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LIBERTY CHAMPION ^{25th Anniversary}

Tuesday, February 5, 2008 • Vol. 25 No. 14



Irish adventures

Enrich your life with Irish history and culture this summer on the Irish Heritage Tour

LIFE • B5

Stroke of genius

Sandra Day Slayton paints her life story. See her 'Passages in Portrait' exhibit on Feb. 7

LIFE • B6



LU LIBERTY UNIVERSITY STUDENT LIFE

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News Briefs

► 2008 PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Rudy Giuliani dropped out of the presidential race and endorsed fellow Rep. John McCain. Dem. John Edwards also dropped out of the race but has yet to endorse any of the remaining candidates. Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton are nationally tied with 41 percent of the Democratic voter support, according to a recent CBS poll.

► INSURRECTION IN CHAD

Rebels charged Nairobi, the capital of Chad, last Saturday in an effort to oust current President Idriss Deby. Hundreds of rebels with submachine guns entered Chad from the Sudanese desert. Government forces are attempting to repel the attack.

► BAGHDAD BOMBED

Nearly 100 people were killed in Baghdad on Friday in the latest episode of suicide bombings. The two women involved in the attack were mentally disabled and are thought to be unaware of the fact that they were being used in the bombings.

► NATIONAL BUDGET

President Bush's budget proposal, given to lawmakers Monday, is anticipated to have a deficit of \$400 billion this year and next. Major causes of the deficit are the war bills from Iraq and Bush's tax rebate checks.

► IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Since the start of the war in Iraq during March 2003, 208 journalists and media support staff have died while covering events on location according to the group Reporters without Borders.

► SUPER BOWL RECORD

The Patriots may not have finished with their names in the record books, but Fox earned the most viewers of any Super Bowl with 97.5 million tuning in on Sunday evening. A 30-second advertisement cost companies \$2.7 million, according to AP reports.

► SUPERTUESDAY

Around two dozen states are holding primaries today, including New Jersey and California. Democratic spots available for claiming total 1,681 delegates, while Republican delegates total 1,023.

► PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL

The groundhog for the Feb. 2 celebration of the unofficial holiday saw its shadow, and six more weeks of winter have been predicted.

BLINDFOLDED — RA applicants participate in a game called "running from the smoke," an activity meant to build trust and leadership skills.



NICK POOLE

FOLLOW THE LEADER RA applicants learn tricks of the trade

By Natalie Lozano
NEWS REPORTER

After enduring rumors of noxious smoke and methods of interrogation, Resident Assistant (RA) applicants completed their latest step in the process of becoming next year's student leaders.

RA applicants are first required to complete a 25-plus essay questionnaire that details spiritual and doctrinal beliefs, leadership views and even what books they have read. Applicants must also request recommendations from both of their current RAs, complete and pass both a biblical knowledge test and a test detailing Office of Student Leadership (OSL) practices, and finally, participate in multiple interviews with their current Resident Directors (RD).

If an applicant is selected to proceed to the second round, they first participate in Exposure Weekend, which was held this past Friday and Saturday in and around Liberty's campus. Over 200 RA applicants crowded into DeMoss 114 along with 23 RDs, numerous current RAs and other members of OSL.

Of Friday's opening session, freshman Joshua Cushing said, "Most of us were expecting a more serious business atmosphere, (but) they threw techno music and strobes at us."

The evening began with an introduction to this year's theme, "LOST," and applicants were informed that they had just crashed onto an island, their mission being to survive and escape "the others."

The beginning of the weekend is always the best part for RD Kristi Wollbrink.

"Everyone is pumped, energy is high, and a little of the unknown that surrounds Exposure Weekend begins to unravel," Wollbrink said.

Following the opening session, applicants were then dismissed into groups of approximately 10 students with two observing RAs and one RD. Throughout the evening, students faced different challenges in various rooms of DeMoss.

"I felt like I was at camp again with all these obstacles," Janessa O'Connor said.

One of the most memorable activities for junior Raphaela Torman was called "Running from the Smoke." Applicants lined up with their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them. Everyone except the last person in line was blindfolded and the person who could see directed everyone in front of them as they maneuvered around DeMoss.

Please see RA, A6

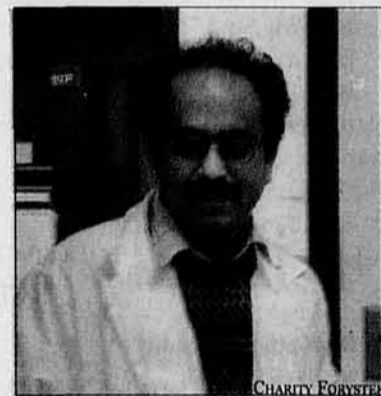
"Whether or not we make RA, everything we learn is still going to be beneficial to us."

MATT TOOGOOD, SOPHOMORE

Biology professor battles evolution

By Stan Barringer
NEWS REPORTER

Liberty biology professor Dr. Nathaniel Abraham was fired by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) three years ago because he would not regard evolutionary theory



>> DR. ABRAHAM IN DEPTH

as fact. Since his termination, evidence of discrimination and bias in the situation remains virtually unreported. Abraham filed a lawsuit in December of 2007 against WHOI, alleging unlawful discrimination resulting in his termination.

Abraham was hired by WHOI in March 2004 as a specialist in zebrafish developmental biology and programmed cell death, a biological mechanism that eliminates developmental cells that have become damaged or are no longer needed. Abraham's unique expertise was widely acknowledged in the lab where he worked at WHOI.

Please see ABRAHAM, A3

QUIZ BOWL: LU wins for third consecutive year

By Kirsten Filiberto
NEWS REPORTER

Liberty University took home the Big South Quiz Bowl Championship for the third time this weekend. Team co-captain Zach Curtis has been on the team since Liberty first started competing. Other team members include co-captain Kelly Hamren, Nicholas Orta, Robert Mullis and Sarah Davis-Leonard.

Curtis described the Quiz Bowl as "the varsity sport of the mind." Each team consists of four players who are asked questions pertaining to various subjects such as current events, sports, the arts, math, literature, science and history. Questions are asked within the context of two, eight-minute halves. A toss-up question begins the rounds, with the first correct answer winning the team a series of individual bonus questions unavailable to the other team.

Please see QUIZ BOWL, A6

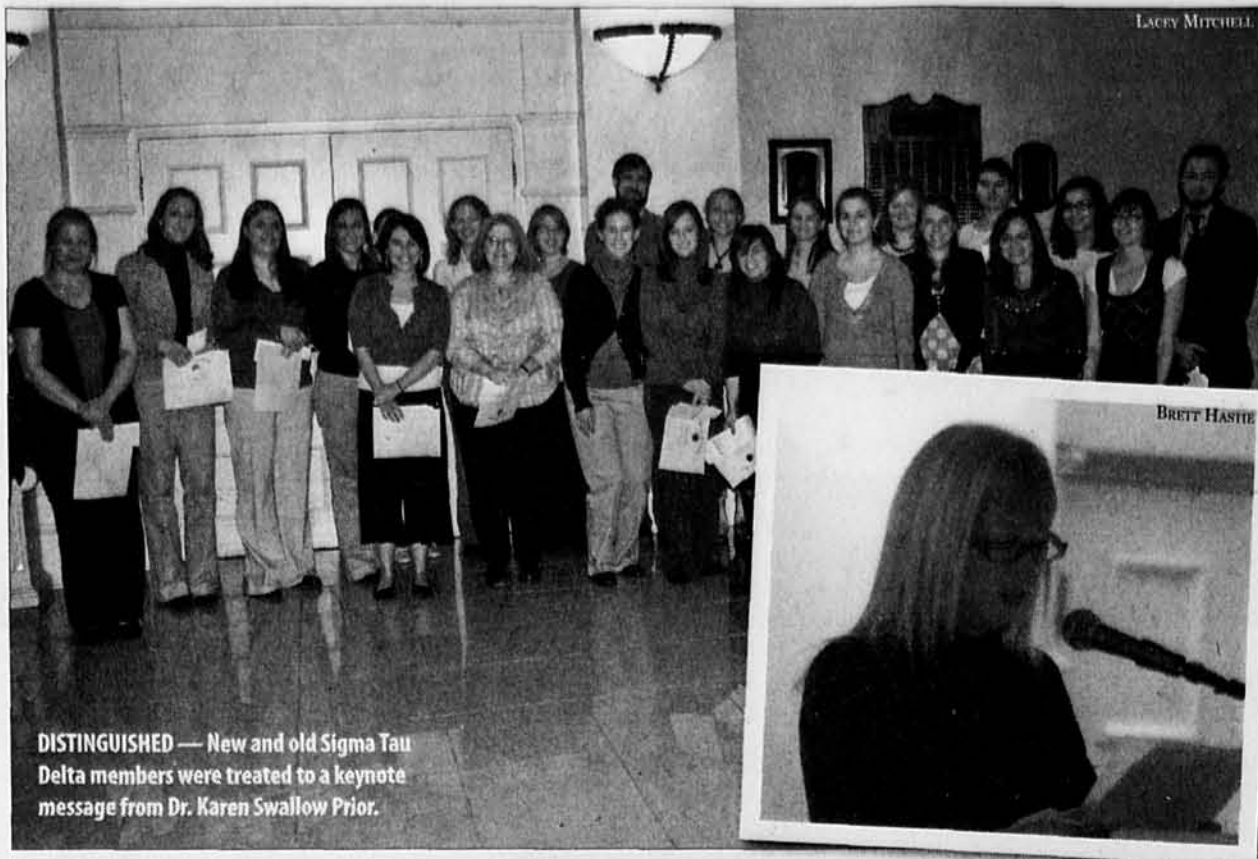
4 need to read stories in this issue

1 Why one student believes Barack Obama's success is evidence of increased equality in politics

2 Women's basketball rules the Big South conference standings with two quality wins last week

3 Students are the new standard through which the world is beginning to see Liberty

4 New English honor society members pledge to uphold sincerity, truth and design at induction



DISTINGUISHED — New and old Sigma Tau Delta members were treated to a keynote message from Dr. Karen Swallow Prior.

English Honor Society welcomes new members

By Jennifer Schmidt
NEWS EDITOR

Braving an icy night, students and faculty alike ventured out to Sigma Tau Delta's (STD) annual induction ceremony held in the Grand Lobby of DeMoss on Friday. The English honor society's president, Suzanne Edwards, kicked off the event, which included information about STD, an original reading by Dr. Karen Swallow Prior, and the official induction of 26 new student members and one faculty member, Ms. Marybeth Davis.

Dr. Prior, who is currently writing a book entitled "How Literature Helped Save My Soul," treated audience members to a reading of the first chapter, which describes her experiences growing up in a Christian household where

book reading was held on par with church attendance.

Prior described reading as the "source of one of the world's greatest joys," and further stated her belief that "books should be promiscuously read."

John Milton's "Acropagica" was the featured work of Prior's first chapter, of which she said, "I felt vindication as a Christian because of Milton, and I felt liberated."

Tinged with humor and naked honesty, Prior's work extols listeners to commit themselves "to truth rather than comfort."

As the ceremony progressed, new members were charged to uphold the national standards of the honor society and to personally commit to the ideals of literature and charity, while also promoting the three values of STD:

sincerity, truth and design.

"It's a more concentrated community where people who have the same interests are doing the same thing at the same time. It works out well," graduating senior and new member Ryan Knight said.

Carolyn Towles, a faculty advisor for STD since 2002, said, "It forms community and provides a way for English majors to branch out," noting the many activities the society hosts every semester, including hikes, service projects and movie nights.

STD has existed at Liberty for more than 20 years and currently has around 50 active members.

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DLP ranked third in nation out of 41 schools

By Brandon Gallagher
NEWS REPORTER

Liberty University's Distance Learning Program was recently ranked third by the Online Educational Database (OEDb), which ranked 41 schools across the nation who have most or all of their instruction through online methods.

"This ranking helps Liberty meet its mission," said Ronald S. Kennedy, executive director of distance learning and graduate studies. "This is a great branding and recruiting tool for the university as a whole."

The rankings evaluate a school's online program based on eight different metrics: financial aid, acceptance rate, peer Web citations, retention rate, graduation rate, scholarly citations, student-faculty ratio and years accredited.

Upper Iowa University placed first in the rankings, followed by LeTourneau University. This was Liberty's first time placing.

Other schools of note on the list include Regent University (seventh), Westwood College (ninth), Colorado Technical University (15th), IIT Technical University (16th), Kaplan University (17th) and the University of Phoenix (25th).

Liberty's DLP currently enrolls 23,000 students and, by July 1, will support over 26,000 students. The

program is a non-profit entity while most other colleges on the list are for-profit entities owned by groups of investors.

"Online education is a very competitive industry," Kennedy said.

Over the next few years the program should continue to grow.

"Realistically, we can have 50-60,000 students in five years," Kennedy explained. "The processes are in place to be scalable from 50,000 up to 75,000 students."

"I really have enjoyed my experience with Liberty's Distance Learning Program," Joshua Norman said.

Norman is a full-time DLP student currently working on his degree in business management.

"I wasn't able to fit traditional on campus classes into my schedule," he said, "but with Liberty's DLP, I can do the work whenever I can find time and still pursue the degree I want."

The program is ideal for people who do not have the time in their schedule or the means to attend college in person.

Online education has exploded over the last decade due to the flexibility it offers, as well as its cost-effective nature.

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CORRECTION

In last week's "Bhutto gone, violence reigns in Pakistan," Liberty student Mamoon Yousaf was once incorrectly referred to as "he" instead of "she." The editorial staff was responsible for this oversight and apologizes for any embarrassment or confusion.

Library receives facelift with brand-new space renovations

By Mattison Brooks
NEWS REPORTER

Liberty students returned this semester to a newly renovated library and an updated interlibrary loan system called ILLiad.

Most significant library renovations include 30 additional cubicles with Internet access, 19 new computer stations at the back of the library and a more compact shelving system for the journals, allowing for more space. A section of the wall on the first floor was removed to allow easier access to the relocated information desk and to free space to move around the library.

In addition, aesthetic improvements were made, including newly painted walls, more carpets and chairs, and a more "efficient and attractive" service desk in the curriculum library. The downstairs shelving renovation has also freed up several thousand square feet, which is now being used for the

addition of over 50 seats in an expanded quiet study area.

"The highest requested renovation by students was space changes," Dean of the Integrated Learning Resource Center (ILRC) Dave Barnett said. "We have never really had a quiet study area where the noise level allows for concentration."

Other renovations requested by the students were also taken into account by the administration and adjustments were made Barnett said.

"There was a steady cry for more computers," Barnett said. "There is not much space upstairs, so we only added seven there, while downstairs we added 29 more computers because of the freed-up space."

These changes have been long underway. Many began last July and a few finished over Christmas break.

"We did the renovations based upon what our needs were and what the students wanted. Another side to it was

how we compared to other schools and libraries across the country," Barnett said. "Those changes help to improve the atmosphere and create a better experience while in the library."

Students agreed that the changes were a good thing, but they admitted they had not really noticed the renovations.

"The information desk is actually easier to get to now, so that is definitely a good thing," junior Caitlin Plage said. "That being moved, and a few other pieces of furniture, but I haven't noticed much else."

Another student agreed that while not all of the current changes are easily noticed, there has been improvement, and they would like to see more added in the future as well.

"The layout is fine," freshman Kristina Venable said. "The journals and book areas seem more organized now, but I would really like to see newer books come in."

ILLiad, the new interlibrary loan system, allows students to request books that are not found in Liberty's library. Both the old and new interlibrary loan systems allow for books to be bor-

rowed from other schools and libraries across the country. These libraries in turn can borrow from Liberty's library. According to Barnett, the new system is far more efficient than the previous system.

"The system reads the data input from the students that is used to find the book," Barnett said. "So, there is still the book exchange process, but it allows the student to track the materials ordered, and it also notifies the student of when it will arrive. This will allow everyone to manage his or her materials better."

This change in the system will allow materials to get to the users much faster, allowing the library to operate smoother.

While there are currently no more major renovations planned for this semester, Barnett did not rule out the idea of expansion sometime in the future.

"As long as the school keeps growing, there is always reason to expand," Barnett said. "All the departments have their materials within the library, so as their needs grow, we will have to as well."

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LIBRARY RENOVATIONS

Total new computers added: 35

Total new cubicles: 30

Total new seats provided: 50-60

Other additions:
Carpet, paint, new couches and several thousand square feet

Quotable:
"The highest requested renovation by students was space changes. We have never really had a quiet study area where the noise level allows for concentration."

DAVE BARNETT, IRLC DEAN

LIBERTY CHAMPION ^{25th Anniversary}

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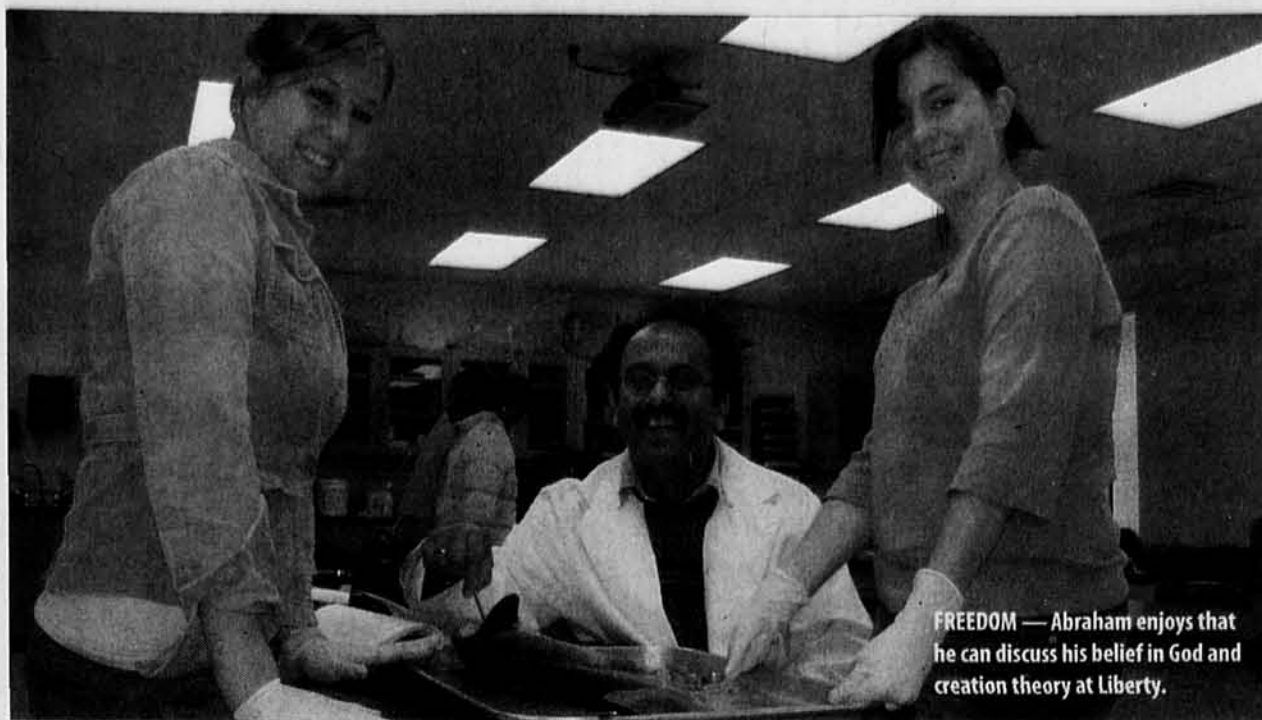
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FREEDOM — Abraham enjoys that he can discuss his belief in God and creation theory at Liberty.

CHARITY FORSYTER

ABRAHAM: Professor was fired for believing in creation theory

Continued from A1

"They just loved my work," Abraham said. "My colleagues had no doubt as to my credibility as a scientist. I was the expert on zebrafish there. I even advised them on how to build the zebrafish lab, including what equipment to buy and what not to buy."

"There is no testimony that Dr. Abraham did anything but exemplary work in his expertise," Christian Law Association general counsel David C. Gibbs III said, who is representing Abraham against WHOI.

In spite of Abraham's outstanding research, his supervisors eventually decided that his lack of commitment to evolution outweighed his expertise. However, Abraham said evolution was not a factor discussed in his hiring or planned work with the institution.

"I went through the (employment) interviews with no problem," Abraham said. "In about six months of communication and work with WHOI, evolution never came up."

Abraham's relationship with his employers darkened when he made a casual comment on his lack of belief in evolutionary theory to his supervisor, senior biologist Dr. Mark Hahn, following an otherwise positive meeting about his research.

"I said in a passing comment that I

personally do not believe in evolutionary theory," Abraham said. "(Hahn's) face darkened, and he said that he hoped it would not affect any future co-authored writing about our research."

In a Nov. 17, 2004 letter to Abraham, Hahn claimed that Abraham refused to discuss "evolutionary implications and interpretations of our research in any co-authored publications resulting from this work."

However, Abraham had previously reassured Hahn in a letter on Nov. 10, 2004 that he was willing to discuss evolutionary implications and interpretations of his research, if there were any.

"I said that I might never have to address evolution (in writing about the research), but that if it came up, I would discuss it as a theory," Abraham said. This statement was sent to Hahn in writing, both as a paper copy and as an e-mail.

Abraham said that several biologists, including Hahn, write about their research in terms of the conclusions that might be drawn based on evolutionary assumptions. This method does not require the researcher personally to endorse evolutionary theory but rather to discuss it as a possibility.

That was not good enough for Hahn, Abraham said.

"He wasn't happy about it," Abraham said. "We had a critical meeting,

and Hahn said he wanted me to resign. He offered me a severance package of several months' salary in exchange for an agreement that I would not sue them."

Abraham refused to sign the offer. At the time, he believed that the WHOI administration would side with him against Hahn's ideological bias. However, members of the administration either passively or actively agreed with his termination.

"The case is very different (from other discrimination cases involving creationist scientists) because many facts in this case are documented. Several personnel from WHOI's senior administration have gone on record saying that they were agreeing with the decision to fire me based on the given cause," Abraham said, referring to his lack of commitment to evolution.

Following Abraham's termination, WHOI re-advertised his former position with a modified description. The Boston Globe ran a piece on Dec. 7, 2007, called "Biologist fired for beliefs, suit says," and Fox News published one entitled, "Biologist: I lost my job because I don't believe in evolution" on Dec. 11, 2007. Both of these publications cited the newly modified job description, which requires evolutionary research assumptions, as a reason for Abraham's firing.

The Dec. 7 Boston Globe article also quoted Florida State University philosopher of science Michael Ruse harshly criticizing Abraham for working in "an evolutionary lab . . . when (he didn't) believe in evolution." Abraham said he worked in a toxicology lab, and that Hahn is a toxicologist, having earned his Ph. D. in Toxicology.

Abraham lodged a formal complaint with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, which ruled against him.

After exhausting every other legal option, Abraham filed a lawsuit against WHOI in December 2007. The case is slated to go to trial in the U.S. District Court in 2009.

Abraham said that he did not commit to taking action against WHOI until several months after his termination. He and his wife discovered that they were expecting their first child during the period of confrontation with Hahn and the WHOI administration. After the firing, they lived a roving life, frantically seeking work before their visas from India expired.

"It was a horrible time for me and my wife," Abraham said. "We literally became Hebrews (wanderers), wandering from house, staying with friends. We had suddenly lost our health care, and we feared for the life of the child."

Abraham said the time for his wife's delivery coincided with the expiration of their visas. Not knowing what else to do, the couple agreed she should return to India to be with their parents.

"She called me one day (from India) and said that she was having some complications with the pregnancy," Abraham said. "It was then that I decided to fight (the WHOI termination)."

Abraham missed his daughter's birth, but their daughter's name, Rishona Fay, means "first faith" and signifies the family's realization that God would provide justice for them.

Abraham accepted a faculty position at Liberty three years ago, and the school expedited his visa processing so that he would not have to return to India and re-apply for a work visa.

"I like that I can talk freely about God and biological design without being fired," Abraham said.

Abraham currently teaches comparative anatomy.

Contact Stan Barringer at spbarringer@liberty.edu.

For sale: Guard shack nostalgia up for auction

By Mitchell Malcheff & Jennifer Schmidt

NEWS REPORTER & NEWS EDITOR

Those driving onto campus in the last few months might have noticed a slight alteration from the typical Liberty landscape. Where a small guard shack once stood is now just an empty space. Leaving only the legacy of faint impressions, a small pile of bricks and a still-functional traffic light, the guard shack might soon be yours to keep forever.

Liberty students and alumni with a touch of nostalgia may appreciate the tentative plans that are in the works to auction off the bricks and the traffic light.

Lee Beaumont, director of auxiliary services, sees the bricks and traffic light as a way for alumni to reconnect with days gone by.

"There are so many alumni who would like a talking piece. I can see some guys who are a little more gregarious sticking the spotlight in their office," Beaumont said.

Although it is unclear what format the auction would take, one suggestion has been to post the items on eBay, where nostalgia costs big bucks. For example, a 1967 Hot Wheels Corvette is currently selling for \$305 and a 1985 Christmas edition of the Cabbage Patch dolls is already up to \$400 and counting.

Beaumont believes that many alumni will feel the same way about the guard shack.

"Nostalgia is huge. That's why these action figures from the sixties and seventies are worth so much money, because they remind people of their childhood," Beaumont said.

Contact Mitchell Malcheff at mjmalcheff@liberty.edu.

CHEF'S FARE

Tuesday, Feb. 19th
4:30pm - 7:00pm

"Food Lab: A Fusion of Culture and Taste"

Join us as chefs from around the region come to Liberty to experiment with the latest food trend: **FOOD FUSION**.

The food industry is laden with the newest craze to fuse two totally different cuisines and invent something new. You may have heard of **Mediterranean or Cuban cuisines** popular in many restaurant hotspots. See what the hype is all about at this year's **Chef's Fare!**

Vote for your favorite fusion food as Liberty chefs compete with other area schools' chefs at our annual **Chef's Fare**.

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Robert H. Goddard



From the Editorial Board

The case for Gov. Mitt Romney is best made with one figure: 113 percent. That is the average annual return on Romney's investment company (Bain Capital LLC) during the 14 years that he was CEO. That is not a misprint.

Under Romney's leadership the value of Bain Capital's investments doubled each year — growing from a small firm to a 38 billion dollar equity giant. While Romney was CEO, Bain helped save companies like Dominos, Staples and Brookstone. Jim Cramer of MSNBC's Mad Money calls Mitt Romney the best businessman in America.

The serious Republican candidates who still remain — Romney, Gov. Mike Huckabee and John McCain — all have major flaws. For voters concerned about fiscal policy, Romney may be the best choice.

McCain disagrees with the Grand Old Party (GOP) base on the issues of immigration, campaign finance reform, global warming, drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), the first Bush tax cuts, Guantanamo Bay and other important conservative issues.

Further, Republicans must realize the electoral difficulties they will face if they nominate a 71-year-old senator to face the young, hopeful and post-partisan Barack Obama. It will be an election of the past versus the optimistic future, and that does not bode well for the GOP. It will be similar to the war-hero Sen. Bob Dole's race against Clinton, only this time the candidate will not have the support of the Republican base.

Huckabee has enthusiastically campaigned as the Christian leader with Chuck Norris by his side — earning him the support of four percent of non-evangelical Republican voters in Florida. Huckabee's decision to base his campaign on vague populist platitudes and evangelical identity politics is a stark contrast to the relatively substantive campaigns of Romney and McCain.

Romney's main flaw is the perception that he is unauthentic, flip-flops on issues and is a political opportunist.

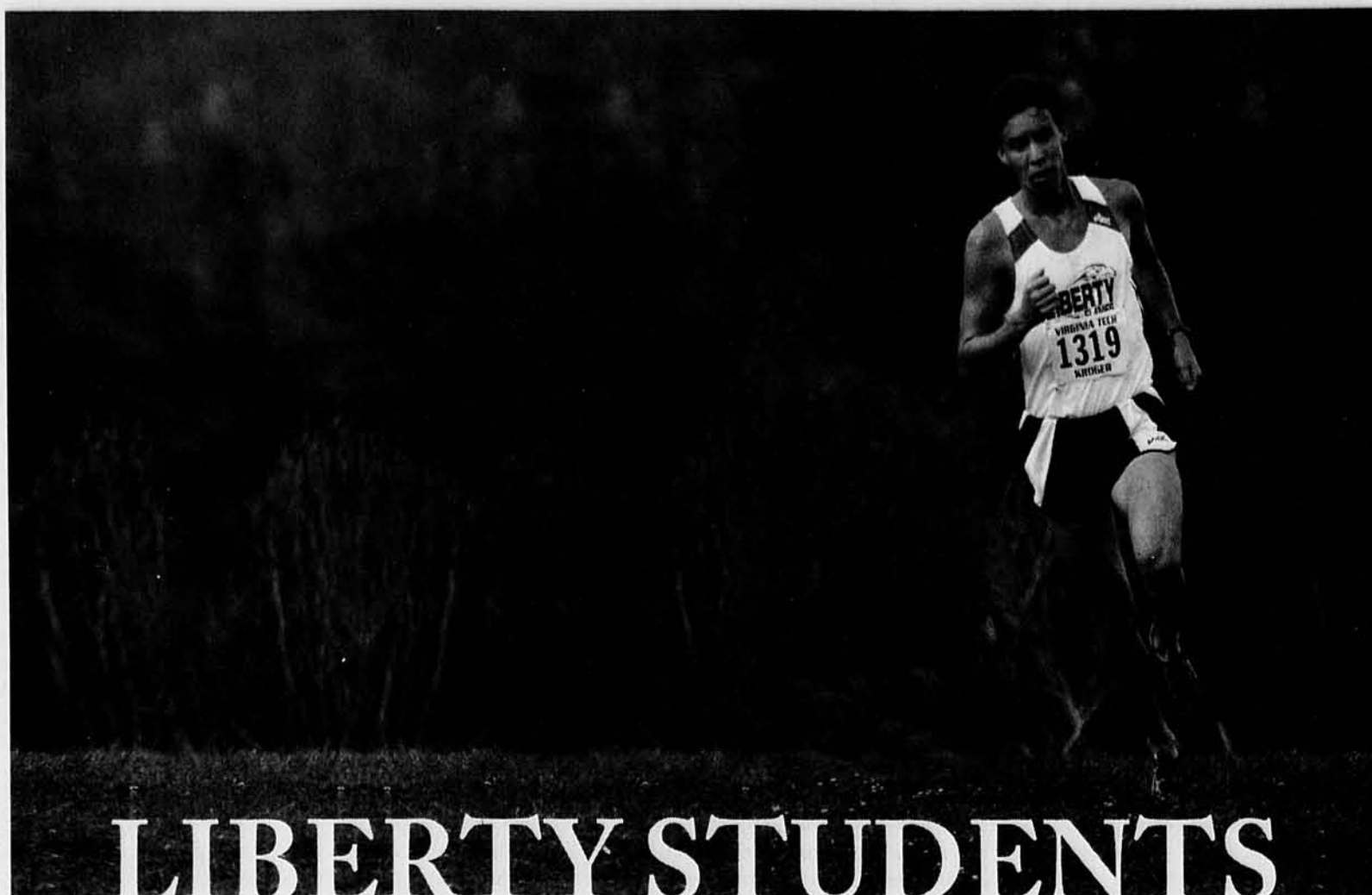
However, Sen. Rick Santorum, Mark DeMoss and the editors of the National Review believe that Romney's flaws are superficial. After all, even if someone sees Romney as an unauthentic car salesman, a tax cut passed by him will have the same effect as if it were passed by Fred Thompson. To some, he may seem like a cardboard cutout, but a conservative justice appointed by Romney would vote the same as a conservative justice appointed by Huckabee.

There is no way to know Romney's heart. Any observer of the political scene can recognize that Romney would not campaign specifically supporting the issues that matter to conservatives and then stab them in the back once elected president.

As the economy is becoming the number one issue facing voters, they may want to ask: "Who better to turn around the economy than Romney?" His greatest strength is his vast experience in the private sector — one of the very few political assets Republicans will have in 2008.

He is certainly not a perfect candidate, but because of his executive success, as evidenced by turning around Dominos, Staples, the Olympics and the economy of Massachusetts, economic conservatives have reason to get excited about the candidacy of Mitt Romney.

Contact the Editorial Board at editor@liberty.edu.



LIBERTY STUDENTS *expanding the legacy*

By Jen Slothower
COPY EDITOR

Most of the world thinks evangelical Christians are crazy.

This week's issue of Newsweek held an article called "A Simple Twist of Faith." The opening summary of the article read, "I didn't understand my sister's draw to evangelical Christianity. But I've learned to trust her choices."

The writer, Theresa Gonzalez, went on to explain that she was skeptical about Christianity. When her sister, Kristen, was pulled from public school for home-schooling and Christian school options, Theresa feared that her sister would emerge antisocial and unable to think. Over the past few years, however, she said that Kristen has proved herself to be not only strong in her faith but also a capable thinker and independent individual.

The real kicker was near the bottom of the story, when Kristen was deciding where to go to college. She chose, as the writer calls it, "Jerry Falwell's Liberty University."

This is not the first time Liberty has shown up in the mainstream press in recent years — meaning Liberty, not Jerry Falwell or his political connections. Liberty University as a distinct entity is beginning to find its place in the world. Its student body is unique and is becoming less dependent on the foundations that originally spawned the

school, such as Dr. Falwell, the Old Time Gospel Hour, Thomas Road and the Moral Majority. While these ministries still have their own distinct roles, the Liberty student body has developed an identity of its own thanks to its strong foundation.

While it is certain that Liberty will never be separated from its roots, its ability to stand alone bodes well for the thousands of students who choose it as their school each year. Both basketball teams have found their way into the NCAA tournament, which is basically the standard of reputability in college basketball. Josh McDougal won the national cross-country race — not just a Big South meet — and found himself on a two-page spread in Sports Illustrated. Liberty alumnus Katie Feenstra is playing in the WNBA. Liberty graduates are fanning out over the globe, impacting the world in traditional ministerial roles such as missionaries, pastors and teachers but also in areas such as government, science, medicine, law, higher academia and mass communications.

Many of the premier students who chose Liberty over other options — not their local community college, rather, places like Yale, Harvard or Columbia — have done so out of conviction for their faith. Often, they come to "Jerry's school" with the nagging feeling that they have sacrificed much to also choose a Christian education.

Because of these students, however, Liberty has become a school of promise. While some in

the media might portray Christian schools as backwoods affairs or ministry colleges trying to offer liberal arts degrees, Liberty is becoming, more every day, a truly legitimate school that does actually train champions for the future.

Throughout the next generation, there may be less mention of the Falwells in the mainstream media and more talk about Liberty graduates. How well these talented individuals are trained will lay the foundation for the school's future.

Dr. Falwell's vision was not to build himself a school of hero-worshippers or minions. He wanted a school that could train champions for his God, not himself. Striving forward, the school will move into an era where his champions will be the face of his vision.

The girl mentioned in the Newsweek article was not studying astrophysics, and she was not a Big South athlete of the week. She was a sister who had strong faith and enough love to share it in an unoffensive but strong way. She is the common Liberty student, the kind who shows that one by one, these students can change the world.

It is imperative that this university remain strong in training its students in all aspects of life. Whether it be a witnessing sister or a leader of the future, Liberty is training thousands of witnesses for Christ every day.

Contact Jen Slothower at jslothower@liberty.edu.

Letter to the Editor

I had the chance to read your opinion piece in the Jan. 22 edition of the Liberty Champion. Although this is an opinion piece, it is based on essentially no evidence of any kind and is in my opinion very ignorant. There are several extremely false statements located within the article, and I was very shocked to read them.

In your article, I stumbled upon this statement, "socialism damages nation's economical success." This is a very ignorant statement. You need to do some research for yourself before you formulate an opinion based on what you have been taught or told by biased Republicans who fear change. Countries like Canada and Australia and most of northern Europe are considered to be socialist. These are all very very successful and wealthy first world nations. Their economies were not and are not "damaged" by socialism. Furthermore, claiming socialism is damaging is almost insane and is truly founded by American Republican ignorance and failure to recognize any stance but their own. You also claim that "socialism is not efficient." Are you then stating that Canada, Australia, Sweden, Norway and other socialist countries are not efficient? That is a laughable statement.

In the closing paragraph, you state that the socialist agenda of the Democrats — which is a completely false statement — is dangerous for

the U.S. economy. Even if they did fund a socialist plan for the country — which they do not — it would undoubtedly improve America. Every year thousands of people die in America because they have no health care. I think more tax and less people dying is probably more beneficial. To eliminate HMOs and corporate control of such an important aspect of a nation would be the single greatest achievement in the history of America.

So, in the future, please take more care before you fill your opinion articles with completely false statements and ridiculous claims.

From Corey Robert

Rebuttal

I appreciate you taking the time to read my humor column in the newspaper, whether you agree or disagree with it.

I understand your argument, but I do not agree with it.

The main reason is that each of us makes a different basic assumption that we build the basis for our arguments upon.

It is fair to say that both of us probably think America is great, but that it could be better. However, the reason you think America is successful is different than the reason I think America is successful.

You seem to believe that America

is great because the government of America is great. I believe America is successful because of the freedoms and opportunities that it allows its people.

Now, under that idea, both of us can believe that in America, or abroad, the successes of people in the nation as a whole are a certain judge of the success of that nation. However, I believe in the equality of opportunity, not in the equality of results. That is to say that we afford people all the same opportunities, and what they do with those opportunities is up to them. Here in America, the equality of opportunity is greater than it is in more socialist nations, where the equality of results is stressed.

Your sort of equality is based in compassion and is commendable, but it relies on the idea that government, and people in general, are basically trustworthy. The equality of placing more programs in the hands of the government also places more faith in the officials in government. The same officials failed miserably with social security, supplying support to victims of hurricane Katrina, in our public school system and many other failed programs too numerous to list.

The idea that Democrats are not pushing for socialization is absolutely, dead wrong for the exact reasons you list.

Dennis Kucinich — though not one of the most prominent of the recent presidential candidates but still a very powerful Democratic congressman — states on his Web site that he will "double the tax refunds and credits for Americans earning \$80,000 and less by shifting the tax burden to where it belongs: on the financial assets and windfall gains of those who have benefited most from our economic and legal system."

This is a fancy way of saying "tax the wealthy and give to the non-wealthy." Whether you agree with the idea that it should be done or not, this is redistribution of wealth, and, when it comes to this idea, the other candidates of the Democratic Party fall right in line with Representative Kucinich.

I understand my viewpoint is not as compassionate or optimistic, but it is more realistic in light of the actions taken by governments that obtain more power. It is the church and those with hearts of compassion who should be the charitable ones. I certainly do not want someone choosing to be charitable with my money... particularly when that money given is lost in the sea of government bureaucracy offices and pet projects.

From Will Mayer, Opinion Editor

commentary.

"Keep true to the dreams of thy youth."

Friedrich von Schiller

CANDIDATE SPOTLIGHT 2008 Presidential Elections



Hillary
Clinton

ROGER GOUN

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE

Worked for the House Judiciary Committee when Nixon was under investigation, 1974; appointed while first lady to lead the task force for National Health Care Reform, 1993; elected to U.S. Senate, 2000; re-elected for second term, 2006.

PERSONAL

Born October 26, 1947; graduated from Wellesley College, 1969; law degree from Yale University; married to Bill Clinton; one daughter named Chelsea; Methodist.

MAJOR ISSUES

- **Universal health care** — families get tax credits to cover premiums
- **Iraq** — would withdraw troops in first three months of her presidency
- **Values** — supports abortion and same-sex civil unions
- **Veterans** — provide education and low-interest microloans
- **Energy** — \$50 billion for research; lower consumption by 20 percent

IN HER OWN WORDS

"When I say solutions, I mean health care for everyone — no exceptions, no excuses — every man, woman, and child to have quality, affordable health care." Jan. 31, 2008

QUICK FACT

Clinton delivered Wellesley College's first student commencement address at her graduation in 1969.

CAMPAIGN STATUS

Currently leads Democratic candidates with 232 delegates; won first place finishes in Florida, Nevada, Michigan and New Hampshire

Information taken from CNN.com.

Barack Obama: The dream of equality

By John Davis
OPINION WRITER

In first grade, my teacher asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. Always thinking analytically, I paused and told her I wanted to work for a cheese company. She responded positively and told me if I put my mind to it, I could be the president of the United States. I thought it would be much more rewarding to work with cheese all day.

As a young black man growing up in the still racially charged South, I never had the goal or dream of becoming the first black president. At that time in the 1980s, it was inconceivable.

Barack Obama is as close as any African-American has been to achieving the goal of becoming president. Having an African-American on the ballot influences an election in ways that many people may not realize.

First, many Americans have taken time to think about the possibility that Barack Obama could be leading our country in the coming year. I have heard people dispute his moral stance and even question his credibility.

I was having lunch in the Campus North food court on Thursday when a group of students were having a very scholarly conversation about the election. One person commented that Obama is only a good presidential candidate because he is a decoy for the next Democratic nominee to use the motivation Obama has injected into the black community to power the election in 2012.

For those who think this will not be a racially influenced election, all they have to do is look at the spin that the media is putting on it.

On Jan. 10, a Washington Post article made Obama seem like a criminal due to his 15-year association with Tony Rezko. Rezko has since been indicted on charges of corruption by a federal grand jury.

The story stated that Rezko had a hand in helping Obama purchase a home by buying the piece of adjacent

land to satisfy the seller's request. After the article was published, the Obama campaign produced a copy of the tape that came from that interview with the Post.

"I've known him for 15 years. He had never asked me to do anything, had never behaved in any untoward way with me," replied Obama on the tape. "...I wasn't particularly knowledgeable about these various issues that he was involved with."

The backlash from both the media and common voters shows that Obama's candidacy will continue to cause a stir throughout the duration of the election.

Nevertheless, the black community historically has less than a 20 percent voter turnout. Amid all the competition in the Democratic Party, it is unlikely that voter turnout this year would have any lasting effects on future elections, which disproves arguments that Obama is only a decoy for future nominees.

According to a 2006 study done on all 50 states by the National Bureau of Economic Research, both black and white voter turnout increases two to three percentage points with each black Democrat on the ballot.

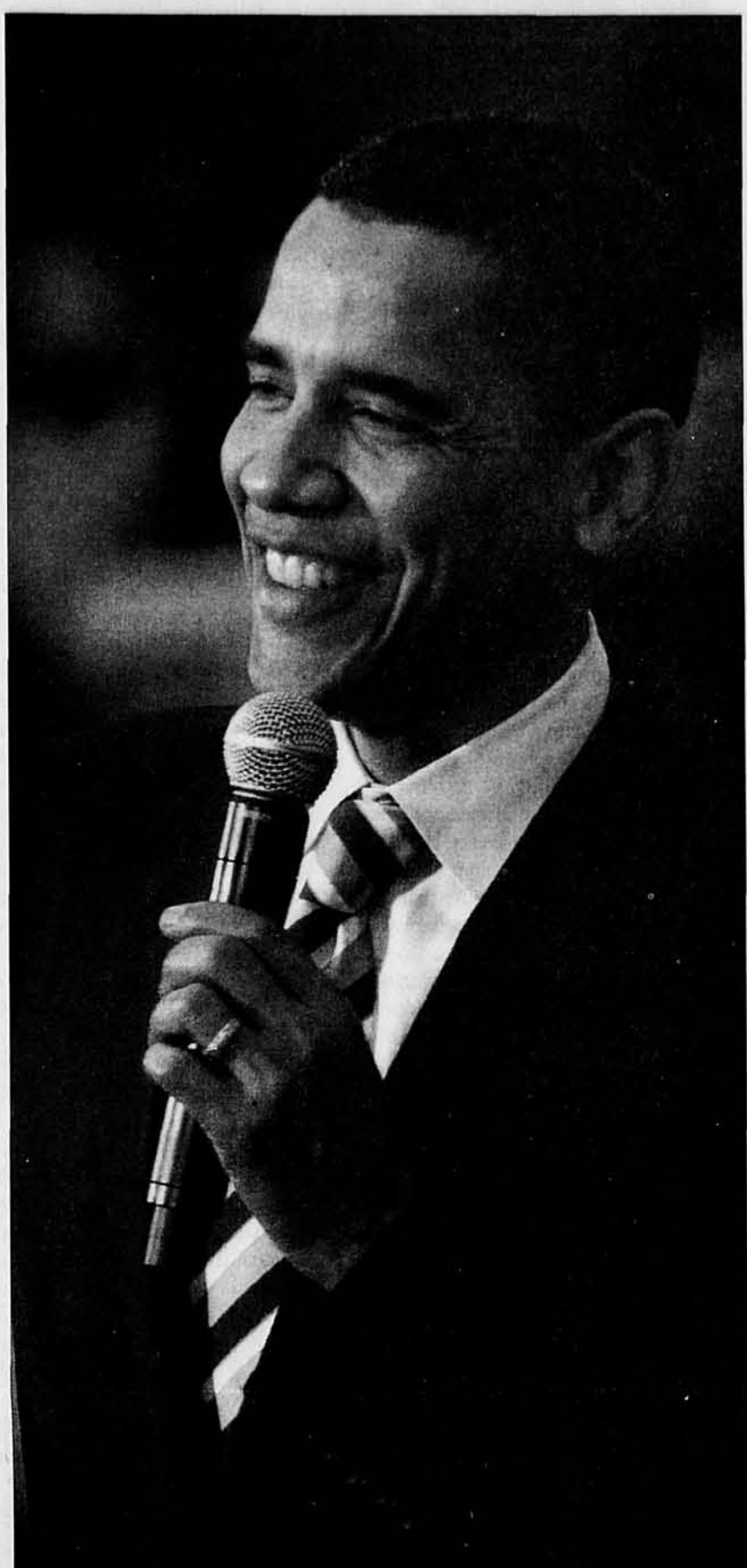
In a January Newsweek article, Earl Hutchinson, an African-American political analyst, said that he found that "one way or another, racial and ethnic factors are a constant undercurrent of the American political debate."

These factors, whether highlighted by the media or not, will continue to affect Obama or any African-American running this year or in years to come.

Whether or not Obama wins the nomination, his run will serve as a constant reminder that barriers are broken everyday.

When my son is asked in front of his first grade class what he wants to be when he grows up, I hope he can stand with confidence and say, "I want to be president."

Contact John Davis at
jhdavis@liberty.edu.



DANIELA ZALCMAN

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BOOT CAMP — Applicants are living the real schedule of an RA during a week of training.

NICK POOLE

RA: 207 applicants showed why they are right for the job

Continued from A1

Occasionally someone would shout "smoke, and we'd have to duck," Torman said.

During several of the activities, only one or two people could talk at a time, which allows for individual leadership, communication and problem-solving skills, or the lack thereof, to stand out.

Friday evening, the applicants remained in their assigned groups and headed back to either the RD's on-campus apartment or a house off campus. Leslie Parks, RD for Campus East dorms 1, 2, and 12, was excited to take her group to her parent's house, providing them with a different environment to build relationships.

According to sophomore Lindsay Beck, the evening was "a good time to get to know people on a personal level and just be more relaxed."

Saturday brought workshops and more activities. The applicants heard from other RAs on everything from confrontation to counseling and were given opportunities to apply what they were learning through role-playing situations.

One scenario in the confrontation room challenged applicants to address someone whose body odor is less than pleasing. Learning to navigate such difficult conversations is not only an essential trait of a RA — it is also a valuable life skill.

"The applicants leave the session with not only a better understanding of the part that confronting plays in the life of an RA, but really how important

and beneficial confrontation is to everyone as we strive to bring God glory," Wollbrink said.

"Whether or not we make RA, everything we learn is still going to be beneficial to us," said Matt Toogood, a sophomore from Pennsylvania.

Exposure Weekend concluded with a final word from Dwayne Carson. However, the application process is far from over.

Training week began on Sunday evening at 11:45 p.m. when applicants arrived at one of the 122 "host" halls, where they will learn the ropes of the job under current RAs.

"It's fun, cause they are letting us know what the real schedule of an RA is," junior Sarah Shoaf said.

During the beginning of the week, applicants spend time reading the RA manual during quiet hours and shadowing RAs. As the week progresses, applicants gradually take on more responsibilities under the encouraging eye of their host RAs.

Determining which students train on which halls is not a task that is taken lightly.

Every year "a group of RDs come together and seek to place students on halls where both RAs and the host RD will be able to draw out both strengths and weaknesses and assist them in bettering themselves," RD Tom Hinkley said.

By the end of exposure week, applicants will be doing curfew and room checks on their own and will also have the privilege of planning and leading a hall meeting on their host hall.

Applicants will be notified by e-mail on Feb. 20 whether they were selected to be an RA for the 2008-2009 school year.

"We have some phenomenal students who have applied," OSU Director Dwayne Carson said. "(There are) only so many openings with some incredibly qualified people that you have to say 'not right now.'"

According to Hinkley, who has been involved with Exposure Weekend for five years, OSU is looking for an "individual who emulates Christ, puts the needs of others before his own and seeks to leave a legacy larger than himself."

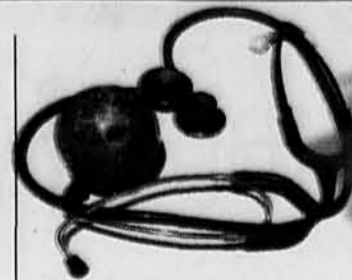
For Carson, the qualifications go beyond just a heart for people. Applicants must desire to see people grow and mature. Ultimately, RAs must want their students "to be what the vision of Liberty wants them to be, champions for Christ," Carson said.

Hinkley's advice to students who did not try out but would like to next year was to spend time with their current RA now.

Students "learn the most about what it truly means to be an RA, not from any book or RD, but from their current RA," Hinkley said.

"Looking back I can see how the things that I learned through Exposure last year helped me this year," said Kristi Negron, an RA on Dorm 28-1.

Contact Natalie Lozano at nalozano@liberty.edu.



By Joy Gilmour
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Green tea has made its way into the mainstream Western diet in the form of traditional tea, bottled drinks and even green tea extract tablets years after it originated in China and India over 5,000 years ago. Green tea labels increasingly boast a plethora of health benefits from weight loss to cancer prevention, making the drink appear to be a modern day cure-all. While many of these claims are unsubstantiated, each cup of tea does indeed pack a potent dose of antioxidants and catechins, both of which are chemical compounds known to have beneficial effects on the body.

An antioxidant is a substance that "protects cells from the damage caused by free radicals (unstable molecules able to cause damage in the body)," according to the National Cancer Institute. Green tea is naturally laden with these protective compounds.

Containing less than one-fourth the amount of caffeine present in coffee, green tea offers an alternative for anyone trying to reduce caffeine intake. Green tea averages 20 milligrams of caffeine per tea bag, compared to an average of 80 milligrams of caffeine in a cup of coffee, according to the Stash Tea Web site.

When brewed from a tea bag or loose-leaf tea leaves, green tea is naturally calorie-free, although many popular brands of bottled green tea are laden with added sugar. A 20-

ounce bottle of Lipton's Green Tea with Citrus has 200 calories, listing high fructose corn syrup as its second ingredient, according to the Lipton Tea Web site. In comparison, a comparable bottle of Pepsi has 250 calories, also listing high fructose corn syrup as the second ingredient, according to the Pepsi USA Web site.

While green, black and white teas all come from the leaves of the Camellia sinensis tea plant, they are processed differently, giving green tea its distinctive flavor.

Claims that green tea prevents cancer are controversial. However, a promising 2002 study in China with over 18,000 men found that "tea drinkers were about half as likely to develop stomach or esophageal cancer as men who drank little tea, even after adjusting for smoking and other health and diet factors," according to information on the National Cancer Institute's Web site.

A more recent 2007 study at the University of Arizona showed that green tea extract in supplement form can increase the body's production of detoxification enzymes, which help guard against cancer.

While research on the health benefits of green tea is promising, as of now there is not enough evidence to draw any firm conclusions regarding the effect of tea on the body.

Contact Joy Gilmour at jgilmour@liberty.edu.

LU National Guard recruiter promotes military careers

By Amanda Forth
NEWS REPORTER

A new National Guard recruiter, Sgt. Joshua Pederson, has set up residence at Liberty University. When former recruiter Cpl. Mike Hughes was deployed to Iraq, Pederson came to Liberty in August to fill the open position.

"Hughes is a fantastic soldier and a great recruiter. We are all praying that he stays safe and gets home soon," Pederson said.

Pederson has become diligently involved in many ways at Liberty since his arrival. He has helped with College for a Weekend as well as just setting up displays around campus. On Military Appreciation Day, Pederson erected a rock wall and awarded T-shirts to any brave enough to conquer it. He also had a display where students could get information about what the National Guard has to offer.

"In the future, I am planning on having weekly displays on campus to raise awareness about the Guard and the benefits we can offer students here at Liberty," Pederson said. "I will continue working with ROTC in their activities on campus. I am planning on participating in student events like the block party and hopefully will be allowed to attend some sporting events with T-shirt launches (and) that kind of stuff."

The National Guard offers a \$20,000 enlistment bonus just for signing up. Other financial benefits include the GI Bill of \$309 a month. In addition, \$10,500 per year in tuition assistance and \$1,000 per year for books is given. The National Guard requires one weekend a month from students and offers two years of non-deployment. So far, Pederson has been able to help 12 students go through processing with the National Guard.

Pederson and his wife used to be students at Liberty and plan on furthering their education while stationed in the area.

"Liberty is a great place to work and recruit," Pederson said. "The conservative Christian values evident on campus lead directly into a support for our nation's military not seen on the majority of college campuses today. Again, it really speaks volumes about the students here that support for the military is the norm rather than the exception."

"I would like to thank all of you for that. I really look forward to getting to know more and more of the students here and helping those who are interested in serving."

Pederson can be contacted at Joshua.pederson@us.army.mil.

Contact Amanda Forth at aforth@liberty.edu.



ROCK DELP

CONCENTRATION — From left to right, Robert Mullis, Zach Curtis, Kelly Hamren and Sarah Davis-Leonard compete in Quiz Bowl competition.

QUIZ BOWL: Team is victorious for third year in a row

Continued from A1

Each bonus question is worth 10 points, while a wrong answer penalizes a team five points. All participating schools play each other, and the team with the most total wins is awarded first place honors.

Liberty won first place after a three-way tie with the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and Gardner-Webb University (GWU) was broken. Representatives from each school decided

to total the amount of points each team had scored against each other and use that total to decide the winner. Usually, tie situations are settled by choosing the team that had defeated the others earlier, but VMI, GWU and Liberty all had a win against each other.

After totaling the amount of points for each school, Liberty was first with 350 points, VMI second with 290 and GWU third with 220. The University of North Carolina at Asheville and Radford University tied for fourth.

Liberty's team is now headed to regionals at Virginia Tech on Feb. 22-23. In 2006 Liberty won first place with a perfect score by winning all eight rounds, and in 2007, Liberty again won and lost only one round. More information about the Quiz Bowl team can be found by contacting Dr. Emily Heady or Dr. James Nutter.

Contact Kirsten Filiberto at kfiliberto@liberty.edu.

No pulpit required: How chaplains serve unconventionally

By Daniel Martinez
NEWS REPORTER

Many Christians are called to serve in churches or secular vocations while a select few are called to minister to the men and women of the United States military, even on the battlegrounds of Iraq and Afghanistan.

"When I entered the military, I knew I was called to ministry," U.S. Army Lieutenant David Spooner said. "I knew God was calling me to minister to soldiers, and chaplaincy is the means to do that."

Spooner is a 1997 Liberty alumnus in his final year of seminary after three years in the Distance Learning Program. He is also just one of the 55-plus students currently enrolled in Liberty's chaplaincy program.

The program, headed by retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Charlie Davidson, helps prepare students to share the gospel with the men and women in the U.S. military.

"If God has called you to be a chaplain, you can get a master's, get en-

dorsed by the Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary, earn possible tuition scholarships, and answer the calling to serve God and your country," Davidson said.

Liberty's program helps aspiring chaplains fulfill the necessary educational requirements for chaplaincy because of the degrees that the school offers. Chaplains are to earn an undergraduate degree with at least 120 completed semester hours and also earn an accredited Masters of Divinity or master's level specific theological studies degree with 72-plus hours, according to an Army National Guard chaplaincy brochure.

Classes offered at Liberty include Chaplain History, Pastoral Theology, Christian Leadership and Pastoral Counseling, all of which are taught by Davidson.

"Many of my counterparts don't receive the same job-specific training that the chaplaincy program here gives me," Spooner said of Liberty's program, which trains chaplains for any of the armed services.

Davidson's personal field experience has helped in developing the program. He attended Liberty as a student from 1978 to 1982, served over 24 years in the U.S. Air Force and retired in 2006.

While in service, Davidson was the first Air Force chaplain to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003) and was also the first chaplain to receive a Bronze Star Medal. Going by the call sign "prophet," Davidson carried out the mission of a chaplain, which, in his own words is "to visit the troops, provide ministry of presence by offering worship services (about 10 minutes in length) and provide on-the-spot counseling."

He also said that at times during active duty, he led about 15 to 20 worship services a day for the troops.

"They (chaplains) are a reminder of God," Davidson said. "They bring the worship experience to soldiers anytime, anywhere — worship, counseling, you name it."

"Life as an Air Force chaplain is both exciting and rewarding," reads

the home page of the Air Force Chaplaincy Services at www.usafhc.af.mil.

While Spooner is going into the U.S. Army as a chaplain, rather than the Air Force, he experienced the truth of that statement during an internship at Walter Reed Military Hospital in Washington, D.C. two years ago.

Spooner was able to minister to soldiers who had lost limbs and had been traumatized by experiences on the battlefield. Some of the soldiers were in critical or terminal condition.

"If I were to pick one experience from my time there, it would have to be praying with soldiers in the operating room before and after surgery," Spooner said.

Spooner cited Isaiah 6:8 as his motivation: "Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying: 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?'"

"Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'"

Contact Daniel Martinez at dpmartinez@liberty.edu.

Liberty holds first Church Planting Emphasis Week

By Kirsten Filiberto
NEWS REPORTER

Last week the Lovett Center for ministry training held the first Church Planting Emphasis Week. In the back hallway of DeMoss, 25 various booths from different church planting ministries gathered with multiple opportunities available for students to learn about.

Ministry internships for students to help with over the summer, and short term mission trips were all advertised. Students who would be willing to invest their lives in starting new churches were also being sought.

Since Liberty University's vision is to plant 500 churches within the next five years, Church Planting Emphasis Week gave students a chance to learn what church planting is and how they can be involved in both starting and developing new churches.

Liberty vs. Big South B4

Where do the Men's and Women's basketball teams rank in the conference? Jen Slothower provides all the latest stats and information.

Patrick Walker B2

Sports reporter Thomas Lourdeau gets the inside scoop on Liberty sophomore wrestler Patrick Walker and his interesting journey to the wrestling mats atop Liberty Mountain.



BRETT HASTIE

CONFERENCE QUEENS—Junior Megan Frazee towers over a High Point defender en route to a 76-51 win over the Panthers. Frazee and the Lady Flames remain unbeaten in the Big South and look to continue the trend against conference foe Radford on Feb. 6.

Liberty leaps over High Point

LADY FLAMES MOVE ON TO 19-2 AND 4-0 IN THE BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE

By Miranda Fielder
SPORTS REPORTER

On Jan. 29 the Lady Flames beat the young team of High Point University 76-57. Throughout the first half, the Lady Flames quickly had to make adjustments to High Point's physical play and quickness.

"Through our scouting, we were expecting this to happen," said head coach Carey Green. "We wanted to try and prepare the team to expect this."

Junior Rachel Hammond also felt like the Lady Flames were as prepared as they could have been against High Point.

"We knew going into the game it was going to be pretty physical with them," said Hammond. "We had a lot of attacking to do and getting in the paint."

Points seemed to be hard to come by as the Lady Flames only shot 11-for-36 from the floor. They were, however, successful from the charity stripe, finishing 11-for-15 as they built up a 35-22 lead off of 15 High Point turnovers. Juniors Molly Frazee and Megan Frazee each had eight points in the opening 20 minutes.

Even with the Lady Flames on top of High Point going into halftime, the team was noticeably unsettled and shaky.

"We wanted to win," said Green. "Our effort was there, but we were just trying too hard. We were a little tight and playing too hard.

This was the primary weakness for us."

At the start of the second half, the Lady Flames came out with a different swagger. The team was beginning to communicate and settle better. Also, the Lady Flames were making more crucial shots and completing plays to tally up points.

The triplet trio of Megan, Molly and Moriah Frazee scored 53 of the 76 total points, with Megan finishing with 22, Moriah with 20 and Molly with 11 to go along with nine rebounds. Senior Courtney Watkins and junior Rebecca Lightfoot each contributed 10 rebounds in the 76-51 victory while Hammond added eight off the bench.

On Feb. 2, the Lady Flames welcomed the Winthrop Lady Eagles to the Vines Center. It was expected to be a big game, due to the Lady Flames being ranked first in the conference and Winthrop coming in second.

Winthrop's defense stifled the Lady Flames halfcourt offense, but Watkins stole the show, recording two steals which led to fast break points during a crucial 7-0 run to put the Lady Flames up 23-12.

Winthrop clawed back within four points after a 7-0 run of their own, but senior floor leader Allyson Fasnacht drained a three-pointer to cap off a 7-1 Lady Flame run to send the Lady Flames into the break with a slim 34-27 lead.

Please see **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, B2**

Flames hockey splits with ACHA powerhouse Oklahoma

By Will Luper
SPORTS REPORTER

The Liberty Flames men's hockey team, fresh off of back-to-back wins against the Eagles from Robert-Morris College, split this weekend's games against the Sooners at Oklahoma

University. They won Friday night by a score of 3-2 but dropped Saturday's contest 6-2.

After 20 minutes of play on Friday night, the Flames found themselves down by two due to a slow start. However, they came out energized in the second and third, scoring three unanswered goals to seal the win.

"The team did great after the first period," said senior goaltender Mike Binnie. "We sat down during the first intermission and said, 'O.K. boys, let's just put it behind us and move on.'"

They did just that as the second period was the exact mirror opposite of the first.

Junior Pete Masterton got the scoring started for the Flames when a play by the Oklahoma defense put the puck on his stick. With a quick release, the Flames pulled within one.

A few minutes later, sophomore Ryan Hoefler tied the game when his shot from the hash marks found its way over the shoulder of the

Sooners goaltender.

The Flames came out in the third period carrying all the momentum and stopped an early powerplay, keeping the score tied.

Junior John Langabeer was called for a penalty a few minutes later, but after another successful penalty kill, freshman Eric Reynolds sent a pass to Langabeer as he was leaving the penalty box to send him in on a breakaway, scoring the game winner.

Please see **MEN'S HOCKEY, B3**

Women's hockey bags Nittany Lions with weekend wins

By William Armstrong
SPORTS REPORTER

Good starts and even better finishes are always in a team's mindset going into a season. The Liberty University women's hockey team is on the verge of having both a good start and a better finish. The Lady Flames swept the Penn State Nittany Lions for their sixth series sweep of the season. For the last home games of the season, Liberty gave its fans plenty of reasons to cheer with its offensive and defensive

play. At 29-7-1, the Flames rank fourth in their league, the ACHA.

Starting off the weekend with freshman Leanne Niemi in net, the ladies overpowered the Nittany Lions in a 9-3 victory.

Relentless pressure on both sides of the puck during the entire game led Liberty to the victory. The Lady Flames were shorthanded through long stretches of the game, though, leading to several rough portions of the game for Liberty.

"We have good teamwork and put

pressure on the other team," senior Kim Spangler said. "We play really well shorthanded and got many calls against us. We try to sit back and play our game when they throw cheap shots. We've come so far and had lots of injuries."

Junior Kerri Porter added, "The team started off shaky, but we pulled together and got the victory. We were strong protecting our goalie, had trouble with the penalties that were called and as a team got over the penalties."

Late in the first, freshman Kristen Frescura converted an attempt off a feed from freshman Andrea Joyce. With less than five minutes remaining in the opening period, Joyce scored on a breakaway, beating the goalie on her forehand to put the Lady Flames up by

two. Freshman Brooke Harris scored off a faceoff to conclude the first period scoring with Liberty on top 3-0.

Frescura netted another shorthanded goal when she cruised in on the breakaway and put a backhand past the goaltender. Frescura went through three defenders and put her shot in the top left corner of the net. Joyce received a pass from freshman Alaina Nelson and made a move comparable to the classic "Forsberg move" done by NHL player Peter Forsberg.

Freshman Rhiannon Habibullah fed the puck in front of the net to Frescura, who put her one-timer past the goalie for the powerplay goal. Harris scored on an individual shorthanded rush when she fired the puck from below the left circle to the top right corner of

the net to end the second period scoring with the Lady Flames leading 8-3.

Frescura made a move along the boards and sent the puck to Habibullah, who scored on the backhand to finish the game's scoring.

Liberty continued its dominant play into the second game, with Patti Smith in the net, by defeating the Nittany Lions 8-3. The game was rescheduled from Friday to Sunday at 7 a.m.

"Early morning games are tough," Bloomfield said. "We played a good series and liked the results. It was disappointing that we couldn't play them on Friday. It's hard for fans to get up for a game like that, but we did have good support."

Please see **WOMEN'S HOCKEY, B4**

previous week in sports

2 ND	M BASKETBALL vs. Radford	89-88	L
2 ND	W BASKETBALL vs. Winthrop	76-51	W
2 ND	TRACK & FIELD Sabock Challenge Cup		9 TH

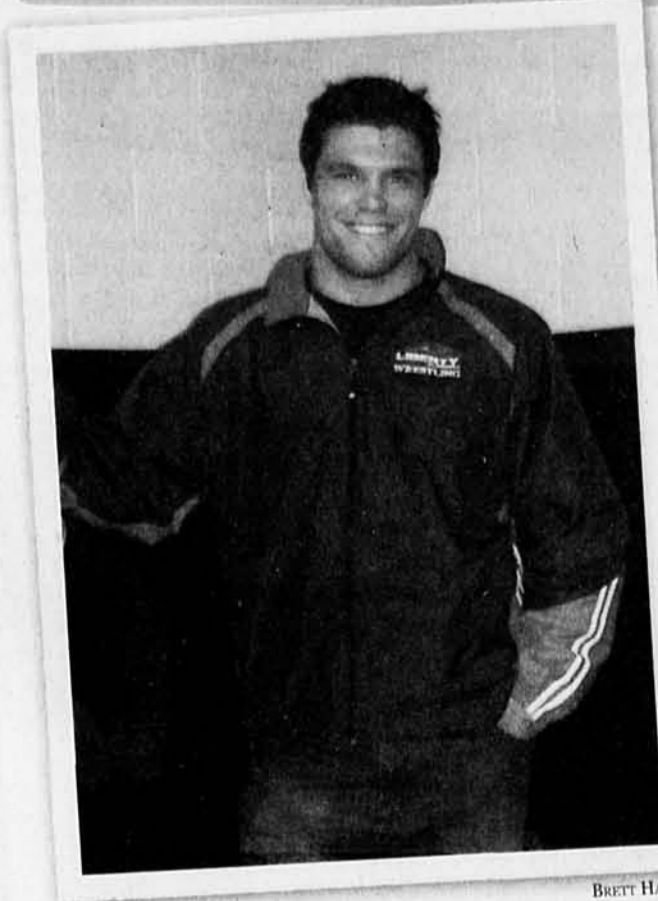
this week in sports on campus

Men's Tennis
vs. Appalachian State
Saturday 6 p.m.

Patrick Walker: Ministering on the mat

That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:10



BRETT HASTIE

By Thomas Lourdeau
SPORTS REPORTER

At 6-foot-3 and approximately 285 pounds, Patrick Walker is both an accomplished collegiate wrestler and an intimidating force on the mat. When watching him compete, one would never know that there is a great feeling of unrest just minutes before his matches.

"I'm just uneasy," Walker said as he described his feelings before a match. "I would rather be anywhere except to go out on the wrestling mat and wrestle. It drives me crazy."

It might be easy to view this attitude as one of weakness or cowardice, but beneath those feel-

ings is a proper perspective that drives Walker beyond his personal goals.

"What I find myself doing a half an hour before my match is humbling myself before the Lord and renewing my commitment to serving Him," Walker said.

Walker has seen it all. From his days as a high school athlete to four years spent as an Army Ranger, including four separate deployments, he has the benefit of experiences of which most of us can only dream.

"I'd say that the military was the avenue that God used to draw me closer to Him," said Walker, who described how the only book he was allowed to bring was one religious in nature.

He chose the Bible and began reading it and attending church. God immediately began working in his life.

"I just gained a perspective of the world that as an American or as a college student, you would never understand," Walker said.

Walker talked about how going days without food or taking long hikes with heavy packs helped shape him into the man he is today. He discussed seeing a man have his head run over by a military vehicle and yet make a full recovery. He explained

how numerous events could only be explained by the work of God, and how those events have affected him.

"Without the military," he said, "I don't think I'd be at a Christian school, studying to be a pastor, and I don't think I'd be this strong in my faith."

When most athletes are asked to recount how they have achieved their success in whatever venue they happen to have, they speak of how hard they have worked, how much they have practiced or how their coaches put together the perfect game plan. While acknowledging those things, Patrick Walker attributes his success to an entirely different source.

"At least half the matches that I win are specifically because the Lord does miraculous things out on the mat," Walker said.

Walker is a man described by his coach, Jesse Castro, as someone who is much more concerned about his teammates than himself.

"He is at his best when he's ministering to his team. This is his church," Castro said, who also spoke of Walker's leadership.

Walker's leadership, however, is as much focused on the spiritual walk of his teammates as it is on giving advice on the mat.

"I hate to be the one to tell you this, but he doesn't even like wrestling," Castro said, who says that Walker would much rather spend his time ministering to his teammates.

"My goal is not to be a national champion, or an All-American. I really don't care," said Walker. "I've done more important and harder things in the military, and right now I want to focus on spiritual aspects. I'm here for the specific purpose of making an eternal, spiritual impact on the wrestling team."

Walker has enjoyed a great deal of success this year, and he attributes much of it to his experience in the military.

"The military does install a certain measure of self-reliance, self control and taking the initiative to do the right thing," said Walker. "If you want something bad enough, you will structure your life in order to achieve that goal."

Walker is more interested in the eternal significance of what he does on and off the mat and taking advantage of his opportunities to impact as many people as possible while preparing for his future vocation as a pastor. He knows that after having gone through the military and college life, he will be prepared for whatever else comes his way.

"Juggling wrestling, a personal life, academics and everything is by far the hardest thing I've done," said Walker. "Any time, I can look back and say it can't get any worse than that time in my life."

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Remains undefeated in Big South

Continued from B1

During the first half, Moriah Frazee scored 10 points and Fasnacht contributed nine. Senior Courtney Wat-

kins scored eight points with four rebounds.

The Lady Flames caught fire in the second half as Watkins nailed a corner three-ball 15 seconds into the half, im-

mediately putting Liberty up by 10.

Liberty's defense held Winthrop scoreless for a six-minute stretch and used that time to build up a 22-point lead. A Lightfoot three-pointer, one of five in the second half for the Lady Flames, put Liberty up by 29 with 3:06 left. The Lady Flames would cruise to a 76-51 victory, moving their record to 19-2 and 4-0 in the Big South Conference.

Moriah Frazee finished the game with perfect statistics as she shot 5-for-5 from the field goals and 6-for-6 from the line foul for 16 points. Watkins and Megan Frazee each had 13 points on the game, with Watkins contributing five steals, seven rebounds and three assists.

The Lady Flames will travel to in-state rival Radford University on Wednesday night for a 7 p.m. show-

down with the now second-place Highlanders before Saturday night's men's and women's doubleheader in the Vines Center against UNC-Asheville at 4 p.m.

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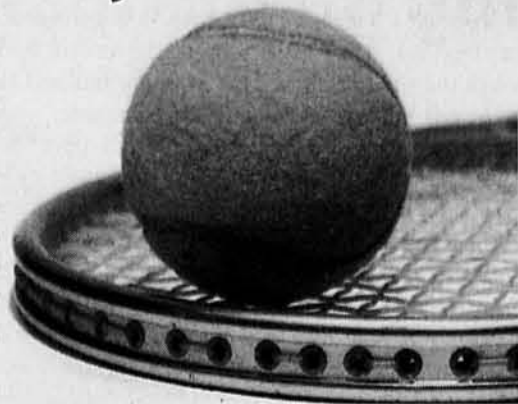


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Reyes leads Flames to victory, Lady Flames suffer setback



By Adam Trent
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Liberty men's tennis team captured a big win this past weekend against the University of Richmond Spiders indoors at the Sports Racket while the women went on the road and lost a competitive match against West Virginia University of the Big East.

The Lady Flames, after posting their best fall season ever, began the season by traveling to regional power West Virginia on Friday to take on the Mountaineers. Liberty got things started with a bang as freshman Jordan Jenkins and junior Ekaterina Kuznetsova took the No. 1 dou-

bles match, 8-2. Freshman Stephanie Brown and senior Martyna Hanusz took an 8-4 decision at No. 2 doubles to give Liberty the doubles point.

Unfortunately, youth and inexperience caught up to the Lady Flames in singles. The more experienced Mountaineers took five of six singles matches to claim a 5-2 victory over Liberty. Jenkins was the lone winner in singles, taking down senior Stacey Percival 5-7, 6-4, 6-1. Freshmen Brown and Hannah Fick fought hard at the number three and five positions, respectively, but both lost 6-4, 6-3 decisions to their veteran West Virginia opponents.

"I think we really surprised them when we won the doubles point so easily. The surprise was over when we moved to singles," Head Coach Chris Johnson said. "They came out ready to play hard and took an early lead in most of the matches. We never really recovered from that. Jordan Jenkins continued to impress as she took down a very good No. 1 senior player for West Virginia."

Despite the setback, the young Lady Flames look to use it as a learning experience to give them a successful season.

"We had the best recruiting class ever in the history of Liberty women's tennis last fall," Johnson said.

"The whole team comes every day to work hard in practice, and we are very focused on our goals," he said. "West Virginia is a tough team to start the season but gave us so much to work on as we move forward. Although our team is still very young, I am excited to watch their progress as we move through this season."

On Saturday night, the men hosted in-state rival Richmond indoors at the Sports Racket. The Spiders have been a tough opponent in the history of Flames tennis, and this year would be no exception.

Richmond started the match by winning at No. 2 and No. 3 doubles to take the doubles point. Sophomore Chad Simpson and junior Jaroslav Trojan provided the lone win for the Flames as they took down Chris Louis and Dave Berry, 8-2, at the No. 1 position.

Down but not out, the Flames rallied to take four singles matches to win 4-3. Simpson gave Liberty its first point at the No. 1 singles position by defeating Doug Banker 6-4, 6-4. The Spiders responded with a 6-1, 6-2 decision over sophomore Rafael Riso. Senior and team captain Sebastian Pena gave Liberty its second win of the night, defeating Chris Louis 6-2, 7-6(4) at the No. 2 position.

Richmond's Michael Sommer won 7-5, 7-5 over Trojan at the No. 3 spot while Liberty freshman Leandro Schujmann defeated Sami Belakhlef 7-5, 7-5 at the No. 4 position to knot the match 3-3.

With the match to be decided at No. 6 singles, 5-foot-6 sophomore Juan Reyes calmly defeated 6-foot-11 senior Drew Crank of Richmond, 6-2, 6-3 to give the Flames a 4-3 win over the Spiders. "Last year we lost 6-1 to Richmond. This year we were able to pull out the victory despite one of our top players being out with an injury," said Johnson.

"I think that it really shows how far this team has come in one year and the type of commitment we possess to achieving our goals. Last year we had five freshmen and no seniors. This year our guys are much more experienced and confident. It was great to see the improvements we have made in practice translate into the match," he said.

Both teams return to action on Wednesday with a match at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C.

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Men's Hockey: Splits weekend series with OU

Continued from B1

"It was good for the team to pick up a comeback win after starting off slow in the game. We just fought back as a team," Langabeer said.

"It's a tremendous boost for us. We had a rough weekend at Davenport, but we know we can play and contend

with any of the teams in the league. We know we are a good team, and it is just a matter of us playing 60 minutes every night," Binnie said.

The Flames continued to struggle on the powerplay, however, as they were held off the score sheet when they had the man advantage. Even when the Sooners were in the penalty box, Binnie had to make a few big saves to keep

the Flames in the game.

As bad as the powerplay was, though, the penalty kill was just as good. The Sooners were also held without a goal when the Flames were down a man.

"I think that we gave up a few too many odd man rushes on the powerplay, and that's something that we want to stick away from," said Head Coach Kirk Handy. "The second and third period, we played a great game."

Saturday night, the Flames started off just as hot when team captain Zac Bauman put his team up by a goal early in the first period. Oklahoma answered quickly, though, as they scored five unanswered goals, two of which were on

the powerplay.

Even though sophomore Dave Semenyina scored to pull Liberty within three, it did not provide much relief as the Sooners scored once more to send the Flames home with a loss.

"We had a really good first period but had a rough second. We didn't play too bad in the third, and it could've been different. We've got to learn to play back-to-back games like that consistently," said Handy.

Bauman agreed. "We're not putting together 60 minutes in a game right now. We weren't mentally in it the whole game."

The Flames are already looking

ahead to the National ACHA Tournament, and their main focus is on consistency.

"If we can come together as a team and give it 100 percent, then that's all you need to do to win it, and we have the team to do it," Bauman said.

Liberty faces 20th ranked Slippery Rock next at the LaHaye Ice Center on Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the box office.

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Track attacks in full force at PSU

By David Hunt
SPORTS REPORTER

As the temperature dropped down into the low 20s in Lynchburg on Saturday, the Ashenfelter III Track in University Park, Pa. enjoyed a nice burn from the spikes of several Liberty indoor track and field athletes. Both the men's and women's teams traveled to the Sykes-Sabock Challenge Cup for a two-day competition over the weekend.

Junior Jamie Watson kicked things off with an 800-meter performance Saturday that topped even her own school record time. Watson scorched through a 2:14.61 four-lap race, hanging on for 11th in a fiercely competitive women's field that saw four athletes drop under 2:10.

"Jamie really took it out strong and held her position," teammate Jordan McDougal said. "After the first 400 meters she looked like she could get her record, and she did."

Another Liberty record fell on Saturday as sophomore Chenoa Freeman sprinted through the 400-meter race. Freeman sprinted to a 56.09 finish, breaking a record that has stood for 16 years (previously held by Gina Turner).

Freeman also competed in the 200-meter race, finishing in 8th place at 25:17.

The Lady Flames also got help from a pair of distance runners in freshman Kati Albright and junior Rebekah Ricksecker. Albright crossed the line two ticks under five minutes for the mile, run-

ning a 4:58.76 and capturing ninth place. Ricksecker came in just three seconds later, in 5:01.12, good for 13th.

The night before, several Lady Flames put Liberty in a scoring position, as seniors Andrea Beckles, Carol Jefferson and Charlene Hibbert showed the depth of the Lady Flames squad.

Beckles claimed third in the 60-meter dash (7.72). Jefferson took fifth in the 5,000-meter run (17:39) and Hibbert jumped to a fourth place finish in the long jump (18-5).

"It was a fun race," Jefferson said after crossing the line. "I wasn't paying too much attention to time, just on passing people, so I didn't get near my personal best but, hey, it felt good coming from a long, hard cross country season."

"I think everyone did an amazing job to compete with a lot of good teams out there," senior Marie Williams said. "It's a good stepping stone for us, and it should pave the way for the Big South Championship in a few weeks."

The women's team ended the meet in ninth place overall, with Penn State winning the team competition.

The Liberty men were led once again by their outstanding throwing duo in seniors Jon Hart and Clendon Henderson. The two took the fifth and seventh positions in the weight throw, heaving long tosses of 64-5.75 (Hart) and 62-11.25 (Henderson), respectively.

Henderson continued his throwing dominance

in the shotput, as he took first place with a toss of 58-6, winning by over a foot and a half. Hart followed up with an eighth place throw of 52-5.5.

Other scorers on the men's side included juniors Matt Parker and Phil Leineweber.

Parker competed in several events, starting with the 60-meter hurdles, where he finished seventh in 8.29 seconds. Parker then went on to take fourth in the high jump (6-11) and eighth in the 4X 400 meter relay, where he was joined by senior Tim O'Donnell, Brandon Hoskins and Leineweber.

Leineweber did not stop with just the relay. He went on to run a pair of individual races, the 200 and 400-meter dashes. Leineweber took fourth in the 200, with an IC4A qualifying time of 22.16. In the 400, Leineweber took fifth, with a 48.78 clocking.

The men's team pulled together to take ninth place as a team.

"I think we're ready to take on the championship meets coming up," senior Jarvis Jelen said. "We've put together some good meets, and a lot of our team members are just starting to come into their own."

The Liberty teams do not have much of a break, however, as they compete again this weekend at home in the Liberty Quad. The races begin at 4 p.m. and will serve as Liberty's last home indoor track and field competition.

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Flames fall short at Radford



By Jeffery Scott
SPORTS REPORTER

The Liberty men's basketball team had its five-game winning streak snapped Saturday night by the Radford University Highlanders as the Flames dropped an 89-88 decision.

In the 51st meeting between the two teams, Liberty looked to ride the momentum of strong play from senior forward Alex McLean and senior guard Tee Jay Bannister. The game began well for the Flames as they hopped out to an 8-3 lead early in the contest. Liberty held the lead until the 9:22 mark, when a bucket from guard Martell McDuffy gave the Highlanders the 13-12 advantage.

Normally shooting deadeye from the three-point line, Liberty struggled to knock down the long ball. Liberty's first three of the night came

from senior guard Rell Porter, which was his 20th of the year and set the score at 22-21.

After teeter-tottering the lead, a three-pointer by McDuffy put the Highlanders ahead 28-24, and another exchange of baskets set the halftime score at 32-26.

In the first half, Liberty shot a cold 8-for-21 from the floor, amounting to 38 percent. The team turned the ball over nine times, compared to six for the Highlanders.

Radford shot 13-for-28 from the floor, good for 46 percent. McDuffy had 12 first half points to lead all scorers.

Liberty started well in the second half with a B.J. Jenkins steal and bucket, cutting the lead to four. Radford then went on a 15-5 run, gaining a 14-point lead at 49-35 with 13:22 remaining.

McLean picked up his fourth foul with 11:41 left in the game, and the Flames would have to claw back into the game without their star big man. Porter would nail a three-ball to put the score at 51-48 with 10:27 left to go.

Even though the Flames roared back, each time Radford had a reply. Big shot after big shot, the Highlanders answered everything Liberty threw at them. It looked like the end, though, when Radford went up by 10 with 3:53 left.

But the Flames would not give up, and with help from the three-point shooting of Porter and freshman Jeremy Anderson, Liberty cut the lead to four at 76-72 with 1:35 remaining. The final minute of the contest actually took about 15 or 20 minutes with a barrage of scoring, fouling and timeouts. Bannister knocked down two of his 16 consecutive free throws with five seconds left to put the score at 87-85.

After a pair of McDuffy free throws

put Radford ahead by four, Bannister flew down the court and sank a three-pointer with three-tenths of a second left, setting the score at 89-88. Radford inbounded the ball and ran out the clock to end the game.

Liberty recovered its poor first half shooting and went 25-for-53 for 47.2 percent. Radford shot 29-for-59, good for 49.2 percent.

The Flames were led in scoring by Jenkins, who had 21 points and only missed two shots from the floor. Bannister followed with 19 points and nine assists. He continued his free-throw wizardry, going a perfect 16-for-16 from the line. McLean and Smith contributed 10 points apiece. Radford was led by McDuffy, who had 22 points.

The Flames head to battle High Point Wednesday with tipoff set for 7 p.m.

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How Liberty stacks up against the rest of the Big South

By Jen Slothower
COPY EDITOR

Liberty's Lady Flames have surged to a 19-2 record, including a perfect 9-0 at home and 4-0 in the Big South Conference.

Liberty is dominating the Big South. The team's conference wins have come by an average of 25 points. Liberty leads the Big South in points per game (72.3), free throw percentage (74.6) and field goal percentage (56.4).

Junior Megan Frazee leads the Big South in scoring with 17.5 points a game, which puts her in the top 40 women's scorers in the nation. She also averages 8.5 rebounds and shoots 86.4 percent from the charity stripe, which leads the team (minimum five attempts). Moriah Frazee has contributed 13.1 points on 56.4 percent shooting, which leads all Flames starters.

The Lady Flames face two conference foes this week: Radford (3-1 conference, 16-7 overall) this Wednesday and UNC-

Asheville (1-3 conference, 10-11 overall).

The men's basketball team is currently 10-0 at the Vines Center, earning it the distinction of being the only undefeated men's team at home in the Big South. Alex McLean, the leading scorer for Liberty with 16 points a game, has had three straight double-doubles. He ranks second in total rebounds in the conference.

The Flames face two conference games this week as they look to stay on top of their record in the Big South. They will face off against High Point on Wednesday evening (both teams have 4-3 records) before hosting UNC-Asheville (7-0 conference, 18-4 overall), the conference leader, on Saturday.

Liberty is currently second in the Big South in team free throw shooting, making 72.9 percent of their tries, and third in the conference in field goal shooting with 47 percent.

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Big South Rankings

Men's Basketball		
Team	Conference	Overall
UNC-Asheville	7-0	18-4
Winthrop	5-2	14-8
High Point	4-3	12-9
Liberty	4-3	12-10
Coastal Carolina	3-4	10-10
VMI	2-4	10-10
Radford	1-5	6-15
Charleston So.	1-6	7-15

Women's Basketball		
Team	Conference	Overall
Liberty	4-0	19-2
Radford	3-1	16-7
Winthrop	2-2	14-8
High Point	2-3	10-10
Charleston So.	2-3	7-15
Coastal Carolina	1-3	13-6
UNC-Asheville	1-3	10-11

WOMEN'S HOCKEY: Ready for Ohio State

Continued from B1

Frescura and Joyce both recorded hat tricks, Sophomore Sara Niemi had a goal and two assists, and Harris notched a goal for the Flames.

The game was similar to the first game as the Flames scored the first goal, but the first period ended tied at one. Liberty took a 4-2 lead at the end of the second period but never broke the game open until the third period.

Habibullah was sent to the hospital after receiving a slash to her ankle after a whistle. That led to a rough last couple of minutes involving fights before the final whistle.

"I was thankful the girls played a smart game, because it's hard to stay focused when there are cheap shots and they aren't getting called," Bloomfield said.

Liberty heads north to play its final series of the season at Ohio State on Feb. 9-10.

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wsarmstrong@liberty.edu.

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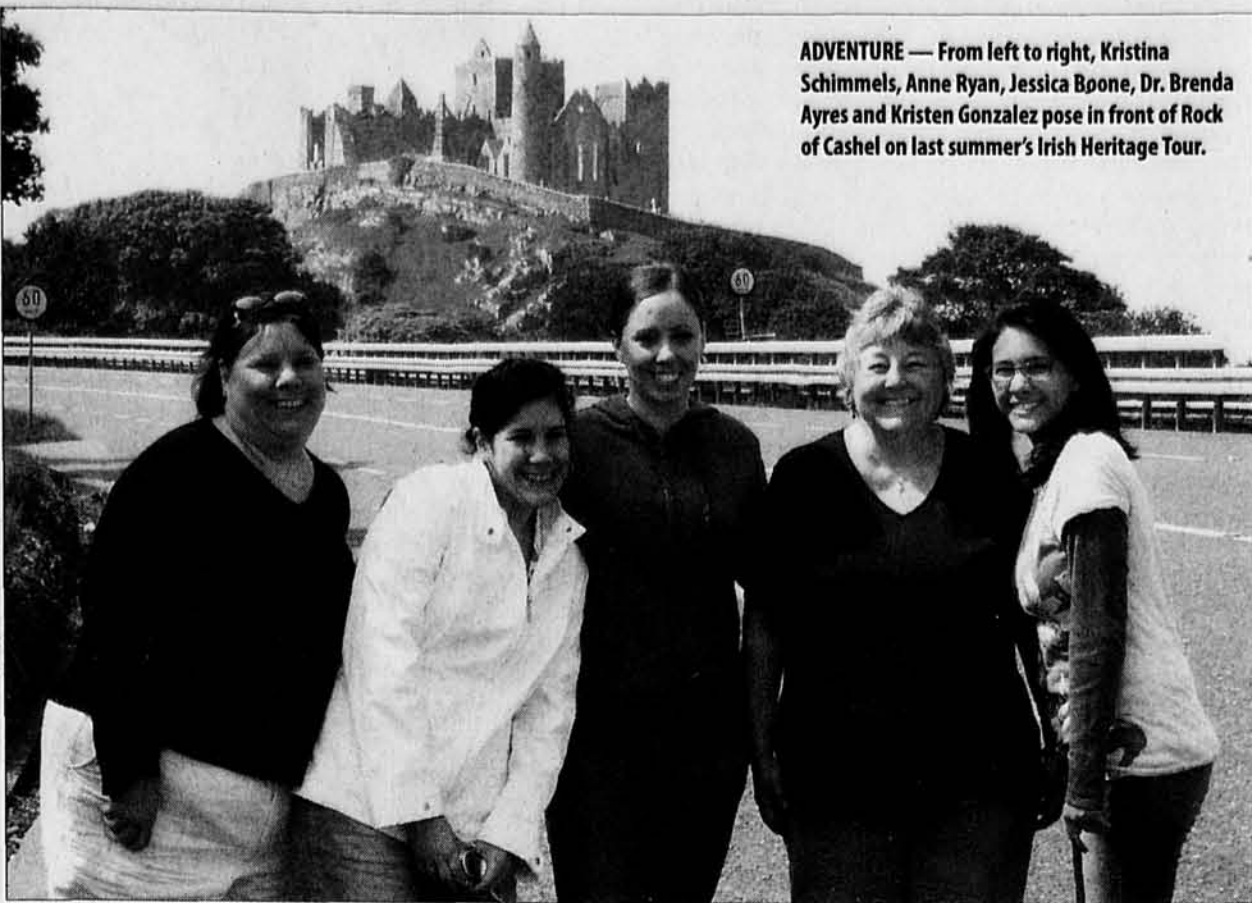
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ADVENTURE — From left to right, Kristina Schimmels, Anne Ryan, Jessica Boone, Dr. Brenda Ayres and Kristen Gonzalez pose in front of Rock of Cashel on last summer's Irish Heritage Tour.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Planning your summer vacation? Travel abroad and explore Ireland with Liberty

By Aubrey Blankenship
LIFE! REPORTER

Last summer Liberty University student Kristen Gonzalez rode the Tube in England, stood in Shakespeare's London home and took in the breathtaking landscapes of Ireland and Wales. She toured with professors and classmates, receiving academic credit for traveling abroad.

"I love Europe, and the experience as a whole was so valuable," Gonzalez said. "Many students live in a sort of American bubble and have never experienced another culture."

College travel abroad programs are steadily increasing in the U.S. as students reach for opportunities to form an international perspective. Several Liberty departments offer rich academic experiences outside of the classroom in the form of yearly trips abroad.

Led by professors of history, English and modern languages, and business, and open to students of any major, Liberty's trips have included tours of Ireland, Wales, Scotland and Great Britain, as well as Spain, Berlin, Prague, Paris and Brussels.

Upcoming this year are trips such as Spring Break in London (already full) and the Irish Heritage Tour on May 19 through 29 (the sign-up deadline is Feb. 9).

While some trips may center on language, history or business, the 2008 Irish Heritage Tour, hosted by the English Department, will explore firsthand the literature, culture and history of Ireland.

"The focus of the Irish Heritage Tour is on literature, but you can't study literature without knowing the history," said Dr. Brenda Ayres, Eng-

lish professor and tour host.

Ayres has led a trip to the United Kingdom (UK) every year for the past five years and is eager to experience Ireland with a new group of students this May. To enhance the learning experience and to give students academic credit, she offers a three-week, Web-based summer class — ENGL 497: Irish Literature.

"If a student studies ahead of time, the trip will mean much more to him," Ayres said. "My students study the writings of the most important Irish writers from the beginning of Irish history as well as the connection between Christianity and Ireland."

Although they are not on a mission trip, the professors and students who travel abroad do not leave their Christianity behind.

"Every time we have gone abroad, we have witnessed to lots of people," Ayres said. "It really is a mission field. The church is dying in the UK. Even as Christianity was handed to us, we must now hand it back."

Trying to provide such experiences to as many students as possible, the professors work to keep the cost of trips low. Covering everything but souvenirs and lunches, the Irish Heritage Tour costs students \$2400, and monthly payment plans are available as well as student loans through Liberty's Financial Aid office.

"This trip was just so affordable and easy to apply for since it was through the school," said Sarah Coffey, a student who will be traveling to Ireland this summer.

"I expect to be educated on Irish history and culture, have lots of fun and see a gorgeous place I have dreamed of seeing for years!"

Like the English department, the history department is continuing to offer yearly, affordable trips abroad. Dr. Timothy Saxon and Mrs. Gail Saxon lead students with a love of history through significant areas of Europe.

"Our focus, of course, is history," Gail said. "On our London tour we will see lots of main sites, including the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, Thames River and the British Museum. We have fun, learn and always make new friends."

Those who travel abroad do take away more than just an educational experience.

"I enjoyed sightseeing, but my favorite aspect was getting to know the students on trip," Kristina Schimmels, a participant in the 2007 Irish tour, said. "I left Ireland having new friends. That is the most valuable thing."

The year 2009 will bring more tours, including a possible trip to China headed by the history department and a tour of London and Canterbury, Paris, Berlin, Prague, Budapest and Vienna by the School of Business. Liberty's travel abroad programs continue to grow and offer incredible international experiences to students.

"I believe everyone needs to have a passport and travel abroad at least once in their lives," Schimmels said. "And there is nothing better than seeing a great London musical or actually being in Ireland. It is amazingly beautiful."

If interested in traveling abroad this year, please contact Dr. Brenda Ayres at bayres@liberty.edu for more information on the Irish Heritage Tour.

Contact Aubrey Blankenship at
anblankenship@liberty.edu.

Career Premier takes the work out of job hunting

By Anna Blevins
LIFE! REPORTER

For most junior and senior college students, the hunt to find the perfect job has begun. However, finding the time and opportunity to search for jobs and internships is often a difficult task. Liberty University's Career Center grants a unique chance to find and contact prospective employers.

The Career Center helps hosts the upcoming Career Premier, which will take place in Salem, Va. on Feb. 12 from 1 to 5 p.m. This is the eighth year that the career premiere has taken place and the sixth year that Liberty has taken part in the event. Liberty is one of eight schools that helps host the career premiere. Many Virginia schools have partnered together in the sponsorship.

The career premiere is the largest premiere that Liberty University's Career Center helps sponsor. Trisha Tolar, the events coordinator for the Career Center, said the event allows around 55 to 60 employers to come and offer internship and employment opportunities to college students. The employers represent large and small corporations all over the United States. Corporations like Crate & Barrel and BB&T Bank are a few of the employers that will be at the career premiere this year.

The Career Premier is a prime opportunity for students to make contacts and to network. Tolar said this was one of the best ways to meet future employers or contacts, although many students do not take full advantage of the premiere.

Just the experience of talking to prospective employers is good for students. However, students can submit their resumes online for employ-

ers to look at before they come to the premiere. This allows for students to showcase their resume, interview for jobs and broaden their horizons in looking for employment.

"Don't limit yourselves. Talk to everyone," Tolar said. "There are all kinds of employers with many different positions available."

Tolar encouraged students to go out and meet all types of prospective employers in all different positions. The premiere is a place for students who want experience in a wide array of possible careers.

Tolar advises that students need to be professional when coming to the Career Premier. Bringing a resume to the event is one way to show professionalism to prospective employers.

The Career Center offers a free cover letter and resume critique. Students can e-mail their cover letters and resumes to careers@liberty.edu. The Career Center will then critique them and send them back to the student.

Students can register for the career premiere by e-mailing the Career Center or visiting the office in DeMoss Hall 2016. Students should include their major and minor, telephone number and school year in the e-mail. The premiere also provides free transportation to the fair. Students may request a ride by stopping by the career center or requesting it in the e-mail when they register.

As many students are looking for internship opportunities, employment opportunities or professional experience, the Career Premier is a valuable chance to gain this understanding.

Contact Anna Blevins at
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Radio station is now streaming online

By Claire Melsi
LIFE! REPORTER

Not having a radio is no excuse to miss listening to Liberty University's student-run radio station, 90.9 The Light. TheLightOnline.com, which gets about 1,200 hits per week according to station manager Jamie Hall, was recently revamped to provide more fun and entertainment than ever before.

"We try to provide an entertaining place for people who want radio you can see," said Hall, who has been managing the program since 2000. "We are adding more and more content, including clips of our shows, photos from around campus and news stories."

Please see LIGHT, B6



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Jamie Hall, station manager

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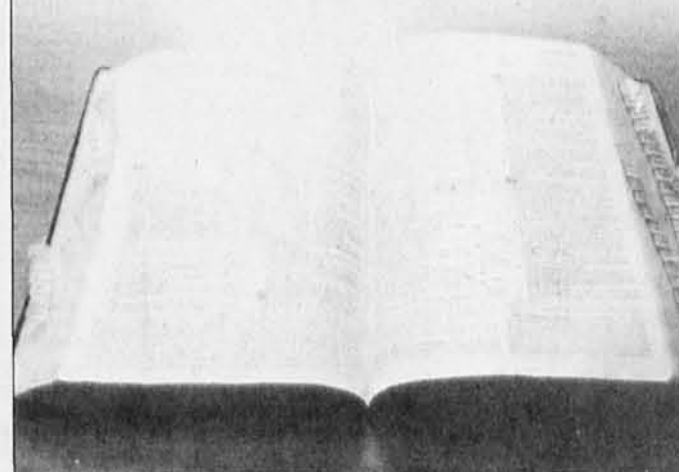
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Professor's 'Passages in Portrait' watercolor reveals family history

By Amanda Sullivan
LIFE EDITOR

For many students, art is simply a form of beauty meant for admiration, but for Sandra Day Slayton, art is a form of inspiration and personal reflection. Slayton garnered her inspiration from her family and the trials they endured. Her exhibit, *Passages in Portrait*, is a representation of her life story. The exhibit opens Feb. 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Slayton is an Assistant Professor of Communications at Liberty University. She has worked for Liberty since 1999 and has a Masters in Graphic Design from the University of Michigan as well as a Masters of Fine Arts from Radford University.

Slayton's family history is rich with detail. She is the oldest child in a family that valued order and discipline. Slayton said that her mother's strict hand played a key

role in her artistic development, as her mother would punish her by placing her on a chair in a corner, allowing Slayton's imagination to run wild.

"I discovered rainbows in the light beams from the windows in the door and many dogs and horses in the wood-grained paneled walls in our mobile home," Slayton said. "My mother was instrumental in developing my imagination."

Slayton's father also played an important role in the advancement of her artistic talents. Her father, a World War II veteran, worked as a welder. Because of the extensive traveling required by Slayton's father, she was forced to restart her life almost every three months in a new neighborhood.

"I became an introverted child who would rather stay in the house and play than take on the bullies," Slayton said.

Slayton's mother noticed her

reclusive tendencies and, rather than force her into potentially uncomfortable situations, handed her daughter clay and crayons for enjoyment. The materials were Slayton's first real art supplies, spurring on the future artist.

The undeniable family involvement in Slayton's artistic development played a key role in the inspiration for the *Passages in Portrait* exhibit. Slayton's exhibit features different representations and stories of several family members. The paintings were completed in watercolor.

"This body of work, *Passages in Portrait*, is a return to my artistic roots in the choice of watercolor as the medium as well as the subject matter represented in this exhibit," Slayton said.

After the decision to revert to her original love of watercolor painting, Slayton spent many hours and weeks working to achieve the

desired effects in her paintings. The paintings presented at the exhibit were all painted between the years 2005 and 2006.

Slayton works hard to achieve excellence in her painting, but that is not her only goal.

"My heart's desire is to give my Father, God, pleasure," Slayton said. "When I paint, I feel his pleasure."

She also hopes that she will inspire students to use their God-given talent to create beautiful works of art.

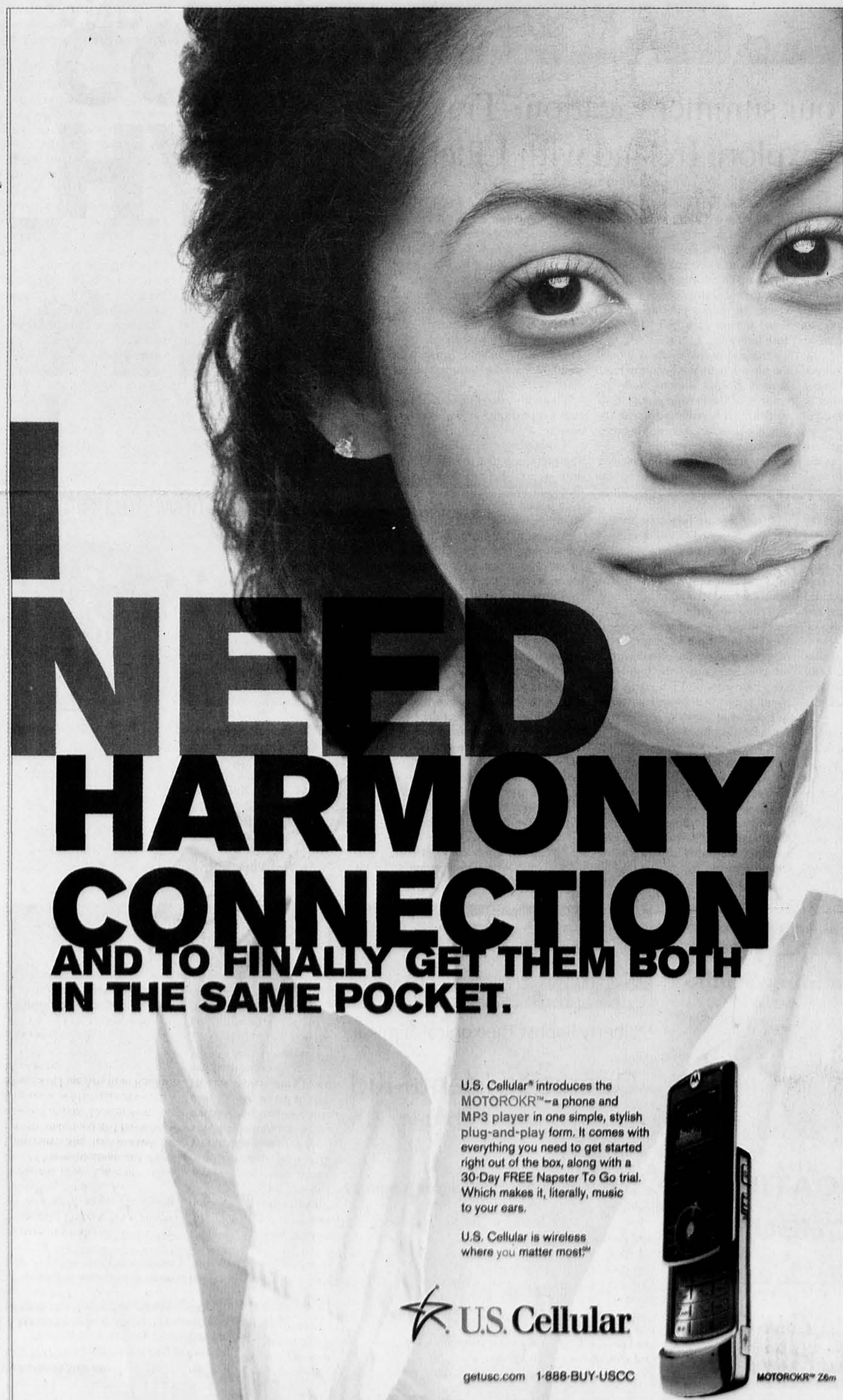
Sandra Day Slayton's *Passages in Portrait* exhibit will be held Feb. 7-29 in the Visual Communication Arts Gallery in room 160, Studio B. The exhibit is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Mondays from 2 to 4 p.m.

Contact Amanda Sullivan at
amsullivan3@liberty.edu.



PHOTO PROVIDED

LIFE STORY — Slayton details her life in her paintings.



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LIGHT: Revamped web site receives 1,200 hits per week

Continued from B5

"In this day of instant information, we want to be more than just a radio station. We want to provide material beyond that which will benefit our listeners and further our ministry."

The site began streaming live radio about three years ago. Prior to that, the only live programs were occasional sporting events. Recently, sound quality of the stream went to the next level with a new 48 kilowatt-hour bit stream.

The Light Online also continues to boost student interest with the addition of new sections, such as the comics page. Paul Watson, the assistant Web manager since August 2007, came up with the idea for the section. Anyone may submit cartoons to the station for a chance to be published on the page, which is updated a few times a month.

The Web site is gaining momentum thanks to the new changes.

"This year, we've completely revamped the entire site," Assistant Web Manager Paul Watson said. "Now we have newscasts, interviews, comics, weekly and daily updates, the Charity Challenge, better live streaming and an improved look. What we have done has changed the way the site used to be run, setting the bar for the site's future. We have taken an 'out with the old, in with the new' approach, which I think has helped us give people a better site that they will want to check often."

The site also serves as a center of prayer for those in the community, according to Assistant Manager and Production Editor Sean Langille.

"We do offer a section on the Web site for anyone in need of prayer to get in touch with our station chaplain, and as a station, we are committed to praying for those individuals," Langille said.

The Light team has been working to reach the hearts of Central Virginians and beyond since its start in February 1980. The station reaches a wide spectrum with a variety of Christian genres from country to rap, which appeals to people with a number of tastes in music.

"I believe that 90.9 provides a Christian alternative to the immoral and ungodly trends in mainstream music today in a relevant way," said Justin Day, the assistant production editor. "Music is a powerful thing, and the best thing we can do with that power is point people to Christ."

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