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It's R.A.D.

Ladies learn how to protect themselves in Rape Aggression Defense.

See page B6

Makeover to Moderate

Opinion exposes Sen. Hillary Clinton's most recent transformation.

See page A4

History happenings

Frederick Douglass, a.k.a. Fred Morsell, pays a visit.



See page A3



The Liberty Champion

SERVING LIBERTY UNIVERSITY FOR TWENTY-TWO YEARS VOL. 22, NO. 15

MARCH 1, 2005

Heroes OF THE Past

Black Panther veteran speaks at memorial

By Alicia Wotring
COPY EDITOR

An old and yellowed picture of a young black soldier hangs on a projector screen next to a 79-year-old veteran standing behind a podium. Though the years have changed him much, his smile is the same.

"I'd like to express my feelings and knowledge of World War II," the man said.

E.G. McConnell was a member of the 761st tank battalion, the first all-black tank battalion to be in combat in World War II. He came to the D-Day Memorial in honor of Black History Month on Feb. 24 to share his experience and memories of the war.

Joining McConnell was author Joe Wilson Jr. who wrote "The 761st 'Black Panther' Tank Battalion in World War II." Wilson's book was a tribute to his father who had served with the Panthers during the latter part of the war.

After Wilson gave a brief lecture on the history of the

761st, McConnell shared his story.

McConnell lied about his age to get in the Army at only 16, which was considered very patriotic at the time. However, shortly after joining, McConnell said that for the first time in his life he experienced racism. From then on, he battled not only for his country, but against racism, as well.

McConnell was informed that he and the other black soldiers would be responsible for cleaning the camp. But the persistent young man questioned his superiors.

"I started a program on my own and asking 'why, why do black soldiers have to do that?'" McConnell said. And his persistence won out in the end.

The soldiers were told they would no longer be responsible for cleaning the camp. Then, McConnell asked to be transferred to a tank battalion. Before he left for Germany, he even turned down a promotion to sergeant.

Please see MCCONNELL, Page A3

Falwell recovering from pneumonia

Chancellor hospitalized for breathing problems

By Sara Lesley
NEWS EDITOR

Dr. Jerry Falwell continues to improve after his stay at Lynchburg General Hospital.

Falwell was admitted to the hospital with breathing problems Feb. 20 after the early morning service at Thomas Road Baptist Church. Hospital staff were initially concerned it was congestive heart failure. But later tests revealed that Falwell had viral pneumonia.

"As of this morning, Dad is no longer on the ventilator and is breathing normally," said Jerry Falwell Jr. on Sunday evening. "He is recovering from a severe case of viral pneumonia — so severe that he simply could not breathe without the assistance of the ventilator after Wednesday night."

Because he was put on a



DR. JERRY FALWELL

ventilator, the 71-year-old pastor and chancellor could not speak and communicated with his family through writing notes. "One of the first notes he wrote after waking up after being sedated for a couple of days simply said, 'I am OK,'" Falwell Jr. said.

Please see FALWELL, Page A3

Delirious? to wow Liberty

By Joanne Tang
NEWS REPORTER

What band could go from mellow and soft chords to epic guitars and fast drum beats? Of course, the answer is the UK-based Christian band Delirious? Since their beginning, Delirious? has sold out shows all around the world, bringing their unique faith-based content to the masses.

The band first formed in 1992 and consists of lead singer Martin Smith, guitarist Stu Garrard, drummer Tim Jupp, bassist Jon Thatcher and Stewart Smith, drummer.

"We want to make music and touch them and point them to Jesus and we've worked hard to make our records and singles on the radio and make an influence," said Stewart Smith.

Now they're bringing their music to Liberty where they will be playing on March 5. Liberty is

one of five United States tour dates before the band flies to Zurich to kick off the European and Australian leg of its tour.

Ten years ago when Delirious? was still a small Christian band, their popularity did not propel them beyond the UK. Putting up with small spaces, a bumpy van and being constricted to traveling by car made it hard to take their music to large audiences. Now they not only travel by a much larger bus, but also fly, touring across the world.

"We try to stick to buses so we don't have to wake up so early for a flight," Stewart Smith said with a laugh. "Nowadays we have the luxury of tour buses which is a huge difference."



PHOTO PROVIDED

BAND OF BRITS — Delirious? travels from Great Britain to play at a Liberty concert on March 5.

Please see DELIRIOUS?, page A6

Caner casts vision for seminary

By Annamarie McCoy
NEWS REPORTER

For Dr. Ergun Caner Feb. 3 will be a day he will never forget.

"It caught me off guard, I did not expect it," Caner said.

At the announcement of Dr. Danny Lovett's exit as dean of Liberty's seminary, Dr. Caner was chosen in his place. Caner spoke to Chancellor Jerry Falwell weeks ago about starting an apologetics center.

Instead, Falwell came to him on Feb. 3 asking him if he would be the new dean of the seminary.

"(Caner) is today one of the most

electrifying speakers and defenders of the faith that I have ever heard," Falwell said in a recent issue of the News and Advance. "I am proud to call him a friend and so thankful that God has sent him to Liberty to lead what I believe will be a revolution in seminary education on this campus."

"As the students cheered at the announcement, perhaps no one was more stunned than Dr. Caner himself," Falwell wrote in an article published on conservativevoice.com.

"I still see myself as that little church orphan boy, sitting in the pew in a country church outside of Columbus, Ohio. I cannot imagine

how such a thing could come about," Caner said in the article.

Caner also gave specific goals for the seminary.

"We will develop the seminary into the leading evangelical institution for training Christians for a new generation. It is no longer sufficient to simply train graduate students in theory and abstract; we must challenge them to reach a world with 140 major religions, many of whom inhabit our shores. (Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary) will set the standard for Global Apologetics on a world stage," he said.

Please see CANER, page A3

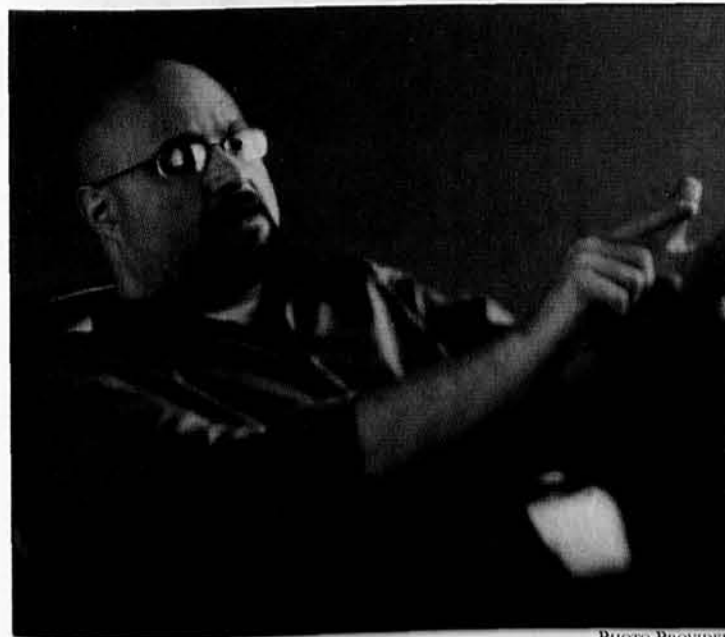


PHOTO PROVIDED

CANER'S CONFIDENCE — Dr. Ergun Caner shares his plans as the new dean of the Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary.



the pompous intellectuals

VS.

the "whatevers!"

aaron j. bauer

People fall into two groups: those who are smart and those who think they are smart. Those who think they are smart somehow assume that intelligence lies in the vocal tone and volume of their words. Subscribers to this form of genius can be identified by their final and lasting argument of "whatever." It is usually condescending in tone toward their opponents who, in turn, with calmness, laugh behind their backs. Sometimes, if brave enough,

they will laugh in their face. The passionate ones allow spittle to land on

the other person claiming, "I wasn't spitting on you and your lack of intelligence. I just have overactive saliva glands."

Perhaps the catalyst for an argument between these two groups of "undisputed smart" and "relative smart" is rooted in each party's definition of true intelligence. For example, Bertrude Buttonbottom knows everything about classical works of art, Picasso and Van Gogh. She is also well acquainted with the archeological finds at Nekromanteio, Greece. Meanwhile, William J. Smuttonmooth III, can tell you about Ashton Kutcher's acting career and why he should have received an Academy Award nomination for his uncredited performance in "Cheaper by the Dozen." He is fully equipped to elaborately detail the chronological sequence of "Back to the Future" and can, upon request, quote the movie "Clueless" in its entirety.

It would be a trick of fate, a wicked trick at that, for these two binary opposites to meet.

Their conversation begins in the classroom of a professor who is running behind schedule. (In such situations it is common, if not required, for students who have never spoken to each other before to communicate in hospitable fashion with one another.) As the conversation progresses, someone suggests they all leave. Everyone laughs and no one moves. If only they had foreseen the coming debate between Buttonbottom and Smuttonmooth, they all would have fled.

"If only they had foreseen the coming debate between Buttonbottom and Smuttonmooth, they all would have fled."

you left the past, you wouldn't be in the future!" contends Bertrude. Will would smile and, with the smarts of a percolator, reply, "How do you know? Have you ever traveled into the future? And besides, the timeline knew they would get back to 1985!"

The rest of the class sits in astonishment that such an argument would even take place at 8:20 a.m. The door to the room opens. A student worker enters telling everyone class has been cancelled and no one moves. By this point, they have divided. Two groups. William goes to the white board to draw his timeline. Bertrude reveals its flaw.

Left with only his pride to protect, William J. Smuttonmooth III recoils for his final and victorious attack: "WHATEVER!" He marches in triumph out of the room. Bertrude laughs. And the rest, contemplative of what collegiate education has come to, sit in silence.

"It is impossible to go into the future and see yourself 30 years later because if

Former Sen. Zell Miller slated to speak at LU

By Angela Franulovich
NEWS REPORTER

Conservative Democratic Sen. Zell Miller will speak during a luncheon on March 9 at Liberty University's Tolsma Indoor Track & Convention Center on Campus North.

The cost of the luncheon is \$20 and registration can be done online by visiting Falwell.com. In a recent Falwell Confidential, Dr. Jerry

Falwell called Miller "one of the greatest voices of sanity—Republican or Democrat—on the national scene today."

Miller, the former governor of Georgia and a life-long Democrat, is widely known for his support of President George W. Bush in the 2004 presidential elections, as well as his long-standing criticisms of the Democratic party.

In a speech during the Republican National Convention last September, Miller emphasized the need for a strong American defense and said that our country is "made weaker because of the Democrats' manic obsession to bring down our Commander in Chief."

Miller said that his party had been wrong about numerous defense initiatives and specifically noted that "no pair has been more wrong, more loudly (and) more often than the two senators from Massachusetts, Ted Kennedy and John Kerry."

Clarifying his support during the 2004 elections, Miller said, "My family is more important than my party. There is but one man to whom I am willing to entrust their future and that man's name is George Bush."



Sen. Zell Miller

According to editorial reviews by Stroud and Hall, publishers of Miller's New York Times bestseller "A National Party No More: the Conscience of a Conservative Democrat," Miller sought to outline issues in his book that would "again make the (Democratic) party relevant for the entire nation."

According to Stroud and Hall, Miller's soon-to-be released book, "A Deficit of Decency," will expand his criticisms of the Democratic party and examine "the decline of traditional Christian values of family, responsibility and sacrifice — where an absence of decency is threatening the heart of America."

Stroud and Hall quoted Miller as saying that he was at odds with the Democratic party's response to the growing threat of terrorism and that he was "repelled by the secularism that had engulfed its thinking and smothered its soul."

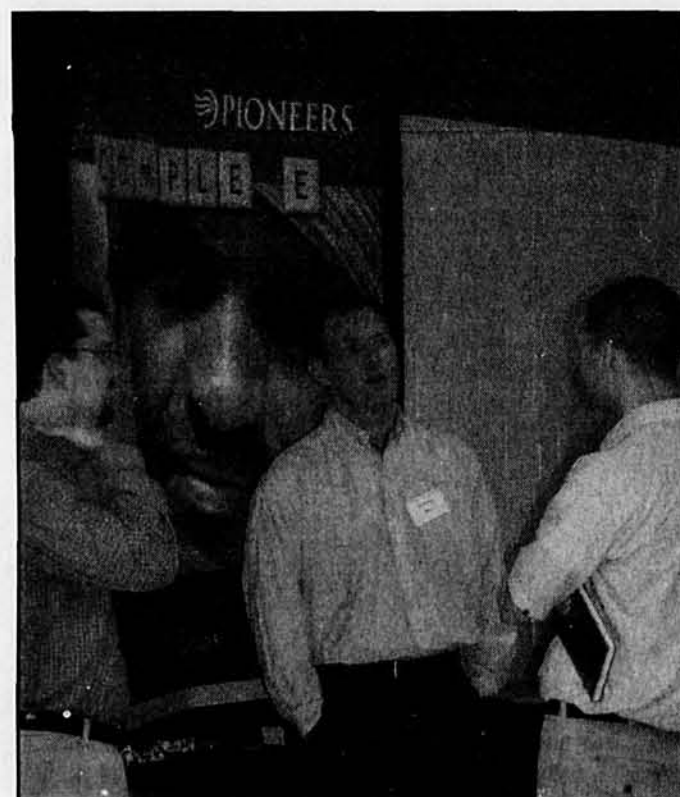
Miller was elected to the Georgia Senate before serving four consecutive terms as lieutenant governor followed by two terms as governor.

After Miller left the governor's office in 1999, he taught at Emory University and the University of Georgia before serving as a United States senator until his retirement in January 2005.

Miller is now a contributor to Fox News and works with an international law firm, McKenna Long & Aldridge.

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Missions Emphasis jump-starts world evangelism



JESSICA PADGETT

MISSION-MINDED — Around 40 to 50 missions organizations attended Missions Emphasis Week to recruit students.

By Aaron Bennett
NEWS REPORTER

For 376 days, Gracia Burnham faced hunger, days of terrorist-held captivity and deep personal tragedy. Burnham was one of the estimated 100 missionaries and mission representatives Liberty University students saw during Missions Emphasis Week.

Burnham, who spoke in convocation on Monday, as well as in a Tuesday women's seminar, was kidnapped along with her husband Martin while the two were serving as missionaries in the Philippines. Martin was eventually killed.

Besides Burnham, there were 40 to 50 other missions organizations that attended Missions Emphasis Week.

According to Amy CanneLongo, associate dean of women and former office manager for the Center for Global ministries, as many as 100 missionaries and mission representatives were on campus. CanneLongo believes that the conference helped to excite interest in missions.

"We're not here to put a guilt trip on

people...it is a privilege and a joy to do this," said CanneLongo.

Planning begins a year in advance for missions emphasis week, when the speakers for the conference are selected.

The intense preparations begin in September, about six months before the actual event. Johnny Moore kicked the conference off on Sunday morning with a challenging mission-minded sermon. Students also heard from veteran missionary and Executive Director of the Center for Global Missions Dr. Don Fanning on Sunday night.

Fanning sees many women who are interested in missions, but he expressed the need to recruit more men. "Everybody ought to try to go to the mission field...the field is the world," said Fanning.

Throughout the conference, there were nightly seminars on a range of different topics, including missions aviation, dealing with persecution and the role of the church in missions. Each seminar was led by a missionary, or a pair of missionaries, who

specialized in the particular topic.

Charles Porter, a junior biblical studies major, has an interest in missions and will travel to Asia with one of the Center for Global Ministries' tsunami relief trips. Porter found the missions emphasis week speakers to be both encouraging for his future ministry, as well as an opportunity for making key contacts within the ministry.

The week culminated in the convocation service on Friday morning led by Dr. Ron Blue. Blue is currently the international mobilizer of Latin missions for CAM International and the coordinator for the Spanish Doctor of Ministries program at Dallas Theological Seminary.

Blue excited students and challenged the crowd by reading the words written by the young Christian martyr Chet Bitterman. The sermon concluded with Bitterman's simple declaration of faith, "I am willing."

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The Liberty
Champion

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Re-enactor portrays slave abolitionist

By Aja Burden
NEWS REPORTER

Anyone who missed the Life and Times of Frederick Douglass, hosted by the Center for Multicultural Enrichment, missed an incredible performance of history being brought to life.

The event gave a rare and intriguing glimpse into the life of a slave and his journey to freedom. Fred Morsell portrayed Frederick Douglass with understanding and passion. He revealed captivating lessons of truth and wit out of the harsh reality of Douglass' childhood.

"We brought Morsell here three years ago and we got such a strong response, that we wanted to bring him back," said Associate Dean Marianne Johnson.

In costume, Morsell looked like a thinner version of the abolitionist. He recited a speech Douglass gave on July 5, 1852. Though offered a platform to speak on July 4, Douglass refused and offered to speak the day after. He called it

hypocrisy that a nation would ask him to speak on Independence Day while still enslaving a vast number of its population. From there, Morsell began the tale of a remarkable man.

Born a slave in 1818, Douglass was fortunate enough to learn to read. He escaped slavery at the age of 20 and became an abolitionist. He developed into a noted speaker and author. His later accomplishments include serving as an advisor to President Abraham Lincoln and serving as United States Marshal for the District of Columbia. Douglass' life revealed the courage of a slave who knew that he was not worthless and spent the early years of his life fighting to hold on to that belief.

The Center for Multicultural Enrichment was pleased with the turnout for this event.

"I was so excited, it looks like 20 percent of the audience was people from the local community," said Dean Melany Pearl. The remaining majority of the audience was college students. They listened intent-

ly to the stories of Douglass' life. "I came because I never heard of Frederick Douglass before. Aside from the extra credit, I wanted to find out who he was," said freshman Sonia Garcia.

The audience was entranced by Morsell's re-enactment of the sorrows of slavery. "Everything he says about Douglass is on point," said Civil War buff Kenny Rowlette.

Fred Morsell has been acting for more than 28 years. He has starred as Macbeth and Othello and has guest starred on soaps such as General Hospital and One Life to Live. He is a baritone opera singer and has many theater performances under his belt. Morsell first began to study the life of Frederick Douglass in 1984 when it was found that black children in the inner-city were being used as drug-runners. To combat the drug use among kids, the Frederick Douglass Foundation was created. The founder requested Morsell's assistance. Morsell admits he'd never paid much attention to

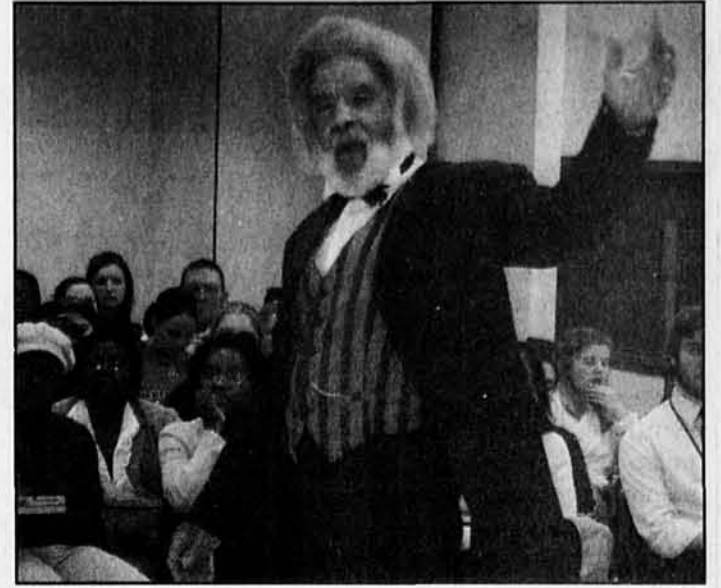
Frederick Douglass before, but quickly found out.

"The more I read about Frederick Douglass, the more my heart burned to understand how he overcame so many obstacles," said Morsell. He has since performed as Frederick Douglass in classrooms, churches and theaters in over 500 communities.

"Frederick Douglass is relevant today because of the three keys that he taught and believed in. First, you must believe in yourself.

Second, take advantage of every opportunity and third, learn how to use the power of words to change the world," said Morsell.

Contact Aja Burden at ajburden@liberty.edu.



JESSICA PADGETT

HISTORY RELIVED — Fred Morsell gives a riveting account of the life of Frederick Douglass.

Caner: Shining the spotlight

Continued from Page 1

Caner considers Lovett as more than a dean.

"He is a hero, a legend. Guys like Danny don't come along everyday. He is a visionary. He is phenomenal. You cannot follow someone like this, you have to blaze your own trail," he said.

With that vision, Caner has high goals for the seminary. He wants to offer master's degrees in every area of pastoring including church planting and women's studies. Also being offered is a doctorate degree in Islam that will be taught by Caner himself.

"I want the seminary to be a launching pad for pastors," Caner said. His basic job description is presenting the seminary, fundraising and drawing in students.

According to Caner, the seminary will move to the third floor of DeMoss. There will be 20,000 square feet of space for the new Center for

Global Apologetics, seminary offices and a student lounge. This type of seminary has never been attempted in the United States. This is the first seminary to be headed by a former Muslim.

"There is no way to do this by myself. It's all about what God wants to do. At no other institution would I be able to do this," Caner said.

According to Caner, these things will take place based on the leadership of the administration, he says some things will be happening immediately, other things will take a couple of semesters to establish. Caner believes that Liberty already has a wonderful faculty in the seminary.

"Every institution rises and falls on its leadership," Caner said, quoting Elmer Towns.

"I want to shine the spotlight on the faculty now in the seminary. You will not find a team like this," Caner stated.

Walter Davis, a seminary student is excited about Caner new position. "I just know him as the crazy, intense, spirit-filled, no-time-for-games, passionate, former Muslim who loves Jesus with all his heart and doesn't care what you think about it. And I gladly receive him as my Dean." With a blazing, passionate vision before him, Caner says, "One of the greatest things about this new position is that it's not about me, it's about God."

Contact Annamarie McCoy at amccoy@liberty.edu.



ADAM BISHOP

NEW LEADER — Dr. Ergun Caner teaches an undergraduate theology course.

McConnell: 'This is my beautiful America'

Continued from Page 1

"I didn't (know how) they could treat people like this and still smile about it," McConnell said. "I said 'the best you can do is make me a Pfc. and that's it!'"

When his unit was sent overseas, they served 183 consecutive days in battle without relief. But there, race was not important.

"Every division we fought with we got along fine," McConnell said. "We had no problems at all, we were all brothers, from the South, North. We were all family trying to end this war."

Once when McConnell's unit was under enemy fire, a piece of shrapnel tore through his helmet. It cut through two layers of metal, but lodged in letters that he had stuffed under his helmet.

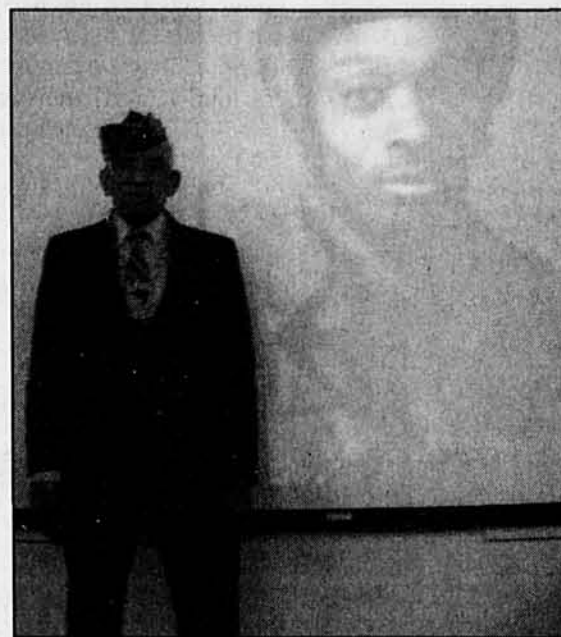
"The Almighty was looking out for me," McConnell said.

When he returned to the United States, he married and went to work for TWA, traveling all over the world, including East Africa and places in Europe he had been during the war. He and his wife had four children.

"I've been scout leader and everything else you could think of," McConnell said, seemingly pleased with the priorities of his life.

And in spite of the racial hardships he faced as a young man, he said, "This is my beautiful America. When I see my beautiful America—I see it the way everybody should, loving everybody."

Contact Alicia Wotring at awotring@liberty.edu.



JESSICA PADGETT

SOLDIER'S STORY — WWII veteran E.G. McConnell poses beside a screen bearing a picture of a Black Panther.



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Style E

Opinion

"The key for a Democrat to be elected president is to be liberal enough in reality to satisfy the base, but not so obviously liberal as to scare swing voters. The shrewd and calculating Hillary has been in the process. . . for years."

David Limbaugh
FEBRUARY 5, 2005 COLUMN

Hillary Lessons

Clinton revamps her liberal face



juliaseymour

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton must be the only person in the Democratic Party with a functioning brain these days, well except for former Sen. Zell Miller who is practically a Republican now.

Clinton seems to have realized that the last Democratic candidates for President had image problems.

The simple fact is that snooty, New England liberals do not go over well with all of America. Perhaps it's their aloofness or the millions they have in their pockets as they try to convince the working class that they are blue-collar workers living in middle America instead of their palaces in Martha's Vineyard. Or maybe it is the way they campaign on issues only a minority of people agree with them on. Does gay mar-

riage sound familiar?

So Clinton, who is alternately despised or adored depending on the person you ask, has embarked on an extreme makeover to prevent herself from having the problems Gov. Howard Dean and Sen. John Kerry had this past year. There is no question that Clinton is intelligent enough to manipulate the public with a new image. Project "Hillary the moderate" has begun.

Step One: Apply the foundation—Respect and concern for pro-life people. At a pro-choice rally in Albany, N.Y., on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, Clinton sought to bring both sides of the debate together.

"She appears to be reaching out beyond traditional core Democrats who support abortion rights, not by changing her political stand on the issue but by underscoring her views on preventing unplanned pregnancies, promoting adoption, recognizing influence of religion in abstinence and championing what she calls 'teenage celibacy,'" the New York Times reported on Jan. 25.

So Clinton is not changing her position exactly, just adding to it in an opportunistic manner. The fact that the audience was shocked and quiet for these sentiments indicates that this is not a position Clinton has previously taken and should be recognized as a play for political gain.

Step Two: Now for the blush—Support Bush's war and Iraqi freedom, especially now that Bush is reelected and his opponent fell short on national security. Clinton clearly realized that voting records are kept track of (unlike Sen. Kerry who voted for and against the same things), and any run for President would be hampered by a poor record on national security issues.

Clinton voted to support both the fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq, but threw around criticisms of the Bush administration handling of the wars.

Andrew Sullivan reported in the UK's Sunday Times online edition that

Clinton is now a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and toured Iraq with Sen. John McCain and three others just last week.

Conservative commentator and columnist David Limbaugh said it best: "She's already abandoned the party line by praising the Iraqi elections and opposing a date certain for American withdrawal. (Notice that Hillary sounds wiser in direct proportion to the extent she emulates the conservative position.)"

Because defense is one of the weakest issues for liberals, Clinton is making an incredibly smart move by trying to change her image to staunch supporter of national security, military use and the defense of American freedom.

Step Three: Add a little red lipstick—Portray herself as a woman of devout faith. While it is certainly for God, and not man, to judge Clinton's sincerity, it is difficult to trust her on this issue because of her past and current transformations for political advantage.

In recent appearances and interviews, Clinton has referenced saying grace over meals, "wrestling" with issues of her faith and calling other people's beliefs sincere, deeply felt and pious.

Clinton's awareness of the sheer number of religious conservatives and the importance of believers as a voting block makes questioning her motives common sense.

One thing that makes Clinton's faith seems disingenuous is the timing. Another is that she does not take a moral stand on the issues she is supposedly wrestling with. Abortion, in her mind, is not a right or wrong, it is simply a tragedy, at least that is what she says now. Her faith makes for comforting sound bites unlikely to turn anyone away and just possibly real enough to fool some voters, but in the end there is no substance.

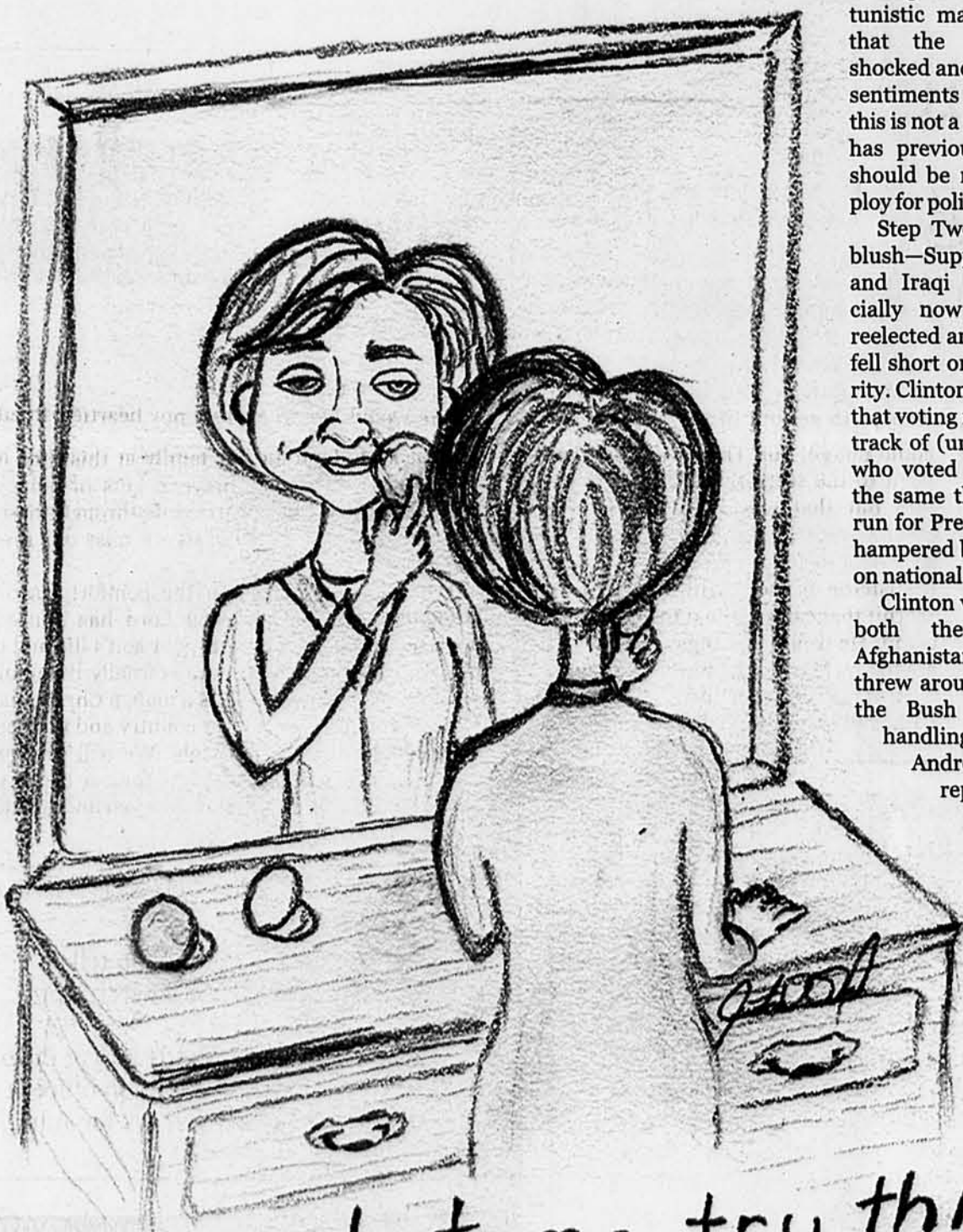
Clinton's makeover to moderate Democrat from flaming left-wing liberal is far from complete. There are three and a half years left, and she still has not declared that she will run, but the entire world can see she's prepping for it.

Let's hope the image Clinton is currently creating turns out to be as transparent for voters a few years down the road as it is for pundits now.

"Hillary will never be a conservative; she'll never be a moderate; she'll never be anything other than a liberal. But she is getting quite accomplished at making it appear otherwise," Limbaugh wrote.

Democrats do not just need a new image, they need new issues. If only Democrats would act on that instead of acting like Clinton. The unfortunate truth is that if Clinton assumes a slick enough façade over a gradual period of time she just might be able to swing enough votes her way to win in 2008. Though the truth about Clinton has been pointed out again and again by those on the left and the right, it could still work. And that is exactly what the GOP has to realize and defeat to prevent her from heading back to the White House. So keep your eyes open and on Clinton. This act will only get better.

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Let me try this shade of RED!

JON O'NEAL

SpeakUp: Where would you go on a missions trip?



"I would go to China because they don't have much outside influences."

—Chanita Foster, Fr.
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.



"Romania, because I have been there before and going in the villages is amazing. They are very receptive to the Gospel."

—Brandon Adkins, Fr.
Lynchburg, Va.



"Venezuela, because I know the missionaries there personally and I love the people. It is truly a place where I see God at work."

—Jennifer Ellison, Sr.
Rising Sun, Md.



"If I were to go on a missions trip, I'd go to Africa to help the students learn."

—Shetarrah White, Fr.
Charleston, S.C.



"Hawaii, so I can get a better tan while spreading the Gospel."

—Lucretia Bagley, Jr.
Kenbridge, Va.



"Spain because there is a beautiful environment in Madrid and to be there and work for the Lord would be awesome."

—Jessica Crowley, Soph.
Alberta, Va.

ADAM BISHOP

Commentary

Chair Dean will spell d-i-s-a-s-t-e-r for Dems



jennifermills

Republicans and Democrats alike should look forward to the return of Howard Dean's famous "yeaaargh" speech scream, as he takes a new position as chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

But it is a wonder how Dean has come back to grab the seat of the Democratic chairman after he lost the Democratic nomination by such a large margin in last year's primary. And with his obnoxious scream, he became a laughing stock across America ridiculed by late-night comedians and the American public. So it looks like Dean is going to be a good thing at least for Republicans. Here is why...

For the most obvious of reasons, Dean is a Northern Democrat which means he's beyond Democrat—he's a liberal. And as long as a liberal is leading the way, the better chance moderate Republicans have of keeping Congress and the Presidency in the hands of the GOP.

Another reason is that Dean appears to be a very forceful, angry person. Whether or not he is, that hateful tone is going to represent the Democratic Party to their detriment.

A more serious factor that Dean will bring to the Democratic Party is his talent for criticism. This will no doubt bring more harm than good, especially as President Bush continues to stand strong and deliver on promises.

Dean "lobbed heavy criticism at the GOP and President Bush's agenda," according to a CNN.com article on Feb. 12. But in the same chairman-acceptance speech he said, "We cannot win if all we are is against the current president and his administration." How is that for a contradiction?

The last reason that Dean is going to be a good thing for the Republican Party is his opposition to the war on terror. According to CNN.com, even some Democrats are nervous that it will energize Republicans.

So if you put all of those together, you get an angry liberal who loves to criticize and scream and who does not appear to support our troops. And put side by side with cute George and sweet Laura, that isn't a very pretty picture for the Democratic Party. But hey, they elected him as their party's leader.

"I think if (Democrats) have a true death wish, he'd be the perfect guy to go with," Newt Gingrich told Fox News as reported on CNN.com.

"I think if (Democrats) have a true death wish, he'd be the perfect guy to go with."

NEWT GINGRICH

Dean can't be all bad for the party, though, right? They must have elected him for at least one reason. The truth is that the Democratic Party needs something dramatic and Dean fit the bill. He is loud-mouthed, says what he is thinking and is not afraid to offend people.

"Today will be the beginning of the re-emergence of the Democratic Party," Dean said in his acceptance speech. "The Republicans will not tell Americans what the Democratic agenda is. We will do that."

As long as Republicans stand strong on the issues and aren't driven by emotion like Howard Dean, they will beat the Democrats in 2008.

Contact Jennifer Mills at jamills4@liberty.edu.



JONATHAN PARRISH

Tragic death should not change Marine recruit training standards

Any death is a tragedy, especially when it is a young man with his entire future before him. When we hear a story of a young man dying, we are instantly struck with feelings of sympathy and grief for the family. The case of Jason Tharp is no exception.



robertsisk

Tharp was a Marine recruit who died on Feb. 8, 2005, at Parris Island during a 25 meter swim test. The death of this Marine is a tragedy, but the facts have been twisted to make the drill instructor seem responsible for his death because of the hard training that the recruits are put through. A video was taken of Tharp being elbowed by his drill instructor the day before his death. Once the media found out about this, they instantly began screaming Marine brutality. The recruit's family has been on numerous news programs reading letters of how much their son hated being there and that he wanted to go home. The family also claims that Tharp was not a good swimmer and that they made it known to the recruiter that he could not swim.

Again I want to emphasize the death of this Marine is a tragedy, and I have full respect for the family, but boot camp is supposed to be hard. The Marines designed a program that would take a recruit all the way to

their limits and beyond. A DI takes a recruit and breaks them down into nothing and then molds them into a Marine. When someone signs up for the Marines, they know that it will be tough.

It is wrongful for a DI to hit a recruit out of malice, but if you watch the video closely, the DI did not hit him, but pushed him out of his personal space. Tharp was about to walk into the DI when he was "hit." Tharp also com-

"The Marines designed a program that would take a recruit all the way to their limits and beyond. A DI takes a recruit and breaks them down into nothing and then molds them into a Marine."

am sure something completely out of the ordinary happened in this instance. The video had nothing to do with the swim test.

The parents also say that Tharp wanted to get out of the Marines but could not get out. They even said they went to the recruiter and tried to get him out that way. The fact is if a recruit wants out, he can get out. It may be a little bit of a hassle, but the instructor is not going to want a recruit that can't make it through boot camp. He would endanger the lives of his fellow Marines as well as himself.

Brutality is never justifiable, but a DI has to be tough on his recruits.

If the training is softened, then so will the Marines that are produced by it.

An old military saying says, "more sweat during peace time means less blood during war." Accidents happen and we should find ways to keep them from happening again in

the future, but we should not change the way that our Marines are trained just because of one accidental incident.

Contact Robert Sisk at rjsisk@liberty.edu.

Letter to the Editor



To the Liberty community,

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for all you have done for our family at this time of our loss. Your calls, cards, prayers, gifts of money and constant support have carried us through these first difficult weeks of our grief as we miss our precious son, Jesse.

We remain steadfast in the comfort, grace and strength that our wonderful Lord has poured out upon us, and if, in some way, our son's life and death has touched your life, we are eternally thankful. We are proud of Jesse, his life as a man, a Christian and a Marine. His sacrifice for our country and for freedom is something he gave willingly. We will continue to proclaim Jesse's message of love for our country, the Lord and this community. We love you and thank you.

Most sincerely,
The parents of Sgt. Jesse Strong

If you have something to tell us please send us a letter.

Email jaseymour@liberty.edu or drop your letter by The Champion office at DeMoss Hall 1035 and ask for Julia.

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Delirious?: British band to blast concert stage



THE BAND — From left to right: keyboardist Tim Jupp, lead vocalist and guitarist Martin Smith, guitarist Stu G, bass player Jon Thatcher and drummer Stew Smith.

Continued from Page 1

The members of Delirious? are experienced road warriors. After 13 years, they have learned the method to touring madness. "You end up with two of everything so you don't have to keep packing up all the time," said Smith. The members are also married and often bring their families with them on tours longer than 10 days.

Their music has been compared to U2, Coldplay, Radiohead and 70s punk pioneers The Clash. Yahoo! Music, in a review of King of Fools, said their sound "echoes of 80's U2."

Make no mistake, Delirious? has toured with legends like Bon Jovi and bands like Matchbox Twenty.

Though they are a Christian band who takes faith and lyrical content seriously, they definitely do not shy away from the world of secular music. "At the end of the day, being likened to U2 isn't so bad," said Smith.

A decade ago, the Internet played a very small part in a band's quest to make it to the big stage at an arena.

Nowadays, bands can simply upload their music to one of many different Web sites and people from all over the world can have access to their music and form an online fan base.

For Delirious? the Internet has given them a new way of contacting their fans. Webcams set up in their studio can follow the band's recording activities, and using the internet, the band members can keep their fans constantly updated on their tour.

When Delirious? arrives at Liberty, the stands will fill and for one night, the Schilling Center will turn into the Christian House of Blues. For that night, Delirious? will praise God through their words and their melodies and fans will rejoice and will worship with rock music and that will be a night well spent.

"It's been 13 years. That's pretty good," said Smith, laughing. "America has been great for us."

Contact Joanne Tang at jtang@liberty.edu.

Falwell: Road to recovery ahead

Continued from Page 1

In another note, he asked Falwell, Jr. to untie his hands. "I said okay, as long as he agreed not to pull the tubes out of his mouth and nose. He nodded but it wasn't long before his hands were reaching for those tubes, so we tied them back down," he said.

"We saw this as a sign he was improving," Falwell Jr. added.

Falwell is still fatigued, but is doing better. This Sunday, he ate his first meal in three days.

Although Falwell was constrained to a hospital bed, his illness did not keep him from doing some work. He sent out his "Falwell Confidential," with a small note at the bottom updating his constituents about his health.

"I am resting comfortably now and anxious to get home. My doctors tell me that I will be fine after a time of recovery and rest," he wrote in the letter. "I deeply appreciate the prayers of my friends from around the world as I convalesce from this temporary setback."

News of Falwell's illness was picked up in the national media last week. People from across the country have sent cards and flowers during his recovery.

But most notably, the prayers from everyone gave him strength. "Our family deeply appreciates all the prayers of the LU students and staff over the last week," Falwell Jr. said. "We credit his recovery to the power of those prayers."

As of press time, the doctors were still uncertain about when Falwell will be released.

"Doctors are expecting a full recovery but we are not sure when he will be out of the hospital or back at work," Falwell Jr. said.

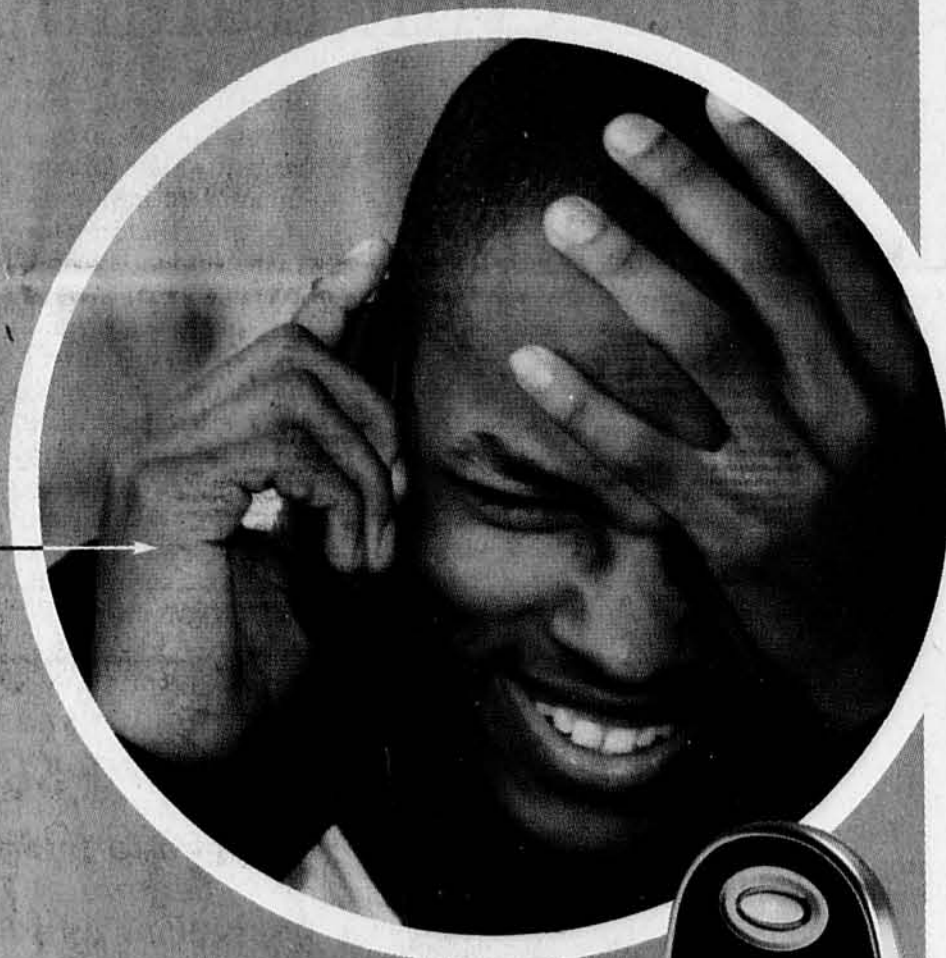
Contact Sara Lesley at slesley@liberty.edu.

CORRECTION: An article in the Feb. 22 edition, "Lovetts leave Liberty after 12 years," incorrectly states that Dr. Danny Lovett will assume the office of the chancellor at Tennessee Temple University. Dr. Dave Boulter, the current president of TTU, will be the chancellor and Lovett will be the president.

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Sports

Football Recruits

The 2005 football recruiting class has been described as "the best ever."

The Bottom Line

Pat Doney talks about how the NBA is moving back into our lives and TVs.

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MARCH 1, 2005

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Page B2

lusports04@yahoo.com

The Liberty Champion

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Lady Flames win streak ends at 57

By Jesse Houk

SPORTS REPORTER

All good things must come to an end. The great Roman Empire that once dominated the entire known-world ultimately fell. Michael Jordan, after leading the Bulls to six NBA Championships, eventually retired. On the same level, the 57-game Big South winning streak that the Lady Flames so tightly held on to finally came crashing down. The High Point Panthers came into the Vines Center on Saturday afternoon and outplayed Liberty, beating the Lady Flames 62-53.

A stunned crowd of 360 watched as they saw the impossible unfolding in front of them. Losing is something that the Liberty Flames basketball program and its fans are not accustomed to.

"This should be a wake up call to us," Coach Carey Green said. "I don't think we were as mentally sharp as I think we could be today. We need to find a remedy to that very quickly."

High Point's aggressive defense and perfect free-throw shooting quickly broke any home court advantage that the Flames might have had and gave the Panthers a 16-point halftime lead.

"Our girls have confidence that they can play with them," High Point Coach Tooley Loy said. "They (High Point) aren't afraid that they are going to come in here and get blown out. Not to take anything away from them (Liberty), they are definitely the best team in the conference. You've got to play above your level in order to beat Liberty and today we did."

Loy made it clear that the victory was not a fluke. He has confidence in his team's ability.

"We had already won five in a row coming into this game," Loy said. "So, we have been playing pretty good basketball. The girls were confident. We didn't play them that well down at our place this year, but we have traditionally played them pretty tough."

The Lady Flames went into halftime in a position that they rarely saw themselves in; a double digit deficit. They greatly needed to evaluate themselves and the way they were playing. Up to that point Katie Feenstra only put up two shots.



MATT TRENT

TOUGH "D" — Daina Staugaitiene plays some of the stellar defense she has shown all year long. Staugaitiene is averaging eight points, five rebounds and four assists per game for the Lady Flames.

Please see LADY FLAMES, page B3

Asheville 'tunes up' for tourney

By Andrew Stevens

SPORTS REPORTER



MICHAEL TROXEL

MONSTER JAM — Sophomore Larry Blair throws down an alley-oop from teammate Leo Lightbourne (32). Blair had 23 points in the Flames victory over UNC Asheville and helped the Flames clinch the number two seed in the Big South Conference tournament.

Liberty's men's basketball team took a big step towards another Big South championship with a 92-80 win at UNC Asheville on Thursday night. The victory secured the number two seed for the Flames in next week's upcoming men's Big South tournament. Liberty will host the number seven seed on Tuesday night at 7 p.m. in the Vines Center, and will play at home again on Thursday if they are victorious on Tuesday.

The Flames 92-point performance on Thursday night was their highest output of the season and was aided by their 50 percent shooting from the field as a team. Liberty's strong shooting performance helped the Flames open up a 39-28 lead with 5:19 left in the first half. UNC Asheville fought to get back in the game and trimmed the lead to 50-42 heading in to the locker room for halftime. The 50 points scored by Flames marked the highest point total they have posted in the first half this season.

"We really stressed trying to get a quality road win," said Liberty Head Coach Randy Dunton. "That was just a tremendous

performance by the basketball team of Liberty University. That game was really important to Asheville, and we were the dominant team on the floor for the majority of the game."

The Flames turned up the heat to start the second half by extending their lead to 59-44 on a jumper by Brian Woodson. However, the Bulldogs would not go away quietly as they closed to within six points with 10:01 left. A jumper by Asheville's Brian McCullough with 2:53 left to play cut Liberty's lead to 80-78.

Not to be outdone by Asheville's run, Liberty proceeded to go on a run of its own, scoring 12 consecutive points over a 63 second span to put the game away.

For the second time in conference play this season, the Flames finished with all five starters scoring in double figures. Larry Blair led the way scoring 23 points to go along with nine rebounds and eight assists. Following Blair in scoring was David Dees who finished with 16 points, Brian Woodson chipped in 15, Glyn Turner added 13 and Leo Lightbourne scored 11.

Asheville was led by McCullough who scored a team-high 17 points in his final regular-season game as a Bulldog, and Oliver Holmes and Omar Collington each added 12.

Please see FLAMES WIN, page B3



ADAM BISHOP

BASE KNOCK — Senior designated hitter Jeff Brown gets a hit early in the Flames win over Hofstra last week. Brown has exploded out of the gates this year, batting .357 in the young season.

Baseball keeps winning

By Andrew Stevens

SPORTS REPORTER

On Wednesday the Flames baseball team took its show on the road, traveling to North Carolina A&T for its first game of the 2005 season away from Worthington Stadium.

Liberty was helped out by three Aggie errors in the first two innings, which helped the Flames jump out to an early 5-0 lead on the way to a 10-1 victory.

The Flames scored in the first inning for the fourth time in five games. Doing most of the damage for the Flames was Michael Just who went 2-for-2 with two hits and two RBI's while also drawing two walks.

The Flames used a handful of pitchers on the afternoon. Getting the start was Todd Mittauer who pitched three innings, allowing the lone Aggie run on three hits and striking out four. He was followed to the hill by Phillip Thompson who would pitch three innings to earn the win, allowing no runs on only one hit and striking out two. Matt Hensley pitched the seventh and eighth innings, allowing no runs on two hits and striking out five batters, while Stephen Williams seeing his first action of the season in the ninth, allowed one hit and struck out one batter.

Liberty returned home on Saturday to open a three-game series against Bucknell with a double-

header. The Flames would rally late to come from behind to win 10-8.

The Flames took an early lead in the first as freshman P.K. Keller hit his first collegiate home run to give Liberty a 1-0 lead. Bucknell would score two runs in the third to take a 2-1 lead. The Bison would increase their lead in the fourth taking a 6-1 advantage.

Liberty rallied to put three on the board in the bottom of the inning. Adam Kearney walked to lead off the inning and Aaron Grijalva followed a batter later with a walk. Phil Laurent, who has hit safely in six straight games, doubled to right, scoring Kearney. Grijalva would score as the next batter Jeff Brown grounded out to short. Laurent would then score as catcher Phil Bunting overthrew third on a steal attempt and shortstop Capece would misplay the ball backing up the play allowing the junior to score.

Bucknell would move back on top 8-4 in the fifth. Liberty would tie the game in the sixth when Kearney would double to score Nate Maddox and Carlos Garcia.

The Flames would take the lead for good in the seventh when Maddox reached first on an infield single to score Laurent. Patrick Galliard would later score on Keller's sacrifice.

Please see BASEBALL, page B3

The Bottom Line

tpdoney@liberty.edu

By Patrick Doney

Oh, how things can change quickly. For example, think back to two years ago. "Who wants to be a millionaire" was the craze. Gas cost less than a small child. People actually listened to techno for its musical quality. We were lucky enough to have never heard of Ashley Simpson. Seems like ages ago, I know.

Another tragedy was taking place a few years ago: the NBA was dying. Critics cited lack of defense, selfish play and players with large egos and inflated heads registering on the Barry Bonds dome scale, all as reasons why fans (including myself) were quickly escaping to the college game. That has all changed in a few short years. This past weekend at the All-Star game was proof that people still actually do "love this game." Let me explain...

The weekend included, as always, an event that might actually be bigger than the game and Magic Johnson combined (Ba-Zing!): the dunk contest. There were some ridiculous dunks this year, highlighted, in my opinion, by Amare Stoudamire's off the backboard, off Steve Nash's head monster jam. Josh Smith's dunk over Kenyon Martin could also get the nod in the VH1 special, "I love the Dunk Contest!" All in all, it was a very impressive show that could go down as one of the best ever.

By far the most comical of the weekend came from dunk contestent Chris Anderson. Anderson informed a sideline reporter just before he made his way out to the court of humiliation that,

"It was time for the Birdman to fly." He then proceeded to miss all of the 794 dunks he attempted. Isn't there a rule against players competing that are a) 6 foot 10 b) not good and c) white? When Brent Barry won the contest in 1996, white guys almost killed the contest completely, as two years later the event was completely cancelled. Irony? I think not.

I felt kind of bad for the Birdman though. Everyone watching knew he was just a replacement for Lebron James (and a terrible one at that). Speaking of which, I was extremely disappointed in King James deciding not to dunk on the big stage. Many cited an ankle injury and stomach flu as the main reasons for passing on the event. The more cynical sports writers cited that he could have passed because of a fear of the Smiths (Josh and J.R.) flying ability and the possibility of embarrassment. Whatever the case, I still think it was a mistake by James. All-Star weekend is a chance for players to reward fans for their support, and he passed for what very well could be selfish reasons. I like Lebron. I just think he made a bad decision.


















The game was somewhat slow throughout, mixed in with the occasional Vince Carter self alley-oop and Amare Stoudemire big time finish. Down the stretch it came down to the fact that the west just turned the ball over too much. I thought that Steve Nash didn't get enough playing time, considering that

All-Star games, whether high school, junior high girls or in the NBA are dominated by point guards. Being that he was the only true point guard on either roster, his pine time very well could have cost his team the game.

P-Diddy made an appearance with a cell phone in a shoe the size of a cowboy midget. Kind of random, I know, unless you saw the halftime show. LeAnn Rimes, Big & Rich and a dancing midget cowboy capped off the entertainment. You read that last paragraph correctly. Are we still talking about the NBA here? Way to know your audience. The latest edition of ESPN the Magazine shows Nelly on the cover and talks about the joining of the basketball and hip hop cultures in America. Someone in the NBA marketing department needs to be fired.

I think the weekend really interested fans again. Whether it is the 10 American hockey fans watching basketball now that the NHL is cancelled, or the fact that the league is looking more and more like the "showtime" days of the 80s doesn't matter. The fact is that people are interested. Kudos to Commissioner Stern on getting his league back on the map.

Times have changed and halftime show music has obviously faded, but as shown this past weekend, there will always be room in our hearts and on our televisions for the NBA, and that's the bottom line.

BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE					
STANDINGS					
MEN'S					
	Big South	Overall		Big South	Overall
	14-1	23-5		7-8	11-13
	11-5	13-14		6-9	14-13
	8-7	11-13		6-9	11-13
	7-8	12-16		2-13	8-18
	7-8	10-17			
*Clenched regular season title					
WOMEN'S					
	Big South	Overall		Big South	Overall
	11-0	19-5		4-7	9-14
	8-3	13-11		4-7	9-14
	6-5	14-10		0-11	2-22
	6-5	12-12			
	5-6	11-13			
*Standings are as of 2/24/05 For more Big South Sports info go to: BigSouthSports.com					

New football recruits called 'best ever'

By Andrew Stevens
SPORTS REPORTER

Liberty University's football program signed 31 new players to their 2005-2006 roster. The group is large and widely considered to be the best recruiting class in Liberty University football's existence.

Among the new players are three state players of the year: Ryan Greiser, Rod Fluellen and Zachary Terrell. Seven all-state selections, Cortney Braswell, Pat Calvary, Mike Corral, Gerald Duffey, Ryan Greiser and Zachary Troutman, are also in the class.

"We are very excited about the whole class," said Liberty Head Coach Ken Karcher. "Our coaches have done a great job in recruiting these young men."

Ryan Greiser is a 6 foot, 1 inch, 205 pound running back from Sellersville, Pa. Greiser rushed for 2,030 yards and 33 touchdowns as senior. He was selected to the Suburban One League, all-Philadelphia Inquirer and Allentown Morning Call first-team squads, EasternPAfootball.com all-state squads, Red Zone National Player of the Year, Jim Henry Award winner and Maxwell Award winner.

Zachary Terrell is a 5 foot, 10 inch, 185 pound quarterback and running back from Manassas Park, Va. Terrell was the Associated Press All-State Player of the Year as a senior, finishing the year with 2,444 yards rushing and 28 touchdowns, while passing for 2,479 yards and 26 touchdowns. Terrell was the two-time Region B player of the year, the Bull Run District Player of the Year, was first team all-district at both quarterback and running back and the VHSCA Coaches Player of the Year as a senior at quarterback.

"We need to be more productive at the quarterback position," said Karcher. "Brock Farrel is returning and he started the last four games and we got four wins with him. We need more production like that from that position. We are going to need to fill

a couple of the voids in the offensive line. We are losing two real good senior players in Sean Boyle and Thomas Smith. We also need to strengthen our secondary against the pass."

Recruiting to a school like Liberty that does not have quite the same atmosphere as a secular university and can be a bit different for someone like Karcher.

"We need the right fit and that is the word we use," said Karcher. "We are going to look for kids that have an interest in not just playing football, but they want to grow spiritually or are at least open to it. They want to get an academic degree and they want to grow socially. Our mission is to build the whole person. So, we are very honest with the young people up front. It takes the unique kid that wants this fit."

For schedule, stats and more information on Liberty football, you can check out www.LibertyFlames.com.

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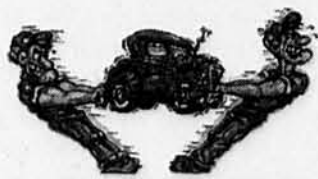
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Lady Flames: 57 game streak ends

Continued from page B1

"We just have to be more aware of the fact that we have a girl on the team that is leading the nation on field-goal percentage," Green said. "I didn't think anyone could challenge her if she sets up down low." A very uncharacteristic Liberty team was shooting 14 percent on three point shots, 20 percent on free throws and had turned the ball over 17 times in the first half.

The Lady Flames came back determined in the second half. They trimmed the lead down to four. The entire team started to take care of the ball and shot the ball much better. The Flames went from shooting just 26 percent in the first half to shooting 63 percent in the second. Feenstra came out focused on getting her team back in the game. She scored 19 of her 22 points in the second half.

"She's an All-American," Loy said. "She's strong, has great touch and a nice shot. She's tough to guard. They went to her over and over again in the second half."

The Lady Flames were doing the things they needed to do in order to win. It appeared that win number 58 was inevitable. The Flames had the momentum, but two heart-breaking three-pointers by High Point's Katie Ralls and Charlena Martin quickly put an end to any chance for Liberty. The Lady Flames dug a first half hole that was too deep to get out of.

Among the 360 in attendance was former Liberty women's basketball star and sister to Katie Feenstra, MeriBeth Anderson. Anderson found it hard to stay in her seat as the girls struggled.

"I wanted to be out there playing and encouraging Katie from the bench," Anderson said. "I

miss that."

The Lady Flames, although a little out of rhythm, played tough.

"There are things that I can do," Green said. "And one is to put them in a position where they can be successful. I have to take responsibility for the preparation. Along with that, each individual player has to self-evaluate themselves. We have a 24 hour rule. We celebrate for 24 hours if it's a victory or learn from it if it's a loss. We'll chew on this a while."

Although shocked, the Lady Flames are optimistic.

"It hurts to see it go (the Big South streak)," Kristal Tharp said. "In the long run records do not really mean anything, but it still would have been nice to go out undefeated in the conference this year. Things happen for a reason and we will learn from it. Honestly, looking at it, it could be one of the best things that has happened to our team. It has changed our mindset to make us realize that we have to go out focused and ready to play."

Following the game, Feenstra was honored for her Big South record in blocked shots. Against High Point she added four more to the still-growing record.

"The records are great, but I don't keep track of them," Feenstra said. "You just have to learn from the losses I guess. We will learn from it. The Lord is teaching us something through it."

"I think our girls will be motivated if we have an opportunity to play High Point again," said Green.

They may get that opportunity when the Big South tournament begins on March 8.

You can contact Jesse Houk at jlhouk@liberty.edu.

Flames win: Larry Blair's 23 points helps secure second seed



MICHAEL TROXEL

NICE MOVE—David Dees scored 16 points in the Flames win over the Bulldogs.

Continued from page B1

A key ingredient to the Flames victory was the difference in rebounding between the two teams. Liberty out rebounded the Bulldogs 46-33.

"I think rebounding has been an emphasis for this team throughout the year," said Dunton. "Our coaching staff has done a great job in practice of holding kids accountable to it. We are just really to the place now where I think we are starting to understand the importance of that area of the game and the way it can absolutely influence bottom line a win or a loss."

Returning home to the Vines Center Tuesday night for the Big South tournament

quarterfinals should be a confidence booster for the Flames. Liberty posted a 7-1 record at home this season against conference opponents.

"We feel real good about Tuesday night," said Dunton. "I told our team that the regular-season schedule is determined by the Big South and my decision for the first 27 games. How many more games they play from here on out is something we determine. Right now we feel real good about Tues-

day night at home and we are not looking any further than that. Obviously we like the position of being able to host two games at home, but we cannot look past Tuesday yet. We need everybody out and it needs to be an exciting atmosphere on Tuesday night."

With five players on this season's team who were not a part of last year's Big South championship squad, Dunton and his staff know that they have to trust that the lessons this team has learned this season will pay off in crunch time.

"You are going to be in tournament basketball and the thing about us is all year long we have tried to play possession by possession," said Dunton. "Things are not going to change a lot for us. The good part is we have a lot of kids who were on last year's championship team. They went through the experience and they understand what it is about. Hopefully they pass that on to the other guys as we go through the week and lead by example through the way they play and compete."

For schedule, stats and more information on Liberty basketball go to www.LibertyFlames.com.

Baseball: Team sweeps Bucknell

Continued from page B1

On the mound for the Flames was Michael Solbach, who went four innings allowing six runs, five earned on seven hits and striking out two. Phillip Thompson would enter in relief and pitch 3 2/3 innings to earn the win. The right hander allowed two runs on six hits and struck out four. David Bechtold close out the game for the Flames with 1 1/3 innings of work for the save. The left hander shut the door on the Bison allowing no runs and no hits while striking out three. Jacob Moss took the loss in 3 1/3 for the Bison.

The Flames would continue to be come-back kids in the second game as they once again defeating Bucknell 3-2.

Liberty scored in the first inning for the fifth time in seven games. Liberty jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the first when Michael Just walked and stole second and was later driven home on a balk by Bison starter Matt Curry.

Bucknell would break through in the seventh to take a 2-1 lead. However, that lead would not last long as Liberty used another late game rally to come from behind. Patrick Gaillard would single to left with one out and would steal second a batter later. P.K. Keller singled up the middle with two out, scoring Gaillard with the tying

run. Just would then double down the right field line and when right fielder Ryan Gryskewicz bobbled the ball and allowed it to get by him, Keller came around the bases for the Liberty victory.

"I think the biggest thing for us today was not giving up and having confidence in our teammates," said Aaron Grijalva. "I think we have had motivation in pride and wanting to win and represent the school well. Right now we are very confident and we are just finding ways to win. We do not think we are out of any game until the last out is recorded."

"We spent the whole fall working on the field together," said David Gimmararsi. "We painted things and really worked hard on things around our facility. The last two months of the fall semester we were waking up at 5:30 a.m. to lift. We have all held together and we are all playing together as a team. I think we are going to have a real good season."

Liberty had a strong pitching performance from their starter freshman Ryan Page who pitched a complete game four-hitter, allowing just two runs, neither of which were earned.

The Flames would then go on to sweep Bucknell on Sunday, 7-4. The Flames were led by Zuvich's eight strikeouts over eight innings, as well as by Grijalva's RBI triple early in the

game. The win improved the Flames to 7-1 on the year.

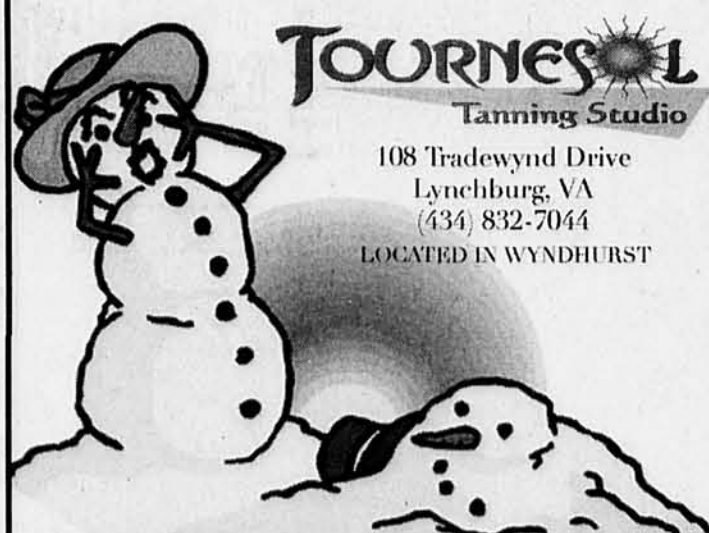
For more information about Flames baseball, go to LibertyFlames.com.

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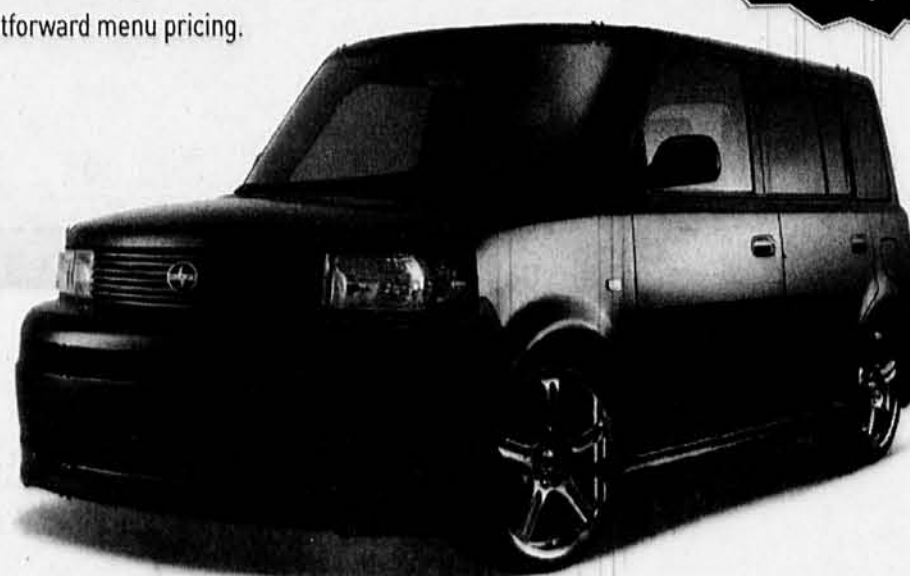
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Liberty alum helped Bush campaign

By Alicia Wotring

COPY EDITOR

Few Americans doubted the importance of this year's presidential election. And while all Americans have the opportunity to impact the country by voting, one former Liberty student had the chance to work on the campaign for the Republican National Committee.

I had the pleasure of meeting 22-year-old Liberty grad Jeremy Broggi by mere happenstance at the Christmas Coffeehouse. I had actually interviewed him the same night while he was in transit from Washington D.C. to Lynchburg. He was visiting his alma mater before he started his new job for the Presidential Inaugural Committee on Dec. 7, 2004.

During his visit to LU, we managed to meet through mutual friends. My friend picked him out of the crowd amassed outside the Schilling Center. It was easy to see how the tall Southern gentleman made such an impression among his superiors at the RNC.

"(Broggi) is very sincere and truly cares about people," friend and Liberty grad Don Egle said. "He is a great listener and great thinker. He's a man of integrity."

He was tall, blonde and charming; clad in a blue fleece pullover embroidered with a large "W" and Victory 2004, Republican National Committee underneath. He was proud of his work, and rightly so.

Broggi had just finished work as Department Events Director for Victory 2004, the part of the RNC responsible for Republican rallies.

"Every time the President or Vice President or First Lady (was at a) rally, those were put on by the Republican party, and specifically by my office," Broggi said.

Broggi's primary responsibility was to coordinate between the advanced team and the place where the rally was to be held.

Although the President started his campaign work early, the RNC portion of the campaign doesn't begin until after the Republican convention because the RNC represents all Republicans. Once President Bush officially accepted the nomination for the Republican ticket, Victory 2004 could start their work. He was also able to meet the President through his work.

Broggi first went to D.C. as an intern after his graduation from Liberty in December 2003. He was a communications major with a specialization in advertising/public relations.

He earned an internship at the White House through a regular application process and worked for the Public Liaison office.

"(It's an) outreach to constituency groups," Broggi said of his office work at the White House. "(It) educates them on the President's priorities and...goals and what his agenda is."

Broggi worked there until he was hired to work for Victory 2004, and started his work with the Presidential Inaugural Committee on Dec. 7.

His advice for future students looking to get involved in politics is to get a good internship where they can gain important contacts they'll need for the future.

"I think the most important thing you can do is get an internship where you can get experience and meet people," Broggi said. "And if you get in there and work your tail off, they might keep you on."

Many Bush supporters were concerned about this year's election because of such a slim margin of victory in the previous election.

Former Vice President Al Gore actually won the popular vote in the 2000 election by 500,000 votes, a small number compared to the 105 million plus voters. However, Bush wrestled away the electoral college votes by 271 to Gore's 266.

Bush's 2004 campaign was much more successful, as

Bush won both the popular vote against incumbent John Kerry, as well as the electoral college, 274 to 256 votes. Kerry, who had a plan for a situation like that of 2000's, complete with actions to be taken should the country need a recount, conceded the presidency on the day after the election.

Some have hailed this election as one of the most decisive in American history, especially considering that several Chief Justices of the Supreme Court may be replaced within the next term. For Broggi, it was the experience of a lifetime.

"Fifty years from now I think Bush will be (considered) one of the best presidents America ever had and I wanted to be a part of that," Broggi said. "I think this election was incredibly important. Seeing the President (elected) and the rest of the

Republican ticket was...rewarding."

Broggi's confidence, and gentle, concise way of speaking made him an ideal candidate for a career in public relations and politics. But a personality such as his takes cultivation.

Broggi's road to D.C. began in South Carolina, where he was born.

"Ever since I was a little kid I loved America and the people who made America great," Broggi said. "Politics has always been something that I loved, so I kept it in the back of my mind."

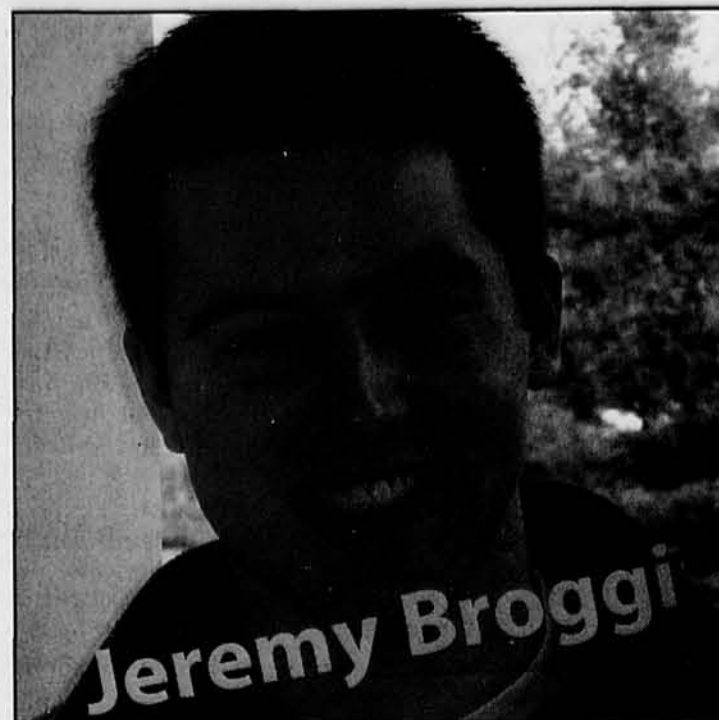
Broggi was born Dec. 24, 1980, to Carl and Audrey Broggi. He grew up in Beaufort, S.C., where his dad is a pastor. He is the oldest of five children: Jordan, GraceAnna, Grant and

Jameson.

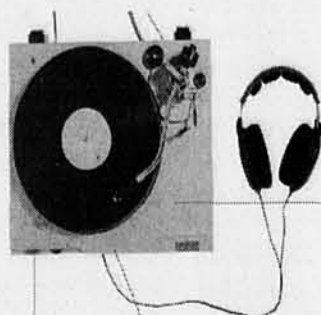
"Being from a big family is great," Broggi said with a little bit of a laugh, and a voice that sounded like it knew from true experience. "There's never a dull moment."

When it came time to plan for college, Broggi knew he wanted to attend a Christian school. "I felt like Liberty offered more than any other Christian school," Broggi said. "I think the biggest influence Liberty had on me was watching how the leadership of the school trusted the Lord with the big things and with their every day lives."

Broggi echoed their attitudes by saying that he is continually open to God's guidance.



Jeremy Broggi



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The last day to drop or add any classes to your fall schedule is Wednesday, August 31.

If you have any questions regarding registration, call the Registrar's office at ext. 2188.

Ministry: Offers help for many problems

Continued from Page B6

Freedom Ministry meets every Monday night from 6 to 8 p.m. There are approximately 100-125 group members in all. Those who attend weekly, Freedom Ministry meetings experience 20 minutes of praise and worship performed by the Freedom Band, as well as, 20 minutes of general recovery teaching done by Pitts.

"We have to look at people as whole people. Sometimes the psychiatry community neglects the spiritual aspect of recovery and we as a church tend to ignore the psychological aspect," said Pitts.

There is a biblical process of recovery that is used in Freedom Ministry which is clinically professional and distinctively Christian. The method contains 12 (biblical) steps of healing, which group members go through during a whole year. Each step is given a month of teaching and practice.

The support group leaders are recovered group members. Leaders go through a one year training program and a significant screening process. Eight months of the training is spent in instruction class learning the basics of becoming a leader. Another four months is spent interacting with group members. After becoming a support group leader in Freedom Ministry, leaders meet with Pitts twice a month.

Freedom Ministry support groups provide a safe place that is honest and open where members learn to know no hurts. Group members are able to gain knowledge of God's truth. New-

comers to Freedom Ministry are encouraged to stay after the recovery teaching to meet with Pitts and see what recovery group would be the best fit for them. Although this ministry is intended for believers to heal, Pitts has seen a few seekers of the faith in the four years he has been serving.

Freedom Ministry is, "primarily not an evangelism outreach, but I am certainly glad when it becomes that," said Pitts.

The mission of Freedom Ministry is not about evangelism, but it is about growth and support for all.

"I want to make sure that students will know that there is a place here. That if they have a need from the list of groups we have, they will find that the environment will speak to them. Liberty students are just as welcome as others in the community," said Pitts.

Overall the group members and leaders are very serious about confidentiality.

That is made perfectly clear when members first join a recovery group and sign a covenant. There are also strict guidelines concerning group members becoming romantically involved. Freedom Ministry embraces their mission to "provide a safe place for people with hurts, habits and hang-ups to be restored."

"This is a good place people can become lifetime friends. Shared recovery from similar misery can formulate a lifetime bond," said Pitts.

For more information about Freedom Ministry please contact Thomas Road Baptist Church's counseling office at 239-9282.

Jump rope champ brings skill to aerobics class

By Natalie Mayer
LIFE REPORTER

With this semester's opening of the new LaHaye Student Center, aerobic classes are now opened to the students as well.

The new aerobic classes range from Tae Bo, kickboxing, Latin aerobics, PiFlex, Cardioflexercise, strength and conditioning, ab/toning and jump roping. All of them are instructed by students.

While the class instructors have had experience instructing before, one of the instructors is an international champion in her field of expertise.

Liberty University senior Lindsay Miller may have just started teaching jump rope classes at Liberty, but her ability to instruct goes farther back. Back home in Canada, Miller had the opportunity to coach competitive jump ropers aging 7 to 17 years old.

But Miller didn't just jump into coaching without winning a few awards herself.

Back in 2000, Miller won gold in freestyle jump roping (a category that includes gymnastics and break dancing movements) at the Canadian National Rope Skipping Competition. Four years prior, she received silver in that same category and gold in Double Dutch at the World Invitational Rope Skipping Championships.

While she may be a national and even international champion in jump roping, her jump rope class certainly isn't at that level.

"The class is geared towards someone who has never picked up a jump rope before," Miller said. "It is very instructional and works with you as you go."

Miller, a winner of over 50 medals from her jump roping competitions, said all she

asks for in her class is for everyone to work their hardest.

Since coming to Liberty two and half years ago, Miller has had the opportunity to use her talent for God's glory.

"I didn't want to jump for myself anymore. I wanted to do it for the Lord," Miller said.

A door opened for Miller to join Liberty's dunk team, Above and Beyond, and use her jumping skills to tell a message.

The dunk team, which travels to public schools, youth groups and other area functions, has provided a chance for Miller to do what she always wanted: to jump for God's glory.

Now that Miller has started to instruct jump roping classes at Liberty, she feels she is still bringing glory to God and helping others keep themselves healthy.

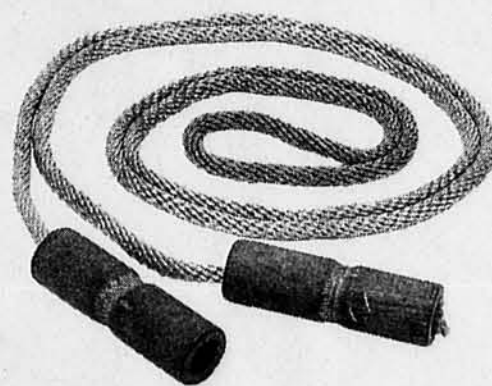
"I want people to come to my classes and just get a really good cardio workout," Miller said. "Jump roping uses pretty much all parts of your body."

While Miller has put her abilities into perspective, she isn't the only new instructor who uses their talent for the Lord.

Jennie Krause, the LaHaye Student Center's fitness director, says that she has been very impressed already with the new instructors and feels they are already fulfilling the goal of what the classes should offer.

"I want all the trainers to get involved and minister to those in their classes. First physically but most importantly spiritually," Krause said.

Whether choosing to jump with a champion or take part in another one of Liberty's new aerobic classes, each person does get the chance to have a full body workout—physically and spiritually.



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Life!

Defending Yourself

Rape Aggression Defense Classes Offered

By Emily Scheck

LIFE! REPORTER

Sweat drips down her cheeks as she pushes herself up off the mat. The punches and jabs have left her bruised and sore, and her chest constricts from exhaustion, but her face breaks into a wide grin as she approaches her attacker.

Using assault simulations coupled with an educational background, Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) provides men, women and children with the necessary training to defend themselves.

"In today's culture it's not even safe for a girl to walk around at night. I want to know that, if the situation arises, I will be able to respond quickly and effectively," said Carla Fazio, a senior at Liberty University.

According to an Md. Magazine study on sexual assault and rape, one out of every four college women is sexually assaulted during her four years at college. Seventy-four percent of the assaults were committed by non-strangers, but only 12 percent of all rapes and sexual assaults committed against college students were reported. With drugs and alcohol contributing to the number of on-campus assaults, it is critical that women learn to defend themselves.

Founded in 1989 by former U.S. Marine Lawrence N. Nadeau, R.A.D.'s network of dedicated self defense instructors believe self defense should be simple to learn, easily retained and effortlessly employed in real confrontational situations. Employing

over 7,000 trained instructors, R.A.D. is the largest network of its kind. With courses offered throughout the country, R.A.D. has finally come to Lynchburg.

Offered every Saturday through March 5 in the LaHaye Student Center at Liberty University, R.A.D.'s 12-hour course is being taught by certified instructor and mother of seven Kassi Allen.

A qualified instructor since 2000, Kassi began her work with R.A.D. while working as a police officer at Sweet Briar College. "I took the R.A.D. class myself...saw the impact that it had on the women in my class as well as myself...My supervisors saw my passion for impacting women's lives through safety education and sent me through the instructor certification," Kassi said.

Including educational information and a fighting simulation, R.A.D. courses range in cost from \$25 to \$500. Nevertheless, LU students can participate for free.

Additionally, R.A.D. is offered for PE credit at over 400 colleges and universities throughout the nation, and is currently under consideration at Liberty University. "I hope to offer it for credit at LU sometime in the near future...I've been told that it takes at least two years to have a new course like this approved," Kassi said.

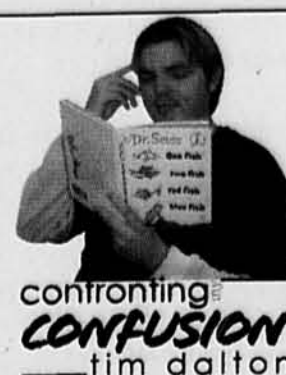
A conglomeration of contributions from R.A.D. instructors across the United States, R.A.D.'s program requires no previous experience or background in self-defense training. The only self-defense program endorsed by the

International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, R.A.D. balances a woman's need to acquire self defense education in a relatively short time period with the life long commitment required for physical skill mastery.

With more than 300,000 women participants, R.A.D. develops and enhances a woman's self defense option while creating a bond between participants.

Additionally, R.A.D. is the only existing program that offers a free lifetime return and practice policy. Honored in Canada and the U.S., participants can return and practice free of charge at any R.A.D. class, regardless of the instructor or location. So students developing their skills during Kassi's Saturday courses can participate with R.A.D. at home or on the go.

Considering the impact of R.A.D., Kassi said, "It's a time commitment, but we have fun during class and the students walk out with skills that may save their lives."



I've lost all motivation and developed a harsh case of writer's block. In fact, if I could leave the next 19 inches blank to make my point, I would.

After years of grueling work, in and away from school, I've reached the final hurdle, the final semester. One problem, I'd rather knock the hurdle down than jump over it.

People never really understand other people enough to know what motivates them. That's why in a crowd of working people, some are smiling so big that they're straining muscles in their face and others want to slap them for smiling so much.

Most of us have fallen on both sides of this. It's natural, I think. Sometimes a little let down is a good thing. If everything went right all the time, challenges would be non-existent. If I didn't have a theology test, four articles for one class, one for another plus random other assignments and this section of the paper to produce each week, I would not feel challenged. Well-rested perhaps, but not challenged.

Everyday I wake up, I hit snooze, I wake up, I hit snooze and finally I report to the nearest bowl of Honey Nut Cheerios. Normally this happens around 6 or 6:30 a.m. Before I adopted this schedule I laughed at the thought of getting up that early. Over the years I watched my parents get up early every day, come home in the evening, and still cook, clean, cut the grass and fix the car. All of that in time to share a family dinner and watch Everybody Loves Raymond. Mom says Dad is just like Raymond. I think most moms think most dads are like Raymond.

What does that have to do with my loss of motivation? Nothing, really. Well, it's kind of the reason for it. Seeing so much get done in a day by my parents makes me feel like a complete bum at times. I can't shake the influence of my parents.

Anyway, I've found that motivation comes in spurts. Imagine this, you finally get motivated to start something, you start it and in no time you're excited about it. I've noticed that it's not the work that is killing me, it is the fact that I have to start something new, which wouldn't be so bad if I hadn't just finished something else.

Now before I forget, that guy that I mentioned mom saying was like Raymond is getting pretty old. Yesterday he reached his fourth year passed the half-century mark. In case I forgot to say it yesterday, Happy Birthday, Dad. I think mom is like the nagging grandma on Everybody Loves Raymond, too. Kidding, Mom.

Freedom from hurt and hang-ups

By Brit Engbrecht

LIFE! REPORTER

There is an innovative ministry available at Thomas Road Baptist Church for anyone young or old to attend. This ministry is called Freedom Ministry. The focal point of this ministry is to gain freedom from emotional issues. Dr. Daryl Pitts stands behind a mission to "provide a safe place for people with hurts, habits and hang-ups to be restored."

Pitts has been serving at

Thomas Road Baptist Church as the counseling and recovery pastor for five years. Before serving at TRBC, Pitts worked as program director for 10 years at Rapha Treatment Centers, a Christian inpatient psychiatric and substance abuse treatment center. Pitts believes that the support and recovery ministry is highly effective and more supportive in addressing the issues in the heart and the head than just attending church or worship services.

Freedom Ministry has been

in effect for four years. There are 11 different support and recovery groups involved in Freedom Ministry. Each participant signs a covenant of confidentiality protecting them and other group members. There are many different levels of needs in the groups. The groups are as follows:

1. Stepping Out in Faith: a co-educational recovery group to overcome the issues of chemical dependency.
2. Boundaries: a co-educational recovery group to deal

with the issues of codependency.

3. Rebuilders: a co-educational divorce recovery group
4. Overcoming Heartache: a co-educational group for those who struggle with depression or anxiety.
5. Griefshare: a co-educational group for those suffering grief from the loss of someone close.
6. True Satisfaction: a recovery group for those who suffer with an eating disorder.
7. Shelter from the Storm: a group for women dealing

with the issues associated with sexual abuse.

8. Every Man's Battle: a recovery group for men battling pornography.
9. Freedom's Quest: a recovery group for men who struggle with same-sex attraction.
10. Lifegivers: a support group for birth moms who have placed a child for adoption.
11. Celebrate Life: a support group for adoptive parents.

Please see Ministry, Page B5



HELPING WITH THE HANG-UPS — Members of the Freedom Ministry help people that need advice for many situations. They offer 11 different sections, each dedicated to a specific hurt, habit or hang-up.

JEREMY STEPHENS