get to do that. The chancellor is occupied with many new initiatives, with bringing needed change in many areas. I get to spend my time working on where the chancellor is taking the university, rather than where it is already operating.

WHAT IS THE HARDEST THING YOU HAVE TO DO?

GODWIN: To remind myself to delegate. It is impossible in my job and at my level to even begin to do everything that needs to be done so I have to remind myself to delegate to those who can.

YOUR CAREER INCLUDES AN EXTENSIVE LIST OF LEADERSHIP POSITIONS. WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR THOSE LOOKING TO BUILD LEADERSHIP SKILLS?

GODWIN: To the degree possible, you need to associate with and learn from leaders, real leaders and there is a vast difference between people who designate themselves as leaders and those who really lead. One other thought, perhaps, is that leadership is earned. No amount of titles, no amount of dictation can make a person into a real leader.

WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENT OR ROLE ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

GODWIN: Convincing my wife to marry me. Being the husband of Carol Godwin is the role I'm most proud of. I'm (also) very honored, humbled and grateful to have the role of vice chancellor. I have invested a lot of years of my life in this university and every day wake up with a great sense of responsibility for helping in every way possible the chancellor to lead this university.

Contact Natalie Lozano at nalozano@liberty.edu.

ELECTION2008

OBAMA CAMP SWINGS INTO LYNCHBURG

Senator Obama addresses full auditorium at E.C. Glass High School

By Jennifer Schmidt
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Lynchburg supporters of presidential hopeful Barack Obama were treated to an unexpected visit from the senator last Wednesday evening. News of his visit broke with local media outlets late Monday but the line outside of E.C. Glass High School was hundreds deep and circled around the block by 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Following a few introductions from local members of the Obama campaign, Senator Jim Webb (D-Va.) took the platform to introduce Obama.

Webb focused on the industry of Virginia's history, stating that Obama's economic plan could benefit the working families of the state, which he described as possibly "the key" to Obama winning the presidential election in November.

Obama came to the stage a few minutes late due to crowds outside who were not allowed per fire safety regulations.

"I wanted to go shake hands with them," Obama said. "I felt bad."

Wild cheers from a crowd on its feet greeted him as he began a speech that ranged from the economy to education reform.

Explaining all that he had learned of America in his 19 months on the campaign trail, Obama quipped, "It's really big."

In regards to the economy, Obama noted that higher expenses and monthly bills are preventing families from saving towards retirement.

"We have the highest foreclosure rate since the depression. Middle class families feel the ground slipping from underneath them," Obama said.

Under his proposed plan, every "working family" would receive \$1,000 — an amount he claims would be provided through tax cuts he would implement.

He also noted that 47 million people are without health care coverage.

"My plan is to work with businesses and to emphasize prevention and wellness...having regular checkups," Obama explained.

Please see OBAMA, A6



ALEX COMASS

DUDE?!? WHERE'S MY CAR? — Towing now enforces parking regulations

By Megan L. House
NEWS REPORTER

Liberty University Police Department (LUPD) has decided to take drastic measures to enforce parking regulations. Rather than giving students a \$50 ticket, which many students have ignored in the past, LUPD will now be towing cars that are illegally parked.

"If someone has a decal on their car, and they are parked in an area they do not belong, we're just going to hook their car up to a tow truck and tow it off campus," said Deputy Chief of Police,

Major Richard Hinkley.

He said they will not be pulling anyone out of class to move a car. It is too time consuming to track students down.

"It's just going to get towed," he said.

The new policy does not only apply to students but to faculty and staff as well.

"If they end up in a lot that's reserved for commuters, a staff member may get towed just as much as a student," he said.

Charlie Parker, a junior, thinks the new policy is a good thing, but there might have been an alter-

nate approach that would have been better.

"I think there could be a better system where they still ticket people but strongly enforce the payments," he said. "I think they could have worked a little bit more on how to ticket people." Parker continued to say that if they think towing will work the best, that is what they should do.

Emily Shepherd, a sophomore, said she would rather get a ticket than have her car towed.

"I think it's a little harsh," she said. "Students will think twice about parking in areas they

should not be in."

Parker also thinks students will take into consideration where they decide to park.

"They'll walk out where they parked their car and it won't be there," Parker said.

Hinkley said LU is not making money by having cars towed. If a car gets towed, it is at the student, faculty or staff's expense, which is usually around \$85.

Please see TOWING, A6

Life, Liberty Lane and the pursuit of parking

Drew Menard
NEWS REPORTER

New road renovations have reduced rush hour traffic on campus and created approximately 300 new parking spaces. Liberty Lane, which leads from University Boulevard to the dining hall and the Schilling Center, has become a one-way street. A new perimeter road was also built to deter incoming traffic at the west entrance around the baseball field and away from the heavy pedestrian traffic by the dining hall and the hill dorms.

The alteration has come as a surprise to many returning students.

"I went out of my way a couple of times; (Liberty Lane) was kind of confusing at first," junior Shekina Sims said.

Despite confusion and the occasional detour, traffic on-campus seems to have improved since the renovations have occurred.

As a one-way street, Liberty Lane sends traffic to the perimeter road, which keeps traffic moving on Liberty's outer edge instead of right through the busy heart of main campus.

Senior Courtney Hampton said, "Once everybody gets used to (the changes), it's going to be good for the traffic flow."

Director of Auxiliary Services Lee Beaumont said, "I think the projects have turned out great. These are quite necessary as we increase the number of students on-campus and (increase) the facilities we are building."

Along with building a new road and redirecting the traditional flow of traffic, two new parking lots replaced the old tennis courts next to the Schilling Center, thus adding 160 new parking spaces. In addition, the David's Place parking lot was paved, which increased its parking by 200 spots. Factoring in the new spots on Liberty Lane and the



Alex Towers

subtraction of parking for the new bookstore, parking on campus has a net gain of around 300 spots on main campus, according to Beaumont.

The much-needed facelift for Liberty's road system has been on the table for a number of years, however, once begun it only took about one year to bring it to completion. A second phase of the construction will, according to Beaumont, "open up the traffic flow on campus even more."

"Phase Two will go from the back entrance by Sonic to the Circle. It is an extension of

the (new perimeter road) to the Circle and also includes a connection to the back of the Vines Center," Beaumont said.

Phase Two is still in the engineering stage but may begin as early as this spring. The development staff is enthusiastic about Phase Two's probable impact on the current improvements.

Contact Drew Menard at ajmenard@liberty.edu

School of Aeronautics' dean wins prestigious 'Person of the Year' Award

Daniel Martinez
NEWS REPORTER

Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. declared the Liberty University Department of Aviation to be the School of Aeronautics and Dave Young to be the first Dean on July 1, 2008. One month later, Dean Young accepted the Person of the Year Award from the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Aviation in Richmond.

Young received his honorary plaque at the Richmond Country Club, six weeks after being nominated for the award by Calvin Falwell, a member of the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame.

In his acceptance speech, Young credited the 27 flight instructors, staff and professors of the Liberty School of Aeronautics, as well as Lynchburg Regional Airport personnel and the entire Lynchburg Aviation Community, for their assistance. The Liberty Journal recently described his accomplishment as, "Piloting a revamped aviation program that has grown from a mere four students to more than 200 in the past few years."

Ernie Rogers, the School of Aeronautics chairman, has known Young for 10 years, and describes his friend and colleague's awarding as "a reflection of his involvement in aviation in the state of Virginia."

That involvement is largely comprised of the 29 years Young spent in the United States Air Force after graduating from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1967. He retired as a brigadier general with thousands of hours of flight experience, and while he was still in the Air Force he met Dr. Jerry Falwell.

Upon his retirement in 1997, Young came to Liberty and became Vice President of Finance and Administration and later served as Executive Vice President of the university. He began teaching

classes part-time in 2002, which was the year of inception for the Department of Aviation. In 2006, he gave up administration in favor of full-time aviation, which is where he has remained since.

As the dean of the Liberty School of Aeronautics, Young has several responsibilities. Much of his time is spent developing the program and seeking financial support, as well as applying for FAA certifications that will allow Liberty to begin classes specializing in helicopter training and aircraft mechanic training.

Young also oversees the 218 students enrolled in aviation classes, teaching Instrument Ground School and Instrument Flight courses. The flight courses allow him to ride with and observe students behind the controls during live flights.

For these students, Young's self-professed goal is, "That everyone who goes through the program and graduates from it is an automatic hire. (Our hope is that) airlines, missions organizations and the military will recognize the quality of our students."

Young's staff is well aware of his commitment to excellence in the aeronautics program.

"He has been totally supportive of this program since its inception," Rogers said. "And now he's the inaugural dean of the School of Aeronautics — he's in charge of our \$10 million capital campaign to build a hangar and training facility at the airport."

Through it all, Young counts on one thing. "We have been truly blessed by God. We would not have accomplished what we have without God, it would not have happened — the resources, the personnel, the tremendous support from the FAA, it would simply not have occurred," he said. "Our commitment is to remain faithful and obedient and let him lead the way."

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Lacey Mitchell

The Lynchburg Inn: A break from tradition

Every new year brings big changes at Liberty, and fall 2008 is no different with the opening of The Lynchburg Inn, Liberty's newest housing.

Dominique McKay
NEWS REPORTER

This summer, with the anticipation of the immense flow of freshmen enrolling for the fall semester, Liberty's administration made the decision to lease and renovate the Ramada Inn, located

about three miles from campus, according to the Liberty Journal. The building was renamed The Lynchburg Inn.

"I was asked to pray about the possibility of going to the Lynchburg Inn as a Resident Assistant back in May," senior Kristi Negron said. "I had been praying all summer

about where God wanted me. Although I knew I would be leaving an amazing leadership team on Dorm 28-1, I knew that God was leading me to be an RA at The Lynchburg Inn."

Because the Inn is a completely new residence hall, new Resident Directors (RD) also had to be hired.

"I first heard about the possibility of the hotel last semester but never dreamed I would have the privilege of serving as RD there," Bliss Spillar said. "I received a call midway through the summer asking if I would be interested in the possibility of becoming the RD at the Inn, to which I said yes."

The Lynchburg Inn has a total of two RDs, one male and one female, and seven RAs, two male and five female, who make up its leadership team. Together, they oversee a total of about 200 students, according to Spillar. Each hall has a Spiritual Life Director (SLD) and five prayer leaders.

"Although we are made up of multiple halls, The Lynchburg Inn is one big community," Negron said. "This is evident

not only with the students on leadership, but with all the students at The Lynchburg Inn."

Each room at The Lynchburg Inn has an outdoor entry, two full-size beds and a bathroom.

"We love the big beds," said Essence Treadwell, a junior and SLD at the Inn. "Even though we live at a hotel, we don't get room service and we have a common laundry room like on Main Campus."

In addition to the lounge area, complete with three televisions, a ping-pong table and booths for socializing, the Inn makes a break from tradition by allowing students to watch cable television in their rooms.

"The renovations that were done are greatly appreciated by all of us that live there. We have new carpet and paint. It makes it feel a little bit more like a dorm," Treadwell said. "The reaction from me and those who live there is usually, 'It's definitely different, but I like it.'"

The Inn includes a pool, an area for volleyball and a fitness room. There is also a dining

area where students can use their meal plan if they do not want to take the bus to the Reber-Thomas Dining Hall.

A new bus route, the orange line, was set up specifically for The Lynchburg Inn residents.

"Most of us are trying to get the hang of the bus system," Treadwell said. "Unfortunately, the bus only comes every thirty minutes, so if you miss it and you don't have a car, you're out

-of luck."

"We have had many reactions from the students as they arrive at The Lynchburg Inn," Negron said. "Overall, after they get a chance to meet some fellow students and see their room, they are usually excited about staying at The Lynchburg Inn."

Contact Dominique McKay at dgmckay@liberty.edu

LIBERTY CHAMPION

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Jared Mark

DeMoss third floor grand opening

Matthew Coleman
NEWS REPORTER

The third floor of DeMoss Hall, one of Liberty's numerous construction projects throughout the campus, is finished and ready for the fall semester. A grand total of 113,000 square feet of space is now open for faculty and student use.

Liberty contracted Custom Structures to design the third floor. Once the layout design had been completed, 15 different contractors were hired to build and install all the necessary functions for the project.

Construction for the floor began on May 15, 2008, after the spring semester had come to a close and a majority of the students had left. The entire project took three months to complete and cost \$4.7 million,

according to Bill Maitland, the planning coordinator for the project.

"From the start date to the finish, the coordination and the contractor installation went according to the project schedule without any major difficulties," Maitland said.

Proper planning and preparation allowed the project to be completed without any complications, just in time for class.

Staying up-to-date on the newest technological standards is essential for a university, and Liberty made sure the third floor was equipped with the finest technology available.

Four separate classrooms have been outfitted with computers for student use during classes — two PC labs and

two Mac labs. While the PC's are essentially the same, the iMacs, which were purchased this year, are top-of-the-line, according to ILRC personnel. Designed specifically for the use of media classes, they are capable of completing many arduous tasks that would bog down other computers.

The second floor computer lab is often crowded and very noisy; clearly not the best conditions for studying. The third floor computer lab was designed to create a more proper studying environment and to alleviate the traffic downstairs. Both of these goals have been accomplished.

"I was happy for the expansion due to the rise in students," said junior Cordia Lewis.

Newly appointed third

floor computer lab supervisor Courtney Hampton believes that the third floor will create a proper study environment. "This isn't going to be a hang out type of place," she said.

While this does not mean that silence will be required, it does mean that the noise level will not be allowed to reach anywhere near the level of the second floor computer lab. Academia should be the main reason for anyone visiting the third floor.

There is also a quiet study section, modeled after the one found in the library, set aside in a separate room for those students who want an even more secluded and quiet environment to work in. Dividers separate each workspace, giving students a sense of privacy

while they work.

In addition to the quiet study section, there are several study rooms designed specifically for group projects. Equipped with projectors, they allow the group to prepare for speeches and presentations in a professional, private environment.

"The group study rooms are going to be really good for people who are serious about studying in groups without the distractions," Hampton said.

For those who just want a place to sit and relax, there is a wide open lounge with an assortment of chairs and couches perfect for reading or napping. Polished wooden floors and a colorful paint job give the lounge a contemporary feel, distinguishing itself from anything on the floors below.

"It's a really nice place to go sit and read," sophomore Sean McGuire said.

The teachers assigned to the new floor have been growing accustomed to their new surroundings and all the perks that come along with them. The quiet settings and secluded offices provide the perfect conditions for teachers to work in.

Amy Bonebright, a professor in the communications department, said, "I am very excited to be teaching and having my office in the new space the university provided."

Contact Matthew Coleman at mcoleman@liberty.edu.



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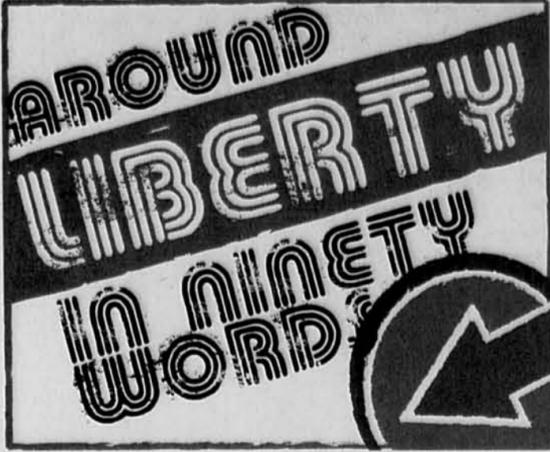
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FROM THE DESK:

With the start of another school year, The Liberty Champion has a new staff. Some aspects of the paper will be different, even this column is a new addition, but change and adjustment will always be motivated by a desire for improved excellence. Regardless of who sits behind the big desk or who designs the front page, readers can expect high quality and informative reporting. My goal is that the writing found within these pages will "always be with grace, seasoned with salt" as Paul directs in Colossians 4. The truth has a right to be told, but it should be shared gracefully and in the hope of benefitting those who read it. Salt will present itself in challenges issued to readers – challenges that will spark action and Christian response.

This newspaper is not an end in itself rather it should foster conversation and dialogue around campus. Please share part of that with us – the staff always welcomes comments and suggestions. If there is something that should be covered, or a person that deserves recognition, let us know.

Thank you for reading The Liberty Champion. I'm looking forward to a great year.

— Jennifer Schmidt, Editor in Chief

Campus Improvements

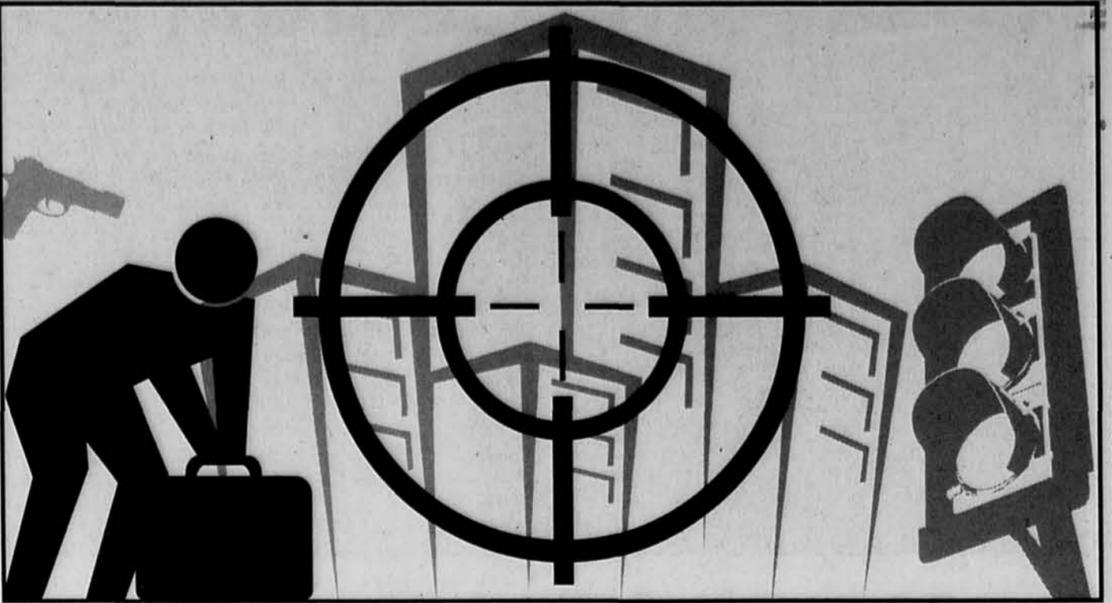
A huge thank you should be given to Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. for his pragmatic leadership. Charles Spence, Lee Beaumont and all of their associates also deserve recognition for planning and implementing the traffic improvements that are noticeable all around campus. Better paving, an additional 300 parking spots and enforced towing should all contribute to a better driving experience for students. There are still some frustrations, but on a large scale, progress is being made.

Pecks and Bushels

Students on and off-campus could benefit from local offerings such as the Outdoor Market on Main Street. By 7 a.m. on Saturday, produce stands line the walk to the indoor section where vendors from the surrounding region offer samplings of bison, fresh cheese, pastries and other homegrown wares. Most prices are very friendly to a student budget as well. Anyone interested in experiencing a more colorful, and typically overlooked, side of Lynchburg will enjoy the trip downtown.

Navigational Hassles

While signs directing traffic flow are easy to find around campus, students with classes in North Campus could also use some "signage love." Anyone who has class within the renovated Ericsson building faces a maze of blank walls and numbers that jump from 1886 to 1891 without reason. Signs appear on random corners and maneuvering through the jumble of halls and doorways can be a dizzying experience. More classroom space is a definite plus. Knowing if class is to the left or the right would be ideal.



GRAPHICS BY TIAGO SOUZA

Home Invasion and the Right to Fight Back

Tim Mattingly
OPINION EDITOR

Sounds can be heard in the dark of night and early morning. Though most are harmless, some are not. There has been much debate over what one can do when noises turn out to be more than just the whispers of your floors and walls.

In trying, economic times, crimes such as burglary and theft fluctuate with gas prices. It is a real issue. The days of leaving doors unlocked in the neighborhood are gone.

A family in Campbell County, Va. witnessed this first hand. On Friday, August 8 at 10 p.m. there came a loud knock against a door on Primrose Lane. A foot followed the hand, the door was kicked in and four men entered the home.

According to a News and Ad-

vance article by Dave Thompson entitled, "Rare home invasion occurs in Campbell County," this incident took place just south of Lynchburg, off of U.S. 501 — a highway quite familiar to those attending Liberty.

The four well-armed, masked men reportedly entered the home, pointing their guns at the occupants. They proceeded to tear the house apart over the next 15 minutes in search of valuables. This criminal act raises the debate of whether or not the homeowners should have the right to pull the trigger if the 'tables were turned' and the guns were in their possession.

A man in Milwaukee, Wis. found himself in that exact position. According to an article posted on WISN.com, the Rainiero family of Milwaukee woke in the middle

of the night to find Kirt Protraska, 29, in its home. When Protraska refused to leave, Michael Rainiero proceeded to shoot him in the back.

Though Protraska had done the initial wrong, he intended to sue the homeowner for using "excessive force," ABC Milwaukee reported.

Rainiero's lawyer defended his client's actions, stating, "The doctor was asleep in his bed when an intruder came into his home and put his life, his wife's life, and his two kids' lives in jeopardy."

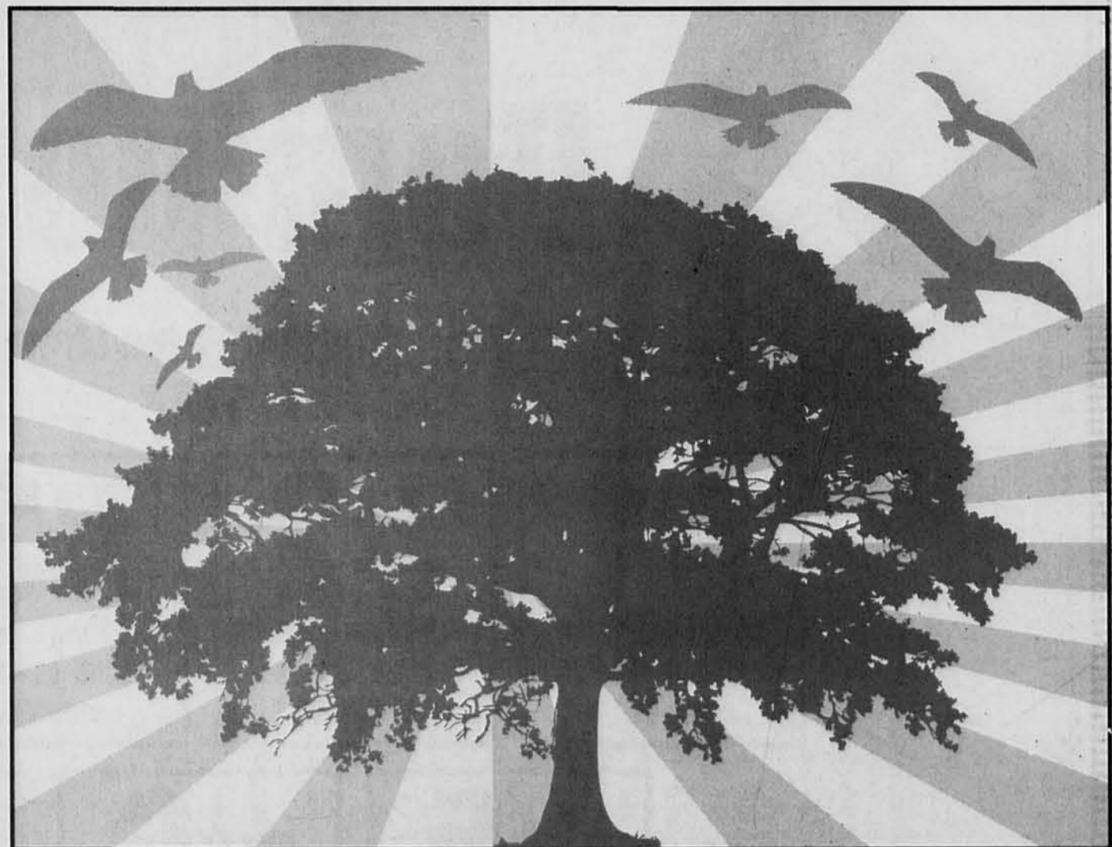
Virginia lawmakers are also faced with the issue of self-defense in the home. In February of 2006, according to a WTOPNews.com (103.5 FM) article, a bill was rejected that would allow Virginia citizens to exercise deadly force when faced with intruders in their homes.

Robert Bushnell, prosecutor for Henry County, strongly opposed this bill in the WTOP News article by stating, "This bill is a license to kill."

Bushnell brings up a good point. If we allowed such a law to pass, it would lead to a 'shoot first, ask questions later' mentality. Such a bill could lead to unnecessary bloodshed.

However, the laws of physics demand that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. If an individual enters someone's home by force, they should expect to be greeted by force. A home is a haven for one's family, future and livelihood. The person prepared to threaten these things should also be ready to reap the consequences.

Contact Tim Mattingly at
tmattingly@liberty.edu



GRAPHICS BY TIAGO SOUZA

God's Green Earth: Eco Trends

Elisabeth Garman
OPINION REPORTER

Turn on the television, go grocery shopping, or browse the Internet and one thing is clear: America is going green. The idea of global warming and the high cost of oil cause more demand for alternative energy and they are definitely two reasons this trend is gaining momentum.

This new craze can be seen throughout the media. The Planet Green network is a television station complete with programming that includes meat-free recipes and tips to shop and live more eco-friendly. Even locally, a recent installment

of Lynchburg Living was called the "Green Issue."

In addition, organic foods are growing in popularity. Vegetarianism and veganism are as well, with celebrity spokespersons such as Alicia Silverstone.

When many people hear the word "environmentalist" (especially those not located in the northeast or west coast) they often roll their eyes. The first words that may come to mind are hemp-wearing, incense-burning, dread-lock wearing, peace-loving, tree-hugging freaks who picket, protest and smell funny. I must admit I used to have that same impression until I realized that they have some good ideas and I even recently

dabbled in veganism myself.

An argument for the vegan lifestyle is that organic and natural products contain more vitamins and minerals. Also, the chemicals in regular products are definitely not positive for one's health.

Asking people to go through such a major life change to improve the environment is not very practical, but recycling and using eco-friendly products is. Recently, Liberty has joined the green trend by implementing recycling bins. This is a step in the right direction, as these bins will recycle a large amount of waste produced on the campus.

For some reason, in the Christian community, issues of the environment have been

side lined. But Genesis 2:15 reminds us of what God had originally planned saying: "The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

God does not oppose eating meat or expect everyone to buy all natural foods or constantly worry about the hole in the ozone, pollution and the need for alternative energy. He just commands us to be good stewards of what he has given us — his creation being one of those gifts. A simple act, like throwing a bottle in the recycle bin, is a step in the right direction.

Contact Elisabeth Garman at
ejgarman@liberty.edu

Beneath the Georgia-Russia conflict

Tony Stimson
OPINION REPORTER

In today's society, it is important to stay informed of both worldwide and local events.

The recent conflict between Georgia and Russia has caused many to reach for a map, and it has international ramifications.

Dr. Stephen Bowers from Liberty's Helms School of Government is quite familiar with the region. He has spent years in Georgia, located south of Russia, between the Caspian Sea and Black Sea. During his time there, Bowers has developed close relationships with officials in the Georgian Ministry of defense.

A major concern is the petroleum pipeline that runs from Azerbaijan through Georgia to the Black Sea. Bowers says, "This is the only petroleum pipeline not controlled by Russia or the Middle East."

After Saudi Arabia, Russia is the number two supplier of petroleum in the world. Bowers foresees the current conflict having a major impact on the supply of petroleum and may cause gas prices to rise yet again.

What originally sparked this conflict was a region in Georgia called South Ossetia, whose inhabitants wanted to gain independence from Georgia and to join North Ossetia in the Russian Federation. Georgia had granted them autonomy, but the South Ossetian's had abused this right with mass smuggling operations. According to Bowers, the Ossetians were encouraged by the Russians to go into regions of Georgia and cause chaos. His sources from Georgia said the Ossetians began stealing cars and even kidnapping young women.

Georgia decided it was time to exercise power to regain control of this region, thus acting as Russia was hoping, and providing a reason to invade and attempt to overthrow the Georgian government.

Russia's invasion came as little surprise. Brian Whitmore, who writes for the Eurasia Insight, stated, "Less than one month before Russia's armed forces entered Georgia on August 8, they held massive military training exercises in the North Caucasus involving 8,000 servicemen and 700 pieces of military hardware."

In another article, Deborah Tedford from National Public Radio reported, "Georgia's President Mikhail Saakashvili said Russia had been amassing troops on the border for months and used Georgia's efforts to retake control of the region as an excuse to invade."

Whitmore additionally states, "Military analyst Pavel Felgenhauer says the aim, from the start, was to overthrow Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili and his pro-Western government."

Bowers has strong reason to believe that this is true. He says that "Russia is trying to establish its empire and re-gain territory once owned during the reign of the Soviet Union."

If this is true, and Russia is truly looking to re-establish the Soviet Union, a possible cold war could be imminent.

Contact Tony Stimson at tsstimson4@liberty.edu

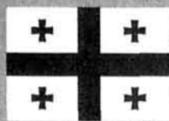
Facts on Georgia

Population: 4,630,841 (July 2008 est.)

Religion: Orthodox Christian 83.9%, Muslim 9.9%, Armenian-Gregorian 3.9%, Catholic 0.8%, other 0.8%, none 0.7%

Independence: 9 April 1991 (from Soviet Union)

Literacy rate: 100%



Facts Courtesy of CIA.gov



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Derailleur Mountain Bike Race

OBAMA

continued from A1

"I will use the savings from the system to provide insurance for those without (insurance)."

Education was also a hot topic for Obama, who explained his belief in early childhood education.

"We need to be investing in early childhood education to close the achievement gap," he said.

Obama also promised to dedicate \$50 million a year towards developing energy alternatives.

In a question and answer format that followed Obama's speech, he specifically addressed the question of alternative energy supplies.

"We need an overall strategy that promotes jobs and overall efficiency. There's no silver bullet... should try wind, solar, nuclear, coal," he said.

Following a question about negative accusations from the McCain campaign, Obama commented that the entire system of American government needed more accountability to citizens.

"We need to break this veil of secrecy and promote transparency. We should have negotiations about healthcare in public," Obama explained. "But that means voters have to stay informed and involved."

One question referred to the rights of ex-convicts,

which prompted Obama to remind listeners that Virginia and Illinois, his home state, both extend voting privileges to those released from jail.

But Obama expanded his answer a bit further.

"We need to put more effort into keeping people out of jail in the first place," he said. "Fathers have to be fathers. It starts with the parents. You don't have to be a rich man to be a good father."

Obama also explained his position on the Iraq war, stating that "it was a mistake."

"We need to put more of a burden on the Iraqis and retain a residual capacity (of American troops) for any flares," he explained.

He also noted the threat of Afghanistan, and indicated that he would direct more attention to that country in addition to the Russia and Georgia conflict.

"We need to spend money on the military and national guard and providing for our veterans," Obama said.

He closed out the rally by urging listeners to campaign for him in the remaining two and a half months until election day.

Contact Jennifer Schmidt at jschmidt@liberty.edu



CROWD CONNECTION — Senator Barack Obama fielded questions from the audience for the last 30 minutes of the rally.

TOWING

continued from A1

The offender is also responsible for all aspects of dealing with the towing company.

There is not an appeal process for towing because LUPD will be very careful to make sure the student is in violation before the car is towed.

Hinkley said students got a map and a list of parking rules and rights when they registered their vehicles. The rules are posted on the splash page and at every single lot there is a sign that states, "Violators will be towed at the owner's expense."

"If you're not parking in the area you've been assigned, chances are you will be towed," he said. "So there shouldn't be a need for an appeal process."

LUPD plans to be careful not to tow visitors.

"That's the one thing we're a little concerned about," Hinkley said.

Emily Phillips, a recent transfer student, thinks the new policy will take care of parking issues.

"I think it's a good idea," she said. "If there was something better, I think they would do it. The only alternative is to raise the fine."

Hinkley said the problem with tickets is that students just let them pile up and do not really care. Issuing tickets does not solve anything. The decision to tow was made by the chancellor's office because of the many problems Liberty has experienced with parking.

There are enough parking spaces for all the cars that come to campus. Hinkley said they have done traffic counts, and they know the number of cars that are registered.

"That doesn't mean they (the parking spots) are convenient," he said. "Somebody's going to have to park at David's Place and either ride the bus or walk." He said Liberty pays a large amount of money for the transit service and students need to use it.

If your car is towed, contact the police department dispatch at (434) 592-7641. They will have a list of the cars that were towed and their locations.

Other aspects of parking have changed as well. Hinkley said the lower religion hall parking lot, which is marked with a gate, is reserved for faculty. Faculty must have a swipe badge and a decal to enter the lot. There are two new lots around the Shilling Center, and the south side of the DeMoss lot will soon have a gate.

Contact Megan House at mhous2@liberty.edu.

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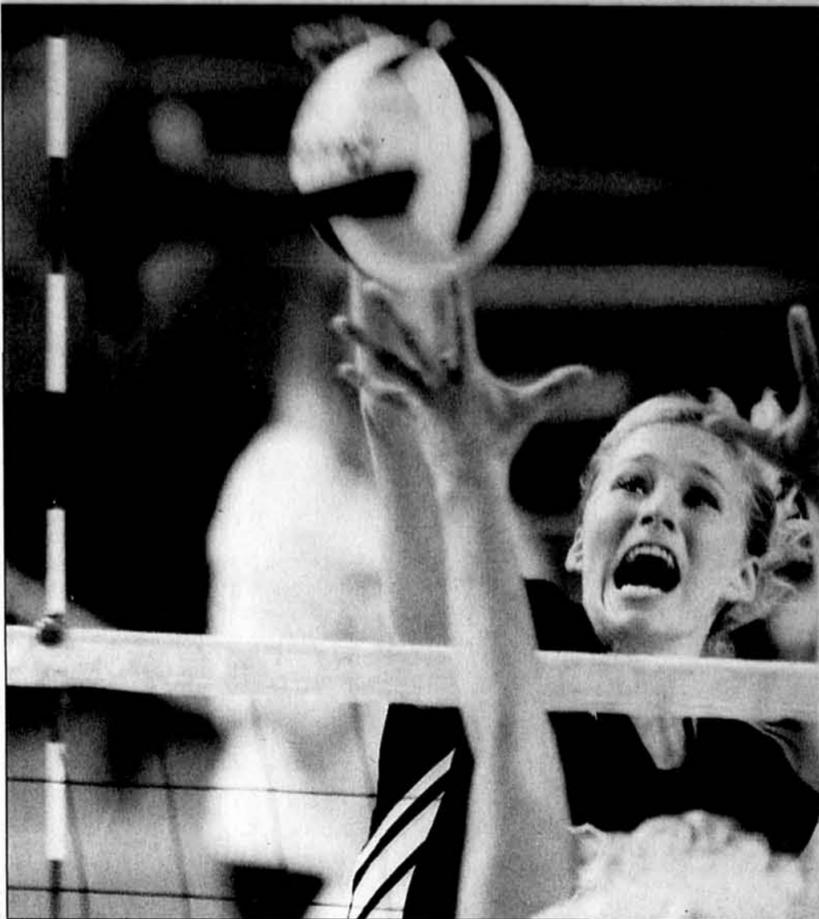
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Les Schofer

HIGH HOPES—Nicki Scripko will return following her standout freshman year.



Les Schofer

FAN SUPPORT—Chelaine McCarty wows a full stadium of spectators.

Pinder and Co. gear up for 2008 volleyball season

By Brittany Watson
SPORTS REPORTER

After one of the most successful seasons in Liberty volleyball history, expectations are high for the 2008 season. Liberty's 2007 season ended with a Division I record of 27 wins. The Lady Flames also won the Big South Tournament title, which had not been accomplished since 2001, and claimed their first Big South regular season crown since the 2003 season.

The Lady Flames topped off their regular season accomplishments with a trip to the NCAA Tournament, where they lost to No. 10 California, 3-1. The lone game that Liberty won against the Golden Bears was only the second game ever won by a Big South representative in the NCAA tournament.

Head Coach Shane Pinder, 2007 Big South and VaSID Coach of the Year, says that the girls are, "excited for the challenge" and believes that 2008 will be a great season. Pinder is expect-

ing a great year from all the returning players and is also excited about the new additions to the team.

Liberty has six starters returning as well as six incoming freshman. Despite being such a young team, the Lady Flames boast one of the best lineups in the Big South Conference, having only lost Lara Bartolomeo, Alysson Sanders and Mary Alice Pike to graduation and bringing in a solid recruiting class highlighted by Courtney Boggs, Jordan Barlow, Claire Jacobsma, Rebecca Warren, Kelly Hasegan and Courtney Cooper. Senior leadership will fall on the shoulders of Jessica Nelson and Ashley Webber, the only seniors on the team.

Webber and Nelson both will play vital roles on a defense that ranked seventh in the nation in digs last year to spark this year's offense. Nelson finished sixth in the Big South with 4.13 digs per game on her way to a school record 524 digs, while Webber accumulated 128 blocks and a career best .293 kill percentage.

"Defensively, we are going to be solid again. I'm excited about our offense too. We have fast athletes so our offense is going to be really fast. You are going to see a ton of athleticism with a ton of speed and a team that brings a lot of energy," Pinder said.

Sophomore Karyl Bacon, returning outside hitter, also believes this is going to be a successful season for Liberty.

"I think it's going to be a really good season. We just finished up the preseason and it went really well. I am expecting big things," Bacon said.

Bacon says she is looking forward to developing a strong team bond for this season and excited about the challenge of proving themselves to larger universities in the preseason tournaments.

Returning right-side hitter and Big South Freshman of the Year Nicki Scripko thinks that this season will be better than the last.

"Last season was awesome and I think this season will be even better. We've got a lot of freshman in and we have all worked really hard. I'm really excited about it," Scripko said.

Pinder pointed out that Liberty has only won the Big South Championship in odd years (1997, 1999, 2001, 2007) and he hopes that this year will be the year to break that trend. The Lady Flames have also never won back-to-back championships.

When asked if there was anything they wanted Liberty students to know, Scripko and Bacon both stated the importance of fans.

"The fans were amazing last year. It was so much fun seeing people fill up the stands, if there could be even more fans this year that would be awesome," Bacon said. "We love the support, it definitely makes the game."

With last season's success, the bar is raised high for the 2008 volleyball season. Pinder and his team are excited and ready to take on the challenge of winning back-to-back Big South championships.

Liberty will kick off the 2008 season on Friday, August 29 against North Carolina State. Game time is set for 4:30 p.m.

Contact Brittany Watson at
bawatson@liberty.edu.

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Lady Flames look to rebound versus UVa on Friday

Continued from B1

In the early minutes of the second half, Oliver found the back of the net for her second goal of the evening, this time sending a free kick into the upper, right-hand corner of the goal, giving Longwood a 2-0 advantage.

Toward the end of the second half, Liberty was able to put on another offensive push together but was unable to find the back of the net. From the 73rd to the 79th minute, the Lady Flames offense kicked it into high gear, as seniors Mallory Neff and Ashley Braam each had opportunities to cut the deficit, but neither of their shots found their marks and Longwood hung on for a 2-0 victory.

"I was really encouraged with the way we played," said senior captain Amy Oberlin. "We played the full 90 minutes and kept working hard the whole game. We're playing in a new system and it's going to take a few games to work out the kinks."

The Lady Flames play the University of Virginia Lady Cavaliers on Friday in Charlottesville, Va. at 7 p.m.



GEARING UP—The lady flames soccer team will be facing a tough schedule throughout the semester including a face-off with UVa on Friday.

Les Schofer

Contact Adam Palmer at arpalmer@liberty.edu.

From "Good2Great" to "Unfinished Business": 2008 Football Preview

Fresh off its 2007 Big South title, the Flames football team returns to the field Saturday night with "Unfinished Business."

By William Armstrong
SPORTS REPORTER

When asked if Liberty Flames' football Coach Danny Rocco's 2007-2008 season motto, "From Good to Great," had been accomplished, seniors Brock Smith, Ryan Greiser, Rashad Jennings, Nick Hursky and the coach's responses were very similar.

After winning the Big South championship last season, Rocco's standards have been raised and show how quickly he has propelled this program to an elite level. "This year will show more versatility," Rocco said. "We'll take it one step further."

As quarterback, Smith had an impressive junior season, starting every game and throwing for 2,226 yards and 19 touchdowns in leading Liberty to a Big South title. Smith compiled a 157.42 passer rating, and is currently the 14th ranked pre-season quarterback in the Football Championship Subdivision.

Through the off season's practices, Smith has shown poise in the pocket and is playing as a senior should.

"Brock is very talented and has evolved how we hoped he would," Rocco said. "He has matured and has understanding of the offense."

Over his tenure as the quarterback of the Liberty Flames, Smith has been present for every stride the team has made, including being a part of the season when Liberty tied the NCAA record for biggest turnaround back in the 2006-2007 season.

"It has truly been a blessing, being a part of the 2005 class, going through everything I have while being on this team. I've learned to appreciate everything considering where we started," Smith noted.

"Being the quarterback, we have to drive the car and complete what we need to, step by step," Smith said.

A year after winning the Big South, Smith is confident in his team's chances in competing for the NCAA Division I-AA championship.

"If we stay healthy we will be unstoppable. We have jelled as a team on and off the field," Smith says.

Returning Big South Offensive Player of the Year Jennings enters his senior year bigger, better and on the verge of another all-star caliber year.

"It takes more than just me to gain the success of that award," Jennings said. "Hats off to the coaching staff and the guys around me for helping me get there."

Jennings says the team is geared for winning, and the atmosphere created at Williams Stadium by the fans is a tremendous help.

"Winning is addictive and the fan base is great," Jennings said. "We have an extra player on the field, and you can't coach the adrenaline that's provided."

Enjoying one of his finest years at Liberty, Greiser emerged as a strong safety leading the team with 43 solo tackles and tied for the lead with six pass breakups, and he is optimistic about the chances for the team this season.

"Last year was a great year for me,

but I have to put that behind me and perform this season," Greiser said.

Deemed the heart and soul of the defense, Hursky had a breakout year last season, ranking second on the team in tackles with 78.

"We did go from good to great with what we accomplished, but we still need to beat the better teams that we are going to play," Hursky said. "I always have had high goals, but as long as I contribute and the team wins, that is all I can ask for."

Hursky, one of the team captains, feels strongly of the Flames' chances for success.

"I feel God has blessed this place and I'm happy to be a part of it," Hursky said. "The sky is the limit for this team. We have had great practices when we play together."

Rocco, Smith, Jennings, Greiser and Hursky all confidently responded to the aforementioned question, whether the team has gone from good to great, or saying the team is as close as it can be, but there is always room for improvement. Jennings said it best when he said, "It takes a lot to go from good to great, when every player takes his role to match his position. This team wants to leave a legacy. I think we have definitely accomplished what we wanted to, but we have unfinished business."

Contact William Armstrong at wsarmstrong@liberty.edu

TONY NOLAN

With the upcoming Spiritual Emphasis Week (SEW), students may look forward to hearing from motivational speaker Tony Nolan.

SEPTEMBER 1-3 Nolan will be speaking during the school's SEW services from Sept. 1-3. Nolan often uses his sense of humor to illustrate critical points in his testimony. According to TonyNolan.org, Nolan is able to share the gospel with over 800,000 students every year through radio, television, conferences and other venues.

SEPTEMBER 19

DR JOHN MAXWELL

Sept. 19 will bring renowned leadership expert Dr. John Maxwell to Liberty's campus. Maxwell has sold over 16 million books and trained over 2 million leaders. According to JohnMaxwell.com, Maxwell was one of 25 authors to be named to Amazon.com's 10th Anniversary Hall of Fame. He was named the World's Top Leadership Guru by Leadershipgurus.net.

DAVID NASSER

Liberty will once again welcome David Nasser to convocation on Sept. 24. His ministry, entitled D. Nasser Outreach, works as a resource for other ministries. A former Muslim, Nasser and his family fled from Iran to America when he was nine years old in order to escape the revolution. Many students would remember him by the large "jeans" offering he had for Liberty students to raise money during the spring 2008 SEW. Nasser challenged students to give donations matching the amount spent on their jeans. The money raised was given to assist a family who was willing to adopt three children from Ethiopia. According to the Liberty Journal, these offerings totaled \$85,000.

SEPTEMBER 24

DR JERRY JENKINS

OCTOBER 31 Dr. Jerry Jenkins, author of the Left Behind series, is scheduled to appear at Liberty on Oct. 31. He owns Jenkins Entertainment, a Christian filmmaking company. Jenkins also heads the Christian Writers Guild, which mentors and trains Christian writers. Jenkins has worked alongside Dr. Billy Graham to publish Graham's memoirs entitled "Just As I Am." Jenkins has written over 170 books.

CONVOCATION SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

By Danielle Talbert
LIFE REPORTER

GARY CHAPMAN

NOVEMBER 19 Marriage and family expert, Gary Chapman, is scheduled to speak on Nov. 19. He is the best-selling author of "The Language of Love," and the senior associate pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C. Chapman has written over 25 books on relationships, with his most well-known being on the topic of love languages.

Contact Danielle Talbert at detalbert@liberty.edu

FRESHMAN 15

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9. Hiking the monogram
10. Downtown Lynchburg
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Photos by Adam Konop

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Student Activities opens year with Block Party, concert, games

Kerah Kemmerer
LIFE! REPORTER

Liberty University's Student Activities once again welcomed students to campus with the annual Block Party on Saturday evening Aug. 23. Students who ventured over to the LaHaye Center parking lot Saturday night were greeted with energetic music, free food and drink and a colorful, inflatable playground.

"We plan for this all summer," Director of Student Activities, Alese Chandler said. "It is like a wedding — you blink for a second and then it is gone."

The throng of students continued to grow throughout the evening as word of the activities and giveaways spread. Much of the excitement stemmed from great giveaways such as free Monster energy drinks and soda. Domino's Pizza was sold at a discounted rate.

"We added more food (this year) and Monster was a hit," Chandler said. "We also increased our entire attractions. Instead of offering just local businesses, we added more student-based ones."

On display were tables for ROTC, Tan State, College Republicans and Liberty Dining, which offered discounts for commuter meals.

Domino's, Smoothie King and Bahama Sno-Shack rounded out the cuisine for the evening. "I am very enthusiastic," junior Kris Jarvis said. "They are making continual improvements (from previous years) and are on the track to perfection."

After eating, many students took the opportunity to play. Inflatable challenges such as "Chaos" required crawling, jumping and maneuvering through vinyl mazes. Additionally, a bungee-like swing stretched over a trampoline where the "jumper" could flip forward or backward as he or she bounced up, suspended by the swing. A rock wall was also available to those up for the challenge.

Two lines that never seemed to die down were for the mechanical bull and the mobile toilets. Sophomore Missy Fisher and junior Nicole Crews took a spin around the track on the toilets.

Other attractions included balloon creations, air-brush tattoos and Bank of America's "plinko" like game. Free t-shirts, CDs, and frisbees were distributed as well.

Four bands performed throughout the evening, including two local acts — Exodus and Humble T.I.P.

"Student Activities does a really good job of bringing in bands that are on the edge of becoming mainstream," senior Dan Jones said.

Exodus opened with an encouraging word for the crowd to reach out to the homeless and broken-hearted, saying that without these acts of mercy, worship is deficient. The band performed its title track "Give Love Away" as a follow-up to its statement.

Humble T.I.P kept the crowd excited with some infectious, Christ-centered rap music.

"I am really happy that Humble T.I.P is here," freshman Lauren Proffitt said.

Seabird, an independent alternative Christian rock band from Kentucky, kept the crowd planted with a set of about seven songs, including "Rescue," "Not Alone" and "Let Me Go On." The band's piano-driven melodies and steady beat had a sound quality similar to Coldplay.

Finally, from Birmingham, Ala., Rush of Fools concluded the night as it played to a pumped-up crowd. As the band took the stage, the lights in the lot were shut off and the stage was lit in an array of colorful lights and smoke.

Rush of Fools played for about half an hour and encouraged students to purchase its CD "Wonder of the World," due to release September 16.

The night came to a close around 10 p.m. with a colorful fireworks display. Students were able to observe the display from across campus.

The effort to give students a warm welcome back to Liberty's campus may be attributed to the hard work of the Student Activities staff.

"We started today at 7:30 a.m. and are here until about 2 a.m.," Chandler said. "But we have a really fresh staff this year, and they were all incredible."

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ALEX TOWERS

SPECTACULAR DISPLAY—STUDENTS WERE TREATED TO A DAZZLING DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS THAT COULD BE SEEN FROM MULTIPLE LOCATIONS ON LIBERTY MOUNTAIN. THIS PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN AT THE DR. JERRY FALWELL MEMORIAL.

Dorm decorating — save space and money while being creative

Jennifer Bowman
LIFE! REPORTER

The idea of living in a dorm and decorating the room to reflect home life is a good concept. However, the reality of such a venture can be more costly than many would imagine. At the beginning of each school year, students move into their dorms and unpack their belongings. Suddenly, after stocking drawers with clothes and stacking shelves with books, the student is left with bare walls and unorganized clutter. With little time and a tight budget, decorating a dorm room is often the last thought that comes to mind.

Fortunately, the act of dorm room decorating may be made more easily affordable and simple with stores such as Wal-Mart, Target, Bed Bath & Beyond and IKEA.

"Starting Sunday, we have mini fridges that are priced at \$55, we have microwaves for \$47 and complete bedding sets are only \$37," said an assistant store manager at the Target on Wards Road.

Decorating by using things from past dorm rooms will

also cut the cost of decorative supplies.

"I still have the same bedding and closet organizational equipment," junior Jordan Mechling said. "If you get those in a good enough quality, they last quite a while, if not the whole time you're at school."

Talking with previous roommates, classmates or suitemates will help gain knowledge in creative, organizational and space-saving ideas.

"I like to organize my things in plastic bins. For instance, I keep my toiletries in one box and in another box I might keep things like hair products and perfume," Megan Klemm, Dorm 28 resident said. "I also like my bulletin board and picture frames, which I have re-used; the board and frames can be easily decorated and hung."

Connecting with your roommate about decorating ideas will also help in simplifying the process. Many students try to coordinate their belongings in an effort to streamline the appearance of the room.

"This year I've actually gotten creative with my room.

One way that my roommates and I have made it really fun, is that we have a lot of the same color coordination (pink), and that automatically makes things look more put together and organized," resident of Dorm 19 Laura Elliott said.

"Also, I was looking for cheap ways to decorate and so I went through my grandma's basement and found some really cute, vintage ribbon and strings of beads that can be put anywhere and make anything look (better) in a pinch," Elliott said. "One thing I did this year was buy a huge bulletin board so I can have little accents in my room that are changeable if I get tired of them, like pictures and things."

Decorating the dorm room might be an overwhelming and frustrating activity, but with help from department stores and roommates, it may not be so difficult. Maintaining a positive outlook and keeping an open mind will also aid in the decoration process.

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SUCCESS—Dwayne Carson with some student leaders.



PHOTO PROVIDED

OSL helps students develop as leaders

Emily DeFosse
LIFE! REPORTER

On a Christian campus as large as Liberty's, it is easy for students to get lost in the cracks, but campus leadership has designed a leadership program in hopes to lessen the chance of students getting left out. Liberty's unique leadership structure consists of the Office of Student Leadership (OSL) staff, directed by Dwayne Carson, which includes Resident Directors (RD), Resident Assistants (RA), Spiritual Life Directors (SLD) and Prayer Leaders (PL).

"The mission of OSL is to train champions for Christ and out of that use student leaders to develop the students," Carson said.

Specific goals for the 2008-2009 school year are to maintain safe, secure and sanitized dormitories. Discipline that disciplines students rather than just reprimands them is also the primary focus of OSL. OSL also desires to see students leaders develop ministry and leadership skills. OSL also works closely with the Liberty University Police Department and the Student Care and Conduct Offices to prepare for handling any disasters or issues of student welfare that may arise throughout the year.

According to Carson, this year Liberty has 26 RDs living within close proximity to the halls they serve. There are also 220 RAs, 220 SLDs and there will be approximately 1,000 PLs. This includes the two RDs, seven RAs and seven SLDs, who made the decision to serve at the off-campus motel that is housing students this year.

RAs hold key positions on individual floors. "I look for them to be) shepherds to their floors and head coaches to their leadership teams," Carson said.

James "Pickle" Dresler is a second-year RA who enjoys being able to see the way that God works on the hall.

Dresler described his favorite moments in

leadership. "When you have that one moment with that one student," Dresler said. "When it is late at night and you are doing room checks and they pour their heart out to you and their eyes light up because they finally get it."

In addition to Carson, Michael Miller is the associate director of SLDs. Miller works alongside the SLDs to help them achieve academic success, leadership development and spiritual growth.

"(The main role of the SLD is to be a) prayer leader to the prayer leaders," Miller said.

Ian MacIntyre is a third year SLD on Dorm 8 who initially got involved in student leadership after seeing the way his RAs and SLDs invested in him during his freshmen year. He views his role on the hall as a leader who can "influence the influencers" and encourages all students at Liberty to "go to prayer group because the PLs put a lot of effort into prayer groups they should be taken seriously."

Chris Deitsch is a Campus Pastor and associate director of Student Leadership. He works directly with the PLs to "help equip the PLs in their ministry and to encourage them." He desires to see prayer leaders fulfill the four objectives: to see every student prayed for daily by name, prayed with weekly, loved and given the opportunity to be personally disciplined.

Third year PL on East 9 Christine Engeldorf has learned what it means to be a servant and has been humbled through serving the girls in her dorm. Her position includes prayer, mentoring, accountability and loving the girls. What she loves most is "growing closer to the Lord through the other girls' lives and teaching them to find their identities in Christ."

Students interested in becoming student leaders should contact the Office of Student Leadership at studentleadership@liberty.edu

Contact Emily Defosse at edefosse@liberty.edu

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