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LIBERTY CHAMPION

25th Anniversary

Tuesday, February 26, 2008 • Vol. 25 No. 16



Fashion forward

Student-designed, original pieces were showcased in a special fashion show that served a dual purpose for a local ministry.

LIFE • B5

In perfect harmony

Children from around the globe danced up a storm, hoping to encourage support for those suffering from the AIDS epidemic.

NEWS • A8



Missions Emphasis Week

Who will go and serve?



THIS IS OUR STORY — Steve Saint translated the words of Mincaya, a Waodani native who had helped kill Saint's father and four other missionaries before he discovered "God's path."

ALAN THOMAS

In His Own Words: STEVE SAINT

By Joyanna Gilmour
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

"They are sending missionaries back here to try to shore up the Christian church in North America. The true 'God-follower' Christian has become a nebulous term."

"We do have a mandate to go and offer a new culture, a different culture — not a North American culture — but the culture that Christ calls us to."

Steve Saint's life experience is far from the beaten path. When he was five years old, Saint's father, Nate, was murdered in attempts to reach an indigenous tribe in the deep jungles of Ecuador.

Saint and his fellow missionary comrades Jim Elliot, Ed McCully, Peter Fleming and Roger Youderian became household names in the 1950s when it was discovered that the Waodanis had killed them. In the years following that brutal tragedy, Steve's mother and aunt decided to reestablish contact with the Waodanis and teach them the ways of Christ.

Fifty years later, Steve shares his time between American and Waodani ministries. With the recent production of "End of the Spear," a movie about the martyred missionaries and the eventual change in the Waodani tribe, Steve's message of revitalizing American missions is that much stronger.

»» READ MORE ON A8

Please see SAINT, A8

Remembering a life devoted to service

By Drew Menard
NEWS REPORTER

Editor's Note: James R. Dowdy, 61, died after suffering a physical ailment while driving that led to him crashing into the Williams Stadium Fieldhouse on Liberty's campus on Feb. 9. Dowdy was a resident of Lynch Station, Va., but had worked at the local Wal-Mart on Wards Road for the past few years. This article is offered in recognition of his life and legacy.

James Dowdy is remembered by his coworkers at the store, eyes light up. Just about any associate in the front end could tell a story of how his personality impacted the Wal-Mart community.

Frey fondly remembers how he used to bring in desserts to share with his coworkers in the break room. She smiled softly as she recalled the way he happily shared his joy with the world.

"He always thought about other people," Frey said. Sharon Trent, who worked with Dowdy as a greeter, remembers how enthusiastic he was to help out around the store, and how he was always willing to work in any department that needed help.

"He spoke kindly to everybody," said Trent. "He would do what he could for anybody who would come in."

Please see DOWDY, A2

Students respond to the Macedonian Call

By Stan Barringer
NEWS REPORTER

The "Macedonian call" recorded in Acts 16 echoed throughout Liberty Mountain during Missions Emphasis Week as over 100 missionaries and support staff challenged Liberty students to join them in fulfilling Christ's great commission. The conference, which ran from Feb. 17-22, was named "The Macedonian Call" after Paul's vision from Acts 16.

"In Acts 16, Paul saw a vision of a Macedonian man begging him to come help his people," Campus Pastor Johnnie Moore said. "The vision for this conference is to bring people from all over the world to say 'come help us in our own languages.'"

Moore said that some missionaries temporarily left work overseas to come interact with Liberty students and that representatives from 54 missionary organizations met students at booths throughout DeMoss Hall.

"This week is not just an emphasis," Moore said.

Please see MISSIONS, A2

Liberty loses one of its own: Mark Guensch dies in crash

By Daniel Martinez
NEWS REPORTER

In the week since Liberty student Mark Guensch, 19, died, members of his family and his many friends have unanimously agreed on one thing — he always smiled.

"Mark was always smiling — that's what I'll remember most," said Mark's freshman roommate A.J. Holt. "He made everything said in a conversation funny, wore mismatching socks every day and never disliked anyone he ever met."

Liberty lost the young man known affectionately as "Smilez" on Sunday, Feb. 17 after he was in a fatal automobile accident close to his Pennsylvania home around midnight.

According to the official Web site for the Channel 69 News, wfnc.com, "Mark Guensch of Fogelsville, Pa., was thrown from his car and killed. The accident happened just before midnight at the intersection of Route 100 and Lowhill Church Road in Lowhill Township."



Please see GUENSCH, A3

PHOTO PROVIDED

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



CASTRO BOWS OUT
Fidel Castro retired as president of Cuba after nearly 50 years of communist rule, according to the Associated Press. His 76-year-old brother Raul will take power, ensuring that the country's communist system of government remains intact. Raul has pledged to still "consult with Fidel on all major decisions of state."

2008 PRESIDENTIAL RACE
Sen. Barack Obama won his eleventh straight primary in the Democratic nomination race, edging ahead of Sen. Hillary Clinton in delegate count.

CEASE-FIRE IN UGANDA
The Ugandan government and a rebel group, the Lord's Resistance Army, signed a cease-fire on Saturday to end a 22-year war that killed thousands and displaced over one million people, according to CNN. The comprehensive peace plan is expected to go into effect by the end of the week.

SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 40
A suicide bomber blew himself up amidst Shiite Muslims on a pilgrimage to the holy city of Karbala, south of Baghdad. Forty people were killed and 60 were wounded in the attack, according to a Reuters report.

ACADEMY AWARDS
"No Country for Old Men" went home with best picture honors, along with three more Oscars for best adapted screenplay, best director and best supporting actor, which was awarded to Javier Bardem, the first Spaniard to win an Oscar. Daniel Day-Lewis won gold for best actor, and Marion Cotillard won best actress for her performance in "La Vie en Rose." Tilda Swinton was the best supporting actress for her role in "Michael Clayton." The Oscar for animated feature film went to "Ratatouille" and "Luno" won for best original screenplay.

NIU STUDENT MASSACRE
Steve Kazmierczak opened fire at Northern Illinois University on Feb. 14, killing five and wounding 16 students. One of the injured students died later, bringing the total death tally to six. Kazmierczak was a former graduate student at the university.

FEBRUARY PLUS ONE
This Friday makes 2008 an official Leap Year as February 29 rolls around for its cameo appearance until another four years go by.

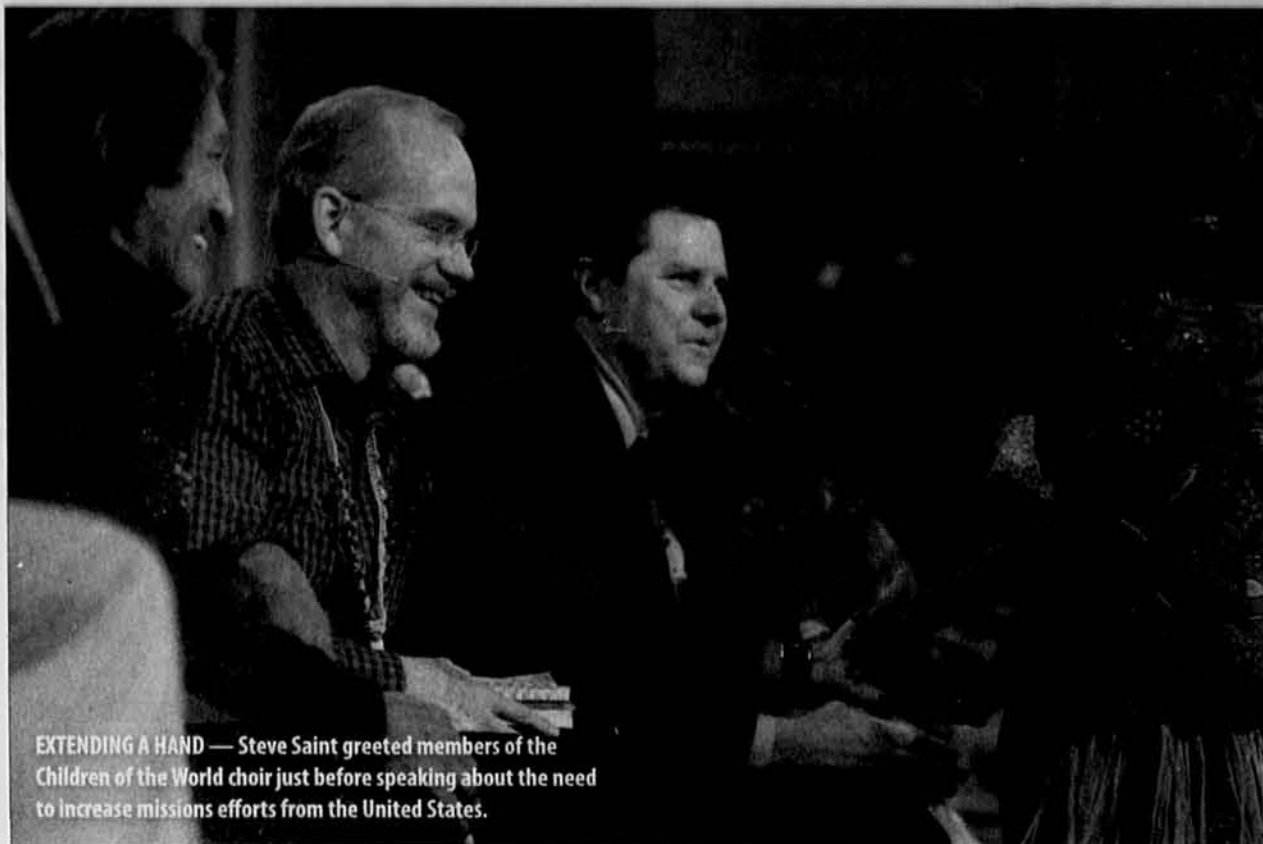
4 need to read stories in this issue

OPINION • A6
1 No more parking tickets? Opinion puts the rumor to rest while taking a look at the real issue.

SPORTS • B4
2 Women's tennis pulls off 4-3 upset over conference powerhouse Coastal Carolina on Sunday.

LIFE • B7
3 The Biggest Winner: Liberty holds a weight loss challenge to help students get in shape.

OPINION • A7
4 Hitler-esque suppression at the Olympics? Opinion looks into a statement about the summer games.



EXTENDING A HAND — Steve Saint greeted members of the Children of the World choir just before speaking about the need to increase missions efforts from the United States.

ALEX TOWERS

MISSIONS: Students commit to serve

Continued from A1

"It is intended as a week of decisions. Most of the spiritual work (in students) does not take place in convocation or in seminars. It takes place when students interact with missionaries and truly feel the burden of people across the world who are perishing without the gospel," Moore said.

Personal contact between missionaries and students was a crucial part of the week, Moore said.

"Every student should be practicing Acts 1:8," Wycliffe Bible Translators representative Aaron Hoffman said, referring to the call of Christ to

spread the gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth.

"There is no secular work. If you work stateside, that is your Jerusalem. But you can work through your church to reach the uttermost ends of the earth. We can be good witnesses for Christ or bad ones, but everyone is a witness for Christ," he said.

Hoffman said students should value this time of youth.

"It's great to be young and to do what God sets in front of you," Hoffman said. "My wife and I have been with Wycliffe for 44 years, and I'd do it again in a heartbeat. I can't think of

anything more rewarding."

The conference began with missions events at Thomas Road Baptist Church on Sunday, Feb. 17. Missionaries shared stories with Sunday school classes and met congregants at booths on Main Street, TRBC's central fellowship area. Missionary Steve Saint, whose father was killed by the same tribe of Waodani people that later adopted Steve, addressed TRBC in the evening service. Saint was accompanied by Mincaye, the Waodani tribesman who dealt the killing blow to Saint's father in 1956 and later converted to Christianity.

Liberty's student body heard Saint's and Mincaye's stories, which were both humorous and challenging, at Wednes-

day's convocation.

Chinese house church leader Brother Yun spoke through a translator in Monday's convocation. Yun founded Back to Jerusalem, a missionary project dedicated to reaching every nation between China and Israel with the gospel. Yun said that although the Chinese Communist regime once boasted of having killed, exiled or imprisoned every Christian in China, over 130 million Christians now live in the country.

Missionary-led seminars throughout the week introduced students to the unique challenges of cross-cultural ministry. Seminars caused a surprise or two, according to Dr. Don Fanning, director of Liberty's Cross Cultural Studies Department and director of the Center for Global Ministry.

"The greatest surprise of the week was that Mincaye's wife, Omparac, was able to come speak," Fanning said. "We had no idea what that would be like. She had never spoken before."

Omparac answered questions from Fanning at a Ladies' International Café in Pate Chapel.

"Now, you have to understand that her people talk for about 16 hours a day," Fanning said. "And when they talk, they constantly have to do something with their hands. I gave Omparac some string, and she wove a necklace while she answered questions."

Fanning said that the conference emphasizes not only missions work but also matters of the heart beyond world evangelization.

"What we call 'missions' is really just fulfillment of the biblical mandate," Fanning said. "For Christians, and for Liberty, everything has got to have some play in that mandate. The conference is to give students a vision. Give them information about what is going on in the world. Give them a challenge

to face the 'grand decision of life' - do I live for myself, or do I live to please the Lord?"

Many students reflected upon this "grand decision of life." Senior biblical studies major Hannah Bass, who also volunteers for the Center for Global Ministry, worked throughout the week at a booth in DeMoss Hall. She said interaction with missionaries clarified her concept of international ministry.

"Missions Emphasis Week affected me by showing me a different side of the missions organizations," Bass said. "Sometimes it can seem like they are competing when, truly they and we are working toward the same goal of proclaiming Christ, just in different ways."

Bass, who co-led a missionary team to Romania in the summer of 2006, said the week gives direction to students who want to pursue missions work but do not know where to begin.

"Many students are serious about foreign and domestic missions but feel at a loss for how to proceed," Bass said. "Missions Emphasis Week can help guide them in the process."

"We are such a forgetful people," Moore said. "We are so easily self-centered that it is beneficial to put this Macedonian call - frequently - right in front of our faces. We see this repeatedly in Paul's writing. We need to frequently put ourselves in a place of remembrance."

Moore views the importance of Missions Emphasis Week as two-fold.

"I believe that one of these weeks, one of these years, God will give us a William Carey or a Nate Saint," Moore said. "Missions Emphasis Week is a vision-casting experience for our generation. In this generation, God has historic intentions."

Contact Stan Barringer at spbarringer@liberty.edu.

Eta Sigma Gamma to host Move for the Mission 5K race

By Mitchell Malcheff
NEWS REPORTER

Liberty students and the local community will have a chance to run for more than just their health on March 1. The Liberty chapter of Eta Sigma Gamma (ESG), a national health education honor society, is hosting Move for the Mission, a 5-K race, on the campus of Liberty University.

According to ESG President Melissa Brown, the group's specific mission is to raise money to transport \$1 million worth of medical supplies to Nicaragua.

"My parents, Tom and Linda Gable, have been missionaries in Nicaragua for over six years. Last fall an 18-year-old mother died of appendicitis and left her 1-year-old child behind," Brown said. "This was devastating to my parents, so they began praying about building a medical and dental facility in Candelaria, which is the village their organization, New Song Mission Nicaragua, works with."

The Browns have raised the \$36,000 necessary for construction of the actual building but have no medical supplies or equipment to outfit the building. While working as a health educator in the Lynchburg area, Brown met Ronald Davidson, the president of an organization called "Gleaning for the World." She shared her story with Davidson, and he responded by filling a semi-trailer with \$1 million worth of donated supplies, which included latex gloves, syringes, catheters and other

medical supplies along with food and clothing.

"Our goal is to raise around \$7,000 in order to pay for the shipment of these supplies down to Nicaragua. All proceeds will benefit this shipment," Brown said.

Early registrants and corporate sponsors like Panera Bread, BB&T Bank and Finks Jewelers have already raised \$4,000. More than 80 people have signed up for the event, which will include a fun run and other activities for children, door prizes, refreshments and the actual race. The first, second and third place finishers in each age group will receive prizes such as handmade Nicaraguan hammocks and jewelry and gift certificates in addition to medals.

Brown says there are still many preparations to be made, but she is excited to see how God is answering her family's prayers.

"I was praying for God to provide these supplies, and he opened a door for me right here in the Lynchburg area," Brown said.

Brown said she is expecting somewhere between 100-150 people for the event, which will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 1. Registration is only \$20 for the community and \$15 for students. More information can be found at moveforthemission.com or by contacting Melissa Brown at (540) 267-4121 or mgbrown@liberty.edu.

Contact Mitchell Malcheff at mjmalcheff@liberty.edu.

DOWDY:

Continued from A1

Dowdy was a Christian man who cared for his mother, Maude Singleton Dowdy. The two lived together in Lynch Station. Dowdy was a member of Church of God of Prophecy of Altavista for a number of years and became a member of Thomas Road Baptist Church (TRBC) just a short time before his death.

Frey and Trent both describe him as a devout

Christian man who was dedicated to service.

Dowdy was an insurance agent in Altavista before working as a greeter at Wal-Mart. He planned on retiring in two months, according to Trent.

Dowdy is survived by his mother, a sister who currently lives in Tennessee, and one niece and one nephew.

Contact Drew Menard at ajmenard@liberty.edu.

LIBERTY CHAMPION ^{25th Anniversary}

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FAMILY LOSS — Mark is pictured here with his mother and three younger brothers.

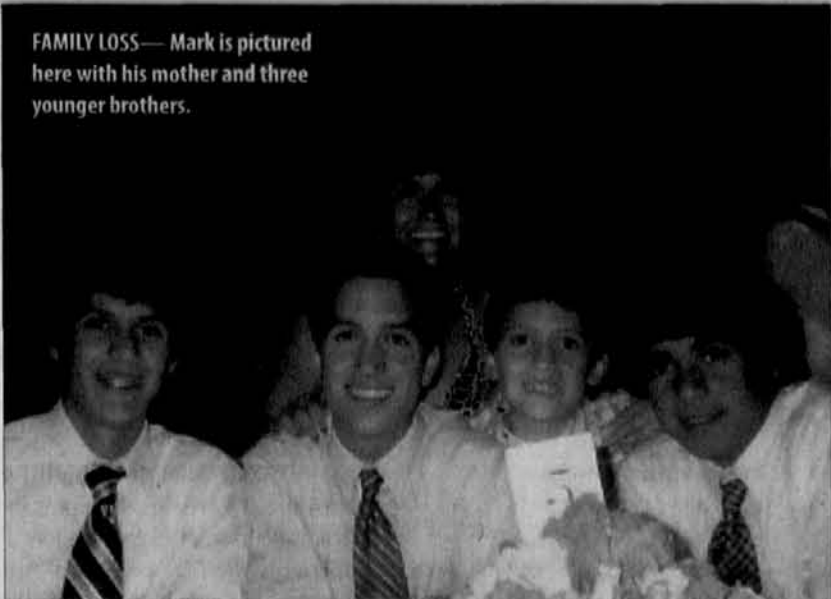


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FRIENDSHIPS — Dozens of Liberty students traveled to Pennsylvania for Mark's funeral on Thursday.

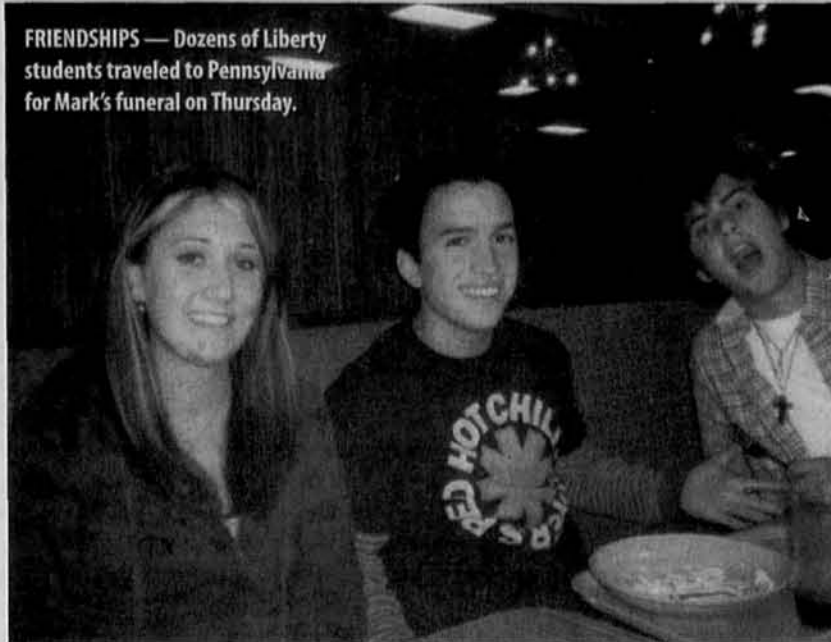


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"CONTAGIOUS SMILE" — Mark is pictured here with Natalie Herman.

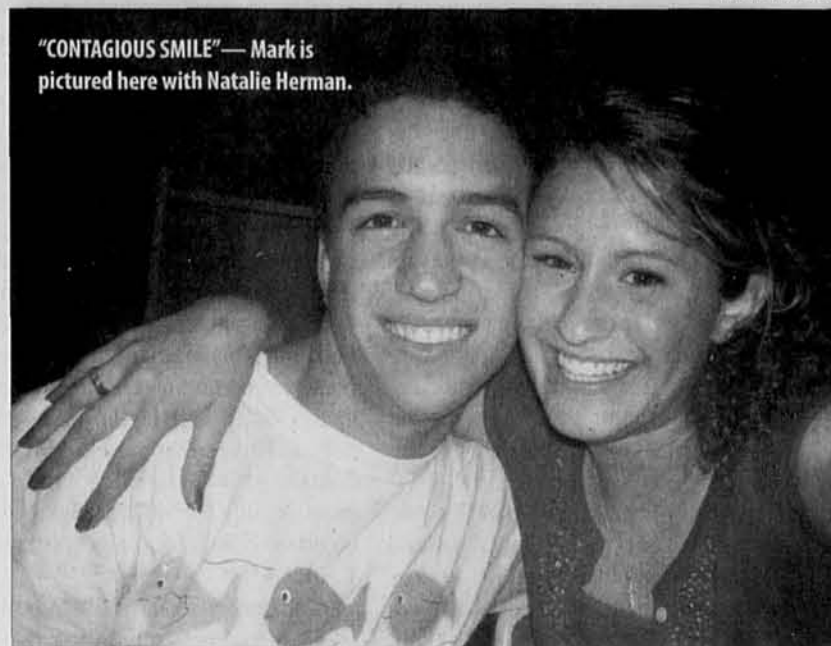


PHOTO PROVIDED

GUENSCH: 'Smilez' goes home; friends recall his infectious personality

Continued from A1

"There was another car involved in the crash," the report continued, "but no one else was seriously injured."

"It's hard to put on paper a lot of the things about Mark, but the first thing I, and most other people, think of is that he always had a way with his smile," said sophomore Geren Woodbridge.

Janice Bilger, a junior at Liberty who knew Mark from home, traveled back to Pennsylvania for the funeral that was held on Thursday.

"There were a lot of Liberty kids that came up and filled the bus from Liberty — maybe 50 people," Bilger said.

Many of Mark's friends spoke at the funeral, noting his humor and his love for basketball.

"He was always really helpful — and respectful. In his neighborhood and community, if anyone needed a hand, he would help them out, and he was very respectful to adults and to kids," Bilger said of Mark, who was referred to as "Gooncho" by friends at home.

"He had a contagious smile — and he was goofy and always laughing."

Although he was only a freshman at Liberty, Mark lived a life that was representative of his strong Christian faith. Through the grief and beginning stages of healing, those who knew him have refused to overlook one major fact.

"He had a heart for the Lord," said Mark's older cousin Darren Guensch, who lives in Virginia and works at George Mason University. "As hard of a time as this is, I think it's also important that we celebrate his time here and that he's now with our Lord."

Freshman Mark Hager, a dorm mate of Mark's on East 21, echoed this sentiment, saying, "God is in control, and will do mighty things through this young man's life."

Mark was born on May 24, 1988, in Kansas City, Mo., and his family soon moved to Allentown, Pa. According

to Darren, as Mark grew up, he "was a great example for his three younger brothers — Drew, Matt and Luke." Mark was homeschooled from a young age, and, around the time he was in fifth grade, his family began attending Faith Evangelical Free Church, where they are still members. A constantly active person, Mark loved sports, especially basketball, which all his friends remember as one of the defining aspects of his life.

Longtime friend Geren Woodbridge noted that "you never saw him without a basketball in his hand." An avid fan and player of basketball, Mark played, watched and coached at summer basketball camps. He had a problem with his right shoulder that required two surgeries and kept him from actively playing the game that he loved.

"Instead of complaining, he just tried to teach himself to shoot left-handed," Darren said. "His second surgery was in December, and the first thing he said when I saw him last month was, 'Dude, check out this huge scar on my shoulder!'"

Friends and family remember Mark as a young man regularly involved in youth group on Sunday and Wednesday nights. He also worked at many camps with a Christian sports ministry called Push the Rock. More than anything, however, he showed his heartfelt beliefs through his love for other people.

"The thing that stuck out to me was how much he loved his family," said Liberty freshman Scott Clymer, who knew Mark since the third grade. "We weren't perfect by any means in high school, but he was always trying to be a better older brother. He knew that Drew, Matt and Luke looked up to him, and he tried to be the best he could. Then there are his parents, and we both went through hard times in high school with our parents, but he loved them both so much it was unfath-

omable."

When he came to Liberty University as a freshman to study business, Mark made the transition naturally. With his likable personality, infectious sense of humor and interests in popular pastimes like Halo, weight-lifting and sports, he won friends immediately.

"He could make someone's day that much better just by saying hello," said freshman Stephanie Donnelly, who was in Mark's sister dorm, East 8. "I'm going to miss his company. When he wasn't around, the group just felt empty. He had the ability to make you feel funny even when you weren't."

"Our entire dorm is probably the closest dorm on all of the Liberty campus," said Mark's freshman dorm mate Ryan Ecton. "We all hang out together and eat lunch together every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. And Mark was the guy who, no matter what was going on in your life, would always make you smile."

William Zimmerman, a sophomore from Mark's dorm, remembered that Mark's love for people made his love for Christ all the more obvious.

"He always had a smile on his face, and I never heard him refuse a request to help someone else. He had a big heart, and it had the tendency to 'rub off' on others," including myself."

Darren, who once stayed with Mark's family during the summer, remembers "just a lot of time together — playing basketball, eating pizzas that he'd bring home after getting off work at Pizza Hut, Jamocha milkshakes from Arby's and, if you weren't paying attention, you were sure to get slapped across your chest with an open hand."

Perhaps the best summation of Mark's life is his own simple words listed under the "About Me" section on his Facebook page: "I don't like stressin'; I know God has a plan."

Contact Daniel Martinez at dpmartinez@liberty.edu

Mark Guensch May 24, 1988 - Feb. 17, 2008

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REACHING OUT — Students Behind Our Soldiers members collect donations for care packages that will be sent to soldiers stationed overseas.

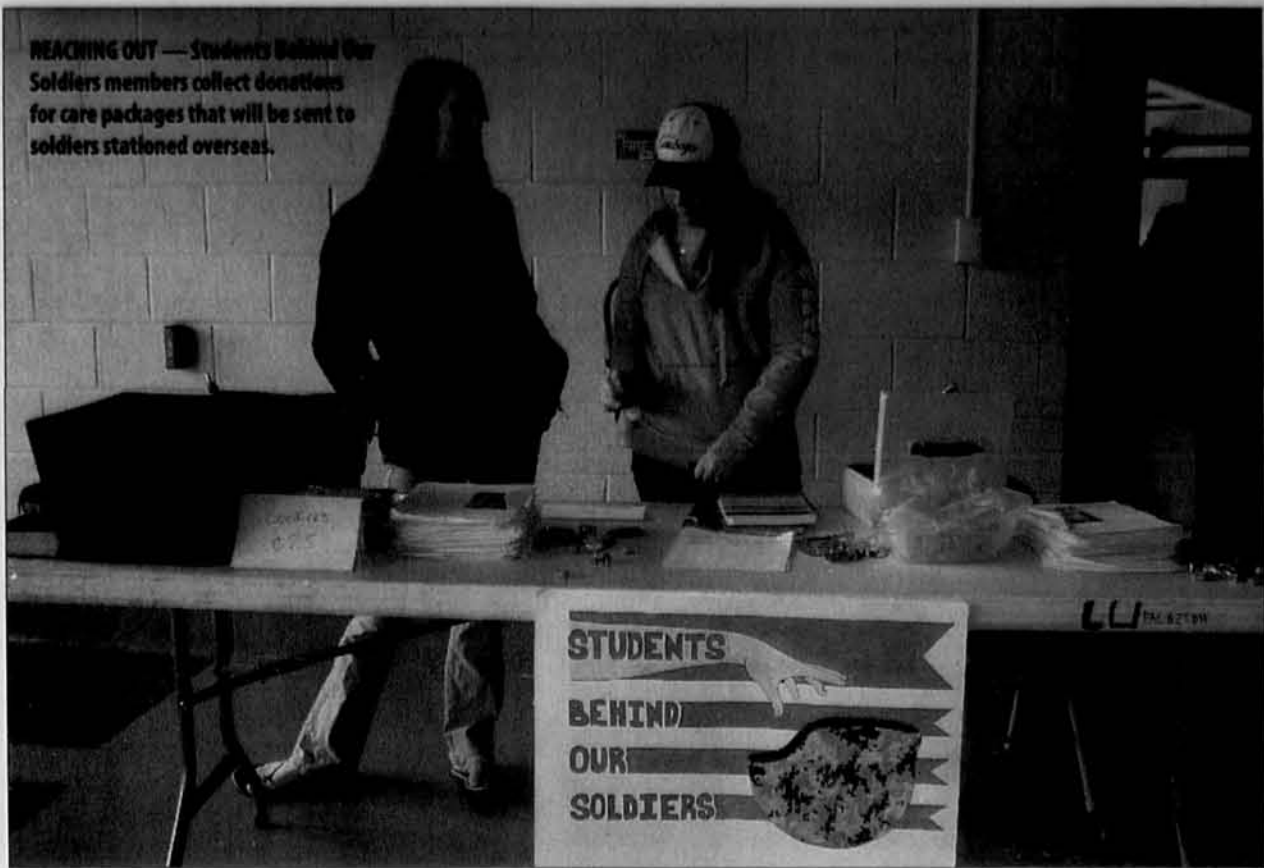


PHOTO PROVIDED

Students Behind our Soldiers reaches out to students with overseas family members

By Bryan Crutchfield
LIFE! REPORTER

Students Behind our Soldiers (SBS), an organization and ministry that encourages and strengthens military families, was started last semester by Amanda Forth and a group of friends who believed in her vision. Forth, a "military brat" herself, said she always had a passion for those who served or have family in the military.

Forth wanted to do something that would show the troops there are people out there who care about them and support what they are doing. Growing up in a military home, she said she knew what it was like to "hug someone you love and not know for sure that they will be coming home."

SBS is designed to cater to a college student's budget and still allow them to show support for the troops. Forth set up a system in which students can use meal plan points at the Key Hole, East Side Market and the Liberty Bookstore to purchase items for the troops' care packages.

SBS was approved as an official organization last semester just before Military Appreciation Day. Forth was able to organize a few events that day, and a Channel 10 News reporter from Roanoke came and reported on the group's activities.

This semester SBS has grown even larger with over 30 current members. On board with them are two faculty advisors, Professor William Honeycutt and Roy C. Jones, who is the director of fundraising and development for Liberty.

SBS holds monthly meetings that members have to attend in order to be updated about new events and fundraisers. The leadership team, however,

country and ensure freedom.

"There is not enough appreciation shown to our troops, to me, on Liberty's campus," Forth said.

Since SBS is a ministry as well as an organization, Forth understands the importance of equipping soldiers with the needed material to share the gospel. SBS includes Bible tracts in their care packages for the troops so the soldiers can share Christ with others.

"There is not enough appreciation shown to our **TROOPS**... on Liberty's campus."

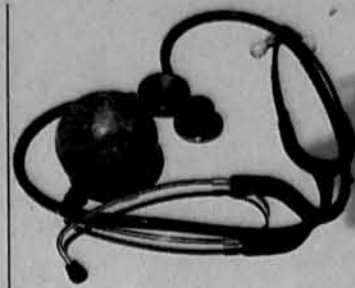
meets more often to discuss upcoming events. One of the major projects that SBS is focusing on right now is trying to get together a petition to reinstate "Military Emphasis Week."

Liberty used to have this event, according to Forth, but it was turned into Military Appreciation Day. Having a week dedicated to the military would show the troops that there are still concerned citizens who care about them and support what they do to defend the

SBS knows that there is still work to be done, but the group looks forward to the challenge of standing behind the soldiers.

For more information, contact Amanda Forth at ajforth@liberty.edu or email studentsbehindoursoldiers@yahoo.com.

Contact Bryan Crutchfield at bocrutchfield@liberty.edu.



The Joy of Health

Is salt on its way out?

By Joyanna Gilmour
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

America's most popular seasoning may be in trouble. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is considering whether or not to remove salt from the list of foods categorized as "generally recognized as safe" (GRAS), according to a recent article in USA Today.

Salt "is the single most harmful element in the food supply, even worse than saturated fat and trans fat, or food additives and pesticides," Michael Jacobson, the executive director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), told USA Today.

Salt's bad reputation comes from its potential contribution to the development of high blood pressure or hypertension. Left untreated, hypertension can cause damage to the heart, arteries, brain, eyes and kidneys, according to the Mayo Clinic.

While too much salt can be dangerous, some is necessary for normal biological functions. In fact, salt — also known as sodium chloride — makes up 0.28 percent of a person's body weight, according to the Salt Institute. Healthy adults should limit their daily salt sodium intake to less than one teaspoon, or 2,300 milligrams, according to the American Heart Association.

Due to the large amount of salt in the typical American diet, many consumers regularly double their recommended sodium intake, increasing their chances of developing hypertension.

"Most Americans consume about 3,500 to 4,000 milligrams of sodium a day," Jeannie Gazzaniga-Moloo, registered dietitian and American Dietetic Association spokeswoman, told USA Today.

Hypertension is not a disease limited to the middle-aged and elderly: seven percent of males aged 20 to 34 and 2.7 percent of females in the same age category are currently diagnosed with the condition, according to a recent survey by the National Center for Health Statistics. Nationwide, 65

million Americans have high blood pressure, according to a report in the scientific journal Hypertension. Furthermore, over 90 percent of Americans will develop high blood pressure throughout their lifetime, according to additional studies in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Limiting dietary sodium is one of the key recommendations given to patients with hypertension. These frightening statistics have caused the federal government to reconsider the health effects of sodium.

Fully 77 percent of the salt in dietary salt comes from processed or restaurant foods, according to CSPI. The FDA's eventual ruling on the safety of salt will have enormous implications for the food processing industry, potentially forcing them to come up with alternatives to traditional salt.

Because most of the salt in processed foods is added before the item even reaches the supermarket shelf, consumers face a challenge when trying to limit sodium consumption. The American Heart Association recommends practical tips to limit sodium, such as eating fresh fruits and vegetables without added salts or choosing unsalted nuts and seeds. Limiting salty foods such as chips, pretzels and processed soups can also help reduce overall sodium consumption. Consumers should also read nutrition labels regularly, as sodium is present in commonly consumed foods at shockingly high levels. A 4-ounce frozen cheese pizza, for example, can contain 450 to 1200 milligrams of sodium or fully half of the daily recommended sodium intake, according to USA Today.

Consumers can stay informed about the current salt debate by visiting www.csipinet.org/salt or www.salt.gov.uk.

Contact Joyanna Gilmour at jgilmour@liberty.edu.



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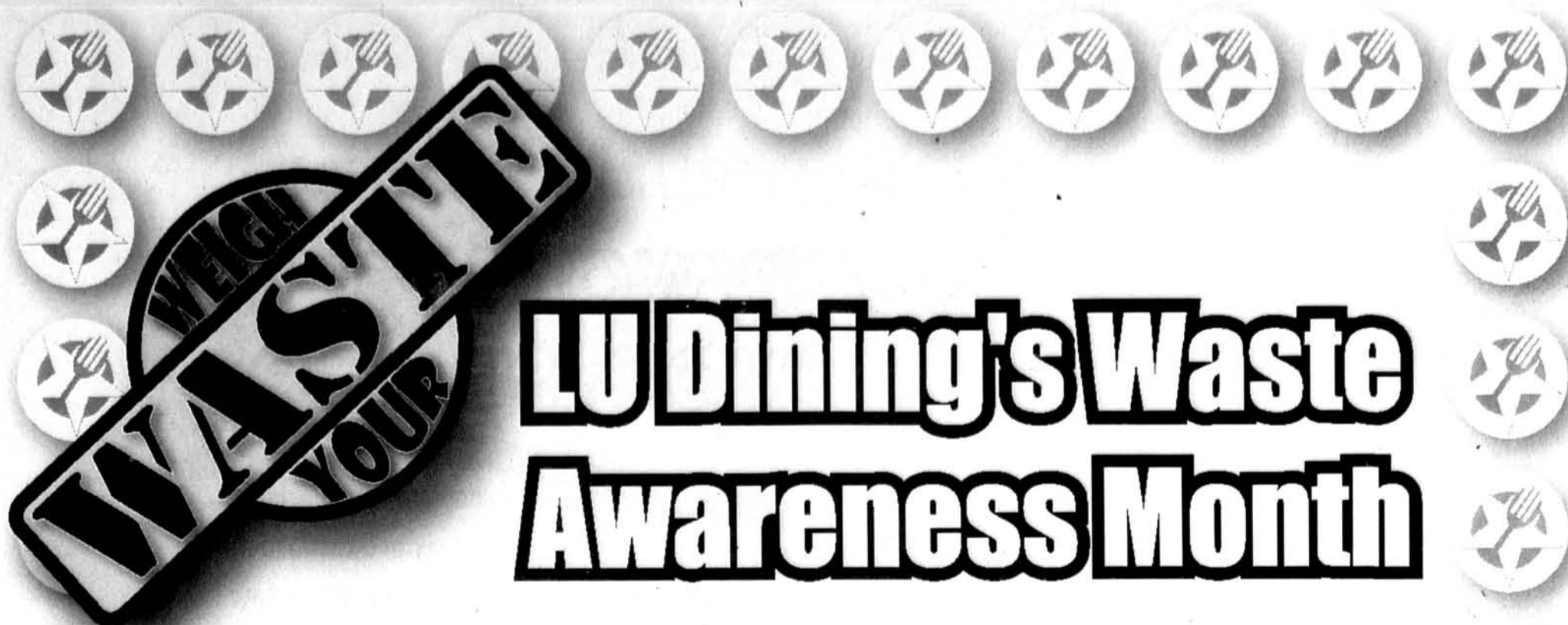
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David Keel (dskeel@liberty.edu)

David Flannery (daflannery@liberty.edu)



LU Dining's Waste Awareness Month

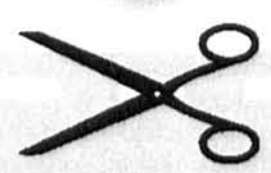
Food waste in the United States is the largest component of discarded waste by weight. (CNN online, 9/24/07)

On average, 1/3 pound of food is wasted per student per day in the Reber Thomas Dining Hall alone!

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opinion.

"It's a good idea to obey all the rules when you're young, just so you'll have the strength to break them when you're old."

Mark Twain



From the Editorial Board

Eight months ago, popular conservative pundit Hugh Hewitt gleefully announced a contest. Whoever correctly guessed the date of Sen. John McCain's withdrawal from the Republican primary would receive an autographed book - for that date would be one of celebration for conservatives.

McCain, of McCain-Kennedy, McCain-Feingold, the Gang of 14 and the possible vice president of John Kerry, would be giving up, humiliated, from his ludicrous attempt to run as a Republican for president. After all, he placed 10th in the Iowa straw poll, was polling nearly last in all of the primary states and his campaign was deeply in debt.

How the times have changed. As the presumptive Republican nominee (provided the Ron Paul blimp does not begin to pay dividends and that Huckabee now faces the near impossibility of winning enough delegates), McCain has won the support of most Republican voters.

The candidate who was earlier despised by conservatives is now the Republican standard-bearer. This shows, among many things, that the Republican Party is a pragmatic party. That is a good thing. For all of his flaws, McCain has the most important asset that none of the other GOP candidates were perceived to possess - he can win. Because of that, conservatives should now enthusiastically get behind the McCain candidacy.

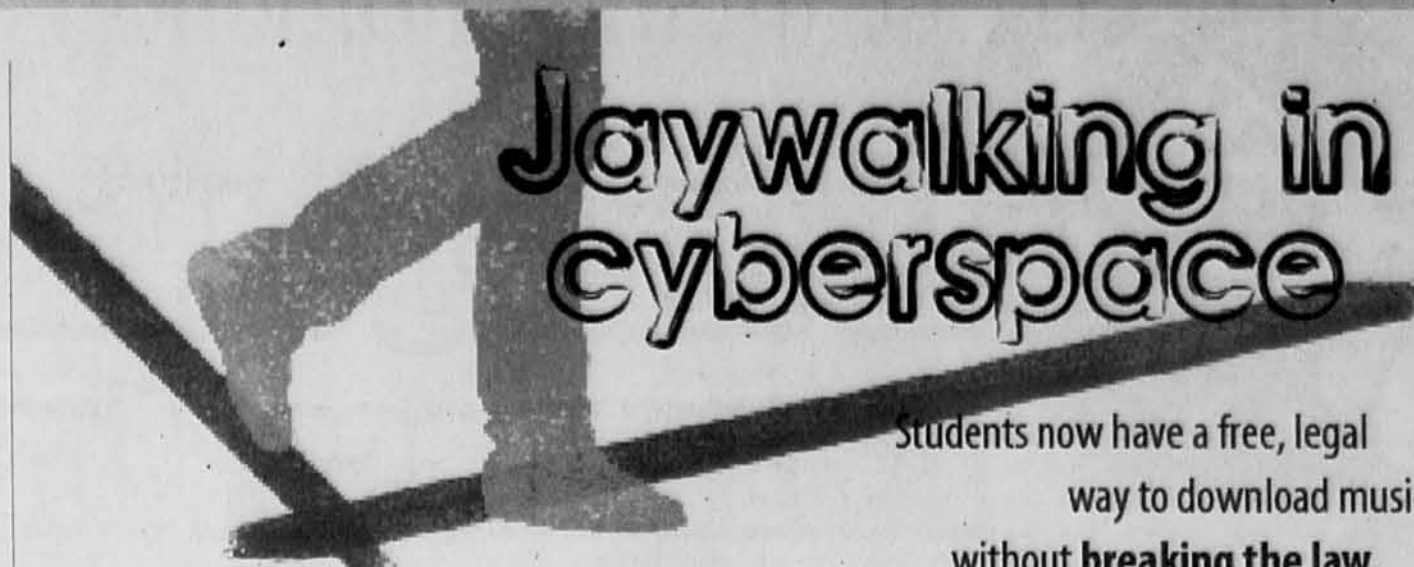
Before anything else, electability matters. The candidate who wins only 40 percent of the popular vote will not win the election and thus will not be able to make important decisions like appointing Supreme Court justices. A principled defeat, along with 75 cents, will buy someone a cup of coffee and nothing else. It is better to have an electable candidate than one that all candidates can agree with on every point.

To conservatives, McCain is wrong on several important issues. Carbon-Cap trading, campaign-finance reform and immigration are just a few. But on every single issue, Sen. Barack Obama's positions are far worse. From his support of partial-birth abortion to the disastrous health care proposal, Obama's politics are the antithesis of everything conservative. Sen. Hillary Clinton's options are not favorable, either. Every choice in life is an imperfect one - why should politics be any different?

Acknowledging that elections give imperfect choices, and that no candidate will be ideal on every issue, endorsing McCain is not only a realistic approach, but it is also a principled one.

That is why it is unfortunate that Dr. James Dobson has decided to sit out of this election because he finds himself in disagreement with McCain on several issues. Not to overstate Dobson's political influence or to minimize his right to do as he pleases, but this is a serious misstep. Conservatives who do not support the Republican nominee are de-facto supporters of the Democratic nominee, and Dobson is just one of many conservative leaders to turn his back on McCain's candidacy.

In 2000, conservatives got lucky. Al Gore would have been the commander-in-chief on Sept. 11 if thousands of "principled" liberal voters had not voted for Ralph Nader. If conservatives do not support McCain, they may just make the same mistake and hand the Democrats the election.



Jaywalking in cyberspace

Students now have a free, legal way to download music without breaking the law.

By Adam Privett
OPINION WRITER

Since the revolution of Napster, downloading music illegally has developed into a common trend, especially among college students. New online music programs are combating the tendency of students to take music without paying by providing free music downloads for college students.

With the convenience that programs like LimeWire offer, it is hard to resist the temptation to download music illegally.

"LimeWire allows computer users to make files on their personal computers available to a multitude of other people all connected to each other, a method known as peer-to-peer file-sharing," said an article on Breitbart.com by Alex Veiga entitled "Music Industry Sues LimeWire."

LimeWire and similar applications have been detrimental to the creative industries. U.S. film studios lost an estimated \$2.3 billion to Internet piracy in 2005, according to an article in the London Times called "The Global Pillage: Internet piracy is best tackled by the industry itself."

All these monetary losses prompted some half-hearted legal actions by music studios and artists. However, some experts believe that bringing the courts into the equation is not the best course of action for stopping illegal downloading.

"Rather than taking legal action against downloaders, the music industry needs to entice them to use legal alternatives," said an article on the BBC News Web site entitled "Downloading 'myths' challenged."

Enticing these consumers would not only prevent

them from illegally downloading but would also bring in new revenues through legal alternatives.

"The research clearly shows that music fans who break piracy laws are highly valuable customers," according to BBC news.

Legal downloads tripled during 2005, and 10 million songs have been legally downloaded.

Fortunately, the popularity of downloading music legally has reached college students everywhere. College campuses around the country have teamed up with Napster and are offering online music programs where students can listen to songs in their entirety without having to purchase them, according to an article in the Washington Post by Nick Timiraos entitled "Free, Legal and Ignored." More than 120 colleges and universities have attempted to provide their students with free, legal music.

However, there is a catch - the music must be attained over campus networks. This restriction provides a problem for students who have graduated and want to retain their online playlists.

"People still want to have a music collection. Music listeners like owning their music, not renting," says Bill Goodwin, who has experienced the consequences of having limited access of music, according to Timiraos' article. The ramifications of this restriction have been a large increase of students who have not signed up for this free service. It seems to be a common reaction; the University of Southern California decided to cancel their contract with Napster after fewer than 500 students signed up for it.

According to Timiraos, "The number of students using Napster at George Washington University dropped by more than half between the first and

crime watch

Programs that offer music downloads



LIMEWIRE



napster

second year, from one-third to one-seventh of eligible users." This foreboding statistic has stirred up consternation, and Alexis Kim, a source in the article, is not sure that the university wants to renew its contract with Napster.

If downloading music illegally is like jaywalking, then downloading music through legal means is akin to crossing the street in the designated crosswalk. It may take a little more effort to make the crossing, but at least pedestrians will have a clean conscience when they reach the other side of the street.

Contact Adam Privett at
ajprivett@liberty.edu.

Student Life

Parking ticket rumor laid to rest, but depravity of man remains



By Jen Slothower
COPY EDITOR

Rumors swirled in recent weeks about the nullification of parking tickets on Liberty's campus.

Although many different accounts surfaced, Jerry Falwell Jr. put the rumor to rest with a recent official explanation.

"One day, I noticed a whole line of student cars at LaHaye Ice Center with tickets on their windows," Falwell explained.

"The cars were not blocking a driveway or causing any problems, but they were just outside the marked spaces. I pulled all the tickets off the cars

the little yellow tickets have found their way under many a windshield wiper in the last week, but just a few days ago, anarchy still pervaded campus on the wings of the rumor.

Many students have approached me, wide-eyed, and asked whether I knew if the rumors were true. Accompanying these salivating students were cries of "This is awesome!" and "The Falwells are the coolest!"

Hours later, I took a gander past the Vines Center and around the Circle - two prime parking areas for ticketing students. Cars littered the restricted lots in broad daylight and crowded the fire lanes.

Within a few days I, as an off-campus worker who lives on a residence hall, could no longer find a close parking space upon returning from my hard day of work - even as early as seven in the evening. Freshmen bounded around the Circle in newfound

thing as silly as a parking space is enough to give up your integrity, fine, but be warned that all of life holds little rules and situations we will not enjoy. It is best to get used to that now.

Although it is a shame that parking tickets must be used to enforce the rules, the tickets serve the good of the school. If a dorm started burning down, trucks would not be able to get into the Circle with some of the aforementioned parking problems.

In addition, traffic tension was alleviated by the bus system, which has provided for the transportation needs of many so that students do not have to drive back and forth on campus to get to classes.

The problem here is not parking, and it is certainly not administration or student measures against parking tickets. The problem is that we - as people, as Liberty students and as mankind - are all too prone to disobey if we think we can es-

"If something as silly as a parking space is enough to give up your integrity, fine, but be warned that all of life holds little rules and situations we will not enjoy. It is best to get used to that now."



and turned them in to be cancelled. At the same time, I told LUPD to go easier on students and suggested they should use discretion in writing tickets by limiting tickets to cars parked hazardously or blocking roadways.

"LUPD thought I was ordering that my example of how they might use more discretion should become policy, and they implemented it. I never intended that any new policy be implemented without full discussion. My goal was and is to find a parking policy that maintains order but is a little more flexible.

"After a couple of weeks, I began receiving complaints from employees because LUPD had told them that I had ordered that no tickets be written. That was never the intent. I have since met with Sgt. Rich Hinkley of LUPD and I think they now have a good understanding of the direction we need them to pursue."

Thankfully, order has been restored on campus as

euphoria, thrilled that they could race on and off campus at all hours of the day while upperclassmen, after already having served their time parking in the Pit during previous years, were consigned to the lower lot again to trod back to the room for evening studies. Commuters were suddenly seen stumbling into classes late, faces red and shirts sweaty, because their spaces were mysteriously full.

I agree that it is difficult to find a parking spot. With proper planning and good timing, however, a satisfactory spot used to be found easily. However, with no tickets being issued, people started parking wherever they pleased and spaces were at a premium.

This trend reveals the depravity of man, alive and well on Liberty campus.

I know a few select students who continue to park where they are allowed, when they are allowed. A rule is a rule, whether it is enforced or not, and these students are going to obey their authority. If some-

cape punishment.

In the grand scheme of life, Hell is most often the motivator for salvation. Corporate fraud continues until jail time is given. People take the extra newspaper out of the rack when they only paid for one. Music is stolen until consumers are caught.

Our quest for comfort too quickly motivates us to abandon what we know is right. Even if authority seems unnecessary, it is what God has placed over us, and it is essential for our lives.

It is parking tickets today, but it could be something much bigger tomorrow. Perhaps we should fashion our integrity now.

Then we would not need such tickets.

Contact Jen Slothower at
jrslothower@liberty.edu.

Personal

In need of caffeine anonymous

By John Davis
OPINION WRITER

I'm no better than any other addict. There, I said it. I can't function without the refreshing, tingly sensation that is the new Diet Pepsi Max. I refuse to get my day started until the caffeine, ginseng extract and phenylalanine make my — well, I don't know exactly what they do. I do know that when I drink it I feel like I've swallowed rays of sunshine that my disposition emits throughout the day.

There's only one problem. When I don't drink between two to four liters daily I feel like a grouchy monster. Instead of sunshine, I walk around with the little rain cloud over my head like Charlie Brown. I also yawn excessively and get emotional at the drop of a hat. On Sunday I almost cried while watching Hannah Montana in 3-D, not because it was a great family experience. Spending \$20.00 per ticket made me oh, so very sad.

My wife suggested I receive help for my problem. After some searching, I found out there is help for those like me. In September, the Caffeine Awareness Alliance created Caffeine Anonymous, an online forum and chat space with no fees and dues, where the only requirement is the desire to stop consuming caffeine.

"We received many thanks from individuals who are grateful to finally have an outlet to voice their opinion on this controversial drug," Marina Kushner, founder of the Caffeine Awareness Alliance, said in a September press release. "Caffeine has been linked to heart disease, mood disorders, central nervous system disorders, gastro-intestinal disorders, insomnia, and even death."

I decided I didn't want to die from my addiction. However, before getting proactive and signing up, I tried to stop cold turkey. I realized this was going to be harder than I thought. I envisioned my Caffeine Anonymous session playing out like this.

John: "Hi my name is John."

Class: "Welcome John."

John: "I'm addicted to caffeine."

Class: (applause)

John: "I haven't been doing it long. I only started as a means to stay awake and get more productivity out of my day. Now, I take double what I started to get me through the day. I realized I had a problem when I walked through an intensely cold winter storm to get my morning fix."

Moderator: "That's OK, John. The first step is to admit you have a problem."

John: "It's not that big of a deal."

Moderator: "You're in denial."

Caffeine Joe: "You don't understand what you're doing to yourself. Your behavior is self-destructive."

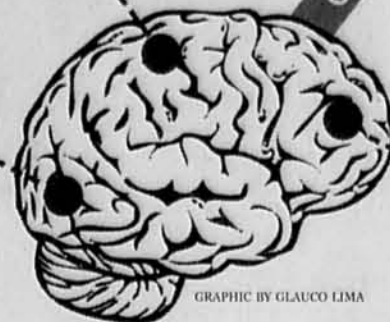
John: "I'm leaving — this is too much to handle."

Moderator: "Don't worry, class. There is always a breakdown before the breakthrough. He'll be back. They always come back."

caffeine dependence

reflexes

ideas



GRAPHIC BY GLAUCO LIMA

Well, maybe I can skip the Caffeine Anonymous and take baby steps, starting with making my 2009 New Year's resolution to stop drinking caffeine. That way I'll have 11 months to really get prepared for the next step. If you need caffeine anonymous, you

can go to www.caffeineanonymous.org. Tell Caffeine Joe I'll see him next year.

Contact John Davis at jhdavis2@liberty.edu.

Speech ban on Olympic athletes concerns British and others

By Caleb McAllister
OPINION WRITER

The British Olympic Association (BOA) confirmed on Feb. 9 that it inserted a clause into the contracts of its Olympic athletes requiring them to agree not to make any critical comments about the regime governing China, the host country of the 2008 Olympics.

This development unleashed a storm of criticism for the BOA in Great Britain and worldwide. Originally, the clause in the contract stated, "(Athletes) are not to comment on any politically sensitive issues."

Within hours, the association had agreed to re-evaluate the wording of the clause.

Simon Clegg, the British Olympic Association's chief executive, claims that the clause included in the athletes' contract this year is nothing more than a restatement of the International Olympic Committee's policy against any "kind of demonstration, or political, religious or racial propaganda" during the Olympics, according to Section 51 of the International Olympic Committee's charter.

However, Jeremy Hunt, Great Britain's shadow secretary of state for culture, media and sport, told Sky News, "They, I think, have rather over-interpreted (the IOC charter) by making all our athletes sign this declaration. I think that given America, Canada (and) Australia are explicitly saying that their athletes can say what they want

when they go to Beijing — I think it is inappropriate to put this restriction on our athletes."

At any rate, the situation is a disturbing reminder of a past episode of Britain's history with Adolf Hitler. On May 14, 1938, the English football team (soccer team, in U.S. lingo) gave a Nazi salute before they played in the Berlin Olympics — a shameful display of subservience that still embarrasses many Brits.

David Mellor wrote in the United Kingdom's Daily Mail, "In 1936, persecution of the Jews was stopped briefly, dissidents were rounded up and kept out of the way and Nazi Germany put on its best face for the Games. And that is exactly what the Chinese are doing today. They are desperately trying to clean up Beijing and banishing

dissidents — such as 34-year-old Hi Jia, a brave campaigner for human rights who is under house arrest to ensure he doesn't rock the boat."

Apparently not all British citizens see history and current events quite as clearly as Mr. Mellor. Hopefully, enough British citizens will have their stomachs sickened by the restrictions enacted by the BOA to voice their outrage. Otherwise, Olympians may find themselves looking back on the 2008 Olympics with the same distaste that British athletes look back at the games of 1936.

Contact Caleb McAllister at cjmcallister@liberty.edu.

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JOYFUL NOISE — The Children of the World choir awaits 10 months out of the year to spread awareness about the 25 million orphaned children around the world.



Nina Pooza

Children of the World concert dazzles students

By Dominique McKay and Jennifer Schmidt
NEWS REPORTER & NEWS EDITOR

A perennial favorite with students, the Children of the World choir returned last week with a lively concert and a challenging message. Seats in the Schilling Center ran out quickly and students started sitting on the floor, hoping to get a glimpse of the children as they sang and danced to favorites like "Praise Him" and "I Am a Promise."

A mixture of songs and personal testimonies from the children, who are mostly orphans from various countries such as Brazil, Uganda, China and India, took up the majority of the hour long concert. A video from World Help, the organization which sponsors the choir, was also shown, encouraging viewers to help reach the impoverished of Africa who are suffering daily from the AIDS epidemic.

"I think that it is amazing that Vernon Brewer and World Help are able to take these children out of their unfortunate circumstances and give them an opportunity that they would never get otherwise," sophomore Rachel Kaz said.

The choir travels 10 months out of

the year, spreading the biblical message of the great commission, raising awareness of the AIDS epidemic and promoting American sponsorship for orphaned children, according to Nikki Hart, director of the Children of the World choir.

There are 25 million orphaned children around the world, according to the World Help Web site. The choir is a visible example of children that have been rescued from lives of poverty and spiritual darkness, and it is a platform for World Help to use in raising funds that will provide hope to orphaned children.

Chad and his wife Natalie are team leaders and overseers for the children who are in the choir. He said the four pillars of the World Help organization include humanitarian aid, Bible distribution, church planting and child sponsorship.

"Our motto is to provide help for today and hope for tomorrow," Winder said.

As Winder stood on stage addressing the crowd, he encouraged the attendees to commit themselves to sponsoring a child before leaving. The World Help video said that with \$30 a month a child can be provided with food, clothing, medical attention and

substantial educational opportunities.

"It blows me away every time they come to Liberty to see how joyful they are despite the hardships they've endured," sophomore Kaitlyn Chapman said following the concert. "It's incredible to see how such young children can change the world for Christ."

Kaz and Chapman, who is currently sponsoring a child through Compassion International, said they both are open to sponsoring children through the World Help organization. Kaz even suggested that if finances are tight students could get together with a few friends in order to sponsor a child.

"We get so comfortable in America, bearing all kinds of statistics about unreached people and suffering all across the world, and I think we are somewhat calloused to it. It doesn't affect us like it should. As Christians we ought to be Christ's hands and feet," Kaz said.

According to the World Help Web site, all members of the Children of the World choir are receiving a full education while touring in the U.S. through June 2008.

Contact Dominique McKay at dmckay@liberty.edu.

SAINT: Missionary speaks about 'End of the Spear,' life in the jungle and more

Continued from A1

During a return visit to Liberty last week with Mincey, one of the men who killed Steve's father, Steve sat down for an interview with the Champion.

CHAMPION: How do you feel the movie "End of the Spear" has been received in America?

SAINT: I think it's been well received. We get lots of comments from people who have no tie to the church at all and have rented the movie because they're interested in the Amazon or they're interested in tribal peoples. I have a T-shirt that says "End of the Spear" on it — I wear it once in awhile and people will come up to me and say, "Oh, I saw that movie!" They have no idea that I'm involved in it, and they'll say, "That movie is made by Christians, but it sure didn't seem like it." I think they're saying, "I could watch it, and I didn't feel like it was condemning or preachy."

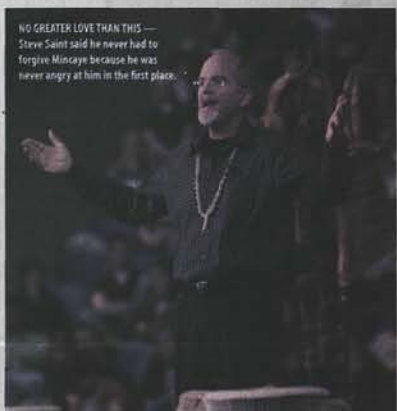
CHAMPION: What made you decide to visit the Waodani tribe when you were 10?

SAINT: My aunt invited me in. I loved the jungles, and I couldn't wait to meet these people that my dad had

truly naive.

These people said themselves, "We do have a mandate to go and offer a new culture, a different culture, not a North American culture but the culture that Christ calls us to. It's not only very different from their culture, but it's also very different than our culture. Unfortunately, all too often we go intending to give them Christ's culture and we give them our North American culture." That needs to stop.

CHAMPION: What is the biggest change? How have the Waodani re-



Alex Towson

acted to the modern world?

SAINT: Cessation of killing. You have a 60 percent homicide rate within the tribe plus those people in the tribe who were being killed by people outside the tribe. They were a culture of death. That changing has had a huge impact on them. The new generation has become mesmerized by materialism, by things that are available on the outside. It's a real struggle for them. They don't want to be Waodani, but they don't have skills to offer to the outside world. They're in a very precarious situation.

CHAMPION: Did you struggle with belief in God after your father's murder?

SAINT: I was so young. I took my cues from my mother and my aunt. I saw a strong, consistent, humble faith that at that point I just accepted. Later on, as I got older, I needed to accept it for myself. But by then, Mincey had loved me, and I loved him, and we had become family, so the forgiveness thing never really happened. It never occurred to me that I needed to forgive him. My mom just always treated everything that happened like this was God's plan. We're his servants. We don't tell him, he tells us. Her acceptance of it made it very easy for me to accept it, even though it was devastating.

CHAMPION: What would you tell the American church today regarding global evangelism? Are we doing a good job?

SAINT: On a scale of one to 10, I'd say about a three to five. But I think we can do much better. I think the opportunity on a scale of one to 10 is about 12. We are still here smugly thinking that the gospel is from the West to the rest, but really we are now the third or fourth missionary receiving country in the world. Those people we've taken the gospel to are afraid we'll become the next Europe.

They are sending missionaries back here to try to shore up the Christian church in North America. There is an opinion that missionaries go in and force people to change. You can't force people to change their beliefs, but the concept that people have that all tribal peoples live in Edenic situations is extremely, ex-

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Watch videos, post your own, and share photos and messages. chat with others and set up a blog and share photos, groups and ministries. See answers from the Virtual Bible and meet members.

Belong

Liberty University offers full ride to best video uploaded on GodTube

By Kirsten Filiberto
NEWS REPORTER



Liberty University has recently partnered with GodTube to offer a full, four-year tuition scholarship valued at \$60,000 for the best submitted video explaining why the applicant wants to attend Liberty.

Users who would like to enter the contest should upload a creative video of themselves answering the questions "What profession has your faith inspired you to pursue?" and "Why would you like to do so at Liberty University?" Videos must be two minutes or less in length and submitted by March 31, 2008. Media and admissions personnel at Liberty will declare a winner by April 14.

GodTube is a Christian Web site that allows users to upload videos and pictures, receive prayer support and even chat with people from around the world.

Liberty was one of the first partners that GodTube had when it launched in August 2007. In its first month, GodTube was the fastest growing Web site on the Web, according to ComScore.

Christopher Watt came up with the idea of starting a Christian networking Web site after hearing that by 2025, only half of the population that currently at-

tends church would continue to do so. He decided to create a Web site that would allow Christians to join an online community, hoping that if people were to get involved online, they would then be encouraged to become a part of a local church community as well.

"I feel the site has a great deal of potential to spread the gospel in ways that have never been done before and to also help unite Christians from all denominations all over the world through conversations about our shared faith," said J.P. Abel, Support Administration Manager for GodTube.

GodTube has many different features on its site. Users can upload videos and pictures, design a personal user profile, comment on other's profiles, write prayer requests on the Prayer Wall, use the Virtual Bible or talk in a video chat room. Some guests to the video chat room have included Denise Jackson, actress Madly Carley and musicians Jeremy Camp and Steven Curtis Chapman.

Currently, there are over 57,000 videos on the Web site in 25 different languages, including Spanish, Portuguese, German and French as well as the main language of the site, English. Users can expect better social networking and update features in the near future, along with more online Bible studies and small groups.

As a Christian site, GodTube is closely monitored to ensure that nothing offensive slips through the cracks. Every video, picture, comment and prayer is checked by an administrator and only goes live on the site following approval. The video chat room is daily monitored by two administrators. Fifteen of GodTube's 30 administrators are students at Liberty University.

Daniel Wilson, a junior at Liberty University and a GodTube administrator, said, "I feel like I am fulfilling the great commission because I am part of a company that is spreading the gospel. I feel that I am part of something big—something that can save lives."

Contact Kirsten Filiberto at kifiliberto@liberty.edu.



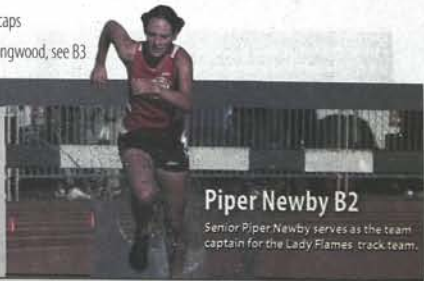
Contact Joyanna Gilmour at jgilmour@liberty.edu.

- See B4 for Liberty Tennis recaps
- Men's Basketball loses at Longwood, see B3



Wrestling B3

Coach Jesse Castro and the Flames wrestling team squared off with VMI this past week in preparation for the East Regionals.



Piper Newby B2

Senior Piper Newby serves as the team captain for the Lady Flames track team.

Lady Flames poised for NCAA Tourney



LIBERTY TIGER — Junior Courtney Watkins (center) signs a Great High 14 poster and currently leads the Lady Flames' 20-17 magical Liberty record to a 2-1-2 start. With February coming to a close and March Madness on the horizon, Watkins and the Lady Flames will look to secure a spot in the NCAA tournament by winning the Big South Tournament.

By Thomas Lourdeau
SPORTS REPORTER

The Liberty Lady Flames (24-2) clinched a share of the Big South Conference Championship with a 76-68 win on the road against High Point on Saturday while extending their winning streak to 13 games. The win marked the Flames first in the last three trips to High Point University. Liberty also swept the season series for the first time since the 2003-2004 season.

Junior guard Megan Frazee set the pace with 26 points and

14 rebounds while junior Rebecca Lightfoot chipped in with 10 boards of her own, tying her previous career high.

As a team, the Flames shot 46 percent from the floor, despite an initial 0-for-5 in three-point field goals.

"It was definitely part of our game plan to get the ball around the basket or get the ball in a position where we could drive to the hoop," said Frazee, who scored 20 of her 26 points in the paint and contributed immensely to the Lady Flames fast start out of the gate.

The Flames defense held High Point to 14-for-44 shooting at the beginning of the game.

However, despite rolling to an early 17-2 advantage, the win did not come easily. High Point rallied behind a second-half surge that included six three-point shots to tie the game with 16:29 to play.

"We had a lot of distractions, especially the foul trouble. It was a good test for us," said senior guard Courtney Watkins.

The Flames responded in the next three minutes, going on a 12-2 run to bring the score to 46-36. From there, they never looked back. Head Coach Carey Green was impressed with the way his team responded to High Point's attempted comeback.

"A lot of people stepped up for us in the second half, and we were able to execute our offense well. Two players in particular, Megan Frazee and Rebecca Lightfoot, stepped up and rebounded the ball well. Courtney Watkins hit some crucial, big-time three-pointers down the stretch. We also got some solid, mature play from Rachel McLeod in the final minutes."

The Flames found themselves in foul trouble throughout the game. Both Megan and Molly Frazee fouled out with 2:56 and 2:08 remaining, respectively.

"We got into foul trouble, which changed our substitution patterns and affected our chemistry," said Coach Green.

The Flames put the game away largely thanks to a 7-0 and 9-0 run in the second half, not allowing High Point to establish any rhythm on offense after their initial strike.

Megan Frazee was pleased with the way she and her teammates focused despite the distractions.

"We had to battle adversity, but came together as a team. We kept our composure and played with poise down the stretch," she said.

The win keeps the Lady Flames undefeated in conference play and assures them a share of the Big South regular season crown. The team travels to Winthrop University on Feb. 27 and to UNC-Asheville on March 1 before returning home to face Radford in the final game before the Big South Tournament.

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Flames sweep Clearwater Invitational

By Thomas Lourdeau
SPORTS REPORTER

The Liberty Flames baseball team started the season on the right foot this weekend, tallying three consecutive wins at the Clearwater Invitational.

Liberty downed the Notre Dame Fighting Irish in the season opener 6-2 thanks to a four-run fourth inning. Senior Aaron Grijalva reached base to open the frame, coaxing a four-pitch walk. Two batters later, after a throwing miscue put runners on first and second with no outs, freshman left fielder Doug Bream drew the second walk of the inning, loading

the bases.

Senior David Giammaresi then delivered a two-run double to right center field, putting the Flames up 2-1. Senior Aaron Phillips chipped in with a sacrifice bunt, and junior Tim Rotola plated a runner off an RBI single, giving the Flames a 4-1 advantage.

Junior Clarence Nicely picked up the win in his Liberty debut, allowing just one run on five hits. Notre Dame starter David Phelps, however, took the loss in 4 2/3 innings. He allowed six runs on eight hits.

>> SEE BASEBALL B3

Freeman, Shepherd highlight VT Challenge

By David Hunt
SPORTS REPORTER

Records are meant to be broken. Liberty University's track and field program has been doing just that. Freshman Kolby Shepherd and sophomore Chenoa Freeman both dropped in impressive performances, and a plethora of other athletes notched personal records.

Both the Flames and Lady Flames traveled to Blacksburg over the weekend to compete in the Virginia Tech Challenge, where they were pitted against teams such as Georgia State, Maryland, Virginia and Marshall. They more than held their ground.

"We got the records, a lot of guys and girls broke their own personal records and no one got injured," teammate Kirby Wilkerson said.

Shepherd leaped into the Liberty record books with a jump of 16 feet, 2 3/4 inches — placing him fifth in the competition and landing him the fourth highest jump in Flame history. It was also good enough to qualify him for the IC4A Championships.

Freeman excelled in several record-breaking competitions, starting with the 400-meter dash, which she ran in

55.70 seconds — good for fourth overall and a school record (surpassing her own record of 56.09 seconds earlier in the season).

Next up for Freeman was the 4x400-meter relay, where she teamed up with sophomore Brittany Heath, junior Jamie Watson and senior Charlene Hibbert. The team finished third overall and qualified for the ECAC meet — also breaking the school and conference record in the event.

The women sprinters also received help in the 200-meter dash from junior Andrea Beckles, who placed 19th overall in 25.13 seconds. Her time is the fourth fastest for a Liberty athlete.

Other notable performances on the women's side include strong showings in the distance events. In the 2,000-meter race junior Ashley Osborne grabbed victory with an ECAC-qualifying time of 9:57, the second fastest time in Liberty history.

"I felt pretty good," Osborne said. "It was a neat race to come out and run with a lot of competitive runners."

>> SEETRACKON B3

Softball derailed by errors at Cougar Classic

By Miranda Fielder
SPORTS REPORTER

The Lady Flames softball team traveled to the complex of Patriots Point in Charleston, S.C. on Feb. 22-24 and returned home with a 1-2-1 record.

On Friday, the Lady Flames opened against the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles. Freshman Cassie Hendrix had the first hit of the game with a triple to right center field then scored on a throwing error. Freshman Amber DePasquale scored the only other run in the sixth inning for the Lady Flames with a solo home run to left field. The match between the two teams was quickly halted due to a rain delay, prompting the umpires to call the game. At first, the umpires ruled the game 2-1, Gold Eagles, due to the incompleteness of the inning. The ruling then changed to a 2-2 tie between the teams, making this the second tie in the history of the Lady Flames.

On Saturday, the Lady Flames met the Towson Tigers for their second game of the tournament. Freshman Tiffany Smith was the starting pitcher, but only pitched 1 1/3 innings before being relieved by junior Sarah Ellis. Smith had two strikeouts and allowed five walks. Ellis pitched for the next four innings, striking out four Lady Tigers and walking three.

For the first five innings, the Lady Flames could not score a run. Towson, on the other hand, took advantage of Smith's five walks and jumped out to a 5-0 lead. The Lady Flames also committed three errors in the loss.

During the sixth inning, sophomore third baseman J'Nae Jefferson singled up the middle to score senior Ashley Williams for the lone Lady Flame run. Junior Beth Bennett and freshman Leah Cosentino each went 2-for-3 at the plate in the 11-1 loss.

Later that night, the Lady Flames returned to face the Kennesaw State (KSU) Owls. Sophomore pitcher Dana Wheeler made her first appearance of the season for the Lady Flames. Throughout seven innings, she faced 23 batters, striking out 12. She did not allow a walk and only gave up one hit, picking up the win.

During this game, the bats came alive for the Lady Flames. Bennett and DePasquale each had two hits, highlighted by a Bennett home run to left field and four RBIs. Freshman Keely McMillion had two RBIs and Williams had one. The Lady Flames and Wheeler posted their first win over KSU, 7-0.

On Sunday, the Lady Flames played their final game of the tournament against the North Carolina State Wolfpack. Runs were hard to come by for the Lady Flames, and freshman El-

ena Lampman plated the lone Liberty run off a Jefferson double.

Hendrix went 2-for-3 at the plate while senior Shanna McKain and Jefferson had one hit apiece. Ellis pitched seven strong innings, striking out seven and walking five. The Wolfpack capitalized on four Liberty errors to squeak out a 2-1 win.

Head Coach Paul Wetmore seemed to be very pleased with his team's performance throughout the tournament.

"It was a learning experience," Wetmore said. "We don't want to repeat errors in the future. Overall, though, I think we were very successful. A number of people contributed."

The Lady Flames will now be traveling to Knoxville, Tenn. on Feb. 27 to face the Tennessee Lady Vols, who are ranked No. 5 in the nation. Then, they will travel to Greenville, N.C. to play in the Pirate Clash tournament.

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previous week in sports

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|-------|---|
| 23 RD | SOFTBALL vs. Kennesaw State | 7-0 | W |
| 23 RD | W BASKETBALL vs. High Point | 78-68 | W |
| 23 RD | M TENNIS vs. Charleston Southern | 6-1 | L |

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|-------|---|
| 23 RD | BASEBALL vs. Albany | 5-4 | W |
| 22 RD | M BASKETBALL vs. Longwood | 79-68 | L |
| 16 TH | W TENNIS vs. George Washington | 5-2 | W |

ON THIS PAGE: Piper Newby



KEVIN GRIED

Piper Newby

"Once Newby steps onto a track she turns into one of the best all-around athletes in the Big South Conference."

"I would like to make Nationals this spring. After college, though, I just want to go where God wants me to be. I still want to run, probably do some triathlons and maybe an Ironman, but I'm not putting any expectations on myself quite yet."

"Piper just has a knack for being successful," teammate Nate Edwards said. "No matter what she does, where she goes or what event she is competing in, she usually comes out on top."

Newby, who hails from Hayden Lake, Idaho, never really considered herself to be a great runner. In fact, she never even planned on being an athlete when she made the decision to come to Liberty University.

"I started running when I was pretty young," Newby said. "My mom started a cross country program at my elementary school, but after high school I figured I was done with track. I never thought I could compete at a Division I school."

Newby was not even interested in track and field in the first place.

"Running in circles isn't that much fun," Newby says. "I like running over hills and different terrain, not circles. That's why I figured I would give cross country a chance when I came here."

Newby describes her freshman year as being a "big struggle," and she contemplated throwing in the towel before starting her first race.

"I was so nervous before that first cross-country race," Newby said. "I told myself that I would quit as soon as I finished. It was just my goal not to get last place, and I didn't. After that I guess I kind of got sucked into the whole running thing here."

"As the years went I seemed to improve quite a bit each year. My junior year was the real break-

out season. I tell people it was a year of bliss. That was when I really learned to give God all the glory for any success that I may find on the track or off," Newby said.

During the 2007 cross country season, Newby ran hard and took second place overall at the Big South Conference Championships. She finished the five-kilometer course in a speedy 17 minutes, 45 seconds.

"I wanted to do good," Newby said, "but I certainly wasn't planning on it. You never know how a race will turn out until you actually get out there."

Cross country has only been one of the plethora of categories Newby has shone in during her tenure at Liberty however (where she holds the six-kilometer school-record of 21:31). On the track Newby has leaped over towering pole vault bars, sped through 800-meter races with ease and hurdled over water pits during the tortuous steeplechase — which just happens to be her staple event.

Newby currently holds the school record in the 3,000-meter steeplechase (roughly 1.8 miles, equipped with low hurdles and a long, jump-sized water obstacle) in an impressive 10:35.19. While most gangly distance runners look at the steeplechase as the most difficult race in track and field, Newby looks at it as "a fun event with a lot of variety."

Her teammates describe her as being funny, interesting, fast, fun, hard-working and humble.

"We respect Piper because she puts forth the effort," teammate Clint Jackson said. "She doesn't

complain about workouts like some people, and she always comes (to practice) with a good attitude."

"We don't just keep her around because she's fast," teammate Josh Edmonds said with a laugh. "She's a super-nice person too."

In her spare time Newby enjoys taking in her favorite food (ice cream and anything involving chocolate), catching Extreme Makeover Home Edition ("Make sure you don't leave out the Home Edition," Newby said) and...playing guitar.

"Playing guitar is about my only hobby," Newby says. "I don't play often, well, not much at all, but it's the closest thing I have to a life outside of running."

As for the future, Newby seems ready to tackle any opportunity and speed around any obstacle, both on and off the track.

"I would like to make Nationals this spring," Newby said. "After college, though, I just want to go where God wants me to be. I still want to run, probably do some triathlons and maybe an Ironman, but I'm not putting any expectations on myself quite yet."

"I'm not sure what I'll do career-wise yet either. I'm thinking about something in missions, but I'm not too sure what role I'll play," Newby said.

Wherever she goes, Newby is sure to shine as brightly as she has during her career as a Flame. But as a cautionary reminder: sunglasses may be a necessary accessory when passing her in the hallway.

Contact David Hunt at dhunt@liberty.edu.

By David Hunt
SPORTS REPORTER

From a distance, senior Piper Newby looks normal enough, and from a few feet away she does not look peculiar, either. However, looks can be deceiving. Once Newby steps onto a track, she turns into one of the best all-around athletes in the Big South Conference.

"When she first came here, we had no idea who Piper was," former teammate Christian Nichols said. "Now...I'd say pretty much everyone knows her."

Newby, who has spent her entire collegiate career at Liberty University, is a cross country and track star that seems to shine a little bit brighter every year. She has earned seven All-Big South honors, broken nearly every school record in her respective events and excels in academics as well. Newby has been named to the Big South All-Academic Team numerous times while studying kinesiology.

If her escalating success shows anything, fans and track enthusiasts are in for quite a treat this spring.

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Liberty edged by Longwood with Big South schedule coming to a close

By Jeffrey Scott
SPORTS REPORTER

The Liberty men's basketball team suffered a 79-68 setback at the hands of the Longwood Lancers Friday night. Liberty, which trounced Longwood by 24 points earlier in the season, could not find any answers as the Lancers nailed 13 three-pointers in the victory. The Flames fell to 14-14 but are an even 6-6 in Big South Conference play.

Liberty jumped to an early 9-4 lead with an Alex McLean put-back at the 17:30 mark. However, Longwood held the Flames scoreless for the next four minutes. Longwood forward Billy Robinson Jr. knotted the score at 9-9 with 13:38 remaining as he laid in two of his 10 points on the night.

The Flames then took the helm and pushed out a 13-7 run, topped off by a bucket and free throw by Anthony Smith that put the score at 22-16. Longwood answered, though, and took their first lead at 23-22 with 7:15 remaining in the first half. The Flames stayed close but were kept at bay by Longwood, which held a slim 35-31 lead at intermission.

Liberty shot 11-for-23 in the first half, tallying 47.8 percent, but it was held to just 3-of-10 from three-point land. Junior Anthony Smith led the way in scoring with 14 points, and McLean chipped in nine.

Longwood made half of their field goals, hitting 14-of-28 attempts, including 5-for-14 from behind the three-point line. The Lancers put forth a complete team effort in the win, as seven of 10 players on the team made it into the scoring column.

Liberty battled back in the second

half, cutting the lead to one point at 40-39 as McLean converted an old-fashioned three-point play with 16:11 remaining. The Lancers then opened up a 17-4 run and put the score at 57-44. The run was capped off by a Brandon Giles three-pointer at the 11:23 mark.

The lead stretched to 17 points after a Ryan Bogan three-pointer, one of his three in the second half. The closest that Liberty got to the lead was 11 points after a Russell Monroe bucket with seven seconds remaining in the game.

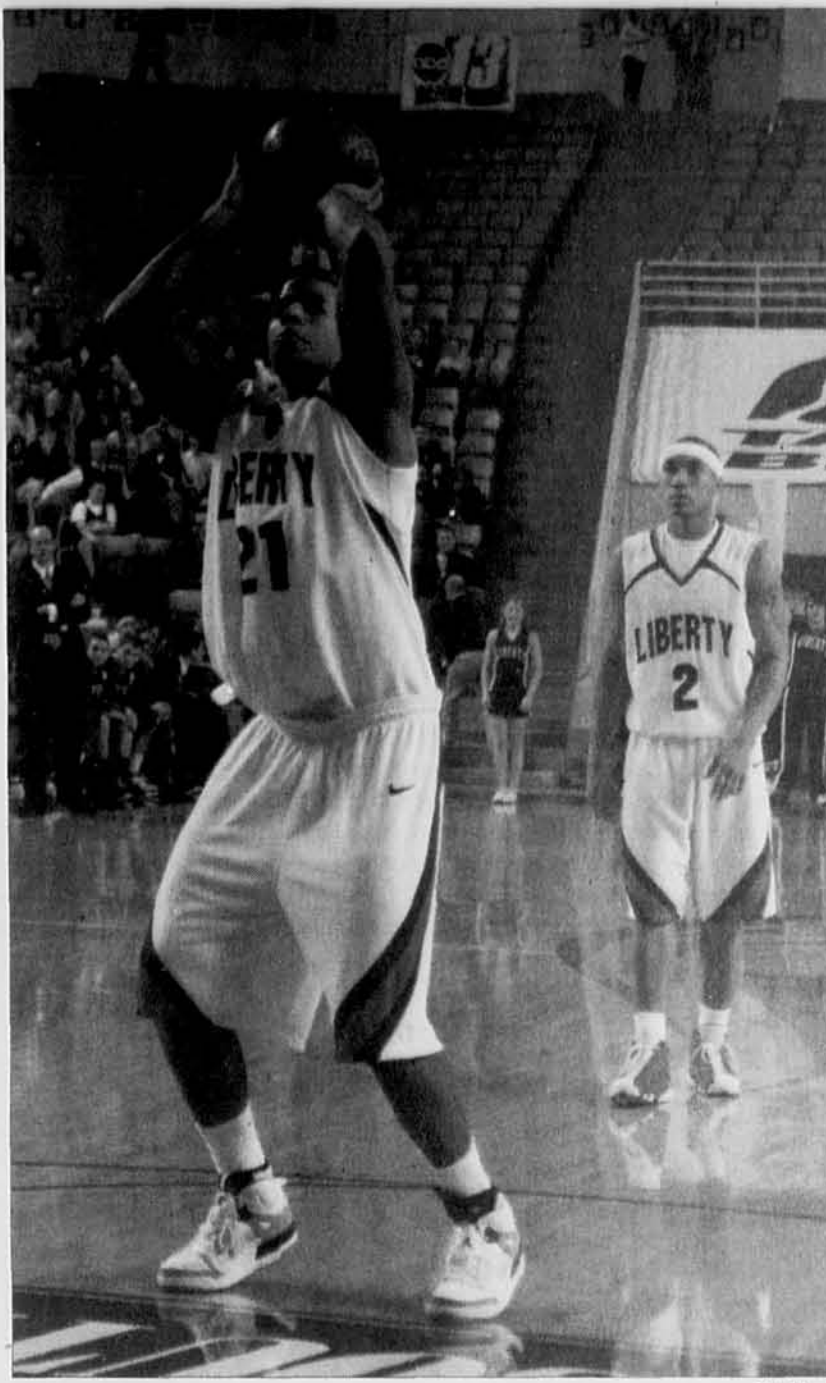
Liberty almost mirrored its performance from the first half, shooting 11-for-24 in the second. The Flames could only manage three buckets from long distance in the second half to Longwood's eight, however, as the Lancers used their 13 three-pointers on the night to pull away with the win.

The Lancers continued their offensive groove, hitting over half of their shots in the second half, shooting 17-for-33. Dana Smith led the team with 23 points, going 7-for-10 from behind the arc. Kirk Williams put in 14, and both Giles and Ryan Bogan each posted 12 points.

Smith was the high man for Liberty, scoring 24 points, which tied his career high. McLean dropped 23 points on 8-of-9 shooting.

The Flames head home to the Vines Center to host the Virginia Military Institute Keydets in an important Big South matchup on Tuesday. Tipoff is slated for 7 p.m.

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BIG WEEK AHEAD OF HIM—Senior Alex McLean and the Flames take a 6-6 conference record into the final week of Big South play. The Flames will need to win the Big South Tournament in order to secure a birth in the NCAA Tournament.

TRACK: Prep for BSC Championships

Continued from B1

In the 5,000-meter race, seniors Piper Newby and Rachel Valliere, freshman Dascia Bushman and senior Carol Jefferson grabbed spots five through eight respectively. Newby led the charge with a 17:55 with Valliere a second behind (17:56), followed by Bushman (18:00) and Jefferson (18:01).

On the men's side Jordan McDougal and Jon Hart led the effort. The fleet-footed McDougal placed fourth in the 5,000-meter race, running 14:39. Liberty redshirt sophomore Sam Chelenga won the race outright with a speedy 13:52.

Jon Hart took fifth in the weight throw with a strong 61-9.5 toss. Hart also took seventh in the shotput with a heave of 53-9.75.

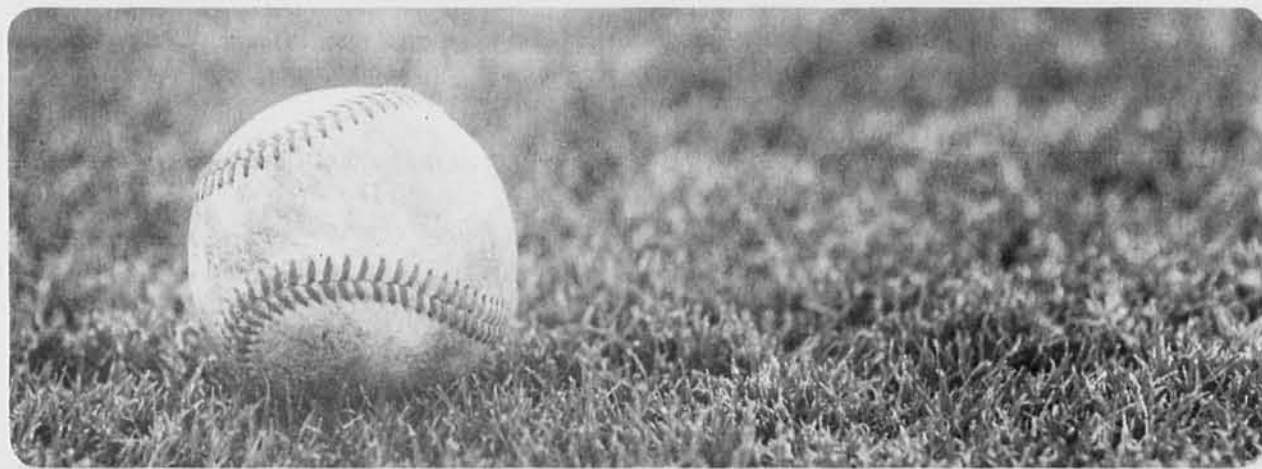
"Jon knows how to throw it," senior teammate Luke Garvey said. "He's had a remarkable season so far, and he keeps getting past 61 (feet) in the weight throw — which is world-class."

In other events Matt Parker tied for fourth in the high jump (6 feet, 6 3/4 inches) and freshman Clarence Powell triple-jumped to a seventh place finish in 49 feet, 3/4 inches.

"We're ready," senior Jarvis Jelen stated after seeing the results. "Confidence is coming up, and everyone seems to be on the same page."

Liberty will travel to the Big South Conference Championships on Friday and Saturday. The meet will be held in Clemson, S.C. and the Liberty's men's team is expected to be big favorites as they have taken all 10 titles in the 10-year history of the meet.

Contact David Hunt
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BASEBALL: 3-0 Flames ready for Norfolk State

Continued from B1

The Flames picked up where they left off Saturday in the rain-soaked Jack Russell Stadium. Rain delays stalled the game for six hours, but the Flames were unphased, riding a Garrett Young double in the Flames' seventh inning to

beat the Albany Great Danes 5-4.

After Kenneth Negrón was hit by a pitch, Young ripped a 3-2, two-out pitch down the left field line, allowing Negrón to score the game's winning run.

The win comes in the face of an early 3-0 Flames' deficit. In their half of the

third, Phillips scored after he led off the inning with a double, and Rotola followed with a two-base hit of his own, cutting the lead to two.

After a six-hour rain delay, play resumed with new Great Dane pitcher Cory walking the first two batters he faced, both of whom moved into scor-

ing position via a double steal, advancing to second and third. One wild pitch later, the score was 3-2. Grijalva then drew a walk, and Liberty took a 4-3 lead when senior P.K. Keller bounced a double off the wall.

After an Albany home run knotted the contest at four runs apiece, the Flames bounced right back in their half of the seventh on Young's game-winning double.

In their finale against the Iowa Hawkeyes, it was the pitching that took center stage. Liberty starter David Stokes picked up the win, allowing one unearned run in 7 1/3 innings of work.

Liberty needed just three runs of their own to throttle Iowa, which did not have an answer for Stokes. His command of the strike zone kept Hawkeyes hitters guessing all afternoon.

For the first time in the weekend, Liberty jumped to an early advantage after junior Earl Hollinger scored off Grijalva's one-out single.

The Hawkeyes responded after Jus-

tin O'Toole reached on an error and then moved his way into scoring position on a wild pitch. Center fielder Caleb Curry followed with a single, tying the score at one.

Scoring resumed in the Flames' fifth inning. Senior Cody Brown's single began the frame, and Brown advanced one batter later on a sacrifice bunt. Phillips then launched a single of his own, giving the Flames a 2-1 lead.

Things got dicey for the Flames in the eighth inning after Stokes put runners on first and third with only one out. Sophomore reliever Dane Beakler came in for relief and struck out the first batter he faced. Base-running miscues then allowed Liberty to get out of the jam unharmed.

The Flames take their three-game winning streak into the next test, against Norfolk State on Tuesday, Feb. 26. The first pitch is scheduled for 2 p.m.

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Grapplers finish strong with win over VMI

By William Armstrong
SPORTS REPORTER

Ending its regular season on a winning streak while going into qualifiers is a big step for a young, second-year team. For the second year in a row, the Liberty Flames wrestling team defeated Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in a dual by a score of 30-12 in front of an audience of 907 inside VMI's Thunderdome.

"We really needed this win and to wrestle well. The way the stadium is made is to be loud, and the crowd was hostile," Head Coach Jesse Castro said. "It says a lot for our team to wrestle well in that environment; it

was important to keep our momentum going into regionals."

On senior night for the Keydets, Liberty stole the first five out of six matches, including a pin of a senior in the opening match.

Junior Tim Harner started the dual with a bang for Liberty when he pinned David Metzler in the second round, giving him a team-leading 10 pins this season.

Freshman Scott Clymer pulled out a 4-1 win over John Held. Clymer had a takedown and an escape to secure the victory in the second.

Following that, sophomores Shaun Smith (10-4 win) and Chad Porter, who notched his team-leading 10th major decision of the season (16-8 win),

increased the Flames' lead to 12-0.

Sophomore Aaron Kelley brought the lead to 22-0 when he recorded the Flames' second pin of the night just 1:40 into the match. The pin served as Kelley's seventh of the year.

"We're a young team, so it's great to be consistent like that. We've been up and down, and we wrestle hard but need to be more consistent and become more consistent as a team," Castro said. "It's a big confident booster for us, and it shows the ability of our team to wrestle at a higher level."

The winning streak ended at six matches when Dustin McCabe came away with a 9-3 victory over freshman Nick Knowles.

Junior Chris Dagget, in his third

weight class of the year at 197 pounds, responded with a 12-1 major decision. Dagget went on top 9-1 in the first five minutes and held on the rest of the match for the win.

Sophomore Patrick Walker, one of the team captains, scored another major decision for Liberty, winning 13-0 for his 28th victory of the season.

The Keydets went on to win the next two matches as Jeremy Adams held on for a 4-2 victory over senior Christian Smith and Tyler Anthony pinned sophomore Sean Katz to end the night.

In its final dual match of the year, Liberty brought its final record to 12-11-1.

"We're coming off last year's being

the defending champions, and if we wrestle like we did last night then we have a great chance. We have to come to wrestle in the championships (East Regionals)," Castro said.

The Flames will host the NCAA East Regional Championship on March 9 in the Vines Center, which will be the first ever NCAA Championship held at Liberty University. The event will determine 10 weight class winners and an overall wildcard to make it to the NCAA Championship in St. Louis, Mo.

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Tennis travels to South Carolina

By Adam Trent
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Liberty men's and women's tennis teams had tough matches against Big South Conference powerhouses, Charleston Southern and Coastal Carolina this past weekend. The men

fought hard but fell 6-1 in both matches while the women narrowly lost to Charleston Southern 4-3 before rebounding to upset defending conference champion Coastal Carolina 4-3.

The men began their match against Charleston Southern on Saturday afternoon by taking the doubles point. Sophomores Chad Simp-

son and Juan Reyes won at No. 2 doubles, 8-2. Then senior Jarda Trojan and freshman Leandro Schujmann rallied from an 8-7 deficit to win their match 9-8 (5) to give Liberty the doubles point. Unfortunately for the Flames, the Buccaneers rallied to take all six singles matches for a 6-1 win.

On the women's side, freshman Jordan Jenkins and junior Ekaterina Kuznetsova won at No. 1 doubles, 8-4, riding momentum from beating Atlantic 10 power George Washington a week earlier. Freshmen Stephanie Brown and Hannah Fick narrowly lost at No. 2 doubles 8-6, but senior Martyna Hanusz and sophomore Fabiana Gouvca took No. 3 doubles, 8-3, to give the Lady Flames the doubles point. Jenkins then went on to take her singles match 6-0, 6-3 to give Liberty a 2-0 lead. Charleston Southern would rally to take singles matches at the No. 2, 3 and 4 positions to take a 3-2 lead before the matches at No. 5 and 6 positions were suspended due to darkness.

The next morning, the teams split the No. 5 and 6 positions to give Charleston Southern a 4-3 win. Down but not out, the tired Lady Flames headed two hours north to take on a fresh and eager Coastal Carolina team. Liberty started the match against Coastal by taking the doubles point with 8-2 and 8-4 decisions at the No. 1 and 2 positions. Jenkins then won at No. 1 (6-3, 6-0) followed by Brown at No. 5 with a 6-0, 6-0 victory to give Liberty a 3-0 lead.

The Lady Chanticleers took a straight sets win at No. 2 while Fick pushed her opponent to three sets before falling at No. 4. With the match on the line, Kuznetsova rallied from a set down

to defeat Kimberly Webb 5-7, 6-3, 7-5 at the No. 3 position to notch Liberty's first ever win over Coastal Carolina.

"These two teams were very similar, and we fought hard in both matches. After losing against Charleston Southern, I felt the girls were extra motivated going into the match with Coastal," coach Chris Johnson said. "Every big win includes people performing under pressure. I was extremely proud of all of our girls as they fought through the entire match. I think anytime you come away saying that is the first time we have ever beaten that team, it is considered a huge win."

Meanwhile, the men did not fare as well. The Chanticleers swept all three doubles for the doubles point and then took five of six singles matches for the 6-1 win. Senior Jarda Trojan provided the lone win for the Flames, winning at the No. 3 position 6-1, 6-4.

"Leadership is the biggest hurdle for the men. Right now no one is stepping forward as a consistent performer and inspiring the team to accomplish more. Until someone takes the lead, we will continue to struggle to be consistent," said Johnson.

The Lady Flames return to the tennis court next Saturday when they travel to Greensboro to take on North Carolina A&T. The men do not play again until March 4 when they travel with the women an hour east to Farmville to face the Lancers of Longwood University.

Contact Adam Trent
at jtrent@liberty.edu.

No closure for Flames hockey

By Will Luper
SPORTS REPORTER

The Liberty Flames men's hockey team was scheduled to play the Terrapins from the University of Maryland this past weekend. Not only was senior night going to be held to honor the graduating seniors in their last home game at the LaHaye Ice Center, but the Flames had lined up their first television appearance as well.

At 7:30 p.m. this past Saturday night, Flames fans in the Lynchburg area would have been able to tune in to the Liberty Network on television to find their favorite college hockey team competing. It would be their final home game of the season before heading to Nationals next weekend.

Unfortunately, that did not occur. "It really is too bad," said Head Coach Kirk

Handy. "It was something that we've been planning for a long time and would have been great exposure to the public."

The Flames have seven seniors graduating this year. Both goalies, Dalton Stoltz and Mike Binnie, will be graduating along with Jimmie Stewart, Aaron Mackenzie, Kevin Dykstra, Ben Shaw and Rob Niemi.

"It's no good," said Handy. "It was the last home weekend of the season. We want to put something in the works, a sort of event, because we won't be able to have senior night."

Ray Jones, long-time Flames basketball announcer, was slated to call the play-by-play for the game.

The loss of publicity is not the only problem facing the team, thanks to the cancellation of this last weekend's games.

Junior John Langabeer, tied for third on the

team in scoring, was suspended for a game two weekends ago when the Flames swept a weekend series against the Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) Crimson Hawks.

After Stoltz went behind the goal to slow a puck down for his teammates, an IUP player came charging from the right and ended up hitting him with his stick. As most hockey players know, if someone feels that their goalie has been attacked, there should be repercussions.

Langabeer believed that to be the case.

The problem is that the ACHA wants to say that Langabeer will be ineligible to play in the first game of the National tournament against Kent State. They state that his suspension has not been carried out, regardless of the fact that it should have been over with this past weekend.

"It's definitely something we are fighting," said Handy.

According to the final ACHA Division I ranking, the Liberty Flames are heading into Nationals ranked sixth overall. Last year, they surprised a few people by making it to the semifinals in their first year after rising from Division II play.

They ultimately were beat in the second round by Penn State, but the Flames have returned both older and wiser.

"I would put our guys against any team in the league right now," said Associate Head Coach Jeff Boettger.

Stoltz agreed. "If we set a goal, we have to excel," he said. "That's what championship teams do, they exceed expectations."

Nationals begin in Rochester, N.Y. on Saturday, March 1. The Flames Web site can be reached through visiting LibertyFlames.com.

Contact Will Luper
at wluper@liberty.edu.

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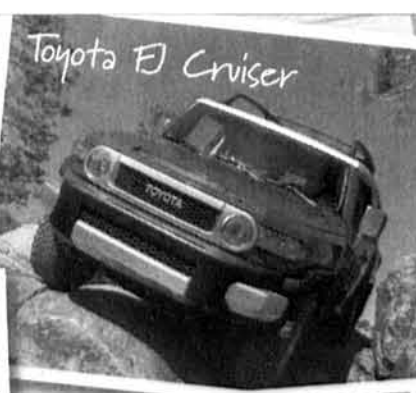
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"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."

Henry David Thoreau



PRAISING GOD — David McKinney has been a member of the campus praise band for five years and campus worship pastor for three years.

ZACH BRAY

Campus worship pastor David McKinney spreads his love for music and God

By Aubrey Blankenship
LIFE! REPORTER

He is the guy behind the keyboard. He reads the birthday announcements and leads the campus praise band in "Everlasting God" and other favorites. Growing up in Georgia and not into music until ninth grade, 24-year-old David McKinney would never have guessed he would be at Liberty working, learning and serving God as the campus worship pastor.

"I tried out for ministry teams as a senior in high school and got used to receiving the 'We're sorry, we regret to inform you...' letter in the mail," McKinney said.

McKinney first became interested in music as a high school freshman when a powerful musician at church inspired him.

in September 2009.

The band enjoys working together, sometimes performing up to six times per week, and McKinney often puts in a 70 to 80 hour workweek that involves preparing and playing for upcoming events.

When not on the job, McKinney likes to hang out with friends and go to Liberty games and events. Friendly and personable, McKinney enjoys spending time with students and supporting the student body in any way he can. He is an enthusiastic coffee drinker but not a fan of Starbucks, so students may find him downtown at the Mezzanine, Joe Beans or at home drinking his cherished Brazilian coffee.

McKinney is also a roommate, friend and accountability partner of Johnnie Moore, Chris Deitsch and Michael Miller.

"Music is a tool, **AN AVENUE**, a highway that allows people to safely drive up to the throne of Christ."

"There was no passion at first," McKinney said. "I am so energetic that I can't do much for long, but I sat down at the piano at home, and the next thing I knew, I was asking Mom for lessons. It was absolutely one of those things that God just planted in my heart. The Lord gave me the desire to play for hours and hours."

That was over nine years ago. His audition as a keyboard player for Light Ministries was his first experience playing with a band. And, as they say, the rest is history.

"The Lord just ran with it," McKinney said.

McKinney has since graduated from Liberty with a Worship and Music Ministry degree and is now 15 credit hours away from completing a Masters of Arts in Worship. In his fifth year as a member of the campus praise band and third year as the campus worship pastor, McKinney's love for God is as evident as his love for music.

"Music is a tool, an avenue, a highway that allows people to safely drive up to the throne of Christ," McKinney said. "As a worship pastor, my job is to keep the traffic clear, point to the road signs and make the path as simple and easy as possible. I have leadership responsibilities, but I'm just here to provide an opportunity to worship. The seven of us on stage are responsible for making sure our hearts are right, and then we're just going to worship the Lord and let the students join us."

McKinney is excited about a new, live recording of the campus praise band to begin in May 2009. The CD/DVD will feature original songs and will be released

"We're the four single campus pastors," McKinney said. "We're all polar opposites, and sometimes we want to kill each other."

Opposites or not, McKinney is truly awed by the Christian fellowship and accountability that he and his housemates have experienced. McKinney does not sing, minister, work or travel without this stable and God-fearing support network.

"For campus pastors, summers are really cool," McKinney said. "The Lord has allowed me to go to so many countries."

McKinney's position as a campus pastor often takes him away from home and out of the country. Calling himself an "Anglophile" — meaning he loves all things English — and falling in love with almost every country he sets foot in, McKinney's next stop is the land of cocoa and parrots as he leads a Light Ministries team to Brazil this summer.

"Or it may be a surprise trip to London, if I get a lot back on my tax return," McKinney joked.

McKinney does not see himself at Liberty forever. He enjoys his position, but he is letting God map out his future path. He has a heart for local church ministry and hopes to move in that direction, wherever that may be.

"Whenever someone asks me 'What are you going to do with your life?' I say: 'Something in full time ministry. Probably using music. Anywhere in the world,'" McKinney said.

Contact Aubrey Blankenship at
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Reber-Thomas brings sights and sounds of New Orleans to Liberty

By Anna Blevins
LIFE! REPORTER

Parades, street performers and multi-colored beads kicked off the first Jazz-Land Jamboree at the Reber-Thomas Dining Hall. The jamboree was held Tuesday, Feb. 19 to celebrate New Orleans culture with food, fun and entertainment.

The staff decorated Reber-Thomas in an array of purple and gold, the colors of Mardi Gras. Street performers, caricaturists and balloon artists lined the "streets" of New Orleans to add to the jazz-land appeal. The music group Kase Project provided a relaxing atmosphere with their jazzy style, and the chefs prepared food with a Mardi Gras theme. Even a talent show took place, involving various students with unique talents.

Elizabeth VanWingerden, the marketing manager for Sodexo, said that often Christians have a negative connotation of Mardi Gras.

"We are educating students on the culture," she said in response.

She said that even the Mardi Gras beads can be connected to something

negative, however, at this Mardi Gras everyone gets beads to celebrate the uniqueness of New Orleans.

All of the marketing managers for Sodexo gather together each year to vote on a theme, according to VanWingerden. This year's theme is "The Great American Road Trip."

"Our focus is on different cities and their culture and food," said VanWingerden, and this week was New Orleans.

"The goal of each of the themed nights is for students to have a good time.

"We love to have fun and want to change up the feel," VanWingerden said.

"The various themes allowed Sodexo to go 'out of the box' and to show 'customer appreciation.' The student response so far has been positive," VanWingerden said.

"The change in atmosphere, the lighting, the greeters passing out beads and the food was good," freshman Max Andrews said. As for the talent show,

"I only saw the first act, but I really did enjoy the music. My friend and I found ourselves tapping our feet to the music and singing along."

"My favorite part was the music," said sophomore Katrina Kurtz. "As college students you can't always afford to go out for something special, so it is nice when they bring it to you."

"It was a nice background to eating. It was something special and nice to sit down with friends and enjoy the atmosphere," freshman Rachel Shisso said.

"The Jazz-Land Jamboree brought in a multitude of students who enjoyed the fun-filled, cultured atmosphere.

"I really appreciate it, and not just because it is a change in atmosphere, but sometimes things can get monotonous during school and studies, and showing up to eat the normal dinner can turn a day around when you find out that there's a party," Andrews said. "I know a lot of other universities do not care too much about the students, but Liberty does, and I appreciate the work they do to make the experiences better."

The next stop in the Great American Road Trip is Miami.

"Salsa on South Beach" will come March 27.

Contact Anna Blevins at
acblevins@liberty.edu.

Disciple Project members listen to God's calling

By Amanda Sullivan
LIFE! EDITOR

Members of the Disciple Project, a student-led Bible study, are taking to heart the repeated Liberty University mantra "to train champions for Christ."

Former Liberty University student Joshua Davies felt God's calling to change the way he lived. While at home in North Carolina, Davies felt the Lord urging him to lead a group at a friend's birthday party in a Bible study. The impromptu session led to a weekly Bible study meeting that quickly became known as the Disciple Project. The group has grown to have two locations — Wilson, N.C., and Lynchburg, Va.

The group operates around three main objectives: igniting, emerging and immersing. The Disciple Project first works to ignite the dreams and desires of Christians with passion.

The group is then committed to nurturing the spiritual growth of its members. Also, the Disciple Project practices what it preaches by immersing itself in ministry.

According to the group's Web site, "The Disciple Project is driven upon selfless ministry, not just on Sundays, but every day of our lives."

Davies remained in Wilson, N.C. to continue to lead the group in his hometown while Davies' friend, junior Aimee Hutton, stepped up to lead the group in Lynchburg. Hutton felt God calling her to do something that would radically change her community for God's glory.

"God gave me the passion to start the Disciple Project May 10, 2007," Hutton said. "It was a whirlwind experience. (I) had just experienced a breakup, partying like there was no tomorrow and constantly lying to keep my head above water. God knocked me to my knees and said, 'Beloved, enough of this! I have got some serious plans for you.'"

"In one night, through one meeting with one person, my world flipped upside down, and I have never been the same, not even for a moment," Hutton said. "It's kind of like a Paul moment. At least that's what I compare it to, but I hadn't killed Christians. I had just hated them."

The Disciple Project is accepting of all

ages, ethnicities and physical appearances. However, the group members request that attendees bring with them a passion to experience God and to impact the world.

The members meet every Friday night at 7:30 p.m. in Hutton's basement. The group maintains an average attendance of 10 to 20 people per week.

"The people who show up at Disciple Project come as they are," sophomore Dana Chepulis said. "They know they are sinners, and they know that they are given a love that they do not deserve by a God that loves them more than they know. They are a humble people."

Additionally, the Disciple Project offers an excellent opportunity for Christians to further God's great commission — to bring missions to the world, locally and abroad.

The group maintains an enthusiasm that gives the desire to stand and preach the gospel to anyone.

"We are going to start working with the homeless," Chepulis said. "We are praying for the community around us, and we are bringing up new ideas weekly that will make a difference for the name of Christ."

The Disciple Project is passionate about "the realness of God and the true existence of eternal life, through the grace of the real man, son of God, Jesus Christ," according to the group's MySpace page.

Ultimately, the group is just a culmination of college students who have decided to open their hearts and listen to God's unique calling for their lives.

For more information, contact Aimee Hutton at arhutton@liberty.edu or visit the group's Facebook and MySpace pages.

Contact Amanda Sullivan at
amsullivan3@liberty.edu.



PASSION FOR CHRIST — Aimee Hutton leads the Lynchburg location of the Disciple Project, which began in Wilson, N.C.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Fashion show featured students' clothing designs

From Staff Reports

The Family and Consumer Science Club filled the Schilling Center with over 500 people for the second annual fashion show on Feb. 22. All proceeds from the event went to the Miller Home for Girls in Lynchburg, Va.

The event showcased 15 students designs. First, second and third places were awarded. Beth Woolridge took home third place and Vannoy Lesley claimed the second place prize. Designers Deirdre Thomas and Crystal King took first place.

Mayuly Kamphan claimed the audience's heart for favorite design and won the People's Choice Award.

Contact Barbara Clair at bclair@liberty.edu for more information on the FACS Club.



FASHION FRENZY — Students modeled their own clothing designs during the fashion show.

BRIAN HASSE

SEE B8 FOR MORE FASHION SHOW PICTURES

Dr. Russell E. Daubert shares a little about himself with students

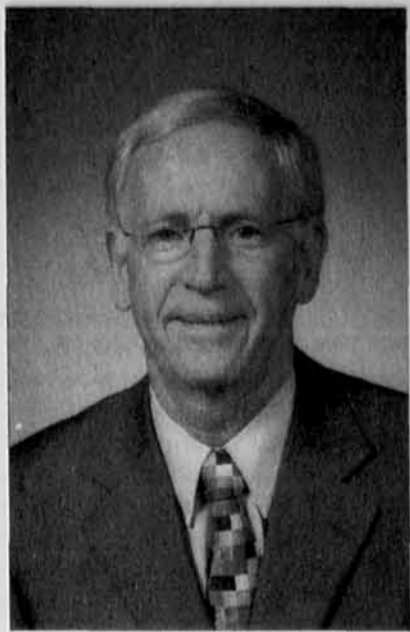


PHOTO PROVIDED

By Kerah Kemmerer
LIFE! REPORTER

Hailing from Marion, Ohio, Dr. Russell E. Daubert has settled peacefully into the hills of Virginia, at least for now. As a School of Religion faculty member, Daubert spends his teaching hours within the confines of the Religion Hall. His clean and orderly office gives a sense of the structured and disciplined individual he reveals through his lifestyle.

Organization is crucial to fulfill his daily tasks and life's passions. Daubert has been an instructor for both resident and Distance Learning Program theology classes. His heart for missions has lead him overseas to 25 countries.

He also created a communication consulting corporation while in California. The program is designed to train professionals in presentation skills through one-day workshops. "Professional Communication Training" has helped even scientists and engineers with their presentation skills. Through the consulting opportunity, Daubert has had the chance to train sales per-

sonnel in Southeast Asia.

Daubert has lived Pennsylvania, Indiana, California and Virginia. He also holds several upper level degrees. After attending a business college in Indiana, where he received a Junior Accounting Certificate, he completed his Bachelor of Arts at Cedarville University. He added a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Speech to his collection, and he holds a Doctorate of Education.

During his 26 years at Liberty, Daubert has presented papers at various international, national, regional and state conferences in rhetorical criticism, culture and higher education research. He has also taught courses in speech communication, missions, theology, ethics, evangelism and homiletics. Outside teaching and training, Daubert has a passion for running.

Here is Dr. Russell E. Daubert in his own words.

CHAMPION: What was your childhood like, and how has that shaped you?

DAUBERT: I was saved at the age of five. My dad was a pastor of a church in Ohio and a missionary to prisoners through a Baptist organization. We moved to Pennsylvania for him to minister in the prisons before we moved to Indiana, where he was the Protestant chaplain at the Indiana State Prison.

I was an only child and traveled with my parents. When my dad spoke in churches, I would set up the slide presentation and put out tracts and pictures.

It was neat as a boy to watch my parents depend on God - not just paycheck to paycheck. Since we were in a faith ministry, we depended on the offerings from the churches in that state. One day, when there was not a lot of food, we knelt down at the couch and prayed. God provided. This type of provision enhanced my prayer life and faith.

CHAMPION: Do you have any particular memorable experiences from your college days?

DAUBERT: On the day I graduated from seminary, I still was unsure of the Lord's leading. When I checked my mail for the last time, there was a letter from a church in California that would set things up for a summer ministry. That was great experience, a wonderful time. So that's the way it works sometimes. The Lord will reveal his will at the very last minute.

CHAMPION: What has inspired your passion for overseas missions, and where have you been?

DAUBERT: Liberty has really impressed me with the need to act on the vision of reaching out to people with the gospel. I've been on 16 mission trips overseas. I've pastored a church here, part time, and spoken in different churches in the surrounding states. But the traveling has been an exciting time for me. I've taken members of my family along and some close friends to the Orient and to Eastern Europe primarily.

I've been impressed by the sacrifices of the Christians in Hungary and Romania. They don't have the materialism we have here. Their walk with Christ is so pure and true.

CHAMPION: Is there any place you would like to visit again?

DAUBERT: I've been to Israel just one

time, but I think I would like to take my family back there. I would like to show my wife some of the key places there, since Israel is such a beautiful place and the nation has such a history regarding our faith.

CHAMPION: Working at Liberty is a family affair. Where are the other Dauberts located around this campus?

DAUBERT: Marcia, my wife, works in the Registrar's office as a transcript verification officer. Mike, our youngest, works as a security officer, and Mark, our middle son, works as a Distance Learning financial aid counselor.

CHAMPION: You have said that you

CHAMPION: What are some of your most memorable experiences at Liberty?

DAUBERT: I remember when convocation was held in a tent in the DeMoss parking lot. Also, there was one time my dad spoke in an evangelism class here at Liberty.

Once, when a student fell asleep in class, I whispered to the class to leave quietly. He met me at the door the next class and said, "Dr. Daubert, I will never fall asleep in your class again. I woke up in the middle of the next class." He ended up dropping his books on the way out of that other class.

"Since the Christian life is so **EXCITING**, I just want to keep allowing my savior to lead me. The opportunities to serve our savior are way beyond anything we can **IMAGINE**."

have a passion for running. Tell me more about this activity.

DAUBERT: I used to play basketball quite a bit, and I ran occasionally to stay in shape for the faculty basketball team. Since I felt really good about that, I just kept running. I ran some local races, which led to the Virginia 10-miler here in Lynchburg. A marathon was another challenge. Later I accepted the challenge to run several ultra-marathons, including one of 100 miles in Canada. Now I just run 15 to 20 miles a week to stay in shape.

I love the new trail system. It is really exciting. It's well marked and some of the areas are quite steep and challenging. I like running on the beach, too.

When we lived in California, I would run the beach at least once a week.

CHAMPION: What are your future goals?

DAUBERT: Since the Christian life is so exciting, I just want to keep allowing my savior to lead me. The opportunities to serve our savior are way beyond anything we can imagine.

CHAMPION: Do you have any advice you would like to share with students?

DAUBERT: I think Proverbs 3:5-6 sums it up. When we trust our savior "with all your heart," he will show you his will since he will "cut straight" the path ahead. I'd also like to encourage students to take a step of faith by going on a missions trip.

Contact Kerah Kemmerer at kkemmerer@liberty.edu.

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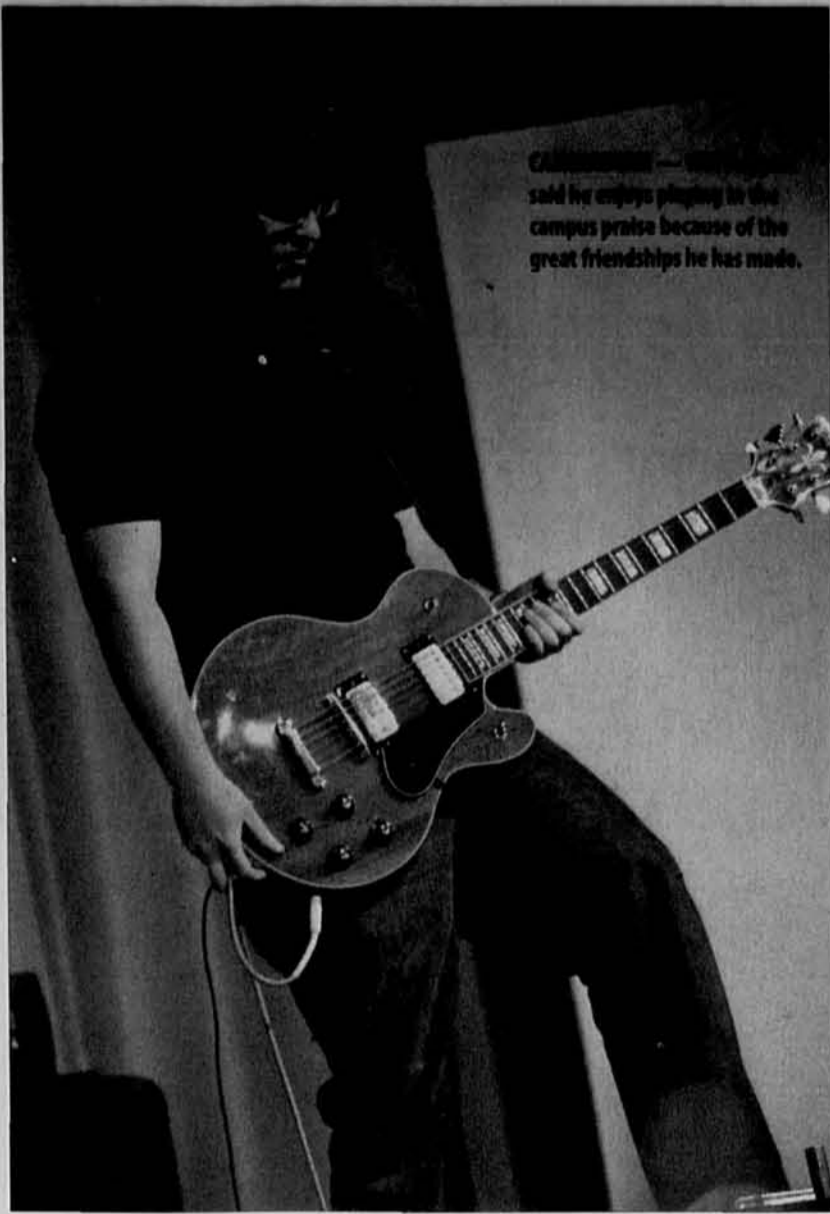
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For Will Doggett, playing with the Campus Praise Band is a lifestyle



Calvinist — Doggett said he enjoys playing in the campus praise because of the great friendships he has made.

By Aubrey Blankenship
LIFE! REPORTER

Will Doggett, the lead guitar player for the Campus Praise Band, loves God and loves music, and the Campus Praise Band has provided opportunities for him to use his talents for God in ways that he could not if he was trying to minister alone. Although Doggett does not prefer the limelight and enjoys his role as "a background guy," he knows his music needs to be shared.

"People are impacted by the songs and I can't do that while sitting in my room alone," Doggett said.

Doggett is awed by God's salvation and leading in his life.

"It's been a huge God thing that I've been on the band," Doggett said. "I can look back and see evidence that God has prepared each step in my life. I felt the Lord place a calling on my life to use music as ministry."

Twenty-one years old and a Liberty senior, Doggett has played for the Campus Praise Band for the past four years. Since coming to Liberty, he has allowed God to use his musical abilities in ways both large and small.

He enjoyed traveling across the United States last summer, playing electric guitar and leading music at summer camps, and he currently teaches guitar to a Liberty Christian Academy student.

Doggett would not be studying and playing guitar at Liberty if God had not

turned his life around in high school.

"I grew up and started going to church fairly often when in middle school," Doggett said. "There was no real life change until the summer before my senior year. I heard someone preach on kids who grow up in the church, but who don't see a life change. I examined my heart, put my head down and raised my hand."

He visited Liberty and both he and his parents felt it was where God wanted him to be.

"My parents fell in love with it (Liberty) and said, 'We will do whatever it takes to get you there,'" Doggett said.

Since his freshman year, the friendships between the Campus Praise Band members have upheld and encouraged Doggett.

"My favorite aspect (of playing in the Band) is the fellowship of the people in the band. We're great friends and get along really well," Doggett said.

With rehearsals and performances of up to six days per week, they certainly have had time to get to know each other. Although it is time-consuming, Doggett knows that the band is worthwhile, and he finds time to relax and enjoy other activities.

"I like recording, programming and drum loop stuff, reading and watching stupid TV shows like Dirty Jobs," Doggett said.

His favorite place to eat is his place. He enjoys creating and preparing home-cooked meals.

"I love cooking anything by using recipes and altering them," Doggett said.

Doggett is careful to set aside time to read books and memorize Scripture. Psalm 119:11 is a key Bible verse that encourages Doggett to keep reading and memorizing.

"I want to get Scripture into my heart and understand it," Doggett said. "I am also currently reading C.S. Lewis. He's incredible. I like to expose myself to stuff that I wouldn't normally read and strengthen my faith through reading books from other worldviews. Christian faith is logical. I don't have all the answers now — probably never will, but I don't have to disconnect my faith and mind."

He is confident that God will continue to lead him as he steps beyond Liberty this May.

"First, I'll get a job. I'm getting married in October and praying about where the Lord wants me," Doggett said. "I would like to eventually get a job in music, but I have a peace about God placing me where he wants me."

He draws strength from Psalm 1 and sees it as a great encouragement to live a righteous life.

Psalm 1:6: "For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous."

Contact Aubrey Blankenship at anblankenship@liberty.edu.

Liberty kicks off the Weight Loss Challenge to help students live healthier lifestyles

By Claire Melsi
LIFE! REPORTER

Four Liberty University students are working hard to slim their figures and fatten their wallets. As a variation on NBC's *The Biggest Loser*, Liberty recently began the Weight Loss Challenge. Andrea Sherwood, the Director of Fitness at the LaHaye Student Center, took some time to explain the experiment.

"We came up with the idea for a

weight loss competition to help promote the Fitness department and to help our students get healthy," Sherwood said. "The name was determined by one of my personal trainers."

The department advertised the competition around the LaHaye Student Center. Within a week and a half of posting flyers, 65 applications had already been submitted, each containing a picture and current health information.

The fitness staff reviewed the ap-

plications, looking specifically at why each individual wanted to lose weight and what each hoped to accomplish throughout the course of the competition.

After serious contemplation, the staff selected four individuals — two males and two females. To protect their privacy, the participants' names were not revealed.

The challenge began the second week of February and will run until March 28.

The contestants chosen receive three personal training sessions per week, cardio programs designed specifically for individual needs, personalized accountability and once-a-week nutrition sessions.

The contestants weigh in with a monitor before their first workout of each weekly session. Progress is recorded by Sherwood, who calculates weight lost and the percentage of body fat reduced. At the end of the challenge, the student who has lost the

greatest percentage of body fat will win \$500 in prizes.

"So many people jump on the New Year's resolution bandwagon and then fall off within a few weeks," Sherwood said.

"We wanted something that would not only motivate those individuals that were chosen but could also motivate others around them. We want to get rid of the idea of killing yourself in the gym and going on fad diets. We want to promote healthy lifestyle changes that last."

Contact Claire Melsi at cvmelsi@liberty.edu.



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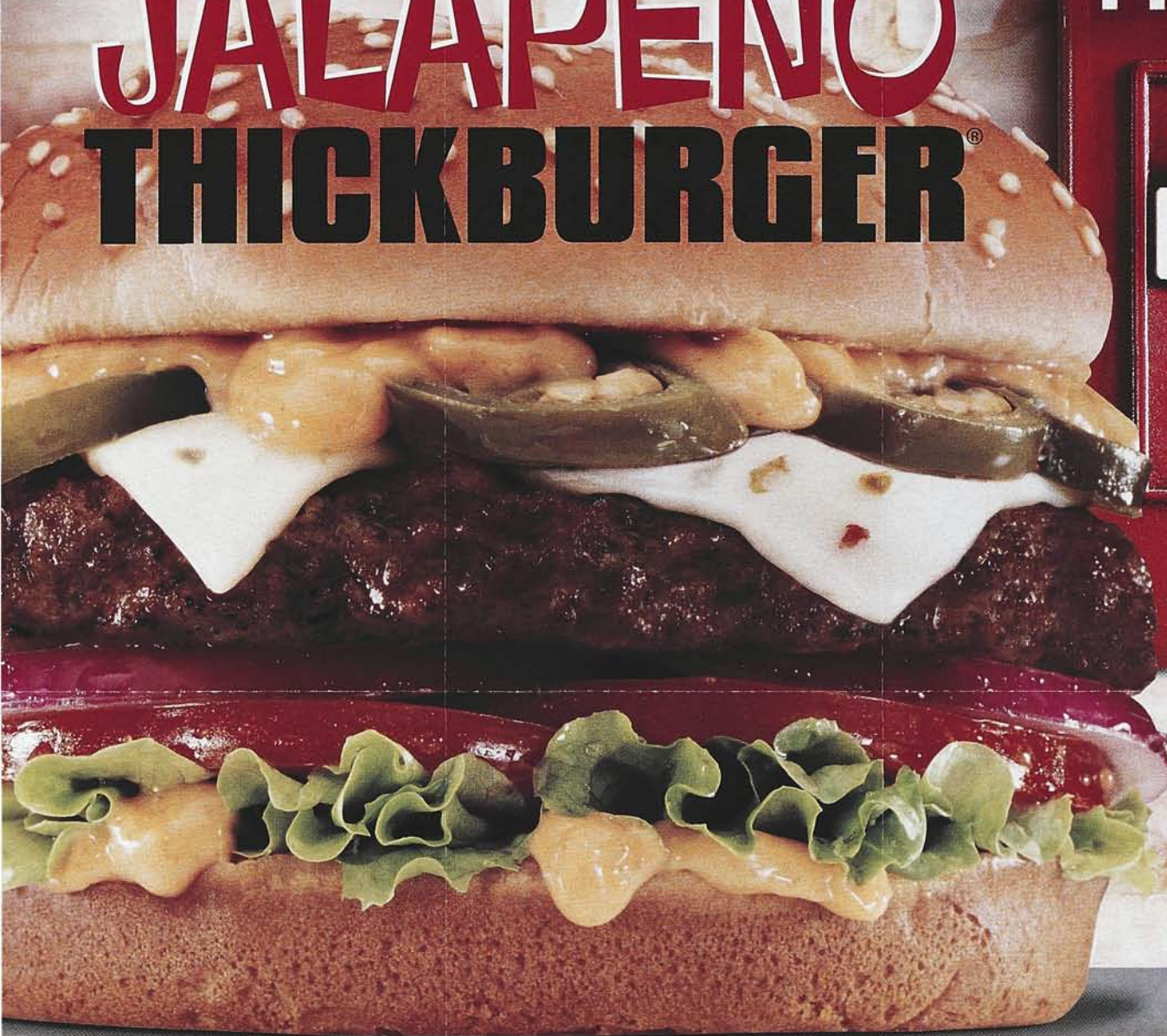
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