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THE LIBERTY CHAMPION

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May 8, 2007, VOL 24, NO. 22

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Judge Not Lest

Opinion explores the true problem with judging others



Falwell Exclusive

Everything you ever wanted to know about LU's Chancellor



Final touches on monogram gazebo complete



ENJOYING A NEW ANGLE — Students take in the breathtaking view of Lynchburg after finishing a climb around the newly completed LU monogram.

By Dave Thompson
NEWS REPORTER

The monogram—the most eye catching extension of Liberty's identity—is finished “for now”, at least according to Vice Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. The total cost, according to Falwell, was “about the same as one modern billboard or one digital reader board sign.”

In dollars and cents, approximately \$120,000 was raised from the selling of roughly 130 acres of timber, which were taken from the back side of the mountain. After the monogram's completion, a few new features were added, namely a gazebo at the top and hiking trails leading up to the area.

“I would hope that students will increase their use of the many miles of new trails,” said Falwell, adding that the trails are “wide, well-built and excellent for hiking or mountain biking.”

Student reaction to the gazebo, which was moved from Liberty Village, has been largely positive. Students are using the gazebo for quiet, outdoor Bible study, according to Falwell, and the surrounding trails have been used for exercise and recreation.

“I run the trails myself and see people out there all the time running, hiking, mountain biking and hanging out at the gazebo,” said Lee Beaumont, Liberty's Director of Auxiliary Services.

He noted that the degree of difficulty and length differs from trail to trail, and that some of Liberty's running and exercise classes are utilizing them.

“We are currently mapping the trails with GPS,” Beaumont said. Printed maps are also in the works, though they haven't been released yet. Once the maps have been completed, Beaumont and Dr. David Horton will mark the trails in a format similar to the markings on the Appalachian Trail. Beaumont said that the mapping will take time because all of the trails need to be hiked, and dense tree cover would interfere with the signal from the GPS.

Of the nearly 30 miles of trails on the mountain, Beaumont said that about six miles are roads similar to the one in front of the monogram, and the remaining mileage is taken up with hiking, running and biking trails.

Please see GAZEBO, page A4

Jamestown celebrates 400 years LU dining announces extensive changes to be made this summer

Erin Fitch
NEWS REPORTER

Jamestown is celebrating America's 400th Anniversary this month with a ten-day commemorative event honoring the first permanent English settlement to survive in the New World.

To kick off the celebration, the Commonwealth of Virginia literally rolled out the red carpet in tribute of Queen Elizabeth II's visit. Her Majesty arrived in Richmond to address the Virginia General Assembly on May 3 and was accompanied by her husband, his Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

The royal couple, who also visited Jamestown for the settlement's 350th anniversary

in May 1957, were welcomed to the historic site by Vice President Dick Cheney, Governor Tim Kaine and former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Vice President Cheney remarked on Her Majesty's second visit to Jamestown.

“A half-century has done nothing to diminish the respect and affection in which this country holds you,” said Cheney. “We receive you again today in that same spirit.”

The Queen's tour of Jamestown included visiting replicas of an armory and the Jamestown Church as well as the archeological site of the original 1607 James Fort, a three-sided structure first discovered in 1996.

Please see JAMESTOWN, page A4

By Jennifer Schmidt
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Liberty Dining, the partnership of Sodexo Dining Services and Liberty University, has announced plans for extensive renovations and expansions of the dining services on Liberty's campus. According to Ray Riddle, director of operations for Liberty Dining, the plans include not only a complete refurbishment of Reber-Thomas Dining Hall, but also a large expansion of the Campus North dining hall and the new construction of a free-standing restaurant.

Plans to expand and refurbish the existing dining facilities at Liberty have been in the works for the past two years.

“This proposal was made due to the growth of the student body and to keep up with the current trends. We did a lot of homework, visiting schools such as George Mason and Lee University, to see what they do and to bring in new ideas,” said Riddle.

Reber-Thomas Dining Hall will be closed after breakfast on May 19 and the process of remodeling will begin. The main goals for the project are to spread out the flow of traffic and thus decrease the amount of time it takes to get food. There are also plans to revamp the seating arrangements.

Riddle, who has worked with Liberty Dining

for the past four years, said, “We want to give Reber-Thomas a fresh facelift, keep up with the times and bring it all into the year 2007.”

Stephanie Place, a sophomore who has worked for over a year and a half as a student manager with Sodexo, said, “I love the look of the new plans with all of the colors and the seating arrangements. It will be much more intimate and won't have a military feel anymore. Everything will be more personal and will have a cozy atmosphere. Because people can enter from all different directions and all of the food stations will be spread out, the traffic flow will be much faster.”

The remodeling of Reber-Thomas centers upon a huge shift in the purpose of the dining hall. Executive chef Paul Fallon said, “We're taking food production right in front of the customer. Now it's all about exhibition and entertainment, not just feeding thousands of students.” He further explained that the idea of a cafeteria was being replaced with the idea of a restaurant.

Because of this approach, food stations will be spread around the perimeter of the building and seating will be separated by decorative partitions.

Please see DINING, page A4

Liberty honors National Day of Prayer

By Fernanda Rezende and David Allison
NEWS REPORTERS

Liberty honored the annual 56th National Day of Prayer this past Thursday, May 3, but instead of meeting outside as planned, the rain forced students to join in intercession for the United States inside the Vines Center. The National Day of Prayer is a day set aside for Americans to pray for the nation, the world and church leadership.

This year's theme was “America, Unite in Prayer,” based on 2 Chronicles 7:14: “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land” (NIV).

Liberty's program began around 7 p.m. with Ben Ingle, a senior and Army ROTC cadet, leading the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short worship ensemble led by the campus Worship Pastor, David McKinney.

“You will only know how to pray corporately if you know how to pray personally,” said Campus Pastor Johnnie Moore when he spoke before leading the prayer session. Moore directed the students to pray specifically for national leaders and the military, pastors in the United States and around the world, American families and schools – with an emphasis on Virginia Tech – and the fulfillment of the Great Commission in our generation.

Students were dismissed with a call from Moore to reflect upon the fact that “we are a nation in desperate need of prayer.” Explaining that he enjoyed the emphasis of the evening, Moore said, “My favorite part of tonight was that there was no other agenda, no speaker, no order of service – there was one

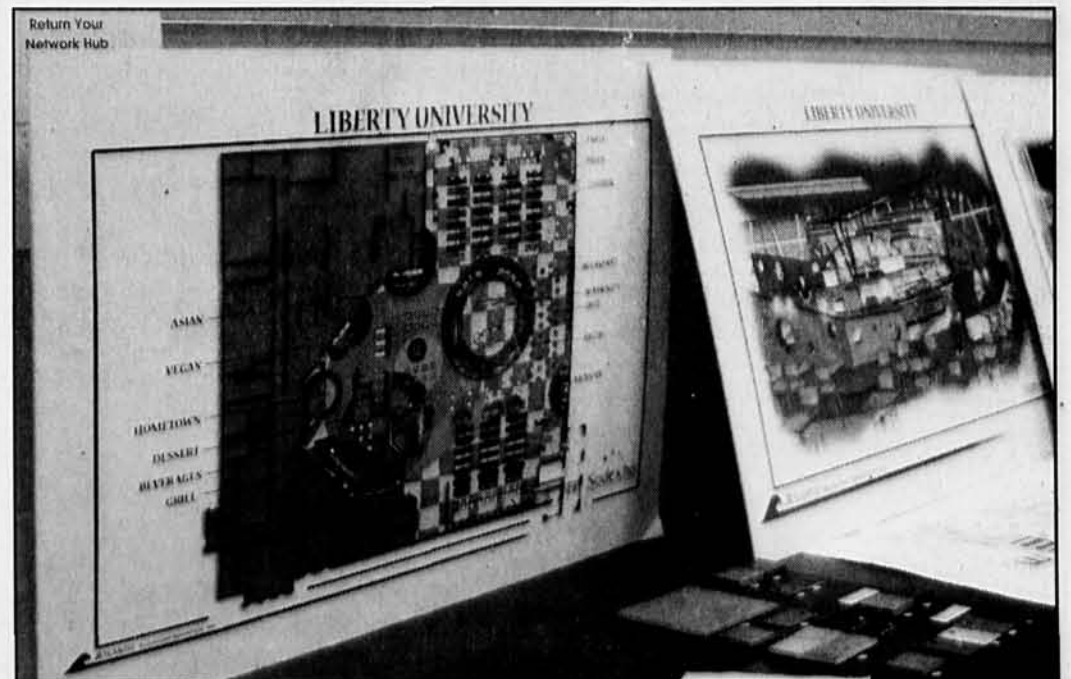
thing, and that was to pray. What's going to change America? What's going to change our hearts? It's going to be Christians living as we are called to live and that is on our knees.”

The National Day of Prayer began with a joint resolution of Congress in 1952 that was signed by President Harry S. Truman. The resolution was further amended in 1988 when President Reagan declared the day an annual event and permanently set it as the first Thursday of every May. Since that time, every President has signed a proclamation on the National Day of Prayer calling upon Americans to pray. According to the National Day of Prayer Task Force's Web site, all state and territory governors signed similar proclamations last year.

Calls of prayer from the U.S. government have existed since the nation's founding. In 1775, the First Continental Congress called for such a day, and Abraham Lincoln also called for a day of “humiliation, fasting and prayer” in 1863.

President George W. Bush continued to recognize the importance of the day with a proclamation released April 20, 2007 he said: “A prayerful spirit has always been an important part of our national character, and it is a force that has guided the American people, given us strength and sustained us in moments of joy and in times of challenge. On this National Day of Prayer, we acknowledge God's grace and ask for His continued guidance in the life of our nation.”

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AMBITIOUS PLANS — Floor plans, color diagrams and some materials are currently being displayed in the dining hall.



a tad askew

By Will Mayer

The semester is wrapping up. It's been long and hard, yet, it has seemed to fly by at the same time. This is only the fifth edition of A Tad Askew, and it is the last.

There were so many topics that I didn't get a chance to cover. There was John Edwards' high-dollar haircut, the rumors of the banning of Facebook in the ILRC, and the advertisement I heard at work the day after James Brown's death in which he was still singing about feelin' good.

But it isn't the recollections of advertisements I heard at work that I will devote this last column to, rather something I heard tonight. It was a knock-knock joke told by two young boys. It went like this:

"Knock, Knock."
"Who's there?"
"Elmo."

And that was the end of the joke. Both children were too busy laughing to understand that there was no punch line reached. In fact, they never even offered the last set up line of "Elmo who?" How did the joke end? It left me in terrible suspense. I found it hard to focus on my work. Elmo who?!

But, alas, the children were content to end the joke before the punch line, oblivious to eavesdroppers like myself who were attempting to pass some time at work by laughing at a

good, old-fashioned knock-knock joke.

For some reason their situation reminded me of my own. This column has allowed me to be like those kids, to say things that I think are funny, but never have a chance to stop and listen to hear if anyone is laughing.

To me the past editions of A Tad Askew have offered me moments of silent laughter in front of my computer screen or audibly when

I read them aloud to family. But was I just like one of those kids? Did I leave people in suspense wondering Elmo who? I guess I'll never know, but I'll take a lesson from those two jokesters, and I'll laugh anyway. If you're able to laugh at yourself, even if the rest of the world is quiet, it's a joke well worth telling.

But I hope that we've shared a few laughs throughout the semester. There was the time we discussed global warming, the Easter pageant we mapped out and the Valentine's Day we spent together. We even had a heart-to-heart about the tragedy at Virginia Tech.

I'll certainly miss writing this column every other issue, but I'll be back next semester working on the opinion section. So, if you'll be back too, look closely through those few pages and see if you can find anything that seems A Tad Askew.

"If you're able to laugh at yourself, even if the rest of the world is quiet, it's a joke well worth telling."

LU flight team going for championship



PHOTO PROVIDED

FLIGHT — The Liberty University flight team is going to the national flight competition for the third consecutive year. LU won the region 10 championship and qualified for the national event hosted by Ohio State University. The country's best collegiate flight schools will compete for the National Intercollegiate Flying Association flight championship.

VCAR grad first to complete program



CALEB ATKINS

STARTING THINGS OFF RIGHT — Senior Olivia Fryer will be the first Visual Communication Arts graduate. She has enjoyed her time in the VCAR program immensely and said she is excited to use her visual arts talent for God.

By Karl Mitchell
NEWS EDITOR

Olivia Fryer, a senior from Sebring, Fla., will be the first graduate of the Visual Communication Arts major. This is the first year for the VCAR program, which currently has 250 students.

As a part of Liberty's VCAR major, Fryer participated in activities such as publicly displayed art shows, portfolio reviews, gallery and museum visits and an internship. Most recently, Fryer was given the Outstanding Studio Artist award at the Annual School of Communication Awards ceremony.

Fryer said that being a VCAR major has impacted her spiritual journey. "Being a part of a program that I feel so suited for just reminds me of God's faithfulness in guiding my life and decisions. When I look back on when I first came here, having no idea what I'd be doing, now I am so thankful that God led me where He did and that He knows me so well," Fryer said.

She also enjoys being creative and feels that ever since she entered the VCAR program, she has been able to cultivate her creative talents in a way that glorifies God.

"I really feel like I'm using the talents He has given me instead of burying them, and it becomes another way to worship and thank God in my daily life," she said.

Fryer had originally planned to attend a design school to study fashion design. However, she felt God

was calling her to Liberty.

"When I started at Liberty I had so many different ideas about what I wanted to do. It wasn't until after my first year that I decided to do graphic design. When I found out the program existed I was really excited but wasn't too sure what to expect. However, as I moved through my classes, I realized more and more that this was the perfect choice for me, and I started to see God's hand in placing me where I was," she said.

The most exciting part of her college career has been getting her portfolio ready. Shortly after spring break, she attended a portfolio review.

"It was an exciting experience, just to have someone in the professional realm give me some sort of impression of where I stand, because that is something you can't get in the classroom," Fryer said. "The gentleman that re-

viewed me gave me very insightful critiques as well as sincere praise of my work. The portfolio review experience has definitely helped me to be more confident as I prepare for job interviews in Cincinnati."

After graduation, Fryer plans to move to Cincinnati with her husband. She does not have a job currently lined up, but she would love to be an in-house designer for a large company.

No matter what job God places her in, she will be using her artistic gifts to glorify Him.

"I believe God gives people gifts because He is love, and it's a way for Him to show His love to us. When we use our gifts, we glorify God, because we acknowledge that they are from Him," Fryer said.

Contact Kari Mitchell at kdmitchell2@liberty.edu.



GRAPHICAL PERFECTION — During her tenure as a Liberty student, Fryer completed many projects, including this piece.

THE LIBERTY CHAMPION

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Michael W. Smith at TRBC Former pro wrestler now born-again Christian



PHOTO PROVIDED

FINDING HIS PLACE IN LYNCHBURG — Michael W. Smith will be performing songs from his new album, "Stand."

By Kari Mitchell
News Editor

Michael W. Smith will be in concert at Thomas Road Baptist Church this Friday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m. Smith is the winner of 40 Dove Awards, three Grammy awards and an American Music award. He has sold more than 13 million albums and has had 29 number one hit songs in his 25-year career.

His newest project is a CD entitled "Stand," Smith's 19th album.

Student discount tickets for the concert can still be purchased with a student ID for \$15 through May 9. Tickets are on sale in the Campus Programming Office, which is located at Campus North beside the LaHaye Student Center. Other ticket outlets include New Life and Life Way in Lynchburg or online at www.itickets.com. Tickets are \$25 at the door.

Contact Kari Mitchell at kdmitchell2@liberty.edu.



NICK PIERCE

TOTAL PACKAGE — Lex Luger, a former pro-wrestler in WCW and WWE, sat in for a live interview at WWMC 90.9 FM "The Light" Monday afternoon.

Careerakulooza to provide much-needed study break for students on Friday

By Jason Drinnen
News Reporter

Liberty University will kick off its first ever Careerakulooza this Friday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Featuring the bands Torn from Red and Common Roy, students will have the opportunity to watch a live performance following their first day of finals.

Giving back to the student body is the Career Center's motivation for organizing Careerakulooza.

Career Center's Kevin Mahan said Careerakulooza has been the creative genius of the Career Center.

"We appreciate the students so much, and we appreciate when we get to help them out," he said.

"This is one way to say 'The Career Center loves you, come on and love us back - We'll help you out.'"

Tickets are limited for the event since the concert will take place in the Schilling Center.

"Driven and Grassroots,"

the theme for Careerakulooza, projects the event's atmosphere.

According to Mahan, the Career Center's vision statement is: "To connect the world of grassroots with the world of the driven side."

Before Careerakulooza, the Career Center will also be hosting games and prizes in LU's courtyard on reading day, May 10. The day's festivities begin at 1 p.m. and will end at 3 p.m.

Students are encouraged to participate in the day's

events. Mahan says the purpose of the Career Center is to give students the best resources and the best connections available.

"We have connections with over 1,600 different companies in our database," said Mahan.

Students wishing to attend the event should purchase their tickets in advance at the Career Center for \$4. Cost is \$5 at the door.

Contact Jason Drinnen at jdrinnen@liberty.edu.

Careerakulooza

Driven and Grassroots

May 10th in the Courtyard with games and prizes
&
May 11th in the Schilling Center with Torn from Red and Common Roy in concert

*For more information, visit the Career Center on the 2nd floor of Dalbey Hall.



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JAMESTOWN: A celebration of America's 400th Anniversary

Continued from page 1

Big plans are also underway for America's Anniversary weekend scheduled for May 11-13. President and First Lady Laura Bush will be attending a ceremony in Jamestown on Sunday, May 13.

Stuart W. Connock, chair of the Jamestown 2007 Steering Committee, remarked on the President's upcoming appearance for the event.

"The President's participation in Anniversary Weekend festivities underscores the pivotal role Jamestown played in our nation's history and helps further focus the world's attention on Jamestown's legacies — representative government, free enterprise and a culturally diverse society," said Connock in

a press release. On Saturday, May 12, replicas of the three ships that brought the first English settlers to Jamestown — the Susan Constant, the Discovery and the Godspeed — will set sail accompanied by fanfare and cannon salutes from the James River. They will conclude their short journey by docking at the Jamestown museum pier.

Musical entertainment highlights for the weekend will include performances by Grammy award-winning rockers Bruce Hornsby and the NoiseMakers, R&B artist Chaka Khan and bluegrass crooner Ricky Skaggs.

The Jamestown Settlement will also feature gallery exhibits of life in the 17th-century colony as well as historical reenactors depicting life aboard the settlers' three ships, the historic James fort and the Powhatan Indian community.

Thomas Road Baptist Church also celebrated the 400th anniversary planting of the cross at Jamestown on April 29 with a "God and Country Musical". The evening featured the 300-voice Thomas Road Celebration Choir, Linwood Campbell and the OTGH orchestra.

Speaker, author and historian David Barton, of the Texas-based Wallbuilders ministry, also spoke on the religious heritage of America, detailing the rich history of the American founders' faith and Christian heritage.

English settlers first arrived in Jamestown on May 14, 1607 and named their colony after King James I. The group of 104 men were sponsored by the Virginia Trading Company, which hoped to find treasures of gold and silver in the New World. Instead of riches, however, the men endured much hardship in the new colony, facing famine, disease and attacks from the Algonquin tribe.

More information about the weekend is available at Americas400thAnniversary.com or by calling the Jamestown 2007 office at (757) 253-4659. Tickets can also be reserved through Colonial Williamsburg at (866) 400-1607. Tickets for the weekend must be purchased in advance and cost \$30 per day for adults and \$15 for children ages six to 12. Children six and under are free.

Contact Erin Fitch at eeffitch@liberty.edu.

GAZEBO: Trails provide hiking and recreation

Continued from page 1

"There are plans to add more biking trails in the future," he said.

The monogram has been touted as being visible from anywhere in Lynchburg, and some future plans for it have been speculated, but none have been implemented yet. There is speculation that Liberty Athletics will use the symbol as a tool for publicity.

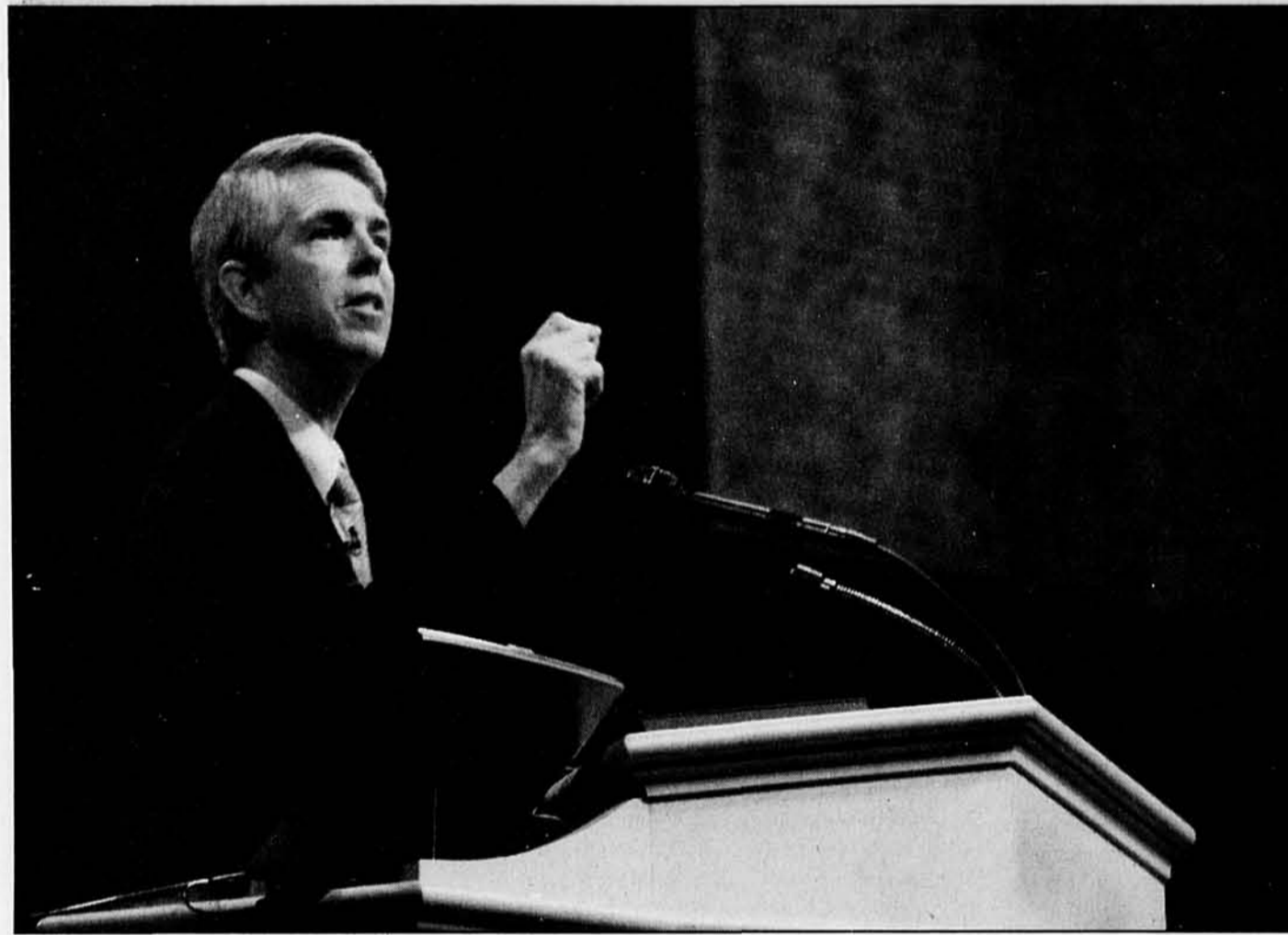
"Some say we should find

a way to light the monogram during night games.

Others have suggested that a huge flame should emerge from the 'LU' when the team scores a touchdown but, for now, we are still brainstorming," Falwell said.

Can the gazebo be seen from as far away as the monogram can? "It depends on your eyesight," said Falwell.

Contact Dave Thompson at dbthompson@liberty.edu.



TODD HUNLEY

THE CHRISTIAN HERITAGE OF AMERICA — David Barton spoke during the recent Thomas Road Baptist Church celebration of America's 400th Anniversary.

LU marine returns home from Iraq

By Amy Field
NEWS REPORTER

Lance Corporal Daniel Connally, who is both a Liberty University student and Marine, was welcomed home by friends and family last month to the U.S. from his seven-month tour in Iraq.

Part of the fourth generation of military in his family, Connally has been in the United States Marine Corps for three years. With a father in the Marines and much of his family involved with the service, it was a natural choice for Connally to join.

"I joined because it was a family tradition," Connally said. "My sister and brother are also marines and I have six uncles in the marines as well." Connally found out that he was going to be deployed to Iraq in the fall of 2004. However, it was expected.

"(As a marine) you just assume that if you haven't been there yet, you probably will go soon," he said. "I was in Twentynine Palms, California for my training before deployment."

In Iraq for seven months total, Connally was stationed at the Al Asad air base in the Al Anbar Province.

"My job was Route Clearance," Connally said, as he described the job of searching for Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), while riding in large armored vehicles called 7-Tons. Connally's unit kept careful watch from the windows of the vehicle, sometimes coming within just a few feet of an explosive.

"We drove all over the Anbar province. It's around 130 miles, and we went 10 to 15 miles per hour. Over all, we had 9,000 hours of driving and found over 30 IEDs, which is pretty significant — we have the best record of doing clearance in Iraq."

While there were no casualties in Connally's unit, they had a few close calls. His

convoy was hit six different times — and once, it was his own vehicle.

"We were driving out in the desert when a command wire blew up right in front of my vehicle — we had a few scratches, of course, but God was watching over us and everyone got out okay," Connally said. While he was there, Connally saw that a positive difference was made with the presence of American troops.

"When we first went through some of the streets of Haditha, the streets weren't safe, the shops there were closed," he said. "But after we'd been there doing our operations, it changed — the shops were open and people started walking the streets again. It was awesome." Connally also had the first-hand experience of finding out how Iraqis really feel about Americans coming into their country.

"My job wasn't so much around people, but you can tell what people think of you by how the kids (in the vicinity) react to you," said Connally. "We would drive through and sometimes the kids would dance because they were so glad to see us. It just depends on the parents and what they tell their kids. Sometimes we stopped to play with the kids and they were just awesome. All they wanted from us Americans were just writing pens and stuff with English on it, because they can use it in school now." It turns out that the Iraqis have very similar ideas concerning the War in Iraq as many Americans, according to Connally.

"They are kind of like the Americans — some are really glad we're there, some don't care, and some really don't want you there," he said. Coming back to the U.S. after seeing and experiencing Iraq for himself, Connally has a different view about the



PHOTO PROVIDED

DUTY — Connally in Iraq media's coverage of the War in Iraq.

"I would recommend being very discerning about what you see or hear on TV," he said. "(The media) tend to run very old footage." Also, among the talk about the war and if it is the right thing to do, Connally believes that Americans should unite on one issue — the support of those who are in the U.S. military.

"My biggest thing isn't whether you support the war or not — it's that you support the troops," he said. "It's important to support them while they're out there, making sure you do what you can to make them comfortable."

While it was a difficult time half-way across the world, Connally felt that it was a time that God was able to show His presence.

"We all knew God was watching over us. There was no doubt about that," he said. "There were some tough times, but we all were content with whatever the situation dictated."

Contact Amy Field at afield@liberty.edu.

DINING: New food choices to come

Continued from page 1

Junior kinesiology major Lori Dollar said, "I went to a focus group and they asked us what we liked about eating out. Everyone in the room said it was the atmosphere and so that is why they are changing the dining hall around."

Food quality will also be improved as Riddle explained that a genuine brick oven will be used for making all of the pizzas, and burgers will be charbroiled rather than grilled as they are now.

A new food management system will also be implemented, providing employees and students with complete nutritional guides for any of the food that is served.

Huge expansions will be made at the Campus North dining hall, allowing space for new venues to open.

"We experimented a bit with Chick-fil-A both at the Keyhole and at North and since it was so successful we're

bringing a full Chick-fil-A over to North campus. Our main goal there is to bring in much more variety," said Riddle.

In addition to a Chick-fil-A, Campus North will also feature a Cyclone Salads, a sushi joint and a second Jazzman's.

"I'm definitely going to try Cyclone Salads and maybe the sushi. I'm really just excited overall!" said Place.

Perhaps the most ambitious part of the plans will be the construction of a free-stand-

ing, full-service restaurant over on East campus. Named "Macel's" after the wife of Dr. Jerry Falwell, the atmosphere and menu will be strongly reminiscent of a diner.

"The restaurant will be open to the public and will have a regular staff with servers," said Riddle.

The large draw for students will be the option to pay for their food as part of their meal plan, to use their meal plan points or to use a combination of both.

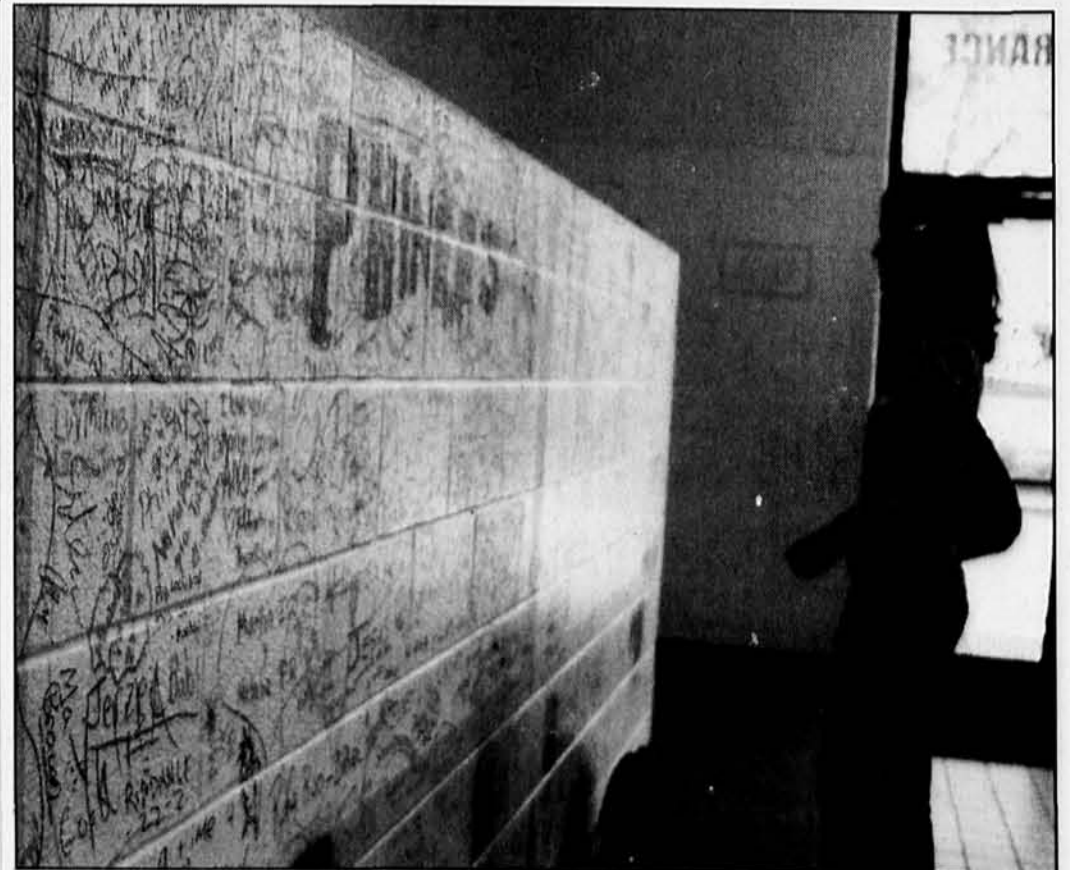
So far, the student response has been tremendous. "We hear lots of people saying that it is about time these changes were made and that the plans are excellent," said Riddle.

Dollar agrees, "I think that the changes are great and that they'll bring in a lot more people."

Construction on Reber-Thomas and Campus North dining facilities is expected to be completed before the start of the fall semester. The restaurant is slated to open near the middle of the semester. A large campaign, spearheaded by a traveling concessions trailer, will be kicked off with the start of classes in August to advertise all of the changes and the new food options.

"We are really excited about all of this and want students to feel that they don't have to go off campus to get great food," said Riddle.

Contact Jennifer Schmidt at jschmidt@liberty.edu.



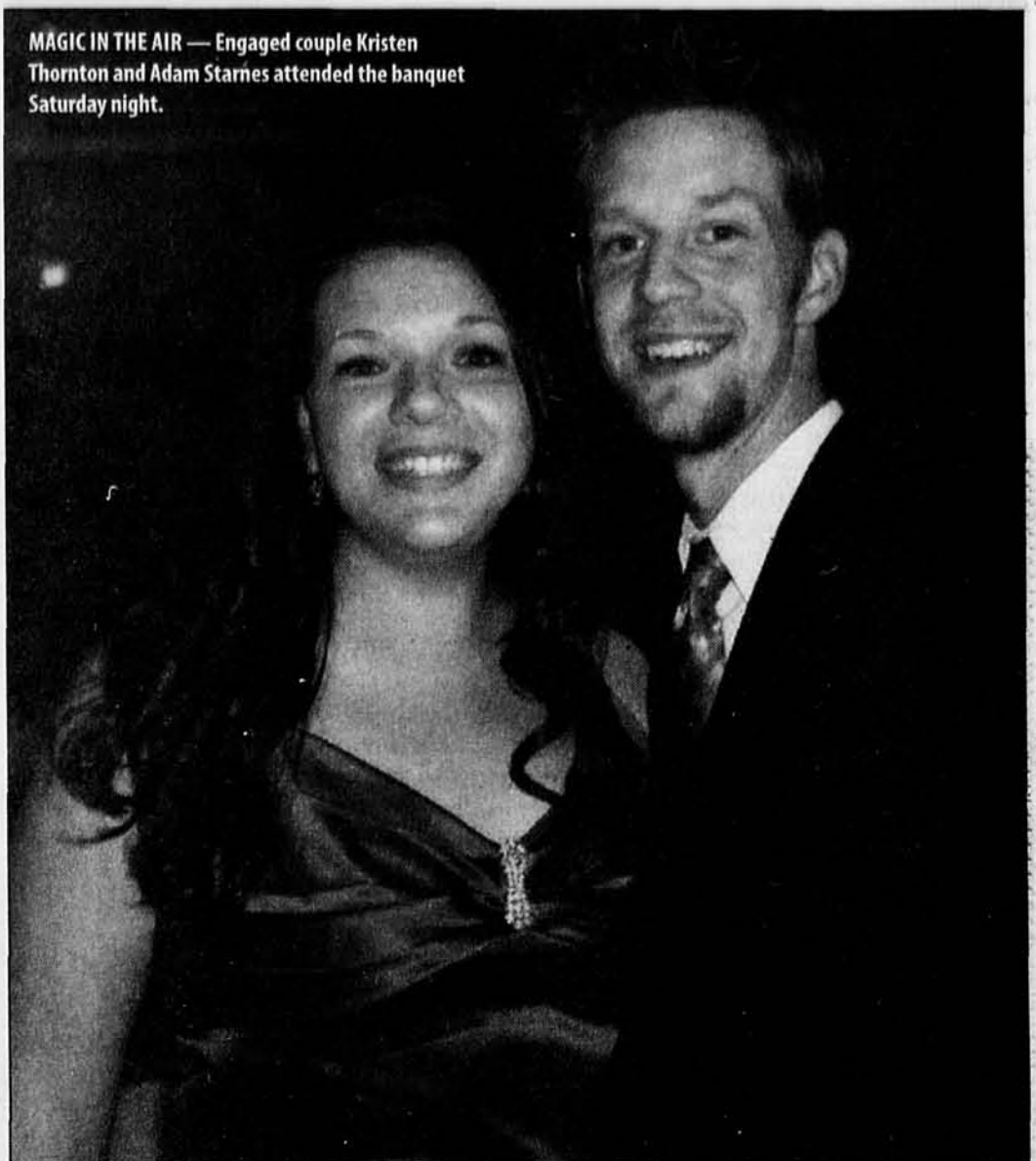
UNIQUE GOODBYE — Students have been encouraged to graffiti the main wall in the dining hall before it is torn down.

JESSICA WEBER

A Magical Masquerade for juniors and seniors



MASKED — Sean Langille is the man behind the (glittered) mask.



MAGIC IN THE AIR — Engaged couple Kristen Thornton and Adam Starnes attended the banquet Saturday night.

By Kari Mitchell
NEWS EDITOR

The 2007 Junior/Senior Banquet was held at the Hotel Roanoke Saturday night in Roanoke, Va. The black-tie event has been a tradition at Liberty since the '80s.

"The night was very elegant, and it was wonderful to see everyone dressed up," said Alyson Bruner.

The theme of the evening was Magical Masquerade: Can you really believe your eyes?

Placed on every table was a vase of masquerade masks decorated with feathers, sequins and bright colors to keep with the theme.

Dinner included salad, maple-glazed chicken and chocolate decadence cake for dessert.

"I loved the ballroom style dinner. It was so good and the servers were great," said Bruner.

After dinner and a ten-minute intermission, attendees were entertained by award-winning Christian illusionist B.J. Harris from Chattanooga, Tenn. As he performed his tricks, he warned the crowd not to trust their senses.

"The illusionist was amazing. He definitely got me!" said Bruner. The message behind his performance was that it is easy to be deceived.

"I liked how the illusionist talked about deception. We cannot trust our sight. As Christians, sometimes we have to walk by faith,"

said Amy Field, who was one of many students who were unable to guess which hand the "red card" was in.

Harris assured the crowd that all of his tricks, which included floating objects, mind reading and metamorphoses, were all merely illusions.

Nathan Cooley, SGA President, gave a senior tribute and the evening concluded with prizes, which primarily included gift certificates to restaurants.

Afterwards, many students elected to participate in other activities in the area since the curfew for resident students was extended to 2 a.m.

Some popular hangout spots included AMF Bowling, "The Star," Thunder Valley Indoor Go-Cart, as well as movie theaters and coffee shops.

"After the night, we went to see 'Spiderman 3' which was a great touch to end the wonderful night," said Bruner.

Coming up with creative ideas behind a Magical Masquerade and pulling the event together was the Junior/Senior Planning Committee, which included Carolyn Boyer, Joanna Foley, Cory Newell, Joel Rogers and David Trump, as well as Theresa Dunbar and Becki Daniel of the Parent Programs Office.

This was Rogers' second year on the committee as the graphic designer. His tasks included designing all promotional materials, the tickets, programs and web pages for the

banquet. He also worked with the rest of the committee to plan and setup the banquet.

"I think that the banquet was even better than what we expected. The turnout was great (over 600), and the response of the students was amazing. I heard several people comment on the amazing show that B.J. Harris put on, and I completely agree with them. He was an excellent choice for entertainment!"

Boyer has also served on the committee for two years. This year, her role in planning was largely decoration oriented. She chose materials for the main entrance, and then assembled the final product. "We all have intertwined roles in terms of decisions about things like our theme, colors, and entertain-

ment, but ultimately, it comes down to a vote and a compromise," said Boyer.

All the work involved required committee members to work together and multi-task. "I have heard nothing but good feedback. Everyone and everything was gorgeous. Everyone seemed to enjoy the entertainment, dinner and favors. The entire event went smoothly. It ended up being far more than what I had anticipated," she said.

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OPINION

"I'm not judging people, I'm judging their actions. It's the same type of distinction that I try to apply to myself, to judge, but not be judgmental."

Jeff Melvoin

Is it ever appropriate to judge?

Christians must know where to draw the line

Many who are exceptionally "open-minded" and "accepting" of all walks of life often look at "judgment" as a form of bleak and overly conservative discrimination against people or things with unusual philosophies, lifestyles, etc. Dispelling that train of thought, which is a myth in most cases, is possible by embracing people with love and kindness while at the same time not necessarily accepting their personal ideals. In the midst of a variety of standards and moral convictions, society would be unable to function if judgment ceased to exist. Even the basic principles of right and wrong imply that some things must simply be rejected. Prisons create a prime example. The actions of inmates are "rejected" by the standards which society has created through a judgment of what it deems to be correct and acceptable.



clairemelsi

began discussing the topic of judgment, and having already encountered numerous conversations revolving around the subject, it caught my attention.

Though I was unable to watch the entirety of the video and determine whether or not I truly agree with its overall content, I did agree with most of what was said about the point that caught my attention. Most of what I am about to write are thoughts provoked by the narration on the video, and are just as much the conclusions of the writers of the material as they are my own. Even so, they are valid and sturdy apologetics which are correct and worth sharing, since the topic often presents itself in Christian culture.

referring to judging hypocritically or based on appearance. As Christians, it is important that we filter our surroundings through a biblical worldview of absolute truth. Making any decisions based on absolutes results in unavoidable judgment and various passages of Scripture support the conclusion that we are to "judge" based on our knowledge of righteousness. Proverbs 3:21, for example, says, "My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out of your sight" (NIV). Similarly, John 7:24 says, "Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment" (NIV).

The documentary pointed out that without judgment, elected government would fall apart. Were there no way to weigh candidates against each other, a world of political equality would lead to chaotic anarchy. Citizens would be in danger if they began to completely ignore obvious facts to embrace fanciful fiction. Imagine if people with no street smarts, in an attempt to breakdown stereotypes, began walking around cities like Detroit, Compton and Camden all alone late at night with handfuls of money to give to the needy. The possibility of any long term benefits would be far outweighed by the grave danger those with such ignorant ideals would be placing themselves in. Statistics speak for themselves and society uses basic morality and common sense to pass judgment on drugs, murder, rape, etc.

"In the midst of a variety of standards and moral convictions, society would be unable to function if judgment ceased to exist."

Have you ever sat through a lecture knowing exactly what you thought the speaker was attempting to persuade you to walk away with? For me, predictability often causes my mind to wander. More than once what I have taken away from a very targeted message has had nothing to do with the overall topic. The other day, in the middle of a psychology class, I experienced just that as I watched "Hells Bells 2," a documentary on how various types of music are affecting civilization.

At one point the video depicted an "actual event" with audio of a man leaving an angry message on the answering machine of the organization that produced the film. The caller went off on a tangent about something along the lines of how Christians have no right to judge others and produce such narrow-minded material. The narrator then

Matthew 7:1 — "Judge not, that you be not judged" (NKJV) — is almost always used in conversations about judgment as a point of reference in both Christian and non-Christian circles, but many overlook its context. As the video pointed out, the surrounding material makes it clear that it is

Christians living in accordance with what they believe to be absolute truth will inevitably encounter accusations of elitism, but by finger pointing, the opposition itself passes judgment. It is a cycle that is unavoidable and necessary within the right context. The trick to getting the point across is speaking the truth in love, not with hateful words or rash reaction.

Contact Claire Melsi at cvmelsi@liberty.edu

"After reviewing all of the evidence, I have decided not to pass judgment."



ART BY JESSE PERRY

SPEAK UP: When can you pass judgment?



"It's okay to judge someone when their actions can negatively impact the lives of others."

—Kenneth Burrows
Freshman, Freeport, Bahamas



"I don't believe it is ever right to judge, but if someone is out of God's will you should go to them and offer your help and support."

—Robert Frost
Senior, Myrtle Beach, S.C.



"It is okay to make judgments on people's actions so long as you don't make generalizations that a one time action reveals the person's character."

—Zachary Bricker
Junior, Bainbridge, Pa.



"I believe that it is our responsibility as Christians to hold each other accountable, but it is always done in love."

—Emily Ellington
Sophomore, Greensboro, N.C.



"I don't think it is ever right to judge someone or their actions."

—Emily Coumbe
Sophomore, Woodbury, N.J.

ALL PHOTOS BY JESSICA WEBER

COMMENTARY

Seeing through eternity's eyes

Why do bad things happen to good people?

"Why?" - This question has probably crossed through your mind, as it has crossed mine, at some point in time. With broken hearts and appalled spirits, we have all taken a deeper look into life, trying to find reasons for something that is inconceivable in our minds. As human beings who were given an intellect, it is natural - and healthy - for us to question life. Nevertheless, we ought to understand that, as sinful people who fall short of God's glory, we have limited minds and will never be able to fully grasp certain things no matter how hard we try. We can, though, use our reason aided by faith and God's Word to understand life better through the lenses of the Creator.



fernandarezende

After receiving the shocking news about Virginia Tech, I came across a passage from Scripture that opened my eyes to the truth of God's sovereignty. It was in John 9:1-3. Jesus and his disciples see a man blind from birth. The "why" question permeates the disciples' minds, followed by an assumption that the man was born blind either because he had sinned or because his parents had sinned. Jesus replies to the disciples in the following way: "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life" (NIV).

As the chapter unravels, we learn that Jesus healed the blind man. For the first time in history, the eyes of a man born blind were opened by someone (vs. 32). Through this man's life, God was glorified and Jesus' deity was revealed. Also, it was the miraculous healing from his blindness that led the man to salvation by faith in Jesus Christ.

Like the disciples, we have the tendency of making assumptions based on our own perception of life. If we perceive God as a judge ready to punish sinners, we will look at tragedy as a sign of God's wrath. Another very common reaction we tend to have towards calamity is blaming God for allowing it to happen. We ask, "If God is good and sovereign, why didn't He intervene and stop the situation? Isn't He powerful enough to do so?"

Yes. God is sovereign and powerful, as we've seen through the blind man's life. But on the other hand, man has free will.

This means he is responsible for his decisions and actions. He can choose to be his own god and make choices apart from God, or he can seek God's guidance in every area of his life. Let me illustrate this with a scene from the movie "Love Comes Softly," directed by Michael Landon Jr.

The movie's main character, Marty, and her husband had traveled west to begin their life together. An accident occurred, and Marty's husband died. Lonely and without money to go back home, Marty receives a proposition of a "marriage of convenience" by a widower called Clark until she can return home. In the end, they fall in love and find restoration in their wounded lives.

Clark is a strong believer. When his barn caught on fire, he told Marty he was going to pray and everything would be all

pick her up and I'll carry her. I'll try to heal her. I'll cry when she cries. I'll rejoice when she is well. In all the moments of my life, God has been right there besides me. The truth of God's love is not that He allows bad things to happen. It is His promise that He will be there with us when they do."

You may be thinking right now that the blind man and Marty did not choose the tragedies that took place in their lives. They did not exercise their free will in those situations. That is true. And that's when God's sovereignty comes into place.

I like to compare our lives and the events happening to us to a puzzle. When you try to put a puzzle together without knowing what the final picture will look like, it may be a hard and confusing task. But when all pieces are put together, fitting perfectly with each other and portraying a beautiful picture, it all makes sense. That's how our lives are. We often don't understand the reason for many things we face, but the truth is that God knows and cares about every single detail, and He sees the final picture.

Through Marty's and the blind man's sufferings, bigger plans were accomplished. In Isaiah 55:9, God says, "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (NIV). While we look at the present - at what is in front of our eyes - with a limited perspective, God looks at eternity. If we choose to trust Him, to live yielded lives and to seek His guidance daily, His perfect purposes will be fulfilled in and through us.

It is important to understand that God never desires for tragedies, such as Virginia Tech's, to happen. His heart breaks more than anyone else's. Our comfort is in the fact that God's grace can bring beauty from pain. The only thing we can do in situations like this is to completely trust in who God says He is: good, loving, compassionate, merciful, gracious, sovereign and just.

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"As human beings who were given an intellect, it is natural - and healthy - for us to question life."

right. The following dialogue takes place:

Marty: "Why do you think He will answer your prayers?"

Clark: "He always answers my prayers."

Marty: "Really? Did you pray for this (barn fire)? Did you pray to have Ellen (his wife) taken away from you? Did you pray that Missie (his daughter) would grow without knowing her real mother? I just don't understand why the God that you pray to would let such unthinkable things happen to decent people."

Clark then uses a beautiful analogy between an earthly father and God to answer Marty's questions. He says, "Missie can fall down and hurt herself even if I'm walking right there beside her. That doesn't mean that I allowed it to happen. But she knows that with a father's unconditional love, I'll

God's grace can bring beauty from pain.



PHOTO BY ALEX TOWERS

COMMENTARY

America is still a nation of choices

It's hard to pick up a newspaper, watch TV or listen to the radio without opinions and perspectives being broadcast every which way. But is that not what is supposed to happen? In a sense, yes. But many times individuals use their popularity or raised status to stand on a soapbox and preach on things they are anything but knowledgeable. The conservative media call these individuals the media elite. We know them as celebrities.



stephen nelson

Many conservative authors have penned books on the pestilence of media elites and their ability to cry foul. Bernard Goldberg, a former CBS correspondent, wrote "Bias" and "100

People Who Are Screwing Up America." Goldberg examined the liberal bias in the media and suffered severe repercussions for what he revealed. Being shut out of CBS was just the beginning as he was shut out of most general media outlets for surfacing the issues. Goldberg stood behind his views, gained credit as a conservative pundit and that he takes his job as a journalist seriously.

Laura Ingraham describes the elites and what they stand for in her book, "Shut Up & Sing," not to be confused with the documentary of the same name about the Dixie Chicks. Ingraham said, "Essentially, the elites are defined not so much by class or wealth or position as they are by a general outlook. Their core belief ... is that they are superior to We the People." This is an interesting perspective, a perspective that states that elites think they are better (hence the name "elites") than "average" Americans. When these elites board their soapbox,

their intentions are not for the good of the nation or society—only themselves.

To be honest, I try not to listen to the voices of those who just like to hear themselves talk but instead to the voices of change. There is a difference between creating something that sends a message that change is needed and creating something that sends a message that simply says our president is an idiot, expletives excluded.

Musicians and actors alike mostly have liberal views, but they are still Americans and entitled to their opinions. In 2004, the Dixie Chicks proclaimed exactly what they thought of George W. Bush, and the backlash was fiery. They lost a lot of radio time and fans. While maybe that declaration wasn't the best choice, they came back with a single that spoke vividly about what the singers believed without name-calling.

What drives me crazy is when people will vote for a candidate or issue just because their favorite musician, actor or athlete endorses them. This behavior shows how easily some Americans are influenced. It also shows how we as Americans take for granted our ability to vote and make choices.

Whether you agree with Jennifer Aniston, Sean Hannity, Michael Moore or Pat Robertson, America is still a nation of choices. America is also a nation based on individualism and individual values. Rather than blindly agreeing with celebrities, people should take the time to form their own opinions.

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soundoff: LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In last week's edition of the Champion, the editorial was on responsible journalism. A paragraph towards the end gave a report of a photographer intentionally disturbing the peace of the War Memorial Prayer Chapel.

When I went to go get photographs in that building when I was on campus for a sporting event during last year's spring semester, I went in there to photograph the relief sculpture on the wall of Christ. There is no rule existing at Virginia Tech about photographing inside of the Prayer Chapel.

My sole purpose in photographing, albeit misunderstood, was to show that there were people turning to religion to calm their fears and vent their frustrations in an attempt to gain solace, not turning to the media to join the frenzy of crying out against the President of the United States or the president of the college for what they saw as doing nothing.

If I offended anyone for taking pictures inside the prayer chapel, please accept my apologies, however, I felt I was justified, as a journalist, in trying to show the religious side of a school that has been ignored during this horrific and devastating time.

My thoughts and prayers are with the families and will continue to be for a long time to come.

From Alex Towers
Photography Editor
The Liberty Champion

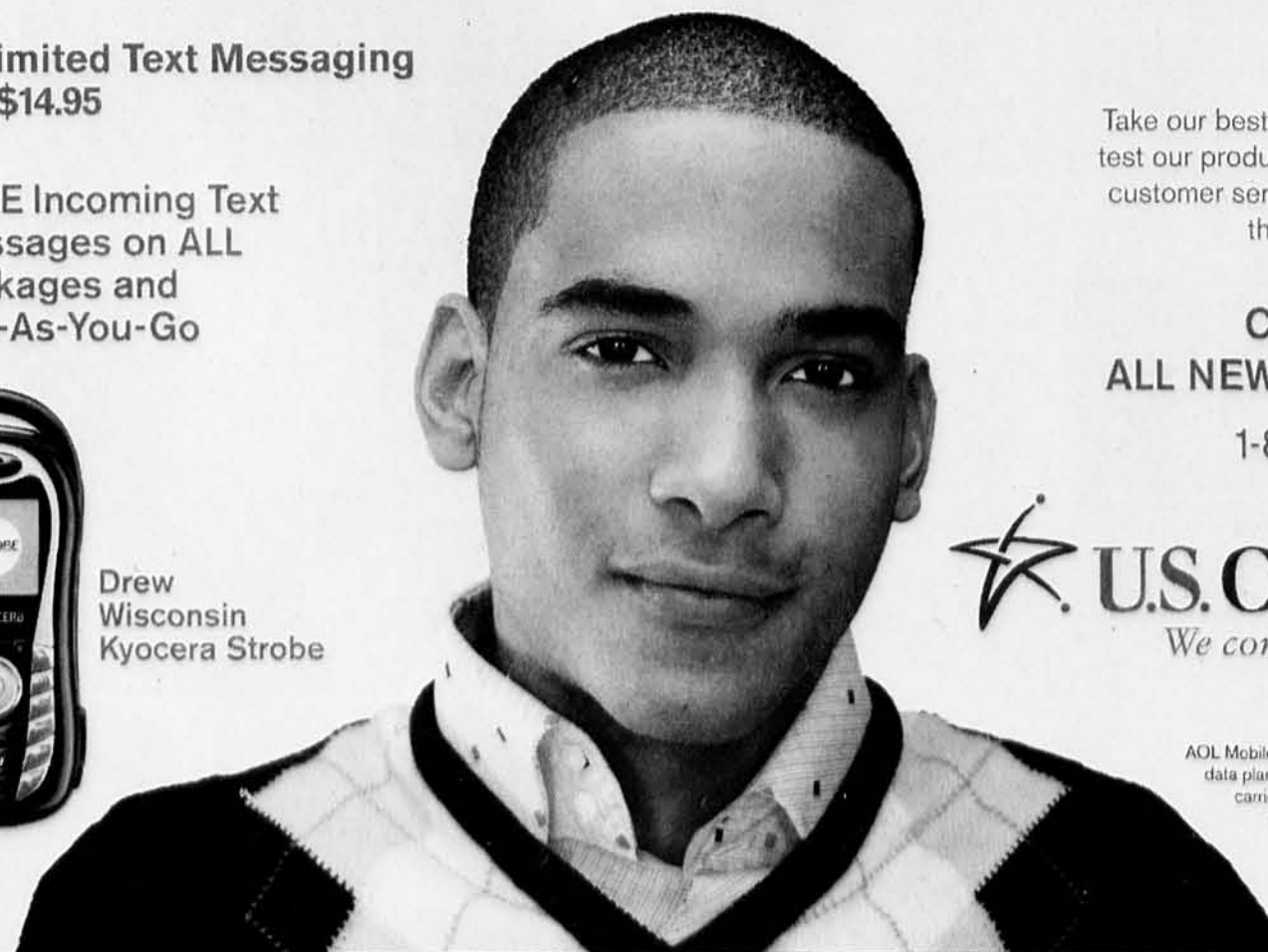
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Uphill Battle

Liberty junior David Hunt blazes the trail in both athletics and business.

Page B3

Brown's Beatdowns

Page B2



JESSICA WEBER

PLAY TOGETHER, PRAY TOGETHER — Shortstop J'Nae Jefferson and the Lady Flames gather with members of the Virginia Tech softball team in prayer following last Tuesday's doubleheader. The Hokies, ranked No. 17 in the nation at the time, defeated Liberty in both games.

Softball swept by Tech

By Will Luper
SPORTS REPORTER

Last Tuesday, the Liberty University Lady Flames softball team played host to the Hokies of Virginia Tech.

Coming in ranked No. 17 in the nation, the Hokies were the heavy favorites as they squared off against the Lady Flames, who sit atop the Big South Conference. A large crowd, which showed up to take in the sights on the sunny afternoon, was treated to two very close games.

The Hokies boast one of the nation's best hurlers in junior All-American Angela Tincher, who was slated to start the first game of the doubleheader on Tuesday. Tincher, a typical power pitcher style with electric pitches, owned a 32-5 record going into the game. She also sports a 0.61 ERA and has already recorded 539 strikeouts this season.

The day's double-header started with a game that would go into extra innings after junior Ashley Williams hit a game-tying, two-run home run in the bottom of the seventh inning, the only hit off Tincher all day.

Senior Sarah Swor pitched nine innings in her final home game, but unfortunately in the top of the ninth, Tech's Charisse Mariconda scored from second on a single up the middle from pinch hitter Kelsey Rokey.

The Lady Flames, who were unable to muster a run to re-tie the game, faced a questionable call made by the umpires that cost them two outs to end the first game by a score of 3-2.

Tincher upped her record to 33-5 on the season, pitching nine innings and striking out 22 Lady Flames in a dominating performance. Swor took the loss, bringing her record to 5-7 on the year.

The second game saw senior Terra

Lowe start off on the mound. However after three runs off three hits through three innings, head coach Paul Wetmore went to the bullpen and brought in sophomore Sarah Ellis. The Hokies added another run in the sixth inning on Whitney Davis' RBI single and another in the seventh on a Stephanie Savre double.

Freshman J'nae Jefferson got the Flames on the scoreboard with a home run in the bottom of the seventh, but it was not enough as the Hokies cruised to a 5-1 victory.

Head Coach Paul Wetmore was pleased with his team's play despite the two losses.

"It's the reason we schedule like this. The great competition will help prepare us for the Big South Championship," he said.

After dropping the double-header, Liberty made the long journey to Alabama to take on Birmingham-Southern University.

The first game against the Panthers was hardly competitive on the scoreboard as the Lady Flames won 8-0 after just five innings. Lowe picked up the win and moved her conference record to 7-1, (16-8 overall) tying her personal best in a season.

Headlining the offensive attack for the Lady Flames was senior Jessica Moore. She connected in the fifth inning on 1-2 delivery, sending the ball over the left field fence for her league

Track shines at Twilight Qualifier

By Josh Brown
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Liberty Flames track team enjoyed their home field advantage last Thursday and Friday at the Liberty Twilight Qualifier despite the adverse weather conditions. Other teams that braved the elements to complete the guest list included Virginia Tech, Washington & Lee, Gardner-Webb, Virginia Military Institute, Bridgewater College, Lynchburg College and Roanoke College.

In the days leading up to the Twilight Qualifier, Big South commissioner Kyle B. Kallander announced that both the men's and women's teams were awarded with the Big South Conference Sportsmanship Award. The men's team shares the award with Charleston-Southern, while the women's team edged last year's winner Coastal Carolina. It marks the fifth time this year that Liberty has been honored with the sportsmanship award, with previous winners being volleyball and the men's and women's cross country teams.

On this day, it seemed at first that the chilling rain would take honors in many of the events, canceling the women's shot put, the women's 400-meter dash and the men's 3000-meter steeplechase as well as sending all jumping events away from the slippery outdoor surface to the Tolsma

Indoor Track Center. However, the competition continued, testing the resolve and grit of all participants.

The Flames' throwing corps threw their way to success, winning an outstanding six of the seven throwing events contested. Junior Clendon Henderson's performance turned the most heads as he took first place in the discus throw, setting a new facility record of 181-11. His performance in the hammer throw was also exceptional as he set a new personal best distance of 188-8 that would place second only to his teammate, junior Jon Hart.

Henderson said, "I think the weather being so bad helped me to relax and just try and crush some throws. I have been feeling really good lately and God definitely has been blessing me and my teammates with records and great performances."

Hart would take the prize in both the hammer throw and the shot put with distances of 197-11 and 55-0, respectively. Freshman Elliot Galeone also contributed to Liberty's domination of the throwing events by taking first place in the javelin event with a distance of 172-6 and taking second place in the discus with a fling of 142-7.

Please see TRACK, page B2



JESSICA WEBER

HOKIE HONOR — Several weeks after the tragedy in Blacksburg, Liberty still pays respects to those fallen with this logo painted in the outfield grass.



JESSICA WEBER

RAIN OR SHINE — The rain did not stop Andrew Bartels and the Flames from dominating Thursday's throwing events.

Please see SOFTBALL, page B2

QUICK SCORES

SPORTS @ LU

Baseball			Softball			Softball			Baseball		
5/1	Virginia Tech	L (9-12)	5/1	Virginia Tech	L (2-3)	5/4	Birmingham-Southern	W (7-2)	5/11	vs. Winthrop	4:00 PM
5/4	Arizona	L (2-16)	5/1	Virginia Tech	L (1-5)	5/5	Birmingham-Southern	L (0-2)	5/12	vs. Winthrop	2:00 PM
5/5	Arizona	L (3-6)	5/4	Birmingham-Southern	W (8-0)				5/13	vs. Winthrop	2:00 PM



TRACK: Flames unphased by bad weather

Continued from page B1

It was Pretty Boy versus the Golden Boy in what many expected to be the fight that would resurrect boxing. All the story lines were set up beautifully. In one corner stood the best pound for pound puncher in the sport.

In the other, the sport's most popular fighter waited patiently to prove he was more than just a GQ guy.

As I watched the Floyd Mayweather Jr. versus Oscar De La Hoya bout, I could not help but ask myself one burning question. Did this fight bring back boxing?

Sure, the media hyped the fight as one of the most monumental fights of the decade, but I do not think the contest itself lived up to expectations.

The story behind the bout certainly was better than any Rocky movie script. How many times do we see two fighters who have won titles in five or more weight classes face one another? Not many.

How many times do we see a fighter square off against someone his own father trained? None.

So what went wrong? The blame cannot be placed on De La Hoya—he came ready to fight. Mayweather, on the other hand, does not get off so easily.

While I believe the fast punching super welterweight beat the Golden Boy decisively, I did not see anything electrifying from Mayweather as I had previously hoped.

Where was Pretty Boy Floyd, the guy who exposed Arturo Gatti? Where was the fighter who forced Zab Judah to resort to a desperate

cheap shot? Where was the man who always backed up his trash talking?

Perhaps his mind was already halfway down the road to retirement. Or maybe he just made it look too easy. After all, Oscar is not looking as golden as he once did.

Still, I think that Mayweather could have displayed more heart in the bout. While his cocky smile showed he was having fun throughout the fight, I believe he did not take De La Hoya seriously. Mayweather resented his opponent for being a people's champ, someone adored by more than just boxing fans.

He verbally fired at the ten-time champ repeatedly. On one specific occasion Mayweather held up a chicken with a medal around its neck to poke fun at his foe.

The biggest slap in the face came on Saturday night when Mayweather, dressed in Mexican ring attire, dawned a backwards sombrero. Mayweather's uncle Roger used to enter the ring the same way whenever he faced an opponent of Mexican descent. He referred to himself as the "Mexican Assassin."

If that was the impression Mayweather Jr. was going for, he missed the target completely. Not only was the act disgusting, but Mayweather did not look anything like an assassin in the ring at all.

Instead he looked like a professional dodgeball player, ducking, dipping and dodging the flurries of De La Hoya. The CompuBox num-

bers do not lie. Mayweather landed more punches and more powerful ones at that. Many of De La Hoya's shots charged the crowd, but in the end the Las Vegas fans were merely deceived by what they thought were effective punches.

So what becomes of boxing now? Do we see fans suddenly tune back into boxing? I doubt it. This fight may have approached record pay per view sales, but as long as the heavyweight division continues to struggle, forget about it.

Ever since the departure of former WBC Heavyweight Champion Lennox Lewis, fighters like Roy Jones Jr., Bernard Hopkins, De La Hoya, and Mayweather have been forced to hold the sport up.

Sugar Ray Leonard paved the way for lighter fighters, but Muhammad Ali set the standard. In order for the sport to truly resurrect, we must see a fighter, similar to Tyson, Holyfield, or Lewis, rise from the ashes. Welterweights and middleweights cannot do it alone.

Until then boxing fans can continue to watch marketable fighters like the Goldenboy lose when it really matters. Or witness young, cocky champions say that they have had enough when their career has yet to reach its peak.

I hate to say it boxing fans, but at this point we can only sit back and hope for a miracle—or a good heavyweight.

Contact Eric Brown at ebrown@liberty.edu

Senior Caitlyn Sutterfield ensured the ladies' addition to Flames' success in the throwing events by overpowering the field in both the hammer throw and discus, launching throws of 129-9 and 145-9.

Sutterfield, who will graduate the field in both the hammer throw and discus, launching throws of 129-9 and 145-9.

Sutterfield, who will graduate this spring, said, "Last Thursday was somewhat sad because it was my last home track meet. Over the last few years I have learned that track is just a platform to lift up and glorify the name of God. In 10 years it isn't going to matter how far I threw or what place I came in, but it will matter if I planted a seed in a teammate or fellow competitor. On Thursday my goal was to go out there give it my all, and have fun. That is what I did and I am very pleased with the results!"

Liberty also took first in a total of six other events including the men's and women's 200-meter dash (won by sophomore Phil Leineweber and Andrea Beckles) and the men's and women's 400-meter hurdles (won by sophomore Ben Handon and junior Jennifer Ward), events that were all impacted greatly by the poor weather conditions.

The Flames only indoor first place finish was earned on the high jump by sophomore Matt Parker, who cleared 6-8 3/4. Sophomore Jo Welch took the day's final

contest, the women's 5000-meter final, posting a personal-best 18 minutes, 1.63 seconds to top off a solid performance by the Flames.

Other headlines from Thursday's action included two additional facility records including a 13.72 in the men's 110-meter hurdles by unattached athlete Enrique Llanos and Virginia Tech's Billy Berlin victory in the men's 1500-meter run, clocking in at 3:48.63. Berlin's effort was just barely enough to sneak ahead of Liberty's Stephen Githuka's record at 3:49.02, which had stood for over nine years.

Friday saw the conclusion of the last three events of the women's heptathlon as well as a slight improvement in the weather conditions.

Ward, who started the day in fourth place after Thursday's competition, failed at hopes of a come-from-behind performance but had nothing to hang her head about after a finishing with a season-best 2:24.54 in the 800 meters. Her point total in the event tallied to 4,251 points, only 16 points shy of her best mark of 4,267 points, which was good for second at the Big South Championships a few weeks ago.

Liberty will now prepare for the upcoming IC4A/ECAC Outdoor Track Championships, which will be held on May 11-13 in Princeton, N.J.

Contact Josh Brown at

SOFTBALL: Wins Birmingham series 2-1, secures bye in BSC



JESSICA WEBER

STEALING SECOND—Shortstop J'nae Jefferson attempts to apply the tag on a Tech player in Tuesday's doubleheader. Jefferson hit her fifth home run of the season against Virginia Tech, then hit another one against Birmingham-Southern this weekend.

Continued from page B1

She connected in the fifth inning on 1-2 delivery, sending the ball over the left field fence for her league leading 18th homerun of the season.

Jefferson also added her sixth homerun of the season in the second inning as the Lady Flames cruised to a five-inning, 8-0 shutout victory.

The second game of the day was much of the same as the Lady Flames pounded out 12 hits en route to a 7-2 win.

In the top of the fifth inning, senior Dawn Jeffs hit a solo home run, her 15th this season, to jumpstart the offense. The home run was also Jeffs' 87th hit of the season, eclipsing her previous season high of 86.

Liberty added five more runs in the sixth to secure the victory, highlighted by Moore's 19th home run of the year.

Swor held the Panthers to two runs over her six innings of work, allowing only four hits and striking out five en route to her sixth win of the season.

Heather Fox hit a home run in the bot-

tom of the sixth for the Panthers. Saturday's game saw the Flames' bats go quiet as Panther pitcher Raquel Sanifel tossed a three-hit shutout in her final career home game.

Sanifel's shutout was threatened in the sixth inning when the Lady Flames loaded the bases with no outs. Sanifel was able to strike out sophomore Beth Bennett, however, and then induced Swor to line into an unassisted double play.

With their two victories this weekend, the Lady Flames end the regular season with a record of 36-24 and 11-4 in Big South Conference play, tying the most conference wins since the 1999 season.

The Lady Flames stellar play this season earns them a first round bye in this weekend's Big South Conference softball tournament.

The Lady Flames will return to action at the Big South Softball Championship in Conway, S.C. The tournament is slated to begin on Thursday and will conclude on Saturday, the winning team receiving an automatic bid to the NCAA Regionals.

Contact Will Luper at wluper@liberty.edu.

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Shoe contract makes the difference for trail running entrepreneur

By Eric Brown
SPORTS EDITOR

Someone once said, "Everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it."

This statement rings true for junior David Hunt. He is a young entrepreneur, always thinking of new ideas to help his online business. Hunt is also a trail runner who feeds off battling up mountainous terrain. While the native from Maine is still trying to reach his full potential in both trail running and the business world, he enjoys the climb to the top.

"He offered me a product sponsorship right there and started giving me free stuff."

Hunt excelled at football through most of his high school career. In track, he ran as a sprinter and reached the state championships in both the long jump and triple jump. Hunt finally made the move from sprinter to distance runner his senior year, winning the conference two-miler at 190 pounds.

Hunt looked up to his older brother, Bobby, who ran track for Liberty, but made no plans to run himself. Head Coach Brant Tolsma noticed Hunt running on the track and became impressed.

"Only crazy people go out there and do twenty times 400-meter repeats when they don't have a team to run with," says Hunt. "He (Tolsma) thought I was out of my mind. By January, I was running indoor track for Liberty."

Hunt enjoyed many great moments as a collegiate runner, including a personal best of twenty-six minutes and nine seconds in the Stanford Invitational 8K. During the summer of his freshman year, he traveled back to Maine to do some training on the trails. That June, Hunt competed in the Mt. Cranmore Hill Climb in North Conway, N.H., a quali-

fyng race for the U.S. Mountain Running Championships.

In the event, each runner is required to run up and down the mountain a total of three times with each lap equaling four and a half kilometers. Hunt failed to win the qualifier that year, but his efforts did not go unnoticed. The president of a British mountain running shoe company known as INOV-8 approached Hunt after the race.

"I had on a pair of Nike Trainers," recalled Hunt. "He looks at my shoes and was like, 'We've got to get you better shoes than that.' He offered me a product sponsorship right there and started giving me free stuff."

For the next year, Hunt received free shoes from INOV-8 and filled out reports commenting on the products. When the summer rolled around after his sophomore year, Hunt journeyed back to North Conway to battle the fierce terrain of Mt. Cranmore once again.

This time, he conquered the course, winning the race in a time of 48:15. The company then offered Hunt a paid sponsorship, forcing him to stop running collegiate track. He now receives a stipend along with free products from the company.

In return, INOV-8 requires Hunt to compete in a number of races throughout the year, including Mt. Cranmore and a treacherous road race known as Mt. Washington. The 7.6 mile uphill race makes most trail courses look like anthills, with temperatures dropping close to 20 degrees at the top. Competing against some of the top trail runners in the world, Hunt finished 72nd in 2005 and 35th last summer.

"The first year I ran it, there was snow at the top," says Hunt. "There were runners getting hypothermia, slipping on ice seven miles up the mountain and it was 70 degrees at the bottom."

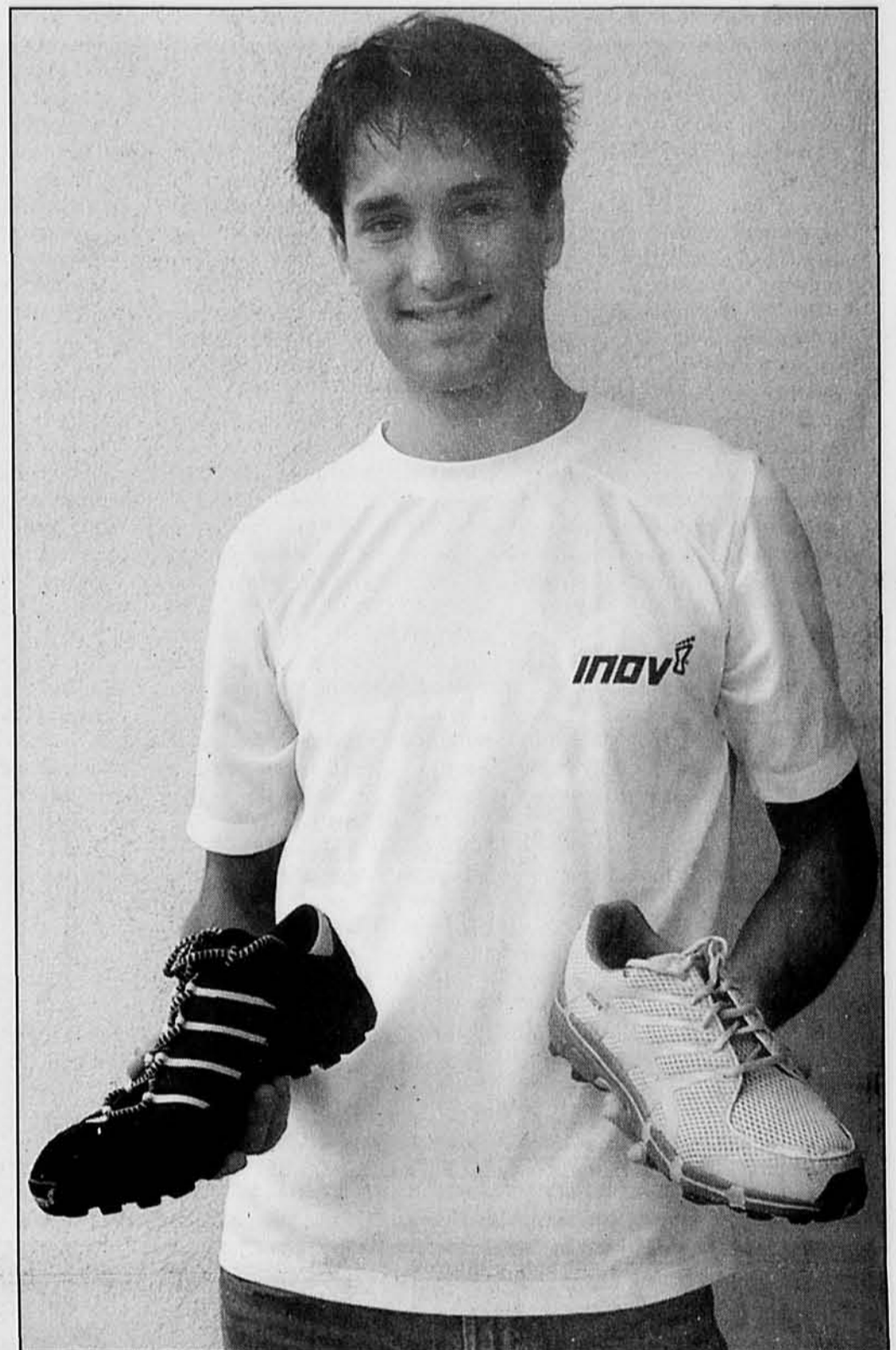
Although Hunt is no longer a member of the Liberty track or cross country teams, he still manages to stay in touch with many of his former teammates. Hunt lives in Boonsboro in a house with eight other distance runners, including one of the nation's top distance runners, junior Josh McDougal.

"It's a pretty neat atmosphere," says McDougal. "Dave kind of has his own thing so he's gone a lot. We all have our own cliques, but usually one or two nights a week we will all be there (at the house)."

Apart from running, Hunt is currently majoring in journalism with a minor in international business. Through his success with trail running, Hunt started a privately owned writing business that specializes in writing Web content and advertisements for small businesses.

"It's pretty much like advertisement writing. That's what I will be doing out of school, and I don't think any of that would have happened if I hadn't gotten this (contract)."

Hunt's success with INOV-8 is offering not only free access to shoes, but to races as well. Recently the company mailed Hunt a paid elite status to compete in the TD Banknorth Beach to Beacon 10K, one of Maine's biggest road races.



ALWAYS IN THE HUNT — David Hunt shows off his 'INOV-8'ive kicks; the MudRoc 280 (left) and the RocLite305. Hunt will compete in a number of trail running events this summer, including at Mt. Cranmore and the grueling

Hunt plans on competing in the road race despite the fact that he typically prefers the mountains. After all, mountains are what he enjoys training for. That is why he puts his body through grueling Mt. Washington simulations consisting of a 3.8 mile run on a sloped treadmill in the LaHaye Center. The weird stares Hunt receives when he is training do not phase him at all. He continues to build his body for the mountains.

"A lot of times when I come in his room, he's doing his push-ups or sit-ups," says former teammate and current roommate, junior Drew Ponder. "In the long run it really will help him out, especially doing races such as Mt. Washington where you have to run up the


hill the whole time."

So, what is next for the trail running entrepreneur? Hunt hopes to extend his current one-year contract with INOV-8. Before increasing his stipend, however, Hunt plans on taking first place at Mt. Washington.

"I'm really excited for this summer," says Hunt. "I haven't raced yet, but I know I am in really good shape to go up the mountain."

Yes, Hunt is happy when he is running up the mountains. Just imagine his excitement this summer when he reaches the top.

Contact Eric Brown at ebrown@liberty.edu



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Baseball drops five on road

By Mitchell Malcheff
SPORTS REPORTER

The Virginia Tech Hokies took advantage of seven Liberty errors and doused the Flames 12-9 in a mid-week contest in Blacksburg, Va.

The Flames took an early 3-0 lead in the second inning on a bases-clearing triple by

senior David Giammaresi. Two batters later sophomore Kenneth Negron drove Giammaresi in on a double down the left-field line to extend the lead to 4-0.

The Flames tacked on two more runs in the top of the third to stretch the lead to 6-0. Junior Garrett Young started the inning off with a bunt single and moved to third on senior Tim Nanry's double off the left-field wall. Se-

nior Patrick Gaillard banged a single through the hole to score Young and advance Nanry to third. Nanry scored on junior Aaron Grijalva's RBI double play groundout.

The Hokies struck back in the bottom of the frame, pounding out four hits in the inning and scoring six times. The Hokies were helped by two Liberty errors and Nate Parks' RBI triple into the right center field gap.

The Hokies scored two more in the fourth to move ahead 8-6.

Liberty managed to regain the lead in the fifth when junior P.K. Keller and Young were drilled by pitches to start the inning. Nanry plated them both, tripling to right center field to continue his hot hitting. Grijalva scored Nanry two batters later on a single to give the Flames a 9-8 lead.

Three more errors, in the bottom of the fifth, though, sparked another Hokies rally that gave them a 10-9 lead, which they extended to 12-9 in the next frame.

The Flames were unable to muster a comeback in the final three innings. Nanry and Gaillard led the Liberty attack with two hits apiece in the 12-9 loss.

The Flames found themselves back in action over the weekend a long ways from home in Tucson, Ariz., for a three-game set against the No. 15 ranked Arizona Wildcats.

Friday night saw little offensive output from the Flames, who eked out two runs while allowing 20 hits and 16 runs to the Wildcats, the most by a Liberty opponent this season.

The Wildcats jumped on the Flames early, scoring five two-out runs in the second inning. Arizona tacked on two more runs in the fourth to extend the lead to 6-0. Pitcher Peter Guilmet held the Flames hitless through 5 2/3 innings before Negron singled in the bottom of the sixth.

Guilmet, a sophomore, is a finalist for the Roger Clemens award, given annually to the best pitcher in college baseball. Guilmet allowed only one hit through seven innings and picked up his ninth win of the season.

Sophomore Cody Brown recorded the only Flames RBI of the day in spectacular fashion in the eighth with a two-run home run to left-field.

Arizona refused to sit on a big lead in the later innings, doubling four times in the eighth and scoring four more runs. David Stokes allowed six runs over five innings en route to his fifth loss of the season.

In the second game of the series the Flames were again unable to get anything going offensively, mustering just three runs. Conversely, the Wildcats scored another 16 runs, including three home runs, for the 16-3 victory. Arizona got on the board early, scoring four first inning runs, including the first of their three home runs, a T.J. Steele three-run shot over the center-field fence.

The Flames kept it competitive, scoring one in the third on a Keller triple to center. However, back-to-back Wildcat home runs in the bottom of the third made the score 8-1. The second home run came off the bat of Steele, his second home run of the afternoon and fourth RBI.

Liberty found themselves down 10-1 in the top of the fifth but seemed poised to cut into the deficit. With one out, the bases were loaded for Keller, but Wildcat starter Brad Mills induced a double-play ball, ending the Flames hopes for a rally.

The Flames did push two across in the sixth on a two-run single off the bat of sophomore Errol Hollinger, closing the deficit to 10-3, but they would get no closer.

The Wildcats kept up their voracious attack, scoring one in the sixth, two in the seventh and another in the eighth.

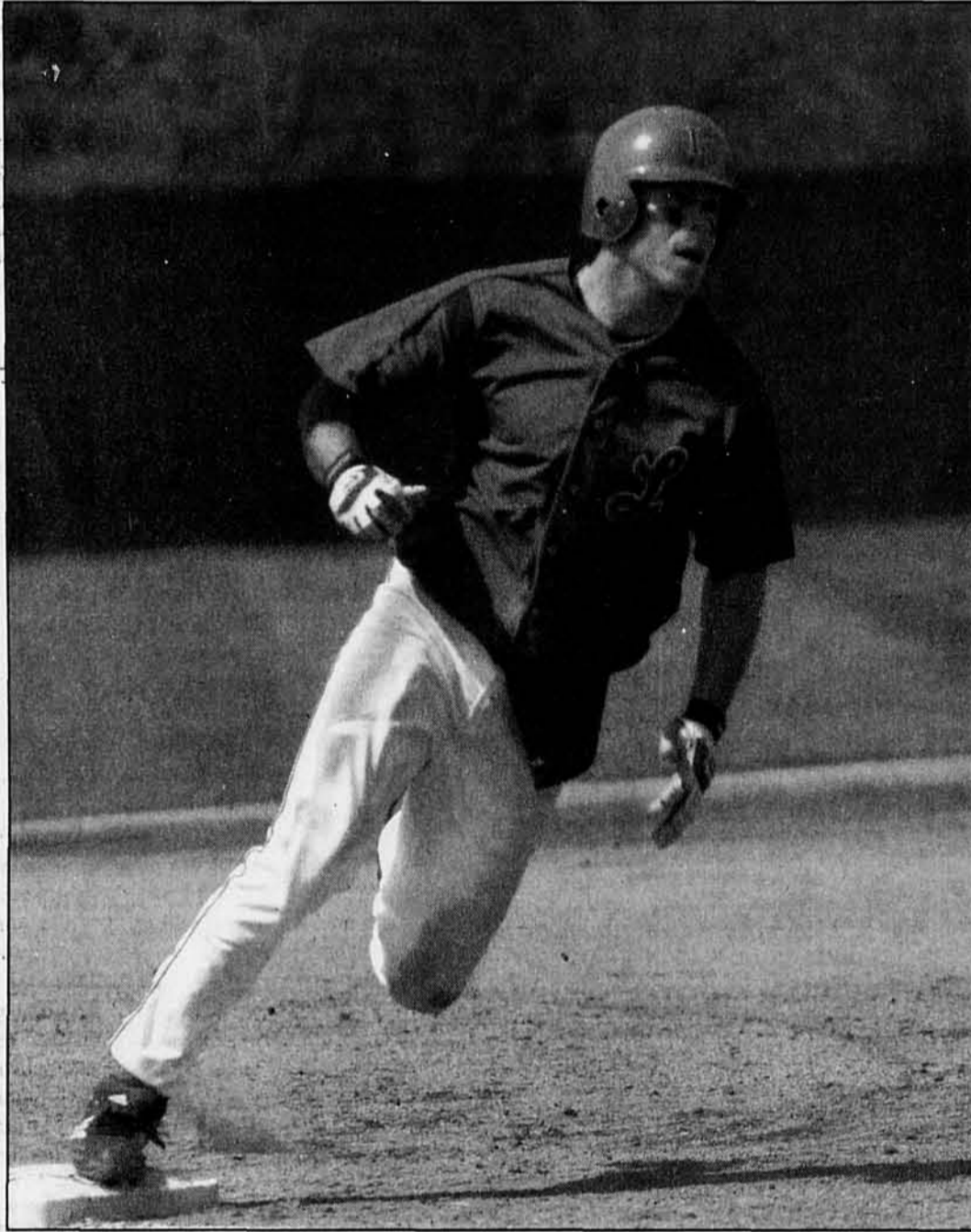
Sophomore Dustin Umberger took the loss for the Flames, giving up nine runs on nine hits in four innings and falling to 4-4 on the year. The loss was the fifth straight for the Flames, who have not won since April 27 against Coastal Carolina.

On Sunday, the Flames looked to avoid being swept and got off to a promising start. With one out in the second inning, Gaillard singled and stole second base to start a five-run inning. Gaillard, along with sophomore Derek Bennion, would come around to score on sophomore Shawn Teufel's RBI single to center field. The scoring didn't stop there, though, as Negron belted a triple to right field and was brought home on Phil John's RBI single.

Both teams battled into extra innings with the Wildcats eventually pulling out the 7-6 victory on Oliver Padre's game winning single.

The Flames will return home and gear up for a three-game conference showdown with Winthrop starting this Friday. Game time is set for 4 p.m. at Worthington Stadium.

Contact Mitchell Malcheff at mjmalcheff@liberty.edu



JESSICA WEBER

TURNING THE CORNER—Aaron Grijalva and the Flames have lost six straight games dating back to April 27. Grijalva was one-for-three with an RBI single in last Tuesday's 12-9 loss to Virginia Tech.

Flames Golf takes fifth at PSU Tournament

By Jake Petersen
ASST. SPORTS REPORTER

Before this weekend's Rutherford Invitational hosted by Penn State University, the Liberty University men's golf team participated in the Big South Men's Championship hosted at the beautiful Limestone Springs Golf Course. Located near Birmingham, Ala., the Jerry Pate-designed course nestled in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains offered the Flames a chance to finish out the year strong and tune up for the Rutherford Invitational.

However, the tournament was Coastal Carolina's from the start, mainly due to the superb play of All-American Dustin Johnson. Led by Johnson's 6-under 66 on the third day, the Chanticleers took home the Big South trophy while the Flames finished in fifth place. Johnson finished at 12-under par for the tournament in leading his team to its fourth straight Big South Conference title.

Michael Turner fired a team-low 3-under par 69 on day two, propelling him into a tie for third place. Despite a triple bogey 8 to start off day three, Turner was able to make 13 straight pars and finished even par on the last three holes to finish with a 75. The sophomore's solid performance was good enough

to earn him a tie for fifth place and a spot on the Big South All-Conference Team.

"Mike played very well the second day and hit the ball better than what he had been. He played very smart, hit great golf shots, and made good decisions out on the course today," said Head Coach Jeff Thomas.

This past weekend, the team hit the road again, destined for Penn State University. The Rutherford Invitational is annually played at Penn State University's Blue Course, a 7,228-yard, par-72 layout originally designed in 1921 by former Penn State professor Bob Rutherford, for whom the tournament is named.

On the first day of play, the Flames were led individually by freshman Andrew Nelson and sophomore Michael Turner, who both carded rounds of 77. Juniors Parker McKoy and Peter Horstman each recorded rounds of 80, while Jay Calvo came in with a disappointing 81.

At the end of round one, the Flames were seated in a tie for 10th place after the first round of play with an overall score of 314, 25 shots behind leader and host Penn State.

"We just didn't play real well (in the first round)," said Thomas. "This course is tough and with the rough so long, it's one of the toughest tests of golf we've played this year."

In the second round of play, Liberty moved up two spots to take sole possession of eighth place behind solid rounds from McKoy and Calvo.

Calvo, who leads the team in stroke average at 73.95, came in with a one-over par 73

QUICK SCORE

Golf

4/18 | Big South Men's Championship | 5th

5/6 | Rutherford Intercollegiate | 5th

while McKoy played beautifully and finished with a 1-under par 71. Turner finished with a 79, while Nelson and Horstman rounded out the Flames scoring with rounds of 79 and 83, respectively.

The third and final round of the Rutherford Invitational produced some higher scores throughout the field, but the Flames played well enough to move up and finish in a tie with Towson University for fifth place out of the 12 teams participating.

"Jay and Parker played a lot better in the second round," said Thomas. "At one point, Parker got to four-under par, but ended up

bogeying two of the last three holes to shoot 71. He bogeyed number 17, which is one of the toughest par threes on the golf course at 210-yards and uphill."

McKoy, who was tied for 20th place after round two, shot a round of 77 on Sunday to finish in a tie for 12th place at 12-over par. Calvo followed close behind with a 79, moving him into a tie for 17th. Nelson finished tied for 39th place at 24-over par, while Turner and Horstman finished in 44th and 46th place, respectively, out of 66 players.

With the strong showing at the Rutherford and the return of most of the team next year, Thomas is already looking forward to the fall season.

"As far as next year, we are going to use the rest of the school year and the summer to practice and use it as a springboard for next year. The most important thing is we need to get better individually as players and the only way to do that is to play a lot this summer in tournaments," said Thomas. "I think we could possibly be one of the top three teams in the Big South Conference."

Contact Jake Petersen at jtpetersen@liberty.edu

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LES SCHOEPER

Rachel Neiswanger
LIFE! REPORTER

Dr. Ergun Caner invited 30 students into his home to discuss a brand new program offered from Liberty's Theological Seminary and Graduate School. On Monday, April 30, Caner and the students talked about the Master of Arts in Global Apologetics, or MAGA, program.

Dean Dan Mitchell and the director of the program, Dr. Fred Smith, outlined the new facet of the seminary as well as presenting the requirements to the students and offering a question-and-answer time. Those curious and interested came

together to talk about the requirements needed for acceptance into the program.

"Students enjoyed the one-on-one time with the professors in an intimate setting at Dr. Caner's home," stated Lavern Smith, Assistant to Mitchell.

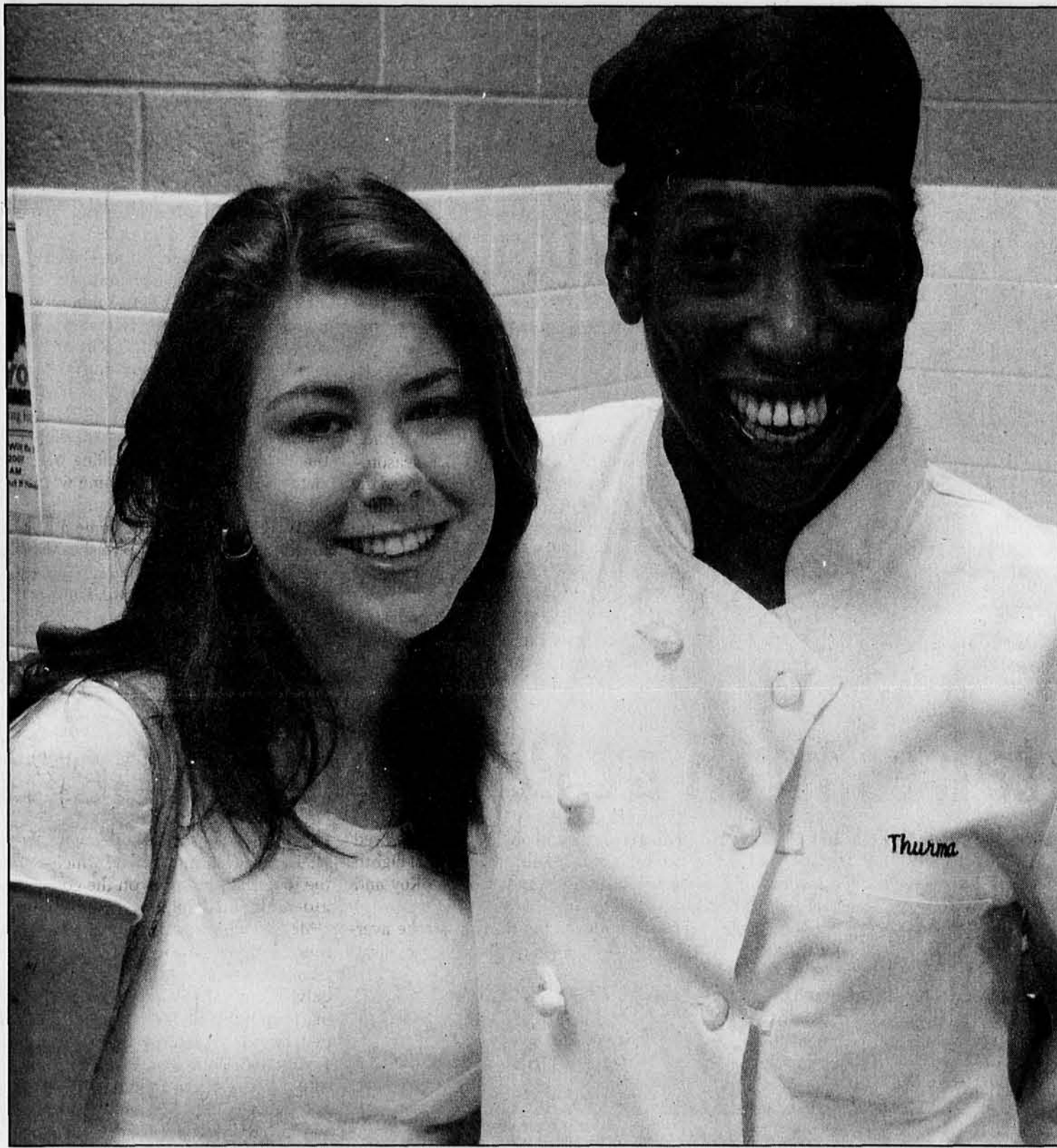
Although this program started with a few classes offered in the spring, the fall semester will now see the formal launch of the degree to the student body.

What began as "Ergun Caner's dream," as stated by Smith, has now blossomed into fulfilling the spiritual needs of the world. The MAGA degree's mission is de-

signed to equip students with master's level work in apologetics, missions, evangelism and world religions. This degree is relevant for work in missions, with apologetic strategies for countries in which missions is not included. In the future, the seminary plans to offer a doctorate in the subject area.

In response to an increase in demand in cities, whose people hold numerous questions about world religions, the MAGA program will prepare pastors and students to reach these people.

Please see DEGREE, B7



A REASON TO SMILE — Thurma Smith (right) prepares delicious gluten-free food in the Reber-Thomas Dining Hall for celiac sufferers like Andy Daniele (left).

Living with celiac disease

Matthew Hegarty
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Liberty University junior Chrystal Hamrick was sick as a teenager. Often in and out of the hospital, Hamrick had severe back problems and extreme fatigue. In addition, her body would not retain food. Aside from losing 20 pounds in a month at one point, Hamrick could only eat one-quarter of the portions she should have been consuming, and for only two meals per day.

"I would be starving, but then I would eat two bites and I'd be completely full," she said.

Despite Hamrick's obvious health issues, medical professionals could not discern the source of the problem. They put various diagnoses on her such as irritable bowel syndrome, constipation and menstrual cramps, but nothing they could try seemed to work. Then, in December 2005, her family physician, Dr. Rafik A. Nasr, made a breakthrough when he diagnosed her with celiac disease.

According to the Web site of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which is a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, celiac is a digestive condition in which sufferers cannot digest gluten, a protein found in wheat, barley and rye.

In a normal person, the gastrointestinal system has no problem breaking down gluten and other similar proteins so that they can be absorbed into the bloodstream. However, when gluten travels into the small

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ALYN LITTLE

CELIAC CUISINE — Smith, the chef who prepares gluten-free meals for students with celiac disease, was an Army cook for 12 years.

intestine of an individual with celiac, it damages or destroys the small intestine's villi, which are tiny, fingerlike protrusions in the intestine that perform the absorption.

In severe cases, intestinal leakage may occur, which allows gluten and toxins to partially infiltrate the bloodstream. In addition, the NIH Web site lists the vast majority of symptoms, which may also include anemia, joint pain, muscle cramps, seizures and infertility.

Danna Korn, a national advocate for the gluten-free lifestyle and writer of the landmark book "Eating Gluten-Free for Dummies," said she informs groups every time she gives a presentation that "wheat isn't good for anybody."

When Korn's son, Tyler, was originally diagnosed with celiac in 1991, she was devastated. However, she said she gradually awoke to the fact that the diagnosis was actually a blessing in disguise, because she realized that cutting gluten out of one's diet was essential to living a healthy lifestyle.

"We have the key to better health, and that's why it's so cool to be diagnosed," she said.

Korn is also the national leader of a support group she started called "Raising Our Celiac Kids," or R.O.C.K. for short.

Please see CELIAC, B6

First Worship grad makes a joyful noise

Hilary Sutton
LIFE! REPORTER

Tim Hammond is the Center for Worship's first graduate since the worship major's reconstruction last year. The new worship and music major advises students to have a primary and secondary instrument, along with an additional specialization.

"Before there was a lot of emphasis on worship leading, Bible classes and general education requirements. Now there's about 12 specializations," said Hammond. "I'm doing worship and business. I take classes like accounting and marketing as well as music theory. I like the leadership emphasis that business gives."

The degree has grown in popularity. Hammond's favorite aspect of the major is that "it is not based on methodology or style. In classes we've probably spent about 10 minutes talking about musical styles."

Professors in the Center for Worship emphasize the theology behind the worship, not any specific style of music. Hammond said, "If it's built on a solid foundation, it doesn't matter what kind of style it is. Theology determines your philosophy. It determines your methodology."

When asked why he chose to study worship at Liberty, Hammond noted how unique the cutting-edge worship program is. "Liberty is light years ahead of other schools. The department gets calls every week from professors at other schools," said Hammond.

He had already completed just over two years at Liberty before committing to the worship major. "I looked at the worship major and I said, 'I've dealt with a call to ministry. This is where the Lord's gifted me. This is where my talents lie. This is the program that will give me the best training to use the gifts God has given me.'"

Throughout Hammond's tenure at Liberty, he has been heavily involved with Liberty Link, a ministry of the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia and Liberty University.

"Liberty Link connects churches who are in need of discipleship, or a band to play for their students, or a speaker, and links them with Liberty students who have been gifted in those areas," said Hammond.

He served as the Liberty Link coordinator for three years and plans to continue his involvement with the ministry as he pursues a Master's Degree in Worship Studies here in the fall. He also helps lead worship at Highland Heights Baptist Church in Lynchburg.

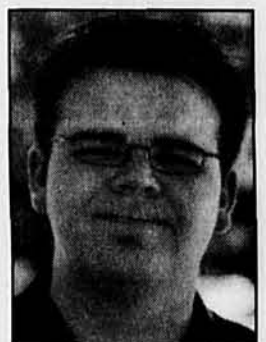
Throughout Hammond's four years at Liberty, he has been most impacted by Dr. Whaley, the Director of the Center for Worship.

"Dr. Whaley has a real heart not to teach but to train. You can call him up and go into his office and say, 'Here's what I'm struggling with,' or 'I had a question today in class,'" said Hammond. "He meets with students all day on Wednesdays. He's passionate. He cares about your life, not about your grade."

Hammond said that the primary lesson he learned during his time studying at Liberty is "how timeless real worship is. It's not just about musical style or how much you 'love your people.' It's about staying true to the principles of God's Word."

To prospective worship Hammond advises, "Work out your faith with fear and trembling. Pursue God with all your heart."

Contact Hilary Sutton at hsutton@liberty.edu.



JESSICA WEBER

Tim Hammond is the Center for Worship's first graduate.



JERRY THE BUILDER — Dr. Jerry Falwell poses with heavy machinery at one of the many construction sites on Liberty University's campus.

TODD HENLEY

AN HOUR WITH THE FOUNDER: Life! debunks myths and reveals facts about Dr. Falwell

Continued from page B8

When asked if he has ever hunted big game, he says he has hunted before, but he admits that he doesn't know if he could kill anything as big as, say, a deer.

When asked about an archived photo that shows him playing the guitar at Baptist Bible College, his alma mater, he says, "I used to play at the guitar. I'm not very good. A bunch of my friends and I thought we were musicians — made enough noise to get the police to come, but I don't play regularly."

After answering questions about some of his favorite places and things and clearing up some commonly-held myths about himself, Dr. Falwell gives an unplanned glimpse of what he is good at: making day-to-day decisions as Liberty's chancellor. Mid-interview, Dr. Falwell receives a phone call from his son Jerry Jr., Liberty's vice-chancellor.

"Hello?"

As Dr. Falwell would explain later, Jerry Jr. is relaying to his dad the plans for a new bookstore at Liberty and getting his permission to proceed.

Jerry Jr. explains the options while Dr. Falwell rocks back and forth in his chair.

Only Dr. Falwell's side of the conver-

sation can be heard: "Uh huh...I never heard about that...Well, I'm not sure if that's a good thing or not. What I want to know is..."

Jerry Jr. puts his father at ease, laying out the case for the bookstore, including sales figures and other information related to the project.

"Oh, I see," Dr. Falwell says, sipping his Snapple. "I think that'd be a good thing, Jerry. That's pretty good, and I think it'd look great."

He puts his Snapple bottle on his desk with a thud.

"I'm for it."

It is one of thousands of decisions Dr. Falwell has made about Liberty's expansion in the 36 years since its founding, and it gives a close-up glimpse into his day-to-day work life. Dr. Falwell's job is making quick decisions on the make-or-break choices that affect the futures of Liberty and Thomas Road.

He goes about these decisions carefully and methodically, even when he only has a minute or so to give a thumbs-up or thumbs-down.

He gathers information, considers the interests of his organizations and takes into account the facts and figures before making a fast, gut-based decision. His decision-making capability has an absurdly impressive track record — one glance around Liberty's campus is enough to understand that

— and the accuracy of his gut instinct may be what separates him most from other pastors or corporate leaders.

So, is Dr. Falwell just a regular guy? Well, yes and no.

The moment you hear one of his stories in person, or hear him conduct official business, you realize that this man has been places. He cannot be reduced to just his personal details. Jerry Falwell is a son of Campbell County, Va. who watches ultimate fighting on TV and brags about his grandchildren. But Dr. Falwell is also a decision-maker and a thinker, and his work ethic is what has made him famous.

Beyond the huge church, the Moral Majority, the founding of Liberty and the hundreds of other accomplishments that bear his name, Dr. Falwell seems at surface level like an average 73-year-old Lynchburg resident. He has favorites, foibles and more in-my-day stories than you can count.

Watching him conduct business and talk candidly about his personal life for an hour is only a glimpse of his two most prominent attributes: a large, charismatic personality and an uncanny ability to make a quick, decisive choice. That simple combination has made all the rest possible.

Contact Kevin Roose at kroose@liberty.edu

CELIAC DISEASE: How Sodexo is helping

Continued from page B5

However, she does it solely on a volunteer basis, giving her spare time, money and resources to get the word out about celiac and the benefits of living gluten-free. Even though it requires extra energy for her to do her "gluten work," she maintained that it was very rewarding.

"Every day, I get e-mails from people saying, 'You changed my life,'" she said.

Hamrick said that, for her, the diagnosis of celiac disease meant that her previous eating patterns would have to cease.

"I had to do an immediate change," she said.

She said that she had to endure a detoxification period, during which her diet was drastically limited. She began to see the benefits immediately, especially with regards to her fatigue. However, that did not mean that it was not difficult to completely cut gluten products out of her diet.

"I really didn't comprehend what it meant to not have wheat," she said.

Liberty sophomore Amanda Daniele trod a similar path in her journey to celiac diagnosis that Hamrick did. As an infant, she could only tolerate three days of baby formula and four days of water, but her body had difficulty retaining even that.

With Daniele's progression of age came misdiagnoses, but in her case, doctors said it was colitis, then Crohn's disease. Unfortunately, both conditions require special diets that are high in whole grains — exactly what she needed to avoid.

The silent celiac thus continued to wreak its havoc until Daniele was 14, when she dropped from a healthy 110 pounds to a severely underweight 70 and doctors discovered that she had developed intestinal cancer. At this point, the diagnosis of

celiac became painfully obvious, quite literally.

Like Hamrick, the dietary change was immediate for Daniele.

"I went cold turkey," she said.

She subsisted on rice, fruit and vegetables for about a month and, despite dealing with depression, was able to resume her normal eating patterns, minus foods containing gluten, in three months.

However, she is now so sensitive to gluten that she has to have her own Tupperware and silverware, all of which are marked "gluten-free."

"I kind of have my own side of the kitchen," she said.

Daniele affirmed that the celiac diet was a huge adjustment for her. Even though she can still enjoy indulgences like ice cream, soft drinks and Gummi bears, those items are certainly not staples of her nutrition.

"It's definitely not something that's easy to get accustomed to," she said.

At Liberty, dining options for both girls were severely limited at first. Hamrick, the first celiac sufferer to call attention to her condition, ran into difficulties when she tried to explain her dietary condition to the staff at Reber-Thomas Dining Hall, the main dining facility on campus. To make matters worse, celiac sufferers like Hamrick and Daniele, if they live on campus at Liberty, are essentially locked into their meal plans without an option not to purchase one.

However, Hamrick said, after she had encountered difficulties with dining hall staff members who did not fully understand her condition, she set up a meeting with John Harding, a dining hall administrator, and they worked out a plan for the food.



ALISON KAISAP

WOK AND ROLL — Senior Chrystal Hamrick displays one of the gluten-free Asian dishes that the dining hall offers for celiac sufferers.

Since then, she has not had any major difficulties, and she greatly appreciates what the dining hall staff is doing to accommodate her and others like her.

Daniele had quite a different experience. Her mother had called Liberty during the application process to see if a gluten-free dining program existed. Daniele said that, when she arrived on campus, she was given poor advice by a chef and could not keep food down for her first two weeks in Lynchburg. Meanwhile, she gained 20 pounds.

She finally journeyed to Light Medical — the campus medical facilities — and to a gastroenterologist, where blood work and tests showed her intestines inflamed to three times their normal

size. She then obtained a note from Light Medical that documented her condition and required the dining hall staff to review dining options with her.

After Daniele spent an estimated \$700 per month for three months on buying and cooking specialized gluten-free food for herself, she finally got the situation ironed out with the dining hall. She, too, now highly praises the dining hall staff for their special concern for students whose health requires a gluten-free diet, even though they have to cook regular meals for thousands of other students simultaneously.

"They do the best they can," she said.

"They're giving their all, and that's all I can ask."

Thurma Smith, one of the chefs at the dining hall, is the main chef that cooks the gluten-free foods for the celiac sufferers at Liberty. Smith, who served in the U.S. Army for 12 years before coming to Liberty, said that her special dietary training in the military prepared her well for cooking for them.

"I knew about the dos and don'ts, what they could eat and what they couldn't eat," she said.

Smith is also the head chef over the vegetarian and international lines in the dining hall. Because the gluten-free students are so limited in food choices, Smith said, she tries to make her cooking as interesting as possible for them.

She prepares dishes such as

Tuscan chicken and salmon and rice, but those occur less often than the most prevalent option, which is soy-free stir-fry. She tries to add variety to the seemingly monotonous Asian dish by using different meats and spices.

"I just feel good about being able to cook for them, and they let me know every day," she said.

"I don't want to give them the same thing every day."

When Korn found out about Liberty's efforts to cater to its gluten-free students, she was ecstatic.

She said, "Universities around the world should be doing this!"

Contact Matthew Hegarty at mjhegarty@liberty.edu

crustless cherry cheesecake

A GLUTEN-FREE RECIPE TO GET YOU STARTED

INGREDIENTS

- Nonstick spray
- 8-ounce package cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 tablespoons gluten-free flour mixture
- 21-ounce can cherry pie filling
- 1 can whipped cream
- 1 cup fresh cherries (for garnish)

Preparation time: 10 minutes.
Cooking time: 20 to 30 minutes.

Cooling time: 30 minutes.
Yield: 8 servings.

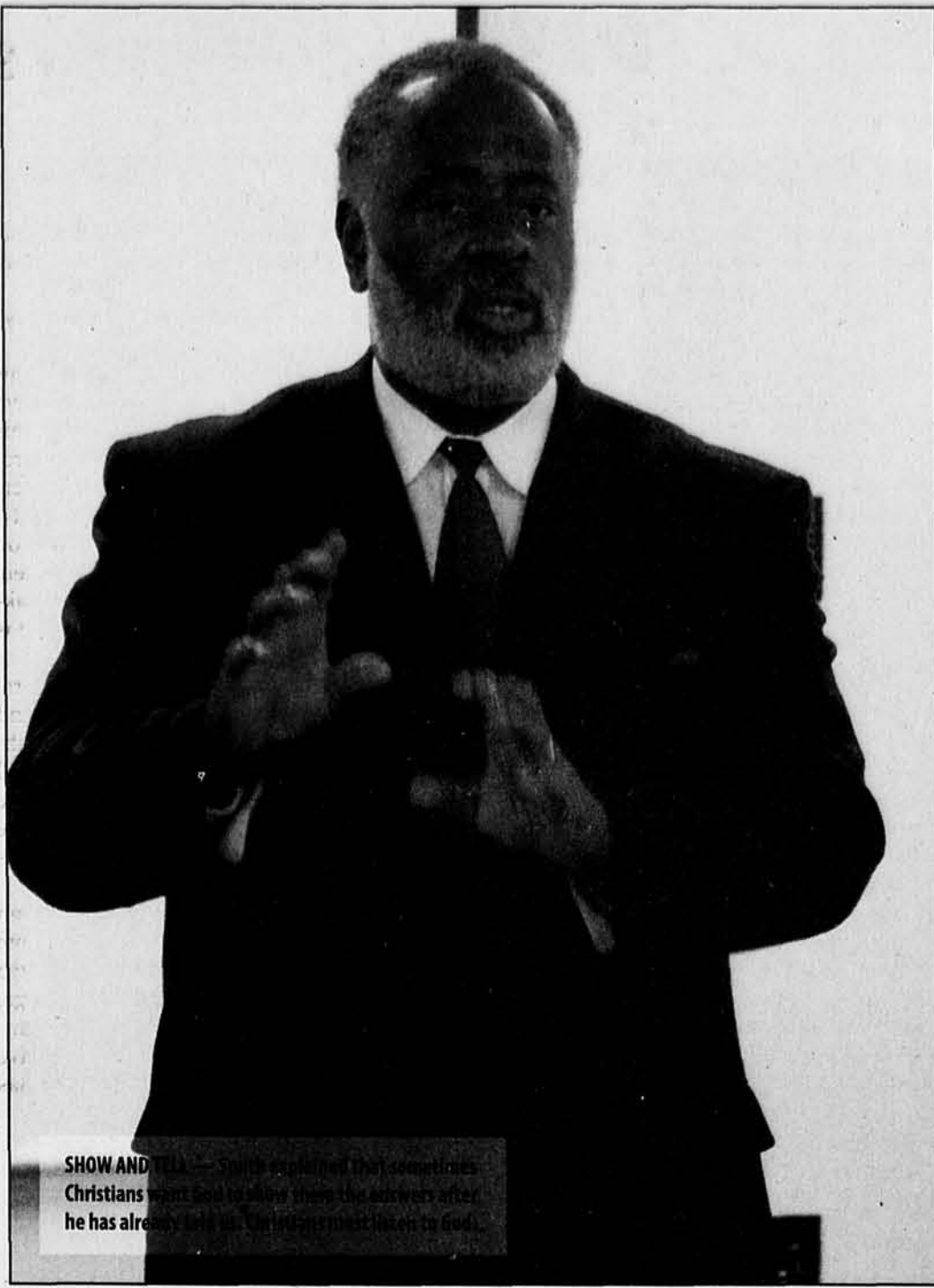
1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. Lightly grease a 9- by 13-inch casserole dish with the nonstick spray.

3. Combine the cream cheese, sugar, eggs, lemon juice, vanilla and gluten-free flour mixture. Pour this mixture into the casserole dish and bake it at 350 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes. The cheesecake is done when a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

4. After the cheesecake cools for at least 30 minutes, spread the cherry pie filling over the top. Then top it with whipped cream and garnish it with the fresh cherries.

Per serving: Calories 284 (From Fat 111); Fat 12g (Saturated 7g); Cholesterol 89mg; Sodium 113mg; Carbohydrate 40g (Dietary Fiber 1g); Protein 5g.

Taken from "Living Gluten-Free for Dummies" by Danna Korn, page 250.



SHOW AND TELL: Dr. Robert Smith, the Beeson Divinity School's guest speaker at the Center4ME Friday, May 4. Smith has already challenged students to trust God during hard times.

NICK POOLE

Dr. Smith challenges students: Trust God during hard times

Kristi Kirkland
LIFE REPORTER

With a passion and a love for both people and the Lord, Dr. Robert Smith of Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala., had no trouble relating to Liberty students as he joined them in a reception held in his honor at the Center4ME Friday, May 4. Smith was also the guest speaker in convocation.

The purpose of the reception was two-fold. Associate Dean Daveta Saunders said that the Center4Me frequently hosts receptions for both minority and international convocation speakers. These receptions are "both for the speaker and also for the student as well," said Saunders, adding that these events "highlight a section of campus" that often goes unnoticed.

As Dean Melany Pearl introduced Smith, she said, "This is exactly what we wanted." This type of "intimate" setting offers students the chance to have an "up-close and personal time" with convocations speakers, which is much easier at a reception than in a convocation service, said Saunders.

In addition, Smith was excited to be visiting Liberty and speaking at convocation once again, and several times he referred to Liberty as "home."

"I had such an incredible time last year," Smith said in reference to his last visit to Liberty.

Breaking out in song several times, Smith shared openly from personal experiences

as he encouraged students to press on and continue to trust the Lord in what he calls the "in-between time." Smith told students that the in-between time, the place of waiting for the Lord's direction, is a hard place to be in.

He challenged students to say, "I don't know where I am going, but I ain't lost." He also shared the stories of Abraham and Moses and how God asked them to step out in faith even though they did not know where God was leading them.

"God is a 'tell and show' God, but he is also a 'show and tell' God," said Smith.

He explained that we want God to show us first even though God often tells us first. Like Abraham and Moses, Smith says that Christians must trust God and have faith even if it means waiting.

He cautioned students that the waiting period could be a "precarious, dangerous time," because it is easy to "run ahead of God." However, he also encouraged students not to "lag behind God."

In his own life, Smith has had to trust the Lord. He shared candidly about a time in his life when God prompted him to leave behind the "security" of New Mission Missionary Baptist Church in Cincinnati, which he was pastoring at the time.

"I thought New Mission was going to be my destiny," said Smith. But God led him to Beeson and, though it was hard, he followed.

Smith encouraged stu-

dents to pray the Word of God when they are at uncertain points in their lives. He also told students that even though there may be pressure from family and friends to make decisions about the future, it is okay to wait on the Lord.

"Do not let society tell you what you have to look like," said Smith in closing.

He ended the time in prayer and stayed around afterwards enjoying refreshments, taking pictures and talking to students and staff.

"He was dynamic and he was a big encouragement," said senior Krystal Vaughan, who plans to graduate in December with a degree in psychology.

Junior Bryan Crutchfield, who works at the Center4Me, said, "He is a God-fearing man. He can relate to us." Crutchfield enjoyed the personal aspect of the reception. He said, "I feel inspired and encouraged knowing I am not alone."

Smith was the pastor at New Mission for 28 years prior to joining the faculty at Beeson. He was also a former professor at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. In addition, he was the recipient of the 1996 Findley B. Edge Award for Teaching and Excellence from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and he also received Beeson's Teacher of the Year Award in 2005.

Contact Kirsti Kirkland at knkirkland@liberty.edu.

Caffeine buzz: Students depend on coffee to steam through finals

Carrie Caldwell
LIFE REPORTER

It is easy to see why caffeine could be considered the most consumed drug in the nation with Americans ingesting more than 300 milligrams on a daily basis. Even a single six-ounce cup has about 100 milligrams of caffeine in it, while soft drinks have around 50 milligrams and energy drinks have about 80 milligrams.

But why is it that students on campus stand in line to get their caffeine fix? The answer is obvious — to study. With finals week fast approaching, caffeine seems to be the only solution to getting through those painful all-night cram sessions.

"I usually start stocking up on Red Bull the week

before finals," said junior Meagan Tilley.

Even though students say they may sometimes find caffeine to be the only answer to get all their work done, there are side effects that accompany large consumptions of caffeine.

Caffeine is a mild stimulant. When consumed, it makes one feel more awake and alert. However, a high dose of this substance can prevent sleep and may leave one feeling jittery.

Often found in coffee, tea, soft drinks and chocolate, caffeine releases adrenaline into the bloodstream to provide that instant burst of energy. It also increases heart rate, blood pressure and body temperature. Within

five minutes of consuming

a cup of coffee, the caffeine begins to reach all body tissues. Peak blood levels are attained in 30 minutes.

The substance can also be addicting.

"Lately, I think I drink so much caffeine out of habit more than anything," said Shannon Lewis. "If I don't, I get a massive withdrawal headache."

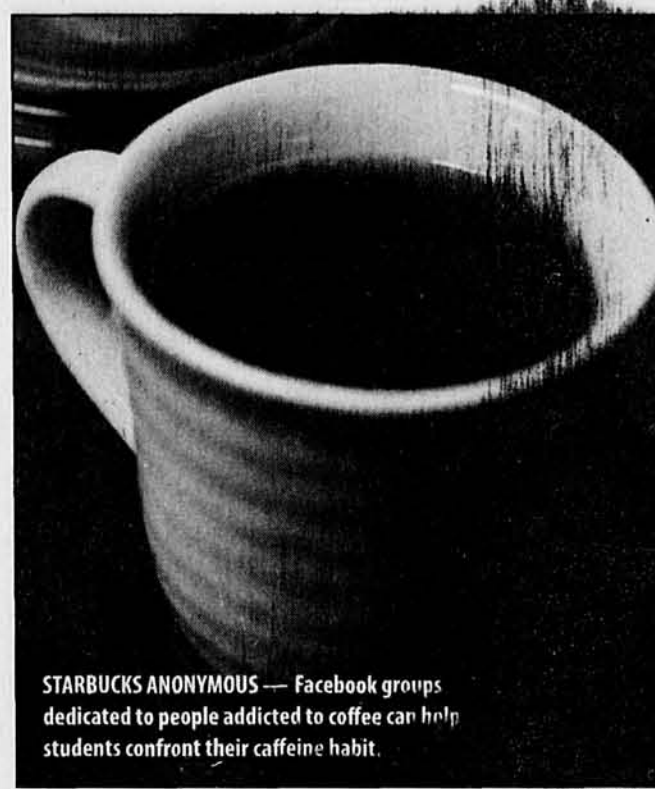
Headaches are another one of the many problems that can be caused by caffeine withdrawals; others include fatigue, depression, anxiety and nausea.

People's reactions to caffeine vary. Some people are more sensitive to it than others. Body weight, frequency, age and physical condition also determine a person's tolerance to caffeine. The more tolerant a person is, the more caffeine they can consume before feeling the effects it has to offer.

When consuming caffeine, it is best to use it in moderation. A moderate amount of caffeine is considered to be no more than 300 milligrams per day, which is equal to about three eight-ounce cups of coffee.

Students should try to rid this unhealthy habit and find alternatives like juice or decaffeinated coffee or tea, even though they still push aside these side effects and continue to drink their triple lattes to help them make it through this stressful week.

Contact Carrie Caldwell at ccaldwell@liberty.edu.



STARBUCKS ANONYMOUS — Facebook groups dedicated to people addicted to coffee can help students confront their caffeine habit.

JESSICA WEBER

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF '07

New program will train missionaries

Continued from page B5

Since Dr. Caner's vision is to go out and confront the claims of Jesus Christ head-on, the opportunities in this degree will attack the themes and issues worldwide needing attention.

"With religious views being promulgated, we can't continue witnessing as usual," said Smith about the new challenges ahead. He continued as he said that a light in any community would be "A new generation of ministers defending Jesus Christ in a

multi-cultural world of competition of different truth claims."

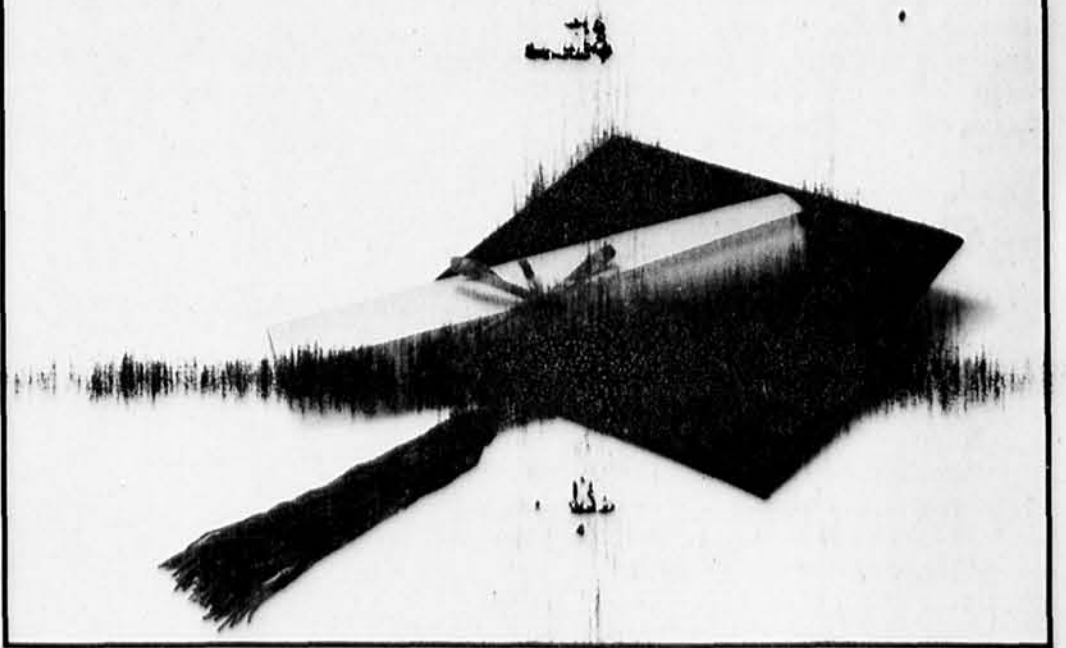
Whether these students are in central Virginia or half-way around the world, the apologetics degree will prepare them to answer the questions of faith in Christ compared to faith in other gods or religions.

Admission into the seminary will be required before acceptance into the MAGA program. For further degree requirements, visit the seminary's web site, which provides status sheets on

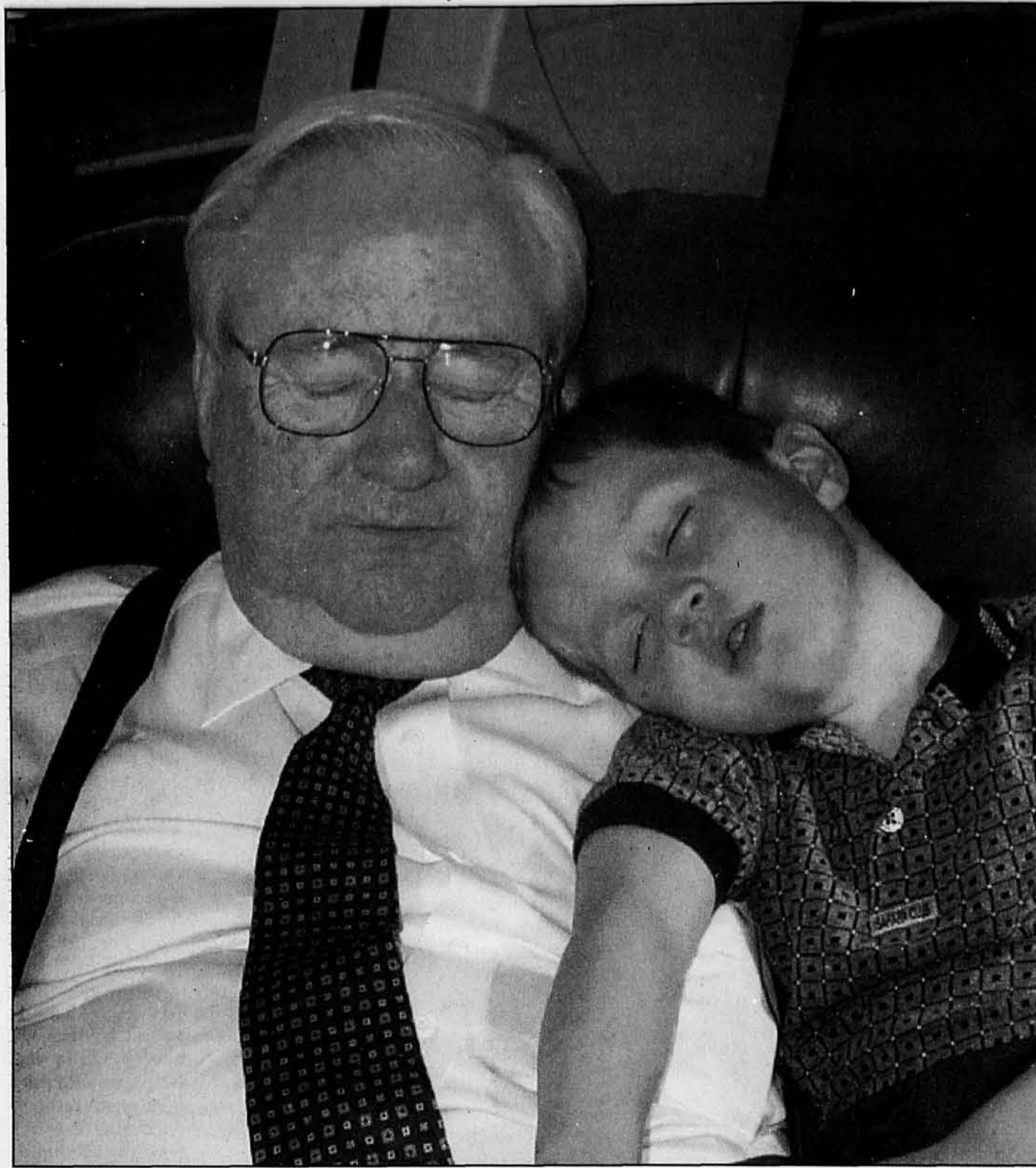
all theological degrees. Although the MAGA degree is currently being offered as only a residential degree, plans to extend the degree to distance learning will be discussed in the future.

Students interested in the MAGA can get more information from the seminary's website, www.lts.edu, or contact Dr. Fred Smith, the program director, for an appointment at cfsmith@liberty.edu.

Contact Rachel Neiswanger at raneiswanger@liberty.edu.



AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE BIG MAN ON CAMPUS



TODD HUNLEY



TODD HUNLEY

A FAMILY MAN — Dr. Jerry Falwell takes pride in the fact that he is just an average man who loves to spend time with his family and fellowship with friends. (Left) Dr. Falwell takes a break from his busy schedule and catches a cat nap with grandson Paul Savas. (Top) Dr. Falwell sports his suit even when taking a spin on a local carnival ride. Most Liberty students will never see Dr. Falwell without his signature red tie and black suit.

Meet the family man, the prankster, the real Dr. Falwell

By Kevin Roose
LIFE! REPORTER

Liberty students are no strangers to Dr. Jerry Falwell. His fame is the predominant reason anyone in America has heard of Liberty University, and he has inspired thousands of news articles, dozens of Facebook groups and even a bobble-head doll. Some Liberty students came here, at least in part, because they hoped (and expected) to watch Dr. Falwell in action. On one level, Liberty students hear more from Dr. Falwell — at convocations, special events and church services — than most college students will hear from their presidents.

We know the legendary tales. By the end of a freshman's first semester, he or she can finish any story that starts with, "I walked every inch..." or contains the phrase, "Donald Duck Bottling Co." A Liberty sophomore knows the significance of the following figures: that the original attendance of Thomas Road Baptist Church was 35 people, that the first TRBC offering totaled \$135, and that the projected number of students at the University for 2020 is 25,000.

Chances are, however, that the average Liberty student does not know much more about Jerry Falwell's day-to-day life than a loyal viewer from Topeka who tunes in to televised services at Thomas Road.

We set out to fix that, sitting down with Dr. Falwell in his office to ask him about his personal life. We looked for the small, humanizing details — the ones Time and Newsweek wouldn't bother with — the ones only a small inner circle knows about. Yes, Dr. Falwell's e-mail newsletter goes out to half a million recipients — but what is his favorite restaurant? Yes, he is a friend of the Bush family — but who cuts his hair? Big deal, some might respond. However, when you strip away the

mammoth accomplishments, Dr. Falwell is just a regular guy who likes to watch "24" and walk around his yard with his wife.

The first thing to know about Dr. Falwell is that his office, located in a wing of the historic Carter Glass Mansion, is very, very nice. Rich, dark wood lines the walls. Dr. Falwell sits in a large, high-back leather chair between two desks. Family pictures fill his bookshelves, including a portrait of his wife next to his computer monitor. Personal artifacts — no doubt with stories attached to them — fill the room. There is a large wooden eagle in the corner, a framed Mickey Mantle photograph on the desk and a half-dozen globes scattered around the back half of the room. The office feels cozy despite its size.

Dr. Falwell greets all comers with a firm, practiced handshake. His forceful, booming bass voice is striking, perhaps even more so when you meet him in person and realize he doesn't need a PA system to amplify it.

Dr. Falwell's desk is clear except for two office phones, a few neat piles of books and papers and a glass bottle of Peach Snapple.

"It's diet," Dr. Falwell says, cutting the plastic seal off with a silver utility knife. "I have one every afternoon around three o'clock." This is another thing you learn very quickly about Dr. Falwell in person — he is a creature of habit.

When asked about his morning routine, he rolls it off briskly: "I rise every morning a little before six, I shower and dress and I go right to my study at home. That's where I do my daily devotional time, with Oswald Chambers' "My Utmost for His Highest." I read it every day and have for 50 years."

Dr. Falwell has a long list of "every-days." Every morning at eight, he meets with Liberty's senior management. Every night when he returns home, he walks around his seven-acre yard with Macel, his wife of 49 years.

The variety in his life, a thing of his youth, has been flattened over the years. Dr. Falwell used to wear both blue and black suits with all colors of ties. Just in the last few years, he says, he has started to wear a black suit and a red tie almost every day. "And none of the ties are alike," he says, smiling and leaning back in his chair. "I can go 40 or 50 days without repeating a red tie."

When asked who cuts his hair, he does not miss a beat. "Jimmie Martin. A-Plus Barber-shop. Timberlake Road." And while a younger Jerry Falwell might have argued with his barber about length, it is a cut-and-run operation these days. "I don't even say anything anymore," he jokes. "It's always the same. I go in, sit down and take a nap while he cuts."

It may be the only mid-day rest he gets. Dr. Falwell leads a horrifyingly busy life, even for a man half his age. While many grandparents are asleep before sunset, Dr. Falwell ends most nights after midnight. Combined with his early wakeup, he rarely gets a grandfather's share of sleep. Then again, Jerry Falwell is no typical grandfather.

Well, exactly how youthful is he? Does he have an iPod, for instance?

"No, I do not," he says decisively.

Does he have a Facebook profile?

"No," he says. "I just don't have time to do it myself," he says, gesturing at the piles of papers on his desk, which is a long slab of polished wood the size of a ping-pong table.

Well, what about the "Jerry Falwell" with 461 friends at Liberty? Is he an impostor? "I don't have a profile," he restates.

Final technology question: Does he text message?

"I do use text messaging. It's really where most communication is today," he says, pulling his slim Motorola RAZR phone from his shirt pocket.

"I have eight grandchildren, and they like

FALWELL FAVORITES

Ice cream: Häagen-Dazs Vanilla

Restaurant: Crown Sterling

Meal: 8 oz. sirloin steak, salad bar, baked potato (butter only).

Prank accessory: M-80 firecracker

Best gift ever received: A restored antique buggy, from his son Jerry Jr., that his parents once used for courting.

Hobbies: Four-wheeling on his family's property in the mountains.

Episode of "24": "I don't have a favorite. I like them all."

Place on campus: The Vines Center. "So many good things happen there. Convocation is held there. It's where our spiritual life is nurtured. Plus, I'm a sports nut."

to pop me on here. They will say 'Poppy, Shaker's Restaurant' — one of Dr. Falwell's favorites — 'five minutes.' And I'm there."

Okay, just one more technology question: When he text messages, does he use Internet shorthand? Does he abbreviate? Maybe "Trusteez, u need 2 c the monogram!," or perhaps "lol at ur sermon dr. caner!"

"Well," he says. "I'm not as good at it as my grandchildren, but I've learned the code, yes."

As with text-messaging, Dr. Falwell is humble enough to admit his few shortcomings.

Please see FALWELL, B6

FACT OR MYTH? According to Jerry Falwell

fact: Dr. Falwell once pranked Bob Jones, Jr., the then-president of Bob Jones University, with stinkbombs at a pastor's conference.

myth: Dr. Falwell's SUV is bulletproof.

myth: The Thomas Road pulpit is bulletproof. (Barely—in the heyday of the Falwell-led Moral Majority, the pulpit at the original Thomas Road location was made of lead. The new pulpit is plain wood.)

fact: Dr. Falwell was once the interim pastor of a church in Bangor, Maine

myth: A committee has been formed to explore legalizing dancing at Liberty. (Dr.

Falwell laughs. "Not while I'm living.")

fact: Dr. Falwell is planning to build a snow-less ski slope at Liberty.

Every semester, new fantastic (and strange) stories about our founder work their way into the folklore of Liberty, a 36-year history filled with extraordinary events and perhaps just as many extraordinary urban legends. To sort the real from the made-up, we went to the source.

fact: Dr. Falwell's critics once clogged his toll-free number with computerized calls costing him a million dollars. (Sort of. "I don't think it was actually a million, but it was a lot," he adds.)

myth: Dr. Falwell is planning to build a roller coaster on Liberty Mountain.

fact: A young boy once threw a baseball into Dr. Falwell's yard on accident. After tracking down the boy, talking to him and hearing his apology, Dr. Falwell took a pen to the ball and wrote, "This ball entitles you to a full four-year tuition at Liberty University, whether I'm dead or alive." Signed, Jerry Falwell.

fact: There is a Jerry Falwell National Park in Israel.

myth: Convocation is moving to twice a week next year.

THE LIBERTY CHAMPION

Special Edition



CARS ON CAMPUS

"A MATTER OF SPACE, PACE AND GRACE"

A LOOK INSIDE

The facts and figures of parking (Pg. 2)

Parking violations and fines at Liberty (Pg. 3)

A solution to Liberty's parking "issue" and a look at parking prices at other Va. schools (Pg. 4)

Traffic from an LUPD officer's perspective (Pg. 5)

Pedestrians, vehicles and safety at Liberty (Pg. 6)

What are other Va. colleges doing about traffic? (Pg. 7)

A bird's-eye view of parking at Liberty (Pg. 8)

The ABCs of parking

Of all the complaints most colleges are faced with every year, parking is unquestionably one of the worst. At Liberty University, it is also the most common among students, faculty and staff.

Liberty's parking problem is nothing new to university officials — the complaints have been around ever since the university began.

"Parking has always been an issue," said First Sergeant Richard Hinkley of the Liberty University Police Department (LUPD).

This "issue" has only become worse over time as the student population boomed. In 2006, there were nearly 10,000 Liberty students, 3,000 employees and 1,300 Liberty Christian Academy students.

With the increase in the student population comes a surge of vehicles.

During the 2005-2006 academic year, there were 9,048 vehicles registered with LUPD. This total is a 60 percent increase in registered vehicles since the 2000-2001 academic year.

There are approximately 6,815 open (no diamond) parking spaces spread across the campus, not including the approximately 700

unmarked spaces at the David's Place "pit" lot. The unpaved lot in front of David's Place (P-16) is less than one-fourth full on most days, according to a survey conducted by an investigative reporting communications class.

With more vehicles than parking spaces, it may seem obvious that students have a reason to gripe about parking.

However, one thing to keep in mind is that not everyone is on campus at the same time.

Richard Martin of the Financial Research and Analysis department at Liberty, said that his department studied two of the busiest class periods in 2006 and found that "(with) 1,500 open parking areas, 76 percent of unused parking was paved spaces."

"This meant that about 20 percent of available parking capacity was not used during peak capacity," he said.

While there may not be enough parking for commuters if all of them were to be in one area at one time, many students who leave Main Campus to go to Campus North will have their spot filled by someone making the opposite trip or by students coming onto campus.



PARKING "SPACES" — The parking lot in front of DeMoss Hall is without a vacant parking spot during a quiet Friday afternoon. The lot stays full on weekdays during classes.

Credits

Parking

Contributing Reporters: Josh King, Kara Shand, Kari Mitchell and David Thompson

Traffic

Contributing Reporters: Jennifer Thurman, Will Mayer and Kristi Kirkland

Editors: Joanne Tang, Matthew Hegarty, Amy Field and Jared Pierce

All photos and graphics taken and edited by Alex Towers

Picture of Officer Torres courtesy of LUPD

Buses bring relief



First Sergeant Richard Hinkley of LUPD said that the initiation of the Liberty University Transit Service this past fall was part of the university's attempts "to keep the foot traffic down."

The transit service is operated by the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company (GLTC) to help students get to various locations on campus in a timely manner. As Hinkley pointed out, it also alleviates pedestrian traffic.

The transit system has two bus routes that run throughout the day from 7 a.m. until curfew. The red route transports students from DeMoss Hall to Campus North via the circle, while the blue route goes from DeMoss to Campus North by way of Campus East.

Both routes make periodic stops along the way by the tunnel and the Vines Center, the Religion Hall and the Hill dorms — these stops were recently added to the route.

According to a News & Advance article, about 20,000 students ride the buses every week. A student with a job on Campus North said that though the bus system can be a "hassle" at times, it is beneficial especially during the winter months and at night.

Breakin' the (parking) law

When it comes to parking, LUPD 1st Sgt. Richard Hinkley said, "There is enough parking on campus. It's just that everyone wants to park next to the door."

Some students, in an effort to "park next to the door," park illegally or against LUPD regulations on where students can park. A statement in bold type on the LUPD Web site makes it clear that, although temporary illegal parking might seem necessary, such activity will not be tolerated.

"Obtaining a permit does not guarantee a convenient parking space," the statement said.

"Lack of a convenient parking space is not a valid excuse for violation of any regulation."

According to Hinkley, LUPD wrote \$500,000 in tickets in 2006. Officers wrote anywhere between 150 and 300 tickets a day. Students participating in the work-study program have the job of going out for the sole purpose of writing parking tickets.

"So that's what they're going to do - write tickets," said Officer Josh Van Gorp.

Many students, in particular commuters, try to

dodge the decal bullet by not registering at all. On Monday, March 5, a survey of the P-1 parking lot next to Religion Hall revealed approximately 49 cars without decals.

The lot also contained nine cars with decals that showed the car as being in the wrong parking lot, eight cars with an out-of-date decal and two cars with their decal "improperly displayed" - in this case, taped it to the inside of the vehicle.

On Campus East during a routine parking patrol, surveyors found that 26 cars were unregistered, one car was parked in a handicap spot without proper handicap decals (a fine of \$100-\$500) and nine cars had the wrong decal for the lot.

One of students' most common gripes is about parking tickets. At Liberty, violations can have consequences of anywhere from \$20 to more than \$100 per ticket issued. Depending on the violation, students can receive more than one ticket. For instance, students who do not have a decal but still choose to park on campus are liable to receive two tickets at a cost of possibly more than \$60.

No one likes to receive tickets, but the fees can often be worse on other campuses. At nearby Lynchburg College, for instance, a first violation for an unregistered vehicle is \$25. If an LC student is caught again for the same violation, the fine is \$50. A third violation at LC can bring a fine of \$100. Radford University in Radford, Va., charges \$25 for unregistered vehicles. At George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., the price skyrockets to \$75 for an unregistered car.

Another common parking violation is parking in a fire lane. Fire lanes are most common around the Circle dorms, and students often park there and put on their hazard lights while they run into their dorms to grab something.

At Liberty, parking in a fire lane is a fine of \$100, which is the same as the University of Virginia. At GMU, the fine is \$85. Radford charges students \$25 for "improper parking," while Lynchburg College charges \$50 for each fire lane violation.

Radford also reserves the right to tow a vehicle for parking in numerous restricted areas, including fire lanes.



THE PAINS OF PARKING — During the busy class hours of the day, many students who want to simply "run in" for a quick errand at Campus North park illegally outside the main academic building.

The solution to parking

Take a walk through any parking lot on Liberty University's campus. Look closely and count the expired stickers dotting each car's back window. There will most likely be more than a few, which raises the question as to why students have chosen not to renew their parking stickers — or in some cases, buy them at all.

The prevailing reason could be the \$300 price tag that those tiny stickers bring. Liberty administration and the Liberty University Police Department (LUPD) are well aware that the high price may seem unfair, and they have been assessing different options to potentially lower the price.

LUPD 1st Sgt. Richard Hinkley said there have been considerations to lower the price of the registration fee if students were willing to park at a certain lot such as P-16, which is located next to David's Place, and ride the bus to the main academic buildings.

Another option that receives mention is banning freshmen from bringing cars to campus. Other schools such as James Madison and the University of Virginia do not allow freshmen to have cars on campus.

Would Liberty ever consider this as a viable solution to the parking problem?

According to Financial Research and Analysis department member Richard Martin, it would not be beneficial to the students or the university.

"What would happen is we would lose the revenue from 1,000 students," said Martin.

"Since our costs are still fixed, we would end up having to charge the remaining students more, and we would have more

open spaces without giving people an incentive to use those open spaces."

As for simply adding more parking, Hinkley cited the oft-mentioned parking garage. Building a 1,000-space parking garage would cost \$11.5 million, which would average about \$11,000 per space.

Hinkley also said that, in order for the parking garage to be a viable option, many factors, including a financial supporter, would have to work. As of right now, a garage is still a feasible option for the university.

Martin said his department has seen many proposals. "Actually, until this year we were closer than ever to actually putting (a parking garage) in....It's ironic because it would be more expensive than the (Thomas Road) church building," he said.

The bridge over U.S. 460 belongs to Liberty but is maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation, according to Hinkley. There has been talk of putting lights up along the bridge, but the concern is that they will be too bright and make it difficult for drivers on the highway to see.

Hinkley adds that there has also been talk of another tunnel being built under the train tracks by Wards Road to help ease some of the pedestrian traffic leaving campus. There are also additional roads being built to provide other routes to Wards Road.

There is no miracle solution or quick fix for Liberty's campus traffic problems. Even so, progress is still being made and steps are still being taken to accommodate the needs of a growing student body.

A comparison of annual parking rates at other Virginia schools



Students complain about the \$300 per year parking rates at Liberty, but how

do they stack up against other major universities in Virginia?

George Mason — \$180

James Madison — \$172 (full-time students)

Lynchburg College* — \$50 for full-time commuters, \$20 for part-time and graduate students

Old Dominion — \$162

Radford — \$50

Randolph Macon* — \$50

Regent* — \$50

Sweet Briar* — \$50

UVa — ranges from \$192 — \$396

Virginia Commonwealth — ranges from \$118 — \$283 (per semester)

Virginia Tech — \$81

* — Private School



SEA OF CARS — The parking lot next to the Reber-Thomas Dining Hall has 267 open parking spaces and another 219 marked spots.

An officer and a gentleman

A student grins at Liberty University Police Department officer Pablo Torres and slowly buckles her seat belt, her lips chattering wildly into her pink cellular telephone.

Torres waves at her jovially, demonstrating an element of humor that is fitting for a campus that spoofs its police officers through the now cult classic LUPD movies.

Although Torres admits that his most exciting call in the past few months involved a female student setting fire to her underwear while trying to dry the garment in a microwave, Torres is adamant about the primary traffic violation on campus – speeding.

“Students don’t understand how fast the car is actually traveling,” said Torres.

“If you are traveling 30 mph, you are going 45 feet per second. It takes half a second to apply the brake – you do the math.”

Torres, a deputy sheriff in Orange Country, Fla., for 19 years, clocks speeders once a day at the Circle – the speeding hot spot on campus.

“I’m a firm believer in giving people a break,” he said, patting his KP-10 radar gun.

Torres may allow speeders to travel 10 mph over the speed limit, but when it comes to reckless driving, he does not compromise.

“I can issue a Virginia summons for reckless driving. The highest speeder I ever clocked was going 36 mph in a 15 mph zone. That was on the Circle,” he said.

Torres writes eight to 10 tickets a day for speeders who travel an average of 11 mph over the speed limit at the Circle.

Junior Nick Castro, a commuter student, said that it is not unusual to see cars speeding by DeMoss Hall to catch the new entrance ramp onto U.S. 460.

“It’s a nightmare,” said Castro. “People are trying to cross the street to get to class and cars don’t stop for them and try to go speeding by them.”

According to Torres, jaywalking is another safety concern on campus. Although there have been no serious injuries in recent years between vehicles and pedestrians, there have been reported incidents in which students are bumped by cars.

“People just walk in front of you and they don’t care,” said Torres, pointing at a

student running in front of an oncoming car.

Torres is passionate about ensuring the safety of students and property on Liberty University’s campus.

During convocation he performs safety checks on Main Campus and Campuses North and East.

“I like to make sure that the cars and the dorms are safe,” he said.

While classes are in session, Torres regularly patrols all three campuses and walks in DeMoss Hall.

“My main goal is to make sure everything is running smoothly,” he said.

An area of campus that Torres agrees is not performing smoothly is the four-way stop sign by the Al Worthington Baseball Stadium on Main Campus.

While many students perform the California roll at the stop sign – slowing down, but cruising right past the stop sign

– Torres stresses that this is not an adequate reaction.

“If the front bumper passes the white line, they technically ran the stop sign,” he said.

“I don’t always mind a California roll, but for me, I want to at least see that they are slowing down and acknowledging the stop sign.”

When Torres does pull a car over on campus, he wants to see that the driver is respectful and aware of their vehicular faux pas.

“If you are nice to a police officer, nine out of 10 times they won’t give you a ticket,” he said.

“It’s all about the attitude.”

Much to the appreciation of students, Torres implements his own outlook on the importance of a good attitude while performing his duties as a police officer.

Castro was pulled over by Torres after running a stop sign on campus last semester.

“He was really nice,” said Castro. “He definitely made me think twice before running a stop sign. I would feel awful if he pulled me over a second time after I said I would never run a stop sign on campus again.”

Torres identifies the stop sign by the LU Transit bus stop on Campus East as the hot spot for running stop signs at Liberty.

About 80 percent of cars run through the stop sign, even during hours when traffic is light on campus.

“Sometimes the driver will start to run the stop sign and see me in my car at the last minute,” said Torres. “They slam on their brakes, but by then they have already passed the line. They have still run the stop sign.”

LUPD consistently tickets students in an attempt to reform the habits of reckless drivers on campus. However, LUPD cannot control students who do not take the tickets seriously.

“We can only hope that the message gets through to the students,” said Torres, pointing to a student that ran the stop sign with a signature yellow traffic ticket still tucked under the car’s windshield wiper.

Liberty is not the only Virginia campus that struggles with traffic violations. Radford University in Radford, Va., had 360 traffic accidents in 2005 on its 9,000-student campus. The Radford accident statistics actually decreased about 12 percent from the previous year.

“It’s hard to say when parking problems peak. It just depends on the week, and what’s happening around campus,” said James Perkins, Radford’s parking services manager.

Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va. – an institution with over 25,000 full-time students and 14,000 registered vehicles – recorded 122 traffic accidents in 2006.

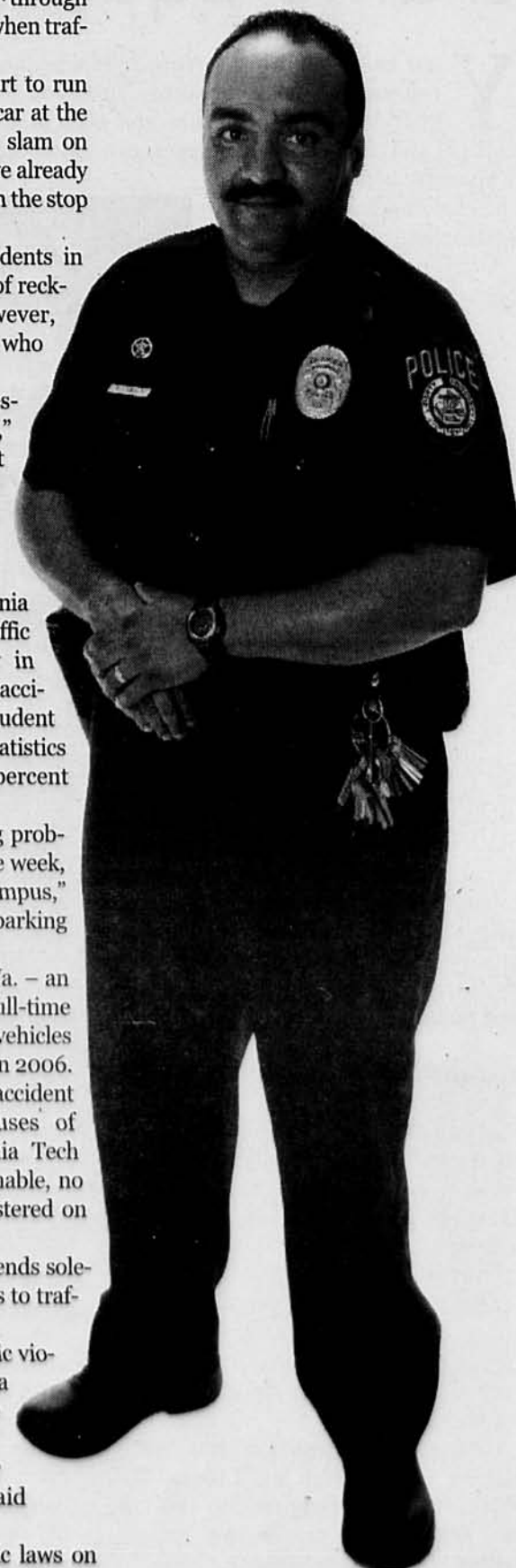
The vast difference in traffic accident numbers between the campuses of Radford University and Virginia Tech reveal that traffic safety is attainable, no matter how many cars are registered on campus.

The safety of any campus depends solely on how each student responds to traffic rules.

However, the problem of traffic violations on campus remains a large concern for LUPD and the school administration.

“We begin the day with prayer and end it with prayer,” said Torres.

Until students obey the traffic laws on campus, prayer and officers like Torres will have to be what keeps the students of Liberty University safe.



TO PROTECT AND SERVE — LUPD Officer Pablo Torres does his part to ensure that students practice safe on-campus driving habits.

Heels vs. Wheels: Pedestrian and vehicle traffic square off on the streets of Liberty

Your car. Your wheels. Your independence. Your means to go anywhere you want anytime you want – until you get caught in traffic. Traffic causes frustration, headaches and even at times, road rage. And traffic on college and university campuses can cause similar problems. Even Liberty University is not immune to the challenges of traffic congestion and safety.

Officer Wesley Erickson began working with the Liberty University Police Department (LUPD) in December of 2006. Erickson is a retired police officer coming from Florida – or as he calls it, “Disney World territory.”

Although Erickson is new to the LUPD staff, he has already observed that the amount of traffic on this campus is “unreal.”

There are two kinds of traffic problems – vehicle and pedestrian. In an investigative reporting study conducted by a Liberty communications class, students observed both types of traffic at several locations on Liberty’s campus. With the help of LUPD, the students observed activity at stop signs, drivers and speeding, and pedestrian traffic.

To Stop or Not to Stop ...

Erickson points out that most cars that do stop at the very prominent red octagons stationed at each intersection do not stop in the proper place.

The correct point at which a car should stop at a stop sign is behind the bold white line, which is actually before the stop sign. He said that most cars stop a significant distance over the line and often jut into the crosswalk.

During two different two-hour periods, traffic was observed at the three-way stop by Religion Hall and DeMoss Hall.

Students in the first session observed more than 1,000 cars, with only 34 percent coming to a proper stop. 57 percent of the observed vehicles came to a rolling stop, and about nine percent did not even attempt to stop as they drove straight through the intersection.

Of the 96 buses and commercial vehicles observed, only the LUPD cars and

the transit service stopped 100 percent of the time. Commercial drivers were by far the worst, stopping only 34 percent of the time.

During the second session at the same intersection, 615 cars were observed with 66 percent coming to a complete stop, 24 percent rolling through the intersection and 10 percent not even slowing down.

LUPD officers agree that the Religion Hall three-way stop is probably one of the most high-traffic areas, especially at certain times of the day.

Erickson said that this location gets congested three or four times throughout the day.

Other “hotspots” on campus are located near Campus East and Campus North. The research team observed traffic at stop signs at both of these locations, finding that 73 percent of the vehicles did not stop.

Slow down – you move too fast

Speed is also a large concern on campus. If students are not always stopping at intersections and occasionally exceeding the speed limit, chances for accidents rise dramatically.

The communications students were allowed to observe traffic with the assistance of LUPD’s radar. While monitoring cars on the circle, where the posted speed limit is 15 mph, every car of the 19 clocked were exceeding that speed limit.

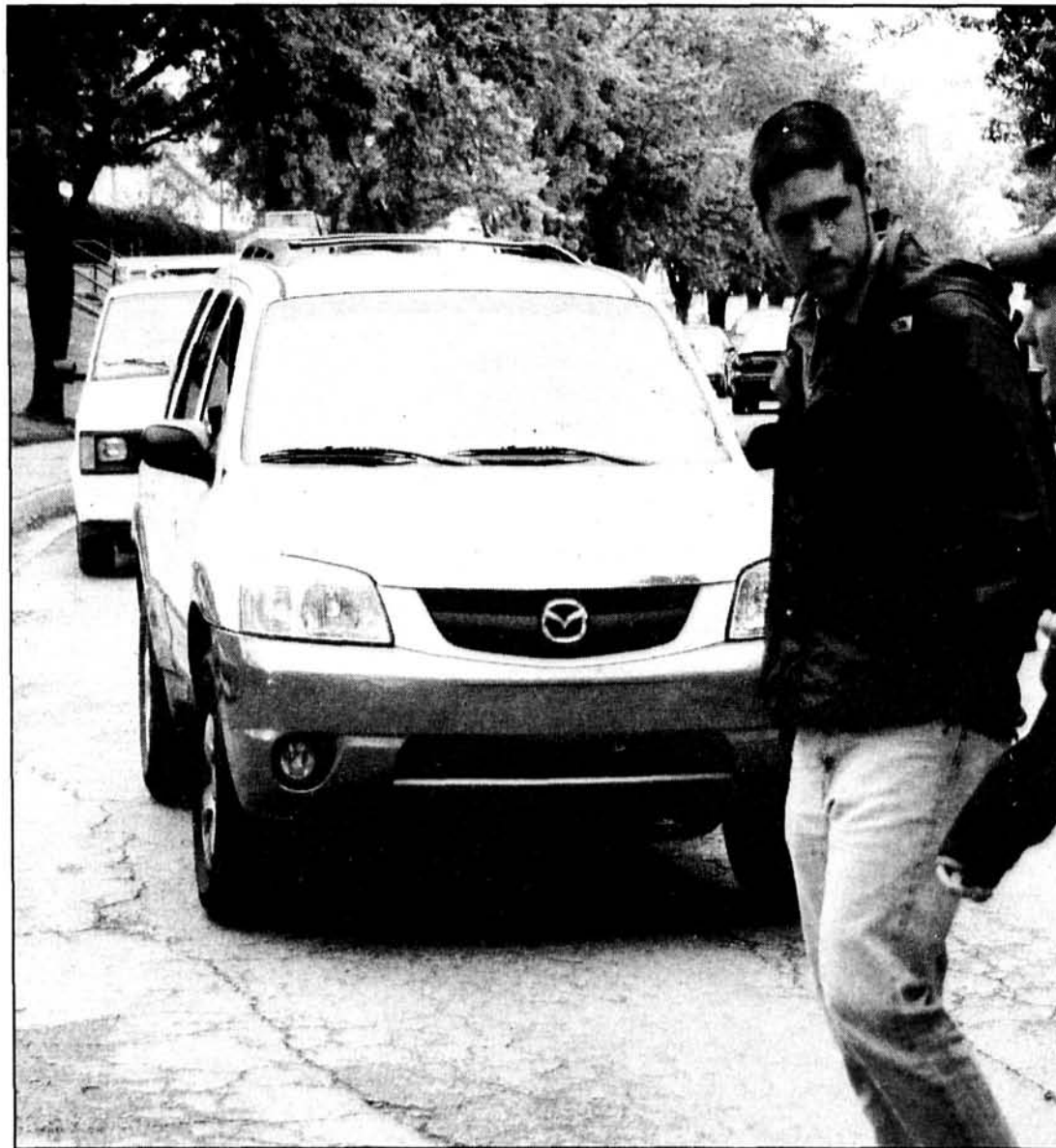
At Thomas Road Baptist Church, eight out of the nine cars clocked were exceeding the posted 15 mph speed limit by more than 10 miles per hour.

Student Frogger

Another prominent form of traffic clogging Liberty roadways does not involve wheels, but shoes instead. As the school population increases, so does the mass of pedestrians tromping through parking lots, along sidewalks and across crowded streets trying to reach various classes.

The conflict occurs when pedestrians crossing busy streets either ignore oncoming traffic or fail to use the marked crosswalks.

A study in front of Religion Hall revealed that out of the 422 pedestrians who crossed the street during a two-hour period, more than 116 jaywalked. In other words, more than one out of every four students observed did not take the time to reach the crosswalk before crossing the street.



STANDOFF — This all-too-common scene at Liberty occurs when students cross streets, whether by jaywalking or by legally crossing in the crosswalks, and then find themselves staring at the grill of another student’s car.

SAFE DRIVING TIPS

Focus.

The simplest way to avoid a wreck is to pay attention to what you are doing. There are enough distractions that drivers and pedestrians cannot control without adding things like cell phones, Blackberrys, newspapers and notes into the mix.

Pay attention.

See what the other drivers or pedestrians are doing. This is called "defensive driving." Just because someone has the right of way does not mean the other driver is going to yield it. Pedestrians do have the right of way, but making sure the driver understands this is no doubt a good idea. Yielding to raw tonnage is rarely a mistake.

Obey the signs.

It is easy for a person to run a stop sign when he or she is in a rush, but getting to the parking lot — or off campus — 12 seconds faster is not going to mean much in the grand scheme of things.

Be courteous.

It is gentlemanly for a man to hold a door open for a woman when she is on the way into an academic building, but it is sort of a moot point if that same man cut in front of her to nab the last parking spot just the day before.

Arrive early.

A person is much less likely to be in a hurry if he or she has time to spare. Leaving a bit of extra time cannot only make a person less likely to be in an accident, but it can also make them feel a little less stressed when they finally get where they are going.

Other Virginia universities fight traffic of their own

It would be a mistake to assume that Liberty's traffic problems are unique. In reality, traffic is a problem on any college campus.

Central Virginia Community College, which is right across Wards Road from Liberty, is a two-year school that has no vehicle registration for its students, only for faculty. Because of CVCC's relatively small size, the college only records about five or six accidents in a typical semester.

CVCC Chief of Police Delta Aultice said that even though there were no real hotspots for traffic incidents to occur, they were still possible. "Nobody is immune to it," she said.

Aultice also said that her officers record 10 to 12 moving violations per year.

Lynchburg College, another local school, only has problems with traffic when it becomes "hectic during athletic and other special events," said Bob Driskill, LC's director of campus safety and security.

Driskill said that there have been no fatalities due to traffic-related incidents, but there have been several small accidents in the past year.

At Old Dominion University in Virginia Beach, which has 14,209 undergraduates enrolled, only two students were hit by cars on campus last

year, said Patrol Sgt. Hugh Parker of the ODU Police Department.

Neither student was seriously injured.

Parker also said that, on average, there are 12 accidents on the ODU campus each year.

At a larger school, such as Virginia Tech in Blacksburg (which has 26,370 students), moving violations are very common.

Last year, there were 122 recorded accidents and 26 accident-related injuries. There were also 547 moving violations.

Compared to the actual number of vehicles on the Virginia Tech campus, though, these numbers are relatively tame.

"(There were) a little over 14,000 permits sold (in the past year)," said Patrol Sgt. B. Scott Poff of the Virginia Tech Police Department.

"(However), some permits could have two or three vehicles registered to them."

Lieutenant Joey Albert, another Tech officer, cited the same statistics, but he also shed a little light on other positive things his department was doing to ensure traffic safety for the faculty, staff and students.

He mentioned that VTPD had recently completed a roadside sobriety

checkpoint on campus. According to the department's cache on the Virginia Tech Web site, the checkpoint occurred on Nov. 3, 2006, from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. It brought in good statistics — and a bit of humor.

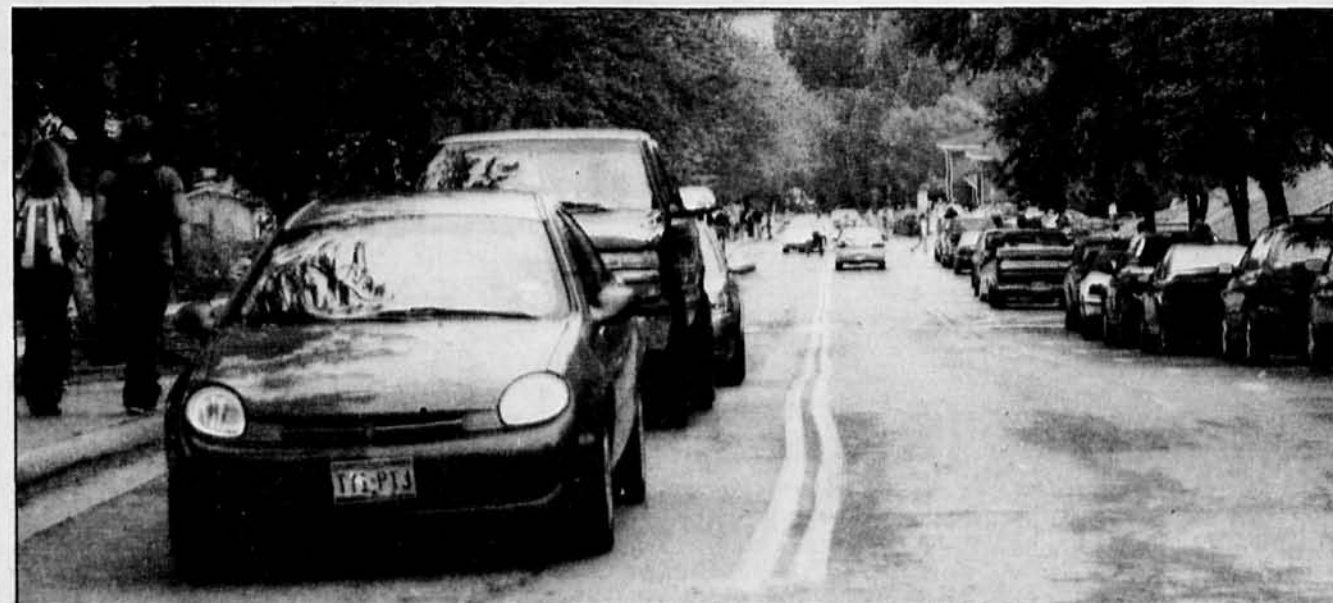
The checkpoint stats included three DUI arrests (one of which was a felony), two public intoxication charges, one narcotics violation, 14 underage possession of alcohol charges, six charges for not carrying an operator's license, one charge for driving with a suspended license, one illegal U-turn and, according to the Web site, "a lot of cold, tired police officers."

Virginia Tech has varied speed limits on its campus.

"Most areas are 25 miles per hour," Poff said. "There are (also) several 15 miles per hour zones and two 35 miles per hour zones."

Albert said that the 15 mph zones were mostly concentrated around the residential zones of the campus, with the major 35 mph zone being on a major road on the outskirts of campus that connects to U.S. 460.

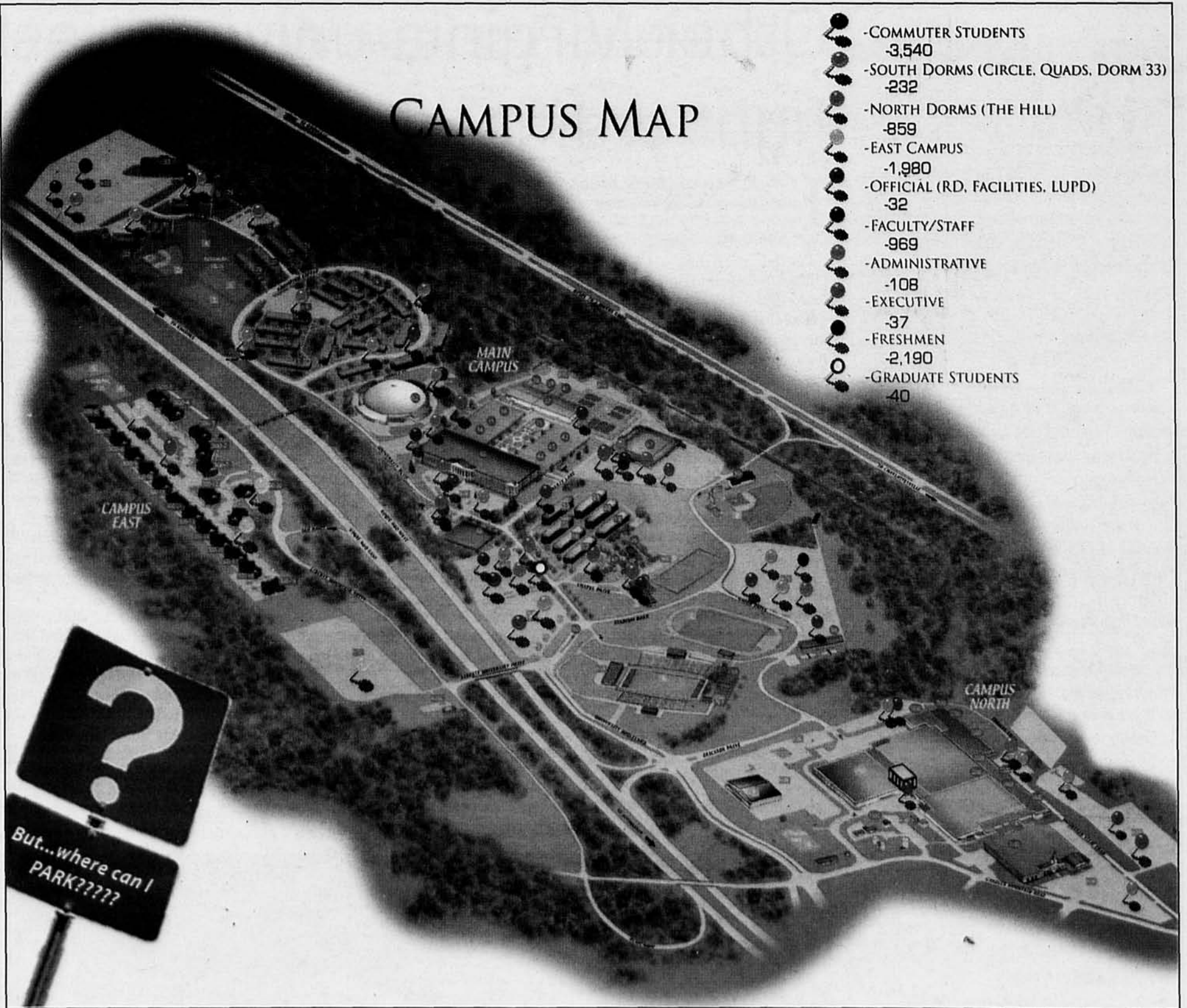
The size of the university will have some effect on the amount of violations and traffic difficulties. But traffic problems are inevitable, regardless of the size of the university and the number of students.



A UNIVERSAL PROBLEM — The cars may stack up at Liberty, but it is not the only university with traffic issues. Numerous other Virginia schools have been battling the problem on their individual campuses.

CAMPUS MAP

- COMMUTER STUDENTS
-3,540
- SOUTH DORMS (CIRCLE, QUADS, DORM 33)
-232
- NORTH DORMS (THE HILL)
-859
- EAST CAMPUS
-1,980
- OFFICIAL (RD, FACILITIES, LUPD)
-32
- FACULTY/STAFF
-969
- ADMINISTRATIVE
-108
- EXECUTIVE
-37
- FRESHMEN
-2,190
- GRADUATE STUDENTS
-40



LIBERTY

 UNIVERSITY