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The Liberty Champion

Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Vol. 15, No. 17

The verdict is in ...

Three found guilty in E.C. Glass trial

By CHRIS EDWARDS and
TIM FARRANT

Nearly one week has passed since Rev. Flip Benham of Operation Rescue National turned himself in at a Lynchburg jail after sentencing in connection with a protest at E.C. Glass High School Nov. 10.

But, the Hill City continues to buzz over promises by two Christian groups of a rally beginning March 13 in support of Benham.

Rev. Benham and John D. Reyes,

another event organizer, were each convicted of trespassing and sentenced to 12 months in jail — with six months suspended — and fined \$500 by Judge Richard S. Miller during the trial at Lynchburg Circuit Court on Feb. 17. Jeffrey L. Brown, a freshman at LU, was also convicted of trespassing and sentenced to six months in jail — with all but 15 days suspended — and fined \$200.

Defense lawyers for all parties, in a Feb. 18 story in the Lynchburg News and Advance, spoke out against the sentences and promised to appeal. However, the

next day Rev. Benham turned himself in to the jail to begin serving his sentence. His lawyers cited a Virginia law that prohibited Benham from leaving the state during the appeals process as his reason for turning himself in. Reyes and Brown remain free on bond during the appeals process.

The reaction

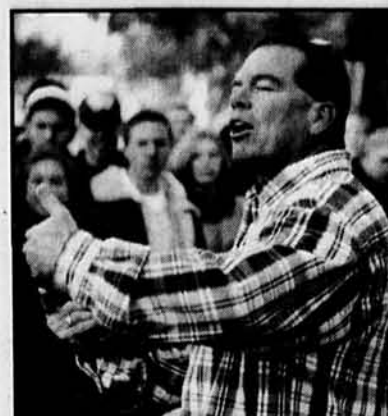
Reactions to the sentencing around LU campus and Lynchburg have been mixed. David Benham, LU baseball player and son of Rev. Benham, called the sentence

"the most ludicrous sentence my dad has ever received."

According to an Associated Press report, Rev. Benham said he has served 30-day jail sentences several times after being convicted of trespassing at abortion clinics around the country.

Bruce Green, Benham's lawyer, questioned the extent of the sentence in a News and Advance article. "This is the most heavy-handed travesty of justice I've ever seen," said Green. Both Rev. Benham

Please see BENHAM, Page 2



SHAWN ELDREDGE

ONE FOR THE CAUSE — Operation Rescue front-man Flip Benham.

Labs receive new computers

By BILL MEYER
Champion Reporter

Liberty students now have access to the latest in state-of-the-art technology due to a major purchase of Dell and Macintosh computers. According to the Larry Ferguson, who is the director of administrative services and purchases, 31 Macintosh and 131 Dell computers have been leased.

Science Hall 101 will house 49 of the Dell computers, 25 Dells will be in SH 103 and another 12 units will be in the library. The remaining Dells will be distributed among administrators for graphics use.

Of the 31 new Macintosh units, 10 will be distributed to the faculty. The remaining 21 are designated for student usage in SH 100. The Macs will be used predominantly for graphics.

The Macs are top-of-the-line products. "We have 31 Macintosh G3s," Dr. Steve Troxel, an associate professor of communications, said. "It's the latest thing Mac has out there."

The Dell computers are also high-line machines. Most of them feature Pentium II-233 mhz processors, 64MB of RAM, 20X CD-ROM drives and 2.1GB hard drives. The machines in SH 103 have an even higher hard drive capacity 6.4GB.

The upgraded computers will reduce the time that students need to complete their assignments and projects.

"A lot of the problems that students have been having are relat-

ed to computer speed," said David Bielawa, an academic information technology resource center supervisor. "It takes a long time to log in, and it takes a long time to surf the Internet. These machines will be much faster. They'll have a lot of memory, so the day-to-day operations will go more quickly."

Naturally, Dell will stand behind its product for the duration of the lease. "These are three year lease computers. And if we have any hardware problems, we have a next-day service guarantee with Dell," Aaron Mathes, information technology resource center supervisor, said.

"We'll turn the Dell computers over after three years, and we'll send them back," Ferguson said. "We have the option to buy if we want to, but typically we want to turn them over because the technology's changing. We'll get new computers then."

The Macintosh units are being leased for two years. "The way the Apple lease works," Ferguson said, "we're going to own the computers. So we'll own two-year-old Apples."

"We've made some good strides this year to get everything up to current levels," Senior Manager Ralph Brasure said. "Our concept is, every year as the students come back, they'll see changes in this area; with newer equipment, better facilities and more opportunities available to them."

"The idea is to try to be on the leading edge of computer technology," Ferguson said, "so that the students will be very marketable."

"The idea is to try to be on the leading edge of computer technology so that the students will be very marketable."

— Larry Ferguson
Director, Administrative
Services and Purchases

ACTING CIVILIZED

History Department re-enactment brings Civil War era to life

By BILL MEYER
Champion Reporter

On March 5-7, the Liberty University Department of History will present its second annual seminar on the Civil War. This year's session will be entitled "Civil War Voices."

The seminar will feature speakers who perform first person impressions of famous Civil War personalities such as Abraham Lincoln and General Robert E. Lee.

Kenny Rowlette, an assistant professor of English at Liberty, and Dr. Cline Hall, an associate professor of history at Liberty, are the two organizers of the presentation.

"A student can get an hour's credit by attending the seminar and writing a research paper on some topic related to the Civil War era," Hall said. "I'm working on a syllabus about what the requirements will be to get the credit, and it'll be ready in the next few days."

Students will be able to add the seminar to their class schedule anytime before the day of the event with a drop/add slip. History majors can use the seminar as an upper level history credit, and other students can use the event as an elective.

The students who choose this option must write a paper that pertains to the Civil War era after attending the seminar. The charge for tuition will be half of a normal credit.

Last year, the event was attended by about 50 people per day. "Hopefully there's going to be more this year," Hall said, "because we have a very interesting program with our first person re-enactments."

"Clearly the strength of the seminar will be the diversity of talent," Rowlette said. "For instance, we have two African-American speakers. We have, I think, four women speakers. And then we also have the best Lincoln re-enactor, Mr. Fritz Klein."

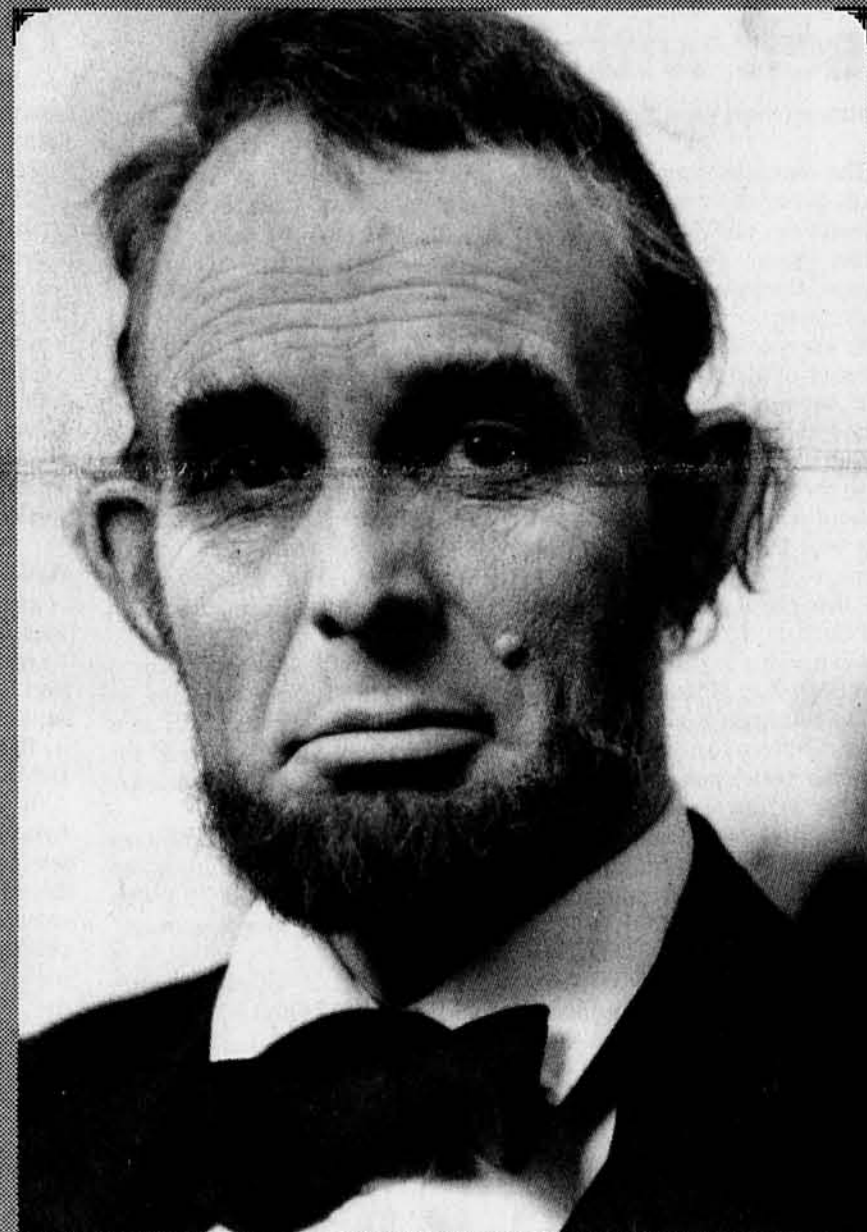


PHOTO COURTESY OF FRITZ KLEIN

EMANCIPATOR, PROCLAMATOR — Civil War re-enactor Fritz Klein will portray former President Abraham Lincoln during the history department's seminar, "Civil War Voices."

Please see HISTORY, Page 2

Clauson declares bid for Lynchburg City Council seat

LU prof prepares to take knowledge of government to the next level

By RICK BOYER
Opinion Editor

Backed by city dignitaries, Liberty government chairman Dr. Kevin Clauson announced his candidacy for Lynchburg City Council on Feb. 17. At the announcement press conference, held in Clauson's Patrick Henry Institute, the candidate declared his intention to seek the Republican nomination for an at-large seat.

The crowd of VIPs included all four Republican councilmen — Bill McRorie, Bob Davenport, Robert

Garber and Mayor Jim Whitaker — city Treasurer Dave Thurman and Lynchburg Republican chairman Wendell Walker. Several Liberty students also attended the announcement.

Clauson stressed three issues he said will be keys to his campaign. "First of all," he said, "decreasing ... real estate taxes." He also plans to work to privatize city garbage collection, saying private collection would decrease costs and improve service for city residents.

"The third major issue," Clauson said, "is implementing police foot patrols. I propose putting ... police officers walking the beat regularly in the neighborhoods." He also touted his plans for "finding new ways to revive our neighborhoods and downtown."

McRorie, who will retire from council when his term ends in May, also spoke to the press in support of Clauson. "I'm delighted that Dr. Clauson is

coming forward with the energy and dedication to serve this city," he said.

Clauson will compete for one of three at-large seats in the May council elections. The top three vote-getters will win the seats. Councilman Carl Hutcherson and former council candidate Stewart Hobbs have also announced their candidacies as independents.

The Lynchburg Republicans will officially select their candidates at a mass meeting on Feb. 28. They currently hold a 4-3 majority on council, but will lose both McRorie and Davenport to retirement this year. Clauson hopes to help maintain the slim GOP edge.

Clauson is not a newcomer to council races. He sought a position two years ago, losing to Hobbs in his bid for the GOP nod by one vote. This time, he says, "I think we have a very good chance."



STAFF PHOTO

LEGAL EAGLE — Dr. Kevin Clauson, seen here with Mr. Stephen Witham, is prepared to run for Lynchburg city council.

Words of Wit

"The fact that we as a society have cast one of man's greatest abilities aside saddens me."

Randy feels that reading is fundamental.



Wed.

Partly sunny.

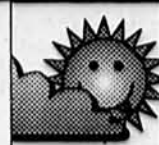
High 57,
Low 34



Thur.

Partly cloudy.

High 62,
Low 39



Fri.

Partly sunny.

High 63,
Low 40



Sat.

Partly cloudy.

High 60,
Low 36



Sun.

Chance
T-storms.
High 56,
Low 35

Inside:

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Rick revolts against relentless taxation pg. 6

Matt claims the First for Christians, too pg. 6

Laurelei slams Team USA pg. 10

Convocation:
Wed.—Dr. Bruce Cook
Fri.—James Walker
Mon.—No Convocation



Skating: The Office of Student Life will sponsor the last of three Tuesday trips to Wintergreen Resort on Feb. 24. Vans will be leaving the David's Place parking lot at 3:30 p.m.

Selah portrait-make up day: The LU yearbook, Selah, will be holding a make-up day for students who missed or are unsatisfied with their yearbook portraits March 3-5 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the DeMoss Atrium.

Civil War Voices: The Liberty University Department of History will present "Civil War Voices", a three-day seminar beginning Thursday, March 5 and concluding on Saturday, March 7. Sessions begin at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and at 9 a.m. on Saturday and will be held in FA 101. The registration fee for all three sessions is \$25; registration on a per day basis is as follows:
-Thur./Fri.—\$7.50 per day
-Sat.—\$10

Send postings a minimum of two weeks prior to the event to Jason Ingram c/o Liberty Champion.

To register, or for more information, call (804)582-2308.

SIFE meetings: Students in Free Enterprise will conduct meetings on Tuesday, Feb. 24 and Monday, March 2 in DeMoss Hall 117 beginning at 7 p.m. The purpose of the meetings will be to discuss SIFE's current Shadow Program and a second program that helps businesses solve actual business problems.

Spirit Days: Liberty University will hold its annual Spirit Days Feb. 25-28. During Spirit Days, nice casual dress will be acceptable for all students, faculty and staff under the following guidelines:
Feb. 25 — Blue Day
Feb. 26 — Red Day
Feb. 27 — Liberty Day
Feb. 28 — Red, Blue and Liberty Day
Also, the Liberty University Bookstore will provide a special discount on all LU sportswear through Feb. 28.

Benham begins sentence

Continued from Page 1

and Reyes were given the maximum 12-month sentence for trespassing.

Some Lynchburg residents were quoted in the News and Advance as saying the verdict was just an attempt to protect the public schools.

At Liberty, the sentencing has caused a stir among students and faculty, but campus leadership is quiet on the situation. Chancellor Dr. Jerry Falwell has declined to comment directly on the situation, according to spokesman Mark DeMoss in an Associated Press report.

DeMoss did say that Falwell "feels the sentence is excessive."

He also said Falwell had a hard time with the sentencing because of his relationship with the Benham family.

"He is fond of the Benhams," DeMoss said of Falwell, "but he also took exception to the tactics used in the protest. First, he was not alerted (about the protest) and second, (he did not know) that Operation Rescue would target a Lynchburg high school for a protest."

Students have had a variety of reactions to the event and sentencing. Many agree with a sentencing, but feel the punishment is too harsh. The students also question the original location and motive of the protest. Between 150-250 Liberty students turned out for the early morning gathering on Nov. 10 after Rev. Benham promoted an evangelistic opportunity at the Sunday evening campus church service.

"As a student who attended the rally, I have to admit that I was disappointed at how the whole situation was handled," said Kaley Hill, a Liberty senior. "There were many students who were unaware that what they were doing was illegal."

Questioning the verdict itself, junior Eryn Conneally asked, "Since when do people get sentenced to one year in jail for trespassing?"

Squelching the First? Operation Rescue, along with various Christian groups around the country, is asking the same question. And now, the aftermath of an anti-abortion rally has turned into a fight over First Amendment rights.

In question is the legality of Lynchburg's permit law. Lawyers for the defense have said, for example, that under the general wording of the law if two or more people want to play football in the park, they would have to contact the Chief of Police 48 hours in advance. Also, Reyes said that under the current language of the law, Liberty students would be in violation of the law each Friday

during Mission Lynchburg with-
nessing.

Green, also a lawyer for the American Family Association, is filing a federal lawsuit against the current law.

"This is an attempt to crush free speech," said Rev. Keith Tucci, former director of Operation Rescue and current leader of Life Coalition International, during a visit to Lynchburg on Feb. 19. "Christians have a responsibility to protest; if you allow this to go on it sends a message to tyrants everywhere that they can eliminate speech they don't like."

Benham supporters have also cited the gospel message given at the E.C. Glass rally as an issue in the case.

"It's not about agreeing or disagreeing about what happened at E.C. Glass (on Nov. 10) ... It's a national issue ... It's a gospel issue ... It has nothing to do anymore with abortion," Benham's son David, an LU student said.

Rusty Thomas, a member of Rev. Benham's national team at Operation Rescue in Texas, said that organizations such as the American Life League, the American Center for Law and Justice and the Christian Defense Coalition have become involved in the issue. David Benham also noted the 700 Club and Focus on the Family becoming involved with the case.

A call to action

Tucci accompanied Rev. Patrick Mahoney, director of the Christian Defense Coalition, to Lynchburg for a news conference in front of E.C. Glass announcing the March 13 rallies. Specifics for the rallies have not been announced.

However, Thomas said the rallies, which could last a week or more, will involve people from around the nation. "We had a national call with leaders from around the country and they are

bringing folks with them. The church and non-believers as well have contacted us and are outraged by the whole thing."

Thomas also encouraged LU students, most of whom will be gone for spring break during the protests, to stay in Lynchburg and show their support. He also encouraged those who participated Nov. 10 to "not apologize and don't be ashamed" and "don't let the enemy steal the seed planted in their hearts."

DeMoss cautioned Liberty students on Falwell's behalf. "The students have the right to express their views as individuals like any other citizens. If they want to protest or participate in acts of civil

disobedience, they must be prepared to suffer the consequences," said DeMoss.

When asked if the organization would seek a permit for the protests, Thomas said the group would expend its First Amendment rights and "if they criminalize us ... it will be the exact same thing they did to Flip."

David Benham encouraged students to get good information on the situation.

"If they (students) want to find out information and want to support ... they can find our number and call us. If they want to speak out against us, still give a call. Get the information straight from the horse's mouth."

LU student shares Benham's convictions — literally

Liberty freshman Jeffrey L. Brown was just the wrong guy in front of the wrong camera at the wrong time.

As a result, Brown was convicted on Feb. 17 of trespassing, in the same trial as Rev. Flip Benham and John D. Reyes in Lynchburg Circuit Court. He was sentenced to six months in jail, — with all but 15 days suspended — and fined \$200.

According to a Lynchburg News and Advance story, police officers were instructed not to arrest anyone at the rally. However, Brown was identified through an interview he did with Lynchburg's Channel 13, an ABC affiliate, and charged at a later time.

Dennis Sullivan, an LU graduate and camera operator for the station, knew Brown through ScareMare, the annual haunted house run by YouthQuest.

"When we were there shooting, the reporter (from channel 13) asked me if I knew anyone we could interview for the story. We interviewed Jeff," said Sullivan, who testified at the trial. "When we showed the film package on the news, we used his name on screen and that was how he was identified."

According to both Sullivan and Brown, the protest was organized and everyone cooperated with the police officers. "The officers said we were perfect gentlemen," Brown said.

Brown told officers that he was not one of the organizers and was doing the same as everyone else in attendance. He also said he never entered the school.

When asked to express his thoughts to LU students, Brown said that the media has painted an inaccurate picture of the protest and students would have had to have been there to understand what happened.

"I had never heard of Operation Rescue," Brown said. "I am not a radical ... but I will stand for God. I had no desire to hurt LU's testimony."

When asked if he would attend the scheduled March 13 protests in support of Benham, Brown said he "hasn't heard of it and won't be there."

— Chris Edwards

History set to repeat itself with seminar

Continued from Page 1

The keynote speaker will be J.E.B. Stuart IV who will make a presentation on Thursday. Stuart is the great grandson of the famous Confederate cavalryman J.E.B. Stuart.

Dr. Homer Blass, an associate professor of history at LU, will act as a veteran of General Sigel's Union forces; who were defeated at the Battle of New Market in May of 1864.

"About 25 percent of the Union Army was first generation Irish or German," Blass said. "The Irish and the Germans didn't speak good English, so they tended to get thrown into the fray."

On Saturday, Fritz Klein, possibly the country's most prominent Lincoln re-enactor, will appear. Klein has performed hundreds of times for school children, college students and historical societies. He captures Honest Abe's essence well, and he also bears an uncanny resemblance to Lincoln.

Al Stone is the man who is slated to portray General Robert E. Lee. Stone has built a reputation as providing one of the most accurate replications of General Lee's look and style.

"A lot of people don't like to read

history books," Rowlette said, "and they get tired of the lectures of the professors. One thing that's really interesting about this presentation is you'll be able to kind of put a face with a name. So it will be more of interest to a greater variety of people."

A luncheon will be offered to those who attend on Saturday, complete with Civil War era music by Ed Ayers. There will also be a fashion show during the luncheon which will provide an accurate look at how the women chose to dress in those days.

This event is open to the general public, and it will take place in FA 101.

The registration fee for all three days is \$25. Tickets can also be purchased for Thursday only at a price of \$7.50, or Friday only for \$7.50. Tickets for the Saturday session are \$10.

Saturday's luncheon will cost an extra \$10. "We need to know by that Wednesday (March 4th) who will be attending the luncheon," Hall said.

To register or to obtain more information, call (804) 582-2308 or write to: Liberty University Department of History, 1971 University Blvd. Lynchburg, Va. 24506.

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The Junior and Senior class officers present...

"Winter Enchantment"

Jr/Sr Banquet 1998
March 6, 7:30 p.m.



Make plans to join your friends and classmates for an evening, of beauty and splendor at the Historic Hotel Roanoke. You will receive first class service and enjoy fine dining, as a live jazz band provides the entertainment.

After the meal, be prepared to relax and have a good time as the comedy of David Day brings a smile to your face and color to your cheeks. With over 250 college shows already on his resume, David's "clean and never mean" routine is a guaranteed hit.



In coordination with faculty and administration the student government association has announced a **SENIOR SKIP DAY** for the day of the banquet. All graduating seniors (with the exception of student teachers and those assigned to an internship) have been granted permission to skip classes on Friday, March 6. However, any required assignments must still be completed.

Also included in the price of your ticket: Two hours of ice skating and freeskate rental at the Roanoke Ice Palace.



Early bird Prom Special!

any tuxedo in the store---
only \$59.99!!

Save as much as \$20.00!!

includes the tuxedo, basic shirt,
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This offer applies to tuxedos reserved for Prom
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(Cannot be combined with any other promotional offer).

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FORMAL WEAR.

Tickets are now on sale
for both Juniors and
Seniors at the SGA
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RANDY KING

Not so blissful ignorance

Over Christmas break I stopped by my high school to visit a former teacher of mine, Ms. Masoner. Perched on a stool, the smell of chemicals muted but still permeating the air, I couldn't help glancing around the lab and trying to remember. How quickly things fade into the murky distance on life's highway.

We broke into conversation easily, considering it had been three and half years since I had last seen her. After the basic up-to-dating we delved into the "deep" topics which we used to discuss in high school. I remembered how every Friday had been dubbed "Philosophy Day." The entire class would poke and pry at whatever issue was tossed on the black-topped lab tables, attempting to view it from all angles before sticking it back in the drawer and starting the weekend.

Looking over the busy classroom scene before her, Ms. Masoner snorted contemptuously.

"They're idiots," she said, turning to look me in the eye.

I looked askance, realizing that I had forgotten exactly how draconian and blunt Ms. Masoner was.

"They're in eighth grade and there are kids here who don't know how to read," she stopped, scowling.

No matter how many statistics I hear concerning this issue, I've never been able to comprehend that people can graduate from high school illiterate. Neither could I comprehend junior high students being unable to read.

I cannot purge this thought from my mind. Observing today's society, I note the effects of illiteracy, partial and complete, everywhere. The fact that we as a society seem to have cast one of man's greatest abilities aside saddens me. In an age that lauds communication, dirges are being sung for reading.

Even more frightening and disheartening, most university students regard reading as an archaic, useless ritual. True, many will labor through their textbooks, but they rarely pick up a book of their own freewill. The effects of this are obvious in how they read their textbooks. Hours are wasted stumbling over words and phrases as the "scholars" inept minds attempt to comprehend what his eyes see.

In not reading, students deprive themselves of culture. Called educated, they truly rank among the ignorant.

A college student who doesn't know who wrote "The Tempest" is ignorant.

A college student who is clueless as to what Thoreau pronounced is ignorant.

A college student who stumbles over his words, unsure of how to pronounce them, when asked to read aloud is ignorant.

A college student who cannot see the correlation between Prometheus and fire is ignorant.

A college student who draws a blank at the name Copernicus is ignorant.

A college student who glibly answers, "Oh, I saw the movie," when questioned about any book is ignorant.

I will not apologize to any who are offended by the accusations made here. Dub me elitist if you will; despite my own ignorance, I will never stop calling for higher standards.

Some must carry the torch of our knowledge on to future generations. Only by reading profusely and proficiently can we gather the knowledge needed to enhance our lives and pass on the treasures of our ancestors.

Life!

C-91 AIRS A LITTLE LIGHT



BOXED EARS AND A MICROPHONE, WHAT IS GOING ON? — Disc jockey and Operations Director, Shawn Andrews proves that his job can get a little hectic at times.

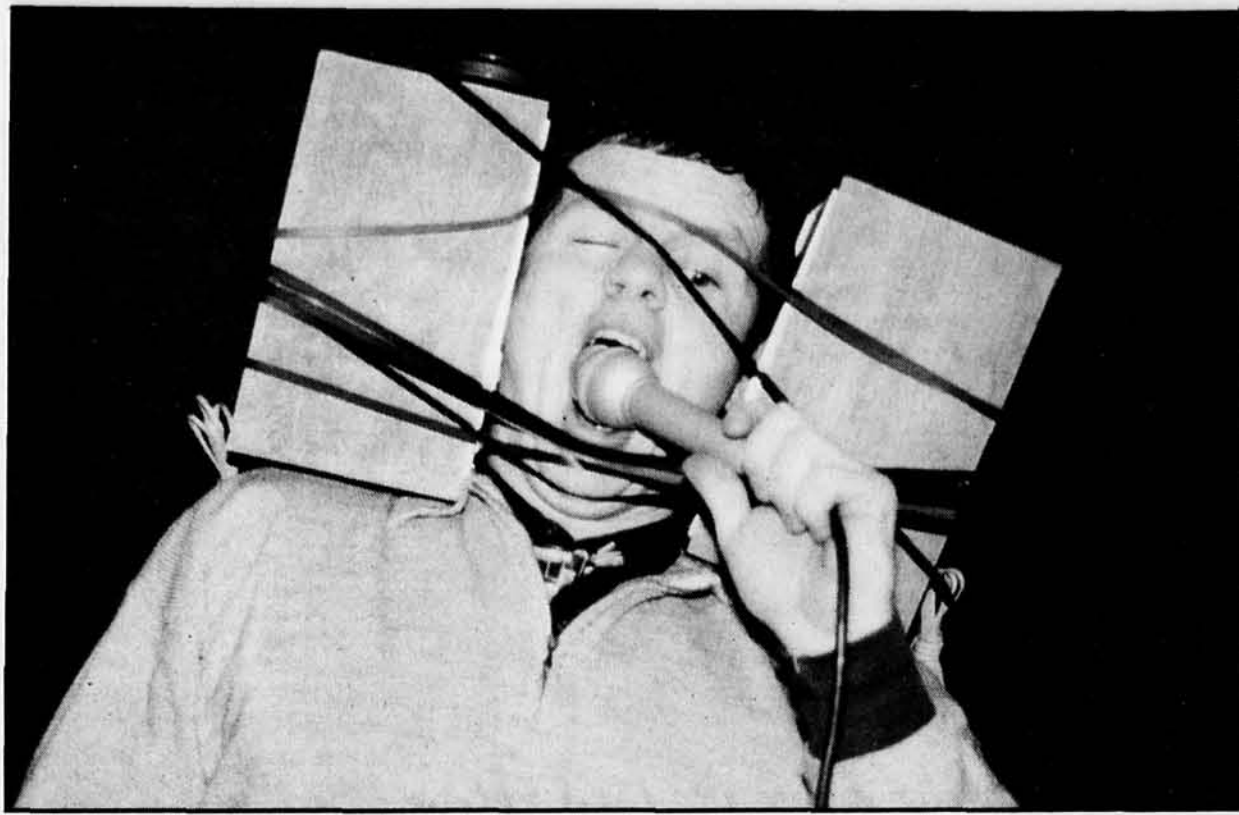
C-91 Facts

◆ C-91 is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

◆ Almost 50 people dedicate their time to making C-91 happen.

◆ C-91's current most requested song, "I'm so Happy" by Hocus Pick.

◆ DJs don't like being called about the weather.



PICTURES BY THOMAS LOVING

MEET THE FACES BEHIND THE VOICES

By **LORI BRIDGEWATER**
Life! Reporter

C-91 has permeated local air waves since 1988. At that time, the station relied on basic radio equipment and serviced only a few dorms on campus.

Dr. Carl Windsor, who was instrumental in starting C-91, succeeded in transforming C-91 into a 100 watt station on Feb. 1, 1993, so that all the students on campus could receive the non-commercial, Christian contemporary music broadcast.

Rodney Baylous, the current advisor of C-91, said that the station was "created by Liberty to offer better training for students as well as to provide an educational, Christian station for Liberty and the community."

Baylous benefitted from this training

when he was a student in 1988. WRVL offered him a part-time job broadcasting the news in 1990. Since childhood, Baylous had longed to work in radio, so he jumped at the chance to learn all about the station.

For the past eight years, Baylous has been working on production and hosting an afternoon drive-time position at WRVL. Among his duties are designing ads for the station and hosting and producing three

separate talk shows.

In 1995, Baylous was asked to supervise WVMC, and in 1997 he began teaching basic and advanced radio practicum at Liberty.

My goal for the station is to stay on the cutting edge of technology and to strive to turn out broadcast-ers who have learned great principles about radio at Liberty," said Baylous. "I

would also like the station to continue to be a real positive influence in central Virginia."

C-91 has met many of these goals with the addition of digital equipment and cutting edge technology in the control room. The campus station had anxiously been awaiting the arrival of the new equipment because the old equipment negatively affected the station's sound quality.

"Our main goal is to see souls being saved and to encourage Christians," said Baylous. This is a goal C-91 continues to reach as incoming callers testify of receiving salvation because of the programs aired on C-91.



By **MARK A. ARMSTRONG II**
Life! Reporter

Dave Walls arrived at C-91 last fall as Valerie T.'s new co-host on "All-Dedication Sunday Nights," which entertains a range of listeners from pre-adolescents to adults during its three hours.

According to Walls, the show exists for two distinct purposes. The first, acting as a catalyst for one to encourage a friend, impress a member of the opposite sex or play a practical joke by dedicating a particular song.

The second, which serves as the show's

creating purpose, giving local bands air-time exposure, hopefully increasing the group's popularity. Brave Little Toaster will appear on the show the last Sunday of February.

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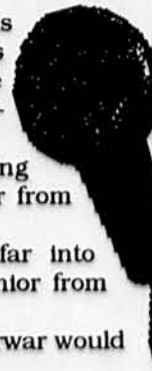
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Now a grown man totes a real camera and microphone and his dreams into the future.



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1. A land called Honalee.
2. Somewhere where the surf is pounding and the good times never end.
3. A place where the food is edible. Hope our internal organs can only persevere that long.
4. Florida -- at this stage in the game nobody cares where, just so it's in the Sunshine State -- "Yeah, well I didn't know my Aunt Gertie lived in a trailer house in the swamp, but hey, it's Florida, right?"
5. Hawaii. We're allowed to dream, aren't we?
6. Anywhere without a dress code.
7. Waterloo, Iowa. Sorry, the stress is causing delirium.
8. If there's sand and sun, we're there.
9. Any place but LU or home.
10. Somewhere that doesn't cost too much, has lots of amenities, too few rules, too much sun, an overflow of members of the opposite sex and no alarm clocks.

The Champion

Judiciously enjoy Jason's Journalistic Jargon. Ravidly Read Rick's Radically Republican Rhetoric. Meditate Methodically on Matt's Moving Messages. Love Laurelei's Lavish Leads. Be Bolstered By Becky's Brazen Bemusings. Rollickingly Read Randy's Relevant Ramblings.

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RANDY KING

Not so blissful ignorance

Over Christmas break I stopped by my high school to visit a former teacher of mine, Ms. Masoner. Perched on a stool, the smell of chemicals muted but still permeating the air, I couldn't help glancing around the lab and trying to remember. How quickly things fade into the murky distance on life's highway.

We broke into conversation easily, considering it had been three and half years since I had last seen her. After the basic up-to-dating we delved into the "deep" topics which we used to discuss in high school. I remembered how every Friday had been dubbed "Philosophy Day." The entire class would poke and pry at whatever issue was tossed on the black-topped lab tables, attempting to view it from all angles before sticking it back in the drawer and starting the weekend.

Looking over the busy classroom scene before her, Ms. Masoner snorted contemptuously.

"They're idiots," she said, turning to look me in the eye. I looked askance, realizing that I had forgotten exactly how draconian and blunt Ms. Masoner was.

"They're in eighth grade and there are kids here who don't know how to read," she stopped, scowling.

No matter how many statistics I hear concerning this issue, I've never been able to comprehend that people can graduate from high school illiterate. Neither could I comprehend junior high students being unable to read.

I cannot purge this thought from my mind. Observing today's society, I note the effects of illiteracy, partial and complete, everywhere. The fact that we as a society seem to have cast one of man's greatest abilities aside saddens me. In an age that lauds communication, dirges are being sung for reading.

Even more frightening and disheartening, most university students regard reading as an archaic, useless ritual. True, many will labor through their textbooks, but they rarely pick up a book of their own freewill. The effects of this are obvious in how they read their textbooks. Hours are wasted stumbling over words and phrases as the "scholar's" inept minds attempt to comprehend what his eyes see.

In not reading, students deprive themselves of culture. Called educated, they truly rank among the ignorant.

A college student who doesn't know who wrote "The Tempest" is ignorant.

A college student who is clueless as to what Thoreau propounded is ignorant.

A college student who stumbles over his words, unsure of how to pronounce them, when asked to read aloud is ignorant.

A college student who cannot see the correlation between Prometheus and fire is ignorant.

A college student who draws a blank at the name Copernicus is ignorant.

A college student who glibly answers, "Oh, I saw the movie," when questioned about any book is ignorant.

I will not apologize to any who are offended by the accusations made here. Dub me elitist if you will; despite my own ignorance, I will never stop calling for higher standards.

Some must carry the torch of our knowledge on to future generations. Only by reading profusely and proficiently can we gather the knowledge needed to enhance our lives and pass on the treasures of our ancestors.

Life!

C-91

AIRS A LITTLE LIGHT



BOXED EARS AND A MICROPHONE, WHAT IS GOING ON? — Disc jockey and Operations Director, Shawn Andrews proves that his job can get a little hectic at times.

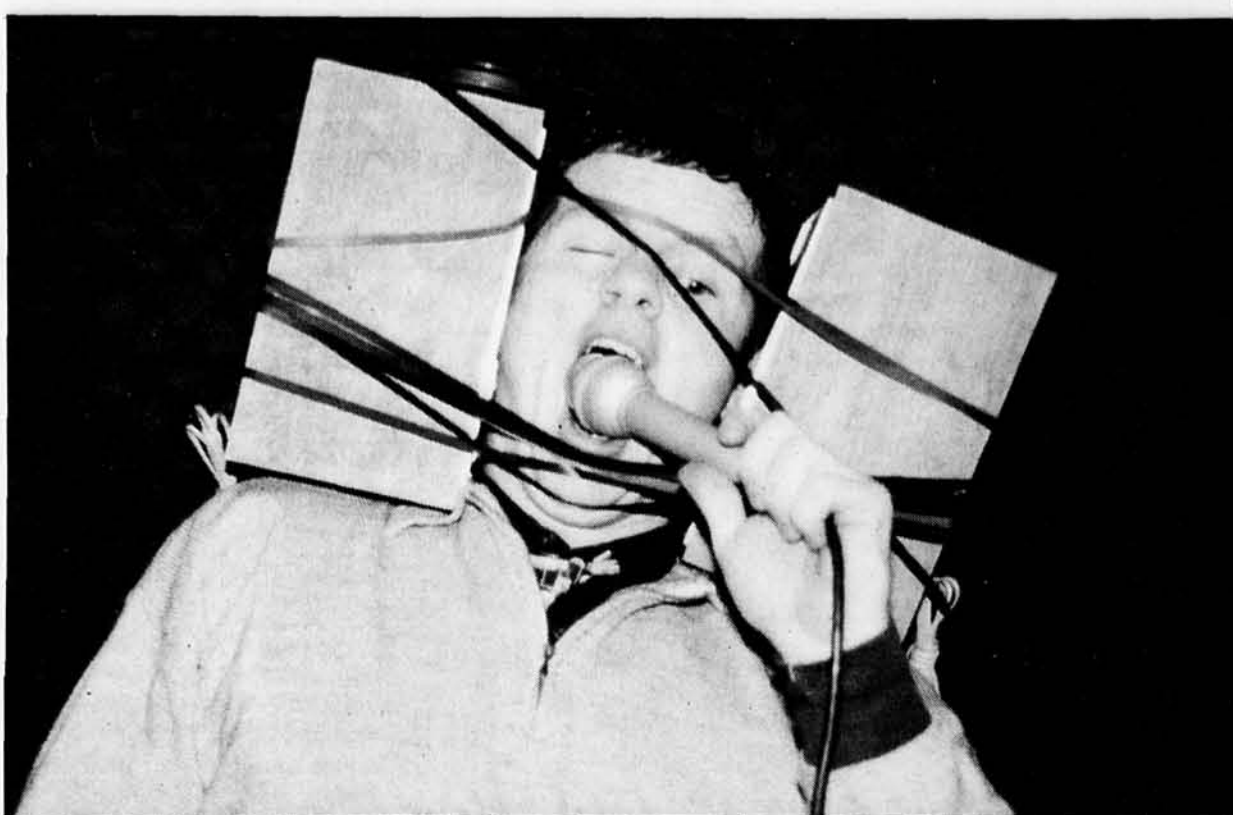
C-91 Facts

◆ C-91 is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

◆ Almost 50 people dedicate their time to making C-91 happen.

◆ C-91's current most requested song: "I'm so Happy" by Hocus Pick.

◆ DJs don't like being called about the weather.



PICTURES BY THOMAS LOVING

MEET THE FACES BEHIND THE VOICES

By LORI BRIDGEWATER
Life! Reporter

C-91 has permeated local air waves since 1988. At that time, the station relied on basic radio equipment and serviced only a few dorms on campus.

Dr. Carl Windsor, who was instrumental in starting C-91, succeeded in transforming C-91 into a 100 watt station on Feb. 1, 1993, so that all the students on campus could receive the non-commercial, Christian contemporary music broadcast.

Rodney Baylous, the current advisor of C-91, said that the station was "created by Liberty to offer better training for students as well as to provide an educational, Christian station for Liberty and the community."

Baylous benefitted from this training

when he was a student in 1988. WRVL offered him a part-time job broadcasting the news in 1990. Since childhood, Baylous had longed to work in radio, so he jumped at the chance to learn all about the station.

For the past eight years, Baylous has been working on production and hosting an afternoon drive-time position at WRVL. Among his duties are designing ads for the station and hosting and producing three

separate talk shows.

In 1995, Baylous was asked to supervise WWMC, and in 1997 he began teaching basic and advanced radio practicum at Liberty.

My goal for the station is to stay on the cutting edge of technology and to strive to turn out broadcast-ers who have learned great principles about radio at Liberty," said Baylous. "I

would also like the station to continue to be a real positive influence in central Virginia."

C-91 has met many of these goals with the addition of digital equipment and cutting edge technology in the control room. The campus station had anxiously been awaiting the arrival of the new equipment because the old equipment negatively affected the station's sound quality.

"Our main goal is to see souls being saved and to encourage Christians," said Baylous. This is a goal C-91 continues to reach as incoming callers testify of receiving salvation because of the programs aired on C-91.

By MARK A. ARMSTRONG II
Life! Reporter

Dave Walls arrived at C-91 last fall as Valerie T.'s new co-host on "All-Dedication Sunday Nights," which entertains a range of listeners from pre-adolescents to adults during its three hours.

According to Walls, the show exists for two distinct purposes. The first, acting as a catalyst for one to encourage a friend, impress a member of the opposite sex or play a practical joke by dedicating a particular song.

The second, which serves as the show's

creating purpose, giving local bands air-time exposure, hopefully increasing the group's popularity. Brave Little Toaster will appear on the show the last Sunday of February.

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REGENT UNIVERSITY
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OPINION

The Liberty Champion

The Official Newspaper of Liberty University
Established 1983

"...Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty" (2 Corinthians 3:17)

Plan growth carefully

So the growth push is on. Two more floors on DeMoss, six-story dorms around the circle, a new bookstore, new ramps to Route 460 (it's about time), a parking garage, etc. Without huge debt outstanding, we can finally start to grow again.

One word of caution, however. While rapid growth is important, it's also crucial to plan for the expansion. If we grow too fast without sufficient planning, look for trouble. Sensible growth demands priorities.

While we're bringing in record numbers of students and supplying them with classroom space and parking lots, let's first of all make certain that the funds are there to support our plans. Let's also make sure we don't let academic excellence fall victim to expansion.

We need to ask ourselves some questions. Do we have enough instructors for classes for all these students? With class sizes already inflated, don't we need more staff just to meet the needs of the students we have now? To bring in massive numbers of new students, will we have to lower our admissions standards drastically?

Now that the SACS reaccreditation process has come to a favorable conclusion, we need to be certain that a degree from Liberty continues to mean something. Maybe having 20,000 students is less important than having 5,000 excellent students. Not that numbers are bad, but let's not sacrifice academic excellence to a short-sighted drive for population.

Keep the Big South's tourney in Lynchburg

March Madness is almost upon us. In the case of the Big South Tournament, it starts in February.

Wednesday through Saturday, Feb. 25-28, the college tourney season returns to the Vines Center, where for two years in a row it has set attendance records. Liberty and Lynchburg have provided a bigtime college ball atmosphere, a beautiful facility and some great games. This year's tournament figures to be another in a string of successes.

That's why, when the conference chooses the site for next year's tournament, the Vines Center should be selected again. Some had worried that the "home-court advantage" would tilt the scales in favor of the Flames, to the detriment of other Big South schools. But it hasn't.

Last year, the Flames men's team should have won, but it didn't. In fact, it still hasn't won a conference championship here. The ladies won here last year, but the way they played, they'd have won anywhere.

There are plenty of good schools and good facilities in the Big South, but no where else will one find the atmosphere, the crowds and the excitement that have rocked the Vines Center the past two years. No other Big South school can boast the state-of-the-art facilities that Liberty offers the tournament.

When the conference chooses a site for next year's tournament, it may want to follow the old truism: if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Bring it back to Lynchburg. It's paid off beautifully so far.

Thank you very much

A big thank you is in order to Building Services for reducing the size of the new speedbumps. With the reduction from four inches high to three, careful drivers can now negotiate the bumps without serious damage to their cars.

The prompt response to student complaints should bring an equally rapid response of thanks from students. It's easy to complain and harder to praise, but this time a thank you is richly deserved.

This decision is in the best interests of students, both pedestrians and drivers. To all those responsible for helping to balance between safety and car care, we at the Champion say a collective "Thank you!"

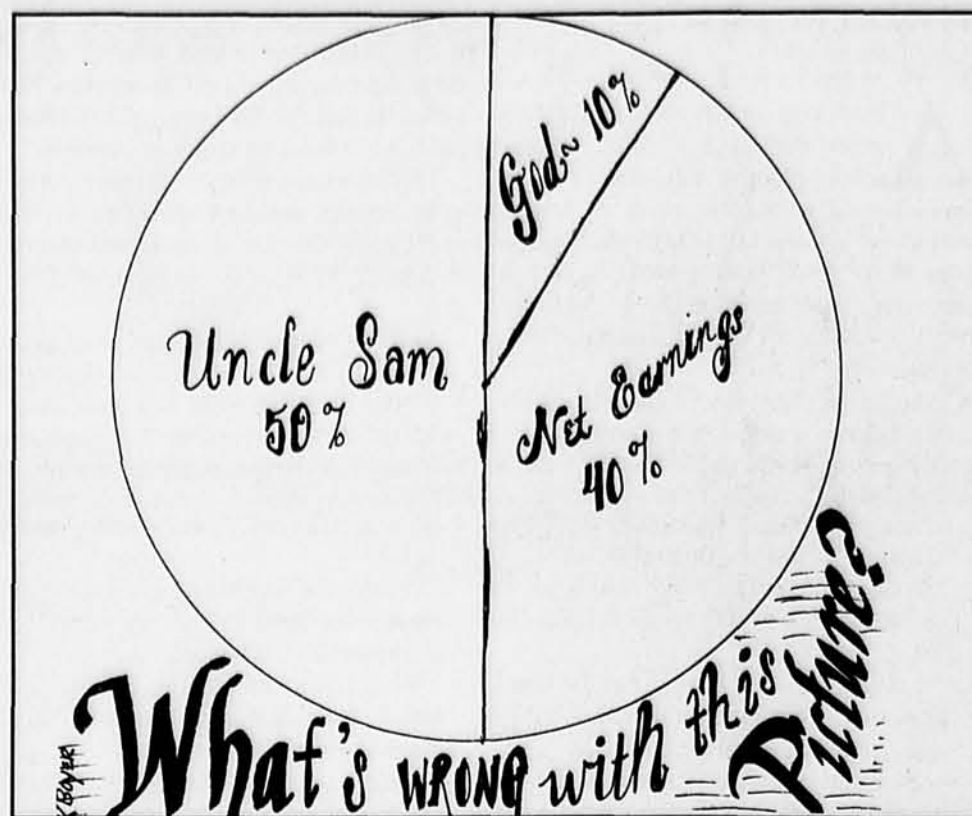
Quotes of the week...

"He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he who is gracious to the needy honors Him."

— Proverbs 14:31

"Humility is to make a right estimate of one's self."

— Charles Spurgeon



Taxes with representation—whose idea was this?

They say two things are certain in this life: death and taxes. I haven't died yet, but I can vouch for the "taxes" part.

America's tax system as it stands is about as unfair and discriminatory as anything I can think of. It both robs the American worker of his/her reward for work, and discourages the very revenue raising it's supposed to accomplish.

The average American family pays almost half its income in taxes; federal, state and local. Think about it. How many times does a paycheck get hit by good old Uncle Sam, or his cohorts at the state and local level?

First, the feds get their cut off the top before I see my check. Then they get another from what's left after I get it. They hit my dad up for self-employment and Medicare tax. At the gas pump, another four percent; likewise at the grocery store. In Lynchburg, I get hit with a 10 percent meals tax.

Then there are the hidden taxes; the ones you aren't supposed to notice. Every airplane ticket includes government "user fees" (sounds like a license to do drugs or something). Visits to national parks, tolls on toll roads, passports; the government always gets its cut.

There's state income tax, county stickers on cars, property tax on homes, capital gains taxes, luxury taxes, taxes, taxes, taxes.

They say further that nothing in life is free. Well, nothing in death is either. Whatever one might want to leave to one's descendants must first be looted by Uncle Sam's inheritance tax.

What does the Constitution say? "No cruel and unusual punishments" for those who commit crimes? Our tax system is cruel and unusual punishment for the law abiding.

Justice may be blind, but she can sure smell a dollar from a mile away. As our tax system now stands, the more money we earn, the larger a percentage the government feels it deserves. "Tax brackets" divide us by economic class, then pilfer our hard-earned wages, stealing ever-larger percentages as we earn more.

Former President Reagan, as an actor, at one point reached the 98 percent tax bracket. In plain English, he got to keep two cents of every dollar he earned.

I don't care how much money someone makes; taking 98 cents of every dollar is nothing short of armed robbery. Yes, armed. Try getting audited sometime, then tell me the Internal Revenue Service doesn't have plenty of firepower.

If we really stopped to think just how much we "contribute" (to use President Clinton's term) every paycheck, we'd be up in arms. I suggest we should be.

Walter Williams, the brilliant economics professor at George Mason University, says that when a citizen is robbed of half his

earnings, taxes are a moral issue. I'm not sure he's that far wrong.

Thus my "cruelty" point. But our tax system is suicidal too. Tax laws are ostensibly written to increase the government's total take. But they actually discourage the very economic activities that create wealth.

The very fact that more earnings mean more taxes discourages work. I've heard my parents hoping out loud that they wouldn't make enough money to crack the next highest tax bracket.

The capital gains tax discourages investors from making a profit. If they do, old Uncle Sam taxes the profit margin.

My brother Nate recently went into business for himself. He wanted to advertise his business, so he bought two magnetic signs to adorn his truck. So the brilliant minds in Richmond hit him up with a tax, not for doing drywall, but for advertising it on his truck. This is, of course, above and beyond his state income tax.

We wonder why more Generation Xers don't see the point of working. It's not that hard to figure out. It's quite a deal for them. The harder they work, the bigger a chunk of their earnings Big Brother gets. Who wouldn't want to work longer hours to "invest in America?"

Even marriage is punishable by a fine these days. Married couples lose \$1,500 right off the top, simply for filing a joint return. Several Congressmen have moved to repeal the "marriage tax," and well they should.

Unfortunately, it's only window dressing. The whole system is sick. Tinkering around the edges is too little too late.

My four-year-old brother Tucker, if present trends continue, will pay over 80 percent of his income in taxes over his lifetime, assuming he lives to a typical life expectancy. This in spite of President Clinton's vaunted "balanced budget." (That's another column in itself ...).

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I rest my case. I don't know if a national sales tax is the answer, or maybe a flat tax. (I don't mind losing deductions for dependents or student deductions if we'd settle for a 17 percent flat tax, as Congressman Dick Armey has proposed.) But the whole IRS/income tax has to go.

Congress won't change it unless we force it to. Maybe we should move Election Day to April 15.

Americans are being taxed too much. It's been well said that if God only demands 10 percent, Uncle Sam ought to settle for 17.

All I know for sure is that America's families lose half their hard-earned substance to the government, and it's not right. Patrick Henry would love taxation with representation! Maybe it's time for another Boston Tea Party.

First Amendment backers beware of going too far

Imagine this. A crowd of demonstrators gathered outside a high school. They've come in peace. They have good intentions. After all, they believe in their cause wholeheartedly. Most of them even feel "called" to do what they're doing.

There's no reason for any parents to be alarmed or concerned. No reason for any figures of authority to be present. No reason for anyone to object. After all, it's free speech.

Only one thing. Those gathered happen to be from a new Satanic cult.

Though this hypothetical example was not the case with the Nov. 10 E.C. Glass High School rally, it very well could be in the future. Especially, if some Christians succeed in their push to expand First Amendment rights.

MATT SWINEHART

Don't get me wrong, I think that six months in jail is quite extreme for merely failing to control an unexpectedly large crowd of demonstrators. Yes, Rev. Flip Benham disregarded some aspects of the law (a permit was not obtained) and he failed to inform participants of the legalities involved with a protest (students were not told to stay outside the school). But, six months? When did trespassing become punishable by imprisonment?

Despite being severe, some form of punishment was necessary to uphold the law, which was undeniably broken. But are any of us really surprised at the verdict? Since when has the government not treated Christians unfairly?

One must ask if any benefits from the protest were really worth the trouble that was taken? Just think of the man hours that have been burned in trying to repair the damaged relations as a result. Couldn't the time spent in court have been used for another form of witnessing? Or perhaps discipleship?

On a larger scope, the issue at hand is greater than what took place at E.C. Glass. Christians face a conspiracy by the government and public schools to squelch their freedom of speech. Right? Perhaps, but maybe not with this.

While some think "tyrants" are hypocritically trying to eliminate any form of speech they don't like, they must realize that certain laws are there to protect, not just oppress them.

What if the scenario I described at the beginning of this column happened to one of your future children? Would you really want your offspring to be bombarded with literature and persuasive discussion from feminist groups, homosexuals, religious groups, etc.? There's enough propaganda on TVs, radios, movie screens and newspapers to influence even the most sheltered hermit.

I cringe to imagine a mandatory prayer being read aloud in the public schools. It wouldn't be long before every religious and social group had its piece of the pie in demanding its prayer be read as well. Children could again be exposed to vast liberalism.

A moment of silence seems to be the best solution. Could a child not as easily pray silently to himself on the bus or at home to begin his day? What good is it gonna do to have a prayer read aloud in schools? Sometimes, it's just best to keep our collective mouths zipped.

So, instead of cursing man, I thank God for laws like the one that requires a protest permit. Finding an effective method of witnessing within the law can be a challenge. Ever hear of Big Brothers/Big Sisters? Government regulation can protect us ... if we let it.

— Ginger Gillenwater

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The Liberty Champion encourages members of the community to submit letters to the editor on any subject. Letters should not exceed 400 words and must be typed and signed. Letters appearing in the Liberty Forum do not necessarily represent the views of the Champion's editorial board or Liberty University.

Also, all articles, except editorials, bear the endorsement of the author, solely.

All material submitted becomes the property of the Liberty Champion. The Champion reserves the right to accept, reject or edit any letter received, according to the Champion stylebook, taste and the Liberty University mission statement. The deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Please address letters to "Editor, Champion" and drop them off in DH 110 or mail to: Liberty Champion, Liberty University, 1971 University Blvd., Lynchburg, VA 24506.

Liberty Forum

Dating should be fun

Dear Editor:

With the Valentine's season just past, I would like to express some aspects of dating and point out just how unrealistic students' views have become.

The atmosphere at Liberty has become warped in the thinking of "one date = together, second date = engaged, and third date = hitched."

A big "whatever" to all those in this frame of mind. Commitment is not even spelled out in the word "date;" this word has many connotations related to everyday appointments.

The idea of dating has come about

since the industrial revolution when couples could escape from the household to interact away from the watchful eyes of parents. Before this, courting was the only known form of interaction between the sexes.

Dating has come to be an exciting way for members of the opposite sex to enjoy one another's company. Entire industries have been created around this phenomenon.

The focus of dating at Liberty has gone from fun interaction to serious commitment. The purpose of dating is first and foremost to have fun and secondly to involve oneself with others (the word "others" being in plural form).

There is nothing wrong with going out

with a different person every weekend, notwithstanding the idea of being called a "player" or a flirt. I found from personal experience that persons called by these nicknames are the ones who have the most fun and enjoy dating to its fullest potential.

God does not desire that ladies sit and wait by the phone for someone to call, nor does He wish that men would simply ask just one of His beautiful creations. If the lady says "no," there are more to ask.

Be young, have fun, don't commit!

— Ginger Gillenwater

COMMENTARY

Plagiarism may be tempting, but it costs

By CHRIS WILLIAMS
Champion Editor

It's a few weeks into the semester. That term paper is due in a week and you haven't started to even look at it. There is no way you'll have the time to do the research, write it, type it up and hand it in before the deadline. Surfing the Net, you come across a company that sells term papers on demand.

This is a scenario that is very plausible in today's society. One can find numerous sites on the Internet that will type up a paper for students at a reasonable price. The problem is plagiarism. It happens at many universities across the nation — even Christian universities.

Liberty addresses this problem on page 27 of the Liberty Way as "material quoted from any printed source," or "paraphrasing without properly referencing the source," or "replicating a student's work ... submitting as student original."

There are serious repercussions for

plagiarism, including expulsion. So, why do some students attempt it?

A student may feel he has no alternative but to use a paper not his own. The class load may be too heavy. A lack of time management may be the root of the problem.

Whatever the reason, it is still wrong. It could jeopardize any future education with Liberty or any other college. Even secular schools are in agreement with Liberty's plagiarism policy.

Take as an example Boston University. Boston University has filed a law suit against eight companies that sell term papers over the Internet. School officials have discovered that some students have submitted papers from these companies as their own.

The companies claim that the First Amendment protects them from this suit. They also argue that there is a disclaimer that states the buyers are not to use the papers as if the buyers had typed the papers themselves.

Even the students of Boston University agree that using these papers is plagiarism and should be punished. The students, however, disagree with school officials on the issue of whom the punishment should fall on.

Instead of suing the companies, students believe that the school should be targeting the students who are using the papers as their own. The students are taking the side of the companies.

The imagined benefits of plagiarism are never worth the risk of being caught. Is taking one grade reduction so terrible? Most professors will work with a student if a paper is late.

What if a student "gets away" with plagiarism? What is the diploma then really worth? That student has deceived professors, classmates, himself and future employers. The deception will be found out eventually.

Additionally, factor in the cost of the paper. These companies charge a minimum of \$13 per page. If the idea of being caught

"The imagined benefits of plagiarism are never worth the risk."



doesn't frighten a student, how about the specter of wasting anywhere from \$65 to \$195, or even more?

Students are sometimes under so much pressure, they feel there is no way out. But plagiarism is never the

solution. There are better ways. The first option is to talk with professors. Explain the situation. Accept the consequences of turning in a late paper. Points off for late work, or expulsion? This really is a no-brainer.

This Week's Champion Debate

Justice can't cheat for anyone

By SUZIE FULKS
Champion Editor

Karla Faye Tucker died in Texas on Feb. 3. She reportedly became a Christian 15 years ago while on death row for her double murder (with a pickaxe) of two innocent people. But did she still deserve to die for her actions even after becoming a born-again Christian?

Certainly, Tucker deserved to die. Since when would God want us to go back on our word and let responsibility fly out the window? Tucker had to be accountable for her actions or there would be no point in having a judicial process.

Just because she claimed a new life doesn't mean that Tucker should be freed. What about her old person; the one that hacked up two people in cold blood? That one still committed the murder; it doesn't make the crime go away and it doesn't make those victims any less dead.

Justice should remain justice regardless of who the offender becomes or what he or she says after the fact. Why did she fight so hard to get out of her punishment? When Jesus took on the sin of the world, He died. He faced the reality of what he had to do.

Many people become born-again Christians after realizing their sin or the cause of their sin they committed in life. A person who receives AIDS from a dirty needle from shooting drugs might reflect on his or her life and turn away from evil in an attempt to start a new life.

God will reward this person for acknowledging and believing in Him, but that does not mean his AIDS will disappear. Does that make God an evil executioner? No, it means that the AIDS victim is liable to his consequential acts. This is what we call free will; this person chose evil and now must live with its results.

The same holds true for a young girl who gets pregnant for her immoral acts. Afterward, she becomes a Christian and

asks for forgiveness. Her child and the emotional turbulence will remain in her heart and life forever. God takes her sin away, but the gravity of it remains. Does this make God horrible for allowing the aftermath to continue. No. She willingly defied morality and God's Word and must remain accountable.

The same is true for Tucker. She may have been a Christian at her execution, but she still killed two people with no forethought at all; becoming a Christian doesn't reverse the results of the crime ... the two deaths she viciously caused.

Christians who fought to keep her alive in prison contradict the very heart of God's Word. What is this saying to the

rest of the world when a Christian is not held liable for his or her sin? Oh, it's okay, as long as you become a Christian afterward, you don't have to be accountable for anything. This is not the message Christians need to be sending.

On a recent Politically Incorrect show, Bill Maher and his guest, the rapper Coolio, actually made legitimate sense for once. Coolio recounted his days in prison and said that it is not hard for anyone to "find" God while behind bars. Should we then reconsider the sentences of everyone who claims a life-changing experience while on death row? Imagine the deluge of false claims that would follow. Tucker's reformed life shouldn't change the outcome of her sentence.

If Christians send the message that we don't have to be responsible for our actions, past or present, why should atheists and non-believers be accountable for theirs? Christians need to stand out from the world and live the way Christ would want them to. This means acknowledging the faults in their lives, accepting those faults and living to overcome them through accountability.



Punishment needs to be tempered with mercy

By BRUCE COLLIER
Champion Editor

The world watched as convicted murderer Karla Faye Tucker was executed in a Texas prison Feb. 3.

This was just another typical execution, right? Wrong! This was one of the most publicized executions in the history of this country.

Many people on both sides of the issue came forward to speak their opinions on this case. Some wanted to see Tucker's sentence carried out — death by lethal injection.

Others wished for the courts and the governor of Texas to spare her life and commute her sentence.

While appearing live on CNN during the last few minutes of Tucker's life, Dr. Jerry Falwell called for "selective mercy" to be shown on behalf of this woman, as did a host of other noted public figures and world leaders.

Those who followed the case closely will not soon forget this grueling event. Whether or not one favors the death penalty, one conclusion is certain — watching as someone is about to die is a difficult thing. It demands that each spectator do some soul-searching and necessitates evaluation of our nation's policies.

Those who watched the live broadcast of the execution could, at one point during the evening, hear the

crowd explode into cheers of celebration. However, they weren't cheering for some great feat that had been accomplished, nor were they cheering for a touchdown.

Unfortunately, the cheers came when the crowd learned that the U.S. Supreme Court had denied Tucker's last attempt for an appeal. In essence, they were cheering for her death. That was disgusting. Those who did this are already dead themselves, dead without a heart.

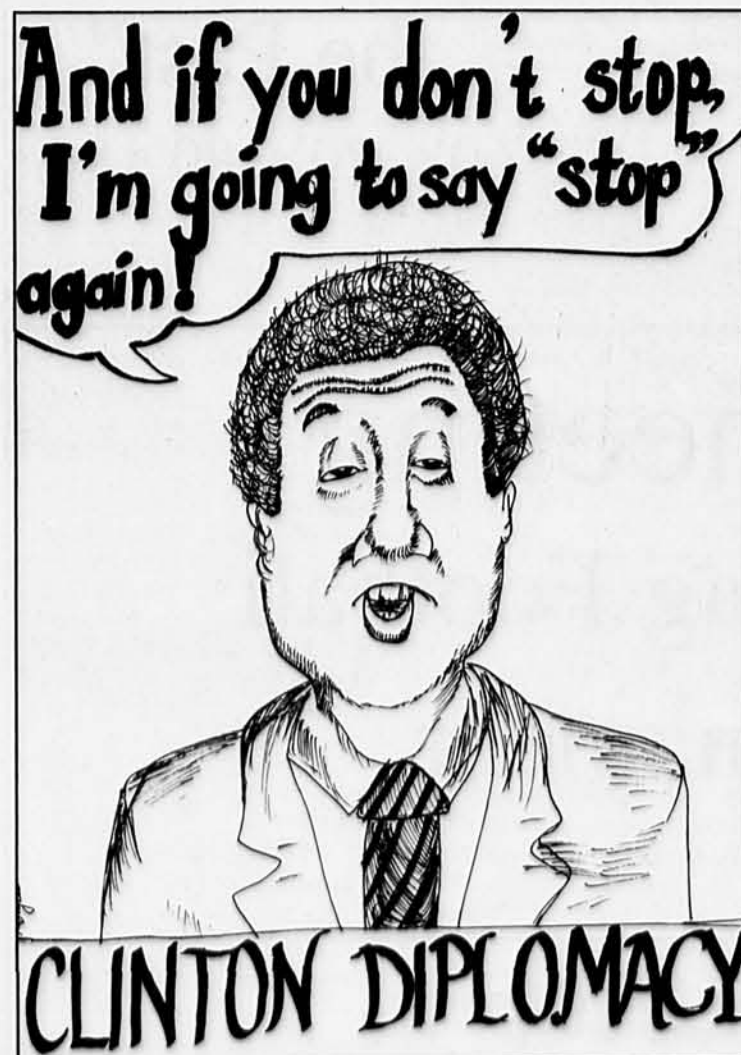
What is this country coming to when we start to applaud when other people die? Is there no room for change in the way the courts work, so that death row inmates could have their cases reviewed individually?

If ever there was a person condemned to die who deserved a second evaluation, it was for this woman. She certainly showed signs that she had changed and could have served humanity in positive ways.

Certainly the death penalty should not be done away with. However, we should seek ways to give individual cases individual treatment.

Salvation was an incredible act of mercy. We should be a little more open-minded toward such cases as this. We should understand that, prior to salvation, all men and women stand as undeserving criminals before God, but He, in His mercy, reaches out to them and spares them in spite of themselves.

"If ever there was a person ... who deserved a second evaluation, it was this woman."



It's Clinton-style foreign policy: Speak loudly, and carry no stick

By JONATHAN BLACKBURN
Champion Editor

President Clinton has been all words and no action in his most recent attempt at diplomacy. As is his custom, he has convinced the American public that he has everything under control in Iraq (and here in the United States as well).

However, he has not convinced Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, or the world community, of much of anything.

Repeatedly, Clinton has not-so-subtly alluded to Hussein of possible military action. In fact, the Richmond Times-Dispatch recently ran a column listing 11 separate times the United States has warned Hussein to expect military intervention.

However, Hussein remains unshaken, showing a clear disdain for Clinton. Hussein's nonchalance is so pronounced that Clinton's warnings have become empty and childish. This persistent failure paints a scary

picture of a President with incredibly insufficient diplomatic skills.

President Theodore Roosevelt, when describing his own diplomatic strategy, said, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." Meanwhile, Clinton's motto seems to be, "Ask and ask until you get your way."

In his fight against communism, former President Ronald Reagan stood in front of the Berlin Wall and told Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to tear it down. And the next thing the world knew the wall was down, and communism in the Baltics was crumbling.

Of course, this feat took some time, but it eventually happened, and it was because Reagan did not merely tell Gorbachev to tear down the wall.

Rather, he pursued his goal to

end Communism by aggressively building up U.S. military forces and forcing the Soviet Union out of the Cold War.

Needless to say, Clinton does not have the resolve or diplomatic skill of Reagan. Clinton has failed to convince anyone of his resolution concerning Iraq.

Apparently, Clinton has never intended to accomplish any real change in Iraq by his threats anyway. His goal is merely the appearance of peace and safety, not their reality. His plan is to comfort the American people by showboating in front of the world until he leaves office.

Then, he'll simply pass the problems in the Middle East on to his successor. He is probably hoping this person is a Republican, so as to shift blame for his diplomatic incompetence away from his

Democratic Party.

His plan would work, except that he underestimates his own power of persuasion. Fooled by Clinton's apparent sincerity, the American people now expect him to make good on his threats.

They have heard his angry words and demands, and they expect Clinton to act, or else admit his insincerity and shameless politicking.

Whether the United States should or should not militarily intervene in Iraq is uncertain. There are valid arguments on both sides of the issue.

However, what is certain is the foolishness of a foreign policy that is all talk and no action. Why should one fear a country whose leaders can not back up what they say?

Clinton must decide what he believes is the right course of action in Iraq, not what the nation wants to hear. The integrity of the United States is at stake.

"What is certain is the foolishness of a foreign policy that is all talk and no action."



HIT 'EM WHERE THEY AINT — LU Sophomore Jim Clinton led the Flames attack Saturday afternoon on 4-for-5 hitting including two doubles, three runs scored and three RBIs.

Flames finish with DH sweep

— Continued from page 10

performance. Harrell struck out five and walked only two batters in his seven full innings of work.

With little time to recover from two tough games, Liberty bounced back onto the field Saturday, Feb. 21, with an afternoon double-header against the North Carolina A&T Aggies.

The first game started out quickly for the Flames. They plated nine runs in the first frame, and from there they didn't look back. LU scored an unbelievable 22 runs in four innings off the bats of Ben Barker, Jim Clinton and Ryan McClellan who contributed three hits each. McClellan belted in seven RBIs in the first contest.

The Flames' pitching staff gave up only two hits and refused to allow

any Aggies to cross the plate.

Junior Brian Harrell (1-0) anchored the mound duties for LU picking up the win after the fifth inning of play due to the "mercy rule."

The second game of the afternoon wasn't an offensive explosion like the first, but the outcome was the same — resulting in a Liberty win.

LU recovered from a 2-1 deficit by

scoring three runs in the bottom of the sixth to seal the victory. Ben Barker sparked the comeback with a two-run homer, followed by Jason Benham's unearned run on an Aggie error.

LU plays its next two games on the home turf of Worthington Field. Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 3 p.m. the Flames host the Keydets of VMI. Thursday, Feb. 26, Liberty faces High Point at 3 p.m.

Men's hoop team finishes 10-16

— Continued from page 10

tag in the locker room at the half.

The Flames came out on fire early in the second half with successive threes by Erik Sorrenson, Boykin and Reed to cut the lead in half.

But the Leslie Ballard show took over and RU built a double digit lead to extinguish the Flames.

"Right now we're playing really great ball," RU's Corey Reed said. "We feel that we're the team to beat heading into the tournament."

Both teams shot the lights out with LU shooting 62 percent behind the arc while Radford tallied 61 percent for the game. RU hit 8-of-10 in the second half alone.

RU's Kevin Robinson recorded his 11th double-double of the year with 12 points and 13 rebounds. Corey Reed, Rian Everett and Jon Belt all scored in double digits for Radford.

Alongside Jackson, Adam Hopkins, Boykin, Sorrenson and Reed added double digits in scoring.

The loss to Radford pretty much summed up the season by showing how the Flames can get so close, but fail to get over the hump and win the close games.

The year started off on rocky ground when Marcus White failed to meet NCAA eligibility requirements and then Che Lugo, Walter Graham and Gabe Caldwell decided for one reason or another that they didn't want to be a part of the program which dealt Interim Head Coach Randy Dunton a short list of players who had experience.

"These kids who have played this year have done a lot to stabilize the positives inside the program to keep this thing moving forward," Interim Head Coach Randy Dunton said.

LU seemed to hit its deepest valley on Dec. 8 in the midst of an eight game losing streak when Division I newcomer Belmont embarrassed the Flames here at the Furnace.

One month later, Liberty pulled off the biggest win of the year and maybe in the history of LU basketball when it downed the Virginia Cavaliers in Charlottesville, Virginia 69-64.

"Obviously, the Virginia win was huge for us at the time but hopefully better things are yet to come," Dunton said. "May 1 remind you that Cinderella did go to the ball."

Highlanders pummel Flames; LU stands at 2-3 for the year

By MATT DERRICK
Champion Reporter

The Liberty men's tennis team lost 5-2 to conference elite, Radford Saturday Feb. 21, at the Esbenschade/Hershey tennis center at Liberty University.

Two members of Liberty's squad defeated their Highlander singles opponents. Greg Seatzini beat Stuart Evans 7-6, 6-1, and Brett Clutlow contributed the only other LU match win: 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, over Eric Christianson.

While LU's team falls to 0-1 in the Big South Conference, first year Head Tennis Coach Scott Phillips sees the positives. "Our guys played hard," he said. "It was good to come away with at least two matches won in this first meet."

Radford's Faycal Rhalazi swept Shannon Walker of Liberty 6-0, 6-0, while RU teammate Youssef Bouzidi pounded Liberty's Scott

Marlowe 6-0, 6-1.

Anthony Fleming finished respectively, losing to Radford's Faisal Syd-Hag 7-5, 6-3. Adam Kanaan rounded off Liberty's line-up losing to Wadi Rals 6-1, 6-1.

Radford took the doubles points with a three match sweep.

The Flames play Averett College Tuesday, Feb. 24, a meet which was rescheduled from last week due to rain. The team then travels to Maryland to take on Towson State Friday, Feb. 27 and UMBC Saturday, Feb. 28.

Include the partial season from the fall, the Flames are now 2-3 overall, but Phillips remains optimistic.

"We should do pretty well in the next few games," he said. "Our guys will come out with more enthusiasm. I think we have a realistic shot at being 5-3 by the end of the weekend."

Liberty's next home game will be held March 7, when the Flames take on UNC-Asheville.

Special Ski Program Announced For Liberty University Students, Faculty and Staff

We are pleased to announce the establishment of a special Liberty University Ski program which is being made available by Winterplace Ski Resort, near Beckley, West Virginia. Liberty University Students, Faculty and Staff wishing to take advantage of this special ski program must present their Liberty University Identification Card when purchasing lift tickets or renting ski equipment.

SPECIAL PRICES ARE:

Non-Holiday Weekdays, Monday through Friday		
	All Day Skiing From Open to 10 pm	Twilight Skiing From 3 pm to 10 pm
Lift Ticket	\$20.95	\$18.95
Rental Equipment	\$11.95	\$11.95
Weekends and Holidays		
	All Day Skiing From Open to 10 pm	Night Skiing From 5 pm to 10 pm
Lift Ticket	\$36.95	\$22.95
Rental Equipment	\$17.95	\$13.95

• Equipment rental includes skis, boots, and poles. (Deposit required).
• Winterplace opens at 8 am on Weekends and Holidays and 9 am Weekdays.
• Holiday period is: February 14-16.

This year Winterplace added the big Cool Ridge Snowtubing Park with 8 lanes of fun for everyone! Try out the biggest snowtubing park in the Southeast!

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LU softball team prepares for chance at NCAA bid

By BRIAN WOOLFORD
Champion Reporter

The Liberty University women's softball team hopes to improve on its impressive 1997 season. The '97 Flames won 36 games which tied the record for most wins by an NCAA Division I Liberty softball team. Two-time Virginia Coach of the Year Paul Wetmore has a talented list of returning starters and a promising freshman class.

A strong group of veterans will be leading the Flames effort. Last year's Big South batting champ, Libi Cook, will compete for leadoff spot in the lineup. Cook batted .408 in '97 and was named to the Big South All Conference first team.

Junior Stacy Radulovich, who led the Big South in batting average her freshman year, will contribute in the absence of last year's MVP Shannon Tanski.

Co-captain Tammy Carp was named the team's most inspirational player last year and will be a significant factor in the Flames' offense. Carp is recovering from shoulder surgery, but is still expected to be a powerful hitter.

Leslie Inge and Katie Phillips return to the Flames pitching staff. Inge recorded the school's first perfect game against George Mason last season as a freshman.

Phillips, a Rustburg, Va. native, pitched back to back no hitters in '97 and led the team with 20 victories. Phillips has twice been named to the All-Big South second team and had an ERA of 1.66.

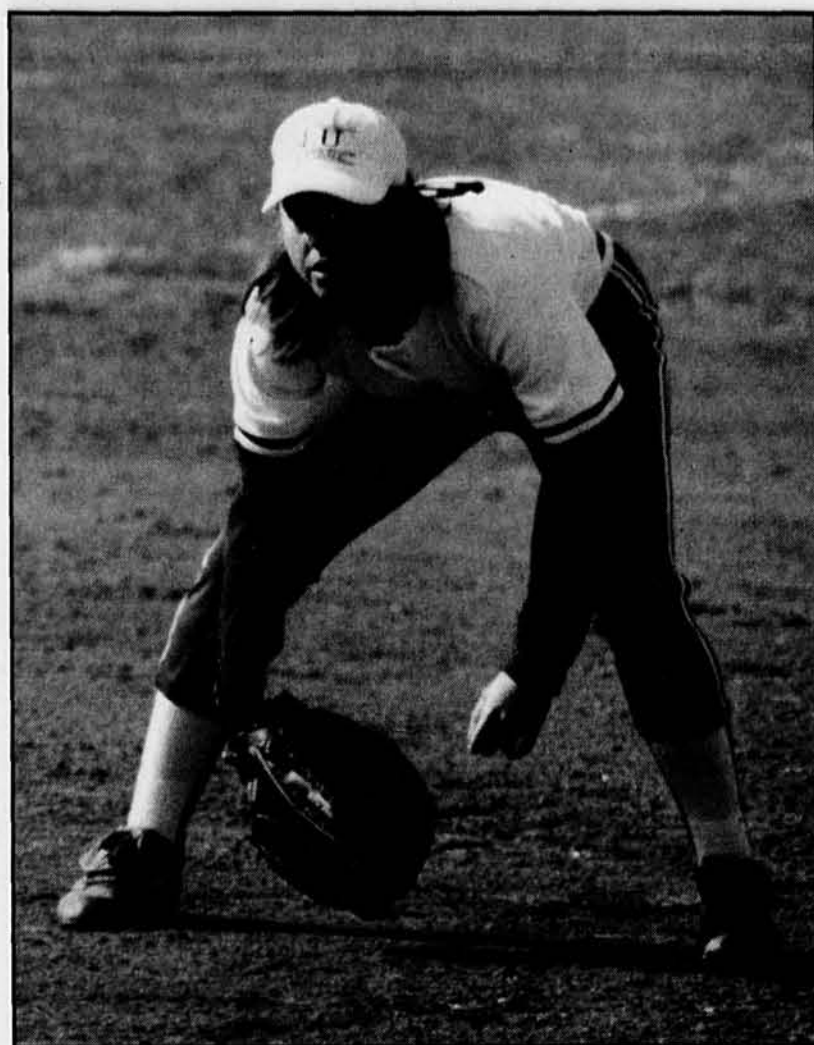
Liberty's schedule this year will be very competitive. Along with playing the difficult Big South conference schedule, they will also face the University of Virginia,

Virginia Tech and UNC-Charlotte.

In order to make it to the NCAA tournament, the Lady Flames must win the Big South tournament. If they won the tournament, the Flames would have to play the winner of the Mid-Eastern Athletic

Conference tournament for the right to enter the "Big Dance."

"What an honor it would be for Liberty University to be in the national spotlight," Wetmore said. "What a platform that would be to represent the school and the Lord."



READY TO GO — LU sophomore Kim Rutig keeps her eyes on the ball in one of last year's games. She and her teammates open their regular season in a home face-off with Hampton on Saturday, Feb. 28 at 1 p.m.

American Women steal the show at Nagano



By BRIAN WOOLFORD
Champion Reporter

The 1998 Winter Olympics were highlighted by the outstanding performances of the US women. The females shone as many of the male athletes struggled to find their way to the medals in Nagano.

Tara Lipinski became the youngest Olympic figure skating champion by edging fellow American Michelle Kwan to win Olympic gold in the figure skating competition. The gold-silver US finish was the best performance by US women since 1956.

After the competition, both Kwan and Lipinski decided they would not turn professional, and

they plan to compete in the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City.

The US men's hockey team disgraced the country on and off the ice with its attitude. Just hours after losing to the Czech Republic 4-1 in the quarter-finals, several hockey players trashed their hotel rooms causing thousands of dollars in damage.

The US women's hockey team captured the first ever Olympic gold medal for women's ice hockey. The US team defeated the favored Canadians in the gold-medal round.

American freestyle skiers, Eric Bergoust and Nikki Stone nabbed the gold medals in men's and women's aerials competition.

Just one month after an injury from a downhill crash, The U.S.A.'s most recognizable name in skiing, Picabo Street earned gold in the Olympic Super-G event. She won by a mere four hundredths of a second.

The Olympic medal drought of 43 years continued for the US bobsled teams. The four-man bobsled driven by Brian Shimer came within two-hundredths of a second from winning the bronze medal.

American women's speed skater, Chris Witty became only the second US speed skating double-medalist in the last five Olympics. Witty won a bronze medal in the 1500m and captured silver in the 1000m.

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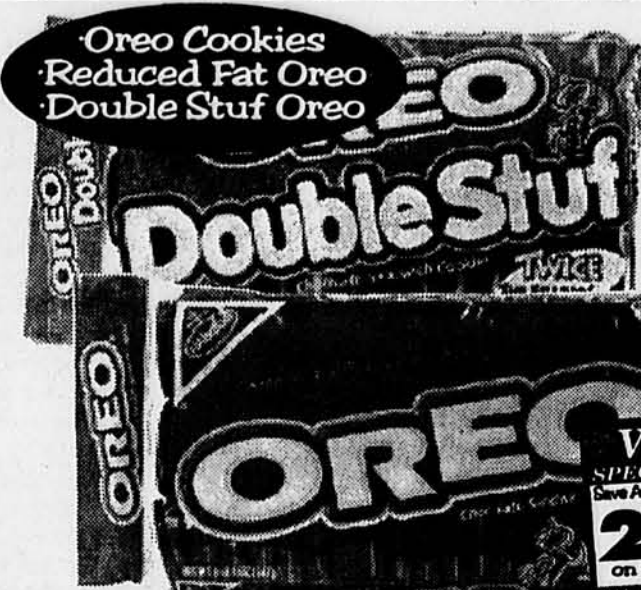
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'98 Softball
preview
— Page 8

The Champion Sports

US mines gold
in Nagano
— Page 9

Lady Flames finish season of finesse



LEAH CROSBY

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Last year's Cinderella team took on a new identity this season as the Big South's blockbuster. And despite being targeted by every opponent, the Lady Flames maintained their position as the hit at the top of the charts, scoring a hugely successful season and a flawless record of 26 straight wins.

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"You don't beat Radford like that unless you're a good team," LU Head Coach Rick Reeves said.

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Sharon Wilkerson contributed 19 points for the Flames before she fouled out with



laureleimiller

Wimps, winners and whiners

Writing a column every week is one of those "feast or famine" kind of things. Some weeks I spend hours racking my meager brain in an attempt to think of a topic. Other times, I have so much to say, yet so little room. This is one of those "I can't decide which topic to devote 500 words to" weeks. So, here's a few scattered pieces of what's been rattlin' round in my head.

• I can't believe I actually felt sorry for the US men's Olympic hockey team when it failed to advance to any medal round. I didn't realize that our squad was full of uncontrollably violent, immature whiners.

For those of you who haven't heard, NHL members of the US men's hockey team displayed their anger and frustration by severely defacing their hotel rooms — to the tune of \$30,000. These skater guys don't deserve the honor of participating in the Olympics!

They get paid mega bucks for playing hockey. There are thousands of Olympic athletes that work harder, for no pay and go home without a medal, yet they don't resort to a life of criminal destruction. My theory? The hockey dudes are utterly embarrassed at getting showed up by the girls!

• Larry Jackson is 'da man! His amazing performances have added a bit of brilliance to a year filled with frustration.

The Flames senior topped his career-high game score three times this season, and with a stellar performance against Radford in LU's closer, surpassed the 1500 point mark for his career.

Jackson is also Liberty's all-time leading three-point shooter totalling 222.

He's definitely one of the top three players in the conference. If LU puts together a title run, you can be sure Jackson will be leading the pack.

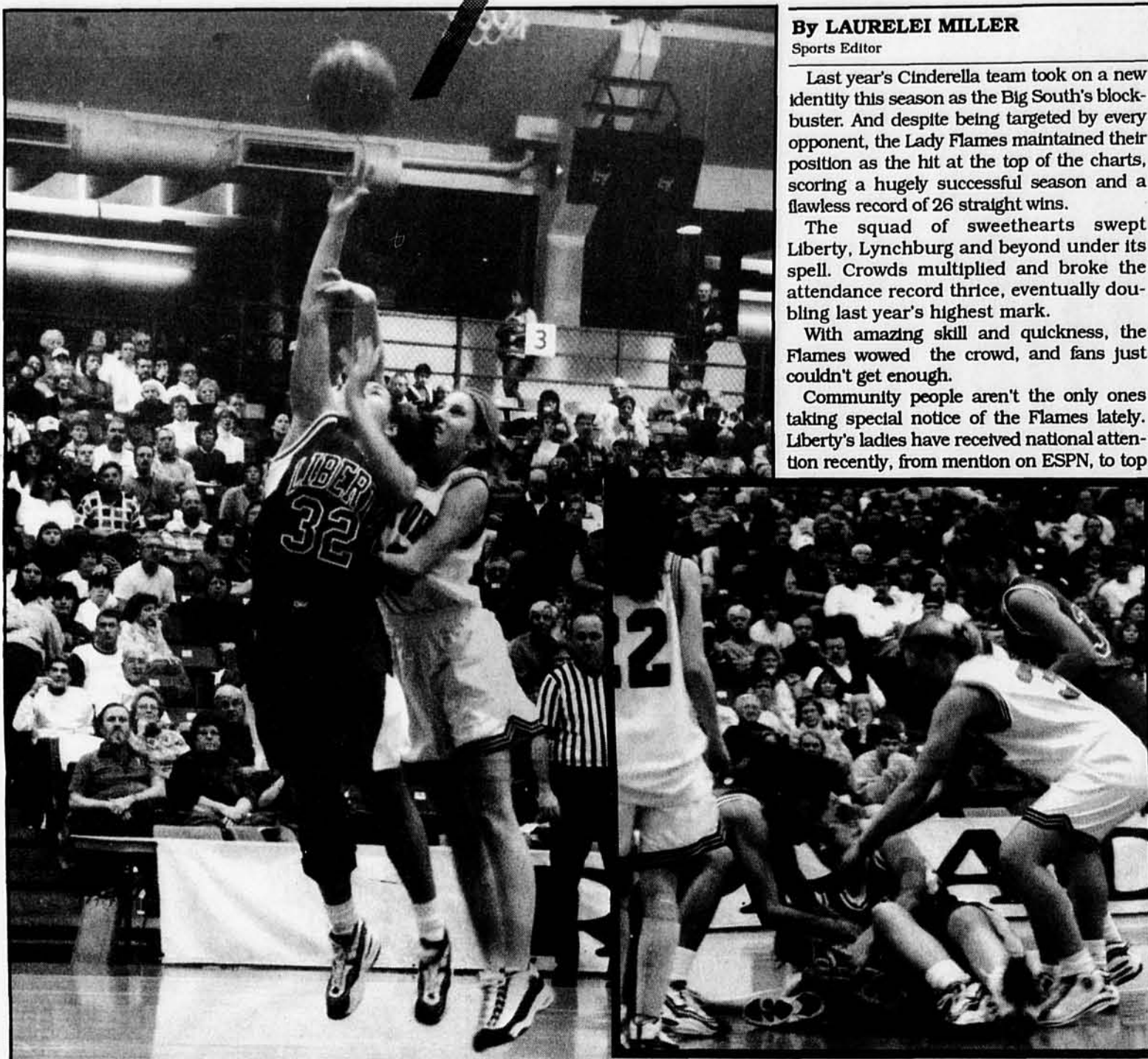
• A huge American congratulations to Elena Kisseleva, the Lady Flames' new career scoring record holder. With her 31-point performance against Radford, Kisseleva vaulted to the top of Liberty's career high scoring list. What's most amazing is that she accomplished that feat in just two seasons! If practice makes perfect — or at least better — imagine what the year 2000 holds for Kisseleva and the Lady Flames.

• Despite the controversy that surrounds him and the trail of trouble he always leaves behind him, Mike Tyson has reached an all-time level of pitifulness. Not only has he resorted to the likes of professional wrestling, he's broke!

Yep, that's right, Sports Illustrated reports that boxing's bad-boy who, in the past 27 months made around \$140 million in fight purses, has shrunk his piggy bank to just \$150,000.

I guess his choices were slim. Either lose the luxurious lifestyle — including your half dozen mansions and the Porsches, Rolls-Royces, Mercedes, Azures and Lamborghinis that won't all fit in one of your seven-car garages — or leap into the land of make-believe and get paid to be a pretend bully who gets told whether to win or lose.

— So flow my thoughts for this week. Tune in next time for more.



SARINA BEASLEY

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has contributed 31 points and 20 rebounds (left). **WRESTLEMANIA** — Liberty's Irene Sloof and Erna Jackson fight a Radford player for possession of the ball (inset).

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Men take 4th seed

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By MATT KEENAN
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— Please see Men's, Page 8



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— Please see Flames, Page 8



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STAY AWAY FROM CLAY — Clay Bailey nabs an Aggie who strayed too far off first base. LU swept the DH 22-0 and 5-2.

LU snags BSC title in indoor debut

By KERRY RODRIGUEZ
Champion Reporter

Both Liberty's men's and women's indoor track teams earned top honors in the inaugural Big South Conference indoor track meet.

LU's men ran away with the title, winning 10 of the 16 events to beat UMBC by more than 100 points. The Liberty women scraped past Coastal Carolina 149-136.5.

Liberty's Marlon Tanner performed like a champ. He won the 55m hurdles in 7.57, the 400m dash in 49.21 and anchored the winning 4x400m relay team of

Dennis Johnson, Josh Jones and Cedric Pollard, with a time of 3:18.78. Tanner also placed second in the 200m dash (22.08).

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Amy Rodriguez took second in the 20-pound weight (48' 10.25').

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Big South Special Edition, Page 1

The Champion Sports

the Anatomy of a PERFECT season

demonstrated by LU's "three-headed monster"

Head

Perfect for thinking, butting and ... uh rolling (opponents only).

Hips

Used to maintain shooting form, balance and box out would-be rebounders.

Feet

Perfect for running, cutting, turning, landing and washing (hopefully).

Eyes

Used for spotting those perfect passing lanes and detecting any weakness in an opposing defense.

Hands

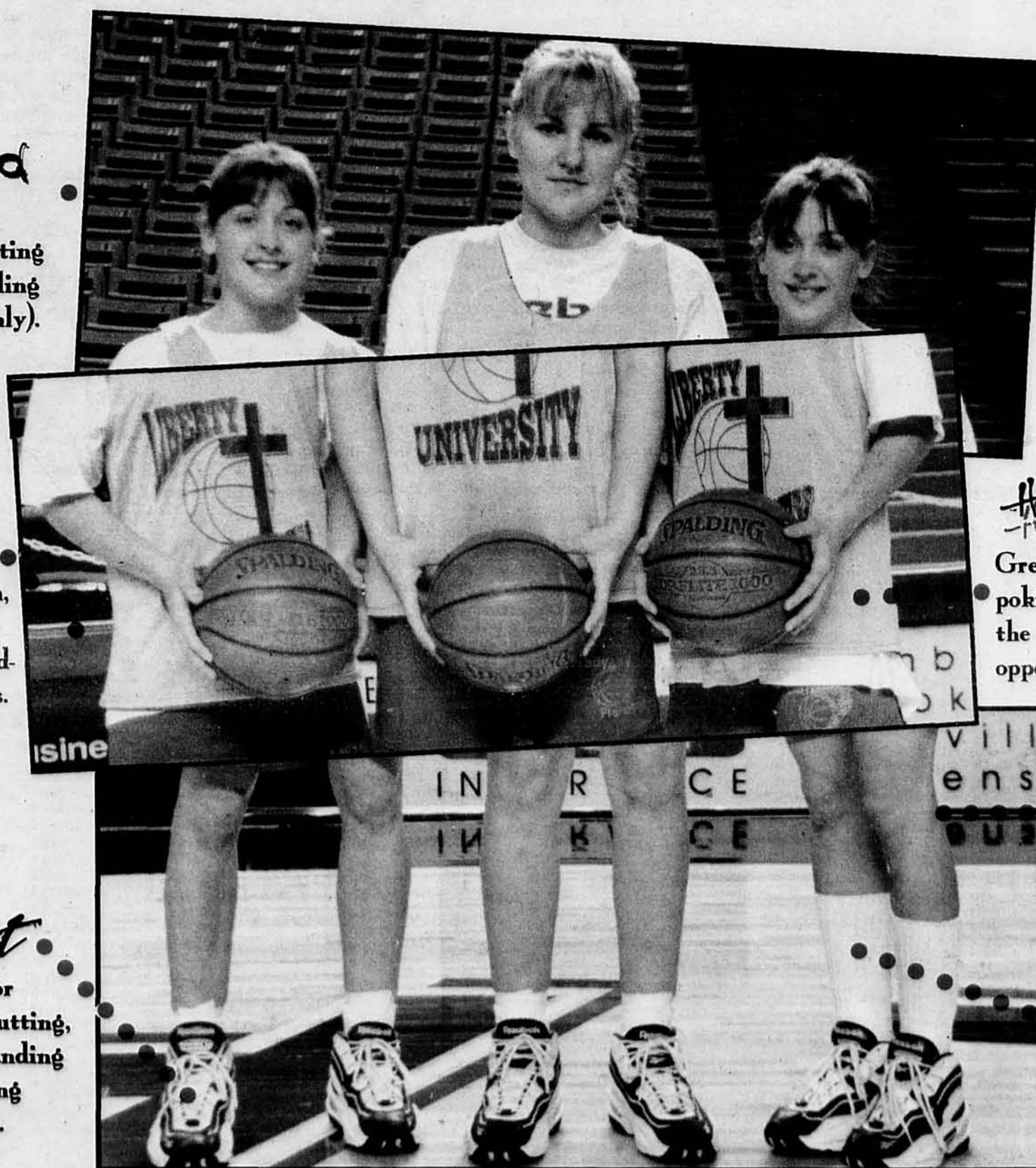
Great for swiping, poking, and slapping the ball from opponents.

Legs

Good for sprinting up and down the floor in a rout.

Knees

Just the thing to absorb the impact of the Vines' floor.



Sharon Wilkerson

Elena Kisseleva

Sarah Wilkerson

'98 Softball
preview
— Page 8

The Champion Sports

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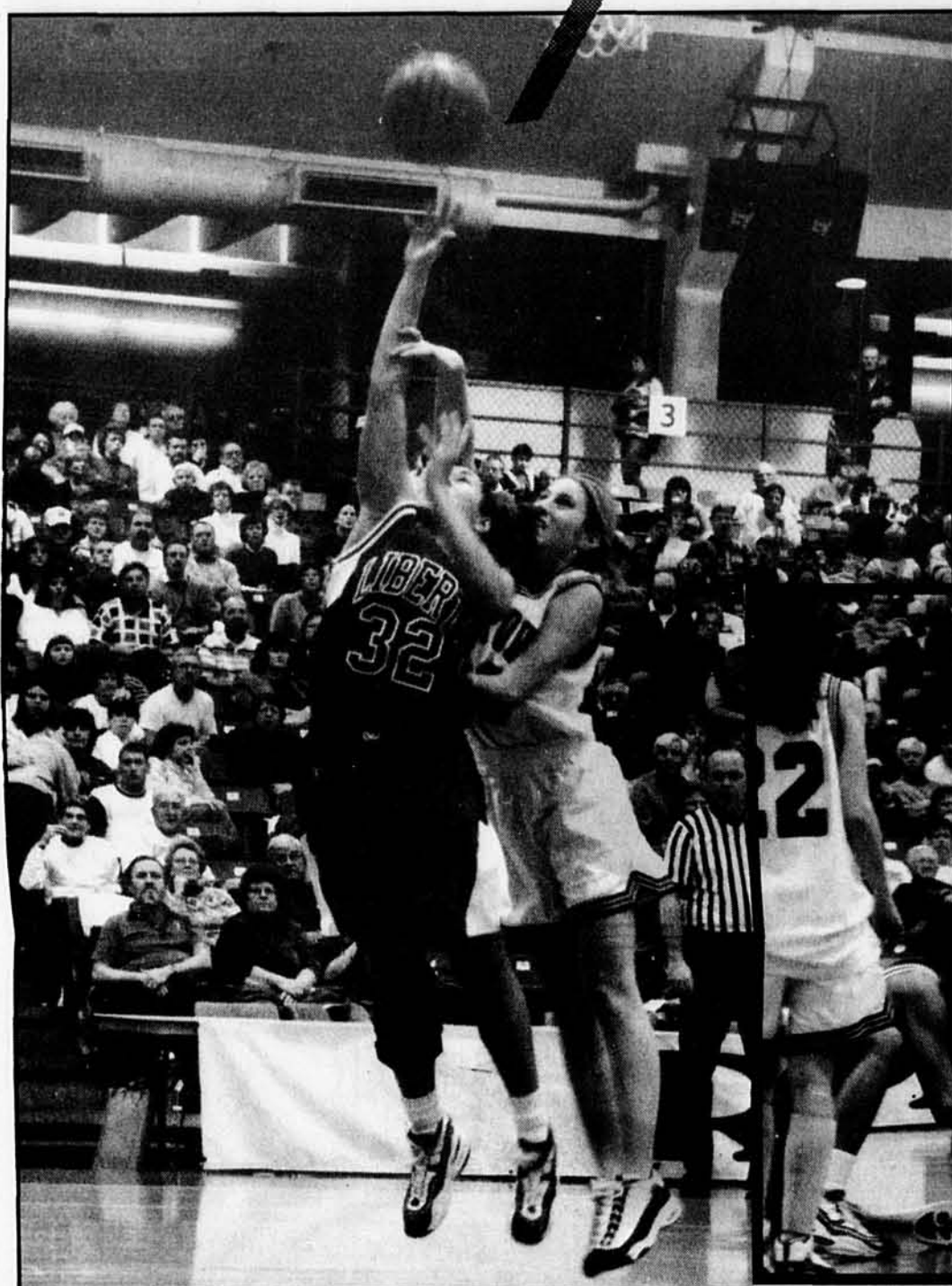
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laureleimiller

Wimps, winners and whiners

Writing a column every week is one of those "feast or famine" kind of things. Some weeks I spend hours racking my meager brain in an attempt to think of a topic. Other times, I have so much to say, yet so little room. This is one of those "I can't decide which topic to devote 500 words to" weeks. So, here's a few scattered pieces of what's been rattlin' round in my head.

• I can't believe I actually felt sorry for the US men's Olympic hockey team when it failed to advance to any medal round. I didn't realize that our squad was full of uncontrollably violent, immature whiners.

For those of you who haven't heard, NHL members of the US men's hockey team displayed their anger and frustration by severely defacing their hotel rooms — to the tune of \$30,000. These skater guys don't deserve the honor of participating in the Olympics!

They get paid mega bucks for playing hockey. There are thousands of Olympic athletes that work harder, for no pay and go home without a medal, yet they don't resort to a life of criminal destruction. My theory? The hockey dudes are utterly embarrassed at getting showed up by the girls!

• Larry Jackson is 'da man! His amazing performances have added a bit of brilliance to a year filled with frustration.

The Flames senior topped his career-high game score three times this season, and with a stellar performance against Radford in LU's closer, surpassed the 1500 point mark for his career.

Jackson is also Liberty's all-time leading three-point shooter totalling 222.

He's definitely one of the top three players in the conference. If LU puts together a title run, you can be sure Jackson will be leading the pack.

• A huge American congratulations to Elena Kisseleva, the Lady Flames' new career scoring record holder. With her 31-point performance against Radford, Kisseleva vaulted to the top of Liberty's career high scoring list. What's most amazing is that she accomplished that feat in just two seasons! If practice makes perfect — or at least better — imagine what the year 2000 holds for Kisseleva and the Lady Flames.

• Despite the controversy that surrounds him and the trail of trouble he always leaves behind him, Mike Tyson has reached an all-time level of pitifulness. Not only has he resorted to the likes of professional wrestling, he's broke!

Yep, that's right, Sports Illustrated reports that boxing's bad-boy who, in the past 27 months made around \$140 million in fight purses, has shrunk his piggy bank to just \$150,000.

I guess his choices were slim. Either lose the luxurious lifestyle — including your half dozen mansions and the Porsches, Rolls-Royces, Mercedes, Azures and Lamborghinis that won't all fit in one of your seven-car garages — or leap into the land of make-believe and get paid to be a pretend bully who gets told whether to win or lose.

— So flow my thoughts for this week. Tune in next time for more.

Lady Flames to Watch:
P. 2-3

Tournament Preview:
P. 8

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Big South Special Edition, Page 1

The Champion Sports

the Anatomy of a PERFECT season

demonstrated by LU's "three-headed monster"

Head

Perfect for thinking, butting and ... uh rolling (opponents only).

Hips

Used to maintain shooting form, balance and box out would-be rebounders.

Feet

Perfect for running, cutting, turning, landing and washing (hopefully).

Eyes

Used for spotting those perfect passing lanes and detecting any weakness in an opposing defense.

Hands

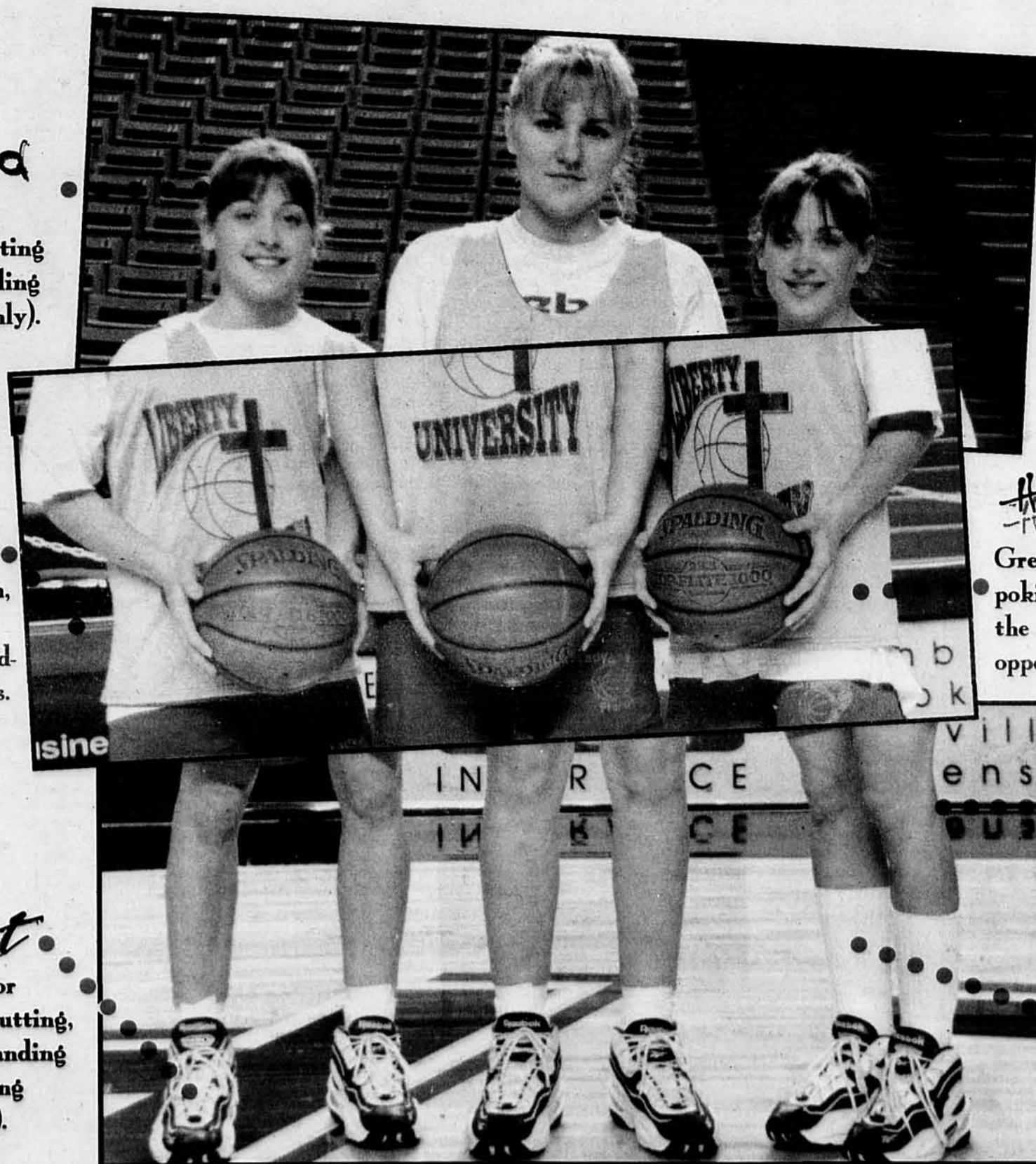
Great for swiping, poking, and slapping the ball from opponents.

Legs

Good for sprinting up and down the floor in a rout.

Knees

Just the thing to absorb the impact of the Vines' floor.

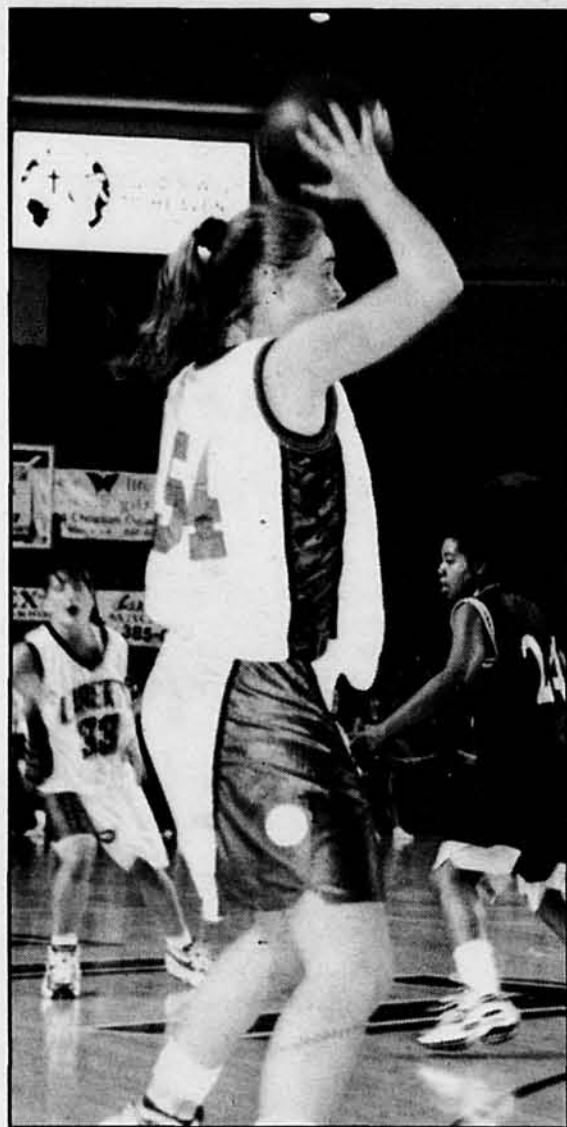


Sharon Wilkerson

Elena Kisselova

Sarah Wilkerson

Dutch Sloof: fresh frosh



SARINA BEASLEY

DUTCH DECISIONS — Freshman Irene Sloof carefully weighs her options with the ball in a Big South Conference game.

By **MARK HOGSED**
Champion Reporter

Think back to an early season Lady Flames basketball game. Among the veteran Liberty players, you see a not-so-familiar face enter the game. As you glance at your program to see who the newcomer is, the announcer shouts, "substitution for Liberty, number 54, Irene Sloof."

"Who?" you say to your friend in the seat next to you. "Irene Sloof," says your friend. "She's the new freshman Liberty picked up from the Netherlands."

Yes, it's true. This new addition to the Flames roster comes in the form of Irene Sloof (pronounced "Ee-rain-a Sloaf"). The 20-year-old guard is from the small town of Hoopddorp, Netherlands, located just outside of Amsterdam.

Coming from a basketball family, Irene began playing basketball when she was nine and continued to improve to become a very well-respected player in the Netherlands.

She spent the past several seasons playing for a national club team, the BV Hoopddorp ladies' team, at different age levels. Her brother, Lennart, and her father, Martin, currently play and coach, respectively, in the same organization. Her mother, Nel, fills the role of the family supporter.

Much like the '97-'98 Lady Flames team, Sloof's former team enjoyed great success. "Last year, my team finished the season undefeated, which was a big accomplishment for us," said Sloof, in her native accent.

She recalls one game in particular when her team faced its undefeated

rival. "The game was close and they kept fouling me because they didn't think I could make my free throws," said Sloof. She ended up sinking 11 of 12 from the charity stripe down the stretch to seal the victory.

However, winning is nothing new to Irene. When she was just 12 years old, her team destroyed an opponent by an unbelievable 150 points. "Our fans were actually yelling at us to let them score, because they felt so bad," said Sloof.

Although she is very gifted and has played on successful teams, Irene doesn't display even a slight hint of arrogance, just an undying love for the game.

How did she get to LU?

Amazingly enough, just one month before the start of this school year, Liberty University had not even entered Irene's mind.

Sloof planned on attending South Carolina and embarking on a career with the Lady Gamecocks. When the plan fell through, just weeks before the start of school, she decided to stay in Hoopddorp to play for her old team.

Days later, LU head coach Rick Reeves phoned Sloof and asked her to play for the Flames.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Sloof has adjusted to American life very well and feels that the culture is similar to that of the Netherlands.

One difference between the two countries however, is the fans.

"Fans back home are more down-to-earth," said Sloof. "Over here, they get into the game and are more fired up."

She has also adjusted well to American-style basketball. "The players (on LU's squad) always go 100 percent. Back home, they did what they wanted and that annoyed me," said Sloof. "The players aren't as physical and don't do a lot of (trash) talking over here. It's different, but I like it."

Irene comes off the bench and averages about 10 minutes per game for the Flames. She sees her role as more of a supporting role for the time being. "When I come in the game, I try to maintain the flow of the game," said Sloof. Though her playing-time is limited now, she is sure to be a key to Liberty's future success.

Be sure to come out and support Irene and the rest of the Lady Flames as the Big South Tournament gets underway on Feb. 25, in the Vines Center.



LEZAH CROSBY

FAMILY MATTERS — Freshman Irene Sloof with her parents, Ingrid and Omar.

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Triple threat

Kisseleva and Wilkersons plan to make a daring dive at another BSC title

By LAURELEI MILLER
Sports Editor

SCREEEEEECH ... the shrill sound echoes as black and blue knees hit the floor and skid in an all-out grapple for possession of a bouncy orange ball. The sound sends shivers down the spine like the ones you get when finger nails scrape down a chalkboard. But the feeling must be a whole lot worse.

The trio comprising the Lady Flames "Triple Threat" is no stranger to adding bruises by the score to their knees. No pain is gonna stop them from being the best on the hardwood.

Elena Kisseleva and Sharon and Sarah Wilkerson team up to pose one of the biggest defensive challenges any conference team faces, because of their basketball smarts and the intensely physical way they play. To fans, the trio seems invincible.

"I don't think about it when I dive," Sharon said. "But afterward, every once in a while, my knees will hurt — but I wouldn't say anything. I think that's one of the most exciting parts of the game, when you can get on the floor. I've always liked to do it."

Sarah admits that bruising the knees definitely doesn't tickle ... especially by the when

it gets to the end of the season, and the bruises are starting to pile up on top of each other.

Kisseleva's knees are the closest of the three to normal color, but she has a preserving secret about why.

"I don't dive for the ball during practice," she divulges. "I'm trying to save my knees for the game. I have only one pair of knees!" she exclaimed.

The Russian sophomore insists that bruises happen more often away from the comforts of home court.

"The first thing I think about when we're on the road is that we have the best floor in the Vines Center," Kisseleva said.

But what makes these ladies undauntedly throw themselves at the floor in an almost willing sacrifice of their bodies?

"I've always done that," Sarah said. "I've always been taught that, and I don't really think of it as sacrificing my body. I just think of it as getting the ball," she continued. "I mean if the ball's on the ground, then that's where I want to be too. It's not like I think about it before I dive ... I just do."

Sharon added, "We were taught to hustle, and I think that's one of the things a team needs

to have. You can be just as physical without compromising your testimony."

Elena sees the trait as one encouraged by Head Coach Rick Reeves and company.

"That's how we play," Kisseleva said. "It's not only me, it's the whole team, and that's our mentality. You give your best, on the floor and on the court ... for the glory of God ... and you see," she finished emphatically, "It works!"

Part of Elena's motivation to get down and grapple

reflects the true fighter in her.

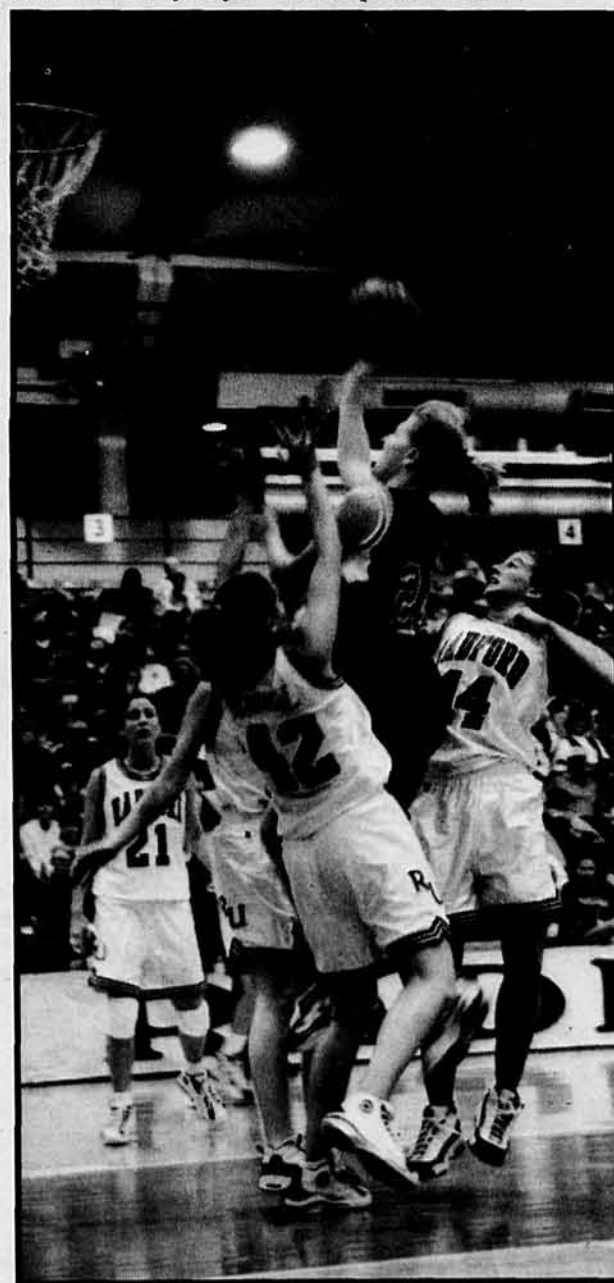
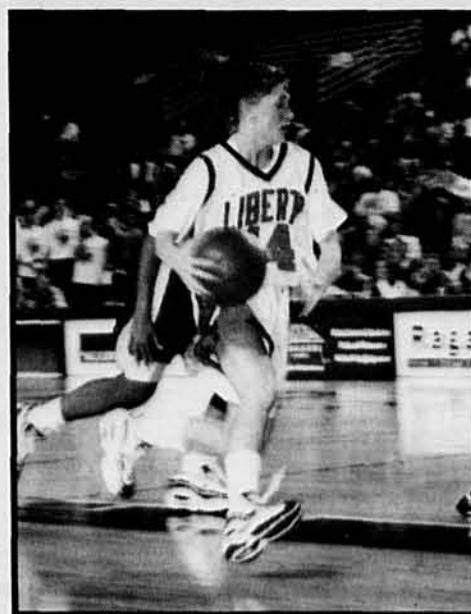
"When I dive for the ball and touch it just a little bit, I know if I could've gone that far, it's easy to just grab it a little more," Kisseleva explained. "I mean, I've already sacrificed my knees, so I'm not gonna give up at the last second!"

The physical aggression and endurance of the "triple threat" trio may inspire their competition as well.

"Every team is gonna try to play their best game in the tournament, and everybody's

geared up, cause that's what you work your whole season for," Sharon said. "I definitely think teams are gonna have hidden stuff all year and they're gonna come out with new tactics and ways to plan against us. All we can do is go out and play our best. We'll be fine as long as we're doing what we know we're capable of doing."

The tournament's here and the pressure's on, but with a title at stake, these girls won't mind adding to their collection of bumps and bruises.



SARINA BEASLEY

BLIND AMBITION — (top left) Liberty's Sharon Wilkerson rushes over defender en route to two. **ROYAL RUSSIAN** — (right) In her ordinary fashion of doing the extraordinary, Elena Kisseleva rises above the crowd. **HAMMERIN' THE HARDWOOD** — (lower left) Sarah Wilkerson drives the lane and looks to dish.

Messages to our fans

Thank so much for all your support. I look forward to every game hearing you all scream and go crazy. You are very appreciated.

— Sharon Wilkerson

Thank you for all your support. You are a great bunch of people. The Flames are very proud to have you as fans!

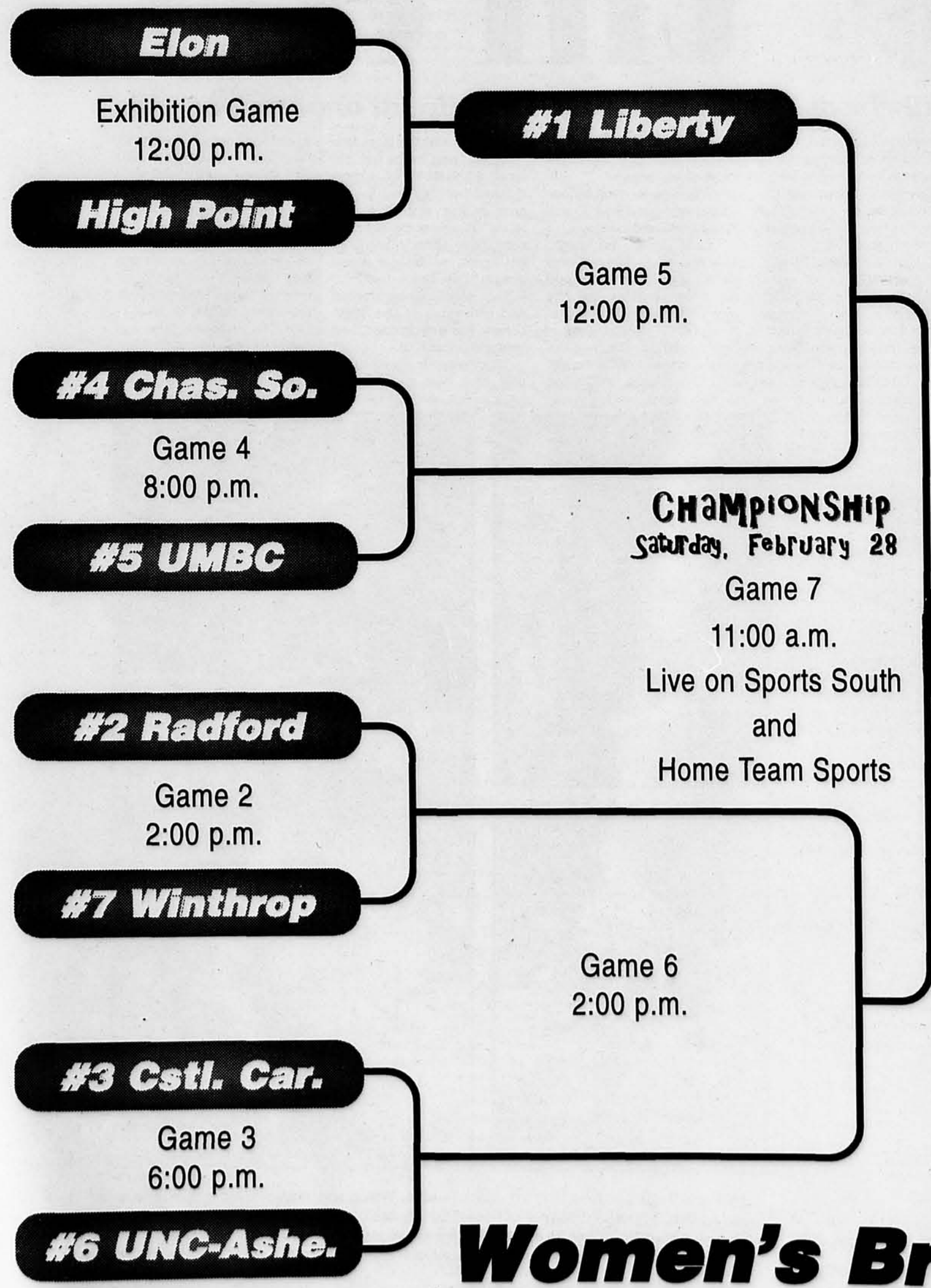
— Sarah Wilkerson

Thanks for your support! We need your encouragement in the Big South Tournament!

— Elena Kisseleva

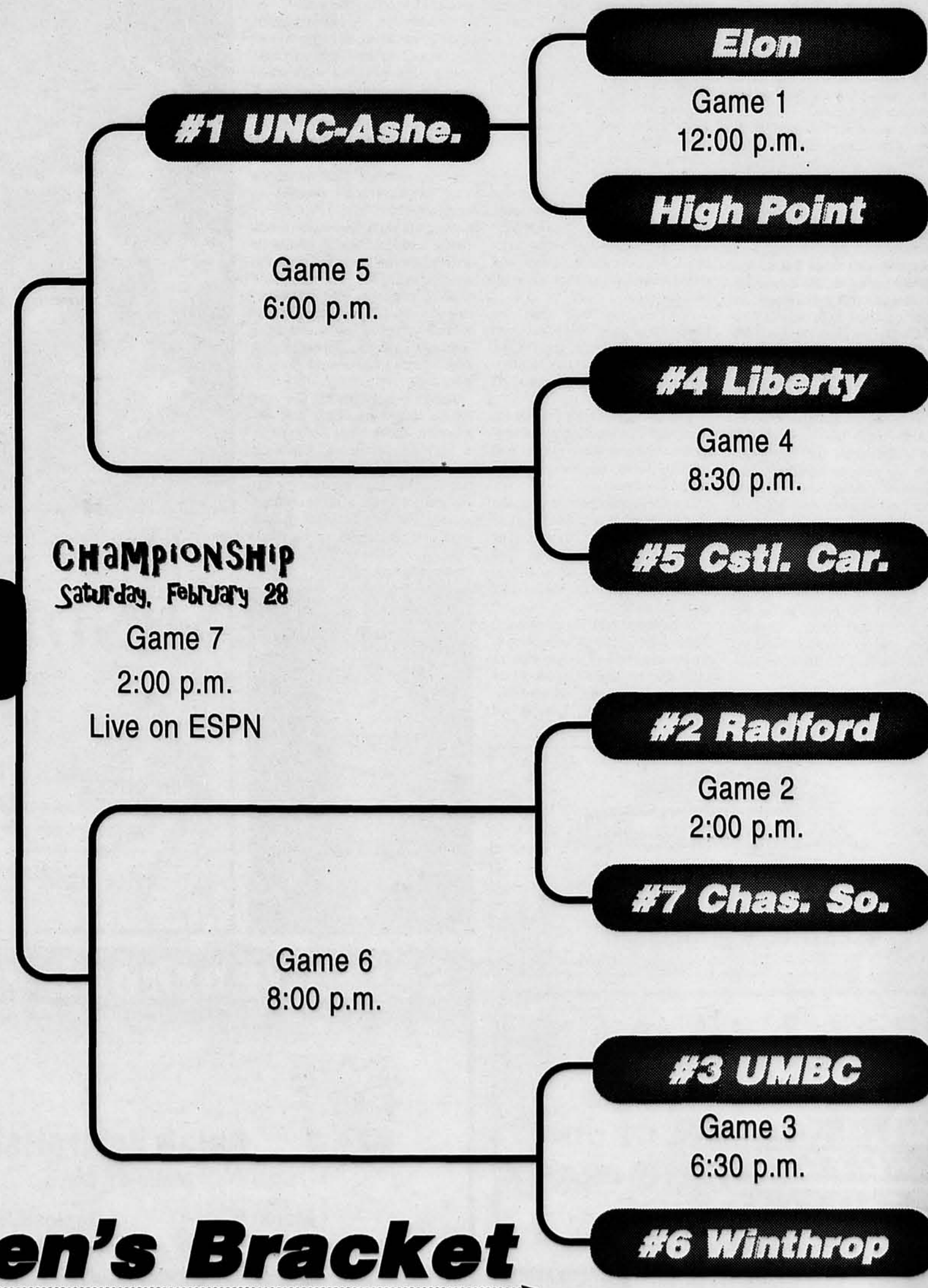
Thursday, February 26

Friday, February 27



Friday, February 27

Wednesday, February 25



Read the scoop on Reed

By **MARK HOGSED**

Asst. Sports Editor

As his basketball career comes to a close, Liberty's team captain Mark Reed can't help but reflect on his past, enjoy the present and anticipate the future.

Mark was first introduced to the game of basketball at the wee age of three, and as he grew, the basement became his practice court. "We used to have poles in our basement, and I would dribble around them as a drill," Reed reflected.

Not only did Reed fall in love with the game in the basement, but also in the gym where his father coached high school basketball. The younger Reed was like a little brother to all the players, and during games, Mark sat beside his father dressed out in a team uniform that his mom made.

The LU senior maintains a relationship with his parents that goes well beyond the hardwood. "Both my parents have been very influential," Reed said. "They've committed so much time to get me where I am."

Reed's basketball skills began to really blossom throughout high school. He earned Player of the Year honors for the state of Maine; he tallied 1,193 points to set the Bangor High career scoring record, and as a senior, Reed led his high school to the state basketball title.

That list of accomplishments made him enticing to colleges.

Along with Liberty, Dartmouth, Yale, William and Mary and the University of Maine were contending for Reed.

The thing that won Reed's heart was his recruiting trip to Liberty. When he was introduced to such players as Matt Hildebrand, Jody Chapman and Darryl Williams Reed felt he was part of the "family."

Mathematically, the LU senior hadn't planned to still be playing this year, but after sitting up for the Flames in the 1993-94 season as a freshman, Reed was sidelined with an ankle injury and red-shirted during that championship year.

However, he said that the lessons he learned from that team — which went to the NCAA Tournament — continues to influence his behavior both on and off the court today.

"I really learned the intangibles that year like leadership, what it means to be a team player and how to serve my own specific roles," Reed said.

Despite missing the trip to the NAAs, Reed has been a part of two Big South Tournament Championship games in his career at LU, but he considers Liberty's win over UVa his greatest game as a Flame.

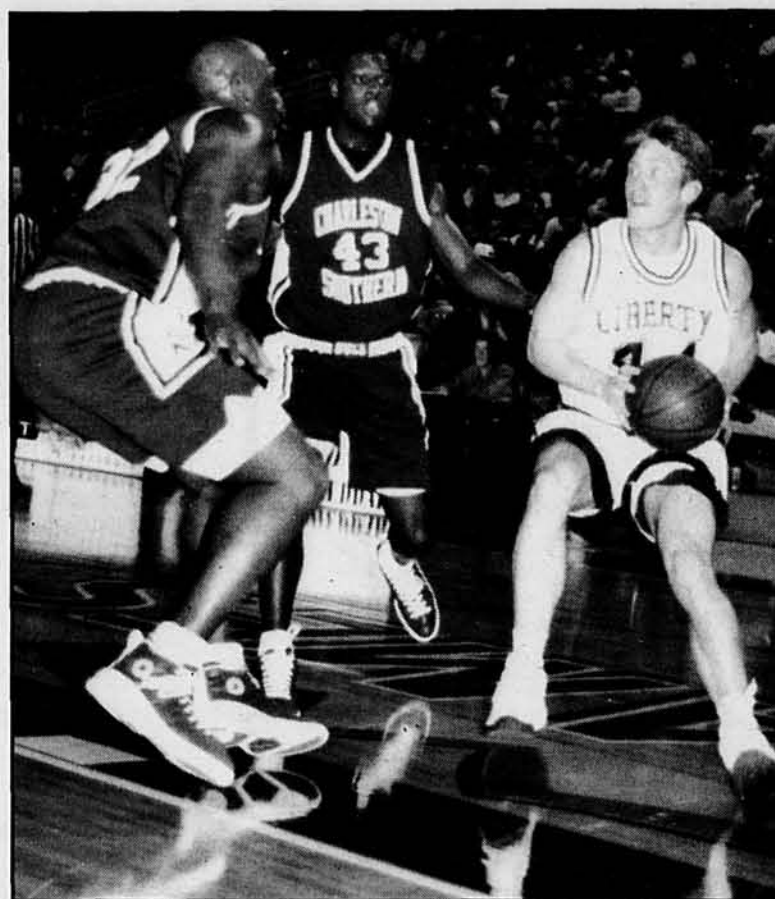
As captain of the Flames squad, Reed realizes that he is in a position where a lot of people look at him, and he doesn't want to do anything that might put his testimony in jeopardy. "I think it's

important to do what is right on and off the court," he said.

Graduation is approaching quickly for the senior who is double majoring in sport management and physical education, and he appreciates the many aspects of his college experience. "You learn so many things," he said. "Sometimes you can walk away with the most valuable lessons through difficult times that wouldn't have seemed so enjoyable."

May will bring the dawning of a new era in Mark Reed's life. As he leaves Liberty, he doesn't want to be remembered for any one accomplishment, just as someone who worked hard for the basketball program always making the most of his opportunities, and bringing honor and glory to the Lord.

Reed's aspirations for the future involve teaching and following in his father's footsteps as a high school coach. However, don't be surprised if you find him fishing in the nearest trout stream or hiking a mountain range, just for fun. But before that, he's gearing up for one more shot at the Big South Championship title.



FILE PHOTO

REED THIS — LU senior point guard Mark Reed readies to raise his game to a higher level against Charleston Southern.

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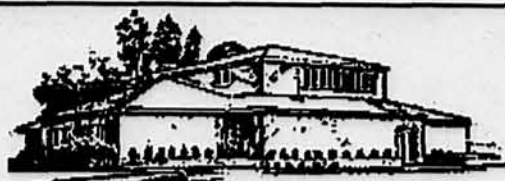
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Mascot's antics prove big hit with kids

By **KERRY RODRIGUEZ**
Champion Reporter

The Vines Center is filled with fans watching with anticipation as the basketball team tries to make a come back. Out of the corner of your eye you see it. Flying down the stairs in a mass of brown and white. What was that? Then you see it again on center court. You think to yourself... a dancing bird? Suddenly someone taps your shoulder and you turn around only to come face to face with... the Liberty mascot, senior Paul Pierson.

Our mascot, as you know, is an eagle. This past summer, the eagle participated in a mascot camp put on by the United

Cheerleading Association at Rutgers University. At this camp, new techniques were learned and ideas were shared.

Just like most cheerleading camps, there is a competition part. Only Liberty, University of Delaware and the two mascots from Syracuse, came in first place in every event.

"I learned a lot through the mascot camp. I learned that it is not about energy. Many people think that if they are energetic and have a lot of spunk that they can do what I do. It's more about the creativity," said the Liberty mascot. "When you have games several nights a week, the crowd gets tired of seeing the same thing.

I bet you're wondering what

makes a good mascot... well, our mascot is a little bit above the rest. He was the shortest starting Varsity football running back in the state of Ohio... he is a Sports Management and Marketing major... he loves to dance... he mascots and holds down two jobs... he's a natural competitor... and all of this because of a dare.

"The eagle is an over-animation of myself. I really don't think I'm funny. I don't see myself like that."

Looking to the future with high hopes... The Palace, home of the Detroit Pistons, is filled to capacity. Out of the tunnel comes the new mascot. The crowd goes wild as he begins to dance. Just remember where you saw him first.



LEZAH CROSBY

BIRD OF A DIFFERENT FEATHER — LU senior Paul Pierson makes youngsters feel at home in the Vines.

Pepsi Cola signs as BSC sponsor; others follow

By **BRIAN WOOLFORD**
Champion Reporter

This year's Big South Basketball Championship will have a different flavor than previous tournaments. The Pepsi-Cola Company has signed on to be the title sponsor of the 1998 Big South Basketball Championship.

"Their support will greatly enhance the competitive and educational opportunities of Big South student-athletes," Big South Commissioner Kyle B. Kallander said.

A fan interactive fun station will fill the concourse level of the Vines Center during the four-day event. Along the concourse, fans will be able to win great prizes including an exciting vacation trip to the Bahamas.

"We are proud to support college athletics and are very pleased to join forces with the Big South Conference," Sean Councell, unit manager for Pepsi-Cola Company of Lynchburg, Va. said.

The Big South Conference has also announced the signing of two other sponsors. Delta Air Lines and Advance Auto Parts are corporate sponsors of the Big South Championship. The contracts include television advertising rights and a "grassroots" promotion in select markets. Advance Auto Parts has 820 stores located throughout the East Coast.

"Geographically, our stores and the Big South schools are a natural fit, which should provide many exciting promotional opportunities," Wendy Kelly, the assistant advertising/marketing manager said.



SARENA BEASLEY

THE NEXT GENERATION? — Spectators of this year's tourney will enjoy fun games from Pepsi.

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Tourney site to move?

By **JOE SANATANTE**
Champion Reporter

Along with the move of the Big South Headquarters, there's a possibility that championship sites for both the women's and men's Basketball tournaments will move also.

Every two years, the Big South Conference takes bids from several schools that request the privilege of hosting the tournaments. This spring, a decision will be made that will determine the site for the '98-'99 and '99-2000 seasons.

For the tournaments currently under consideration, it has been decided that, regardless of the location chosen, both the women's and men's will take place together. This makes the upcoming choice especially significant.

This decision will be based on two factors—financial guarantee and reputation in hosting.

Liberty's chances are excellent on both counts. Fan support has been a high point in recent years, and that transfers indirectly into votes for a tournament location.

Additionally, the support of Liberty staff in operating past tournaments has been exceptional. A well-run, highly-supported, enthusiastically-cheered event—such as (Liberty has) a tradition of here—is 'the ticket' to another two years of post-season excitement at the Vines Center.

The specifications for choosing a site for these tournaments will be handed down from Big South in March. Once responses have been received, the presidents will gather in late April/early May to make and announce their decision.

Currently, the top spots in consideration are Liberty, UNC-Asheville and Winthrop.

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Big South

VI E M

The Big South Conference men's tournament promises to be a good one as the defending champion Charleston Southern Buccaneers look to defend their trophy against the likes of undefeated UNC-Asheville, the Radford Highlanders, and the UMBC Retrievers. The Liberty Flames, the host of the tournament, should play a huge role in who advances to the championship game. The Coastal Carolina Chanticlears and the Winthrop Eagles round out the field.

Here is a more in-depth look at all seven teams participating in the 1998 Big South Conference Tournament.

UNC-ASHEVILLE BULLDOGS (18-8, 11-1 Big South)

The most experienced team in the Big South also sports the best record. In fact, the UNC-Asheville Bulldogs have only one loss in Big South play this year, that coming against Radford.

Preseason Big South Player of the Year, Josh Pittman, a 6-6

senior shooting guard, has been the leader on the team all year long scoring almost 19 PPG. Contributions from forwards Kevin Martin and Robert Stevenson both average over 13 PPG and 6-10 center Dirk Lommerse has scored over 6 PPG and collected more than 7 rebounds a game.

The Bulldogs will get a bye for the first round of the tournament and will come in as heavy favorites to win the tournament.

RADFORD HIGHLANDERS (17-9, 10-2 Big South)

Senior starters Corey Reed, Kevin Robinson and Eric Parker have been the leaders all year long for the Highlanders. Each averages well over 8 PPG, with the 6-6 Reed leading the team, scoring 15 PPG. Junior shooting guard, Leslie Ballard has played a key role, as well, averaging over 12 PPG.

UMBC RETRIEVERS (13-13, 6-6 Big South)

UMBC has an extremely young team this year with all

five of their freshman playing a lot of minutes. In fact, the Retrievers start four freshman, with their fifth coming off the bench and contributing a great deal, as well.

Shooting guard Rich Giddens is the Retrievers leading scorer, averaging over 15.9 PPG. He has been getting help by fellow freshman Terrence Ward and 6-7, 252 pound Kennedy Okafor, both averaging better than 12 PPG.

LIBERTY FLAMES (10-16, 5-7 Big South)

The Liberty Flames came into the 1997-98 season with high hopes due to a great finish in 1997 leading them to the conference championship in last years tournament.

Success has been a team effort for Liberty this year, as each of the Flames starters average better than 6.5 PPG. Senior Larry Jackson leads the team in scoring putting up almost 17.1 PPG. Jackson also became the Flames ninth leading scorer of all time

earlier this year.

The Flames have been on a role as of late, due largely to their stunning upset of the Virginia Cavaliers in early January.

COASTAL CAROLINA CHANTICLEARS (8-18, 4-8 Big South)

With a senior backcourt of point guard Greg Smith and shooting guard Rodney Dupree carrying the load for the Chants, the going has been rough this year with a lack of support elsewhere. Freshman center, Marcus Stewart has been a bright spot, though, averaging over 10 PPG.

Carolina puts a relatively experienced lineup on the floor with two seniors, two juniors, and a freshman.

WINTHROP EAGLES (7-19, 4-8 Big South)

Coach Dan Kenney has seen few bright spots with his Eagles team this year. Winthrops 1-6 Big South record has been hard to swallow, but the tournament provides the Eagles with an

opportunity to wipe away the regular season's performance and start fresh.

One bright spot for the Eagles this year has been junior forward, Heson Groves, scoring nearly 11 PPG and grabbing over 7 rebounds a game. Senior Marcus Laster, a 6-6 center, has also played well for the Eagles, averaging almost 6 rebounds a game and 11 PPG.

CSU BUCCANEERS (5-21, 2-10 Big South)

The CSU Buccaneers came into the 1997-98 basketball season looking to rebuild. After winning the conference championship and moving on to the round of 64 last year, the Buccaneers returned with no seniors and a starting line-up consisting mostly of freshmen and sophomores.

Coach Tom Conrad has done a good job keeping the team together and 6-3 Junior shooting guard, Adam Larrick leads the team on the floor, averaging 15.3 PPG.

This years Big South Women's Tournament should be an interesting one as the Liberty Lady Flames take their undefeated regular season record into the tournament and look to win their second consecutive Big South title.

The Radford Highlanders, Charleston Southern Lady Buccaneers, and Coastal Carolina Lady Chanticlears will provide the toughest competition for the defending champs. The Winthrop Lady Eagles, UNC-Asheville Bulldogs and UMBC Retrievers round out the field for the tournament.

LIBERTY LADY FLAMES (26-0, 12-0 Big South)

The Lady Flames finished the regular season undefeated for the first time in the school's history and are looking to build on that record in the postseason.

As last year's defending Big South champs, the Flames goal is to repeat, which is exactly what they will do if it is up to their three preseason all-conference super sophomores, Sarah and Sharon

Wilkerson, and preseason conference player of the year pick, Elena Kisseleva. All three have no doubt led the team all year long, but have also received considerable amount of help from the likes of seniors Erma Jackson, Erin Wall, and Flori Willie, as well as guard Irene Sklof.

The Lady Flames are eyeing a return to the Division I tournament with a win in the Big South Tournament. Liberty is definitely coming in to the tournament as heavy favorites.

RADFORD LADY HIGHLANDERS (13-13, 10-2 Big South)

Although the Lady Highlanders struggled to reach five hundred in their overall record, they have played nearly flawless against their Big South opponents, with their only two losses coming at the hands of their rival Lady Flames.

Star center Rebecca McNeil has provided the main boost for Radford this year, but has received help from junior center,

Kim Cruise and sophomore guard, Kelli Tull.

CSU LADY BUCCANEERS (11-15, 6-6 Big South)

The Lady Buccaneers entered the 1997-98 season with high hopes. Coach Fred Francello believed that this year's team could be the most talented team the Bucs' have ever put out on the court.

A team that consists of mostly sophomores and freshmen, with the exception junior guard, Crystal Carpenter, has shown its inexperience at times, but has done quite well for such a young team.

Preseason all-conference player, Kate Sanford, has led the Lady Bucs' all year long, but has received a great deal of help from Carpenter, sophomore center, Jennifer Shevenock and sophomore guard, Joy Taylor.

COASTAL CAROLINA LADY CHANTICLEARS (9-17, 5-7 Big South)

New head coach Alan LeForce was greeted with eight returning

players from last years Lady Chants, including two starters. The team has only one senior, guard Jaime Wilcox, who has contributed well off the bench. A strong recruiting class of five freshman, though, has helped power the squad to fourth place in the conference. Junior guard, Jamie Davis, and sophomore forward, Kelly Shutters, have played key roles as well for the Chants.

UMBC LADY RETRIEVERS (7-19, 4-8 Big South)

Although UMBC returned the entire squad from last year, the Retrievers have struggled to find their groove this season. With their 7-19 record, they did improve on last years record, but not to the extent that was expected by head coach Kathy Solano.

Last years Second Team All-Conference performers, Kendra Damann and Monica Logan have provided the leadership for the team this year with help from sophomore point guard, Maggie McDevitt and junior forward, Courtney Simmons.

UNC-ASHEVILLE LADY BULLDOGS (5-21, 4-8 Big South)

The Bulldogs looked to start anew this season with the arrival of new coach Kathleen Weber, and some players coming in to replace the loss of three starters from last years squad.

Sophomore guard Emily Hill, coming of an All-Rookie selection in 1996-97, has lead the team this year. Seniors Amanda Brewer, Cary Gay, and Mandy Edwards have been very productive for the Bulldogs, as well.

WINTHROP LADY EAGLES (5-21, 2-10 Big South)

Winthrop was picked by many to compete for the conference title this year, but has struggled tremendously, remaining in the cellar of the standings for the majority of the season.

The team has had a few bright spots, though, including junior center, Jennifer Churchill and senior forward, Katherine Kitchin, who have carried much of the load this year.