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Liberty University School Newspaper

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2-26-2013

## 02-26-13 (The Liberty Champion, volume 30 issue 16)

Champion  
*Liberty University*

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Third Day  
performs at  
CFAW



B8

Men's basketball wins  
BracketBuster  
game in OT



B1

# LIBERTY CHAMPION

Today: Rain 43/37 Tomorrow: P. Cloudy 57/35

Tuesday, February 26, 2013

libertychampion.com

Volume 30 • Issue 16

swing for the fences



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

**BALLGAME** — The first home game of the season kicks off at the newly-built stadium, where Liberty beat Penn State in front of a crowd of 2,565.

## For the Love OF THE GAME

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One could not help but to think that the sight of the new Liberty Baseball Stadium filled with fans of all ages was a dream of the late Dr. Jerry Falwell brought to life. Among a flurry of other

projects, including academic and residential buildings, construction workers feverishly work on a new state-of-the-art baseball stadium overlooking the mountains on the north end of campus. While time did not af-

ford crews the opportunity to complete the venue, the 2,500 chair-back seats and AstroTurf playing surface were ready for a new chapter in Liberty baseball this weekend, Feb. 23-24, when the Flames played their first home series of the season against Penn State.

Even though the Liberty Baseball Stadium lacked many of the amenities that will eventually be available when the \$8 million project is complete, 2,565 excited fans came out to pack the home opener Saturday, Feb. 23.

Chancellor Jerry Falwell, Jr. threw out the first pitch to open the new stadium. It was his idea to build a new one rather than renovate Worthington Field.

"The idea hit me one day that our baseball stadium, should not be down in a ravine hidden from view, so I

See **STADIUM**, A3

### Did you know?

Sid Bream played at Liberty from 1980-1981, making his MLB debut with the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1983.

Lee Geutterman played at Liberty from 1978-1981, making his MLB debut with the Seattle Mariners in 1984.

Randy Tomlin played at Liberty from 1986-1988, making his MLB debut with the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1990.

Doug Brady played at Liberty from 1989-1991, making his MLB debut with the Chicago White Sox in 1995.

## EchoLight donation

Melanie Oelrich  
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EchoLight Studios recently formed an agreement to co-produce five feature films with Liberty University's Cinematic Arts Zaki Gordon Center to make a mark on Christian filmmakers and university film schools.

According to a press release from EchoLight Studios, the company had announced its multi-million dollar commit-



LAUREN ADRIANCE | LIBERTY CHAMPION

**EQUIPMENT** — A student works with a state-of-the-art camera.

ment to support the next generation of Christian filmmakers earlier this year. The latest announcement from

See **ECHOLIGHT**, A7

## Scholarships increase

Tabitha Cassidy  
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New students interested in attending Liberty University might be happy to know that the school has recently increased its scholarship offerings by nearly \$9 million, according to Vice President of Financial Aid Robert Ritz.

Beginning fall of 2013, Liberty will offer a limited number of full tuition scholarships to high school valedictorians and saluta-

torians. The university will also increase the Academic Achievement Scholarship for new students, including full tuition for those who meet a series of criteria. Additionally, the school will increase the amount of scholarship that all Virginia residents who attend Liberty receive, Ritz said.

"The university is continuing to try to attract more students who are academically strong," Ritz said. "This is good for the school and good for the

students." High school valedictorians and salutatorians must have an unweighted grade-point average of 3.5 and an ACT or SAT score of 29 or 1270, respectively, in order to be eligible to receive the full tuition scholarship now being offered, according to Ritz.

The Academic Achievement Scholarship will also offer full tuition for students who have a 3.8 GPA

See **INCREASE**, A3

### INSIDE THE CHAMPION

#### News

Liberty and UVA's ROTC program won the MacArthur Award. **A6**

#### Sports

Men's track and field won their 16th consecutive Big South championship. **B1**

#### Feature

Campus Praise Band singer Lauren Sweeney shares her ministry story. **B8**

News	A1
Opinion	A4
Sports	B1
Feature	B8





# CIA recruits

Joseph Park  
ypark9@liberty.edu

Representatives from the CIA visited Liberty University Feb. 19 to meet with prospective students seeking jobs in visual arts, graphic design and communications.

According to the Helms School of Government, the fair was an outlet for students wanting to use their skills to develop into a professional career within the agency.

Mark Hernandez, who has worked for the CIA for 25 years as the director of art, opened the floor by sharing his appreciation for the large crowd of students.

"I've traveled to big schools all across the country," Hernandez said. "However, the turnout was not that great. I am thankful for the high turnout that I see with students here at Liberty University."

Hernandez provided students with an overview about what to expect when they apply to the CIA.

"The work that my team and I do oftentimes falls right into the hands of the president — and that's one of our distinctive parts of the job," Hernandez said.

Hernandez said that the art department within the CIA divides into smaller teams according to their specialization.

"We have photographers, graphic designers, production officers, publication officers, editors who edit to make sure that all the grammar that is put into our work is correct ... and finally, video producers," Hernandez said. "These are the disciplines that ultimately encompass our multimedia production occupation, where we take all these professionals and create a career service within the CIA."

Another unique part of their job, according to Hernandez, is how their specializations in arts, unlike private institutions, are well-blended with topics that are crucial to the world.

"We deal with topics that are important in the intelligence to the U.S. government — political topics, regional topics and topics like terrorism," Hernandez said. "We are excited to partner with analysts when they need to tell their story in a way that catches the eye of the audience."

Hernandez also said that designing logos, producing infographics and creating charts and graphs for reports are among some of the tasks students can expect when working for the department.

Michael Wood, the production manager for the CIA interactive and web production center, listed the prerequisites required for someone to be qualified for a job at the CIA.

"No. 1, you must be an American citizen, be willing to move out to the D.C. area, no use of illegal substances for at least 12 months, no illegal downloads, have a 3.0 (GPA) and be proficient in various graphic arts programs, like Photoshop," Wood said.

He then closed the session by laying down some basic information that people interested in working at the CIA will need to know before applying.

"We are not employing (right now) because Congress has not given us the hiring requirements for the year. But meanwhile, for those that are interested, go to [www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov) and look through the application process," Wood said.

**PARK is a news reporter.**

## Champion corrections

In the last issue of the Champion, the article on texting and driving did not make clear that the new law created by the bill goes into effect July 1, 2013.

# Non-profit seeks reform

Tyler Eacho  
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David Leite, a student at Liberty University, brought Students for Education Reform (SFER) to the campus of Liberty University Feb. 10, 2012.

Leite was watching "Waiting for Superman," a movie about making a difference through education in the United States of America, when he noticed a phone number for viewers interested in making a difference.

That number connected Leite to SFER, a nonprofit organization that supports student groups on 60 college campuses across the country and gives students a voice in the policymaking process, according to a White House press release.

"I realized the network they have, and that it would be good for Liberty University to be involved," Leite said.

According to the White House press release, Princeton University undergraduate students Catharine Bellinger and Alexis Morin founded SFER when they realized that young people had never been seriously and



PHOTO PROVIDED

UNITED — Members of the Liberty SFER chapter pose together.

systematically involved with education reform.

Morin said that SFER grew quickly, putting together a board of directors and raising money at an enviable pace.

"We left Princeton early to focus full-time on the organization in 2012," Morin said. "I have returned to school now, but the co-founder (Catharine Bellinger) is still putting all of her focus into SFER."

According to the White House press release, each SFER chapter addresses what they consider to be issues in their local schools, partnering with local tutoring organizations and placing student

teachers and interns in high-need public schools.

Leite said that the Liberty chapter partners with Lynchburg City Schools to help teachers and engages Virginia politicians for beneficial school bills.

Shortly after Leite brought SFER to Liberty, SFERLU became the chapter cabinet in Virginia. Liberty student Katie Hoffmeyer, an SFERLU member, applied to be the state coalition captain for Virginia's five chapters and was chosen.

"I decided to apply for state coalition captain, but I wasn't sure how good my chances were because of my lack

of time spent in the organization," Hoffmeyer said. "God is good, though, and he opened that door for me."

Hoffmeyer's position has made SFERLU responsible for coordinating events with all of the chapters in Virginia.

"In April, we will be hosting a walk for education here in Lynchburg to benefit the Lynchburg City Public Schools," Hoffmeyer said. "We will invite the other Virginia chapters to attend."

According to Leite, every two weeks, the organization receives five or more internship opportunities for students.

The Liberty Uni-

versity chapter is one of 130 chapters across the United States that has helped SFER develop into what TIME Magazine describes as a large, reputable non-profit organization.

"We have grown tremendously in the last year," Morin said. "In addition to our established chapters, we now have student-organizing campaigns for establishing new chapters in eight states."

Every semester, SFER holds a summit to discuss education reform. According to Leite, eight schools attended the last summit at Harvard University. Liberty sent three representatives.

Leite also said that he wants to help SFERLU host its own event in April.

"I am hoping to host a big event here on campus at the end of April with the Lynchburg City Schools superintendent, the founders of the organization and a few leaders in education reform, among others," Leite said. "We are also hoping that other schools with chapters will come to the event."

**EACHO is the asst. news editor.**

# U.S. Postal Service makes changes

Letter delivery will be cut from six days a week to five days, beginning Aug. 5

Courtney Sharp  
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The United States Postal Service (USPS) recently decided that it would reduce mail delivery Aug. 5, 2013 to five days a week, cutting Saturday mail. Packages will continue to be delivered six days a week.

Liberty University Postal Services handles packages and letters five days a week, Monday to Friday, according to the Liberty University Postal Service website. Postal specialists are on hand to answer and accommodate the students and faculty with any shipping needs.

"These changes should not affect us at all, since we are not open on Saturday anyway," Lisa Worley, Postal Services manager at Liberty, said. "The mail that comes in will just be held just as it is on Fridays over the weekend."

According to Worley, current Liberty mail policy is to send back mail and packages that students do not collect within two weeks.

"It's a shame that parents and grandparents take the time to send students things and we have to simply send it back," Worley said.

Senior nursing major Steph Fortier mentioned her concern for the length of time it takes to receive her packages, some including fresh-baked goods.



EMILY BECKER | LIBERTY CHAMPION

MAIL — Liberty student Evan Kay receives his packages at the post office in Green Hall.

"The people are nice and friendly, but it takes a long time for packages from home to make it to the post office. Cookies get stale," Fortier said.

Packages are abandoned at the post office for numerous reasons, according to Worley, but the quantity of items returned to sender is far less than the amount actually received by the students.

"It happens about once a week, depending on the time of the year," Worley said.

Despite hundreds of packages coming and going through the post office, Worley said that there is no need to extend their hours of operation.

"The post office has always been surprisingly quick," Abi-

gail Lindsey, a Liberty senior exercise science major, said. "They ask for my Flames Pass, I sign and leave. I can go in-between classes and pick up my stuff. The post office is that fast."

The post office began accepting Flames Cash for shipping purchases this past fall and has seen an immense increase in shipping supply sales, according to the Liberty website.

"Flames Cash has become the payment of choice," Worley said. "Flames Cash has broken records (for sales increases) since we started accepting it. Before it was Visa, but now Flames Cash is the first choice students use."

According to the USPS

website, market research conducted by the Postal Service and independent research by major news organizations indicated that nearly seven out of 10 Americans (70 percent) support the switch to five-day delivery as a way for the Postal Service to reduce costs in its effort to return the organization to financial stability.

While the change in delivery schedule is needed to restore the financial state of the Postal Service, students will continue to receive their mail and packages in a timely manner.

**SHARP is a news reporter.**

# LIBERTY CHAMPION

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

POLICIES & INFO

The Champion encourages community members to submit letters to the editor on any subject. Letters should not exceed 400 words and must be typed and signed. The deadline is 5 p.m. Friday. Letters and columns that appear are the opinion of the author solely, not the Champion editorial board or Liberty University.

All material submitted becomes property of the Champion. The Champion reserves the right to accept, reject or edit any letter received—according to the Champion stylebook, taste and the Liberty University mission statement.

Send letters to:

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Lynchburg, VA 24502

or drop off in DeMoss Hall 1035.

VISIT THE CHAMPION'S WEBSITE AT  
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# Jerry Falwell Library begins to take shape

Daniel Bartlett  
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With the final steel beam now installed in the Jerry Falwell Library, the structure is beginning to resemble a finished product as building crews continue in the construction process.

"So far, we've been very much on schedule," Associate Dean of the Integrated Learning Resource Center (ILRC) Lowell Walters said.

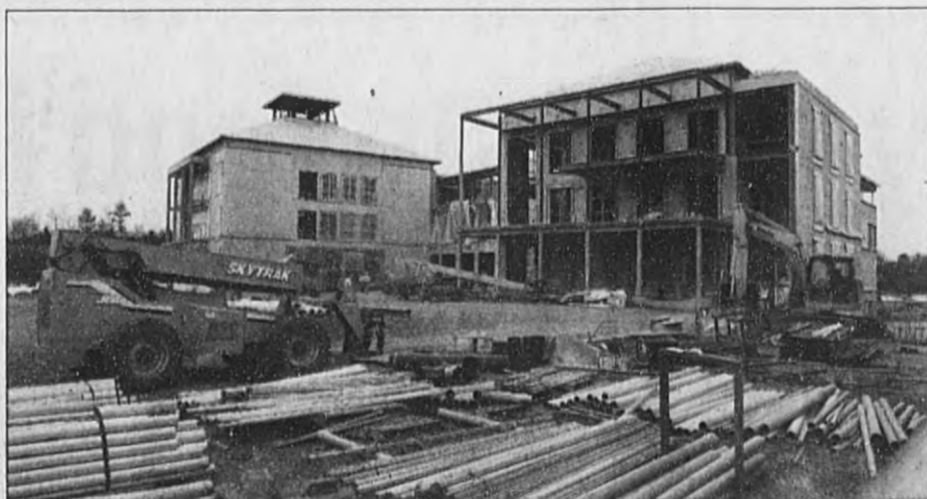
As of Feb. 14, crews had at least two stairwells left to pour for the building and were starting to work on some of the interior walls, according to Walters.

When construction nears completion, the ILRC will begin the delicate process of preparing the transition from the old library to the new.

The automated storage and retrieval system (ASRS), better known as the robotics system, will contain more than 400,000 items. The resources (mostly books) that will not go into the system will be split between two locations — both the traditional, two-story reading room and the four-story book tower, Walters said.

Walters also confirmed that the system will conserve space, allowing for more study rooms and overall square footage.

"We can do a lot of different things that



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

WORK — Construction continues on the multi-million dollar Jerry Falwell Library.

we really didn't have the space to do in the old library," Dean of the ILRC Marcy Pride said.

According to Walters, with the new robotic system, the ILRC is aiming for a five-minute turn around in regards to getting the item from storage to the customer.

Students were previously limited to the first floor library of DeMoss when it came to reading books — unless, of course, the book was checked out, Walters said. With the new retrieval system, students will no

longer be so limited.

"The books will be able to flow through most of the building, and the building is very large," Walters said.

This system will allow for students to take full advantage of the library's massive space to meet their needs, according to Walters.

"In the new library, we're going to be creating an environment that can meet the diverse needs of students in a better fashion than what we were able to do here

(in the old library)," Pride said.

Although construction crews broke ground in March 2012, Walters said that the planning process for Liberty's largest funded building started over two and a half years ago, when initial issues with the old library were discussed.

According to Walters, Tyler Veak, who was the scholarly communication librarian, was one of the first to suggest the idea of building a brand-new library when the discussion of making improvements to the old library initially began.

According to the Liberty News Service, \$50 million has been invested in the new project, which boasts an impressive 170,000 square-foot structure.

Walters said that the new library will seat more than 2,300 students, about 10 percent of the university's future projected goal of 20,000 residential students.

"We believe this facility will become the bridge between Liberty's original vision for academic excellence and the final fulfillment of that vision," Chancellor Jerry Falwell, Jr. said.

The grand opening of the Jerry Falwell Library is projected for late fall 2013.

**BARTLETT is a news reporter.**

## STADIUM continued from A1

started sketching out a field in the area between Green Hall and Williams Stadium and was pleased that it fit," Falwell said. "This site is highly visible to the public, and it provides beautiful views of Liberty Mountain and the Blue Ridge Mountains from the stands. I believe that the new stadium will play a pivotal role in moving our baseball program to national prominence."

After throwing the first official pitch, Falwell said he may have missed his calling in

professional baseball. When he returned to the stands, one of the major league baseball scouts attending the game told Falwell that he clocked the pitch at 86 MPH.

"I felt pretty good for a few minutes until I realized he was only joking," Falwell said.

Players and coaches alike are excited to see how the new facility can help bring merit to the program in the near future.

"It's going to be awesome for recruiting," Head Coach Jim Toman said. "We're just really blessed at Liberty to have an administration that

wants to win." It was no secret that the late Dr. Falwell shared the same love for sports as he did for his ministries. He knew the power that college athletics at Liberty could have in bringing the Gospel to the multitudes.

One of the late Dr. Falwell's favorite sports, and one that he excelled in, was baseball. According to an article on NBC.com, Dr. Falwell underwent a religious conversion in 1952 that led him to transfer to Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Mo. instead of accepting an offer to play professional baseball in the St. Louis Cardinals

organization. "Before my conversion, I had several thoughts about what I would do with my life. For awhile, I thought I would like to play professional baseball," the late Dr. Falwell once said in an interview with the News & Advance. "I loved the game. Playing outfield and hitting the ball meant a great deal to me. I probably was not good enough to make it, but I dreamed about trying anyhow."

**EACHO is the asst. news editor.**

## INCREASE continued from A1

or higher, and either an ACT score at or above 35, or an SAT score at or above 1570, Ritz said. Other academic scholarship levels will also increase under the Academic Achievement Scholarship.

"Basically, the increases range anywhere from \$250 more per year to \$1,000 on top of the Academic Achievement Scholarship (students) would have already received on the old program," Ritz said.

Liberty's Virginia Scholarship, which is available to residents of the commonwealth who are undergraduate students, will increase from \$1,000 per year to

\$1,500 per year, according to Ritz.

"From Liberty, every new Virginia resident student will get \$1,500 per year for four years ... on top of their Virginia tuition assistance grant, which comes from the commonwealth of Virginia and is currently at \$2,800," Ritz said.

Current Liberty students will not see an increase in their Academic Achievement Scholarship or their Virginia Scholarship, and they will not be able to apply for the new salutatorian and valedictorian scholarships.

**CASSIDY is the editor in chief.**



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## Tendency to waste food is trashy

Signs posted at the Reber-Thomas Dining Hall educate students about the magnitude of food thrown away daily

Gabriella Fuller  
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Wasting what we have been blessed with is a problem. In the past two weeks, signs posted around the dining hall have served as an alarming eye-opener to how indifferent we have become toward wasting food.

The notices announce a recently-developed initiative by Sodexo aimed to significantly reduce food waste on campus. According to Julie Pfeifer, marketing manager of Liberty Dining Services, Sodexo embarked on a study to research just how much students throw away in order to prove that waste is a steadily increasing issue on Liberty's campus.

"We were trying to think of a way that we could very tangibly show the students an impact that they could have on campus, so we decided to measure how much food waste they had within the lunch period for five days," Pfeifer said.

The results were shocking. For just five days, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., the dining hall alone experienced approximately 1,080 pounds of food waste. Yes, you read that correctly — more than 1,000 pounds of food was discarded in less than four hours.

I am not generally inclined to endorse every call to action made by the environmentalist movement, but in this case, I believe that the facts posted around the dining hall serve as a call to action. Liberty, we can do better.

We have all heard those repetitive phrases calling us to recycle and protect the earth, so it is easy to disregard this topic as nothing more than a soapbox for the supposed far-left agenda of the environmentalist movement.

The truth is that whether you agree with environment preservation or not, we each hold a level of responsibility on this issue. Beyond the prominent political debate concerning this matter, there is a biblical truth of stewardship that ought to resonate with each one of us as Christians.

"Our stance is that it is our responsibility to take care of the environment," Pfeifer said. "As Christians, we have certain resources that we need to be good stewards of. We were given certain things that we need to be using responsibly and not just assume they'll always be around for our disposal."

Now, I know that as students, the world throws about a million things in our direction. Every time we walk through the back



GABRIELLA FULLER | LIBERTY CHAMPION

**HARD FACTS** — The truth is hard to avoid for Liberty students dining at the Reber-Thomas Dining Hall.

hallway of DeMoss, a new program is asking for participation. There are fundraisers, activities, social events — and let us not forget that this is all on top of busy class schedules.

The solution to waste management is a simple one, though. As I am sure most of your mothers used to tell you, eat what you put on your plate.

Though you may not be single-handedly responsible for the \$165 billion of food that the National Resources Defense Council reported goes to waste worldwide each year, you are accountable for your own actions, your own plate. It may not seem like much, but every plate of food contributes to waste.

Here is the good news: you are not in this alone. Sodexo is doing its part to aid students in the process of reducing waste. Beyond placing signs to bring this issue to the forefront of students' minds, several other proposals exist for the near future.

"There is a discussion of a campus garden, and we're looking at the possibility of doing a small herb garden next to the dining hall so we can start using those herbs in our actual recipes, and then also composting so that we can actually replenish some of that soil with some of our wasted

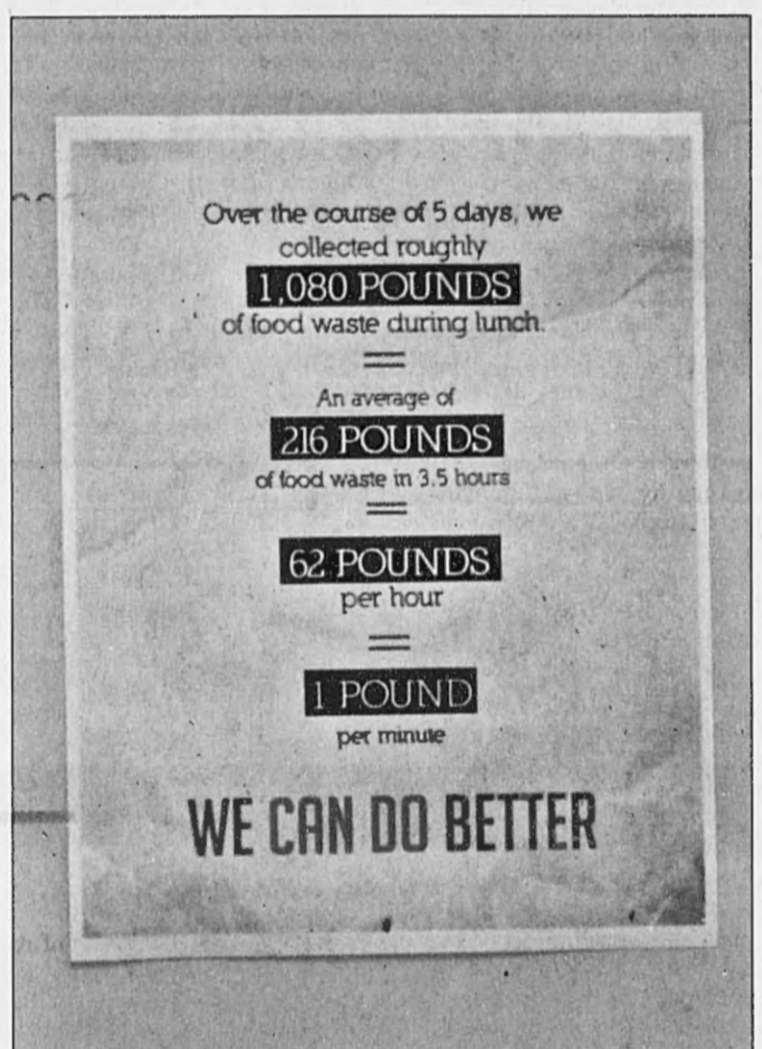
food," Pfeifer said.

You can also look forward to the celebration of Earth Day Monday, April 22, when a new program entitled "I Commit" will aim to further involve students in the sustainability effort. Along with these exciting additions to campus, dining services will soon begin offering sample cups at the main dish lines. So if you see something you have never had before, try giving it a taste before you pile it on your plate.

As Americans accustomed to consumerism, our country as a whole lacks in the department of responsible stewardship. In a nation where the majority of concern comes from consuming too many calories, it is clearly evident that we do not want for food. Imagine the impact, though, that Liberty could have if we decided to get involved amid a society marked by inconsideration.

"I think that if the greater community outside of Lynchburg is starting to catch on that the largest Christian university in the world is doing something about waste minimization and trying to make sure they are taking care of the environment, I think that really says something," Pfeifer said. "I think we set a good example."

So what do you say, Liberty? Let us accept the challenge and



start making a difference in the world around us.

To find out specific ways to get involved, log on to [stopwastingfood.org](http://stopwastingfood.org), a Sodexo website that provides information, sta-

tics and ways to improve our environment.

**FULLER is an opinion writer.**

## From the Desk

by Tabitha Cassidy

An anguishing cry erupts from the snout of a helpless, furry German shepherd as its owner kicks the dog's ribcage and winds back for yet another shot. With blood-matted fur and four broken legs, the once-beloved pet struggles to stay alive for just one more day, but the harsh snap heard throughout the room signifies a fatal blow. The sharp pain of a broken neck and the lack of movement from the beast's lungs indicate

only death. More than 113 pets will meet a similar fate as this dog in the next hour.

According to the Humane Society of the United States, nearly one million animals are abused or killed each year in cases of domestic violence.

While this story undoubtedly leaves you with a silent rage and disgust at whoever would do this senseless act to a pet, if I began with an alternative vignette of an animal's

death, would you have felt differently?

Let us start over.

Gasping and struggling for one more breath, a baby seal's body clings to the last ounce of life before the painful burning sensation that accompanies suffocation overcomes the furry creature. The rhythmic rise and fall of a body indicative of life ceases with a slow outpouring of carbon dioxide from the animal's lungs.

No more gasps of air can be heard from the seal, as it lies dead from the plastic wear that you used for last month's dinner lodged in its throat.

Ten more creatures will follow the desolate end that this poor seal met before the hour is finished.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), more than 100,000 marine mammals die each

year from ingestion of debris dumped in the ocean, or entanglement in ropes, fishing line or other litter rolling in the water's waves.

In both cases, an animal dies as the result of human action, whether it was active or passive is the only difference.

You would not kill or abuse a pet out of rage. Why, then, would you do so through ignorance and lack of concern?

An estimated four billion plastic bags are found floating in the air, stuck in trees, washing up on shores and resting on forest floors throughout the world each year, according to the EPA.

This litter can potentially claim the lives of

countless animals, causing suffocation or harmful chemicals to be released in the bloodstream if ingested.

Yet, while we would call the police on the man beating his dog, we would only frown at the individual throwing a Walmart bag out of his window.

Animals are one of the great joys that humans are able to experience in this life. Their beauty and childlike curiosity causes us infinite happiness, and the benefits that they provide are endless.

Should we anthropomorphize and project our own feelings onto these animals? If it results in an end to pollution that claims their lives and the termination of senseless killing and abuse of these animals, then the answer is an easy yes.

The Lord calls for us to be good stewards of the

earth, to take care of the creatures that we interact with and the environment in which we live. Why, then, do we continue to help lead the world to its own destruction?

Our trash invades the habitats of animals and our inaction causes them to experience painful deaths. The flotsam and jetsam of the ocean should not be painted with plastic and pain, it should be laced with resourcefulness and concern.

We should stand up for the creatures of this earth and the environments that we share together. Otherwise, what good stewards are we?

Proverbs 12:10 says, "The godly care for their animals, but the wicked are always cruel."

**CASSIDY is the editor in chief.**



CASSIDY



# Recent SNL skit crosses the line

The renowned comedy show's parody commercial depicting Jesus Christ as a vigilante murderer was a classless display

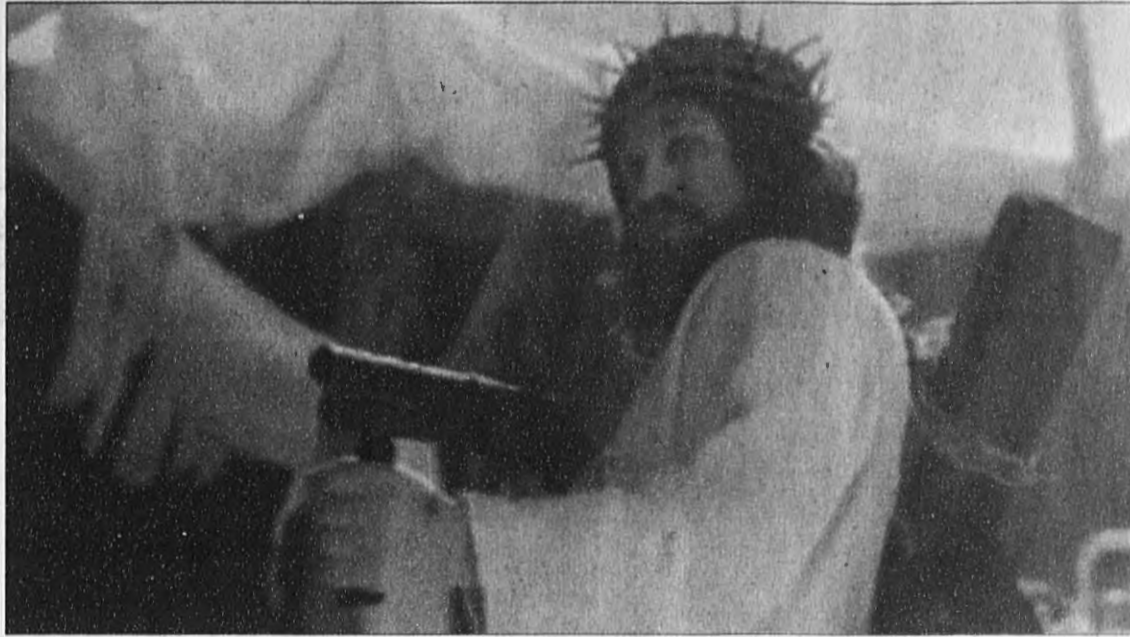
Andrew Woolfolk  
alwoolfolk@liberty.edu

Imagine this: a television show depicts the Islamic prophet Muhammad as a renegade murderer, parading around and ignoring what good tenets the Islamic religion has.

Now, imagine the reaction that the general public would have after that episode aired. Muslims and many others would be outraged, completely incensed by the fact that a show would dare blaspheme a man they consider to be the central figure of their faith.

A similar situation has occurred in real life, yet the reaction has been shockingly subdued. Saturday Night Live (SNL), one of the longest-running comedy shows in television history, decided to attack Christianity during their Feb. 16 episode, blatantly mocking Jesus Christ.

During the program, the cast decided to make a parody commercial of the recently-released movie entitled "Django Unchained." For those who do not frequent the movie theater, the R-rated film focuses on the story of a freed slave during the Old West era. The central character, Django, crosses the country in search of his wife, seeking bloody



YOUTUBE SCREENSHOT

NO LAUGHING MATTER — It is hard to imagine Jesus appreciating Saturday Night Live's skit.

revenge against those who get in his way or threaten to harm his love.

SNL's parody commercial was for a fictitious movie called DJesus Uncrossed. In the two-minute spot, Jesus is portrayed as a resurrected man searching for retribution against those who wronged him. The character steps out of his tomb to proclaim, "Guess who's back," carries a cross on his back and wields knives and machine guns

as he murders Judas Iscariot, as well as countless Roman soldiers.

"He's preaching everything but forgiveness," the commercial's narrator said.

While a few Christian news sites spoke out to call the skit, among other things, "the most blasphemous skit in SNL history," the controversy had mostly died down within a few days.

Now, go back to that same situation with Islam. In 2006, and more recently in 2010, Comedy

Central's notoriously raunchy show South Park depicted Muhammad in an unsurprisingly unfavorable way. In the days following, countless outlets said that South Park had gone too far. Islamic groups everywhere were outraged, and Comedy Central refused to show the episode without featuring a black bar over the character's image and blurring any references to his name.

The question is, why the double standard?

One can only deduce that Christians are not vocal enough about how intolerable this type of humor is. God frequently warns us of the dangers of blaspheming him. Even the most basic of instructions in the Bible, the Ten Commandments, tells us not to take the Lord's name in vain.

While it is unlikely that the formation of a petition or a boycott would cause the show to be canceled, or even cause change for that matter, this is no excuse for apathy. Television executives think twice before insulting Islam because they fear the backlash, but it seems that Christians do not get upset enough to make NBC headquarters bat an eye. When shows like SNL pull a stunt like this, they insult our religion and they dare us to respond.

In a world that seems to be increasingly demanding that every culture, hobby and lifestyle choice be respected, I think it is time for Christianity to get its fair share — or at least an apology.

Until then, SNL will have to deal with having one less viewer.

Hey, it is not much, but it is a start.

WOOLFOLK is the opinion editor.

# Decision to raise minimum wage is not worth it

The proposed increase, the first since 2009, would be harmful to low-income employees and the economy

Jacob Tellers  
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Do you like the idea of a 20-percent pay increase? In his State of the Union address, President Barack Obama suggested increasing the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$9.00 an hour.

Most college students, myself included, have worked or are working minimum wage jobs. I can say that I would absolutely love to get paid an extra \$2 to \$3 an hour.

At face value, it seems like an extremely good idea that would be beneficial to many lower-income workers, including college students. Despite its appearance as a useful policy change, drastic increase in the minimum wage would actually be harmful to both the economy as a whole and to lower-income workers.

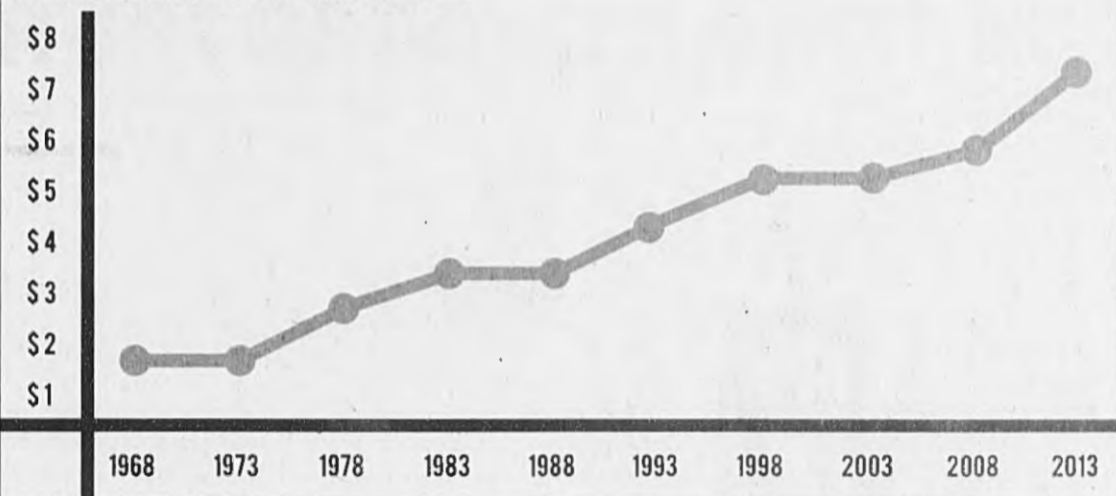
To be clear, having a minimum wage is important — it sets a necessary baseline pay that protects workers and makes sure that they are adequately compensated. However, to drastically increase it like Obama and other Democrats, including Sen. Tom Harkin and Rep. George Miller, are suggesting is the wrong approach and will not be effective.

Harkin and Miller have taken an even stronger stance than Obama.

"We have been working together again this year on our own new legislative proposal to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10," Harkin and Miller said in a joint press release.

A company that employ workers at or close to minimum wage include retailers, grocery stores

## MINIMUM WAGE



ELLIOT MOSHER | LIBERTY CHAMPION

BOTTOM LINE — The level of minimum wage has started increasing more rapidly in recent years, and President Obama is fighting to raise it further.

and restaurants. About 18 million workers would see pay increases to \$9 an hour, according to the Economic Policy Institute. Most of those increases would not be the full \$1.75 amount, as, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, only 3.8 million workers were paid either at or below the federal mandate.

Minimum wage workers will not be the only people getting raises. Any increase will have a proportionate effect throughout the workforce. If a manager is getting paid \$11 an hour and the minimum wage for entry-level positions goes up to \$10, the manager will likely receive a pay raise. In order to maintain a fair pay scale, everyone on the line would also receive pay increases.

A rise in wages seems good for

workers until the other effects are considered. If the money wage is increased, the money has to come from somewhere.

Companies have two options in response to the extra costs of a minimum wage increase. In order to maintain their profits, they can either cut costs or increase revenue. Both of these options would be harmful to the economy.

Cutting costs probably means either firing workers, or not hiring as many new employees. Either way, it means fewer jobs.

David Neumark, University of California at Irvine economist, explained to the Wall Street Journal that out of 100 major studies on the minimum wage, 85 percent of them "find a negative employment effect on low-skilled workers."

The other option companies have is to increase revenue, which means that they will have to increase the price on their goods and services.

Companies in almost every area of the economy have minimum wage employees, which means that the cost of most basic services will go up. Everything from food to clothing to basic items that people buy at Walmart have a decent chance of costing more as those companies try to maintain their profits.

"Prices unambiguously increase in response to a minimum wage change," research in 2008 by the Journal of Human Resources concluded.

The only winner in the minimum wage increase is the politicians who are able to play it off as doing something good for the

people. It is nothing other than a public relations move to win votes.

Regardless of the response to minimum wage increases, it is not a policy that will help the poor or the economy. It is not possible to legislate people out of poverty. If someone wants to make more than minimum wage, then they need to learn a skillset that will get them into a better situation.

It is unfortunate, but unless we want to have a communist society where everyone gets paid exactly the same amount, there will be people who get paid more than others.

The people who are paid less are those who do the work that pretty much everyone is physically capable of doing. Wages are paid in proportion to the rarity of someone's skill. That is why Tom Brady makes millions and Joe the Walmart cashier does not. That is why doctors make more than people flipping hamburgers.

The result of the proposed minimum wage increase is that wages overall will be higher, but at the cost of losing jobs and an inflation that will negate any benefit of increased wages. It is a pointless proposal designed by Democrats to win votes, not bolster the economy. A better, but less exciting, alternative would be to raise the minimum wage constantly to match inflation, but to do it very gradually so as to not negatively affect the economy.

TELLERS is an opinion writer.



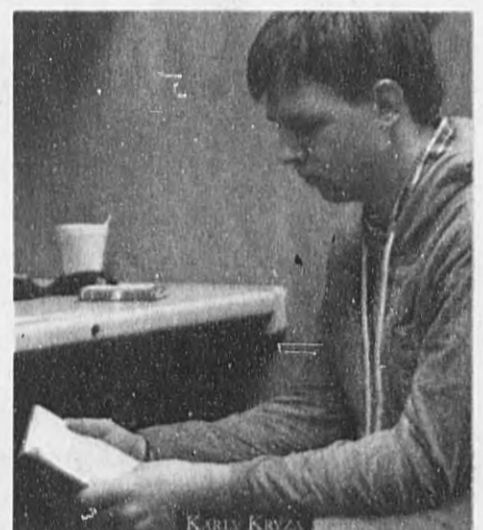
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KARLE KIRZA



# Keys to success

Kara Smith  
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The School of Business welcomed special guest Doug Hughes to their convocation service Monday, Feb. 18, where students heard first-hand what it takes to succeed and the steps to getting there.

Hughes, the chief sales officer at McGraw-Hill, began by introducing himself and Ulrik Christensen, the CEO for Area9.

"Dr. Christensen has one of the most impactful companies," Hughes said. "He left the medical field to impact education, and he is dedicated to students to help them achieve."

Christensen's company is the adaptive learning engine behind McGraw-Hill's new range of LearnSmart products, according to the Area9 website.

"Most importantly, we can see that we open up (students') eyes to the facts of what learning is," Christensen said. "So ultimately, we see that (students) study more when they use the LearnSmart Module than less. Originally, we thought that they would study less. We actually opened their eyes up to the fact that studying is needed."

Technology has a dramatic impact on students' performance, according to Hughes. Using it cuts failure rates in half, which is why Hughes said that he is so passionate about it.

His keys to success are keeping your commitments, differentiation, courageous leadership and belief. According to Hughes, these are four things that helped him get where he is today.

Hughes recalled his days in the U.S. Army, where he was encouraged to never quit something that he starts and to keep pushing forward. He drew from college experience to help him start an online learning center at the university he attended, which then led to an interview that put him where he is now.

"I differentiated myself in college so much that the (Vice President) of Sales for McGraw-Hill and the Southeast asked the university I attended for their top business technology student, and because of all the work that I had done for the university, everything came in my name," Hughes said.

Hughes reminded students that success is simple, but to not confuse the word simple with easy.

"I took away from it that you always need to believe in yourself, even when you just want to go back on what you believe in, and that is the true key to success," senior and business finance major Christine Purdy said.

Hughes ended his message with the same advice that the late Dr. Jerry Falwell would have given if he were here today — never quit.

SMITH is a news reporter.

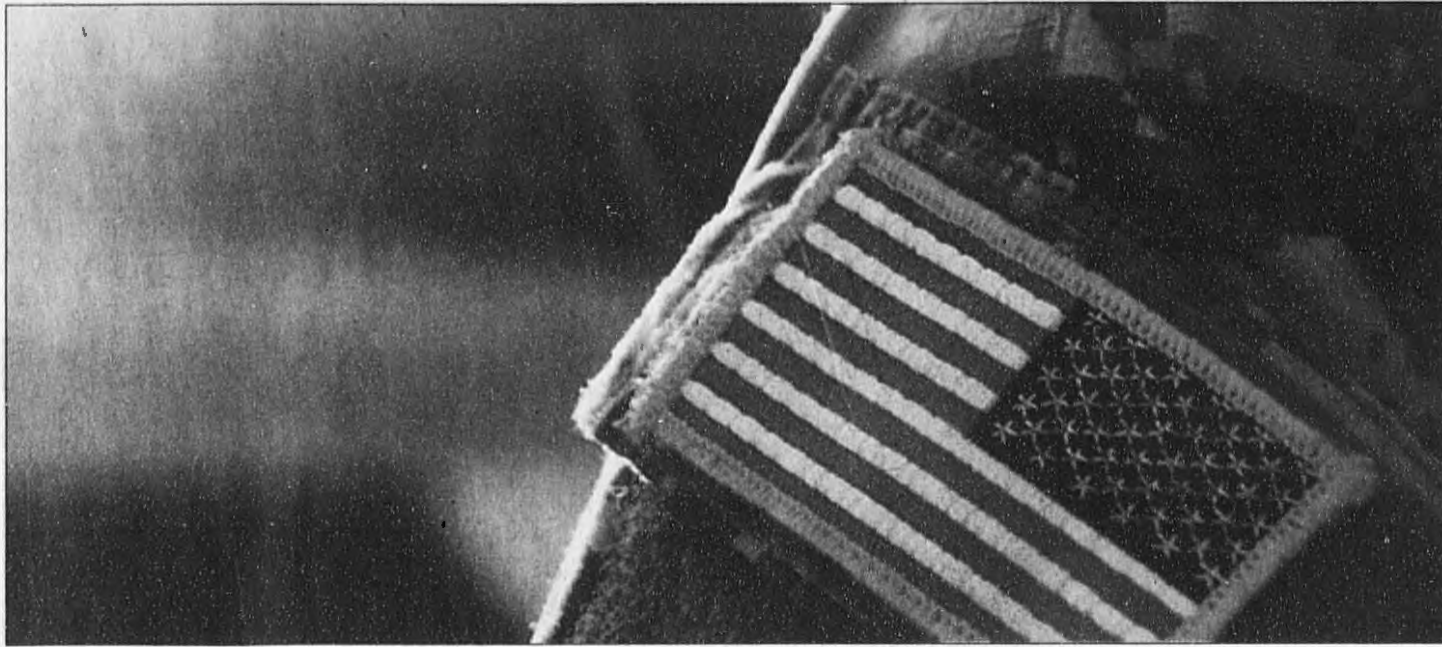


PHOTO PROVIDED

FREEDOM — Cadets who have graduated from the ROTC program serve in various branches of the military all over the world.

## ROTC wins MacArthur award

Melanie Oelrich  
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Liberty University's ROTC Eagle Battalion of Virginia's (UVA) Cavalier Battalion program was recently recognized for their outstanding achievements, both in scholastics and military exercises.

In 2001, Liberty's Eagle Battalion was re-established to partner with UVA's Cavalier Battalion, which is based out of Charlottesville, to form one program in 2001, according to the ROTC website.

Every year, the MacArthur award is given to a brigade, and this year marks the first time that Liberty and UVA have been recognized. This award takes into consideration the academic and military performance of the Army ROTC cadets, including their GPAs and their performance at the Leader Development and Assessment Course, which the

cadets participate in between the summer of their third and fourth year.

According to Capt. Ezzo, the recruiting operations officer for the ROTC program, the award also considers the ranking of cadets on the National Order of Merit List (OML), their ability to meet the commissioning goal and the retention rates of cadets from one year to the next.

Liberty and UVA have done and exceeded that criteria for the past three years, according to Ezzo.

"The current fourth year class at Liberty and UVA will commission 44 new Second Lieutenants in May, and of those 44, five were in the top 10 percent nationally, and 15 were Distinguished Military Graduates, meaning they were in the top 20 percent of the National OML," Ezzo said.

Liberty and UVA's program was chosen out of 38 schools in their brigade to receive the

award for the 2011-12 academic school year, according to Ezzo.

"Being nominated for and winning this award is a testament to the outstanding quality of the cadets in the program and their willingness to be part of something larger than themselves," Liberty and UVA professor of military science Lt. Col. Michael Binetti said. "It is also a great reflection of the tremendously talented cadre (squad) and staff who instruct the cadets and help ensure the program functions seamlessly on a daily basis."

The MacArthur award is a wonderful way to recognize the hard work of so many people who make the program succeed, according to Binetti.

"I constantly tell people about how great our school, cadets and Army ROTC programs are," Binetti said. "This award validates those claims."

According to Ezzo, many of the students who are inter-

ested in the military program and wish to join Liberty and UVA's program also compete for admission to the service academies.

"Recognition like the MacArthur award goes a long way to validate the quality of the Liberty University and UVA's ROTC program, and articulates to students that we are capable of producing the same high quality army officers as West Point and a great deal of more personal and professional opportunities along the way," Ezzo said.

Cadet graduates from the Eagle Battalion currently serve in various branches of the U.S. Army across the globe as they fulfill Liberty's founding mission of serving Christ throughout the nations, according to the ROTC website.

OELRICH is the news editor.

## Marine marches for missions

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Gunfire echoed across the African town of Bujumbura, Burundi as doors quickly shut, ceasefire broken and lives halted as the bullets pierced the air. Seven years after the genocide in Rwanda, the African town was ravaged in turmoil yet again, according to Marine James Iversen.



IVERSEN

"Everyone who was working for the Department of State had to be (at) home — the embassy was closed," Iversen said. "The only people working were the Marines."

A new cease-fire agreement was drawn in Burundi, no casualties resulted and for Iversen, it was just another day at work.

Before coming to Liberty, Iversen spent three years overseas guarding embassies in

Burundi, New Zealand and Kazakhstan, staying one year in each location.

"Other countries work very hard to get our secrets, so the Marines are just there to control," Iversen said.

Before guarding embassies, Iversen repaired the military radios in Iraq as a ground communications organizational repairman.

"I'm the kind of person who doesn't worry about tomorrow or where God is directing me," Iversen said. "He's been so transparent, as far as guidance, that I don't really think about it too much."

According to Iversen, his decision to join the military was under divine influence. Before his military career at age 20, he faced college with no direction or plan for his life. One day, a lance corporal on recruiter's assistance asked Iversen, asking him if he ever considered joining the military.

"Two weeks beforehand, my parents were praying for me," Iversen said. "My parents agreed that it would be good

(for me) to join the military, but they didn't say anything at all."

After this encounter, Iversen had signed a contract with the Marines, his commitment made. Iversen left for bootcamp May 15, 2005 at Parris Island, S.C.

"It was clearly God's will that I joined the Marine Corps," Iversen said.

Looking back, Iversen never regretted his quick decision to join the military. With his overseas travel came many opportunities to share God's love with hurting people.

"When I was in Burundi, one of my drivers was a pastor," Iversen said. "We had four drivers — three were Muslim, and one was a Christian. Right before I left, I was able to buy 300 Bibles, and I had them shipped to the country."

Since 2008, Iversen has been in contact with the preacher, buying him clothes and goats as well as helping him fund the new medical center.

"When I look back at that and the help I was able to give him because of being able to

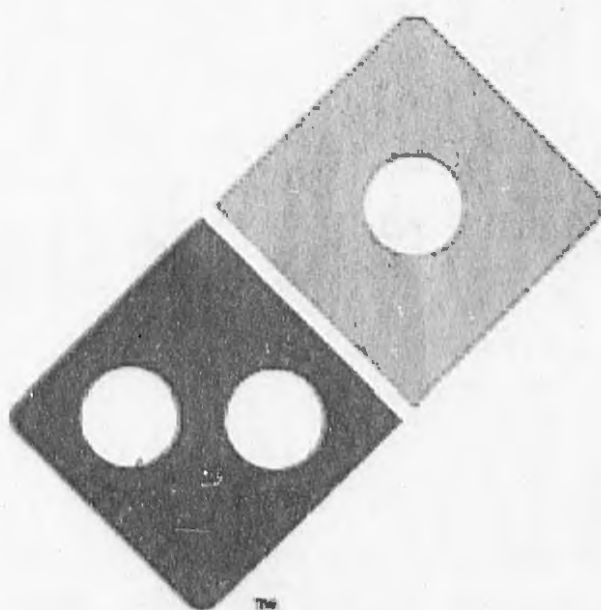
work with the Department of State overseas, I was just like, 'This is what I want to do as a career,'" Iversen said.

Iversen was enlisted in active duty with the Marines for close to six years before he was discharged after his contract ended.

According to Iversen, he knew he wanted to go back to school to pursue a job that would put him overseas again. Now a senior at Liberty, Iversen hopes to one day work with the Department of State as a diplomatic security service special agent.

Trusting God to lead him every day, whether as a Marine or as a Liberty student, Iversen looks forward to the future and each opportunity ahead. According to Iversen, the experiences he gained while in the military easily translate to life at Liberty, giving him the confidence to succeed.

WARRENDER is an assistant section editor.



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# Jazz Ensemble travels to Windy City

## Liberty University competitive musicians participated in the Elmhurst College Jazz Festival in Chicago

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Having never traveled to a competition before, the Liberty University Jazz Ensemble made its intercollegiate debut Feb. 21-23, attending the 46th annual Elmhurst College Jazz Festival in the western suburbs of Chicago.

"They (the audience) were very pleased with our performance," Liberty University Director of Bands Stephen Kerr said. "People went out of their way to say how much they valued our contribution to the festival."

Kerr characterized the trip as successful on three fronts — experiencing a festival as both performers and audience members, sharing Liberty's talent with others who have a knowledge of their craft, and learning from and about other groups from around the country.

"We achieved what we set out to do with all three of those things," Kerr said.

As newcomers to the competition, Kerr and his band selected pieces strategically — variety was a priority. The band played a combination of traditional and avant-garde arrangements, sprinkled with vocal numbers with ties to Broadway and contemporary recording artists. The result was a unique blend of several styles that showcased the band's wide range of skills.

"We demonstrated a wide pallet of performance," Kerr said. "Festivals exist so groups can hear new things."

"Danny Goes to Sowetto," composed by Darryl Brenzel, was one of the newer pieces that Liberty introduced to the Chicago audience. Kerr said that the score is meant to be a musical interpretation of a young Irish-



PHOTO PROVIDED

FESTIVAL — Jazz Ensemble members perform along with 30 other colleges and universities from all across the country before a crowd of roughly 1,000 people.

man going to Africa. As such, the piece is a juxtaposition of two different musical genres.

It begins with a lengthy penny whistle solo, which was performed by freshman alto saxophonist Rebekah Neale.

"I had to learn penny whistle from scratch," Neale said. "It was intimidating, but after practicing a lot, I got more comfortable with it. While Dr. Kerr was introducing me, I just prayed, and it turned out well."

For Kerr, "Danny Goes to Sowetto" — and namely, Neale's solo effort — was one of the high points of Liberty's performance.

"It set an entirely different mood from anything they had

heard that day," he said. "There was nothing like it all day."

Also contributing a solid performance for Liberty was Jediah Bayes, a senior pianist who was given an Outstanding Recognition award for overall musicianship and improvisational performance by the three adjudicators — all of whom have past or present connections to the Count Basie Orchestra.

Bayes was featured several times, with his longest solo being heard during the opening chart, "I Be Serious 'Bout Them Blues."

"Jed (Bayes) brings the ensemble together," junior guitarist Stuart Payne said. "A lot of judg-

es look for that 'it factor' — he brings that to the table."

"He brings a lot of style and awesomeness," sophomore trombone player Bryan Clark said. "It (the solo) was something that the crowd could follow. It had a theme. It wasn't just a collection of notes."

Liberty had a strong showing in improvisation, but Kerr said that he looks forward to improving the talent as the School of Music moves forward with plans to implement a new jazz studies program — possibly as soon as next fall.

What is currently a strength on an individual level will become more of an ensemble strength,

Kerr said.

In addition to the traditional big band instrumentation, the Jazz Ensemble featured vocalist Katy Davis on two pieces.

Payne thought the inclusion of a vocalist was a shrewd move.

"The interaction between the vocalist and the band and the vocalist with the crowd was great," he said. "She (Davis) gave the audience a face and a personality that they could relate to. Rather than picking a face out of a large ensemble, they had one out in front telling them a story."

According to Kerr, a competitive jazz ensemble at Liberty was a long time in the making. The trip to Chicago was the next logical step in the progression of a group heading down the road toward more serious musicianship and notoriety.

"For a long time, jazz was thought of to be a genre that was not appropriate for a Christian school," he said.

According to Kerr, the Jazz Ensemble slowly evolved out of the basketball pep band over the course of a decade. Until this year, the pep band and the jazz ensemble were composed of the same musicians. In the fall, the group played jazz concerts. In the spring, the group still played a couple of jazz gigs, but the focus switched to basketball entertainment.

This year, the groups were split to form a dedicated jazz ensemble and a stand-alone pep band. Kerr is pleased with what he has seen in the trial run.

"Both groups have noticeably benefitted from it," he said.

HARVEY is the sports editor.

### ECHOLIGHT continued from A1

EchoLight pledges up to \$1 million to produce and distribute a new film from the best film winner in this year's 168 Film Project, "a faith-based incubator for artists focused on the media," according to the company's website.

This action follows similar commitments that EchoLight has made, including a \$250,000 donation to the San Antonio Independent Christian Film Festival and a multi-million dollar deal over five years with Liberty's Cinematic Arts program, according to the press release.

The Cinematic Arts Zaki Gordon Center opened its doors to aspiring filmmakers in 2012.

"Over a five-year span, the program's goal is to produce and distribute at least five movies," Executive Director Stephan Schultze said. "These movies will incorporate Liberty's Cinematic Arts students, staff and state-of-the-art facilities with EchoLight Studios' development and distribution professionals to provide a seamless process for concept to distribution on these movies."

According to Schultze, every course taken in Cinematic Arts will lead students toward the completion of a feature film.

"There should be no compromise in educating filmmakers that does not include immersing students in a real world model,"



LAUREN ADRIANCE | LIBERTY CHAMPION

EXPERIENCE — Students in Liberty's Cinematic Arts program receive advice.

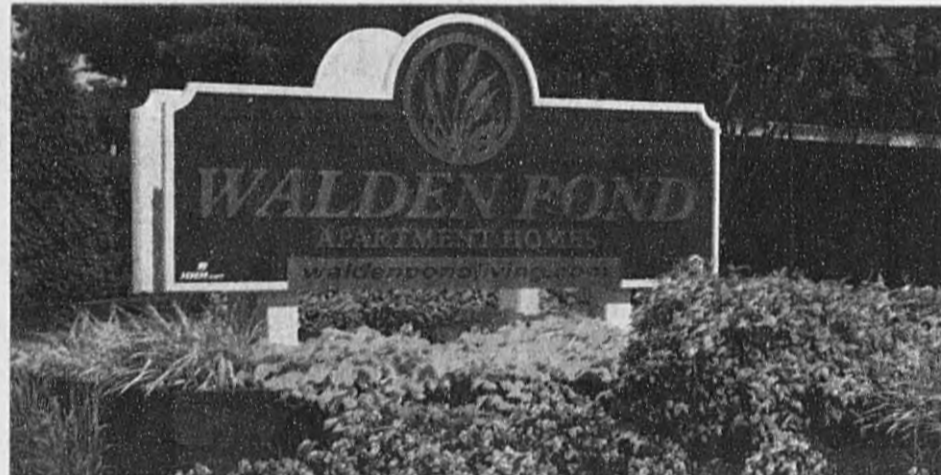
Schultze said.

According to EchoLight President Bobby Downes, who spoke at the film school's dedication last September, EchoLight's multi-million dollar commitment to Christian filmmakers is designed to encourage them to continue to excel.

"These awards build on EchoLight's commitment to not only distribute quality faith and family films, but also to encourage excellence among the coming generation of filmmakers," Downes said in the release.

In addition to the awards supporting new creators, EchoLight distributes the works of established filmmakers in the faith and family genre and produces original works, according to the press release.

OELRICH is the news editor.



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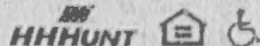
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**Softball**

Liberty 5  
East Carolina 4

**W. Tennis**

Liberty 4  
Morgan State 0

**W. Basketball**

Liberty 55  
G-Webb 40

**W. Lacrosse**

Lafayette 16  
Liberty 10

**Swimming**

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Championships

## At a glance

- The Flames victory against the Governors was their first-ever BracketBusters series win.
- As a team, Liberty scored 40 of its 79 points in the paint against Austin Peay.
- JR Coronado had his third double-double of the year with 10 points and grabbed 18 rebounds, which is a Liberty Vines Center record.
- With three threes against the Governors, Davon Marshall moved into fourth all-time for three-point field goals in a single season (77).
- John Caleb Sanders has averaged 20.8 points, 6.1 assists and 5.6 rebounds in the last six games.
- Tavares Speaks has averaged 19.5 points in the last four games.

## freeze frames



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

AERIAL ASSAULT — John Caleb Sanders splits two defenders to attempt a lay-up.

## Track's sweet 16th

Emily Brown  
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Liberty continued to dominate in the Big South Track and Field Indoor Championships Feb. 21 and 22, bringing home a men's conference championship title for the 16th straight year. The women's squad captured second place in the competition, finishing behind Coastal Carolina.

The Liberty men coasted to an easy victory in the 2013 conference championship. The Flames tallied 163.5 points over the two days of competition, with their closest competitor finishing 65 points back.

Liberty handled the field in the conference meet. The men's team received a significant number of points after posting first-place finishes in three different events.

Redshirt senior thrower Ryan Smith led the way for the Flames in the field. Smith threw for 59-0.25, almost five feet farther than the second-place finisher, to capture an individual victory in the shot put. The win was Smith's fourth consecutive victory in the indoor event.

"Basically, this was a mental challenge to not crack under pressure," Smith said. "I sealed the competition on the very first throw and had a few chances to hit a big throw, and I did."

Smith continued his success in the weight throwing competition. The redshirt senior's 62-8.5 toss earned him second place.

The Flames also received 23.5 team points in the pole vault. Redshirt freshman Cody Bingham cleared 15.5 for first place in the event, while redshirt senior Cody Fridgen finished runner-up.

See HISTORY, B4

## LU recalls Governors

Flames outlast Austin Peay State University, win in overtime

Steven Sullivan  
ssullivan5@liberty.edu

The Liberty Flames basketball team faced off against the Austin Peay State University Governors in the Ramada Worldwide BracketBuster series, Saturday, Feb. 23. The Flames prevailed 79-73 in overtime.

Travis Betran of Austin Peay made

two late three pointers in the second half to send the game into the Flames second overtime game of the season. Liberty made all eight of their free throws in the overtime to defeat Austin Peay.

The Governors average 7.5 threes a game, and in the first half, they almost matched that average with six. Both teams ended the first half shooting

50 percent from the field, but Liberty was down by eight. Missed free throws and three pointers by Liberty attributed to this early deficit.

"(During the) first half, we exchanged baskets, and it was kind of hard to get a lead," Tavares Speaks said.

In the second half, Head Coach Dale Layer made some

necessary changes in order to help get the team back from an eight-point deficit.

"Our defense intensity and rebounding in the second half were the difference in the game," Layer said. "They got into a rhythm in the first half, and I thought we broke their

See RAMADA, B4

## Flames ousted from tourney

Liberty falls in the second round to James Madison in OT

Michael Williams  
erbrown@liberty.edu

Liberty University forward Chad Dockstader placed a perfect shot behind the Radford University goaltender to clinch the Blue Ridge Hockey Conference (BRHC) first-round victory over the Highlanders, 4-3. However, Liberty was downed by James Madison University 4-3 in

overtime. Throughout the evening, the Flames DIII hockey team looked sluggish and was having trouble getting into the offensive end, thanks to Radford's strong and stingy defense.

"They (Radford) weren't going to roll over on us," Head Coach Tristian Chambers said.

Seven minutes into the

game, the Flames finally broke the defense when captain Brandon Cockburn tucked in a loose rebound. Radford answered back when a clearing shot passed by goaltender John Hyland, tying the game, 1-1. The Highlanders took advantage on a power play in the final moments of the game as Nick Peters slapped one

See TOURNEY, B4



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

SUSPENSE — Josh Klaking prepares for a faceoff against Radford.

## We'll see you at the game

M. Basketball vs.  
Virginia Military Inst.  
Feb. 26 @ 7 p.m.

Softball vs.  
Hampton  
Feb. 27 @ 2 & 4 p.m.

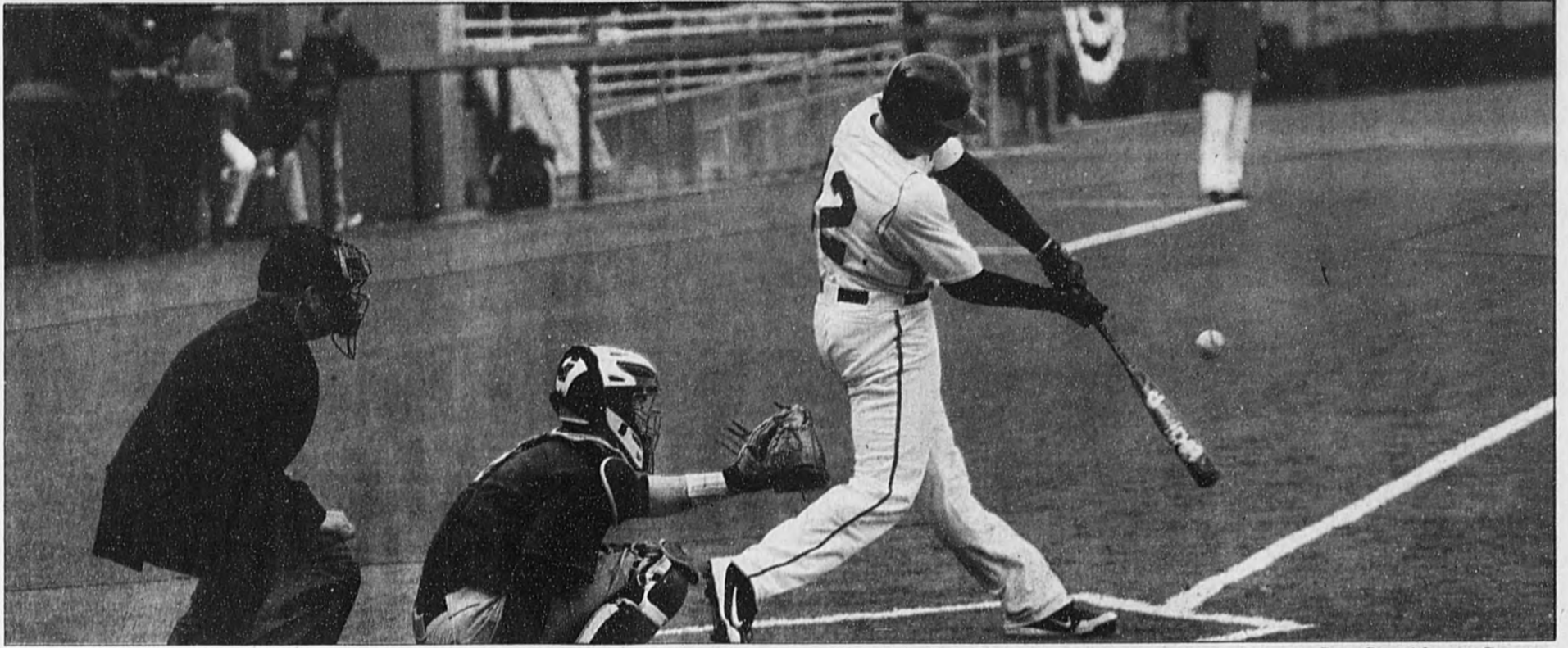
W. Basketball vs.  
Coastal Carolina  
Feb. 28 @ 7 p.m.

Baseball vs.  
Army  
March 1 @ 3 p.m.

Baseball vs.  
Siena  
March 2 @ 3 p.m.



# Take me out to



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

CRACK OF THE BAT — The Flames introduced their nearly-completed ballpark to the public, Saturday Feb. 23. More than 2,500 turned out to see the Flames 4-1 victory.

## Home opener, stadium success

Flames take series from the Penn State Nittany Lions in the much anticipated public debut of new ballpark

Greg Leasure  
gleasure@liberty.edu

### Game One

Red towels flooded the stands, and more than 2,500 fans roared as Chancellor Jerry Falwell, Jr. threw out the first pitch. Almost three hours later, Liberty Flames pitcher Ashton Perritt reached back and blew a 91 mph fastball past Penn State University's J.C. Coban, and it was over.

The Flames beat the Penn State Nittany Lions by a score of 4-1 Saturday afternoon in the inaugural game at the Liberty Baseball Stadium, improving their overall record to 2-2.

"We had a great crowd, and we played pretty solid defense," Liberty Head Coach Jim Toman said. "Penn State is a quality program, and they had a senior pitcher on the mound who pitched very well, so we were very fortunate to win. I'm proud of the guys, and it was just a great environment."

The team did get to practice on the new field twice before the first game Saturday, but according to Liberty first baseman Alex Close, the atmosphere felt a lot better with a crowd in the stands.

"It was a blast," Close said. "We've never lost on this field. That's what Jeff Barber said after the game. It was fun."

The Nittany Lions stole the first run of the game in the top of the first inning, but Flames center fielder Ryan Cordell woke up his team's offense with a double down the left field line — the first Flames hit in the new stadium. The Flames knotted the score at one during that fourth inning, and would later take the lead.

"We wanted to open up the stadium the right way and get a win," Cordell said. "A lot of our guys played really well, and the pitchers did great. It was nice to get a win in our first game here."

Catcher and team captain Trey Wimmer only notched one hit on the day, but he certainly made it count. Penn State relief pitcher Cody Lewis got one out in the seventh inning before loading the bases. Wimmer then hit a hard ground ball to third base that deflected off the Penn State player's glove and found its way into left field for a two-run single.

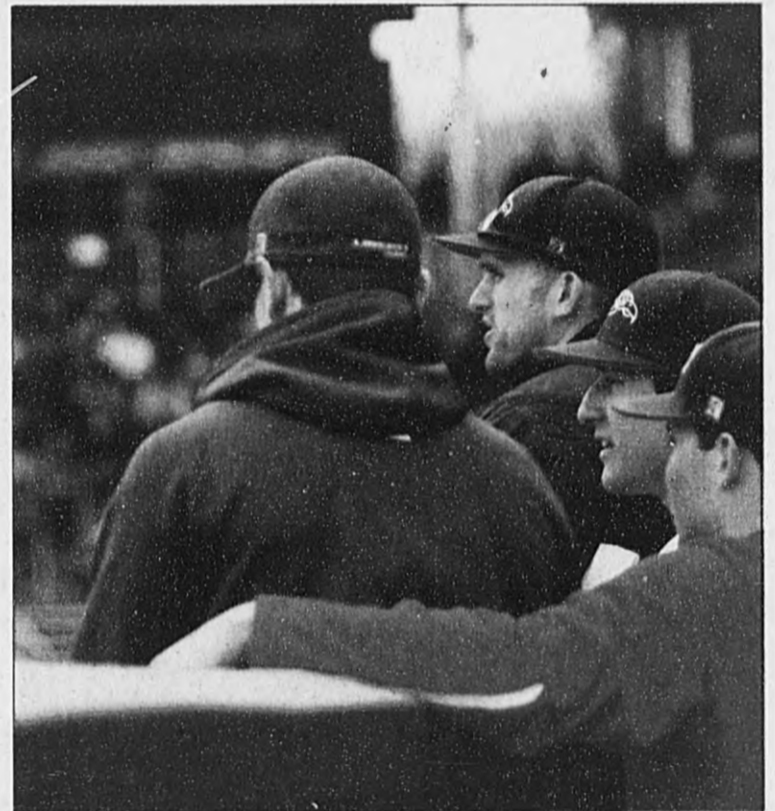
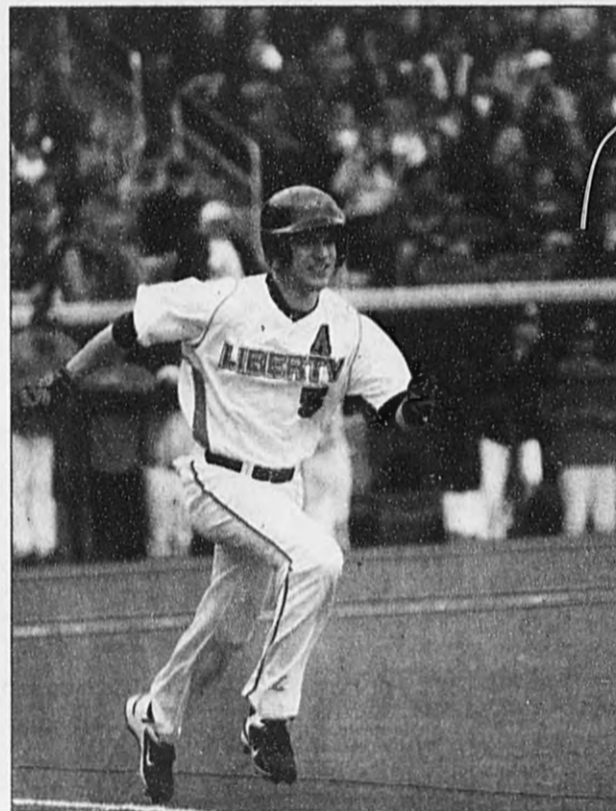
An infield hit by Nick Paxton later that inning would extend Liberty's lead to 4-1, but Wimmer's single would turn out to be the game-winning hit.

"It was a lot of fun," Wimmer said. "I will remember that for a long time."

According to Wimmer, the team appreciated having more fans to support the team in the new stadium, and he was not alone in his appreciation for the team's fan base. Multiple Flames players took to Twitter and Facebook almost immediately after the game to give their thanks to the people who attended the home opener despite 40-degree temperatures.

Flames pitcher Carson Herndon lasted more than five innings on the mound, striking out three and giving up only one run. Relief pitchers Matt Marsh, Robert Gray and Ashton Perritt nailed down the win and combined to hold Penn State to only three hits over four scoreless innings.

"We have four or five different guys



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

MEMORABLE — (Top) A view of the Liberty monogram from the stands. (Bottom left) Senior infielder Dalton Sype (5) had two hits and an RBI in the final game of the series. (Bottom right) Flames players look toward the field from the dugout.

(who) we can use, and we decided to go with Marsh and the matchup lefty, Gray, and Perritt today," Toman said. "It worked, so I'm happy to see that."

According to Liberty Athletic Director Jeff Barber, construction on the new stadium will continue throughout the season, but it should be completed when the Flames host the Big South Conference Championship Tournament in May.

### Game Two

The Flames took both games Sunday, Feb. 24, winning the first 12-3 and the second 6-1 and concluding the home opening series with a sweep.

In the first game of two, Liberty opened with a 5-0 lead in the third inning behind six hits. After Penn State came within two in the top of the sixth inning, Liberty added seven more runs en route to a nine-run win.

Wimmer led the Flames with three RBIs off two hits.

### Game Three

In the final game of the afternoon and the series, Wimmer continued to stay hot, going 3-3 with two doubles and a triple. Liberty added three runs in the second inning. Justin Sizemore was walked to start the frame by Penn State pitch Tay-

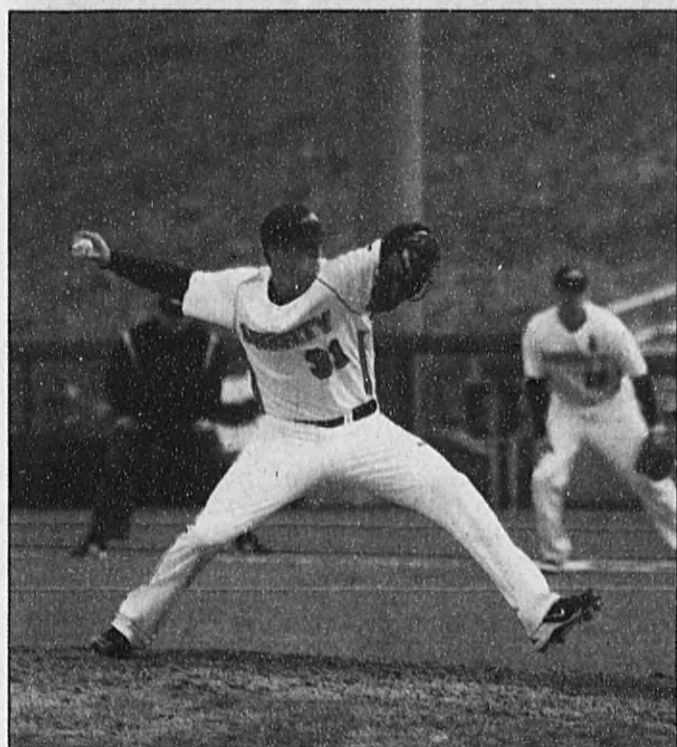
lor Patton. After a Wimmer double and a passed ball, Sizemore put the first points on the board. Wimmer scored off Sype's single to the right field. Nick Lacik also scored from third base off a bunt by Nick Paxton.

Liberty looks to continue its four-game winning streak as the Flames travel to take on the Elon University Phoenix Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 5 p.m.

**LEASURE is the feature editor.**



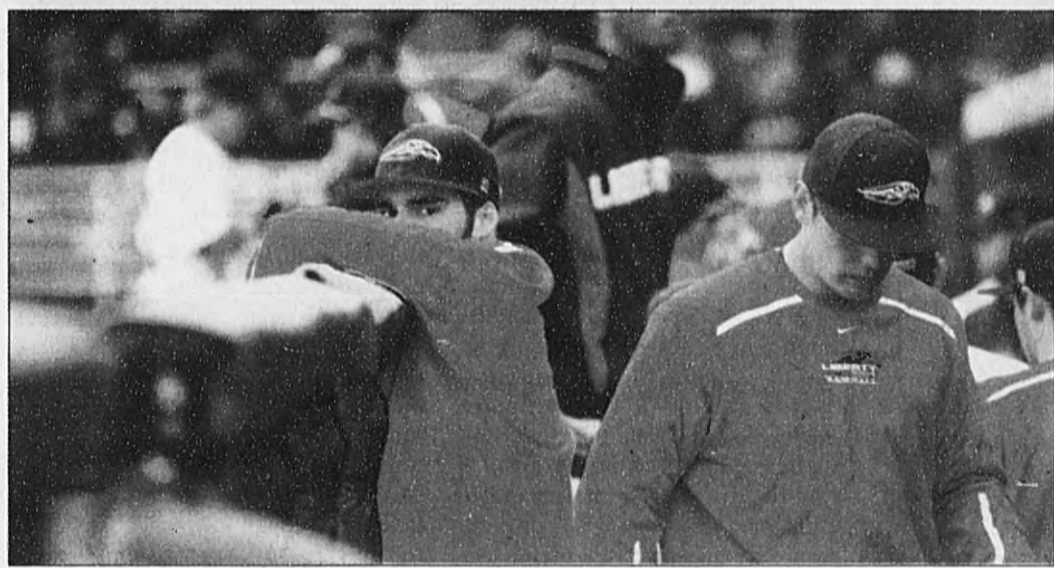
# the ballgame



As Chancellor Jerry Falwell, Jr. gazed out over the field, a few thoughts ran through his mind.

"I was thinking how beautiful the new stadium was and that maybe it was a sign of God's future blessings on the team that we won our first game in the new stadium."

-Chancellor Jerry Falwell, Jr.



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

NEW DIGS — (Top left) Players from the dugout survey the crowd. (Bottom left) Pitcher Matt Marsh delivers a pitch. Marsh had four strikeouts and zero earned runs against Penn State. (Right) Jerry and Becki Falwell take in the sights and sounds of the game with Liberty Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Ron Godwin.

## Liberty's pursuit of the crown

After a 41-19 record last season, the Flames are predicted to finish first in the Big South Conference in '13

Greg Leasure  
gleasure@liberty.edu

The Liberty Flames baseball team marked the beginning of an era Saturday, Feb. 23 with a 4-1 win over Penn State in the new Liberty Baseball Stadium. After finishing second in the Big South Tournament last year, the Flames have their sights set on winning a Big South Championship in May — this time on their home turf.

The team got off to a decent start with victories against the South Carolina Gamecocks and the Penn State Nittany Lions, but according to first baseman Alex Close, the Flames bats have yet to reach their full potential.

"I think we need to swing it better," Close said. "I think we can. We're not there yet. We've got the guys (who) can do it. We just need to get comfortable."

Although the team finished second to Coastal Carolina in the Big South Conference last year, Close said that the team remains focused on taking care of things one day at a time.

"We get too caught up in worrying

about Coastal," Close said. "If we just play our game, we're going to beat them."

If the Flames want to meet that goal, they will have to compensate for the five crucial players that they lost to either graduation or the Major League Baseball draft. Despite losing part of their lineup, the Flames baseball team is confident that a new wave of talent can replace past players.

The Texas Rangers selected starting pitcher John Niggli, the ace of last year's team, in the ninth round of the draft in June 2012, but Carson Herndon will take over as the Friday night go-to starter in 2013.

The Toronto Blue Jays selected outfielder Ian Parmley in the seventh round of the draft, leaving the Flames with the task of finding a new leadoff hitter, and junior outfielder Nick Paxton has stepped into that role. The Flames also lost relief pitcher Blake Forslund to the draft as well as shortstop Zack Haley and outfielder Michael Robertson to graduation.

"I think we're just well-rounded," junior outfielder Ryan Cordell said. "We've got some good leadership. Our relievers,



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

UNDER WAY — Coaches look out onto the field as the first game begins.

I think, are really good. They're going to come in late in the games and do well. We've got a lot of power at the plate hitting-wise, and our defense has been solid so far."

Cordell was named the Big South Player of the Week for the first week of the season after racking up six hits and five RBIs against the No. 5 Gamecocks.

As the Flames get used to a new

stadium and new teammates, their goal remains the same — to bring home a Big South Championship.

LEASURE is the feature editor.

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# Flames blank Bears

Liberty's 7-0 win against Morgan State improves its record 4-1

Courtney Tyree  
cnytree@liberty.edu

The Liberty University men's tennis team (4-1, 0-0 Big South) defeated the Morgan State Bears (0-9, 0-0 Mid-Eastern), 7-0, Friday, Feb. 22, denying the Bears their first win of the season.

The Flames 4-1 record this season is equivalent to its best five-match start in program history.

"The last time we started the year with a 4-1 record was in 2001, so I'm glad to be part of a team that has a ton of talent," junior Shea Thomas said.

Liberty's Siim Tuus and Stan Vaughan ended their two-game losing streak with a win over Morgan State's Eric Ward and Jamiek Tash, improving their record to 3-2 this season.

Egon Samaai and Thomas took another win for Liberty, defeating Ondre Cargill and Dmitriy Borodkin 8-3 and advancing the Flames to a 5-1

"This win shows how good of a team we are and how we can come out and dominate against a team we should not lose to."

— THOMAS

record for the season. Dillon Segur and Jorge Azuero were up 7-4 once Liberty clinched the doubles point, ending the game.

"We all played with high intensity, and we came out firing on all cylinders," Thomas said.

Liberty then dove into the singles matches, starting with Samaai defeating Ward, giving the Flames a 2-0 lead. Next, Tuus took the win 6-0, 6-2 over Borodkin, bringing Liberty to a 3-0 lead. Thomas defeated Duk Young-Park, giving Liberty the last point it needed to take the match. Thomas and Tuus are now undefeated, with a 5-0 record to start the season.

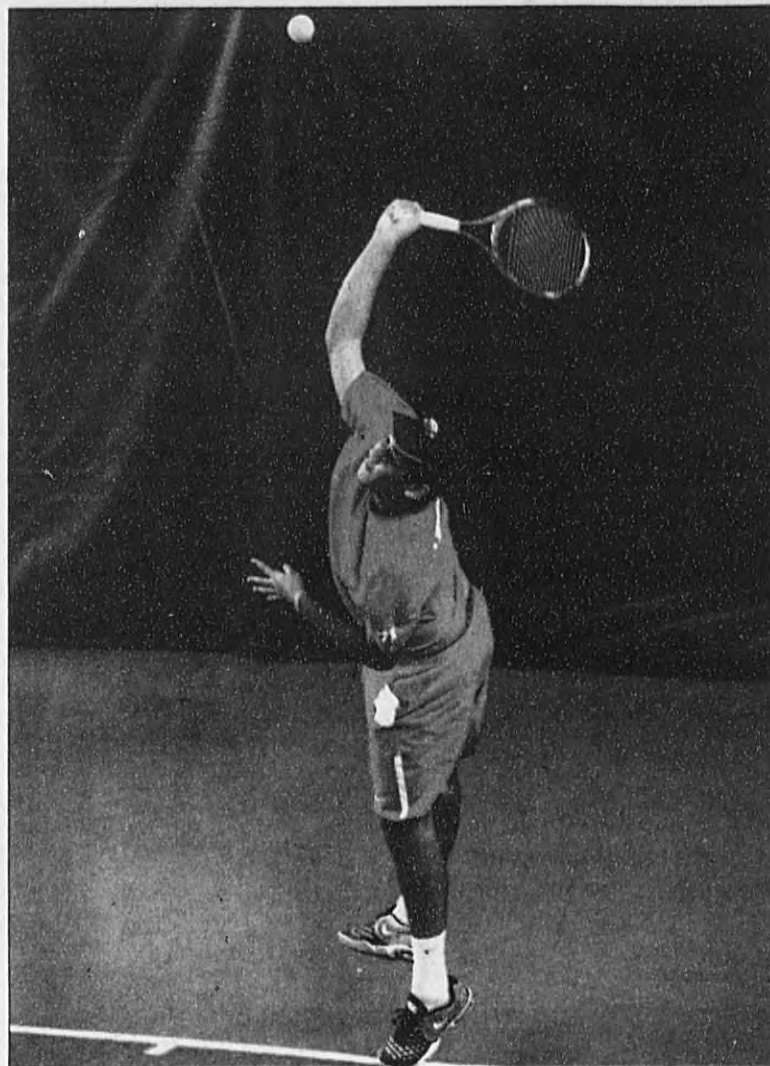
Azuero and Vaughan knocked out both their opponents in quick matches.

Segur capped off the win for the Flames with a hard-fought match, ultimately beating Ward.

"This win shows how good of a team we are and how we can come out and dominate against a team we should not lose to," Thomas said. "We're looking to take this momentum into our match against Longwood. We just got to keep bringing a high level of play to each and every match as we start our conference matches soon."

The Flames will play their first Big South Conference game against Longwood University in Lynchburg Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 1 p.m.

**TYREE is a sports reporter.**



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

ACE — Egon Samaai won in two sets against Morgan State Friday, Feb. 22.



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

GETTING IT STRAIGHT — Head Coach Dale Layer commands his team to victory.

## RAMADA continued from B1

rhythm with defense toughness."

After halftime, Liberty came out on an 8-0 run against Austin Peay. Speaks led the way with 14 points in the second half. In addition, JR Coronado grabbed 12 rebounds, which helped Liberty get 11 second-chance points.

"I think the main thing was rebounding," John Caleb Sanders said. "JR (Coronado) grabbed 18 rebounds for us, and that is huge."

Austin Peay shot 6-14 from three, but in the second half, they went cold from behind the arc. The Governors shot an abysmal 2-11 (27 percent) behind the three-point line. In the first half, Travis Betran went 2-5 from three, followed by 2-11 in the second half.

Sanders also contributed to the Flames comeback with 12 points, six assists and

eight rebounds in the second half. He helped lead the team to victory but he could not have done it without Speaks' contributions in the second half. Speaks shot 7-14 (50 percent) from the field, with two three pointers.

"I always want to play in the crunch," Speaks said. "I just stepped up and did my part as well as everyone else."

Speaks ended the night with 18 points. In all, Liberty had five players in double-figures. A crowd of more than 2,000 fueled the Flames late into the game.

"Best crowd of the season," Sanders said. "Great atmosphere. You know it's always good to give the crowd a win."

The Flames will host their final home game Tuesday, Feb. 26 against Virginia Military Institute.

**SULLIVAN is a sports reporter.**

## HISTORY continued from B1

Sophomore Kyle Wheeler contributed 10 points to the team's final tally with a victory in the high jump. Wheeler won the event for the second straight season with a height of 6-9.5.

On the track, Liberty controlled the distance events. Caleb Edmonds placed first in the 3000-meter run with a time of 8:20.14. Josh MacDonald finished the 5000-meter run in first place, nearly 10 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher.

In the final event of the conference championship meet, the Flames solidified their win with a come-from-behind victory in the 4x400-meter relay. In the final strides of the race, senior Paul Arslain edged out Charleston Southern's anchor to cross the finish line first with a time of 3:20.66. Arslain was joined by Andre Washington, Tyler Weigandt and Kyle Gill in the winning effort.

"Really, it was a team effort," Arslain said. "(Washington) ran a fantastic split and put the team in a great place to win, but everybody did what was necessary to come out on top."

The Liberty men brought home six event titles as a part of their team victory.

"The team just went out and performed as we ought to," Arslain said. "God has blessed us to have a very deep team, so even though we didn't win by the projected amount, we still won handily."

The men's team victory helped Liberty maintain its unprecedented success in the Big South. The Flames have never lost a conference championship, dating back to the first Big South Indoor Track and Field Championships in 1998.

The team's 16th straight win marks the longest string of conference championships in any sport in the Big South. Liberty's record also marks the second-longest active streak of NCAA Division I men's indoor track and field championships.

On the women's side of the Big South Track and Field Indoor Championships, Liberty came in as the underdog, placing second behind rival Coastal Carolina and scoring 142 points to Coastal's 182.

With the second-place finish,

the Lady Flames failed to secure a fourth-consecutive Big South Championship.

"In the women's meet, we knew that Coastal was going to be a problem. They have a very strong team," Head Coach Brant Tolsma said. "In the distance events, we held together really well. We held our own in the field events, but they kind of put it to us in the sprints. I was hoping we would've been a little closer than we were."

Despite their position in the final standings, the Lady Flames did secure three individual event wins.

The highlight for the Lady Flames came at the hands of sophomore Mychelle Cumings. Her 51-4.25 throw in the shot put landed her a new school record and a conference championship title. Cumings received the award as the co-Big South Women's Outstanding Field Performer.

Kristen Willeford also impressed in the field with a first-place finish in the high jump. The junior cleared 5-5 to secure the victory.

On the track, distance runner Jacy Christensen crossed the finish line first in the 3000-meter run with a time of 10:00.65. Teammate Kristina Kanagy finished in second place, crossing the finish line with a mark of 10:00.82.

Christensen also placed third in the mile run, her second event of the meet. Kanagy competed in the 5000-meter run and took the runner-up spot. The two were the Lady Flames' top point scorers, each contributing 16 points.

"I'm hoping that it will be a growing experience for everybody and that we focus going into the outdoor season," Tolsma said. "(We will) try to analyze any weaknesses we have to try to address them and improve them."

Liberty will send a number of athletes to the Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America and Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Division I Indoor Track and Field Championships in Boston, Mass. The meet will take place March 1-3 at Boston University.

**BROWN is a sports reporter.**

## TOURNEY continued from B1

home, giving Radford the 2-1 intermission lead.

It only took five minutes for Radford to strike a loose puck behind Hyland, taking a 3-1 lead. Liberty forward Kevin Serapigella scored a short-handed breakaway over the shoulder of Radford goaltender Bobby Burke.

"The whole time I was skating toward the goal, I

thought to myself, 'Don't miss,'" Serapigella said.

The Flames then tied the game with eight minutes remaining in regulation. Once the overtime period commenced, freshman John Hyland saved shot after shot from a relentless Radford attack. After a scoreless overtime period, the game eventually went to a shootout. Hyland continued to save shots, allowing Dockstader to tuck in the game-winning goal.

**Game Two**

Liberty's next challenge was division leader and arch-rival James Madison University. Having lost the two regular season matches, nothing would have been better than sending the Dukes home, but unfortunately, Sam Stone and JMU had other ideas.

The period began with two early goals by Mitch Allen and Stones' first goal, giving the Dukes a 2-0 advantage. Liberty erased that lead in the final five minutes of the

first period, when Chris Guerri scored two of his own, tying up the score heading into the first intermission of play.

The second period was dominated by the Flames, but an impressive stand by JMU goaltender Alex Santoliquido kept Liberty at bay. Forward Josh Klaking broke down the wall when he tucked in a loose rebound, giving the Flames a 3-2 lead. However, things began to spiral downward in the

closing minutes of the second period, as Liberty captain Brandon Cockburn suffered a leg injury after falling awkwardly into the boards.

In the third period, Liberty held on to a 3-2 lead. However, a costly penalty in the final three minutes led to an Allen power play goal, his second of the night, which tied the game at 3-3 and sent it into overtime. Unlike Radford, the Dukes had strong momentum head-

ing into the extra period, and despite a spectacular effort by John Hyland, Stone and JMU ended the Flames season on a shot over Hyland's shoulder. The Liberty Flames finish with a record of 12-3-1.

**WILLIAMS is a sports reporter.**



# Fighting the flu

## Tips for people struggling to stay healthy

Kyle Harvey  
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Modern medicine has separated Siamese twins conjoined at the head, but it has not solved some of the smallest, yet greatest of human inconveniences — such as the flu.

Each year, medical professionals manufacture a vaccination for the influenza virus, commonly referred to as the flu, but opinions vary about the effectiveness of this preventative measure.

While not a guarantee that you will not contract the flu, a vaccination dramatically improves your odds of staying healthy. Jim Florence, a professor of public health in the Master of Public Health program at Liberty University, said.

### What goes into a vaccine?

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), an influenza vaccine causes the body to develop antibodies to fight against the flu within two weeks of the vaccination. Each year, the CDC evaluates the different influenza strains from the previous season, as well as the trends around the globe. The flu vaccine is then developed using antibodies that will safeguard a person from the strands that will most likely hit the United States the hardest.

The seasonal vaccine provides antibodies for influenza B viruses, influenza A (H1N1) viruses and influenza A (H3N2) viruses.

According to Richard Lane, the director of the Master of Public Health Program, the vaccine is 62 percent effective in preventing the flu. The 38 percent of people who still get the flu even after an injection do so because the particular mutation of the flu that they contract did not make it into the final flu vaccine cocktail.

Florence encouraged people to think about the flu vaccination process like a game of Russian roulette.

Each bullet represents a slightly different strain of the flu. It is far from perfect, but each strand included in the vaccine effectively removes a bullet from the chamber of the gun in your annual round of Russian roulette with the flu.

### What about just toughing it out?

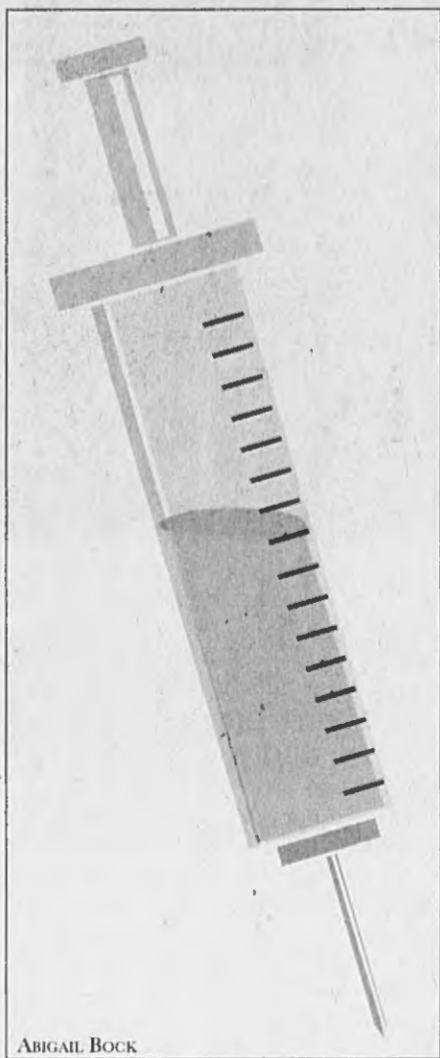
According to Florence, a flu shot is not an antibiotic or anti-viral medication. In fact, it is not a treatment at all. The vaccine does not fight any virus that is already in the body. It is only a preventative measure.

"There's no benefit to letting the body fight," Florence said.

Because the flu virus will mutate and return to a slightly different form in the next season, the body does not gain anything from fighting a battle where the rules change every year, Florence said.

Influenza is also deadly. It might not kill you, but it could kill someone within your sphere of contact. According to the CDC, since the organization began tracking the flu in America in 1976, between three and 49 thousand people have died every year from the flu. This number is primarily made up of the very elderly or the very young. Because of this fact, getting a flu shot becomes a public service.

According to Lane, you remain contagious for several days before you feel the side effects of the illness, and several days



ABIGAIL BOCK

after you begin feeling better.

"You're a carrier for a much longer time than you're actually sick," Lane said.

### Avoiding the flu

Flu shots, available in the form of a shot or nasal spray, can be purchased for around \$20 to \$30 at most pharmacies such as Walmart, Kroger, Walgreens and CVS. However, most health insurance plans will cover the price of the vaccine at little, if any, cost to you.

There is a variety of ways to help boost your natural immune system that do not involve needles or supplements. According to Lane, using hand sanitizer regularly, especially after handling commonly used items, like your Flames Pass, is smart. Coughing into a sleeve does more than just keep others from breathing germs. According to Lane, the fabric in the clothing actually dries out the virus, which reduces the possible number of transfers.

Florence also suggested a few things that you can incorporate into your daily routine. During a shower, alternating hot and cold water actually helps your body distribute disease-fighting white blood cells, which helps keep your immune system in the best possible shape. Getting plenty of rest, exercising and lowering your sugar intake help increase the body's white blood cell count as well.

Unfortunately, you are forced play the influenza-themed game of Russian roulette, but preparing yourself in the right way could mean the difference between winning and losing.

HARVEY is the sports editor.



KYLE MILLIGAN | LIBERTY CHAMPION

HERITAGE — Attendees experienced live music in Green Hall Friday, Feb. 22.

# Jazzy Fun Friday rocks

## Center4ME celebrates African-American culture

Kourtney Trivett  
kdrivett@liberty.edu

The sound of jazz music echoed throughout the hallways of Green Hall Feb. 22, welcoming Liberty University students to celebrate African American History Month by participating in the Center for Multicultural Enrichment's (Center4ME) Jazzy Fun Friday.

Liberty students, faculty, staff and College for a Weekend guests celebrated the African American legacy with live jazz music, games and food.

Joy Jefferson, the associate director for cultural competency and assessment, said that the purpose of the event was to celebrate the African American heritage.

"Since (the) early 1900s,

jazz music has been a part of African American culture," Jefferson said. "As a result, the Center4ME personnel have decided to provide an event that focuses on jazz music."

"One of our goals for this event is to educate our guest about African American culture," Jefferson said.

Students enjoyed the event and the purpose that was behind creating it. TeNeka Nibblett, a senior at Liberty, said that she highly appreciated the experience.

"I think for them to put on an event like this is awesome," Nibblett said. "It gives students, like myself, an opportunity to celebrate such an amazing and respectful holiday."

According to Nibblett, the meaning behind the

music resonated with her.

"I admire Center4ME for hosting an event that is teaching us about the important culture, and I hope students take it to heart," Nibblett said. "I hope they learn something through all the music and games."

One more event at the end of the month of February concludes the Center4ME's celebration of African American History Month.

The Center4ME will also host the event Center4Faces of America. The screening will be held Tuesday, Feb. 26 in Green Hall 1878. Guests who attend will learn about the heritage of many families throughout history.

TRIVETT is a feature reporter.

### LOL continued from B8

but I want to reflect the Gospel to this community through my works."

According to the press release, Will Honeycutt, the coordinator of the CCI, helped focus the volunteer efforts toward impacting Lynchburg and the surrounding communities through a student volunteer service. The students provide a physical, tangible way to show love to the residents of the community. CCI has sent out "care teams" every weekend who have contributed 2,255 hours of care to date through more than 70 different projects.

According to the press release, there are three driving principles behind CCI: "Love your Lord,



PHOTO PROVIDED

HELPING — Two CCI volunteers paint together.

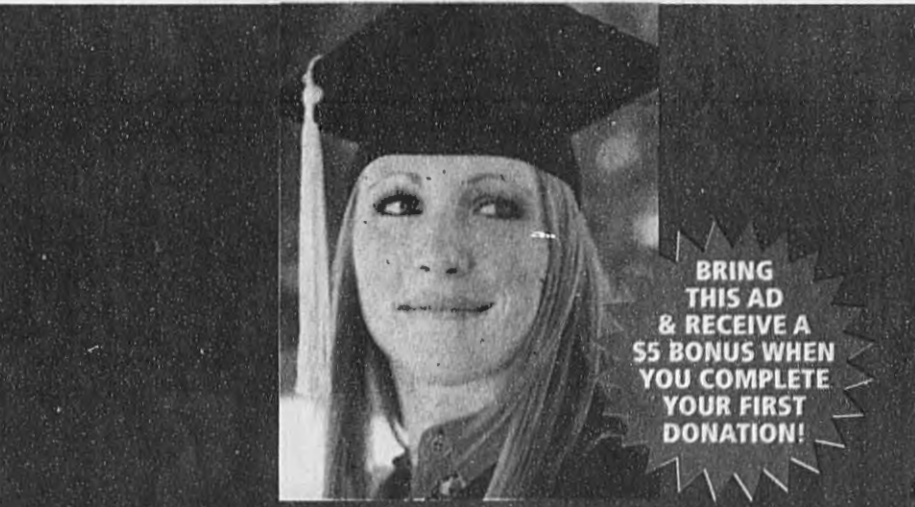
love your neighbor and leave your mark." These principles not only govern CCI, but also direct the lives of Christians.

"We want to hold LOL Day each semester, where we place as many students as possible in the community and do the most good

we can possibly do for our neighbors on that day," Honeycutt said.

Students, faculty and staff interested in signing up for a CCI care project can email cci@liberty.edu.

SAYER is a feature reporter.



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# Career Center offers connections

LUNETWORK provides a link to the professional world for Liberty students in search of jobs and internships

Emily Webster  
ewebster@liberty.edu

Liberty University's Career Center, a guidance resource for students seeking an internship or job, now points undergraduates in the direction of LUNETWORK, an online tool that helps connect them to possible employers.

Matt Meservy, an LUNETWORK coordinator, said that students wishing to begin the internship or job searching process should register at LUNETWORK because it creates connections between students and employers based everywhere from Lynchburg to other countries.

Meservy believes that students need to be more aware of how important networking is to their future, whether it is for an internship or for a job.

"Here at the Career Center, we pride ourselves in making connections with people of influence at some of the most prestigious companies in America," Meservy said. "These companies then go and post positions on LUNETWORK specifically for the Liberty community. So if the student isn't on LUNETWORK, they are missing out on some great opportunities."

Although some students might be focused on internships as requirements for graduation, internships can also be steppingstones to securing a job.

Bruce Kirk, Liberty communications professor and coordinator of internships for the Communications Department and the Studio and Digital Arts Department, stressed just how important it is for students to acquire an internship as close to graduation as possible.

Kirk said that when his past job descriptions included hiring new employees, there was nothing more frustrating than an intern turning down a job offer to finish more schooling. However, Kirk also said that this should not shut all doors to a future job.

"If you've impressed an employer, hopefully they don't lose interest in you just because a few months pass, but you're going to have to do more work to ... refresh their memory," Kirk said. "It's fresh — you're there, you've made the contact, you've impressed them and they want to bring you on board, and so what better time than to hire you right now?"

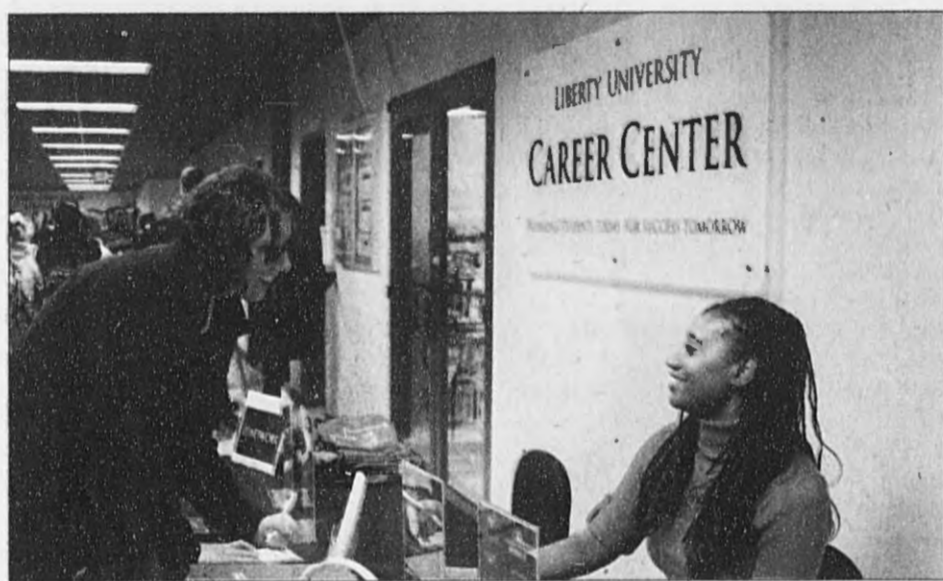
Finding a job or an internship might appear daunting to some, but Meservy said that those connected to LUNETWORK find jobs on a daily basis. He believes that social networking through systems such as LUNETWORK is becoming the main way that employers recruit.

"Ten years ago, this would have seemed outlandish, but in today's technological environment, your online presence is just as important as your physical presence," Meservy said.

After hearing about LUNETWORK from the Career Center, senior Sarah Mitchell conducted online research before registering and creating a profile.

"I thought it would be beneficial to see what types of internships were in my area of interest," Mitchell said. "It was really cool to see how they could compile so many different jobs and internship options in one place for students."

Mitchell, a psychology major, plans to graduate this semester and is looking to



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OPPORTUNITY — Career Center staff meets College for a Weekend participants.

the future.

"I think it's really good that Liberty offers the LUNETWORK," Mitchell said. "As a student, it's great to know that the university supports students getting jobs."

According to the LUNETWORK website, students are not the only ones who benefit from the program. Alumni can also create a profile and upload a résumé in hopes of attracting potential employers who have posted open positions, employer overviews and corporate culture information.

Meservy said that he has seen the steady rise in unemployment, but believes that through LUNETWORK, students can secure jobs.

"We ... have success stories nearly every day from students who have done their homework, utilized us in the Career Center, and scoured LUNETWORK to find jobs," Meservy said. "So really it comes down to how much you want to succeed in life after college."

For students such as Mitchell, this means not taking for granted the opportunities that the Career Center offers to any student willing to go the extra mile.

WEBSTER is a feature reporter.



## THIRD DAY continued from B8

have probably sold concert tickets or T-shirts."

An admitted fan of country music, Tiller said that she has recently fallen in love with Third Day.

"I just love to listen to their music," Tiller said. "You can tell that they love God because they give their testimonies wherever they go, and they have a lot of fun with it."

Opening acts Josh Wilson and former American Idol participant Colton Dixon warmed up the crowd before Third Day played songs from their newest album, "Miracle," and a few classics that kept the crowd on their feet and singing along.

During one of the intermissions, the band's bassist, Tai Anderson, took time to share his memories of the band's 2011 trip to Haiti. The band had gone on this trip in order to assist World Help in the organization's effort to help children in need all over the world. According to Anderson, Third Day has sponsored more than 30,000 children during the band's 15 years working with World Help.

About halfway through the performance, Third Day lead singer Mac Powell shared a story that a New Jersey couple once told him about their son. According to Powell, the boy had planned to commit suicide before hearing Third Day's "Cry Out to Jesus" on the radio and changed his mind. According to the band's website, thirdday.com, the couple's story became the inspiration for the song "I Need a Miracle."

Elizabeth Karr, an events supervisor for Student Activities, said that she has worked or attended more than 10 Student Activities concerts, but that Friday's concert carried a little more excitement than normal.

"It's a big tour for them, and so it's been really exciting to get them in here," Karr said. "This is their second show, so it's been exciting because the band is all really excited. It's been fun."

According to Third Day's website, the band has won four Grammys. Student Activities will also host Lecrae, the 2013 Grammy winner for best Gospel album, March 22.

"It's just cool that (that) caliber of bands (is) willing to come to Liberty and excited to come to



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

ON THE ROAD — Third Day is currently touring the country to promote their 12th album.

Liberty," Karr said. "I think they have big fan bases here, so it's just exciting to see all that."

Third Day also joined in on the recent "Harlem Shake" video craze with participants including Colton Dixon, Josh Wilson and the CFAW crowd to create an original version of the dance, which the band posted on YouTube immediately after the concert. The video begins with Wilson dancing in a penguin suit in the aisle of the TRBC sanctuary and ends with Dixon, Third Day and the entire audience going crazy with different dance moves.

"The audience drew Third Day back for an encore to end the show, but for one member of the audience, one more birthday surprise was waiting to be discovered.

Tiller and her best friend

spent most of their time near the stage during the performance, so when guitarist Mark Lee tossed a guitar pick out into the crowd, they were given the perfect keepsake to remember their night. Unfortunately, the dim lighting made catching the pick almost impossible, and they thought it was lost until her friend discovered the small, yellow piece of plastic stuck near her waist in the seam of her shirt after the show.

Tiller said that she expects to attend Liberty this fall, and although she spends much time at concert T-shirt booths, she would not need a T-shirt to remind her of her birthday experience — just a small, yellow piece of plastic.

LEASURE is the feature editor.

## FYI

The Harlem Shake video made by Third Day, Colton Dixon, Josh Wilson and the audience at TRBC can be found on YouTube under the title "The Harlem Shake — Third Day Miracle Tour."



# Competition attracts young engineers

The Liberty University School of Engineering and Computational Sciences hosts the VEX Robotics Competition

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Some of Central Virginia's young engineering minds met at the Liberty Christian Academy for the VEX Robotics Competition Saturday, Feb. 23. Hosted by the Liberty University School of Engineering and Computational Sciences (SECS) for the fifth consecutive year, the event pitted 36 teams of high school students against one another in a competition of scientific skill.

Although the objectives are different every year, the goal this time around was for teams to use their robots to accomplish the task of moving and placing beanbags in different locations in a game called Sack Attack. Participants spent the morning forming alliances with each other, and after a qualifying round, the final battle determined the winners.

According to Scott Pleasants, the SECS director of engineering technology, VEX Robotics hosts numerous competitions around the globe that serve as qualifying events for the VEX World Championships. Only the top two teams from each competition move on to the next championship, but Pleasants said that teams are allowed to enter as many competitions as they want in order to qualify for the World Championships, provided that they pay the entry fees.

According to Pleasants, representatives from the United States Air Force helped judge the competition, looking for students who displayed qualities such as teamwork or outstanding performance. Additional prizes, such as iPads and MacBook Air computers contributed by sponsors of the competition, were also raffled off. The Twisted Botz and Aluminum Falcon teams took home the win Saturday, earning a position in the VEX World Championships.

Keynote speaker and Air Force Lieutenant Col. Ravi Chaudhary made the trip to Lynchburg from Washington, D.C. to represent the Air Force at the event, and, as someone who uses math, science and engineering on the job, he said that it is es-



STEVEN ABBOTT | LIBERTY CHAMPION

WIRED — Robotics teams from across Central Virginia built robots to be judged, earning a position in a national match.

sential it is for students to enter those fields of study.

"Really, what we're investing in here is game-changing people in the sense that they're going to go off and do great things for America," Chaudhary said.

According to him, game-changing people in science is even more necessary for America right now due to competition with other countries.

"We're not No. 1 in math and science anymore, so when you develop game-changing programs, that's what turns America around and builds a spirit of innovation that has come to be a tradition in America," Chaudhary said.

The VEX competition emphasizes students' STEM skills — science, technology, engineering and math — that Pleasants said are in high demand by employers today.

According to Pleasants, Liberty gave SECS a total of \$48,000 in financial aid to award high school students from the competition, not to mention the \$1,000 from the Air Force that was given for outstanding character, teamwork and performance.

"Regardless of whether (students) pursue a career in the military or engineering, technical or non-technical degrees, the concept of innovation will never be lost in these individuals because of the VEX Robotics experience," Chaudhary said.

Liberty student Timothy Vernon, who helped set up Saturday's competition, took home a scholarship of his own as a senior in high school in 2009. According to him, the competition became a principal reason behind his decision to attend school at Liberty.

"It's really neat to see these kids come out here and see their designs and how they compete," Vernon said.

Caroline Bachmann, a spectator at the event, said that the competition turned out differently than her expectations.

"It's more intense than I thought it was going to be," Bachmann said. "You get really into it really easily. It takes more strategy than I thought."

According to Pleasants, the creativity displayed in the competition and by engineers in general reflects the creativity of the original engineer — God.

Time will tell how many students from Saturday's competition will find their way into a permanent SECS department, but in the eyes of Pleasants, Saturday's competition showed that the future of the field is bright.

LEASURE is the feature editor.

BARTLETT is a feature reporter.

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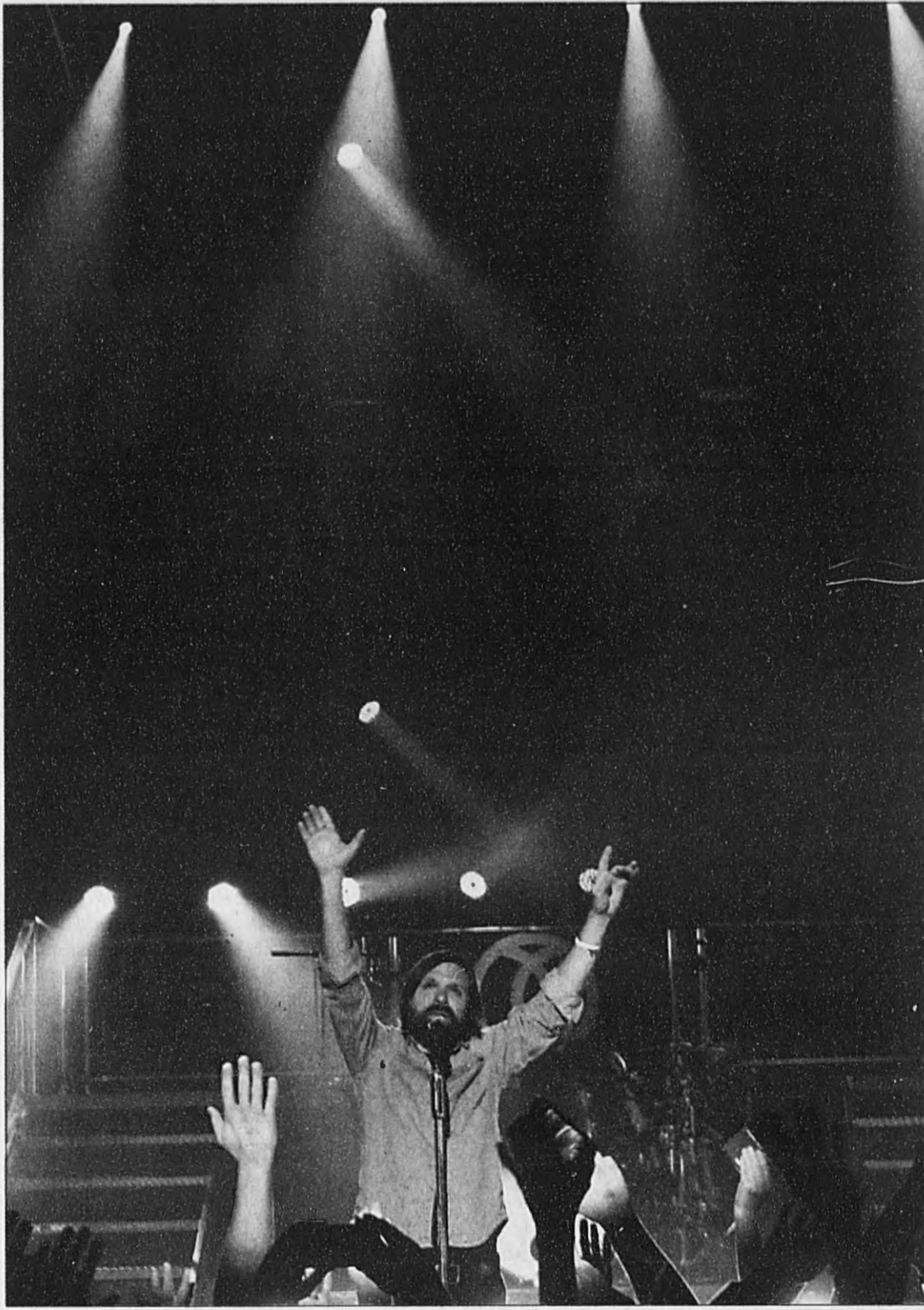
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LIBERTY  
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Student Activities



## miracle tour



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

CONCERT — Third Day performs popular songs and shares their motivation for the tour.

# Third Day plays TRBC

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When Amber Tiller first heard that Third Day would be playing at a Student Activities' concert at Thomas Road Baptist Church (TRBC) Friday, Feb. 22, she could hardly contain

her excitement.

A high school senior and a resident of Roanoke, Tiller made the trip to Liberty University's College for a Weekend (CEAW) last semester, and even though she did not attend CEAW last weekend, her family gave her tickets to the Third Day show as a birthday present.

As it turns out, concerts are a familiar place for Tiller.

"I have sold T-shirts at country concerts like Carrie Underwood and Jason Aldean," Tiller said. "Pretty much, you can think of any band that's been around Charlottesville or Roanoke, I

See **THIRD DAY, B6**

# Love on Lynchburg

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The Community Care Initiative of Liberty University held its first Love On Lynchburg (LOL) Day Saturday, Feb. 23. According to a Liberty press release, more than 100 students came out to participate in numerous community service projects within Lynchburg. Some of these projects included baking and playing games at nursing homes, cleaning and landscaping city spaces, cleaning homes of disabled residents and even building wheelchair ramps.

According to the press release, the Community Care Initiative (CCI) began in September 2012 and focuses on relieving the short-term needs of the Lynchburg community. Its mission is to leave a lasting impression on the local community to demonstrate true Christian faith through various acts of service.

According to the CCI, its theme verse is based off James 2:18: "But someone will say, 'You have faith, and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith apart from my works."

CCI reflects the love of Christ through its volunteer opportunities, which is seen by the motto: "Demonstrating our faith by doing our neighbor good."

CCI is an optional addition to the 20 hours of community service required from all students, according to the press release. The program is designed for students and staff who want to go beyond that requirement and respond to needs all around Lynchburg.

"The Love On Lynchburg event is doing almost 30 projects in one day," Cairsti Wilson, a freshman volunteer, said. "I had heard about it in hall meeting, and I thought it was an awesome opportunity to go beyond what is required of us and reach out to those around us."

Wilson was one of the many volunteers of LOL. She came out to the Lynchburg Health and Rehabilitation Center and played bingo with the residents. Stephanie Hill, another volunteer, completed service projects for a local non-profit organization called His Vision.

"Lynchburg is a great community to be a part of and share the love of Christ," Hill said. "Even though not everyone may be a Christian, it's awesome that we can come together and help out those in need. I volunteered to help because not only am I called to do this,

**FYI**  
More than 100 Liberty students volunteered their time on Love on Lynchburg Day, Feb. 23.

See **LOL, B5**

# Raising a song of praise

## Lauren Sweeney tells her story, from a dream to a reality

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"Walking onto the stage for the first convocation of the year brought me to a new place of utter humility that God would choose to use me in this way," Lauren Sweeney, the lead female vocalist on the Liberty University Campus Band, said.

Sweeney, a junior in the worship program, always felt that she was supposed to come to Liberty and be on a ministry team, but this calling took her far longer to accomplish than she had anticipated.

Since high school, Sweeney has always been involved in leading worship with her school and church. When she attended College for a Weekend (CEAW) at Liberty, she realized that she wanted to use the talents God gave her to help transform lives.

"I remember coming to College for a Weekend years ago when I was in high school and sitting in the Vines Center during convocation," Sweeney said. "As I watched the campus band lead thousands and thousands of college students in worship, I thought to myself, 'Lord, that's

what I want to do.'"

During her senior year of high school, Sweeney returned to Liberty to try out for a ministry team. However, she did not make it. Instead of attending Liberty that fall, Sweeney enrolled in a local community college in Chesapeake, Va.

Soon after her first audition, Sweeney came back to Liberty for another chance at her calling. Once again, she did not make it.

Craig Osterhus, who works in Liberty's Music Ministries, remembered Sweeney from her auditions. According to Osterhus, each time Sweeney came to try out, she had grown in the talent that God had given her.

"When I saw her audition materials, I was struck by what a gifted worship leader she was," Osterhus said. "There are times when gifted musicians and singers don't get chosen for a team simply because there is no opening at the time for what they have to offer."

According to Sweeney, with some encouragement from her parents, she decided to try out one last time during her sophomore year of community college.

"I remember minutes before the audition, just praying in my

heart that if this is where the Lord wanted me, that He would swing the door wide open," Sweeney said. "After the last time auditioning, God opened the door, and I transferred to Liberty to be on the ministry team, Light."

At the end of her first year with Light, Sweeney received a phone call from Justin Kintzel, the Campus Band worship pastor, inviting her to be a part of the Campus Band. According to Sweeney, as she stood on the front steps of DeMoss, she was so overcome with emotion that she began to cry right there.

"It was such a journey to even get to Liberty, and now to have this kind of opportunity was an overwhelming blessing," Sweeney said.

According to Sweeney, although she looks up to all the members of the band, she sees Kintzel as a true mentor.

"He truly loves what he gets to do and sees it as such a privilege," Sweeney said. "He is such a man of God, and it has been a blessing to serve this school alongside him."

Sweeney also sees being a part of Campus Band as an honor.

"When we are in convocation



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

WORSHIP — Sweeney sings at most convocations.

and there are thousands and thousands of college students lifting their hands and singing as loudly as they can, 'Sing like never before, oh my soul. I'll worship Your holy name,' those are my favorite moments," Sweeney said.

According to Osterhus, Sweeney wants nothing more than to help people know and worship Christ. He believes that there is something about the way she leads worship that brings others closer to God.

"She has a great voice and a winsome spirit, but she draws you toward loving God and loving to worship him as much as she does," Osterhus said.

While Sweeney may be unsure of what her future holds after graduation, she knows that she

is being led to full-time ministry. "Looking back on these last few years and reflecting on all that God has done, it just leaves me in awe," Sweeney said. "God's timing is always perfect, and nothing we go through is ever purposeless or wasted."

For other people who have been discouraged by ministry team auditions, Sweeney recommends to stay in prayer, lean on God and remember Ephesians 3:20-21: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

**Hahn is a feature reporter.**