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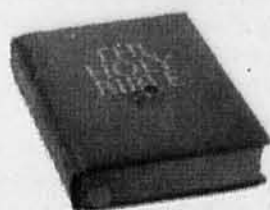
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Spiritual Warfare

What kind of battle are Christians a part of? A4

Lions, tigers and ...

Life! brings you the circus and what you missed. B6



Construction begins on Towns Center



By Amy Field
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

What began as the dream of a great teacher has now become one of Liberty's greatest ventures.

"I was in the hospital two years ago with cancer," said Dr. Elmer Towns. "(One night, while I was there), I dreamed I was teaching a classroom of 1,000 students and they all had laptops." Wednesday, April 25 at 2:00 p.m., Towns related this story of the vision he had to the more than 70 people who attended the groundbreaking of the Towns Alumni Training Center.

The classroom, which will seat 900 students, will be an addition onto the B.R. Lakin School of Religion and will be built along with a facelift for the present structure.

ALEX TOWERS

BUILDING A LEGACY — (L to R) Dr. Elmer Towns, Dr. Jerry Falwell and Dr. Ron Godwin take the first steps to completion.

Please see TOWNS, page A3

Liberty officials convene to discuss security measures

By Amy Field
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

In response to the recent events at Virginia Tech, Liberty administration officials called a meeting in order to "reassess 'emergency event' plans," according to Dr. Mark Hine, who is the vice president for student affairs. Others who attended the gathering included Dr. Jerry Falwell, Dr. Ron Godwin and Chief of LUPD, Randall Smith. The meeting, held on April 23, covered current and future security plans. Liberty officials are considering to alert individuals on campus.

"After discussing what is currently in place, we talked about additional measures that we could take in light of recent events," said Hine. "(Chief Smith) and his staff have already been working on enhancements to our current plans."

The enhancements discussed included the possibility of a siren being installed on the Campus North tower that would sound off in case of an "extreme emergency," said Hine.

Another security measure that is being taken into consideration is the addition of a "reverse 911" system, with Liberty officials alerting students and faculty by text messaging, e-mails and announcements on the splash page.

Students were asked in Wednesday's convocation service to fill out cards with their cell phone numbers and other contact information, enabling Liberty to send them the text messages.

For those who were unable to attend that convocation, a link to the form has been provided at www.liberty.edu/alert. A Liberty username and password is required because it is posted on ASIST. Submitted information is secure and will not be used for any other purpose aside from security alerts.

Liberty's administration will be in touch with students in the future, regarding more security measures. "Further details will be presented very soon regarding all of this," said Hine.

"It is our intention to proceed carefully but quickly in order to continue ensuring the safety of our community."

Contact Amy Field at afield@liberty.edu.

Students urged to be aware of fire safety rules

By Erin Fitch
NEWS REPORTER

When 189 students were evacuated from a burning dormitory on the campus of Virginia State University in Petersburg, Va. on April 14, questions were raised about what college students can do to prevent such calamities at their residences.

Although officials declared the source of the dorm fire to be the basement, no known cause has been determined. Students at Liberty are cautioned to be aware of the measures used to prevent fires, especially in light of the number of fire incidents that have occurred in the Lynchburg area.

According to the News & Advance, in the past month alone fire has affected two Lynchburg residences, one in Amherst County and one in the popular ski resort Wintergreen Resort in Wintergreen, Va.

"There have been a large number of

fires in Lynchburg and the surrounding counties," said Public Education Officer Captain Robert Lipscomb of the Lynchburg Fire Department.

"But we are coming out of the heating season, the wintertime, and it's not unusual to have a large number of fires."

Lipscomb, who has been with the Lynchburg Fire Department for the past 17 years, has advice for Liberty students on ways to avoid fire hazardous conditions in their living areas.

Please see FIRE, page A3

firesafety)))

How to handle a Fire Extinguisher...

PULL SAFETY PIN FROM HANDLE	AIM NOZZLE AT BASE OF FIRE	SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER HANDLE	SWEEP FROM SIDE TO SIDE
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Fire safety checklist

- ☐ 1: Electrical cords are not running under carpets, doors or furniture, and also make sure multiple extension cords are not connected.
- ☐ 2: Windows and doors are not blocked from the inside or outside.
- ☐ 3: Flammables, such as towels and curtains should be tucked safely away from the stove, oven and the toaster.

GRAPHIC BY ALEX TOWERS AND JESSICA WEBER

Liberty students take part in "Displace Me" in D.C.

By Joanne Tang
NEWS EDITOR

In an effort to raise awareness at the large numbers of families in Uganda forced from their homes, 67,800 people across the country committed to attend "Displace Me" on Saturday, April 28.

The event, started by Invisible Children, a foundation that aims to spread awareness about the poverty and plight of Ugandans, was held in 15 cities.

Invisible Children had previously organized the Global Night Commute on April 29, 2006, in which Lynchburg was a participant.

Many Liberty students participated in Displace Me, driving to Washington, D.C. to sleep on the corner of Constitution Avenue and 15th Street on the National Mall. With the tag line "Every War Has an End," Displace Me also gave those in attendance time to write letters to their local politicians and to news outlets such as the Washington Post.

Attendees were asked to bring a sleeping bag, cardboard to make a tent, a photo showing them-

selves wearing a white T-shirt with a red "x" on it, a box of saltine crackers and an unopened 1.5 liter bottle of water. These items were collected upon entry and rationed among all the people.

This year, Displace Me challenged attendees to be outdoors for a night to understand what it is like for families in Uganda who have been forced to flee the Lord's Resistance Army by leaving their homes and belongings.

Many of these families are forced to live in camps established by the Ugandan government with hopes of defense from the LRA, but these camps are poorly defended and riddled with disease. According to an ABC News article, as many as 1,000 people die every week in the camps.

Tati Cunningham, a youth ministry major from Ohio, attended Displace Me. Before April 28's event, Cunningham said she wanted "to leave behind (her) luxuries, to make that connection."

She said that Displace Me was a "sacri-

fice of time" because she has so much to do in school, and that she wanted to "spend that time on something bigger," she said.

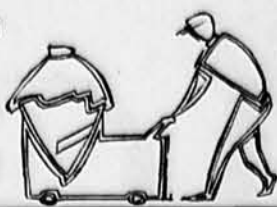
Please see DISPLACED, page A2



JENNA HILLES

WITHOUT A HOME — Thousands voluntarily left their homes for the night.

BEST SERVED COLD



...OR NOT AT ALL

★★★★★★★★★ Dave Thompson ★★★★★★★★★★

Well, everybody, I guess this is goodbye. Graduation is coming up, and my name won't ever appear in this paper again on a regular basis. And if it does, it's more likely that I'm making the news than reporting it.

Since I've never graduated college before, and have no idea what it's like out in the "real world." I don't have any of my tried and true silvery speech or golden nuggets of wisdom for you all, but "such as I have give I thee." Here's a list of things that worked, or were overlooked, in college, but probably won't get you very far out in actual civilization.

Example 1: I forgot to brush my teeth this morning. Oh well, it's just class, and I can skip back to the dorm after my first one's over.

Answer: You might not be ostracized for that one in school (just don't open your mouth in class, and stay away from milk and tuna fish). But chances are, your boss won't be pleased with your tight-lipped attempts at non-conversation — or the few grunts that make their way past your vocal chords, but don't really require any enunciation.

Take a hint — if you have to skip shaving, brush your teeth. If you have to comb your hair in the office, brush your teeth. I realize some times it will be completely unavoidable, but for those instances, keep several emergency packs of IceBreakers handy, and don't drink anything with a taste.

Example 2: My English teacher told us that next week a draft of our paper is due. No problem. I'll hang out with my friends, see a movie the night before, and go into the C-lab and hack out some stuff showing the general direction I want to go.

Answer: Negative on that one there, killer. Quick way to look like you have something prepared for class, but if your boss asks for a progress report, he (or she, as the case

may be) will not stand for, "Well, the company looked good in the area of corporate spending in several different areas, but not good in some others. I'm going to talk to Mike at acquisitions when I get a chance and go from there."

Also, Cindy didn't answer her phone when I called her three minutes ago, so I've got nothing from her area. And I did e-mail Henderson two days ago, but somebody told me he was in the Bahamas for two weeks. When he gets back, the rest of the report should follow." Your collar-popped shirt, or pastel dress won't be the only pink thing going home with you that night.

Example 3: Omigoodness. Like, I totally set my alarm this morning, but like my crazy cat jumped on the plug during the night, and the whole thing like shut off. I am so totally sorry I missed the meeting, but like I definitely got here as soon as I could.

Answer: Excuses and apologies definitely sound better if they're coherent and slightly more formal than your colloquial speech. I can't judge for everyone, but most of your managers are going to expect some level of professionalism, even within the company. The "likes" and "totally's" have to go. I know, dropping them is like totally cutting apart your brain, but you'll definitely be better off. So, with those three hints, if you follow even basic rules of civility and professionalism, you'll probably survive the first day in the real world without a pink slip, unless you spill soda on the really expensive equipment, or drive a forklift through a window, or hack your boss's secret e-mails, or expose corruption in your company's management....

Contact David Thompson at dbthompson@liberty.edu.

GOVT 497 to teach students the fine art of campaigning

By Lydia Christoph

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This fall, the Helms School of Government will offer a new course, GOVT 497, Campaigns and Elections. This course is specifically designed for students who hope one day to run for local and public office.

The teacher and facilitator, Assistant Professor of Government Stephen Witham, said that most of the instruction will be given by guest lecturers who have actually run for office or managed campaigns.

Many of these guests are currently in office, which makes the class schedule a bit different. It will include several Sunday afternoons.

Witham said the class will be working closely with the Leadership Institute in Washington, D.C.

The Institute was founded by famed conservative Morton Blackwell and is meant to "increase the number and effectiveness of conservative public policy leaders."

According to the institute's Web site, "The Leadership Institute's mission is to identify, recruit, train, and place conservatives in politics, government, and media."

Established in 1979, the institute not only offers conventions and seminars for students looking for jobs in the political realm, it also provides a service with its intern program. This program helps students find internships with high-profile employers and the institute also provides payment for the students to help finance students in the program.

The institute sponsors mini-retreats, during which students either come to D.C. for the weekend or the institute sends instructors to a college for two days.

For GOVT 497, however, the institute will send guest lecturers to the class at Liberty to speak on campaign topics. Witham said that this new class will work

closely with the institute to develop young conservative leaders.

Campaigns and Elections will involve not only lecturers from the Leadership Institute but also local office-holders, traditional textbooks and classroom time, Blackboard postings, papers and projects. Witham said that the class will have a very practical slant, as it will be taught by people who are actively involved in politics or who have worked in politics before.

The class will answer questions about how to prepare for a campaign, how to balance work, family and finances to support a campaign, how to gain local support and involve volunteers.

Witham said that some students come to Liberty and more or less have the idea that once they graduate they will have people knocking on their door asking them to run for the senate — an unsuccessful strategy at best. In GOVT 497, however, Witham can demonstrate to students how to run a successful campaign. Many people who get to the offices of senator or congressperson start out as school board officials or county supervisors.

As an elected member of the city council of Watertown, Wis., Witham resigned his office more than 20 years ago to come teach at Liberty.

"I believe that my ministry is to help other people (run for office)," he said. He said that Campaigns and Elections will study good versus bad campaigns.

Witham said the new GOVT 497 class is a work in progress and a mixture of the theoretical and practical. It will be changed as necessary to accommodate the needs of students.

Students who are interested in running for any kind of local, state or federal office may enroll in this class and have their questions answered by many who have already participated in the political forum.

Contact Lydia Christoph at lkchristoph@liberty.edu.

DISPLACED: "Cardboard cities" without water and food

Continued from page 1

"(It) shows the government that we want to see an end to this, a push to continue talks and progress," she said.

On Saturday, April 28, Cunningham rode up to Washington with other students and when they arrived, most of the city's estimated 6,000 participants were already set up. Each person was required to bring enough cardboard to make a tent.

"(They were) little cardboard cities," Cunningham said.

The crowd listened to a speaker from northern Uganda and was documented by a camera crew from Invisible Children.

When it came time for food to be rationed, Cunningham said that only women from 18 to 22 could receive water and only men could receive food.

She said this was reflective of one of the problems within the displacement camps where men cannot afford to farm and provide for their families.

Because Cunningham is 23, she was automatically placed in the group of those who had to go without. She said that those who

did not apply to either rule had to enlist the help of others in their group to get any water or food.

It began to rain during the night, and the temperature dropped.

She said that she woke up on Sunday morning with a headache and felt very uncomfortable.

Even so, she knew that she was enduring a real-life situation. She said, "There are even homeless people here (in America) — how they must feel when they wake up?"

People had decorated their cardboard tents and had also brought with them posters and signs.

"All of the messages had a positive meaning," Cunningham said.

"It was an action of love rather than hate or anger towards our government."

Cunningham said she would want to be part of another Invisible Children event, and she also said she would be more active in getting other Liberty students to go to one in the future.

Contact Joanne Tang at jtang@liberty.edu.



FEELING THEIR PAIN — Thousands of people slept on the National Mall in cardboard boxes that served as tents to show support for Ugandan refugees.

THE LIBERTY CHAMPION

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FIRE: "Student apathy" a cause of dorm fires

Continued from page 1

Dormitory residences pose a specific threat to fire safety, housing hundreds of students in a dense population. The negligent actions of one student could disrupt or even harm the lives of countless other residents.

"The most common cause of residence fires is unattended cooking," said Lipscomb.

"It's as simple as putting something on the stove and walking away from it—this is nationwide."

Students with kitchen facilities should remember to keep an eye on cooking food, avoid wearing loose or baggy clothes that can catch fire and keep stove-tops clean of grease spills and flammable items.

On campus, Residence Life officials have prohibited another leading cause of residential fires — space heaters. Other items banned from dorms include hot plates, can-

dles, halogen light bulbs and kitchen appliances in dorms without kitchen facilities.

Lipscomb added that if students do have any permitted heat-related appliances in their rooms, they should be careful to make sure they are well-maintained and in good working order. They should also make sure the items stay at least three feet away from anything that can burn.

Women's heat and hair styling appliances can be a risk. In regards to these, Lipscomb said, "Make sure the wiring is in good shape, with no splits in the insulation. Also make sure it's complete with all the pieces and parts."

Furthermore, students should also exercise caution when using outlets and electrical cords. Unplug extension cords when they are not in use, and never use a cut or frayed cord. Also, don't overload an electrical outlet or run cords underneath rugs and blankets.

The U.S. Fire Administration goes so far

as to say on its Web site that one of the leading causal factors of dormitory fires is (the) prevalence of "student apathy."

"Many are unaware that fire is a risk or threat to the environment," said the administration.

Liberty students are encouraged to be on alert, to use common sense and to not take safety precautions and university statutes lightly.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2005 someone was killed in a fire every

two hours, while someone was injured from a fire every half hour.

Contact Erin Fitch at eefitch@liberty.edu.



ALLYN LITTLE

REASONS FOR CAUTION — This house on Fort Avenue is one that has been damaged by fire.

TOWNS: Alumni Center will feature new technology

Continued from page 1

A rendering of the improved building shows columns and white steps being added to match those of DeMoss Hall and Thomas Road Baptist Church.

Previous plans had placed the new classroom on the south side of the School of Religion, reaching down to the Liberty Bell gazebo. However, because of the need for parking, the plans were changed to build the training center behind the school, next to Highway 460.

Additionally, another new room will be added on the religion hall, called the Hall of Ministry. A round, octagonal room with murals of founder Dr. Jerry Falwell and the old Thomas Road Baptist Church will serve as a classroom and commemorate the beginnings of Liberty University.

At the beginning of the groundbreaking ceremony, Falwell made his entrance by driving his signature black SUV onto the grassy area behind the School of Religion, where the new "smart" classroom will be built.

Andy Barrick, the head of Liberty's

Alumni Relations, introduced the project.

"The campaign was launched September 1, 2006 with a goal to collect \$2 million to finance this project," said Barrick.

"As of today, we have raised \$507,000."

Liberty alumni students are expected to provide much of the funds for the building project, hence the reference to alumni in the title of the classroom.

Dr. Ron Godwin, Liberty's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, opened the ceremony in prayer.

He then introduced Falwell, who spoke about the co-founder of Liberty and his good friend with fondness.

"We've lived to see some wonderful things happen on Liberty Mountain," said Falwell.

After he spoke a while longer about Towns' part in Liberty's history, Falwell joined Godwin and Towns in the initial groundbreaking.

Each with his own shovel dug into the ground.

Towns, appropriately, came up with

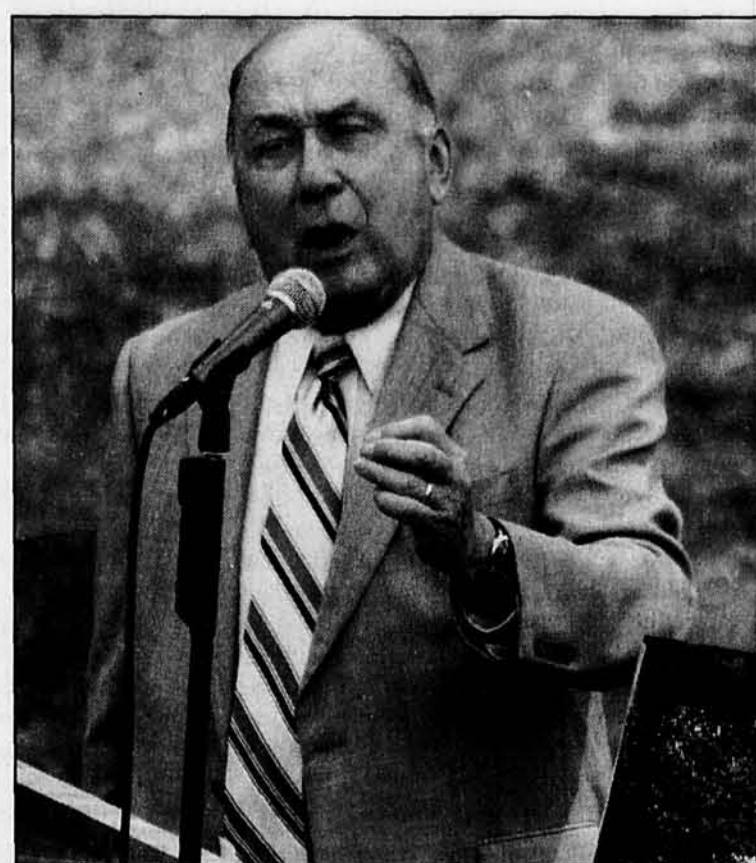
the biggest pile of red dirt. He then came to the microphone and told the story of his dream classroom and explained how it was going to become a reality. After the groundbreaking, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Boyd Rist, closed the ceremony with a word of prayer.

Dr. Lew Weider, the Director of Christian and Community Service was excited about the new addition and the versatility it presents.

"As the university continues to grow, this will provide an opportunity to bring our majors together," he said.

"It will combine one setting and one great teacher. When you have a master teacher like Dr. Towns, this is a way to maximize his energy. He'll be able to teach one class of 900, rather than three classes of 300. It will also be able to bring students together and connect them with preachers from around the world."

Contact Amy Field at afield@liberty.edu.



JESSICA WEBER

CASTING THE VISION — Towns spoke about the plans he has for the future of education at Liberty at the groundbreaking of the Towns Alumni Ministry Center.



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OPINION

"Do not let us mistake necessary evils for good."

—C.S. Lewis

Fighting a spiritual battle

The war between good and evil that our culture faces



karimitchell

Numerous questions arose about the reason why Seung-Hui Cho went on a murder rampage, killing 32 people and himself on the campus of Virginia Tech. Some speculated the cause to be depression and loneliness. Perhaps they were factors, but there is a greater battle – a spiritual battle – going on within the body and mind.

comparison Caner was able to make after visiting his wife's family. He flaps around to distract us, to scare us, to confuse us.

God is omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient and omnibenevolent. Satan is not, but he uses his demons to accomplish the work he himself is unable to complete alone. According to Caner, Satan and his demons cannot possess a believer because a Christian is inhabited by the Holy Spirit. Therefore both evil and good cannot dwell inside of the believer. However, a believer can be oppressed and subjected to various afflictions. The devil uses our feelings of worry, stress, anxiety and confusion to draw us away from Christ.

C.S. Lewis illustrates this battle in "The Screwtape Letters." The book is a fictional compilation of letters between the devil and his nephew Wormwood, a demon trying to secure a man's

"In our culture we give this spiritual war different names, such as depression in Cho's case."

Spiritual warfare, the struggle between good and evil, is real. There are real battles going on between spiritual forces as described in Ephesians 5:12, which says, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

A battle was being fought inside of Cho. In our culture, we give this spiritual war different names, such as depression in Cho's case. However, the real battle is not against flesh and blood.

Dr. Ergun Caner briefly touched on the subject of spiritual warfare last Wednesday night during his sermon about testing the spirits. His sermon was based on 1 John 4:1, which says, "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world." These spirits, both good and evil, present us with choices, and we must, at some point, choose.

Though these battles, the choices, seem difficult, we are ultimately promised the victory. "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

Satan is merely the "headless chicken flapping around," a

soul. The book gives an account of temptation from a demonic perspective.

The devil had advised Wormwood not to engage in argument but rather fix his attention on "the stream of immediate sense experiences." C.S. Lewis describes the effectiveness of this strategy as the patient gives in to his own desires of the flesh, making it easier for Satan's demons to attack. We must be aware of demonic attacks and maintain control of our fleshly thoughts and desires at all times.

Satan and his demons not only attack us during our weakest moments, but also when we are strongest. Job, described as "blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil"

(Job 1:8), was tempted by Satan himself. Though he did not understand why he was being attacked, he chose to worship God. Instead of cursing God, Job cried, "Blessed be the name of the Lord," in the midst of his confusion.

We need to be fully aware of every battle that goes on in the spiritual realm and be prepared to fight when we are attacked by either demons or the desires of our flesh. To prepare for battle, we are instructed in Ephesians 5 to put on the armor of God: "Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Ephesians 5:13-17).

We are also instructed to "pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests" (Ephesians 5:18).

Satan's attacks are real, but Christ has equipped us for the battle, giving us power over the enemy. We are told in James 4:7 that when we resist the devil, he will flee from us.

We have the power to cast out Satan and his demons, as well as overcome depression, loneliness, heartache, anxiety and all other forms of bondage in our culture.

We have the power because the source of the power lives in us. Christianity is an inhabited faith – Christ lives in us. This is a battle we will never have to fight alone, and we have already been promised victory.

Contact Kari Mitchell at kdmitchell2@liberty.edu.



CALEB ATKINS

LISTEN UP!

IT'S YOUR TURN TO DECIDE

• The Queen of England is visiting Virginia this week in honor of Jamestown's 400th anniversary, according to ABC News. During her stay the Queen will be paying her respects to the victims of the Virginia Tech shootings.

This will be the Queen's first official visit to the United States in 16 years.

• Nora Ochs, age 95, will become the world's oldest college graduate when she receives her degree from Fort Hays State University this May, according to the Fox News Web site. Ochs majored in general studies, specializing in history. She will share commencement day with her 21-year-old granddaughter, who is also graduating from FHSU.

• Protestors in Turkey are gathering to support secularism within the government, according to the BBC News. Abdullah Gul was recently nominated to run for the presidency. Gul is Muslim, and his wife wears a headscarf,

both of which cause conflict among the struggling society. The protestors fear that electing a Muslim candidate would promote radical Islam within the country.

• Fighting within the Somali capital Mogadishu has heightened during the past week, with the violence worse than it has been in 16 years, as reported by the BBC News. The tenuous Somali government has been fighting back against attacks by pockets of radical members of the Islamic Courts group. The death toll since the beginning of 2007 is 2,000, with most of the deaths believed to be innocent civilians caught in the crossfire.

COMMENTARY

Reflections from years past

The sun was crafted to guide our eyes by day, and the moon our eyes by night, but the stars seem to have guided man's heart since the first clear night sky was drawn in the heavens. Men looked to the sky for the sign of our coming Savior, and sailors have spent long nights on the open sea with nothing but the stars to guide their way, and generations of mankind, men have searched the sky, wondering at the possibilities of other planets like our own.



willmayer

There is something inspiring about those minute blazing lights against the darkness that can stir one's mind and move one's spirit.

As a child I spent my summers in the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York, and I've never been closer to the stars before or since. Like many children, I attended a summer camp for one week out of every year, and when I was old enough I volunteered at the same camp so I could stay for two, but it was never long enough.

The fact that every week felt like a separate lifetime didn't make me long for home but made me fear the death of that life. I recall each evening when I put out the campfire, watching the last flames sputter and die but

not mourning the darkness because of the starlight that took the flame's place.

When you are in an environment like that, away from outside influence, away from family, and away from all the aspects of your life with which you have surrounded yourself either by circumstance or choice, you develop relationships at an accelerated rate. Reflecting on it, I find it hard to believe that I miss some of the people

"Some people say that tainting is a part of who we are — that the way a person responds to his surroundings is the picture of his character. I don't believe that."

from that place more than I miss family who have passed away.

It is not that I did not or do not love my family, but just that the influence of the world surrounds me and taints the interaction. Some people say that tainting is a part of who we are — that the way a person responds to his surroundings is the picture of his character.

I don't believe that.

There is something to be said for a person's response showing his inner workings, or that a trial is the true test of character.

I might not be able to defeat the argument that anyone can seem a wonderful person outside of the influences in their sphere of living.

That isn't the point. The point is that in that world, the world where you have the time to stop and listen, the world where you build your second lifetime, you can know that peace is at least within you. That is a comforting thought to me.

As a married college student, it is often hard to balance the aspects of everyday life. Simply finding time to attend classes, to finish assignments, to work enough to pay the bills, and keep up with things at home taxes my will every week, if not every day.

I have not had time for that peace.

I have not had the pleasure of a relationship untainted by the restrictions of time or stress. I think that is why I miss the people of that summer life so much.

I only really mean to ask one thing so simple about our worlds that never stop, with our cities so proud of never sleeping. I can't see the stars from where I live — can you?

Contact Will Mayer at swmayer@liberty.edu.

Something you want to say?
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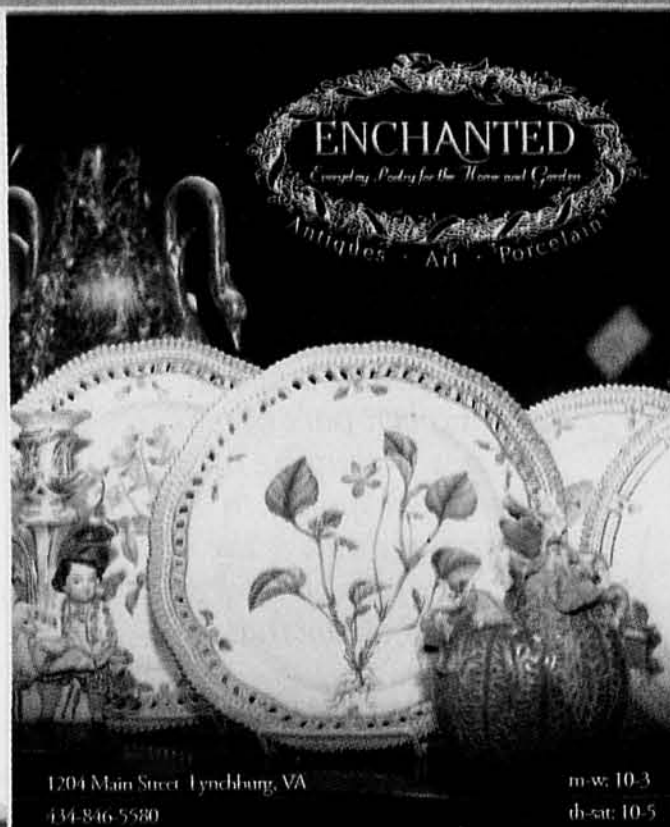
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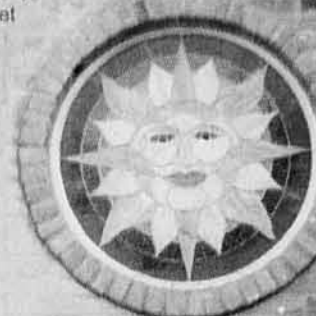


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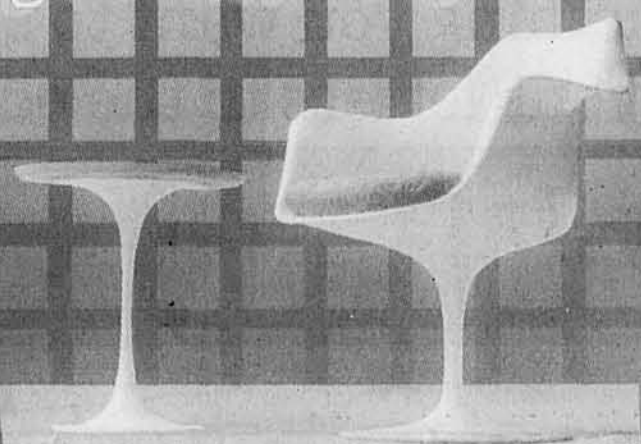
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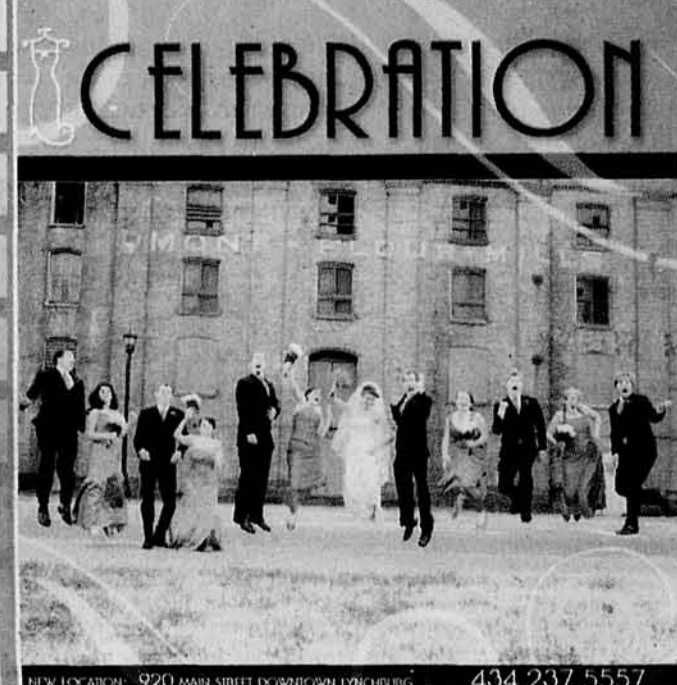


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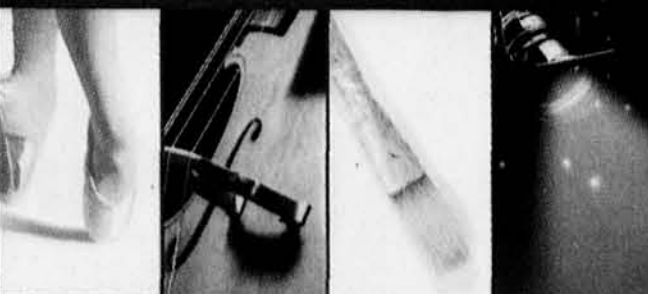
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Sports

PAGE B1

MAY 1, 2007

The Steroid Effect

Mitchell Malcheff remembers sports figures before steroids tainted his opinions of them.

Baer's Blathers

Matthew Baer selects the first round impact players from this year's NFL draft.

Page B3

Page B2

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JESSICA WEBER

NO NO — Senior Terra Lowe no-hit the visiting Chanticleers of Coastal Carolina during Friday's 4-0 victory. Lowe had 13 strikeouts and allowed only three base runners. It was Lowe's 15th victory of the season as she leads the team in strikeouts (144), ERA (2.43) and opposing batting average (.224).

Softball tied for first in BSC as Lowe no-hits Coastal Carolina

By Jake Petersen
SPORTS REPORTER

The Liberty University Lady Flames softball team traveled just down the road to Longwood University last Tuesday to kick off a week in which they would play eight games in a seven-day span.

In both games of the doubleheader, the Lady Flames just could not get much of anything going.

Senior Dawn Jeffs managed to get on base to leadoff the first game and came around to score on senior Jessica Moore's RBI single.

That was all the Lady Flames could get in the frame.

Longwood went on to score three runs in the bottom of the fourth, which proved to be the deciding factor.

The Lady Flames attempted comeback fell short when senior Beth Hensley was cut down at the plate on a wild pitch, giving Longwood a 4-3 win.

In the second game, Jeffs tripled home freshman J'nae Jefferson in the top of the fifth inning to give the Flames a 1-0 lead.

Jeffs was brought home on junior Shannon McKain's double, increasing the lead to 2-0.

Longwood countered to tie the score in the bottom half of the inning as Courtney Wilson drove a Sarah Ellis delivery into left field, plating Kristina Garrison and Ava Schmitz to tie the score at two apiece.

After the Lady Flames scored two runs to take the lead in the final inning, Longwood fought back to score three runs and earn the win.

Longwood freshman Kaitlyn McKeown ripped a bases-clearing triple into the left field corner following back-to-back walks from Liberty senior Terra Lowe, which propelled the Lancers to a 5-4 victory.

"Longwood was a letdown," said Head Coach Paul Wetmore.

"They are a good team, but we just couldn't get anything going. They were a lot better than what their record is."

After the Longwood letdown, the Lady Flames traveled back to the friendly confines of the Liberty Softball Field to play host to the Chanticleers of Coastal Carolina.

In game one of Friday's doubleheader, Lowe wrote her name down in the record books, tossing her second no-hitter of the season in the Lady Flames 4-0 victory.

Lowe was lights out, baffling the Chanticleers all day by using a variety of pitches to record 13 strikeouts and allow only three base runners.

"It was a huge relief off my shoulders," said Lowe. "I was really nervous the last inning and although my pitches weren't working the way I wanted them to, it was still a solid performance."

Lowe was backed with three runs of support in the first inning as Jeffs raced home on McKain's RBI triple just inside the right field line for the game's first run.

Moore followed, lacing a double off the very top of the right center field wall to bring home McKain.

A few pitches later, Moore was then able to reach home on senior Sarah Swor's perfect suicide squeeze bunt to give the Lady Flames an early 3-0 lead.

Moore would also score in the next inning on a wild pitch. She went two for three on the day with two doubles, while junior Ashley Williams also had two hits in Liberty's 33rd victory of the year.

In the second game of the doubleheader, Coastal Carolina managed to get on board in the top of the fourth inning on Kristina Sheppard's two-run shot to right center field.

Please see **SOFTBALL**, page B2

Baseball falters, ends week 2-2

By Mitchell Malcheff
SPORTS REPORTER

With the Big South Tournament less than a month away, the Liberty Flames baseball team set off on a three-game set against the Coastal Carolina Chanticleers, who sit just ahead of the Flames in the standings.

Before Liberty had the opportunity to battle the Chanticleers in South Carolina, it first had to take on the Patriots of George Mason University.

For the third game in a row, the typically unlucky number 13 proved lucky for the Flames as they routed the George Mason Patriots 13-5 and stretched their record to 27-16.

The Liberty attack was fueled by an eight-run second inning, highlighted by a two-out double to the right field corner by senior Patrick Gaillard that scored two runs. Twelve hitters came to the plate in the inning for the Flames, including five straight run-producing hits.

Liberty plated another four

runs in the bottom of the fifth to put the game far out of reach.

Junior P.K. Keller's first home run of the season was responsible for three of the four RBIs in the fifth. The four-run fifth increased the Flames lead to 13-3. Each team sent five pitchers to the mound during the game.

Sophomore starter Andrew Wilson pitched three innings and gave up just one run on the way to his third victory of the season.

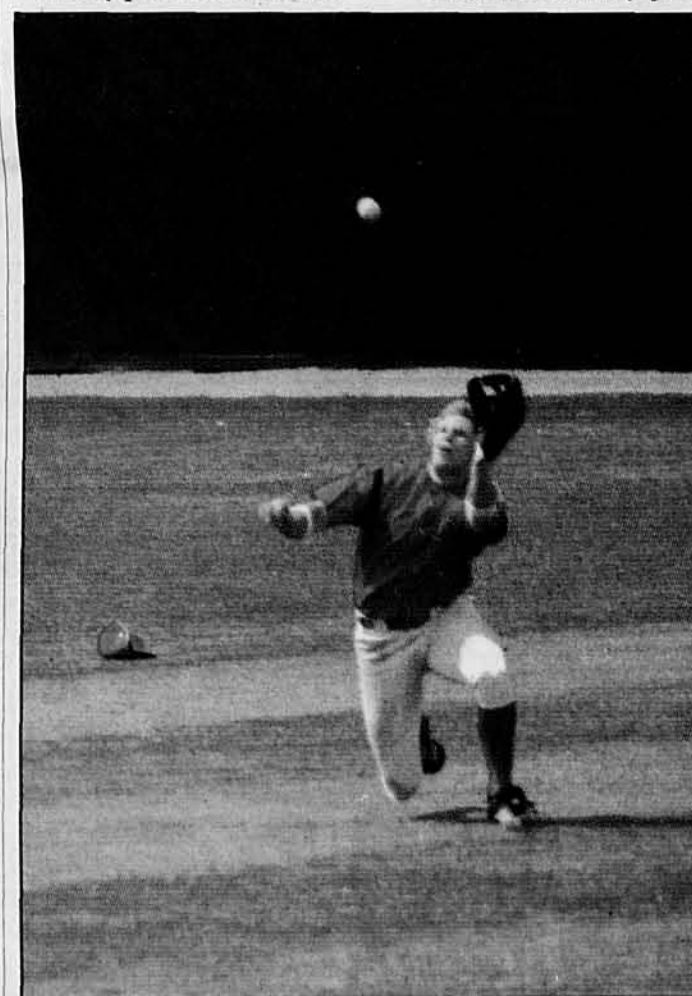
Junior Garrett Young had a game-high four hits for the Flames.

The 20 hits for Liberty was the first time since their 26-hit outburst earlier this year against the Richmond Spiders that the Flames reached the 20 hit mark.

Keller added an RBI single to his three-run homer to lead the Flames with four RBIs.

The Flames faced a much tougher opponent over the weekend in the 19th-ranked Coastal Carolina Chanticleers.

Please see **BASEBALL**, page B4



JESSICA WEBER

DIVING GRAB — Center fielder Garrett Young makes a running catch during the Flames' 13-5 victory over George Mason. Young went four for five with one RBI.

Track sets new records in Keystone State

By Will Luper
SPORTS REPORTER

The Big South Champion Liberty men's and women's track teams traveled to University Park, at Penn State University to compete in the Penn State Regionals.

On the first day of competition, three Liberty athletes qualified for NCAA competitions.

Just a week after setting a Liberty record in the 10,000-meter run record at 35:08.35, junior Carol Jefferson set a new Big South Conference and Liberty record with a final time of 34:37.27.

Not only did Jefferson set the record, but she also qualified for the NCAA Provisional standard.

Also advancing to the NCAA Regionals was sophomore Ashley Osborne. In the 5,000-meter run, Osborne finished with a time of

16:42.79, also breaking her own school record, which had been 16:53.89, in the competition.

Sophomore Jordan McDougal also qualified for NCAA Regional competition by placing third in the 5,000-meter run. He set a new personal best with a time of 14:00.14.

"They really did something significant," said Head Coach Brant Tolsma.

Day two saw more strong performances from the Flames, with junior Clendon Henderson leading the way.

Henderson chalked in his name at the top of the Big South record books in the men's discus throw with a distance of 186-3.

It was also good enough to bump his name into the elite Top-25 national standings.

"It was definitely worth coming for," said Tolsma as he commented

on Henderson and junior Jon Hart. Hart finished sixth in the shot put with a distance of 54-2.

"They're really experienced and talented athletes," he said.

"They're juniors now and getting in the groove and knowing what it takes. No one ever throws as far as they want to. To finish in the top five is pretty good."

Sophomore Matt Parker had a full schedule on the day as well, competing in both the long jump and the high jump. Parker placed ninth with his season-best jump of 22-7.75 in the long-jump and was able to clear a height of 6-8.25 in the men's high jump.

The women's 4 x 200 meter relay team, consisting of sophomores Andrea Beckles and Tra' Screen, junior Charlene Hibbert and senior Arlene Zelinskas finished 23rd in the preliminaries with a time of 1:39.06.

The quartet qualified for Saturday's ECAC final but fell 0.12 seconds short of breaking the school record.

Zelinskas and Hibbert teamed up with freshman Chenoa Freeman and sophomore Jamie Watson in the sprint medley to finish 17th out of 43 teams with a time of 4:02.15.

The team ran the fourth fastest time in school history and the fastest clocked in six years.

Sophomores Phil Leineweber and Oronde Vassell, junior Josh Gilreath and senior Travis Campbell placed 23rd in the men's sprint medley, clocking in at 3:27.92.

In the 400-meter hurdles, junior Tim O' Donnell finished 22nd out of 58 competitors with a time of 54.37.

Please see **TRACK**, page B4

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SOFTBALL: Lady Flames prep for visiting Hokies

Continued from page B1

The score remained the same until the bottom of the sixth inning.

It was then that Williams stepped up with a runner on and lined a 2-1 delivery from Ashley Frederick just over the center field fence.

Williams pumped her fist in celebration as she rounded first base.

"I knew it was going to go out," said Williams.

"After I hit it, I kind of said to myself, 'In your face,' because they were talking a lot of trash the whole game. It was real big for me personally because Coastal is a huge rival of ours."

Despite Williams' heroics, the Lady Flames were unable to score in the final inning after leaving two runners on base. Coastal scored in the eighth inning to grab a 3-2 win and move their conference record to 7-7 on the year.

The loss was just the second of the year for the Lady Flames on their home field.

In the final game of the three-game series on Saturday, Moore started things off by blasting her league-leading 17th home run of the year into the bullpen in right center field.

Following a one-out Jefferson single in the bottom of the third, Jeffs sent the first pitch of her at-bat well over the fence for a two-run homerun.

With her Chanticleers down 3-0 and needing to put some runs on the board, Alicia Cantrell delivered a soaring solo shot over the center field fence to bring the deficit to 3-1.

Cantrell homered again in the sixth as the Chanticleers tied the score up at 3-3 heading into the final inning of play.

The Lady Flames used a little small ball to finish off Coastal Carolina.

Wetmore pinch-hit for sophomore Jessica Leary by opting instead for junior Claire Friday.

Friday seized the opportunity, leading off the frame by legging out an infield single. Wetmore then re-inserted Leary as a pinch runner and called on Jefferson to lay down a bunt.

The perfect bunt by Jefferson, which she also turned into a single, gave the Lady

Flames two runners on with no outs and Jeffs stepping up to the plate.

She also laid down a perfect bunt, setting the stage for Beth Hensley's heroics.

With the bases loaded and down a strike, Hensley flared a 0-1 delivery from Frederick just over the head of the first baseman, giving the Lady Flames a 4-3 win.

"I thought it was going to get caught," said Hensley.

"With the way I was struggling today, I was just trying to put the ball in play and luckily it fell in there. I've never had a walkoff hit before, so it feels good."

Wetmore was overjoyed with his team's play this weekend, and this game in particular.

"We put Claire in there as a pinch hitter and she was able to put the ball in play," he said. "She laid down just a perfect bunt in between the fielders, and we had Dawn bunt because they kept switching their infield around."

"It was a perfectly executed bunt and Beth came through with a hit. We love beating Coastal Carolina."

As the season dwindles to a close, Wetmore feels his team is right where it needs to be.

Liberty enters today's doubleheader tied for first place in the Big South.

The home set against the 12th-ranked Virginia Tech Hokies starts at 3 p.m. It is also the Lady Flames' Senior Day.

"This game will be special for two reasons: one, we are saying goodbye to five seniors who have elevated our program to the next level, and two because we are playing Virginia Tech who is coming off just a huge tragedy," said Wetmore.

"They're a great team and we'll be going up against one of the best pitchers in the nation (Angela Tincher). It will be a great tune up for the Big South Championship."

Following the Lady Flames' bout with the Hokies, they travel to Alabama to take on the Birmingham Southern Panthers. This is the first meeting of the season between the Panthers and the Lady Flames.

Contact Jake Petersen at jtpetersen@liberty.edu



There were several surprises during Saturday's annual NFL Draft. Maybe none was more of a bolt from the blue than Brady Quinn's huge fall from a projected Top-10 pick to No. 22.

Quinn could be another Tim Couch, or maybe he will turn into a Ben Roethlisberger or an Eli Manning — a quarterback that leads his team into the playoffs just a few years after taking the reins.

All 32 teams made solid picks, but only a few of them will have immediate impact.

Let's take a look at some of the picks in the first round of Saturday's draft that I feel will have the biggest effect on their teams, and the NFL as a whole, as soon as this season.

Oakland Raiders

First of all, the number one overall pick is obviously going to have a large impact on a struggling team. After going 2-14 this past season, and not having a winning season since 2002, the Raiders selected JaMarcus Russell from LSU.

A very large, athletic quarterback — 6'6", 260 lbs — Russell should help the Raiders immediately. He can toss the ball 80 yards downfield, and when throwing to receivers like Jerry Porter, Doug Gabriel, Mike Williams and Ronald Curry, he should be all right in that system.

The Raiders gave up a league-leading 72 sacks last season, though, and if that does not improve, Russell could end up injured before he reaches his full potential.

Cleveland Browns

Next, offensive lineman Joe Thomas — the third overall pick to the Cleveland Browns out of the University of Wisconsin — will be a huge addition for a struggling Browns offense.

With Quinn most likely taking that team over at some point this season, Thomas will be a needed amenity to keep Quinn healthy and off the ground. Thomas is a great lineman and will help the Browns on their quest to become a power again in the AFC North.

With the 22nd overall pick, the Browns traded with the Dallas Cowboys to draft Brady Quinn — quarterback from Notre Dame.

Quinn was brought up in Charlie Weiss' system and heads to Romeo Crennel's system — both coaches were part of the staff in New England and employ similar styles.

Quinn should play like an angry man, as he missed out on several teams and millions of dollars by dropping that far in the draft.

With the addition of Thomas in the draft and running back Jamal Lewis in the off-season, Quinn has strong support with Braylon Edwards on the edge, and Kellen Winslow, Jr. at tight end.

I think Crennel will give Quinn at least four games before he allows him to start, but Quinn should impact this team immediately if he develops as projected.

Arizona Cardinals

Staying with offensive linemen, Levi Brown — the fifth overall pick to the Arizona Cardinals — will help that team immensely.

The Cardinals have a solid running back in Edgerrin James and a potentially great quarterback in Matt Leinart. In order to protect those assets, you need someone like Brown in your line. Most importantly, the Cardinals signed offensive line coach Russ Grimm during the off-season. Grimm is maybe the best line coach in the game. He will groom Brown, and most likely place him in position to protect Leinart's blindside.

Washington Redskins

Washington got a great pick when they picked up LaRon Landry from LSU with the sixth overall pick.

Landry is a solid safety that hits hard, and he will team well with Sean Taylor to make a solid safety core.

The only problem is that Landry is not great against the pass, and Taylor can improve upon his pass-defensive game as well. He often-times goes for the big hit, instead of the solid defensive play.

Teams could exploit them over the top if they do not improve. Either way, Landry will make an impact with the 'Skins.

Minnesota Vikings

With the seventh overall pick, Minnesota picked up running back Adrian Peterson out of the University of Oklahoma.

The Vikings were middle-of-the-pack with their rushing offense last season, averaging 113.8 yards per game on the ground.

Adding Peterson will improve that ground game immediately, and in the second round Minnesota also picked up a solid receiver — Sidney Rice. He and Peterson should help the sluggish offense in Minnesota.

Buffalo Bills

In Buffalo, they started off their day with a solid pick in Marshawn Lynch — a running back from California.

Lynch has the potential to be a solid running back, but I'm not sure if he will pan out this year.

The reason I stuck him on this list is because if he does, I do not want to be the one who did not expect him to do it.

I expect him to be a strong runner, but I do not think he will get more than 1,000 yards this season playing in that offense.

New York Jets, Cincinnati Bengals

Cornerbacks Darrelle Revis — 14th overall pick to the New York Jets — and Leon Hall — 18th overall pick to the Cincinnati Bengals — should make the secondary of their respective teams instantly better.

Revis is a better tackler than Hall, but Hall has better coverage skills. They both have great speed and quickness and each employ great knowledge of the game. Revis' instincts are what made him the higher pick, but both should help the secondary of their respective teams improve drastically.

San Diego Chargers

Wide receiver Craig Davis from LSU was drafted 30th overall by San Diego. He gives Phillip Rivers another target to hit, and this should help alleviate some of the pressure put on LaDainian Tomlinson and the run game.

With Keenan McCardell and Eric Parker to groom him, Davis should be a successful slot receiver this year before he moves into a starting role.

Indianapolis Colts

Finally, the Indianapolis Colts picked up Anthony Gonzalez out of Ohio State with the final pick of the first round.

Gonzalez, I believe, will turn out to be a receiver similar to Hines Ward. Neither has blistering speed, but both can go across the middle and catch anything thrown their way.

They both are tough and can hit you in the mouth and knock you down, opening up a hole for the back to squeeze through. Gonzalez will be a difference maker for the Colts organization in the future.

It's hard to tell for sure what next season's rosters will look like.

If the picks pan out the way they are expected to, each of the players mentioned will immediately impact this NFL season.

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Effects of growing up in the steroid era: Altering a fan's view of sportsmen

His nickname was Big Daddy, partly because of his home run power and partly because of his prodigious girth.

His real name was Cecil Fielder, and he played first base and designated hitter for the Detroit Tigers from 1990-96.



Mitchell Malcheff

Those Tigers teams never did amount to much while Fielder was there, but he achieved a mythical presence in my mind.

There was no ball he couldn't hit and no fence he couldn't clear. He hit moon shots to left field that seemed just feet away from going into orbit before gravity defiantly pulled them back to earth.

My other childhood hero claimed that the source of his hitting power was Fruit Loops.

Known for the huge wad of tobacco that was a fixture in his cheek, Mickey Tettleton played catcher for the Tigers in the early 1990s.

Although he only had a .241 career batting average, in my head, Mickey was the Most Valuable Player every year.

He would smash towering home runs from both sides of the plate, and with a clang and clatter, they would land high atop the roof of Tiger Stadium and come falling down into the bleachers.

I will never forget the day I almost caught a Tettleton home run. My grandmother loved to take her three grandsons to Tigers games. We always had a blast because there were no parents there to tell us we could not have more nachos or hot dogs.

Granny let us have anything we wanted. With ice cream dribbling down my chin, I watched in wide-eyed wonderment as Mickey strode up to the left side of the plate and with that nonchalant swing of his, clobbered a ball that looked like it was headed directly at me.

My fingers tightly gripped my leather

Wilson glove as the ball shot like a rocket towards the right field bleachers.

To my dismay, the ball kept rising and rising into the shimmering heat waves of that mid-July day and slammed down onto the roof, out of reach of my outstretched glove.

To me, they were unconquerable giants against which no pitcher stood a chance. I never questioned their ability – or their ethics.

Now, I do.

Now, I question every player that seems to have an extra edge over all of his competitors.

I question 100-mph fastballs, 50 home runs in a season and a .350 batting average.

I question 42-year old pitchers who a

year ago, could not throw an 84-mph fastball, but now call it their change-up.

I question 48-inch vertical leaps and 18-year-olds who look like grown men.

I question 100-meter dashes and 25-foot long jumps.

I question 150-mph serves and athletes who can swim three races in one day and still manage to set world records in each event.

Like the giant falling from Jack's beanstalk, my heroes have fallen from their lofty perches. No longer do they occupy a place of other-worldly importance in my life.

Maybe that is part of the growing-up process, but it should not have to be. Instead of standing in awe of their achievements, I now watch in disgust as

the steroid scandal continues to spread like wildfire across the panorama of sports.

Players caught red-handed run away from the accusations like jackrabbits fleeing before a prairie fire only to be welcomed back by many with open arms of forgiveness and fat paychecks.

Sports are my passion, my first love. Someday, I hope that I can share that love with my son. I hope that he finds his own childhood heroes.

I hope that someday I can watch his wide-eyed wonderment as a towering fly ball soars straight at him on a hot summer day.

I hope he dreams of the day, like I did, that he will be one of those giants.

I also hope that the day never comes when I have to break my little boy's heart and tell him that his hero cheated. I hope he never comes to the sad realization that for many players, sports is not about passion – it's about business.

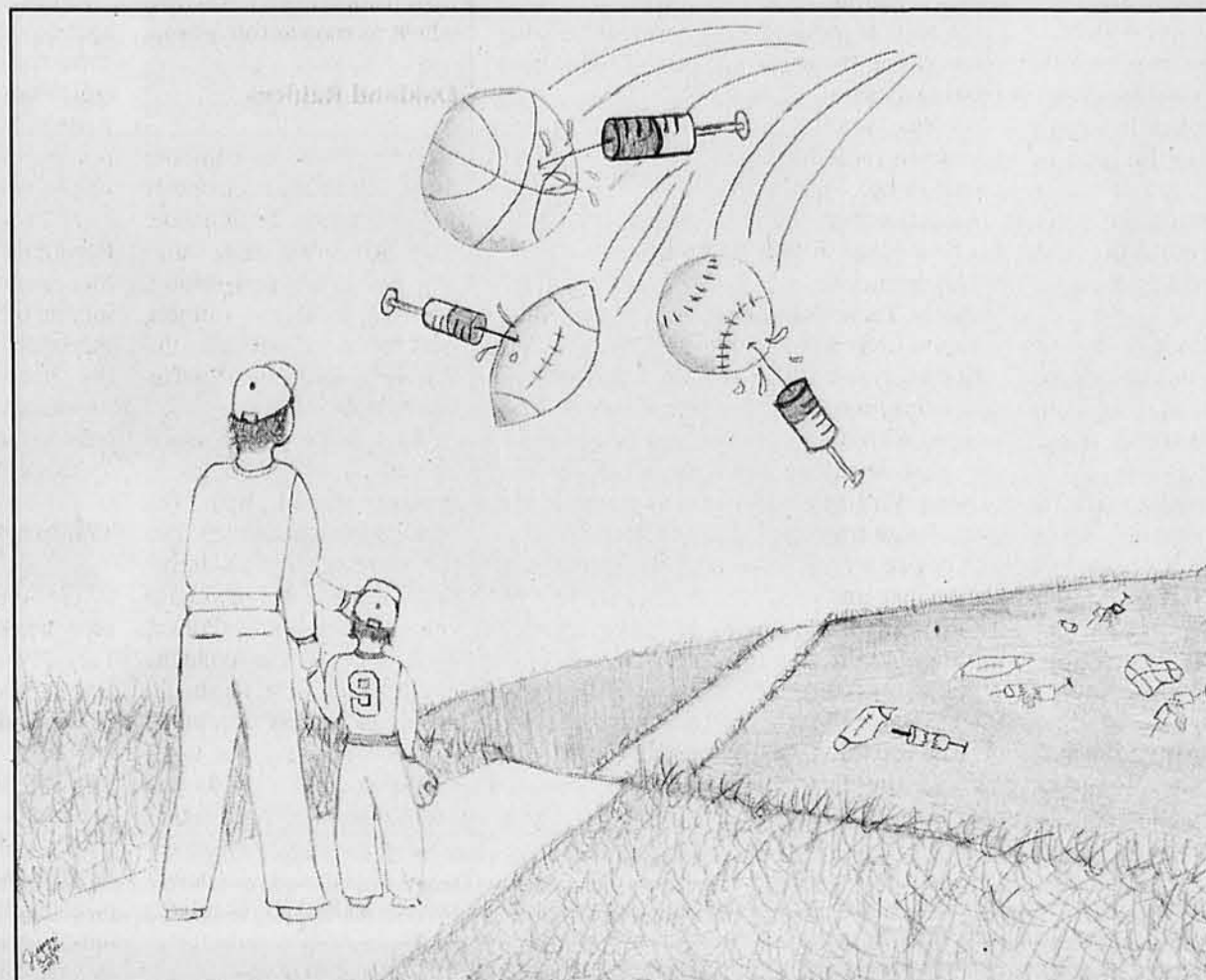
Perhaps it is not all bad. Maybe it is better for him if he learns from a young age that people, even heroes, make mistakes. Perhaps the sooner he learns that Superman exists only in the pages of comic books, the better.

But I think there is something to be said for holding on to some piece of that boyhood wonder instead of growing calloused by the truth.

I am afraid that no matter what I do, the day will come when my son will take that long fall down the beanstalk with his hero.

I hope I am wrong.

Contact Mitchell Malcheff at mjmalcheff@liberty.edu.



JESSICA WEBER

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TRACK: McDougal breaks record

Continued from page B1

In the final day of action, Hart placed fifth in the hammer throw with a final distance of 203-8. The only athletes to place higher than Hart were the current top three Division-I athletes, and Division-II Kibwe Johnson from Ashland University.

The women's 4 x 200 meter relay team finished fifth in the finals of the ECAC section with a time of 1:40.10. The University of Connecticut won the event in 1:36.14.

"Everything wasn't great, but we had some really good things," said Tolsma.

"Overall, I think we probably went beyond what we expected."

Liberty will be sending 16 different athletes to NCAA competition, with the possibility of two more being added to the list.

"It's been an excellent year so far," said Tolsma.

"The most we've had before is five. If you look at how many teams have 16 athletes qualified then those are the best teams."

The Flames will return to action for the final home meet of the year on May 3 at the Liberty Twilight Qualifier.

Meanwhile in Palo Alto, Calif., junior Josh McDougal continued his assault on the record books with another spectacular showing at Stanford's Payton Jordan Cardinal Invitational.

The Peru, N.Y. native competed in the 10,000-meter run, an event that featured a deep field of both collegiate and sponsored non-collegiate athletes.

McDougal shattered his previous school and conference record by 22 seconds, clocking in at 28:27.65.

The junior's performance automatically secured him a spot in the NCAA Division-I national meet in Sacramento in June.

McDougal ran against some of the top athletes in the country with 15 of the competitors finishing under 28 minutes.

McDougal sits atop the NCAA rankings in both the 1,500 and 5,000 meters and is now ranked eighth in the 10,000. Liberty's record-breaking phenom now looks forward to the IC4As on May 11-13 in Princeton, N. J.

Among many of his accolades earned during his tenure here at Liberty, McDougal has garnered numerous All-American and Big South honors and finished 13th as a freshman in the national meet.

After finishing 27th in the NCAA national meet during the fall season, McDougal will try to win a title he has been seeking since bursting onto the collegiate running scene.

Contact Will Luper at wluper@liberty.edu.

BASEBALL: Flames lose late leads, drop two straight to Chanticleers

Continued from page B1

In the first of a three-game series in Conway, S.C., the Flames eked out a 10-7 victory in a 12-inning thriller.

The Flames had taken a 7-3 lead into the eighth, but were unable to prevent the Chanticleers from storming back.

Tommy Baldridge started the Coastal rally with his eighth home run of the season, a solo shot to right-center field that cut the lead to 7-4. Tyler Bortnick closed the gap to one run with his two-out two-run homer.

Coastal Carolina rallied again with a man on third with one out in the tenth, but reliever Tim John struck out one and had a groundout back to the mound to end the threat.

With the score tied 7-7 in the top of the 12th, senior Phil John banged out a single to lead off the inning and quickly moved to second base on a sacrifice bunt by sophomore Shawn Teufel.

Junior David Giammaresi put the Flames on top with a single of his own to right field.

After another Liberty out, junior Aaron Phillips smashed his second

home run of the season over the left center field wall to seal the 10-7 victory for the Flames.

Tim John retired the Chanticleers in order in the bottom of the inning. John pitched the last four and one third innings to record his second win of the season.

Six Flames had two hits as the offense was solid again, producing 16 hits.

The late-inning heroics that Liberty displayed switched sides in the second game of the three-game series.

The Flames got off to a promising first-inning start, scoring three runs on two hits.

However, Coastal Carolina plated seven runs through five innings and looked like they were going to run away with the game. Liberty hung tough, though, and scored three runs in the sixth to climb back into the game.

All three runs came on sophomore Kenneth Negron's home run to right center that scored sophomore catcher Errol Hollinger and David Giammaresi.

Liberty scored two more in the seventh to take a 9-7 lead.

The Flames held onto the lead

through the bottom of the seventh and the eighth until the late-inning heroics by Matt Rademacher.

Going into the ninth, Liberty held a slim two-run lead. Rademacher became the hero for the Chanticleers, blasting a three-run walk-off homer off sophomore Tyler Light in the bottom of the ninth to cap off a five run ninth inning.

Light allowed five earned runs and picked up his fourth loss of the season for the Flames. Four Flames had two hits apiece, led by Negron, who had four RBIs including his three-run homer in the sixth.

The final game of the weekend series saw the Flames pound out 19 hits, but fall to an eighth-inning Chanticleer rally highlighted by David Sappelt's grand slam off of junior reliever Ryan Page. Sappelt's grand slam was the Chanticleer's second on the day, as second baseman Adam Vrable also connected in the fourth inning off of Flames starter Michael Solbach.

The Flames held a 13-7 lead heading into the bottom of the seventh inning, but after recording two outs, sophomore Andrew Wilson surrendered a double to Vrable, followed by an RBI triple by Sappelt.

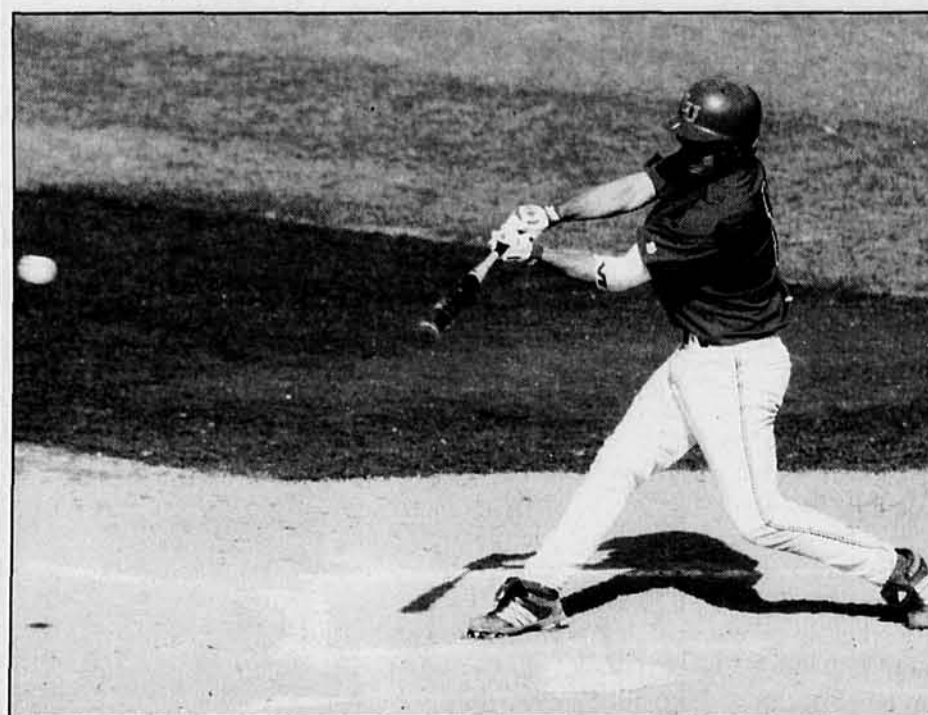
Dom Duggan brought Sappelt home on an RBI single through the left side of the infield, bringing an end to Wilson's night.

With the top of the order coming to bat in the top of the ninth, the Flames looked to avenge a ninth inning loss the previous night, but were unable to get anything going as Nick McCully sent them down in order, recording his first save of the year.

The heartbreaking loss brings the Flames record to 28-18 overall and 9-6 in the Big South Conference going into today's game with Virginia Tech in Blacksburg at 7 p.m.

The Flames will then hit the road destined for Tucson, Ariz., for a three-game weekend series against the University of Arizona.

Contact Mitchell Malcheff at mjmalcheff@liberty.edu.



JESSICA WEBER

SMASHED — Sophomore second baseman Kenneth Negron smacks on of his three hits during Liberty's 13-5 rout of the George Mason Patriots. Negron's hits culminated in two runs scored and three RBI.

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Going abroad: An inside perspective on an 'ivory tower' from the outside

I have a habit of involving myself in let's-change-the-world conversations on a regular basis. These typically include lots of coffee and a few individuals with endless amounts of time to spare.

Commentary



Joel Furrow

During the most recent discussion I had with a friend concerning the state of the world, the church, America and the many problems in between, my friend made a comment portraying our great country as someone who sits in her own "ivory tower" overlooking the world — judging and making opinions concerning other people's interests.

It seems that we have forgotten that the world possesses other people and have resorted to viewing them as pawns that we can move about as we like. Topics of discussion such as the Sudan, Iraq and Palestine have become just that — topics, not places and people.

The most recent tragedy on everyone's mind (and rightfully so) is the Virginia Tech massacre. This horrible act of violence seems to have truly awoken the

American public to the fragility of life. On the same day as the Virginia Tech killings, 164 people lost their lives in Baghdad to suicide bombings based on tribal conflicts that have existed for centuries.

I say this not to downplay the great tragedy to our neighbors in Blacksburg. Indeed, my prayers and heart go out to those families and communities. However, this is an opportunity to put our ivory tower mentality into perspective. What we witnessed at Virginia Tech is a type of situation that many parts of the world deal with on a daily basis.

I have lived in Amman, Jordan for the past eight months, studying Arabic and finishing up my senior year. I know some who have been brutally affected by the war in Iraq. Jordan is now home to nearly one million Iraqi refugees. They live here with no rights to education, health care or legal jobs.

The overwhelming majority escaped Iraq with only their families or less. They have faces, names, brothers and sisters. They have family members still living in the chaos that we know as Baghdad. They face great difficulty, with little hope for the future.

It is so easy for us as Americans, myself included, to evaluate the situation from 8,000 miles away — to develop what we think should happen based on our "educated" opinion or what the leader of our political

party says we should think and believe.

We sit in our ivory tower surrounded by more blessings from God than any nation in history, discussing issues that greatly affect individuals with the same rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

We deceive ourselves by thinking that American government is the answer to our problems. We state, "If he had just done (blank), things would be better."

Or worse, we blame the opposing political party for the problems.

I have only one question concerning these topics. Are we the bride of Christ or not? If the answer is yes, then we have some things to change. In Matthew 5:13, Jesus stated, "You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet" (ESV).

The American government cannot fix the many issues in the Middle East, the Sudan or anywhere else people suffer. Our opinions

without action are meaningless and show how close we are to losing our saltiness. Experiencing the person and the blood of Jesus is the only thing that can bring people from violence to peace, from hate to love and from tragedy to joy. There is no other power that possesses this effect.

The responsibility of spreading that freedom, peace, and joy falls on one group of people — Christians.

Christ has empowered us with a message that is greater than that of democ-

racy or any other social cause. This message possesses the keys to peace, love, selflessness and, most importantly, the redemption of the broken and destroyed.

What we do with this message will determine what the world looks like in the next 50 years.

May we cease to be the people who see and do not act, who hear and ignore, and who discuss intensely yet fail to ever see past ourselves.

Contact Joel Furrow at jfurrow@liberty.edu.

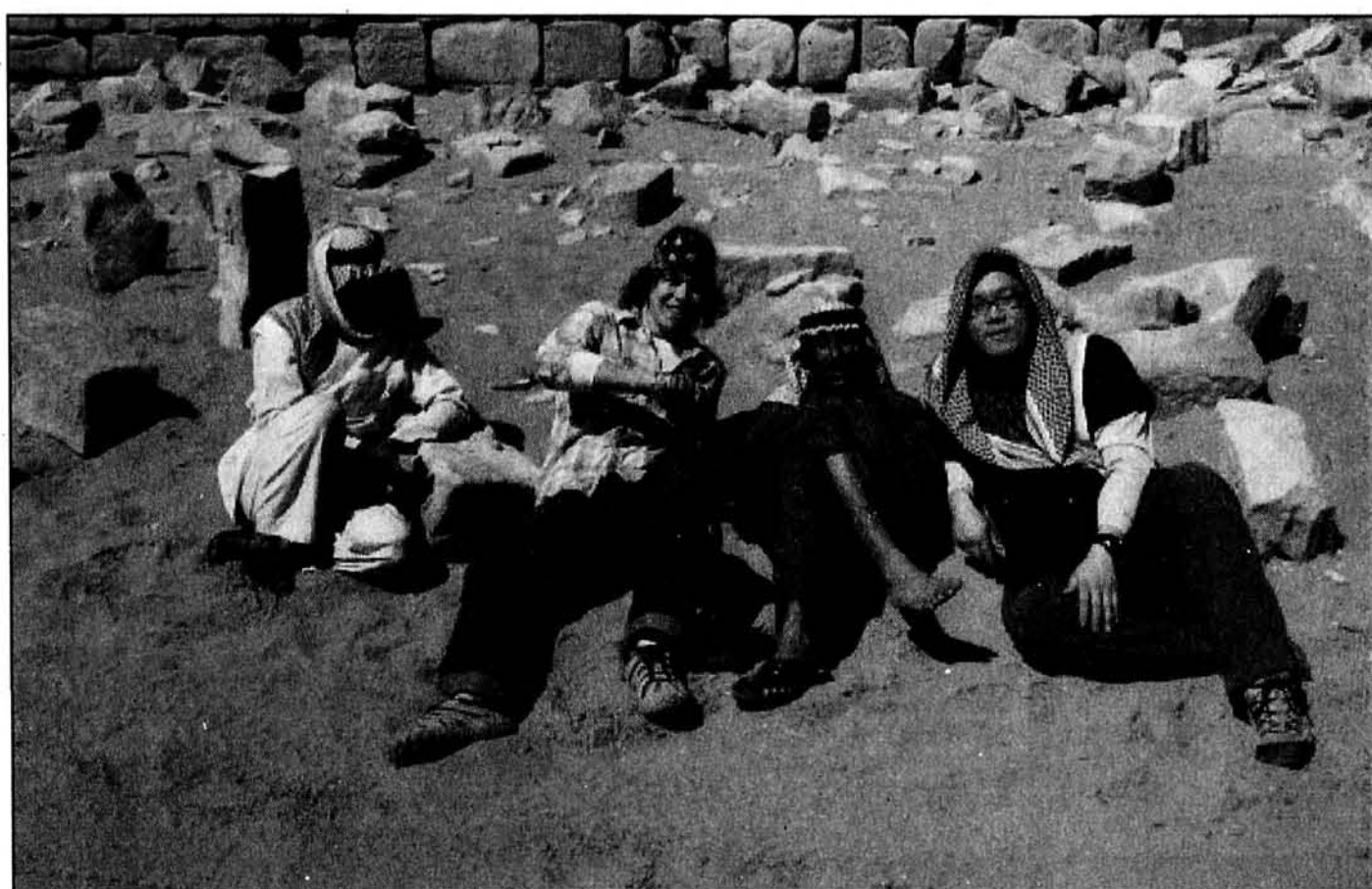
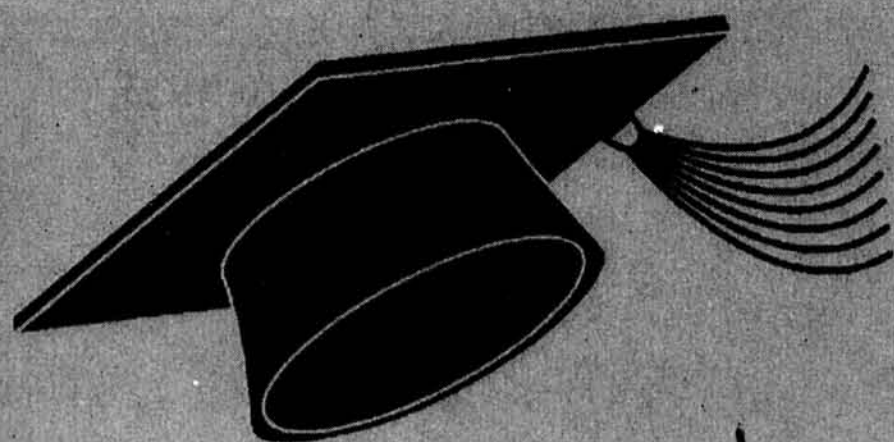


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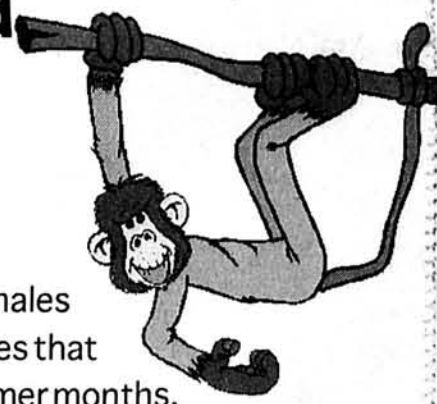
CHILLIN' WITH THE NATIVES — Senior religion major Joel Furrow (second from left) has been in Jordan for the last eight months. He will graduate in May.

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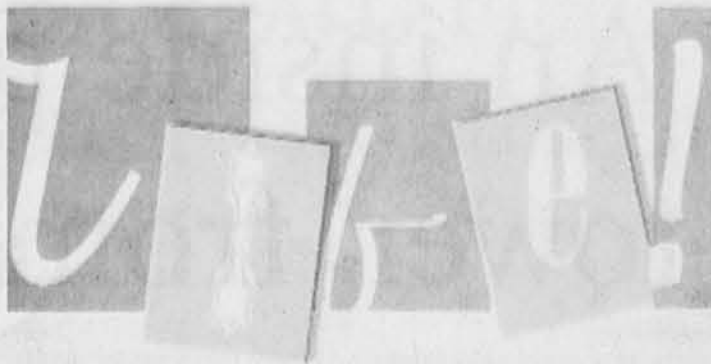
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Quote of the week:

"I don't follow Jesus because I think Christianity is the best religion. I follow Jesus because He leads me into ultimate reality. He teaches me to live in tune with how reality is."

— Rob Bell
pastor and author

Cole Bros Circus provides fun, thrills and entertainment to Lynchburg community

By Natasha Kormanik
LIFE REPORTER

A long-standing American tradition brought old ideas of fun and entertainment for people of all ages when it set up its famous Big Top in the LaHaye Ice Center parking lot last week.

Featuring unimaginable feats and tricks sure to put anyone at the edge of his or her seat, the Cole Bros Circus entertained its audiences on April 23 and 24.

"It's great! Every kid needs to go to the circus," said Lynchburg resident Bryan Scott, who attended with his wife and grandkids.

It was an event for everyone to come together and enjoy, breaking away from their rigorous daily activities.

With snacks and toys in hand, families and kids watched in anticipation as the show opened with a solo of The Star-Spangled Banner.

Then, the announcer's serious but ironically joyful booming voice could be heard saying, "Don't try this at home, kids," much to the amusement of parents. Featuring all sorts of entertainment that held the audience members mesmerized, the show continued for more than two hours with a 15-minute intermission.

The first performance consisted of two motorists driving in a ball-shaped cage, both in circles and upside down. As the cage split in half, pulling apart, the motorists continued their performance.

Although the motorists were said to have about forty years worth of experience, it soon seemed gravity was about to win out, and audience members held their breath in waiting. Soon, however, the audience was able to breathe a collective

sigh of relief as the cage came back together to form a ball.

In addition, acrobats in glimmering costumes and eccentrically dressed clowns provided a colorful and fun-filled backdrop to the death-defying feats of the aerial artists.

The aerial artists and the acrobats were especially exciting to watch.

Bedazzling the audience with their incredible talents, they were picturesque and ballerina-like as they danced about from hanging ropes, swung from the swings like monkeys and performed extraordinary tumbling acts.

The crowd then went wild when 10-year-old Victoria successfully performed her stunt, flipping from swing to swing with the help of her father and siblings.

Victoria and her Brazilian family serve as the aerial artists for the show and travel with the rest of the cast, performing all across the nation.

The cast members' profiles, as well as locations for future events, can be viewed on the circus' Web site, www.gotocircus.com.

A troupe of Chinese male acrobats named the Acrostars were next on the list. Not only did they do tumbling stunts, but they also worked alongside a woman known as "The Kimberly," who juggled with fire-lit sticks while atop a moving horse.

"I like it, although I haven't seen any elephants. Every circus is to have elephants!" said Scott concerning the animal acts.

Although no elephants made an appearance in this event, poodles performed some cute stunts, though none were particularly exciting or dangerous.

Additionally, comical clowns frolicked about, putting on acts that served as transitions between performances, much to the delight of many children present.

Nevertheless, as much fun as it all was, the show came to an abrupt end with a bang – literally.

Tetyana Synoviat, a Ukrainian-born performer who is affectionately known as Zarina the Human Cannonball according to the circus' official Web site, was shot out of a cannon.

Flying through the air at a speed of about 65 mph across the full length of the arena, she landed in a massive net.

The audience burst into applause.

"We loved it! It was fun for everyone!" said Lisa Percer, the

wife of seminary professor Dr. Leo Percer, who was there with her daughter.

Although the circus may be just for children, it can be considered an excuse for adults to revisit their childhood for a few hours, which many college students did easily and joyfully.

Contact Natasha Kormanik at nkormanik@liberty.edu.



ALL PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE RAFACZ

A BIG TENT AFFAIR — As the Cole Bros Circus visited the Liberty campus, audiences were delighted with acrobatic stunts and other family entertainment. Clockwise from top right — 1. One of the clowns holds the American flag aloft as the audience sings "The Star-Spangled Banner." 2. A child with a butterfly face-paint pattern flashes a smile for the camera. 3. The poodles, which were a hit with the audience, frolic around on the floor of the big top. 4. The Acrostars bend their bodies to perform their stunts. 5. One of the motorcycle stunt riders waves to an appreciative crowd after his act.

